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Saturday, 16 April 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress of Sittway

YANGON, 15 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, Minis-

Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Vice-Chairman Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, senior military officers of the military command, departmental officials, social organization members and traditional dance troupes welcomed the Senior General and party by pouring scented water.

Next, the Senior General and party arrived at



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing paying homage to Aungsekkyia Muni Buddha Image at Aungsekkyia Muni Ordination Hall of Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway.— MNA

ter for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by Tatmadaw aircraft on 13 April morning and arrived at Sittway Airport at 10.45 am.

Bandoola Yeiktha in Sittway Station.

The Senior General and party inspected development of Sittway and maintenance of the Strand Road by car.

Accompanied by the commander, the Senior General and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party went to the Sittway View Point in the evening and enjoyed scenic beauty of Sittway and its environs.

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INSIDE

We Myanmar celebrate the Thingyan Festival in a polite way every year. In every Thingyan Festival, we follow the rules and regulations laid down by the Maha Thingyan Discipline Enforcement Committee and hold a peaceful attitude and avoid the acts harmful to peace and stability. It is indeed such a fine tradition of which Myanmar can be proud.

(Page 11)

MAUNG AUNG MYING



Senior General Than Shwe enjoys scenes of natural beauty from Sittway View Point.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 16 April, 2005

Strive in unity for emergence of a modern and developed nation

Since its assumption of the State responsibilities, the State Peace and Development Council upholding Our Three Main National Causes has been striving day in, day out for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation after adopting the 12 national objectives.

Thanks to its relentless efforts, marked progress has been made in all aspects. Not only rural people but also urban populace have been able to enjoy higher living standard as a result of development.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on 12 April attended the opening ceremony of the coal-fired power plant in Tikyit Region, Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South) and made a speech on the occasion.

He said that electric power is indispensable in building a modern and developed nation; that the government has laid down and is implementing such electric power projects; that it is incumbent upon the State, the people and the Tatmadaw to make concerted and collective efforts in this regard.

The government has been able to bring about equitable and harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation. This is due to the active participation of the entire national people out of correct policy and genuine goodwill of the government.

According to the topographic condition of the nation, a modern and developed nation will surely emerge if the entire people exert strenuous efforts under the leadership of the government. With the use of coal, the power plant has been opened in Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South). The plant with two turbines will be able to generate 120 megawatt.

The entire people are enjoying the fruits of peace and development as there have emerged basic infrastructures in all parts of the nation.

Therefore, the entire people are to strive in unity with nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

People practising meditation, merrily taking part in Thingyan festival on Akya Day

YANGON, 14 April — On Thingyan Akya Day, Yangonites made meritorious deeds in famous pagodas in the city. They practised meditation, offered flowers and lights to Buddha images and made donations and served meals individually or in groups. The Yangonites also doused one another with water merrily.

With the arrangements of Rakhine Literature and Culture Committee (Yangon), Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Festival was held in Theinbyu Driving Training Centre in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Rakhine traditional food was also served there. Pandals along Shwegondaing Road, Saya San Street, U Chit Maung Street and other roads and streets in Bahan Township were packed with Thingyan revellers. Diplomats of Indonesian embassy and French embassy also took part in the festival together with Yangonites. Similarly, festive moods could be also seen at pandals in Yangon West District, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, North Okklapa Township and Hlinethaya Township.

On Thingyan Akya Day, pagodas in Yangon were crowded with people seeking peace through meditation, offering lights and flowers and serving meals. —MNA

People's Desire

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

Fish available for New Year Day release

YANGON, 15 April — Fingerlings such as Hamilton's carp, Barbus spp, variety of carp are on sale from Fisheries Camps (Laydauntkan) and (Hlawga) of Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries on 17 April 2005, Myanmar New Year Day to release fish in Mingala Kandawgyi in Kaba Aye, Thadukan Pagoda in Shwepyitha Township and Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwesekan) in Bahan Township.

Those who want more than 1,000 fingerlings may place an order in advance contacting the following numbers, 708519, 635196, 635727.

MNA

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 12 April — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Department
(a) U Thein Swe	Managing Director
Director	Myanma Gems
Myanma Gems Enterprise	Enterprise
Ministry of Mines	Ministry of Mines
(b) U Tin Htwe	Director-General
Deputy General Manager	Directorate of
Myanma Posts and	Telecommunications
Telecommunications	Ministry of
Ministry of	Communications,
Communications, Posts	Posts and Telegraphs
and Telegraphs	MNA

Information tasks inspected in Lashio



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects machinery of Lashio Sub-printing House. — MNA

YANGON, 15 April — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, on 13 April, met with staff of Lashio TV retransmission station, Lashio District Information and Public Relations Department, Lashio Sub-Printing House and Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise at the hall of Lashio Township IPRD Office and gave instructions.

After hearing reports presented by officials, the minister fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions saying that staff are to discharge their duties actively to meet with success; that most of the staff are the residents and thus they are to serve the interests of the region with goodwill; that in carrying out all-round development of the region, staff are to disseminate knowledge through media; and that all are to unitedly discharge their duties helping one another.

Next, the minister inspected wall-magazine dis-

played at the Township IPRD office and gave instructions on renewal of the magazines, keeping books systematically at the library, seeking fastest ways in distributing newspapers and periodicals in the region and making arrangements to open rural library and organizing people to use more radio and television.

Afterwards, the minister went to office of MMPE in Lashio and inspected maintenance of film and machines. The minister also inspected TV retransmission Station and sub-printing house and gave instructions. — MNA

Prize winners announced

YANGON, 15 April — The list of those who won the best entries of the year in Myawady colour photo contest, Myawady and Ngwetayi magazines article contest for 2004 announced in dailies on 17 March 2005.

The winners who will attend the prize presentation ceremony to be held at Defence Service TV Broadcasting Unit in Hmawby at 6 pm on 19 April are to contact in Myawady literary house (branch), No181, 32nd street in Pabedan Township, Yangon and the following numbers 282674 and 642203, not later than 18 April (Monday).

MNA



PRIZES PRESENTED: The prize presentation ceremony of the First Myanmar Flash Movie Competition was held at MICT Park in Hline Township on 12 April. Chairman of Myanmar MTN Co Ltd U Aung Nyunt Swe presents K 100,000 for the first prize to Maung Nyana Phyo Paing. — H

Vietnam, China to strengthen economic cooperation

HANOI, 15 April — Vietnam and China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region will promote their economic cooperation, especially in the fields of trade, transports, tourism, industry and agriculture.

At a high-level conference on economic and commercial cooperation between Guangxi and Vietnamese northern localities held on Thursday, delegates agreed that the two sides should make use of the China-ASEAN trade fair, which will be held in Guangxi's capital city Nanning on 19-22 October to expand their trade cooperation.

The localities should also frequently organize trade fairs, exhibitions, more exchange information, and take full advantages of border trade to increase bilateral trade, improve living standards of

people in the two countries' border areas, they added.

Regarding transports, the two sides need to cooperate in upgrading road and railway systems in border areas, accelerating construction of seaports, opening new border gates and improving some old ones into international ones, meeting increasing demand for trade and tourism exchange of the two countries' people, the participants said.

To tourism, the two sides should beef up cooperation in exploiting border and transnational tourism projects, exchanging information, and enhancing

tourism promotion, the delegates stated.

They also urged the two countries' governments to issue preferential policies on tourism development between Guangxi and Vietnam's northern localities. Together with trade, transport and tourism, the participants also asked the two sides to expand cooperation in industry, agriculture and aquaculture, especially in the fields of energy, minerals, fertilizer, seafood and animal feed. Guangxi and Vietnam should support together in exploiting and processing iron ores, manganese, aluminum, and building metallurgy factories and power plants.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese doctor puts an oxygen mask on a panda named Kangkang in Xijing Hospital of Fourth Military Medical University in Xi'an, in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 14 April, 2005. The 20-year-old panda has gone under the knife in a ground-breaking two-and-a-half hour operation to fix a broken back, Chinese state media said on Friday. —INTERNET

Cambodia's tourist arrivals increase in first 3 months

PHNOM PENH, 15 April — Cambodia's international visitors in the first three months of 2005 increased sharply, up 52 per cent from the same period last year.

The figures from the Tourism Ministry, carried on Thursday's newspapers, showed that about 400,000 foreigners visited Cambodia in the first three months of 2005.

Japan was Cambodia's No 1 source market during the period, followed by South Korea. Their tourists' stay in the country averaged at 6 days.

Statistics also show that daily tourist arrivals at Cambodia's two international airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap averaged at about 1,000 each. And the number of tourists to the beach city of Sihanoukville in the first three months increased about 10 per cent compared with the same period of last year.

Tourist arrivals in 2004 exceeded 1.05 million, reaching the government's earlier estimation for the year.

There are 19 international and domestic airlines operating in Cambodia now, and every week, 278 flights take off and land at the Phnom Penh and Siem Reap international airports.

With improved domestic situation and infrastructure, Cambodian Government estimates that by 2010, international visitor arrivals will top 3.12 million. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian Minister urges services sector to face competition

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 April — A Malaysian minister on Thursday urged the country's services sector to face competition which would continue to intensify indicated by global and regional developments.

With global trends shifting toward services liberalization, it was natural for domestic industries to be cautious toward the process and the ensuing competition, Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz said at the ministry's Annual Dialogue 2005 with Malaysian services sector here.

Malaysia made an initial offer to liberalize the services sector during the World Trade Organization (WTO) Negotiations on Services in December last year.

The sectors to be covered are architectural,

construction and related engineering, computer and related services, telecommunications, health and social, and education services.

"It will be more fruitful and in the interest of domestic service industries to take advantage of the

opportunities which can arise out of the liberalization process rather than to persistently seek protection," she added.

Rafidah said one way to benefit from the process was to form synergistic partnerships with competitors in the region

to expand operations beyond Malaysia.

"The government on its part will work with the industry to ensure that appropriate safeguard mechanisms are put in place for fair and rules-based trade in services," she said.

MNA/Xinhua

1,548 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 15 April — As of Thursday, 14 April, 2005, at least 1,548 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,178 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The *AP* count is the same as the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Thursday. The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,410 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. That includes at least 1,069 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. —Internet

American kidnapped in Iraq pleads for his life on video

BAGHDAD, 15 April — A kidnapped American subcontractor was identified on Wednesday after he was shown on Arabic-language satellite TV pleading for his life, on a day in which bomb blasts killed 16 Iraqis.

AlJazeera news channel aired a videotape of a man who US officials confirmed was Jeffrey Ake, 47, of La Porte, Ind. He was shown sitting between three armed, masked men.

Ake, chief executive of a mid-size manufacturer

of water-bottling machines, was kidnapped Monday while visiting a factory in northern Baghdad, a source who was familiar with the incident said.

Ake held up what appeared to be a picture of his family and, according

to the television announcer, asked US officials to save his life by withdrawing American troops from Iraq.

Ake made his entreaty on a day when explosions rocked the cities of Kirkuk and Baghdad.

Internet



Iraqis help a man wounded at the scene of a double suicide bombing in Baghdad recently. Two suicide car bombs attacked a police highway patrol, one of the deadliest strikes on the capital since Iraq's elections more than 10 weeks ago. —INTERNET



Dignitaries attend ceremony at which SSNA brigade No 11 led by U Kan Na exchanges arms for peace. — MNA

Brigade-11 of SSNA...

(from page 16)

members of SSA from Special Region-3, U Zaw Yaw and members of KDA from Special Region-5, U Aik Mone and members of PSLA from Special Region-7

serve the interests of their region but also shape eternal peace for all national people and help expedite the regional development momentum, he noted. He said he honoured and thanked all of the brigade-11 of SSNA including U Kan Na and his commanding officers for their effort to organize those who would go astray in the



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents gift to a leader of SSNA brigade No 11. — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe accepts the arm from U Einna, Deputy Commander, of SSNA brigade No 11. — MNA

jungles to become upright citizens. And all the members of the group are now being accorded a very warm welcome by all the local people in Hsenwi Township, the commander added. All basic needs—food, clothes and accommodations will be provided in honour of the group. All in all, he said, the government and all the national people welcomed the group members and they were urged to work for the realization of ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty — which were often cited in the guidance of the Head of State.

Next, the brigade-11 of SSNA surrendered their weapons to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe to ensure peace. The surrendered arms and ammunition included four 60 mm mortars, nine different sorts of medium machine guns, five rocket launchers, 116 assorted arms, 9332 rounds of ammunition, 158 shells, 28 grenades, 64 mines, 141 TNT cartridges, 194 magazines, 22 rounds of ammunition for medium machine guns and 18 walkie-talkies.

Afterwards, Commander of SSNA U Kan Na explained the purpose of the exchange of arms for peace. (U Kan Na's speech is reported separately)

Commanding Officer of Brigade-11 of SSNA U Pwan Wan made a speech as a token of gratitude to the State and the people. (U Pwan Wan's speech is reported separately)

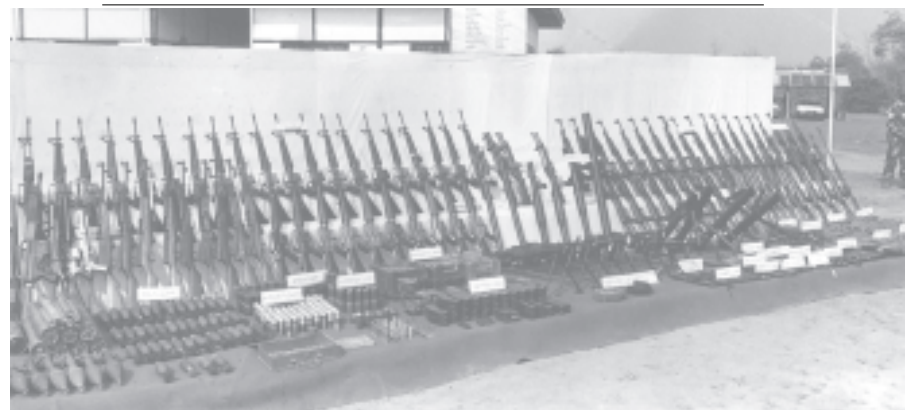
Dr Phyu Phyu, a local national and service personnel, gave a speech, expressing local people's attitude and her feeling of happiness. (Dr Phyu Phyu's speech is



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presents provisions, cloths, and K 2 million to SSNA brigade No 11 through Commander U Kan Na.—MNA

and U Zaw Gun and members of KIA from Kachin Special Region-2.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the ceremony and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing delivered a speech. He said the ceremony was a tremendous occasion not only for Hsenwi Township and Shan State (North) but for the entire Union of Myanmar. Peace and stability is indispensable if the country is to develop. It is essential for all national people to be united and to cherish each other for ensuring the stability of the State, he added. Besides, it is necessary for the people to build solidarity among them. The commander said he, on behalf of the State and on his behalf as the commander, was very happy and cordially welcomed the armed group led by U Kan Na, for the group's firm determination to live and work side by side with national people and exchange of arms for peace. Their resolve to unconditionally surrender arms to the government will not only



Arms and ammunition handed over by SSNA brigade No 11 led by Commander U Kan Na.—MNA

reported separately)

Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented gifts to Commander of Brigade-11 of SSNA U Kan Na, Deputy Commander U Einna and Commanding Officers U Sai Phone, U Kham Mon and U Pwan Wan.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented provisions to the member of the group through U Kan Na. The provisions were 160 bags of rice, 60 viss of edible oil, 250 sets of clothes, 20 heads of cattle and K 2 million. Entrepreneurs from Shan State (North) also made cash donations for group members and their families and for the development of their region. The donations totalled K 22 million including K 5 million by Daw Sanda Win of KBZ Bank, K 3 million each by U Tin Ko Ko of Asia World Co and U Khin Maung Si of Silver Co, K 2 million each by U Kyaw Myint of Tiger Head Co, (See page 5)



The unconditionally exchanging of arms for peace by SSNA brigade No 11 led by Commander U Kan Na in progress.—MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe cordially greets a member of SSNA brigade No (11).—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing addresses the ceremony.—MNA

Brigade-11 of SSNA...

(from page 4)

U Saw Hlaing of AAA Co, U Sai Aye of Soso Pyi Pyi Co and U Myint Shein of Ngweye Pale Co and K 1 million

each by entrepreneurs of Lashio, U Hsan Wi of Ruby Garden Co and U Khun Hlaing of Manpan Htarnay People's Militia. The ceremony came to a close at 9.40 am.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and party

inspected the site chose for construction of a new school building for the education of the children of the group members, and cordially greeted the members of the group and leaders of national groups which have returned to the legal fold. — MNA

With passing of time, SSNA Brigade 11 comes to realize that it will not win people's support unless it discards arm struggle line



U Kan Na explains the purpose of exchanging arms for peace.—MNA

The following is a translation of a speech delivered by U Kan Na at the ceremony to exchange arms for peace.

U Kan Na said that he is a Shan national born in Namhkam. Because of his narrow mindedness he followed the armed struggle line starting 1976. In reality he was like torturing his own people during the 29 years of armed opposition against the Government. His native land was in the darkness experiencing battles and sufferings. His group has come to realize the goodwill of the State Peace and Development Council's endeavours and has trusted in the Government. Thus the groups has returned to the

legal fold and served the people's interest together with the Government. Because of the colonialists' evil legacy and feudal administration, the group had not full trust in the past successive governments. And because of the armed struggle line the group was following, it did not really know whether the people were supporting it of their own volition or supporting it out of fear. But with the passing of time, the group has come to realize that it will not win the support of the people unless it discards the arm struggle line. The group could not serve the interest of the local people by just taking extortion money from them. Although the group realized the Government's goodwill, it still had doubts. So, it could not benefit the region well. When the group has come to realise the Government's goodwill endeavours for harmonious development of the plains and hill regions. The group has come to review its armed struggle line, as it has been witnessing the development endeavours of the Government in various sectors bearing fruits in a short period

When the group has come to realize that the basic principles laid down by the National Convention ensure equal rights for all without making any racial or religious discrimination, it has total trust in the Government's endeavours and goodwill. The onus is on the natives for the development and

prosperity of their own region. The group cannot stay with peace of mind without serving the interest of its own region. Thus, it has no more narrow racism and doubts in the Government. And without anybody's urge, the group on its own volition has surrendered its arms to the Government. In the future all the members of the group will become ordinary citizens living within the framework of the law. In the past the group was in the darkness just killing innocent people and destroying their property. But after it has exchanged arms for peace, it is like living under the cool beams of the moon under the clear sky.

The locals have happily welcomed the group's decision. Like all the natives of the region, the group is enjoying the loving kindness of the nationalities. All the members of the group have made a firm pledge that they would not be a burden for the people in any time of the future. The group would like to urge other remaining brethren groups which are following their armed struggle line for various reasons to return to the legal fold and serve the interest of the people.

In conclusion, he thanks the Government and the local people for understanding and warmly welcoming all the members of the group who have made the unconditional exchange of arms for peace.—MNA

With peace prevailing in region, national people will do more in interests of the State and the region, and local people will live their comfortable life and work in peace

The following is a translation of a speech delivered by U Pwan Wan at the ceremony to exchange arms for peace.

He said he was commanding officer of Battalion-27 of SSNA U Pwan Wan. It is the correct act that U Kan Na, the leader of the group, and all the group members have relinquished their armed revolt for the eternal peace in the region after realizing the goodwill of the government. With this peace prevailing in the region, national people will do more in the interests of the State and the region, and local people will live their comfortable life and work in peace. He said they all have been tired of committing their destructive acts that have always given the local people serious cause for concern. Besides, he said, their unconditional sur-

render to the State was also due to the realization of the goodwill of the government.

He added that while they returned to the legal fold, it was a period of building trust in the government. However, today is the occasion when they unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, he said. That was a desire of the people to be fulfilled. It is heartening to see that all national brethren are welcoming the ceremony for exchanging arms for peace. He said they promised that they will never commit destructive acts. Now is the time when all national people are having a great desire to practise a discipline-flourishing democracy. All in all, he said he invited the rest of their comrades and other national armed groups to unconditionally surrender to the State.—MNA



Commanding officer U Pwan Wan expresses thanks.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye addresses opening ceremony of Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant in Pinlaung Township.—MNA

Regarding the economy, 172 dams have been built at necessary places for development of the agricultural sector and 31 are under construction. There were 24.8 million acres of farmlands in 1988. Today, sown acreage reaches 26.6 million acres and the per acre yield increases remarkably. So also, efforts are being made for meeting the target of per-acre yield and changing from manual to mechanized farming. As the plans are being implemented to operate factories with full capacity, The Government has built new factories and established private industrial sector for development of the industrial zone. A total of 19 private industrial zones, 42,707 private factories, 833 State-owned factories and 8,500 cottage industries have so far been set up.

Beginning last decade, the country is gaining progress with momentum in the all sectors. Living standard of the people in rural and urban areas improves more and more. In this regard, power consumption of the country obviously rises year after year. Thus, the Government is making utmost efforts for meeting demands of power consumption of the nation in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

Recently, hydel power plants from Thaphanseik Hydel Power Plant in Sagaing Division, Monechaung

Mone Hydel Power Plant, 280 megawatts by Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant and today' Tikyit Plant. The Paunglaung Power Plant built on Paunglaung River is a large hydel power plant that has greater generating capacity than the well-known Lawpita Hydel Power Plant. And, the former can double the generating power more than that of Tikyit Power Plant.

However, the generation capacity of a hydel power plant depends on rain, and that of a coal-fired power plant depends on regular supply of fuel.

In this regard, quality coal should be produced to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply for the plant. Similarly, technicians of the plant should operate the machines systematically. In so doing, officials concerned are to discharge their duties with goodwill.

Today's Tikyit Power Plant is a large-scale development infrastructure of the electric power sector in Pinlaung Region of Shan State. Tatgyi Hydel Power Plant, Zawgyi-1 Plant and Zawgyi-2 Plant in Shan State connected with Zawgyi River are infrastructures for development of the electric power sector. Similarly, Shan State has 12 small-scale hydel power plants including Namsaunggaung Plant,



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant.—MNA



Of the two turbines of ...

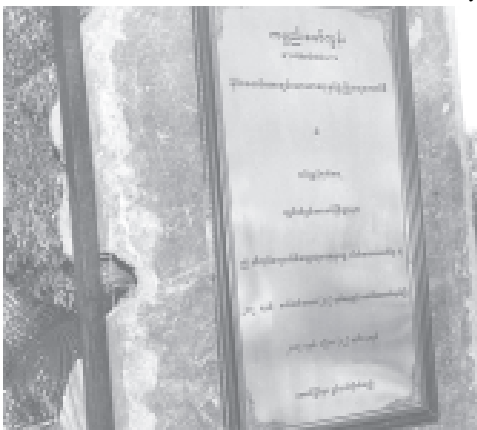
(from page 16)

guideline and is building the country day in and day out for emergence of a new modern and developed nation.

Hydel Power Plant in Magway Division and Paung Laung Hydel power plant in Mandalay Division have been opened. At present, power generation capacity has exceeded 400 megawatts — 30 megawatts by Thaphanseik Hydel Power Plant, 75 megawatts by

Namhmaw Plant, Namwok Plant, Maipan Creek Plant, Namsaung Creek Plant and others. Majority of the these plants were built without linking the grid as they are for local power consumption.

(See page 7)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye unveils stone plaque of Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.—MNA

Of the two turbines of ...

(from page 6)

However, concerted efforts are being made for implementing the Shweli Hydel Power Plant that can generate 400 megawatt and Kengtawng Hydel Plant 54 megawatt, and the two are planned to connect with the network of the grid.

Likewise, Yeywa

Power Plant Project, 30-megawatt Khabaung Hydel Power Plant Project, 40-megawatt Pyuchaung Hydel Power Plant Project, 60-megawatt Kunchaung Hydel Power Plant Project and 25-megawatt Yenwe Hydel Power Plant Project are being implemented.

These projects will be

According to the geo-politics conditions, Lashio and Kengtung regions apart from Taunggyi region were extended as State's development regions for improvement of the Shan State in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

Hydel Power Plant, being implemented on Dokhtawady River in Mandalay Division, can produce 790 megawatt and it will be the largest of its kind in the country. Similarly, 75-megawatt Shwegyin Hydel

completed one after another in the coming years and they will fulfil power demand of the country.

The Head of State gave guidance on production of electricity needed for development of the State. So,

implementation of 24 development regions project, border area development special project and five rural development tasks are to be linked among them for equitable development of all the regions of the Union and States and Divisions and for narrowing the development gap among these regions. At present, local people enjoy fruitful results of the development projects in their respective regions.

It is known to all that Shan State lagged behind in development due to various armed insurgencies in the past. At that time, local people faced transport difficulties in the regions of Shan State.

According to the geopolitics conditions, Lashio and Kengtung regions apart from Taunggyi region were extended as State's development regions for improvement of the Shan State in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Nowadays, Panglaung region where the Union Spirit was conceived was extended as a development region. Thus, rapid progress has been made in economic, administrative, education, health and transport sectors in Shan State. Similarly, university and colleges that can turn out human resources have emerged.

At the same time,

building of national reconsolidation based on mutual trust, understanding and consideration reflects cementing cooperation between the Government and national organizations. So, all the regions can restore security, peace and tranquillity.

New transport facilities—Aungban-Pinlaung-Loikaw Railroad, Shwenyaung-Yaksawk Railroad, Shwenyaung-Taunggyi Railroad, Taunggyi-Banyin-Saikkhaung-Pyinthaya-Punchaung railroad sector and Namhsan-Mongsai-Kaungkhing railroad sec-

Shan State (North) and (East), not only old roads but also Heho Airport, Lashio Airport, Kengtung Airport, Tachilek Airport and Namhsan Airport have been upgraded.

Together with the regional capital Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung, Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, Yaksawk, Tachilek, Muse and Mongla are developing. Lashio has seen development in trade and Kengtung has become the capital of the east bank of Thanlwin River. The sustainable development Shan State has been achieving in a short span of time due to the

the necessary infrastructures have been built. The Government has laid down the firm and precise future policy programme for smooth transition to democracy. The National Convention has been held successfully with the active participation of the representatives of nationalities and all walks of life of the people. The work of laying down basic principles for the future constitution is in progress to a certain degree. All the national races will have to play a role in the democracy transition as it needs the strength of the national



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut.—MNA

tion, Yaksawk-Kyaukgu-Nawngkhio Motor Road, Hanmyintmo-Myogyi-Ywangan Motor Road and Pinlaung-Pyinmana Motor Road—have been built. In

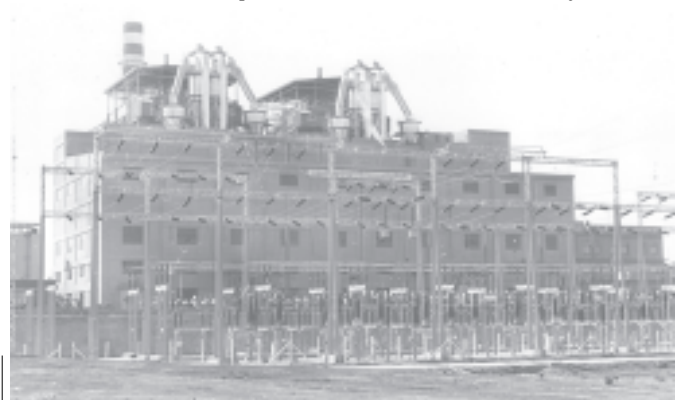
correct policy, sincerity and goodwill of the Government, and harmonious cooperation of the nationality leaders and the people with full understand-

forces. Next, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut delivered an address.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Khin



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut and CHMC Chairman Mr Lu Wenjun formally open Tikiyt coal-fired power plant.—MNA



Coal mining project of Shan Yoma Dragon Co Ltd seen in Pinlaung Township, Shan State.—MNA



Coal mining project of Shan Yoma Dragon Co Ltd seen in Pinlaung Township, Shan State.—MNA

ing.

If all the nationalities can fulfill the needs, the nation will become a developed one. The Government has been striving in all sectors for the betterment of the future of the national people who are like its own sons and daughters.

All should make efforts continuously in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The people are enjoying the fruits of progress as almost all

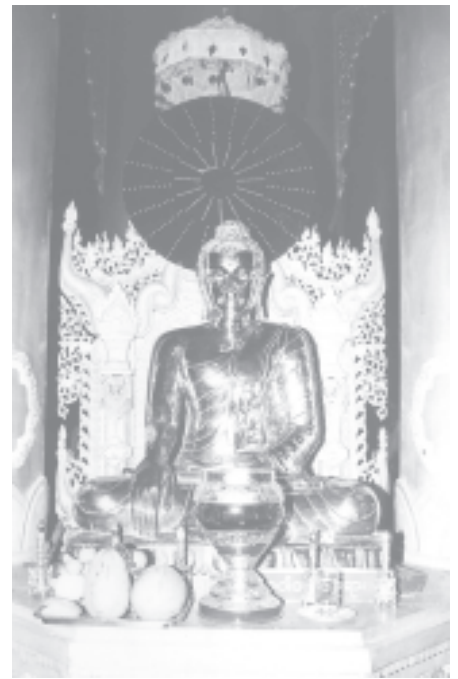
Maung Myint spoke on the occasion. U Khun Tin Aung, a local people of Tikiyt region, expressed gratitude.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the Government has been implementing advanced plans to supply power. Manageable-scale hydel power and bio-gas power stations should be built to supply electricity for regional needs. In addition to human resources

(See page 15)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Buddha image at the eastern archway of Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

At night, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visited Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway. They offered flowers, water and lights to the Buddha Image at the pagoda. The Senior General and wife signed in the visitors' book.

The Senior General and wife and family do-

nated cash towards the funds of the pagoda. The pagoda board of trustees presented a certificate of honour and picture of the pagoda to them. Next, they visited the pagoda.

Next, the Senior General and wife and party paid homage to Aungsekkyia Buddha Image at the ordination hall of Lawkananda Pagoda.

The Senior General, wife and family presented cash donations to the pagoda board of trustees. Af-

terwards, the pagoda board of trustees gave a picture of the Buddha image to them.

After that, the Senior General and party went back to Bandoola Yeiktha.

On 14 April afternoon, Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, CEC members Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Rakhine State USDA in-charge



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family accept certificate of honour for their donations.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present cash to the funds of Aungsekkyia Muni Buddha Image in Sittway to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.— MNA



Traditional cultural troupes of Sittway welcome Senior General Than Shwe and party by dousing scented water on them.— MNA

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe went to Rakhine State USDA Office in Sittway and met with Rakhine State USDA Secretary U Oo Kyaw Yin and executives, Sittway District USDA Secretary U Tun Win and executives, Sittway Township USDA Secretary U Saw Hla Aung and executives, organizers and members.

Rakhine State USDA Secretary U Oo Kyaw Yin reported on setting up of USDAs at different levels, strength of USDA members, conducting of summer course and plans to open basic multiplier courses.

Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave instructions on the objectives of the association, implementation of future plans laid down by the Annual General Meeting, extension of public welfare tasks, functions of the association to be undertaken for winning trusts of the people and cooperation of the association with local people and organizational tasks.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe explained growing of rubber for the Rakhine State Association's economy, development of rural region and assistance being provided to the state association. — MNA

Support will be provided for industrial zones to be equipped with modern machinery

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Ayethayar Industrial Zone

YANGON, 13 April— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye together with

fulfilled and arrangements made to upgrade the industrial zones from the level of blacksmith to the ones applying modern machinery, encouragement has been given to industrialists in Ayethayar, Mandalay and Monywa in-

dustrial zones to emerge modern foundry plants simultaneously, efforts are to be made to manufacture quality goods through competitions, an industrial zone with engineers and experts will surely make progress and thus skilled labour and experts are to be nurtured, all are to work hard to win the trust and satisfaction of the customers, and support will be provided for other industrial zones to be equipped with modern machinery.

After inspecting progress in building machine shop, installation of machines and test running, building of warehouse, arrival of machines, completion of forging shop and foundry shop, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to the site for building Government Technological College (Ayethayar). They were welcomed there by Principal Dr Thi Thi Moe and teachers and officials.

Managing Director U Chit Khaing of Eden Group Co.Ltd reported to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Party on construction of the college which has been completed 80 per cent. Next, Minister for Science and Technology U Thauang made a supplementary report.

After giving instructions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected progress in construction of GTC (Ayethayar). Later, they arrived back in Taunggyi. —MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects foundry plant project in Ayethayar Industrial Zone in Taunggyi.—MNA

Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, ministers, officials of SPDC office inspected Foundry Plant construction project implemented in Ayethayar Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township yesterday.

First, In-charge of Ayethayar Industrial Zone Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi briefed Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on workshops included in Foundry Plant Construction Project being implemented in the industrial zone, progress in building the workshops, arrival and installation of machinery at the workshops, test running, water and power supply, trainees sent for further studies for the project, employment, raw materials, materials to be produced in the respective workshops and development of the industrial zone.

Regarding the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions saying that requirements are being



Machinery installed in the foundry plant in Ayethayar Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San enjoy water festival at Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Festival

YANGON, 14 April — A ceremony to open the Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1366 ME of Mandalay City was held in conjunction with the ceremony to unveil the Mayor's Pandal in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office on 13 April evening, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win,

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chairman of Organizing Committee for Mandalay City Maha Thingyan Festival Mandalay Mayor, guests from abroad, Ambassadors and diplomats of foreign missions in Yangon, officials, artistes and local people.

First, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han extended greetings.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han formally opened the festival and the Mayor's Pandal.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party doused those present with scented water. Dance troupes entertained dances and songs to the

audience. The decorated vehicles of Myoma music band, decorated floats representing Myanmar, Thailand and Yunnan Province of China paid respects to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party. Similarly, the decorated floats representing Mandalay, Meiktila, PyinOoLwin, NyaungU, Kyaukse and Yamethin Districts paid respects to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San cordially greeted the ambassadors and diplomats and enjoyed the water festival together with the people.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party arrived back here by air yesterday morning.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend the opening of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival of Mandalay City.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San take part in Maha Thingyan festival of MoD



Foreign diplomats and military attaches present entertainment programme.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San enjoy entertainment programme.—MNA

YANGON, 14 April—1366-67 Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival of the family of the Ministry of Defence was held this morning at the ministry attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Com-

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw

Mya Mya San.

Also present were Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwé, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers and their wives, the attorney-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the mayor of

Yangon, senior military officers and their wives, diplomats led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Philippines Madame Phoebe A Gomez, representatives of UN agencies and their families, officials of SPDC office and family members of the Ministry of Defence. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San arrived at the pandal at 9.20 am. They were welcomed there by General Thura Shwe Mann, the Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and members of SPDC.

Ambassadors, military attaches and representatives from UN agencies cordially greeted Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San

greeted artistes led by A-1 Soe Myint who would perform entertainment.

To the accompaniment of music troupe of A-1 Soe Myint, artistes entertained the guests with songs and dances. Ambassadors and their families also entertained the guests with songs and dances.

The guests, dousing water each other, merrily took part in Thingyan festival. General Thura Shwe Mann presented gifts to A-1 Soe Myint Modern Music Troupe, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win to artistes and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein to film stars. Next, Myanmar traditional food was served to the guests. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San left the venue.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets a foreign diplomat.—MNA

Prime Minister, Secretary-1 participate in Maha Thingyan Festival

YANGON, 14 April—Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, accompanied by SPDC members and their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers and their wives, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, diplomats of foreign missions and families and resident representatives of UN agencies, this morning visited the Maha Thingyan pandal of the Yangon Mayor and the Maha Thingyan pandal of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and participated in the water festival.

On arrival at Maha Thingyan pandal of the

Yangon Mayor in front of the City Hall at 11.30 am, they were welcomed by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife, Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and wife, committee members, heads of department and staff families.

After enjoying the Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan entertainment programmes, the Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party and diplomats participated in the water festival.

At 12.30 pm, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the national race village near Thanhlyin Bridge in Thakayta Township.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife,

deputy ministers and wives, heads of department and staff families, officials of national race peace groups, members of national race cultural troupes, Kachin national races of Sadon and Kanpaikti regions in Kachin State, Kayah national races of Meise region of Kayah State, Kayin national races of Thandaung region of Kayin State, Chin national races of Thantlang and Lonle regions of Chin State, Naga national races of Leshi and Pansat regions of Sagaing Division, Mon national races of Khawza region of Mon State, Rakhine national races of Manaung region of Rakhine State, national races of Weinkung region of Shan State (North), Palaung national races of Manton region of Shan State (South), Shan national races of Mongyan region of Shan

State (East), national races of Panglong region of Shan State (South), national race cultural troupe members including Mon national races of Bokpyin region of Taninthayi Division and trainees of women vocational training schools of Kachin State and Sagaing Division, who are here to take part in the Maha Thingyan Festival at

the invitation of Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

At the hall of the national race village, the guests were entertained with traditional dances and songs of the national

Next, the Prime Minister and the Secretary-1 presented prizes to national race cultural troupes who presented entertainment.

After enjoying the water festival together with the national races, the Prime Minister and party greeted the national races and left the village.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein being doused with water at the pandal of Maha Thingyan pandal of the Yangon Mayor.—MNA

Though combats were no more people had to live in fear due to presence of those armed

(Dr Phyu Phyu)



Dr Phyu Phyu expresses thanks. — MNA

The following is a translation of a speech delivered by Dr Phyu Phyu at the ceremony to exchange arms for peace.

She said she is a Shan national and assistant surgeon of Hsenwi Township People's Hospital. She and her ancestors have lived in Hsenwi for their whole life.

For many years, armed conflicts among the brethren of the Union had occurred in Shan State. In consequence, the local people faced a variety of difficulties and hardships and were in alarm without peace and stability throughout the period.

There broke out public panics so many times due to the armed insurgency. Her parents could not do their businesses freely, but had to pay extortion money to the insurgents.

After the Tatmadaw had assumed State duties, the national races groups exchanged arms for peace, but the local residents could not still escape from paying extortion money and being taxed.

There were no more combats in the region, but locals were still afraid of those who still held arms.

Thanks to the combined efforts of those who were against armed insurgency and those who had returned to the legal fold, the region developed to a certain degree, but still lacked peace and tranquillity.

Now, members of the brigade No (11) led by U Kan Na have discarded arms unconditionally and stopped levying taxes on local people, and taken a solemn vow to live with the people in unison.

With the real peace and stability, the region would be able to enjoy rapid development through unity.

In conclusion, she expressed thanks to the members of SSNA brigade No (11) led by U Kan Na, the government, and the people who gave assistance and warm welcome to the members.—MNA

Agriculture and construction tasks supervised in Lashio

YANGON, 15 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Shan State (North) PDC Chairman North East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, and Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence, inspected crops plantations of local regiment in Lashio Township on 13 April.

Next, they inspected the Kaukwe creek dam project near Mansu village in Lashio Township, and instructed the officials to speed up implementation of agricultural tasks and to ensure timely completion of the project.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe proceeded to Pyidaungsu Mya Kan Tha natural garden that provides fresh water for locals in Lashio, and left instructions on ensuring all-year-round supply of water to the people, conservation of forests, and growing of more perennial crops.

They also viewed the building of Yan Taing Aung pagoda at the entrance to Lashio.

MNA

Put New Year vow into practice

Maung Aung Myaing

The term "Thingyan" is derived from the Pali term "Sakanta" which comes from the Sanskrit word "Sinkjanta", and it means transition from the old year to the New Year.

A festival is celebrated in each of the 12 calendar months of the year in Myanmar. The month "Tagu" is the first of the Myanmar year in which Thingyan Festival (Water Festival) is celebrated. Each of the festival takes only one day, but Thingyan Festival is celebrated for four or five days in a row for enabling the people to enjoy themselves wholeheartedly. The characteristics of the Myanmar festivals, which are traditionally held, are adorable and respectable, so Myanmar nationals have collectively preserved such lovely customs and traditions in successive eras for their perpetual existence.

Yearly, during the run-up to the Thingyan Festival, each and every place is reverberated with Thingyan songs. So also are with Thingyan dance troupes rehearsing for public performance in the water festival.

The month Tagu shares the two zodiacs — Pisces and Aries, and it is represented by mesua ferrea (Gangaw flower) as the zodiac flower and Sittra star as the lunar mansion. The flower Padauk blossoms once a year during or around Thingyan in the nation.

All the civilized peoples of the world celebrate and value their New Year Day. They hold festivals in accordance with their traditions to happily usher into the New Year. We Myanmar people observe the New Year Day on a grand scale and douse water on each other. The nature of water is cool and clean, and it cleanses all kinds of dirt. And no one can divide water into parts. Myanmar people pour and throw water on each other with the belief that it would clean all the misdeeds of the past year and with the aim of enabling those poured water to be cool and clean as water and strengthen relations and friendship between each other.

However, one is to be aware of a point that one should not indulge in too much frolic in the festi-

val. There was a true story in Bagan Period. The story says that the then King Nara Thiha Pate asked the female attendants to throw water on Queen Saw Lon in a water festival as he held in great affection for her. But, Queen Saw Lon assumed that she was humiliated among the attendants due to the behaviour of her consort. So she poisoned the king at his meal. But, the king noticed before having the meal that it was poisoned, and she was executed by the royal order.

The Atet Day is the final day of the Thingyan Festival. No doubt, the water-throwers and revellers would enjoy themselves their utmost on that day. In this regard, their frolic should be harmless to others.

Myanmars have preserved well the fine tradition that they spare from throwing water elderly persons,

We Myanmars celebrate the Thingyan Festival in a polite way every year. In every Thingyan Festival, we follow the rules and regulations laid down by the Maha Thingyan Discipline Enforcement Committee and hold a peaceful attitude and avoid the acts harmful to peace and stability. It is indeed such a fine tradition of which Myanmars can be proud.

pregnant women, those who would visit pagodas, monasteries and religious buildings to take Sabbath, and ailing persons, and pour water on maidens only after asking permission from their parents.

The Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and the Maha Thingyan Discipline Enforcement Committee has released the reminder for the revellers as follows:-

- To avoid indigent costumes and behaviours and speeches that compromise Myanmar culture, costumes and traditions

- To avoid the behaviours and speeches that harm the Buddhist culture
- To avoid hurtful and harmful throwing of water on each other
- To avoid instigation, behaviours, and speeches inciting disorder and riots

Each and every water-thrower and reveller is to preserve the culture and to uplift the national prestige and integrity by observing discipline as national duty and by avoiding decadent culture.

While many revellers are taking part in the water festival, some perform meritorious deeds such as paying respects to elderly persons, giving manicures and shampoo to the aged, carrying out sanitation works in premises and precincts of pagodas and monasteries, cleansing Buddha images, freeing animals, keeping Precepts, and serving others with foods and refreshments.

We Myanmars celebrate the Thingyan Festival in a polite way every year. In every Thingyan Festival, we follow the rules and regulations laid down by the Maha Thingyan Discipline Enforcement Committee and hold a peaceful attitude and avoid the acts harmful to peace and stability. It is indeed such a fine tradition of which Myanmars can be proud.

The old year will end and the New Year will start on the 9th Waxing of Tagu, 1366 Myanmar Era (17 April). We Myanmar nationals are to correctly review all the past deeds and to be armed with new vigour to continue to carry out the nation-building tasks.

In conclusion, I would like to exhort the entire people to set up and implement a New Year vow doing their best in order not to repeat the past misdeeds committed in the old year, to mend the wrong ways and remedy the misdeeds with new vigour, and to make all-out efforts in the New Year in the interests of the nation, the people and their own.

Translation: MS
 Kyemon: 15-4-2005
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 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.

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Philippines moves step closer to adopting tax reform bill

MANILA, 15 April — The Philippine Senate adopted on Wednesday night its own version of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) bill being sought by the government to carry out fiscal reforms, but it will have to reach a compromise with the House of Representatives over the final version of the bill.

The Senate VAT bill retains the 10-per-cent levy on goods and services, while raising the maximum corporate income tax to 35 per cent and removing VAT exemptions on power and fuel.

The House of Representatives earlier adopted a different version of the VAT and the leaders of the House said they would fight for its version when it comes up before the bi-

cameral conference committee. The House version calls for an overall raise from 10 per cent to 12 per cent of the VAT, which conforms to the government demand.

"We will fight for the original House version... We believe that is the best compromise the House has come up with," Speaker Jose de Venecia said.

The House version is expected to raise an esti-

mated 60 billion pesos (1.1 billion US dollars) in government revenues.

De Venecia said the bicameral conference committee will hold a caucus after the approval of the Senate version. The House bill exempts a number of manufactured products such as instant noodles and sardines upon which the poor people depend to survive as the basic necessities. — MNA/Xinhua

UFSOFT opens regional headquarters in HK

HONG KONG, 15 April — Beijing-based software company UFSOFT announced on Wednesday the official opening of its new regional headquarters in Hong Kong, in an effort to utilize Hong Kong's unique position as the springboard for Chinese Mainland enterprises to expand overseas.

The company chose to set up its first overseas office in 2003 in Hong Kong, and now has expanded the operation into the regional headquarters to oversee its business in Asia Pacific except Japan. The company also officially launched its new corporate brand — UFIDA Co, Ltd (UFIDA).

Chairman and Founder of UFIDA Wang

Wen Jing said, "the goal of UFIDA is to become the largest management software enterprise in Asia-Pacific by 2006, and to become one of the top international management software suppliers by 2010.

He said as the software market evolves, products and services must now work hand in hand to deliver added-

value to the enterprise. "Our company is determined to develop our businesses along this strategic direction. At the same time, we have equipped ourselves for the challenges ahead as we evolve from a domestic software company into an international market leader in the IT sector".

According to Wang, Hong Kong serves as a

bridge connecting the Chinese Mainland enterprises like UFIDA with the rest of the Asia market. The city's unparalleled location, excellent business environment, transparent legal and finance system, strong pool of talent and customer base combine to make Hong Kong the region's premier business hub.

MNA/Xinhua

NW China's biggest auto expo opens in Xinjiang

URUMQI, 15 April — Northwest China's biggest auto expo opened on Wednesday in the city of Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Sponsored by China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, the Fifth Xinjiang International Auto Expo attracted nearly 500 auto makers from both home and abroad, including Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and Mitsubishi.

Li Shuangping, an official with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said about 40 new car types are unveiled for the first time at the expo.

Groups of auto dealers from the nearby Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Pakistan and Russia came to the expo, which signified that the expo will serve as a good platform for China's auto trade, Li said.

MNA/Xinhua

ADB to assist Philippines in managing major river resources

MANILA, 15 April — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will assist the Philippine Government agencies in harnessing and managing the abundant water resources of the Agusan River in southern Philippines, the Bank's news release said on Wednesday.

The programme will be carried out through an integrated master plan to be drawn up with the help of a technical assistance (TA) grant of 970,000 US dollars.

The TA will finance extensive consultations with stakeholders and preparation of a master plan, which will promote the optimal development of resources and poverty reduction in the basin, the release said.

The programme will also help strengthen government organizations

and communities in managing the river basin and identify appropriate institutional arrangements.

The ADB said the 350 kilometres Agusan River is falling short of its potential in generating economic growth and development.

During the dry season, there is insufficient water supply and occasional prolonged drought is damaging agricultural production. In rainy seasons, recurrent overflow of the river brings serious and enor-

mous damage to lives, properties and agricultural crops as well as to farm-related infrastructure, said ADB.

The Agusan River Basin, the third largest river basin in the Philippines, also lacks integrated management of the watersheds, which are heavily degraded.

In addition, irrigation systems are deteriorating rapidly due to heavy siltation and lack of budget for operation and maintenance.

MNA/Xinhua



Sports equipment giant Nike Inc has published a detailed list of more than 700 factories it uses worldwide — more than half in Asia — to counter allegations it accepts poor labour standards. Vietnamese workers check the quality of sportswear at a production line for Nike recently in the Nha Be garment company in Ho Chi Minh City. —INTERNET

China, France to hold expo on small, medium companies

BEIJING, 15 April — China and France will jointly hold an exposition this September to promote economic exchanges between small and medium companies in the two countries, said an official here on Wednesday.

The Sino-French Small and Medium Company Exposition will be held in Guangzhou, capital of south China's booming Guangdong Province from 12 to 15 September, said You Ningfeng, executive director of the organizing committee of the exposition.

The exposition will be hosted by the National

Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce of China and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry of France.

Exchanges between small and medium companies represent a new mode of economic cooperation, You said. The exposition will provide a platform for

the companies to learn more information and expand the market. A forum on small and medium companies will be held during the exposition. Senior government officials, experts and company representatives will gather to discuss policy and legal support for the cooperation of companies between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan starts granting drilling rights in East China Sea

TOKYO, 15 April — The Japanese Government on Wednesday initiated procedures to grant Japanese firms the right to conduct test drilling for potential gas and oil fields in the East China Sea, the Kyodo news agency reported.

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has asked relevant authorities to review applications from companies which want to explore the fields, said the report.

A number of Japanese companies originally

submitted applications to conduct test drilling in the area in the 1960s but the government shelved the applications on the grounds that demarcation of the sea area remained unsettled, Kyodo said.

China and Japan remain divided over the is-

sue of a demarcation line in the waters of the East China Sea.

China neither accepts nor acknowledges the "median line" unilaterally drawn by Japan without discussion between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

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Chinese scientists decode brain ciphers for first time in world

SHANGHAI, 15 April — Scientists in this east China metropolis have discovered the decoding method for brain ciphers and brain coding units.

Their research was published in the April 2005 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States*.

Associate Professor Lin Longnian, who is affiliated with the Research Institute of Brain Function Genome at East China Normal University in Shanghai, said the human brain, composed of 14 billion nerve cells, was previously too complex to decipher. With limited technology, scientists had only been able to indirectly detect how memory was formed in the brain through beha-

vioural tests.

But Lin's new research has made it possible for scientists to directly test the formation of memory through deciphering brain coding units.

"This is of vital significance for people to explore the mysteries of the human brain," Lin acknowledged.

Associate Professor Lin and his colleagues studied the "seahorse" area in rats' brains. The area transforms short-term memory into long-term memory.

Lin and his peers inserted 96 micro electrodes, which are much thinner

than human hair, into the "seahorse" area of rats' brains and succeeded in recording the activity of hundreds of nerve cells. In comparison, researchers worldwide could usually only observe at most the activity of 26 nerve cells.

"If only several nerve cells could be observed, it would be impossible to analyse the coding of nerve cell groups," Lin said. The work symbolizes that brain research has entered a new phase of nerve-cell-group study.

Lin and his peers observed a set of behaviours of lab rats, includ-

ing reactions against any earthquake and cold wind blowing in their backs. They used computers to analyze brain activity.

According to Lin, his research may help machines imitate human behaviour to serve people better. It could also be used to detect lies.

Lin graduated from the Biology Department of the East China Normal University in 1987. In January 2004, he returned from Princeton University in the United States and established a major lab for the study of brain function and genome at his alma mater.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Duke University to help S'pore set up 2nd medical school

SINGAPORE, 15 April — The National University of Singapore (NUS) on Thursday signed an agreement here with Duke University School of Medicine of the United States on setting up Singapore's second medical school.

Aiming to provide further opportunities in medical education for more Singaporeans, with mature graduate students in particular, the proposed Graduate Medical School (GMS) will attach great importance to clinical research as well, according to Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan.

"With Duke's research-intensive third year of a four-year MD (Doctor Medicine) programme, the GMS offers a platform in training and producing clinician-scientists who understand both medical

challenges and the potential of basic research in searching for scientific solutions," said Tan at the signing ceremony.

Located at NUS' Outram campus, where Singapore's first medical school was established 100 years ago, the second one will be ready by next year.

The two sides also agreed to work together towards issuing a joint NUS-Duke Doctor's Degree of Medicine for graduates of the school.

MNA/Xinhua

Strict measures taken to ensure lab safety in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 April — Singapore laboratories have been taking strict measures to ensure the safety of their operations, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Thursday night.

As the recent reporting on the deadly H2N2 virus samples being mistakenly sent to labs worldwide has aroused considerable concern over lab safety, local laboratories confirmed that they only receive samples from recognized labs overseas.

Usually, biological

agents are double-packed in special boxes and transported by certified service, the report quoted a lab director as saying.

It is a common practice for local labs to treat and test sample from elsewhere in biocontained facilities that are of a higher safety level than what the sample itself has been

classified.

Apart from the strict physical security, labs also use auto-clave machines, which generate high temperature and steam to kill all kinds of virus and bacteria, to prevent anything contaminated from being taken outside.

MNA/Xinhua



Shoppers pass by the movies posters on display at a cinema inside a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Indonesia to hunt 12 fugitives overseas

JAKARTA, 15 April — The Indonesian Government is set to hunt down 12 fugitives who have fled the country after committing various criminal offences in Indonesia, Attorney General Abdurrahman Saleh said Thursday.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reiterated his intention to hunt down the fugitives

overseas.

One of the fugitives was Sudjiono Timan, the former director of PT

Bahana Pembinaan Usaha Indonesia, who was convicted in two-trillion-rupiah (222.2-mil-

lion-US-dollar) graft case, the attorney general was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying.

Sudjiono, who was sentenced to 15 years in jail for his role in the graft case, disappeared when prosecutors attempted to arrest him at his house late last year.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Scientists discover how fatal Ebola virus infects cells

LOS ANGELES, 15 April — A new study focused on how the Ebola virus infects cells may provide drug targets for this fatal human pathogen that causes a severe and often haemorrhagic disease, researchers said on Thursday.

Ebola virus, like the Marburg virus now alarming Angola, belongs to a virus family named filovirus. Annually it kills thousands in Africa, but there is no effective treatment for Ebola, while the molecular mechanisms the Ebola virus employs to enter host cells and initiate infection are poorly understood, said US National Institutes of Health (NIH) that sponsored the study.

The researchers, whose paper is published in the latest online issue of the journal *Science*, identified two cellular enzymes Ebola virus must have to reproduce. When those enzymes are blocked, the virus loses most of its infectivity.

Ebola virus co-opts and uses these two enzymes to cut up one of the virus' surface proteins. Once this protein is snipped apart, the virus is free to begin multiplying, according to James Cunningham, senior author of the paper from Harvard Medical School.

The scientists applied broad-spectrum enzyme inhibitors to mammalian cells before exposing them to Ebola virus.— *MNA/Xinhua*



A Chinese photographer, who rents costumes and takes souvenir pictures for tourists, puts traditional Japanese clothes onto a woman in a park in Beijing on 15 April, 2005. INTERNET

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Mexico's Etna Diaz wins gold medal on lightweight taekwondo

MADRID, 14 April —Etna Diaz, from Mexico, became the world champion of the lightweight at the World Championships of Taekwondo, being held in Madrid, after beating Su Li Wen, from Taipei, local Press said on Wednesday.

The bout was decided at a deciding assault, of 1 minute long, and when the Mexican tried the only attack of the assault the judges gave her the triumph. On the three required rounds, the Mexican was ahead on the score from the second one (2-1), after the first finished drew to 0.

At the last round, Diaz scored two points and Su did the same, but after suffering four sanctions -each one takes away half point-, the total resulted in a tie to three points, that is why they had to fight for the gold medal in the deciding round.

Diaz said after the bout: "The final was very intense. I was winning because of my points, but I had four warnings, that means two points less. Then, we were tied. But when the judge raised his hand I said 'This is it'".—MNA/Xinhua

Rowing included in 2008 Paralympic Games programme

BEIJING, 15 April — The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) announced that rowing became an official event of the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

The sport was voted in during the first meeting of the IPC Governing Board which took place in Turin, Italy on 9 and 10 April.

Rowing is the only new sport to have been voted in this weekend and joins the 19 established Paralympic sports.

IPC president Phil Craven said: "FISA is to be congratulated on the tremendous work it has undertaken to develop adapted rowing into the newest Paralympic sport. Now the stage is set in Beijing for Paralympic rowers to inspire and excite the world".

FISA president Denis Oswald said: "Rowing is very proud to be invited to take part in this fantastic event. Our adaptive rowers and their supporters have worked very hard to reach this important milestone in the development of the sport and now it will really move forward".

Up until now, Paralympic sports were mainly classified by disability rather than sport. Rowing is one of the first sports ferations to have fully integrated, as FISA calls it, "adaptive" rowing into its federation. Adaptive implies that the equipment is "adapted" to the athletes to practice the sport, rather than the sport being "adapted" to the athletes.—MNA/Xinhua



Real Madrid's Thomas Gravesen (L) vies for the ball with Barcelona's Ronaldinho (R) on 10 April, 2005. Barcelona announced an end of season trip to Japan where they will play a number of local sides including reigning J-league champions Yokohama Marinos.—INTERNET

Everything ready for "All Star Day 2005"

NICOSIA, 14 April —FIBA Executive Director Nar Zanolin said on Wednesday that everything is ready for the "All Star Day 2005" and there is a "fantastic atmosphere" on the eve of the event.

He told a Press conference in island's southern coastal town of Limassol that he was assured of its success and delighted with the choice of Cyprus as the host country.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee Michael Loizides said that everything has been done to ensure an unforgettable evening on Thursday night for participants and spectators alike, promising entertainment, spectacle, music and a display of basketball skills.

The event, with the participation of 24 players including two from Cyprus, will take place on at Eleftheria Stadium in the capital Nicosia and is expected to last about four hours.

"We look forward to an even better spectacle this year. This is a celebration for basketball, a very difficult event to organize, which will culminate in two weeks' time in Istanbul, where the winner will be announced," Zanolin told the Press conference.

He explained that some 40,000 persons have voted through the Internet for the best basketball players, and subsequently the participating players were selected with the help of FIBA coaches and FIBA Europe. Loizides said Cyprus is organizing this great event because it believes that it is high time the country claims such festivities.

"We are on the right track, ticket sales are in great demand and I am sure that if we succeed in this, more events of this calibre will follow," Loizides, who is also the chairman of AEL club in Limassol, said.

The opening ceremony will include drummers and bouzouki players, who performed at the Olympic Games opening, rope acrobats and 14 dancers who will entertain the public to the tunes of syrtaki music.

The mascot of the games will then appear, followed by the teams. A three-point competition will also take place.—MNA/Xinhua

Liverpool upset Juventus to reach Champions League semis

LONDON, 14 April — Juventus followed in the step of Bayern Munich to fall in quarterfinals of the Champions League when they were held to a home goalless draw on Wednesday by dogged Liverpool who advance to the last four with a 2-1 aggregate victory. PSV, the 1988 European champions, knocked out Olympique Lyon 4-2 on penalties after extra time failed to separate the teams who finished 1-1 on the night and 2-2 on aggregate.

Liverpool, who have won the European Cup four times, will now face Chelsea in the first all-English semifinal after the Premier League leaders got past Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

Luck was not on Juve's side when the post denied a Fabio Cannavaro header in the 78 minutes and they will regret the great chance missed by their Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the early stages of a disappointing match.

Liverpool's outstanding defending ensured they eliminated the joint leaders of Serie A in a game that reversed traditional stereotypes of English and Italian approaches to the game.

Once the game was underway Juve had an early chance to take the lead on the night when Gianluca Zambrotta burst down the left and slipped a low cross to Ibrahimovic but the Swedish striker shot over from just seven metres.

That was the only real chance of a scrappy first half with both teams giving the ball away too easily in midfield.

Liverpool, with Czech striker Milan Baros alone in attack, seemed content sitting back with a well-organized defence and

showed little ambition to push forward.

Juve coach Fabio Capello brought on Uruguayan striker Marcelo Zalayeta at halftime and the Italian side chose a direct route towards goal but their long balls rarely troubled the hugely impressive central defensive pairing of Jamie Carragher and Sami Hyypia.

While Liverpool is to play Chelsea in the semi-finals, PSV will meet the eventual winner of the other quarter-final which was abandoned because of crowd trouble after 73 minutes on Tuesday with AC Milan holding a 3-0 aggregate lead over Inter.

Sylvain Wiltord

pounced on a defensive error to put Lyon in front ten minutes into play. Brazilian Alex superbly volleyed PSV level four minutes after half-time, but clear chances were at a premium in the regular 90 minutes as nerves got the better of both sides.

The Dutch side looked the likelier scorers in extra time, with Philip Cocu and South Korean Park Ji-sung going close and Van Bommel curling a free kick narrowly wide.

In the shootout, however, the home team held their nerve to reach the semi-final for the third time in their history, denying Lyon a first appearance in the last four.

MNA/Xinhua



Liverpool's midfielder Xabi Alonso celebrates victory against Juventus at the end of their Champions League second leg quarter-final at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin. Rafael Benitez is confident Liverpool can end a run of three defeats this season when they tackle Chelsea in the Champions League semi-finals.—INTERNET

Top seeds advance in Monte Carlo Masters

PARIS, 14 April — World number one Roger Federer sailed into the third round on Wednesday at the Monte Carlo Masters as the Swiss eased past Spaniard Albert Montanes 6-3, 6-4.

The top seed spent just 59 minutes to join the leading players including Marat Safin, Rafael Nadal and Guillermo Coria in the third round of the claycourt event.

Federer takes on Chilean Fernando Gonzales.

Earlier on a sun-drenched Court Central, 18-year-old Nadal demolished Xavier Malisse 6-0, 6-3, dropping just nine points in a first set lasting 23 minutes.

Safin met few trouble beating Frenchman Cyril Saulnier 6-3, 6-1, while defending champion Coria eased past French qualifier Thierry Ascione 6-2, 6-1.

Second seed Safin outclassed Saulnier without touching top gear, winning in just over an hour to set up a third-round clash with former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero who beat 16th seed Jiri Novak 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

MNA/Xinhua



Lyon's French defender Anthony Revellere (R) is challenged by PSV Eindhoven's Ji-Sung Park (L) during their Champions' League quarter-final second leg match in Eindhoven. PSV Eindhoven booked a Champions League semi-final with AC Milan, beating Lyon 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out after the scores were level on 1-1 after extra-time.—INTERNET

Of the two turbines of ...



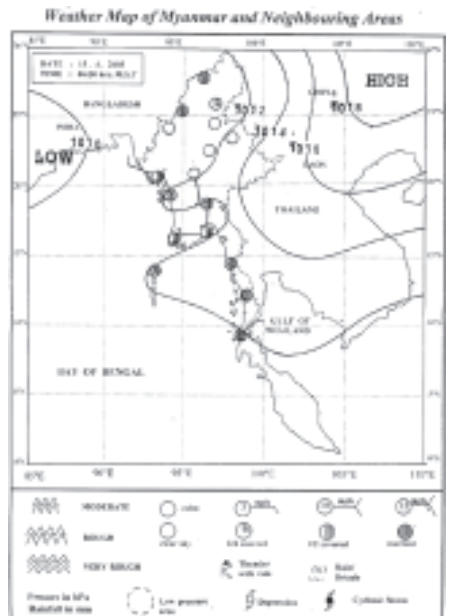
U Khun Tin Aung expresses gratitude at the opening of Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant.

MNA

(from page 7)
development, the advancement of the electricity sector is also needed to develop the nation. In this regard, the Government has been building institutions of higher learning to produce qualified human resources region-wise. Qualified human resources are also required in building a democratic nation. The Government, the people and the Tatmadaw will have to make harmonious efforts to fulfill the requirements of the national development drive.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the control room, engines and boilers. He presented gifts

to the chairman and party of CHMC. He also observed the coal mine of the Shan Yoma Naga Co Ltd that is supplying fuel for the plant. Building of the Tikyit plant started on 4 September 2002 and it was completed on 31 March 2005. The CHMC of China and Eden Group of Myanmar built the plant under the supervision of the Energy Ministry. It will generate 120 megawatts from its two turbines. Of the two turbines, one is generating electricity at full capacity as it was completed in 2004. The other one will start generating power beginning last week of April. — MNA



WEATHER

Friday, 15 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State, and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Magway, Minbu and Moywa.

Maximum temperature on 14-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 15-4-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-4-2005 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 14-4-2005 was (10.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.63 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 (12) mph from North at (18:30) hours MST on 15-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-4-2005: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are possible in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin State, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair 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: Slight increase of day temperature are likely in Dalaic areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-4-2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 18:30 hours MST on Today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (3.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (7) miles West of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (16) hrs (49) min (44) sec MST on 15th April, 2005.

City packed with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day

YANGON, 15 April— As a gesture welcoming the Myanmar New Year, the Thingyan Festival (also called Water Festival) is being held on a grand scale in a way of Myanmar traditional culture. As today being the Akyat Day, the 7th Waxing of Tagu 1366 ME (15-4-2005), Yangonites, collectively or individually, did meritorious deeds, offering food at pandals, offering flow-



At the pandal of 5th Street in Lanmadaw Township people joyfully taking part in Thingyan festival. —NLM



Yangonites merrily dousing water on Thingyan Akyat Day. —MNA

ers, water, oil and joss sticks to monasteries and pagodas, keeping sab-bath and doing meditation. In addition, the city was packed with those who joyfully participated in the festival by building temporary water-throwing pandals in all the townships.

Besides, the most famous pagodas in Yangon City such as the Shwedagon, the Sule, the Botahtaung, the

Kyaikdeup, the Shwephonepint, the Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), Lawka Chantha Abaya Laba Muni Buddha Image, the Mahawizaya, the Thirimingala Kaba Aye and the Kyaikkahsan, the Koehtatgyi, the Chaukhtetgyi, the Ngahtatgyi and the Melamu were crowded with visitors doing meritorious deeds.

MNA



Thingyan revellers joyfully taking part in water festival in Kamayut Township. —NLM

Of the two turbines of Tikyit coal-fired power plant, one is generating electricity at full capacity as it was completed in 2004. The other one will start generating power beginning April last week

YANGON, 12 April — A ceremony to commission Coal-Fired Power Plant built in Tikyit Region, Pinlaung Township, Shan State, was held at the pandal in the compound of the plant on 12 April morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-

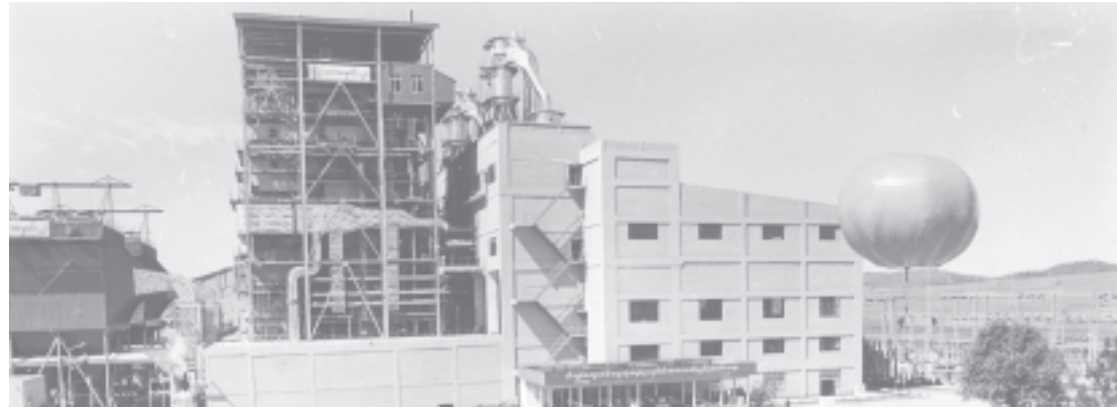
1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the chairman and officials of China National

Heavy Machinery Corporation (CHMC), local authorities, USDA and social organization members and local people.

On the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that Coal-Fired Power Plant built with might and main since over three years in Tikyit region of Pinlaung Township was completed successfully today. It was a heavy industry that will produce 120 megawatt with the use of coal from Tikyit region. Two tur-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sprinkles scented water on stone plaque of Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant in Pinlaung Township.— MNA



The opening ceremony of Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant in progress in Pinlaung Township.— MNA

bines each can generate 60 megawatt were installed at the plant. The power line of the plant would be connected with the grid to meet power demand consumption of the State to a certain extent.

Since its assumption of the State's responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government, upholding the Our Three Main National Causes as the State policy, has laid down the 12 objectives as the work (See page 6)

Brigade-11 of SSNA unconditionally exchange arms for peace

YANGON, 13 April — The Brigade-11 of Shan State National Army (SSNA) led by U Kan Na, who has returned to the legal fold since 1995, unconditionally exchanged arms for peace in Se-U Village, Hsenwi Township, Lashio District, Shan State (North) on 12 April.

Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presided over the ceremony. Shan nationals Nan Tin Tin Win and Nan Aye Aye Aung of Hsenwi Township acted as masters of ceremonies.

Present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-

Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Education

Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and senior military officers, departmental heads, social organizations, over 3000 local people and 176

SSNA members including Commander of Brigade-11 of SSNA U Kan Na, Deputy Commander U Eindra, Commanding

Officer of Battalion-19 U Sai Phone, Commanding Officer of Battalion-25 U Kham Mon, Commanding Officer of Battalion-27 U

Pwan Wan, U Kyan Te Wan and members of Shan State (North) Special Region-1, U Lwai Maung and (See page 4)



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and officials inspect arms and ammunition at the ceremony to exchange arms of SSNA Brigade-11 led by U Kan Na.— MNA