**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

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

Sayadaw passes away

YANGON, 5 May—The Religious Affairs Department today announced that State Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Navy Monastery of Dakhinayama Phayagytaiik in Chanmya Thazi Township, Mandalay Division, Bhaddanta Medhiyabhivamsa (Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika) (aged 94, vasa 73) passed away at 1:35 am on 12th Wanning of Tagu 1367 ME (5-5-2005). — MNA

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T Defensor and party visit Wood-based Products Factory of Chin Su May Flower Co in Bago. — FORESTERY

FSD gets advanced extinguisher

YANGON, 5 May—OK Myanmar Co Ltd donated an advanced extinguisher to the Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation yesterday. The German-made extinguisher is valued at over K 4.6 million. At the donation-presentation ceremony held at the SWRR Minister’s office, Director of OK Myanmar Co Ltd Lt-Col Zaw Weik (Retd) handed over the documents related to the extinguisher to the director-general of the FSD. — MNA

The Director-General of Fire Services Department accepts advanced Germany-made fire extinguisher and its parts worth K 4.6 million donated by Director Lt-Col Zaw Weik (Retd) of OK Myanmar Co Ltd.— VIO

**Philippine delegation visits wood-based factory**

YANGON, 5 May—The Philippine delegation led by Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines Mr Michael T Defensor this morning visited wood-based product factory of Chin Su May Flower Co in Bago. In the afternoon, they also visited the National Museum, Bogyoke Aung San Market and Gems Emporium in Yangon. — MNA

**Navigable way at Chindwin river crossing Sinbyushin Bridge for vessels**

YANGON, 5 May—The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems today announced that it designated the navigable way between pillars Nos 11 and 12 of the Chindwin river crossing Sinbyushin Bridge for vessels plying downstream or upstream the Chindwin River.

According to the situation of the river, since 1 May it has designated the navigable way between pillars Nos 9 and 10 for vessels.

The clearance of the new navigable way is 64 metres wide and 11 metres high. A green triangle mark is displayed on the entrance, through which vessels are allowed to pass, and a red triangle mark on the entrance, through which vessels are prohibited. Arrow marks are shown on the two pillars of the navigable way.

Both sides of the foundation of each pillar protrude about 15 feet from the pillar, so, priority is to be given to the down-vessels in approaching the entrance, and two-fold vessels attached to each other are not allowed to pass through the entrance. — MNA

**Myanmar Gazette**

YANGON, 5 May — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of Rector of the Dental Medicine (Yangon), Ministry of Health, Dr U Ba Myint on expiry of the one-year probationary period. — MNA

**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 6 May, 2005

Keep on working for the good of the State and the people

It is an age-old custom of all the national people of the Union of Myanmar to live together like family members and work together for their common good.

Since the time of our forefathers, it has been the custom of our people to help their neighbours, friends or relatives with the work of building or repairing or roofing their houses or with their agricultural work.

Religiously or culturally or socially, Myanmar people are always willing to render voluntary services collectively of their own accord.

However, without having the slightest knowledge of the traditions and customs of Myanmar people, some countries and organizations often hurt unfair and unfounded accusations at Myanmar.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is among them. The ILO, without realizing Myanmar people’s customs and traditions, tried to tarnish the image of Myanmar by making the one-sided accusation that Myanmar is using forced labour in the construction of roads and bridges.

Not only that, EU and some western nations have imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar. This has led to the closure of over 160 garment factories and workshops.

Another 40 factories had to lay off their workers. As a result, more than 50,000 women have become jobless, thus hurting the health, education and socio-economic life of over 400,000 family members including children.

Members of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, one of the organizations in Myanmar doing social work for common good, disregarding unfair and unfounded accusations, will continue working for the good of the public by rendering voluntary services, by generating the income of families and by trying to enhance their living standard.

We believe that the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association will remain one of the national forces the people can always rely on and keep on working for the good of the State and the people, always denouncing one-sided accusations and sanctions that will hurt their interests.
Singapore to expand grid computing into Industry

SINGAPORE, 4 May — Singapore launched the second phase of its National Grid initiative on Tuesday, aiming to expand the use of grid computing from the research community into the industry, announced Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang.

"Grid computing has enjoyed an increase in popularity worldwide, as organizations begin to recognize its value in optimizing computing and data resources, accelerating computation and improving collaboration," he said.

The technology, which enables a group of participating users to share computing resources, be it software, data storage or processing time, will be applied first to the digital media and manufacturing sectors, according to Lim.

It is believed that grid computing will allow small and medium-sized digital media companies to tap on the expensive computing facilities and resources in a cost-effective manner while grid-based engineering tools will help construction and manufacturing companies share information and knowledge.

Singapore started its pilot phase of the initiative in November 2003 with the vision of forming "the basis of a strategic technology platform that would transform the way we work, and ultimately improve the economic and technological competitiveness of Singapore," Lim noted.

Having set up a base of active virtual grid communities in areas like life sciences and physical sciences, and had more than 500 computing resources connected to the grid in the past two years, the number is expected to reach 1,000 by the end of next year, Lim said.

Lim was speaking at the opening of the first GridAsia 2005 Conference, an event scheduled to be held annually to advance grid computing in the region. — MNA/Xinhua

Britain’s retail sales fall to lowest point in 13 years

LONDON, 4 May — Britain’s retail sales fell in April to its lowest point in almost 13 years owing to tough trading conditions, a survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said on Tuesday.

The CBI’s monthly distributive trades survey found that 32 per cent of retailers reported a year-on-year rise in sales while 46 per cent said they were down, leaving a balance figure of minus 14 compared with minus nine in March. This is the lowest since July 1992 and also far below analyst expectation of plus 2.

The survey echoes recent reports indicating that British consumer spending is starting to slow down following five interest rate rises since November 2003.

CBI chief economist Ian McCafferdy said "this ongoing decline in sales is likely to reflect the recent fall in real disposable incomes, higher fuel and utility bills, reduced activity in the housing market and higher mortgage rates than a year ago".

Analysts here said this figure might compel the Bank of England to leave the interest rates on hold at its current level of 4.75 per cent.

Also on Tuesday, an industrial index showed that British manufacturing activity contracted for the first time in almost two years in April after the collapse of car company MG Rover dealt another blow to companies already struggling to drum up new business. — MNA/Xinhua

Wreckage of both US jets found in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 5 May — Investigators in Iraq have located the wreckage of both Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets that were reported missing earlier this week, but they have yet to find the second pilot, an official said on Wednesday.

The pilot whose remains were recovered on Tuesday was identified by officials as Major John C Spahr, executive officer of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. He was a native of Cherry Hill, NJ, and a graduate of the University of Delaware.

Spahr had been flying F/A-18s since 1993, according to his official biography.

He attended the Navy’s “Top Gun” fighter weapons school in 1996, later was an instructor pilot there and was embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation when the Iraq war began in March 2003.

Pentagon officials had said Tuesday that one F/A-18 fuselage had been found about 15 miles from Karbala in south-central Iraq, and that the pilot was found still strapped in his ejection seat some distance from the wreckage. They said then that investigators were still searching for the other plane.

"Both fuselages have been found," a military official said Wednesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still underway. The officer said the fuselages were found at separate locations but the officer did not know how far apart.

Officials had said previously that investigators concluded that the two planes likely collided in the air.

US officials in Baghdad said the search was continuing. — MNA/Xinhua

China to establish first private petroleum group corporation

NANNING, 4 May — China’s big private oil and gas enterprises will unite to organize a group corporation to strengthen their competitiveness, said sources on Tuesday with the China Chamber of Commerce for Petroleum Industry (CCPI) of All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

During his visit to Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Wang Yong, secretary-general of the chamber said that the corporation, integrating well-performing assets of big private enterprises in petroleum and gas industries, will form a complete petroleum industrial chain covering fields from mining, refinery to sale.

"The goal is to obtain more policy supports from the government for China’s private oil and gas enterprises and to enhance the oil supply security of the country," said Wang.

Wang said that the corporation, named Changcheng or Great Wall, will try to get listed overseas after the establishment.

According to Wang, there are over 80,000 private oil and gas enterprises with about one million employees in China.

Most in refinery and safety fields and mainly medium- and small-sized ones, those enterprises boast an industry value of (120.8 billion US dollars) and most are well-performing assets.

There are over 40,000 private gas stations in China, covering 53 per cent of the total. Private oil refineries, distributed in more than ten provinces of the country, boast an annual refining capacity of nearly 100 million tons.

And the annual storage capacity of those private enterprises amounts to 30 million tons with an annual sales volume of over 100 million tons, said Wang. — MNA/Xinhua

Jordan keen to tighten bilateral ties with Syria

AMMAN, 4 May — Jordanian Prime Minister Adnan Badran said on Tuesday that his country is keen to tighten bilateral relations with Syria.

Badran made the remarks after concluding a two-day visit to Syria, where he met with Syrian President Bashar Assad and conveyed a letter from Jordan’s King Abdullah II, according to the official Petra News Agency. It said that Badran’s talks with Bashar Assad gave a very strong push to establishing free trade zones as well as the transit industry.

The Jordanian premier also met his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Najj Otti in Damascus, where the two agreed on establishing a hot line between them for the purpose of enhancing relations in all fields, particularly in the areas of trade and economy. — MNA/Xinhua

The relatives of a Thai woman who was killed in a fire in Bangkok last year have filed a civil lawsuit against the two-day visit to Syria, relations with Syria. — MNA/Xinhua

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Japan begins safety checks of rail, air transport

TOKYO, 3 May — Japan's Transport Minister Kazuo Kitagawa began safety inspections of rail and air transport systems on Monday in the wake of a series of accidents and mishaps, including the fatal train derailment and crash in Amagasaki, west Japan's Hyogo Prefecture, on 25 April.

Kitagawa started the inspection visits with a stop at the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry's regional branch office at Tokyo's Haneda Airport. Monday's inspections also cover the offices of Japan Airlines Corp, Tokyo Metro Co, East Japan Railway Co and Tobu Railway Co.

Kitagawa said at a Press conference that a team of experts at the ministry will be dispatched to the branch office for a month starting Monday to monitor its operations following an incident involving air traffic controller error on Friday.

A JAL plane carrying 51 passengers and crew members landed Friday night on a runway closed for maintenance at Haneda Airport on instruction by the air traffic control centre. All 18 air traffic controllers on duty forgot about the runway closure.

"It was quite regrettable," Kitagawa said. "I apologize to the public as the chief official in charge." He also questioned the airtraffic controllers about the cause of the incident.

It is unusual for a Cabinet minister to conduct on-site inspections on safety measures of public transportation. Kitagawa has decided on the move because the spate of accidents and problems continued even after the Transport Ministry had instructed them to tighten safety measures in March.

Kitagawa will travel to Osaka on Tuesday to inspect the offices of Nankai Electric Railway Co, Hankyu Corp and All Nippon Airways Co. In March, the ministry instructed railway and airline companies across Japan as well as nationwide air traffic control centres to comprehensively check their safety measures by the end of April.

MNA/Xinhua

World media applaud Hu-Lien meeting

BEIJING, 4 May — Media in Thailand, Indonesia, Bulgaria and Singapore have made positive comments on last week's historic meeting between General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Hu Jintao and visiting Chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang Party (KMT) Lien Chan.

An editorial carried in Thailand's Chinese language Asia Daily said on Monday the historic Hu-Lien meeting and the issuing of the joint Press communique made the two parties and all Chinese who are concerned about the cross-Strats relations feel pleasant and excited. "This is a successful visit, a successful meeting and cooperation based on the one-China policy and the opposition to 'Taiwan Independence.' It unfolded a rosy prospect of peaceful intercourse and joint development across the Taiwan Strait," noted the editorial. Indonesia's largest Chinese language newsaper International Daily News published an editorial Monday saying that the consensus reached during the Hu-Lien meeting is concerned with the interests of the Chinese people across the Taiwan Straits and the people in Asia at large, with a far-reaching significance for peace and stability in East Asia, the Asia-Pacific Region and the world as a whole.

The newspaper said the meeting eased tensions across the Straits and delivered an important message to the world that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China and the Chinese people have the wisdom and capability of achieving national reunification, and there is no need for foreign interference.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian youth urged to develop “four qualities”

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 May — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak on Tuesday urged the youth to develop four qualities of knowledge, skills, strength and self-resilience in face of the increasingly challenges ahead.

As the country entered the age of the knowledge economy or k-economy, the key to success was a skilled and innovative workforce with high cognitive skills, the Deputy Prime Minister told about 5,000 youths when launching the national-level Youth Week 2005 in Kuala Terengganu, northern Malaysia.

The youth of today had no choice but to strive through formal or informal education to acquire the knowledge and skills in the relevant fields, he said. He said they must have total strength and self-resilience with a highly patriotic spirit and self-belief and at the same time keep their minds free from negative influences that could destroy the country's future. Najib said they should move with the times or be left behind in this ever changing era of globalization.

He also reminded the youth to make education a lifelong process and not to be satisfied with whatever success they had achieved if they wanted to make Malaysia a great nation in all fields in the future.

For the society, his advice is not to constantly criticize the youth and instead to help them have a vision because they are the country’s asset to continue with what has been achieved so far.

The Southeast Asian country has a population of 25 million, of which some 12 million are youth.

MNA/Xinhua

Pentagon says Iraq war erodes military’s abilities

WASHINGTON, 4 May—The US military’s operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have constrained its ability to tackle other potential conflicts, making any future war more likely to be longer and bloodier, according to America’s top general.

In an annual classified report required by Congress, Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said stress on manpower and equipment could limit the ability to win other possible wars as quickly as the Pentagon had previously forecast, defence officials said on Tuesday.

Myers stated in the report that US armed forces would “succeed” in any future major conflict but “may be unable to meet expectations for speed or precision.”

Any future armed conflicts "may result in significantly extended campaign timelines, and achieving campaign objectives may result in higher casualties and collateral damage," the report stated.

Potential hot spots include Iran, the Korean Peninsula and across the Taiwan Strait.

Myers, due to step down from his post in September, said the report showed "we have very high standards in how we measure ourselves."

"The timelines may have to be extended. And we may have to use additional resources. But that doesn’t matter because we’re going to be successful in the end," Myers told reporters.

The United States has about 138,000 troops in Iraq and another 17,000 in Afghanistan, and has shifted troops from such places as South Korea, where they guarded against aggression by communist North Korea, to maintain force levels to combat the Iraqi insurgency.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police stop traffic after a roadside bomb exploded close to Baghdad airport on 4 May, 2005.—INTERNET

People pass a SingTel billboard on 3 May, 2005. Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) said its Asian mobile subscriber base rose 37 percent to almost 65 million as of end March.—INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian youth urged to develop “four qualities”
China opposes any form of nuclear proliferation

UNITED NATIONS, 4 May — China has opposed the proliferation of nuclear weapons in any form, said Zhang Yan, Head of the Chinese Delegation to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), on Tuesday.

"As a developing country, China needs both an international and peripheral environment of long-term peace and stability," Zhang said in the general debate at the 2005 NPT Review Conference at the UN headquarters in New York. "The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery benefits neither world peace and stability nor China's own security."

He pointed out that China strictly observes its obligations under the NPT in non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and has opposed the proliferation of nuclear weapons in any form and actively participated in international efforts in this regard.

"It is the firm policy of the Chinese Government to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons," he stressed, adding that China published in December 2003 its first white paper on non-proliferation entitled China's Non-Proliferation Policy and Measures, giving a comprehensive account of China's non-proliferation policies and measures.

"The Chinese Government has established a complete legal system on export control including that in the nuclear area," Zhang noted. "China has widely adopted international practice, including exporters' registration system, licensing system, end-user and end-use certificates, list control method."

"The guidelines and scope of China's export control are basically identical to the international norms," he added.

Meanwhile, Zhang also said China is further improving its regulations and laws, applying the catch-all principle, and making the acceptance of IAEA full-scope safeguards by importing country as condition for nuclear export.

"The Chinese Government has adopted a series of measures, such as publicizing relevant policies and regulations, conducting outreach activities, to ensure effective implementation of related regulations and laws," he said.

Zhang stressed that China joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group in June 2004, thus has joined all international treaties and multilateral mechanism in the area of nuclear non-proliferation.

"China is the first nuclear-weapon state that has completed domestic legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Protocol Additional," he emphasized.

AND Xinhu

WHO says polio outbreak reported in Indonesia

GENEVA, 4 May — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday that a wild polio virus isolate has been confirmed in Indonesia, previously un-immunized, had onset of paralysis on 13 March. Seven additional AFP cases in the village have been detected, and are currently under investigation.

"The finding of the investigation suggests recent introduction of wild polio virus — genetic analysis of the virus demonstrates that its origin is in west Africa, similar to the viruses which caused the 2003/04 outbreak," said the spokeswoman. Further analysis suggests the virus travelled to Indonesia through Sudan, and is similar to recently isolated viruses in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, she added.

AND Xinhu

Poll says most Americans say Iraq war not worth it

WASHINGTON, 4 May — A majority of Americans do not think it was worth going to war in Iraq with support at the lowest level since the United States launched the invasion in 2003, according to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released on Tuesday.

Fifty-seven percent of those polled said it was worth going to war compared to 41 percent who thought it was. In a February poll, 48 percent said the war was worth it and half said it was not. A poll in April, 2003, shortly after the war began, found that 73 percent of Americans held the view that the war was worth fighting. The new poll results had a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points.

Asked how things are going for the United States in Iraq, 56 percent said "badly," up from 45 percent in March. Forty-two percent said things were going "well," down from 52 percent in March. The margin of error for that question was plus or minus three percentage points.

Askered whether the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, the respondents were nearly divided with 49 percent saying it was mistake and 48 percent saying it was not. On that question, the margin of error was plus or minus three percentage points.

AND Xinhu

West Asian tourism in Malaysia increases remarkably in 2004

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 May — Malaysia received 126,050 tourists from West Asian countries in 2004, an increase of about 57 percent compared to the previous year, an official said.

Visitors from the Gulf Arab region showed a significant increase, constituting more than 60 percent of the total West Asian visitors, Malaysia National News Agency quoted Deputy Tourism Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi as saying on Tuesday.

Tourists from Saudi Arabia grew more than 94 percent to 39,432 last year compared to 20,077 in the previous year, he said. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerged as the second most important market, with visitors from the country growing 250 percent to 21,161 compared to 6,047 tourists in 2003, he said.

Tourists from Qatar almost doubled to over 5,000 last year, while the visitor numbers from Kuwait saw a jump of 235 percent, from 3,599 tourists in 2003 to 12,063 last year, according to the official.

AND Xinhu

Enhancing Sino-Japanese exchanges in various fields important

BEIJING, 4 May — China and Japan should further strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various areas, encourage friendly contacts and activities between the two peoples, so as to further increase understanding and broaden mutual benefits.

Chinese President Hu Jintao made the remark at a recent summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Jakarta.

"China and Japan, having made good cooperation in politics, economy and trade, science and technology, education, culture, tourism, sports and environmental protection, have witnessed fruitful progress in people-to-people ties, should enhance their exchanges in various fields so as to ease the tension of bilateral political relations," Professor Zhang Lili with the China Foreign Affairs University told Xinhu in an exclusive interview.

Guided by the three documents, namely the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, the Peace and Friendship Treaty and the Sino-Japanese Joint Declaration, the political exchanges between the two countries' governments, parties and parliamentarians have witnessed achievements, said Zhang.— After China and Japan established their diplomatic ties in 1972, Chinese leaders including Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin paid visit to Japan, and many Japanese prime ministers visited China as well. Hu Jintao recently met with Junichiro Koizumi twice in five months in Chile and Indonesia on international occasions. Besides, the two countries keep coordination and cooperation in boosting regional coop-

Internet

A US soldier guards an Iraqi man as soldiers search his car in the city of Mosul recently. — Internet

A street performer crosses a crosswalk in central Tokyo on 3 May, 2005. Tokyo metropolitan government supports some street performers as part of its cultural work. — Internet
Indonesia names new head of Investment Board

JAKARTA, 4 May— Former head of Indonesian young businessmen group and key figure of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s 2004 presidential campaign was named as head of Indonesian Investment Board (BKPM), State spokesman Andi Mallaranggeng said here on Tuesday.

Muhammad Lufty was appointed based on his professionalism, said Mallaranggeng at the State Palace here. Lufty replaced Theo Tumeon who has been under fire following an incident in which he allegedly struck a 14-year-old student referee and scuffled with foreign residents during a sports event at the Jakarta International School recently.

He later admitted he was enraged at what he said was the “discriminatory” way a 14-year-old Australian schoolboy referee treated his seven-year-old son, but denied he assaulted the boy and several parents who tried to intervene.

But Mallaranggeng said that the replacement of Tumeon was due to his expiry of his term in the post.

The President has issued a presidential decision to appoint Muhammad Lufty as a new head (of the BKPM), he said.

The board, which approves both foreign and domestic investment, is at the centre of a lengthy bureaucratic approval procedure which has made Indonesia a minefield for overseas investors, according to a recent World Bank survey, the Antara news agency says.

It found that the country’s 150-day investment approval process was one of the most time-consuming in Asia.

The government has said it may soon bypass the agency altogether in its drive to encourage the foreign investors it needs to revive Indonesia’s economy.

MNA/Xinhua

UBC establishes regional office in HK

HONG KONG, 4 May — The University of British Columbia (UBC) officially announced on Tuesday the establishment of its Asia Pacific Regional Office in Hong Kong.

This is the first such office for a Canadian university and is mandated to serve the entire region.

Martha Piper, president of the university said at the opening ceremony that the regional office will help UBC build and enhance existing academic, government, and private sector partnerships throughout Asia while serving its students and alumni. According to Piper, the office will be responsible for marketing, programme development and alumni relationships in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Big global giants to invest $12b in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 4 May— At least ten big global investment giants, including that of Tata from India, have come up with proposals to invest in the country’s manufacturing and service sectors.

The official news agency BSS on Tuesday quoted Mahmudur Rahman, executive chairman of the Board of Investment, as saying that Bangladesh has received 12 billion dollars worth of investment proposals over the last 18 months, out of which the figure for the last nine months alone stood at around eight billion dollars.

Tata’s board of directors will arrive in Dhaka on 8 May to initiate the preparatory meetings leading to the final negotiations on its proposed power, fertilizer and steel plants.

Tata has scaled up its investment proposals from two to 2.5 billion dollars.

Two Malaysian giants have already visited the country and showed interest to invest in certain areas. Malaysia Metro wants to engage in real estate. The other one — PK Resources wants to engage itself in tourism and infrastructure.

ORASCOM, an Egyptian telecom company, has already taken over the Sheba Telecom and is now operating under the name Bangalink.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s Mainland to lift ban on residents’ tour to Taiwan

SHANGHAI, 4 May — Relevant departments of the Chinese Mainland will soon allow Mainland residents to tour to Taiwan, according to an announcement made here on Tuesday morning by Chen Yunlin, director of the Taiwan Work Office of CPC Central Committee and the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council.

Removal of the ban for Mainland residents to travel to Taiwan will not just expand people-to-people contacts between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits, but is conducive to boosting Taiwan’s tourism, food and beverage and other related industries and will bring concrete benefits to the general public in Taiwan as well, said Chen.

“For reasons known to all, the issue was long pending,” he said. “The Kuomintang (KMT) and People First Party (PPP) have expressed on many occasions the Taiwan compatriots’ desire for Mainland residents to travel to Taiwan — the PPP has come up with specific proposals on this issue.”

“Tourism administration and all relevant parties on the Mainland welcome organizations from Taiwan’s tourism industry to start consultations with us on an earlier date in order to make detailed arrangements accordingly,” he said.

Chen said that it is the Mainland’s commitment to the Taiwan compatriots to keep adopting new policy measures to solve issues of the Taiwan compatriots’ concern and to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests.

Removal of the travel ban came after Chen’s announcement of the Mainland’s decision to present a pair of giant pandas to the Taiwan compatriots. — MNA/Xinhua

Britain has no plans to invade Iran

LONDON, 4 May — British Prime Minis- ter Tony Blair said Tuesday that his govern- ment had no plans to launch any strikes on Iran.

It was “absurd” to think that Britain planned an invasion of Iran, Blair said in an interview with Channel 4 television in Manchester.

“I’ve got no intention of bombing their nuclear installations or anything else,” Blair said.

“Iran is a problem on nuclear weapons, let’s be under no doubt or illusions about that.” Blair added.

Blair, who is seeking a re-election on 5 May, has come under heavy criticism for leading Britain to war in Iraq.

“We have got a process, fortunately, with Iran where you have got France, Germany, Britain and America working on the same side together,” Blair said.

MNA/Xinhua

India invites foreign investors

MUMBAI, 4 March — The government has extended the facility to Indian investors to invest in India under a similar route.

The facility under section 10AC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Indian government has extended the same to the foreign investors.

The facility is also extended to the domestic investors in the form of a permission to invest in India under the Foreign Investment Promotion Act, 1991.

The facility also covers investments in the unlisted and unquoted companies.

MNA/Xinhua

India invites foreign investors

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MNA/Xinhua

Indian soldiers perform a routine with fire while strapped to telephone poles during a rehearsal for the ‘Know Your Army Exhibition’ in Bangalore on 4 May, 2005. — INTERNET

Big global giants to invest $12b in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 4 May— At least ten big global investment giants, including that of Tata from India, have come up with proposals to invest in the country’s manufacturing and service sectors.

The official news agency BSS on Tuesday quoted Mahmudur Rahman, executive chairman of the Board of Investment, as saying that Bangladesh has received 12 billion dollars worth of investment proposals over the last 18 months, out of which the figure for the last nine months alone stood at around eight billion dollars.

Tata’s board of directors will arrive in Dhaka on 8 May to initiate the preparatory meetings leading to the final negotiations on its proposed power, fertilizer and steel plants.

Tata has scaled up its investment proposals from two to 2.5 billion dollars.

Two Malaysian giants have already visited the country and showed interest to invest in certain areas. Malaysia Metro wants to engage in real estate. The other one — PK Resources wants to engage itself in tourism and infrastructure.

ORASCOM, an Egyptian telecom company, has already taken over the Sheba Telecom and is now operating under the name Bangalink.

MNA/Xinhua
West African countries to intensify action on money laundering

LAGOS, 5 May — West African nations are to expand their frontiers to clampdown on money launderers to check rampant financial crime in the sub-region, Nigeria’s The Guardian daily reported Wednesday.

An action plan money laundering among the countries is expected to be adopted at the ongoing meeting of the Inter-ministerial Action Group Against Money Laundering (GIABA) ad-hoc committee, the report said.

Delegates at the GIABA meeting are drawn from Senegal, Benin, The Gambia, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast d’Ivoire, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger and Ghana.

Ibn Chambas, the executive secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), lamented Tuesday at the meeting which was held in the Nigerian capital Abuja that there were not yet adequate structures to combat money laundering in the sub-region.

“These structures should be put in place in all member states immediately,” Chambas told the delegates.

US FDR approves whooping-cough booster vaccine for adolescents

WASHINGTON, 5 May — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday approved the first booster vaccine to protect adolescents from whooping cough, a bacterial infection that can last more than three months and cause deaths in babies.

Initial symptoms of whooping cough, or pertussis, include fits of 15 to 20 strong coughs in a row that can leave patients gasping for air. Strong coughing often causes vomiting and can even break a rib in older children and adults. Usually, children get five shots of vaccine against pertussis between 2 months and 6 years. The vaccination of babies and toddlers against the illness is effective, but the protection has turned out not to last long enough. There have been dramatic increases in pertussis outbreaks among preteens, teenagers and even adults. — MNA/Xinhua

Anthrax kills 41 zebras in Uganda’s national park

KAMPALA, 5 May — The outbreak of anthrax has killed 41 zebras in Lake Mburgu National Park in western Uganda since the deadly epidemic broke out in the area three years ago.

Chairman of the national task force for fighting anthrax Nicholas Kauta told Xinhua by telephone on Wednesday that the last death was recorded on April 17.

The current figure is at 41 and the last death was recorded on April 17, said Kauta. Statistics from the Ministry of Tourism indicated that the death of 41 zebras means a loss of about 2 per cent of the 4,208 zebras in the national park.

Kauta noted that the situation is now under control and the epidemic is on the decline. He noted that the government has released 100 million shillings (583,800 US dollars) to fight the epidemic.

He said so far 20,000 doses to vaccinate animals in the park have been purchased and other 50,000 doses have been ordered.

Kauta noted that currently vaccination of animals is going on in the park and quarantine has been put in place to avoid the possible transmission of the disease to other areas in the East African country.

He noted that a sensitization campaign has also been started to warn the local people to stop grazing their animals in the park.

The government has also formed an inter-ministerial task force to contain the epidemic. Anthrax is a fatal bacterial disease that affects sheep and cattle but is also transmissible to humans. It is characterized by blood discharge from the mouth, nostril and anus, which ends in death. — MNA/Xinhua
General Officer Commanding of 3rd Corps…

(from page 1)

In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint hosted a dinner to General Officer Commanding of 3rd Corps of Indian Armed Forces Lt-Gen Daljeet Singh and wife Mrs Mohini Daljeet Singh and party at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel.

Also present at the dinner were Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and wife Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and wife Daw Marlar Tint, Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Maj-Gen Sein Lin of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers and their wives, Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and wife and Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra and wife. MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T Defensor of the Philippines at Zeyathiri Beikman. MNA

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T Defensor and party this afternoon at his office here. MNA

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T Defensor and party this afternoon at his office here. MNA

Members of the board of directors of Sakura Technological Services Cooperative Society Ltd reciting oaths at its formation ceremony. MNA

TRAINING COURSE OPENED: The Training on ICD-10 and Computer Assisted Medical Record System, co-organized by WHO and Ministry of Health, was opened Thursday. Deputy Director-General Dr Hla Pe of Health Department speaking at the opening ceremony. — HEALTH

MNA
USDA excursion group tours
Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 5 May — Under the arrangements of exchange of visits by USDA members, the USDA member excursion group left Myeik on 2 May morning and paid homage to Atulayanthi Shwethalyaung reclining Buddha image on Pahtet hill in Kyunsu Township.

Next, they visited 350-ton cold storage and 50-ton ice factory of International Company and 1,000-ton cold storage of Pyay Phyo Tun International Co Ltd.

In the afternoon, they left for Dawei. Along their route, the excursion member paid obeisance to Shinnokhti Pagoda and Lawka Tharaphu reclining Buddha image in Thayetchaung Township. They also viewed round Kawthoung and its environs and the beach of Pulontontone Island.

The youth proceeded to Yuzana Oil Palm Co Ltd in Khamankkhyi Township. They planted oil palms in the plantation of the company. In the evening, the youth visited Thahtaykyun Hotel and Dolphin Breeding Farm at Salone Island.

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Tourism-related courses conclude

YANGON, 5 May — The conclusion ceremony of the basic Italian and Spanish courses and tour guide course for drivers was held at Panda Hotel here this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu.

The courses will help ensure convenience of tourists, the deputy minister and officials presented gifts to outstanding trainees and certificate to all who have completed their respective courses.

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ASEAN Radio Quiz (April) held

YANGON, 5 May — The ASEAN Radio Quiz (April) was held at the Myanmar Radio and Television on 3 May.

The first prize went to Maung Tin Win (Thangyangun Township), second to Ma Le Le Naing (Mezali Village-tract, Nyaungdon Township), third to Maung Ko Ko Thein (Thangyangun Township), and consolation prize to Maung Myo Min Khaing (Kawthoung).

The ASEAN Radio Quiz (May) will be held at 10 am on 1 June. Those wishing to participate in the contest are to report to the MRTV by 9.30 am the same day. Anyone irrespective of educational qualification and age may participate in the contest, and the winners will be given handsome prizes and transportation expenses. — MNA

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Prize Winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz for April seen at MRTV on 3 May. — MNA

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All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
State and Division USDA youth members on excursion tour

YANGON, 5 May — The youth excursion group of USDA members from states and divisions in Mandalay planted trees together with local USDA members at the Institute of Indigenous Medicine in Aungmyaythasan Township this morning. At the meeting hall, Rector Dr Myat Moe clarified the salient points of Myanmar traditional medicines. Next, the youth excursion group visited museum, library and herbal plants garden of the institute. Later, they proceeded to Myanmarskyaw Golden Palace. At the meeting hall of Mandalay Division USDA Office, they held a discussion on regional developments. On 3 May, the youth excursion group of USDA members in Rakhine State arrived at Thandwe Airport and a dinner was hosted to them. In the afternoon, they visited Thayekhittaya Ancient City and Culture Museum in Hmawza Village. Next, they proceeded to Bawbhawgyi Pagoda and South Nawin Dam in Paukhaung Township. They also visited Monywa, Sagaing Division arrived at Saipyingyi Model Village in Dabayin Township and visited the birthplace of Ledi Sayadaw and stone inscription warehouse. In the afternoon, they paid homage to Mahashwesigyi Pagoda. Afterwards, they visited Thaphan seik Dam and hydel electric power station. They proceeded to Yokepyo special clinic and medicine production factory. On 3 May, they visited Bio blue-green algae medicine production factory of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Budalin Township. In the afternoon, they visited factories in Monywa Industrial Zone. In the evening, they exchanged the views on excursion experiences at the office of Sagaing Division USDA.

On 3 May, the youth excursion group in Kayah State visited Taunggwe Pagoda and Myonanshwe Pagoda in Loikaw. On 2 May, the excursion group in Monywa, Sagaing Division arrived at Saipyingyi Model Village in Dabayin Township and visited the birthplace of Ledi Sayadaw and stone inscription warehouse. In the afternoon, they paid homage to Mahashwesigyi Pagoda. Afterwards, they visited Thaphan seik Dam and hydel electric power station. They proceeded to Yokepyo special clinic and medicine production factory. On 3 May, they visited Bio blue-green algae medicine production factory of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Budalin Township. In the afternoon, they visited factories in Monywa Industrial Zone. In the evening, they exchanged the views on excursion experiences at the office of Sagaing Division USDA.

On 3 May, the youth excursion group comprising 32 members of USDA in Kayah State visited Taunggwe Pagoda and Myonanshwe Pagoda in Loikaw together with departmental officials. On 4 May, they planted the trees at the home for the aged in Loikaw with departmental officials.
UN says malaria kills 1m a year

GENEVA, 4 May— Malaria kills one million people every year, most of them in Africa, according to a United Nations report released on Tuesday, which highlights challenges as well as progress in reducing the burden of the disease.

The 2005 World Malaria Report, released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), finds that some 350 to 500 million people worldwide became ill with malaria in 2003, though prevention and treatment services are reaching more people.

“Many countries are moving forward with malaria control programmes, and even those with limited resources and a heavy malaria burden now have a better opportunity to gain ground against this disease,” WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said in a statement.

“However, proven interventions such as insecticide-treated nets, and the latest artemisinin-based combination therapies must reach many more people before we can have a real impact on malaria,” he added.

Ann M Veneman, executive director of UNICEF, warned that “if present malaria remains the infectious disease that takes more lives of children in Africa than any other — three times as many as HIV infection. If we are going to dramatically reduce child deaths in the next decade, we need to put more focus on combating malaria”.

Halting and reversing the incidence of malaria by 2015 is a target of the Millennium Development Goals of the UN. The more immediate goal of Roll Back Malaria, a UN programme, is to halve the burden of malaria worldwide by 2010.

A major obstacle to achieving that goal, the report explains, is a lack of funds.

The report estimates that 3.2 billion US dollars per year is needed to effectively combat malaria in the 82 countries with the highest disease burden.

This year, 600 million dollars was made available for global malaria control, according to the WHO and UNICEF.

The World Bank has announced its plan to commit 500 million to one billion dollars over the next five years to help more people get access to essential malaria prevention and treatment.

New UNICEF chief pledges to help countries reach MDGs

UNITED NATIONS, 4 May — Former US Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman became the fifth chief of the 60-year-old UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Monday, and promised that the agency would play a key role in helping countries meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce or eliminate major socio-economic ills by 2015.

Veneman said on her first day as the Fund’s Executive Director that it was a great honour to lead UNICEF, “one of the world’s great institutions”.

“The MDGs reflect the wishes and the will of governments around the world and because they place such important emphasis on the well-being of children, UNICEF has a vital role to play in helping meet the goals,” she said.

“Too many children in the world face hardships and challenges that should never be a part of childhood,” she noted. “I look forward to continuing UNICEF’s mission of serving children around the globe.”

UNICEF’s continued success depended on strengthening existing partnerships, as well as forming new collaborations with governments, other UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based groups and communities, Veneman stressed.

“Strengthening our collaboration with partners around the world can advance the goals of reducing poverty, malnutrition and disease, as well as helping to protect children from abuse and violence,” said Veneman, who succeeded Carol Bellamy to lead the UNICEF.

Report says increase in global semiconductor sales

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — Global semiconductor sales grew 13.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2005 compared to the same period of 2004, the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) of the United States reported on Monday.

Global sales in the first three months amounted to 55.3 billion US dollars, compared to 48.9 billion dollars in the same period last year, the SIA said in its quarterly update of semiconductor sales.

Sales were up 0.4 per cent sequentially from revenues of 55.1 billion dollars in the fourth quarter of 2004, March sales, at 18.4 billion dollars, grew 2.2 per cent from February’s 18 billion, according to the SIA.

“The first quarter is historically a relatively weak one for the microchip industry. The unprecedented strength of semiconductor sales, with 13 per cent growth over a very strong period a year ago, is a good sign for the industry,” said George Scalise, president of the SIA.

The SIA, which represents 85 per cent of US semiconductor industry, attributed the industry’s relatively strong first-quarter sales to higher than expected sales of wireless handsets, personal computers and consumer electronics.

“Consumer spending on electronics was stronger than historical patterns for the first quarter despite reports of declining consumer confidence,” said Scalise. Overall GDP growth of 3.1 per cent in the first quarter reflected underlying strength of the US economy, although this number was slightly lower than the 3.5-per-cent growth expected by some economists, he said.

Susilo plans US, Japan, EU trip

JAKARTA, 4 May— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is set to visit the United States, the European Union headquarters in Belgium, and Japan during his official trip later this month in a bid to boost ties with major countries.

Coordinating Minister for the Economy Aburizal Bakrie was quoted on Tuesday by The Jakarta Post as saying the President and his entourage, including business people, will depart on 24 May for the eight-day trip.

“The President has visited Malaysia and Singapore. He has also visited Australia. So the next destination will be the United States and Japan, as the United Kingdom and France are currently staging general elections,” he said.

The President will also pay a visit to the European Union headquarters in Brussels ahead of bilateral visits to member countries sometime in the future, Aburizal added.

In the United States, Susilo is scheduled to meet with United States President George W Bush, a number of other senior government officials, legislators and business people.

Economic issues will be the main agenda of the bilateral talks between Susilo and Bush, apart from issues related to counter-terrorism and money laundering, Aburizal said.

During his visit to Tokyo, President Susilo will raise economic affairs, trade, investment and other bilateral issues between the Indonesian and Japanese governments as well as private sectors of both countries. He is also scheduled to meet Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. State Minister of National Development Planning Sri Mulyani Indrawati is expected to fly to the United States ahead of the arrival of Susilo, to attend an event aimed at garnering more support from American people for tsunami victims in Aceh.

Annan urges Lebanon to cooperate with UN verification mission

UNITED NATIONS, 5 May — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Lebanese Government to cooperate with the work of UN verification mission in the country, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Wednesday.

In a statement released by the spokesman, Annan said he was gravely concerned to learn that members of the mission currently in Lebanon were denied freedom of movements as Palestinian armed elements fired warning shots in the air when they were inspecting sites in the Bekaa Valley.

“The Secretary-General deprecates this incident,” Dujarric said. “He expects the Government of Lebanon to ensure the safety of the verification mission.”

The Secretary-General “further expects the mission to be afforded full and unconditional freedom of movement throughout Lebanon at all times,” the spokesman noted.

Annan also reiterated his call on all concerned parties to fully implement Resolution 1559 without delay, Dujarric added.

A one-horned rhinoceros at the Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary. The endangered one-horned rhinoceros population in this eastern India sanctuary has risen 14 percent in the last two years as an anti-poaching drive continues to yield results, an official said. — Internet
Bolivia, Mexico reach agreements on energy, agriculture

LIMA, 4 May — Bolivia and Mexico on Tuesday signed two trade agreements on energy and agriculture, the end of a brief visit by Mexican President Vicente Fox.

Reports from La Paz said Bolivian President Carlos Mesa and Fox agreed to establish a bilateral commission for the supply of Bolivian natural gas to Mexico. The two sides also ratified an energy cooperation agreement signed in 2004 in Mexico City.

As part of the bilateral free trade agreement, the two sides signed an agreement on Bolivia’s export of 400,000 tons a year of oilseed, plus meat and forestry products to Mexico.

Two agreements on legal and judicial cooperation were also signed.

In a joint declaration, the two presidents highlighted the importance of the free trade agreement and promised to promote bilateral trade.

— MNA/Xinhua

Russia to stop free manned flights to ISS in 2006

Moscow, 4 May — Russia will stop free flights sending crews to the International Space Station (ISS) next year, an official of Russia’s space agency said Tuesday. “We are planning a purely Russian programme starting in 2006, which will be based on our own tasks and interests in the ISS project,” Alexei Krasnov, director of the manned flights programme at the Russian Federal Space Agency, was quoted by Interfax as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.
MIN KYAW MIN’S
SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS
9.00 am to 11.30
Multi-media style lab, audio-visual aid
The students have to answer in English
Hong Kong to hold World Fire Fighter Games
Hong Kong, 4 May — Hong Kong Fire Services Department and the Institute of Fire Engineers (Hong Kong Branch) will jointly host the 9th World Fire Fighters Games in February, 2006, according to sources from Hong Kong Fire Services Department on Tuesday.
Thousands of fire fighters from all over the world will compete in over 50 individual and team contests.

Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)
Host Institutions: University of Foreign Languages, Yangon.
Sponsor: The State Commission of Chinese Proficiency Test
Date: 14 May, 2005 (Saturday)
Place: University of Foreign Languages, Yangon
Application period: From 4 May, 2005 (Wed) to 12 May, 2005 (Thursday)
The TSTF has three different levels; the examinee can choose the level that best matches his or her ability and training. Further information may be obtained from University of Foreign Languages, Yangon, 119-131 University Avenue, Yangon (Telephone: 513198) and University of Foreign Languages, Mandalay (Telephone: 02-32330).
HSK Guide Books may be purchased at the Cultural Section of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China: No.94, Kha Yae Pin Rd, Dagon Township, Yangon and Office of the Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China, Yadanar Lane, Yangon Aung Road, 35th Street (Between 63rd and 66th Street)

Canada’s boreal forest called continental bird nursery
OTTAWA, 4 May — A new scientific study shows that Canada’s boreal forest is even more important to birds across North America than previously thought, according to Canadian Press report on Tuesday.
The study, sponsored by Bird Studies Canada, an independent research group, suggests that roughly one out of every three birds on the continent peeped its first cheep in a nest somewhere in the vast belt of green stretching across the north of virtually all Canadian provinces and the territories.
Boreal forests extend across North America, Europe and Asia.
Although it faces increasing industrial pressure, Canada’s section of it is the largest intact stand left on the planet that best matches the world average size, it covers almost half the country.
The report finds that 57 per cent of the commonly occurring birds in the United States and Canada depend on the boreal forest at some point, either for breeding, migrating, or regular habitat.

Latin America has highest incidence of asthma
MEXICO CITY, 4 May — About 6 to 7 per cent of Latin American people are suffering from asthma, the highest rate in the world, according to a study released on Tuesday, World Asthma Day.
The study, carried out in 2001 in 11 Latin American countries, showed Latin America has about 250 million cases of making the respiratory disease, and there will be 150 million more cases by 2025.
"This is a disease with serious consequences in the sub-continent, as it is not under adequate control," said the study.

Further information may be obtained from University of Foreign Languages, Yangon, 119-131 University Avenue, Yangon (Telephone: 513198) and University of Foreign Languages, Mandalay (Telephone: 02-32330).
**FIFA says no to Egyptian government**

Cairo, 5 May — World soccer’s governing body FIFA has rejected the decision of Egypt’s government to alter the statutes of the Egyptian Football Association (EFA), the British Broadcasting Corporations reported on Wednesday.

The government unilaterally increased the size of the EFA’s congress from 40 to 84 members and changed several rules for the forthcoming elections.

The action of the government has been ruled to be in contravention of FIFA regulations, which state that FA congresses are the supreme law making bodies for national associations.

FIFA warned that the forthcoming EFA poll will be invalid if the government refused to respect the EFA’s approved laws.

“FIFA will not be in a position to recognize the results of the elections, currently scheduled for June 10, if those elections are not strictly based on the EFA statutes,” FIFA said in their letter of May 3 to the EFA.

Sanctions, including a ban from all international competitions, could be imposed on Egypt if they fail to comply with FIFA’s orders.

**Maze stuns Wang Hao in straight sets**

Shanghai, 5 May—Third seed Wang Hao came out the first Chinese sent packing by a European in the world table tennis championships, losing in four straight sets to Michael Maze from Denmark on Wednesday.

Wang, who reached the men’s doubles final, “This might be my best game ever. I played well from the very beginning,” said Maze. “I always believe that when I enter the tournament I’m able to win. Otherwise I’ll just stay in home and sleep. But I thought it might be more difficult to beat a Chinese in China. It’s always difficult, and it makes even more nice to win.”

Wang Hao saved five match points before succumbing 15-13 to the 19th-ranked Maze.

“Maze played better to dominate crucial points, and this happened in every set.”

“My coach and I had been ready for a close game against Maze, but I didn’t expect a 4-0 result.”

“I’ll just let it go since the game was over, and put all my energy on the doubles final,” added Wang, who reached the men’s doubles final pairing with Kong Linghui.

**AC Milan reaches 10th European Cup final**

Brussels, 5 May—AC Milan of Italy defeated PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday night to enter the final of the Champions League.

The semifinal ended 3-3 on aggregate after the second leg, but a last-minute away goal avails Milan to go through to the final with Liverpool of England.

South Korean playmaker Ji Sung Park gave PSV a 1-0 lead on the night, cracking a half-volley into the top of the net from 12 metres after starting and finishing a ninth-minute move.

PSV continued to control the game and it was no surprise when Dutchman Cocu produced a towering close-range header from Young-Pyo Lee’s 65th-minute cross to make it 2-0.

However, Massimo Ambrosini headed the vital 90th-minute goal for AC Milan before Philip Cocu scored his second of the night a minute later, all to no avail.

This is Milan’s second time for the final in three seasons.

AC Milan is chasing its seventh European Cup title.

Liverpool is going for its fifth.

The Champions League final will be held in Istanbul of Turkey on 25 May.

AC Milan’s Gennaro Gattuso (R) and team mate Kaka celebrate after the Champions League semi-final second leg soccer match against PSV Eindhoven at the Philips Stadium in Eindhoven, the Netherlands on 4 May, 2005. AC Milan qualified for the final despite losing 3-1. Milan went through on the away goals rule to set up a final clash with Liverpool in Istanbul on 25 May. — Internet

**Britain’s manufacturing activity in April lowest in 2 years**

London, 4 May—British manufacturing sector saw its activity in April contracted for the first time in almost two years, according to a research report released here on Tuesday.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply/NTC research said its purchasing managers’ index fell to 49.5 last month, its lowest reading since June 2003 and below the figure of 51.6 in March.

It said high oil, steel and plastic prices continued to push up input costs although the input price index fell to its lowest level since February 2004.

Meanwhile, output price growth picked up, with the index rising to 51.6 from 50.9 in March, making export more difficult.

New export orders eased for the fourth straight month at 49.2, mainly due to stronger competition from China and Japan and the rise with weaker demand from the euro zone, the report said.

Analysts here believe the figures might boost expectations that the Bank of England will leave interest rates on hold at 4.75 per cent next week for the ninth month running.

**Report says 30 million Europeans suffer from asthma**

Brussels, 4 May—As many as 30 million Europeans suffer from asthma, according to a report published by Belgian daily Le Libre Belgique on Tuesday.

Of all the Europeans which suffer asthma, six million of them have serious symptoms, with many having sleep interrupted and particularly bad spells of the condition.

The number of people with asthma has doubled during the last 10 years, now affecting an average of 5.9 per cent of the western European population.

British and Ireland are hit the worst, with 16.1 per cent of the population suffering.

In total, there are 300 million people with asthma in the world.

The report was based on a survey carried out into asthma in Germany, Spain, France, Britain and Sweden by the European Federation of Asthma and Allergy Associations (EFA).

**US has 82.5 million mothers**

Washington, 4 May—There are an estimated 82.5 million mothers of all ages in the United States, and the number of stay-at-home mothers was 5.4 million in 2003, statistics released by the Census Bureau on Tuesday showed.

Each year, about 4 million women have babies, of whom about 425,000 are teens aging between 15 and 19 years old and more than 100,000 are 40 or over.

US women today can expect to have two children on average in their lifetime, and about 10 per cent of them end their child bearing years with four or more children, compared with 36 per cent in 1976.

The odds of a woman delivering twins is 1-in-32, and her odds of having triplets or other multiple births is approximately 1-in-540. — MNA/Xinhua

**Hao Shuai of China in action against Michael Maze of Denmark during their men’s singles quarter-final match at the 48th World Table Tennis Championships in Shanghai, China, on 5 May, 2005. Maze won the match 4-3. — Internet**
Tripartite rubber cartel asks Vietnam to join IRCo

JAKARTA, 5 May — A grouping of three of the top natural-rubber producing nations — Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand — has invited Vietnam to join the International Rubber Consortium — a bid to control the price of the commodity.

“If we have Vietnam as a member, IRCo would account for at least 80 per cent of world’s natural rubber produc-
tion,” Indonesian Minis-
ter of Trade Mari Elka Pangestu was quoted Wednesday by The Ja-
karta Post as saying.

Output from the three IRCo members makes up about 75 per cent of glo-
bal natural rubber pro-
duction. The minister said the grouping would be able to establish a fair global price, which smallholder growers would benefit from. “If we work together with strong cooperation in-
stead of (free market) competition, the grouping will be able to stabilize the price,” she explained.

The three countries formed IRCo in 2003 in a bid to push rubber prices higher.

Establishing the cartel was part of the effort to avoid a recurrence of the traumatic events of 2001, when the rubber price crashed to a 30-year low of 45 US cents per kilogramme.

The price bounced back in late 2002 to reach 1.30 US dollars per kilo-
gramme, but has been volatile since then, going down to 1.10 dollars per kilogramme, recently ended at 1.20 dollars per kilogramme.

The highest price in the last 10 years was in 1995, when it stood at 1.55 dollars per kilo-
gramme. IRCo also set up last year a Committee on Strategic Market Ope-
rations (CSMO), which is committed to intervening in the market to ensure that rubber prices do not fall below 1.10 dollars per kilogramme.

Indonesia is the world’s second largest natural rubber producer after Thailand. The coun-
try produced 1.79 million tons in 2003, with 91 per cent of its output being exported to other coun-
tries.

Iran determined to carry out uranium enrichment

UNITED NATIONS, 5 May — Striking a defiant posture, Iran on Tuesday told the major powers that it is determined to pursue all legal areas of nuclear technology including uranium enrichment, but

asserted that its entire nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

“It is unacceptable that some tend to limit the access to peaceful nuclear technology to an exclusive club of technol-
logies and countries can — and will only under-
ner the Treaty,” he said.

Kharrazi was apparently replying to the United States which has been sharply criticizing its decision to resume its uranium enrichment pro-
grame and wants the NPT review meet to focus mainly on Iran and North Korean “nuclear weapon ambitions”.

The difficulty, he said, is in clear violation of the letter and spirit of NPT and destroys the funda-
mental balance that exists between rights and obligations in the treaty.

Stating that Iran is “eager” to offer assur-
dances and guarantees that its efforts would remain “permanently peaceful”, Khürarzi warned that no one should be under any il-
usion that “objective guarantees can be theoretically and practically amount to cessation or even long-term suspen-
sion of legal activities”.

“Let me make abso-
lutely clear that arbitrary and self serving criteria and thresholds regarding proliferation-proof and proli-
eration-proof tech-
ologies and countries

WEATHER

Thurs, May 5, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershow-

ers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Mon

States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon

Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall

recorded were Meikhtila (0.35) inch and Mawlaik (0.32) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above

normal in Kayin and Mon States, Magway, Bago, Ayeyarwady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C)

below normal in lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day tem-

perature was Minbu (42°C).

Maximum temperature on 4–5–2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 5-5-2005 was 74°F. Relative humid-

ity at 9:30 hrs MST on 5–5–2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 4-5-2005 was (3.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 5–5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-

Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1–1–2005 were 1.46 inches at Yangon Airport, 1.93 inches at Kaba-Aye and 0.32 inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 4-5-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in North Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until 6-5-2005: Likeli-

hood of isolated rain or thundershers in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Man-

dalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Di-

visions 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: Thundery condi-
tions are likely in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershers in the late afternoon or evening. Degree of cer-

tainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
YANGON, 5 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, senior military officers, authorities and departmental officials, left Shwegyin on 4 May morning and arrived at the site of Wagadok Dam Project being implemented by Construction-1 of Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Taunghsat-in Village of Bago Township.

In the briefing hall, Director U Aye Myint of Bago Division Irrigation Department and Director U Khin Maung Yu of Construction-1 reported on matters concerning dam projects that will supply water to Moeyungyi Lake. The commander gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended to their needs. Director U Khin Maung Yu briefed them on facts about Wagadok Dam Project and progress of the project. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on timely completion of the project tasks meeting the set standard.

Wagadok Dam Project is located on Wagadok Creek, four miles from Taunghsat-in Village of Bago Township. The dam is being implemented for supply of water to Moeyungyi Lake in summer and to irrigate summer paddy. The dam will have 86 feet high and 6,400 feet long earth embankment. It will have 32,600 acre-feet of storage capacity of water at the highest level. The conduit is of reinforced concrete and it will be 255 feet long. The reinforced concrete spillway will be 30 feet wide.

Thanks to implementing the dam project, water can be stored in the dam in rainy season and supplied into Moeyungyi Lake in summer. In addition, the dam project will contribute towards greening Bago Division, Yangon Division and 30-mile radius area of Yangon City (Eastern Area) and cultivation of summer crops including summer paddy.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party oversaw the project site and fulfilled the requirements. After that, they arrived back here in the afternoon.

YANGON, 5 May — The 59th Anniversary Fire Services Day Parade was held at the parade grounds of Fire Services Training School in Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung, departmental heads and guests.

Parade columns led by Parade Commander Deputy Director U Aung Kyaw Myint took the designated places. Next, the Minister delivered an address.

 Afterwards, the Minister presented gifts to four Ye Thurein Title winners, six Ye Kyawswa Title winners and six Ye Kyawthu Title winners.

Members of the Fire Services Department demonstrated their skills.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony followed at Thida Hall of FSD (Head Office). The company commander handed over a shield awarded at 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade to the director-general.

The FSD Director-General presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers and artistes.

Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Hlaing gave away prizes and certificates to those who wrote by-line articles honouring the 59th Anniversary Fire Services Day, two Excellent Performance in Social Field Award winners, 102 Fire Brigade members who participated in putting out fire at the gas container shop.

Principal of Central Fire Services Training School Col Thaung Zin presented prizes and certificates of honour to Fire Brigade members who took part in rescuing lives and putting out fire at the risk of their lives.

Later, officials also awarded prizes to outstanding members of Fire Brigade.

INSIDE

Eating too much calorie food without any exercise to burn it off usually results in a bigger waistline in the body. On top of that, advanced technology of our era has brought many new gadgets and equipment that make children stuck in one place for long hours. (Page 7) — AYE PHYU