Established 1914

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

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

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

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

Sanitation, dredging work inspected

YANGON, 28 May—Accompanied by officials, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected the upgrading of roads and streets and measures taken for proper drainage. The commander and the mayor looked into tarmacking of Strand Road by the use of heavy machinery near Thirimingalar Market in Kyimyindine township; sanitation and dredging of drains for proper drainage along Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township; tarmacking of Banyadala Road in Tamway Township; and dredging of ditches at the corner of Anawratha Road and Theinbyu Road. Officials conducted them round the site.

During the inspections, the commander and the mayor gave instructions to officials on cooperation of social organizations and the public in carrying out the sanitation and dredging work for proper drainage and for the greening of the city.

— MNA

Myanmar delegation attended 58th World Health Conference

YANGON, 28 May—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint attended the 58th World Health Organization held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 25 May. On 15 May, he attended the preliminary meeting of the Health Ministers of WHO ASEAN regional countries. The Myanmar delegation led by Minister Dr Kyaw Myint attended the opening of the conference on 16 May. Spanish Health Minister Dr E Salgado delivered an introductory speech, and Director-General of the WHO Dr Lee Jong Wook extended greetings.

On 17 May, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivered a speech at the conference. On 18 May, the Myanmar delegation attended the meetings of the WHO, Committee (A), and Committee (B). On 19 May, Dr Kyaw Myint pressed over and addressed the Revisiting Public Health Leadership, Training and Education. On 20, 21 and 23 May, the delegation took part in the discussions at the meeting of all departments of the WHO conferences, and the meetings of Committee (A) and Committee (B).

The concluding of the conference took place on 25 May. During his stay in Geneva, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint held discussions with Malaysian counterpart Dr Chua Soi Lek, Brunei counterpart Mr P Abu Bakar Apong, Bhutanese counterpart Mr L. S Singay and Sri Lankan counterpart Mr Nimal Siripala de Silva.

In addition, the delegation met with officials separately, and briefed them on health care concerns being carried out in Myanmar.


The Myanmar delegation comprised Rector of the Institute of Pharmacy (Yangon) Dr Aung Mon, Director (Disease Control) of the Health Department Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein, Deputy Director Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, Deputy Director U Thet Lwin of Foreign Relations Division of the Ministry of Health.

— MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses 58th WHO Conference. — HEATH
Further promote friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and SRV

The Union of Myanmar has been sticking to the peaceful co-existence policy in dealing with neighbouring countries and those in the region as well as the international community. A basic principle of the independent and active foreign policy being practised by Myanmar is to maintain friendly relations with all the global nations, especially neighbours.

In dealing with the international community, Myanmar has been strictly practising the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence—mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in one another’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence.

The Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are ASEAN member nations, and leaders of the two nations have been cementing mutual friendship and cooperation through exchange of visits for ages.

Messages of felicitations were exchanged between the Heads of State on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which fell on 28 May 2005.

In the message from Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Duc Luong, it is stated: “I n this new millennium there are many challenges that both our countries face. It is our sincere desire to work with your country bilaterally as well as multilaterally with mutual understanding and cooperation to overcome them”.

In the message from President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Duc Luong to Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, it is stated: “I am fully confident that in time to come, these excellent relations will be further promoted in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in Southeast Asia and the world over”.

The Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have maintained friendly relations since they established diplomatic relations in 1975. The basis of friendship and cooperation between the two nations have flourished in the past three decades.

The existing relations of the two nations will contribute much to mutual cooperation, cooperation in the region as well as among the international community and serve the interests of the two peoples.

This being so, friendship and cooperation already in place since diplomatic relations of the two nations have been established is further strengthening relations and cooperation of the two peoples.

Basic summer course of Yangon Division performing arts concludes

YANGON, 28 May—Basic summer course of Yangon Division Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts concluded at No 6 Basic Education High School in Botataung Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions have been held since 1993 with the aims of disseminating Myanmar cultural heritage such as Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts among the local people in states and divisions, turning out talented artists, strengthening national solidarity and preserving and safeguarding Myanmar culture.

The 13th performing arts competitions will be held in October, he said.

The commander presented certificates to Ma May Yadana Lwin. Next, Daw Khin Thet Htay presented gifts for instructors to dancing instructor Daw Chaw Kalyar Aye.

A winner of the competitions and the trainees entertained the guests.—MVA

Deputy Education Minister attends school enrolment day ceremony of Seikkan Township

YANGON, 28 May—Deputy Minister for education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min attended the 2005-2006 Seikkan Township school enrolment day ceremony at No 1 BEPS in Seikkan Township at 11 am today and gave a speech. The Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department and officials concerned, the Chairmen of Seikkan PDC and members, representatives of social organizations, the township education officer, school head, teachers, parents and students attended the ceremony.

First, township education officer U Aung Kyi explained completion of school enrolment programme.

Later, Deputy Minister for education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min gave a speech relating to the school enrolment of school-age children.

The deputy minister handed over the students the cash which donated the wellwishers.

Director-General U Aye Kya of No 3 Basic Education Department and officials presented school stationery.—MNA
Singapore to strengthen global trade hub status

SINGAPORE, 27 May — The Singapore Government will take initiatives to strengthen its international trading hub status, Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said here on Thursday.

Citing that trade is three times the country’s gross domestic product (GDP), Lim announced that the government will continue to seek innovative ways to enhance the infrastructure to facilitate physical trading activities. Moving beyond the physical marketplace, according to the minister, “it is vital to grow an active derivatives market to enhance our status as an international trading hub”.

He added that Singapore will also expand its financial market, pursue strategies to develop the supporting financial infrastructure for international trading, as well as promote the operating environment for local and foreign trading companies.

Talking about trade in Asia, Lim reiterated that the rise of China, India and Southeast Asia presents a great deal of economic and commercial opportunities, and will boost the purchasing power of the region.

“The rise of China as an economic power has shifted global trade flows,” Lim said, adding that India is widely recognized as the second engine of growth in Asia, while Southeast Asia is the third.

Lim was speaking at the opening of the inaugural Global Trade Summit held here on Thursday, which attracted more than 200 business leaders and decision makers of global trading companies from 23 countries worldwide.

Themed “the future of international trading, today”, the two-day event invites participants’ insights on issues impacting the development of international trade, such as free trade versus renewed protectionism and the market outlook on emerging economies.

ASEAN+3 e-govt centre likely to be set up in Seoul

SEUL, 27 May — South Korea on Thursday proposed creating an integrated ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Plus Three (China, South Korea and Japan) e-government centre in Seoul next year on the sidelines of an international meeting on better governance being held here, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

The e-government centre proposal was presented to the “ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials’ Meeting on Creative Management for Government” held in Seoul on the sidelines of the UN-sponsored Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, which kicked off four-day meeting on Tuesday.

In Thursday’s meeting, ministers and senior officials from ASEAN Plus Three countries discussed ways of using technology to improve government operations and gave positive responses to South Korea’s offer to initiate the integrated e-government centre. “The centre will act as a bridge among the ASEAN Plus Three countries, paving the way for smooth exchanges in such fields as human resources, technical support, education and training,” South Korean Government Administration Minister Oh Young-kyo said.

According to a report of the United Nations, South Korea recently ranked fifth in an e-government readiness index.

Malaysia sets up Cabinet Committee on Tourism

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 May — The Malaysian Government had set up a Cabinet Committee on Tourism consisting of six ministries to boost the country’s tourism sector, a minister said on Thursday.

Apart from the Tourism Ministry, the committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, included other five ministries of transport, home affairs, youth and sports, culture, arts and heritage as well as housing and local government, Tourism Minister Leo Michael Toyard told reporters after opening a symposium on “Yangon to Manila Bay: A New Cruising Playground” here.

Several other ministries would also be roped in to sit on the Cabinet Committee as and when necessary, to help in the development of the country’s tourism industry, he said.

“The first meeting of the Cabinet Committee will be decided by the deputy prime minister. The committee will sit at least twice a year,” he added.

The symposium, attended by 10 countries, is aimed at promoting the development of waterways from Yangon to Manila Bay as a new borderless regional cruising playground.

Toyard said the Cabinet Committee would, among other things, coordinate the nation’s tourism action plan, ensure government support to local tourism industry players and streamline policies pertaining to tourism.

Some 15.5 million foreign tourists visited Malaysia in 2004, who spent about 35 billion ringgit (9.21 billion US dollars) in the Southeast Asian country.

Malaysia is an exotic country of immense beauty and charm. It has palm-lined tropical beaches, crystal clear seas and waterfalls, world class dive sites with exotic marine lives.

Cigarette packs with shocking pictures go on sale in Thailand

BANGKOK, 27 May — Thailand has become the fourth country in the world to make it compulsory for cigarette packets to carry shocking and graphic pictures and messages warning smokers of the health risks of smoking.

Canada was the first country to introduce the graphic labels on cigarette packets, followed by Brazil and Singapore.

The new labels, with six different pictures and six severe warning messages, were officially launched on Wednesday to mark No Smoking Day on 31 May, reported the Thai News Agency on Wednesday. The graphics take up half the size of a cigarette packet and feature six of health risks — smoking makes you look older, smoking causes bad breath, passive smoking can harm children, smoking can cause lung cancer and smoking can cause emphysema — to help reduce the number of smokers in the country.

Iraq oil route under constant threat of attack

BAGHDAD, 28 May — The protection force charged with ensuring Iraqi oil keeps flowing says lack of training and personnel is costing lives among its members. The government formed the 1,500 strong team earlier this year to patrol the 480-kilometer pipeline from Kirkuk to Turkey’s Ceyhan oil terminal which has been largely shut down by frequent terrorist attacks.

But force members say they need more briefings in military and security tactics as well as improvised explosive devices, if they are to tackle the insurgents from whom they face constant threats. They also complain shifts are too long for such dangerous and tiring work.

Last month, a bomb killed 12 pipeline guards, including the head of the protection team. On 13 May, another bomb exploded at the main gathering and pumping station linked to the pipeline.

“We are needing courses to develop our skills,” said Azad Kurshid, a security guard on the pipeline protection force.

Captain Adil Yaha agrees a shortage of soldiers, equipment and proper training is endangering lives. “Traditional methods of training the soldiers are useless for the current situation we are facing now,” he said.

Internet
Singapore’s manufacturing output up 4.8% in April

SINGAPORE, 27 May — Singapore’s manufacturing output grew by 4.8 per cent in April as compared with a year ago, according to the figures released by the Economic Development Board (EDB) on Thursday.

Most clusters registered higher output in April than the same month of last year except for the chemicals cluster and the biomedical manufacturing, which declined by 2.4 per cent and 12.1 per cent respectively.

The output of the transport engineering cluster rose by 27 per cent in April, the highest among all the increases, while that of the electronics cluster reported a moderate growth of 9.8 per cent in April from the 19.5-per-cent increase in the previous month.

Total manufacturing increased by 3.7 per cent in the first four months of this year as compared with the same period of last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Mekong River nations vow more cooperation on natural resources

SHANGHAI, 27 May — Environment ministers from six countries sharing the Mekong River, including China, Cambodia and Thailand, have affirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation on preserving their individual and shared natural resources, according to a statement made available to Xinhua on Thursday.

In a joint statement issued at the end of their Wednesday meeting in Shanghai, the Mekong Environment Ministers said that the key economic sectors in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) depend critically on the conservation and sustainable management of healthy natural systems, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which coordinated the meeting.

“We acknowledge the importance of further accelerating the momentum of GMS environmental activities,” they held. “We reaffirm our commitment for a better environment and sustainable development in the GMS.”

In addition to the ministers, the meeting brought together approximately 80 senior environment officials from the six GMS countries — Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, who reviewed the achievements in environmental cooperation and discuss future directions in environment and natural resource management.

The ministers endorsed the GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (BCCI) to protect high value terrestrial biodiversity conservation landscapes.

The BCI aims to help establish sustainable management regimes and restore ecological (habitats) connectivity and integrity within important biodiversity areas.

ADB Vice-President Lijun Jin, who led ADB’s delegation to the meeting, said, “The Core Environment Programme is a systematic and integrated approach to conserve the natural systems of the GMS for the ecosystem services they provide.”

“It provides the framework to address the immediate and long-term stresses that rapid economic growth would, otherwise, have on the environment and natural resources of the subregion.”

Appreciating the support of ADB, United Nations Environment Programme, and other development partners, the ministers urged donor countries and international agencies, the private sector, and civil society to strengthen their collaboration to support the GMS Core Environment Programme.

— MNA/Xinhua

Miss Thailand snatches costume prize in Miss Universe 2005

BANGKOK, 27 May — Miss Thailand Chanaporn Rosjan has won the best costume award in the first round of Miss Universe 2005 competition, the third Thai lady to snag the award in the Miss Universe pageant.

The traditional Thai costume, glittered on Rosjan, stood out on the stage and received enthusiastic applause from the audience in the first round of competition Wednesday night. Miss Mexico Laura Elizondo was second runner-up, seizing the best fancy costume category, reported The Nation newspaper on Thursday.

In the 1969 and 1988 Miss Universe competition, beauty queen Saengduan Manwong and Pornthip Nakhirankanok were also rewarded with the best costume prizes.

Designed by fabric expert Theraporn Chanchareon, the costume was inspired from the apparel of court ladies during the Ayutthaya period. The tiara is imitated to a period piece on display in a museum in Philadelphia in the United States.

The accessories, including a bracelet and belt, are made of real gold. The textiles were woven from golden silk and was time-consuming. The outfit costs some one million baht (23,800 US dollars).

“This year’s Miss Universe Pageant brought together 82 beauties from 82 countries to compete for the most coveted beauty title of the world. The final will take place on 31 May.” — MNA/Xinhua

Miss Thailand Chanaporn Rosjan has won the best costume award in the first round of Miss Universe 2005 competition, the third Thai lady to snag the award in the Miss Universe pageant.

Santa Monica police officer dies in Iraq

SANTA MONICA, 28 May — A 10-year veteran Santa Monica police officer was killed during his second tour of duty in Iraq, it was announced on Friday.

Officer Ricardo A Crocker, 39, was killed Thursday in the Al-Anbar province in a rocket-propelled grenade attack, Santa Monica police Chief James T Butts announced.

Crocker was a captain in the Marine Corps Reserves when he was hired onto the Santa Monica police force in 1995. He had since been promoted to major.

“Extremely fit and tactically proficient, Rick’s last assignment was with the Police Activities League,” Butts said.

— Internet

— Internet
Chinese PM to attend two int’l meetings

BEIJING, 27 May — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will attend the informal foreign ministers’ meeting of China, Russia and India and the foreign ministers’ meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

This was announced by Kong Quan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, at a regular Press conference here on Thursday.

At the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Li will attend the informal meeting of foreign ministers from China, Russia and India, due to be held in Vladivostok, Russia on 2 June.

On 4 June, Li will attend the SCO Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, as guest of Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kasyzmzhomart Tokayev.

SCO, founded on 15 June of 2001, is a regional organization that groups China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

MNA/Xinhua

China opens petroleum market by end of 2006

BEIJING, 27 May — China will open its petroleum and refined oil market by the end of next year in compliance with commitments made when it entered the World Trade Organization, a commerce chamber representa-

Gong Jialong, president of the Petroleum Chamber of Commerce, affiliated to the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, made the remark here Wednesday at a high-level seminar on energy strategy.

At that time, interna-
tional petroleum giants will enter the Chinese market, and the country’s oil prices will fluctuate on the basis of market supply and demand, Gong said.

China’s oil prices are still controlled by the government, partly adjusted according to the fluctuation of international oil prices.

Currently, the domestic refined oil price per ton is about 1,000 yuan (about 120 US dollars) lower than the international price, Director Zhou Dadi of the Energy Research Institute of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC) was quoted by the China News Service as saying.

Gong said that cut the price of gasoline by 150 yuan per ton be-
ginning Tuesday. The price cuts are a response to price fluctuations in global oil markets, a SDRC notice said.

The SDRC decided to

MNA/Xinhua

China-New Zealand ties become mature

WELLINGTON, 28 May — Visiting Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo said on Thursday that the friendly relations between his country and New Zealand have become ever mature.

During a meeting with Margaret Wilson, speaker of New Zealand’s House of Representatives, Wu also called for efforts to further strengthen the friendly exchanges between the parliaments of the two countries.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, is currently on an official goodwill visit to New Zealand, the third leg of his four-na-
tion Asia-Pacific tour. The friendly rela-
tions between the two countries based on the principles of mutual respect and mutual benefit have become more and more mature, and face new opportuni-
ties for development, said Wu.

Developing bilateral relations of long-term friendship conforms to the fundamental interests of the two coun-
tries and peoples and is also condu-
cive to peace and development in the Asia-Pacific Region, he said.

The purpose of his visit is to fur-
ther promote bilateral relations, includ-
ing the relationship between the NPC and New Zealand’s Parliament, Wu said.

Wilson said strengthened ex-
changes between the parliaments of the two countries are important to the de-
velopment of relations between the two countries. The NPC is ready for en-
hanced exchanges between the two par-
liaments, their leaders and the ad hoc committees and amity groups, Wu said, adding that the parliaments of the two countries should also strengthen their consultation and cooperation in inter-
national and regional parliamentary organizations. Earlier on Thursday, Wu also held talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark.

MNA/Xinhua

UNSG praises India, Pakistan, Bangladesh for UN peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS, 28 May — With India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to-
gether providing for one-third of United Nations peacekeepers, Secretary-

As of 30 April, In-
dian peacekeepers num-
bered 6081, Pakistanis

7972 and Bangladeshis

7942. In a message on the
occasion of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers being ob-
served on 29 May, he re-
membered 115 peace-
keepers from 39 coun-
tries who were killed last
year in various operation.
None of them was from India. Already, 39 peacekeepers have died this year. Among them are nine Bangladeshi sol-
diers who were brutally murdered in February in the Congo during worst single attack on peacekeepers in more than a decade.

“We with sadness and pride, we pay tribute to each and every one of our fallen colleagues,” Annan said. Currently, more than 66,000 uniformed personnel and about 15,000 civilians are serv-
ing in 17 peacekeeping missions around the world. “As we mark this
day, a large operation is being deployed in Sudan, where a 21-year war cost-
ning millions of lives came to an end with a peace agreement in January. At the same time, peace-
keeping operations in Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone are ending with new democratic govern-
ments in place and the understanding among the people that peace is a re-
ality, not just a hope or a

MNA/PTI

Annan seeks Egypt’s support for UN reform

CAIRO, 27 May — United Nations Secretary-

Egypt’s official

MENA news agency quoted a visiting UN envoy as saying on Thursday.

Chissano, the former Mozambican president, said Mubarak showed understanding to the importance of these reforms, to be debated in New York at a UN summit in autumn, and expressed desire of coopera-
tion with the UN on this issue.

President spokesman Suleiman Awad said Mubarak stressed the need to activate the UN role worldwide and give priority to poverty alleviation and unresolved conflicts in the Middle East and Africa. Chissano’s visit to Egypt came as part of a tour which will also take him to Libya, South Af-
rica, Algeria and Zimbabwe.

Chissano is tasked with sounding out opinions on the UN projects and then reporting back the in-
formation to the UN General Assembly in Septem-
ber.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese workers produce cars at the assembly line at the Changan Ford car factory in Chongqing on 27 May, 2005. —INTERNET
Eurocopter claims setting new world record in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 27 May — Eurocopter, the leading helicopter manufacturer of Europe, has set a high altitude record on Mount Qomolangma, the company announced on Thursday.

“Eurocopter had landed a Ecureuil/Star AS350B3 helicopter on the top of Mt Qomolangma in a world first,” the company said in a statement.

The helicopter landed on Mt Qomolangma on 14 May, setting a new world record for high altitude landing and take-off.

An 11-member team from the company went to Mt Qomolangma base camp from Nepali side on 12 May, with an aim to create a new record in the history of rotary wing aviation.

The team tried to fly the helicopter at the altitude as high as 9,000 to 10,000 metres.

Rajesh Raj Dali, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal said that the government had allowed the team to carry out the test flight, after thoroughly evaluating the technical aspects of the involved helicopter and expertise of the crew members.

The test flight added up to the effort of rescuing climbers in high altitude areas, Dali noted, adding, “After its success, the attempt will be written down in the annals of the aviation history.”

Bangladesh needs $3.3b to meet growing power consumption

DHAKA, 27 May — The country’s state-run Power Development Board (PDB) needs at least 200 billion taka (3.33 billion US dollars) to implement its proposed projects initiated to meet the growing demand for power consumption to the tune of 14,500 megawatt by next 15 years.

But timely implementation of the projects has become uncertain due to non-availability of funds.

The report quoted a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Power Development and Strategies as saying that the daily demand of power consumption would be 5,348 megawatt by 2007 while 7,897 megawatt and 14,500 megawatt by 2012 and 2020 respectively.

The PDB had planned to install a number of power plants in phases under short term, mid term and long term programmes to tackle the situation in coming days. But installation of new power plants still remains a golden dream due to fund constraint.

The government reportedly is yet to receive any response from the donors including the World Bank for installation of new power plants in order to meet the demand in next 15 years.

Currently some 22 power stations along with six private plants are generating 3,900 megawatt of electricity a day against daily demand of 3,850 megawatt of power on an average.

The existing power units have generation capacity of 4,393 megawatt of power a day but they could generate 3,900 megawatt daily due to technical complexities.

During last three and half years electricity generation increased by 900 megawatt following installation of a number of plants under PDB and private management.

Indonesia to tender 26 new oil, gas exploration concessions

JAKARTA, 27 May — The Indonesian Government will tender 26 new concessions for oil and gas exploration early next month, a minister said here on Wednesday.

Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said that the 26 concessions are part of 70 new blocks to be tendered by the end of this year.

“The tendering for the 26 blocks will be announced within the next one to two weeks,” Purnomo was quoted by the state-owned Antara news agency as saying. Without giving details of the locations of the concessions, he said the new blocks are spread across the entire country. It is hoped the announcement of the new tenders will help revive investment in the energy sector and increase the country’s oil and gas production, he added.

Indonesia exports more high-grade crude oil to the entire country. It is hoped the announcement of the new blocks will help increase investment in the sector and help raise the country’s oil and gas production, he added.

Indonesia exports more high-grade crude oil to finance the main bulk of its state budget while importing cheaper crude oil, mostly from the Middle East, to be refined at its local oil refineries, for domestic consumption.

Pakistan's PM on US delivery of “F-16”

ISLAMABAD, 27 May — Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Wednesday that the decision of the US Government on sale of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan would meet the country’s legitimate defence needs.

“According to the local news agency News Network International, Aziz made the remark when meeting the US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca, who called on him in Islamabad on Wednesday. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral relations including defence, economic and trade relations as well as the regional situation.

“The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the growing cooperation between the two countries and welcomed the decision of the US Government to sell F-16 aircraft to Pakistan,” an official statement said.

Iran invited to attend WTO sessions as observer

TEHRAN, 27 May — Iran has been invited to attend World Trade Organization (WTO) sessions as an observer, the official IRNA news agency reported on Thursday.

Iran’s Ambassador to the WTO Mohammad Reza Alborzi was invited earlier this day to attend the WTO General Council soon after the organization agreed to start talks on Iran’s membership in Vienna, the report said.

“The move opens new doors for expansion of mutual economic cooperation between Iran and the European Union (EU),” Alborzi was quoted as saying.

However, Alborzi said that there was no deal between Iran and the EU on the nuclear issue and the move should not be viewed as a green light for Iran’s accession to the WTO.

Iran’s efforts to enter the WTO were repeatedly blocked by the United States, which accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons and sponsoring terrorists.

Arroyo visits low-price school supplies outlets centre in Manila

MANILA, 27 May — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Wednesday made a visit to a low-price school supplies outlet centre in Manila to make sure that the country’s poor children can also afford to buy pencils and notebooks as schools open next month.

During a visit to the popular Divisoria District where a large goods supply market is located, Arroyo said she was glad that prices of basic school supplies were low under the Marcos. She also hoped that prices of school supplies would remain stable through this year.

Businessmen of school supplies reaffirmed their commitment to keep the prices of their items at the old levels.

An observer of the government has promised that school supplies producer will keep the prices of such basic items as pad paper, pencils, ballpens, notebooks, crayons and others at their old levels.

Pakistani PM on US delivery of “F-16”

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“The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the growing cooperation between the two countries and welcomed the decision of the US Government to sell F-16 aircraft to Pakistan,” an official statement said.

“Iruln harbour of traditional Chinese medicine” comes true

GUANGZHOU, 27 May — The plan of having an “international harbour of traditional Chinese medicine” in Hong Kong, designed by tycoon Li Ka-shing, has come true.

Guangzhou Baiyunshan Pharmaceutical Stock Co Limited and Hutchison Whampoa Ltd, one of the world’s top 500 businesses, have set up a joint venture in Guangzhou, which is a step towards establishing Li’s dream of a “kingdom of traditional Chinese medicine”.

Hutchison Whampoa is aimed at developing and promoting traditional Chinese medicine to the world, said Lai Kai Ming, Dominex, executive director of Hutchison Whampoa, on behalf of Li Ka-shing, Hutchison Whampoa’s owner.

“We’ll strive for doubling net profit in two years and making the company listed in Hong Kong in three years,” said Li Chuyuan, general manager of the new venture.

“The international harbour will be the hub of traditional Chinese medicine,” said Lai, as he unveiled the project that will serve 34 countries in the world.

A Virgin Atlantic passenger plane seen on 27 May, 2005. The airline is targeting a growing market in pet travel by launching a special frequent flyer scheme for jet-setting dogs, cats and other animals. — INTERNET

Spanish drugmaker’s CEO visits drugstore chains and hospitals

MADRID, 27 May — The CEO of Spanish pharmaceuticals company Galderma, who was visiting Spain on Wednesday, made a surprise visit to a number of drugstore chains and hospitals.

The CEO, Roberto Francisco Rius, said he had come to Madrid to meet with members of the pharmaceutical industry and to learn about the challenges faced by the sector.

During his visit, Rius met with representatives from various drugstore chains and hospitals, where he discussed the latest developments in the pharmaceutical industry and the impact of new technologies on patient care.

The CEO also met with key stakeholders in the healthcare sector, including doctors and nurses, to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of patients and healthcare providers.

Rius emphasized the importance of innovation and collaboration in the pharmaceutical industry, and highlighted the role of Galderma in driving progress in this field.

“Galderma is committed to innovation and providing high-quality products to patients,” he said. “We are always looking for new ways to improve the health and well-being of our customers.”

Rius also discussed the challenges facing the pharmaceutical industry in Spain, including the impact of changes in healthcare policies and the increasing demand for cost-effective treatments.

“I am encouraged by the progress being made in Spain, and I am confident that Galderma will continue to play a leading role in advancing the field of pharmaceuticals,” he said.
Developing transport in Kachin State

Kachin State lies in the northernmost part of Myanmar. It is the second largest region among the 14 states and divisions. Its area is about 34,379 square miles. The northern part of the mountainous region where highest mountains exist touches the Tibetan plateau. The state shares a common land border with India in the west, the People’s Republic of China in the north and east and Sagaing Division and Shan State in the south. Over 76.83 per cent of the land is covered with mountains and forests where many rivers and creeks flow.

Because of its topographical condition, the state’s transport was poor in the past successive eras. But since its assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has been giving priority to the uplift of the transport in the whole nation. Since the completion of the Bala Min Hnin Bridge across the Ayeyawady River, transport in Kachin State has improved significantly. At present, the Government has been building new regional roads and highways linking the state with other states and divisions and upgrading the existing ones with greater momentum. It has built a large number of bridges of various sizes on the roads.

The entire Kachin State is now enjoying the taste of peace thanks to the Government’s endeavours. The state has also witnessed the peace groups working together with the Government for improvement of the regional transport.

In addition to the State-owned Myanma Airways, private airlines — Bagan Airways and Yangon Airways — are flying to Myitkyina, Putao and Bhamo. Hoo-crafts are now plying the Mandalay-Bhamo and Bhamo-Myitkyina routes in the Ayeyawady River. Now motor schooners are running on Mogaung, Nanyin, Oodo, Kanpaktee river, the 57-mile Sadon road, the Myitkyina-Momauk-Laiza road, the Myitkyina-Momauk-Lweje road, the Myitkyina-Mamsi-Namkhram-Muse road, and the Myitkyina-Tanai-Nanyin-Pansuung road.

The project to develop all the towns and villages equitably in Kachin State has been launched. The project covers the development of Moele Creek region in Momauk Township, Bhamo District.

The people of Kachin State are also witnessing the peace facilities in the state for development of the northernmost state. The local people on their part will have to effectively use the new bridges and roads for development of various sectors and to collectively protect and maintain the facilities for their durability.
Insein Township School Enrolment Programme launched

Over 40,000 saplings planted in Indaing Station

Mayor attends opening of school building of BEPS No 16 in Dagon Myothit North Township

Follow-up news

World No-Tobacco Day

Health Professionals against Tobacco

COMMANDER Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin That Htay nurture seeds at Indaing Station saplings planting ceremony. — MNA

Deputy Information Minister presents stationery to a student of BEPS. — MNA

Indaing Station under control of Yangon Command held the sapling planting ceremony at the local battalion in Hlegu Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin That Htay attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that Yangon Command has given instructions to regiments and units in order to speed up agricultural and livestock breeding tasks and to hold seed-sowing ceremonies and tree planting ceremonies for five times at respective stations including today’s ceremony.

He urged officials of regiments and units in Indaing Station to organize tree planting ceremonies and seed sowing ceremonies in cooperation with the local people.

Indaing Station Commander Col Bo Lwin reported on growing of trees and the purpose of holding the tree planting ceremony, and Director U Khin Win of Forest Department on sowing seeds and nurturing saplings.

The commander, wife and guests viewed booths and documentary photos of Myanmar Agriculture Service and saplings and bamboo finishing products of Forest Department.

Next, they planted saplings and sowed seeds. The commander and wife planted teak and Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) sapling in commemoration of the seed sowing ceremony.

A total of 41,900 saplings were planted in today’s ceremony.

MNA

Mayor attends opening of school building of BEPS No 16 in Dagon Myothit North Township

Yangon, 28 May — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Yangon Division In charge Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the opening of the school building of BEPS No 16 in Yeyan Aung Street, Ward-36, Dagon Myothit North Township, renovated with the contributions of Yangon Division USDA.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, USDA CEC member Yangon Division In charge Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Yangon Division USDA Secretary U Aye Myint, Joint-Secretary U Tha Win and executives, township USDA members, departmental officials, social organizations and guests.

First, Division USDA Secretary U Aye Myint, No 3 Basic Education Department Deputy Director General U Aye Myint and Headmistress of the school Daw Khin Khin Yi formally opened the new school building.

Secretary U Soe Win presented the documents related to the school building followed. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thien Lin addressed the ceremony and Dagon Myothit North Township USDA Secretary U Soe Win explained the purpose of the renovation of the school building. Secretary U Aye Myint handed over the documents related to the school building to township education officer Daw Tin Tin Mya.

Later, on behalf of the people of Dagon Myothit North Township, USDA Secretary U Soe Win presented 1,000 USDA membership applications to Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin. — MNA

YANGON, 28 May — In the news of concluding of Counselling Training Course organized by MWAf, of the dailies issued on 28 May, it is learnt that Head of the Psychology Department Prof Daw Khin Aye Win of the Yangon University and Leader of Working Group for Prevention of Violence against Women Prof of the University of Distance Education Daw Htay Htay gave lectures to the trainees as course instructors. — MNA

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Talks on health of sub-working group of MWAF held

YANGON, 28 May — Educational talks on health to mark World Hypertension Day which falls on 14 May and World No-Tobacco Day which falls on 31 May, organized by health sub-working group of social and culture working group under the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, took place at meeting hall of the MWAF on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township yesterday afternoon. It was attended by Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Myint and heads of working groups, deputy leaders and working group members.

Deputy Leader of social and culture working group, Prof Daw Htoo Htoo Aung explained the purpose of holding talks. Afterwards, talks on the salient points of hypertension, project for heart and coronary vessels, tobacco and health, social danger and tobacco-free projects, continued. Next, those present took part in the discussions and Prof Daw Htoo Htoo Aung expressed thanks. Later, the talks ended after medical checks on those present. — MNA

Education Minister attends launching township school enrolment programmes

YANGON, 28 May — Minister for Education U Than Aung attended the ceremony to launch Kamayut Township School Enrolment Programme for 2005-2006 academic year at Kamayut BEHS No 1 this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt, directors-general and chairmen of departments and boards of the Ministry of Education, rectors, local authorities and guests.

Minister U Than Aung delivered an address. He presented school uniforms to students and accepted cash donations. Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and officials also gave school uniforms and school stationery to students.

A similar ceremony followed in Sangyung BEHS No 1, attended by Minister for Education U Than Aung. He gave instructions on the School Enrolment Programme and the national education promotion programme.

The minister presented school uniforms to schoolchildren and accepted cash and stationery donated by wellwishers.

Likewise, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials provided school stationery to the students. — MNA

Blood and cash donated to defence services hospitals

YANGON, 28 May — Myittraron Blood Donor Association from Sangyung Township, Yangon donated blood and cash to defence services hospitals in Mingaladon station this morning.

The 75-member group made a donation of blood to Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed), the 50-member group to the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) and the 25-member group to the Defence Services Obstetric, Gynaecological and Paediatric Hospital and they also donated cash to the hospitals. — MNA

Judicial coordination meeting of Mon State held

YANGON, 28 May — Courts in Mon State, District and Township held the judicial coordination meeting at the hall of Mon State Court on 14 May morning. Mon State Judge U Hla Win explained guidance of the Head of State and instruction of the Chief Justice at the opening ceremonies of special refresher courses.

Next, district and township judges reported on their respective sectors and they discussed management matters. — MNA

Prevention against infection of HIV from mother to child explained

YANGON, 28 May — The ceremony to clarify prevention against infection of HIV from mother to child at hospitals was held at Central Women’s General Hospital (Yangon) this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and local authorities, members of USDA, MCWA and MWAF, health staff, the medical superintendent of the hospital, specialists and staff.

Project Manager Dr Min Thwe of AIDS/STD Control Project explained matters related to the project.

Medical Superintendent Dr U Shwe Oh reported on functions of the hospital; and Professor/ Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology Department Dr Daw Than Than Tin on medical treatment. — MNA
Zambian Govt determined to improve debt management

LUANDA, 28 May — The Zambian Government said on Thursday it is determined to avoid plunging into unsustainable debt again after receiving a major debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.

“We are cognizant of this danger and that is why we feel there is need to put in place measures that will ensure that we avoid a quick return to unsustainable indebtedness,” Ng’andu Magande, Minister of Finance and National Planning, said during a consultative meeting between the government and donors.

He said the government is undertaking a reform agenda for improved debt management through the public expenditure management and financial accountability reforms.

The objective, he said, is to institute stronger checks and balances in the process of incurring debt as well as ensuring that new debt is only incurred after making an assessment of the debt sustainability.

Zambia reached the HIPC completion point in April and has started receiving part of the 3.8 billion US dollar debt relief promised by the International Monetary Fund and other creditors. The debt relief accounts for half of the southern African country’s total foreign debts. Magande said the attainment of the HIPC completion point has given the country a new opportunity to move forward without the constraint of debt acting as brakes in the development process.

“This is an opportunity we wish to pursue vigorously because we feel we have learnt from our past mistakes and we cannot take for granted the possibility that there will be another debt relief in future should we fall into a new debt crisis,” he said.

World Bank Country Manager for Zambia Obene Nyanin said reaching the HIPC completion point is not the “magic potion” to solve Zambia’s problems, adding the country needs to embark on economic growth.

“Economic growth would be the beginning of the long trek. As cooperating partners, our expectation is that the national development plan will focus on growth areas such as agriculture, tourism and private sector development,” he said.

China to promote cooperation with Spain

BEIJING, 28 May — China is ready to make concerted efforts with Spain to promote bilateral cooperation between the two sides in various fields and levels, said Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan here on Friday. In a meeting with visiting Spanish Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Jose Montilla, Zeng said China and Spain have deepened their friendly cooperation since the forging of their diplomatic relations in 1973, through frequent high-level exchanges in politics, economy and culture increased.

“China and Spain are economically complementary, Zeng said, adding that the two countries have maintained a good momentum in economic and technical cooperation in recent years.

“Spain has become an important partner of China in the European Union, and the two sides enjoy the prospect to further enhance cooperation in economy, trade and investment,” Zeng said. Moreover, China is ready to join hands with Spain in taking specific measures to enhance cooperation between the two sides, Zeng said.

“Discovery” moved back to hanger for safety installation

WASHINGTON, 28 May — The space shuttle Discovery was moved back from the launch pad on Thursday to the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida for the installation of a new and safer fuel tank, NASA said.

The 6.75-kilometre journey took more than nine hours due to a halt caused by an overheated bearing in the vehicle carrying it.

The rollback of Discovery was originally planned for Tuesday. It was delayed to allow workers to find out any possible landing gear cracks.

NASA said technicians had found no problems. In the assembly building, Discovery will be attached to a new and safer external fuel tank as early as July 6. A new heater will also be added to the new tank to prevent ice buildup.

The space shuttle was already put on the launch pad when inspectors reported ice formed on the external tank filled with super-cold fuel. Any ice breaking off the tank during liftoff could prove as lethal as the case in Columbia, NASA warned.

US smoking population continues to decline

WASHINGTON, 28 May — The US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday that smoking continued a trend of year-on-year decline in the United States in 2003.

Some 21.6 per cent of US adults were smokers in 2003, down slightly from 22.5 per cent the year before, said the centre.

The number of woman smokers dropped to a 30-year low to 19.2 per cent, the centre said. About 49.6 per cent of men smoked in the same year.

The centre said about 46 million people quit smoking in 2003, 1 million more than those who smoked. This was the second time in history the number of Americans quitting smoking outran that of smokers.

Discovery is scheduled to be moved again to launch pad in mid-June. The launch window for NASA’s latest attempt to launch the space shuttle since the Columbia disaster is from 13 July to 31 July.

The external fuel tank has undergone many design changes since Columbia disintegrated on reentry and killed all seven astronauts aboard in February 2003.

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WB grant signed to support HIV/AIDS prevention in Vietnam

HANOI, 28 May — The World Bank has agreed to provide its largest grant of 35 million US dollars to support Vietnam’s HIV/AIDS prevention project.

Marty, the State Bank of Vietnam and the World Bank signed the agreement here on Thursday. “This project will work closely with people whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS,” said Marty Rohland, director of the World Bank in Vietnam, said in the signing ceremony.

More than 60 per cent of the grant will be allocated to 20 provinces or cities in the country to develop and implement action programmes in line with Vietnam’s national strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention, according to Le Ngoc Trong, Vietnam’s Vice-Minister of Health.

The funds will also support the government’s efforts to develop a national system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the national strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention, which will include support for multi-sectoral collaboration to reduce stigma and discrimination, help build capacity at the national and provincial level and encourage innovative thinking on preventing HIV/AIDS.

MNA/News

Indonesian military reshuffles high-ranking officials

JAKARTA, 28 May — The Indonesian Military (TNI) Headquarters has conducted a major reshuffle involving 21 high-ranking officials, a spokesman said on Thursday.

Spokesman Ahmad Yani Basuki said that the reshuffle included the promotion of Brigadier-General Kardjionyo as an expert staff to the TNI chief after his stint at the National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas).

Brigadier-General Bbiti Santoso, former spokesman of Lemhan- nas, was also promoted as deputy chairman of the information centre at TNI Headquarters. Ahmad Yani was quoted by The Jakarta Post online news service as saying. Within the Army, Brigadier-General Rasyid Qurnuen was promoted to the position of Diponegoro Military Command Chief of Staff from his former position at Lemhanmas.

In addition, Rear Admiral Tedjo Edhy Purdidatno, former expert staff at Lemhanmas, was promoted as commander of the Navy’s Western Fleet, while Vice-Admiral Moekhlas Sidik as management expert staff at Lemhanmas and Vice-Admiral Tanani Tedjyukusumo as Commander of the Navy’s Fifth Base.

Both lawyers and prosecutors said that they will appeal to a higher court.

Australian woman jailed for drug trafficking in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 28 May — The Indonesian court in Bali on Friday morning sentenced 27-year-old Australian beauty therapist Schapelle Corby to 20 years’ imprisonment for trafficking 4.1 kilograms of marijuana into the resort island last year.

The court rendered the student from a beauty school in Gold Coast, Queensland, guilty of smuggling the marijuana in her body-surfboard bag through the holiday paradise’s main international airport last October.

Both lawyers and prosecutors said that they will appeal to a higher court.

Corby’s Australian lawyer Robin Tampoe claimed that she was the unwitting victim of an Australian gang that used her luggage to transport marijuana on a domestic flight but failed to remove it before she flew on to Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Corby maintained her innocence and said that her only crime was not putting locks on her bag to protect it from tampering and that the drugs found by airport officials in her bag were not hers, but planted there.

Drug smuggling is punishable by death under Indonesian law.

MNA/News

Philippine immigration authority ease entry regulations

MANILA, 28 May — The Philippine Bureau of Immigration (B) has eased its entry regulations for citizens of China who will teach Mandarin in the Philippines so to make it easier for Filipinos to learn the foreign language.

B1 commissioner Alipio Fernandez, Jr said he relaxed the rules for Mandarin teachers after learning that there is increased demand in China for skilled Filipino workers.

He added that the need is especially acute in Shanghai, which he described as one of China’s fastest growing economic and commercial centres. “Of course, a Filipino worker’s chance of being hired in China depends largely on his ability to communicate and speak Mandarin,” he said in a statement.

Fernandez also said he has received reports that many Chinese teachers are being hired by schools in the Philippines to teach Mandarin to Filipino and native-born Chinese students.

MNA/News

Progress made in talks with Malaysia over disputed offshore area

JAKARTA, 28 May — The Indonesian Government said on Friday recent talks with Malaysia over a disputed offshore area, which Indonesia calls as Ambalat, have resulted in an agreed approach to draw maritime boundary line between the neighbours.

The technical teams on maritime boundaries between Indonesia and Malaysia held their second meeting in the Malaysian town of Langkawi on Wednesday and Thursday.

“The meeting gained a good result with both parties reaching a kind of agreement on the approach to draw the boundary line,” Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa said in a regular Press conference here.

Marty said the meeting gave opportunities for both sides to express their position but he declined to elaborate on the agreed approach.

Malaysia, which worries tiny islands Sipadan and Ligitan from Indonesia in 2002, has claimed that the two islands extend its exclusive economic zone to the disputed area which is located between Indonesia’s East Kalimantan Province and Malaysia’s Sabah State.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda has strongly opposed the claim on grounds that Malaysia is not an archipelagic country so that it cannot extend the exclusive economic zone any further.

MNA/News

Researchers in Thailand said they had successfully bred and raised hundreds of the threatened Archer fish, which had never before lived for more than a week after artificial breeding on 27 May, 2005.

INTERNET

Five Chinese firms issue 10b yuan short-term bonds

BEIJING, 28 May — Five Chinese firms issued seven short-term bonds worth 10.9 billion yuan in line with state regulations, a report published on the website of the People’s Bank of China (PBC), the central bank, said on Friday.

The report said that the five firms, including three listed companies, are the Huaneng International Power Sharing Corporation, the Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Share-holding Co, the Air China Share-holding Co, the China Commercial Bank and the State Development and Investment Corporation.

The seven short-term bonds have terms ranging from three months to 12 months. The interest rate of the 12-month term bonds is 2.9 per cent.

The bonds are expected to be sold to institutional investors, the industrial and commercial banks, the country’s inter-bank market and the country’s four major commercial banks, as well as the Everbright Bank, were authorized by the PBC to sell the bonds to qualified institutional investors.

Thursday’s China Securities Journal reported that under a deal signed on Wednesday, the China Construction Bank, one of the four major state-owned commercial banks, will sell five billion yuan (some 600 million US dollars)’ worth of short-term bonds to the listed Huaneng International Power Sharing Corporation.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, another major state-owned bank will sell short-term bonds for the Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Share-holding Co. However, the report did not say on how many bonds the company plans to issue.

The Bank of China said it would sell two billion yuan (240 million US dollars)’ worth of short-term bonds for Air China Share-holding Company. Enterprises issuing such bonds are required to file at the central bank. The report said the change excludes the public. Business licenses are only allowed to sell the bonds to institutional investors.

MNA/News

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Nigerian Govt urged to ban importation of catfish

LAGOS, 27 May—Nigerian fish farmers have called on the government to ban the importation of frozen catfish in order to help develop the nation’s fish farming, an official said here on Thursday.

On behalf of the Fish Farmers Association of Nigeria, Duro Kuteyi said if the importation was not checked, it could “frustrate the government’s effort to encourage local fish farming”.

Kuteyi, also chairman of Lagos Branch of the Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists, explained that when the initiative of catfish farming came into existence, many Nigerians embraced it “and they are actually doing so well that they are getting ready to export the fish”.

He, however, expressed dismay that since the beginning of this year, the sale of their fish had declined and after investigations it was discovered that a Lagos-based fishing company had imported frozen catfish from India.

He stressed that the over 2,500 fish farmers in Lagos were able to service the local market but that with the importation of catfish, their business had been adversely affected.

“This is what happened in the case of rice. When the ban on it was lifted, local rice farming was abandoned. We don’t want to go a step forward and 20 steps backward,” he said.

Chinese, Spain enterprises hold investment talks in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 28 May—The China-Spain Enterprise Investment and Cooperation Talk in Shanghai drew 284 Chinese and Spanish enterprises on Thursday, according to the municipal source.

The deputy mayor of Shanghai, Hu Yanzhao, and the Spanish Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade, Jose Montilla Aguilera, gave the opening speeches.

Hu said China has paid much attention to economic and trade cooperation with Spain and hopes to step up efforts in this regard.

The Spanish minister said China’s booming market economy has provided huge chances for the Spanish enterprises to expand their presence in the world.

The 54 Spanish enterprises participating in the talk cover the sectors of auto parts, engineering and infrastructure, environmental protection, fine chemical industry, tourism and other tertiary services.

The 230 Chinese enterprises at the talk are mainly from Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai in the Yangtze River delta. Up to date, about 300 Spanish enterprises have launched projects in China with investment totaling 430 million euros or 1 per cent of the total overseas investment in China, the municipal source said. — MNA/Xinhua

Heihe launches Sino-Russian commercial port project

BEIJING, 27 May—Heihe, a border port city in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, launched a construction project of Sino-Russian commercial port here on Wednesday.

Vice-mayor of Heihe City Zhang Tao made the announcement on the sideline of the ongoing China Economic Summit 2005.

Heihe is the closest city to Russia along the two countries’ 4,300-kilometre long border.

The commercial port is located in Heihe’s state-level industrial park, boasting an area of 266.5 hectares. The project is invested by GSL Holdings Inc., with total investment of seven billion yuan (846.4 million US dollars).

Zhang said the commercial port will exploit the advantage of complementarity of Sino-Russian trade in terms of commodities, technology, resources and product structure. — MNA/Xinhua

British pilot arrested for violating Kenyan airspace

NAIROBI, 27 May—Kenyan police is holding a British pilot who planned to land in the East African nation illegally near a farm owned by a prominent White Kenyan farmer at the centre of investigations of murder charges, government official confirmed here on Thursday.

Government spokesman Alfred Mutua said the pilot, Craig Wesley Hattle, who was flying from Zimbabwe to Naivasha, about 90 kilometres northwest of Nairobi was arrested on Tuesday in Nairobi when he landed for violating Kenya’s airspace.

Sources said security officials became suspicious after the pilot told them that he wanted to land at the ranch at a time when the British aristocrat Tom Cholmondeley, was under spotlight over the death of Kenyan wildlife warden Samson Ole Sisina.

However, Mutua could not confirm the allegations that Hattle wanted to land at the vast Delamere ranch owned by Cholmondeley for unspecified reasons.

“There was a plane that came into the country and the pilot was arrested because of flying in Kenya’s airspace without proper clearance. Whether this person is connected at all with the Delamere family case is something we cannot confirm,” Mutua told a news conference.

“That is something we are investigating. No crime has been committed in terms of anybody trying to flee the country. We cannot assume that because we don’t deal with speculations, We deal with facts,” Mutua added.

Cholmondeley, a prominent White rancher who is further accused of killing a game warden, was released from prison last week after the Kenyan prosecutors dropped the charges citing insufficient evidence.

Officials at the Kenyan Civil Aviation Authority said the pilot might have been flying at a height where he could not be detected until he started preparing to land.

But Kenyan police said the air controllers detected the plane, which had no clearance to enter the country and ordered Hattle to fly to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for further instructions.

“The police were immediately alerted and arrested the pilot at the airport. His plane is being detained at the port,” said a police officer who declined to be named.

He said they would charge the pilot with entering the country’s airspace without clearance once investigations are completed. — MNA/Xinhua

Drivesafely
Greece to extend working hours at museums to boost tourism

ATHENS, 28, May—Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis announced Thursday that museums and main archaeological sites across the country will open longer this summer as part of an effort to boost the country’s tourism industry following the Athens Olympics.

“Starting in the first 10 days of June, all main museums will remain open from 8 am to 7.30 pm at weekdays and weekends,” Karamanlis told reporters after meeting top tourism officials.

During the tourism season, even until today, most of Greek main museums and archaeological sites closed at 2 pm, often leaving tourists locked out of important sites. Only the Acropolis closed at 6 pm.

Opening hours for many stores will also be extended to 9 pm daily this summer and the number of shopping areas designated as tourist regions, with fewer operating restrictions, is set to increase.

Karamanlis expressed satisfaction for the stabilization of the number of tourists who visited Greece last year and underlined that there is a need to improve the tourist climate as well as the revenues the country has from the sector of tourism.

“Greece showed itself off to the world as a modern and beautiful country... and a country that can provide high-quality holidays for 12 months of the year,” he said.

He announced that the state-run Greek National Tourism Organization is planning to add 49 offices to its existing 23 around the world, with new sites in emerging markets like China.

China’s electric power shortage to exceed 30 million kw

BEIJING, 27 May — China’s electric power shortage may climb to more than 30 million kilowatts this summer, its greatest ever, according to figures released by the State Grid Corp of China.

Of the total, 25 million kilowatts will be experienced in north China and seven million in the country’s south, said the national power grid company. Though strain on the country’s power supply has tended to ease to some extent, the whole situation remains stark in 2005, said Liu Zhenya, head of the company.

Thursday’s Economic Daily said China has started a nationwide move to handle this summer’s power consumption peak.

“We will improve emergency plans for the country’s power use and enhance management practices that feature power saving and efficiency so as to meet the demands,” said Liu. Southern China is expected to suffer the most shortage.

Statistics from the China Southern Power Grid show its grid is expected to face a seven-million-kilowatt shortage this summer given that its extreme load is only 15.8 per cent over its previous year of 43.421 kilowatt.

“The shortage could well expand during peak times due to a lack of coal and water supply in power plants,” said Yuan Maozhen, head of the company.

Afghan Govt postpones donor nations conference

KABUL, 27 May — The Afghan Government has decided to postpone a conference of donor nations and institutions planned to be held in late June, a statement said on Thursday.

“The government of Afghanistan has decided to postpone the donor nations conference planned to take place in London on 21 June until December 2005,” the statement issued by Afghan Finance Ministry added.

The decision, it said had been taken after consultation with donor nations and representatives of international community. — MNA/Xinhua

Longest bra chain bid in Cyprus to promote breast cancer awareness

NICOHS, 28 May — The Cancer Patients Support Group (CPSG) in Cyprus are launching a campaign to increase awareness of breast cancer with an attempt to enter the Guinness Book of World Records for the world’s longest bra chain.

The CPSG called on all women or men to hand over as many unwanted bras as they can and help put Cyprus on the map as the land of the world’s longest bra chain, the report said.

One of the organizers Gina Ghillyer said the idea is to collect 100,000 unwanted bras in Cyprus.

“This is a nationwide appeal for bras. We want to raise awareness in the whole country and encourage screening for breast and cervical cancer,” said Gina, adding “People are not ignorant of these things but they are negligent and the best way to deal with that is to constantly remind them.”

The current record holder is Singapore with a 60-kilometre bra chain, consisting of 79,001 bras.

Chairperson of the CPSG Jan Handley was quoted as saying that the campaign aims to raise much-needed funds to fight cancer.

Scientists identify natural molecule protecting against asthma

LOS ANGELES, 27 May—US scientists reported on Thursday they have found a natural substance capable of protecting against asthma, a disease affecting millions of people.

The findings, also suggesting that impaired airway relaxation may be a more important cause of asthma than previously recognized, may yield a novel approach to therapy, said the researchers in the 26 May online version of the journal Science.

“In thinking about asthma, scientists have generally focused on processes that actually constrict airways or lead to inflammation, making it difficult to get air in or out,” said Jonathan Stamler, principal investigator at Duke University Medical Centre.

“We haven’t paid much attention to how airways are normally kept open. Our findings suggest the disease may stem from a deficit in the natural bronchodilator that normally relaxes airways.”

The researchers reported that this natural compound, nitrosothiols (GSNO), can help keep airways open. Mice with elevated levels of GSNO were much less susceptible than normal animals to getting asthma, and animals deficient for GSNO developed asthma.

People with asthma are also deficient in GSNO, said first author Loretta Que. Therefore, drugs that increase GSNO levels could offer a new approach to treating the airway obstruction in asthma.

“The mice closely resemble the human condition, which makes this particularly exciting as a potential new approach toward asthma therapy,” Que said.

GSNO is a molecule in the nitric oxide family. Earlier studies have suggested that nitric oxide (NO) might regulate the dilatation of airways in patients with asthma showing elevated levels of NO. However, studies in which researchers have manipulated NO levels in mice did not change the animals’ response to allergens.

More recently, evidence from the group indicated that a family of NO-carrying molecules called S-nitrosothiols (SNOSs) might mediate NO’s role throughout the body, and offer new therapeutic approaches to diseases of the heart, lung and blood.
Clijsters edges Hantuchova to advance at French Open
PARIS, 28 May—Former world number one Kim Clijsters was met with first tough challenge at the French Open as the Belgian edged past Slovakia’s Daniela Hantuchova 6-4, 6-2 in the second round on Wednesday.

Fourteenth seed Clijsters overcame five game points in the third game to break the Slovakian 22-year-old in the third game before the two exchanged breaks in the following four games.

Clijsters finally clinched the set in 51 minutes before breaking Hantuchova, seeded 28th, twice in the second to win in 31 minutes.

Clijsters, crowned in Indian Wells and Miami this year after recovering from left wrist injury, hit 23 winners while making 29 unforced errors to Hantuchova’s 19 and 37 respectively.

“I think the first set was definitely a close one. I think a lot of breaks. We weren’t serving that well in the first set,” said Clijsters, who is on her fifth trip to Roland Garros.

“But then I was trying to go for flat serves, to put on the important points, to just make sure that I make that first serve and make her go for it.”

“I just kept fighting. It probably wasn’t the best tennis, but you just have to keep fighting,” she said. Clijsters pushed aside another Slovakian player in the previous round as the 21-year-old squeaked past Ludmila Cervanova 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Clijsters, holding the world number one for 12 weeks in 2003, faces off against current top player Lindsay Davinport in the fourth round as the latter was in 1994. Garrincha in 1962 and Pele in 1958. But Clijsters, in obtaining the 2002 World Cup, as well as Romario was in 1994. Garrincha in 1962 and Pele in 1958. But we later found we had overestimated her,” Zheng said, who broke into the last 16 in the women’s singles last year to achieve Chinese single players’ best result in a Grand Slam event.

“So we were confident to win despite losing the first set because we found that they didn’t have many fatal weapons,” she added.

The second set went with serve but the Chinese pair squandered six advantages in the fifth game before the other side held their service game on fourth game point.

The two pairs exchanged breaks in the ninth and 10th game before Yan hit a winner to break the 11th. Zheng and Yan at last clinched the set 7-5 to level the match.

Zheng and Yan broke their opponents with growing frustration in the opening game before the two sides exchanged breaks again. But the momentum finally went to Chinese way.

Parreira says Ronaldo may not play in Confederations Cup
RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 May—Coach of the Brazilian national soccer team Carlos Alberto Parreira said Friday the possibility that striker Ronaldo, who wishes to count with vacations, do not participate in FIFA Confederations Cup. The tournament is due to begin in Germany next June.

“I will study this idea with calm, as it is not desirable, I believe Ronaldo showed personality in asking to be released from the commitment. And if he does not wish to go, I don’t know where in Germany unsatisfied,” said Parreira. Parreira returned from Turkey where he saw the final to the UEFA Champions League between Liverpool and Milan.

“Ronaldo is a very special player, the most important in the national team,” said the coach. “He was decisive in obtaining the 2002 World Cup, as well as Romario was in 1994. Garrincha in 1962 and Pele in 1958. But there do not exist unpredictable athletes,” he also said.

“The idea of simply playing the World Cup is nice. I would also only want to coach the team during that event and not having to undergo the friendly matches and qualifiers,” said Parreira as a warning to the rest of the players.

The Brazilian said, though, that if Ronaldo gives him an “important” reason not to participate in Confederations Cup, he will not doubt from releasing him from the 2006 World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Argentina in the second week of June.

Japan defeats Netherlands in straight sets in women’s volleyball
BEIJING (Southeast China), 28 May—Japan defeated the Netherlands 25-13, 25-23 and 25-21 here on Friday in the 5th-7th play-offs of the Shenzhou Cup China International Women’s Volleyball Tournament.

Dropping the first set easily, the Dutch women fought back hardly in the second. Trailing 16-12 at the second technical tiebreaker before Sachiko Sugiyama made two solid kills to make it 24-22. The Netherlands beat out the Japanese 25-22. But Sachiko Sugiyama converted the second with a smash.

In the third set, the Netherlands managed to stay within 22-20. However, a long service by Elles Feerink and a kill by Ai Otomo gave Japan an unshakable lead at 24-22. Shiby Suma pulled one point back with a short dink before Sachiko Sugiyama drove a ball home to seal the victory for the Japanese.

South Africa’s Estrie Els plays the 18th fairway during the second round of the BMW Championship at the Wentworth Course in Virginia Water, England, on 27 May, 2005.—INTERNET

Japanese singles champion advance at French Open
PARIS, 28 May—Chinese doubles Olympic champions Li Ting and Sun Tiantian took the upper hand in a marathon match against ninth-seeded Dinara Safina/Anabel Medina Garrigues, winning 6-7 (7-9), 7-5, 7-5 in the second round at the French Open on Friday.

In an earlier match, Zheng Jie and Yan Zi re-corded their best doubles result when they scraped into the third round, out-lastening Indian Sania Mirza and Anna Chakvetadze of Russia 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Li and Sun, becoming the first tennis Olympic champions in China last year in Athens, squar-dered a 5-2 lead in first set tiebreaker before coming back from behind to win in two hours 55 minutes.

“We were not adapted to their powerful baseline balls in the first set so we tried to go to the net it worked,” said Sun.

Zhen and Yan, crashing out in the first round in their French Open debut last year, took two hours 23 minutes under the scorching sun to clinch the victory.

The first set was marked with double faults from the Chinese side as Yan Zi made four doubles faults in the 10th game to surrender it 6-4.

“We knew that Mirza has a very high speed on the court, which made us reluctant to hit fast balls but we were surprised with her overestimation,” Zheng said, who broke into the last 16 in the women’s singles here last year to achieve Chinese single players’ best result in a Grand Slam event.

“So we were confident to win despite losing the first set because we found that they didn’t have many fatal weapons,” she added.

The second set went with serve but the Chinese pair squandered six advantages in the fifth game before the other side held their service game on fourth game point.

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China’s Shuai Peng returns the ball to Lindsay Davenport from the US during their second round match of the French Open tennis. at the Roland Garros stadium, on 25 May, 2005 in Paris. INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 West-Indies Island
5 Joyful
8 Sound
9 Pasta
10 Parliamentary session
11 Possessed
12 Cloak
14 Proverbial name
17 Devil
19 Entice
20 Overland path
25 Natural abilities

DOWN

1 God of gateways
2 Dampen
3 British tribe
4 Claim without proof
5 Study of the past
6 Heathen
7 Produced
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Japan will vie for the fifth place against Poland on Saturday while the Netherlands settled for the bottom of the seven-team tournament with four straight losses.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s Shuai Peng returns the ball to Lindsay Davenport from the US during their second round match of the French Open tennis. at the Roland Garros stadium, on 25 May, 2005 in Paris. INTERNET

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26 South Africa’s Ernie Els plays the 18th fairway during the second round of the BMW Championship at the Wentworth Course in Virginia Water, England, on 27 May, 2005.—INTERNET
Russia welcomes Georgian president’s pledge on foreign bases

Moscow, 28 May — Russia welcomed on Thursday a pledge by Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili that his country would never allow foreign military bases on its territory after the withdrawal of Russian troops.

“It is also consonant with the Russian position, which does not favour deploying military bases and troop units of foreign states within Georgia,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said in a statement.

“It is important that these words be matched by actions. It is necessary to fix a provision to this effect in a legally binding document,” Yakovenko said.

Saakashvili told a news conference Wednesday that Georgia will never become a passageway or strategic base of any other country after the withdrawal of Russian troops.

Georgia is always ready to develop friendly ties with Russia and does not want to be taken as a security threat to any of its neighbours, the President said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that Russia would not like military bases or contiguous areas of third countries to appear in Georgia after the pullout of Russian bases.

“This would affect our security and it seems to me that Georgia understands this,” Putin said.

The withdrawal of Russian military bases in Georgia is a hot-button issue that has soured relations between the two former Soviet republics.

Moscow has insisted it needs four years to complete the withdrawal of the two bases while Tbilisi says it must be finished before January 2008.

Tensions over the issue have been brought to new highs in recent weeks with Saakashvili boasting Moscow’s Victory Day extravaganza and US President George W Bush raising the issue with Putin.

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WEATHER

Saturday, 28 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been widespread in Mon State, scattered in Rakhine and Kayin States, Bago Division, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Ayeayawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Co Co Island (2.36 inches) and Kyaukpyu (1.02 inches). Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay Division, (7°C) to (8°C) above normal in Sagaing, Magway and Ayeayawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan (43°C), Kalaywa, Monywa and Magway (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 27-5-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 28-5-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-5-2005 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 27-5-2005 was (3.1) hours Approx. Rainfalls on 28-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (8.27) inches at Yangon Airport, (7.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.78) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (14.55) hours MST on 27-5-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is cloudy in else where in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-5-2005: Rain or thunder-showers are likely to be scattered in Kachin Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Kayin, Mon and Kayah States, Ayeayawady, Bago Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Monsoon will be weak Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-5-2005: Partly cloudy.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 29 May, 2005

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 29 May, 2005
Foreign Affairs Minister back from Republic of Korea


The minister was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Tha, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Lee Ju-Heum and the heads of department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PBANRDA holds coord meeting

YANGON, 28 May — The coordination meeting of Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, was held at the ministry on 26 May, attended by Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, directors-general, supervisors from state and regional development supervisory offices and officials of the department.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt made a speech on the occasion.

Next, the supervisors reported to the minister on progress of regional development tasks carried out in 2004-2005 financial year and future plans, and Director-General of the department U Than Swe gave a supplementary report. After hearing the reports, the minister attended to the needs.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.

Mayor inspects city development tasks

YANGON, 28 May — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin made an inspection tour of construction of Maungmagan Kantha Road linking Dagon Myothit (South) and (North) Townships and progress of Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik) in Hmawby Township this morning.

Officials reported on progress of construction of Maungmagan Kantha Road.

The mayor oversaw functions of North Okkalapa Agricultural and Livestock Breeding Farm in North Okkalapa Township. He proceeded to Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik) in Hmawby. He inspected functions of the project and progress of tasks.

At the briefing hall, Joint Secretary U Tin Soe of YCDC, member Col Kyaw Soe and officials briefed the mayor on matters related to the project.

After hearing the reports, the mayor instructed them to supervise tasks for supplying water to city dwellers and for maintenance of heavy machinery.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(28-5-2005)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rainfall (inches)</th>
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Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects progress of Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik) in Hmawby Township.— MNA