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Tuesday, 18 April, 2006

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

National unity is of utmost importance for perpetuation of the Union

Senior General Than Shwe attends opening of over 2700-foot Minkyaung Creek Bridge and Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway

YANGON, 17 April — The over 2700-foot Minkyaung Creek Bridge and the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway were commissioned into service in Yanbye Township this morning, at a ceremony, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Speaking on the occasion, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann said that Taungup-Kyaukpyu section of the highway is about 120 miles long. It was built by engineers of Public Works, Tatmadawmen and locals of Rakhine State for over four years. Maei-Sane section of the highway included a 20-mile sector passing through the marshes. Hence advanced techniques had been used in building the sector.

Minkyaung Creek Bridge is the longest facility among the 13 completed major bridges of Taungup-Kyaukpyu section. The government spent a large amount of foreign exchange and billions of kyats to build the 13 major bridges.

(See page 16)



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe extends greetings at the opening ceremony of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway and Minkyaung Creek Bridge.—MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 April, 2006

Towards regional development

Nowadays, the government is making all-out efforts to bring about equitable development across the Union after laying down the project for development of border areas, the 24 special development zone project and the five rural development tasks.

Thanks to integrated and well-coordinated efforts of the State and the people, remarkable progress has been made in different parts of the Union.

Dignitaries led by the Head of State frequented all the states and divisions where they inspected development projects and fulfilled the requirements.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party on 13 April toured Maungtaw, Rakhine State and inspected development tasks there and met with local authorities of Maungtaw District, Maungtaw Township and Buthidaung Township, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townselders.

At the meeting, Senior General Than Shwe said that regional authorities, State service personnel and local people are to make relentless efforts for their regions to develop politically, economically and socially; and that they are to get down to grassroots to cover rural areas in bringing about development of their regions.

Maungtaw region shares border with the other country. Hence, it has been upgraded from the township level to the district level in order that it can deal with the other country in equal footing, carry out administrative work efficiently and implement development projects effectively.

As administration plays a pivotal role in economic and social sectors of a region, the government has upgraded Maungtaw region into a district one.

Since Maungtaw region shares border with the other country, State service personnel discharging duties there are to be dutiful, loyal and equipped with patriotism. At the same time, they are to do their bit within the framework of law prescribed by the State.

Such being so, the onus is on departmental officials, regional authorities and local people to take a series of measures for regional development making the most of infrastructures created by the government.



Wellwishers from No-120 (A/B), Anawrahta Road, Kyeepwayay North, Thingangyun Township recently donated K 100,000 to the funds of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Member of the Administrative Board of the Home for the Aged U Chit Myaing. — ဣ

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Sports Ministry offers provisions to Members of Sangha

YANGON, 17 April — Ministry of Sports offered provisions to members of the Sangha and paid respects to aged persons today at Dakkhinayon Monastery in Thingangyun Township.

At the 8th ceremony to offer provisions, Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik and wife presented offertories to Sayadaws on behalf of Min-

ister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife.

Afterwards, the congregation led by Director-General U Thaug Htaik paid respects to the aged persons and provided cash assistance.

A total of 131 aged persons received K 5,000 each. It was the sixth ceremony of the ministry.

MNA

Paritta water poured into reservoirs

YANGON, 17 April — Twenty-seven Sayadaws led by Vice Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Sadhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kundalajoti today recited *Parittas* at Hlawga Reservoir, and poured *parittas* water into the reservoir.

The congregation led by Chairman of YCDC Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn first took the Five Precepts from a Saydaw and Saydaws recited *parittas*. Afterwards, Sayadaws and the congregation poured *Paritta* water into the reservoir which supply water to Yangon City.

Myanmar people believe that by consuming *Paritta* water they will be free from dangers.

Similarly, *paritta* water was poured into Phugyi Reservoir, Gyobyu Reservoir and Ngamoeyeik Reservoir. — MNA

Parittas recited at NPE

YANGON, 17 April — Sayadaws recited *parittas* at the News and Periodicals Enterprise (Head Office) under the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street here this morning. Chief Editors of the newspapers under the NPE, managers and staff attended the ceremony.

Member of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Guna Nanda and members of the Sangha recited *parittas*. Alms were then offered to the Sayadaws and merits shared.

MNA



Sayadaws reciting *Parittas* at the head office of News and Periodicals Enterprise. — MNA



Members of the Sanga reciting *Parittas* at the hall of UMFCFI on Myanmar New Year Day. —UMFCFI

TFM Junior Tennis Championships on 22-28 April

YANGON, 17 April — Tennis players from states and divisions are invited to participate in U-14, U-12 and U-10 TFM Junior Tennis Championships singles which are scheduled to be held at Theinbyu Tennis Court here from 22 to 28 April.

Those wishing to participate in the championships may enroll at MTF not later than 20 April. Contact phone number of MTF is 372360.

MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

Foreign investment in China up 6.4% in 1st quarter

BEIJING, 16 April —Foreign investment in China reached 14.246 billion US dollars in the first quarter, up 6.4 per cent year on year, said a latest report released by the Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

Between January and March, a total of 8,909 new foreign-invested enterprises were approved, a drop of 4.26 per cent year on year.

The actual paid-up investment from Japan was 1.232 billion US dollars, while that from the Republic of Korea was 1.211 billion US dollars. In contrast, Germany and the United States have invested 776 million and 612 million US dollars respectively.

In 2005, China has seen a deficit of

4.1 billion US dollars in service trade, down 57.1 per cent year on year, said the report citing latest statistics from the World Trade Organization.

Meanwhile, the proportion of China's exports to the world's total export volume grew from 6.5 per cent in 2004 to 7.3 per cent in 2005 while the proportion of China's imports to the world's total import volume grew from 5.9 per cent to 6.1 per cent.

Last year, both the world's total exports volume and imports volume have topped 10 trillion US dollars for the first time, witnessing a year-on-year growth of 13 per cent, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

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Cleaners sweep a dust-covered road in Beijing, on 17 April, 2006. Dusty weather is a headache for Beijing in spring. Experts advised residents to stay indoors or wear masks when going out for their health as the dusty weather continued on Monday, China Daily reported.—INTERNET

Ruins of 2,200-year-old town found in N China

SHIJIAZHUANG, 16 April — Chinese archaeologists have discovered the ruins of a 2,200-year-old town in Xingtai City, north China's Hebei Province.

The ruins, located at Yuanji Village in the suburbs of Xingtai, is in shape of oblong and covers an area of 40,000 square metres. The remaining ramparts of the town is about one to eight metres high with 500 metres long in north-south section and 800 metres long in east-west section.—MNA/Xinhua



A Bulgarian civil defence officer uses a boat to inspect flooded streets and houses in town of Nikopol, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) northeast of the capital Sofia, on 17 April, 2006. —INTERNET

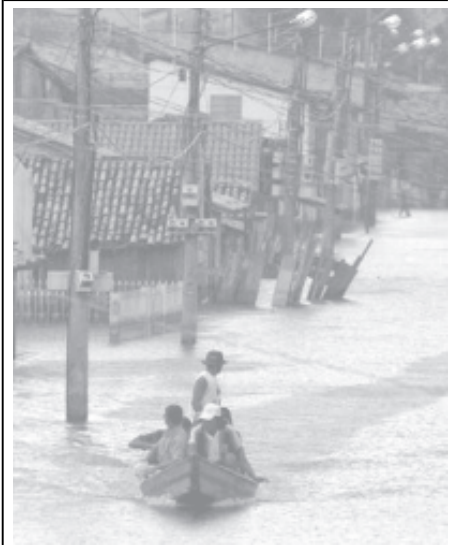
NGOs in Mozambique accused of stealing "AIDS" fund

LUANDA, 16 April— Six non-governmental organizations supposedly linked to the fight against HIV/AIDS in the central Mozambican province of Sofala are accused of misappropriating funds, according to reports reaching here on Friday from Mozambican capital Maputo.

to give the names of the organizations, said that these organizations had used the money for other

purposes, which had nothing to do with the fight against AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua



A boat transports people along the flooded streets of Maraba, on the Tocantins River in the Amazon Basin of northeastern Brazil, on 15 April, 2006. INTERNET

More say US focus should be home

WASHINGTON, 15 April — Americans, anxious about the costs of the Iraq war and the impact of a global economy, are increasingly wary of engagement in the world.

In a USA TODAY/ Gallup Poll, nearly half of those surveyed said the United States "should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along as best they can on their own." Three years ago, just one-third felt that way.

"There seems to be a turning inward across the American spectrum," says Charles Kupchan, a former State Department and National Security Council aide who now teaches at Georgetown University. He calls it "an inevitable consequence of Iraq."

The leave-us-alone mood is apparent not only in the proportion of Americans, 64%, who want all or some of the US troops in Iraq to come home now.

It's also reflected in concern about illegal

immigration — eight of 10 said it was "out of control" — and in the furious public reaction to reports last month that a Dubai-owned firm was poised to take over cargo operations at ports in six states. After the outcry, the deal was undone.

Attitudes have soured toward trade as well. Two-thirds said increased trade with other countries

mostly hurts US workers. By 50%-39%, respondents also said it mostly hurts American companies.

In 1999, majorities said it mostly hurt workers but helped companies.

In his State of the Union address in January and since, President Bush has warned against "isolationism."

Internet



Demonstrators march through the streets of downtown Los Angeles on 15 April, 2006, to protest against HR4437, the proposed legislation that cracks down against illegal immigrants. INTERNET

Bangladesh to vaccinate 21m children against polio

DHAKA, 16 April—Bangladesh's 13th Special National Immunization Day (NID) was inaugurated here on Saturday with an aim to feed polio vaccine to 21 million children under five starting from Sunday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandoker Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the programme as chief guest through feeding polio vaccine to several children.

Mosharraf said Bangladesh was made "polio-free" through observing 12 national immunization days and a sub-NID drive.

"This immunization day has been necessitated by the fact that Rahima of Chandpur District has been affected with polio virus after Bangladesh has enjoyed polio-free status for five years and eight months," said the Health Minister. Rahima Akhtar, a nine-year-old girl in Bangladesh's eastern Chandpur District, was paralyzed on 23 January this year.

MNA/Xinhua



A member of the Australian Stalker theatre company performs during the XVI Caracas International Theatre Festival in Caracas, Venezuela, on 13 April, 2006. —INTERNET

ဝတ်မှုပွဲအား ခေါ်ကျော်လွှား

WTO should rule on Thai complaint against US shrimp tax in one year

BANGKOK, 16 April — The World Trade Organization (WTO) should rule in about one year whether the United States is breaking world trade practice by charging double taxation on Thai shrimp, a Thai commercial official said.

Rachane Pojanasuntorn, Director-General of the Foreign Trade Department, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* on Friday as saying that the Commerce Ministry of Thailand has filed a complaint with the WTO, charging that the United States is

collecting both anti-dumping tax and demanding bondage payment as an export guarantee — known as a C-Bond—on shrimp from Thailand.

The Commerce Ministry on 16 March instructed the Thai mission in Geneva where the WTO is headquartered to file the complaint.

The Thai delegation has already hired a law firm which is now gathering information from Thai exporters to strengthen the case.

Thailand is confident that the US action in levying both the anti-dumping and the bondage contradicts the WTO agreement. For this type of trade-related dispute, the WTO would normally set up an arbitration body to consider and rule, in a process that takes between 12-14 months to complete, he said.—MNA/Xinhua



Fishermen row a boat on the Wujiang River, on 12 April, 2006 in Gongtan Township of Youyang County, Chongqing Municipality, China. Gongtan Township is an ancient town with a history of over 1,700 years and abundant in cultural heritages.—INTERNET

Two students killed in road accident in northern Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 April — Two students were killed and two others injured Saturday when their car skidded and hit the wall of a bridge in northern Malaysia.

The accident took place in heavy rains at 5 pm local time (0900 GMT) when the four students from the Dungun Polytechnic were driving from Terengganu State to Pahang State, local police said.

The two passengers who died at the spot were Daijinder Singh, 19, and Mohd Fadil Ahmad Markawi, also 19, both from Pahang State, according to local media reports.

The car driver and another passenger suffered light injuries, the police added.

MNA/Xinhua

Firefighters find secret stash in basement

WADSWORTH, 16 April — Firefighters dousing a fire in a new home were confused when the man they thought was the owner suddenly left — until they found \$700,000 worth of marijuana plants in the basement, officials

said. "It seemed so strange to me" that the man left, said Wadsworth Fire Chief Ralph Copley. "If it were my home burning, I'd want to be there."

After firefighters extinguished the fire,

which started in the attic early on Friday morning, they found 239 marijuana plants filling one-fourth of the basement, which was wired throughout for indoor plant growing, authorities said.

"It was unreal," Copley said. "In 24 years, I've never seen a fire quite like that."

The Medina County Drug Task Force and firefighters on Friday confiscated items from the home, including peat moss, 1,000-watt bulbs and large reflecting discs. The basement had no fire damage.

The marijuana-cultivating system was wired to the home's electrical system in a way that bypassed the meter, said Michael Barnhardt, acting director of the task force.

Such wiring would help a grower avoid the large electric bills that clue in investigators, he said.

Internet



An aerial view shows Japanese firefighters battle the fires at a desulphurisation facility at Cosmo Oil Co Chiba refinery in Ichikawa, east of Tokyo on 16 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Greece uncovers ancient antiques on remote island

ATHENS, 17 April — Greek police have uncovered a large amount of ancient Greek and Roman antiques of "countless and priceless value" from a villa on the small island of Schoinoussa in the Cyclades, Greek media reported on Sunday.

The artifacts include dozens of sculptures, treasures, vases and amphoras from ancient Greek and Roman times. A headless Venus statue, three marble busts, a prehistoric clay

figurine and two ancient Egyptian pots were also found.

All of the articles were discovered in a remote villa which is being used by a Greek shipping family that lives in London permanently.

Police suspect that the objects are the product of illegal excavations around the eastern Mediterranean region and are hidden on the remote Schoinoussa Island to escape investigation.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists visit the famous ancient windmills in the village of Campo de Criptana at the Castilla-La Mancha region in central Spain, on 16 April, 2006. La Mancha windmills are part of the Miguel de Cervante's "Don Quixote", Spain's most famous literary character. —INTERNET



In this illustration released by Tokyo-based East Japan Railways Co, on Friday, 14 April, 2006, the NE Train, or New Energy Train, that the Japan's biggest rail company will soon test is shown.—INTERNET

Japan to test fuel cell-powered train

TOKYO, 16 April—Japan's biggest rail company will soon test using fuel cells to help power a train, following the lead of automakers in rolling out cleaner, more efficient transportation.

Pollution-free fuel cells generate electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing only water vapor as exhaust.

East Japan Railways

Co, which serves the congested Tokyo area and carries 16 million passengers a day, will start test runs of the NE Train, or New Energy Train, in July with the aim of operating it on regular tracks by the middle of next year.

The initial train will consist of a single car powered by electric batteries and capable of travelling at up to 62 miles per hour. A diesel-run generator will provide most of the electricity, with two 65-kilowatt hydrogen fuel cells chipping in about a third.

It should also be quieter than conventional trains.

"It's the first time this technology has been used in railway cars," company spokesman Akira Mori said Friday. "But it's still too soon to talk about when it will start carrying paying passengers."

JR East, as the Tokyo-based company is also known, estimates the NE Train will consume about

20 percent less energy than traditional trains. The company has cut overall energy consumption by 13 percent since 1990, despite rising traffic volumes.

The NE Train's fuel efficiency will be aided by batteries that recharge every time the train brakes.

Similar technology has scored a big hit for Japanese carmakers, which are catering to surging global interest in hybrid cars.

Toyota Motor Corp is racing to meet demand for its Prius vehicle, which converts the heat generated by braking into electricity that later helps the car accelerate. Honda Motor Co has introduced rival models.

JR East's new trains are envisioned for use in remote areas where there are no overhead power lines. They could replace older battery-driven trains, or those running solely on diesel.

Internet

Ukraine wants to restart suspended "AIDS" programme

KIEV, 16 April —Ukraine wants to restart a 60-million-US-dollar World Bank programme to fight tuberculosis and AIDS suspended by the global lender because the money was misused, Health Minister Yuri Polyachenko said on Friday.

Polyachenko acknowledged the problem but said the programme was crucial for fighting the growing threat of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and a deal to revive it could be reached within a month.

"Unfortunately these funds have not been used for the most urgent needs," Polyachenko told reporters. "They went to buy office furniture, cars and computers."

"At the latest meeting with the World Bank leadership, we agreed that we will review the purchases portfolio. If there is an agreement we will resume the project," he added. The World Bank said earlier this week it was suspending the loan because it had proved ineffective and the money had not been properly distributed. Only two per cent of the 60 million US dollars available had been disbursed in three years, the Bank said.—MNA/Reuters



National park service volunteers perform in a 1906 earthquake evacuation reenactment in San Francisco, California on 15 April, 2006. At every corner, the San Francisco area is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 18 April, 1906, earthquake that marked one of the worst natural disasters in US history. —INTERNET

Train collision in Indonesia due to human error

JAKARTA, 16 April— The head-on collision between two trains leaving at least 13 people dead and 26 others injured in Grobogan District, Indonesia's Central Java Province, early Saturday morning was caused by human error, Transportation Minister Hatta Rajasa said.

"However, we have to wait for the outcome of a further investigation by the National Committee on Transportation Accidents (KNKT) for a more detailed explanation of what caused the accident," Antara news agency quoted the minister as saying during a visit to the scene.

Hatta said preliminary data and information on the

accident had led to the conclusion that it was caused by human error because the economic train engine driver should have stopped his train at Gubug station to wait until another train had passed.

"All of the railway traffic systems were functioning normally when the accident happened. Therefore, we can say that human error is blamed for the accident," Hatta added.

The minister also said the accident had been reported to President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the President extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and said the case should be dealt with thoroughly and effectively.

He said President Yudhoyono had asked that the wounded passengers of the ill-fated trains be given free medical treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

Five killed, 31 wounded as seven blasts rock Kashmir

NEW DELHI, 16 April — Five people were killed and 31 others, including nine Indian security personnel, were wounded in a series of powerful grenade explosions in the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, according to Indo-Asian News Service.

Local authorities sounded an alert in the entire city as tensions ran high in the wake of the seven blasts for which four militant outfits claimed responsibility.

Police said three civilians were killed and two wounded in the Dalgate area, just a kilometre away from the city centre Lal Chowk, when guerillas lobbed a powerful grenade at a posse of the CRPF.

The grenade missed the target in the area, thronged by tourists, on the banks of the Dal Lake but exploded on the road near a bus stop resulting in "on the spot death of three civilians", a senior police official said.

In another attack, 13 people were injured in the downtown Safa

Kadal area Friday evening after guerillas hurled a powerful grenade at a joint check-post of the local police and the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The wounded included two CRPF soldiers, two policemen, one traffic cop and eight civilians. All the injured were evacuated to a nearby hospital.

Two policemen and a civilian were injured when militants threw a grenade at a police check-post in the downtown Bohri Kadal area Friday evening.

The Dalgate attack was preceded by four other blasts, all of which took place in quick succession between noon and 1pm.

MNA/Xinhua

Plane crash leaves seven dead in Congo

KINSHASA, 16 April — A Boeing 737 belonging to a senior aviation figure in the Democratic Republic of Congo crashed during a test flight on Friday, killing all seven people on board.

The incident occurred at the capital Kinshasa's airport. Airport sources said the plane was making a landing when its port-side undercarriage failed, causing the crash.

Reports said the flightcrew, which included a number of aero-engineers, had battled in vain to safely land the stricken aircraft. It belonged to General Kikunda, who had been Air Force commander during Mobutu Sese Seko's presidency (1965-1997) when the country was named Zaire. —MNA/Xinhua



A collapsed section of the Shenzhen and Shantou expressway is seen in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China, on 16 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Russia to adopt market gas price with Belarus from 2007

Moscow, 17 April—Gazprom is to adopt a market-oriented approach to business with Belarus from 2007, Alexei Miller, CEO of the Russian gas giant said in an interview with Russia's Channel One television on Sunday.

"A price-setting mechanism for Russian gas sold on the Bel..arussian market will be guided by market principles and the experience of the world's gas business," Miller said, "we started negotiations in due time to avoid any unpleasant New Year surprises. Our talks will continue at the end of April."

"Today Gazprom is switching to under-

standable and transparent market principles in its dealings with all former Soviet republics. They are governed by trends in world prices for hydrocarbons." Miller added.

Gazprom announced on April 4 that the market price of Russian gas for Belarus should be raised by at least three times from the current 46 dollars per 1,000 cubic

metres.

Asked whether the gas deal with Ukraine could be reviewed, a possibility voiced by a number of Ukrainian politicians, Miller said, "I am sure that nobody in Ukraine wants to repeat the situation, when gas deliveries to Ukrainian consumers were halted due to the absence of contracts and agreements."—MNA/Xinhua



Filipinos frolic near polluted Manila Bay, Philippines to celebrate Easter and escape from the scorching summer heat on 16 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Malaysia to continue talks with Singapore on other pending issues

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 April— Though Malaysia has decided to stop work on the construction of a scenic bridge linking Singapore, it will continue to hold talks with Singapore on other pending issues of mutual interest, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said here.

The bridge was originally designed to replace the Johor Causeway linking the two countries.

Malaysia hopes to reach a consensus on bilateral issues with the city republic, but will not compromise on basic principles involving the interests of the country and the Malaysian people, Najib told reporters in Pahang State. He said that negotiations on other issues will go on with Singapore.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced Wednesday that Malaysia will cease work on the construction of the scenic bridge after taking into consideration the "voices and sentiments of the Malaysian people as a whole especially on the supply of sand and air space".

All negotiations with Singapore on the bridge issue will be halted, Badawi said in a statement released Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



An assistant chases a piglet along the track during the running event of the "pig Olympics" in Moscow on 16 April, 2006.

INTERNET

Earthquake felt in various parts of Taiwan

HONG KONG, 17 April — An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale struck Taitung County, eastern Taiwan, early Sunday morning, waking people up as far away as central

and southern Taiwan, the seismology centre of Taiwan's weather bureau reported.

According to a report reaching here from Taipei, the quake rattled eastern Taiwan for about 30

seconds at 6:40 am Sunday (2240 GMT, Saturday). Its epicentre was located at 19.9 kilometres northeast of Taitung at a depth of 11.7 kilometres beneath the surface of the sea, Taiwan seismologists

said.

No damage or injuries have been reported so far, although efforts are underway to check if the tremor caused any landslides or falling rocks.

As the quake occurred in a comparatively shallow area, it was felt in almost every area in eastern, central and southern parts of the island. The shock waves penetrated beneath the Central Mountain Range to reach even Penghu Island offshore the southern county of Kaohsiung.

The quake is the second with a magnitude greater than 6.0 to rattle the island in less than half a month.

Hong Kong Observatory Sunday morning put the magnitude of the quake at 5.8 on the Richter Scale.

MNA/Xinhua



Indonesia's special force soldiers perform with swords on Sunday, 16 April, 2006 during a rehearsal of a ceremony commemorating the 54th anniversary of the special force on 17 April in Jakarta, Indonesia. —INTERNET

Earthquake jolts seas south of Tokyo

HONG KONG, 17 April— An intense earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale shook the seas south of Honshu, Japan, on Sunday night, according to a bulletin issued by the Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicentre was initially determined by the Hong Kong Observatory to be at 30.2 degrees North Latitude and 138.5 degrees East Longitude, about 620 kilometres south of Tokyo, Japan's capital.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll rises to 20 in Colombian mudslides

BOGOTA, 17 April— Colombian rescuers on Saturday found another seven bodies in the latest large mudslides in the southwestern Valle del Cauca region, which has brought the death toll to 20.

The government rescue team confirmed that 36 people were injured in the disaster and 40 others were still missing, most of whom were buried under mud.

The number of missing remains high, said Disaster Prevention and Management head Eduardo Gonzalez, adding that the government "will not lose hope of finding them alive".—MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill eight, displace tens of thousands in Brazil

BRASILIA, 17 April — Eight people were killed and another 116,000 displaced after unusually heavy rains hit northern Brazil, the authorities said on Saturday. Officials have declared a state of emergency in some areas where tens of thousands of people have evacuated to avoid Amazon River tributaries that breached their banks.

Firefighters have distributed to 10,000 families food supplied by the federal government, but more food and drinking water are needed for at least another 8,000 families, officials said.

MNA/Xinhua

Boy scouts killed in Spanish bus crash

MADRID, 17 April— Four people, two of them boy scouts, were killed when a bus returning from a holiday camp overturned near the northern Spanish city of Oviedo late on Sunday, the Civil Guard police said.

"All I can tell you is that four people have died, two of them children, and the rest of the 33 people on board have injuries," a spokesman for the paramilitary Civil Guard said.

He could not say what had caused the accident.

Spanish news agency Efe said the busload of boy scouts was returning to Oviedo after a four-day camp and that there were 27 children and five monitors on board. — MNA/Reuters

Pagodas packed with devotees on Myanmar New Year Day



Shwedagon Pagoda packed with people on Myanmar New Year Day. — NLM

YANGON, 17 April—Today, being Myanmar New Year Day, famous pagodas here such as the Shwedagon, Sule, Botahtaung Kyaikde-up, Shwe Phone Pwint in Pazundaung, Thiri

Mingalar Kaba Aye, Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon, Chaukhtatgyi Shwethalyaung, Koehtatgyi, and Melamu in North Okkalapa, Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image and

Kyaikkasan were crowded with Buddhist devotees including monks.

Those at the pagodas performed meritorious deeds such as offering water, fruits, flowers and joss sticks, observing

morality (sila), taking Sabbath and practising insight meditations from dawn to evening.

Religious associations from different parts of Maha Yangon recited religious verses including the attributes of the Buddha at the pagodas while other devout people freed fish and other life and shampooed and bathed the aged.

Staff of the Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees' Office this afternoon collectively paid respects to old members of the board of trustees.

Pazundaung Township Peace and Development Council and the Township Union Solidarity and Development Association held a ceremony to pay respects to 45 older persons at the Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda this morning.

Likewise, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries this morning shared merits gained for their wholesome deeds performed at Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Bahan Township from Thingyan Akyo Day to Myanmar New Year Day.

Similarly, staff members of Myamar Motion Picture Enterprise under the Ministry of Information led by Acting Managing Director U Thein Tun Aung this morning offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha who recited parittas at MMPE's Head Office on Kokkaing Yeiktha Street in Bahan Township.

Similar religious ceremonies were held at different parts of Maha Yangon where the majority of Buddhists reside.

MNA



People paying homage to Maha Wizaya Pagoda. — MNA

The Sun sheds light on Buddha Image in reverence

YANGON, 17 April—It is only on this day in this particular month of the year that the Sun with one thousand rays of light performs an act of worship for the Buddha Image of the Maha Wizaya Pagoda. Today Myanmar New Year Day, it paid homage with its

light twice to the Nagasivara patapatima Buddha Image kept on the Aparajita Throne in the chamber of the pagoda on Dhammarakkhita Hill on Shwedagon Pagoda Road at 8.35 am and at 3.25 pm.

MNA



Staff of Ministry of Religious Affairs taking part in ceremony to release fish into the lake near Kaba Aye Maha Theindawgyi. — NLM



Senior General Than Shwe and party greet travellers who are taking highway buses in Kyaukpyu. —MNA

All national people to work for equitable development...

(from page 16)

New farms have emerged in many parts on both sides of the highway and the Yanbye island has seen economic op-

roomed the length and breadth of the nation.

Due to the network of roads and bridges, Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division,

reliable state for the nation if all strive for increasing rice per acre yield and production, extending rubber plantation and introducing new perennial and seasonal crops and developing the fish and prawn industry. They should effectively use the

infrastructures built by the government in various sectors. All will have to work hard if they wish to see national development.

Also present at the ceremony were members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than,

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Com-

mand Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, band troupes, dance troupes, teachers, students and local people.

The Commander said that regarding the transportation sector in Rakhine State, the length of the roads has increased from 448 miles in 1988 to over 970 miles in 2006. It is the over 530-mile long Sittway-An-Yangon Road that was opened first in the state. Although shipping and air routes were major means of transport from Rakhine State to other regions of the country in the past, there are now three major roads leading to Rakhine State — 535-mile long Yangon-An-Sittway Road, 407-mile long Yangon-Taungup-Kyaukpyu Road and 233-mile long Yangon-Ngatheingyaung-Gwa-Thandwe Road.

(See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe and party together with officials and local people pose for documentary photo after opening Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway. —MNA

portunities for entrepreneurs. The government has been implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special zones development project and the five rural development project for harmonious progress of all the regions of the nation.

The government has built 214 over 180 feet long new bridges including seven on Ayeyawady River, two on Chindwin River, five on Thanlwin River, and one on Sittoung River. Thanks to the government's leadership and efforts of Myanmar engineers roads have mush-

which in the past had to rely on water transport, have seen significant development in transport infrastructure. In addition to enhancing the economy and knowledge of the locals, good transport also further forges the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit.

Rakhine State is rich in natural resources, and has excellent seaports, flourishing aqua farming and fishing industry, a large number of cultural edifices and developing agricultural industry. Discovering of a new offshore gas deposit has enhanced its economic prospects. It will become a



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally open Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway. —MNA

All national people to work for equitable development...

(from page 8)

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, work on construction of Kyaukpyu-Taungup-Yangon Highway began in 2001 in parallel with the construction of over 180-ft long 10 bridges on the road. Of the 10 bridges, nine including Minkyaung Creek Bridge having been opened, Rakhine State could provide direct transportation to Yangon from Kyaukpyu and Yanbyeayun and thus the dream of local people has



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party inspect Minkyaung Creek Bridge. — MNA

country increased from 13,635 miles in 1988 to over 19,020 miles in 2006. So far, 180-foot and above long 194 bridges

Construction. In Rakhine State, a total of 34 bridges have been opened. Construction of Yangon-Kyaukpyu

is now under construction, and upon completion it will link the southern and northern parts of Rakhine State.

and above long on Yangon-Taungup-Maei-Kyaukpyu Road. At the start of the building of the bridge, fresh water had to

auspicious Myanmar New Year Day, I am very happy to see the completion of such a facility that will benefit the people of



Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann unveils the signboard of Minkyaung Creek Bridge—MNA



come true. Besides, the 413-mile long coastal highway linking Sittway and Gwa through An,

including Minkyaung Creek Bridge have been opened across the country by the Ministry of

Road began in 2002 and completed in 2005. Moreover, 45-mile long An-Padekyaw Road

Minkyaung Bridge opened along with the road is one of the ten bridges which are 180 feet

be fetched by boat from Kyaukpyu, 70 nautical miles from the project site. So, to get enough

Rakhine State. If more than 100 national races who have been living in perfect amity in the Un-

The people on their part are to cultivate the spirit of maintaining the perpetuity of the Union and ensuring the development of the State. If the people side by side with the government strive with diligence, our State will surely stand as a modern developed one.

Taungup and Thandwe has been constructed. Moreover, local residents are to make greater efforts for extended cultivation of paddy and perennial crops such as pepper, rubber, Thitseint and physic nut plants in the region. Besides, it is the responsibility of local people to maintain the valuable roads and bridges, he concluded. Afterwards, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun said the length of roads in the



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun
MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Yangon-Kyaukpyu road and Minkyaung Creek Bridge.—MNA

fresh water, two dams were also built. Next, U Aung Tin Thein, a native of Kyaukpyu Township expressed gratitude to the State for building the bridge. In his speech on the occasion, Senior General Than Shwe said: on this

ion work hard in unity our State will continue to develop in leaps and bounds. The most important thing is to have national unity and to work hard so as to ensure perpetuation of the Union. Only then will the nation develop. (See page 10)

All national people to work for equitable development...

(from page 9)

As Myanmar has been blessed with natural resources, the only thing for the people is to work together unitedly and harmoniously. So, all the national people are urged to cultivate the Union Spirit and to serve the interest of the whole

to cultivate the spirit of maintaining the perpetuity of the Union and ensuring the development of not only their native areas but the State. If the people side by side with the government are to strive with diligence, our State will surely stand as a modern developed one.



* * *
U Aung Tin Thein of Kyaukpyu Township speaks words of thanks.
 MNA
 * * *



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun cut the ribbon to open Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway. —MNA

Union. The government on its part as well as the people on their part are required to have Union Spirit. All should have equal opportunities without discrimination against each other. All the national people are to work for the equitable development of all the regions regardless of the regions and the races.

The people on their part are also urged

Afterwards, the opening ceremony of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road was held and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inaugurated Minkyaung Creek Bridge and General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the signboard of the bridge.

the signboard of the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road and sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inaugurated Minkyaung Creek Bridge and General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the signboard of the bridge.

The clearance of the bridge is 171 ft wide and 38 ft high. The iron

reinforced bridge can withstand 60 tons of load.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and party flew to Kyaukpyu to attend the opening ceremony of Yangon-

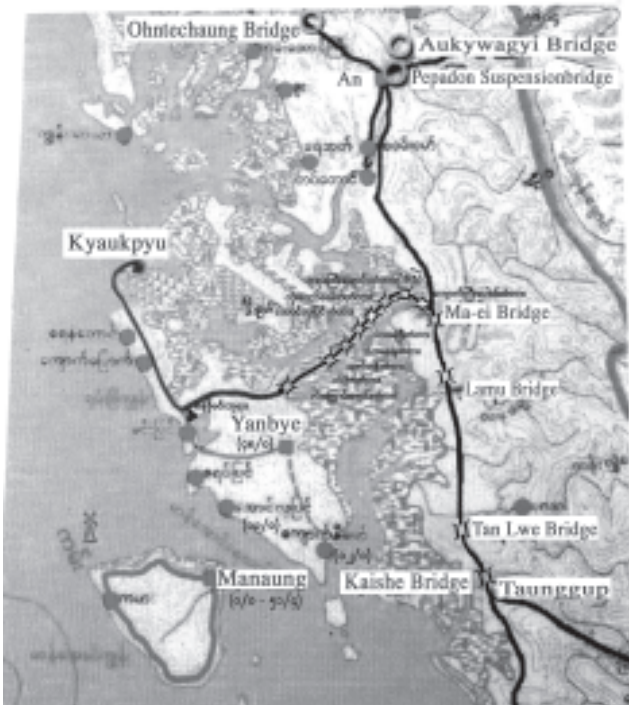
Kyaukpyu Road held in Kyaukpyu.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally

opened the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road and Senior General Than Shwe unveiled the signboard of the road and sprinkled scented water on the signboard.

MNA

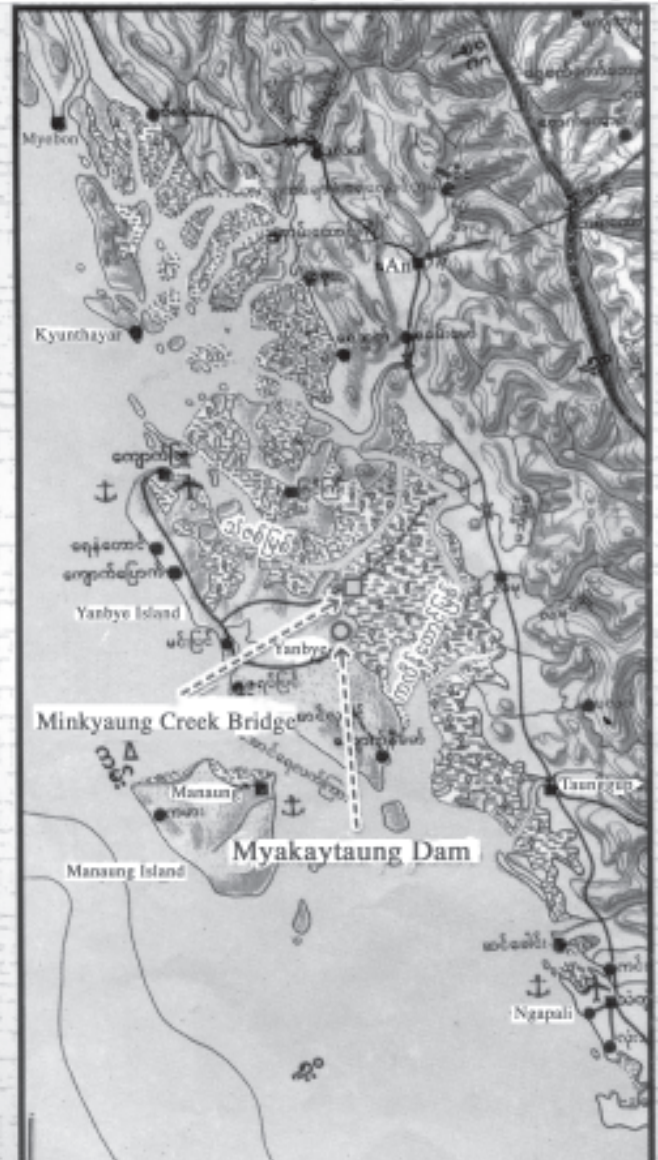
Map showing Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road



Reference

Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway (Ma-ci-Minkyaung- Kyaukpyu Section)

Location of Minkyaung Creek Bridge



Map showing the location of Minkyaung Creek Bridge.

Bird flu under control in Myanmar

LBVD issues reminder on regular flow of fowls and eggs and safe consumption

Myanmar has put avian influenza under control in bird flu-infected townships in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

Continued observation on disease control and detection is being conducted in the rest of poultry farms.

The LBVD also issued a reminder regarding regular flow of fowls and ducks and their eggs and quail eggs and safe consumption.

From the first week of March 2006 the bird flu occurred in Myanmar and it spread to 13 townships in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

The bird flu is now under control in those townships. Duration of the outbreak of the disease is between seven days and 20 days.

In bird flu-free townships, measures on transport of fowls and their eggs are to be taken with the support of the township livestock breeding and veterinary department and Bird Flu control Committee comprising

LBVD, Health Department, Development Affairs Committee and Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

In disease control townships arrangements are being made for transport, sale of chickens, ducks and quails with the permission of local authorities and safe consumption.

Regarding the rehabilitation, arrangements are to be made for raising of new fowls, training and holding talks on disease control.

The reminder also includes detailed instructions for breeders and producers, transport, buying and selling of fowls and fowl eggs and safe consumption.

**Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries**

ပြတိုက်တိုက်တွေးဆရာဝါပေးပြန်ပြောရေးဆောင်ရွက်ရန်အချက်များ
INSTRUCTION FOR THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

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လုပ်ရန်အား ခံယူရန်။ Don't do as follows :-
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Prevention of Avian Influenza to Human in suspected case
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Public awareness poster for the village level

Libya renews demand for compensation for 1986 raid

TRIPOLI, 17 April — Libya on Saturday marked the 20th anniversary of a US bombing raid that killed an estimated 40 people by renewing a demand that Washington apologize and pay compensation.

A statement by the official news agency JANA also repeated a call that relations between the two countries, now undergoing a gradual rapprochement after years of turmoil, be conducted on an equal footing and without violence.

Former US president Ronald Reagan ordered

the 1986 overnight airstrikes in response to a bombing of a West Berlin discotheque used by US servicemen that killed three people and wounded up to 200. Washington blamed the bombing on Libya.

"The Libyan people renewed their call for an apology," the statement

said of the raid, in which Libyan leader Moammar Kadaffi's 15-month-old adopted daughter Hanna was killed.

"The Libyan people reaffirm their right to compensation for the aggression from those who caused the killing of many women, children and elderly."—MNA/Reuters

Yemen charges 2 more men in al-Qaeda linked trial

SANAA, 17 April — Yemen charged two men on Saturday with helping an al-Qaeda-linked group on trial accused of planning attacks against US interests in the country.

The prosecution at the trial of the 17 suspects said the two Yemenis had "facilitated the entrance of the accused Saudis from Syria to Yemen".

Five Saudis are part of the group which is accused of acting on orders of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq.

In February, prosecutors said the

group had planned to carry out attacks to avenge the CIA killing of a top al-Qaeda operative with a drone in Yemen in 2002.

Yemen, the ancestral home of Saudi-born al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, joined the US-led war on terrorism after the 11 September attacks on the United States in 2001.

The impoverished country has cracked down on al-Qaeda-linked militants following attacks at home, but some ordinary Yemenis still support al-Qaeda's campaign against the West.

MNA/Reuters

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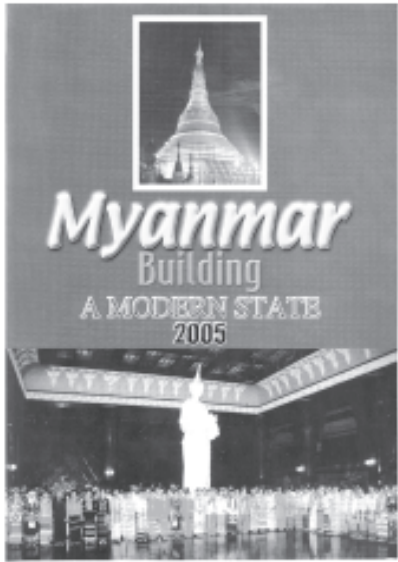
30 HK travellers injured in tour bus accident in Thailand

HONG KONG, 16 April—Thirty travellers from Hong Kong were reported to be injured in a tour bus accident in Thailand.

The report said that the accident occurred near the southern resort of Pattaya on Friday afternoon and involved a tour arranged by Hong Tai Travel.

Of the injured, 25 were treated and discharged, but five still remain in hospital.

MNA/Xinhua



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WTO chief blames big players for no trade deal

NAIROBI, 16 April—World Trade Organization head Pascal Lamy said on Friday the big players in four-year-old global trade talks were to blame for lack of a deal and called on African countries to put pressure on the heavy-weights.

But with an 30 April deadline for a deal looming, the big players--the United States, the European Union, Brazil, Japan and India -- blamed each other and turned to African ministers to press issues. The WTO's 149 members are supposed to strike a deal on farm and industrial goods but there is little sign of a breakthrough in the so-called Doha Round of talks that began in November 2001.

Lamy said the talks had made some progress since last year but called on the big players to make a greater effort.

"There remains a need for movement by the big players," Lamy told a conference of African Union trade ministers in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. "It is not that what is on the table is nothing, but it is not sufficient to reach an agreement."

MNA/Reuters



အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာအမြန်ချောပို့လုပ်ငန်း



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Chad demands \$100m from US-led oil consortium

N'DJAMENA, 17 April — Chad's oil minister said on Saturday he wanted a US-led oil consortium to pay at least 100 million US dollars by Tuesday to circumvent a World Bank freeze on oil profits or else crude production would be halted.

The World Bank has frozen oil profits from a pipeline in Chad saved in a London escrow account in a dispute over how the revenues are spent. The savings include royalties from the pipeline's operator, Exxon Mobil.

"We want at least 100 million US dollars paid (by the oil consortium) by Tuesday midday," Oil Minister Mahamat Nasser Hassan told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"We have asked Exxon Mobil, Petronas and Chevron to put the money directly in the state treasury account. If they do not agree by Tuesday midday, we will stop oil production," he

said. Exxon Mobil said it was talking to the government, consortium members and other relevant parties about the demand but declined to comment on whether it would pay the money.

The Central African country is in a state of heightened alert after rebels attacked the capital N'Djamena early on Thursday in the

boldest assault yet by insurgents who have vowed to end President Idriss Deby's nearly 16-year rule.

Deby has in the past said Chad needed the oil revenues to help bolster national security to face attacks from rebels and the spillover of the war in neighbouring Sudan's Darfur Region.

MNA/Reuters



Jason Schwenke glides above the sea floor of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off Key Largo as he hides eggs for an underwater Easter egg hunt on 14 April, 2006.—INTERNET

People watch a bull let loose on a street in the southern Spanish town of Vejer de la Frontera on Easter on 16 April, 2006. —INTERNET



Large group of ancient tombs excavated in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 16 April — Chinese archaeologists have conducted excavation on a total of 415 ancient tombs dating back to the dynasties of the Han (206 BC-AD 220), Tang (618-906), Song (960-1279) and Qing (1644-1911) in central China's Henan Province.

The tombs were found in the northeastern suburbs of Sanmenxia City. There are 196 tombs from the Han Dynasty, 66 from the Tang Dynasty, 10 from the Song Dynasty and 145 from the Qing Dynasty.

The archaeologists have unearthed some 1,421 pieces of historical relics from the tombs.

Most items unearthed are earthenware, bronze and iron articles such as coins, mirror, knife, sword, pot, cup and a variety of cooking vessels. According to epitaph, the owners of the Han tombs, aged from 40 to 50 years old, shared high social rank in the time.

In the Tang and Song tombs, archaeologists found abundant articles of pottery, china, bronze, silver, stone, tin and shell, such as china pot, bronze mirror, silver hairpin and coins.

In the Qing tombs, unearthed items include china jars, iron lamps and bronze coins.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi to join Cannes jury

BEIJING, 16 April — Chinese screen star Zhang Ziyi on Friday confirmed she is to be a judge at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

She had accepted an invitation to join the jury, but was still awaiting a formal announcement from the organizers, Zhang said while promoting the movie

"Jasmine Women" in Beijing on Friday.

"I'm anticipating taking up the post and it would be an honour," said Zhang, who most recently starred in "Memoirs of a

Geisha", adding she was unaware of the competing films and whether they included any Chinese productions.

Zhang said she wanted to use her international influence in creating more Chinese films.

Hong Kong director Wong Kar Wai will preside over the jury of the 59th film festival, which opens on May 17. It will be the first Cannes jury to include two Chinese. —MNA/Xinhua

Almost 90% of China's electronic exports come from foreign ventures

BEIJING, 16 April — China's Ministry of Information Industry (MII) said nearly 90 per cent of China's exported electronic products come from foreign ventures.

In the first two months of this year, exports of electronic products from foreign ventures in China reached 19.56 billion US dollars with a rise of 41.2 per cent year on year, accounting for 86.9 per cent of the industry's total exports, show statistics with MII. Foreign ventures in China's electronic information

industry reported a sales revenue of 408.53 billion yuan in the first two months with a year-on-year rise of 32.3 per cent.

They accounted for 80.9 per cent in the industry and their profits reached 13.02 billion yuan, accounting for 78.8 per cent of the total, according to MII statistics.

MNA/Xinhua



A lowland gorilla rests in a compound at the zoo in Antwerp Belgium on 15 April, 2006.

INTERNET

US star electrifies Libyans on raid anniversary

TRIPOLI, 16 April — With Moammar Kadaffi's home as a backdrop, US singer Lionel Ritchie jived and rocked for an adoring Libyan audience on Saturday in a concert to mark the 20th anniversary of a US raid on the North African country.

"Libya I love you, I'll be back," the Oscar and Grammy award-winning singer songwriter said to roars of approval from more than 1,000 senior Libyan officials and diplomats gathered in front of the shell-cratered building. He was followed by Spanish opera stars Jose Carreras and Ofelia

Sala who belted through a selection of classic favourites backed by 60-piece orchestra under a cloudless night sky.

Organizers said the music provided a deliberately upbeat commemoration of the 1986 raid, an event that marked one of the lowest points in the decades

Libya spent being seen as an outlaw state that supported terrorism.

US forces bombed Tripoli and Benghazi in the early hours of April 15, 1986. Then president Ronald Reagan said it was in retaliation for what he called Libyan complicity in the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin a

month earlier in which three people, including a US serviceman, were killed. Kadaffi's former home has been kept in its wrecked state to mark the overnight attack in which an estimated 40 people were killed including Kadaffi's adopted daughter Hanna.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Blackburn Rovers' Lucas Neill, right, tackles Liverpool's Djibril Cisse during their English Premier League soccer match at Ewood Park, Blackburn, England, on 16 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Nice end Rennes streak with last-gasp win

PARIS, 17 April—Nice ended Stade Rennes' winning streak in Ligue 1 on Sunday, registering a 2-1 home victory thanks to a goal from Jacques Abardonado deep into stoppage time.

Rennes, who had won eight league games in a row, are fourth in the table with 56 points and three matches left. They are two points behind Lille, who defeated second-placed Girondins Bordeaux 3-2 on Saturday to hand Olympique Lyon their fifth consecutive title.

Lyon visit Paris St. Germain later on Sunday.

The top two advance to the Champions League with the third-placed club entering the third qualifying round. The team finishing fourth goes into the UEFA Cup.

Nice, who take on Nancy in the League Cup final next weekend, are 10th on 49 points.

"It's sad for us but the season is not over," Rennes coach Laszlo Boloni told

reporters. Rennes travel to Olympique Marseille for a French Cup semifinal clash on Thursday.

Former Manchester United striker David Bellion outpaced the defence to put Nice in front after four minutes.

MNA/Reuters

Stuttgart rally to keep UEFA Cup hopes alive

BERLIN, 17 April—VfB Stuttgart came back from two goals down for a 3-3 draw against 10-man Hanover on Sunday that keeps alive their hopes of a UEFA Cup spot next season.

Denmark's Jon Dahl Tomasson tapped in a cross in the 82nd minute for the equalizer that leaves Stuttgart on 40 points, four behind fifth-placed Bayer Leverkusen and a direct place in European competition with four matches left.

Hanno Balitsch and Jiri Stajner scored first half goals for Hanover

before their captain Altin Lala was sent off with his second yellow card in the 37th minute.

Stuttgart's Danijel Ljuboja pulled one back early in the second half before Germany defender Per Mertesacker beat two defenders to restore Hanover's two-goal lead with a memorable header.

However, Germany midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger brought Stuttgart back into the game with the first goal of his Bundesliga career in the 77th minute.

In Sunday's other match, Nuremberg beat Kaiserslautern 3-2 thanks to two goals from Robert Vittek.

MNA/Reuters



Dallas Mavericks centre Erick Dampier (25) dunks between Utah Jazz guard Andrei Kirilenko, left, of Russia, and centre Jarron Collins in the first half of their basketball game on 16 April, 2006, in Dallas.—INTERNET

Valencia crank up pressure on Real by routing Espanyol

MADRID, 17 April—Valencia opened a two-point lead over Real Madrid in the battle for the Primera Liga runners-up spot when they crushed King's Cup winners Espanyol 4-0 and Real were held to a 1-1 draw at Getafe.

A first-half penalty from leading scorer David Villa, second-half headers from Argentine centre-back Roberto Ayala and substitute Mista and a late strike from Ruben Baraja earned Valencia their comfortable victory at the Mestalla.

A ragged-looking Real took the lead against a dominant Getafe thanks to a disputed strike from Brazilian forward Julio Baptista, but the home side grabbed a deserved point when defender Manuel Tena headed in seven minutes from time.

The results mean that Barcelona will have a chance of retain-

ing their league title next week if they can win their match at Sevilla and Valencia slip up at Athletic Bilbao.

The Catalans went a step closer to the championship with a 1-0 victory over Villarreal on Friday, leading striker Samuel Eto'o notching his 24th goal of the season with his 11th-minute winner.

With five games left Barca have 73 points, 11 ahead of Valencia and 13 clear of Real.

Fourth-placed Osasuna are a point behind Real after their 1-1 draw with basement side Malaga.

MNA/Reuters

Balaban strike keeps Bruges 3rd in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 17 April—A first half strike from Croatian striker Bosko Balaban earned Club Bruges a 1-0 win at home to La Louviere on Sunday and kept the Belgian champions on course for a UEFA Cup spot.

Balaban's 42nd-minute goal kept Bruges in third place in the Belgian First Division and three points ahead of their nearest challengers, Ghent, who were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Charleroi on Saturday.

Racing Genk remained in the hunt for third place and European football next term with a 1-0 win over Lierse. With three games remaining, Bruges have 57

points, Ghent are on 54 and Genk a point further back on 53.

The top two teams get Champions League places, the runners-up going into the third qualifying round, while the team finishing third enter the UEFA Cup second qualifying round. The Cup winners go straight into the UEFA Cup first round.

MNA/Reuters



Aston Villa's Gary Cahill, third right, scores against Birmingham City during the English Premiership soccer match at Villa Park, Birmingham, England, on 16 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Baros double leaves Birmingham in drop zone

LONDON, 17 April—Birmingham City's hopes of avoiding relegation nosedived after two-goal Czech striker Milan Baros led Aston Villa to a 3-1 victory over their city rivals on Sunday.

Villa, who also beat Steve Bruce's side earlier this season, secured their first Premier League double over their neighbours to leave third from bottom Birmingham firmly anchored in the drop zone.

Birmingham, who have 29 points from 34 games, are three points behind Portsmouth with only four matches remaining. The bottom three go down. Villa made a good start to the 113th second-city derby when the unmarked Baros pounced on a right-wing cross from Aaron Hughes to fire the ball past goalkeeper Maik Taylor from eight metres.

Birmingham, who had not lost in the league at Villa Park since 1983, equalized 15 minutes later when Emile Heskey nodded the ball on for Chris Sutton to drive the ball low into the net with his left-foot from 12 metres. Villa regained the lead in the 56th minute, 20-year-old defender Gary Cahill grabbing his first goal in his third league appearance with a spectacular overhead kick.—MNA/Reuters

Fish in final as Haas retires in Houston

HOUSTON, 17 April—American wild card Mardy Fish advanced to the final of the US Clay Court Championships on Saturday after fifth seed Tommy Haas was forced to retire from their semifinal with an injured wrist.

Trailing 4-1 in the opening set, German Haas walked over to the chair umpire during a changeover and said he could not continue because of a painful right wrist.

Haas, who disposed of three-time champion and top seed Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals, has recorded two wins already this season at Delray Beach and Memphis.

"At the beginning of the match against Andy (Roddick) I felt a little tightness in there," Haas, the 2004 US Clay Court winner, told the ATP's Website. "But it totally went away, so I didn't think about it much.

"Then sure enough this morning, it was pretty tight again and didn't go away unfortunately throughout the day.

"I'm having trouble just holding the racquet. I'm a guy who holds it a little tighter than others sometimes."

Fish, who took the silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, will meet Jurgen Melzer in Sunday's final, the Austrian advancing with a 6-3, 6-4 win over seventh seeded American Paul Goldstein.

After semifinal losses on the Houston clay last year to Roddick and in 2003 to Andre Agassi, Melzer brushed past Goldstein in 70 minutes.—MNA/Reuters



Nadia Petrova, of Russia, raises her trophy after her 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 victory over Patty Schnyder, of Switzerland, during the finals of the Family Circle Cup Tennis tournament, on 16 April, 2006, at the Family Circle Tennis Centre in Charleston, S.C.—INTERNET

Rumsfeld under renewed attack

WASHINGTON, 17 April — Senior Democrats sought to raise the heat on embattled Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Sunday as Republicans and the Pentagon came together to defend him and the way he has conducted the war in Iraq.

The battle of words over Rumsfeld, his relations with military leaders and the Iraq war followed unusual public calls in the past week for his resignation from six retired generals, which prompted a rebuke from the Pentagon.

"My view is that the secretary should step aside," New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, a potential Democratic

presidential candidate, told CBS's "Face the Nation" programme. "Besides the fact that the Iraq war has been mismanaged ... we should listen to what these generals are saying."

Those urging Rumsfeld to step down include Major-General John Batiste, who commanded the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq, and Major-General Charles Swannack, who

led the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq, and former NATO Commander General Wesley Clark.

"These are six distinguished military officers," Richardson said. "They basically are saying that Secretary Rumsfeld, on issues relating to military strategy ... didn't listen to them."

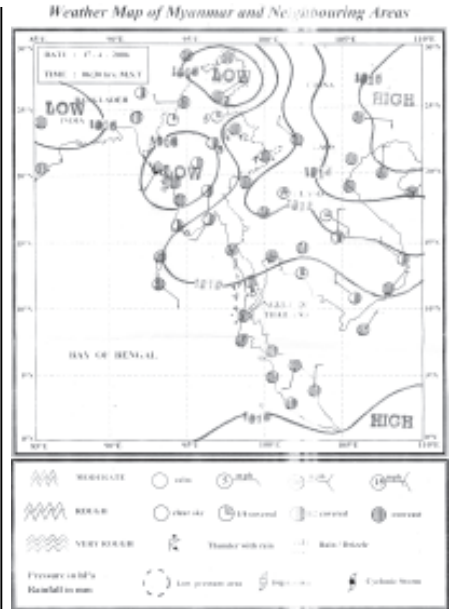
This reaches a new

level ... of not being willing to admit mistakes, not being willing to change a course, policy that is just not working."

Kentucky Republican Senator Mitch McConnell, speaking on "Fox News Sunday", said the United States had "wiped out a lot of the people who would do us harm" during Rumsfeld's tenure.

"I think the important thing to remember here is that we haven't been attacked again at home since September of 2001," McConnell said.

MNA/Reuters



An apple with coins inserted hangs on a rope while a young girl tries to grab a coin from it, as part of a game for children during the Catholic festivities of Resurrection Sunday in Caracas, on 16 April, 2006. The children keep the coins they capture as a prize. — INTERNET

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 18 April
View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အဖွဲ့တော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဝရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓောတိတ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိပိဏ္ဍသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:15 am</p> <p>2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တံပါဠိတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>3. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>4. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>5. Nice and sweet song</p>	<p>7:50 am</p> <p>6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>8. Song of yesteryears</p> <p>8:15 am</p> <p>9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:25 am</p> <p>10. ရေလှောင်တစ် ရံ့ဖွယ်</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>11. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>12. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညှာရေး ရုပ်ပြိုင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (ရွာဆေးအထူးပြု) (ရွာဓမ္မာ)</p> <p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. Dance of national races</p> <p>5:15 pm</p> <p>6. ခံစားနားဆင် တေးဇာတိဝင်</p>	<p>5:25 pm</p> <p>7. "တန်ခိုး" (ညီညီအနီနီ၊ ယွိုင်ဖြူထွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>8. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>9. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>10. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>11. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>6:50 pm</p> <p>12. သားငါးစုံ ဖြူပြည့်အကျိုး</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>13. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:15 pm</p> <p>14. The mirror images of the musical oldies</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>15. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:45 pm</p> <p>16. မြန်မာ့စွယ်စုံဆယ်မျိုး (ဝန်းထိမ်)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>17. News</p> <p>18. International news</p> <p>19. Weather report</p> <p>20. Teleplay</p> <p>"မြန်မာ့နှစ်ဦး လတန်ခိုး" (ကျော်သူ၊ ဓမ္မာညာဦး၊ ဝန်းဖြူ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နှင်းစိုး)</p> <p>21. The next day's programme</p>
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Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 18 April
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:
-Take your chance... Fun Factory

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:
-Obsession... Fem 2 Fem

8:50 am National news & Slogan

9:00 am Music:
-Love is all around... Exit

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:
-Queen of your fantasy... Sound of Seduction

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Close to you...
-Broken hearted women... Jessica Jay
-Killing me softly... Kenny G
-When will I see you again... Three degree

9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level () Unit ()

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Weekly sport reel

9:30 pm Music for your listening pleasure
-For you I will... Monica
-Will be yours... Boyzone
-Because of you... 98°
-To love you more... Celine Dion

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

WEATHER

Monday, 17 April, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan State, scattered in Kachin, Chin and Mon States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and isolated in Taninthayi Division, Kayah and Kayin States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division, Kachin and Chin States and (6°C) below normal in Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Mawlaik and Aunglan (42°C) each, Kalewa, Mandalay, Monywa and Myingyan (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (0.79) inch, Pinlaung (0.75) inch, Namhsan (0.63) inch, Lashio (0.48) inch, Kanbalu (0.39) inch and Mandalay (0.35) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-4-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 17-4-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-4-2006 was (71%). Total sunshine hours on 16-4-2006 was (7.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (13) mph from South-west at (16:30) hours MST on 16-4-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-4-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 18-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%)

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%)



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe unveils the signboard of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway. — MNA

All national people to work for equitable development of all regions regardless of regions and races

(from page 1)
 The government spent a large amount of cash on building Yangon-Sittway and Yangon-Kyaukpyu highways to ensure smooth transport, open more economic and trade opportunities, and extend social infrastructures for the local people. Building roads and bridges to link Yangon

and Sittway as well as Yangon and Kyaukpyu through Yanbye was only a dream in the past. Thanks to the goodwill and vision of the Head of State, locals from Yanbye island can now travel by car to every part of the nation including Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway is linked with Bago,

Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay divisions through Taungup pass and with Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions through Gwa-Ngathaing-chaung pass. Thus, it has become part of Nay Pyi Taw-Magway-Kyauk-pyu, Toungoo-Pyay-Kyaukpyu and Pathein-Kyaukpyu roads.

Yangon-Kyauk-

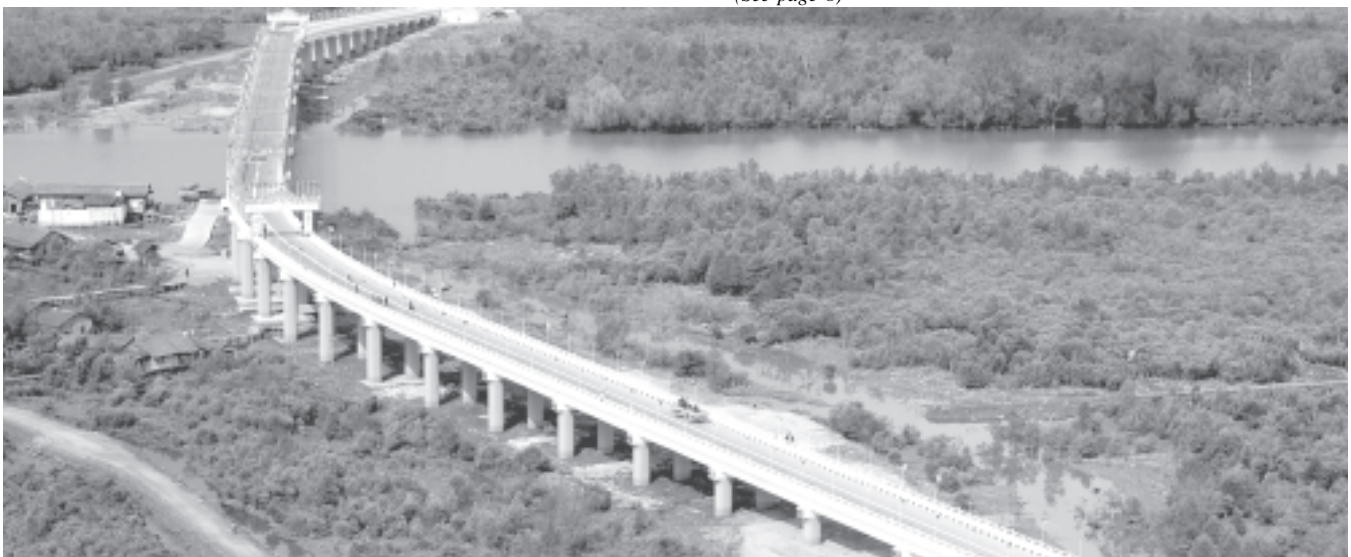
pyu Highway has become the main road link for Kyaukpyu and Yanbye and 480 villages on Yanbye island where over 300,000 people live to travel other parts of the country. In the past the people on the island had to rely on water transport. Northern and southern parts of Rakhine State have been linked through the 45-mile Maei-An road. The day marked the opening of not only a Union Highway, but also a Rakhine coastal highway and the belt road reaching other states.

Thanks to the new roads, the An pass, the Taungup pass and the Gwa pass have become the reliable gateways to Rakhine State.
 (See page 8)

Minkyaung Creek Bridge built by Bridge Construction Special Group-11 of the Public Works in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

- * Length—2,704.2 feet
- * Width of the motor way—24 feet
- * Pedestrian lane on both sides—3 feet wide
- * Clearance of the bridge—171 feet wide and 38 feet high
- * The reinforced concrete bridge can withstand 60 tons of load.

All the national people are to cultivate Union Spirit and to serve the interest of the whole Union. The government on its part as well as the people on their part are required to have Union Spirit.



Aerial views of Minkyaung Creek Bridge in Rakhine State.—MNA