Clean water supply project keeps rural people free from water-borne diseases, enables them to save time, labour
Development Affairs Department holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 16 May — An annual work coordination meeting of Development Committees of Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the meeting hall of DAD on Thanlyetsoon Road in Botataung Township this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice Mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, Directors of State and Division Development Committees, deputy superintending engineers, township officers, engineers and officials.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the coordination meeting of DAD has been held for the 16th times since 1990. He expressed hope that practical programmes and better results that can enhance the national development would emerge through holding of the coordination meeting of development affairs officers discharging duties nationwide.

(See page 9)

YANGON, 16 May — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 14 May evening inspected the Bamaw Thongwa river water project station in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Division.

Water Resources Utilization Department is implementing the project using the Myaungmya River water.

At the briefing hall of the project, the minister discussed with officials concerned matters on supply of water to farm land. On completion of the river water pumping project, it will irrigate 4,000 acres of farm land to be able to cultivate summer paddy and double and triple crops. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo yesterday met with industrialists in Myaungmya. At the meeting, he said that the ministry will provide necessary assistance to the industrialists to manufacture marketable products.

(See page 10)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Stand united for perpetuation of national sovereignty

The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the Press Conference No 4/2005 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information at 2 pm on 15 May. At the conference, rules and regulations of use of foreign currencies, formation of Shan State provisional government and declaration of Shan State independence by expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices, conspiracies of terrorist groups such as SSA led by Ywet Sit, KNU, KNPP, NCUB, ABSDF and their deceitful terrorist and destructive acts committed in synchronization were explained in detail.

Declaration of Shan State independence and formation of a provisional government by expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa was one of the destructive activities carried out according to the dictates of those outside the nation. The scheme of all conspiracies — to disintegrate the Union — was part of the plan by SSA led by Ywet Sit, SNLD and Shan State Advisory Council.

The plot of external masterminds and terrorist groups was aimed at launching the three-pronged attack on the government by the above-ground, underground and the fugitives. The above-ground plot was to form the Shan State Advisory Council first and then similar councils in remaining six states.

The underground plan was to launch military and terrorist attacks against the government by SSA led by Ywet Sit, KNPP, NCUB, NCCUB, ABSDF and other terrorist groups in synchronization with the above-ground attack. They designed to destabilize the country and create problems.

The plot of the fugitives was for Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices to form Shan State provisional government, to declare Shan State independence synchronized with the above-ground and underground plots and for the advisory councils of the six states to follow suit.

The plot was conspired with advice, money, material and technological assistance of their alien masters. It was aimed at disintegrating the Union. However, the government exposed and aborted the plot of SSA led by Ywet Sit, SNLD and Shan State Advisory Council to establish a nominal union and secede from the Union. The follow-up attacks of expatriates and underground terrorist attacks were the result of their dissatisfaction at their abortive plans. Now the Union of Myanmar is militarily and economically strong enough to stamp out any danger to the State. Moreover, it is enjoying political stability. Therefore, it is only necessary for the government and the people to stand united for perpetuation of national sovereignty.

Papers of Myanmar resource persons chosen by IAEA

YANGON, 16 May — The International Atomic Energy Agency invited two Myanmar resource persons — Daw Nilar Maung and Daw Nwe Nwe Yin — to read their papers — “Control of Cabbage Diamondback Moth by using Sterile Insect Technique” and “Parasitoid in Myanmar and Different Pairs of male and female of Campoteles Chlori deae Parasitised on Chick Pea Pod borer in Myanmar” — at the FAO/IAEA International Conference on Area-wide Control of Insect Pests: Integrating the Sterile Insect and Related Nuclear and Other Techniques held from 9 to 13 May in Vienna, Austria. Daw Nilar Maung has sent her papers to international research conferences and this was the fourth paper chosen to be read. The two resource persons were awarded US$ 1,900 plus other fees to attend the conference by IAEA.

Abstracts of the papers will be published in IAEA Abstracts Proceedings, it is learnt. —NLM

New products of Aungmyitta company introduced

Managing Director U Thein Aung introduces new products of the company at annual dinner at Sedona Hotel. —MNA

Spoken English course of IWT concludes

YANGON, 16 May — The concluding of Spoken English Course (1/2005) for staff of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport was held at the IWT this afternoon on Pansodan Street here.

Present were Managing Director U Thein Aung of IWT, the general managers, the deputy managers and Sayagi Kyi Min of the company explained matters on the quality of stationery manufactured by the company. Next, he presented awards to outstanding sale agents. A dinner was hosted to those present. —MNA
Annan says corruption allegations not to derail UN reform

UNITED NATIONS, 15 May — Allegations of corruption surrounding the now-defunct Oil-for-Food programme for Iraq will not derail efforts to reform the United Nations, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Friday.

Annan told reporters as he entered the UN Headquarters in New York after returning from Geneva that reform is a long-term proposal and it is a proposal which is going to have a longer term impact on the organization.

“I do not expect it to derail the reform process,” he said, referring to the allegations on the oil-for-food programme.

“We are determined to go ahead and I urge all the member states to go forward as well.”

The Secretary-General’s initiatives for the most sweeping overhaul of the United Nations in its 60-year history are contained in his report “In Larger Freedom”.

Annan acknowledged the seriousness of the allegations about Oil-for-Food as well as the misconceptions made in connection with the programme, adding that the United Nations had worked to rectify those errors.

“We are taking measures to strengthen our own administration and transparency,” he said. “The member states, who themselves are very much aware of how the oil-for-food was set up, how it was managed, and how it was organized, are much more sanguine about the facts than most other people, and I hope they will focus on the work ahead and strengthen this institution.”

However, he also pointed out that “for some, the oil-for-food crisis will never die down”.

Annan named a high-level panel last year headed by former US Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volcker to investigate the allegations of corruption surrounding the 64-billion-US-dollar programme.

All relevant documents and files have been turned over to Volcker’s Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) and all staff members have been ordered to cooperate with its investigation on pain of dismissal.

But the probe has itself been thrust into the spotlight over accusations that it covered up evidence critical of the UN leader.

The IIC has so far issued two interim reports and is expected to release a final report by the end of June.

India, Russia set to boost space cooperation

MOSCOW, 15 May — India and Russia are set to boost cooperation in space, including the launching of Russian navigational satellites with the help of Indian booster rockets, a senior space official here said.

“Expressing their desire to expand bilateral space cooperation India and Russia have signed two agreements, including on launching of GLONASS navigational satellites with the help of Indian booster rockets,” Deputy Chief of Russia’s Federal Space Agency (Roskosmos) Alexander Medvedchikov said Friday.

He said the experts of the two countries are working on the legal framework of the Indo-Russian space cooperation.

“Meetings of the technical experts are taking place, but it is too early to say that all the issues have been resolved,” Medvedchikov said at a news conference here.

During President Vladimir Putin’s India visit last December, Roskosmos and ISRO signed an agreement on joint use of Soviet-era global navigational satellite system “GLONASS” by making it fully functional, involving launching new Russian satellites from the Indian launch pads with the help of Indian vehicles.

Last month India’s Cabinet committee on political affairs chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ratified the GLONASS deal with Russia, which would end the dependency on the Pentagon-controlled global positioning system (GPS) Navstar.

This has crucial significance for the defence capability of the country in view of manipulation of GPS transmissions by the Pentagon during Balkan war against Yugoslavia and US-led strike at Iraq, when GPS receivers in the area were made defunct.

Medvedchikov also lauded the achievements of Indian space programme. “The Indian space programme is moving ahead in a very good tempo. Their space budget is equal to Russia’s, unusual for a country with 1.2 billion people. We can only ‘envy’ our Indian colleagues and in some cases even learn from them,” he added.

Heroin seized in joint HK-Australia police effort

HONG KONG, 15 May — The Hong Kong Police and the Australian Federal Police mounted a joint operation on Thursday resulting in the seizure of 115 kilos of heroin in Australia, a government Press release said on Friday.

Officers from two jurisdictions had identified two suspect containers that had arrived in Australia in February. They arrived in Adelaide but were later transferred to Sydney.

On Thursday, 105 kilos of heroin was found concealed in the two containers’ roofing.

Further inquiries led to the seizure of another 10 kilos of heroin. The drugs have a potential Australian street value of more than 60 million Australian dollars.

The Australian Federal Police arrested four men in Thursday’s operation, including a 26-year-old Hong Kong citizen.

In Hong Kong, Narcotics Bureau officers also arrested a 29-year-old man in the New Territories early Friday. No drug seizures were made.

Cambodian PM visits Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 May — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen began to pay a two-day official visit to Thailand on Friday at the invitation of the Thai Government.

The trip marks the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between the two close neighbouring countries, according to an official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will meet his Cambodian counterpart to discuss bilateral ties and cooperation, including cooperation in the areas of land transport, labour and consular affairs.

Economic cooperation in the bilateral and regional levels are also expected to be raised during the two leaders’ meeting, said the statement.

FM director killed as guerilla action keeps rising in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 May — The Iraqi Foreign Ministry General Director Jassim Mohamed was killed in a rebel action in west Baghdad, TV network Al Arabiya reported on Sunday as guerilla action keeps a rising offensive that has inflicted a heavy toll on US and Iraqi security forces.

Guerillas drive boils up as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made an unexpected unannounced visit to Iraq.

Mohamed was talking on Saturday with some neighbours at the entrance of his house when the rebels shot him. Three other people were injured.

The Iraqi Defence Ministry announced on Sunday the discovery of 10 soldiers—independed sources said the figure is 14—from the Iraqi National Guard who had been beheaded close to the city of Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

In the first 15 days of May, US has lost 35 soldiers in Iraq, and in two years of occupation 1,622, most of them killed by the rebels.
HK newspapers positively appraise meeting of CPC, PFP top leaders

HONG KONG, 14 May — Quite a number of Hong Kong newspapers and media agencies on Friday positively appraised the historic handshake between Hu Jintao and James CY Soong, top leaders of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and People First Party.

The Chinese-language Wen Wei Po published an editorial titled “Hu-Soong Consensus Shows Great Foresight. ‘Two Sides, One China’ Exhibits Much Room.”

The editorial says Hu and Soong held a historic meeting on Thursday and reached a six-point consensus in the communiqué of their talks.

This is another bridge of mutual trust and communication built by the two parties after the meeting of top leaders of the CPC and the Koumintang (KMT) party earlier this month.

The act is catering to the interests of people across the Straits and will play a positive role in advancing full-fledged development of cross-Straits relations, it says.

The editorial expresses the belief that the meeting is not only in the interest of the whole Chinese nation, but in the interest of the whole Chinese people and the whole world.

The communiqué of their talks indicated that China on both sides of the Taiwan Straits have the capability and wisdom to resolve the past misunderstandings and problems, to build a bridge of mutual trust and communication, and to enter into a new era of cross-Straits relations. Hong Kong Commercial Daily carried an editorial titled “Sticking to One China, Having Bright Future.” It says the past process of the development of cross-Straits relations indicated that so long as the one-China principle and stand to oppose “Taiwan independence” prevail, the situation across the Straits will be stable and cross-Straits relations will develop smoothly and have a bright future. While the one-China principle is not recognized, the tension in cross-Straits relations will not be eased, which will damage the interests of people across the Taiwan Straits.

—— MNA/Xinhua

China-Africa trade surges in first quarter

BEIJING, 14 May — Two-way trade between China and Africa grew 31 per cent in the first quarter of 2005, a growth rate higher than China’s overall foreign trade growth volume, the Ministry of Commerce said here on Friday.

The trade volume from January to March reached 7.6 billion US dollars, up 31 per cent from the same period last year. It was 7.9 percentage points higher than China’s overall foreign trade increase.

China exported a total of 3.61 billion US dollars’ worth of machinery, electronic products and other commodities to Africa, up 43.5 per cent.

In the same period, China imported 3.99 billion US dollars’ worth of crude oil, iron ore, iron and steel goods, timber, diamond, copper and cotton from Africa, up 21.4 per cent.

As a result, African countries gained a trade surplus of 380 million US dollars with China.

Chinese trade analysis attributed the growth partly to the tariff exemption policy that China enacted at the beginning of the year over 190 categories of goods from 25 of the least developed African countries, including Sudan and Liberia.

China’s imports of the 190 categories of African goods reached 59.852 million US dollars in the first three months of the year, up 44.7 percent, 23.3 percentage points higher than the growth rate of China’s imports from Africa.

Trade officials from the Ministry of Commerce said China has encouraged its businessmen to invest in Africa. As a result, China’s direct investment to Africa reached 2.80 million US dollars in the first three months, comparing with 135 million US dollars of direct investment that Chinese businessmen brought to Africa last year.

—— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam sounds alarm on ecstasy production, consumption

HANOI, 14 May — Vietnam has been detected more cases of producing and consuming ecstasy, a kind of lab-made drug with main ingredient being methamphetamine, since late 2004.

Vietnam, which discovered first ecstasy pills, all smuggled from foreign countries, in its territory in 1997, has recently unearthed several production rings and cases of local people consuming the pills in big cities, according to local newspaper People on Friday.

In March, local police arrested a local man named Le Van Tien from Ho Chi Minh City along with 3,193 ecstasy pills, some of which were produced by him. Tien and his accomplices bought both finished pills and materials from Cambodia, and then produced and sold ecstasy in the city.

In December 2004, the police detected many simple tools and materials for ecstasy production in a house in southern An Giang Province while arresting another local man. He confessed that before turning out ecstasy from foreign materials in the province, he had gone to Cambodia, produced the drug there and sold 1,100 pills in Vietnam. Another worrying fact is that more and more local youths are taking ecstasy in bars, karaoke lounges and discotheques in Hanoi capital and Ho Chi Minh City without recognizing the drug’s health hazards, the report said.

—— MNA/Xinhua

1,620 US soldiers killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 14 May—As of Saturday, 14 May, 2005, at least 1,620 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,238 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 11 am EDT on Friday. The British military has reported 87 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,482 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,129 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

—— Internet

China Eastern Airlines Corp Ltd. (CEA) has agreed to buy core assets of China Northwest Airlines and Yunnan Airlines from its parent for an initial consideration of 119 million US dollars on 14 May, 2005. — Internet

A Takara employee displays the 3D-maze ‘Brain Trance’ in Japan, on 14 May, 2005. — Internet

Annan calls for strengthened NPT

UNITED NATIONS, 14 May— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged member states on Friday to accelerate their work so as to strengthen the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Annan told reporters after coming back from Geneva that “what is happening indicates the urgency for the member states to really take this conference seriously and try and strengthen the NPT.”

It is obvious that the Secretary-General is not satisfied with the fact that the 187 nations meeting at the United Nations on reviewing the NPT adopted an agenda on Wednesday after almost two weeks into the conference.

—— MNA/Xinhua
China opposes US restricting textile imports

BEIJING, 16 May — China said on Saturday that it firmly opposes a US decision on restricting three categories of textile imports from China, saying it is a violation of relevant World Trade Organization agreements.

Chong Chuan, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce, said in a statement that China believes that its exports of cotton knit shirts, cotton trousers, cotton and man-made fibre underwear have not disrupted the US market, as the US side has claimed based on figures of the first quarter of the year. US Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez announced Friday that the US Government has decided to reimpose quotas on the three types of apparel imports from China. The decision made by the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements means that the US government will impose limits on certain types of China-originated clothing when an import surge occurs and caused market disruption. Chong added that the US decision violated relevant procedure of the United States, damaged the rightful interests of China’s businesses and severely undermined the confidence of China’s businesses and people in the world trade environment.

The world eliminated the quota regime on textile goods on 1 January this year, as a major supplier of textile goods and garments, China has faced limits or threat to limit from the United States and the European Union.

China’s Chongqing Municipality.

Ancient mural walls unearthed in Three Gorges area

CHONGQING, 16 May — Murals dating to China’s Song Dynasty (960-1279) have been unearthed at the Tuchengpo graves in Wushan County, southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality.

The mural walls were found in a man’s grave where 9 other historic relics, such as porcelain bowls, porcelain pots and lampstand, were unearthed. At the door of the grave, images of people, flowers and plants can be clearly seen. On the north wall, there are paintings of principal rooms, courtyard, corridor and more than ten figures. The mural was probably drawn to describe living scenes of the host of the grave before his death, said Pei Jian, vice-director of the historic relics management office in Wushan.

Wushan has unearthed 37 graves and more than 500 precious historic relics including pottery and lacquerwork and ancient cooking utensils. — MNA/Xinhua

World Telecommunication Day

17 May 2005

(Following is the Message from Mr Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union.)

Human communication has always been a combination of intellect and emotion — a characteristic that helps to define our shared humanity. Our information society has a way of reminding us of this reality, often in a dramatic fashion. A recent example is the Asian earthquake and tsunami disaster when information and communication technologies (ICT) brought the tragedy home to us in a manner unimaginable in the not-so-distant past and produced a surge of unprecedented global sympathy and humanitarian action.

From the birth of the telegraph, through radio and television broadcasting to satellite communications and the Internet, the work of ITU has been essential in harnessing the power of technology to fulfill a human basic need for communication. May 17th 2005 marks 140 years since ITU took on this important mission.

The year 2005 also marks another important anniversary for ITU. The release of the Maitland Report 20 years ago helped the world realize that it was not right that only a minority of the human race should enjoy the benefits of ICT while a majority lived in comparative isolation. The ITU report, prepared by the Maitland Commission, is a landmark in identifying the digital divide, the disparity between information “haves” and “have nots” and in proposing concrete solutions to bridge it. Since its publication, ITU has been working in earnest to bring the benefits of ICT to all of humanity.

In 2003, ITU held the first-ever World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva. At the Summit, world leaders from 175 countries endorsed a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action that embraced the idea of universal, affordable access to information and communication technologies (ICT) for all. The Declaration of Principles has set the stage. The Plan of Action points the way forward. Discussions at the Summit also highlighted the fact that the digital divide is not only among countries, but also within countries. Access to ICT also varies greatly between urban and rural areas, between the rich and the poor, between the educated and the illiterate and between men and women. This multiplicity of divides is a major impediment to the emergence of an equitable and viable Information Society.

The second phase of the Summit, to be held this November in Tunis, will measure progress made in fulfilling the specific objectives set in Geneva and will call on all stakeholders to transform the political will expressed at the first phase into long-term commitments. To help focus the world’s attention on the importance of this mission, ITU members selected as the theme for World Telecommunication Day 2005, Creating an Equitable Information Society: Time for Action.

Looking ahead to Tunis, the true test of an equitable information society will be the extent to which today’s powerful knowledge-based communication tools are able to connect different peoples across all geographic, economic and information divides. As the members of the Maitland’s Commission stated 20 years ago “Neither in the name of common humanity nor on grounds of common interests, is such a disparity acceptable”. Clearly, the time for action is now!

Yoshio Utsumi
Secretary-General

Japan emerges among largest markets for Kuwaiti oil

KUWAIT CITY, 16 May — Japan has emerged as one of the largest markets for Kuwaiti oil, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Managing Director for International Marketing Jamal Al-Nouri said on Saturday.

As the world’s third biggest oil consumer after the United States and China, Japan imports 8 per cent of its crude demand from Kuwait, the Kuwait News Agency quoted the official as saying.

Al-Nouri expressed hope that relations with Japanese companies will develop into full partnership by maintaining current KPC quotas in the Japanese oil market and launching joint projects that consolidate crude oil marketing. Prior to his departure to Japan, said his visit came as part of regular visits by KPC International Marketing Department to its major clients aimed at boosting relations and exploring new investment opportunities. Kuwait has the world’s fourth largest proven oil reserves with 99 billion barrels, after Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

HK launches International Museum Day

HONG KONG, 16 May — “International Museum Day 2005, Hong Kong” launched here Saturday, with the participation of more than 30 museums and cultural institutions from Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao.

The two-day event, organized by the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), is in support of the International Museum Day, first designated on 18 May, 1978, by the International Council of Museums. People are to be able to visit 26 local museums and cultural institutions free of charge and view more than 100 exhibitions. More than 200 programmes have been organized for this special event.

A museum panorama with a theme “Museums Bridging Cultures” which contains three main parts — Theatre Programme, Interactive Zone and Courtyard Carnival — is the highlight of the event. It provides visitors with entertaining booth games and a series of educational activities.

Furthermore, booths of 18 museums and cultural institutions from Guangdong Province, Macao and Hong Kong is featured in the Courtyard Carnival. It provides details of individual museums, their characteristics, services and activities. The “Gems of Museums” held at the Thematic Gallery 3 and 4 at the Heritage Museum, is another highlight. Representative collections selected from more than 10 major local museums are on display, giving visitors a glimpse of diversified collections of local museums.

Other programmes for International Museum Day include lectures on the work and functions of museums, demonstrations on art and traditional handicrafts, model making, children’s programmes, free guided tours and behind-the-scenes tours. — MNA/Xinhua

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Yoshio Utsumi
Secretary-General
Malaysia PM wraps up visit to Iran

TEHRAN, 16 May — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wrapped up an official visit to Iran early Saturday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

During his three-day visit, Badawi held talks with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, President Mohammad Khatami and Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The two sides stressed readiness to expand bilateral ties in all areas and boost investment in technological, educational, research and technical domains.

This is Badawi’s second visit to Iran since he assumed premiership in October 2003 when veteran leader Mahathir Mohamad retired after 22 years in power.

African ministers meet in Nigeria for poverty reduction

ABUJA, 16 May — At least 20 ministers and five central bank governors from across Africa gathered on Saturday in Abuja, Nigeria’s capital to discuss how to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the world’s poorest continent.

In his welcoming address, K Y Amoako, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), hosted the two-day meeting, asked ministers to “put all the pieces together” and agree on the urgent actions needed to erode poverty in Africa.

“This meeting can make a crucial contribution to the formulation of a consensus on what Africa needs to do to achieve the MDGs and also highlight the ways in which the international community can assist us,” Amoako said.

The ECA chief also called for more actions from the richest countries towards meeting their aid commitments on Africa and said it is the downward trend in aid by them that had been halted.

— The Millennium Project estimates that in order for sub-Saharan Africa to reach the MDGs, aid will have to increase, in real terms, from 2004’s level of just under 25 billion US dollars, to 37 billion this year and then climb steadily to 73 billion by 2015, he said.

“Similarly, the Commission for Africa has calculated that an extra 75 billion dollars a year is needed for 7 percent growth in Africa and acceleration towards the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,” he added.

Africa is lagging far behind in global efforts to meet the MDGs by 2015. Although most of the world’s regions have made at least some progress towards meeting some or all of the goals, sub-Saharan Africa has seen poverty rise and life expectancy decline in the five years since the goals were declared in 2000.

Maxwell Mkwezalamba, economic affairs commissioner of the African Union, however told the ministers that there is still a chance for Africa to meet the MDGs.

India ready to attend SAARC Summit in November

NEW DELHI, 16 May — India has expressed its readiness to attend the twice-postponed 13th SAARC Summit in November this year.

This was conveyed by External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh to his Bangladesh counterpart Morshed Khan during a telephonic conversation Friday night, official sources said here on Saturday.

Host Bangladesh had proposed to hold the summit in September or on 12-13 November. Dhaka will now convey the proposed dates to the grouping’s current Chair Pakistan and other countries of the seven-nation regional group.

The summit, earlier scheduled to be held in February, was cancelled after India refused to attend citing security situation in Bangladesh and royal takeover in Nepal.

Earlier in January, it was cancelled in view of the tsunami tragedy of 26 December which devastated several parts of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Kuwait striving to be regional commercial, financial hub again

KUWAIT CITY, 16 May — Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said Saturday that Kuwait are struggling to regain the position of a regional commercial and financial hub.

Speaking at the opening of Kuwait Economic Forum, Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait had been striving to diversify income resources and economic activities in order to provide more jobs for citizens and trigger lasting development.

The government was keen to achieve these objectives, he said, through the development of economic infrastructure, the development of laws and legislations to facilitate economic and commercial movements, as well as investing in human resources.

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Kuwait City, 16 May — Kuwaiti Prime Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah said Saturday that Kuwait are struggling to regain the position of a regional commercial and financial hub.

Speaking at the opening of Kuwait Economic Forum, Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait had been striving to diversify income resources and economic activities in order to provide more jobs for citizens and trigger lasting development.

The government was keen to achieve these objectives, he said, through the development of economic infrastructure, the development of laws and legislations to facilitate economic and commercial movements, as well as investing in human resources.

He said the government would establish a part Morshed Khan during a telephonic conversation Friday night, official sources said here on Saturday.

Host Bangladesh had proposed to hold the summit in September or on 12-13 November. Dhaka will now convey the proposed dates to the grouping’s current Chair Pakistan and other countries of the seven-nation regional group.

The summit, earlier scheduled to be held in February, was cancelled after India refused to attend citing security situation in Bangladesh and royal takeover in Nepal.

Earlier in January, it was cancelled in view of the tsunami tragedy of 26 December which devastated several parts of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives.
Crush destructive elements committing atrocities in the name of democracy

Kyaw Myint Naing

A time bomb blast, which took place on the ground floor between Building (C) and Building (D) of Mandalay Zaygyo Market on 26 last April, killed two women on the spot and injured 15 people. A man with heart complaint witnessed the tragic incident and died of heart attack. And out of the victims, a woman succumbed to the injuries in the hospital on 30 April 2005.

As to the terrorist acts, the government held a press conference on 28 December 2004 and clarified matters on the clandestine plot of remnant members of the Burma Central Party (BCP) and anti-government activists involved in the armed revolt due to the government’s unjust oppression, and that the one which incited the civil war was the government.

They detonated so many bombs designed to destroy bridges and roads and passenger trains with the intention that the people would abhor the government. They robbed cooperative shops and closed the schools, hoping that such facilities, the pillars of the government. They prevented local farmers from selling their agricultural produce to the government, and they also made a death threat to the farmers, announcing that if the farmers did, they would slaughter the oxen, make the bullock-carts into firewood and kill the farmers, to make the government get itself in a fix.

There was once an exchange of fire between BCP terrorists and the railway police, following the bomb blast designed to destroy the train. In the incident, a BCP member was killed and left at the scene. The passengers were so disgusted with the terrorists that they urinated onto the body of the BCP member. The BCP terrorists were repulsed by Gadu nationals at the top of the cliff, and by Kachin nationals in Kachin State, and then they met with evil end.

The essence of democracy represents freedom, equal rights, and justice. Fully enjoying freedom for a person means being independent economically. And everyone irrespective of sex is to be capable of handling and producing any type of production tools, and only then, will the people enjoy equal rights and freedom.

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Only a republic in which the people own the land, will definitely become a society endowed with these characteristics. Nowadays, the Tatmadaw Government is implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives and the State’s seven-point Road Map, the most appropriate work programme, which can help the nation enjoy the benefits.

No doubt, if such destructive elements are crushed, the people will enjoy the benefits.
The entire national people unanimously denounce the deceitful terrorist acts of Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices

The entire national people including social organizations in Myanmar, political parties, national race armed groups which have returned to the legal fold and those groups which have exchanged arms for peace unconditionally unanimously denounce the formation of Shan State provisional government and declaration of Shan State independence by expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices, conspiracies of terrorist groups such as SSA led by Ywet Sit, KNU, KNPP, NCUB, NCGUB and ABSDF and their deceitful terrorist and destructive acts committed in synchronization. Similarly, the acts of Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices were denounced at the Youth Seminar organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association held at Bagan Archaeological Region and mass rallies held in Laikha Township, Shan State (South), Mongnaung Township, Mongrai Township, Shan State (North), Hsipaw Township, Hsenwi Township and Kengtung Township, Shan State (East).

(News reported)
School Textbook Printing...

(from page 16)

emphasized the need for officials concerned to review and present the strengths and weaknesses in printing and distributing the school textbooks in the year 2004-2005, to ensure timely arrival of textbooks in the respective regions at fair prices for the 2005-2006 academic year, to print only the required amount of textbooks practicing thrift for the State and the students, to discuss matters timely on distribution of textbooks by the distribution sub-committee to respective schools and far-flung areas, and to ensure the participation of departments concerned.

Next, Acting Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise Daw Mya Mya read the minutes of the meeting.

Chairman of the School Textbook Printing and Distribution Sub-Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brigadier General Aung Thein presented matters on printing of textbooks, Chairman of the Distribution Sub-Committee Deputy Minister for Education Brigadier General Aung Myo Min on arrangements for distribution of school textbooks already printed, and those present on the occasion also joined in the discussions.

In response to the reports, Minister Brigadier General Kyaw Hsan said that textbooks for 2005-2006 academic year have already been distributed to 53 centres out of 68 centres, about 90 percent of different kinds of textbooks have already reached the remaining 15 centres, arrangements are to be made for distribution of textbooks to be completed by 1 June 2005 and the distribution committee is to take systematic measures in this regard.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Brigadier General Kyaw Hsan. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views computerized functions of the Development Affairs Department. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents a best model township prize to Kyaukse Township DAD. — MNA

YANGON, 16 May 2005

The course No 5 on general banking services (Officer level) conducted by Banks Supervisory Committee was opened at the Central Bank of Myanmar this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

In his speech, the minister said measures have been taken with added momentum for the development of all sectors of the State. In so doing, courses have been opened for the betterment of banking services.

He urged trainees to perform their duties by applying experiences they will get in the course.

He said it is necessary to make efforts to catch up with the advancing technology of banking services by cooperating with neighboring nations and those of ASEAN.

Arrangements are also being made for the expanding of advanced courses. — MNA

Next, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe made a speech. The course will last two months from 16 May to 15 July. A total of 43 trainees of state-owned and private-owned banks are attending the course.

The course opening ceremony was attended by Myanmar Central Bank Vice-Governor U Than Nyem, members of BSC, directors-general and managing directors of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and officials. — MNA
**A& I Minister inspects water pumping project, industrial...**

Next, Myanmarya District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyi Htut Win reported on production of machinery with the use of charts. After the meeting, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected the agricultural machinery produced by the Myanmarya Industrial Zone.

In the afternoon, Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with members of Myanmarya District and township USDA at the office of Myanmarya District USDA. At the meeting, Maj-Gen Htay Oo called on the USDA members to make efforts for the development of the region by joining hands with local people and to prevent the destructive acts. — MNA

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**Tarring of Yangon-Mandalay Highway road section, construction of Sittoung bridge (Moatpalin) inspected**

**Yangon, 16 May** — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein left here this morning and arrived at a worksite at the mile-post No 8/1 of Yangon-Mandalay Highway road section.

Upon their arrival, a senior engineer of Road Special Construction Group-15 reported to them on progress in tarring the road with the use of heavy machinery, tasks being carried out and future plans.

The minister instructed officials to carry out the tasks for tarring of six-lane and two-lane sections as usual and to lay emphasis on repair of damaged road section. The minister fulfilled the requirements with respect to the reports. One-mile and three-furlong section has so far been tarred on two-lane road section in Hlegu Township and some are being carried out.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to Sittoung bridge (Moatpalin) construction worksite and checked progress in building the bridge.

At the briefing hall, construction in-charge U Kyaw Lin reported to them on work done for the bridge and future tasks.

In response to the reports, the minister instructed officials to project tasks to be accomplished at the same time ahead of consideration, dividing into groups, to perform earth works as required and to coordinate with road design team.

Sittoung bridge (Moatpalin) is 1365 feet long, whose approach bridge from Wall side is 784.1 feet in length and that from Moatpalin side, 243.6 feet, totaling 2392.7 feet. Its motorway is 28 feet in width, whose pedestrian is 6 feet in width. It can withstand 60-ton of loads.

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**Forestry Minister inspects choosing of sites for plywood factories**

**Yangon, 16 May** — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung together with Managing Director U Win Tun of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and officials inspected choosing of the sites to build plywood factories in Taninthayi Division.

On 15 May evening, the minister and party chose the sites near Mawtone and Letaungya villages for the factories in Taninthayi Township.

Later, the minister and party inspected nursery of cinnchona.

The minister then arrived at Myekk plywood factory in Myekk Industrial Zone and inspected the products of the factory and the packages for export.

The minister also inspected saw mill of Pyae Phyo Tun Co and construction of plywood factory and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

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**Cultural Minister receives Korean and Vietnamese ambassadors**

**Yangon, 16 May** — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung received Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum at the Ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda road this morning.

Likewise, the Minister also received Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung at the same venue later in the late morning.

Also present on the occasion were the deputy minister, the directors-general of the departments under the ministry, the rector of University of Culture and departmental officials.

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**Myanmar entrepreneurs leave for Thailand**

**Yangon, 16 May** — A Myanmar delegation comprising 12 entrepreneurs led by Patron of Myanmar Rice Merchant Association CEC member of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Nyen LEFT for Thailand this morning to study business and exchange technologies there from 16 to 20 May. The delegation was seen off at the airport by President of UMFCCI U Win Myint and officials.

Members of the delegation were U Paw of Paw Oo Trading, U Ohn Shwe and U Thein Nyunt of Aye Yadana company, U Kyi Myint of M.O.E.M Co., U Kyaw Win of Nay Lin Kyaw Trading, U Hla Thein of X.Y Export, U Kyin Hlaing of Agent Bee Rubber Tyre, U Khan Han of Ekastan General Trading, U Thein Than Phyo of Linyaung Nio Oo Co., U Thein Than Toe of Global Technology Co., U Kyin Aung of Aung Family and U Tin Hla of Mya Mya San Tea Enterprise. — NLM

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**Minister U Aung Thaung meets with Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum. — INDUSTRY-1**

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**Salingyi Textile Factory, Monywa Industrial Zone’s construction tasks under inspections**

YANGON, 16 Yangon, — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Salingyi Textile Factory (Project) of Myanmar Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 on 13 May morning.

Upon their arrival, they heard reports on progress in building the factory, installation of machines and arrangements for water and electricity supplies, presented by factory project in-charge U Khin Maung.

After viewing installation of machines and raw materials and finished products warehouses, Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions to the officials and fulfilled the requirements.

At Monywa foundry plant, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party heard reports on establishment of factory, its investments, progress in building it presented by Secretary of Sagaing Division PDC Lt-Col Myo Myint.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye called for ensuring development of industrial zone and timely completion of the project meeting the set standard and cooperation measures in accomplishment of the project.

Regarding the reports, he fulfilled the requirements and looked into installation of machines in the factory, arrival of materials and progress in putting up the factory. — MNA

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**Yangon delegation seen at the airport before their departure for Thailand. — NLM**

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**Minister U Aung Thaung meets with Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum. — INDUSTRY-1**

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**Yangon, 16 May** — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum and party at the Ministry this evening.

They discussed bilateral cooperation and technology.

Also present at the call were the deputy minister, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

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**Forestry Minister inspects choosing of sites for plywood factories**

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The minister also inspected saw mill of Pyae Phyo Tun Co and construction of plywood factory and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA
China's broadcast media says no to illegal, immoral ads

BEIJING, 16 May — Twenty-three Chinese radio and television stations signed a proposal here on Sunday, committing to turning down any advertisement that is against law or moral standards.

The 23 stations, including national ones like Central People's Broadcasting Station, and China Central Television as well as local stations, agreed that radio and TV stations should “refuse to broadcast any advertisement that are not in line with laws or social moral”, on the proposal, which is drawn up the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, the broadcast authority.

The broadcast watchdog urged radio and TV stations to reject all sham or illegal advertisement, improve censorship over the qualification of advertisement producer and content and stick to the principle of “one-vote veto by censor”.

It called on stricter self-discipline in the industries and checkup over the content, orientation and style of advertisement, those on food, drug, cosmetics and medical services in particular.

The 23 radio and TV stations also promised to expose typical cases of commercial cheating to help create a credibility-valued society. — MNA/Xinhua

China's V-P calls for better employment prospects for disabled

BEIJING, 16 May — Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu said here on Sunday China will double its efforts to create better employment conditions of the disabled in order to improve their life and social status.

Extending his concern for China’s 60 million handicapped people and their families and those who work in handling problems of the handicapped, he urged local governments and all social circles to keep improving the employment of the handicapped and safeguard their labour rights.

“Employment is fundamental to livelihood and an effective way and important basis for improving the disabled people’s life, social status and helping them participating in social and economic undertakings,” he said, after visiting a business office of China Netcom Beijing Branch and Beijing massage guidance centre for the blind. — MNA/Xinhua

Zambia, Ghana agree on joint permanent commission

LUSAKA, 16 May — Zambia and Ghana have agreed to set up a joint permanent commission to boost bilateral economic relations, the official Zambia News Agency said on Sunday.

In a joint communiqué available here on Sunday at the end of Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa’s four-day official visit to Ghana, the two countries agreed to increase their level of interaction in areas such as mining, communication, human resources development, trade and investment. President Mwanawasa and his Ghanaian counterpart John Kufour reviewed the situation in Africa and pledged their total support for the African Union (AU).

They agreed to work together for the acceleration of the economic and political integration of the continent as envisaged in the Constitution of the AU and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), and appealed to all African countries to ensure the effective coordination of efforts in the implementation of the priority programmes of NEPAD.

The two leaders stressed the need to continue efforts for democratization and promotion of the rule of law and respect for human rights, which would contribute significantly to the socio-economic and cultural development of the continent. The two presidents stressed the need for South-South coopera-
tion in the area of trade, saying that once Afri-
cans started trading more meaningfully among each other, the continent would benefit much more from the process of globalization. — MNA/Xinhua

Okinawa protesters form human chain outside US base

OKINAWA, 16 May — Tens of thousands of protesters formed a human chain on Sunday around the US Marine Corps’ Futemma Air Station in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, demanding the immediate closure of the facility.

Organizers said some 24,000 people, both from Okinawa and elsewhere in Japan, took part in the event to mark the 33rd anniversary Sunday of the US reversion of the prefecture to Japan in 1972.

Kyodo News reported.

The participants who held hands around the 11-kilometre circumference of the base outnumbered those of previous similar events in 1995, 1998 and 2003.

The Japanese Government has been seeking to build a new offshore military airport in Ginowan to relocate the Futemma base in line with a 1996 bilateral accord calling for the reversion of the facility in “five to seven years”.

The project has been stalled, however, due to local objections. — MNA/Xinhua

Scientists claim polio can be eradicated from India by 2005

Mumbai, 16 May — Scientists claim that polio can be completely eradicated from India by the end of 2005, based on various available parameters.

However, the most important thing for this big goal to be achieved is full community participation, Director of Enterovirus Research Centre (ERC), Dr Jagdish M Deshpande said here on Saturday on the eve of National Immunization Day for Polio. “The goal of reaching zero polio in 2005 will be possible if community participation is 100 per cent and all efforts are made to immunize every child during the polio vaccination campaigns,” Deshpande said.

“Polio virus transmission is at its lowest, therefore, it is the best time to put all our strength together to stop polio virus transmission in our country. We need to believe in the strategies recommended by the experts in the field,” he said.

There are three types of polio virus, all able to cause paralytic poliomyelitis. We have successfully eradicated the Type 2 polio virus way back in 1999. This polio virus type is globally eradicated,” he said. The Type 3 polio virus is also on the verge of being eradicated since last year (2004) only 7 cases in this relation were reported. The past, they have succeeded to rid the wild polio virus circulation again very quickly through vaccination campaigns.

In 2004, there were 134 confirmed polio cases reported in India, most of them from western Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In the first four months of 2005, only 14 polio cases were detected. It is very cons-
tant that the community also has confidence in polio eradication pro-
gramme.

To this end UNICEF, Indian Academ-
y of Paediatrics and Rotary International have put their might towards activities concerning In-
formation, Education and Communications of the masses at the grassroots level, BMC Health Department Offical V J Tejani said.

It is because of the intensive efforts of the programme and people’s participation in the number of polio cases in India went down from 1,600 in 2002 to 225 in 2003 and 134 in 2004. In 2005, the 14 cases all due to local infection, 11 of them were reported in very limited area (14 dis-
tricts) in the country.

Most states (except UP and Bihar) have reached zero polio cases. Whenever polio cases were reported in those states that had reached zero polio sometime in the past, they have succeeded to rid the wild polio virus circulation again very quickly through vaccination cam-

Mass rally staged against US missile deployment

GWANGJU, (South Korea), 16 May — Thousands of South Korean university students and civic activists took part in a mass demonstration here on Sunday to protest the deployment of US Patriot missiles, the South Korea News Agency reported.

Washington deployed two upgraded Patriot anti-air missile batteries in the southwestern city of Gwangju in November as part of its 11-billion-US-dollar “force improvement programme”.

The move drew strong criticism from Gwangju residents who concerned about an expansion of the United States military presence in the city.

About 3,000 protesters scuffled with police after tearing apart barbed wire while trying to get onto the rooftop of the South Korean air force 1st Fighter Wing in Gwangju where the new US missiles are being deployed, witnesses said.

When the demonstration turned violent, police increased security around the military base and used water cannons to disperse protesters. — MNA/Xinhua
HK Customs officer arrested for bribery dies

Hong Kong, 15 May — Police are investigating the sudden death of a senior superintendent from Hong Kong Customs & Excise Department who was arrested on Tuesday by Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in connection with a bribery case, a government official said on Thursday.

Speaking at a Press conference, Secretary for Security Ambrose Lee said it was an unfortunate incident, adding that Hong Kong’s civil servants have always been considered a clean and efficient team and the government has zero tolerance for any illegal or corrupt acts.

Wong Shiu-ming, the senior superintendent, was released on bail Wednesday and found dead three hours later at a parking lot. It is suspected that he killed himself by jumping off a seven-storied building.

Wong and five others — including the chairman and an associate director of a private detective company, and a recording industry senior executive — were arrested on Tuesday after ICAC officers learned the senior superintendent allegedly accepted bribes from the private detective agency for offering confidential information and referring business to them.

It is also alleged the officer accepted unauthorised loans from the recording industry executive, and used a false receipt to claim reimbursement of expenses under the Long & Meritorious Service Travel Award Scheme.

China-US CBM development programme makes headway

KUNMING, 15 May — A China-American joint venture announced that it had made a breakthrough in efforts to develop coal-bed methane (CBM) resources in southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

Lin Yucheng, the Chinese geological representative on the programme, told Xinhua they had so far sunk five test wells, one of which is capable of producing 2,000 cubic metres of CBM daily.

China United Coalbed Methane Co Ltd (CUCBM) and the Far East Energy Corporation, with headquarters in Houston of Texas, the United States, signed a CBM production sharing contract (PSC) in Beijing on 3 December, 2002 for launching a cooperative programme to explore rich CBM resources in the Enhong and Laochang areas, both of which are conventional coal producing bases in Yunnan.

Under the contract, the programme will have a term of 30 years and 13 CBM wells will be sunk in an area of 1,072 square kilometres in Yunnan, where there are 148.3 billion cubic metres of estimated gas reserves.

Far East Energy Corporation, the American partner, will bear 8 million US dollars of venture investment needed during the first three years of the prospecting stage.

Consultancy experts believe CBM will become a practical and reliable substitute energy resource to conventional natural gas as the global shortage of energy resources has been worsening and the supply of conventional natural gas falls short of market demand.

American Library to reopen in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 15 May — The American Library, which was closed over some time in the past, is to reopen in Kathmandu, the US Embassy in Nepal said here on Saturday.

“The American Library, as a part of its grand opening week events at a new location, announces a public opening day on 16 May,” the Public Affairs Office of the embassy said in a Press statement.

“For an auspicious opening of the library, the programme will be begun with Hindu and Buddhist rituals,” the statement revealed.

Following this, there will be a power point presentation about the new library as well as a demonstration on its online resources and the other activities like the monthly movie shows and books and article discussing programmes, the Press release added.

Indonesia back in Miss Universe pageant after decades of ban

JAKARTA, 15 May — Indonesia’s Artika Sari Devi, winner of Putri Indonesia (Miss Indonesia) in 2004, has joined the campaign for Miss Universe in Thailand this year after decades of ban against such a contest in the world most populous Muslim nation.

“It is such a rare opportunity to meet and to know contestants from so many countries with their many different ethnicities and cultures,” the 25-year old law graduate was quoted on Saturday by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

The Soeharto government (1966-1998) banned Indonesian women from competing in international beauty contests because the national contest was cited as being against Indonesian cultural and religious values.

Criticism has some-
Traditional Chinese medicine ignites American’s hope

BEIJING, 15 May—Washington woman Corrie Anna has travelled to Shanghai in search of traditional Chinese medical treatment after 15 years of being left mute and seriously brain damaged in a car accident, reported on Saturday’s China Daily.

“More and more foreign patients are aware of the traditional Chinese medicine for many difficult diseases,” said Shen Weidong, deputy director of the traditional Chinese medicine centre in Shanghai’s Shuguang Hospital in Pudong.

With serious brain damage from the accident 15 years ago, Corrie, now 32, suffers dementia and spasms. She cannot talk and can hardly raise her head.

Currently on a three-month treatment regimen prescribed by Shen, she undergoes acupuncture and physiotherapy, five days a week.

The acupuncture is painful and sometimes makes her cry, but has some immediate effect in relaxing spasming muscles, says Corrie’s mother Kathy, who came from the US with her daughter three weeks ago.

“It’s possible she can raise her head more than before,” Kathy told China Daily.

“But it’s too soon to tell how much progress we can make here.”

After doctors in the United States said treatments available there could offer no further improvement in Corrie’s condition, Kathy brought her daughter to Shanghai in February this year on the advice of her son who has worked in the city since 1998.

The first treatment ignited some hope of improvement and Corrie returned in mid-April for more treatment.

“Our plan for now is to complete the 12 weeks and see doctor Shen’s recommendation,” said Kathy.

“I have strong hope,” she added.

While Western medicine is vital for the treatment of many diseases, traditional Chinese medicine plays a special role in treating functional deficiency, nerve diseases and many other symptoms, says Shen.

His clinic, located in Pudong’s Zhanghai High-tech Park, receives 20-30 out patients every afternoon, many of whom are expats from the multi-national businesses in the area.

“Some patients get to know about us by searching the Internet, but most of them heard about our centre through word of mouth,” said Shen.

MNA/Xinhua

Landmark dinosaur exhibition opens in New York

NEW YORK, 15 May—A landmark exhibition that features the latest findings in dinosaur research opened at American Museum of Natural History here on Saturday.

The exhibition, titled “Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossil, New Discoveries,” highlights ongoing cutting-edge research by scientists around the world. It presents the most up-to-date look at how researchers are reinterpreting many of the most persistent and puzzling mysteries of dinosaurs: what they looked like, how they behaved and moved as well as the hotly debated theories of why, or even whether, they became extinct.

“Once again, the museum is offering the public the most up-to-date, scientifically accurate, and utterly thrilling information on dinosaur research. After visitors see this exhibition, they will never think of dinosaurs in the same way again,” said Peter Fetter, President of the museum.

A major highlight of the exhibition is a 700-square-foot diorama depicting the rich diversity of animals living in a Mesozoic Forest in Liaoning, China. Vectors can stroll back in time through the forest, as it existed 130 million years ago and come face to face with many of the amazing creatures that lived there, including Microcoelus gut. Junior Dinosaurs that used its primitive feathers to glide from one tree to another in search of prey or to escape predators.

According to Xu Xia, a researcher with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese scientists are blessed by an abundance of fossils in their research of early lives. Fossils of dinosaur with feathers found in Liaoning in recent years, for instance, provide a direct proof to a variety of major theories in paleontological history, such as the evolution of modern bird from dinosaurs.

This exhibition gives visitors a glimpse into that realm, he said.

He also noted that the exhibition offers a very impressive overview of how sophisticated technology can reveal much more from pieces of fossils, when scientists, with the help of bioengineer- ing computer software, have managed to simulate virtual dinosaurs moving, at what speed, and look more closely into the side of dinosaur fossils to gain a deeper understanding of this species.

“With modern technology, scientists now treat dinosaurs more as a living creature, and get to learn much more than ever before, instead of being content with the limited surface information they used to get from the dead fossils,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s biggest industrial, urban complex under construction

HANOI, 14 May—Construction of Vietnam’s biggest industrial, service, urban complex with state investment of three trillion Vietnamese dong (190 million US dollars) is underway in southern Binh Duong Province.

Covering an area of nearly 4,200 hectares, the complex will include trade centres, industrial parks, office buildings, apartment blocks, tourism resorts, banks and schools, the provincial People’s Committee said on Friday, noting that several local and foreign-invested companies have been assigned land to build categories in the complex.

After completion, scheduled in 2015, the complex is expected to attract some five billion dollars in capital of foreign-invested projects with an estimated total workforce of more than 200,000 workers. Part of the complex will be put into operation in 2007, the committee said.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong quake jolts Sumatra

JAKARTA, 15 May—An earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter Scale shook Indonesia’s West Sumatra Province on Saturday afternoon, but there is no immediate report of casualty.

The tremor was detected at 12:05 local time (0505 GMT) and felt at least 10 towns in the province, local seismology staff Heru Nurnan was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying. People in the provincial capital of Padang said the tremor lasted for about ten seconds. Nurnan said the quake was centred some 300 kilometres off Sumatra’s northern coasts.

MNA/Xinhua

Twelve tons of cocaine seized in Colombia

BOGOTA, 15 May— Colombian authorities seized 12 tons of cocaine in the biggest drug bust in the country’s history, local media reported on Friday.

The drug was seized in an operation that ended early Friday by the Navy and the national police in the southwestern province of Narino.

Five suspects were arrested and nine assault rifles and several boats confiscated in the operation.

“This is the biggest...
Tajikistani lift AFC President’s Cup

KATMANDU, 16 May—Regard Tajad Club of Tajikistan clinched the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President’s Cup tournament, defeating Dordoi Dynamo Club of Kyrgyzstan 3-0 in the final match played at the Dasharath Stadium here on Saturday evening.

With the win, Regard Tajad bagged the cash prize of 50,000 US dollars and the trophy. Runner-up Dordoi-Dynamo received a cash prize of 25,000 US dollars.

Nepali Crown Prince Paras gave away the trophy to the winning team.

China win Sudirman Cup badminton

BEIJING, 16 May—Hosts China beat their last rival Indonesia to lift the badminton Sudirman Cup for a record fifth time.

China whitewashed Indonesia 3-0 for a fifth straight win in the world mixed team championship which concluded here on Sunday.

The hosts have won the 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001 events in a row but lost the trophy two years ago to South Korea.

Indonesians failed to regain the trophy, named after their badminton legend Sudirman. The last time they won the title was 16 years ago at the 1989 inaugural event.—MNA/Xinhua

West Bromwich survive relegation battle

LONDON, 16 May—The relegation suspense was unravelled in the final round on Sunday when West Bromwich Albion escaped relegation with a home 2-0 win over Portsmouth after a rollercoaster final day of matches.

Thanks to Geoff Horsfield and Keran Richardson’s goal, the Baggies stayed up by a point and became the first team since the Premiership began to survive despite being bottom at Christmas.

Crystal Palace were eight minutes from safety but Charlton’s equalizer sent them down, while Norwich surrendered meekly with a 6-0 thumping at Fulham. Southampton’s 27-year top-flight stay ended with a 2-1 defeat by Man Utd.

The final 90 minutes of the Premier- ship’s campaign saw the four teems in danger of going down all enjoy moments where they were potentially safe.

Norwich started the day in the cov-  eted 17th spot, but never looked like reclaiming it once they started shipping goals to Craven Cottage.

Southampton were the beneficiaries initially, even when Man Utd cancelled out their early opener at St. Mary’s.

But Horsfield’s goal in the 58th minute saw West Brom leapfrog their rivals. They were further helped by Richardson’s second in the 75th minute, and United going on to beat Southampton 3- 1.

However, celebrations at The Hawthorns had to be put on hold when Crystal Palace hauled themselves 2-1 in front at Charlton with an Andy Johnson penalty in the 71st minute.

And the Eagles were within touching distance of survival until Jon Fortune’s 82nd-minute header pegged them back, and roasted West Brom back out of the bottom three.

The other key issue to be resolved on the final day centred around who would clinch the final European qualifying place.

Middlesbrough, who were in pole position before visiting Manchester City, eventually held on to seventh spot with a 1-1 draw, but only thanks to the heroics of goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer.

His late penalty save from Robbie Fowler’s in the 90th minute prevented City stealing all three points and the win that would have seen them swap places with Boro.

Elsewhere on the final day, champions Chelsea drew 1-1 at Newcastle but run- ners-up Arsenal lost 1-2 at Birmingham.

Everton ended fourth and in the last Champions League place — despite a negative goal difference — after losing 2-3 at Bolton, who finished sixth just behind Liverpool on goal difference after they beat Aston Villa.

Spurs also missed out on Europe after a goalless draw at home to Blackburn who, like Portsmouth and Fulham, already knew they were safe from the threat of the final-day trap door.—MNA/Xinhua

Federer beats Gasquet to retain Hamburg Masters title

BERLIN, 16 May—Swit- zerland’s Roger Federer retained his Hamburg Masters title with a 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 victory over French teenager Richard Gasquet on Sunday.

The world number one’s win avenged his defeat by the 18-year-old Gasquet in the quarterfinals of the Monte Carlo Masters last month, one of only two losses Federer has suffered in his last 59 matches.

The top seed was never at his best but Gasquet, ranked 56, failed to con- vert his break points when they came as Federer se- cured his 19th consecutive victory in an ATP final.

The win, wrapped up 7- 4 in the third-set tiebreak, completed a highly satis- factory warm-up for Federer a week before he bids to win the French Open claycourt Grand Slam for the first time.

Benfica one point away from Portuguese soccer title

LISBON, 16 May—Benfica beat Sporting 1-0 on Saturday and need only one point from their last match to clinch the Portuguese soccer title for the first time in 11 years.

Leaders Benfica have 64 points, three clear of Sporting and Porto.

Benfica, who have the advantage of a better record in head-to-head with Sport- ing, travel to Boavista in the final round of games.

Porto, who still have a chance of retaining their title, play hosts to Academica in the final round.

Brazilian defender Luisao headed Benfica’s winner in the 83rd minute after Sporting goalkeeper Ricardo failed to clear a free kick by midfielder Armando Pett.

Sporung, who meet CSKA Moscow in Wednesday’s UEFA Cup final in Lisbon, were reduced to 10 men when captain Beto was sent off for arguing with a linesman two minutes from time.

Two second-half goals gave Porto a 2-0 victory at Rio Ave.

South African Benni McCarthy opened the scoring after 56 minutes and Leandro sealed the win with a shot from an acute angle in the 79th.—MNA/Xinhua

Barcelona win Spanish League

MADRID, 16 May—Barcelona on Saturday won the Spanish league for the 17th time in their history after drawing 1-1 with Levante to two games of the season still to play.

Facing the 17th-placed Levante, Barcelona had to battle for the draw for an unassailable six points clear of second-placed Real Madrid.

Levante scored first when Alberto Rivera slammed home a first-time half-volley from a Congo header. His fifth goal of the season in the 35th minute.

Immediately after the start of the second half, Ronaldinho was brought down by a double tackle as he released a shot that went just wide, but his claims for a penalty were waved away by the referee who dished out a yellow card.

Barcelona eventually got the goal when Cameroon striker Samuel Eto’s header rebounded off the post from a corner in the 53rd minute.

Earlier Saturday, Real managed a 2-2 draw with third-placed Seville. —MNA/Xinhua

(From L-R) FC Barcelona’s Rafael Marquez of Mexico. Samuel Eto’o of Cameroon, Juliano Belletti of Brazil and Gio van Bronckhorst of the Netherlands, gesture during a celebration after winning the Spanish League at Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 15 May, 2005.—INTERNET

UCLA’s Chelsea Johnson clears 13 feet, 7 1/4 inches to win the women’s pole vault during the Pac-10 Track and Field championships, on 15 May, 2005, in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua
CP-TING project going smoothly in China

ZHENGZHOU, 16 May — A project aiming to improve Chinese girls and young women’s abilities to fight trafficking when seeking jobs is going “smoothly” in central China’s Henan Province, a local programme official said on Sunday.

Vice-Provincial Governor Lu Dehu, who is in charge of implementing the Project to Prevent Trafficking in Girls and Young Women for Labour Exploitation in China (CP-TING project), said Henan has set up a steering committee and has worked out concrete measures for implementing the project in the three counties of Qixian, Huaxian and Huayang. “Everything is going smoothly.” Lu said. Henan is one of five Chinese provinces selected to implement the CP-TING project, launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as the Chinese Government and non-governmental agencies, implemented in close cooperation with the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF), and funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID-China).

The project aims to bar girls and young women from being deceived or lured into sexual exploitation or other unacceptable forms of labour by reducing their vulnerability to trafficking. A rapid economic growth in China and a huge number of surplus labourers in its rural areas have resulted in massive internal migration in the world’s most populous country. In 2003, an estimated 140 million Chinese farmers migrated for work, according to the State Commission for Population and Family Planning.

Though men constitute the majority of the migrant labour force, the percentage of women relocating is quickly rising, especially in the younger group. This mass movement of such huge numbers of rural surplus labourers has created opportunities for those seeking to exploit those most vulnerable — girls and young women — as they often migrate at lower ages than men, and with lower average levels of education, unformed and ill-prepared. — MNA/Enigmatic

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Chin State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (1.26) inches. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions. (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions. (7°C) to (8°C) above normal in Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions, (9°C) above normal in Magway Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (45°), Minbu and Pakokku (44°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 15-5-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 16-5-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-5-2005 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 15-5-2005 was (8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 2.84 inches at Yangon Airport, 3.46 inches at Kaba-Aye and 1.89 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 15-5-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea, Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-5-2005: Likely hood of isolated rain or thunderstorms in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Lookout for subsequent two days: Rain or thunderstorms in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-5-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-5-2005: Generally fair weather.
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 development 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

Title recipient Buddhist monks honoured

YANGON, 16 May—A ceremony to honour Bahan Township Pali Takkatho Nyaungdon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title recipient Bhaddanta Sobhana and Pahtama-gyaw title recipient Bhaddanta Candavara took place at the monastery this morning in conjunction with the 50th founding anniversary of Panyi Free Sasa Pala Association.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacriya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Religious Affairs Department Director-General Dr Myo Myint and officials, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, Yangon West District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and officials, social organizations, wellwishers, lay persons and guests.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana invested the congregation with the Five Precepts, and Sayadaw delivered a sermon. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe supplicated on religious affairs.

The commander, the deputy minister and party donated alms to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. The commander accepted K 4.3 million donated by wellwishers, to whom certificates of honour were presented.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe offers provisions to a Sayadaw.— MNA

Later, the Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained, and the ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatta.

MNA

Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee holds work coordination meeting

YANGON, 16 May—The work coordination meeting of the Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon with an address by Chairman of the Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Textbook Printing and Distribution Sub-Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Chairman of the Distribution Sub-Committee Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Min and sub-committee members, departmental officials and others.

In his address, Chairman of the Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan (See page 9)

L & F Minister tours Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 16 May—Member of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on 14 May met with members of Taninthayi Division WVOs and Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung district WVOs in Myeik, Taninthayi Division and gave instruction on organizational matters of the organization.

At the meeting, the minister also fulfilled the requirements. During his tour in Taninthayi Division, Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein also met with members of Myeik District and Township USDAs.

In the evening, the minister, accompanied by Commander of the Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Hone Ngai, met with businessmen of the private fishery companies and livestock breeding farms.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein meets with businessmen of the private fishery companies and livestock breeding farms.— MNA