

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 352

10th Waning of Taboung 1366 ME

Sunday, 3 April 2005

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

Departmental officials to carry out tasks with great care not to have adverse effect on government's goodwill and loving kindness to the people

Prime Minister inspects development work in Mon State



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects construction of Yin Nyein Main Sluice Gate and canal.—MNA

YANGON, 2 April — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win arrived by helicopter yesterday morning at the project site for construction of Yin Nyein Sluice Gate being implemented by the Construction-6 of the Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation near Yin Nyein Creek near Kyonhtaw Village, Paung Township, Thaton District, Mon State. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Reli-

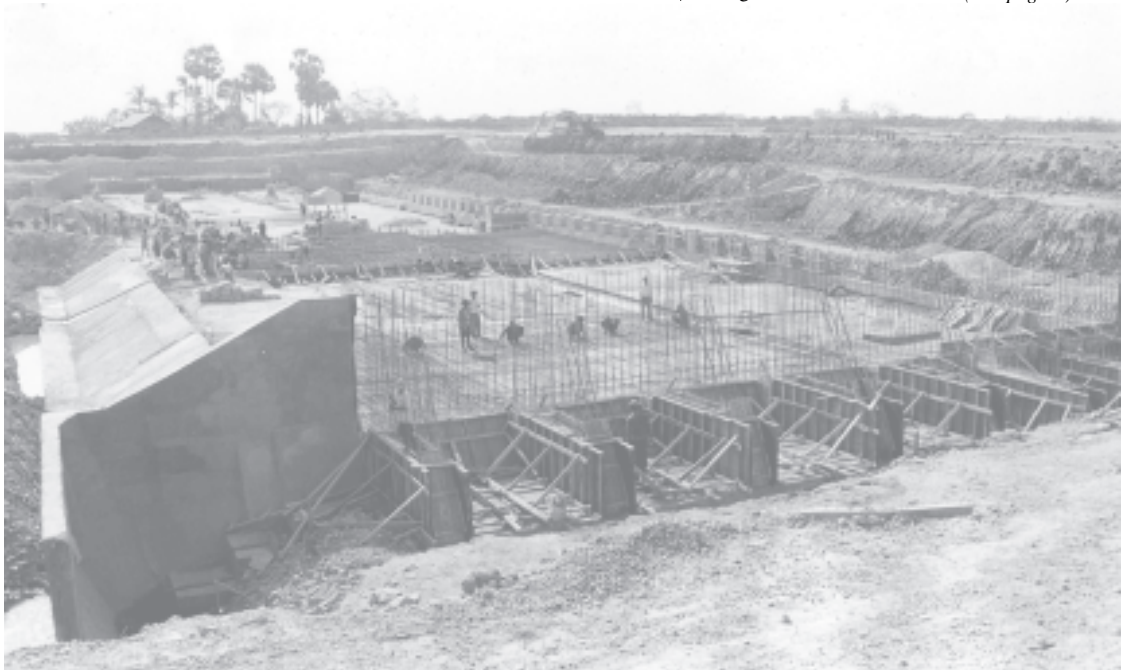
gious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials.

The Prime Minister and party on arrival at the project site were welcomed by Mon State PDC Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Thaton Station, senior military officers, chairmen of township PDCs, members of social organizations and of-

officials.

At the briefing hall, Director of Construction-6 U Hla Myint reported on facts about the project, construction progress up to 31 March and future work and Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint on conditions of Zokkaye Sluice Gate that benefits 20,000 acres of farmland and Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate that benefits 22,000 acres of farmland and construction of Kataik Dam that will benefit 20,000 acres of farmland and implementation of Yin Nyein Sluice Gate project including construction of canals.

(See page 8)



Progress in construction of Yin Nyein Main Sluice Gate.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 3 April, 2005

Exert efforts in unison for success of national projects

The government has been making all-out efforts in all seriousness for development of political, economic, social and transport sectors.

Regarding this as a national concern, the entire national people are making concerted efforts for successful realization of the national goal.

With this end in view, the government upholding Our Three Main National Causes is taking systematic steps in accordance with the 12 political, economic and social objectives.

Meanwhile, the 24 development zones have been designated and work is well under way to bring about harmonious development throughout the nation.

This has also resulted in development of education, health and transport sectors. Moreover, special projects for development of border areas were laid down and are being implemented for development of border regions which lagged behind in development in the past due to various reasons.

To keep pace with those special projects, the five rural development tasks have been laid down and measures are being taken for enhancing of the socio-economic life of the rural people and for development of rural areas where the majority of the people reside.

Tangible results have been achieved across the nation as region-wide development projects are being implemented day in and day out. Those achievements have been brought about due to mutual understanding and forbearance among departments and united efforts of local authorities, the Tatmadawmen and local people.

It is incumbent upon the entire national people to protect and safeguard the projects which contribute much to national and regional development.

To ensure all-round development, the government laid down a 30-year long-term plan and is implementing it phase by phase each lasting five years.

The accomplishment of the master plan will be able to fulfil all necessary requirements for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation.

The government together with the people has been able to carry out those nation-building endeavours owing to prevalence of peace and tranquillity in all parts of the nation.

Therefore, the onus is on the entire national people to strive together with the government for national development as well as community peace and tranquillity.

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။

ယာဉ်စည်ကမ်းတိမ်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

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

RICE OFFERED: The ceremony to offer rice and alms to members of the Sangha was held at Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township on Saturday. The photo shows the opening ceremony of rice offering ceremony which will continue tomorrow. — MNA



Water supply facilities inspected, summer training courses opened

YANGON, 2 April — Mayor Brig-Gen Aug Thein Lin, together with Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, inspected functions of Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyek) in Hmawby Township this morning.

The Mayor delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Culture and Morals Course. Summer training courses organized by Yangon Division USDA were opened at the office of Yangon Division USDA in Bahan Township. — MNA

Exhibitions to mark Armed Forces Day continue

YANGON, 2 April — The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition continued at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road today.

In the exhibition on nation-building endeavours, a computer quiz is being held from noon to 2 pm and prizes are presented to winners.

People and foreigners visited the exhibition and it will be kept on 4 April.

Similarly, Literary & Arts Competitions honouring the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 9 am to 5 pm today, and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students, monks and people visited the competitions.

Literary & Arts Competitions and 3Q contest are also being held and cash prizes are awarded to the winners. The competitions continue till 4 April.

MNA

Rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions

YANGON, 2 April — The Hydrology and Meteorology Department announced that light rain had been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division last two days. During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, and partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions. The remaining areas were mostly pleasant. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was 0.12 inch in Myeik. Weather is partly cloudy in the south of the Bay of Bengal and generally fair elsewhere of the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid on 3 April evening, isolated light rain or thundershowers are possible in Kachin State, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining area. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Outlooks for subsequent two days are possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in southern part of the country.

MNA

NZ, Malaysia to launch FTA Negotiations

WELLINGTON, 2 April — New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark announced recently that the country and Malaysia have agreed to begin negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) as soon as possible.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi, who is visiting New Zealand, met Helen Clark and the New Zealand Cabinet on Thursday.

The announcement follows studies in both New Zealand and Malaysia on the benefits of an FTA. New Zealand's study concluded that the two economies are complementary and that such an agreement would benefit the people and economies of both countries.

Helen Clark said the FTA process was an exciting development in the two countries' bilateral relationship. It is expected that negotiations should be completed in 2006.

"We both have strong and relatively open economies, but there is scope for improvement particularly in the services sector and with investment flows," said Helen Clark.

Malaysia is New Zealand's tenth largest

trading partner globally. The pair's two-way trade in goods is worth over 850 million US dollars a year.

Badawi arrived in New Zealand Wednesday and was formally welcomed to Parliament Thursday by Helen Clark. He will travel to Auckland Friday where he will visit Auckland University before leaving New Zealand in the evening.

MNA/Xinhua

All this needs to be known

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

Indonesia to increase quake monitoring stations

JAKARTA, 1 April — The Indonesian Government said on Thursday it plans to increase the number of earthquake monitoring stations to 160 from the current 31 following two massive earthquakes off Sumatra Islands that claimed over 200,000 lives.

With more quake monitoring stations, the government expects to detect tremors faster and more accurate, said Gunawan Ibrahim, head of the Jakarta-based meteorology and geophysics agency.

"The BMG has 31 seismological stations at

present, dispersed from Banda Aceh to Jayapura. It takes us 30 to 60 minutes to detect an earthquake because of the limited quake monitoring stations," he said.

With 160 quake stations, he said the detection period can be reduced to 15 minutes.

He said an immediate knowledge about earthquake would give time to officials to issue warning of possible tsunami. To build the targeted 160 quake stations, Indonesia will seek assistance from other countries, such as China, Germany and Japan, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

India ratifies nuclear safety convention

NEW DELHI, 2 April — India has ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety and submitted to the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency at Vienna on Thursday, a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The convention was adopted in Vienna on 17 June, 1994 and entered into force on 24 October, 1996.

"Fully conscious of the responsibilities arising from the possession of advanced and comprehensive capabilities in the entire gamut of nuclear fuel cycle operations, India attaches great importance to the issue of nuclear safety," the statement said.

"India shares the objective of the convention of maintaining a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through the enhancement of national measures and international cooperation, including in safety-related technical cooperation."

India hopes to make peaceful use of the nuclear energy to meet the demand of the growing economy. "Nuclear power, as a safe

and secure energy source, is an indispensable component for meeting the development needs of a large and growing economy like India," the statement added. "In exploring its full potential

for peaceful purposes to which India is committed, the importance of international cooperation including in the field of safety-related technologies cannot but be over-emphasized," it said. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to establish national guard for disaster relief

JAKARTA, 1 April — The Indonesian Government said on Thursday it plans to establish the National Guard for Disaster Relief following two unprecedented disasters within just three months that claimed more than 200,000 lives.

The national guard is expected to reduce government's reliance on the military when dealing with natural disasters, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Alwi Shihab told reporters here.

"We should stop 'disturbing' the military when a disaster occurred," he said.

The national guard will become part of the existing National Coordination Board for Disaster Relief and Refugee Resettlement.

Shihab said the government would recruit well-trained people to join the national guard, adding that he would soon embark to the United States and Europe to learn about similar organizations there. — MNA/Xinhua



Singapore PM visits Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 1 April — Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong arrived here on Thursday to pay an official visit to Cambodia at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Prime Minister Hun Sen welcomed Lee and his delegation at the Phnom Penh International Airport.

During his one-day visit, Lee will hold a meeting with his Cambodian counterpart Prime Minister Hun Sen. On Thursday afternoon, Lee will have a royal audience with Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni.

It is Lee Hsien Loong's first visit to Cambodia. — MNA/Xinhua



A RedMan protective suit for defensive tactics training on display at the Global Security Asia 2005 conference and exhibition in Singapore. —INTERNET

N-E China province works to balance environment, development

BEIJING, 1 April — Northeast China's Liaoning Province is to launch a 10-billion-yuan (1.2-billion-US-dollar) environmental protection plan to fight river pollution with the idea being that polluters will foot the bill, according to Friday's China Daily.

The three-year plan will focus on controlling and reducing industrial pollutants along the Liaohe River, said Hou Yongshun, a senior engineer from the local environmental protection bureau responsible for the project.

The plan is to try and control the establishment of new potential polluters including papermaking, pharmaceutical and chemical

plants. The local authorities will also tighten up the monitoring of existing heavy polluters such as iron, steel and cement plants.

All such plants along the river will be told to meet the protection standards within three years.

In relation to drinking water, new poultry farms will not be allowed to be located around the river or reservoirs. Those

existing there will be moved or closed down.

An environmental report earlier this year showed that the Liaohe River was at the top of the list of the nation's most heavily polluted rivers.

Another survey by the local Liaoning Environment Monitor Centre said five out of six major rivers in Liaoning are in a bad way.

MNA/Xinhua

Suicide car bomb hits US checkpoint in western Iraq

FALLUJAH, 1 April — A suicide car bomb hit a US checkpoint at the entrance of a US military base west of the restive city of Ramadi on Friday, witnesses said.

The explosion took place when a suicide bomber drove a booby-trapped truck into the US military checkpoint around midday. Casualties were not known as the US troops sealed off the area, the witnesses said.

They said the US troops blocked

two main bridges of Ramadi as they surrounded the city, some 100 km west of Baghdad. The US military did not confirm the incident.

Ramadi has long been a hotbed of insurgency against the US troops.

Internet

Police chief killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 April — The police chief in Balad Ruz and his driver were shot and killed Friday, and an Interior Ministry commando was killed during a raid, police said.

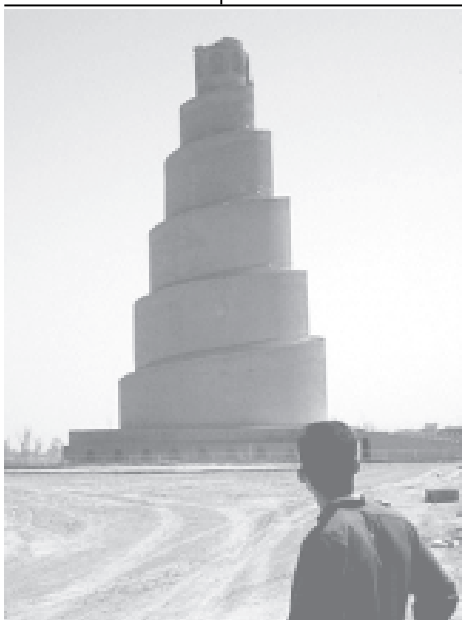
The police chief, Col

Hatem Rashid Mohamed, was getting into his car when gunmen opened fire in the town about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Baghdad, police in Diyala province said.

An aide was critically wounded, police said.

In the Daniya section of the city, an Interior Ministry officer was killed during a commando raid on a house.

Internet



An Iraqi surveys damage to the 52-metre (170-foot) Malwiya tower, a treasured national monument in the northern city of Samarra, whose top was blown off in an attack on 2 April, 2005.

INTERNET

China, Germany to promote parliamentary exchanges

BEIJING, 1 April — Chinese top legislator, Wu Bangguo, said that the National People's Congress would like to further the relationship with the Federal Council of the German Parliament.

He told visiting Matthias Platzeck, president of the German Federal Council, that China and Germany have enjoyed sound relationship, and the two countries have the similar view on major international issues.

"The development of Sino-German relations benefits the peoples of

the two countries," he said.

He said China and Germany are economically complementary and have great potential for trade cooperation. The two sides should enhance the cooperation on energy resources and environmental protection.

Wu expressed appreciation for Germany's

adherence of the one-China policy.

Platzeck, who is also governor of Brandenburg, said that the relations between Germany and China have entered a new stage, and he is visiting China to promote the cooperation between the parliamentary organs as well as the exchanges between local provinces of the two countries.

He said Germany will continue to adhere to the one-China policy.

MNA/Xinhua

China's project to assist Indonesia in earthquake monitoring

BEIJING, 1 April — Indonesia's early earthquake warning network, currently under construction with help from China and other countries, will help the country in locate, measure and report earthquakes, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Thursday.

The network will also provide Indonesia with technical support in participating in the tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean, Liu said at a news conference.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao attended the special tsunami summit on 6 January, promising to help Indonesia establish an earthquake monitoring and tsunami early-warning network. Liu said the State Seismological Bureau sent a workforce from 26 February to 2 March to hold consultations with Indonesia's meteorological bureau and academy of sciences, and the two sides signed an agreement on constructing the network together.

According to the

agreement, said Liu, China will provide seismic equipment worth 27 million yuan (about 3.26 million US dollars). China and Indonesia will have regular meetings on the early-warning network project and cooperation, Liu added.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore Co establishes presence in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 1 April — Singapore-based company Boardroom Limited has entered into an agreement to acquire the corporate secretarial, accounting, payroll and trade support service businesses of Hong Kong-based RSM Nelson Wheeler (RSM), announced Invest Hong Kong here on Thursday.

Commenting on the latest acquisition, Chairman of Boardroom Goh Geok Khim said, "The acquisition of RSM fits into our strategy, which is to grow our business internationally by establishing our presence in the rapidly

growing markets of Asia." He said markets in the region such as the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and India are enjoying high rates of growth. "Hong Kong's role as a global financial centre continues to strengthen as more

Chinese companies seek to raise funds on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange." Listed on the Main Board of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX-ST), Boardroom Limited is Singapore's largest provider of corporate

secretarial, share registration, accounting and payroll services. Established in 1975, RSM is one of the leading accounting and consulting firms in Hong Kong, offering a wide range of services to local and international clients. The new entity will operate under the name of Asialink Services (HK) Limited, a member of Boardroom.

Online signatures take effect in China on 1 April

BEIJING, 1 April — Online signatures will become valid in China as of April 1 to facilitate the country's growing on-line trading, an official of the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) on Thursday acknowledged.

The law grants electronic signatures the same legal effect as handwritten signatures and seals for

business transactions, said the official. It establishes a market access system for online certification providers to ensure the security of e-commerce.

While giving due consideration to current electronic certification services that are still in a startup period, the law stipulates that governmental departments shall undertake "effective and appropriate" supervision and management over the

electronic certification service organs in market access. The Administration Rules on Online Certification Service goes into effect on the same day to support the implementation of the law.

The rules cover mainly the issuance and management of licences for online certification service, standardization of service behaviour, handling of suspension or alteration of

the service, pattern and security measures of online signature certification, supervision and management and penalties for illegal activities in the field. "The rules will help promote a smooth implementation of the electronic signature law, providing concrete contents on the behaviour, supervision and management of online certification service organs," said the MII official.— MNA/Xinhua

Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion at Invest Hong Kong Simon Galpin welcomed Boardroom to Hong Kong. He said, "With the implementation of CEPA I and II, overseas investors have become increasingly interested and active in exploring various opportunities in using Hong Kong as a strategic location for expanding in the region." "The increased level of inward investment in Hong Kong, at the same time, creates an excellent platform for business services providers like Boardroom which comprise one of Invest Hong Kong's priority sectors," said Galpin.



Chinese women work at a textile company in Beijing recently.—INTERNET

German Press says Zarqawi plans chemical attack in Europe

BERLIN, 1 April — Top Iraqi terrorist Abu Musab al Zarqawi is planning to launch chemical weapons attacks in Europe, a German magazine reported on Wednesday.

"Somewhere in Europe there's going to be a big bang and it will have been organized by Zarqawi," said a German Federal Intelligence Service (BND) official quoted by the political magazine Cicero.

The unnamed BND source said it was unclear how far Zarqawi's agents had gone to prepare for a chemical attack. "We just know that he's working on it," a BND agent told the magazine.

The magazine said Zarqawi's men, closely linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, is producing chemical

weapons in Georgia and North Caucasus region of Russia. Zarqawi is believed to have at least 150 potential terrorists based in Berlin, Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg states, said the BND agents in the Cicero report.— MNA/Xinhua

Blast in Iraq kills Marine from Orlando

BAGHDAD, 1 April — Marine reservist Charles G Wells Jr could have come home from Iraq when his second tour of duty ended a few weeks ago. Instead, he opted to stay. That decision cost him his life.

Wells, 32, of Orlando was killed Wednesday when his vehicle struck a land mine en route to Qaim, Iraq.

He is survived by his wife, Nicole, 33, and a 4-year-old daughter.—Internet



Japanese consumer electronics giant Matsushita Electric Industrial and South Korea's LG Electronics have agreed to settle a patent infringement row over plasma display panels, a report said on 2 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Invest Hong Kong is a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government department charged with encouraging and facilitating inward investment into the city by providing all the support needed to establish a business presence here.

MNA/Xinhua

China boasts standardized plantation of medicinal herbs

MACAO, 2 April — China has cultivated 920,000 hectares standardized plantation of medicinal herbs, said Liu Yanhua, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology at the International Conference on Chinese Medicine opened here on Friday.

China has set up 448 production bases in 18 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities for cultivating standard Chinese medicine, which are shaping up a complete production and commercial chain for developing modern Chinese medicine, Liu said.

The ministry supervised a panel consisting of some 100 experts nationwide to draft out a guideline for boosting the modernization of the Chinese medicine industry in 1997, which was passed by China's State Council in 2002 as a state circular.

Liu said that with the attachment given to the sector, China has substantially improved the research and development level as well as production ability of Chinese medicine.

He pointed out in particular that when the epidemic of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) post a threat to the world in 2003, Chinese medicine has played an important role in the prevention against the disease, which has won a high commendation from the World Health Organization.

MNA/Xinhua

Megawati reelected as PDI-P leader

JAKARTA, 1 April — Former Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri won the bid to retain her chairmanship in the Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) for the 2005-2010 period in the party's second Congress concluded in Bali on Thursday.

Megawati's reelection also gave her a full mandate to choose members of the party's central executive board for the next five years.

According to the official Antara news agency, she was reelected by acclamation in the Congress led by chief of the party's East Nusatenggara provincial executive board Frans Leburaya.

MNA/Xinhua

Tsunami causes limited soil salinity problems

BANGKOK, 1 April — Soil salinity problems caused by last year's tsunami are less severe than previously expected, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in a statement on Thursday.

A total of 47,000 hectares of agricultural land had been damaged by tsunami waves in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India and Thailand, Daniel Renault, the FAO coordinator for agriculture in tsunami affected countries, was quoted as saying.

"Around 38,000 hectares of that land can be used for cultivation this year, while the remaining 9,000 hectares, mainly in the worst hit Indonesian Province of Aceh, have been lost to the sea or can no longer be used for farming," he said. "This lost amount is small compared to the 300,000 hectares of rice fields in Aceh," he added.

It was initially feared that agricultural land flooded with salt water in coastal areas hit by the tsunami would lose its soil

fertility making it unusable for cultivation for a long time.

"Fortunately, due to the humid conditions in most of the Indian Ocean countries, salt-polluted arable land has been cleaned by rainfall and irrigation," Renault said.

Recent surveys carried out by FAO and others show that salt deposited in more than two thirds of the affected agricultural land has been leached out already allowing planting to resume with the beginning of the cropping season in April and May.

However, the disaster did affect farming activities of hundreds of thousands of farmers and their families in the region, who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai Airways' fares to increase

BANGKOK, 1 April — Thailand's national flag carrier, Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI), will increase its air fares through a five-US-dollar fuel surcharge per ticket, taking effect from 1 May.

THAI's top executives expect the increased surcharge to generate a 100 million baht (2.56 million US dollars) to help the company cushion the impact of the rising cost of jet fuel.

Nearly all international carriers have already levied fuel surcharges, THAI's President Kanok Abhiiradee

was quoted by the state-run Thai News Agency as saying on Wednesday.

Apart from the surcharge, THAI plans other measures to reduce its operating costs and increase revenues. The pay rise had been pending for three years, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers demolish an old brick wall on the construction site of a new office building in Beijing on 2 April 2005 — INTERNET

HKSAR Govt to help disabled job seekers

HONG KONG, 2 April — Hong Kong Labour Department will launch a Work Orientation & Placement Scheme to help 1,000 people with disabilities find jobs with an estimated investment of about 8 million HK dollars (102,564 US dollars).

The scheme is aimed at encouraging employers to better understand the working abilities of people with disabilities, according to a government Press release on Thursday.

Under the scheme, a two-day pre-employment training programme will be offered to each participating disabled job-seeker, covering the latest job market information, job-search skills, interviewing tech-

niques, work ethics and communication/interpersonal skills.

The participating employer will offer a three-month job placement to the disabled job-seeker and will be free to decide whether to continue the employment upon completion of the work orientation period.

Announcing details of the scheme Thursday, Assistant Commissioner for

Labour Tsang Kin-woo said the department's placement officer will follow up the performance of the disabled employee during the three-month period.

The participating employer will receive a financial incentive equal to 50 per cent of the actual wages paid to the employee during the three-month work period, with a ceiling of 3,000 HK dollars per month. — MNA/Xinhua



A Vietnamese farmer walks past a rice field outside Hanoi on 30 March, 2005. — INTERNET

Earthquake jolts Sumatra again

HONG KONG, 2 April — An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter Scale rocked the sea waters west of Sumatra, Indonesia, at 3:29 pm (Hong Kong Time) on Thursday, the Hong Kong Observatory reported.

According to the observatory, the epicenter was initially determined to be 1.8 degrees of North Latitude and 97.1 degrees of East Longitude, about 260 kilometres south of Medan.

Earlier in the day, an quake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale rocked the sea waters west of northern Sumatra, Indonesia, at 0:25 am (Hong Kong Time).

The epicenter was initially determined to be 3.0 North Latitude and 95.4 East Longitude, about 280 kilometres south of Banda Aceh. — MNA/Xinhua



Ducks swim through the water in Fontanka river in central St Petersburg, on 1 April, 2005. After an unusually cold first month of spring, mild and sunny weather has finally arrived.—Internet.—INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

New measures to cut down road accidents in Thailand

BANGKOK, 2 April — Thai police will implement new measures to reduce drink-related road accident at the upcoming Songkran Festival, officials have said.

Under the new rule, drunk divers will have their vehicles impounded for up to three months once they were caught by police. Currently, most offenders are only fined and ordered to carry out relatively light community service, although the existing law prescribes imprisonment.

"Knowing you will have to pay a fine and do some community work for a day or two is one thing, facing the threat of losing your car up to three

months is another," a police source was quoted by The Nation newspaper as saying Friday.

The new measures will come into effect from the Songkran Festival in April as the government hopes to bring down the high death tolls during the period.

Together with the threat of jail, the new rule is expected to deter car owner's temptation to drive while drunk or give the key to a drunken friend, said police.

MNA/Xinhua

China sees most trade barrier cases in 2004

BEIJING, 1 April — China had 1.26 billion US dollars' worth of trade barrier cases in 2004, more than any other country, according to an annual report issued by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) on Thursday.

"The Foreign Market Access Report 2005" covers 22 trade partners of China, including Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, South Korea, Japan, Russia, the European Union, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.

China's exports to these countries accounted for about 68 per cent of China's total exports in 2004. The report introduces the trade and investment regulatory policies of each country, barriers to trade and investment, the barriers Chinese companies come across in foreign markets. China's concern over these barriers and its efforts to eliminate them.

Trade barriers were classified into 14 categories, such as tariffs and tariff administrative measures, import restrictions, Customs barriers and trade remedy measures. Investment barriers have three categories: barriers to investment access, barriers to operation and barriers to withdrawal of investment.

With the fast development of Chinese foreign trade and investment, some trade partners set up barriers to trade and investment to protect their domestic industries and home markets.

According to the WTO, a total of 16 countries and regions initiated 57 anti-dumping, countervailing, product-specific safeguard investigations against Chinese exporters.

MNA/Xinhua

HK Disneyland appoints "Visa" as official card

HONG KONG, 1 April — Hong Kong Disneyland announced here on Wednesday that Visa will be the official card of the theme park, which is due to open in September.

Visa International and Hong Kong Disneyland said they will form an alliance, an extension of the existing global alliance between Disney and Visa, which is commenced in 2002.

Under the alliance, the two parts will launch integrated marketing arrangement for Hong Kong Disneyland in the Asia Pacific Region and provide joint marketing opportunities that will bring unique ben-

efits to consumers, merchants and Visa's member financial institutions throughout the region. "Our vision, to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as a family vacation destination will be strengthened by working closely with Visa International in the Asia Pacific Region," said Don Robinson, managing director of Hong Kong Disneyland group.

MNA/Xinhua

Emergency help for quake affected people enhanced in Indonesia

SIBOLGA (Indonesia), 2 April — Three days after the great earthquake that hit Indonesia's Sumatra, the local government and people in the port city of Sibolga, one of the worst affected places, are beefing up efforts to cope with the disaster.

Three destroyers from the Indonesian Navy have been mobilized to transport emergency goods to the Nias Island — the epicenter. The warships are being quickly loaded Friday morning to start the journey in the evening. Information from the island, some 120 kilometres off coast, said after repeated searches, rescue efforts will not go on for long as "there could be hardly any people alive under the rubbles".

The warships would transport the basic needs to the island including drinking water, medicines, instant needles and other goods extremely needed by the survivors among the large quantities of emergency goods from local and international organizations, and foreign countries. Boxes of biscuits labelled "from the Afghani People," are particularly precious and eye-catching. "We are happy

to have help from so many in times of difficulty," one government worker said.

Besides the extremely needed daily necessities, the ships will also transport heavy construction machines and equipment for emergency purposes to the island where nearly 80 per cent of the buildings and houses have levelled.

Life in Sibolga is in a disorder. With some 700 aftershocks since March 29, residents feel very jittery and nervous. Some of them are leaving for other safer or higher places as rumours of possible big quakes are making the rounds among the resi-

dents. But most of them are ready to cope with the situation. "We'll remain here to help out," said Liu Chaofan, an aged overseas Chinese who has lost seven family members in the quake.

Large number of people are arriving here from the Nias Island to find help from relatives or friends.

Among them are those seriously injured seeking medical treatment. In the Tobing Hospital alone, 28 injured who have been shipped by government helicopters are under intensive care. "We are lucky to have survived the disaster," they said.—MNA/Xinhua

Clean-up ends two odd days after China chlorine spill

NANJING, 2 April — Clean-up work has basically ended Friday morning, 63 hours after the liquefied chlorine leakage in Huai'an City, east China's Jiangsu Province, an offi-

cial with the General Administration of Work Safety confirmed.

Sun Huashan, vice-director of the administration, announced rescuers had finished counter-acting the chlorine by 3.00 am Friday and the nearly empty tank was trucked to a local chemical plant at 10.00 am for disposal.

Deputy Governor Li Quanlin of Jiangsu Province said the local environment watchdog is still closely monitoring the area.

"If all indices are normal, some of the evacuees will hopefully return home tonight and all the others will be home in a day or two," he said in an interview with Xinhua.

The chlorine leak, caused by a truck collision late Tuesday afternoon, has killed 28, hospitalized 350 and forced nearly 10,000 residents to evacuate.

MNA/Xinhua

Railway linking Jiangxi, Fujian operational in E China

FUZHOU, 2 April — The Qianzhou-Longyan railway, a key state railway project which links southern Jiangxi Province and western Fujian Province, opened to traffic on Friday after three years of construction.

Costing 6.33 billion yuan (765 million US dollars), the 209.1-kilometre railway is expected to boost economic development in areas it runs through in these two east China provinces, a local government official told Xinhua.

MNA/Xinhua



A Vietnamese woman holds a chicken at a wholesale poultry market in Hanoi on 1 April, 2005.

INTERNET

Tatmadaw's future role history has bequeathed

Chin Gya (Maubin)

The Tatmadaw was born of the anti-colonialist and national liberation struggles. Relying on their guns and military power, the colonialists and Fascists enslaved Myanmar. Thus, the Myanmar Tatmadaw, with the participation of young patriotic politicians, was formed to launch the anti-colonialist and anti-Fascist struggles.

When Myanmar was about to regain independence, she needed a government. During the time, the Tatmadaw discharged only the national defence duty.

Stated in the electoral list of hluttaw dated 7 April 1947 were 255 members — 182 members in general (not of any specific national race) from various walks of life, four Anglo-Myanmars, 24 Kayins, 23 Shans, seven Kachins, seven Chins, two Kayinnis (Kayahs), and six other nationalities of hill regions. Of the 255 seats, 210 members were elected, and 45 seats were reserved for the nationalities. The AFPFL won 95.3 per cent of the votes. The Tatmadaw was discharging only the national defence and security duty then.

The Communist Party (Burma) led by Thakin Soe of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League went underground in January 1947. In 1948, the Burma Communist Party led by Thakin Than Tun started to follow the armed struggle line together with Yebawyu (PVO), the sympathizers of the BCP.

When independence was regained there appeared antagonism between the ruling AFPFL and Communist (White Flag) and Communist (Red Flag) political parties, and the government and political parties of the nationalities, resulting from disagreements.

As there was instability in the nation then, the ruling AFPFL requested the Tatmadaw, which was discharging only the national defence duty at that time, to take over the task of ensuring community peace and the rule of law, and regional security. Thus, the Tatmadaw had to discharge the national security for perpetuation of the nation's independence and sovereignty. A large number of Tatmadaw members sacrificed their lives, blood and sweat in discharging the duties.

Then came the problem of Kuomintang that intruded into Myanmar territory with the assistance of a big nation. The Myanmar Tatmadaw crushed the Kuomintang intruders with military offensives from 1950 to 1961.

Thanks to the efforts of the Tatmadaw, formed with various nationalities, the AFPFL government was able to control the major towns facing instability and main communication and transport links. Except a few areas, Myanmar was able to re-establish community peace and the rule of law in the entire nation in 1953.

Later, the AFPFL was split into two factions — Nu-Tin AFPFL led by U Nu and Thakin Tin and Swe-Nyein AFPFL led by U Ba Swe and U Kyaw Nyein. As the Nu-Tin faction wished to have a clean party, it named itself AFPFL (Clean). The Swe-Nyein faction was named AFPFL (Stable) as it wanted the party to exist longer.

During the time, the Tatmadaw considering the nation's future called for unity of all involved and peaceful settlement before the split of the AFPFL. When the split occurred, the Tatmadaw requested both sides to exercise restraint. It warned that any faction which committed violence causing bloodshed would be crushed.

But the political factions began to set up pocket armies, paying attention only to grabbing power. Antagonism ran high among the factions during the time, that a blood bath might occur if the election was held in November 1958.

The situation pushed the then prime minister

U Nu to hold a meeting with his hard-core members on 25 September. At the meeting, they agreed to temporarily transfer the State power to the Tatmadaw as a Caretaker Government to hold a free and fair election as they all had seen the amazing strength and ability of the Tatmadaw in crushing the internal insurgency in 1948-49.

On 26 September evening, U Nu assigned the Tatmadaw the task of taking over the duty of the Caretaker Government, and transferred the premiership to the commander-in-chief of the Tatmadaw. The Caretaker Government issued an announcement to hold a free and fair election.

As the Caretaker Government, the Tatmadaw held a free and fair election in 1960. The AFPFL (Clean) won the election. During the period it was performing the State duties as the Caretaker Government, the Tatmadaw was able to restore community peace and launch regional development drive, which the party governments were not able to accomplish.

The future role of the Tatmadaw is not one which the Tatmadaw asked for, but bequeathed by events in history. Hence, the duty — the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the future State — included in the six objectives of the National Convention, is bequeathed by the State itself.

The Pyithu Hluttaw elected U Nu as the prime minister on 4 April 1960. The AFPFL (Clean) was reorganized as the Pa-hta-sa party, and a committee comprising various political parties was also organized for flourishing of the parliamentary democracy. However, the Pa-hta-sa was divided itself into "U", "Bo", and "Thakin" factions.

The Bo group comprised some who participated in the anti-Fascist struggles, the U group was founded by former graduate officers and lawyers, and the "Thakin" group was formed with persons who took part in the political struggle since they called themselves Thakin.

In 1961, chieftains of Shan State issued the federal paper demanding secession from the Union and total autonomy. The chieftains who did not want to relinquish power led in writing the federal policy. But it was an act to weaken the ruling Pa-hta-sa and to break up the Union, taking advantage of internal insurgency.

The then government and the nationality leaders held the state conference at the radio station in Yangon on 24 February 1962. At the conference, Shan State stuck to the federal policy.

U Kyaw Nyein on 28 February that year, handed over a paper featuring the clandestine plot of a certain state to secede from the Union whether or not the government yielded to its federal policy, and to join the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). The SEATO was founded under the auspices of the US in September 1954 with the aim of containing the People's Republic of China where communists gained power.

During the time, Myanmar practised the neutral foreign policy. She had signed agreements with neighbouring countries for peaceful co-existence. If a state seceded from the Union and joined the SEATO, it would be like inviting a war involving a foreign nation. The people of Myanmar would also fall victim to the war. In other words, the act was like opening the door for neo-colonialist invasion.

Because of the political hardship and the danger of Union disintegration that shadowed in 1962, the Tatmadaw could not stay idle, but formed the Revolutionary Council and took over the State duties.

Behind the scene of the demands for democracy during the 1988 unrest was the conspiracy to put the nation's independence and sovereign power into the hands of aliens. The trouble-makers distributed the copies of the letter "The 24-hour advance warning" among the public. In the letter were the fake signatures of the then Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the then Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Air) with their names respectively.

Coinciding with the distribution of the letter of instigation was the encroachment of the US naval ships in Myanmar waters about 190 miles from the coast at a place between 14 degrees and 57 minutes longitude and 96 degrees and 33 minutes north latitude. The mv Inwa of Myanmar Five Star Shipping Corporation had seen the naval ships comprising ship Nos 43, 115 and 5. The ship No 43 was conducting war games with two small ships.

The embassy officials expressed amazement when the Tatmadaw officials asked the embassy of the country concerned about the matter and replied that it was correct. They said that the ships were there to evacuate the embassy families and citizens of the US if the situation in Myanmar worsened. But the families of the US embassy and other embassies totalling 267 had already left Yangon on board a chartered flight since 11 September. The reason given by the embassy was unrealistic. As the Tatmadaw knew the situation in the nick of time, it was able to save the nation's independence.

"Our Three Main National Causes" the nation is keeping in the fore at present is not created by the Tatmadaw. It was defined by the historical trend. The Tatmadaw, ever placing in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, always shoulders the State duties in addition to its national defence duties whenever the nation faces the danger put to Our Three Main National Causes.

As the onus is on the Tatmadaw to adopt democracy in accord with the historical requirement, it laid down and is implementing the political, economic and social objectives to introduce a discipline-flourishing democratic system in Myanmar.

Two points concerning the constitution have already been included in the four political objectives, and they are: Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution; and Building of new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution.

Throughout the thousand-year-old history of Myanmar, the national races have been living in unity and amity according to the Union system. Thus, Myanmar needs a constitution that guarantees the ever-lasting of the Union. Such a constitution cannot be drawn by a single legal expert, a group, a political party or political parties alone. It can be written only at the National Convention which is the meeting point of the delegates from all walks of life of the people with representatives of the nationalities as the majority, after making collective discussions and suggestions.

Thus, the Tatmadaw started its nation-building endeavour with the national reconsolidation. It has launched the border area development drive, and halted its military offensives all over the nation. Of the inmates serving jail terms for their wrong doings, the Tatmadaw released all those who were not in a harmful position to national security.

The Tatmadaw issued the Notification No 9/ 92 on 28 May 1992 to call the National Convention. It held meetings of 15 government representatives

(See page 11)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win gives instructions to departmental personnel in Ye.— MNA

Departmental officials to...

(from page 1)

The Prime Minister, after fulfilling the needs regarding the reports, gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standard and minimizing loss and wastage in the project. Next, the Prime Minister inspected the construction of the canals.

The aim of the construction of Yin Nyein Sluice Gate is to carry out the double and mixed cropping and to boost crops cultivation in the region, to prevent 20,000 acres of wet land from floods and sea water in the rainy season and to keep fresh water in late monsoon.

After inspecting the construction of Kataik Dam, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Ye. They were welcomed there by Col Than Toe of Ye Station and officials. The Prime Minister and party inspected the developing Ye town and Ye river-crossing bridge by car. On arrival at new Ye Railway Station, the Prime Minister oversaw greening tasks and greeted passengers. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party visited the site for extended construction of wards of township People's Hospital (50-bed). At the briefing hall, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Saw Myat Oo reported on health care services for local people and requirements. Construction in charge U Chan Sein reported on extended construction tasks, 34 percent of which have been completed and completion of the project in April 2006. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and Commander

township, land utilization, yield of monsoon paddy, cultivation of summer paddy and winter crops, agricultural and livestock breeding tasks, health and education sectors, regional self sufficiency of food, development tasks and requirements. Next, the Prime Minister delivered a speech. He said the ministers and the deputy ministers led

tion and transport have already been laid in the State and national solidarity have been consolidated. In the region intellectuals and entrepreneurs turned out, he said. With better conditions and opportunities, the National Convention is in session for emergence of a genuine, discipline-flourishing democratic nation after laying down the seven-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially meets with departmental personnel in Ye.— MNA

Ye is a fertile region for agriculture and fish and meat sectors. Agriculture, cultivation of rubber and production of fresh and sea water fish and prawn increased year after year along with the annual income of the local people. There is local rice sufficiency and its percentage is 102.64. Rapid development was made in the regions as people could do their economic undertakings peacefully.

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung also gave supplementary reports. After giving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister inspected the construction work. Later, the Prime Minister met departmental staff at the office of Ye Township PDC. Also present were Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, officials, local authorities and local people.

First, Ye Township PDC Chairman U Thein Zaw, Executive Officer of Lamaing General Administration Department U Kyaw Myint Hlaing and Khawza GAD Executive Officer U Tin Naing reported on data of the

by himself inspected development of Ye. He said he was glad to witness the progress in Ye including Ye River Bridge and Ye Railway Station, peace and stability and improvement of living standard of people. He said such progress was made because local people could do their commercial undertakings peacefully and safely. That is why per capita income of the people in Ye is the highest in Mon State. He said Ye is a fertile region for agriculture and fish and meat sectors. Agriculture, cultivation of rubber and production of fresh and sea water fish and prawn increased year after year along with the annual income of the local people. He found that there is local rice sufficiency and its percentage is 102.64. Rapid development was made in the regions as people could do their economic undertakings peacefully. They can now enjoy the results of peace and stability in the country.

Better foundations on administration, economy, educa-

point Road Map. According to the motto — strength of the nation lies within, he spoke of the need to make concerted efforts for emergence of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on better foundations achieved due to the cooperation of the government, the people and social organizations.

The Prime Minister and party arrived in Mawlamyine by helicopter. They were welcomed by Deputy Commander of South East Command Brig-Gen Myo Hla, senior military officers and officials.

The Prime Minister met departmental officials and members of social organizations at Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine. Present were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairmen of Mawlamyine

(See page 9)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects construction of Ye Railway Station.— MNA

Departmental officials to...

(from page 8)

and Thaton District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members and departmental officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Aung reported on location and data of Mon State, utilization of land, cultivation of 701,600 acres of monsoon paddy in 2004, harvesting of 701,410 acres, production of 47,187,692 baskets of paddy, cultivation of 60,150 acres of summer paddy and harvesting of 21,266 acres, sufficiency of rice, cultivation of over 25,900 acres of groundnut, sesamum and sunflower and 63,807 acres of beans and pulses, cultivation of 14,862 acres of pepper and arrangements for cultivation of another 5,000 acres in 2005-2006, cultivation of 245,805 acres of rubber, production of 33,965 tons of rubber and others.

The commander also reported on dams and sluice gates in Mon State, benefited areas, breeding of fish, production of meat, economic growth and arrangements

economic plan, by 8.5 per cent.

Similarly, the third five-year economic plan is targeted to achieve progress of 11.3 per cent, and up to the end of the fourth year, the annual growth has been 12.4 per cent. Efforts are to be made with added momentum to increase the development rate up to 12.6 per cent in the last year of the plan. The per capita income of the nation was K 1,940 in 1988-89, K 13,515 in 1995-96, K 50,927 in 2000-2002 and K 165,729 in 2004-2005. The target of the per capita income for this fiscal year has been set to reach K 180,000.

In respect of the GDP, the nation's agricultural sector represents 50.5 per cent, the industrial sector, 14.6 per cent and the service sector, 34.9 per cent. So, endeavours are to be particularly exerted to ensure significant progress of the industrial sector.

Being convinced that the nation will be an industrialized one only with the industrial development, the government has placed emphasis on further development of the industrial sector. The government will con-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets departmental staff, members of social organizations. — MNA



for realization the projects.

Minister for Education U Than Aung reported on measures undertaken for uplift of education, human resource development and learning of basic and higher education in the whole country.

Next, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt spoke at length on rural development tasks and tasks for ensuring smooth and secure transport.

to make efforts to achieve greater progress of the electricity sector and the electric power sector needed for better living standard of the people.

Now, all necessary measures have been taken for ensuring food sufficiency for the posterity.

Mon State is blessed with favourable conditions for economic progress. So it has achieved 12.1 per cent growth and accomplished 104.6 per cent performance in implementing the 2004-2005 economic development

especially the 12,500-foot-long Thanlwin River crossing bridge (Mawlamyine) is its most impressive showcase.

Such dramatic progress has resulted from the efforts made by those responsible at all levels to accomplish the objectives laid down for states and divisions by the government since its assumption of the State duties.

In such a time when the government and the people are making combined and harmonious endeavours to



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects construction of the Convocation Hall of Mawlamyine University. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets departmental personnel, members of social organizations. — MNA

In response, the Prime Minister said that thanks to the harmonious efforts of the entire people for the national economic development, the first four-year economic plan (1992-93 to 1995-96) achieved annual development by 7.5 per cent, and the second five-year

plan. Mon State stands fourth among the states and divisions in the nation's GDP.

Now the state has witnessed significant progress in the road and bridge, irrigation facilities, education, and health sectors along with urban development, and

Mon State is blessed with favourable conditions for economic progress. So it has achieved 12.1 per cent growth and accomplished 104.6 per cent performance in implementing the 2004-2005 economic development plan. Mon State stands fourth among the states and divisions in the nation's GDP.



Convocation Hall of Mawlamyine University under construction. — MNA

ensure national progress, the officials responsible for the administrative and management fields in the interests of the nation and the people are to help the people realize the government's genuine goodwill and efforts.

Departmental officials are to carry out their tasks with great care in order not to have adverse effect on the government's goodwill and loving kindness to the people. The departmental officials are to try their best to become ones who win the trust and respect of the people.

National solidarity is indeed the fundamental requirement for the Union. In conclusion, the Prime Minister exhorted the officials concerned to pay special attention

(See page 11)

Secretary-1...

(from page 16)

Afterwards, the Secretary-1, the commander and party viewed demonstration of paddy harvesting in the Emahtasaw paddy plantation of U Aung Soe with the use of CG 310 harvester and winnowing tasks. In addition, they viewed harvesting of summer paddy sample plot which yielded 128 baskets of paddy per acre.

At the temporary pandal, the Secretary-1 met with local farmers. In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that Myanmar, an agro-based country, is striving for development of the industrial sector. Being an agricultural country, the role of uplift of agricultural sector



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaks at the harvesting ceremony of monsoon paddy in Hlegu Township. — MNA

and increase of agricultural produce is very important. As the government is facilitating construction of cluster of dams and river water pumping projects across the country for en-

suring development of the agricultural sector, local farmers, on their part, should make utmost efforts for meeting the set target and boosting per-acre yield. Not only for ensur-

ing local food sufficiency but also for exporting surplus food, it is necessary to cultivate high yield paddy strains and use chemical and natural fertilizers with the use of correct methods.

Furthermore, emphasis is to be placed on use of pesticide in their farms for boosting per-acre yield. As the land of Myanmar is a fertile region, efforts are to be made for improvement of indi-

vidual living standard of local farmers by utilizing precious land for agricultural purpose so as to contribute towards emergence of a modern and developed nation in the future. — MNA

Upgrading tasks in Yangon City



Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect upgrading of a road. — YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 2 April — Upgrading of Yangon City and sanitation activities were carried out in all parts of Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, this morning.

The upgrading tasks were placing of concrete at Botahtaung Container Yard, repaving of Banyadala Road in Tamway Township, construction of 6,430 feet long Maungmagan Kantha Road linking northern and southern parts of Dagon Myothit Townships, building of Kyaukyedwin Overpass in North Okkalapa Township and dredging of drains for proper flow of water.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected upgrading tasks. — MNA

A Myanmar embassy staff in Washington absconds with family

YANGON, 2 April — U Aung Lin Htut, a retired major, attached to Myanmar Embassy in Washington, the USA, absconded with his wife Daw Tin Lay Nwe, one son and two daughters and a maid, in an act of betrayal to the State on 1 April 2005.

Daw Tin Lay Nwe, wife of U Aung Lin Htut, is said to have been summoned to appear before a court in connection with settlement of bad debt for the lease of a building in a commercial case. — MNA

Railroad sections, bridges inspected

YANGON, 2 April — U Pe Than, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation, proceeded to Pun Creek Bridge after leaving instructions to employees under the ministry in Taunggyi on 30 March.

He inspected completion of station building, railroad sections and bridges on Saikkhaung-Punchaung Railroad. On 31 March, the

deputy minister oversaw construction tasks along Punchaung-Bankyauk-Taunggaing-Htibin-Namaheik-Kaunghsai railroad.

In Taunggyi on 1 April, he met with Shan state level officials of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and gave necessary instructions. On 2 April, the deputy minister arrived back here.

MNA

ment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected upgrading tasks. — MNA

Workshop on development...

(from page 16)

produce more quality pictures and to prevent the penetration of foreign pictures in the nation. He also exhorted those from the film industry to make efforts with might and main to achieve greater success. He pledged that the State and the ministry will render assistance as much as they can for the drive.

In conclusion, the minister called on those who play an important role in the industry and officials to see to the resolutions that would be passed at the workshop.

The workshop followed at the same venue at 9.30 am, with an address by Managing Director of the MMPE U Bo Kyi.

Members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon film directors, producers, and script writers elaborated on policies on censorship of stories and scripts for development of the nation's film industry and on programmes for penetration of international film world.

MMPE Chairman U Sein Tin presided over the afternoon session. Secretary of Myanmar Video Censor Board Director of MMPE U Thein Tun Aung and Director U Myint Thein Pe of MMPE reported on income and profits of the video enterprise, censorship of pictures, and measures to be taken by directors and producers for enhancing the role of the nation's video enterprise. Next, the workshop went

Development tasks in Kyaukgyi, Pyu inspected

YANGON, 2 April — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected facilities of Mone Station Hospital in Kyaukgyi Township on 30 March. The commander viewed round Mone BEHS and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At Marlarmyaing Monastery in Mone, the commander paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naginda. At the monastery, he met with local people and explained rural development tasks. On arrival at Okphyat Village in Pyu Township, he left instructions to officials on maintenance of bridges on Pyu-Okphyat-Mone Road and Okphyat-Mone Road. — MNA

Construction tasks on An-Maei-Kyaukpyu Road inspected

YANGON, 2 April — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing on 31 March inspected construction of bridges along Maei-Kyaukpyu section of An-Maei Road. He also oversaw construction of Thazintanpauk and Minkyaung Creek Bridges. At Hsabyin Bridge construction site on Maei-Taungup section, he heard reports on construction matters by Engineer in-charge U Thit Lwin. The bridge will be 160 feet long and 24 feet wide. It is of reinforced concrete type.

In Maei, he met with departmental officials and heard reports on matters concerning the township. The commander explained regional development. — MNA

into recess. Member of the Myanmar Motion Picture and Video Censor Board Managing Director (Retd) of the MMPE U Maung Maung Khin chaired the evening session. It was fol-

lowed by a general round of discussions and suggestions for the development of the film industry.

Afterwards, the chairman delivered concluding remarks. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets those present at the workshop on development of Myanmar film industry. — MNA

Tatmadaw's future role...

(from page 7)

and 29 representatives of the then existing political parties. The arrangements for holding the National Convention were made according to the discussions at the meetings.

Moreover, six objectives have been laid down as a guideline in convening the National Convention. The National Convention began on 9 January 1993, with the participation of all the NC delegates. Even the representatives of the armed groups that returned to the legal fold had been permitted to attend the Convention.

After the National Convention has laid down the 104 basic principles to be stipulated in the constitution, it temporarily suspended due to the instigation of an individual and a single political party. But the Tatmadaw has never stopped its nation-building endeavours. It never loses sight of the national goal, the entire people have desired. It continued to fulfil the basic needs for the future nation during the time. And till now, it has been launching the rural development drive covering the border areas and implementing the 24-development zone project, with national reconsolidation as the base. The Tatmadaw has been building infrastructures all over the nation for material development.

After building all the infrastructures necessary for transition to democracy, the Tatmadaw has laid down the seven-point Road Map or the future policy programme to reach a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation smoothly. At present, the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, has been held successfully portion by portion.

History stands witness to the fact that in times of emergency, the Tatmadaw has always successfully discharged the duties of the State in accord with its tradition of playing the national political leadership role.

The future role of the Tatmadaw is not one which the Tatmadaw asked for, but bequeathed by events in history. Hence, the duty — the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the future State — included in the six objectives of the National Convention, is bequeathed by the State itself.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 1.4.2005

Departmental officials to...

(from page 9)

to the national unity on the basis of the fact that only when the entire national people are one, can peace and stability be restored well in the nation and will a discipline-flourishing democratic nation emerge.

On arrival at Mawlamyine University, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by the pro-rector, professors/heads of departments, lecturers and officials of the university.

Later, Pro-rector U Tun Sein reported on the salient points of the university and management on the academic affairs of the training opening at the university, and Minister for Education U Than Aung on discussions of the university, research works and construction of the convocation hall.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister attended to the needs and cordially greeted the teachers.

Next, the Prime Minister proceeded to the construction site of the convocation hall of Mawlamyine University and heard the reports on the progress of the construction and measures to be taken, followed by the supplementary reports by Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister looked into the scale model of the convocation hall and progress of constructing the university and gave necessary instructions to the officials. —MNA

Chinese Vice-Premier meets with Antarctic expedition team

BEIJING, 2 April — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan met with the members of the country's 21st Antarctic expedition team on Thursday to congratulate them on their successful journey and encouraged them to work harder still.

Vice-Premier Zeng, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, viewed a video of the research expedition, during which the Chinese scientists arrived at the inland ice cover of the Antarctic and erected the national flag.

Zeng also heard a report about the trek by Li Yuansheng, head of the expedition team.

While talking with the researchers, the Vice-

Premier spoke highly of the achievements they had attained in Antarctic research. In only 20 years, he acknowledged, China has made major strides in the field and won a say in the international arena of polar research.

China will be able to scale new heights, explore into broader fields and play a still greater role in the peaceful utilization of Antarctic, Zeng said.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's steel billet import to slightly rise in 2005

HANOI, 2 April — Vietnam is estimated to consume 3.5 million tons of steel billets this year, 71.4 per cent of which will come from export, according to the Vietnam Steel Association (VSA) on Friday.

Vietnam's seven steel billet makers with designed annual capacity of some 1.5 million tons are facing material shortage, so the country will have to import up to 2.5 million tons of the product, mainly China, Russia, Ukraine and Malaysia, this year, up 8.7 per cent over last year.

Now, the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Company and the Southern Steel Company, which hold a combined local market share of around 40 per cent for steel products, can make most of their billets from domestic materials: iron ores and scraps. The five other makers have to heavily rely on imported scraps with higher prices.

Supplies of steel scraps in both Vietnam and other countries are becoming thinner and thinner, the VSA said, noting that many local billet producers are turning to domestic iron ores.

According to experts of Vietnam's Industry Ministry, the country has yet to exploit the Thach Khe

iron ore mine with a reserve of 540 million tons in central Ha Tinh Province, since investment for a metallurgy complex to fully tap the mine is too big: up to three billion US dollars.

Vietnam, which spent 869.7 million US dollars importing nearly 2.3 million tons of steel billets last year, imported 467,000 tons of the product valued at 180 million dollars in the first quarter of this year, posting year-on-year respective decreases of 7.6 per cent in volume and 0.7 per cent.

The VSA estimated that Vietnam recorded sales of around 55,000 tons of finished steel of all kinds in the first three months of this year, similar to the average amount of the products consumed in a quarter last year. Local steel makers now can export their products to South Asian countries which need huge amounts of the material to overcome tsunamis' aftermath, the association stated.

MNA/Xinhua

Commander inspects agriculture, construction tasks

YANGON, 2 April — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing inspected 5 acres of Hsinshweli paddy plantation near Humon Village of Lashio on 31 March morning.

The commander made inspection tour of preparations for fish breeding works and the land reclamation area.

He also oversaw storage of water at Humon Dam. At the local battalion, he looked into sample sunflower plantation and sample soya-bean plantation.

Similarly, 10-acre Hsinayadana paddy plot and the construction of office of Shan State (North) Organization for Women's Affairs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

MNA

Susilo says no compromise for swindlers of disaster aid

NIAS (Indonesia), 2 April — President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reiterated recently that there would be no compromise with any party or person involved in any attempt to swindle disaster funds for earthquake victims in Nias, North Sumatra.

"There is no tolerance in any form to those involved in swindling disaster aid," Susilo said during his visit to quake-devastated Nias. Susilo's remarks were made apparently in response to concerns

by a number of donors over safety of the disbursements and distribution of funds they gave to help alleviate suffering among victims in tsunami-hit Aceh early this year. — MNA/Xinhua

47th PyinOoLwin Gold Cup Golf Tournament to be held

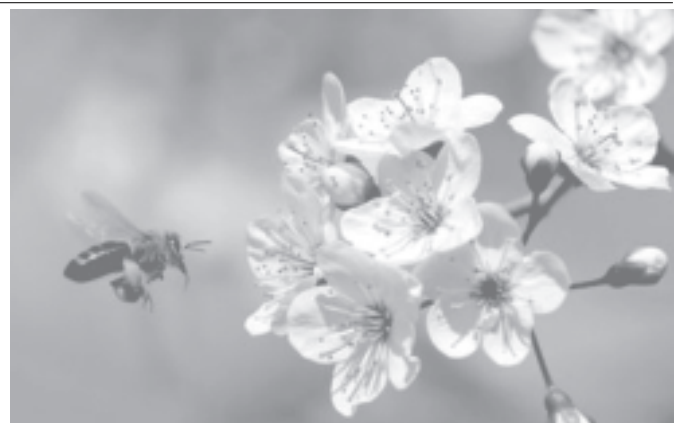
YANGON, 2 April — Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, Myanmar PGA and PyinOoLwin Golf Club, the 47th PyinOoLwin Gold Cup Golf Tournament will be held from 12 to 15 April in PyinOoLwin Golf Course on a grand scale.

Handicap 0-12 professional and amateur golfers event, the team event, individual amateur event, elder and women's events will take place. The

handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Those wishing to participate in the tournaments and elder golfers are to contact PyinOoLwin Golf Club (Tel: 085-22383) and Han Event Management (Tel: 09-99-72554) and enlist not later than 4 pm on 10 April. Further information can be available.

The tournaments will be held by Han Event Management. — MNA



A bee hovers in front of a blossom of a plum tree in Bruchkoebel near Frankfurt, Germany, on 2 April, 2005. —INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV "MAWLAMYINE" VOY NO ML 119/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MAWLAMYINE" Voy No ML 119/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 3-4-2005 and will be berthing on about 4-4-2005 and cargos will be discharged into the permises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge or cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

Annan seeks Brazilian support for UN reform

BRASILIA, 1 April — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan held a telephone conversation with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday afternoon, asking him to support the UN reform.

According to the Brazilian Government, Lula confirmed his personal commitment to the reform of the UN Security Council and the United Nations in general.

Nine days ago, the Secretary-General proposed a series of changes to the United Nations. In a report presented before the General Assembly, Annan proposes the Security Council be enlarged and clear rules for the use of military force be defined.

The present Brazilian Government has reinforced the policy to obtain

a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, which is an old aspiration of the Brazilian diplomacy. Brazil also sees the need to reform the organization in the face of the changes in the world in the past decades.

During the telephone conversation, the Secretary-General said he mentioned in his last week's report the assistance provided by Brazil to poor countries and the anti-poverty programmes of the Brazilian Government.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela, Spain sign cooperation deals

CARACAS, 1 April — Venezuela and Spain signed several deals on political, commercial and defence cooperation on Wednesday, marking a new phase of their ties which had been chilled by Spain's alleged support of the 2002 coup against Venezuelan President Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias.

The deals, signed by Chavez and visiting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, included sales of 10 Spanish transport planes and four coastal patrol vessels to Venezuela.

Chavez, who has been criticized by Washington for Venezuela's recent arms purchases, said the military deal is "for peaceful purposes", noting the equipment will be used to patrol high seas and land borders to prevent drug trafficking.

Under the deals, Span-

ish and Venezuelan oil companies will establish a joint venture to increase Venezuela's oil output. Besides, Spain agreed to build two asphalt tankers and one Panamax oil tanker for Venezuela.

The agreements also included the establishment of a Spanish-Venezuelan trade commission to improve relations between the two countries' economic and trade organizations.

Chavez, who survived a coup against him in 2002, accused Zapatero's predecessor and Washington's close ally, Jose Maria Aznar, of supporting the coup which the latter denied.—MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

TRADE MARK CAUTION
HONDA GIKEN
KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (Honda Motor Co., Ltd., in English) a Company incorporated under the laws of Japan, having its head office at No. 1-1, 2-Chome, Minami-aoyama, Minatoku, Tokyo, Japan is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

AL-GAS

Reg. No. 586/1989 in respect of "two-wheeled vehicles".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for **HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA** P.O. Box 60, Yangon. Dated: 3 April 2005

Singapore's relief efforts continue in Nias, Medan

SINGAPORE, 1 April — Three Chinook helicopters deployed by the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) to earthquake-hit areas in Indonesia have flown nine sorties from Medan to Nias in 24 hours till Thursday morning, according to the latest update of information by the Defence Ministry.

Apart from ferrying both Singaporean and Indonesian relief personnel, the Chinooks brought food, water, medical supplies and equipment like generators into Nias, and have evacuated 45 wounded people to Medan for further medical treatment as well.

The SAF medical team, which arrived in Nias on Wednesday afternoon, has treated 90 patients for fractures, abrasions and burns since its 24-hour operations began at midnight till 4 o'clock (local time) Thursday afternoon.

Three SAF C-130 transport flights joined the efforts by airlifting additional personnel, relief supplies and emergency aid from Singapore to Medan on Wednesday and Thursday, the ministry said.

Currently, a total of 94 SAF personnel is in Nias and Medan assisting the Indonesian authorities and the United Nations medical team with relief operations.

MNA/Xinhua



Poland, Azerbaijan to strengthen ties

WARSAW, 1 April — Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and visiting Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev discussed bilateral political, economic and trade issues on Wednesday and signed three cooperation documents.

During the talks, Kwasniewski expressed great interest in Azerbaijan's proposal to the European Union (EU) on transporting oil and natural gas from the Caspian Sea to Europe through pipelines.

The two presidents discussed the possibility to extend the pipelines from Ukraine's Odessa to Poland's Gdansk so that it can serve Azerbaijan's oil transportation proposal. Kwasniewski said this plan is of great importance to Poland as it can effectively reduce Poland's heavy reliance on Russian

oil and gas. Aliyev expressed support for the plan.

The two leaders also exchanged views on how to strengthen Azerbaijan's cooperation with the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the World Trade Organization. Kwasniewski said Poland understands and supports Azerbaijan's wish for closer ties with these international organizations and is ready to offer help.

After the meeting, the two presidents signed a series of agreements on economic and trade coop-

eration.

Azerbaijan Defence Minister Safar Abiyev, who was accompanying the President on the visit, also held talks with his Polish counterpart Jerzy Szmajdzinski on Wednesday. The two signed a defence cooperation treaty after the meeting, under which the two countries will expand military cooperation, especially in jointly developing up-to-date military technologies.

Aliyev arrived in Warsaw on Wednesday for a two-day visit to Poland.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria strengthens anti-graft campaign to facilitate debt relief

LAGOS, 1 April — The Nigerian Government is strengthening its anti-graft campaign to meet the requirements for achieving debt forgiveness from creditor nations, a government official said here on Wednesday.

Otumba Segun Runsewe, executive director of Nigeria's National Orientation Commission, said "some members of the Paris and London club of creditor nations have said it openly that unless Nigeria fights corruption and wanton waste in the economy it is not fit for debt relief or forgiveness".

Nigeria is one of the heavily indebted countries of sub-Saharan Africa with a total debt portfolio of 32 billion US dollars. However, the country is not included among the Heavily Indebted Poor

Countries (HIPC) that are considered for debt relief or forgiveness by the creditor nations.

Runsewe said Nigeria has not been able to achieve debt forgiveness or any other form of debt relief because of indiscriminate embezzlement of public fund, which gives the impression that the country is suffering amidst plenty.

Nigeria has been declared twice as one of the most corrupt countries of the world by global anti-graft watchdog, Transparency International (TI) based in Berlin, Germany.

To give the country a good image among the community of nations and also secure debt forgiveness of the huge external debt overhand, the present government under President Olusegun Obasanjo established the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission and the Economic and Financial Crime Commission.

Last week the government sacked its Education Minister Fabian Osuji for his indictment over 55 million naira (about 417,000 dollars) bribery scam.

MNA/Xinhua

Uganda endeavours to reduce landmine risks

KAMPALA, 1 April — The Ugandan Government Wednesday reaffirmed that it would work together with non-governmental organizations and community-based groups in reducing mine risks and rehabilitation of these disabled by landmines.

The remarks were made by Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Christine Aporu Amongin on the occasion of opening exchange visits between landmines survivor groups in the Great Lakes Region.

She said that landmines impend the construction of conflicts affected societies, the return of refugees and inter-

nally displaced people into their communities.

"Scanty facts on landmines indicate that there are an estimated 60-85 million unexploded landmines in the ground in about 60 countries across the globe," the minister said, adding that "the Red Cross estimates that 500 people are either killed or wounded each week by landmines, majority of them are innocent civil-

ians."

She said the Ugandan Government has over the past decade been carrying out mine programmes in the country.

According to her, Uganda signed the International Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention on 3 December, 1997 and ratified the Ottawa Treaty on the Convention on 25 February, 1999.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Global air traffic growth slows down in February

GENEVA, 2 April—The global air traffic growth slows down in February but Asia has recovered from the 26 December tsunami impact, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Thursday.

“February traffic growth gave mixed signals. A slowing of global economic activity saw passenger traffic fall to 6.6-per-cent year-on-year from the 7.9 per cent re-

ported in January,” IATA Director-General and CEO Giovanni Bisignani said in a statement.

“The good news is that the resilience of air travel was once again demonstrated in the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami. Growth for Asian carriers returned to normal levels, partially boosted by Chinese New Year travel,” he added.

All regions reported positive growth in passenger traffic in February, with the Middle East and Latin America being the strongest performers. Asia Pacific largely recovered from the impacts of tsunami, posting a 7.9-per-cent year-on-year increase for February.

Cargo slumped by 0.9 per cent in February, al-

though year-to-date figures maintained positive growth of 6.5 per cent. Weaker global economic activity and a slump in Chinese imports during the Chinese New Year period are largely to blame for this, said the IATA.

The cost of fuel continued to rise in February, mitigating the positive impacts of both growth and careful capacity management.

“If the average price of oil settles at 43 US dollars per barrel (Brent) for the year, the total cost of fuel to the industry will exceed 73 billion dollars. Clearly 2005 will be another year of industry losses, despite aggressive airline cost cutting,” said Bisignani.

MNA/Xinhua



Merapi volcano in central Java, Indonesia seen, on 1 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Five held liable for highway collapse in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 1 April—Four individuals and Nishimatsu, the main contractor of the tunnelling works at Nicoll Highway in downtown Singapore, were recommended to be criminally liable for the collapse of the road happened on 20 April last year.

According to Channel NewsAsia report on Thursday night, the four accused included a design consultant and three Nishimatsu staff.

One of the Nishimatsu staff, Ng Seng Yong, who monitored the excavation and design of the works, was also assumed to be negligent, the report said.

A three-judge panel will submit a report to the Minister of Manpower after assessing these recommendations made by state prosecutors.

Experts alleged in late January this year that there was an original design error in the planning of the construction site, while the reclaimed land around Nicoll Highway made the situation worse.

MNA/Xinhua

Israeli Army to use new unmanned planes

GAZA, 1 April — Israeli Army will soon use a new type of pilotless planes to watch the activities of Palestinian militants, Israel Radio reported on Thursday.

The new planes will be used in battling against Palestinian military groups as well as arms smuggling from Egypt to the Gaza Strip, said the report citing Israeli Army sources.

“Israeli soldiers could carry the planes on their backs and operate them in the field,” the sources said, adding that the soldiers would be trained on using them.

According to the radio, Israeli Army received Wednesday evening several of these planes which are distinguished by their lightness. The new plane can be operated by a remote control and its low sound could not be heard 10 metres away.

The new planes are produced by an Israeli military producing company, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain sees biggest house price drop in decade

LONDON, 1 April— House prices in Britain fell 0.6 per cent in March, the biggest monthly drop in almost 10 years, the Nationwide building society announced on Thursday.

The biggest fall since 1995 meant house prices in Britain were 7.9 per cent higher in March than a year ago, the first time the annual growth rate has fallen below 10 per cent since 2001.

The building society said the figures confirmed its view that the house market was experiencing a “soft landing” instead of a crash in the country, but they did not prompt it to revise its forecasts of price growth of 0 to 5 per cent in 2005.

Noting that the price drop followed two months of rises, Nationwide said it was consistent with its forecasts that Britain would see a 2005 house price movement “characterized by rises in some months and falls in others”.

The price falls in March were luring more house buyers onto the market, with the number

of people on estate agents’ books rising 6.2 per cent, according to property website Hometrack.

Despite the dip in price growth, house prices grew by almost 1,000 pounds (1,900 US dollars) in March, taking the average price up to 153,876 pounds (300,000 US dollars).

Economists believed that the latest Nationwide figures could raise speculation that the Bank of England, Britain’s central bank, would not raise interest rates.

“There seems to be a little more breathing space on the timing of any change in UK interest rates,” Nationwide economist Alex Bannister was quoted by the BBC as saying. “Evidence of a continuing gentle slowdown in the housing market, as shown by the latest data, is likely to reinforce this view,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Chavez defends arms purchase from Spain

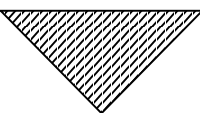
CARACAS, 1 April— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez stressed on Wednesday that his country’s arms purchase from Spain is for peace and security missions.

Visiting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Rodriguez Zapatero signed seven agreements with Chavez on Wednesday, including one on the sale of transport planes, asphalt-transport vessels and patrol boats.

Chavez made clear that the ships will be used in ocean navigation and patrolling, while the planes in carrying cargo and people. The military equipment will help Venezuela strengthen its defence capacity and combat smuggling, drug-trafficking and international crimes, said Chavez at the presidential palace.

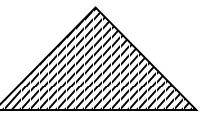
His remarks came after the US Government said Venezuela leads an arms race that will endanger the Western Hemisphere in the future.

MNA/Xinhua



Modern buildings line up Doha’s coastal strip on the Gulf seen on 1 April, 2005.

INTERNET



Greece supports biotechnology but wary of effects

ATHENS, 2 April — Greece supports the development of biotechnology but is wary of its side effects, Greek Development Minister Dimitris Sioufas said here on Thursday.

“The Development Ministry supports the development of the biotechnology sector in our country and encourages related research,” he said while addressing the first national biotechnology and food technology conference held on Thursday.

“However, it also monitors and studies the social, genetic and any

other consequences that may result from biological research,” he added.

He said that biotechnology has contributed significantly to improving and producing new ingredients, adding that biotechnological methods in food analysis and management of food by-products have improved both food safety and environmental

protection. The minister called on the industry and universities to make efforts for a closer integration between research, production and economic growth.

He also urged the industry to invest more in research in order to boost product competitiveness, market reach and export value. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Phelps withdraws from 400 IM at US trials

WASHINGTON, 2 April— Six-time Olympic champion Michael Phelps dropped out of the 400-metre individual medley on Friday at the US world swimming trials held in Indianapolis.

Phelps is the world-record holder in the event but pulled out so he could swim the 400 freestyle, an event in which he did not have a qualifying time, according to reports.

Coach Bob Bowman did not want the 19-year-old Phelps pushing himself in two long-distance events on the same day. Phelps has been rehabilitating a back injury that forced him to withdraw from last October's world short course championships.

He was scheduled to swim seven events at the six-day meet. But Bowman said the schedule at this summer's world championships also may have prohibited Phelps from competing in the 400 IM.

Phelps reached the 400 freestyle final by qualifying sixth in 3 minutes, 55.70 seconds. Peter Vanderkaay, one of Phelps' training partners, had the top time of 3:53.06. —MNA/Xinhua

Ding beats Bingham for quarter berth in China Open snooker

BEIJING, 2 April— Chinese Ding Junhui survives wild card player Stuart Bingham of England 5-4 with a superb lucky performance in the ninth final frame to reach the last eight in the China Open snooker here on Thursday.

The former world Under-21 champion luckily pot a cool brown ball in to win eventually after lagging behind 16-47 in the deciding frame. His opponent pulled three con-

secutive frames back after Ding made three centuries in the first five frames to take 4-1 lead.

"I was lucky enough today especially for the brown," responds the Chi-

nese snooker model.

Marco Fu, from Hong Kong, sealed the eighth frame with a break of 53 before Dave Harold of England tied the frames 3-3 by potting the black.

"He is a tough guy and gets used to slowly rhythm of actions, but I prepared much on defence, which is the main reason of victory," said the top Asian snooker.

In the day's other actions, seven-times world champion Stephen Hendry saw off Ryan Day from Wales 5-1 as world No. 2 Williams moved after 5-2 against Adrian Gunnell from England.

Wildcard player Welsh Ricky Walden got through after legend Steve Davis retired due to physical fitness on 0-3 loss. John Higgins was downed 5-2 by his compatriot world No. 10 Alan McManus. —MNA/Xinhua

Rally champions to attend Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix

MANAMA, 2 April— This weekend's Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix is expected to attract a number of top stars from all over the world including two top Middle East Rally Champions.

The drivers, Saudi born Abdulla Bakhshab and Abdo Feghali from Lebanon, will be arriving in Bahrain on Friday to attend the high profile motorsport event.

Through their presence at the Bahrain International Circuit, the champions will be extending their backing to the international event and the local Bahraini drivers taking part in the supporting races.

"It gives us great pleasure to welcome Abdulla

and Abdo," said General Manager of the BIC Martin Whitaker. "Bahrain International Circuit is widely considered to be the 'Home of Motorsport' in the Middle East and we have enjoyed supporting a variety of sports over the past two years.

"The BIC also hosted the second round of the 2005 Middle East Rally Championship in February. The support during the GP of the two champions will further influence the role of the circuit in

the region," he added.

Abdo Feghali has conquered a total of 34 rallies in his career, grabbed three wins and enjoyed 15 podium finishes. In 2004, the 27-year-old took part in the Monte Carlo and Greek rallies.

Abdulla Bakhshab has been rallying since 1991. The 36-year-old is part of the Saudi Marlboro Rally Team. In 2002, he made a comeback to the rally world after taking a year out.

—MNA/Xinhua

Atos Origin ends first round of live testing for 2006 Winter Olympics

PARIS, 2 April— Atos Origin, the Worldwide Information Technology (IT) Partner for the Olympic Games, has successfully completed 10 weeks of live testing of the IT infrastructure in sub-zero temperatures, for the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games (10th-26th February, 2006).

Held during 13 winter sport competitions (including World and European championships) that took place at the competition venues for the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games, the process tested the Games Management Systems, Information Diffusion Systems (Info 2006 and Commentator Information System), and the supporting IT infrastructure.

The live tests, part of Atos Origin global IT testing programme initiated two and a half years before the Games, are designed to examine not only the robustness of the IT infrastructure, but also the communications between the nearly 700 Atos Origin, the Organizing Committee for the XX Olympic Winter Games (TOROC), technology partners and volunteer teams. Outside of the live Sport Events, Atos Origin also tested how the IT team handles various simulated crisis situations, such as a power outage or network failure.

"The live testing phase is crucial for Atos Origin. We really need to know how the IT systems and the team operate under pressure at real events.

We have to contend with delayed events due to adverse weather conditions, the operation of electronic systems in sub-zero temperatures on snowy mountains and the deployment of a huge IT infrastructure in a difficult environment, with technology both at the start and the bottom of ski slopes, and ski jumps, to be able to meet the response times for our Sport and Press customers," commented Claude Philipps, Atos Origin Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games Programme Director.

The 13 competitions that live testing took place at successfully were the biathlon, Nordic combined, ski jumping, figure skating, bobsleigh, luge, skeleton, alpine skiing, cross country skiing, snowboard, freestyle, short track and curling. —MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania to host IAAF U-17 regional championships

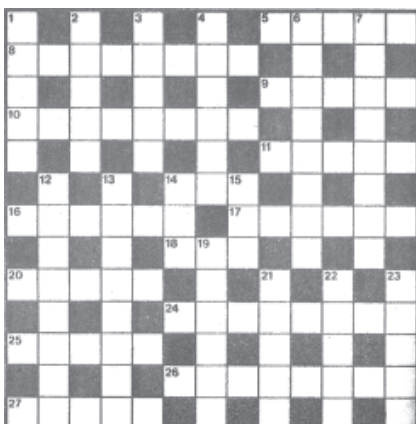
DAR-ES-SALAAM, 2 April— Eight countries are to take part in this year's IAAF East African Regional Under-17 Track and Field Championships to be held in Arusha of northern Tanzania.

The participating countries are Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda and hosts Tanzania.

The track events include races of 100, 200, 400, 800, 3,000 and 5,000 metres while the field events include long jump, high jump, triple jump, discus, javelin and shotput. Each participating country will be allowed to field up to three contestants in each of the events.

—MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 5 Purchaser
- 8 Woven picture
- 9 Decrepid
- 10 Rude
- 11 Obliquely
- 14 English river
- 16 Cured herring
- 17 Insanity
- 18 Tropical edible root
- 20 Ardent
- 24 Harshness
- 25 Inferior
- 26 Mockery
- 27 Disorderly

DOWN

- 1 Tarnish
- 2 Convulsive movement
- 3 Devotional song
- 4 Copper alloy
- 6 A revolt
- 7 Distinction
- 12 Make least of
- 13 False
- 14 Not wet
- 15 Tree
- 19 Respond
- 21 Value
- 22 Faint-hearted
- 23 Scavenging animal

Brisbane considers to bid for 2020 Olympic Games

CANBERRA, 2 April— Premier of Australia's southeast state of Queensland Peter Beattie said on Friday that state capital Brisbane will look seriously at a possible bid for the Olympic Games in 2020 or 2024.

His announcement came after International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge, who is in Brisbane for the Oceanic National Olympic Committee Conference, said the IOC would love to see a bid from Brisbane one day.

"We wouldn't realistically be in the bidding until 2024 but we need to start thinking about it," the Australian Associated Press quoted Beattie as saying.

"I'm just putting it on the agenda. Now we'll spend the next few years seeing what sort of interest and support there is," he said. Meanwhile, Olympic officials are persuading Brisbane not to be hasty in pursuing the idea, because such a bid cannot be close to Sydney's hosting of the 2000 Olympics.

Australian Olympic Committee President John Coates said Brisbane should put the idea on the backburner until after the 2012 Games. In 1985, Brisbane failed to win the bid for the 1992 Olympics, which was held in Barcelona. —MNA/Xinhua



Bolivia's Jose Antonio Revuelta, front, is fouled by Brazil's Kerlon Moura during their U-17 South American soccer match at Pachenco Romero stadium in Maracaibo, Venezuela, on 1 April, 2005.

INTERNET

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်

* အမျိုးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
 * သရုပ်ဖော်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 * အမျိုးဂုဏ်၊ ဓာတ်ဂုဏ်ကို မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်ဖြင့် မြှင့်တင်ပါ။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

ရေခဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း

ဆပ်ပြာရည်ကတ်ဘူးဖြင့် ကစားက

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

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုမဟာသင်္ကြန်

ဆင်နွှဲသူများ လိုက်နာရန်

တိုက်တွန်းနှိုးဆော်ချက်

* မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုဓလေ့စရိုက်နှင့်ဖီလာ ဆန်ကျင်ပြီး မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏ အမြင့်တွင် မတင်တယ်သည် ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု၊ ပြုမူပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
 * ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆုတ်အမနှင့် ဖီလာဆန်ကျင်သည် အပြုအမူ၊ ပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
 * အချင်းချင်း ဒဏ်ရာအနာတရ ဖြစ်စေပြီး အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေသည့် ကြမ်းတမ်းသည့် ရေကစားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
 * တိုင်းရင်းသားစည်းလုံးညီညွတ်မှုကို ဖျက်ပြားစေပြီး ဆူပူမှုကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်သည့် လှုံ့ဆော်ဖန်တီးပြုမူပြောဆိုကြံ့ပမ်းမှုများကို မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

သတိ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း ဟွန်းမတီးရ။

ယဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

သတိ

၁။ လေပေါင် (၁၀၀) မှ (၁၅၀) အထိ အတင်အချ မြေလှုပ်၍ ရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပက်ကစားခြင်းကြောင့် ရေစူးအား ပြင်းလွန်၍ ရေပက်ခံရသူတွင် အသားရေများ ပွန်းပဲ့စုတ်ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိ၊ နားများ အား ထိုးမိပါက မျက်လုံး၊ နားကန်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသဖြင့် ရေကစားမညွှတ်များ၊ ရေပက်ခံကစားများတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များ အသုံးပြု၍ ရေပက်ခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်္ကြန်ရေပက်ကစားခြင်းအား သင်္ကြန်ရက်များအတွင်း နေ့စဉ် နံနက် (၁၇၀၀) နာရီမှ (၁၈၀၀) နာရီအတွင်းသာ ရေပက်ကစားကြရန်နှင့် (၁၈၀၀) နာရီ နောက်ပိုင်း ရေပက်ကစားခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

၃။ တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

ခရစ်တော်၌အိပ်ပျော်ခြင်း

သိက္ခာတော်ရလရာဒေါက်တာအောင်ခင်

(ချစ်သောအောင်ခင်)

အသက် (၉၂) နှစ်

နာယကအသင်းအုပ်ဆရာတော်

ဗြဟ္မာဂင်နစ်ခြင်းအသင်းတော်

ဗောဇ္ဈောလ ရန်ကုန်

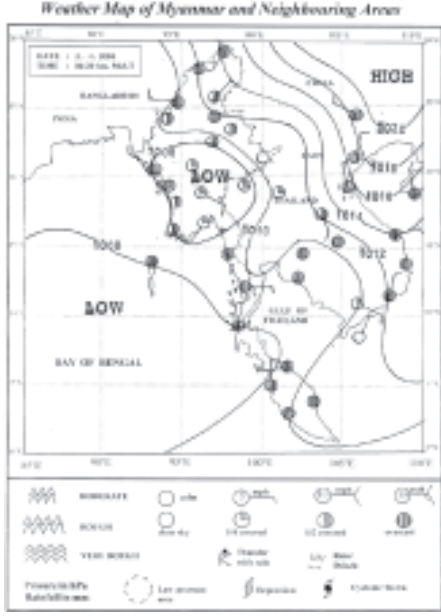
အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်၊ ကြို့ကုန်းအရှေ့ရပ်ကွက်၊ ကရင်နစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန် ဓမ္မတက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းဝင်းနေ အဖိုးနွယ်အဖေ၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော ခင်ပွန်း (စောစောခင်)၊ (စောဝါခင်)၊ (စောစောခင်)၊ နော်ဘာရီနာ၊ စောဆီးခင်-နော်ဒီဘိုရာ၊ နော်မတော-(စောယိုရှ်)၊ နော်မူလီခင်-သိက္ခာတော်ရဆရာ သောမတ ထောင်လျှန် ခုပုံ၊ နော်မူအယ်ခင်-သိက္ခာတော်ရဆရာ စောရောက်သိန်း၊ နော်မူကွီခင်-စောပေါလ်မြတ်တို့၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော ဖခင်၊ မြေး (၁၇) ယောက်၊ မြစ် (၄) ယောက်တို့၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော တိုတိုကြီး သည့် ၃၁-၃-၀၅ ရက် ကြာသပတေးနေ့ မွန်းလွဲ ၁၂:၃၀ နာရီတွင် ခရစ်တော်၌ ဘုန်းတော်ဝင်စားသွားပါသဖြင့် ၄-၄-၀၅ ရက် တနင်္လာနေ့ နံနက် ၈:၀၀ နာရီတွင် ဖူးသမျှ အောက်မေ့ဖွယ်ရာ ခန်းမဆောင်၊ အင်းစိန် ကျမ်းစာကျောင်းဝင်းတွင် ဝတ်ပြုကို ကွယ်ပြီ။ ရေဝေးခရစ်ယာန် ဂိုဏ်းပေါင်းစု သုသာန်သို့ ပို့ဆောင် ပူဇွင် သင်္ကြံပိတ်ပါမည်။

ကျန်ရစ်သူသိသားစု။

သတိ

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

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ



WEATHER

Saturday, 2 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.12) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin State, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (44°C) and Minbu (43°C).

Maximum temperature on 1-4-2005 was 105°F. Minimum temperature on 2-4-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-4-2005 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 1-4-2005 was (9.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 2-4-2005 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 (9) mph from Southwest at (11:20) hours MST on 2-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3-4-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-4-2005: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-4-2005:** Partly cloudy.

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 3 April

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
 8.35 am Music:
 -There
 8.40 am Perspectives
 8.45 am Music:
 -We should have been stars
 8.55 am National news/Slogan
 9.05 am Music:
 -What about now
 9.10 am International news
 9.15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar:
 1.30 pm News/Slogan
 1.40 pm Story for children:
 -The three friends
 1.50 pm Songs for children:
 9.00 pm Weekly news review
 9.10 pm Music
 9.15 pm Article
 9.25 pm Music
 9.45 pm News/Slogan
 10.00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 3 April

View on today:

7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်တော်သံသမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌပုဂံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မအတ္ထာဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ သီဝသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
 3. Morning news

7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
 5. ယဉ်ကျေးမှု (၃၈) ခြာ မိမိ

8:00 am
 6. အတီးဖြင့်ပွဲ

8:15 am
 7. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

8:30 am
 8. International news

8:45 am
 9. Say it in English

11:00 am
 1. Martial song

11:10 am
 2. Musical programme

11:25 am
 3. Round-up of the week's international news

11:40 am
 4. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
 "ချစ်ပန်းမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၅)

12:20 pm
 5. မန်းရောင်တံတား

12:30 pm
 6. Myanmar video feature:
 "အသက်ထက်ချစ်တယ်"
 (မင်းဟိမ်း၊ ဖိုးမြတ်နိုးစွာ)
 (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်အောင် (ရူပဗေဒ))

2:20 pm
 7. Musical programme

2:30 pm
 8. ဖောင်းတံတားရေလှောင်တစ်

2:45 pm
 9. International news

4:00 pm
 1. Martial song

4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ညွှာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ

-တတိယနှစ် (သနားအထူးပြု) (သနား)

4:45 pm
 4. Song of national races

5:00 pm
 5. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:15 pm
 6. Musical programme

5:30 pm
 7. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

5:45 pm
 8. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm
 9. Evening news

7:00 pm
 10. Weather report

7:05 pm
 11. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
 "ချစ်ခွန်းမြေသီတစ်ရာတစ်လီ"
 (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

7:35 pm
 12. Agricultural source country's development

7:45 pm
 13. Musical programme

8:00 pm
 14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
 "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၁)

18. The next day's programme

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects harvesting of summer paddy sample plot at 1,000-acre summer paddy zone in Hlegu Township



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views harvest of summer paddy sample plot in Hlegu Township.—YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 2 April — The harvesting of sample plot of summer paddy and demonstration of technology for setting target paddy production were held at the 1,000-acre summer paddy zone near Malit Village in Hlegu Township this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, station commander and military region commanders, local authorities, departmental officials and local farmers. Accompanied by the commander and party, the Secretary-1 visited the agricultural educa-

tion camp of Myanma Agriculture Service in the zone.

The Secretary-1 and party oversaw thriving of Emahtasaw, Hmawby-3 and Yezin-2 paddy plantations, pilot plot and other sample paddy plots. Managing Director U Ohn Than of MAS and General Manager Dr Min Aung presented reports to them.

(See page 10)

Workshop on development of Myanmar film industry held

YANGON, 2 April—The Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise under the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon jointly organized the workshop on development of Myanmar film industry at the MMPA on Wingapa Street in Bahan Township here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, artistes, observers and guests.

The minister delivered a speech on the occasion. In his speech, the minister called on the producers, film directors, script writers, and officials of the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Film and Video Censor Board and the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise to coordinate and take a wider view on measures for development of the film industry of the nation. Those responsible are to deal with censorship of scripts and stories and to seek better ways and means in accordance with the policies laid down by the State to achieve the goal. Steps are to be taken in advance



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaking at Workshop on development of Myanmar film industry.—MNA

through coordination and cooperation based on the prevailing situations of the nation's film industry and the public's attitude towards the industry to be able to

overcome possible difficulties and antipathies for the progress. The minister urged the businessmen to

(See page 10)

270 jade lots sold through tender system

YANGON, 2 April—Chairman of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein this morning inspected the sale of jade lots through tender system at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where the 42nd

Myanmar Gems Emporium is being staged.

The deputy minister was welcomed there by Secretary of the Cen-

tral Committee Acting Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and central committee members.

Under the 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium programme, altogether 270 jade lots were sold today. The sale of jade

lots continued this evening.

A total of 1,288 local and foreign gem merchants arrived to attend

the gems emporium.

The sale of jade lots through tender system continues tomorrow.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein views sales of jade lots through tender system.—MNA

INSIDE

"Our Three Main National Causes" the nation is keeping in the fore at present is not created by the Tatmadaw. It was defined by the historical trend.

CHIN GYA (MAUBIN) (Page 7)