A & I Minister inspects research divisions

YANGON, 31 May — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited Ingabo palm oil research division in Kyauktaw Township, Mon State on 28 May, where he heard a report on plantations of oil palm, and production of palm oil presented by officials.

The minister spoke of the need to run the oil mill at the division at full capacity, to increase production, to plant more oil palm to supply enough raw material for the mill, and to produce pedigree strains.

The following day, the minister inspected applied research division of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise near Hpa-auk village in Mawlamyine Township. Experts explained the plantation of hybrid species, distribution, and research work on plantation of edible oil crops and rubber, and production of raw materials for rubber factories. Maj-Gen Htay Oo said the experts should strive to help exceed the state’s agricultural targets.

He then observed the research programme on pest control, tissue culture, cross-breeding of oil palm, production of quality strains, soil testing, and rubber products. The research division has been striving to distribute adequate number of saplings to rubber growers and oil palm growers and to produce quality strains.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects production of cross-bred oil palm at the applied research division in Mawlamyne. — A&I

World No-tobacco Day 2005 observed

YANGON, 31 May — The World No-tobacco Day 2005 was observed at the International Business Centre here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, vice-presidents, general secretaries and officials of Health Department, professors, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long, members of National Smoking Control Committee, Chairmen of Myanmar Medical Association and Myanmar Medical Academy, officials of non-governmental organizations, UN Agencies and international organizations.

In his address, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said the World No-tobacco Day has been observed in the country since 1989. The Ministry of Health carried out health education activities educating people that smoking can harm health, social and economic aspects. In order to avoid the danger of smoking, the ministry has launched anti-tobacco campaign. (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Serve the interests of the nation and the people conscientiously

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is a national force that always upholds “Our Three Main National Causes” and plays a pivotal role in developing and modernizing the nation. This being so, members of the Association are constantly trained in such a way that they will be able to do more for peace, stability and development of the Union.

Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 7 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the training school of USDA in Hmawby Township on 30 May. The concluding ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister urged the trainees to serve the best interests of the nation and the people conscientiously by making the most of the opportune time for rapid development and the good leadership of the government. Now is the time when the government, the people and the Tatmadaws are working hard in concert for all-round development of the State. The fruits of their united endeavours can be obviously seen in education, health, transport, economic and social fields.

While the entire national people are working for the good of the nation, the lackeys of neo-colonialists, destructive elements within and without the nation, pessimists and some foreign media are always plotting to undermine the interests of the nation and the people by broadcasting and carrying fabricated stories. Therefore, we should keep constant vigilance against and ward off their machinations and sabotage.

USDA members are required to make an analytic study of the past and present international and domestic affairs. The Union Solidarity and Development Association regularly conducts courses on Myanmar affairs and international studies to enable its members to be able to do so. Therefore, we would like to call on USDA members to conscientiously work for peace, stability and development of the Union.

Macadam road inaugurated in Myaungmya

YANGON, 31 May — A macadam road linking Pyin Village in Myaungmya Township and Pathein-Myaungmya Road was put into service this evening in the presence of Director-General of the Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint.

Myaungmya Township DAD spent over K 8 million on the macadam road which is 5255 ft long and 12 ft wide. The road will benefit over 6,000 people in seven village-tracks.

Member of the Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council U Aye Han and Executive Officer of Myaungmya Township DAD U Myint Aung formally opened the road.

Translation manuscript award contest

YANGON, 31 May — Manuscripts have been invited for the year 2004 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award competition. A Brief History of Globalisation by Philippe Legrain has been prescribed for the translation manuscript award contest (2004). And the book is available at 70 kyats per copy at the Sarpay Beikman Book Shop of No 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon.

Chinese delegation led by Vice-President in Executive of All China Buddhists Association Presiding Sayadaw of Linkwam Temple The Most Ven Master Sheng Hui left here by air this morning.

YANGON, 31 May — A Chinese delegation led by Vice-President in Executive of All China Buddhists Association Presiding Sayadaw of Linkwam Temple The Most Ven Master Sheng Hui being seen off at the airport on their departure for home.

Chinese delegation led by Vice-President in Executive of All China Buddhists Association Presiding Sayadaw of Linkwam Temple The Most Ven Master Sheng Hui being seen off at the airport on their departure for home.

First four-monthly meeting of MAPT held

YANGON, 31 May — Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading of the Ministry of Commerce held the first four-monthly meeting (2005) and prize-presentation ceremony for fiscal 2004-2005 at the conference hall of MAPT on Bogyoke Aung San Road this morning.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, advisers, directors-general, managing directors, general managers, state/division managers, officials and guests were invited for the year 2004 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award competition. A Brief History of Globalisation by Philippe Legrain has been prescribed for the translation manuscript award contest (2004).

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Nepal to promote tourism by mountaineering

KATHMANDU, 31 May—The Nepali Government is committed to making the country an exemplary destination for sustainable tourism development by promoting mountaineering, a government official said here on Monday.

Mountain climbing in Nepal has aroused curiosity around the world after the golden jubilee celebrations of the summit of the world’s highest peaks, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Buddhi Raj Bajracharya told reporters.

Nepal has eight of the 14 peaks around the world above 8,000 metres and therefore the best destination for adventure tourism and mountaineering, the minister said.

As the government has adopted a policy to celebrate Golden Jubilee Anniversary of ascending on the Himalayan peaks above 8,000 metres high, the Golden Jubilee of Mt Qomolangma (8,848 metres) and Mt Cho-Oyu (8,201 metres) were celebrated successfully in May 2005 and October 2004, respectively.

The celebrations for the world’s third highest peak Kanchenjunga and fifth highest peak Makalu have been concluded respectively earlier this month, the minister said. According to Bajracharya, some 28 per cent of the tourists are coming to Nepal for trekking and mountaineering every year.

This year, a total of 22 teams have received permission to climb Mt Qomolangma, and another 33 teams to climb other peaks in Nepal, he said.

The country earned 110 million rupees (about 1.57 million US dollars) last year from 13 such teams, he added.

China steel exports drop in April

According to a report in the Beijing-based Economic Information Daily, the country exported 800,000 tons of billet last month, a drop of 660,000 tons compared with March.

Meanwhile, steel exports also decreased to 2.07 million tons in April, 140,000 tons less than the previous month, as the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation decided to slash the export drawback rate for steel from 13 per cent to 11 per cent starting on 1 May, the report said.

The move aimed to discourage exports to ensure the domestic demand for steel.

However, due to the rapid increase of billet exports in the first quarter, China’s billet exports still stood at 3.67 million tons in the first four months of this year, 3.2 million tons more, or up 676.4 per cent, compared with the same period last year.

Steel exports amounted to 7.26 million tons, representing a year-on-year increase of 196.2 per cent.

Both the steel price and exports dropped following the Chinese Government’s series of macro-control measures to ensure a “soft landing” of the overheating economy, which grew 9.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

China’s top legislator arrives in Malaysia for official visit

PENANG (Malaysia), 30 May —Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress, arrived here on Saturday, beginning a four-day official goodwill visit to Malaysia.

Malaysia is the last leg of Wu’s four-nation Asia-Pacific tour, which has also taken him to Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. China and Malaysia are close and friendly neighbours, and the friendship between the two peoples dates back to ancient times, Wu said in an arrival statement.

“In recent years, our all-dimensional friendly relations and cooperation featuring good-neighborliness and mutual trust have developed smoothly,” Wu said. “We enjoy frequent exchanges of high-level visits, increasingly active exchanges at different levels and fruitful cooperation in various areas.”

He said China and Malaysia maintain good cooperation and coordination in both international and regional affairs, including productive cooperation in promoting the development of relations between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Iraqi Air Force aircraft crashes in eastern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 May—An Iraqi Air Force aircraft crashed northeast of Baghdad close to the Iranian border on Monday with four US military personnel and an Iraqi on board, the US military said in a statement.

Sources said the aircraft went down during a sandstorm near the town of Khanaqin shortly before noon (0800 GMT). It was not immediately clear if the aircraft was a helicopter or fixed-wing plane.

The US military said forces in the area had secured the crash site. It did not say whether those on board had survived.

“They are at the site now trying to ascertain what the situation is,” a spokeswoman for the US military in Baghdad said.

“We don’t yet know what caused the aircraft to go down. It’s all under investigation.”

More than a dozen US helicopters have been brought down in Iraq over the past two years, either by insurgent ground fire, bad weather or malfunctions.

Last week, an OH-58 surveillance helicopter was shot down by small arms fire near the town of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, killing both people on board. — Internet
China establishes protection zone for wild rice

NANNING, 30 May — China has established a protection zone for wild rice, said to be the largest of its kind in the world, in Yulin in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Chen Chengbin, a researcher with the Guangxi Autonomous Regional Academy of Agricultural Science, said the protection zone covers approximately 42 hectares, with 11.09 million samples of wild rice resources.

As the ancestor of modern cultivated rice, wild rice is under key state protection in China. Wild rice provides an important materials basis for the study of biotics and breeding because it contains many fine genes characterized by high yield, high quality, cold-resistant and drought-proof functions and the capability to resist pests and insects.

Wild rice is also of strategic importance in guaranteeing grain safety, said Chen, who is in charge of the protection zone.

Using the genes of wild rice, Yuan Longping, dubbed the “father of hybrid rice”, developed the world’s first male sterile line of rice in 1970 and completed three male sterile lines of cross-bred rice in 1973.

970 to attend Congress of Chinese Young Pioneers

BEIJING, 30 May — A total of 790 delegates are expected to attend the forthcoming Fifth National Congress of the Chinese Young Pioneers, according to the National Committee on the Work of Young Children.

Children’s News. A special web site has been created by the organizer of the congress, which is to publish information and data about the congress.

British soldier killed in Iraq

LONDON, 30 May — One British soldier was killed near the southeastern Iraqi town of Amara when forces were attacked, the British Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

“There has been a hostile action against British troops which has resulted in a fatality,” said a ministry spokesman.

Meanwhile, Britain’s Sky News television reported that the incident was a roadside bomb attack on a convoy near Amara.

Guerrillas in Iraq have stepped up attacks on US and Iraqi troops since a new Iraqi Government was announced in April, killing over 600 people.

British, a staunch US ally on Iraq, is now positioning about 9,000 troops in Iraq, and more than 80 British soldiers have been killed in Iraq.
Top Chinese leaders show concern over orphans, disabled kids

BEIJING, 30 May— Writing a letter to an orphan school and chatting with children with hearing problems, top Chinese leaders Wu Bangguo and Ven Jiahao expressed their sincere concerns about children ahead of International Children’s Day.

Their actions have revealed the government’s high regard for children, and they both called for the whole society to take concern for orphans and disabled kids.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress or China’s highest parliamentary body, wrote a letter to north China’s Liaoning Orphan School, addressing the school’s 40 years founding anniversary, which falls on 25 May.

“The country’s, the society’s, teacher’s and schoolmate’s love will provide the parenthood you lack,” Wu said in his letter.

“You should study hard and serve society in the future.”

“Yes,” these children answered eagerly.

He then turned to the teachers and said, “I can see they are quite confident, thanks to your considerable treatments and instructions.”

This was the scene at the China Rehabilitation Research Centre for Deaf Children when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited on 27 May to mark the upcoming Children’s Day.

“Children are the people deserving most concern from the society, especially those who are disabled and having difficulties,” the Premier said.

“I didn’t bring any gifts to the kids, because I think what they need are not expensive toys, flowers or cakes, they need a vivacious childhood, and the teachers here have offered them this most precious gift,” Wen said.

Nepal to hold motor rally for anti-smoking campaign

KATHMANDU, 30 May— Nepal will hold a national motor rally as part of the country’s campaign to discourage people from smoking, organizers said here on Sunday.

The rally, to be held on 4 June to mark the World No Tobacco Day, will cover a 100-kilometre distance around the Kathmandu Valley, said Diwakar Karmikar, president of Rotary Club of Bagmati, a non-governmental organization in charge of the event.

Participants of the activity will distribute anti-smoking pamphlets and posters in the valley and all participating vehicles are required to carry “Quit Smoking” slogans.

About 100 motors, with driver and navigator will take part in the rally, and the participation fee will be donated to the country’s Cancer Relief Society, said Karmikar.

India, Switzerland agree on joint space research programme

ONBOARD PRESIDENT’S AIRCRAFT, 30 May— India and Switzerland have agreed on a joint space research programme in which New Delhi will also offer its satellites to Swiss researchers.

The joint research programme envisages use of space technology for peaceful purposes, including to predict avalanches, President A P J Abdul Kalam told reporters on completion of a state visit to Russia and Switzerland.

India has also offered its satellite launchpads to place Swiss satellites into orbit, he said.

“When I first handed over three-dimensional stereo-mapped photographs of the Alps mountains to Swiss President Sameul Schmid), I was very impressed,” Kalam said.

He said after his four-day visit to Switzerland, cooperation in the field of science and technology would be intensified and trade ties further improved.

“We have also sought cooperation from Switzerland in training Indian personnel in disaster management,” he said.

On Switzerland remaining non-comital in its support to India’s bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, he said they have their own stand. They want the reforms of the UN to begin first.”

Kalam is on a four-nation visit to Russia, Switzerland, Iceland and Ukraine.

Kalam said ties between India and Russia, which have already been strong, would be further strengthened following his visit to that country.

He said, during his Russia visit, the two countries identified five areas for cooperation which include forecasting earthquakes, cooperation in nano-science, mathematics and laser science technology, and trade.

India has also offered to cooperate in oil exploration while Russia has offered its expertise in nuclear power generation.

China “strongly” opposes EU’s decision on textile imports

BEIJING, 30 May— The Chinese Government is “firmly” against the European Union’s decision to impose quotas on imports of two categories of Chinese textiles, a spokesman with the Ministry of Commerce said here on Sunday.

The EU move, based only on a three-month data collection, cannot be termed as “an accurate judge and a correct decision”, said the spokesman, Chong Quan.

“The decision would not only serve as a wrong trade protectionist signal to the European textile firms, but also hurt the interests of the Chinese textile producers, which should be enjoyed by them in accordance with the global trade rules,” he said.

The spokesman said that China hoped that the current trade disputes between the EU and China could be solved through consultations.

“China, as a member of the World Trade Organization, has already adopted a series of measures to try to ensure the smooth development of the world textile trade following the lift of the global trade quotas on textiles on 1 January”, Chong said.

The European Union (EU) on Friday asked the Chinese authorities for formal consultations on two categories of textiles and clothing products — flax yarn and T-shirts.

The EU’s move would trigger an emergency procedure, which requires China to limit exports of textile or textile products in these categories to a level no greater than 7.5 per cent above the amount that entered the EU market during the period from March 2004 to February 2005.

The European Commission said the request is made after a thorough and fruitful telephone discussion between EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai.
EU ranks Bangladesh among top 20 “IT” outsourcing destinations

DHAKA, 30 May — The European Union (EU) has ranked Bangladesh among the top 20 IT outsourcing destinations, though the country’s small businesses are handicapped by inadequate policy support, legal framework and infrastructure, local newspapers reported here Sunday.

This was revealed at the dissemination programme of a project – Development of Small Business ICT Strategies in Bangladesh – organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat, reported The Daily Star.

The project is the first of its kind in Bangladesh and has documented the opportunities and gaps existing in the country’s Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.

Detailed dissemination of the project was provided by Ram Venuprasad, adviser (Enterprise Development) to Special Advisories Services Division, Commonwealth Secretariat. Venuprasad said the objective of the project is to assess the potential of the ICT sector and develop it, focusing on small businesses, as a source of economic activity in Bangladesh. The Commonwealth Secretariat launched a four-day training programme with a series of five specialized modules for stakeholders from the ICT sector in Dhaka on Saturday, reported The Financial Express.

Indonesian President visits Vietnam

HANOI, 30 May — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono arrived here Saturday night for a three-day visit to Vietnam, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday.

Susilo is scheduled to hold talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Tran Duc Luong, and meet with Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Van An and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nong Duc Manh, mainly to discuss issues on strengthening cooperation relations between the two countries. The visit is Susilo’s first trip to Vietnam since he took office last October. Trade volume this year between the two countries is expected to exceed 1 billion US dollars reached last year.

Susilo came to Vietnam after concluding his trip to the United States on Friday, where he discussed with US President George W. Bush about bilateral economic relations and some other issues of mutual concerns. After Vietnam, the Indonesian President will travel to Japan.

China, Japan cooperate in verification of environmental signs

BEIJING, 30 May — China and Japan have agreed to cooperate in the verification of environmental signs marked on exported goods of either country.

An agreement was signed here Friday by the environmental verification centre of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China and the environmental association of Japan.

Under the document, each of the two signees will accept applications for verifying an environmental sign delivered by applicants from the other country.

Thai trawlers to continue fishing in Indonesian EEZ

BANGKOK, 30 May — An eight-member journalist delegation left here Saturday for Lhasa, the capital city of China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, for an eight-day sightseeing and fact-finding visit.

This is the first time for the Chinese Embassy in Nepal to organize such a journalist delegation to visit Tibet, Shang Xiaoming, Third Secretary of the embassy, told Xinhua.

As part of the celebration of golden jubilee of China-Nepal diplomatic relationship, the journalists from Nepal Television, The Rising Nepal daily, New Nepal Post magazine and China Radio International (CRI) Kathmandu Office will visit Lhasa, Naqu and some other areas in the region.

“The delegation will go to temples, museums, schools for sight-seeing and fact-finding in order to improve their understanding on the social, economic, cultural, religious, educational sectors in China’s Tibet bordering Nepal,” Shang said.— MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to build three grade AIDS prevention, control network

BEIJING, 30 May — Beijing will build an AIDS prevention and control network, covering the entire municipality, said Vice-Mayor Niu Youcheng over the weekend at the 2005 municipal health work conference.

The three grade network includes the municipal and district disease prevention and control mechanisms, the community health service centres and the sanitation stations in towns and villages.

The Municipal Health Bureau Director Jin Dapeng said Beijing will prioritize the building and reconstruction of 1,486 sanitation stations in the rural areas. At the same time, Beijing will intensify AIDS-related education in 11 districts and counties, together with 20 communities this year.

The official said all the second level and top level hospitals in Beijing are ordered to establish HIV virus testing centres. — MNA/Xinhua
Conservation problems concerning biodiversity have been widely publicized and the majority of countries in tropical Asia are exerting efforts to manage and conserve this resource. Economically important group of animals with similar problems have been largely ignored in the past century. In terms of human exploitation, the most important brackish water species in tropical Asia are river terrapins and crocodiles. In February 2005, lecturers of Dagon University and myself travelled to the town of Bogalay and adjacent islands to conduct biological survey in the proposed protected area.

On the first day of our trip when we arrived at Main Ma Hla Island, we observed the waterway of Bogalay River. We made contact with the officials of the Sanctuary under the Forest Department.

Myanmar Crocodile Breeding Project is a model one of the department. Besides establishing sanctuaries and a captive, breeding programme, it provides for a training centre for the personnel of the Wildlife Conservation Programme. We found that a major problem preventing the enforcement of the laws protecting endangered species of crocodile in Asia was that few wildlife officials could identify the species involved. Here education in reptile identification is needed to promote the work.

From the standpoint of public co-operation, education is also necessary. A crocodile fisherman is far more likely to abide by the law if he understands that conservation and laws and how they can benefit. Media, environmental education units in Universities curriculum and on-site visits to villages in key areas should all be utilized to get the message across. Not all of the techniques and actions mentioned will be suitable in all societies or for all species.

Each country needs to decide which actions are most suitable to their situation. It must be reemphasized, however, that time may be very short for the brackish water animals, unless some effective conservation action is taken. Asia will have lost a unique and potentially very important resource. U Tun Tun Lwin stated these conservation works in this region. Crocodiles must be carefully managed if they are to be maintained as an important resource. Presently, this Main Ma Hla Wildlife sanctuary is the only place of Myanmar with an operating management programme for the brackish water crocodiles.

On return from this journey, we appreciated the young generation for their conservation efforts in Main Ma Hla Island. We collected the relevant information on the population statistics and comprehensive biological information such as migration, growth, mortality and other relevant facts that can be derived from tagging programme. The information is very important for researchers to evaluate current status of crocodiles in Myanmar and carry out a proper management on them.

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Yangon Command Commander, Mayor oversee measures for beautifying and greening of Yangon City

Yangon, 31 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by officials concerned oversaw measures on beautifying and greening of Yangon City, proper drainage, upgrading of roads and fulfilled the requirements this morning.

First, the commander and mayor arrived at Thrimingala Housing in Ahlon Township and checked measures for proper drainage on either side of Strand Road. The commander and mayor gav instructions to officials on constant measures to be taken for dumping of garbage, proper drainage and dredging of drains in cooperation with social organizations and towns dwellers and tarmacking of roads meeting the set standard and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Shan State (South) War Veterans Organization Preliminary Conference (2005) held

Shan State (South) War Veterans Organization Preliminary Conference (2005) held. Present were Myanmar War Veterans Organizations Central Organizing Committee chairman Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Patron of the organization Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Shan State (South) War Veterans Supervisory Committee Chairman Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein, officials and departmental staff.

Meeting Chairman Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered a speech. Next, well-wishers donated K 12.6 million to the supervisory committee. The sectors of national politics, national defence, security, economy, social and welfare were discussed. Later, the conference laid down five future work programmes, passed three resolutions, approved one matter and put six matters on record. The meeting ended with the chanting of slogans. — MNA

World No-tobacco Day…

—from page 1—

Beginning 2000, No-Tobacco Project was undertaken in accord with the guidance of National Health Committee.

Under the leadership of WHO, member countries drafted international convention on control of tobacco and its products for four years. They unanimously approved the convention at the 56th WHO Conference held in May 2003. Myanmar signed the convention on 23 October 2003 and approved it on 20 April 2004. The WHO noticed Myanmar’s efforts on control of tobacco and smoking and presented the 2004 World No-Tobacco Day Award to the Ministry of Health of Myanmar. It is a milestone in the health history of Myanmar. After realizing the danger of tobacco and its products, smoking rate in Myanmar dropped. The motto for 2005 World No-Tobacco Day is “Health Professionals against Tobacco”. The minister urged the health professionals to take part in anti-tobacco campaign.

Next, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra spoke on the occasion. Myanmar Music Association presented educational song in commemoration of the World No-Tobacco Day. The minister and the guests viewed educational booths. After the ceremony, symposium on tobacco and health professionals was held. Resource persons submitted their papers and those present took part in the discussions. — MNA

Ambassador appointed to Malaysia

Yangon, 1 Jun — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Aung, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia. — MNA

Ambassador appointed to Republic of Singapore

Yangon, 1 Jun — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Myint, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

Pyu period artefacts unearthed in Mongmao

— CULTURE

Pyu period gold Buddha statues in Mongmao. — MNA

Yangon, 31 May—U Tin Myint, 31, of Mongmao Village in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division, unearthed Pyu period gold Buddha images, silver pagodas and silver Buddha images on Sheihung hill in Mongmao on 27 May 2005. The artefacts he unearthed are 11 gold Buddha statues, a Buddha with its head cast with gold and its body, alloy, two silver Buddha statues gilded, four silver cetics, and five silver objects. He handed over the religious objects to the Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar) through respective township/district/division Peace and Development Councils. The department confirmed that these date back to Pyu period. Mongmao was one of the Pyu period cities that was civilized before Christ. Previously, only a silver Buddha image had been unearthed in the town. In appearance, the craftsmanship of the objects is a little similar to that of the artefacts in Hanlin, Sri Khattaya and Pyu periods.

The findings indicate that Buddha Sasana has flourished in Myanmar since the early Pyu period, and the gold and silver items in that period were exquisite. In addition, there was cultural interrelation between Tagaung, Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Khattaya cities, and Buddhism has flourished in the nation ever since. — MNA

Nurse trainees from Hpa-an Nursing Training School visited the New Yangon General Hospital, Medical Superintendent Daw Hla Kyin and Matron Daw Khin Ti briefing the trainees on functions of the hospital on 31-5-2005. — MNA
**Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association hold 70th meeting**

**Yangon, 30 May**

Banks Supervisory Committee and Executive Committee for Myanmar Banks Association of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held its 70th meeting on the morning of this day, as per an address by Minister for F&R Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein, Vice-Governor Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin, directors, general and managing directors of the department and enterprises under the ministry, officials of State-owned banks and private ones.

During the meeting, the minister delivered an address. In his address he said now 2004-2005 fiscal year passed and 2005-2006 fiscal year has just arrived. Banks are to carry out banking services through harmonious efforts, taking lessons from previous experiences, to definitely follow laws, rules and regulations, to keep funds of the State systematically.

Officials of State-owned banks and private ones are to take measures to offer banking services precisely.

— MNA

**Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses the 70th banking meeting.**

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**Friendly volleyball match held**

**Yangon, 31 May**

The friendly volleyball match between Yangon Command volleyball team and Indian Army volleyball team took place at the National Indoor Stadium 1, Thuwunna, this evening.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Tatmadaw volleyball Committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee Principle of Defence Services Self-Defence and Sports Institute Col Htain Lin and military officers, officers concerned of the Ministry of Sports, military attaches from foreign embassies and others. Later, Brig-Gen Myo Myint cordially greeted managers, coaches and players of the two sides.

Next, Myanmar damsests presented the banquet to the players. The players of the two sides exchanged gifts and the friendly volleyball match followed.

After the match Chairman of Tatmadaw volleyball Committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint presented a trophy to Indian volleyball team. Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials had a group photo taken together with managers, coaches and players of the two volleyball teams.

— MNA

**Brig-Gen Myo Myint watches the friendly volleyball match.**

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**Forestry Ministry team wins Federation Cup**

**Yangon, 31 May**

Forestry Ministry team won Federation Cup tennis championship held at Thinyu Tennis Court here yesterday.

Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented the championship trophy to the ministry team. Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin who is the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee also presented prizes to YCDC and Industry-1 Ministry teams.

In the B level matches, YCDC won the first prize, Winner A, the second prize, and the Winner B and the Champion, the joint-third prize.

The mayor and Dr Zaw Tun, patron of MTF, presented K 4 million to the federation. The Federation President U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar) presented gifts to Kayan team of Yangon South District.

— MNA

**Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects wood-based products at the wood-based industry of Sein Yadana Wut-hmon Co Ltd on 31-5-2005.**

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**Minister inspects development tasks in Myaungmya Township**

**Yangon, 31 May**

— Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 28 May inspected the two-mile long earth road in Pantaw Township. Pantaw Township Development Affairs Department constructed the road at a cost of K 14.3 million.

The minister called on officials concerned to upgrade the road to macadam road.

Afterwards, the minister and party also inspected the construction Khattiya primary school building and provided the necessary assistance.

He met with officials of Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Department the next day at the office of Myaungmya Township DAD. At the meeting, the minister discussed with the officials regional development tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister yesterday met with officials of Einme Township DAD and called on them to make efforts for rural area development tasks with added momentum.

— MNA

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**Industry-1 Minister inspects...**

(from page 16)

Minsu Village, where he was conducted by Managing Director U Aye Mauk around the construction site. The minister held a meeting with the officials at the venue. On completion of the project near the Shwegugyi Pagoda between Minsu and Inyaung villages in Kyaukse Township, it will be able to produce 14 items of enamel ware, and 34 items of household steel ware.

**Forestry Minister...**

(from page 16)

At the opening ceremony of the factory, the minister unveiled the signboard and inspected the production process of the factory. The minister also called for increased production of marketable products and attended to the needs.

At the opening ceremony of the Wood-based Industry of Sein Yadana Wut-hmon Co Ltd in Thayadwin Village, Hmawby Township, the minister also unveiled the signboard of the industry and inspected the production process. Finished products of the industry will be exported to Italy, Germany, England and European countries.

— MNA

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**Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects Khattiya earth road in Pantaw Township.**

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**PANTANAW**

Minister for Development Affairs Col Thein Lin and military officers, officers concerned of the Ministry of Defence Services Self-Defence Services, officers concerned of the Ministry of Sports, military attaches from foreign embassies and others greeted managers, coaches and players of the two volleyball teams.

During the meeting, the minister delivered an address. In his address he said now 2004-2005 fiscal year passed and 2005-2006 fiscal year has just arrived. Banks are to carry out banking services through harmonious efforts, taking lessons from previous experiences, to definitely follow laws, rules and regulations, to keep funds of the State systematically.

Officials of State-owned banks and private ones are to take measures to offer banking services precisely.

— MNA

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**Minister Inspects Development Tasks in Pantaw Township, Myaungmya, Shan**

Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects Khattiya earth road in Pantaw Township.

**PANTANAW**

Minister of the Ministry for Development Affairs Col Thein Lin met with officials of Myaungmya Township DAD and carried out a meeting.

The minister addressed the meeting, discussing regional development tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

— MNA
Health education talks conducted

YANGON, 31 May—The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized health educational talks to mark World No-Tobacco Day at the Early Childhood Development Centre of the MMCA at the corner of Thanthumar Road and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were MMCA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, specialists, teachers, students and guests.

Deputy Director of the Health Department of the Ministry of Health Tobacco-Free Project Manager Dr Daw Nyo Nyo Kyai gave talks on “Consequences of Smoking”, and Assistant Manager of Preliminary Oral Health Project under the Ministry of Health Dr U Ko Ko Maw, on “Oral Health and Smoking of Consumption of Tobacco”.

MMCA CEC Member Leader of Educational Group Daw Aye Aye presented gifts to the presenters.

Do-kyeywa Journal in circulation

YANGON, 31 May—Volume 2 No 11 of the Do-kyeywa Journal has been in circulation with a view to satisfying the reading public in the rainy season.

Included in the journal are stories, poems, knowledge on Dhamma, facts on agriculture, characteristics of birds, summer paddy of Malit Village and other interesting literary works.

— MNA

Number of Indonesian air passengers predicted to decline in 2005

JAKARTA, 31 May — Due to the prevailing high prices of aviation fuel, the Indonesian National Air Carriers Association (INACA) expects this year’s number of domestic air passengers to decline by up to 15 per cent.

“We project that there will be a 10-per-cent to 15-per-cent decrease in the number of domestic passengers this year from around 25 million last year,” INACA Secretary-General Tengku Burhanuddin was quoted on Monday by the Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

Tengku said the prevailing high price of aviation fuel “avias” and “avtur” would eventually force more domestic airlines to curtail their operations.

“As more airlines cut back flight frequencies and routes, they will serve fewer passengers,” he said.According to state oil and gas company PT Pertamina, the price of avtur currently stands at 73 US dollars to 75 dollars per barrel.

Pertamina spokesman Muhammad Harun said that the possible price hike in avtur was projected by stakeholders.

The high price of avtur, which mirrors global oil prices, has even forced two airlines to ground some of their fleet. Budget carrier StarAir currently operates only four of its seven airplanes serving seven cities — Jakarta, Sura-baya, Medan, Balikpapan, Menado, Denpasar and Pekanbaru.

StarAir will even suspend its operations altogether starting in early June due to heavy burden of operational costs, of which 53 per cent is spent for fuel.

USDA Basis Organizational Course concludes

YANGON, 31 May — Basis Organizational Course No 19 organized by Mayangon Township Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded this morning at the township USDA office.

Central Executive Committee Member of USDA Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addressed the concluding ceremony.

Afterwards, the Minister and CEC mem-

ber of Yangon Division USDA and an official presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Yangon West District USDA CEC Mem-

ber U Nay Win presented completion certificates to the trainees.

— MNA

HK supports “World No Tobacco Day”

HONG KONG, 31 May — In support of “World No Tobacco Day” on May 31, the Department of Health of Hong Kong launched an activity titled “I Love Smoke-free Wong Tai Sin” here on Monday.

The three-day activity aims to raise public awareness of the hazards of smoking.

A spokesman of the department said it was an established fact that active smoking and second-hand smoking were both hazardous to health.

“Second-hand smoke has been classified as Grade 1 Carcinogenic Substance. Evidence showed that long-term inhalation of second-hand smoke will dramatically increase our chances of suffering from deadly illnesses,” the spokesman said.

As part of the activity, the department has held a series of anti-smoking exhibitions in Lung Cheung Mall at Wong Tai Sin District and pamphlets and souvenirs will be distributed to the public.

“Let’s strive for a smoke-free Hong Kong,” the spokesman said, appealing to people to take part in the activity.

— MNA/Xinhua

Construction of Pampawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik) under way

YANGON, 31 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected road and bridge repair work along Yangon-Pathein road today.

At Pampawady River Bridge Project (Myinkaseik), the minister inspected the progress in implementing the project on both banks.

At the briefing hall, he heard a report on salient points of the project. The minister made arrangements to facilitate work.

A bailey type bridge, its main structure will be 540 feet long linked with two 360-foot approach roads on both Myaungmya and Pathein banks. The motor road on it will be 20 feet wide flanked by three-foot pedestrian lanes. It can withstand up to 60 tons. All the piers have been erected on Myaungmya bank.

Three piers have been completed on Pathein bank. Of the six spans of the bridge, five have been completed. Engineers are striving to complete the bridge soonest.

— MNA

EU still hopes to reach deal with China on textile disputes

BRUSSELS, 31 May — The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union (EU), said on Monday that it still hopes to reach an amicable deal with China to solve the current textile disputes.

“We still keep our willingness to seek an agreement with China on textiles,” European Commission spokeswoman Claude Veron-Reville told Xinhua.

She said the EU was aware of a decision made by the Chinese Government to abolish export tariffs on 81 types of clothing and textiles from June 1. “We are still looking into it,” she said.

Veron-Reville insisted that the EU had figured on the surging imports of textiles from China and the consequent to the European market was “negative”.

The EU on Friday asked China to give the industry hold a formal consultation on two categories of Chinese textiles and clothing.

— MNA/Xinhua

Minister meets staff under Ministry of Mines

YANGON, 31 May—Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint this morning met the staff of enterprises and departments under the Ministry of Mines at the Tharyadyana Hall of the ministry and gave necessary instructions.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, directors-general and managing directors under the ministry, staff and others.

Deputy Minister U Myint Thein made a speech.

Next, the respective heads of department reported on work being carried out for efficient use of fuel, extended production, education, health and social matters of the staff. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint underscored the need for the staff to make relentless efforts to meet the targets of the 2005-2006 plans, to be skillful and highly qualified in discharging their duties, to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and to try their utmost to hit the targets of the ministry, realizing the goodwill of the State.

— MNA

Hong Kong man caught with heroin at Cambodia’s airport

PHNOM PENH, 31 May — A man of Hong Kong was arrested at Phnom Penh International Airport for trafficking heroin, local media reported on Monday.

Chung Kook Hung, 47, was detained on Saturday night when airport security found 3.1 kilos heroin attached to his thighs. He was about to board a flight to Hong Kong at 7 p.m. when he triggered an alarm at one of the airport’s metal detectors, according to The Cambodia Daily.

A subsequent check uncovered four plastic bags hidden beneath his trouser legs. The suspect is being held at the Central Security Department of the Ministry of Interior for questioning.

— MNA/Xinhua

NUMBERS

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StarAir will even suspend its operations altogether starting in early June due to heavy burden of operational costs, of which 53 per cent is spent for fuel.
Russia to further trilateral relations with China, India

MOSCOW, 31 May — Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko vowed on Monday that his country’s trilateral relations with China and India would promote further peace and security in the region.

The forthcoming meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Chinese and Indian counterparts, Li Zhaoxing and Natwar Singh, will bring the trilateral relations to a new level, said Yakovenko.

The meeting, which has been slated in the far-eastern Russian port city of Vladivostok on Thursday, will be their first three-way summit.

The meeting will be aimed at strengthening their cooperation in energy and other issues and “will help maintain stability and promote prosperity in the region,” the ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Yakovenko as saying.

“Moscow, New Delhi and Beijing have close stances on many vital international issues and all support a multipolar system of the world,” the Russian diplomat said.

“The trilateral relations will not be directed against anybody, but in the interests of the three countries’ peoples,” he said. Foreign ministers of the three countries have held talks earlier, but those meetings were on the sidelines of the United Nations general assembly or other international conferences.

COMESA regional bloc to form security forces

KIGALI, 31 May — Experts at the 6th peace and security meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have agreed to set forces that would maintain peace and security in the member states.

The African Standby Brigade (ASB) forces will work hand in hand with the African Union forces to ensure peace in the region, said Rwandan Foreign Minister Charles Murigande on Monday.

“Some member states still have conflicts and the ASB forces would intervene and maintain security,” Murigande said while citing countries like Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Sudan.

“Security should be the paramount of any African Government for the accessibility of trade and development,” COMESA Secretary General Erustus Mwecha told reporters on the side of the peace and security meeting, which did not indicate how many troops each member state would contribute to the ASB forces.

The peace and security meeting here Monday will prepare the foreign ministers drawn from all the 19 member states for further discussion on ways of attaining the ASB forces. COMESA member states are Angola, Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The annual summit of COMESA trade bloc will be held in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, on 2-3 June.

Russia, Georgia ready to sign framework treaty

MOSCOW, 31 May — Visiting Georgian Foreign Minister Salome Zurabishvili disclosed on Monday that Russia and Georgia were part of the galaxy’s nebula. Their paths had been expected to be more nebula. Their paths had been expected to be more

Moscow, 31 May — The Andromeda galaxy, our nearest major galactic neighbour in the universe, has a rotating nebula of stars three times bigger than previously measured, US astronomers said Monday.

The findings reveal that we know less about our galactic neighbour than thought, according to Scott Chapman, a researcher from the California Institute of Technology who presented the results of a survey of Andromeda’s stellar motions at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Chapman is in a team of astronomers using the Keck telescope to measure speeds of 5,000 stars in the outskirts of Andromeda. They were surprised to find that these stars are actually rotating as if they were part of the galaxy’s nebula. Their paths had been expected to be more random.

“Finding all these stars in an orderly rotation was the last explanation anyone would think of,” Chapman said in a statement released during the meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The implication is that the nebula is 220,000 light-years in diameter, instead of the earlier estimate of 70,000 to 80,000 light-years. In the cosmos, that means Andromeda stretches out over the length of 12 full Moons. This periphery of Andromeda is faint, accounting for about 10 per cent of the light from the galaxy. Still, there are millions of stars presumably orbiting in this outer region.

By looking at separate components of a galaxy, one may try to piece together how the galaxy is building up over time.

The central area of a spiral galaxy is believed to have formed in the first place, with the rotating nebula coming later. The type and orbit of stars in certain regions provides a kind of fossil record for the evolutionary history.

Andromeda is an “ideal laboratory” because it is so close, and yet it is outside our galaxy. In our own galaxy, it is very hard to study this evolution because the observers are stuck in the middle of it, said Chapman. Yet this “laboratory” is full of puzzles as to how it came to be. Besides Andromeda’s newly found size, researchers are scratching their heads over the fact that the outer rotating stars are arranged into about 20 identifiable clumps.

This would imply that they were formed out of the merger of smaller galaxies with the main galaxy. But rotating nebulae and clumps are not compatible in galaxy formation models, scientists argued.

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Russia stands for new challenges on basis of NNPT

MOSCOW, 30 May—Russia’s position is that all the new challenges to the treaty as a major component of the international system, which proved its efficiency in preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons over the past 35 years, the ministry said.

According to the ministry, the UN conference has made, on the whole, an objective and balanced analysis of the Treaty’s operation in the main areas: non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Russia agrees to write off Syria’s $9.8b debt

Russia on Sunday agreed to write off 73 per cent of Syria’s debt of 13.4 billion US dollars in hard currency and used for property loans for real estate.

Syria’s debt, or 9.8 billion US dollars.

Russia agrees to write off Syria’s $9.8b debt

MOSCOW, 30 May—Russia decides to save up the $9.8 billion debt of Syria.

Russia stands for new challenges on basis of NNPT

Shanghai, 30 May—Though a major oil demander, China should not be taken as the sole factor pushing up global oil prices, said an oil expert from the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) in east China’s Shanghai Municipality on Saturday while attending a local forum.

Last year’s explosive demands for oil worldwide helped bring global oil prices to a record high, said Lawrence Eagles, head of the IEA’s oil market division, disagreeing at the accusation that China should be held individually accountable for price hikes.

The oil analyst attributed China’s increasing demands for oil to fast economic development and called for a more facilitating attitude worldwide toward China’s growing aspirations.

He said China’s per capita oil consumption was far less than that of the developed nations such as the United States, Japan and Germany as well as some developing peers, describing the skyrocketing oil prices last year as a “universal phenomenon.”

According to the oil expert, China’s oil demand is decreasing and should not aggrandize panic in 2005.

Over 9,000 Zambians trained to ease HIV/AIDS impact

LUSSAKA, 30 May—A company in Zambia’s Copperbelt Province has trained over 9,000 people with various skills in dealing with HIV/AIDS in an effort to ease the impact of the disease which has been obsessing the poor South-Central African country, local media says.

An experienced counselling and testing, utilization of condoms and non-dis- crimination of HIV/AIDS at working places, said Mrs. Mkunguyi, adding that the company has applied for nearly half a billion kwacha (about 100,000 US dollars) from Community Response for AIDS programme.

Official data shows that one in every five adult Zambians has HIV or is living with AIDS.
Switzerland non-committal on support to India’s UNSC bid

BERNE, 30 May — Switzerland was recently non-committal on supporting India’s candidacy for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council saying it would first like to see the procedural changes in selecting the countries to the forum.

Addressing a joint Press conference with India’s President APJ Abdul Kalam after delegation-level talks here, Swiss President Samuel Schmid said while his country favoured enlargement of the UNSC but before that “we have to see the progress in the procedure of appointment of countries to the Council”.

Schmid, while appreciating Indian democracy and the growing stature of the last few years said once the progress on the procedural reforms was made, it would decide on which country it should support for the UNSC. Switzerland has been maintaining distance from the any such country which is a nuclear power and not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In his speech, Schmid has been claiming representation to the United Nations Security Council saying that it represented one-sixth of world’s population.

The Indian side also presented a draft agreement of G-4 countries for restructuring the United Nations to which the Swiss side said it would go through it before giving its opinion.

While making their opening remarks, Schmid said both the nations nurture good bilateral ties which would be further intensified.

He said while the two countries shared perfect relations, the trade ties between the two countries were far below normal which needed to be boosted.

To a question whether the Swiss Government would like to sign a legislation to prevent money laundering by terrorist outfits in Switzerland, Schmid said “we are committed not to allow anyone misuse our soil. We have tough legislations to deal with money laundering.”

He was replying to a question whether Switzerland would be willing to sign an agreement similar to that with the US under which Washington is immediately notified of any money laundering by terrorist outfits meant for spreading violence on American soil.

“We always notify member states in case of any such money laundering was noticed in this country,” he said.

Kalam, in his speech, also appreciated the neutrality of Switzerland. Both sides also took note of the visa regimes of their countries and said it would take some time to liberalize the policy.

During bilateral discussions, the two sides agreed to give boost to cooperation in the fields of Information Technology, bio-technology and nano-technology.

The Indian side also offered outsourcing research and development to its scientific experiments keeping in view the huge manpower resources of India.

In his inaugural Press statement, Kalam said the talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding during which “we covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations and also held a detailed exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.”

“During the talks we condemned the growth of terrorism and religious extremism, which threatens international peace and security. We reiterated that terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds, whether political, ethnic, religious, or any other,” Kalam said.

The President also extended invitation to his Swiss counterpart to pay an official visit to India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure, Kalam said.

MNA/PTI

Afghanistan launches campaign to fight narcotics

KABUL, 30 May — A counter-narcotics campaign has been carried out by Counter Narcotics Police (CNP) in all the provinces of Afghanistan, officials have announced.

“We will destroy all the poppy land during this three-step campaign, and help to supply other livelihood alternatives for local farmers as well,” Minister of Counter Narcotics Habibullah Qaderi and Deputy of Interior Ministry on Counter Narcotics Dawood Daoud announced Saturday in Afghanistan’s northeastern province of Badakhshan during their visit there.

“The campaign will be held in different provinces according to different weather. CNP will go to some northern and southern provinces early because of their warmer weather and early cultivation, and the cleanup will extend to other provinces later,” Qaderi was quoted Sunday by local independent newspaper Arman-e-Millie as saying.

The counter narcotics campaign in Badakhshan will be carried out from this week, and CNP will begin the clean-out in different districts respectively. The government has supplied 15 million US dollars for the local farmers to take other life alternatives instead of poppy cultivation.

MNA/Xinhua

Some of Bulgaria’s flood-hit areas declare emergency

SOFIA, 30 May — Heavy rains have swept across Bulgaria over the past days, with some areas of the hardest-hit central-east part having declared emergency. Bulgarian media reported Saturday.

Torrential rains began to slam Bulgaria on Wednesday, with the rainfall in some areas of the central-east part hitting a 30-year high.

The heavy rains caused mountain torrents in central Lovech region, swamped 10 villages, cut off power and displaced 500 families in Osem and Vit, and cut road links north Nesea.

In southeast Smolian, egg-size hailstones destroyed large areas of crops and damaged many houses.

MNA/Xinhua

Rocket hits Kabul, no casualties

KABUL, 30 May — A rocket hit Afghan capital on Monday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Around 1:30 am local time, a blast was heard near the headquarters compound of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a local police officer told Xinhua.

“I saw the fire, it must be a rocket,” said the witness outside the compound, but he was not sure if the rocket landed inside the headquarters.

The roads to the compound were blocked by armored vehicles, while ISAF soldiers were patrolling the streets.

It is the second time that Afghan capital came under rocket attacks this month.

MNA/Xinhua

President urges Mozambicans to defeat country’s poverty

MAPUTO, 30 May—Mozambican President Armando Guebuza on Sunday urged the Mozambican people to do all in their power to defeat the country’s absolute poverty.

Speaking at a rally in Xai-Xai, capital of the southern Mozambican province of Gaza, Guebuza said in order to remove the obstacles that hold back the country’s development, the government needed the support of all Mozambicans.

The Mozambicans must also fight to remove the obstacles that get in the way — such as the spirit of apathy and drift, red tape, corruption, crime and endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan Govt to complete disarmament programme within weeks

KABUL, 30 May — Afghan Government would conclude the ongoing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme within the next three weeks, Defence Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

“The DDR programme is going to be completed by the end of Afghan month Jawza or June 21,” Zahir Azimi told journalists at a news conference here.

Under the UN-backed nationwide programme, launched in October 2003, so far $6.907 former combatants had been disarmed and among these over 48,000 had returned to normal life, the spokesman said.

“These people have turned in 32,500 pieces of different weapons to the government,” the spokesman added.

Commenting on collecting heavy weapons, the official noted that 9,085 pieces of heavy weapons including tanks had also been collected and moved to safer places.

The next phase of DDR which includes collecting hidden arms from irresponsible armed men and locals, the official added would begin from eastern Nangarhar Province next Tuesday.

However, he failed to give the exact figure of irresponsible armed men still carrying lethal arms in the post-conflict nation where police and national Army are still under formulation process.

Thousands of pieces of different kinds of arms and tons of ammunition have been left over from the past 2.5 decades of war and civil strife in this war-plagued country.

“No one will be allowed to carry on arms illegally and the government is firm to collect the last arm from the last irresponsible armed man,” said Azimi.

MNA/Xinhua

Newly crowned Miss Universe 2005 Natalie Glebova of Canada makes a Thai traditional greeting to photographs after the Miss Universe 2005 beauty pageant at Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand, on 31 May, 2005. —INTERNET
Kenya's prolific striker Oliech to play against Guinea

NAIROBI, 31 May—Kenya's prolific striker Dennis Oliech will after all play for the East African nation's soccer team, Harambee Stars against Guinea in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday, soccer authorities said here on Monday.

There were fears that Oliech who was nursing an injury may not make the Kenyan team to Conakry.

The possibility of Oliech missing the crucial Conakry tie would have denied coach Mohammed Kheri his most potent attack option, a fact he acknowledged.

According to Kheri, Oliech has indicated he would arrive in Kenya early Tuesday ready for the match against Guinea.

"Oliech said it was a minor injury and now he has recovered. We are expecting him to arrive here on Tuesday from Qatar where he is based," Kheri said by telephone.

The striker is a key part of the Kenya squad and is the leading scorer in the African qualifying groups with six goals.

"Oliech is our top scorer and he is very important to our plans," Kheri said.

Foreign-based Kenyan defenders Musa Otieno and Zablon Amanaka have arrived here for next weekend's 2006 combined Africa Cup of Nations/World Cup 2006 qualifier match Otoien, the long serving Kenya team captain turns out for South Africa's Cape Sanlamar, while the youthful Amanaka is based in Bosnia.

Swedish-based MacDonald Mariga and Pascal Ochieng who plays in Tanzania, were due in Friday.

The bulk of the national team players are home-based, but national coach reckons that he needs the services of at least six key foreign-based players.

Players of the Harambee Stars are now in training at the Moi International Sports Centre in Nairobi.

Kenya will play Guinea 4 June in Conakry before hosting Morocco in Nairobi on 18 June.

The Harambee Stars are currently on nine points from five matches in Group Five three points behind leaders Morocco, who have played one more game.
Indonesia restarts nationwide unleaded gasoline campaign

JAKARTA, 31 May — The Indonesian Government has restarted a nationwide campaign promoting the use of unleaded gasoline, imploiring suppliers to introduce the fuel to outlets across the country by the end of the year, a local newspaper reported on Monday.

The programme was an earlier initiative of the Megawati Cabinet in 2003. However, problems modifying oil refineries in West Java and Central Java to increase the production of unleaded gasoline meant that the fuel is currently available only in Greater Jakarta, West Java’s Cirebon, Bali and the Batam islands, accounting for about 25 per cent of the country’s gasoline demand, said The Jakarta Post. Most retailers in these areas sell unleaded gas at the same price as leaded fuel.

But with the work at the other oil refineries nearly complete in July, the availability of unleaded gas is expected to increase greatly this year. Announcing the move on Sunday, State Minister of the Environment Rachmat Witoelar cautioned that a major obstacle to realizing the programme lay in the funding.

“We call for all stakeholders, such as (state oil and gas firm) Pertamina, to make this programme a success. It may well be expensive to carry out this programme, but the health costs and the damage to the younger generation and 20 children are far higher. We shouldn’t take (leaded gasoline) for granted,” Rachmat said.

It is estimated the government would have to pay an extra 10 per cent in subsidies or around 10 trillion rupiah (1.06 billion US dollars) to producers to provide a nationwide supply of unleaded gasoline.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 31 May, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has advanced into the Deltaic areas. Rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, as opposed to Shan and Kayah States, isolated in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions with locally heavyfall in Bago and Taninthay Divisions, isolated heavyfall in Mon State, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gyoobingauk (448) inches, Dawei (378) inches, Theinnyan (374) inches, Kawthoung (390) inches, Bago (307) inches, Thayon (260) inches, Yay (245) inches, Pyay (165) inches, Hpa-an (1.54) inches and Taunggyi (1.13) inches. Day temperatures were (37°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayah State, Yangon and Taninthay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Northern Shan and Rakhine States, Bago Division, (7°C) to (8°C) above normal in lower Sagain and Mandalay Divisions, (9°C) above normal in Kachin State, upper Sagain, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Monywa and Myingyan (44°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-5-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 31-5-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-5-2005 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 30-5-2005 was (29) hours excep; Rainfalls on 31-5-2005 were (0.08) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.23) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.16) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-5-2005 was (8.35) inches at Yangon Airport, (7.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.94) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (13) mph southwest at (20-35) hours on 30-5-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is generally strong in the Southern States of Central Bay and South Bay. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-6-2005: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Kayah States, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, upper Sagain and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be slightly off and along Rakhine Coast, and scattered to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely in the Deltaic area.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-6-2005: One or two rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-6-2005: Partly cloudy.

New rainfall record

Issued at 11:30 hrs MST on 31st May, 2005.

The amount of rainfall 125 min (4.84 inches) observed at 09:30 hrs MST on 31st May, 2005, at Yangon Airport, 24 hrs new maximum rainfall record of the station for the month of May during last (20) years. The former record of the station was 95 min (3.74) inches on 19th May 2002.

Earthquake report

Issued at 12:00 hours MST on 30th May, 2005.

An earthquake of slight intensity (4) Richter Scale with its epicenter in Myanmar water about (76) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (20) (10) min (54) seconds on 30th May, 2005.
Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected the production process at Textile Factory (Sagaing) under the Myanma Textile Industries in Ywathitgyi, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division, on 29 May.

Next, he inspected the quality of the cotton harvested from Monywa, Myingyan and Aunglan townships, local and foreign-made spare parts, and gave instructions on awarding outstanding employees. He also viewed land preparations for growing cotton on the 192.61-acre plot at the cotton farm, Sagaing flour factory No 1 and noodle factory in Sagaing.

In the evening, he inspected Sagaing Garment Factory under the Myanma Textile Industries.

Yesterday morning at the pharmaceutical factory (Inyaung) project site being implemented by the Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, the minister heard the report of Managing Director U Myint Oo on progress of the construction of the disposable syringe factory project and buildings, and installation of machines in the factory. He instructed the officials to ensure completion of the projects ahead of schedule, and to meet layouts of the buildings with GMP system. The minister inspected renovation of ancient pagodas and construction of the buildings in the factory compound. Afterwards, the minister inspected the enamel and steel ware factory project (Minsu) being implemented by the Myanma General and Maintenance Industries in Sagaing Township.

Minister U Aung Thaung views production process at the Myanmar traditional weaving work in Ywathitgyi, Sagaing Township. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally unveils the signboard of No 6 Furniture Factory in Wataya Industrial Zone. — MNA

Forestry Minister inaugurates wood-based industries

YANGON, 31 May—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inaugurated wood-based industries in Shwepyitha Township and Wood-based Industry in Hmawby Township this morning in the presence of Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

No 6 Furniture Factory is a joint venture of Myanma Timber Enterprise and Phyo Shit Thu Trading Co Ltd.

Minister Col Zaw Min addresses the coordination meeting of the Ministry of Cooperatives. — MNA

Minister Col Zaw Min made an opening speech. He said that the heads of state/division cooperatives departments and officials concerned are to take steps for significant progress of production sectors such as agricultural, industrial and fish and meat sectors and export sector, minimizing loss and wastage, reducing expenditures, to observe discipline and to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts to boost the net production of cooperative industries. Next, officials concerned presented works carried out in their respective sectors. In response to the reports, the directors-general and managing director gave supplementary reports. This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Col Zaw Min. — MNA