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Friday, 1 April 2005



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win bids farewell to Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong at the airport.
MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win bids farewell to Singaporean counterpart

YANGON, 31 March — The goodwill delegation led by Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, who arrived here to pay a goodwill visit, left by air this morning.

The visiting Singaporean Prime Minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Com-

mander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr T Jasudasen and embassy staff, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Hla Than, Director-General of the Political Department U Thaug Tun, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

People can now shape in mind the future Myanmar that is exercising genuine discipline-flourishing democracy National Convention adjourns till end of year 2005

YANGON, 31 March — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered concluding address at the plenary session of the National Convention at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan

The Government's positive endeavours for the nation will go down in the annals of history. But there are external and internal saboteurs resorting to destructive means with selfishness, instead of taking part in the national developments with pleasure and honour. The 54 million people of Myanmar disgusting the destructive acts of the saboteurs will crush them.

and members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, officials, representatives of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East)

(See page 16)



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers concluding address at the plenary session of National Convention. — MNA



The plenary session of National Convention at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 1 April, 2005

Earn more foreign exchange through increased sale of gems

As the Union of Myanmar is rich in natural resources, the government has been striving for the economic development of the nation through systematic and effective use of the nation's terrestrial and aquatic resources.

The Union of Myanmar is also the source of precious stones. Therefore, special efforts are being made for the emergence of a stable gems market in the nation. As measures have been taken to produce and sell precious stones in accordance with the market-oriented economic system having introduced since 1988, national entrepreneurs are now able to produce and sell gems. As a result, production of gems has been on the increase.

At first, gems were sold to local and foreign gems merchants in March and October every year. But now, steps have been taken so that auctions can be held in June and July also. Many gems merchants from abroad usually attend Myanmar Gems Emporiums. Most of the foreign merchants are from China and Thailand. Those from Japan, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, Indonesia, India and Canada also visit the emporiums and purchase gems. Therefore, a lot of foreign exchange is fetched through the sales of gems.

The 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium sponsored by Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee under the Ministry of Mines was opened at Myanmar Gems Mart in Yangon on 30 March. On display at the emporium are finished jade products and jewellery and jade carvings and pearl of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and lots of imperial jade, commercial jade and utility jade of private gems merchants.

Up to 31 March, 743 merchants of 258 companies from 10 nations and 401 gems merchants of 217 local companies are now attending the 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium.

The quality of jade, gems and pearls at the current emporium is better than that of previous emporiums. Therefore, merchants at home and abroad are more interested in this emporium.

We believe that the nation will be able to earn more foreign exchange by selling gems in accordance with the market-oriented economic system.

Protected reserved forests looked into

YANGON, 31 March — Arid Zone Greening Department Director-General U Tun Tun of the Ministry of Forestry, accompanied by the Assistant Director and staff officer of NyaungU District, Mandalay Division, on 29 March made an inspection tour of 250 acres of Kuaunku public reserved forest and cultivation of five acres of castor oil plant; 444.35 acres, village firewood plantation set up in 2003-2004 in Myaythintwin; cultivation of 74.59 acres of reserved forest plantation and 412.74 acres of village firewood plantation to be grown in 2005-2006; land preparation of 677.77 acres of reserved forest plantation; land preparation to cultivate 815 acres of plantation in Ngalinpoke reserved forest; plantations to be set up for nurseries, measures to build roads. On the following day, the director-general together with the assistant director of Magway District, Magway Division and officials inspected Shwepontang neem tree plantation and land preparation to cultivate 258 acres of plantation in 2005-2006, watering of old plantations, river water pumping services and the digging of ponds.

In meeting with officials concerned, the director-general gave necessary instructions. — MNA

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

Chinese goodwill delegation arrives

YANGON, 31 March — At the invitation of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, a 6-member goodwill delegation led by Advisor to CAFIU of China Mr Cai Wu arrived at Yangon International Airport by air this morning.

They were welcomed at the airport by USDA Central Executive Committee member Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and officials. — MNA

Mr Cai Wu and party on arrival at the airport.

MNA



1,144 foreign, local merchants arrive at 42nd MGE

YANGON, 31 March — A total of 1,144 local and foreign merchants— 743 gem merchants of 258 companies from 10 foreign countries and 401 local merchants of 217 companies — arrived at the 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium being held at

Myanmar Gems Mart, organized by Central Committee for Holding the Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Gem merchants observed gems and jade displayed at the Myanmar Gems Emporium with keen interest. More gem merchants will arrive at the emporium on 1 April. Local and foreign merchants observed lots of gems on 30, 31 March and 1 April.

Lots of jade will be sold through tender system and competitive bidding on 2, 3 and 4 April; lots of gems, through tender bidding and competitive system on 5 and 6 April and lots of pearl, through tender system and competitive bidding on 7 April.

MNA



Local and foreign gems merchants observe lots of cut jade. — MNA

Golf tourney to mark 10th anniversary of Ruby Dragon and Kyauk Seinn Nagar Co Ltd held



YANGON, 31 March — The golf tourney to mark the 10th anniversary of Ruby Dragon Jade and Genis Co Ltd and Kyauk Seinn Nagar Genis Co Ltd was held at Silvery Golf Resort yesterday morning.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Ruby Dragon Jade and Genis Co Ltd and Kyauk Seinn Nagar Genis Co Ltd Chairman U Nay Win Tun and officials formally opened the tourney by teeing off the golf balls.

In the evening, the prize presentation ceremony was held at the golf resort. Chairman U Nay Win Tun and Director U Zaw Weik presented first, second and third prizes to the winners in the women's event. Members of the Board of Directors gave prizes to winners in the bronze and silver classes. Next, Chairman U Nay Win Tun awarded first, second and third prizes to Than Tun, Myo Naing (Lashio) and Aung Zaw respectively in the gold class.

Officials presented most par, most birdie, nearest pin and longest drive prizes to the winners.

MNA



A contestant addresses the ball at the tourney. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



Singapore's Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng (L) examines the world's smallest C-Band VSAT satellite phone at the Global Security Asia 2005 conference and exhibition in Singapore on 30 March 2005.—INTERNET

Singapore stresses int'l cooperation for homeland security

SINGAPORE, 30 March — Singapore on Tuesday urged governments concerned to forge strong partnerships in strengthening homeland security and fighting against transnational terrorism.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Global Security Asia 2005 Exhibition and Conference here, Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng stressed the sharing of homeland security technologies.

"Strategic partnerships in homeland security technology development can enable coun-

tries to leverage on the cumulative know-how and complementary strengths of others to shorten their learning curve and accelerate capability development," Wong said.

He advocated in particular that countries adopt biometric passports to restrict terrorist mobility, and that common stand-

ards for such high-tech travel documents be established as soon as possible.

Calling anti-terrorism a long-term and complex task, Wong said that governments should collaborate with the private sector in this regard so as to benefit from their creativity and productivity.

Themed "Homeland Security Partnerships for a better future," the three-day event is the first of its kind in the Asia Pacific Region, which focuses exclusively on all facets of homeland security and asymmetric defence.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to boost exports to China

HANOI, 30, March — Vietnam, from 2005 to 2010, will keep on exporting products which are favoured by China, according to local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* on Monday.

To reap export revenue to the market of 3 billion US dollars in 2005 and 5.5 billion US dollars in 2010, Vietnam will maintain strong export of such key items as crude oil, coal, rubber and cashew nuts to China, approach major Chinese suppliers, processors and distributors of farm produce and seafood, and set up long-term sales networks in big urban areas and showrooms in such cities of Kunming, Nanning, Guangzhou and Shanghai, it said.

Vietnamese companies will export more fruits and vegetables to China from next year when tariffs on most of farm produces drop to zero per cent. Other agricultural products to be exported to the market will also bring the firms bigger turnovers. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia targets more arrivals from China

JAKARTA, 30 March — The Indonesian government has targeted more tourist arrivals from China in its efforts to achieve the targeted foreign exchange revenue of 6 billion US dollars this year, a minister said recently.

"We seek a threefold increase in tourist arrivals from China," Minister of



Chinese Vice President meets Norway FM

BELJING, 30 March — Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong met with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Petersen here recently, vowing to further advance bilateral ties between the two countries.

"Generally, Sino-Norwegian ties have progressed smoothly since we forged diplomatic ties more than half a century ago," Zeng told Petersen at the Great Hall of the People. One of the first Western countries to do so, Norway recognized the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1954, about five years after PRC's establishment.

"Sino-Norwegian relations are developing in all sectors and our cooperation in economics, science and technology and culture keeps deepening," Zeng said, conveying his congratulations at the

100th anniversary of Norway's independence.

China appreciates the Norwegian Government's adherence to the one-China policy, Zeng acknowledged. And his country will, along with Norway, exert more efforts to push forward the two countries' relations in a stable and sound manner.

Petersen said that Norway-China ties were currently developing soundly with an frequent exchange of high-level visits, soaring trade and fruitful cooperation in other fields such as science, technology and other spheres.

Norway will go on

firmly adhering to the one-China policy and hopes to increase high-level visits and mutual political trust and stimulating cooperation in all fields so as to further increase its mutually beneficial, friendly and cooperative ties with China.

Petersen was here for a five-day official visit to China, which started Sunday as guest of his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing. Besides Beijing, Petersen is scheduled to travel to the economic and business hub of Shanghai in east China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR). — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Minister to visit Pakistan for energy talks

NEW DELHI, 30 March — Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar is expected to visit Islamabad in May at the invitation of Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to discuss, among other things, the import of natural gas from Iran via Pakistan.

"I received a specific invitation to visit Pakistan over the Holi weekend (26 March) and meet with the Prime Minister. Since I need several days in Pakistan, I hope to un-

dertake the visit in the second week of May," Aiyar told reporters, ahead of his three-day visit to Saudi Arabia from Monday.

The visit would be held in the backdrop of a

scheduled meeting of the technical committee on the Iran-India pipeline in April and the Petroleum Minister's own trip to Teheran later in June.

Aiyar, a former diplomat, has served as consul-general in Karachi in the 1980s.

New Delhi proposes to import gas from Iran through a 4.5-billion-US-dollar pipeline, linking Iran's South Pars gas field with India via southwest Pakistan. Options are also being examined for similar pipelines from Turkmenistan and Qatar.

MNA/Xinhua

Tourism and Culture Jero Wacik told reporters shortly after a meeting with Vice President Jusuf Kalla here.

He said Chinese tourists are given priority because "they love shopping and eating."

Besides China, the government also targeted to double arrivals from

India and countries in the Middle East.

According to Wacik, tourist arrivals from China, India and Middle East countries are recorded at 80,000, 30,000 and 34,000, respectively.

In total, foreign tourist arrivals are set at 6 million this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Al-Jazeera shows tape of Romanian journalists kidnapped in Iraq

DUBAI, 31 March — Three Romanian journalists and another individual taken hostage by an unidentified group in Iraq were shown on Wednesday on a video broadcast by the Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera.

Two hooded men were seen pointing their weapons at the four visibly scared hostages, who were seated on the ground against the backdrop of a floral carpet.

The tape was the first apparent confirmation that the three Romanians were abducted, after the authorities in Bucharest initially declined to confirm that they were victims of a kidnapping.

Marie-Jeanne Ion, 32, a reporter for Prima TV, her cameraman Sorin Miscoci, 30, and Ovidiu Ohanesian, 37,

of the Romania Libera newspaper were reported missing by the Romanian Foreign Ministry earlier this week.

The channel said that the three journalists identified themselves one-by-one on the tape, adding that the kidnappers had not made clear any demands to free their captives.

"An armed group, which did not identify itself, announced that it was holding three Romanian journalists hostage as well as a fourth person who was accompanying them," it said.

Internet



US soldiers secure the site of a car bomb along the highway leading west out of Baghdad towards Abu Ghraib on 31 March 2005.—INTERNET

Chinese Vice-Premier meets Canadian guest

BEIJING, 30 March — The Chinese government attaches great concern to safeguarding and promoting people's health, and is willing to join hands with Canada to ensure the health of the two nations, said Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi here recently.

In a meeting with Canadian Minister of Health Ujjal Dosanjh, Wu said China is dedicated to solving public health problems by strengthening reform and facilitating development. As the developing country with the largest population in the world, China's efforts to invigorate its public health sector will not only benefit 1.3 billion Chinese, but also make a large contribution to the cause of world health.

Wu also praised Canada's adherence to the

one-China policy within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO), stressing that the Chinese Government is also concerned about the health

and welfare of the people in Taiwan. Dosanjh said Canada vows to continue to cooperate with China on challenges in the public health sector.

MNA/Xinhua

India announces relief assistance for Indonesia

NEW DELHI, 30 March — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday released 2 million US dollars as relief assistance to Indonesia in the wake of Monday night's earthquake that is estimated to have claimed up to 2,000 lives.

The Prime Minister's decision was announced to reporters by his media advisor Sanjaya Baru.

MNA/Xinhua

China says UN reform should consider African countries

BEIJING, 30 March — United Nations (UN) reform should take into consideration developing countries, especially African countries, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Tuesday.

The summit of world leaders for UN reform to take place in September should pay close attention to developing countries, particularly development-related issues for African countries such as poverty, diseases and fund shortage, Liu told reporters at a regular Press conference.

Liu made the remark when asked to comment on the decision adopted by the African Union (AU) Executive Council to demand no less than two permanent seats in the UN reform summit. The decision was made by the Executive Council's 7th extraordinary session from

7 to 8 March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

China is in favour of enhancing the UN's role and authority through necessary and reasonable UN reform, said Liu. Reform should take into account suggestions from various sides and address their concerns. Meanwhile, the AU's position should be valued and taken into consideration.

There is no world peace or development without stability and prosperity in Africa, Liu said. Africa is the largest continent with the most developing countries, and China hopes the African

countries could play bigger role in every UN organization, including the Security Council, Liu said.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore Airlines to increase flights to Beijing

SINGAPORE, 30 March — Singapore Airlines (SIA) will increase one flight between Singapore and Beijing everyday from 1 June this year, announced the carrier recently.

This will add another 288 seats to SIA's present twice-daily flights, representing an increase



Chinese investors monitor share prices on an index board at a securities company in Shanghai on 30 March 2005.—INTERNET

China to publish monthly information on South Asia

KUNMING, 30 March — China published a Chinese newspaper appendix on South Asian information in its border Yunnan Province recently.

"Yunnan, China — South Asia" monthly, affiliated with Yunnan Daily, the local state-owned newspaper, published news and information about

exchanges between Yunnan and South Asian countries in trade, culture and education, according to Yunnan Foreign Publicity Office.

"The appendix opens up a window of knowing each other across the border," said Wang Guotai, an official of China State Council Information Office.

The Embassies of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan sent congratulatory letters to the newsroom Monday.

Bangladesh ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman said the timely extra appendix can play an important role in overcoming the information obstacles between Bangladesh and China.

"We believe the large sum of Indian information provided for Chinese readers by Yunnan Daily will highly facilitate exchange and communication between China and India," said the letter from the Indian Embassy.

The trade volume between Yunnan and India reached a record 100 million US dollars in 2004, more than a 100-per-cent increase over 2003. The rate of growth in trade between China and Bangladesh was 23 per cent in 2004.

The mother newspaper had previously published a Yunnan, China—ASEAN weekly.

MNA/Xinhua

One US citizen kidnapped in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 30 March — A US citizen was kidnapped in Iraq on Monday along with three Romanian journalists, the State Department said on Wednesday.

"We can confirm that an American citizen was taken along with the three Romanian journalists kidnapped in Iraq on Monday," said State Department spokesman Steve Pike.

The three Romanians were shown in a video broadcast by Arabic satellite television Al Jazeera on Wednesday. Pike said so far he could not provide more information.—Internet

Children 'starving' in new Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 March — More and more children in Iraq do not have enough food to eat.

Increasing numbers of children in Iraq do not have enough food to eat and more than a quarter are chronically undernourished, a UN report says.

Malnutrition rates in children under five have almost doubled since the US-led intervention - to nearly 8% by the end of last year, it says.

The report was prepared for the annual meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

It also expressed

concern over North Korea and Sudan's Darfur province.

UN specialist on hunger Jean Ziegler, who prepared the report, blames the worsening situation in Iraq on the war led by coalition forces.

The silent daily massacre by hunger is a form of murder. It must be battled and eliminated

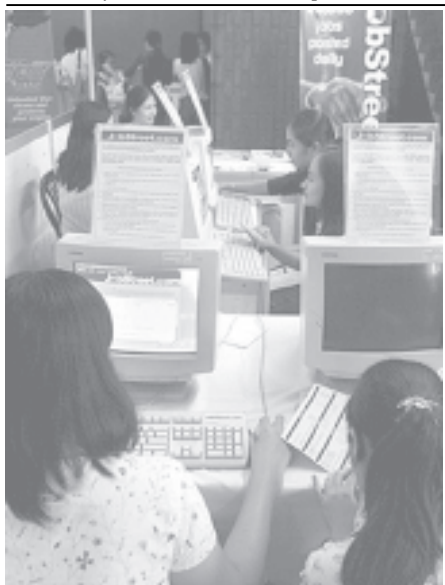
He was addressing a meeting of the 53-nation commission, the top UN rights watchdog, which is halfway through its annual

six-week session.

When Saddam Hussein was overthrown, about 4% of Iraqi children under five were going hungry; now that figure has almost doubled to 8%, his report says.

Governments must recognise their extra-territorial obligations towards the right to food and should not do anything that might undermine access to it of people living outside their borders, it says.

Internet



Students of the University of the Philippines in Manila surfing on the Internet recently.—INTERNET

Commissioner's office urges US to stop intervening in HK affairs

HONG KONG, 30 March — A spokesman for the Office of the Commissioner of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the People's Republic of China in Hong Kong on Tuesday urged the US Government to immediately stop intervention in China's internal affairs and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) affairs.

He made the remarks in response to the US State Department's so called "Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The US Record 2004- 2005" released on 28 March (local time).

He said the US report once again bears contents that intervene in China's internal affairs and HKSAR affairs, and expressed discontent and opposition to what the US acts. — MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese model shows off the latest make up during a make up and professional design show in Beijing on 30 March, 2005. The show was part of China Fashion week which started last Friday. — INTERNET

Chinese FM holds talks with Norwegian counterpart

BEIJING, 30 March — China appreciates the Norwegian Government's long-lived support of the one-China policy, and is willing to expand cooperation with Norway in various fields, said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here recently when holding talks with Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Petersen.

Current China-Norway relations are good, with mutually beneficial cooperation and exchanges in economic trade, culture, education, and science and technology, Li told Petersen, who came to China at the invitation of Li on Sunday.

"China is willing to

keep close exchanges and consultations with Norway on international affairs on the basis of mutual respect, so as to push forward the healthy and stable development of China-Norway relations," said Li.

Petersen agreed with Li's comment on bilateral relations, reiterating that

Norway will continue to stick by the one-China policy.

The Norwegian Government attaches great importance to relations with China, and is willing to enhance cooperation with China in economic trade, environmental protection and tourism, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to invest 1,300b yuan in environmental protection

BEIJING, 30 March — China's investment in environmental protection is expected to reach 1,300 billion yuan during the 11th Five-Year (2006-2010) plan period in line with the country's rapid economic growth, an official at the State Environmental Protection Administration said here on Tuesday.

The investment will account for 1.4 to 1.5 per cent of China's GDP, said Chen Bin, Deputy Director of the Administration's Financial Department, during an international seminar on investing in and financing for environ-

mental protection in China, which opened here on Tuesday.

Chen said the Chinese Government pays great attention to environmental protection and lists the issue a top priority. The country's investment in the

sector stood at 47.6 billion yuan during the seventh Five-Year (1986-1990) plan period and is expected to exceed 700 billion yuan during the tenth Five-Year plan (2001-2005) period, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia confirms second human case of avian influenza

PHNOM PENH, 30 March — Cambodia and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday confirmed the country's second man died of avian influenza.

In a joint statement, Cambodia's Ministry of Health and the WHO confirmed that the 28-year-old man, from Kampot Province, died of H5 virus.

It said that the man, died on 22 March, developed symptoms of bird flu on 17 March and was hospitalized in Phnom Penh on 21 March. The laboratory tests, on the same day, by the Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh confirmed that the man was infected with H5 avian influenza virus. The

Cambodian Government immediately launched an investigation to search for possible additional cases and identify possible sources of exposure to the virus.

Numerous chickens have also died in the area and samples taken from sick chickens have tested positive for avian influenza, it said.

The results from the investigation indicate the deceased man had contact with sick poultry. But an 18 year-old boy initially identified as an additional

suspected case has tested negative for the avian influenza virus.

Samples taken from 27 other people, including family contacts of the confirmed case and Phnom Penh medical staff involved in his care, have all tested negative for H5 avian influenza infection.

Results from another six people from Kampot Province have also tested negative for H5 influenza virus.

Cambodia's previous case, a 25-year-old woman who died in late

January, was also from Kampot Province but lived in another district. The majority of poultry in Cambodia are raised in small backyard flocks in rural areas, making surveillance for outbreaks especially challenging.

The investigation team, grouped health and agricultural officials, is continuing its work in Kampot Province, joined by staff from the WHO country office and the Pasteur Institute based in Phnom Penh.

MNA/Xinhua

India puts armed forces on alert

NEW DELHI, 30 March — Indian army, air force and navy were put on high alert on Monday night in the wake of a massive earthquake off the Indonesian coast, Home Minister Shivraj Patil said.

Patil said that armed forces as also para-military forces have been asked to help authorities in coastal states and Andaman and Nicobar islands if the need arose.

The Home Minister has already spoken to chief ministers of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Kerala and West Bengal. The Home Minister also spoke by the phone with Defence Min-

ister Pranab Mukherjee and reviewed the preparedness of the armed forces. He said authorities in the coastal areas have been asked to carry out evacuation in case there were indications of tsunami.

Patil said the control rooms at the centre as also at state levels will be working throughout the night.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan cuts loans to China in fifth consecutive year

BEIJING, 30 March — Japan will offer 85.88 billion yen low-interest loans to China during the coming fiscal year starting 1 April, 2004, a drop of 11 per cent year-on-year, according to a document signed by Chinese and Japanese officials on Tuesday.

According to the document signed by Chinese Vice-Minister, Wu Dawei, and Japanese Ambassador to China, Koreshige Anami, the loans will be used in seven projects in central and western China mainly concerning water treatment and environmental and training projects.

The two official de-

clined to comment to reporters at the signing ceremony in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

The loans carry annual interest rates of 0.75 to 1.5 per cent with a maturity of 30 to 40 years with a grace period of a decade, according to the document.

The 11 per cent reduction follows up to about 24 per cent cuts in the past

five years in Japanese yen loans to China since 2000, when it peaked at 214.4 billion yen (approximately 2 billion US dollars).

To date, Japan's low-interest yen loan commitment to China totalled 3.13 trillion yen (29 billion US dollars) since 1980 for projects including the building of high-

ways, airports, sewage systems and other infrastructure.

Japanese monthly magazine *Selection* in its November edition last year said China's aid and yen loans to China have helped improve infrastructure in China, thus promoting the Chinese economy and bilateral trade. — MNA/Xinhua



Traders on the Foreign Exchange confer underneath an electronic indicator in Tokyo recently. — INTERNET



People walk past a Singapore branch office of ABN Amro bank on 30 March 2005. — INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ ထိခိုက်လေလွင့် ထုတ်တုန်မြင့်

400 missing, 320 dead in Indonesian quake

JAKARTA, 31 March — Monday's quake in the Indonesian islands of Nias and Simeleu off Sumatra's west coast has left at least 320 people dead and 400 others missing, local media reports said on Wednesday.

Nias vice-regent Agus Mendrofa said 400 people in the Nias capital of Gunung Sitoli went missing, possibly buried in the rubble of their houses after a strong quake that measured 8.2 on the Richter Scale according to the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

He said at least 111 bodies have been buried in three different places as of Wednesday morning.

"But we still don't know for sure the actual number of people killed or missing in the disaster," he was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying. In Jakarta, the Min-

istry of Social Affairs put the death toll at 320 in Nias alone until 03:00 am Wednesday.

There is no immediate report of death toll in Simeleu, but local media said Tuesday at least 100 people were killed in Simeleu.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia advises people in coastal areas to evacuate

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 March — People living in coastal areas in Penang, Perak, Kedah, Perlis and Pulau Langkawi were advised to evacuate to higher areas after an earthquake measuring 8.5 on the Richter Scale occurred off the coast of Sumatra.

The Malaysian Meteorological Service said it detected an earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra at 12.09 am on Tuesday.

"This earthquake has the potential to generate a widely destructive tsunami in the ocean or seas near where the earthquake happened," it said in a statement issued here.

Many people in Penang said the tremors were similar to the ones which felt on December 26 last year when the tsunami killer waves hit many parts of the state.

Those staying in Bayan Lepas near the Penang International Airport and Teluk Air Tawar near the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base in Butterworth also felt the tremors.

Fishermen in Penang went to tie up their boats by

the beach as they were afraid that they would lose their boats.

Meanwhile, wire news reports said an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.2 on the Richter Scale was reported off the coast of Sumatra.

Penang Chief Police Officer Christopher Wan said he had directed his officers to ask people staying near coastal areas to evacuate.

An eye-witness said people were more prepared this time around after the devastating 26 December tsunami killed tens of thousands of people.

The Pacific tsunami warning centre has said that the latest earthquake could generate a "widely destructive tsunami".

MNA/Xinhua

EC helping Cambodia's intellectual property protection

PHNOM PENH, 31 March — The European Commission gave Cambodia 670,000 US dollars to help it establish intellectual property protections required by the World Trade Organization (WTO), local media reported on Monday.

The grant will go toward translating European Union intellectual property laws into Khmer, training commerce officials on patent law, help in writing new regulations and educational materials.

When Cambodia joined the WTO in October, several of the 47 laws it promised to pass included a patent law and enforcement of copyright. By January 1, 2007, Cambodia must have intellectual property standards in place. This involves enforcing trademarks, such as a business' name and logo, patents that protect ideas and copyrights that govern the reproduction of art, writing and music. — MNA/Xinhua

Thailand, India, Sri Lanka issue tsunami warning

BANGKOK, 31 March — Thailand, India, Sri Lanka have issued tsunami warning after a great earthquake hit Indonesia's Sumatra Island on Monday night.

Thailand's Meteorological Department issued a tsunami warning, urging residents in southern Thailand to evacuate, a top official said early on Tuesday.

India has reactivated an emergency control room following the earthquake measuring 8.2 on the Richter Scale off the coast of Indonesia, fearing a fresh tsunami disaster, official sources said on Monday.

Sri Lanka issued a tsunami warning, urging residents in coastal areas to evacuate, state television said.

MNA/Xinhua

North Vietnam reports 1,100 German measles infections

HANOI, 31 March — Some 1,100 people in Vietnam's northern localities have recently been infected with rubella or German measles, a contagious viral infection with mild symptoms associated with a rash, following an outbreak in southern Ho Chi Minh City, local newspaper Youth reported on Monday.

The five localities hosting rubella suffers include Hanoi City and the four northern provinces of Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Bac Giang and Vinh Phuc. Nearly 800 people, mostly people living or working in unhygienic conditions, suffered from the disease in Ho Chi Minh City be-

tween November 2004 and mid-March.

To deal with the situation, local health agencies are strengthening vaccination among residents, especially women. Now, the Ho Chi Minh City is facing scarcity of rubella vaccines, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Mobile banking scheme to expand from Fiji to Pacific countries

WELLINGTON, 31 March — A mobile banking service set up for rural areas in Fiji is also to be launched in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, according to a Wednesday report from Radio New Zealand International.

The head of the ANZ rural banking scheme, Carolyn Blacklock, said the success of the bank on wheels, which reaches 100 villages and 150 schools in Fiji, has prompted them to look at implementing it in other regional countries.

The ANZ is a major Australian Financial Institution offering home

loans, car loans, business loans, Internet Banking, insurance and deposit products.

The scheme is run in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme which provides financial literacy workshops for villagers.

Blacklock said they will tailor the scheme to fit different countries.

"We'll be making an announcement on that scheme in Solomon Islands the next couple of weeks but there is a particular area of Solomon Islands where I've spent already a good part of a week with the local communities and landowners, in insuring that they want this type of service," said Blacklock.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines to implement four-day work week to save energy

MANILA, 31 March — The Philippine Government agencies will implement four-day work week from 4 April as an energy-saving measure, a local radio reported on Wednesday.

According to the radio dzMM, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed the administrative order including the implementing guidelines for the shortened work schedule.

Ruled by the administrative order, all employees of departments, bureaus and agencies under the executive branch will work for 10 hours a day and four days a week on the months of April and May, except on holidays.

Government-owned and controlled corporations are also covered by the scheme, it added.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker polishes a SmartTruck III at the Global Security Asia 2005 exhibition in Singapore, on 30 March 2005. — INTERNET

Blood is thicker than water

Aung Thein (Dawei)

Uncle Phyo: Welcome! Have some Dawei traditional food and green tea, your aunty have prepared.

Aung Thein: I was away from Yangon on business. Hum, the food looks delicious as usual as it is prepared by my aunty.

Phyo: By the way, there are a lot of noises criticising the National Convention, which is in progress at Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, from various angles.

Thein: Who are criticising it?

Phyo: The RFA on 19 February aired a news report quoting a spokesman of US State Department as saying that he didn't acknowledge the National Convention without the participation of Daw Suu Kyi and National League for Democracy which won the 1990 election. What is your view?

Thein: Such slanderous talks are nothing. These are just the routine acts of colonialist minions. These slanderous talks do not appear only at present, but have been in existence since the past colonial era.

Phyo: What were the slanders during the colonial era?

Thein: As the colonialists waged three unjust wars against our nation, we fell under subjugation on 1 January 1886. The colonialists exercised the divide-and-rule policy between the plains and hill regions. They also enacted discriminatory laws between the two. They even created set-up stories to sow mistrusts and doubts among the national races. For example, they hatched the Shwe Gyobu story to cause hatred between Bamars and Kayins, the Sao Mon Hla story to incite suspicion between Bamar race and Shan race, and the story of a Chin named Pha We to divide the Bamar race and Chin race. The colonialists spread the non-fiction among the nationalities as if the true stories.

Phyo: Ah, yes, they did.

Thein: The people of Dawei region, who are also called Dawei, have the tradition of making a chicken sacrifice during the harvesting time. Based on the tradition, the colonialists created a false saying, which goes, "Even a sincere Dawei steals chicken" to cause

misunderstanding among the nationalities. Included in the over 100 nationalities of Myanmar is the Rakhine national race who live in the western part of the nation. And there is also a plant species which is called Rakhine banana the stem of which can be used in curing snake bites. So when people meet with a viper, they cut off a nearest Rakhine

The patriotic leaders toured states and hill regions to demand independence from the colonialists. The locals welcome the patriotic leaders and took part in the struggle to regain independence. While the leaders were organizing people in other regions, the colonialist representatives tried to deceive the nationality leaders of Shan State offering a large sum of money and power and asking them to stay away from the independence struggle.

banana plant for snake bite cure. As cutting a plant from the stem is like killing it, the word "cut" was substituted with the word "kill" and the word "Rakhine" made to stand for the race, instead of the plant, and created a saying, which goes "If you meet with both a Rakhine and a viper, kill Rakhine first". Actually, these sayings and stories are just slanderous creations of the colonialists to prolong their occupation of Myanmar.

Phyo: Whatever wicked schemes they employed, they had to flee the nation when the national unity gained strength.

Thein: It is true. The patriotic leaders toured states and hill regions to demand independence from the colonialists. The locals welcomed the patriotic leaders and took part in the struggle to regain independence. While the leaders were organizing people in other regions, the colonialist representatives tried to deceive the nationality leaders of Shan State offering a large sum of money and power and asking them to stay away from the independence struggle. But the Shan leaders rejected the colonialist proposal, and unanimously signed the historic Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947.

The British Labour Party submitted a bill to grant Myanmar independence in the Parliament. But the former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, a member of the opposition then, said that granting Myanmar independence would create a blood bath in the nation. He sent two agents into Myanmar.

Phyo: Who were the two spies?

Thein: Lt-Col JC Tulloch and Ian Campbell. The two had links with Force 136, the British intelligence agency. They were working under cover of correspondents of Daily Mail newspaper. Before sending the two agents, the colonialists used various means to deceive and organize the Kayin race leaders.

Phyo: We can say, the acts of colonialists to divide the nation was so effective.

Thein: True. The Kayin leaders were launching strikes against the government, while making preparations to follow the armed struggle line as other means. During the anti-colonialists and anti-Fascists struggles, there was Kayin Central Organization (KCO) at the AFPFL. It made some political demands.

Phyo: Did the KCO met its demands?

Thein: A commotion started in various parts of the nation in July 1948. As the Burma Communist Party had already followed the armed struggle line, internal strife broke out within 100 days after the independence was regained.

Phyo: The main reason behind the internal conflict was the failure to find the real culprit, the colonialists, instead, the nationalities were killing each other like performing a doomsday play.

Thein: Yes, the real enemy was the colonialists.

Phyo: Let's continue. I have heard the western radio stations, BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB, puffing nationalities to accept the federal policy when the National Convention is in progress. There was another federal policy raised by some chieftains of Shan State before 1962. Please share your knowledge about the federal policy with me.

Myanma Alin: Kyemon 31-3-2005

(To be continued)

Translation: TMT

Bosnia's Croat presidency member dismissed over corruption charges

BELGRADE, 31 March— Dragan Covic, the Croat member of Bosnia-Herzegovina's tripartite presidency, was sacked Tuesday over corruption charges, said reports from the capital of Sarajevo.

International High Representative Paddy Ashdown made the decision after Covic refused to step down, stressing he would not resign unless he was found guilty.

The Bosnian state court confirmed corruption and abuse of power charges against Covic on March 10. It accused the presidency member of taking a bribe of 500,000 euros (about 650,000 US dollars) in 2000 to help a local

company evade taxes.

Ashdown stressed the decision was made as the indictment has caused damage to Bosnia-Herzegovina and will affect the country's image on international arena.

Covic was entitled to presumption of innocence like any other citizen, but his personal interests could not "stand above the integrity and reputation of the country's institutions," said Ashdown.

Covic described Ashdown's decision as "contrary to the Constitution and the laws" of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Those who have made this decision and fabricated this process would end their mission, but the task of building this country to the satisfaction of all its ethnic groups and citizens remains to be ours," Covic said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Kyrgyz security chief offers to resign

BISHKEK, 31 March— Felix Kulov, appointed coordinator of Kyrgyzstan's law enforcement agencies last Friday, offered to resign on Wednesday on the grounds that calm has returned to the streets after last week's riotous ouster of President Askar Akayev and his work is done.

Kulov told the Parliament there is no need for a chief law coordinator now as the situation has stabilized and a temporary government has been formed, the Parliament Press Service said.

Kulov, former vice-president and security chief under the presidency of Akayev, was named security coordinator by interim

Prime Minister Kurmanbek Bakiyev, a fellow opposition leader.

After four years in prison on corruption charges, Kulov was released from jail last Thursday just hours after the opposition seized the main government building in Bishkek and forced Akayev into exile.

MNA/Xinhua

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

People can now shape in mind...

(from page 16)
 Altogether 1,073 out of the 1,081 delegates or 99.26 per cent attended the meeting.

Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe said that the delegates have attended the National Convention with might and main, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, for the success of the National Convention included in the seven-point policy laid down by the Government. The efforts of the delegates to frankly present appropriate suggestions in view of serving the interest of the State and the people, with full fraternal spirit, has been recorded.

After studying and compiling the presentations of the delegates concerning the detailed basic principles for legislative power and formation of Financial Commission submitted at the Convention held from 24 June to 9 July last year, the alternative panel of chairmen

basic principles for the legislation and the formation of the Financial Commission on 3 March 2005. The delegates provided full cooperation to lay down the detailed basic principles.

The Convention held on 7 and 8 March 2005, presented the clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman concerning the detailed basic principles to be laid down for executive and judicial sectors.

Concerning the clarifications, the delegates held group-wise discussions and read the papers at the plenary sessions held from 21 to 30 March 2005. Delegates of political parties read their paper on 21 and 22 March; delegates of representatives-elect, on 23 March; delegates of national races, on 25 March; delegates of peasants and delegates of workers, on 28 March; delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, on 29 March; and delegates of



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sees off Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong at Yangon International Airport. (News on page 1)—MNA

at the plenary session. The NC should be adjourned starting from today until the end of this year and then the NC be reconvened when the delegates free time. Thus,

submission of bills to respective Hluttaws.

Now, detailed basic principles are being adopted after dividing the discussions into three categories — formation, sharing of powers and Hluttaw tasks — under the legislative, executive, and judicial sectors. Of them, detailed basic principles for the formation section have been laid down. So have the detailed basic principles on legislation for sharing of powers. The delegates have submitted their proposals for the adoption of detailed basic principles for executive and judicial sectors. Delegates will

In conclusion, he exhorted the delegates to study related subjects in advance to be able to give effective advice and make suggestions at the NC.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that it is now nearly two months since the National Convention had resumed on 17 February 2005. Thanks to the high sense of responsibility and harmonious efforts of the delegates, greater success has been achieved than expected. It is their unity and dutiful performance of the task assigned by the State, with patriotism and Union Spirit as the base, that has made them achieve

ions may arise. However, the delegates were able to make discussions, suggestions and proposals in unity, giving priority to the interest of the entire nationalities and the Union rather than single group, party and race.

Hence, the Convention has successfully laid down detailed basic principles to be included in the Union legislative list, region or state legislative list and self-administered division or self-administered zones concerning the following 11 sectors:

- Defence and security sector
- Foreign affairs sector
- Finance and planning



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs attendance register of National Convention.—MNA

compiled them and presented the compilations on 17, 18 and 21 February 2005.

As the suggestions of some of the groups and delegates are found to be beneficial to and appropriate for the nation and the people, the Work Committee coordinated with the panel of chairmen whether or not to lay them down as detailed basic principles. The panel of chairmen after discussing with the respective groups presented papers concerning the opinions of the groups to the Work Committee.

The suggestions presented by a large number of delegates have already been laid down as detailed

State service personnel and delegates of other invited persons, on 30 March.

In their group-wise discussions and suggestions, the delegates have supported the clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman, with firm reasons, after discussing them thoroughly. In addition, the presentations of the delegates are within the framework of the six objectives of the Convention which include Our Three Main National Causes and the 104 basic principles laid down by the Convention. The panel of chairmen after studying and compiling the presentations sector-wise submitted the compilation

members of the panel of chairmen will have enough time to compile their studies. Another point is to enable the delegates to continue their businesses and attend to social affairs. The next point is that the weather is getting hotter.

When the NC is reconvened, detailed basic principles will be adopted in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the delegates for the delegation of executive and judicial powers, and for enabling the Work Committee to submit their studies on channels of functions between the tasks of Hluttaws, and between the Head of State and Hluttaws, as well as the

have to lay down detailed basic principles for working links between Hluttaws. Afterwards, the layind down of the detailed basic principles for the legislative, executive and judicial chapters will be completed.

Similar to the above-mentioned presentation, he said he will also clarify the sector on channels for enabling the delegates to hold discussions at the next National Convention. He planned to present some chapter headings as scheduled after weighing the volume of work for the convenience of the delegates.

success.

The present Convention has successfully laid down detailed basic principles for distribution of the legislative power and the formation of Financial Commission that should be included in writing a constitution. The detailed basic principles were discussed and suggested by the delegates at the Convention held from May 17 to 9 July 2004.

Of the three main organs of State power — legislative power, executive power, and judicial power — the sector of legislation is delicate and wide and has many areas where difference of opin-

- sector
- Economic sector
- Agricultural and livestock breeding sector
- Energy, electric power, mining and forestry sector
- Industrial sector
- Transport and communication sector
- Social sector
- Management sector
- Judicial sector

In addition to laying down detailed basic principles for the distribution of the legislative power, the delegates have read group-wise papers on the discussions and suggestions based on the studies and presentation of the
 (See page 9)

Thanks to the sense of responsibility and harmonious efforts of the delegates, greater success has been achieved than expected. It is their unity and dutiful performance of the task assigned by the State, with patriotism and Union Spirit as the base, that has made them achieve the success.

People can now shape in mind...

(from page 8)

Work Committee Chairman concerning the sector of sharing the executive and judicial powers.

The panel of chairmen will have to take time to study in detail and compile papers concerning the discussions and suggestions on laying down of detailed basic principles concerning the sector of distributing executive and judicial powers. Thus, the Convention will be adjourned today. Thingyan festival will usher in soon and the farm-

and featured in the dailies. Thus, the people can now shape in their mind the future Myanmar that is exercising the genuine discipline-flourishing democracy.

The future Union of Myanmar will be formed with seven regions and seven states and self-administered areas and Union territories. There will be the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Union Gov-

ples for the executive and judicial powers, presented by a large number of delegates, and with the Commission's approval, it will lay down detailed basic principles at the coming Convention.

As it is told by the Work Committee Chairman, his studies will be laid down, coordinated and approved for the delegates to discuss and suggest easily to lay down detailed basic principles for some of the remaining chapters as necessary, after weighing the volume of the work of making discussions and



NCCS Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.— MNA



NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe.— MNA

The panel of chairmen will have to take time to study in detail and compile papers concerning the discussions and suggestions on laying down of detailed basic principles concerning the sector of distributing executive and judicial powers. Thus, the Convention will be adjourned today. Thingyan festival will usher in soon and the farmers start their work as soon as the monsoon arrives. The National Convention will resume at the end of 2005.

ers start their work as soon as the monsoon arrives. The National Convention will resume at the end of 2005.

In addition to the clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman on the legislative, executive and judicial sectors to lay down basic principles for the constitution, the discussions and suggestions of the delegates have already been broadcast on radio and TV

ernment, chief ministers of regions and states, region and state hluttaws, region and state governments, leading bodies of self-administered division and self-administered zones and the Yangon City Council that will govern the Yangon city and Cocogyun Township, which are Union territories.

The Work Committee will examine the papers on the detailed basic princi-

suggestions on channels among hluttaws concerning their functions at the coming Convention.

Thus, it can be said that the greater the success of the Convention, the nearer the new genuine discipline-flourishing state.

The Government's positive endeavours of the nation will go down in the annals of history. But there are external and internal saboteurs resorting to de-

structive means with selfishness, instead of taking part in the national developments with pleasure and honour. The 54 million people of Myanmar disgusting their destructive acts of the saboteurs will crush them. The Secretary-1 expressed thanks to all those who have taken part for the success of the National Convention.

The NCCS Secretary made clarifications on the management matters, saying that the plenary session of the NC that began on 17 February 2005 would be over soon, and the delegates were going home during the adjournment. The Commission have made all necessary arrangements for the convenience of the delegates to leave Nyaungnapin by air, by train, or by bus for home starting from this afternoon, 1 and 2 April. The delegates are to follow the programmes laid down by the transport sub-committee. There are a few constraints for the buses that will leave at night to avoid possible undesirable

effects.

The NCCS secretary also presented some disciplines for those who will go home in their own transport. The Commission has requested respective states and divisions to provide assistance for the delegates when they arrive at respective terminals of airports and railway stations or bus terminals.

The delegates in the defence services hospitals may go home if they want to, and if they have not recovered fully and want to continue to stay in hospitals, they can receive further medical treatments.

Before the NC resumes the next time, invitation cards will be sent to the delegates in advance.

Lessons were taken from the strengths and weaknesses faced during the time when the NC was in progress in 2004 for ensuring more convenience of the delegates in all sectors. He pledged that like this time, preparations will also be made in advance for convenience of the delegates for the future.

He expressed his pleasure that the NC bulletins could draw the interest of all the delegates, and so plans are under way to compile articles, poems and humours stated in the bulletins into a book.

He also expressed his gratitude to those who contributed towards the tasks for successful completion of the NC.

In addition to the smoothness in the management sector, the delegates are fully imbued with patriotism and Union Spirit and farsightedness and made combined efforts to hold discussions for laying down detailed basic principles for the sharing of legislative power essential for the framing of State Constitution. Furthermore, proposals for sharing of executive and judicial powers have been read at the NC plenary session.

In conclusion, he said he hoped that the tasks for the next National Convention will go smooth.

The NC plenary session successfully concluded at 9.35 am. — MNA

Myanma Thaing demonstration, Bando (attack) contest concludes

YANGON, 31 March — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched final events of Myanma Thaing demonstration and Bando (attack) contest and attended its prize presentation ceremony at National Indoors Stadium-1, Thuwunna, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson of Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, President of Myanmar Thaing Federation Police Brig-Gen Than Han and executives, guests and fans.

Before the final events of Bando (attack) contest, Myanma selections and

Thaing professional players of states and divisions demonstrated Myanma Thaing skills.

After the final events, winners were awarded prizes. First, group leader of art of self-defence from the Russian Federation Mr Victor Smirnov presented cash donation of US \$ 300 to President of Myanmar Thaing Federation Police Brig-Gen Than Han.

Next, the minister presented cash prizes to winners Ba Thaug (Bago Division), Phan Te (Kachin State), Sai Win Thu Hein of Shan State (South) and Win Min Htut (Defence) in men's 61-65 kilos event. Afterwards, officials presented prizes to winners.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents prize to a winner. — MNA

Public, industrial zones...

(from page 16)

hydel power plants one after another in order to supply power to demands. However, it is difficult to produce full capacity of power due to lack of favourable conditions in operating the hydel power plants, lack of availability of appropriate water level for the plants and increase of power consumption with momentum. Soon, these difficulties will be turned into the fitting matters. In addition, the supervisory committee fulfils requirements in supplying power as much as possible not only for the people but also for the industrial zones.

He continued to say that utilization of power and fuel is one of the important roles in ensuring development of the industrial sector. In conclusion, he said the supervisory committee will explain fulfilment of power and fuel, and officials and entrepreneurs of the industrial zones are to submit the requirements.

Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise re-

ported on generating power, supply of power to industrial zones and people, annual power consumption, implementation of power supply projects and future prospects.

Managing Director Col Sein Tin Win of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise submitted reports on production of oil and natural gas, fuel requirement of the whole country and distribution of fuel to the industrial zones.

Officials of the industrial zones presented their requirements. Departmental heads and officials gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave the concluding remarks.

Also present on the occasion were Members of the Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin, departmental heads and officials.

MNA

Ceremonies of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day held in military commands

YANGON, 31 March — The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremony was held at parade grounds of Eastern Command on 27 March morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife, senior military officers, departmental officials at state, district and township levels, social organizations, local people and guests.

Similarly, a ceremony to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at North-West Command's sports ground on 27 March morning, with an address by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and senior military officers, departmental officials at state, district and township levels, social organizations, local people and guests.

Likewise, a ceremony to commemorate the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at parade grounds of Southern Command on 27 March morning, with an address by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko. It was attended by senior military officers, departmental officials at state, district and township levels, social organizations, local people and guests. — MNA

Summer paddy plantations of Yangon Command inspected

YANGON, 31 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected 80 acres of summer paddy of Yangon Command near Yangon-Bago six-lane highway and No 3 Highway at Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships this afternoon.

The commander viewed thriving summer paddy and water supply tasks. Departmental officials reported on supporting tasks to set cultivation target and per-acre yield of summer paddy.

They oversaw facilities of Barlar river water pumping project.

Furthermore, the commander and party looked into summer paddy plantations of Yangon Command beside No 3 Highway in Mingaladon Township. The summer paddy plantations are being supplied water with the use of CNG powered pump. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General meets Adviser to CAFIU



USDA Secretary-General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives CAFIU Adviser Mr Cai Yu and party of China. — MNA

YANGON, 31 March — At the invitation of Union Solidarity and Develop-

ment Association of the Union of Myanmar, visiting Adviser to CAFIU of the Republic of China Mr Cai Wu and delegation called on USDA Secretary-General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at USDA Headquarters this

evening. During their meeting, they discussed strengthening of mutual relations and promotion of cooperation among the youths of the two countries.

Present on the occasion were CEC members Minister at the Prime Min-

ister's Office U Than Shwe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Col Nyan Tun Aung and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. — MNA

6th International ICT Exhibition goes on



Visitors observe Soft Guide Computer Booth at International ICT Exhibition. — MCA

YANGON, 31 March — Organized by the Myanmar Computer Industrialists, the 6th International ICT Exhibition sponsored by the Myanmar Computer Federation continued today as

the third day at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road.

Being the final day of the exhibition, it was packed with computer technicians and industri-

alists, students and enthusiasts. In the booths of exhibition, cameras for security, system of fire preventive measures and network equipment used for public meeting were put on display. — MNA

Exhibitions to mark Armed Forces Day staged

YANGON, 31 March — The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition continued at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road today.

At the booth on nation-building endeavours, a computer quiz is being held from noon to 2 pm daily, and prizes are presented to winners during

the period of exhibition.

Over 1,000 people including foreigners visited the exhibition today. The exhibition will be kept open up to 4 April.

Similarly, Literary & Arts Competitions and Exhibition honouring the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued for the sixth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 9 am

to 5 pm today.

The competition was packed with members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students, monks and people. In the competition, Literary and Arts Competitions and Exhibition Quiz was held and winners were awarded prizes. The competition continues up to 4 April. — MNA

SPEI (Yangon) holds anniversary ceremony

YANGON, 31 March — The annual ceremony of Sports plus Education Training School of the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) was held at the institute at Kyaikkasan grounds this morning, attended by Min-

ister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

The minister presented cash prizes to winners in the local and international sports events.

Chairperson of the Central Working Committee for Myanmar Wom-

en's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye gave prizes to the winners.

Later, the minister awarded cash prize to Ma Yu Nanda Htaik of Mon State, the top prize winner in 2004-2005 academic year. — MNA

Stimulant tablet traffickers jailed

YANGON, 31 March — Members of Tachilek Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched on 19 June 2004, the vehicle driven by U Yan Qin Zun (a) Sai Kyaw, and seized U Yan Qin Zun (a) Sai Kyaw, son of U Yan Lin Xuin, Law Sam (a) Sai Sam, son of U Pi Shan, Sai Mat (a) Aik Mat, son of U Kyai Site, Nan Nwam, son of U Sai Yi, Sai Tun Myint, son of U Maung Myint and Aik Kyaung, son of U Aik Yone, together with 100,000 WY brand stimulant tablets on board the vehicle.

On 17 February, Tachilek District Court sentenced 20 years' imprisonment to the stimulant tablet traffickers respectively under the sections of 19 (a) and 20.

Similarly, members of Tachilek Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched Room No 127 of Rigana Hotel on 11 December, 2004 and seized Aik Kyine (a) Zaw Myo Aung of Pasat Village together with 18,000 WY brand stimulant tablets. Action was taken against him by Tachilek

Police Station under the sections 15, 19 (a), 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On 24 February, Tachilek District Court sentenced 20 years' imprisonment to Aik Kyine (a) Zaw Myo Aung, son of U Lone Tit, under the section of 19 (a). — MNA

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

မော်တော်ယာဉ် မောင်းနှင်သူအနေဖြင့် အရက် သောက်စား မူးယစ်မောင်းနှင်မှုကြောင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ မကြာခဏ ဖြစ်ပွားလျက်ရှိရာ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာ နယ်နိမိတ် အတွင်း အရက်သေစာသောက်စားမောင်းနှင်ခြင်း မပြုရန်နှင့်လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလ(၁)ရက် နေ့မှ စတင်၍ ခေတ်မီအရက်မူးတိုင်းကီရီယာ (ALCOHOL TESTER) ဖြင့်တိုင်းတာ၍ မူးယစ်မှုတွေ့ရှိပါက တရားဥပဒေအရထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက် သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်ကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးစီးဌာနမှထုတ်ပြန်ချက်

Chinese CEOs call for closer ties with Asian countries

BEIJING, 31 March — China wants to share the fruits of its rapid economic development with its Asian partners by forging closer economic and trade ties with nations throughout the vast continent, said a message from the ninth China Daily CEO roundtable in Beijing on Wednesday.

Chaired by Long Yongtu, secretary-general of Asia Boao Forum, the gathering attracted 30 China-based chief executive officers and senior executives from FORTUNE 500-listed multinational companies, who discussed the "China-Asia business partnership and its implication for multinationals".

"As a service from China Daily for the global business community, we are delighted to initiate

such tailor-made roundtable for the CEOs of multinational companies so that they can learn and share with each other on how to better run their China operations," said Zhu.

China and Asia-Pacific CEOs from some of the world's largest and most famous firms, including Deloitte, BMW, Fidelity Management, Bayer, BASF, Kodak, British Airways, Nissan, Merrill Lynch, Shell, Pfizer and

Walt Disney, shared their insights on China's further economic integration with Asia and its impact on global business.

"The key word is partnership. China and Asian countries should work together to share economic growth and common prosperity. Multinationals should play a key role in this process," stressed Long, who pledged China would seek to share its success with its neighbours. — MNA/Xinhua

Industrialist Singhanian to attempt unique balloon feat

MUMBAI, 31 March — Industrialist Vijaypat Singhanian is trying to reach stratospheric heights in a hot air balloon and break a 15-year-old existing world record in the middle of November this year here.

67-year-old Singhanian, Chairman Emeritus of Raymond Group, will try to break the world "high altitude in a hot air balloon" record set by Per Lindstrand who had reached a height of 64,997 feet at Texas in the US on June 6, 1988.

Singhanian now plans to exceed that and go where no man has gone before in a hot air balloon, to 70,000 feet.

"I have been adventurous all my life and I always wanted to do some-

thing that would contribute to the glory of India. I had thought of doing this for the last 7-8 years," the passionate aviator, told a Press conference here on Tuesday.

"I have the fire in me to do something not done before. A number of people have tried to reach 70,000 feet and failed. I want to do it for India," he said.

"The cost of the project would work out to several crores and the balloon with a capacity of

1.6 million cubic feet, would tower to a height of a 30-storey building, 17 to 18 times bigger than the normal ones," Singhanian said.

The technical side of the "MI 70K" project is being put together by Andy Elson and Colin Prescott, two balloon experts from England. The industrialist had flown solo 5,420 miles in his microlight aircraft from London to Ahmedabad in 22 days in 1988 to set a record. —MNA/PTI

Musharraf urges developed world to extend promised assistance

ISLAMABAD, 31 March — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Wednesday urged the developed world to extend its promised assistance to the developing nations in realizing millennium development goals set by the United Nations, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan.

The developed world must contribute its promised assistance of 0.7 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) to help the developing countries realize the millennium

development goals, otherwise, the attainment of the objective will take centuries, Musharraf said while addressing an international conference on Gender Mainstreaming and

Millennium Development Goals held in Islamabad.

If the much-needed development assistance is not forthcoming, the islands of prosperity might one day sink in the expanding ocean of poverty, Musharraf warned.

"The world can become a better place to live if the millennium development goals are implemented," he said.

He added in addition to increasing official development assistance, the industrialized world should ease debt burdens on the developing countries. The millennium development goals emphasize worldwide efforts for reduction of extreme poverty, promotion of universal primary education, better health facilities and empowerment of women by the Year 2015. Pakistan is a signatory to the goals.

Musharraf said Pakistan is following a holistic strategy for poverty reduction through attraction of foreign investment and generation of more jobs for people at grass roots level.

He also noted that Pakistan is committed to women empowerment and the real empowerment of women can only be achieved through a societal change based on enlightenment and widespread education.

MNA/Xinhua

Coastal residents return after centre withdraws tsunami alert

CHENNAI, 31 March — Thousands of people in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala (southern Indian states) and Indian islands of Andaman and Nicobar, who fled their homes fearing devastating tidal waves following a massive earthquake in the Indian Ocean off Indonesia, returned to their dwellings after the centre withdrew its tsunami warning early on Tuesday.

"The earthquake does not appear to have generated tsunamis over the Indian region and, in view of this, the advise issued earlier by Indian Meteorological Department regarding possibility of tsunami stands cancelled," Port Blair and Chennai Disaster Management director SK Swami said.

"...The possibility of danger has passed and people may go back to their homes," the statement, sent to chief secretaries of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, he said.

The warning was withdrawn hours after the 8.7 magnitude temblor struck off the coast of Sumatra, close to where a quake generated the 26 December tsunami that left over three lakh people dead or missing mostly in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Mild tremors were felt in Port Blair and Katchal Island in Andaman and Nicobar late Monday night after the earthquake that has caused devastation in Indonesia where 200 to 2,000 were feared killed, according to initial reports.

Thousands of coastal residents in Kollam and Alappuzha districts of Kerala, who were evacuated or fled their homes and settled in camps, churches and schools returned to their homes, official sources said in Thiruvananthapuram.

Around 10,000 people had earlier shifted inland in Kollam District alone. — MNA/PTI



Jaguar mother 'Sally' cuddles her offspring at the zoo in Munich, on 31 March, 2005. Two jaguar kittens were born on 20 January, 2005.

INTERNET

Study shows a nurtured child most likely a good mom

WELLINGTON, 31 March — Girls raised in a positive, nurturing environment during their preschool, childhood and adolescent years, are much more likely to raise their own children that way, according to a New Zealand study released on Wednesday.

An international consortium of researchers says in the March/April 2005 issue of the journal *Child Development* that the study of 200 New Zealand families also shows such parenting during the early years helps boost language, emotional well-being, thinking skills and academic achievement.

The researchers said in the scientific journal that women, but not men, raised within a low-authoritarian household during the preschool years, with a cohesive, positive family environment and little conflict during the middle childhood years, who established a trusting, openly communicative, and close relationship with their

parents during their teenage years, were more likely to engage in a warm, sensitive, stimulating parenting style themselves when raising the next generation.

Lead researcher Jay Belsky, Director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues at London University's Birkbeck College, said there had been little other work on whether positive parenting was transmitted across generations, especially work that followed individuals in adulthood who were studied during childhood. In comments about the study, Belsky said there had been many studies showing that negative parenting behaviour, such

as harsh discipline or even child abuse, was often transmitted across generations.

Belsky and researchers from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and the University of Otago and Canterbury University, studied positive parenting using the Dunedin longitudinal sample of more than 1,000 New Zealanders born in the early 1970s.

The team's study, said Belsky, shows that "it is not just problematic parenting, known to undermine a child's well-being, that can be handed down across generations, but also the kind of parenting known to foster healthy child development." —MNA/Xinhua

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Tel: 254037 G.P.O Box: 695
Yangon. 1st April 2005

Three killed in derrick accident in Portugal

LISBON, 30 March— Three people were killed Monday in a civil dock in Sintra near Lisbon when a derrick collapsed, police said Monday. The three workers, one Ukrainian and two Portuguese, fell from the derrick and got killed when one of the sides of the derrick collapsed.

According to sources of the National Civil Protection Service, the derrick was going to be mounted when the accident occurred. Rescuers and medical teams rushed to the scene, and the cause of accident is under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

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kelvin.chia.ygn@mpmail.net.mm
Dated 1 April 2005

UNICEF to spend up to \$60m in Ethiopia in 2005

ADDIS ABABA, 30 March— The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said here recently it will spend nearly 60 million US dollars for the implementation of various development programmes in Ethiopia during the current year.

UNICEF country director Bjorn Ljungqvist told journalists that education, health, food security, expansion of water facilities as well as HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention are among the programme areas of the organization.

According to him,

Iran summons Egyptian official for verdict on ex-diplomat

TEHRAN, 30 March— Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned head of Egyptian Interest Section in Teheran Shوقي Ismaili to protest against a recent Egyptian verdict against an Iranian diplomat for spying, the

UNICEF has been implementing a programme jointly with the World Food Programme, the Ministry of Health, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission and regional health bureaus in a bid to strengthen health service and nutritious food delivery for children in areas exposed to food shortage.

He said the number of children who will benefit from UNICEF's programme this year is expected to reach 7 million, of whom half a million are under the age of five.

MNA/Xinhua

official IRNA news agency reported.

IRNA said Shوقي told Iranian officials that the ruling was simply a judicial action and promised to convey Iran's strong protest to Cairo.

MNA/Xinhua

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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
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Annan cleared of corruption charge

UNITED NATIONS, 30 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was cleared by an independent inquiry team on Tuesday of any personal wrongdoing in the oil-for-food corruption scandal, but he was criticized for failing to detect and stop a conflict of interest with his son's employer in the bidding process.

"There is no evidence that the selection of Cotecna in 1998 was subject to any affirmative or improper influence of the Secretary-General in the bidding or selection process," the report said.

"Having weighed all the evidence and the credibility of the witnesses, the evidence is not reasonably sufficient to show that the Secretary-General knew in 1998 that Cotecna was bidding on the humanitarian inspection contract," it added.

However, the report criticized the UN chief for failing to take adequate action to probe into the alleged scandal that complicated his son Koji Annan who was working for Cotecna, the Swiss company that won contracts worth 60 million dollars in the world body's biggest humanitarian aid programme.

"...the inquiry initiated by the Secretary-General into these matters was inadequate. The Secretary-General should have referred the matter to an appropriate UN department for a thorough and independent investigation. Had there been such an investigation of these allegations, it is unlikely that Cotecna would have been awarded renewals of its contract with the United Nations," the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Annan calls for int'l probe into Hariri's murder

UNITED NATIONS, 30 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the Security Council to launch an independent international investigation into last month's assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said recently.

After receiving on Thursday a report of a mission he set up to probe the circumstances, causes and consequences of the murder, Annan wrote a letter to the Council, concluding that an independent, international investigation is needed, Eckhard said.

The report raised some very serious and troubling allegations, saying Lebanon's

investigation process suffers from serious flaws, and a new international investigation is needed.

Meanwhile, Terje Roed-Larsen, Annan's Special Envoy for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559, which calls for pulling out all foreign forces from Lebanon, disbanding all militias and extending government control over the whole country, will return to the region in April to seek the full withdrawal of Syrian forces.

It will be his third visit in two months as he works with both Syria and Lebanon to bring about a smooth implementation of the resolution, Eckhard noted.

After his last visit,

Roed-Larsen said he had reached an understanding with President Bashar al-Assad that involved two phases: first, the withdrawal by 1 April at the latest, of all Syrian troops and intelligence assets to the eastern Bekaa Valley, with two thirds on the Lebanese side and one third in Syria; secondly, the convening by 7 April, at the latest, of a joint Syrian-Lebanese military committee to decide the precise timeline for the complete and full withdrawal.

Eckhard said Roed-Larsen would want to tell the people of both countries to get their sense of progress and was grateful to all sides for the cooperation he has received.—MNA/Xinhua

Danish schools poorly equipped to prevent drug abuse

STOCKHOLM, 30 March — The European Union has criticized Danish public schools for lagging behind other countries at preventing drug abuse among school children, Ritzau news bureau reported on Tuesday.

Danish public schools are poorly equipped to prevent drug abuse among young people compared with other countries in the EU, according to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug

Addiction (EMCDDA).

The centre said in a recent report that Denmark lies at the bottom of the Union, along with Latvia, Estonia, and Finland, with regard to the schools' efforts to discourage young people from abusing drugs like hash, amphetamines, cocaine, and ecstasy.

These drugs are becoming an increased problem in the European drug markets.

According to the

EMCDDA, Denmark's poor standing can be attributed to ineffective efforts and not being able to evaluate whether the methods work.

Danish school's preventive efforts are unsystematic because they do not have drug policies at schools. According to the report, Denmark relies on "pamphlets, sporadic seminars, activity days and exhibitions meetings, lectures and guest speakers."—MNA/Xinhua

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Critics say sex selection will turn unborn babies into consumer items

LONDON, 30 March — Proposals to allow British parents having fertility treatment to choose the sex of their unborn baby split an influential group of lawmakers on Thursday, reigniting the debate over “designer babies”.

Couples should be able to decide the gender of the embryo being implanted to balance out families, Parliament’s cross-party Science and Technology Committee said in a report.

But half of the committee’s 11 members rejected the findings as “unbalanced and light on ethics”.

Critics say sex selection would turn unborn babies into consumer items and could pave the way for parents choosing other characteristics such as hair or eye colour.

“On balance we find no

adequate justification for prohibiting the use of sex selection for family balancing,” the report concluded. But lawmakers added:

“The use and destruction of embryos does raise ethical issues and there are grounds for caution.”

The onus should be on opponents of sex selection for social reasons to show harm from its use, the report said. The committee said Britain’s fertility regulator — the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority

(HFFA) — had “no role” in determining how an embryo is screened before being implanted into a woman’s womb and should lose its powers.

The report, which makes recommendations into the future of Britain’s 15-year-old fertility laws, also said “taboo” research, such as implanting human cells into animals, should be considered subject to regulation.

Under current law, sex selection is allowed if there is a risk of gender-linked

disease such as muscular dystrophy or haemophilia. Several recent cases have tested those legal boundaries and provoked a heated ethical debate on the merits and pitfalls of embryo selection.

Committee chairman Ian Gibson, of the ruling Labour Party, denied the report backed the creation of designer babies. “We are looking at the regulation of new technologies,” he told Reuters. “We back proper investigation into the sex selection process.”

MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh to allow imports of more hi-breed rice seeds

DHAKA, 30 March — Encouraged by the yield of paddy using Genetically Modified (GM) technology, the government of Bangladesh is resolved to allow imports of more hi-breed seeds and develop them locally to multiply food grain production.

The Financial Express Monday quoted Agricultural Ministry officials as saying that the country would be self-sufficient in food by the next five years if the growth of the hi-breed rice was sustained. Hi-breed seed sellers claimed that farmers had welcomed the GM technology hoping to maximize their income that had marginalized their profits in the recent years due to higher input prices.

Around 200,000 acres of land will come under hi-

breed paddy cultivation this year, marking almost 100 per cent growth. Importers and seed breeders will supply 1,100 tons of hi-breed seeds to the farmers.

From a mere few hundred acres in 2001, the cultivation of hi-breed rice has been growing to geometric proportions.

However, environmental groups in the country said GM technology would pollute genes of natural plants causing damage to the environment. — MNA/Xinhua



Balloons are released to support French journalist Florence Aubenas and her guide Hussein Hanoun, both held hostage in Iraq, during a gathering front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris on 30 March, 2005. Aubenas and Hanoun were kidnapped on 5 Jan, 2005 in Iraq. — INTERNET

Scandals reduce popularity of foreign brands in China

BEIJING, 30 March — Recent scandals have confronted several commercial giants with crises of confidence from consumers, reported on Monday’s Beijing Morning Post.

Local media reported that various foreign firms were found in March to be turning out shoddy goods which posed threats to human use. The firms include KFC, whose sauces are accused of containing cancer-causing Sudan-1, SK-II, whose cosmetic products reportedly have hazardous contents and Johnson & Johnson’s, whose baby lotion products were found to be problematic.

Despite strenuous ef-

orts to return to normal, the firms have found their popularity decline greatly in less than one month.

A report by the China Social Investigation Institute, released Sunday, said that 21 per cent of respondents in a survey will not buy products yielded by these firms, 27 per cent will and 52 per cent are not sure. Respondents were selected from among 10 major Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, which

boast the country’s top consumer markets.

The report also showed that 69 per cent of respondents remain concerned about the scandals, a sign that the incidents have sparked deep concern among the masses.

When asked “which ways or attitudes taken by the three companies in handling their cases you consider satisfactory”, 31 per cent of the respondents answered KFC.

MNA/Xinhua

China grants State Science, Technology Awards

BEIJING, 30 March — An official with China’s Ministry of Science and Technology said here recently that since the adoption of the State Science and Technology Awards in 2000, first prize for inventions has for the first time been granted to engineers.

Chen Chuanhong, director of the State Science and Technology Awarding Office, said that with regard to quantity and quality of the awardees, Chinese scientists and engineers performed admirably in the past year.

Huang Boyun, academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), led his team to invent chary materials for aero brake systems, a sophisticated technology only grasped by engineers in the United States, Britain and France.

Zhang Litong, also a

CAE academician, led her team to invent a heat-resistant material.

Both Huang and Zhang earned the first state invention prizes. Besides Huang and Zhang, Chen said, another 26 achievements were honoured with second place in the category of inventions.

While no one won the first prize in the category of natural scientific research, Chen said, a total of 28 achievements were honoured the second prize of natural scientific research.

MNA/Xinhua

US commission says obstacles remain in intelligence sharing

CRAWFORD, 30 March — A commission reviewing US intelligence operations will warn this week that major obstacles remain to intelligence sharing among spy agencies, despite calls for change after the September 11, 2001 attacks, people who have seen a draft report said on Sunday.

The nine-member bipartisan commission, created by President George W. Bush and headed by appeals court judge Laurence Silberman and former Virginia governor and senator Charles Robb, is expected to issue its report on Thursday.

Bush was spending the holiday week end at his Crawford, Texas ranch.

The report will also include recommendations aimed at bolstering US intelligence operations after a series of high-profile failures, from missed opportunities to thwart al-Qaeda before the September 11 attacks to claims that Iraq possessed weap-

ons of mass destruction. None has been found.

A commission spokesman declined to discuss the contents of the report, portions of which have been circulating among the US intelligence agencies.

“The report that goes to the President will be a detailed analysis of all 15 intelligence agencies, and the assessment will be blunt and to the point,” said spokesman Larry McQuilian.

Set up to investigate flaws in the intelligence cited in launching the Iraq war, sources said the report will look more broadly and is expected to

cite shortcomings in US intelligence on weapon programmes in Iran and North Korea.

The commission’s report is also expected to focus on continued hurdles to intelligence-sharing between US agencies more than two years after Bush announced that he would address the problem by creating the nation’s first unified Terrorist Threat Integration Centre.

Bush later signed into law the biggest US intelligence overhaul in a half century, based on the recommendations of a separate commission that investigated the September 11 attacks.

In February, he nominated John Negroponte as the new director of national intelligence to try to curb bureaucratic infighting and organize closer cooperation among the Pentagon, CIA and other agencies.

“Intelligence sharing remains an issue,” said a person who has seen a draft of the intelligence commission’s report. “They are not sharing the way they should.”

The unified threat centre combines personnel from the CIA, FBI, and departments of defence, state and homeland security as well as other agencies. — MNA/Reuters

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Japan beat Bahrain 1-0 in Asian World Cup qualifier

TOKYO, 31 March — Japan defeated Bahrain 1-0 thanks to a Mohamed Ahmed own goal in Saitama on Wednesday to put their World Cup qualifying campaign back on track.

Japan who lost to Iran 2-1 last week, were struggling to break Bahrain's defence until the 72nd minute when Ahmed committed the fatal error.

The victory put Japan to second in Group B with six points from three games, one point behind Iran who beat North Korea 2-0 in Pyongyang.

Top two teams in each of the two Asian qualifying groups qualify directly for next year's World Cup, with the third-best teams vie for a chance to play against a CONCACAF team for a possible fifth Asian berth.

Bahrain have four points with North Korea losing all three of their games.

MNA/Xinhua



Bahrain's goalkeeper Ali Hasan (C) clears the ball past Japan's striker Naohiro Takahara (L) and his team mate, defender Salman Isa (14), during the second half of the 2006 World Cup qualifying second round Asian Group B match at Saitama Stadium, north of Tokyo on 30 March, 2005. Japan defeated Bahrain 1-0.—INTERNET

England beat Azerbaijan 2-0 in World Cup qualifier

LONDON, 31 March — England suffered 45 minutes of frustration before beating Azerbaijan at St James' Park with goals from Steven Gerrard and David Beckham.

Azerbaijan survived a first-half siege, and even came close to going ahead through Gurban Gurbanov, before England broke the deadlock after 51 minutes.

Gerrard scored at the far post from Wayne Rooney's cross before Beckham raced clear to add a second.

England were dominant with Rooney and Frank Lampard hitting the woodwork.

Sven-Goran Eriksson's side never threatened to emulate Poland's 8-0 thrashing of Azerbaijan, and a second-half booking for Michael Owen rules him out of the qualifier against Wales in Cardiff in September.

England, attempting to follow on from Poland's rout, almost fell behind in sensational fashion after seven minutes.

John Terry's mistake allowed Gurbanov to break clear and his shot beat Paul Robinson only to fly inches wide. The rest of the half was a tale of ceaseless England pressure, with the Azerbaijan goal somehow surviving intact.

Owen had a header saved by Dmitry Kramarenko, then saw a header ricochet off the goalkeeper on to Beckham before striking the post.

Lampard, who had earlier shot narrowly wide, struck the outside of the post from 20 yards with Kramarenko well beaten after 26 minutes.

Gerrard then tested Kramarenko, before Beckham was booked for apparently returning to the pitch without permission after losing a boot.

Owen missed the best chance of the game, somehow heading wide of an open goal, before Beckham wasted the last opportunity of the half with a poor far-post header.

Azerbaijan's Elmar Bakhshiyev forced Robinson's first serious save of the night seconds after the restart, before England finally broke the deadlock after 51 minutes. Rooney escaped two challenges on the left before crossing to the far post for Gerrard to score via



England's David Beckham celebrates after scoring to make it 2-0 against Azerbaijan during their World Cup 2006 qualifier at St James' Park, Newcastle.—INTERNET

the crossbar. Owen was booked for attempting to handle Rooney's cross into the net, a second yellow card of the qualifiers that rules him out of the game against Wales.

Azerbaijan were finally starting to look stretched, and it was no surprise when Beckham ran on to Lampard's pass to score with a neat finish after 62 minutes. England were almost camped in the Azerbaijan penalty area, and Rooney brought a fine diving stop from Kramarenko before hitting the post with a header seconds later.—INTERNET

S Korea beat Uzbekistan 2-1 in World Cup qualifier

SEOUL, 31 March — South Korea scored a home victory over Uzbekistan 2-1 in their World Cup Asian zone Group A qualifier here on Wednesday.

After a scoreless first half, Lee Young-pyo and Lee Dong-gook put the hosts ahead before Alexander Geynrikh exploited a Korean loose ball with 11 minutes to go.

"We were unlucky in the first half not to score, but as long as you don't have a goal it's a bit scary," said South Korea coach Jo Bonfrere.

The result put South Korea back on top of Group A, while Saudi Arabia are still capable of reclaiming the spot with a victory against Kuwait later on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



South Korea's Lee Dong-gook (L) celebrates his goal against Uzbekistan with his team mate Seol Ki-hyeon during the Asian qualifying round for the 2006 World Cup. INTERNET

Venus edges out Serena

WASHINGTON, 31 March — Venus Williams won the battle of the Williams sisters to book her place in the semifinals of the

WTA Nasdaq-100 Open in Miami on Tuesday.

The elder Williams defeated Serena 6-1, 7-6, (10-8) to record the first victory over her sibling in tournament play in seven meetings.

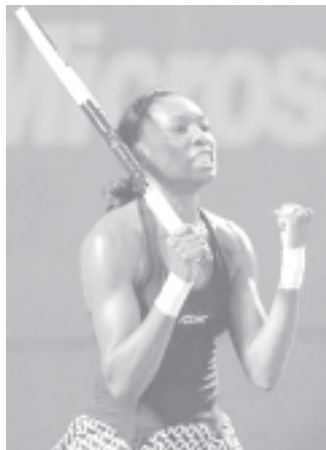
Serena, the third seed and three-time defending champion here, had not been beaten by Venus since the 2001 US Open final.

"I kept my errors down and I think the first set for me was fantastic," said Venus.

"The second set I feel like I definitely lost some opportunities, but that was okay."

Venus, seeded eight, now meets second seed Maria Sharapova of Russia in the semifinals after the reigning Wimbledon champion defeated Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium 6-1, 6-7, (6-8), 6-2 in the last eight.

MNA/Xinhua



Venus Williams —INTERNET

Iran beat N Korea 2-0 in Asian World Cup qualifier

PYONGYANG, 31 March — Iran scored a 2-0 victory over North Korea here on Wednesday to lead the Asian World Cup qualifying Group B and the latter conceded its third straight defeat.

An own goal from An Yong-hak in the 33rd minute put the visitors ahead and a Javad Nekounam strike 10 minutes from the end gave Iran seven points from three games in the final round of Asian 2006 qualifiers.

North Korea's Nam Song-chol was

sent off for shoving Syrian referee Mohamed Kousa after he had denied the defender a seemingly clear-cut penalty.

North Korea, who made a shock quarterfinal appearance at the 1966 World Cup in England, was left in tatters in its hopes of qualifying for its second World Cup after it lost the opening game to Japan (2-1) and its first home game to Bahrain (2-1).

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်

- * အမျိုးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
- * သရုပ်ဖော်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- * အမျိုးဂုဏ်၊ ဓာတိဂုဏ်ကို မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်ဖြင့် မြှင့်တင်ပါ။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မီတီ

ရေခဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း
ဆပ်ပြာရည်ဂတ်စ်ဘူးဖြင့် ကစားက

- ၀။ လက်ဝယ်တွေ့သူ - ထောင် (၁) နှစ်
- ၂။ ကစားသူ - ထောင် (၃) နှစ်
- ၃။ ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချသူ - ထောင် (၅) နှစ် နှင့် ပစ္စည်းကုန်သိမ်း

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မီတီ

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုမဟာသင်္ကြန်
ဆင်နွှဲသူများ လိုက်နာရန်
တိုက်တွန်းနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- * မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုဓလေ့စရိုက်နှင့်ဖိလား ဆန်ကျင်ပြီး မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏ အမြင်တွင် မတင်တယ်သည် ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု၊ ပြုမူပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
- * ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆုတ်အမနှင့် ဖိလားဆန်ကျင်သည့် အပြုအမူ၊ ပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
- * အချင်းချင်း ဒဏ်ရာအနာတရ ဖြစ်စေပြီး အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေသည့် ကြမ်းတမ်းသည့် ရေကစားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
- * တိုင်းရင်းသားစည်းလုံးညီညွတ်မှုကို ဖျက်ပြားစေပြီး ဆူပူမှုကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်သည့် လှုံ့ဆော်ဖန်တီးပြုမူပြောဆိုကြိုပမ်းမှုများကို မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

သတိ
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း ဟွန်းမတီးရ။
ယဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

သတိ

- ၀။ လေပေါင် (၁၀၀) မှ (၁၅၀) အထိ အတင်အချှ မြေလှုပ်၍ ရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပက်ကစားခြင်းကြောင့် ရေစူးအား ပြင်းလွန်၍ ရေပက်ခရသူတွင် အသားရေများ ပွန်းပဲ့စုတ်ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိ၊ နားများအား ထိုးမိပါက မျက်လုံး၊ နားကန့်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေကစားမကြားများ၊ ရေပက်ခံကားများတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များ အသုံးပြု၍ ရေပက်ခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၂။ သင်္ကြန်ရေပက်ကစားခြင်းအား သင်္ကြန်ရက်များအတွင်း နေ့စဉ် နံနက် (၀၇၀၀) နာရီမှ (၁၈၀၀) နာရီအတွင်း သာ ရေပက်ကစားကြရန်နှင့် (၁၈၀၀) နာရီ နောက်ပိုင်း ရေပက်ကစားခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၃။ တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မီတီ

ရေစိုက်ခင်းအိမ်ပျော်ခြင်း
သိက္ခာတော်ရဆရာဒေါက်တာအောင်ဒင်
(ချစ်သောအောင်ဒင်)
အသက် (၉၂) နှစ်
နာယကအသင်းအုပ်ဆရာတော်
ဦးမာတရင်နှစ်ခြင်းအသင်းတော်
ဗောဇဇလ ရန်ကုန်

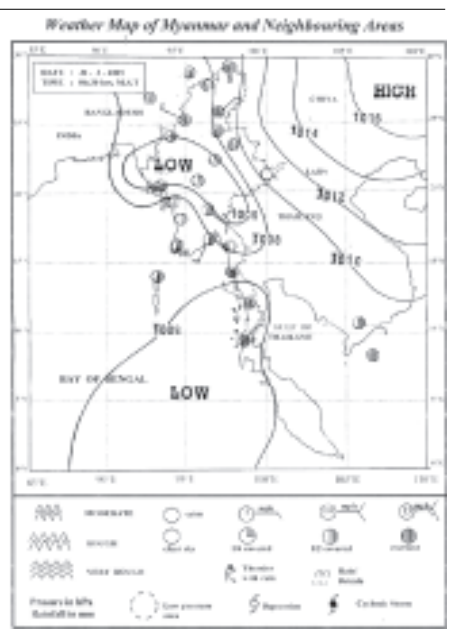
အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်၊ ကြို့ကုန်းအရှေ့ရပ်ကွက်၊ ကရင်နှစ်ခြင်းရေစိုက်ခင်း မေတ္တာဌာသိုလ်ကျောင်းဝင်းနေ အဖိနော်အေးမေ၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော ခင်ပွန်း (စောဂေးဒင်) (စောပေါင်းဒင်) (စောစောဒင်)- နော်ဘရီးနာ၊ စောဆီဒင်-နော်ဒီဘိုရာ၊ နော်မူတော-(စောယိုရှ်)၊ နော်မူလှိုင်ဒင်-သိက္ခာတော်ရ ဆရာသောမတော်ထောင်လျှန်ချုပ်၊ နော်မူအယ်ဒင်-သိက္ခာတော်ရဆရာ စောရောက်သိန်း၊ နော်မူကျီးဒင်-စောပေါင်းမြတ်တို့၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော ဖခင်၊ မြေး (၁၇) ယောက်၊ မြစ် (၄) ယောက်တို့၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော တို့တို့ကြီး သည် ၃၁-၃-၀၅ ရက် ကြာသပတေးနေ့ မွန်လုံ ၁၂၃၀ နာရီတွင် ခရစ်တော်၌ ဘုန်းတော်ဝင်စားသွားပါသဖြင့် ၄-၄-၀၅ ရက် တနင်္လာနေ့ နံနက် ၈.၀၀ နာရီတွင် ဖူးသဖြူ အောက်မေ့ဖွယ်ရာ ခန်းမအောင်၊ အင်းစိန် ကျမ်းစာကျောင်းဝင်းတွင် ဝတ်ပြုကိုးကွယ်ပြီး ရေဝေးခရစ်ယာန် ဂိုဏ်းပေါင်းစုံ သုသာန်သို့ ပို့ဆောင် ဂူသွင်း သဖြင့် ဟိပါမည်။

ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု။

သတိ

အရက်/ ဘီယာများအား မော်တော်ယာဉ်များဖြင့် လှည့်လည် ရောင်းချခြင်း၊ မဏ္ဍိုင်များအနီးနှင့် အခြားနေရာများတွင် တရားမဝင်ရောင်းချခြင်းများ မပြုလုပ်ရန် တားမြစ်သည်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ



WEATHER

Thursday, 31 March, 2005
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.20) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Southern Shan and Mon States, Magway, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Kayin State, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Hpa-an (42°C) and Magway (41°C).

Maximum temperature on 30-3-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 31-3-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-3-2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 30-3-2005 was (10.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.54 inches) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 30-3-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 1-4-2005: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are possible in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-4-2005: Partly cloudy.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

	8:45 am 10. English For Everyday Use
Friday, 1 April View on today:	4:00 pm 1.1. Martial song
7:00 am	4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oaktamathara	4:30 pm 3. Musical programme
7:25 am	4:45 pm 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဝထမနစ် (သနား)၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒအတွက် (ရူပဗေဒ)
2. To be healthy exercise	5:00 pm 5. Song of national races
7:30 am	5:15 pm 6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတစား
3. Morning news	5:30 pm 7. ခုည့်စေ့စွန်မှန်အားကစားအခြေခံ
7:40 am	5:45 pm 8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
4. Nice and sweet song	6:00 pm 9. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ
7:50 am	6:15 pm 10. Discovery
5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ	6:20 pm 11. Song of yesteryears
8:00 am	
6. The mirror images of the musical oldies	
8:10 am	
7. လခွမ်းပြင်ရေလှောင်တံ	
8:20 am	
8. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ	
8:30 am	
9. International news	

6:30 pm 12. Evening news	
7:00 pm 13. Weather report	
7:05 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သောဦး" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)	Friday, 1 April Tune in today:
7:35 pm 15. မြန်မာ့တိုင်းကျွမ်းကျင်စေရာ မြန်မာ့သိုင်းဝဏ္ဏ	
8:00 pm 16. News	8.30 am Brief news
8:05 pm 17. International news	8.35 am Music: -Together again
8:10 pm 18. Weather report	8.40 am Perspectives
8:15 pm 19. Myanmar video feature: "နည်းသိမ်မွေ့တဲ့ အချစ်အကြောင်း" (အပိုင်း-၂) (လူမင်း၊ ဝိုင်း၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်သီ)	8.45 am Music: Mano
8:20 pm 20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးဝိဇ္ဇာသာဓကတော်တို့၏ အရပ် ခေယျာန်နာ မေတ္တာဘဝနာ ဖွားများခြင်းတရားတော်	8.50 am National news/Slogan
8:25 pm 21. The next day's programme	9.00 am Music: -After the love has gone
	9.05 am International news
	9.10 am Music: -How do you feel
	1.30 pm News/Slogan
	1.40 pm Lunchtime music -My love is real -When I look into your eyes
	9.00 pm World of music Songs from Korea
	9.15 pm Article/music
	9.25 pm Music at your request -Love you more -What about me
	9.45 pm News/Slogan
	10.00 pm PEL

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



The Plenary Session of National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township.— MNA

People can now shape in mind...

(from page 1)

States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, President Office, Pyithu Hluttaw Office, Government Office, Supreme Court, Attorney-General's Office, Auditor-General's Office, Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Yangon City Development Committee, MCDC, ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 national groups who exchanged arms for peace, and representatives of other organizations.

Before the plenary session, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, NCCMC Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen and officials of sub-committees, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited persons signed the attendance registers at the Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation halls for the National Convention delegates.

NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presided over the plenary session and Commission Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as master of ceremonies.

(See page 8)

Public, industrial zones supplied with power as much as possible Supervisory Committee for Efficient Utilization of Power and Fuel meets with industrialists

YANGON, 31 March — A coordination meeting of the Supervisory Committee for Efficient Utilization of Power and Fuel and members of the Management Committees of Industrial Zones and industrial entrepreneurs was held at Kanaung Hall in Hlinethaya Industrial City this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of

the Supervisory Committee Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen

Kyaw Win.

In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that the Supervisory Committee is compiling detailed

facts townshipwise and industrial zonewise power consumption throughout the country. The supervisory committee without

losing sight of its functions is supervising efficient use of power at ministries and departments and it provides supply of

power to the people and industrial zones. At present, the Government has been opening (See page 9)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win addresses coordination meeting of Supervisory Committee for Efficient Utilization of Power and Fuel and industrial entrepreneurs.— MNA

INSIDE

The patriotic leaders toured states and hill regions to demand independence from the colonialists.

AUNG THEIN (DAWEI)

(Page 7)