People have cultivated a good habit of sharing duties with the government for regional and national development.

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

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

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

YANGON, 7 May — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win made an inspection tour of fertilizer plants, Umin Koepauk river water pumping project, Mann Oil Field and Thayet Cement Plant in Magway Division yesterday and today.

Accompanied by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, deputy ministers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Prime Minister left here for Bagan-NyaungU of Mandalay Division by air yesterday morning.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpyaung Station, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

On arrival at No 2 Fertilizer Plant (Kyunchaung) of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy in Kyunchaung, Pakokku Township, they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Commander of No 101 LID Col Maung Maung Ohn and officials.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on facts about the plant, repairs, expected cement production, requirements of parts for repairs, parts that can be produced locally and their costs and annual cement production.

Managing Director U Kyaw Shein of MPE briefed the Prime Minister on production process of the fertilizer plant and Plant Manager U Sein Kyaw Than on condition of the plant.

(See page 16)
MRCS in the service of national interests and humanitarian work

The Myanmar Red Cross Society is a social organization made up of the offspring of the people, and it is participating in nation-building endeavours like other national forces. The MRCS, deservedly receiving the encouragement of the State, is carrying out the humanitarian tasks in various parts of the nation. In particular, it is engaged in such humanitarian tasks as improvement of health care services of the people, prevention and control of diseases and taking care of the needy.

Being a national force on which the State can rely, it has been making relentless efforts for national and regional development as well as for improvement of socio-economic life of the people in addition to its humanitarian tasks.

Outstanding Red Cross members who have been recognized for their outstanding performance in social field and those who have brilliantly performed the relief tasks at risk to their lives are honoured annually.

The opening ceremony of the Get-together of Outstanding Red Cross Members for 2005 was held on 4 May. Red Cross members who are outstanding in social welfare and relief tasks have been chosen to attend the ceremony. This admirable programme will certainly contribute to development of the MRCS.

The get-together is not only a programme to train and nurture Red Cross members to become outstanding ones imbued with high morale, but also an arrangement that helps constantly produce outstanding Red Cross members.

The humanitarian tasks of the MRCS are interrelated with the spirit to carry out social welfare task out of free will, deeply rooted in Myanmar society. Therefore, humanitarian activities have been common and extensive in the nation.

With high morale, the Red Cross members are carrying out humanitarian activities as well as national development tasks.

As medals and certificates were presented to outstanding Red Cross members at the gathering, those who have been invited to attend the ceremony are worthy of honour and they will be able to further cultivate the spirit of carrying out humanitarian activities.

This being so, all the Red Cross members, who are the auxiliary force of the State, are called upon to earnestly engage in the humanitarian tasks for physical and spiritual development of the people, prevention and control of diseases and taking care of the needy.

Being a national force on which the State can rely, the MRCS is carrying out the humanitarian tasks out of free will, deeply rooted in Myanmar society.

The humanitarian tasks of the MRCS are interrelated with the spirit to carry out social welfare task out of free will, deeply rooted in Myanmar society. Therefore, humanitarian activities have been common and extensive in the nation.

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This being so, all the Red Cross members, who are the auxiliary force of the State, are called upon to earnestly engage in the humanitarian tasks for physical and spiritual development of the national people, while serving the interests of the State and the people in accord with its noble objectives.

Supply of clean water in Pakokku District discussed

YANGON, 7 May — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Director-General of Development Affairs Department U Myo Munt and officials inspected renovation of Myakantha Park and supply of drinking water in Pakokku yesterday.

Officials concerned reported on present condition and tasks to be undertaken. The minister gave instructions on planting of shady trees, flowers and coconut trees in the park, recreation for the public and repair of water slide. The minister went to Magyithonbin Village and Oinwathit and inspected sinking of tube wells and met local people. The minister fulfilled the requirements during his visit to the youth training centre in Pakokku.

He also discussed supply of clean water in five months in Pakokku District at the coordination meeting at Pyithaya Hall. — MNA

Prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Thaing Colour Photo contest held

YANGON, 7 May — The prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Thaing Colour Photo Contest, co-organized by Myanmar Thaing Federation and Myanmar Photographic Society was held at the head office of MDG on Kyansitha Road in North Okkalapa Industrial Zone, North Okkalapa Township this morning. It was attended by Deputy-President of MTF U Mya Thein, the secretary and executives, Patron of MPS U Maung Maung Gyi, the chairman of MPS and others. U Mya Thein, Vice-President of MTF, explained matters on holding the contest.

Next, the Vice-President of MTF and the chairman of MPS presented the winners prizes and the panel of judges certificates of honour.

The first prize winner, photographer U Hla Htun spoke words of thank. Later, the vice-president of MTF presented related documents of Sharp-Digital (Copier-Printer-Scanner) (AR-M 206) worth k 2 million for MPS to the chairman of MPS who spoke words of thank for the donation. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

Press Conference on Yangon International Trade Fair-2005

YANGON, 7 May — The Press Conference on organizing Yangon International Trade Fair-2005 took place at the meeting hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry this morning, attended by officials of the UMFFCCI and departments, Trade Fair organizing work committee members, journalists and guests.

Vice-President of the UMFFCCI U Zaw Min Win and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing explained matters on organizing Yangon International Trade Fair-2005. Next, the officials answered the queries raised by those present and the conference ended with the concluding remarks by the vice-president of the UMFFCCI.

The trade fair will be held at Myanmar Convention Centre from 25 to 29 May. — MNA

U He Lee-Daw Tin Thu Kyaw Lee and family recently donates K 100,000 to Hninziyon Home for the Aged through Vice-Chairman of the Management Board Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd). — H

Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects sinking of tube-well in Oinwathit in Myaing township. — PRANDA
Two workers killed in US shooting incident

WASHINGTON, 6 May — Two workers, including the shooter himself, were killed Thursday morning in an oil company office building in Houston, in the south-central US state of Texas, TV and wire news reports said.

One man shot a co-worker to death before shooting himself, the reports said. It appeared to be a “murder-suicide”, local police was quoted as saying.

Police found two pistols near the bodies on the fifth floor of the nine-storey building in west Houston. The building houses a division of Cooper Cameron oil services company that makes pressure control systems for oil drilling.

The fifth floor remained closed, but other parts of the building had resumed normal operations. — MNA/Inhua

Singapore, Indonesian leaders vow to build closer bilateral ties

SINGAPORE, 6 May — President Jusuf Kalla on Thursday expressed their desire to build closer ties between the two countries.

According to Lee's Press secretary, the two leaders discussed the possibility of closer bilateral cooperation in tourism, civil aviation as well as trade and investments during their meeting in the afternoon.

They also talked about the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Indonesia's Aceh, which was worst hit by the tsunami of last December, as well as Indonesia's economic prospects.

Addressing a business forum jointly organized by Network Indonesia and International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) on Thursday, Kalla said that there exist many possibilities and chances for the development of Indonesia under the administration of the new government since October last year.

He said that the government is committed to the infrastructure reconstruction in Aceh for the next two to three years.

The Vice-President also noted that Indonesia and other members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) should spare joint efforts to strengthen themselves as countries like China and India are rising in the region.

Kalla started his three-day visit to the island state on Wednesday at the invitation of Singapore Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

MNA/Inhua

Ministers of 55 countries to attend NAM meeting on women

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 May — Ministers or vice-ministers of 55 countries had confirmed their attendance at the inaugural Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women, a Malaysian minister said on Thursday.

"The number of NAM member states attending the meeting is beyond expectation and is most encouraging," Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrazat Abdul Jalil told reporters in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre near here.

"Although NAM has 114 members, not all of them have ministries or agencies in charge of women affairs," she said.

Shahrazat, who will be chairing the two-day ministerial meeting beginning Monday, said that she did not expect the inaugural meeting to receive such good response as this was the first time in the grouping's 44-year history to discuss social issues, especially pertaining to women.

The meeting will be preceded with the senior officials meeting on 7 and 8 May, followed by the two-day ministerial meeting.

"It's clear and evident that women development issues are no longer regarded as trivial matters. We can afford to present women issues in a critical forum," she said.

On the agenda of the meeting, she said: "The meeting will discuss seven key topics. They are economic development, education, health, information and communications technology, decision-making, armed conflicts and violence against women."

The meeting themed ‘Empowering Women in Facing the Challenges of Globalization’ will also identify projects, specific and practical programmes which can be implemented by NAM for women's development in member countries.

NAM was set up in 1961 to play a significant role as custodian of Southern interests in the world. — MNA/Inhua

Malaysia, Indonesia continue to reduce tension in Sulawesi

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 May — Malaysia and Indonesia on Friday agreed that their Armed Forces should continue with efforts to reduce tension in the disputed maritime border area in the Sulawesi Sea.

This was the outcome of talks between Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak and visiting Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre 40 kilometres south of here.

Referring to the Sulawesi Sea dispute, Najib told a joint Press conference with Yusuf that there was no need to remove all military presence from the area.

"So long as we do not resort to any show of strength, only having a normal presence, I believe there is no problem," he said. Najib said the situation at the maritime border area was improving and he hoped there would be no repeat of the incident last month in which two ships belonging to the Malaysian and Indonesian navies "brushed" against each other while patrolling in the Sulawesi Sea. Jusuf pointed out that the Armed Forces chiefs of the two countries had met to discuss how "friendly patrol" could be conducted without causing conflict. Najib and Jusuf were clearly pleased with the outcome of their talks and comfortable with each other.

The dispute was sparked off early this year after Petronas, Malaysia National Oil Company, awarded an oil and gas exploration deal in the Sulawesi Sea offshore the Malaysian-owned islands of Sipadan and Ligitan to international oil company Shell.

MNA/Inhua

Singapore's photonics industry sees rapid growth

SINGAPORE, 6 May — The output of Singapore's photonics industry reached 2.1 billion Singapore dollars (about 1.3 billion US dollars) in 2004, an increase of 22 per cent over the previous year, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Thursday night.

Ahmad Magad, chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Finance and Trade and Industry, attributed the robust growth of the emerging industry to the pro-business environment in the city state.

Photonics is the use of light energy for a variety of purposes in a wide range of industries such as sensing and imaging, healthcare, telecommunications and display. Singapore aims to be a photonics hub since the emerging industry is expected to revolutionize innovation in the 21st Century, the report said.

MNA/Inhua

Vietnamese shoppers check out the new Levi shop in a modern department store in Hanoi, Vietnam on 7 May, 2005. — Internet

An engineer surveys the airstrip at Bangkok's new Suvarnabhumi Airport recently. — Internet
India achieves another milestone in space technology

SRIHARIKOTA, 6 May — Indian space scientists on Thursday successfully placed the country’s heaviest remote sensing satellite CARTOSAT-1 and HAMSAT in orbit, achieving for the country another milestone in space technology by delivering multiple launch capability.

Launch vehicle PSLV-C6 carried the satellites onto their polar sun synchronous orbits about 18 minutes after lift off at 0436 GMT from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in this Andhra Pradesh town.

The CARTOSAT, weighing 1560 kilos, is the heaviest payload that the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle had transported so far in its nine flights and it was for the first time that two Indian satellites were put in the orbit by a single launch vehicle.

President A P J Abdul Kalam witnessed the launch from the mission control centre as the PSLV-C6 soared into the sky in a flawless lift off from the four billion state-of-the-art second launch pad, which he dedicated to the nation Wednesday night.

Kalam, who himself had been behind many rocket launches, congratulated the scientists on their feat. “The country is proud of you,” he told them.

Declaring the mission a success, ISRO Chairman G. Madhavan Nair said “It’s a heartening mission. This is the first flight from the second launch pad. We were working against all odds — sun, rain and wind.”

The launch was advanced by four minutes to avoid debris of old satellites in the orbit and the PSLV-C6 lifted off with the ignition of the core first stage and four of the six strap-on motors.

The remaining two strap-on motors ignited 25 seconds after the lift off, ISRO officials said.

After the important flight events, including separation of the strap-on motors, and ignition and separation of second, third and fourth stages, CARTOSAT-1 was successfully separated 1,078 seconds after the lift off. Forty seconds later, HAMSAT was also separated from the fourth stage equipment bay, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said.

Both of them had been placed in Polar Sun Synchronous orbit at an altitude of 632 x 621 kilometers with an inclination of 97.8 degrees of equator, it said adding that the solar panels of CARTOSAT-1 were deployed soon after its injection into the orbit.

Since its first successful flight in 1994, the capacity of PSLV, developed by ISRO, has been enhanced from 850 kilos to the present 1,600 kilos. PSLV has also demonstrated the multiple satellite launch capability.

Nations on FTA were “progressing very well”, he told joint Press conference with his Pakistan counterpart, Shaukat Aziz, at his office in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre near here.

Shaukat, who is leading a 25-member delegation, is in Malaysia for a three-day official visit beginning Thursday. The visit is a reciprocate to Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi’s visit to Pakistan in February.

The free trade pact was first agreed upon between both leaders during Abdullah’s visit to Islamabad.

At the Press conference, the Malaysian Prime Minister described the one-and-a-half-hour meeting between Malaysia and Pakistan ministers as successful, as it paved the way to closer cooperation between the two countries.

“I regard this (as successful) as there are some follow-ups to the bilateral meetings that we had in Islamabad in February. The meeting (in Isla mabad) was a successful one. I recall many decisions that we have made in the spirit of friendship,” he said.

Besides trade, Malaysia also pledged to extend closer cooperation with Pakistan in various sectors, among others, in tourism, information technology, communication, science and technology and aviation, he added.

Abdullah also noted that both countries expressed satisfaction with the progress made in their cooperation in the financial services sector, mainly banking.

On Friday, Shaukat is scheduled to present a keynote address at a Malaysia-Pakistan business and economic forum organized by the local-based Asian Strategic Leadership Institute (ASLI).

Both countries are members of the Organizational of Islamic Conference. Malaysia has a cumulative investment of some 200 million ringgit ($184.21 million US dollars) in Pakistan, the second biggest trading partner in South Asia for the Southeast country.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia to build drug rehabilitation centre in Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, 6 May — Phnom Penh Municipality and Cambodia’s National Authority for Combatting Drugs plan to build a rehabilitation centre in Phnom Penh’s Russian Keo District, local media reported on Thursday.

“We hope the new centre could help drug addicts and drug users to be freed of drugs by ordering them to be sheltered in the centre and do strong exercises everyday,” The Cambodia Daily quoted Municipal Deputy Governor Mum Bun Neang as saying.

The centre, to be built on a two-hectare land and house 500 people, will include vegetable gardens and places to exercise, said Mum Bun Neang.

Malaysia, Pakistan to seal FTA by end of this year

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 May — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Thursday said confidently that the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Malaysia and Pakistan would be sealed by the end of the year.

Negotiations on FTA were “progressing very well”, he told joint Press conference with his Pakistani counterpart, Shaukat Aziz, at his office in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre near here.

Shaukat, who is leading a 25-member delegation, is in Malaysia for a three-day official visit beginning Thursday. The visit is a reciprocate to Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi’s visit to Pakistan in February.

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MNA/Xinhua

S Korean FM to hold fence-mending talks with Japanese counterpart

SEOUL, 6 May — South Korea’s Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon flew to Japan Thursday for a regional forum among Asia and Europe as well as fence-mending talks with his Japanese counterpart, according to the South Korean national news agency Yonhap.

Ban Ki-moon’s meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura is to be held on the sidelines of a ministerial session of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) set for Friday and Saturday in the Japanese city of Kyoto.

Friday’s talks will be the second encounter, since relations between the two countries were seriously frayed over Japan’s territorial claim to Dokdo, a chain of rocky South Korean islets in the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan.

Their earlier meeting, which took place in Pakistan in early April, turned awkward after Ban publicly chastized Machimura for backing Tokyo’s approval of new school textbooks accused of minimizing Japan’s wartime wrongdoing and describing Dokdo as Japanese.

Army personnel of the 1st Maratha Light Infantry blow fire while hanging from giant poles as part of the ‘Know your Army’ performance in Bangalore on 6 May, 2005.—Internet
India’s Cabinet clears SEZ legislation

NEW DELHI, 6 May — The Indian Government on Wednesday night cleared the long-awaited Special Economic Zone (SEZ) legislation providing a fiscal package, including a 15-year income tax holiday, to give a big push to exports, foreign direct investment and job creation.

The umbrella legislation approved by the federal Cabinet provides single-window mechanism for SEZs and their units, Information and Broadcasting Minister S Jaipal Reddy told reporters here. SEZ units will be eligible for 100-per-cent tax exemption for five years, 50 per cent next five years and 50 per cent of the ploughed back export profits for the next five years.

The developers of the zones will continue to get 100-per-cent income tax exemption for 10 years in a block period of 15 years. It may be noted that the budget had introduced an amendment in the Income Tax Act bringing in a sunset clause as per which SEZ units were to get these benefits only till 2009. The provision will be superceded if this legislation is passed by Parliament.

It provides for establishment of designated courts and a single enforcement agency to ensure speedy trial and investigation of offences committed in SEZs.

It encourages state governments to liberalize state laws and delegate their powers to the development commissioners of the SEZs to facilitate single-window clearance.

India already has eight SEZs. These are the eight Export Processing Zones in Kandla, Surat, Cochin, Santa Cruz, Faridabad, Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Noida, which have been converted into SEZs.

At least 36 new SEZs have been approved of which those in Indore, Salt Lake, Kolkata and Jaipur have become operational. Two more in Jodhpur and Moradabad are now ready for operation. Other SEZs are at various stages of implementation.

Regarding clearance to Overseas Business Units and Financial Service Centres the Group of Ministers favoured India’s central bank — the Reserve Bank of India as the nodal authority. The legislation also provides for establishment of free trade and warehousing zones to create world-class trade related infrastructure to facilitate import and export of goods aimed at making India global trading hub.

Pakistani PM leaves on four-nation tour

ISLAMABAD, 6 May — Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has left for four Southeast Asian countries to further strengthen bilateral ties.

The Prime Minister will first visit Malaysia from 5 to 7 May, then Brunei from 7 to 8 May, Thailand from 8 to 10 May and Singapore from 10 to 12 May.

Speaking at the airport before his departure, the Prime Minister said his visit would promote Pakistan’s relations with these Southeast Asian countries and enable Pakistan to play full dialogue partner in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Prime Minister said Pakistan’s political, economic and diplomatic relations with these countries would reach a new level after his visit.

He said it would also be an important step towards further consolidation of the strategic “Vision East Asia”, which envisages forging multidimensional relations with the East Asian economies.

Aziz said trade ties would be further enhanced through mutual cooperation and with more people-to-people interaction as his entourage includes leading Pakistani businessmen.

The Prime Minister said these members of ASEAN had made progress in various fields and Pakistan would benefit from their experience.

Aziz said President Pervez Musharraf had visited Indonesia and the Philippines recently, and now he is visiting the other four important countries of Southeast Asia.

Australian’s captors set 72-hour ultimatum for Iraq pullout

RABAT, 7 May — A militant group holding Australian engineer Douglas Wood hostage in Iraq has given Canberra 72 hours to start withdrawing its troops from the country, Al-Jazeera television said, showing footage of the captive.

“The group calling itself the Shura Council of the Mujahideen of Iraq, which is holding Australian hostage Douglas Wood, gave Australian authorities 72 hours to start withdrawing their forces from Iraq,” the Qatar-based news channel said. Al-Jazeera said the demand was made by Wood in a video, briefly showing footage of the hostage with two machine guns pointed at his head.

It did not say what the group would do if the ultimatum was not met.

One of the gunmen was seen in the footage, with his face masked.

The hostage was seen speaking sat on the floor. He held up an identity document.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said earlier Friday that Wood, 63, was still alive as it emerged that an influential Sunni sheikh has pleaded with the militants to spare his life. Howard said the government believed that Wood, who was first filmed pleading for his life in a DVD released on Sunday, was still alive but that he did not want to comment on details.

“We are doing everything we can to secure his release — it’s very hard,” Howard said on local radio.

Expert says Hu Jintao’s Moscow tour significant

BEIJING, 7 May — Chinese President Hu Jintao is expected to voice China’s sincere aspiration for peace and development while attending the 9 May celebrations in Moscow marking the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, said a Chinese expert.

“Hu’s Moscow tour is quite significant,” said Xing Guangcheng, a fellow researcher with Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. “Hu’s attendance shows that China attaches great importance to the commemorations in Moscow and the Chinese people loves peace.”

He will attend the 60th anniversary celebrations in Moscow for the victory of Russia’s Great Patriotic War along with more than 50 state leaders and representatives of international organizations.

“As part of the world’s celebration for the victory over the war against fascism, the celebrations will provide a platform for the heads of state to communicate on peace,” said Xing.

On the sidelines of the celebration, Hu Jintao will meet French President Jacques Chirac, President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea, President Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov of Turkmenistan and Romanian President Traian Basescu, as well as Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“During the World War II, the Chinese and Russian people fought shoulder to shoulder and contributed greatly to the world’s victory over the war against fascism,” said Xing.

“Hu and Putin will exchange views on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern,” said Xing.

“They will also recall the friendship between China and Russia which will enhance the Sino-Russian strategic cooperation partnership,” said Xing.

CPPCC Vice-Chairman meets religions for Peace

BEIJING, 7 May — Wang Zhongyue, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), met with Religions for Peace Secretary-General William F Vendley here on Thursday.

Vendley, secretary-general of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), is visiting China at the invitation of China Committee on Religion and Peace (CCRP).

During their meeting, Wang expressed appreciation for the WCRP’s efforts to maintain friendly links with the Chinese religious circles and the CCRP.

MNA/Xinhua

A woman makes a phone call on a Singtel phone booth in Singapore on 6 May, 2005. —Internet
Cabinet approves abolition of agri products export Cess

NEW DELHI, 6 May—The Indian Government on Wednesday abolished cess on export of agricultural products to make them more competitive by reducing the incidence of taxation.

Announcing the Cabinet decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister S Jaipal Reddy said this follows the proposal made in the annual supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy on 8 April, 2005.


Necessary legislation for this would be brought in Parliament. Reddy said the measure would also be exporter-friendly as export-ers would no longer have to comply with the rigours of Customs procedures. — MNA/PTI

Vietnam supports Australia’s bid to host E Asia Summit

CANBERRA, 6 May—Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said on Thursday that Vietnam will support Australia’s effort to host the East Asian Summit despite Australia has not signed a regional non-aggression peace treaty.

Speaking at a joint Press conference after meeting with Khai, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said “The Vietnamese Prime Minister expressed to me support for Australia’s involvement in the East Asian Summit.”

Khai said he did not think Australia should have to sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in order to gain access to the East Asian Summit.

“I don’t think so. These are separate issues,” he said.

The failure to sign the treaty has held up Australi-a’s involvement in the summit, which is considered by Australia to be a good opportunity to be more involved in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Khai said cooperation between the two countries has been close, adding “Our cooperation has expanded to cover all economic, trade, investment, education, training and even security and defence areas.”

“During this visit Laos also would like to reaffirm to Mr Prime Minister (John Howard) about the need for the two countries to further deepen our friendship and comprehensive cooperation for the mutual benefit of our two countries and our two peoples,” he said.

Howard said Australia will support Vietnam’s accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and will help Vietnam host next year’s Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

“Australia supports Vietnam’s accession to the WTO and subject to agreement on some outstanding matters, it will be possible for a bilateral understanding regarding that acces-sion to be concluded between Australia and Vietnam,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ women give birth older

WELLINGTON, 6 May—New Zealand women’s median age of giving birth is 30 now, two years older than in 1995, Statistics New Zealand said on Thursday.

Women aged 30-34 have currently the highest fertility rate of 1.19 births per 1,000 person, 13 more births than in 1995. On the other hand, the fertility rate for women aged under 30 has dropped, according to the figures. The statistics also shows that New Zealand women average 1.99 births per person and the median age of women giving birth for the first time was 28 years old. There were 57,630 live births registered in New Zealand in the March 2005 year. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese FM arrives Japan for Asia-Europe Forum

KYOTO, 6 May—Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing arrived here Thursday evening for the seventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM 7) due to open here on Friday.

On the sidelines of the ASEM FMM 7, the Chinese Foreign Minister will also attend the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus China, Japan and South Korea (10+3) foreign ministers’ meeting on Friday and chair the third meeting of the Tri-partite Commission of China, Japan and South Korea on Saturday.

Under the theme of deepening Asia-Europe dialogue to face global challenges, the foreign ministers or their representatives of Asian and European countries will discuss multilateralism, sustainable development, cultural diversity and future of the ASEM and other issues.

Focus will also be on Asian consultations about a planned East Asia Summit and fence-mending efforts between Japan and China, as well as Japan and South Korea, through a series of talks planned on the sidelines of full sessions of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

The two-day meeting is also making preparations for the Sixth ASEM Summit Meeting to be held in Finland in 2006.

The ASEM was officially established in 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand. It is an inter-regional forum which now consists of the 10 ASEM members, China, Japan and South Korea and 25 European Union (EU) member countries and the European Commission (EC).

MNA/Xinhua

Australia donates Indonesia to help fight polio outbreak

CANBERRA, 6 May—The Australian Government announced on Thursday that it will donate one million Australian dollars (780,000 US dollars) to help Indonesia to fight against a polio outbreak.

Two people are known to have contracted polio in a district of Java Island. This is the first such outbreak in a decade.

“Indonesia’s aid will help vaccinate millions of children living in the provinces near the original outbreak, Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Bruce Billson said. Australian assistance will meet around half the anticipated costs of the immunization campaign and our expertise in mass immunization logistics has also been offered to WHO (World Health Organization) in Jakarta,” he said in a statement. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to open seven overseas agriculture offices

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 May—The Malaysian Cabinet has decided to set up agriculture representative offices in seven foreign countries, a minister said on Wednesday.

These foreign countries are Australia, China, Japan, the Netherlands, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and the United States. Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Muhyiddin Yassin told reporters after chairing the ministry’s post Cabinet meeting.

Muhyiddin said among the functions of the representative offices are to identify the potential of agriculture products in the importing country and to determine the needs of the countries concerned.

The establishment of the offices will enable the local products to penetrate the international market and tackle bureaucracy in the agriculture trade as well as global food problem, he said.

He said the absence of such offices in the importing countries has prevented the potential of the local agricultural produce from being developed to the maximum.

The Malaysian Government has identified as one of the major engine of the country’s growth. In 2004, the country remained as the largest producer and exporter of palm oil, accounting for over 55 per cent of global exports. Malaysian export value of the agricultural produce had increased from 3.45 billion ringgit (907 million US dollars) in 1990 to 9.9 billion ringgit (2.6 billion US dollars) last year.

MNA/Xinhua

A man leaves a poultry market with live ducks hung over his motorcycle in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 6 May, 2005.—INTERNET

An unidentified young woman places a call from a Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) booth in Manila on 5 May, 2005.—INTERNET
Since prehistoric times, the people of Myanmar have been developing, relying on the land and water resources of the nation for food and every necessity, with patriotism strong enough to serve the interests of the motherland. Despite having differences in language, mode of dress and customs, their love for the land is high and of the same degree.

The nationalities have been indivisible and they have fine traditions throughout history, striving in harmony and unison like sailors skillfully navigating their boat on the high seas, in strengthening and safeguarding the nation which witnessed the emergence of the First, Second and Third Myanmar Empires. In any era, there has always been unity and amity among the over 100 national races, and deep inside their soul are fraternity, solidarity and the love for the nation, especially, the teachings of Lord Buddha.

After Myanmar had fallen under subjugation of the colonialists in 1885, the high level of prestige and integrity of the people shattered under the clever plots of the occupiers to suppress and enslave the nation. However, it was the reawakening of the Myanmar people that led to regaining of independence in 1948 and setting up of the Union of Myanmar, with democracy as the national policy. Unfortunately, for certain reasons, the nation failed to realize the good parts of the system, instead it plunged into confusion caused by the loopholes and weaknesses of the policy.

The truth is that the nation faced abject misery resulting from the trap of dissension the colonialists had laid in the whole nation after realizing that they had to grant independence unavoidably. And the divide-and-rule policy to separate the plains and hill regions was their weapon of destruction during colonization of Myanmar.

The scheme of the colonialists was to cause racial hatred and antagonism between the majority and the minorities. In reality, the colonialists granted independence, that was an unavoidable work for them during the time, together with the time bomb to break up the Union and national solidarity.

Hence, racial-based and ideological-based armed opposition erupted in the nation soon after regaining of the independence, and the people, even before enjoying a taste of freedom, fell victim to internal insurrection, while suffering from the bitter experiences of the instability reaching beyond their tolerance.

On 28 March 1948, which was less than two months after the regaining of independence, the Burmese Communist Party went underground and ignited the flames of internal insurgency which was later fueled by other armed opposition groups following the armed struggle line one after another, with the policy of racial prejudice and discrimination as their banner. Had not the Tatmadaw saved and restored order in the nation in time, the Union would have fallen apart in a matter of months after the date on which the nation regained independence.

When the KNDP insurgent group made a proclamation to set up a separate Kayin State in 1949 after seizing some parts in southeast Shan State, Shan sawbwas (chieftains) and their cohorts were conspiring together against the Union to realize their aim of secession.

At the same time, the Chiang Kai-Shek government was defeated in China, and the Corps 93 of the Kuomintang army intruded into Myanmar territory in Shan State and stationed its troops there. The sawbwas were supporting the Kuomintang troops then as the latter was able to organize the former with gifts. The Kuomintang troops extended their occupation and put Mongmao, Mongyan, Mongyawng, Mongpan, Monghsu, Mongpuon, Pungpakhyen and Tachilek under their control.

Even the complaint filed by the ruling AFPFL government at the UN failed to push the invaders out of the country, as they were enjoying direct assistance of a certain western power. To safeguard the nation’s sovereign power, the Tatmadaw launched a three-year military campaign covering Operation Naganan, Operation Bayintnaung and Operation Yangyiaung beginning 1952.

For two times, one in 1954 and another in 1957, Shan sawbwas and their cohorts held meetings in Mongrai, demanding secession of Shan State from the Union. There were open movements as well as clandestine operations to form underground groups, causing confusion in Shan State together with the appearance of secession policy and anti-Bamar sentiments.

At the same time, the strength of people with progressive pragmatic views and Union Spirit was increasing leading to the spread of anti-feudalism and views opposing any scheme to break up the Union. Namhkam U Tun Aye, member of the parliament of southern Shan State, warned the sawbwas to stop their perpetration, demanding them to relinquish their power and to stay within the Union.

To make the matter worse, Hsensi sawbwa, Hispaw sawbwa, Monghsu sawbwa, Laikha sawbwa, Kehsi sawbwa, Mongrai sawbwa, Monglin sawbwa and Nyangwul sawbwa and his wife Nang Hein Hkam (Mahadevi) formed the Shan State People’s Unity Association (SSPUA), which said that there was no need for the sawbwas to give up power, issuing a firm announcement on 20 April 1957, demanding secession of Shan State from the Union ten years after regaining of independence according to the Panglong Agreement.

It was a means to counter the proposals of the people with progressive views and Union Spirit founded the All Shan State Association and demanded the sawbwas to relinquish power and warned them not to secede from the Union.

The sad thing during the time was the ruling AFPFL’s failure to effectively control and address the problem with its authority. At the same time, Nang Hein Hkam tried to agitate and organize Shan university students who received cash assistance of sawbwas. She also organized the civil staff and police personnel offering bribes, while launching clandestine operations to organize village chieftains, gather arms and conduct military training courses.

In addition, Sao Hkun Seik, an uncle of Kengtung sawbwa, and Sai Nwe formed an armed band as a defence force under their leadership. As the then government became suspicious of them, it arrested Sao Hkun Seik under section 5. Sai Nwe escaped arrest, and fled to Mongkyut where he formed the group “Brave Shan Youth” at Hsipaw and Mongヤ ြ at the Myanmar-Thailand border on 23 May 1958. When the government released Sao Hkun Seik from detention, he also fled to the place and joined the group.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 7-5-2005

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**Row in harmony and unison**

**Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)**

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**Prizes presentation ceremony of Follow Me and Secret Beauty Products held**

YANGON, 7 May — A ceremony to present prizes to the winners of lucky draw organized by Tohtoikou Sundefined Berhad and Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. It was attended by departmental officials, journalists, artists and others.

Managing Director U Kyin Sein of Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd extended greetings and made donations to various organisations on the occasion.

Prizes were given to dealers from Super Markets and grand lucky draw winners of Follow Me and Secret Beauty Products.

Executive Director U Htun Kyi spoke words of thanks.

Consolation prizes will be given at the company office at No 96, Shwe Taung Dan Street from 9 to 31 May 2005.—MNA
People have cultivated good...

(from page 16)

Umin Koepauk river-water pumping project will benefit over 7800 acres of farmland and the region will be able to cultivate monsoon and summer paddy despite the cultivating of only beans and pulses and sesame in the past.

The Prime Minister and party went to Mann oilfield in Minbu by helicopter. At the guest house of the field Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on facts about the oilfield and its related Hauxkhabin oilfield and Kanni oilfield and production of oil and natural gas. Next, MOGE Managing Director U San Lwin also reported on prospects for further exploration of oil and gas. The Prime Minister gave them necessary instructions.

The region’s paddy sown acreage has mounted to more than 112,000 acres in 2004-2005, up from about 77,000 acres of paddy in 1993-94. In addition, total sown acreage of crops has increased from over 0.5 million acres to more than 0.94 million acres, and cultivation of crops has doubled in the period.

In other words, the people have cultivated a good habit of sharing duties with the government for regional and national development, in which the government is playing a leading role in nation-building tasks with endeavours and goals. Thayet District has gained 70 per cent of local food sufficiency, and Kamma and Mindon townships of the districts have enjoyed rice surplus.

The region’s paddy sown acreage has mounted to more than 112,000 acres in 2004-2005, up from about 77,000 acres of paddy in 1993-94.

In addition, total sown acreage of crops has increased from over 0.5 million acres to more than 0.94 million acres, and cultivation of crops has doubled in the period. With increased efforts to ensure rice sufficiency and economic development of respective regions, the entire nation will be able to enjoy strong economy, and stand on its feet firmly.

It is unwise the nation places reliance on foreign...
People have cultivated good...

(continue from page 8)

assistance for its economic development, and it does not conform to the spirit and nationalistic fervour of the people who wish to stand on their own feet.

The significant progress of the nation and the emergence of infrastructures necessary for national development are due to the combined and concerted efforts of the State and the people exerting own abilities and capabilities under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

So, the entire national people will have to strive in union for shouldering the future nation-building tasks.

With rich natural resources and highly-qualified human resources, the nation will be able to catch up with her neighbours soonest.

It is important for the government to create opportunities for enabling the people to enjoy food sufficiency and better living conditions, and to equip them with high intellectual power to distinguish between the good and the bad.

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So, all those responsible are to seek possible ways and means to surmount the dangers of the destructive elements, while carrying out national development undertakings and public welfare services with

loyalty.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister had a cordial conversation with departmental officials, members of social organizations and town elders.

This morning, the Prime Minister and party inspected manufacturing process at Thayet Cement Plant, kilns, machine spare parts produced by the plant.

They also inspected Thayet District People’s Hospital (100-bed), Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials conducted them round the facility.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to No 3 Fertilizer Factory in Aunglan Township, and inspected control room, ammonia workshop, and urea factory.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on condition of Kyunchaung, Sale and Kyawswa fertilizer factories and requirements.

(See page 10)
Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin reported on spare parts to be produced locally for repairing the machinery of fertilizer plants, and those to be imported.

Chief Engineer U Tin Aung of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise reported on arrangements to be made for supply of electricity for the factories.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back here by helicopter.

People have cultivated good…

(From page 9)

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USDA members on excursion tour of Mindat,
Monywa, Loikaw

YANGON, 7 May—USDA members from States and Divisions under the programme to exchange visits and experiences, arrived at Mindat on 3 May. They were welcomed by Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Ya and officials.

At 8pm, Lt-Col Sein Ya extended greetings to the USDA members at the office of the District Peace and Development Council.

On 4 May, the youth visited the office of Public Works, construction site of 12-mile Mindat-Matupi Road, the quarry and 9th mile Bawkhwi Agricultural Farm.

In the afternoon, they discussed regional development at the meeting hall of the District PDC. Next, they planted saplings in the compound of No 1 Basic Education High School. On 5 May, they visited Mt Natma Natural Park and the mount itself, and the mythun farm of USDA. Another excursion

Bomb explosions occur in Yangon...

(from page 16)

acts are terrorist groups such as KNU, SSA led by Ywet Sit, KNPP and NCGUB led by expatriate

Sein Win.

Members of the terrorist groups together with the people visited Yangon Trade Centre where the

USDA members study products of Yenangyoung Industrial Zone.—MNA

The youth also visited Kyaukka Shwegani Pagoda and University for Development of National Races. In the evening, the commander hosted a dinner in honour of the excursion members at the city hall in Monywa.

Similarly, the USDA members in Loikaw attended a dinner hosted by Kayah State USDA at the city hall in Loikaw on 5 May evening.

Secretary of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Tun and the youth exchanged souvenirs.

Yesterday morning, the youth met with Chairman of Kayah State PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Swa Min at Kayah State General Administration Department Office. They visited Moebye Reserve and Phethehn Town.

USDA members view road construction in Mindat.—MNA

at the counter where shoppers put their belongings when the members of the terrorist groups disguised as shoppers entered City Mart at the Junction-8 Centre and put a bag which contained a time bomb at the counter.

Similarly, the terrorists under the guise of shoppers entered the Dagon Centre and left a bag containing a time bomb near the ground floor escalator and the bomb later went off.

The authorities concerned in collaboration with the people are making investigations to expose the terrorists who committed the sinister acts in crowded areas where monks and people were moving about.

As there has been information on subversive acts of terrorists who have been committing loathsome acts with every intention of endangering the lives and property of the people, the public and monks are to exercise a constant vigilance against suspicious-looking strangers and objects with security awareness.

The people are called upon to come forward and report to the security organizations in time if they happen to find any suspicious persons or things.

USDA members study products of Yenangyoung Industrial Zone.—MNA

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USDA members view road construction in Mindat.—MNA

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France defends proposal to sell arms to China, Iran diplomacy

WASHINGTON, 6 May — France has defended the European proposal to lift the arms embargo on China and said the diplomacy being pursued by European Union was the best option to persuade Iran to give up uranium enrichment.

US service sector grows at lower rate in April

WASHINGTON, 6 May — The US economy’s service sector expanded in April for the 25th consecutive month, though at a slower pace than in March, the Institute for Supply Management reported Wednesday.

Brazilian company to start operation in Nigerian oil field

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 May — Brazilian State-run oil firm PETROBRAS announced Wednesday that it will start this week the exploitation of a huge oil field at Akpo, Nigeria.

Nicaraguan Parti postposes approval of FTA

MANAGUA, 6 May — Nicaragua’s National Assembly has delayed the approval of the free trade agreement (FTA) between Central America and the United States, on grounds that its population will not benefit from the deal, an official said on Wednesday.

WB approves loan to Egypt for water project

CAIRO, 6 May — The World Bank has approved a loan of 120 million US dollars to Egypt for an integrated irrigation improvement and management project, the official MENA news agency reported on Thursday.

Yushchenko hopes to solve demarcation dispute with Russia

KIEV, 6 May — Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said Wednesday his country is willing to make compromises with Russia over the border demarcation of the Azov Sea, in exchange for Moscow to clarify its stance on the disputed demarcation of the Kerch Strait.

We are ready to compromise on the demarcation of the Azov Sea in exchange for a clear stance of Russia on the demarcation of the Kerch Strait,” Yushchenko said while meeting with local communities. But he did not elaborate on what kind of compromise Kiev is going to make. Yushchenko recalled that during a recent meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, he proposed to set the settlement of the border demarcation dispute as one of top priorities in Ukraine-Russia relations in 2005.

The border demarcation includes the delimitation of the land border, and the border in the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait, he said.

Ukraine and Russia have been at odds over the border demarcation of the Kerch Strait after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. Tensions began to run high on Sep- tember 29, 2003 when Russia began to build a dyke stretching from its southern mainland toward the Azov Sea, near the frontier with Ukraine on the Kerch Strait. The crisis ended after Russia sus- pended the dam project and Ukraine agreed to withdraw its troops from the Tuzla Island.

But the two sides have yet to reach an agreement on the border demarcation despite hard bargaining in the past two years.

The Kerch Strait, 41 kilometres in length, 4-15 kilometres in width and 5-15 metres in depth, is not only a key shipping gate way between the Azov Sea and the Black Sea, but also rich in fishing resources.

The two countries have been divided over the border demarcation of the Kerch Strait, the Black Sea and the Azov Sea, hag- gling about where to draw a border line to divide the water areas.

US service sector grows at lower rate in April

WASHINGTON, 6 May — The US economy’s service sector expanded in April for the 25th consecutive month, though at a slower pace than in March, the Institute for Supply Management reported Wednesday.

The private research organization said that its index measuring activity among service companies fell to 61.7 in April from 62.1 for the previous month. Still, the April reading was slightly higher than the 61 ana- lysists had been expecting.

A reading of 50 or above in the index means the service sector is expanding, while a figure below 50 represents a contraction.

Fourteen of the industries including utilities, insurance, retail trade, and real estate reported growth, said the institute. Transportation and legal services remained the same. Only entertainment reported decreased activ- ity from March.

The institute’s em- ployment index declined to 53.3 from 57.1 in March, but it was the 19th month of growth in a row.

Legislators from the Sandinista Front of Na- tional Liberation (FSLN) and the Liberal Constitu- tionalist Party (PLC) op- pose the FTA, saying it will benefit neither work- ers nor small producers, according to Nicaraguan chief negotiator Carlos Sequeira.

Many small producers’ businesses would go bust because of the FTA, which also violates the rights of workers, re- presentatives of the FSLN say.

The official said the criticism is of a political nature and Nicaragua may turn out to be the only country to cause difficul- ties for the ratification of the FTA.

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica signed the FTA with the United States last May in Wash- ington. The Dominican Republic later joined in August.

The Salvadoran Congress became the first Parliament to ratify the accord in December, and Guatemala and Honduras followed suit. The agree- ment will come into effect when the legislatures of all the signatory coun- tries give it the green light.

WB approves loan to Egypt for water project

CAIRO, 6 May — The World Bank has approved a loan of 120 million US dollars to Egypt for an integrated irrigation improvement and management project, the official MENA news agency reported on Thursday.

The project will support the Egyptian Gov- ernment to achieve more efficient and sustain- able use of land and water resources by improv- ing the management of irrigation and drainage for farmers in the Nile Delta, said the report.

Co-financed by the government of the Nether- lands and the German state-owned bank KFW, the seven-year project aims to apply integrated water resource management by empowering water users in decision making at both the in- vestment as well as operation and maintenance levels for irrigation and drainage infrastruc- ture.

The project will fund irrigation and drainage renovations and provide water users with technical assistance.

A rapidly-growing population has posed a huge challenge for Egypt to boost the produc- tivity and sustainability of its water use.
IBM to cut 10,000 to 13,000 jobs

WASHINGTON, 7 May—As part of a widely-expected restructuring move, IBM Corp on Thursday said it plans to cut between 10,000 to 13,000 jobs, mostly in Europe, reducing its workforce by about 4 per cent.

IBM has been hinting at layoffs since 14 April, when it reported disappointing quarterly earnings.

Its CEO Sam Palmisano had blamed the shortfall in part on slow sales in France, Germany and Italy. IBM has about 100,000 workers in Europe and 319,000 worldwide.

Most of the cuts — to be achieved through voluntary severance packages and layoffs — are expected to be in IBM’s lucrative consulting division. The company plans to eliminate some country-specific teams and instead organize workers in groups that cross country lines.

That will allow IBM to eliminate a layer of middle management and close some offices.

Spokesman Edward Barbini said IBM has made similar organizational changes in other parts of its consulting business.

IBM expects a pre-tax charge of 1.3 billion US dollars to 1.7 billion US dollars to cover the costs of the job cuts. It also expects to start reaping financial benefits from the smaller workforce by the second half of the year.

IBM had a revenue of 96 billion US dollars last year.

1,700-year-old fort discovered in E China province

HEFEI, 6 May—Chinese archaeologists have discovered ruins of a fort dating back to the period of the Three Kingdoms (220-280) in east China’s Anhui Province recently.

This is the only ancient fort ever discovered in this eastern Chinese province. They are rare in other parts of China as well, said Li Dewen, head of the archaeological team.

The site covers an area of 80,000 square metres in the suburbs of Hefei, capital of east China’s Anhui Province, the ancient territory of the Kingdom of Wei, one of the Three Kingdoms.

The castle has three gates, two on the eastern wall and the other, on the western wall.

Archaeologists have found traces of the ancient walls built with packed earth. Other objects discovered at the site included the ruins of a smelting furnace, half of a stonemill, 2,000 arrowheads, rammers and axes, and some food containers such as basins, jars and kettles.

Archaeologists discovered a roofed down, a command platform and scores of round stones each having a diameter of between 15 millimetres and 30 millimetres near the eastern gate.

The Kingdom of Wei began building the castle in 230 and finished in 233. Wei stationed 5,000 or 6,000 soldiers in the fort for almost 50 years, Li said.

The Wei repulsed 11 military attacks launched between 273 to 280, and the castle played an important role for Wei in defending its territory during ancient wars, Li said, adding that it was listed by the provincial government as a site of cultural relics in 1998.

During the Three Kingdoms period, the rival states of Wei, Shu and Wu existed side by side. Wei and Wu occupied each side of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, while Shu was located in present Sichuan Province.

US to tighten issuance of driver’s licences

WASHINGTON, 6 May—Applicants for state-issued driver’s licences in the United States will be required to produce four types of identification when the Congress approves a plan to discourage illegal immigration, the USA Today newspaper reported on Thursday.

Most who apply for new licences — and presumably, those seeking renewals — would have to prove that they are in the United States legally, possess documents of their social security number and home address and show a photo ID.

Motor vehicle department employees then would have to verify the documents with federal databases, a potentially lengthy process that could mean an end to same-day licence renewals.

Each year, about 70 million people in the United States apply for new driver’s licences or renewals.

In most of the states now, the new drivers are typically required to produce proof of age and one or two other forms of ID, usually including a photo. Less is required for those renewing licences, and a few states, including Maryland, allow renewals by mail.

The House is likely to pass the Real ID Act as early as Thursday and the Senate next week, as an attachment to an 81-billion-US-dollar emergency spending bill, to the military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If states did not comply within three years, their driver’s licences could not be used as ID to board a plane or to enter certain federal buildings.

Along with extra security at airports and workplaces, the act could represent the most significant differences in daily lives to stem from post 11 September security concerns, according to the report.

Greece, Albania to enhance in fighting organized crime

ATHENS, 6 May—High-ranking officials from the Greek and Albanian police met in the north-western Greek city of Ioannina on Thursday as part of an ongoing cooperation in fighting organized crime, Athens News Agency reported.

The meeting aims to strengthen cooperation in fighting organized crime and trafficking of drugs, people and weapons.

NZ wins tourism web site “Oscar”

WELLINGTON, 7 May—Tourism New Zealand’s www.newzealand.com site has been awarded the Internet world’s version of an Oscar — a “Webby,” said the Tourism Minister on Thursday.

The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences has recognized the site as the top tourism site in the world.

Tourism Minister Mark Burton congratulated Tourism New Zealand on their win.

“The Webby awards are the leading international prizes honouring excellence in the online field. It is a very prestigious award and re-affirms that New Zealand tourism is at the top of its game,” said Burton.

He said winning the Webby will encourage more and more people to visit the site and see what New Zealand has to offer as an overseas destination and as a place to do business.

www.newzealand.com is designed to market New Zealand as a holiday destination to prospective international visitors and helps them plan their trip.

The website championed leading international tourism sites such as Yellowstone Park, the Italian Tourism Commission and Puerto Rico Tourism.

Thousands of sites enter into the awards, but only five are chosen to battle it out in each category. The five sites are then judged by content, structure and navigation, visual design, functionality, interactivity and overall experience.

This is not the first award Tourism New Zealand has received for its world-leading web site. In 2003, it was named the best travel and tourism site at the NetGuide awards. The site also received the top Telecommunications Users Association of New Zealand (TUANZ) awards in 2004.

Vietnam stresses Navy int’l cooperation

HANOI, 7 May — Vietnames President Tran Duc Luong urged the Navy to boost regional and international cooperation for sustainable development, especially with those countries sharing sea borders with Vietnam, Vietnam News Agency reported on Thursday.

In a Wednesday meeting with the participation of exemplary members of naval units to mark the force’s 50th founding anniversary on 7 May, the President said international cooperation should be based on the principle of respecting one another’s independence and sovereignty.

He also appealed the naval force to make greater contribution to national construction and defence.

MNA/Xinhua

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Mourinho to introduce three newcomers

London, 6 May — Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho confirmed on Thursday that he would add three players to his squad for next season.

Mourinho already boasts a top-quality squad at Stamford Bridge but he is determined not to rest on his laurels after ending the club’s 50-year wait for the title.

The Portuguese tactician, who signed a new contract with The Blues on Wednesday, is keen to use Roman Abramovich’s millions again in the summer.

But Mourinho is not planning a major overhaul of his squad following the UEFA Champions League semifinal exit to Liverpool but is merely looking to tweak his options.

He has trained his sights on bringing in a left-back, a midfielder and a striker and is now likely to be linked with a string of the globe’s biggest names.

While he has confirmed he wants to inject some extra quality into his squad, Mourinho also accepts that it could lead to departures from Stamford Bridge.

Mateta Kezman has already voiced his discontent at playing only a peripheral role this term and Mourinho’s desire to boost his attacking options places a huge question mark over the Serb’s future in West London.

Mourinho acknowledges that players will be unhappy at not having played regularly this season but it will not stop his pursuit of new signings.

“There are always one or two who are not very happy with their personal situation,” Mourinho told Chelsea TV.

“Of course they are happy with the success and they belong to the success but some of them are not very happy because they are not my first choice.

“They didn’t play so much as they believed they should and they prefer to change their lives — that’s normal at the end of the season.

“I think it’s normal that one or two players, they will want to leave and it is normal we are looking for three players who can improve our squad.”

Henry back to training

London, 6 May — Thierry Henry returned to training on Thursday but is still doubtful for Arsenal’s FA Cup final date with Manchester United as he struggles to regain fitness.

The Premiership’s top scorer has missed the Gunners’ last four games due to a groin injury and will also be absent for the next two league fixtures.

Henry is recovering steadily from the injury and was rated last week as having a 30-70 chance of being fit for the cup final on 21 May.

The France international appears to be improving but Gunners boss Arsene Wenger is concerned Henry will be short of sharpness for the final.

Freddie Ljungberg is also being harpered by a hip complaint and, like Henry, will not play against Liverpool and Everton.

Both players have a chance to feature in the final day clash against Birmingham City.

Wenger remains less than upbeat about the duo’s condition.

“Thierry Henry and Freddie Ljungberg will both be out for the next two games,” Wenger told the club’s official website.

“It is difficult to say (when they will be back).

“Freddie has not even started training whereas Thierry has but even then we have to wait a little bit to see how he responds.

“Ideally you would want them to be available before and at least play a game but we have to be cautious.

“It just depends who is available on the day,” he said.

List of English Football Writer’s Association winners

London, 7 May — Following is the list of English Football Writers’ Association winners after Chelsea’s Frank Lampard was voted FWA Footballer of the Year on Friday.

1948 Stanley Matthews Blackpool
1949 Johnny Carey Manchester United
1950 Joe Mercer Arsenal
1951 Harry Johnston Blackpool
1952 Billy Wright Wolverhampton Wanderers
1953 Nat Lofthouse Bolton Wanderers
1954 Tom Finney Preston North End
1955 Don Revie Manchester City
1956 Bert Trautman Manchester City
1957 Tom Finney Preston North End
1958 Danny Blanchflower Tottenham Hotspur
1959 Syd Owen Luton Town
1960 Bill Slater Wolverhampton Wanderers
1961 Danny Blanchflower Tottenham Hotspur
1962 Jimmy Adamson Burnley
1963 Stanley Matthews Stoke City
1964 Bobby Moore West Ham United
1965 Bobby Collins Leeds United
1966 Bobby Charlton Manchester United
1967 Jack Charlton Leeds United
1968 George Best Manchester United
1969 Tony Book Manchester City
1970 Billy Bremner Leeds United
1971 Frank McLintock Arsenal
1972 Gordon Banks Stoke City
1973 Pat Jennings Tottenham Hotspur
1974 Ian Callaghan Liverpool
1975 Alan Mullery Fulham
1976 Kevin Keegan Liverpool
1977 Emilny Hughes Liverpool
1978 Kenny Burns Nottingham Forest
1979 Kenny Dalglish Liverpool
1980 Terry McDermott Liverpool
1981 Frans Thijssen Ipswich Town
1982 Steve Perryman Tottenham Hotspur
1983 Kenny Dalglish Liverpool
1984 Ian Rush Liverpool
1985 Neville Southall Everton
1986 Gary Lineker Everton
1987 Clive Allen Tottenham Hotspur
1988 John Barnes Liverpool
1989 Steve Nicol Liverpool
1990 John Barnes Liverpool
1991 Gordon Strachan Leeds United
1992 Gary Lineker Tottenham Hotspur
1993 Chris Waddle Sheffield Wednesday
1994 Alan Shearer Blackburn Rovers
1995 Jurgen Klinsmann Tottenham Hotspur
1996 Eric Cantona Manchester United
1997 Gianfranco Zola Chelsea
1998 Dennis Bergkamp Arsenal
1999 David Ginola Tottenham Hotspur
2000 Roy Keane Manchester United
2001 Teddy Sheringham Manchester United
2002 Robert Pires Arsenal
2003 Thierry Henry Arsenal
2004 Thierry Henry Arsenal
2005 Frank Lampard Chelsea

China’s Wang Lixin holds his trophy after winning the mens’ singles final at the 48th World Table Tennis Championships in Shanghai on 6 May, 2005. Wang beat compatriot Ma Lin 4-2 to take the gold medal and trophy. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s Niu Jianfeng, right, plays a shot during the womens’ doubles final in the 48th World Table Tennis Championships in Shanghai on 6 May, 2005. The pair were beaten 4-1 by compatriots Zhang Yining and Wang Nan. — INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Plant with aromatic seeds
2 Opportunity
4 Culinary herb
5 Whole
6 Type of bean
7 Ghost
13 Sharp-tasting
14 Sharp-tasting
15 Commotion
16 Type of bean
17 Ghost
18 Before
21 Gown
23 High churchman
24 Frenzied
26 Constellation
27 Spring flower
28 Amalgamation

DOWN
1 Opportunity
2 Communication
3 Familiar
4 Sharp-tasting
5 Cathy (anag.)
6 Whole
7 Ghost
13 Wrapper
16 Significance
17 Gain
19 Era
21 Discoverer of vaccination
22 Affray
24 Ease

MNA/Xinhua
Water-saving more urgent than ever in China

BEIJING, 7 May — Water conservation will have become a way of life across the nation by 2020 to match a relatively well-off society, said on Friday’s China Daily.

“The crux of building a water-saving society in China will depend on what we are going to do in the next 15 years,” said Suo Lisheng, Vice-Minister for Water Resources.

He noted that “building a water-saving society is the best strategy for China to tackle an ever-increasing water crisis a problem facing the country since last century.”

The ministry responsible for water will host the Water Expo China 2006 from 26-29 April next year at the Beijing Agricultural & Inhibition Centre, focusing on “guaranteeing drinking water security and building a harmonious society,” according to Suo.

The expo will showcase the latest products and technology related to water conservation.

A high-level forum on water use will be held on the sidelines of the main conference.

Suo believes there is a large potential market for water-saving products in the years ahead.

“With China’s rapid industrialization and urbanization, the shortage of water resources has become one of the major sectors restricting the country’s economic development and progress of society,” Suo said.

Options include grand plans for usage, a revision of payment systems and reasonable pricing to limit consumption quotas for different regions and purposes.

Meanwhile, water recycling, pollution control and more efficient technology for industries and farming must be further developed to make full use of the existing water supply infrastructure.

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia launches broadband Internet network

ADDIS ABABA, 7 May — The Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation (ETC), the country’s only Internet service provider, inaugurated on Thursday broadband Internet network that transfers multimedia content, including large data, audio, and video files.

The company said in a Press release that broadband Internet is an information technology which is believed to bring about far-reaching societal development both in developing and developed countries.

At the inaugural ceremony, Minister of Infrastructure Kassu Ilalla said information communication technology (ICT) facilitates effective communication for people through overcoming time and space limitations.

Kassu said ICT empowers people by providing information and knowledge, generates income through learning, improve productivity, and promote good governance and democracy.

Unfortunately, over 85% of the country’s population in rural areas cannot get access to telecom services, and this should not continue any more, the minister said.

The national development programme fully recognizes ICT as a distinguishing imperative in the poverty alleviation and economic transformation, the minister said, adding that encouraging broadband infrastructure development programmes were executed over the past two years.

Speaking at the occasion, ETC Chief Executive Officer Tesfaye Birru said broadband Internet has brought about a paradigm shift in the communication sector. Currently there are only 30,000 Internet lines in this country of 71 million people, making it one of the lowest users of information technology in the world, according to a study by the World Bank.

But within six months that figure will be expanded to 300,000 lines.

WEATHER

Saturday, 7 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours (MST): During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thunder showers have been widespread in Kachin and Shan States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, isolated to scattered in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (2.19) inches, Kyaing (1.69) inches, Pyin Oo Lwin (1.57) inches and Yangon (Hmawbi) (1.38) inches. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Bago Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Tanintharyi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 6-5-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 7-5-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-5-2005 was 87%. Total sun shine hours on 7-5-2005 was 2.1 hours above. Rainfalls on 7-5-2005 were (0.43) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.31) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.44) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 1.97 inches at Yangon Airport, 2.32 inches at Kaba-Aye and 0.87 inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from North at (14:15) hours MST on 6-5-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the West Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-5-2005: Rain or thunder showers will be isolated in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Mon, Kayin and Rakhine States, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain or thunder showers in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Bomb explosions occur in Yangon due to inhume acts committed by terrorists

YANGON, 7 May—A series of bomb explosions occurred in Yangon today — at the Yangon Trade Centre in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, at 2.50 pm, at the Junction-8 Centre in Mayangon Township at 2.55 pm, and at the Dagon Centre in Sangyoun Township at 3 pm — owing to the despicable acts perpetrated in collusion by the terrorists undermining stability of the State and community peace and tranquility. A total of 11 innocent people and members of the Sangha lost lives, while 162 were injured in the blasts.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials rushed to the scenes of the incident and Yangon General Hospital and provided necessary assistance and made arrangements for giving treatments to the victims. According to the evidences, those who committed the inhuman acts are to be prosecuted with full force within the framework of law.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win comforts victims of bomb blasts being warded at Yangon General Hospital.— MNA