

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 358

1st Waxing of Tagu 1366 ME

Saturday, 9 April 2005

Excerpts from Senior General Than Shwe's speech

- * In the time of the Tatmadaw government, systematic steps have been taken concerning political and defence spheres.
- * Taninthayi Division has enjoyed peace and tranquility and security essential for progress.
- * The region's population is still low in proportion to its natural resources.
- * The government is creating good opportunities for increasing working population, economic progress, and better transport in the region.
- * No doubt the government alone is not capable of achieving such a huge task, and so the three forces are to be united and harmonious to put the drive into reality.



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to Tatmadawmen and family members of Dawei Station, departmental personnel and local people at Aung San Hall in Dawei.— MNA



The State, the people and the Tatmadaw to rely on each other in the drive for national and regional development

Senior General Than Shwe holds meeting with servicemen and departmental officials in Dawei

YANGON, 8 April—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC members General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief

(Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Taninthayi Division PDC Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC Office, and departmental heads, left Kawthoung by air and arrived at Dawei on 6 April afternoon.

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The national development is also the fruitful results of integrated efforts of the State service personnel and the people who are engaged in nation-building endeavours under the leadership of the government.

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PERSPECTIVES



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Dawei Railway Station and railroads in Dawei.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 9 April, 2005

Strive for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Our Three Main National Causes is a national policy to be upheld by the entire national people since it is the inborn duty of every citizen.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, on his tour of Taninthayi Division, on 6 April met families of the Tatmadaw members of battalions and units in Kawthoung Station and departmental officials at the Bayintnaung Hall of the local battalion in Kawthoung and gave guidance.

He said that based on Our Three Main National Causes, the strength of the three forces—the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw—should be combined and united to build a democratic nation; and that it is incumbent upon the entire national people to develop and strengthen the political, economic and social sectors in all aspects region-wise in this regard.

The State Peace and Development Council is making efforts in all seriousness for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Meanwhile, it has laid down the seven-point Road Map and is taking systematic steps for the emergence of a democratic system with fully institutionalized discipline.

The national development predominantly depends on community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. With concerted efforts exerted by the State, the people and the Tatmadaw, the entire nation is now meeting with success in all aspects.

The achievement is also the fruitful results of integrated efforts of the State service personnel and the people who are engaged in nation-building endeavours under the leadership of the government.

All should not let development momentum to lose. In ensuring regional development, efforts are to be made for further development of economy, per capita income and living standard of the people.

The border areas will be able to preserve and promote the national dignity and pride only if they are able to develop and strengthen the economic, education and health sectors.

State service personnel who are engaged in administrative affairs will have to lay emphasis on peace and security of the people while serving the interests of the State and the people.

All in all, the entire national people are to lend themselves to the drive for bringing about equitable development across the nation for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

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

Foreign Minister arrives back from Pakistan

YANGON, 8 April— Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived back here by air this morning after attending the Fourth Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 5 to 7 April 2005.

The minister was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Directors-General and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ACD Meeting issued two documents namely Islamabad Declaration for enhanced Asia-wide cooperation and Islamabad Initiative on Economic Cooperation in Asia.

While in Islamabad, Minister U Nyan Win met Ministers of Foreign Affairs of China, Pakistan, Thailand, Republic of Korea and Japan separately and discussed international issues of mutual concern and matters relating to bilateral relations.

MNA

PBANRDA Minister oversees rural development in Maubin

YANGON, 8 April— Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended ceremonies to put rural roads into services in Maubin Township on 6 April.

First, he attended the ceremony to open the gravel road linking Maubin Government Technological College and Seiktha Village. Similarly, the minister graced the ceremony to commission Bilin-Sitchaung rural gravel road. Yesterday, the minister attended the ceremony to hand over school buildings of BEHS and BEMS in Maubin



PBANRDA Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends opening ceremony of Bilin-Sitchaung rural gravel road in Maubin Township on 6-4-2005. — PBANRDA

Township. After that, the minister attended the inauguration ceremony of the entrance road to Htani Village. Furthermore, he joined the ceremony to hand over new school building at Maletto Village BEMS. — MNA

F&R Deputy Minister returns from Lao PDR

YANGON, 8 April — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe attended the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Retreat and the 9th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic on 5 and 6 April.

The ASEAN Finance Ministers' Retreat was held at Don Chan Palace Hotel on 5 April afternoon. On 6 April morning, the 9th ASEAN Finance Minister's Meeting was held at the same venue. At the meeting, Prime Minister of LPDR Bounnhang Vorachith delivered an opening address.

Myanmar delegation arrived back here by air yesterday and they were welcomed by officials of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue.

Together with the Deputy Minister, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Director Daw Ohnma Sein of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Assistant Director Daw Khin Cho Cho also arrived back.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe arrives back from Lao PDR.—MNA

Temporary shutdown of power cable

YANGON, 8 April — The 66-kv aerial power cable crossing Ayeyawady River will be extended to a 132-kv power grid to increase electricity supply to Magway and Sagaing divisions.

The upgrading of the power cable linking Chauk and Lanywa in Chauk Township, Magway Division, will be conducted during Thingyan holidays from 13 to 17 April when power consumption is low. During the days, Kyunchaung gas-fired power station will supply electricity to Monywa Township in Sagaing Division, and Pakokku Township in Magway Division and their surrounding areas round-the-clock. There will be a temporary shutdown of the 66-kv power cable from 6 am to 6 pm for two days on 13 and 14 April. — MNA

Rain in Kachin, Mon States and Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 8 April— According to the report issued by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology today, light rain has been isolated in Kachin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division during the past 24 hours. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was in Kawthoung with 0.24 inch. Light rain and thundershowers are possible in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division for tomorrow and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Isolated rains are possible in southernmost part of Myanmar for the next two days.—NLM

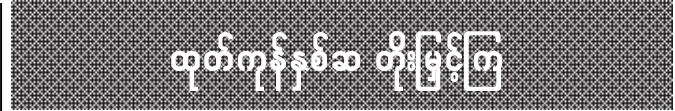
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A worker rides a bicycle in front of apartment buildings under construction on 7 April, 2005 in Shanghai, China. —INTERNET



Chinese Premier calls for joint commitment to new Asia

ISLAMABAD, 7 April — The Chinese Premier on Wednesday called all Asian nations to take up the historic responsibility and renew the joint commitment to a new Asia with peace, stability, cooperation and development.

He made the remarks when addressing the 4th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue, which was opened Wednesday.

He said Asia needs peace. Peace is the precondition and guarantee for well-being and prosperity, and mutual respect, dialogue on an equal footing, friendly consultation and mutual understanding are rational choice when it comes to

resolving disputes and conflict, he noted.

He noted Asia needs stability. The affairs of a country should be decided by the people of that country, and the international community should do more to help the country and the region to maintain its stability and give greater attention and assistance to the economically less developed countries, he said.

"The developing coun-

tries in Asia have a pressing need to develop their economies, shake off poverty and backwardness, narrow the wealth gap and improve democracy and legal system so as to realize lasting stability at home," he said.

Wen also said Asia needs cooperation. The diversity in Asia provides ample space for interstate cooperation, and the countries should focus on trade and economic cooperation while moving forward mutually beneficial cooperation across the board.

"We should move ahead with regional free trade arrangements step by step, properly address trade frictions and work hard to bring about a new cooperation pattern characterized by mutual complementarity, diversity and openness," the Premier said.

He stressed that Asia needs development. Most Asian countries are underdeveloped, and to accelerate economic development and social progress is the strong desire of the Asian peoples and also a major task before all Asian nations.

"A truly Asian century will never materialize unless Asia develops as a whole," he said. Wen is paying an official visit to South Asia covering Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. Pakistan is the first leg of his tour.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Vice-Premier meets Japanese guests

BEIJING, 7 April — China and Japan, under the joint effort of the two governments and their respective business elites, have enjoyed rapid and steady development in trade and investment cooperation in recent years, said Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi here on Wednesday.

Wu made the remarks in a meeting with Tadahiro Yoshida, president and chief executive officer of Japan's YKK Corporation, the world largest zipper manufacturer.

YKK attaches great importance to developing the Chinese market, and has successfully invested in such industries as zipper and architectural materials, she noted.

Wu said the Chinese Government will continue to encourage international cooperation to set up branches and research centres in China, and will actively encourage foreign capitals to join in China's reform of state-owned enter-

prises and to play a role in China's strategies to revitalize old industrial bases in northeast China and develop its western region.

Wu said she hoped that the YKK would seize the opportunity to further make and expand investments in China and promote other forms of economic and trade cooperation with China

Yoshida briefed Wu on YKK's investment situation in China in recent years and on its future investment strategy.

The two sides also exchanged views on issues concerning the protection of intellectual property. — MNA/Xinhua

Singaporean, British companies to develop fuel-cell power

SINGAPORE, 7 April — The British power system giant Rolls-Royce and Enertek Singapore, a Singaporean consortium, on Wednesday signed an agreement on developing fuel cell power, according to a Channel NewsAsia report.

The two companies will splash 100 million US dollars on Rolls-Royce's two-year-old Fuel Cell Systems project, which is believed to roll out a commercial viable one megawatt power system within the next two to three years.

As a major investor in Singapore's leading industries, Rolls-Royce will hold 75 per cent of the new venture's

stakes, leaving the rest to its Singaporean partner.

Generating energy from electrochemical reaction, the fuel cell technology has seen few commercial applications since its creation in the 19th Century.

However, the market for fuel cells in 2020 is estimated at 10 billion US dollars, said the report. — MNA/Xinhua

South Korea mulls pulling nearly 300 troops from Iraq

SEOUL, 7 April — South Korea is planning to withdraw nearly 300 troops from Iraq by August, the defence ministry announced, saying the move was possible due to improved security in Kurdish areas of northern Iraq.

The ministry said it would scale down its contingent by 270 to 3,270 but denied a local news media report that it had already cut its troop strength in the Kurdish town of Arbil by some 500 people. "We are considering cutting the total number of our troops in Iraq by some 270 by August as security has improved in Arbil," a spokesman from the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

He said the number of security guards would be reduced while medical teams and transport units would be increased

under what he called a minor readjustment.

Despite the planned reduction, the South Korean contingent would remain the third-largest force in Iraq after those of the United States and Britain, he said.

South Korea's parliament in January 2004 approved the deployment of up to 3,600 troops in Iraq for relief and rehabilitation but not for combat missions.

Some 3,540 troops have been stationed in Arbil since August 2004.

Internet

ASEAN countries agree to reinforce financial cooperation

HANOI, 7 April — At the 9th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting held in Laos on Wednesday, the delegates agreed to take concrete measures to step up financial cooperation among ASEAN members, according to local sources.

At the one-day meeting, finance ministers of the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a protocol on financial services liberalization, pledging to offer market-opening commitments in financial services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services inked in 1995.

The delegates pledged to link stock markets of the 10 members together by 2010, and push up the implementation of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative, under which ASEAN countries, plus China, Japan and South Korea, will facilitate bond issuers and enhance market infrastructure to foster bond markets in Asia.

The ministers also approved a strategy on developing ASEAN Customs in the 2005-2010 period, placing a focus on modernization.

At the meeting, the delegates estimated ASEAN would post economic growth of 5.7 per cent this year, down from six per cent last year, mainly due to oil price hikes, the world market's instability, and the depreciation of US dollar, the sources said.

ASEAN groups Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines.



A policeman looks at a damaged vehicle following a road side bomb in central Basra on 5 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Chinese Premier attends ACD Ministerial Meeting

ISLAMABAD, 7 April — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao attended the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue opened here on Wednesday morning, and delivered a speech.

In his speech, Wen looked back on Asia's history, gave his viewpoint on the region's current situation and development in the future. He also briefed the guests on China's foreign policy and its willingness to be friendly with the neighbours in particular.

Shaukat Aziz, Pakistani Prime Minister, also delivered a speech. He called upon all Asian nations to work together for peace, stability and prosperity, putting forward the proposal to improve cooperation including expanding trade contact, learning advanced experience, and encouraging institutionalized co-operation.

He said China's spectacular transformation and economic miracle as well as its emergence as a

powerhouse for the global economy have placed China in a unique position to advance the goals of peace and prosperity in our continent, and the increasing integration of the Chinese economy with those of the region is a source of strength and stability for Asia.

Surakiart Sathirathai, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, said Asia's building blocks are linked by the ACD for tomorrow's stronger and more prosperous Asian community, and Asia's wealth and strength is not merely beneficial to Asia but will also be significant contribution to security, peace and prosperity for the rest of the world.

The two-day ACD Ministerial Meeting will focus on Asia cooperation and its development in the

future. The foreign ministers from 26 countries attended the meeting. They will hold discussion on the regional and international issues of common concern.

The ACD was established in 2002 and initiated by Thailand, and its second session was held in Qingdao, a coastal city of east China's Shandong Province.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is paying an official visit to South Asia covering Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. Pakistan is the first leg of his tour.

MNA/Xinhua

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Japanese people enjoy cherry blossoms in full bloom in Tokyo on 7 April, 2005. Having waited for relatively late blooming this spring, a crowd of people rush out to admire the white pink flowers.—INTERNET

Pakistan calls for joining hands for Asia's prosperity

ISLAMABAD, 7 April — Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Wednesday called on the Asian countries to join hands for Asia's prosperity and peace, and said China's emergence as a powerhouse for the global economy placed it in a unique position to advance these goals.

"Asia is a continent of opportunities and to harness our full potential, Asia needs to get together and join hands for prosperity and peace," he said while inaugurating the fourth ministerial meeting of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).

Aziz noted the emergence of ACD as an effective means of

promoting intra-Asia cooperation and called for promoting the required synergy for achieving Asia's enormous potential.

He called for concrete actions to promote intra regional trade, encourage investment in Asian nations and create corridors for cooperation through multi-sectoral linkages such as energy, trade, transportation,

tourism etc.

Aziz highlighted Pakistan's strategic location of sitting at the cross-roads of South and Central Asia as well as West and East Asia and offered the shortest land route to the sea for the landlocked countries of Central Asia and Western China from its seaports.

He said that with its linkages to the South

Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, Pakistan could be the anchor of peace, stability and prosperity for the entire region.

region are a source of strength and stability for Asia," the Prime Minister said while referring to China's spectacular transformation and economic miracle.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines mulls adopting "time of use" power pricing

MANILA, 7 April — A "time of use" power pricing policy is eyed to be implemented as another electricity-saving measure after the Philippine Government adopted four-day work week scheme, the Department of Energy said on Wednesday.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in an interview with the ABS-CBN news channel that under the proposal, electricity rates will vary at different time of the day,

with consumers paying higher rates during the day when consumption is higher.

But he said that the Energy Regulatory Commission has yet to decide the mandatory application of the "time of use pricing" on all power consumers, which, according to Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Rodolfo Albano, may come by May or June this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Sun Microsystems opens research centre on Java in Seoul

SEOUL, 8 April — US network computer manufacturer Sun Microsystems Inc opened its first research and development centre in Asia here on Wednesday to develop a wide range of software using its Java programming language, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

The opening ceremony for the Java research centre, held here Wednesday afternoon, was attended by Sun Microsystems Chief Executive Scott McNealy and South Korean Information and Communication Minister Chin Dae-je, according to Yonhap.

Sun plans to spend

a total of 50 million US dollars over the next four years to fund the lab's development activities.

"Just like Silicon Valley, Korea is where to go if you want to see the real potential of a fully networked society," McNealy said in a speech at the ceremony.—MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese fish farmer, clears up a fish pond in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 6 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Kurdish leader elected as new Iraqi President

BAGHDAD, 7 April — The Iraqi National Assembly (Parliament) chose on Wednesday Jalal al-Talabani, a veteran Kurdish leader, as the country's new president for the transitional period.

Along with him, incumbent Finance Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, a Shiite, and the outgoing President Ghazi al-Yawar, a Sunni Arab, were named as the first and second vice-presidents.

"The President is a Kurd, the former president becomes the Vice-President, and what do you want more for the democracy in Iraq?" commented Hachim al-Hassani, the newly appointed Parliamentary Speaker.

"I promise I will spare no effort in achieving the goals of the Iraqi people...

and carrying out the Iraqi duties without sectarian or racial differences," said Talabani, shortly after he was elected.

The list of the three, called the Presidential Council, won about 90 per cent of the vote at the parliamentary session, opened Wednesday morning inside the US-protected Green Zone in Baghdad. Eighteen lawmakers were absent at the meeting, including the outgoing prime minister Iyad Allawi, but the reason for his absence was not clear.—MNA/Xinhua

Thais can view Jupiter with bare eyes in April

BANGKOK, 7 April — Thai people are fortunately able to witness the Jupiter — the world's largest planet — with their bare eyes throughout this month.

"Throughout this month, April, Thais are able to view the Jupiter with their bare eyes at night whenever the weather condition is good with no thick clouds and rain, by turning to the East and looking for the brightest star in the sky at the moment," Astronomical Association of Thailand Secretary-General Ms Papee Viraporn was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Princess Sirindhorn donates \$ 12,000 to primary school in Xinjiang

HOTAN (Xinjiang), 7 April — Visiting Thai Princess, Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, donated 100,000 yuan (12,000 US dollars) on Wednesday to a primary school in Xinjiang's Hotan region after visiting it that morning.

The school, which is located under the Kunlun Mountains and on the edge of the desert, has only 100 students.

When the Princess came into the classroom of Grade One, the Chinese teacher was teaching how to write a written request for leave. She stood at the door and listened, then she joined the children and asked them about their study.

Later the Princess posed for pictures with the school children.

Sirindhorn arrived in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on Tuesday at noon and flew to

Hotan that evening.

The Thai Princess is known for her love of Chinese culture and knowledge of literature, music and painting. This is her second trip to Xinjiang and 20th visit to China.

Prior to her arrival in Xinjiang, she visited Beijing and met with Vice-President Zeng Qinghong, Vice-Chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Gu Xiulian and State Councillor Chen Zhili. She also attended a celebration at the prestigious Beijing University to celebrate her 50th birthday. — MNA/Xinhua

China says deadline for UN reform not proper

BEIJING, 7 April — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here Wednesday that a deadline should not be set for the United Nations Security Council reform and push for a vote when Council members "obviously disagree" on the proposals.

Tang made the remarks when meeting with Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Carolina Barco Isackson.

UN Secretary-General Annan submitted a report on the UN reform on 23 March, which proposed to enlarge the Security Council.

Germany, Japan, India and Brazil are the four prime candidates for new permanent seats on an expanded Security Council. They proposed in a joint statement on 31 March in New York to put the issue of expansion to a vote in the UN General Assembly slated for September.

Tang said China supports the UN to strengthen its role and authority through reform and expand the representation of

developing countries in the Security Council.

"However, it is not proper to set a deadline and push for a vote when Council members obviously disagree on the two proposals," Tang said.

He suggested Council members should exercise democracy and strive for a broad consensus of Council members on the basis of full consultation.

Barco agreed to Tang's opinion. She said the UN needs reform, but the reform should be comprehensive, covering the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council instead of being focused on the Security Council.

MNA/Xinhua



Employees at the satellite digital multimedia broadcasting centre in Seoul mind the controls.—INTERNET

Japan decides not to send troops to Sudan for UN mission

TOKYO, 7 April — Japan has decided not to send Self-Defence Forces troops to Sudan for planned UN peacekeeping operations, but will consider dispatching civilian officials such as those from the Foreign Ministry to help with the mission, *Kyodo News* reported on Wednesday.

The decision was made because the security situation in the African nation remains uncertain and because it is difficult for the SDF to dispatch more troops in addition to those who have already been deployed in Iraq to assist in reconstruction work there, *Kyodo* said.

Japan had been considering how it can contribute to the peacekeeping

operations following the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution in March to send 10,000 peacekeepers to southern Sudan to monitor a ceasefire between the government and southern rebels.

Japan sent an investigative team to Sudan in early March to check the security situation and living conditions in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan hopes to launch manned space shuttle to moon in 20 years

TOKYO, 7 April — The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency has compiled a long-term space exploration programme, which calls for launching a domestically designed manned spacecraft to the moon within the next 20 years, JAXA officials said on Wednesday.

Under the programme, JAXA will complete a rocket for human spaceflight within 10 years based on the technologies being developed for the domestically made H-2A rocket.

MNA/Xinhua

Netherlands contributes "F-16" to NATO-led force in Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 April — As part of its commitment to further strengthening the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Netherlands has contributed four F-16 jet fighters to the multinational force in Afghanistan, the ISAF said on Wednesday.

"On 28 March, four Dutch F-16 jets arrived at Kabul International Airport to begin one-year tour of duty here in Afghanistan," Karen Tissot van Patot, the ISAF spokesperson, told journalists at a news conference.

It is the first time over the past three years the 8,300-strong NATO-led multinational troops has received the modern and high-tech airpower machine to support the stabilizing process in the war-torn country.

MNA/Xinhua

US chopper crash kills at least 16 in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 April — At least 16 people were killed in the crash of a US military transportation helicopter in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday afternoon, the US military said here.

"Sixteen people have now been confirmed dead in the crash of a coalition CH-47 transport helicopter near Ghazni on Wednesday afternoon," a statement released by US-led coalition said in the evening.

"Eighteen people, including crew members and passengers, were listed on the flight manifest, two remain unaccounted for," it added. — MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine stands among a group of Iraqis following an explosion in a vacant building in Fallujah, Iraq, on 7 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Shooting kills one, injures guard near Kabul police chief's home

KABUL, 8 April — A sudden shooting near the house of Kabul's police chief killed one and wounded a guard Wednesday as the police tried to arrest a fugitive in the Afghan capital, a close aide to the police chief said.

"We were pursuing a notorious thief Omar in Kartai Parwan area near the residence of the police chief when the shooting began and killed a taxi driver. The guard of the chief's house was also injured," the official told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. The incident occurred at around noon when Mohammad Akram Khakrizwal, the newly appointed Kabul police chief was at home.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Cambodian friendship carries on

BEIJING, 8 April — The head of China's political advisory body said here on Wednesday that the new generation of Chinese leadership cherishes its friendship with the royal family of Cambodia and values China's relationship with Cambodia.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said the new Chinese leadership will be friends with its neighbours and work with Cambodia to push bilateral cooperation in various areas to a higher level.

Jia made the remarks during a meeting with former Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk and his wife Norodom Monineath Sihanouk in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Wednesday afternoon.

The former Cambodian King is in Beijing for a routine health check.

Jia conveyed Chinese President Hu Jintao and his wife's cordial greetings to Sihanouk and his wife. Sihanouk ex-

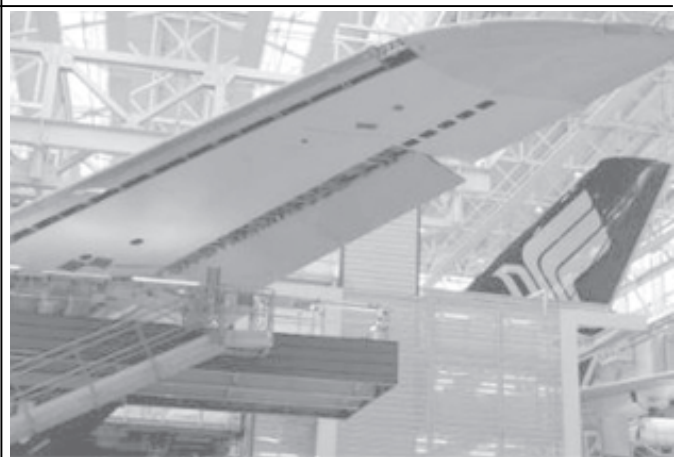
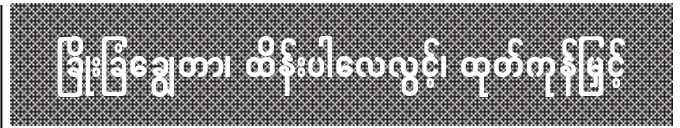
pressed his gratitude on this and asked Jia to convey his warm-hearted greetings to President Hu and his wife.

Jia praised Sihanouk as a good old friend of the Chinese people, while Sihanouk recalled his friendship and communications with generations of Chinese leaders.

Jia said Sihanouk has been working on strengthening friendship between the peoples of the two countries and made outstanding contribution to the development of bilateral relations.

Sihanouk thanked the Chinese Government and people for giving invaluable support to Cambodia over many years, which played an important role in peace and development of Cambodia.

MNA/Xinhua



A general view of the wing and tail section of an Airbus A380 with Singapore Airlines colours during construction on the assembly line in Toulouse on 6 April, 2005. Singapore Airlines will be the first company to be equipped with the new jumbo-jet. — INTERNET

China, India to fuel regional prosperity

SINGAPORE, 8 April — With persistently robust growth, China and India will fuel the region's growth and prosperity for the next several decades, Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said on Wednesday.

"Many Chinese and Indian cities are fast becoming magnets for investments, global talent and capital," Lim noted, adding that the development of the two regional driving forces will benefit other countries in the region.

Speaking at the inaugural conference of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy on China and India, Lim said that Singapore aims to become an investment gateway for China, and to participate in the country's town planning, finance and logistics sectors as

well.

Talking about Singapore's response to the challenges of globalization, Lim stressed that the government has to keep the economy diversified and flexible, and enhance its competitiveness through innovation, talent and creativity.

He further explained that the city state is making efforts to enlarge its economic space by signing free trade agreements (FTAs) with other nations, as well as to help local companies to go global.

MNA/Xinhua



Swedish Crown Princess Victoria looks around at an exhibition called 'HOME SWEDISH HOME' behind cherry blossoms at the Sweden Embassy in Tokyo on 8 April, 2005. Victoria, who is in Japan for a seven-day visit, inaugurated the exhibition which features Swedish lifestyles. — INTERNET

ADB sends loans to Afghanistan to improve telecommunications

MANILA, 8 April — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help improve telecommunications in Afghanistan through a 35-million-US-dollar loan signed Wednesday in Kabul to finance the nationwide expansion and upgrading of the country's leading cellular network, an ADB news release said on Wednesday.

The project will use global system for mobile communication (GSM), cellular, satellite, and radio wave transmission technologies to extend the coverage of Roshan, a private limited liability company that provides cellular telephone, public call office, international gateway, and Internet services in Afghanistan.

According to ADB, the project will help expand Roshan's coverage towards its ultimate goal of countrywide coverage and will help fund the deployment of public call offices which extend the reach of telecoms to the less affluent and more remote users.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony in Roshan's Headquarters in Kabul by Robert Bestani, director-general of ADB's Private Sector Operations Department, and Karim Khoja, chief executive officer of Roshan, said ADB.

"Our agreement with Roshan, the first significant

loan of its kind to be made to a privately owned enterprise in Afghanistan in almost 30 years, will strongly support Afghanistan's reconstruction effort and economic development," Michael Barrow, an ADB senior structured finance specialist, was quoted as saying.

"Telecommunications is an essential element of a country's infrastructure, alongside transport, water supply, and energy, and cellular telephone is seen as the only viable method of providing reliable, countrywide communications coverage in the country," he said.

"ADB's loan to Roshan will hopefully serve as a positive example that should help encourage aid agencies and commercial sector lenders to support private sector development in Afghanistan," said Barrow.

MNA/Xinhua

HK Science Museum receives dinosaur egg fossils

HONG KONG, 8 April — Two dinosaur egg fossils were given by the Nanyang municipal government of Chinese Mainland to the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Wednesday.

Director of Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Anissa Wong Sean-ye, accepted the egg fossils on behalf of the HKSAR.

She thanked the representative of the Nanyang municipal government for the generous donation of the fossils and she hoped that this would further

strengthen cooperation between the people of the two places.

With the species name, Spheroolithus sp, the two fossils were excavated in Henan Province of the Mainland in October 2001. They belong to the Mesozoic era, late Cretaceous period.

The fossils are 16

centimetres in length, 13 centimetres in width, 12 centimetres in height, 3.15 kilos in weight and 14 centimetres in length, 12 centimetres in width, 12 cm in height, 2.75 kilos in weight respectively.

According to Wong, the fossils will be the first of their kind at the Hong Kong Science Museum.

MNA/Xinhua

Air NZ to lift fares due to fuel costs surge

WELLINGTON, 8 April — Air New Zealand, New Zealand's No 1 airline, said Thursday it will again lift ticket prices from next Tuesday due to mounting fuel costs.

Air New Zealand marketing general manager Norm Thompson said the cost of fuel, judged by the benchmark Singapore Jet Fuel price, was 80 per cent higher than in April last year, and around 15 per cent higher than in October, when the surcharge was last increased.

The airline's fuel bill is expected to be more than 600 million NZ dollars (426 million US dollars) this year, 24 per cent higher than in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia, Malaysia to start free trade agreement

CANBERRA, 8 April — Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Thursday announced that Australia and Malaysia had signed a declaration of intent to begin negotiations on a free trade agreement after meeting with his visiting counterpart Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Badawi arrived here on Wednesday night, starting his first official visit to Australia, which is also the first visit to Australia by a Malaysian leader in 21 years.

A free trade agreement with Malaysia will be worth 1.9 billion dollars to the Australian economy over the next 20 years. — MNA/Xinhua

Make arrangements with...

(from page 16)

Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann and party looked into sample of crude palm oil, the power station and boiler station.

After the inauguration ceremony, Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint reported that his company has planned to grow 100,000 acres of oil palm in Taninthayi Division. So far, 51,963 acres of land have been put under oil palm. To meet the target, growing of oil palm will be carried on. He added his reports on nurturing of oil palms for this year's cultivation, use of heavy machinery, construction of roads in the oil palm farms, strength of employees, fulfillment of basic needs of the workers, welfare creation and building of the crude palm oil mill.

After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann said that as Yuzana Co Ltd plans to grow oil palm plantations on 20 per cent of 500,000 acres of project area or one-fifth of the project, efforts of Yuzana Co Ltd are to be recognized.

Today, Yuzana Co Ltd opened the Crude Palm Oil Mill that can produce 30 tons of crude palm oil per hour. That is why it should be proud of not only Yuzana Co Ltd but also other oil palm entrepreneurs. And then, all are to make harmonious efforts for gaining success in the tasks of the oil palm project.

All-out efforts must be made for achieving success in any tasks. So also, arrangements should be made for implementation of the oil palm project with perseverance and perfect management, and it should be taken advice and suggestions from experienced persons. Furthermore, necessary assistance should be provided to employees of respective projects so as to win their trust, honesty, hardwork and loyalty.

Next, the General inspected crude palm oil, fruits of oil palm, bean and bio-composer and pesticide displayed at the hall of the company and scale model



Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang and Yuzana Co Ltd Chairman U Htay Myint formally open Crude Palm Oil Mill in Khamaukkyi, Kawthoung Township.— MNA

of the mill.

Crude Palm Oil Mill opened today can produce 30 tons of crude palm oil per hour. If machinery will be installed at the mill, it can double its production. The plan is under way to produce crude palm oil at the mill with full capacity beginning May 2005.

Thanks to establishment of the mill, not only Yuzana Co Ltd but also other oil palm entrepreneurs on a small scale have opportunities to send oil palm bunches from their farms to the mill on time.

Likewise, other oil palm companies plan to establish crude palm oil mills.

Afterwards, the General and party proceeded to the local battalion in Khamaukkyi and met with

Tatmadawmen, family members and departmental personnel of the town. Executive Officer U Kan Htoo of Khamaukkyi Town General Administration Department reported on area of the town, number of households and population, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, functions of departments concerned and Lt-Col Sonny Ohn of the local battalion on prospects for growing of rubber and oil palm in the region and carrying out of agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale in the battalion. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo added reports of agricultural tasks.

After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann fulfilled their requirements.— MNA

Matters coordinated for ensuring smooth and secure transport



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaking at the meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport.— YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 8 April — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held a coordination meeting this evening at the meeting hall of Yangon Command. Committee Chairman Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

Also present were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wail Lwin, military region commanders,

station commanders, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi and officials.

After the chairman's address, committee members and officials reported on measures being taken for ensuring smooth and secure transport, abiding by traffic rules and regulations, reducing traffic accidents and conversion of diesel and petrol cars into CNGs.

Then, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

MNA

POEM

Can take as example

- * Today, we Myanmar
What are we doing?
Well, look carefully.
- * We hear what they're saying
We don't cease moving, we keep marching.
- * Their voices, are those of timing?
Keeping that in mind
Myanmar will keep marching
- * Well, how goes it
Myanmar's trait
So free, you will observe.
- * If that freedom be attacked
We will with freedom
Retaliate immediately, and effectively
Setting an example that can be taken
'Tis the demonstration of Myanmar.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)

Myanmar-Korea business talks held

YANGON, 8 April— The Korea-Myanmar Business Forum, organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Korea Importer Association (KOIMA) of the Republic of Korea, was held this morning at Traders hotel. Present on the occasion were President U Win Myint of UMFCFI, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Thang Tin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC members and businessmen.

U Win Myint, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Ju-Heum and Chairman of KOIMA Mr Soon Han Kwon extended greetings. After making clarifications on export and import businesses of Korea, businessmen of both sides discussed matters on extension of economic cooperation and business opportunities. The meeting ended at 4 pm after U Win Myint and Mr Soon Han Kwon spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Appointment of Vietnamese Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 9 April — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Tran Van Tung as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Tran Van Tung was born in Ha Nam, Vietnam on 16th May 1949 and graduated from the Havana University, Cuba, in 1972. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1972 and served in various capacities in the Ministry and at the Vietnam Embas-

sies in Sri Lanka and India until 1992. From 1992 to 1995, he served as Director-General of South Asia Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. From 1995 to 1999, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Vietnam to Australia. He is currently serving as Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 2000.

Mr Tran Van Tung is married and has two children.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family paying homage to the Buddha image of Hsutaungpyay Hsawdawshin Pagoda in Kaleinaung, Yebyu Township.—MNA



The State, the people and the Tatmadaw to rely on...

(from page 1)

They were welcomed at Dawei Airport by Tactical Operations Commander Col San Myint Oo, local authorities and officials.

The Senior General and party viewed the con-

struction of the four-storey main building and the buildings on the campus of Dawei University.

tasks for development of the beach and extended growing of oil palms. They arrived back at Dawei in the afternoon.

This morning, the Senior General and party inspected progress of Dawei by car. They also inspected the Dawei railway station. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on plying of trains between Ye and Dawei, conditions of the railroads, programmes for extended

plying of trains, construction of railroads on Thanlwin river crossing bridge (Mawlamyine), and work progress. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave a supplementary report on the project. The Senior General gave guidance to the officials.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party who accompanied the Senior General held a meeting with servicemen of regiments and units in Dawei Station and their families, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townselders.

On the occasion, the General delivered a speech, saying that during the inspection tour of Taninthayi Division, respective regions are witnessing progress. The State has rendered all necessary assistance to Dawei region, part of the 24-region development project, for development of its sectors such as education, health, and transport and so on.

Like Taninthayi Division including Dawei region, other states and divisions are also enjoying the fruits of development simultaneously due to the harmonious attempts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

(See page 9)

The State, the people and the Tatmadaw are thus to be homogeneous and to be imbued with patriotism and ardent zeal for transition to peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family present cash donations to trustees of Shinmokhti Pagoda in Dawei Township.—MNA

struction of the four-storey main building and the buildings on the campus of Dawei University.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visited the Shinmokhti Pagoda in Shinmokhti Village, Dawei Township, and offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to it and made cash donations to the pagoda funds. Next, the Senior General signed the visitors' book.

Yesterday morning, the Senior General and wife and party left Dawei by helicopter and arrived at the Hsutaungpyay Hsawdawshin Pagoda in Kaleinaung, Yebyu Township.

The Senior General inspected the progress of Kaleinaung and its environs from the stairs of the pagoda, and signed the visitors' book. They offered soon, fruits, water, flowers and lights to the Buddha image and cash donations to the pagoda funds.

On their way to Maungmagan in Langlon Township, they inspected oil palm and rubber farms, and greening of the regions from the helicopters. On arrival at the Maungmagan beach, they viewed regional progress and scenic natural beauties of the beach. The Senior General gave guidance to the officials on



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family present cash donations to a member of the board of trustees of Hsutaungpyay Hsawdawshin Pagoda in Kaleinaung.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer candle lights to Shinmokhti Buddha Image in Dawei Township.— MNA



The State, the people and...

(from page 8)

The nation has enjoyed dramatic progress if compared to the State's poor conditions and situations in 1988.

With the understanding, mutual trust and co-

operation with the national races armed groups, the nation has been able to regain national reconsolidation. At the same time, regional development projects, the border areas development project and the five rural development projects are well under way harmoniously for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. In consequence, the entire nation has now enjoyed fruitful results of development to a certain degree.

In conclusion, the General exhorted the State service personnel to discharge their major duties and carry out regional development tasks

cess in the process in cooperation with the local residents.

According to the topography, the region has possessed prospects to become a dependable one, and the government is therefore building all

sector-wise projects is just to make significant contribution towards further development of the region in next few years.

In the successive periods, there were armed insurgencies in the region, as such there was

The region's population is still low in proportion to its natural resources. So, the government is creating good opportunities for increasing working population, economic progress, and better transport in the

regional development. No doubt the government alone is not capable of achieving such a huge task, and so the three forces are to be united and harmonious to put the drive into reality.

The State, the people



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Maungmagan Beach.— MNA



operation with the national races armed groups, the nation has been able to regain national reconsolidation. At the same time, regional development projects, the border areas development project and the five rural development projects are well under way harmoniously for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. In consequence, the entire nation has now enjoyed fruitful results of

with ardour in collaboration with local people, and in the process, they should carry out their tasks with a sense of duty, loyalty to the State and perseverance.

The Senior General arrived at the venue at 12.15 pm and gave guidance, saying that the purpose of the inspection tour was to study the requirements for development of Taninthayi Division, and to take measures for achieving suc-

necessary foundations constantly to upgrade the region to a developed one with a high living standard of local people.

In the process, examples include upgrading of old roads, construction of roads, railroads and airports, installation of modern communication system, and creation of fine opportunities for improvement of education and health care concerns.

The purpose of the State's investment in the

lack of peace and stability. However, in the time of the Tatmadaw government, systematic steps have been taken concerning political and defence spheres. Now, the region has enjoyed peace and tranquillity and security essential for progress.

region. With peace, stability and higher working population, the region will be a developed one in the near future.

The State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to rely on each other in the drive for national and

and the Tatmadaw are thus to be homogeneous and to be imbued with patriotism and ardent zeal for transition to peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

(See page 10)

With the understanding, mutual trust and cooperation with the national races armed groups, the nation has been able to regain national reconsolidation. At the same time, regional development projects, the border areas development project and the five rural development projects are well under way harmoniously for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. In consequence, the entire nation has now enjoyed fruitful results of development to a certain degree.



General Thura Shwe Mann gives instructions to Tatmadawmen and families and departmental personnel in Dawei.— MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann meets local authorities, departmental officials and entrepreneurs in Dawei.—MNA

The State, the people and...

(from page 9)

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially greeted the servicemen and their families and departmental officials. The Senior General and party arrived back here in the evening.

General Thura Shwe Mann, the members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the commander, ministers, deputy ministers and heads of department met with local authorities, departmental personnel and entrepreneurs in Dawei. The General said that in meeting with departmental personnel, social organizations, townselders and national entrepreneurs during the tour of Taninthayi

Division, the Head of State has already given guidance on the favourable conditions that can make Taninthayi a dependable division of the nation, the responsibility of the national entrepreneurs to develop the national economy, the need to consider both the self-interest and the majority's interest equally, the role of national entrepreneurs in building a modern and developed nation, the Government's positive stance for dutiful entrepreneurs. He said, Dawei region is running rubber, mining, marine and farming businesses. The Government believes that provision of assistance to all entrepreneurs running various businesses with large, medium or small amount of capital will benefit them as well as the regions concerned and the nation. Thus, the entrepreneurs will have to present their requirements.

Entrepreneurs running various businesses explained their experiences and Governments assistance to be rendered to extend their businesses.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Min, U Aung Thaug, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Brig-Gen Thein Zaw explained ministry-wise plans to develop Dawei region.

The General said that the discussions at the meeting are valuable. The Government will provide assistance in the interest of the entrepreneurs and the region in accord with the procedures. All will have to work with understanding among themselves for

strengthening national economy and developing regional economy. During the tour of the Head of State, USDA Secretary General Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC members Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with USDA members at Dawei on 7 April. The secretary general urged them to strive to consolidate the association and materialize the aims and visions. Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein looked into their requirements.

Similarly, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaug visited a palm oil factory and oil palm farm in Yebyu Township, on 7 April, and gave instructions to officials. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung met with staff of Forest Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Dawei on 7 April. The minister spoke of the need to carry out their task systematically, give supervision for the success of plantations, and conserve watershed areas of Maungmagan.

MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than...

(from page 16)

Aunggyin Shitpar Mingala Lake. Chairman of Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Htut Win and officials formally opened the lake that can store 22.5 million gallons of water.

They also attended the ceremony to commission Bogyoke Road stretching five miles linking seven villages near the beach in Pyinsalu. The road was built at a cost of K 12,288,000.

After the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted local people.—MNA

Energy Deputy Minister attends AEMAS

YANGON, 8 April — The opening ceremony of Seminar on ASEAN Energy Managers Accreditation Scheme (AEMAS) was held at the Ministry of Energy on Pyay Road this afternoon.

First, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay delivered an address and opened the seminar. Technicians of the Energy Planning Department reported on programmes of AEMAS.

The seminar was attended by Directors-General and Managing Directors of Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry, experts of Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry of Industry-1 and experts and delegates of the Universities under the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education and others.—MNA

Meeting of Leading Committee for Handicraft Exhibition of ASEAN and ROK held



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung addresses the meeting of Leading Committee for Organizing the Traditional Handicraft Exhibition and Demonstration of ASEAN Countries and Republic of Korea.—MNA

YANGON, 8 April — The Leading Committee for Organizing the Traditional Handicraft Exhibition and Demonstration of ASEAN Countries and Republic of Korea held a meeting at the National Museum on Pyay Road this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, deputy ministers of various ministries, the vice mayor and departmental heads. First, Minister Maj-

Gen Kyi Aung delivered an address. Secretary of the Leading Committee Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of Department of Cultural Institute briefed them on plans of the exhibition. The deputy ministers and departmental heads took part in the discussions for participation of their ministries in the exhibition.

Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.—MNA

Myanmar, Japan discuss global warming

YANGON, 8 April — For the second time, Myanmar and Japanese experts shared knowledge on reducing global warming at Sedona Hotel here today.

At the meeting on the project on Needs Assessment on Technology Transfer to Mitigate the Effect of Global Warming in Myanmar, the Japanese discussed with Myanmar counterparts including departmental officials and representatives of NGOs and industrial zones matters related to analytical procedure for selection, prioritization and transfer of technologies and schedule of the third meeting.

Secretary of National Commission for Environmental Affairs U Than Swe gave a speech at the meeting jointly sponsored by NCEA, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development (NEDO) and KRI Inc of Japan. — MNA

Not all beauties are good and safe: beware of lead poisoning!

Prof. Dr. Paing Soe
 Director General, Department of Medical Research

Some of the food items that are artificially coloured, commonly consumed by Myanmar people, are found to be contaminated with lead. Lead is ubiquitous in the human environment as a result of industrialization. Human activities such as mining, manufacturing, and the burning of fossil fuels are the major sources of environmental lead. Once released, lead is not biodegradable and remains. It has no known physiologic value and children are particularly susceptible to lead's toxic effects. Lead poisoning, for the most part, is silent and, the vast majority of cases therefore go undiagnosed and untreated. Lead is a poison that affects virtually every system in the body. It is particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system in the body.

Although many countries have initiated programmes to reduce environmental lead levels, human exposure to lead remains a public health concern worldwide. Although lead emission from motor vehicle accounts for majority of lead exposure in some countries, occupational lead exposure and exposure from foods can be the major sources in some countries. Once emitted into the air lead enters several environmental pathways.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has long been interested in methods for correlating environmental lead levels to blood lead levels in children. Exposure to lead during infancy and childhood increases the risk of irreversible mental retardation, low IQ, and neurobehavioural deficits even at levels of internal exposure as low as 10-15µg/dl. Thus lead poisoning effects not only the children per se but also the development of the entire nation as a whole.

Despite being dangerous to the human health, lead has many uses because of its unique property of being resistant to corrosives, stable, malleable, not transparent to X-rays etc.

Uses of lead:

- Production of batteries and ammunition
- Metal products (solder and pipes)
- Roofing
- Ceramic products
- Devices to shield X-rays
- Gasoline additives to increase octane rating
- Paints
- Scientific equipments

Lead in food

Foods can contain lead from several sources:

- From the soil in which the plant is grown
- During food processing
- Ceramic pottery using as food container
- Lead-soldered canned foods
- Use of lead contaminated water in food preparing/cooking
- Contact with lead dusts
- Lead is artificially added to improve the colour of food.

The fact that lead-glazed pottery could result in poisoning was known in antiquity and fermented liquors stored in these containers as a source of lead poisoning have a long history. In the second and first century BC wine was stored in the earthenware and relaxation on the drinking of wine by aristocratic women has resulted in chronic lead poisoning and sterility. It may have well contributed to the rapid extinction of the aristocratic class. The amount of lead that leaches from a dish depends on how dish is used and what kind of food is put in it. Acid foods and drinks will leach lead out of dishes much faster than non-acidic foods. The longer the food stays in contact with a dish surface that contains lead, the more lead will be leached

into food. Heating up food in a lead-containing dish can speed up the lead leaching process. A combination of these factors will make the problem even worse.

How people can be exposed to lead?

- Breathing air, drinking water, eating foods or swallowing or touching dust or dirt that contains lead
- Spending time in areas where leaded paints have been used and are deteriorating
- Working in jobs where lead is used — like battery repair shops, pottery making
- Using health-care products (cosmetics, hair dyes etc) or folk remedies that contain lead
- Having hobbies in which lead may be used such as sculpturing and staining glass

The amount that gets into your body from your stomach partially depends on when you ate your last meal and also on how old are you and how well the lead particle you ate dissolved in your stomach juices. Then it travels in the blood to the soft tissues and bones and teeth. About 90% of the amount of lead taken in your body of an adult will leave in the waste within a couple of weeks, but only about 32% of the lead taken into the body of a child will leave in the waste. Under conditions of continued exposure, lead will accumulate in body tissues.

Lead Hazards:

Children: Damage to the brain and nervous system

- Behaviour and learning problems
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Headaches

Adults: Difficulties during pregnancy

- Other reproductive problems
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems
- Nervous disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pains

In Myanmar, many foods like fish paste, fish sauce, fermented vegetables etc are prepared/stored in ceramic glazed pottery. Some foods are artificially added lead to improve the colour and sweetness of the foodstuff like dried prawns, "achindotes", bamboo shoots, laphet, fish paste etc. These foodstuffs are widely eaten by our people and thus the Nutrition Research Division, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) determined the lead levels of the certain foodstuffs. Food items, analyzed for lead content were grouped into three: foods in locally produced cans, foods prepared/stored in ceramic glazed pottery, and foods which were artificially coloured. Lead levels of the analyzed food items are as follows:

Lead levels of locally made canned foods

No.	Foodstuff	Lead level mg/kg wet wt
1	Pine apple	2.0724
2	Sardine	0.2378
3	Tamarind Juice	1.4052

Lead Content of Artificially Coloured Foods

No.	Foodstuff	Lead level mg/kg wet wt
1	Dried shrimp	1.0352
2	Sausage (Pork)	1.1158
3	Sausage ((Chicken)	1.5950
4	Bamboo shoots (Y)	1.0160
5	Bamboo shoots (R)	0.8308
6	Metman Yo	3.3200
7	Metman Thee	1.4260

Lead content of foods prepared/stored in glazed pottery

No.	Foodstuff	Lead level mg/kg wet wt
1	Fermented vegetables	3.9600
2	Salted apes earing	4.1000
3	Kyan Ma Saing	4.90
4	Strawberry wine	2.1042
5	Met Man Wine	1.5200
6	Preserved lemon	0.8910
7	Fish Paste	4.8500
8	Fish sauce	4.8800

(Note: these foods contain high levels of lead because they were either put in lead soldered cans, artificially coloured with lead or prepared/stored in ceramic glazed pottery)

Maximal Permissible Concentration of Lead level (Codex Alimentarius, 1989)

No.	Foodstuff	Lead level mg/kg wet wt
1	Juices	0.3
2	Edible oil	0.1
3	Lemon juice, preserved exclusively by physical means	1.0
4	White sugar, Powdered sugar, etc	1.0
5	Cocoa Press Cake	2.0
6	Canned bouillon & consommés	0.5

From these tables, it is obvious that many food items studied, commonly consumed by Myanmar, had lead levels above the maximal permissible level (MPL) concentration defined by the Codex Alimentarius. Although the food items under study were not the same as mentioned by the Codex Alimentarius, MPL should not exceed 2mg/kg wet weight of food. There were many food items which had lead level more than 2mg/kg.

How to reduce lead exposure through food?

- Not to use lead in a glaze on a pot intended to hold food or drink
- Foods should not be stored, even under refrigeration, in open cans even if the can is subsequently covered
- Food should be stored only in containers that does not release lead (glass, stainless steel, etc)
- If ceramic containers are ever used to store food, they should be made with lead-free glaze
- Restrict the use of lead solder in cans
- Use fully flushed water for drinking and cooking
- Always draw water for ingestion from the cold tap water
- Keep the home clean and as dust free as possible
- Eat a variety of foods
- Eat foods rich in calcium, iron, and vitamin C so your body will absorb less lead from specific food sources that have been exposed to lead

From the research findings of our Department, the author would like to highlight the point that, use of lead glazed pottery as food containers, adding lead to food to improve the colour, and use of lead soldering in food cans are the important sources of lead contamination of food in our country and people should be aware of these facts. Let's avoid producing and consuming lead contaminated foodstuffs to prevent mental retardation of children from lead poisoning.

* * *

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 Dated: 9 April 2005

Monaco's Prince Rainier III dies at age 81

PARIS, 7 April — Prince Rainier III of Monaco died at age 81 on Wednesday after a battle with heart, kidney and breathing problems, Monaco's Royal Palace announced.

The Prince, who ruled the tiny Mediterranean principality since 1949, passed away at 06:35 local time (0435 GMT), the palace said in a statement.

He was Europe's longest reigning monarch.

Rainier will be succeeded by 47-year-old Prince Albert, who took over his father's royal duties last week after Rainier's condition suddenly turned worse nearly two weeks ago.

MNA/Xinhua

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV "SEA BRIGHT" Voy No (699) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-4-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

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U Thant Maung, Advocate
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 360 Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp.,
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 Dated 9 April 2005

UN housing agency seeks enlarged budget

NAIROBI, 7 April — United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) said Wednesday it has proposed a budget more than tripling its current one to enable it tackle what it described as "silent tsunami" ruining African cities where informal settlements and lack of safe water has become a way of life.

UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibajuka said the funds, 170 million US dollars, to be spent within the 2006/07 financial year would be used to scale up campaigns to enable millions of people dying from water-related diseases and lack of basic services have access to the crucial ingredients of life.

Tibajuka said the budget proposal tabled before 58 ministers attending the 20th session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in Nairobi would be used to beef up its funding for various slum upgrading, water and sanitation projects around the world. — MNA/Xinhua

Global economic growth to slow down to 3.1% in 2005

WASHINGTON, 7 April — Global economic growth will slow down to 3.1 per cent in 2005 as a result of increases in US interest rates, fiscal tightening, and the effects of the 25-per-cent real effective appreciation of the Euro, the World Bank projected on Wednesday.

A reduction in demand for developing-country exports is expected to slow growth among them to 5.7 per cent in 2005, which still remains above recent growth trends, the Bank's annual Global Development Finance 2005 report said.

According to the report, global economic growth reached 3.8 per cent in 2004, the fastest rate in four years. Developing countries out-

grew high-income countries and gains were widespread, recording their fastest growth in more than a decade.

But global growth momentum has peaked, and developing country gains are vulnerable to risks associated with adjustments to ballooning global imbalances, especially the 666 billion US dollars current account deficit, the report said.

According to the re-

port, the strong global performance in 2004 was underpinned by solid US growth and rapid expansion in China, India and Russia.

Record expansion of 6.6 per cent in developing nations was encouraged by favourable global conditions and supported by a surge in financial flows not seen since the financial crises of the late 1990s.

MNA/Xinhua

Blair pledges to ensure economic stability

LONDON, 7 April — British Prime Minister Tony Blair said here Tuesday that his "mission for the third term" was to ensure economic stability and public service investment.

He made the remarks to reporters at Downing Street after announcing the election date slated for 5 May.

"I've just been to Buckingham Palace to ask the Queen to dissolve the Parliament. There will be

a general election in Britain on May 5," Blair said.

Blair's call on the Queen is a procedural step to call a new election. As a rule, the Parliament is dissolved one week after the Queen's approval.

The announcement,

which was made 24 hours later than expected, will kick off serious election campaigns nationwide among major political parties — the Labour, the Conservative and the Liberal Democratic, among others. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan's stand on history unchanged

TOKYO, 7 April — Japan's stand on history has not changed and it will continue to humbly treat the facts about its aggression and make profound reflection, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

Aakira Chiba made the remarks shortly before the Education Ministry's authorization of a controversial history textbook.

Aakira Chiba said, as far as the history problem is concerned, the Japanese Government will stick to the position embodied in the remarks of former prime minister Tomiichi Murayama in 1995 and a Japan-China joint declaration inked in 1998.

Japan's colonial rule and aggression has caused

tremendous damage and suffering to the Chinese people and peoples of other Asian nations, and the Japanese Government makes profound reflection and sincere apology, Chiba said.

While talking on the history textbook, Chiba said it is difficult for the government to comment on a specific history textbook because the state is not in charge of compiling textbooks and does not have a say on historical issues in certain text-

books.

The points of view over history in those textbooks do not necessarily reflect the official stand, he noted.

The Japanese Education Ministry on Tuesday defied protests from other Asian countries and gave the green light to the latest edition of a middle school history textbook which blatantly distorted history and glorified Japan's invasion of neighbouring countries last century. — MNA/Xinhua

S Korea to lodge protest over Japan's new textbooks

SEOUL, 7 April — The South Korean Government on Wednesday summoned the Japanese Ambassador to Seoul to lodge an official protest over the newly authorized Japanese school textbooks that whitewash Japan's wartime history and back Japan's claim over a group of disputed islets.

Japanese Ambassador Toshiyuki Takano was called in to hear the complaint in a meeting with South Korean Vice-Foreign Minister Lee Tae-sik, the South Korean *Yonhap* news agency reported.

The action came one day after the Japanese Education Ministry authorized several kinds of history and citizenship textbooks which will be adopted by Japanese middle schools from next year.

The South Korean Government has expressed its indignation at the authorization in a statement, saying the textbooks include contents that justify and beautify Japan's imperialism in the past.

During Wednesday's

meeting, Lee Tae-sik also demanded the Japanese Government immediately remove references from the citizenship textbooks to Japan's sovereignty over a chain of disputed rocky islets, which are called "Takeshima" in Japan and "Dokdo" in South Korea.

Lee stressed that South Korea would not tolerate any attempt to damage its territorial sovereignty over the islets in the East Sea (Sea of Japan), and that Japan should refrain from "inappropriate acts".

The Japanese ambassador was reportedly said he would report what Lee said to his government and that he hoped the issue would not affect bilateral relations. — MNA/Xinhua



Purchasing activity in the Canadian economy increased in March, and at a faster pace than the previous month, according to an Ivey report on 6 April, 2005.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Study says nuclear waste at US plants vulnerable to attack

WASHINGTON, 7 April—A panel of nuclear experts warned on Wednesday that nuclear waste at the 103 reactors in the United States may be vulnerable to terrorist attack that could trigger deadly release of radiation, and called for a plant-by-plant examination of the fuel storage pools.

In a largely classified study, the experts gathered by the National Academy of Sciences said that if terrorists succeeded in partially draining water from a reactor spent-fuel pool, a likely intense fire would release large amounts of radiation into the environment.

“Terrorists view nuclear power plant facilities as desirable targets

because of the large inventories of radioactivity they contain,” said a declassified version of the study released on Wednesday.

“While it would be difficult to attack such facilities, the committee judges that attacks by knowledgeable terrorists with access to appropriate technical means are possible,” it said.

The experts said neither federal regulators nor the industry have fully determined the vulnerabilities and consequences of such an attack, and called on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and plants to conduct case-by-case vulnerability checks.

Nuclear plants could reduce the risk of a spent fuel blaze significantly by

redistributing the waste kept in storage pools and by installing heavy-duty water sprinklers to cool the pools even if they are damaged, they suggested.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said it was giving serious consideration to the study and would address its recommendations. The 103 nuclear reactors, most of which are privately owned and operated, provide about one-fifth of US electricity.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia to send two tourists to space station

Moscow, 7 April—Russia will send two tourists to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2006 and 2007, the country’s space agency chief said on Wednesday.

“At present, we are developing projects of sending into orbit two tourists—from Japan and another country—in 2006 and 2007,” Anatoly Perminov, chief of the Russian Federal Space Agency was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

These flights are subject to approval of the participating members in the ISS, the United States, Russia, the European Space Agency, Canada

and Japan, he told a Press conference.

The world’s first space tourist, US millionaire and former NASA engineer Dennis Tito, spent eight days at the ISS in May 2001 after paying 20 million US dollars to travel on Russia’s Soyuz spacecraft.

The space agency chief predicted that private spacecraft will regularly carry tourists to an earth orbit in five to seven years. — MNA/Xinhua

7 Vietnamese women die from pregnancy, childbirth everyday

HANOI, 7 April— In Vietnam, seven women die from pregnancy and childbirth everyday, and 82 newborns die prematurely, said a Press release here by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Wednesday.

Christian Salazar, officer-in-charge of UNICEF Vietnam, said in the release that improving the survival and well-being of mothers and children will help reduce inequity and poverty in the country.

The maternal mortality rate in Vietnam was 165 per 1,000 live births in 2001, and under-five child mortality rate was 39 per 1,000 live births, stated the release. The highest death rates were

reported in mountainous areas and among ethnic minority populations.

The release came out on the eve of World Health Day, whose slogan for this year is “Make every mother and child count”.

Globally, more than half a million women and 10.6 million children will continue to die annually unless essential and affordable interventions are made available, and a small set of preventive and

curative interventions, such as vaccines and appropriate home care, could save over six million children each year, the World Health Organization said in a recent statement.

More than 70 per cent of all maternal deaths in the world are caused by just five factors, namely haemorrhage, infection, unsafe abortion, high blood pressure and obstructed labour, the organization said.

MNA/Xinhua



A British Rover sports car at a showroom in Shanghai.

INTERNET

Man who wanted to marry 100 times dies in India

NEW DELHI, 7 April—He wanted to set a record by marrying 100 times, but Udayanath Dakhina Ray from Orissa, India, died at the age of 82, eight short of his conjugal target, according to Indo-Asian News Service on Wednesday.

At the time of his death Tuesday, Ray, a resident of Orali Village in Keonjhar District, had been in the process of selecting his 93rd wife out of eight marriage proposals he had received — three from the United States, three from Japan and two from Germany. “The unmarried ladies want to marry me to help me to complete 100 marriages,” he had said prior to his death.

Born April 29, 1924, Ray died of prolonged illness. He had been rendered paralyzed for the past one month. As a young man, Ray had first married Sibapriya, a teacher from the neighbouring district of

Dhenkanal.

But his marriage broke off in 15 days, after his wife left him over a row as to where they would set up home. Ray had allegedly wanted to stay at his home village, but Sibapriya wanted to stay in Dhenkanal where she was working. An enraged Udaya vowed to marry at least 100 women to prove that he had no shortage of wives.

His last wife was Kuni Dakhina Ray, a resident of Nayagarh District, with whom he had two sons and one daughter. They were present when he died.

Ray worked as a healer and a mechanic in his village.

MNA/Xinhua

China discovers 88 kinds of food containing Sudan I

BEIJING, 7 April—China’s state quality watchdog on Tuesday announced that it had discovered the cancer-causing Sudan I in 88 kinds of food and additives produced by 30 Chinese companies.

The State Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) made public a list of the contaminated food and their producers on its web site on Tuesday.

The inspection was carried out in 18 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country on pepper sauce, pepper oil, spicy preserved food and spicy instant noodles, according

to sources with the agency.

The 30 companies are mostly in south China’s Guangdong Province, east China’s Jiangsu Province and Shanghai municipality, said the source.

MNA/Xinhua

Hollywood man detained for pirating movies in Florida

LOS ANGELES, 7 April—A 34-year-old Hollywood man who became notorious for videotaping movies at premieres was taken into custody in Florida on Tuesday, authorities said here.

Johnny Ray Gasca, 34, was arrested in a motel room at noon at a Florida city near Orlando, surrounded by electronic equipment used to copy DVDs and stacks of what appeared to be copied videos, according to Jimell Griffin of the United States Marshals Service.

Gasca had been a fugitive since January 7, 2003, when he allegedly escaped from custody after he was temporarily released to the custody of an attorney.

MNA/Xinhua



Ride in the countryside : The pack rides through the countryside during the third stage of the 53rd edition of the ‘Circuit de la Sarthe’ cycling race between Angers and Sable-sur-Sarthe. — INTERNET

Top seed Davydenko out in Valencia first round

MADRID, 7 April — Top seed Nikolay Davydenko of Russia lost to Spain's Albert Costa 7-6, 1-6, 6-3 in the Valencia Open tennis tournament first round on Tuesday.

Costa, the 2002 French Open champion, will face Austria's Stefan Koubek in the second round.

Alberto Martin beat fellow Spaniard Albert Montanes 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 and next meets Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten, who brushed aside fourth-seeded Belgian Olivier Rochus in straight sets on Monday.

Three-times French Open champion Kuerten is on the comeback trail after spending seven months on the sidelines following hip surgery.

The highlight of the first round should be the all-Spanish showdown between Rafael Nadal and Juan Carlos Ferrero on Wednesday, the first time the two players have met in competition.

MNA/Xinhua

Myskina goes through but Molik stopped

WASGUBGITIM, 7 April — French Open champion Anastasia Myskina suffered a lapse of concentration in the second set but was still good enough to beat promising Israeli teenager Shahar Peer in the second round of Amelia Island Open Tennis Championships in Florida on Wednesday.



Anastasia Myskina.—INTERNET

But fourth seed Alicia Molik was upset and went down 6-4, 6-4 to Virginie Razzano of France, who had won just two matches previously in 2005.

Third-seeded Russian Myskina broke no sweat in taking the first set 6-2, before she lost concentration and committed a string of mistakes.

"I played really well in the first set," Myskina said. "Then I got a little bored because everything was going so well, and I was thinking 'When is this match going to finish?'"

The 17-year-old Peer, who gave

Serena Williams a tougher than expected match in Miami last week, seized the chance to go ahead 4-0 in the second set before taking it 6-3.

Myskina did not feel the match boring any more, regaining her concentration to take the third set 6-3 and setting up a clash with 15th seed Shinobu Asagoe.

Molik, who reached her first grand slam quarterfinal at the Australian Open in January, committed too many unforced errors in her shock defeat.

The 21-year-old Razzano, the world number 54, took full advantage to seal her second victory over a top-10 player.

Mary Pierce, the French 14th seed, gave Eleni Daniilidou of Greece a lesson in claycourt tennis with a comfortable 6-0, 6-2 triumph.

Sixth seed Vera Zvonareva of Russia battled to a 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 win over Peng Shuai of China while another Russian, ninth seed Elena Likhovtseva, edged out Argentine Gisela Dulko in three sets. Eighth seed Patty Schnyder from Switzerland, Serbian Jelena Jankovic, the 11th seed, and number 12 Silvia Farina Elia of Italy were among the other players to advance.—MNA/Xinhua

Jensen, Ziegler win final races at US World C'hip trials

BEIJING, 7 April — Larsen Jensen and Kate Ziegler took the men's 800-metres freestyle and women's 1,500m freestyle on Wednesday the last day of the US 2005 World Championships Trials, the USA Swimming web site reported.

In a replay from Tuesday night's 1,500m freestyle final, Jensen and Chris Thompson went 1-2 in the men's 800m, turning in times of seven minutes 54.22 seconds and 8:03.79.

"I didn't get much sleep last night, but I felt fine," Jensen was quoted by the web site as saying. "I came home pretty strong the last 100, and that's pretty much what I wanted to do, so it was a pretty good morning swim."

"I think both (my 1500 and 800 swims) would be pretty good prelim swims for world championships. If I go that fast in the morning (prelim swims) this summer, I think that will set me up fine for finals."

Ziegler clinched the women's 1,500m freestyle with a time of 16:26.59. Claire Hutchinson was second in 16:42.85.

"This was just more of a fun race for me," Ziegler said. "There wasn't as much pressure as there was last night (in the 800m freestyle) because this race didn't count towards making the world championships team. So I just went out and had a good time with this."

As the national trials were wrapped up, Olympic champion Michael Phelps and Katie Hoff received the Kiphoth Award as male and female high point swimmers of the meet, while Phelps' coach, Bob Bowman of the University of Michigan/Club Wolverine, was named Coach of the Meet. Aaron Peirsol, meanwhile, received the ConocoPhillips Performance of the Meet award for his world record swim in the 100m backstroke.—MNA/Xinhua

UEFA applauds Liverpool, Juventus after emotional match

LONDON, 7 April — UEFA has been impressed by the way Liverpool and Juventus handled their emotional Champions League quarterfinal first leg on Tuesday.

The match, which Liverpool won 2-1, was the first meeting between the two clubs since the Heysel Stadium tragedy in 1985 when 39 fans, mainly Italians, died following crowd trouble at the European Cup final in Brussels.

Before Tuesday's kickoff a minute's silence in honour of the dead was observed before Liverpool's fans at the Kop end held up coloured cards spelling "Amicizia", Italian for friendship, and delivered a heart-rendering version of their Never Walk Alone anthem.

"That was a very nice gesture and the Juventus fans warmly appreciated it. The whole match was played in a perfect atmosphere and the night was handled in the right way," said UEFA deputy chief executive Markus

Studer.

"Liverpool must be applauded for the way they handled the arrangements and the fans of both clubs understood the message.

Studer added that there was not a hint of trouble in the stadium and the atmosphere was great. "Both clubs must be praised. It was a very successful night for European football."

MNA/Xinhua



Newcastle United's Steven Taylor jumps for the ball with Sporting Lisbon's Rui Jorge (L) during their UEFA Cup quarterfinal first leg soccer match at St James Park in Newcastle on 7 April, 2005. Newcastle won the match 1-0.—INTERNET

AZ Alkmaar beat Villarreal in UEFA Cup quarters

MADRID, 8 April — Spanish Primera Liga side Villarreal failed to extend their unbeaten home record in the UEFA Cup when they lost 2-1 to Dutch side AZ Alkmaar in the first leg of their quarterfinal tie at Villarreal, Spain on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Davenport, Zvonareva advance at B&I C'ships

WASHINGTON, 8 April — Top seed American Lindsay Davenport and sixth seed Vera Zvonareva made it through to the quarterfinals of the 585,000 US dollars WTA Bausch and Lomb Championships in Florida before rain shower stopped other plays on Thursday.

Second-seeded Serena Williams, third seed Anastasia Myskina and fifth seed Venus Williams were among the players whose matches had been suspended.

Davenport cruised past Czech qualifier Kveta Peschke 6-2, 6-2, while Zvonareva overcame fellow Russian and ninth seed Elena Likhovtseva 6-4, 6-4, in third-round matches on a wet Thursday afternoon. Former world number one Davenport will face either fellow American Venus Williams or Polish qualifier Marta Domachowska in the quarters.

Domachowska won the first set 6-3 before Williams won the second 6-4 and thunderstorms washed away the schedule. Zvonareva next meet either No. 13 Ai Sugiyama of Japan or Virginie Razzano of France, who held a 6-4, 6-6 lead when the play resumes.—MNA/Xinhua



Top seed American Lindsay Davenport, pictured here on 19 March 2005, and sixth seed Vera Zvonareva advanced to the quarter-finals of the 585,000 dollars WTA Bausch and Lomb Championships before rain showers washed away the rest of the schedule.—INTERNET

**ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲခြင်း
ဦးတင်မောင်အုန်း**
အသက် (၄၇) နှစ်
**B.Sc (Geol) Dip in PG (Norway)
Technical Consultant (FEL)**

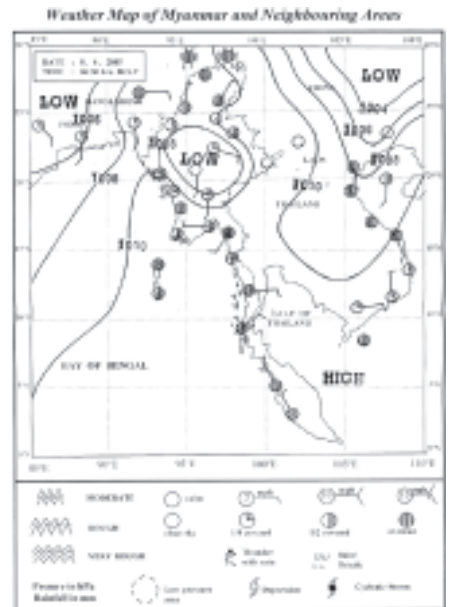
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အသက် (၄၇) နှစ်

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**President- Mr Unni Christen
Vice President- Daw Aye Aye Soe
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WEATHER

Friday, 8 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.24) inch. Day temperatures were (4°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin State, Magway, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Magway and Minbu.

Maximum temperature on 7-4-2005 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 8-4-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-4-2005 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 7-4-2005 was (9.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 8-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.69 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 7-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9-4-2005: Light rain or thundershowers are possible in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated light rain are possible in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for second weekend of April 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 05:00 hours MST on 8-4-2005)
An earthquake of moderate intensity (6.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar about (1300) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at (02) hrs (38) min (47) sec MST on 8 April, 2005.

Chile, Italy sign agreement on geothermal energy

SANTIAGO, 8 April—The National Petroleum Company (ENAP) of Chile and Italy's electricity firm ENEL signed an agreement on Wednesday to jointly exploit

geothermal resources. Under the agreement, through an exchange of bonds, ENEL will acquire 51 per cent of shares in Chile's National Geothermal Energy Com-

pany (ENAG), while ENAP owns 49 per cent of the shares. The agreement was signed by ENAP General Director Enrique Davila and ENEL's President for Latin America

Valerio Cecchi Rafanelli at a ceremony presided over by Chile's Secretary of the National Energy Commission Luis Sanchez.

Through the agreement, ENAP will regain strength in activities related to geothermal energy, Davila said, adding that Chile has rich geothermal resources for the production of electricity.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်

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ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မီ

TV Myanmar

Saturday, 9 April

View on today:
7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာယောနာယကအဖွဲ့အတန်းတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓဇေယျာရဋ္ဌဂူ၊ အဘိဓဇေယျာယောနာယကတော်၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ စာပိုတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am
6. Musical programme

8:10 am
7. နိဗ္ဗာန်ရေထိန်းတံခါး

8:20 am
8. ခါးကြိတ်အဆိုအကများ

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV (Senior Class)

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:15 am
2. Musical programme

11:30 am
3. Round up of the week's TV local news

12:45 pm
4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ပန်းမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၆)

1:30 pm
5. ခါးကြိတ်အဆိုအကများ

1:45 pm
6. "မိန်းမချစ်သော ပန်းချစ်သူ" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ၊ နိရာအုန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နန္ဒ)

2:35 pm
7. Dance of national races

2:45 pm
8. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. Musical programme

4:45 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေးရရှိသည့်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သန့်ရာအထူးပြု) (သန့်ရာ)

5:00 pm
5. Musical programme

5:15 pm
6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:30 pm
7. Musical programme

5:45 pm
8. ချစ်စရာတေးသံကြို

6:10 pm
9. ခါးကြိတ်အဆိုအကများ

6:20 pm
10. Discovery

6:30 pm
11. Evening news

7:00 pm
12. Weather report

7:05 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စွန်းခြေသံတစ်ရာတစ်လီ" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

7:35 pm
14. ခါးကြိတ်အဆိုအကများ

7:45 pm
15. ဂုဏ်ယူစွယ်စုံစာတမ်း -အောင်ကျေးရာ သွေးလျှောက်များ

8:00 pm
16. News

8:10 pm
17. International news

8:20 pm
18. Weather report

8:30 pm
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၂)

8:45 pm
20. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Saturday, 9 April

Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: Please don't talk to Jessica
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Sweet little sixteen
8.55 am National news/Slogan
9.05 am Music: I'll always be in your heart
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Music: Tell it to your heart
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Request -Like I love you -Do I have to see you cry -Unbreakable
9.00 pm ASEAN review -Cordial relation between VOV and Myanmar Radio
9.10 pm Article Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
9.20 pm -Myanmar Jade Trade till 1938. Part-4
9.30 pm Souvenirs -Only love Don Williams
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

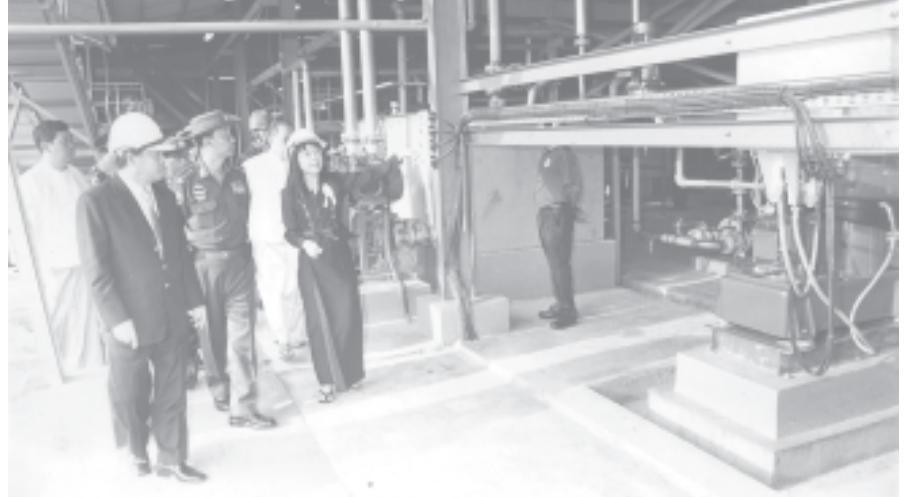
**Make arrangements with perfect management & full perseverance in implementing oil palm project
Crude Palm Oil Mill opened in Khamaukkyi, Kawthoung Township**

YANGON, 8 April —The inauguration of the Crude Palm Oil Mill that can produce 30 tons per hour, of Yuzana Co Ltd, was held at the mill in Khamaukkyi, Kawthoung Township, on 6 April morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann.

Also present on the occasion were Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, ministers, departmental heads, oil palm entrepreneurs, teachers, students and employees of Yuzana Co Ltd. Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang and Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint cut the ribbon to open the mill.

General Thura Shwe Mann unveiled the plaque of the mill and sprinkled scented water on it. Next, the General and party inspected collection of oil palm fruits and production process of the mill. They also oversaw separation of oil palm fruits from bunches, tasks of burning the bunches and milling works.

(See page 7)



General Thura Shwe Mann visits Crude Palm Oil Mill in Khamaukkyi, Kawthoung Township.— MNA



View of Crude Palm Oil Mill in Khamaukkyi, Kawthoung Township.— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development of Amar in Pyapon District, Pyinsalu in Myaungmya District

YANGON, 8 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin

Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division

Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and

officials, inspected maintenance of Pyapon-Kyonkadun-Amar Road on 6 April.

In Amar of Pyapon District, he met township level officials and local people. Executive Officer

U San Tha Tun of Amar Town General Administration Department and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on matters related to Amar Town.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looked into dredging of the lake in Ward 4 of Amar for supply of potable water. Furthermore, he inspected departments in Amar and met with service personnel.

On arrival at Pyinsalu of Labutta Township, they attended the opening ceremony of (See page 10)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets with departmental personnel, social organization members and local people in Amar Town of Pyapon District.— MNA