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Thursday, 7 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

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win leaves for Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia on official visits

YANGON, 6 April —At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win left here by special aircraft at 8 am today to pay official visits to the three countries.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, charges d'affaires and officials of the Lao PDR Embassy, the Vietnamese Embassy and the Cambodian Embassy, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and departmental heads. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shakes hands with Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at the airport on departure for Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at Yangon International Airport before his goodwill visits to Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 7 April, 2005

Work with good intentions for the State and the people

In building a peaceful and developed nation, concerted efforts must be made for strong national economy. In strengthening the national economy, the government regards the national entrepreneurs as colleagues in the same boat. Strong national economy is necessary for the establishment of a democracy.

Therefore, national entrepreneurs with financial and other resources are required to take an active part. National entrepreneurs who serve as a bridge between the State and the people including the workforce are indispensable for the development of national economy.

In his meeting with entrepreneurs who are engaged in rubber and oil palm cultivation and fisheries on 4 April at the hall of Coastal Region Command in Myeik, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that the task of remedying the weaknesses and fulfilling the requirements of the State which is behind others for various reasons would be successfully carried out only if the three forces — the government, the people and the Tatmadaw — worked hard in concert and that the term 'people' included national entrepreneurs.

The people and national entrepreneurs are always in oneness and, due to the encouragement of the government and the active participation of the people, national economy has been in a better shape.

In the past, because of the lack of national entrepreneurs with financial and other resources, national economic development was slow and per capita income was low.

Now, at the time of the Tatmadaw Government, private businesses are being encouraged and all the necessary assistance rendered, national economy is developing and there have been job opportunities for the people.

In striving for the national economic development, it is necessary for national entrepreneurs to set a balance between the interests of the nation and their own. They must cultivate national spirit and Union Spirit.

All the people including national entrepreneurs ought to be loyal to the State and all those in government service, on their part, have to carry out their respective duties conscientiously and work for the development of their respective regions.

Finally, we would like to urge national entrepreneurs and all those in public service to work with good intentions in the interests of the State and the people.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်မှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီလအတွက်
(၁၀-၄-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၄-၄-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

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

Dohkyeywa Journal comes out



YANGON, 6 April — With a view to developing up-to-date general knowledge of rural people, Dohkyeywa Journal Vol II, No 8 came out today.
The journal accepts manuscripts and advertisements at No 30-32, 10th Street, Lanmadaw, Tel: 371342, 252452 and 379768. —MNA
Cover of Dohkyeywa Journal. — MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 6 April—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint today received the Chinese delegation led by Professor Yu Xintian, Chairman of Shanghai Institute of International Studies, SIIS, of the People's Republic of China at the ministry and discussed bilateral relations and cooperation.
Together with the deputy minister on the occasion were Ambassador U Nyunt Tin, Secretary of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, (Myanmar-ISIS) and advisers U Than Tun and U Thet Win and officials from MOFA. The Chinese guests were accompanied by officials of Chinese embassy in Myanmar.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint receives Professor Yu Xintian, Chairman of Shanghai Institute of International Studies, SIIS, of China.— MNA



INTERNET COURSE CONCLUDED: The Introduction to Internet Course 5/2005, co-organized by Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and Myanmar Computer Federation, concluded Wednesday. Leader of the Working Group Daw Aye Aye presents completion certificates to a trainee.— MNA

POEM

Join in the Effort to Make a Healthy World

- * Our world is made up of families; Some are poor and some, wealthy. For majority to be healthy Don't take it as just a blessing.
- * True values of personal hygiene Healthy lifestyle and healthy living Saying "No" to all harmful things Warning bells each one has to ring.
- * Ignorance can be real dangerous More people must be health conscious Through ways and means various Like educative talks for multipurpose.
- * Advocacy and public awareness Keys to prevent HIV/AIDS And many other fatal diseases Campaign should be launched in full strength
- * Healthy mothers and healthy babies to be ensured Safe motherhood programmes followed for sure From birth, to survive, grow, and mature For newborns, special attention and if necessary, cure.
- * To shape up a healthy world You don't wait to be called Extend your hands to the needy all Remember— little rain drops make a great waterfall.

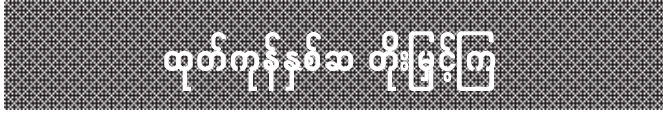
Aye Phyu

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

- (က) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုမဟာသင်္ကြန်ကာလအတွင်း ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများလိုက်နာရန်။
 - (ခ) မူးယစ်သောက်စား ယာဉ်မောင်းရ။
 - (ဂ) အပျော်လွန်ကျူးစည်းကမ်းမပြုမောင်းရ။ လူမမောင်းရ။
 - (ဃ) မော်တော်ယာဉ်၊ မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များတွင် အိတ်စာပိုက်ပြုတ်မမောင်းရ။
 - (င) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်ပြား မပါရှိဘဲ မမောင်းရ။
 - (စ) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်အတုများ၊ အခြားယာဉ်နံပါတ်များ တပ်ဆင်ခြင်း လုံးဝ မပြုရ။
 - (ဆ) ယာဉ်၏ ဘေးတံခါးများ၊ နောက်ဖုံးများဖြုတ်၍ မောင်းနှင်ခြင်း မပြုရ။
 - (ဇ) ယာဉ်မောင်းလိုင်စင်နှင့် ယာဉ်မှတ်ပုံတင် (ဖိုတက်) မပါဘဲ မမောင်းရ။
 - (ဈ) ဖျက်သိမ်းထားသော ယာဉ်အို/ယာဉ်ဟောင်းများနှင့် ပြုပြင်ဆင်ယင်ထားသော ယာဉ်များ မမောင်းရ။
 - (ည) နိုင်ငံတကာအလံများ ယာဉ်တွင် တပ်ဆင်၍ မောင်းနှင်ခြင်းမပြုရ။
 - (ဋ) ဟွန်းသံကင်းမဲ့ရန်များအတွင်း ဟွန်းလုံးဝမတီးရ။
 - (ဌ) ကျူးလွန်ပါက တည်ဆဲဥပဒေအရ ထိခိုက်စွာ အရေးယူမည်။
 - (ဍ) "သင်ကြောင့် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသင်္ကြန်ကို အကျည်းတန်မညစ်နွမ်းပါစေနှင့်"
- ယာဉ်မောင်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ



Chinese elementary students listen during a lesson at a school in Yuanling County, central China's Hunan Province, on 4 April, 2005.—INTERNET



Chinese Vice-President meets Thai Princess

BEIJING, 5 April — Greeting Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who arrived here earlier Monday for an 11-day visit, Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong on Monday called China-Thailand ties "a model of good-neighbourly cooperation."

He said China would like to work with Thailand to facilitate their strategic cooperation "score new progress on the 30th anniversary of establishment of Sino-Thai diplomatic ties".

The two nations have always treated each other equally and supported and sympathized with each other, Zeng said. He said he particularly appreciated the contributions made by the Princess and the Thai royal family to the Sino-Thai relations.

The Princess said she was very pleased to visit China again on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Thai diplomatic ties. She said her ongoing visit is aimed at promoting educational, scientific, technological and cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two nations.

She is scheduled to visit the Silk Road and learn about the development of the western parts of China, "so as to do more for the

Thailand-China friendship," she said.

The Princess thanked China for its assistance to Thailand after it was hit by the devastating tsunami last December.

Later Monday, Gu Xiulian, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, also met with Sirindhorn, saying the Princess' current visit would serve to further the Sino-Thai friendship "that has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples".

Princess Maha said she aspires to introduce more of China to her people in Thailand and she will make unremitting efforts to promote the understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

Her current visit is her 20th to China. She has not only increased the Chinese people's understanding of Thailand, but also introduced China to the Thai people. Besides Beijing, she will tour the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Gansu Province in north-west China and Sichuan Province in the southwest.

In 2004, the Princess was granted the title of "Friendship Ambassador" in Beijing for her efforts in promoting friendly exchanges between China and Thailand. She has shown a great love for Chinese history and culture and has a very deep friendship with Chinese people.

MNA/Xinhua

China-South Asia trade surges but investment lagging

BEIJING, 5 April — China-South Asia trade and economic cooperation has surged lately, according to a Chinese trade official, indicating "great market potential," especially in two-way investment, construction and natural resources.

"China and South Asia share a long-term friendship, and their trade and economic cooperation enjoys geographic advantages and great market potential," said Wang Bingxin, director of the Ministry of Commerce Asia Section.

Sino-South Asian trade was 19.53 billion US dollars in 2004, up about 60 per cent year on the year, the largest growth in Chinese foreign trade, Ministry of Commerce figures show.

China and the coun-

tries of South Asia signed 13.8 billion US dollars worth economic and technology contracts in 2004, and South Asia has become China's major overseas market in construction projects, Wang said. He said their cooperation in natural resources has become a new growth area.

"The implementation of the South Asia free trade agreement in January 2006 will mark a new stage of China-South Asia cooperation," Wang said.

The volume of two-

way investment between China and South Asia was small, however — 202 million US dollars Chinese investment in South Asia and 140 million from South Asia to China through 2004, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Analysts say China and South Asia could facilitate trade and further their cooperation in investment, tourism, cultural and educational sectors in a bid to push their economic and trade cooperation to a new high.—MNA/Xinhua

China, Japan to continue promoting trade cooperation

BEIJING, 5 April — Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai said here Monday he hopes China and Japan will join hands to continue promoting bilateral trade cooperation based upon the existing foundation, realizing mutual benefits.

Bo made the remarks when meeting with a delegation from the Japanese Council for the Promotion of International Trade, headed by Ryutaro Hashimoto, president of the council and former Japanese Prime Minister.

Bo said China is willing to actively promote the cooperation among itself, Japan and South Korea, and the cooperation of the three countries and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (10+3).

"China always pays attention to developing Sino-Japanese trade and economic cooperation," Bo said. Since China embraced its reform and opening-up policies 26 years ago, Sino-Japanese trade ties progressed rapidly. From 1993 to 2003, Japan was China's biggest trade partner for the 11 successive years. By February 2005, Japan's direct investment in China had totalled 47.9 billion US dollars.

Bo said China and Japan enjoy "very broad cooperation areas", not only in manufacturing and infrastructure construction, but also in the services industry and environmental protection and resource exploration. China has a huge domestic market, which provides rich soil for the further deepening of Sino-Japanese trade cooperation.— MNA/Xinhua

APEC circular economy meeting to be held in N-W China

YINCHUAN, 5 April — The circular economy meeting (China session) of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) will be staged from 3 to 5 June in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, a Yinchuan official announced Monday.

Wang Jiubin, Yinchuan Vice-Mayor, said at a Press conference that the meeting will focus on APEC's circular economy and China's "developing the west" strategy. Reports and speeches

will be made on topics such as "case study of circular economy development in Asia-Pacific countries," and "developing circular economy and exploring China's West."

A trade fair on metallurgy, coal, chemical industry, building materials, paper making, waste recycling and ecology building will be held during the meeting to promote cooperation between Chinese and overseas enterprises.

MNA/Xinhua

Four US service members killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 April—Four US service members were killed in Iraq, the military said on Tuesday.

A Marine, of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed by an explosion during combat operations Monday, the military said in a statement from Camp Fallujah.

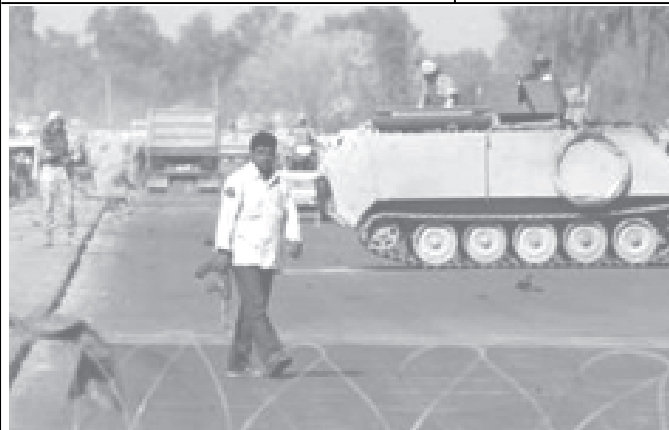
A Task Force Baghdad soldier was killed on Tuesday when a bomb hidden in a taxi exploded, hitting his convoy in the southern neighbourhood of Dora in the capital. Four other soldiers were injured in the blast and evacuated for medical treatment.

The military also said that two US soldiers were killed during a battle with dozens of guerillas in a remote part of eastern Diyala Province the prior day. US troops were sent to assist Iraqi soldiers who encountered the guerillas while searching for weapons caches.

Two other US soldiers were wounded in the Diyala attack.

The names of the service members were being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

As of Monday, 4 April, 2005, at least 1,536 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.—Internet



An Iraqi policeman and US Army soldiers secure the scene of a car bomb explosion in western Baghdad on 5 April, 2005.—INTERNET

S Korean, Japanese FM's to meet in Pakistan

SEOUL, 5 April — South Korean and Japanese foreign ministers will hold private meeting later this week in Pakistan over recently chilled relations, announced South Korean Foreign Ministry on Monday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon is to meet his Japanese counterpart Nobutaka Machimura in Pakistan Thursday on the sidelines of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue, a regional forum of 26 Asian countries, South Korean Ministry spokesman Lee Kyu-hyung said.

"The history textbook, history perception and other issues of common interest will be discussed," the spokesman said.

The meeting comes at

a time that when the two countries are seriously at odds over a chain of disputed islets located in the East Sea (Sea of Japan) and a new edition of a Japanese history textbook.

South Korea insists the islets, called "Dokdo" in Korean language, have been listed as its territory in history literature since the fifth century. Dokdo now is under effectual control of South Korea who has deployed a garrison of coast police

on the islets since 1954.

While Japan also claims the islets, called "Takehima" in Japan, has been its territory since 17th Century, as written in literatures.

Japanese Shimane Prefecture Council on 16 March approved an ordinance to designate every February 22 as "Takehima Day" so as to promote public awareness of Japan's claim to the islets. This move aroused fury among South Korean Government and people.

Further aggregating the countries' relations is the revised Japanese history textbook, as it was reportedly whitewash the Japanese wartime history and add content backing Japan's claim of Dokdo.

Japan's Education Ministry planned to make a formal announcement of its authorization of the textbooks on Tuesday.

The *Fusosha* history textbook, named after its publisher, Fusosha Publishing Inc., faced harsh criticism in South Korea upon its release in 2001. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam's garment export to EU down

HANOI, 5 April — Vietnam's export of garments and textiles to one of its major markets, the European Union (EU), declined three per cent in the first three months of this year against the same period last year, partly due to their low competitiveness.

The export value of local garments and textiles to Germany, England and France dropped by 27.3 per cent, 26 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, according to the Trade Ministry on Monday.

Local enterprises' slow response to orders of large customers, poor design capacity, capital shortage, ineffective management over investment, and heavy reliance on imported materials are making Vietnamese garments and textiles less competitive than similar products of China, India and Bangladesh in the EU market. Vietnam currently has to import 80 per cent of materials and accessories for production of garment

and textiles, said the ministry.

The Vietnam Garment and Textile Association said the local products will face fiercer competition in the EU market, since the block has recently either lowered or exempted import tariffs for tsunami-hit countries, including Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Viet-namee garments and textiles are still subject to the 12 per cent tax.

The association is calling for its members to diversify products to have specific items for specific traditional markets, and to explore new markets in Africa and East Europe. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Smiling ray: A ray swims in a five-metre depth aquarium at the Epson Aqua Stadium on a Tokyo's entertainment hotel on 4 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Maldivian President meets with Chinese FM

MALE, 5 April — Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom met with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Sunday and expressed his thanks for the assistance China has offered as tsunami relief efforts.

Gayoom thanked the Chinese Government and the Chinese people for having provided timely assistance for the Maldives after the tsunami.

"It shows the true feelings between the two peoples for the Chinese leadership to send the Foreign Minister to visit our country in the high

time of after-tsunami rebuilding," said Gayoom. The President said the Maldives hopes to strengthen its cooperation with China in such areas as political affairs, economy, trade, personnel and tourism. Gayoom said his country firmly supports the one-China policy.

"We hope your country

will be more prosperous," said the President.

On behalf of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people, Li once again expressed deep sympathy and sincere solicitude to President Gayoom, the Maldivian Government and the Maldivian people for their losses during the tsunami.

Li said he is delighted to see the good progress made by the Maldives in its rebuilding effort, adding that the Chinese Government is willing to continue to participate in the rebuilding process. Li said the two countries' relations, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, have made smooth progress since the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Indian car major Maruti's annual sales rise

NEW DELHI, 5 April — India's car major Maruti Udyog Ltd recorded a 13.6 per cent rise in sales during 2004-05 over the previous year, though there was a dip of over 4 per cent in exports, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The company Monday informed the Bombay Stock Exchange that 536,301 vehicle units were sold in 2004-05, the highest ever annual sales since the company began operations over 21 years ago. The company said the annual sale figure includes exports of 48,899 units, marking a dip of 4.4 per cent from 2003-04's 51,175 units. The sales represented a growth of 13.6 per cent over 2003-04, when 472,122 vehicle units were sold.

"Maruti consolidated its leadership in the A2 (premium compact) segment in the domestic market, with Alto growing by over 108 per cent in 2004-05 and emerging as India's largest selling passenger car model," the company said. During March, the last month of the fiscal, the company sold 54,613 units, including 3,920 units of exports. This is the highest ever in a month. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US soldiers move through a flock of sheep as they patrol in the town of Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, searching for weapons and guerillas in the area on 5 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Cameraman for CBS wounded by US troops in Iraq

NEW YORK, 6 April — An Iraqi freelance cameraman who works for CBS News was shot and wounded on Tuesday in northern Iraq by US troops who mistook his camera for a weapon, the US military and CBS News said.

The cameraman and reporter suffered minor injuries when he was shot while covering a firefight for CBS in Mosul, CBS News said. It asked that the man's name not be reported for his protection. The US military said in a statement from Mosul released at the Pentagon that US soldiers had been involved in an engagement with at least one suspected guerilla who was "waving an AK-47 (assault rifle) and inciting a crowd of civilians."

During the incident, "an individual that appeared to have a weapon who

was standing near the guerilla was shot and injured. This individual turned out to be a reporter who was pointing a video camera," the military statement said.

"Regretfully, the reporter was injured during the complex and volatile situation," the military said, adding that the incident was under investigation. The suspected guerilla was killed, the military said. The man, who was from Mosul, was taken to a US military hospital where he was treated for what the military said were minor wounds. He was expected to make a full recovery.— *Internet*



The propaganda village of Gijongdong is seen near the truce village of Panmunjom, about 55 km (34 miles) north of Seoul on 6 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Wal-Mart to open new shopping mall in N-W China city

Xi'an, 5 April — The world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, will open a new shopping mall in Xi'an, home of the famous terracotta Army of the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221 BC-206 BC) in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, according to a city panel.

The panel of 28 people representing all walks of life in Xi'an discussed the location of the shopping mall and its impact on the area's transportation and local commerce. Twenty-six members on the panel voted for and

two others voted against the new shopping mall, which will have a combined floor space of 19,000 square metres.

The new Wal-Mart shopping mall is expected to start operation in late 2006.

Wal-Mart has opened more than 40 outlets in major Chinese cities, including Shenzhen, Beijing, Harbin and Nanjing, since its entry into China in 1996. The retailer employs more than 20,000 employees in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Women-only coaches in Tokyo's railways launched

Tokyo, 5 April — Women-only cars in Tokyo were launched for the first time in morning rush-hour trains on Monday in a bid to prevent groping.

Some other regions have already been using women-only cars, but Tokyo was slower to adopt them due to crowded platforms, according to the Land, Infrastructure and Transportation Ministry. The cars are now available on two railway lines in Tokyo. Some other lines in the area plan to launch women-only cars starting from 9 May.

At Ikebukuro Station for the JR Saikyo Line, female commuters and students could be seen

boarding women-only cars, while some apparently unaware men were seen dashing into the cars as well.

Female passengers generally had a good impression on the new system, with one saying, "I feel relaxed because there's no chance of being groped."

Only one women-only car has been designated in each of the Tokyo-bound trains running through around 9.30 am (0030 GMT).

MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian FM renews bid for UNSC permanent member

CAIRO, 5 April — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said Monday that Arab and Islamic civilizations should be represented at the United Nations Security Council when it is enlarged, the official MENA news agency reported.

"Egypt's bid to get a permanent seat at the UN Security Council is backed by its status as a main regional power and by a history of supporting freedom movements in the developing world," Abul Gheit said in a speech to the Shura Council. A high-level panel on the UN reform proposed last year two models for enlarging the UN Security Council. Under the first model, the council would get six new permanent members without veto power and three new non-permanent members for a two-year term.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's cassava export to China soars

HANOI, 5 April — Vietnam exported some 4,000 tons of cassava starch to China through its northern Mong Cai border gate in March, up 50 per cent over February, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Trade on Monday.

Now, local exporters find it hard to collect cassava starch to fulfil contracts signed with Chinese partners, since supplies in both northern and southern region of Vietnam are limited. Prices of local cassava starch are standing at around 2,050 yuan (246 US dollars) per ton, up from 1,960 yuan (235.2 dollars) per ton early this year.

The increasing prices are attributed to higher demand of such markets as China, Japan and some European countries, and thinner domestic supplies due to droughts. Vietnam's two cassava baskets, the Southeast and Central Highlands regions, are

badly affected by the prolonged drought.

The central highlands province of Dac Nong alone houses three cassava starch plants with combined annual capacity of processing 500,000 tons of fresh cassava. However, they are now running at only 20 per cent of their capacity, and facing bankruptcy.

Vietnam is expected to post export revenue of three billion dollars to China in 2005 and 5.5 billion dollars in 2010, with key items being crude oil, coal, rubber and cashew nuts. Their two-way trade stood at more than 6.7 billion dollars last year.—MNA/Xinhua

Energy-free irrigation technology invented in China

BEIJING, 5 April — A Chinese technologist has invented and patented an irrigation device that consumes no energy.

Zhu Jun, inventor of the Puquan Pump, said Monday that his tiny pump irrigates plants automatically.

The invention works on the principle that water moves from a comparatively humid environment to a comparatively dry environment.

Zhu got the machine to pour water from an accessory storage bag to soil near plant roots. The Beijing inventor used

slow-releasing technology in the device, allowing the water bags to last for one to three months.

Each device costs less than one yuan (12 US cents) to produce. Zhu estimated that large-scale manufacturing could further curtail costs.

Traditional irrigation for 100 small trees might cost 570 yuan per year. The Puquan Pump, however, costs just 100 yuan each year and offers a survival rate of 95 per cent, a report from an individual assessment agency

said.

Shen Guofang, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a silviculture expert, used the pump for irrigating his potted flowers. "It's a good energy-free and environment-friendly technology," Shen said.

Zhu has applied for a patent under the world Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), which ensures priority of patent applicants for applying for patent rights in developed countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan, NATO agree to help stabilize Afghanistan

Tokyo, 5 April — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi agreed on Monday with the chief of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to join hands to help reconstruct Afghanistan.

Visiting NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told Koizumi that Japan and NATO can cooperate to help stabilize Afghanistan, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Koizumi said Japan is ready to find areas in which it can cooperate with NATO.

NATO has led the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan while Japan has cooperated with other countries to implement a project meant for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of all armed factions in Afghanistan.

De Hoop Scheffer voiced hope that Japan will take part in activities being performed in Afghanistan by provisional reconstruction teams under the ISAF, according to the ministry.

NATO wants to join hands with Japan to do something that would promote economic reconstruction in Afghanistan, the NATO chief was quoted as saying.

On Iraq, Koizumi and the NATO chief agreed there is a need for Afghans to boost the ability to maintain security.

De Hoop Scheffer is set to meet with Japanese Defence Agency Director General Yoshinori Ono and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura later Monday.

MNA/Xinhua



Honda Motor Co's humanoid robot Asimo walks down steps as Japanese schoolchildren, Japan's first astronaut and museum director Mamoru Mohri (2nd R) and science teacher Ryotaro Inoue watch a demonstration, in Tokyo on 6 April, 2005.

INTERNET

Health officials say no TB epidemic in Chinese university

BEIJING, 6 April—The Beijing Centre for Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment on Tuesday refuted rumours that tuberculosis (TB) is spreading widely in Beijing-based China Agricultural University, saying that there is no epidemic and people have no reason to worry.

An Yansheng, head of the centre, said the five students confirmed to have tuberculosis are under medical treatment and no more cases from the university have been diagnosed.

"We have tested 550 students and no more cases have been found," said An. "It is not an epidemic."

The Agricultural University found its first TB case on 17 January, when a student in the Veterinary Department came to the campus clinic because of physical discomfort. He was diagnosed a week later.

Another student from the same department was diagnosed on 7 March after he returned from his hometown.

Ten days later, a third student was diagnosed with TB because he was coughing up blood.

According to the university web site, five cases have been confirmed, three infectious and two non-infectious. Three cases were from the Veterinary Department, one from the Agriculture and Biological Techniques Department and the other from the Resources and Environment Department.

Rumours about the disease abound around the campus. Students left messages on the campus web site saying there were actually more than 70 students in the Veterinary Department infected with TB and the university was trying to hide the fact.

Students in other departments were scared to talk to those in the three departments with infections, the *Beijing News* reported.

"We want the university to tell us the truth, but no one explains what is going on," a student told the paper.

"We are not hiding anything," said Qian Xuejun, head of the university publicity department, "It should be the health authority, not the university, to claim if there is really an epidemic or not. We believe it is not serious and we don't want to arouse panic."

Accord to An, the university has been cooperating with the TB prevention and control department in Haidian District and the municipal health departments since the cases were found.

MNA/Xinhua



Seagulls fly near Tokto islets, east of South Korea on 4 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Japan offers support for Libyan economy

TOKYO, 6 April—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi met with the second son of Libyan leader Moammar Kadaffi on Monday, offering to help Libya undertake economic reforms in light of its 2003 decision to scrap its weapons of mass destruction.

"We are in real need of Japanese help to modernize Libya's economy," Seif al-Islam Kadaffi, president of a Libyan charity fund, told reporters after meeting Koizumi.

The son, seen as a potential successor to his father, arrived in Japan on Sunday for an eight-day visit. He will attend the 2005 World Exposition in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture on Thursday.

"We asked the Prime Minister for that help and he said he would be very happy to support Libyans in this process," he said.

Koizumi told the son of the Libyan leader that he highly rates the "historic decision" Libya made in December 2003 to scrap its programmes for weapons of mass de-

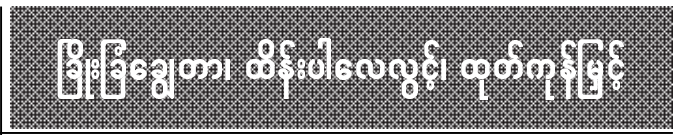
struction, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Kadaffi responded that his country can be a good example for others, the ministry said. Kadaffi also said Libya is willing to strengthen cooperation with Japan on African development.

MNA/Xinhua

A farmer rides his bike while leading his ducks in Thai Bing, Vietnam, recently.—INTERNET

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင်၊ လေသန်စင်၌
ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း၊ စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။



Singh urges for national consensus on power pricing policy

NEW DELHI, 6 April—Appealing political parties to shun differences over user charges for electricity, Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh on Monday said there should be a "broad consensus" on energy policy to attract new investment for sustaining over seven per cent economic growth.

"The challenge of rational pricing and distribution of electricity has to be addressed in a non-partisan manner. We need to work towards more rational pricing policies to ensure new investments," he said launching the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna.

The new scheme, aimed at providing electricity in all the remaining 74,000 villages in a time-bound manner by 2009, was launched in the presence of National Advisory Council chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Expressing concern over poor delivery system, Gandhi underlined the government's commitment to ensure proper monitoring and involving panchayats for proper implementation and achievement of physical targets.

Electricity should be

valued and used judiciously, Singh said adding "even when governments offer subsidy to certain categories of users, they must understand the relevance of this subsidy and have respect for the asset being provided to them."

"I, therefore, urge our political leadership to take a more long-term and national perspective in pursuing energy policy," he added.

Giving details of the scheme, Power Minister P M Sayeed said the Government has allocated 50 billion rupees for providing subsidy under the scheme.

In a country of over one billion people and a dynamic economy growing at over 7 per cent, "we are going to consume more energy and we will have to generate this energy," the Prime Minister said.

"The challenge of eco-

nomics generation, distribution and pricing of electricity has to be addressed in a non-partisan manner so that we can, in fact, ensure rapid spread of electrification across the country and can attract new investments in this vital sector," he added.

Stressing that rural electrification is a key foundation stone in the modernization of agriculture, Singh said "we cannot delay the implementation of this basic commitment any longer and this yojna is an important first big step".

The scheme was launched across the country through a video conference in which 12 Chief Ministers and Bihar Governor participated.

The scheme is aimed at providing electricity to the remaining 56 per cent rural households by 2009.—MNA/PTI

Nepal to take measures on safe childbirth

KATHMANDU, 6 April—Nepali Government has adopted new directory to reduce the mother and infant mortality during childbirth, an official told *Xinhua* on Tuesday.

"The woman who goes to the health centre or hospital to give birth to their child, will be given allowances to reduce the mother and infant mortality," a Health Ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

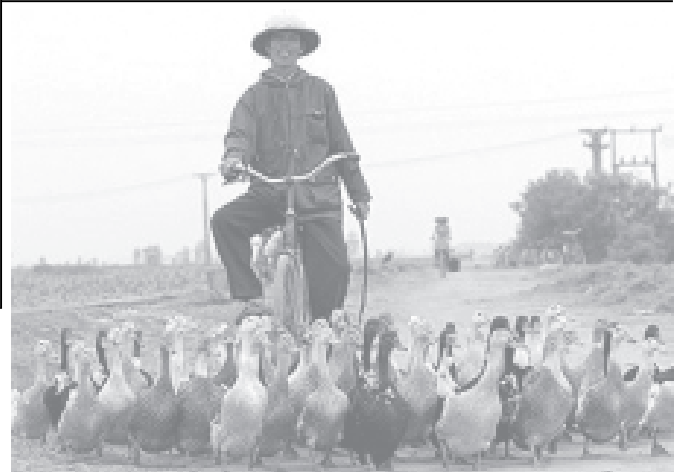
The government had announced to give delivery-allowance in yearly budget of this year, he noted, adding, "In order

to implement the announcement, the Ministry of Health approved 'Childbirth service directory,' which will be implemented immediately".

According to the new rule, the women will be given 500, 1,000 and 1,500 Nepali rupees (7, 14 and 21 US dollars) in Terai, hilly and Himalayan region of the country respectively to

encourage them to go to the health centres during childbirth.

Mostly 90 per cent Nepali women give childbirth at their homes, which causes complication in newborn and mother that led to their lives in danger. In Nepal, 539 within 100,000 mothers die during childbirth, which is highest among the Asian countries.—MNA/Xinhua





Kachin brethren seen in Manaw dance.

(from page 16)
father fell into a glacial ravine while he was researching a rare species of butterfly, peculiar to Myanmar.

Actor Lwin Moe plays the boy, Okkar, who is searching for his missing father, played by Tun Tun Win.

To find him, Okka must first find the Rawan guide, played by Nyunt Win, who had been with his father when he fell. But when he locates the guide, it takes a lot of persuasion before he, the guide and the guide's son, Phom Tee Ram, played by Lu Min embark on the dangerous journey.

This film is one of the best to emerge from the Myanmar movie industry. The striking scenery and beautiful landscapes of the Kachin State are captivating and the quality of the production and the script are a step ahead of anything we've seen so far.

Sin Yaw Maung Maung said, "Some actors speak Rawan throughout the film and at that time subtitles in both Myanmar and English are provided."

The film also features original songs with tradi-

tional Rawan themes sung by two Rawan singers and popular pop singer Graham.

The landscape, inhospitable despite its beauty, created its own problems for the crew who had to find the locations and then build bridges to reach them in some cases. Shooting began in April 2002, and the difficulties were many.

"We had to climb very steep mountains, sometimes in the rain and mud," he said. "Sometimes we had to shoot in the rain—everyone, the cast and the crew, had a hard time."

It took them a week just to reach the top of the mountain.

we had to make bridges out of trees and roots. Some slopes were very steep. Some paths had one side as the wall of the mountain and the other side just dropped away to the floor of the valley far below.

"We had to sleep in the tents on the icy mountain ground, when the temperature was minus six degrees centigrade."

They spent nearly one month shooting in the icy mountains and surrounds and another month shooting in Yangon but this was not the end of it. There was still a lot of work for Sin Yaw Maung Maung to do. There was editing, negative and positive film

"All the film, 100 boxes—more than twice the amount normally used, was developed at Techni Colour Movie Studio at Bangkok. I had all the film, including the rejected cuts, developed and then produced to work print on film," he said.

"I had to spend nearly a month in Bangkok to make post-recording such dubbing music, sound effects and mixing them with the dialogue.

"I was determined to achieve high quality sound. I added sound effects such as human voice, such as breathing sound, stepping sound, speaking sound, breaking sound, and flowing water sound and so on. This was the first Myanmar film to do its post-production in a foreign country and that created some difficulties of its own.

eight final copies, from the third to the tenth. Seven copies (for seven cinemas) for local showing and one copy for foreign showing." The overall cost of the finished product was nearly 180 million kyats.

"I know it is out of question to get the money back that was invested in this film if we only show it in Myanmar, that is why I decided to distribute it in foreign countries. The Ministry of Information supported me in this plan and linked me up with the international movie festivals." Lwin Moe who plays the boy, Okka, was keen to take the part from the moment he read the script.

"As soon as I read it I wanted to play the part of Okka. Shooting the film was an unforgettable ex-

groundbreaking movie will be seen will be at the first Myanmar film festival in Singapore on April 8, 9 and 10. It will premiere in Yangon on Myanmar New Year's Day April 17. Then Sin Yaw Maung Maung hopes to show it in Indonesia and France later in the year.

He has many plans for this movie which has taken up three years of his life. "I will show this film in video, and on TV. Then, I will distribute this film first to Asia, then Europe and then all over the world as much as we can. It's quite possible that I will never recoup the money invested in it, but it is worth it to make a film which is of international standard. I hope that others will follow my lead and make more in-



Obstacles have to be overcome with great perseverance.

"This is the first time we had worked with foreign technicians so we had some trouble explaining to them what we wanted. But they were very helpful," he said. When all the finishing works including the subtitles and colour balancing was completed it was time to select the final prints.

"The first and second copy tend not to be very good for sound and colour," he said. "In this case the second copy was about 75 per cent accurate. but that wasn't good enough. I took

experience. I will never forget the time on the mountain—we walked for a whole week and we were exhausted. When we didn't see any people or animals or any living things ahead of us we were all frightened."

Soe Myat Nandar, who played the guide's daughter, found the experience of filming on the snowy mountains very exciting.

"I knew it would be difficult and exhausting," she said. "But I decided to do it anyway and it was worth it." The first time this

international films to show our culture and our filmmaking expertise to the world. "But whatever the result, if this film is successful, then I will move on to making another film."

In the current situation in Myanmar, where most films are not doing very good business, it might seem that his dreams are unrealistic... but in his philosophy, if we want our dreams to come true, we have to be brave enough to dream them first.

This film is one of the best to emerge from the Myanmar movie industry. The striking scenery and beautiful landscapes of the Kachin State are captivating and the quality of the production and the script are a step ahead of anything we've seen so far.

"From Putao, the city of Kachin, after two days of climbing, there were no villages and animals on the way," he said. "Sometimes we were frightened. There was only us, all alone on the side of mountain. We passed the icy water creek, sometimes processing, adding optical and sound effects and post-recording such as digitised sound effects and mixing with background music. After exhaustive enquiries in China, India, Singapore and Bangkok he decided to do the editing in Bangkok.

French movie festival moves to southwest Chinese city

CHENGDU, 6 April — Tickets to eight French films went on sale on Tuesday in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The films will be shown with Chinese subtitles during the French Film Festival, which will be held here from April 13-17, according to Zhao Kangbin, deputy general manager of Xingmei Films Development Co. Ltd of Chengdu.

Chengdu is the third stop of the French movie festival in China, after Beijing and Shanghai. It will go on to Wuhan in central China and Nanjing in east China.

Lin Yuanyuan, a resident of Chengdu, said, "I'm simply fascinated by the strong French cultural atmosphere produced in French President Jacques Chirac's visit to Chengdu last year, and the wonderful cultural programmes

staged by French artists during the President's visit."

"I feel lucky because Chengdu is the only west Chinese city to be chosen as the host of the French movie festival, so I won't let this chance sneak away," Lin said. Tickets for single shows cost 40 yuan (about 4.82 US dollars) each, while passes to all eight cost 180 yuan (about 21.7 US dollars) each, said Zhao.

The French Film Festival is among the many activities planned for the French Culture Year in China, which began last October. Before the French Culture Year in China, the Chinese Culture Year in France was held from October 2003 to July 2004.—MNA/Xinhua

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ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက်
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**Prime Minister
Lt-Gen Soe Win
leaves for Lao
PDR, Vietnam,
Cambodia on
official visits**



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at the airport.— MNA



Diplomats see off Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Pavilions for Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival inspected



Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu inspects preparations for Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival in Mandalay.— H&T

YANGON, 6 April— Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, accompanied by Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, inspected preparations for organizing Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival in which Great Mekong Sub-region countries will participate, in Mandalay,

on 4 April. Together with Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association Dr Khin Shwe, the deputy minister oversaw construction of the pavilions for those representing Great Mekong Sub-region countries and the central pavilion in front of Inwa Hotel and building decorated floats.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the Festival and officials reported on progress of preparatory

tasks. The deputy minister and party looked into Mya Mandalar Hotel and fulfilled the requirements.— MNA

Diarrhoea control measures carried out in three townships

YANGON, 6 April — The preventive measure against diarrhoea as public health activities was taken in North Okkalapa Township yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and USDA CEC member (in-charge of Yangon Division) Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, accompanied by departmental officials, supervised the community activities.

At North Okkalapa Township Development Affairs Committee Of-

fice, Head of Health Department of YCDC Dr Tin Maung Win and officials briefed them on tasks on controlling diarrhoea and giving educative talks.

Local people participated in carrying out sanitation, dredging drains for proper flow of water, spraying insecticide, giving educative talks and building fly-proof latrines as preventive measures against diarrhoea.

Similar activities were organized in Dagon Myothit (South), (North) and Thingangyun Townships.—MNA

Mail to be delivered during Thingyan

YANGON, 6 April— Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, during the wa-

ter festival, will continue to deliver mails and telegraphs on 15 April, the third day of the water festival.

There will also be regular express postal and mail delivery during the festival without a day-off. The MPT requested during

those days of festival water should not be thrown at the postmen and delivery men wearing uniforms.

MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours ...

(from page 16)

1 million acres of summer paddy, arrangements for cultivation of 1.1 million acres of summer paddy and cultivation of 3.5 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2004-2005.

Chairman of Maubin Township Peace and Development Council U Bo Tun reported on agriculture and livestock breeding and tasks to be undertaken.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected Kyonsok River Water Pumping Project site, six miles south of Maubin. Head of Division Water Resources Utilization Department U Htay Lwin reported on data of the project, machinery and strength of service personnel. The commander and officials gave a supplementary report.

The project is being built with the aim of supplying water to 9,000 acres of land.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than discussed cultivation of crops and summer paddy. He also attended the harvesting of summer paddy of farmer U Kalar in Tanbogon Village in Kyaiklat Township. He gave instructions on co-operation with officials of Myanma Agriculture Service for boosting production.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met division, district and township officials, members of social

organizations at Kyaiklat Township Peace and Development Council Office.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than spoke at length on endeavours for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation, implementation of seven-point Road Map, stability in the country, agricultural and livestock breeding, designating of ten main crops, cultivation of pepper, rubber and Thitsein trees.

He said development of a nation mainly depends on three points — community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, economic progress and human resource development.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Pyapon Bridge Construction Project site where they heard reports on the project.

They inspected progress of work and installation of trusses. On completion of the bridge, the distance between Pyapon and Yangon will be only 54 miles. People can go to Yangon easily and economy of Ayeyawady Division will further develop.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint hosts dinner to Chief of General Staff Senior Lt-Gen Phung Quang Thanh of Vietnam and party.

MNA

Vietnamese Chief of General Staff and party tour Mandalay, PymOoLwin, Bagan-NyaungU

YANGON, 6 April— Visiting Chief of General Staff Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh of Vietnam and party, accompanied by Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence, Myanmar Military Attaché Col Tin Soe, Vietnamese Military Attaché Sr Col Nguyen Van Thanh and officials, yesterday left here by air and arrived at Mandalay International Airport in TadaU in the morning.

The Vietnamese guests were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officials.

On arrival at Defence Services Academy, Acting Commandant Col Thoe Htein and officials welcomed the guests.

Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh viewed round the academy.

At Defence Ser

vices Technological Academy, Rector Brig-Gen Win Myint explained brief history of the DSTA. Next, the Vietnamese guests visited the academy.

At Club House of National Kandawgyi Gardens, Brig-Gen Win Myint hosted a luncheon to the guests. Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh and party visited the gardens. They then visited Myanansankyaw Shwe-nandaw (Palace) in Mandalay.

On Mandalay Hill, the guests paid homage to the Buddha images and then enjoyed scenic beauty of Mandalay. In the evening, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the Vietnamese delegation. This morning, the guests paid obeisance to Maha Muni Buddha Image and offered gold foils.

Next, the Vietnamese delegation proceeded to Bagan-NyaungU. Accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace



Chief of General Staff Senior Lt-Gen Phung Quang Thanh of Vietnam visits Ananda Pagoda in Bagan-NyaungU.—MNA

and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, the guests went to Shwezigon Pagoda in Nyaung U and

paid homage to the Buddha Image. They also paid obeisance to Ananda Pagoda.

Col Phone Maw Shwe hosted a luncheon in honour of the Vietnamese delegation at Tatmadaw Guest House in the Bagan-NyaungU Archaeological Region. In the afternoon, the guests arrived at Dhammayangyi Pagoda.

After their tour, Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh and party left Bagan-Nyaung U region and arrived back here in the evening and isolated in other regions. — MNA



District-to-district roads built in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 6 April— Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, on 4 April, inspected district-to-district roads being built by Township DADs in Thayawady District, Bago Division (West).

First, the director-general inspected earth work carried out for building of road linking Meeninchaung and Thonezechaung.

In Hlekulan village, officials briefed the director-general on building of district road. The director-general also inspected

building of roads and bridges in Ngapyawdon village in Letpadan Township and Kywemagaing village and Bantbwegon village in Minhla Town-

ship.

It is set to build 125 miles and four furlongs long district-to-district roads in Bago Division (West). Of them, 40 miles

out of 56 miles and two furlongs long roads have been completed in Thayawady District, it is learnt.

MNA



DAD Director-General U Myo Myint inspects construction of the road in Thayawady District with the use of heavy machinery on 4-4-2005.—DAD

Rain likely in some states, divisions

YANGON, 6 April — About two days ago, scattered rain fell in Rakhine and Kayah states, upper Sagaing Division, and Mandalay Division and Taninthayi Division and isolated in other regions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine 1.65 inches and Hpa-an 1.34 inches.

During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mon State, isolated in Shan and Kayin states, and Yangon Division, and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine and Thaton 0.12 inch each. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the West Central Bay, and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until 7 April evening is that isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Chin and Rakhine states, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. — MNA

Communal ordination and novitiation ceremony held

YANGON, 6 April — The communal ordination and novitiation ceremony of Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and wife Daw San San and staff families was held at the ministry this morning, attended by Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and wife Daw

Khin May San, directors-general and managing directors of the departments under the ministry and staff families.

The minister and congregation received the five precepts from the presiding Sayadaw of Thingangyun Township Maha Theikpan Monas-

tery. Next, the minister, the deputy minister and officials donated offertories to the Sayadaws and nuns. The presiding Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained and the ceremony concluded.

MNA

USDA Public Relations and...

(from page 16) sense of duty into the new generation youths who wish to perform national duties, who cherish the motherland and the national people, to cement national solidarity, who wish prevalence of community peace and law and order, and who preserve national prestige and integrity.

In the process, the USDA (Central) and associations at different levels are conducting courses and workshops to train and nurture the youths to be equipped with the conceptions, beliefs, principles, and work procedures so as to enhance the quantitative and qualitative improvement.

To assign duties to the members upholding the knowledge, experiences and skills gained from the course as work guidelines is a means of sharpening skills and spiritual and physical development of the members.

The Association is taking care of organizational matters in the regions, while striving for regional development. So, by lending themselves to the tasks with goodwill for raising the social life of local peo-

ple and regional development undertakings, associations at all levels will be able to win the trust of local people as well as their enthusiastic participation in the tasks with their self-motivation. And the associations also will win friendship and reliance of local residents by means of helping address their difficulties after paying considerable heed to ways of life. The associations at different levels are to take measures to correctly organize the locals with participation in community welfare concerns.

Under the correct leadership of the State, the USDA has managed to achieve success in implementing the political, economic and social objectives laid down with the might of the national people. In consequence, the nation is now on its path to development. The

State's seven-point Road Map is well under way for turning the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

In conclusion, the secretariat member called on the members to be fully imbued with Union Spirit and to actively participate in the nation-building tasks by doing their bit in collaboration with the people under the correct leadership of the State for successful implementation of the objectives adopted by the USDA AGM Meeting (2004), the seven-point programme, and the five rural development tasks, while upholding Our Three Main National Causes and adhering to the 12 political, economic and social objectives as work guidelines.

After that, the secretariat member and CEC members had a cordial conversation with the trainees. — MNA

Rural development undertakings inspected



Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe inspects tube-well in Ywadow Village in Magway Township. — PBANRDA

YANGON, 6 April— Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected earth road linking Aungthukha and Pyinma villages in Taungdwingyi Township yesterday. The deputy minister gave instructions

to officials on upgrading the road into a gravelled one.

At the Development Affairs Department of Taungdwingyi Township, the deputy minister met officials and left instructions. In Taungdwingyi, the deputy minister inspected water supply

tasks carried out by township DAD.

During his tour of Magway Division, the deputy minister inspected a tubewell sunk in Ywadow village, rural housing project implemented in Aukyaung village in Minbu Township.

MNA

Annan to attend Int'l conference on Sudan

STOCKHOLM, 6 April— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will attend the conference of the contributing nations for Sudan, which will be hosted by Norway and held in Oslo on April 11th and 12th, Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported on Monday.

The aim of the conference is to call for international support for the reconstruction and development in Sudan.

It is also hoped that it will contribute to ensuring that the peace treaty between the Khartoum government and the SPLM/A guerillas will be observed, according to a UN Press release.

The Norwegian Department of Foreign Affairs has also invited Arab nations to the conference.

MNA/Xinhua

At the press conference (2/2005) of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held on 15 March 2005, clarifications on insurgent terrorist group called SURA led by Ywet Sit producing and trafficking narcotic drugs behind the scene on the pretext of liberating Shan State and acts of SSA, SSNA, SNLD and the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council including SURA of drug kingpin Ywet Sit to establish a nominal Union, and then secede from it and establish a separate nation after some time. According to the clarification, their acts, aiming at disintegration of national unity and the Union, pose a grave danger to the Union of Myanmar and its citizens. Photo shows Sai Tun (a) Naing Tun Wiwatrungarun (left) with the rank of captain in SURA and is said to be a trusted bodyguard of Ywet Sit (centre). Sai Tun was siezed together with heroin weighing 82 kilograms in Pang Ma Pha Township, Mae Hong Son District on 5 March by Thai Anti-drug Squad.



မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်ကြားရေးအဖွဲ့
* အမျိုးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
* သရုပ်ချက်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
* အမျိုးဂုဏ်၊ ဇာတိဂုဏ်ကို မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်ကြားခြင်းဖြင့် တင်ပါ။
ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

POEM

Think and Seek the Answer

- * Hard drugs, have only done harm
To all humanity in this world
For which reason, our ancestors
Throughout Myanmar
Have seriously curbed and prevented
As evidence clearly shows.
- * When life in servitude, could not be shunned
In that period, those colonialists
Who suppressed and ruled us
Had the drugs, which degraded humans
Brought into our land
To use as weapons, unfaithfully.
- * Today, on the border
That man Ywet Sit, takes refuge
Though he be, a dirty renegade
That he is dealing in drugs
With his underling followers
Is very transparent.
- * Aboveground, very distinctly
The one who set up the SNLD
As chairman, would like to link up
with Ywet Sit
That's what he wants
That he conceived for it to take shape
Appeared, as very distinct.
- * The two of them evolved
The kind of life to shape up in future
Does it appear to be very fair
Or does it stink of slavishness
Think and seek the answer.

Po Wa (Trs)

Landing points set for China's cross-border bridge

ZHUHAI, 6 April — Officials and civil construction experts set San Shek Wan on Hong Kong's Lantau Island, Gongbei in Zhuhai and Pearl in Macao as the landing points of the proposed cross-border bridge linking Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao.

The decision was made during a two-day technical discussion in Zhuhai, a boom city in south China's Guangdong Province, over the weekend.

More than 100 officials and specialists were present at the discussion sponsored by the State Development and Reform Commission to deliberate issues regarding the location, layout and cost of the proposed bridge as well as ways to ensure the project is environmentally friendly and conducive to hydrology and navigation in the region.

They also paid a visit to the proposed landing point in Gongbei before they reached consensus that the proposal was feasible and cost-effective.

The proposed Y-shaped bridge will extend 29 kilometres between Hong Kong, Macao and Zhuhai. Once it opens to traffic, a car ride from Hong Kong to Macao or Zhuhai will take 20 minutes, three hours less than the current route by way of Humen in

Guangdong Province. Construction of the bridge will also shorten trips between Hong Kong and cities on the western bank of the Pearl River, including Zhongshan, Shunde, Dongguan and Jiangmen. The bridge is expected not only to accelerate economic growth in the western part of the Pearl River Delta, but to radiate its influence to a larger area including the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the provinces of Hainan, Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan as well as countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

Economists believe that the bridge linking Hong Kong, Macao and Zhuhai will improve the economic structure in south China's Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao. It is expected to prove an important traffic artery in the Pearl River Delta, as well as a life line to the future economic development of the entire south China region.

MNA/Xinhua

China to host 3rd Int'l Competition for Singers

BEIJING, 6 April — The Third China International Competition for Singers will be held in Ningbo, coastal city of east China's Zhejiang Province, sources with the Ministry of Culture (MOC) said here on Tuesday.

Pu Tong, a senior official with the MOC said the competition will have a jury made up of well-known educators and singers from Russia, Italy, Finland, Austria, France, Ukraine and the United States. Guo Shuzhen, a well-known teacher at China's Central Conservatory of Music, will chair the jury committee.

According to Pu, the competition will proceed in three rounds, giving awards to four male and four female singers gradually. Two special awards will be given for excellent performance of Chinese songs, one of which will go to a foreign, non-native Chinese speaker.

The competition's top prize will be a record 16,000 US dollars, Pu said, adding that each candidate will also receive a travel subsidy ranging from 200 to 400 US dollars.

Ningbo Vice-Mayor Cheng Yuechong told Xinhua that a concert hall covering 2,700 square metres with best sound equipment has been prepared for the competition. The organizer has invited performers from 71 countries and regions, as well as 83 musical institutes and groups.

The competition was initiated in 2000 as a national artistic competition hosted by the MOC.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုမဟာသင်္ကြန်
ဆင်နွှဲသူများ လိုက်နာရန်
တိုက်တွန်းနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- * မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုလေ့စရိုက်နှင့် ဖီလာဆန်ကျင့်ပြီး မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏ အမြင်တွင် မတင်တယ်သည် ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု၊ ပြုမူပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
- * ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆုံးအမနှင့် ဖီလာဆန်ကျင့်သည် အပြုအမူ၊ ပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
- * အချင်းချင်း ဒဏ်ရာအနာတရ ဖြစ်စေပြီး အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေသည့် ကြိမ်းတမ်းသည် ရေကစားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
- * တိုင်းရင်းသားစည်လုံညီညွတ်မှုကို ပျက်ပြားစေပြီး ဆူပူမှုကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်သည့် လှုံ့ဆော်မန်တီပြုမူပြောဆို၊ ကြိုပမ်းမှုများကို မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

သတိ

၁။ လေပေါင် (၁၀၀) မှ (၁၅၀) အထိ အတင်အချ မြှုပ်နှံရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းကြောင့် ရေခူအား ပြင်းလွန်၍ ရေပတ်ခံရသူတွင် အသားရေများ ဖွန်းပဲ့စုတ်ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိ၊ နားများအား ထိုးမိပါက မျက်လုံး၊ နားကန့်နိုင်ခြင်း အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေကစားမအောင်များ၊ ရေပတ်ကစားများတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များ အသုံးပြု၍ ရေပတ်ခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်္ကြန်ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းအား သင်္ကြန်ရက်များအတွင်း နေ့စဉ် နံနက် (၀၇:၀၀) နာရီမှ (၁၀:၀၀) နာရီအတွင်းသာ ရေပတ်ကစားကြရန်နှင့် (၁၀:၀၀) နာရီ နောက်ပိုင်း ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

၃။ တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မတီ

Wen Jiabao visits Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 6 April — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived at the Chaklala Air Base of Pakistan on Tuesday afternoon to start his three-day official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of his counterpart Shaukat Aziz. Wen will also attend the opening ceremony of the 4th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue to be held in Islamabad on 6 April.

Pakistan is the first leg of Wen's South Asia tour. Besides Pakistan, he will also visit Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and India. In a written speech issued upon his arrival, Wen said that he had brought with him profound sentiment of the Chinese people towards the Pakistani people.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, my highest respect for and best regards to the brotherly government and people of Pakistan," he said.

Wen said China and Pakistan are close and friendly neighbours, and that over a long period of time, thanks to the joint efforts of the two governments and peoples, China-Pakistan relations of good-neighbourly friendship and cooperation have withstood the test of time and history, and that the two countries have established an all-weather friendship and conducted all-round cooperation.

"History has proved that China-Pakistan friendship is not only in conformity with the common aspiration and fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, but also conducive to peace, stability and development in the region," he said.

During Wen's stay in Pakistan, he is expected to have an in-depth exchange of views with President Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and other leaders on furthering cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, educational, scientific, technological and other fields, and consolidating China-Pakistan friendly relations and deepening mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

This is Wen's first visit to South Asia as Premier, and a major move of the Chinese Government to strengthen partnership and friendship with its neighbours.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese school children attending a literacy lesson seen on 6 April, 2005. — INTERNET

UN must become more relevant to present challenges

UNITED NATIONS, 6 April — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told UN staff on Tuesday that it is important for the United Nations to look forward and to become more relevant to the challenges of the 21st century.

"To see the institution you work for being hampered, day in and day out, whether it is right or not, it does hurt and it does affect morale," Annan told a town hall-style gathering at UN Headquarters in New York, where he met with all staff to hear their concerns and discuss the immediate priorities of the United Nations.

Linked with UN workers worldwide via video and by e-mail, he acknowledged that there were times during the past three years from the bitter divisions over the path to war in Iraq, to the loss of close colleagues in the 2003 bombing of the UN office in Baghdad, to the current "constant barrage of attacks" that he himself had been discouraged.

"I know this has cast a shadow over all of us," he said of the ongoing investigation into the United Nations' handling of the Iraq Oil-for-Food programme, and the implication that his son Kojo is "somehow involved."

Annan said that he has experienced personal pain, as a Secretary-General and as a father, and reiterated his belief that the independent committee headed by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker will get to the bottom of the allegations surrounding the programme.

Vowing to draw the lessons, correct the weaknesses and "clean up our act," Annan told staff "you work for a great Organization. Do not believe the caricature of an organization that you read in the Press.

I want us all to be proud of the Organization we work for, be proud of the work we do and to be determined to move ahead.

This also meant "not being complacent" and pressing ahead with overall UN reform, he said, outlining several proposals, including the establishment of an oversight committee to ensure that the recommendations of the Office for Internal Oversight Services are implemented.

Annan also noted that the United Nations will set up a board to monitor managerial performance, circulate to staff shortly guidelines on treating whistle-blowers, and that a strong policy to deal with sexual misconduct has already been put in place.

MNA/Xinhua

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Hain Lin Co (LLB) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: rhpip@pmail.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 686 Yangon. 7 April 2005

Nigeria reserves 10% oil blocks for indigenous firms

LAGOS, 5 April — Some 10 per cent equity will be reserved for local companies with the wherewithal in the 2005 licensing round for 61 oil blocks in Nigeria, state media quoted a presidential adviser as saying Monday.

Presidential adviser on petroleum and energy Edmund Daukoru told investors Monday in London during the first leg of the 2005 licensing round road show that "the move is in line with the nation's aspiration to boost the capacity of the indigenous companies."

"Interested local companies are requested to apply and be pre-qualified as part of the bid process, with the payment of the appropriate fees," he said, according to the *News Agency of Nigeria*.

Daukoru said that the indigenous companies can seek partnership with international companies in a bid to qualify for operation in any of the blocks on offer.

The 2005 licensing round involves 61 oil blocks spread over the deep offshore, the Niger Delta shallow waters, the Niger Delta onshore and the inland basins of Anambra, Benue and Chad.

Daukoru said that the success rate and advances in technology have encouraged government to open up new frontier acreage in the deep offshore.

MNA/Xinhua

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs (UK)
Ph: 371 990 7.4.2005

Mitsubishi launches new generation light truck in Europe

BERLIN, 5 April — Japanese Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation (MFTBC), a unit of the DaimlerChrysler Commercial Vehicles Division, will launch the latest generation of its light-duty truck "Canter" into the European market in May, DaimlerChrysler said on Monday.

The vehicle will have its public premiere at the Birmingham Motor Show this week, DaimlerChrysler said in the southern German city of Stuttgart.

"MFTBC succeeded in remaining a leading manufacturer in Japan in 2004," said Andreas Renschler, head of DaimlerChrysler's commercial vehicles.

"In 2004 and the first quarter 2005, the integration of MFTBC into DaimlerChrysler has further progressed. The acquisition of a majority shareholding in MFTBC has allowed us to further strengthen our position as the world's market leader for commercial vehicles," Renschler said.

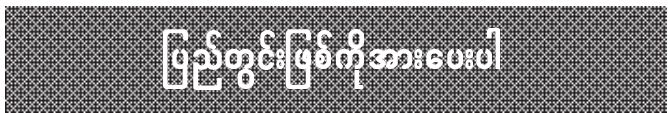
MNA/Xinhua

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for **TORAY KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 7 April 2005



First model village for AIDS orphans inaugurated in Kenya

NAIROBI, 5 April — Kenya's first model settlement for AIDS orphans was inaugurated on Monday in the Kitui district of the country's Eastern province, according to a statement by the Kenyan State House.

"I am delighted to join you today and honoured to be part of this Nyumbani Village project, which is aimed at helping orphaned children as well as elders who have lost their children to HIV/AIDS epidemic," said Kenyan First Lady Lucy Kibaki at the inauguration ceremony.

It is expected that if parents infected with the HIV virus do not get access to life-prolonging treatment, there will be approximately 20 million AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2010, the First Lady said, adding that this will bring the total number of orphans in the region to over 40 million.

"In Kenya, and in spite of our efforts to fight HIV/AIDS through prevention, treatment and education, the number of orphans and elderly people affected by AIDS has been increasing steadily. Currently, there are approximately 2 million AIDS orphans in the country," said Mrs Kibaki.

"The Nyumbani Village represents an ideal way of responding to this problem and providing care, skills and hope for the future to children and affected elderly people. I am encouraged to note that over the first five years of the village, it is envisaged that 750 children and 250 elders will be catered for,"

she said.
Local media said the construction work of the settlement started in November 2004 and the first intake of 336 children is slated for next month.

Kenya's HIV/AIDS epidemic has entered a "death phase", in which more people are dying of AIDS-related complications than are getting infected, according to a recent report by Kenya's National AIDS Control Council. About 65,000 adult Kenyans and 25,000 children become infected with HIV every year, while a total of 150,000 die of the disease annually, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Syria to start second-phase withdrawal on Thursday

DAMASCUS, 5 April — A joint Syrian-Lebanese military committee decided on Monday to start Syria's second phase of withdrawal from Lebanon as of Thursday, the official SANA news agency reported.

Following a meeting in the Lebanese town of Ablah, the committee said the full pullout would be completed before the end of April, as announced by UN envoy Terje Roed-Larsen on Sunday after talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Under mounting pressure from the international community and Lebanese opposition, Assad announced early March a two-phase plan to withdraw its 14,000 troops within the framework of the 1989 Taif Accord which ended the 1975-1990 civil war in

Lebanon.

The first phase has been carried out from March 17, according to Lebanese military sources, but they and witnesses have reported more Syrian troops crossing the border since then.

Larsen said Sunday he was informed by the Syrian leadership that 4,000 troops have returned home while the rest are pulling back the Bekaa Valley.

SANA said the joint committee underlined the importance of boosting cooperation, coordination and fraternal relations between the two armies to

help enhance the security of the two countries.

It also vowed to face foreign pressure, which it said is aimed at "foiling cooperation and the unity of track between the two countries and hurting their joint struggle to achieve a just and comprehensive peace," SANA said.

The meeting was attended by Syrian Chief of the Staff Ali Habib, Commander of the Lebanese Army Michael Suleiman, Secretary-General of the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council Nassir Khouri and other senior Army officers. —MNA/Xinhua

NZ PM to attend ANZAC 90th anniversary, make foreign visit

WELLINGTON, 5 April — Prime Minister Helen Clark will attend the 90th anniversary of the ANZAC Landing at Gallipoli on 25 April and make official calls in Turkey, and later make brief official visits to Thailand, Poland, and Germany, the government said Monday.

ANZAC Landing means A(ustralian) and N(ew) Z(ealand) A(rmy) C(orps)'s at Gallipoli in Turkey in World War I. The ANZAC Day in New Zealand is held on April 25 each year to commemorate New Zealanders killed in war and to honour returned servicemen and women.

In Turkey, Helen Clark will also make official calls in Ankara, meeting with the President and the Prime Minister of Turkey. In Bangkok, Helen Clark will meet with Prime Minister Thaksin, and be present for the signing of the Thailand/New Zealand Close Economic

Partnership (CEP) Agreement.

She will also open a seminar for Thai and New Zealand business people on the opportunities offered by the CEP.

In Poland, Miss Clark is to open New Zealand's first ever embassy there and meet Polish leaders.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

US researchers warn against potential fluoride harm in instant teas

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — Instant tea, one of the most popular drinks in the United States, may be a source of harmful levels of fluoride, researchers said on Monday.

Some regular strength tea preparations contain as much as 6.5 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride, well over the 4 ppm maximum allowed in drinking water by US Environmental Protection Agency and 2.4 ppm permitted in bottled water and beverages by the Food and Drug Administration, according to Michael Whyte, a professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis.

“The tea plant is known to accumulate fluoride from the soil and water. Our study points to the need for further investigation of the fluoride content of teas,” Whyte said. “We don’t know how much variation there is from brand to brand and year to year.”

This finding stemmed from the diagnostic investigation of a middle-aged woman suffering from spine pain attributed to hyper-dense bones. Test revealed the patient had high levels of fluoride in her urine.

The patient then disclosed a high consumption of iced tea, one to two gallons of double-strength instant tea throughout the day, which led the researchers to test for fluoride content in several brands of instant tea available on grocery store shelves.

Each of the teas was tested as a regular-strength preparation in fluoride-free water, and each contained fluoride, with amounts ranging from 1.0 to 6.5 ppm. The study was published in *The American Journal of*

Medicine.

Physicians have been aware that ingestion of high levels of fluoride cause bone-forming cells to lay down extra skeletal tissue, increasing bone density but also bone brittleness. The resulting disease, called skeletal fluorosis, can manifest in bone pain, calcification of ligaments, bone spurs, fused vertebrae and difficulty in moving joints.

Until now, instant tea had not been recognized as a significant source of fluoride. According to Whyte, the new finding could aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients who have achiness in their bones.

Whyte also warned that tea drinkers, especially those brick-tea consumers in Asia, should keep alert against potential skeletal fluorosis caused by high fluoride content.

“When fluoride gets into your bones, it stays there for years, and there is no established treatment for skeletal fluorosis,” he noted. “No one knows if you can fully recover from it.”

“Our advice to tea drinkers would be ‘all things in moderation.”

“Our paper also calls for greater understanding of the amount of fluoride in various tea preparations, harvested from year to year, so that one could be more precise in recommendations,” he said. —MNA/Xinhua

German President, Japanese Emperor discuss Sumatra quake

TOKYO, 5 April — Visiting German President Horst Koehler and his wife Eva met with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Monday and discussed the recent tragic earthquakes off Indonesia’s Sumatra Island.

According to Japanese Imperial Household Agency, the Emperor and Koehler shared the view that the quakes caused great damage specifically to countries suffering from civil wars, and agreed on the importance of promoting efforts to achieve peace and eradicate poverty.

The Emperor was quoted as saying in the meeting that he believes that efforts to achieve peace should go side by side with efforts to address poverty.

The German President agreed with the Emperor’s view, the agency said.

In Sri Lanka, more than 31,000 people died due

to a tsunami which took place following the 26 December quake off Sumatra.

Koehler and his wife are here to attend Monday’s inauguration ceremony of “German Year in Japan”, which is a yearlong showcase of concerts, museum exhibitions and other German cultural events.

The Koehlers also had lunch with Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako at the crown Prince’s palace. Koehler is Germany’s honorary President for the yearlong event and his counterpart in Japan is the crown Prince.

MNA/Xinhua

Quake of 5.5 magnitude jolts Banda Aceh again early Tuesday

JAKARTA, 6 April — An aftershock measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted Banda Aceh, the provincial capital of Aceh, at early hours on Tuesday, causing a little panic among residents there.

An official of the Mata Ie geophysical station revealed that the quake at around 3:37 a.m. local time was located at 4.69 degree north latitude and 94.87 degree east longitude, about 108 kilometres west of Banda Aceh.

According to the official Antara news agency, the tremor whose epicentre was in the depth of 10 kilometres under the sea was felt stronger by the people living on

Aceh’s western coastal areas, especially in Banyak Island and Aceh Singkil.

A chain of aftershocks in the wake of the tsunami on December 26, 2004 as well as the powerful 8.7 earthquake were dominated by those with a distance between 80 kilometres and 300 kilometres with epicentres in the west, northwest and southwest of Banda Aceh.

The official pre-

dicted more aftershocks would still occur in Aceh in the next several weeks but they would not be dangerous and would not trigger tsunamis.

Meanwhile, some 1,575 inhabitants of Kuala Baru Village, Aceh Singkil District, have reportedly fled to a nearby forest as they are afraid of possible tsunamis following aftershocks that rocked the area recently.

MNA/Xinhua



Sony’s PlayStation Portable is displayed at the Sony Style store before the midnight opening kick-off sale in New York City on 4 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Study says obesity boosts death risk of influenza

LOS ANGELES, 6 April — Obesity apparently reduces laboratory mice’s ability to turn on immune systems necessary for controlling influenza infection, US researchers reported on Monday.

The findings indicate that obesity in humans has a similar effect, said scientists at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

Compared to mice of normal weight, which were otherwise identical, obese mice were 10 times as likely to die when infected with the flu virus. Four per cent of lean mice died during the experiments, compared with 40 per cent of the extra fat ones, the study showed.

Presented at an American Society of Nutritional Sciences meeting this

weekend in San Diego, California, the study is the first of its kind to examine the effects of obesity on the immune response to infection with influenza.

Numerous marked alterations seen in the mice’s immune response suggest that the growing obese population is at increased risk for immune dysfunction during influenza infection, which may lead in humans to increased mortality as it did in the mice, according to Melinda A. Beck, an associate professor who led the study.

Influenza virus currently is responsible for 36,000 deaths and 114,000 hospitalizations in the United States each year. Scientists have warned an influenza prevalence can kill millions worldwide.

In this research, 35 mice fed a high-fat, high-sugar diet for five months grew 37 per cent heavier than 35 mice fed a regular rodent diet high in carbohydrates. The obese mice had a body fat percentage of 31 per cent, compared to 21 per cent in the lean mice.

Following influenza

infection at five months, which is adulthood for mice, the obese mice demonstrated significantly decreased capacity in every step of the inflammatory immune response in the lungs necessary to stop spread of the virus, Beck said.

MNA/Xinhua

A two-day-old baby elephant is cuddled by her mother Cynthia during her first photo session at the zoo in Berlin recently.

INTERNET



Rui Costa extends deal with AC Milan

ROME, 6 April—AC Milan's Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa has extended his contract with the Italian champions until 2007, the club said on Tuesday.

The 33-year-old, whose contract was due to end in June 2006, now plans to finish his career with the Champions League quarterfinalists. "As soon as they offered me this deal I accepted," Costa said. "I am very happy with the offer and it means that I will end my career here with Milan."

Rui Costa has regained a regular place in the Milan side this season but has not added to his tally of only three league goals since arriving from Fiorentina in 2001.

The midfielder is in his 11th season in Italy after moving to Fiorentina from Portuguese club Benfica in 1994.

He helped Milan win the Champions League in 2003 and the Italian league title last season.

Milan face city rivals Inter in a Champions League quarterfinal, first-leg match on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Feyenoord to play behind closed doors for crowd trouble

BRUSSELS, 6 April—The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) has ruled that the next European match of Feyenoord of the Netherlands will be played behind closed doors due to crowd problems during a UEFA Cup match against Sporting Lisbon back in February, Dutch media reported on Tuesday.

The Dutch club has also been fined around 20,000

England's PL helps S Africa stage 2010 World Cup finals

JOHANNESBURG, 6 April—The English Premier League will invest over 236 million rand (38 million US dollars) to help South Africa stage the 2010 World Cup finals, it was announced here on Tuesday.

The PL made the investment "to ensure the event is world class," said PL chairman Dave Richards, who is on a three-day trip to South Africa to build bridges between his organization and the 2010 World Cup local organizing committee (LOC).

Richards said Britain believed in South Africa's

ability to stage the event and South Africa deserved the chance to produce a brilliant tournament.

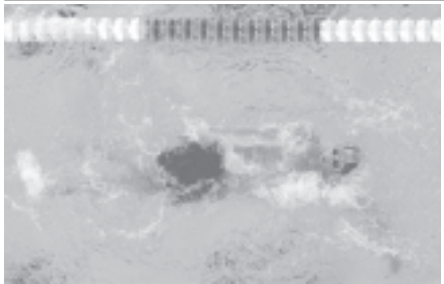
"We supported South Africa's 2010 bid very strongly - unlike France and Spain, who backed Morocco," he told South Africa's online news service News24.

South Africa beat Morocco and Egypt on May last year to become the first African host of the world's biggest soccer showpiece.

Richards said he wanted South Africa to leave a legacy after 2010

for the children of the country. "As members of the Commonwealth we want to play our part in ensuring that the training grounds and other facilities built for 2010 will be turned into academies for soccer and to help children get better education and health facilities," he said.

Richards met with PL CEO Trevor Phillips, 2010 LOC Chairman Irvin Khoza and CEO Danny Jordaan on Tuesday to outline the PL's plans to assist with the 2010 tournament. —MNA/Xinhua



Aaron Peirsol qualified for a second event at this summer's World championships, winning the 200-metre backstroke at the USA Swimming 2005 World Championships Trials Preliminaries at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis, Indiana, in a time of one minute 55.13 seconds.—INTERNET

Lehmann suspended, Laszlo sanctioned

GENEVA, 6 April—Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann on Tuesday was suspended for two European club matches by UEFA for throwing water at the referee and his assistant in a Champions League match against Bayern Munich.

The German international twice threw water at Massimo De Santis and assistant referee Cristiano Copelli in the players' tunnel after the Champions League first knockout round match at Highbury on March 9.

Arsenal was eliminated 3-2 on aggregate over the two legs. Lehmann's ban will take effect in next season's

Champions League.

In another case, UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Body handed Ferencvaros coach Csaba Laszlo a two-match touchline ban for improper conduct during a UEFA Cup tie against Hearts on 16 Dec.

Laszlo was sent off for continuously criticizing the referee, then reacting aggressively toward the fourth official.

At the final whistle of the Hungarian side's 1-0 win in Edinburgh, Laszlo returned to the technical area and confronted Hearts manager John Robertson, who then tried to kick him..

MNA/Xinhua

US dollars after rowdy behaviour by fans that included missiles being tossed at opposing players. Feyenoord does have the option to appeal the penalty.

"The ruling took too long coming to hope that it would be mild to some extent," Feyenoord chairman Jorien van den Herik was quoted as saying.

"The damage is enormous in this way. There are now no revenues, only costs. We will make a proper calculation of that," he added.

"Because the first UEFA Cup match of the new season is included in the budget, that's an enormous loss. Furthermore, the team will miss the indispensable support of the fans in that match and now the good people among the bad have to suffer. For all those well-intentioned people too, this is very annoying." —MNA/Xinhua

Liverpool goalkeeper admits fault for Juventus away goal

LONDON, 6 April—Liverpool goalkeeper Scott Carson has taken the blame for the away goal scored by Juventus in their Champions League quarterfinal first round clash on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old, who made his debut in the competition in the 2-1 victory for Liverpool, appeared to let Fabio Cannavaro's 63rd minute downward header slip through his hands, giving Juventus a lifeline for the second leg of the quarter-final tie.

"At the time I didn't think it was an error but I've seen it on telly and obviously I feel as if I could have done better," said Carson, who is also the England under-21 keeper.

"But I'm not going to beat myself up about it. If you go into the next game thinking 'I made a mistake in the last game' you're going to struggle."

The goal conceded could prove a vital away goal when the two teams met again in Italy. But Liverpool striker Milan Baros believed that they could still make the last four of the tournament.

"We know the second match won't be easy but we're 2-1 up and they have to play," said the Czech striker. "We can't go there to defend. We have to play offensively and try to score," he added. —MNA/Xinhua

Liverpool surprise Juventus 2-1 to claim slender lead

LONDON, 6 April—Liverpool earned a slender advantage in their Champions League quarter-final against Juventus with a 2-1 win on Tuesday after Anfield had paid its respect to the Heysel victims.

Olympique Lyon was held to a 1-1 home draw by PSV Eindhoven, leaving the other tie also precariously balanced going into next week's second legs.

Liverpool and Juventus were meeting for the first time since the Heysel Stadium tragedy 20 years ago in which 39 fans, mainly Italians, were killed when a wall collapsed following crowd trouble at the European Cup final in Brussels.

Sami Hyypia's left-foot shot put Liverpool ahead after 10 minutes and 15 minutes later Luis Garcia's superb strike doubled the lead.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic hit the post, while what looked a good goal by Alessandro del Piero was ruled out for offside.

But Juve got a valuable away goal when Fabio Cannavaro headed Gianluca Zambrotta's cross past Scott Carson.

The 19-year-old, playing only his third game for Liverpool, looked to be at fault as the ball squeezed into the net.

Previously he had superbly denied Del Piero with a smart close-range save, but his later lapse in concentration may cost Liverpool dearly.

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard said his team would not travel to Turin to defend the 2-1 first leg lead but would look for the goal that could settle the quarter-final tie.

"I don't think we'll play for 0-0, we've got the players to go there and nick a goal and hopefully we'll keep a clean sheet and then we'll be in the semi-final," said Gerrard.

French champions Lyon, one of the competition's most impressive performers, dominated PSV for an hour after Florent Malouda had given them a 12th-minute lead.

They had chances to seize control of the match but were stunned 11 minutes from time when Philip Cocu's solo run and speculative shot squeezed inside Gregory Coupet's left-hand post to give the Dutch champions a slight edge in the tie.—MNA/Xinhua



Liverpool's captain Steven Gerrard (L) kicks the ball away from Juventus' Pavel Nedved during their first leg Champions League quarter-final football match at Anfield in Liverpool. Liverpool won 2-1.

INTERNET

ဘုရား ရဟန်း ကျောင်း ဒါယကာမကြီး
ဒေါ်ခင်ကြည်
 (၈၂) နှစ်

ရန်ကင်းတိုင်း၊ မင်္ဂလာဒုံမြို့နယ်၊ ကြွယ်ဝင်း၊ ယုစေလမ်း၊ အမှတ် (၃၂) နေ ဦးတင်ဌေး၏ နှစ်မိခင်၊ ဒေါ်ခင်ကြည်၊ ဘုရားကျောင်း အဖွဲ့ဝင်ကြီး၊ ဌာနဝန်ကြီး၊ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်လှထွန်း + ဒေါ်ခင်သန်းဝင်း၊ အရာခံဗိုလ်ဝင်းရွှေ + ဒေါ်ခင်စန်းစန်း (ဗိုလ်မှူးအောင်ဆန်းဝင်း) + ဒေါ်ခင်ဝင်းမြင့်၊ ဦးကျော်ကျော်ဦး + ဒေါ်သီရိကျော်၏ မွေးသမီးခင်၊ မြေး ၁၃ ယောက်၊ မြစ် ၇ ယောက်တို့၏ အဖွားသည်၊ ၆-၄-၂၀၀၅ ရက် (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့) တွင် အမှတ် (၂) တပ်မတော်ဆေးရုံ (ကုတင်-၅၀၀) ၌ ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါကြောင်း ရပ်စေရပ်နီး ဆွေမျိုးမိတ်သက်ဟာ တို့အား အကြောင်းကြားအပ်ပါသည်။ ၈-၄-၂၀၀၅ ရက် (သောကြာနေ့) မွန်းတည့် (၁၂:၀၀) နာရီတွင် အမှတ် (၂) တပ်မတော်ဆေးရုံ (ကုတင်-၅၀၀) မှ ရေဝေးသုသာန်သို့ ပို့ဆောင်မီးသင်္ဂြိုဟ်ပါမည်။ (အထက်ပါ နေ့အိမ်မှ ကားများ နံနက် (၁၀:၀၀) နာရီတွင် ထွက်ပါမည်။) ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု။

ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲခြင်း

ဘုရားကျောင်း အဖွဲ့ဝင်ကြီး၊ ဌာနဝန်ကြီး၊ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်လှထွန်းနှင့် နှစ်မိခင် ဒေါ်ခင်သန်းဝင်းတို့၏ မိခင် ဒေါ်ခင်ကြည် အသက် (၈၂) နှစ် သည် ၆-၄-၂၀၀၅ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့) တွင် ကွယ်လွန်ကြောင်း သိရပါသဖြင့် မိသားစုနှင့် အတူ ထပ်တူထပ်မျှ ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲရပါကြောင်း။

ဗိုလ်မှူးကြီးလှသိန်းဆွေ (ဒုတိယဝန်ကြီး) + ဒေါ်သီတာဝင်း ဘုရားကျောင်း အဖွဲ့ဝင်ကြီး၊ ဌာနဝန်ကြီး၊ ရုံးဝန်ထမ်း၊ မိသားစုများ

ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲခြင်း

ဘုရားကျောင်း အဖွဲ့ဝင်ကြီး၊ ဌာနဝန်ကြီး၊ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်လှထွန်းနှင့် နှစ်မိခင် ဒေါ်ခင်သန်းဝင်းတို့၏ မိခင် ဒေါ်ခင်ကြည် အသက် (၈၂) နှစ် သည် ၆-၄-၂၀၀၅ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့) တွင် ကွယ်လွန်ကြောင်း သိရပါသဖြင့် မိသားစုနှင့် အတူ ထပ်တူထပ်မျှ ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲရပါကြောင်း။

ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ် ရဲသုံးမှန်း၊ ခြေစွဲစာရင်းဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဝန်ထမ်း မိသားစုများ

ရေခဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း
ဆပ်ပြာရည်ကတ်ဘူးဖြင့် ကစားက

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

ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မရှင်

ကမ္ဘာ့ကျန်းမာရေးနေ့
WORLD HEALTH DAY
 ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ခပြီထု (၃) ရက်

မိခင်ရင်သွေးကျန်းမာမှု
 လူ့ဘောင်ထပ်စဉ်လှပ
 လူတိုင်းပါဝင်စောင့်ရှောက်ကြ

Make every mother and child count

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

သတိ

အရက်/ဘီယာများ အား မော်တော်ယာဉ်များဖြင့် လှည့်လည် ရောင်းချခြင်း၊ မဏ္ဍိုင်များအနီးနှင့် အခြားနေရာ များတွင် တရားမဝင်ရောင်းချခြင်းများ မပြုလုပ်ရန် တားမြစ်သည်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

သတိ

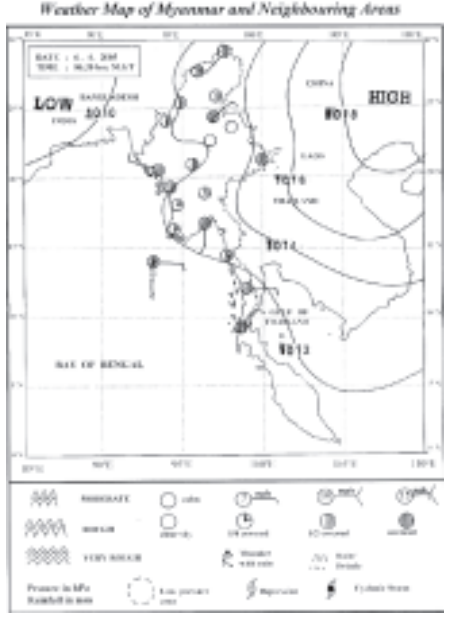
ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်အတွင်း ဟွန်းမတီးရုံ

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

Br. James Gabriel, FSC
 Age (76)

Brother James Gabriel, FSC, passed away at Thukhagaba Hospital on 6th April 2005 at 7:30 am. He was the son of Saya Gabriel and Daw Bibiana (deceased), the brother of Didacus (deceased). Br. Gabriel FSC. (deceased). Alphonse, Marinu (deceased). Sr. Fidelis (IJ, Malaysia) Joseph, Louis and Bishop John Gabriel (deceased). Funeral Mass at St. Augustine's Church, Inya Road at 9:00 am on Friday, 8th April followed by burial service at St. Francis Church Compound, Tamwe, Yangon.

Dela Salle Brothers



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Ayeyawady Division



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially converses with local farmers at harvesting summer paddy in Hleseik Village of Kyaiklat Township.— MNA

YANGON, 6 April —Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and departmental officials arrived at Pandaing Village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, local authorities and officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected maintenance of Yangon-Maubin Road section and cultivation of summer paddy and cold season crops.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party attended a ceremony to harvest summer paddy at the paddy field of U Malar in Meethwaychaung Village in Maubin Township. They also inspected threshing of paddy. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on cultivation of over
(See page 9)

INSIDE

All the people including national entrepreneurs ought to be loyal to the State and all those in government service, on their part, have to carry out their respective duties conscientiously and work for the development of their respective regions.

(Page 2)

PERSPECTIVES

USDA Public Relations and Information Management Course No 5 concludes

YANGON, 6 April—The concluding of the Public Relations and Information Management Course No 5 conducted by the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at the USDA Training Centre in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this morning, with an address by USDA Secretariat Member U Tin Htut.

Also present on the occasion were USDA CEC members, officials,



USDA Secretariat member U Tin Htut addresses closing ceremony of Public Relations and Information Management Course No 5.— MNA

training course in-charge Lt-Col Khin Win, and trainees from states and

divisions.

The Secretariat member in his speech said that

the purposes of the establishment of the Association are to help build a

peaceful, modern and developed nation, and to inculcate the Association's

noble aims, principles, oaths, regulations and
(See page 10)

“Mystery of Snow”, a giant step forward

Kyaw Tun

After three years of hard work, director Sin Yaw Maung Maung has achieved his dream - his movie, *Mystery of Snow*, is finished and will hit international screens at the first Myanmar film festival in Singapore in April and Yangon screens on April 17.

He expects a lot from this film which he sees not only as a great film but a watershed in Myanmar film production.

“I have always loved the breath-taking beauty

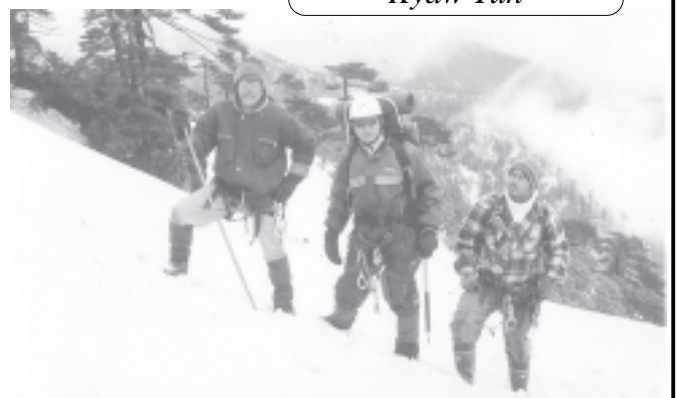
of the snow mountains in northern Myanmar and I wanted to share that beauty. And the other thing I wanted to do was to take a giant step in the development of the Myanmar movie industry—I think we’ve done that. This is a giant step forward for our industry, bringing us right up to the international standards,” he said.

“And there is another element for me,” he said. “and that is for my son, Min Thant Maung Maung. When he grows up, I want

him to be proud that his father made such a big and honorable movie, an important moment in Myanmar movie history.”

The film is based on a novel by well-known writer Juu and was adapted by writer Nyein Min. It will be the first Myanmar film to be screened with English sub-titles and it is the first Myanmar film recorded with surround digital audio system.

The story is about the adventures of a boy whose
(See page 7)



Main characters in “Mystery of Snow” Myanmar movie.