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Tuesday, 19 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

Regional people will enjoy rapid development only if a region has two or three main businesses, instead of relying on only one

Senior General Than Shwe attends meeting on progress of Rakhine State

YANGON, 18 April—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe heard a report on upgrading of Kyaukphyu-Maei section, Maei-Taungup section and An-Padekyaw-Maei road on Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road, and construction of Thanthamache bridge, Thazintanpauk bridge, Wunphaik bridge and Mingyaung bridge on Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu Road presented by the Construction Minister at the Annawa Yeiktha Hall in Thandwe, Rakhine State at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin

Maung Than and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and heads of department.

First, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on matters related to construction of Thanthamache bridge, Thazintanpauk bridge in Yanbye Township and Wunphaik bridge in Kyaukphyu Township.

Next, the minister reported on the salient



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance on road and bridge construction work in Rakhine State.—MNA

points of those bridges, location of the project, axis of the bridges, progress of work and documentary photos.

(See page 8)

Efforts should be made to link the three gateways to Rakhine State — An-Minbu, Taungup-Pyay and Gwa-Ngathaingchaung roads — and to constantly maintain and upgrade them for all-weather use.



Maj-Gen Saw Tun reports to Senior General Than Shwe on matters relating to construction of bridges in Rakhine State. —MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 19 April, 2005

Expedite of implementation of hydropower projects

Now is the time when the government and the people of the Union of Myanmar are unitedly working for all-round development of the nation and for higher living standard. In doing so, special emphasis is being placed on the implementation of the border area development plan, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks for parallel development of all regions in the Union.

Moreover, all the necessary measures are being taken for social, economic and transport development, especially in the regions that were behind in development.

During his tour of Rakhine State, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe met all those responsible in Thandwe on 16 April and gave guidance on regional development that steps would have to be taken for the development of Rakhine State in our efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed nation and that plans for electricity supply in the entire Rakhine State would have to be systematically implemented.

Hydropower projects are being implemented the length and breadth of the Union for economic, social and regional development. The three hydropower stations under construction in Rakhine State are Thahtay Creek, An Creek and Kyeintali Hydropower Stations. Thahtay Creek Hydropower Station, 15 miles northeast Thandwe and being constructed across the Thahtay Creek, will be capable of generating 318 million of kilowatt hours annually.

An Creek Hydropower Station, three and a half miles northeast An and being built across the An Creek, will have the capacity of generating 5 megawatts in the first phase and 10 megawatts in the second.

Rakhine State is rich in natural resources and the government is building roads and bridges and so it is now enjoying the fruits of transport and economic development.

At a time when the government and all the national people are striving for all-round development of the entire Union, we would like to urge all those responsible to expedite implementation of hydropower projects in Rakhine State and in other regions.

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

Industry-2 minister inspects factory project

YANGON, 18 April— Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected Diesel Engine Factory Project (Thagara) of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, on 13 April. Officials reported to the minister on site chosen for building the factory, building of workshops, road construction, power and water supply and arrival of Chinese experts.

The minister gave instructions to officials on completion of work as schedule, security matters and greening of the environs.

After inspecting storage of construction materials of Myanma Industrial Construction Services the minister gave instructions on systematic storage of the materials, minimizing loss and wastage and fire prevention. —MNA

F&R minister inspects banking services

YANGON, 18 April— Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun this afternoon inspected banking services here.

At the Myanmar Economic Bank (Branch-3), officials reported to the minister on functions of the bank. The minister gave necessary instructions. The minister also inspected MEB (Head Office), Savings Bank Branch-2 and MEB Branch-5.



MNA F&R Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects MEB-3.—MNA

Billboards erected to hail MWVO Conference

YANGON, 18 April— As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005), billboards were erected at ceremonies held in Thingangyun, Mingala Taungnyunt, Bahan, Dagon and Mayangon Townships today. The ceremonies were attended by Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and executives of division, district and township MWVOs. — MNA



MWVO Supervisory Committee Chairman Col Tin Soe formally unveils the billboard on Mindhamma Road in Insein Township to hail Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005).—MNA

Workshop on procedures to be followed in sale of medicines concludes

YANGON, 18 April— Batch No-2 of Workshop on procedures to be followed in sale of medicines organized by

Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association concluded this morning at

the training hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.



Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association makes cash donations for the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

MNA

Myanmar information delegation arrives back from Korea

YANGON, 18 April — Under ASEAN-Korea cooperation programme, Myanmar information delegation led by Director (Admin) U Soe Moe of Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information arrived back here by air this evening.

They were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD, Director U Tun Min, Director U Kyaw Zin Oo and officials.

MNA

MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ

ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီလ (၁၂)ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၅၆၀၈)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူအများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသစာအုပ်များကို

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ဓရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံး များသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

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ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်
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Beijing authority warns against real-estate speculation

BEIJING, 17 April — Beijing has sufficient land supply for real-estate development and low-income families should have more options in purchasing residential houses, a senior official with the Beijing Development and Reform Commission (BDRC) told the *China Youth Daily* on Thursday.

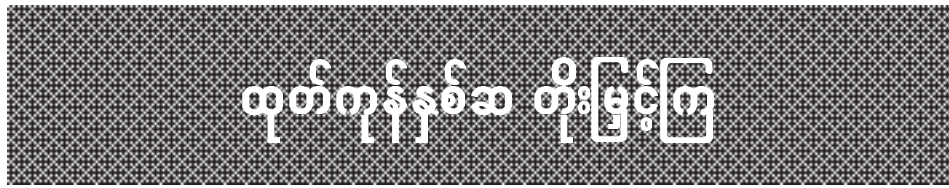
“With more than 14,410 hectares of land reserved for real-estate development, Beijing’s land supply has been adequate for at least 10 years. The land-shortage rumour was fabricated to lift up housing prices,” said Wang Xuepeng, vice-director of the Fixed-Assets Investment Department of BDRC. Although housing prices in Beijing have gone up fast, the municipal government does not want to see drastic price

fluctuations. The annual supply of economical apartments for low-income families will be stabilized at approximately three million square metres so that the housing rights of the needy can be secured.

In 2004, residential houses with an aggregate area of 67.59 million square metres were under construction. Even though no new projects are being started between 2005 and 2007, the existing programmes can still

create an annual supply of more than 20 million square metres, much higher than the projected number of 18 million square metres, Wang said.

As official forecasts have put the population in Beijing in 2020 at 18 million, to make sure that a per capita housing area is 40 square metres by then, an annual supply of 18 million square metres must be guaranteed, according to earlier reports from BDRC. —MNA/Xinhua



Mount Everest in Nepal. A team of Chinese scientists began to remeasure the world's highest peak, for the first time in 20 years, checking theories that it is growing one centimetre (0.4 inch) annually. —INTERNET

HK legal sector exchanges views with central officials

HONG KONG, 17 April— A number of Hong Kong legal sector personnel attending the meeting on 12 April with three central officials spoke positively of the meeting, saying the exchange of views with central officials at the meeting is fruitful.

Qiao Xiaoyang, deputy secretary-general of the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, Lei Fei,

deputy director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, and Zheng Xiaoming, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, came from Beijing to Hong Kong’s neighbouring Shenzhen City to exchange views with 82 people from Hong Kong’s legal sector on the tenure of the Hong Kong’s new chief executive (CE) and the interpretation of the related articles of the Basic Law.

Senior lawyer Kennedy YH Wong recalled that the atmosphere of the meeting was good and Qiao Xiaoyang’s reply was

frank. Henry Hu Hung-lick agreed with the law interpretation by the central authority, saying the NPC Standing Committee’s law interpretation will play an important role in Hong Kong’s smooth holding of the by-election of the new CE and maintaining stability of Hong Kong.

Alan Leung, a senior counsel, said he never doubted the aim of the law interpretation by the NPC Standing Committee is in the interest of Hong Kong.

Among the 83 Hong Kong people present at the meeting were deputies to the NPC,

members of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, representatives from the Hong Kong Bar Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong, scholars and experts from higher learning institutions and research institutions and personnel from other organizations of the law society.

Of the Hong Kong participants in the meeting, 20 made keynote speeches while four others delivered written speeches.

The meeting lasted for more than four hours, one hour longer than scheduled.

MNA/Xinhua

Media urged to improve Sino-Japanese relations

BEIJING, 17 April — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan hopes that the media can contribute positively to improved bilateral relations between China and Japan, demanding friendship and sincerity be underscored.

“Both the Chinese and Japanese media should pick up more positive information on bilateral relations so as to guide the national affections and feelings of the people of both nations and create a favourable environment for improving relations,” said Tang during a meeting with Toyohiko Yamanouchi, president of Japan’s *Kyodo News* agency on Tuesday.

“We cannot improve and develop Sino-Japanese relations without the media’s correct guidance,” acknowledged Tang. “There have been indeed many problems in Sino-Japanese relations in recent years, which drew much attention from the media.”

Describing the friction and problems between the neighbouring countries as unavoidable and normal, Tang urged the media to treat them properly and give more positive signals. “The media is expected to always give priority to friendly cooperation between the two countries,” Tang said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi, US forces raid central Iraqi town to rescue hostages

BAGHDAD, 18 April— US and Iraqi troops raided a central Iraqi town on Saturday to rescue dozens of Shiite hostages whom Sunni rebels have threatened to kill if other Shiites did not leave town, a TV report said.

Interim National Security Minister of State, Kassim Daoud, told Dubai-based al-Arabiya television that Madain, the town near Baghdad, was now under the control of Iraqi and US-led multinational forces.

“They are raiding areas where it is suspected that hostages may be,” the minister said.

In an incident likely to heighten sectarian tension between the majority Shiites and the Sunnis, masked Sunni militants on Saturday held scores of Shiite residents hostage in Madain and threatened to kill them unless all Shiites left the town. A senior Shiite official in Baghdad said earlier US and Iraqi forces surrounding the town were expected to launch a big overnight raid to end the standoff. “The number of hostages is 150. They include women and children, according to police intelligence officials I have spoken with,” said the official. —MNA/Xinhua

Giant "Guanyin" statue to be enshrined in Hainan

BEIJING, 18 April — A total of 108 eminent monks from the Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Special Administration Regions, will sing Buddhist doctrines in unison at the foot of the giant Buddhist statue, which will be enshrined on April 24, 2005, in China’s southernmost Hainan Province, said a Chinese religious leader.

Shenghui, vice-chairman of the Buddhist Association of China said Friday in Beijing that the 108-metre-high statue is the world’s tallest of “Guanyin”, the goddess of infinite compassion and mercy in Buddhism, Saturday’s China Daily reports.

This statue, which took six years to complete and will be unveiled to the world on the day of the ceremony, will protect and preserve all Chinese people around the world, said Shenghui. —MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi soldiers secure the road leading into Madain on 18 April, 2005.

INTERNET



Workers pass a board displaying share prices in Tokyo on 18 April, 2005.—INTERNET

UNICEF names Indian film star as Goodwill Ambassador

UNITED NATIONS, 17 April — The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has named Indian film star Amitabh Bachchan a Goodwill Ambassador to help with its efforts to eradicate polio and educate the public on HIV/AIDS, UNICEF said in a statement on Friday.

Bachchan, known to millions of fans worldwide as "Big B", has agreed to make public appearances and field visits on behalf of children for the next two years, the statement said.

"Amitabh has the star power to illuminate the lives of the millions of children who are living in dire circumstances," UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said in the statement. "We look forward to a long

collaboration with him, and we feel honoured to have him as part of the UNICEF family."

Bachchan previously supported UNICEF during a polio outbreak in northern India by making award-winning and effective television and radio advertisements urging parents to get their children inoculated against the crippling disease, UNICEF said.

MNA/Xinhua

Macedonia, Albania to enhance judiciary cooperation

TIRANA, 17 April—The two neighbouring Balkan countries of Macedonia and Albania signed a memorandum in Skopje Friday to enhance cooperation in the judiciary field.

According to a report from the Macedonian Information Agency (MIA), the memorandum was signed by the Macedonian Justice Minister Meri Mladenovska — Gjorgjievska and her Albanian counterpart Fatmir Xhafaj, who arrived in Macedonia Friday for a two-day official visit. It would enable more intensified cooperation between the two countries' judiciary organs through further communication, Mladenovska — Gjorgjievska said after signing the memorandum.

The two ministers expressed their

common desire that the exchange of experience would contribute to sooner integration of the two countries in the European Union (EU).

The best answer to numerous questions before the two ministries on the road to EU was the continuation of reforms, which could be successful with the exchange of experience, Xhafaj said.

According to Xhafaj, both countries will also strengthen the cooperation in the fight against organized crime, which concerns both sides.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq rebuilding conference to be held in Brussels

LUXEMBOURG, 17 April — The European Union (EU) will join hands with the United States to co-host an Iraq rebuilding conference in Brussels "in early June", a senior EU official said here Saturday.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, told a Press conference that the idea was raised at a US-EU summit during US President George W. Bush's European tour this February.

The meeting is to be held "at the request of the new Iraqi Government", said Asselborn, who is currently chairing an informal EU foreign ministers' meeting.

The foreign minister said it was too early to give precise dates or details.

The EU is concerned not only about stability and security in Iraq, but also about the country's integration into the region and the world at large, Asselborn added.

Earlier in the day, EU ministers discussed issues concerning Iraq and the Middle East at a two-day meeting which concluded here Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

စက်မှုဦးစီးဌာန၊ ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Crude oil prices fall as traders expect more OPEC output

NEW YORK, 17 April — Crude oil prices fell for a second-straight week Friday as higher output from the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) bolstered inventories.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, light, sweet oil futures for May delivery fell 64 cents to end at 50.49 dollars a barrel. In London, the June Brent crude oil futures declined 68 cents to 51.61 dollars a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

In a monthly report, OPEC said that it would be able to produce more oil later this year as members brought new fields online. Member's production rose by 300,000 barrels a day last month. Meanwhile, US supplies of crude oil had climbed for nine straight weeks as producers including Saudi Arabia lifted their output targets in anticipation of

higher demand starting in the third quarter.

The market was also pulled down by the weight of expiring options on May crude futures.

However, analysts said in the near-term, 50-dollar-per-barrel mark was a key psychological indicator. If prices hold at that level for enough long time, traders might expect the futures to go as high as 60 dollars a barrel.

Since touching a record high of 58.28 dollars a barrel on 4 April, oil futures had declined by more than 13 per cent, falling for eight of the last 10 sessions. — MNA/Xinhua

First Chinese farmer receives state innovation award

TAIYUAN, 17 April— A farmer in north China's Shanxi Province has recently been granted a state technology invention award in north China's Shanxi Province.

Wang Heng, the first farmer to receive the award, was recognized for inventing waterproof technology and materials to be used in underground engineering projects, which have helped save 1.1 billion yuan (about 133.171 million US dollars).

Wang, who only received a primary school education, began work on his invention in the 1980s.

He raised money for his work by himself and conducted thousands of tests before developing a waterproof material applicable to various circumstances.

With 23 years of efforts, he created a waterproof cement-like material, which becomes solid in six seconds when mixed with water.

This material has been widely used in key construction projects, including a Beijing subway station, Beijing-Kowloon railway and the Three Gorges Dam.

His waterproof technology was also introduced to other countries such as Bangladesh, South Korea and Morocco.

Wang's invention

was recommended to the national science and technology award commission by Hong Boqian, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and other five experts, who acclaimed his invention as "cracking a nut in world underground waterproof projects".

At the national science and technology awarding conference in late March, the Chinese Government issued 28

second-grade awards for natural science, two first-grade awards for invention, 26 second-grade awards for innovation, 16 first-grade prizes for progress in science and technology and 228 second-grade prizes for advancement in science and technology.

Five scientists from overseas were granted awards for international cooperation in science and technology.

MNA/Xinhua



Zoologist Ha Dinh Duc looks at a small turtle in his house in Hanoi on 17 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Ukrainian, Russian PMs ready to meet in Moscow

Moscow, 17 April — Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko concluded a telephone conversation on Friday that they are ready to hold a meeting in Moscow although no exact date has been set, an unnamed Russian Government source was cited by the *Interfax* news agency as saying.

Fradkov and Tymoshenko also expressed an interest in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation between Russia and Ukraine and in implementing large projects aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

“People’s Daily” urges public to maintain social stability

BEIJING, 18 April — China’s leading national newspaper, *People’s Daily*, carried a signed article on Sunday calling for the Chinese people to maintain social stability for the building of a harmonious society.

“Today’s world is not placid and there exist frictions and problems of various kinds; our endeavour to boost reform and construction is far from being a plain sailing as we are faced with all sorts of difficulties,” says the article.

“These contradictions and problems can only be

settled in an orderly manner by abiding by the law and with a sober mind,” it says.

The article stresses that maintaining social stability is the precondition and foundation for the building of a harmonious society, the most important experience China has learned from

its modernization drive.

It attributes the country’s rapid economic growth, increase of the nation’s overall strength, progress in people’s living standards and the rising prestige of China in the international arena in the past two decades to China’s stable social order, which “should be cher-

ished with redoubled efforts”. It quotes late leader Deng Xiaoping as saying that stability is of “overriding importance” in solving all of China’s problems.

“We should cherish and maintain social stability the same way we protect our eyes,” says the article.—MNA/Xinhua



More than 40,000 people living beneath the volcanic shadow of Mount Talang in western Indonesia have been evacuated as it continued spewing hot ash, officials said.—INTERNET

Beijing traffic chief officer backs up “work in the dark”

BEIJING, 17 April — Despite complaints from drivers about policemen hiding behind street corners to spot traffic violations, officials with the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau said recently that the authority will not call off the special service to prevent and control accidents.

“Policemen are entitled to maintain traffic order in the street and so far no law specifically prohibits the officers from monitoring while hiding in the shadow, which is proved an efficient way to reduce violations,” said Zhao Jiqiang, director of the legal affairs department at the Bureau.

The practice began decades ago in Beijing when drivers tended to break traffic rules indiscriminately when they saw no police in the street. Violations were especially frequent at crossroads and no U-turn zones, which often led to serious accidents or traffic jams.

The police learned to hide to catch the violators, even though drivers, taxi drivers in particular, criticized the measure, calling it “setting a trap”.

Zhao defended the

practice, calling it “the most effective measure” to frighten law breakers and help drivers cultivate the habit of obeying traffic laws.

Traffic violations cause 85 per cent of the road accidents in Beijing, said the official, who added that the work “in the dark” will continue.

He also said the traffic authority will use high-tech devices such as cameras and radar systems to improve accuracy and efficiency.—MNA/Xinhua

Provinces in China promote “red tourism”

GUILIN, 17 April — Exhibitors from different provinces taking part in the 11th China Domestic Travel Fair all promoted their newly developed “red tourism” products.

China began to promote “red tourism” early this year to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Long March and to arouse patriotism among young Chinese people.

During the current fair, different provinces joined hands in marketing of “red tourism” products. Fujian and Jiangxi provinces combined folk culture, ecological tourism and “red tourism” together. Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai also cooperated in promoting tourism packages commemorating the birth of Communist Party of China (CPC). Some travel agencies have designed special “red tourism” routes. “We hoped to design a route that Mao Zedong used to take, including Changsha, Shanghai, Ruijin, Yan’an and Beijing and one that Deng Xiaoping used to take.”

MNA/Xinhua

HK, Hangzhou airports establish joint venture

HONG KONG, 17 April — The Hong Kong Airport Authority and Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport in east China’s Zhejiang Province have formed a joint venture that will operate and manage the Chinese Mainland airport.

According to a government Press release on Friday, the Hong Kong Airport Authority will invest 243 million US dollars to hold a 35-per-cent stake in the airport.

Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport will be converted from a state-owned limited company to a limited liability joint venture.

The two parties will jointly operate and manage Hangzhou Airport,

aiming to enhance operation efficiency, service quality and management standards to bring it to world-class standards.

“This is a win-win agreement for both parties,” Xiaoshan International Airport Chairman Chen Haimei said.

The authority’s Chief Executive Officer David Pang said, “Through direct investment and participation in their management, we will establish an

airport system with our Chinese Mainland counterparts. This will enhance the economic development of the member airports and their respective economic regions.”

Airport Authority Chairman Victor Fung added that the alliance “will allow the two airports to further develop and enhance business co-operation of the two regions”.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb attack kills nine at restaurant in N Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 April — A bomb blast inside a restaurant killed nine Iraqis, including five policemen, in the northeastern city of Baquba on Saturday, police said.

The attack took place at al-Aneeq restaurant which is often used by Iraqi police. Twelve people were also wounded in the blast and the restaurant was badly damaged.

Guerillas have repeatedly targeted Iraqi fledgling security forces, accusing them of being “infidel collaborators” with the US occupation troops.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bombs hit US military convoys in Baghdad, Mosul

BAGHDAD, 18 April — Car bombs hit US military convoys in two separate incidents in Baghdad and Mosul on Saturday, causing casualties of Iraqis and US soldiers, police and media reports said.

In Baghdad, a suicide car bomber blew his car up at a US military convoy on the main road near Baghdad’s airport, killing one Iraqi civilian and wounding three others, police said.

There was no immediate information about any US casualty.

Meanwhile, a car bomb exploded at a US military convoy in the northern city of Mosul and lightly wounded six US soldiers along with an Iraqi civilian who was evacuated to Mosul Hospital, media reports said.

Iraqi and US forces have been conducting a series of raids in and around Mosul that led to the detention of 27 suspect guerillas, according to a US military statement.

MNA/Xinhua



Ecko, a 14 week-old Indian rhinoceros born at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, is pushed out of the nursery and onto display by keeper Beth Rapoza on 14 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Malaysia refutes Indonesian news report

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 April — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak Saturday refuted a report that he had apologized for the incident in which Malaysia and Indonesia had brushed against each other in a disputed area in the Sulawesi Sea.

“I was shocked and disappointed when I read the report because it’s not true, and is concocted and irresponsible,” the Deputy Prime Minister said in a statement released here.

He was commenting on a report by *Kompas*, Indonesian newspaper, Friday, which quoted Indonesian Navy information chief First Admiral Abdul Malik Yusuf as saying that Najib, as Malaysian Defence Minister, had orally extended his apology to the Indonesian defence attache in Kuala Lumpur, Colonel Hartind Hazrin, over the

incident. *Kompas* quoted Abdul Malik as saying that the apology was later conveyed to its Eastern Fleet Commandant, First Admiral Soeparno.

Last Friday, the Malaysian Navy’s patrol vessel *KD Rencong* and Indonesia’s *KRI Tedung Naga* warship “brushed” against each other while on patrol, causing small damages to both ships.

Najib said he never met nor talked to Hartind on the incident.

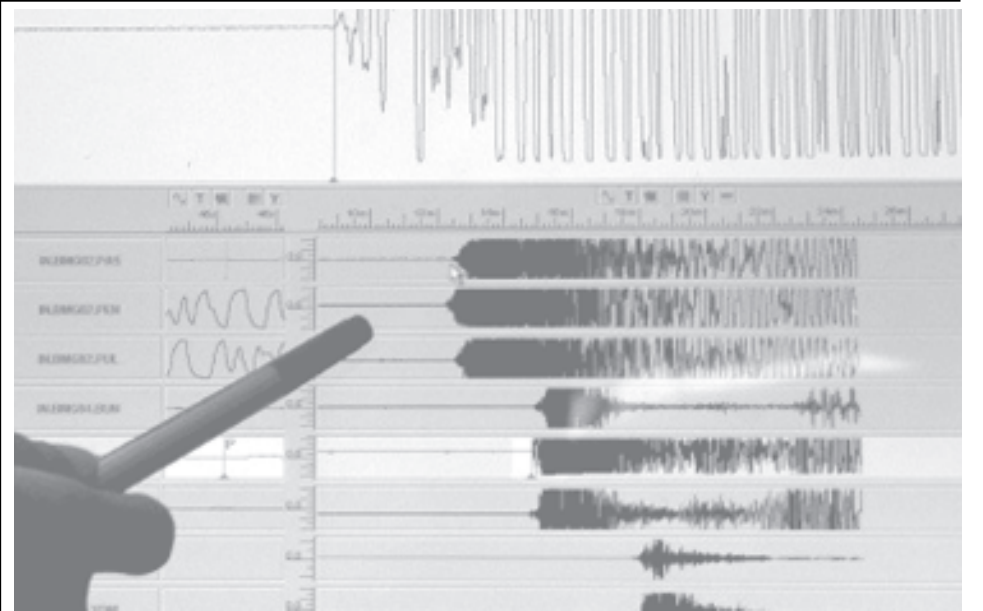
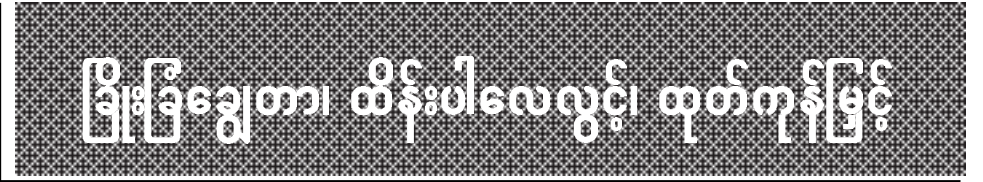
“So, there’s no question of me asking the military officer to extend my apology to the Indonesian

Government regarding the incident, either orally or in writing,” Najib said.

“Moreover, there’s no reason for me to apologize over the matter because the presence of the Royal Malaysian Navy ship in the area disputed by the two countries is not an offence,” he said.

Najib stressed that both countries had agreed to settle the dispute through negotiations.

He said *Kompas* must make an open apology to the people of Malaysia over the publication of the unethical and unfounded report. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A seismograph shows a reading following an earlier earthquake in Indonesia on 18 April, 2005. Two earthquakes measuring 4.5 and 5.6 on the Richter Scale rattled the western coast of Indonesia’s Sumatra island but caused no reported damage or casualties.—INTERNET

China becomes world’s third largest exporter

BEIJING, 18 April — China exported more than Japan in 2004, becoming the world’s third largest exporter behind the US and Germany, the *Beijing News* reported Saturday.

Sources with the Ministry of Commerce confirmed Friday that WTO statistics released Thursday affirmed China’s export value rose to the third most in 2004.

The WTO said surging demand for Chinese electronic products pushed China’s overseas sales up by 35 per cent.

One third of Chinese exports are electronic products. Electronic products account for one to two thirds of exports of Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines.

WTO statistics attribute China’s 35-per-cent rise of export value and 20-per-cent increase in export

volume to the 45-per-cent upturn of its electronic products sales on the international market.

The export value of textiles and clothing jumped 15 per cent and 17 per cent. Their sales accounted to less than 10 per cent of China’s export volume.

The WTO said China’s surplus productivity and the many China-based foreign enterprises are major reasons for China’s rising exports. The organization predicted that the world’s commodities trade for 2005, albeit still higher than the average in the past decade, will be slow to 6.5 per cent from 9 per cent last year.

MNA/Xinhua

China, US celebrate 25th anniversary of “Fulbright Programme”

BEIJING, 18 April — Nearly 200 scholars from China and the United States gathered here on Saturday celebrating the 25th anniversary of the “China-US Fulbright Programme”, an educational exchange project co-sponsored by the Chinese and US governments.

Zhang Xinsheng, China’s Vice-Minister of Education said at the celebration that the Fulbright Programme has seen smooth progress since 1979 when it was kicked off in China, through the joint efforts by the two sides.

Zhang stressed China is dedicating to boosting external educational exchange. Since 1979, around 800,000 experts and students went abroad

for further study. And since the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, China received a total of 630,000 overseas students, signed agreement with more than 20 countries to mutually recognize higher education certificates.

US Ambassador to China Clark T Randt said the US-China educational exchange is important to the US side. The Fulbright

Programme is also a symbol of the strengthened relationship between the two countries and the two peoples.

World War II tragically highlighted the great importance of international relationship, Randt said, adding that the communication in education and culture is the best way to establish mutual understanding.

The Fulbright Pro-

gramme, advocated by the former US senator Fulbright, has so far sponsored nearly 30,000 scholars in 140 countries and regions, including 600 Chinese scholars. The programme annually offers financial support to 50 Chinese scholars to make advanced research in the United States, and 20 US scholars to give teaching in China.

MNA/Xinhua

Number of foreign students in Bangladesh increases

DHAKA, 18 April — The number of foreign students studying in Bangladesh has been on increase as leading private universities are attracting students from abroad with their modern academic facilities and management.

An annual report from the University Grants Commission said that the number of foreign students in Bangladeshi universities has risen to 613 from 351 three years ago, said *The Independent* newspaper.

The number of foreign students in public universities rose to 250 from 185 and those in private uni-

versities rose to 363 from 166.

Among the public universities, Dhaka University, including its affiliated Medical Colleges, led the field with 64 foreign students.

The students are from Malaysia, China, Somalia, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and Iran and most of them

are studying at engineering and medical sciences, according to the report.

Sources concerned said the number of foreign students could see further increase if authorities can ensure quality education, accommodation facility, political stability and offer scholarships.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven Chinese cities reaffirmed as environment-friendly ones

BEIJING, 17 April — Zhangjiagang, a city in east China’s Jiangsu Province, and six other cities have retained the title “environment-friendly” after passing their qualification re-examination by the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), the country’s environmental watchdog.

In a statement issued Friday, SEPA said the seven cities had made further achievements in the coordinated economic, social and environmental development after winning the honour of being environment-friendly.

Since 1997, SEPA has

honoured cities that make strong efforts in environmental protection while pursuing high economic growth. By the end of last year, 44 cities had been granted as environmentally friendly cities.

According to the standards set by SEPA,

environment-friendly cities should enjoy a good environment, sound infrastructure and rational use of natural resources so that other cities could follow their example in sustainable development.

MNA/Xinhua

Arman’s works displayed in Beijing

BEIJING, 17 April — Three bronze sculptures by the French sculptor Arman are on display in the French Cultural Centre in Beijing on Friday.

As part of activities of “The Year of France in China”, the half-month exhibition includes “Music”, made in 1984, “Music Power” in 1985 and “The Grand Discobolus” in 2001.

Cong Peihua, a painter and member of China Artists Association, said, “They reflect the multiple meaning of Western contemporary art,” he said.

Cheng Xindong, the show’s initiator, said he is exploring the perfect relationship between the exhibition space and the artwork. “It’s a purely cultural activity here today,” Cheng said.

MNA/Xinhua



A breeder of Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Base trains a baby panda in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 13 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Bounden duty born of Armed Forces Day

Aung Moe San

The bounden duty of the Tatmadaw was indeed born of the Armed Forces Day conceived on 27 March 1945.

The Armed Forces Day is a significant day, on which the entire national people launched anti-fascists struggle in unison under the correct leadership of the Tatmadaw, on which Myanmar won victory over the fascists, and on which the entire national people threw themselves into the noble task to eliminate fascism in the whole world. During World War II, Myanmar youth patriots underwent harsh military training in Japan and then initiated the Myanmar Tatmadaw made up of members of the Thirty Comrades. Then, national patriot youths joined the Tatmadaw. **The Tatmadaw came into existence with the concept of patriotic politics in the independence struggle. At the time of the independence struggle, the Tatmadaw, the Communist Party and the People's Revolution Party were absolutely cohesive, leading the entire national people in fighting against the fascists. The Tatmadaw has got involved in the national political leadership role since then. In other words, the Tatmadaw has played a leadership role in the national politics since the time of the independence struggle.**

Again in the post-independence period, the Tatmadaw managed to restore peace and stability and prevalence of law and order, after crushing all the armed insurgents who had dominated most parts of the nation. In fact, the then politicians could not solve at all the internal armed insurgency through political means, and the Tatmadaw had to get involved in the noble task under the pressure of historic necessities.

In 1950, the nationalist Chinese backed by the CIA of the US intruded into the nation. At that time, the Tatmadaw was the only force that was capable enough of safeguarding and defending the motherland and its sovereignty. It managed to quell the intruders through military operations.

Later, the Tatmadaw had to play the leadership role in the national politics by shouldering the national duty regarding it as its bounden duty in addition to the duty of crushing internal armed insurgency and the national defence duty.

The ruling party, the AFPFL (Headquarters), that played a leading role in the independence struggle, deteriorated rapidly owing to the strong ideological differences, sectarianism, and political prejudice. The collapse of the AFPFL government had a tremendous impact on the nation. Later, its functions were completely in disorder, and it began to lose the trust and reliance of the people. In the end, the Tatmadaw that always shouldered its duties in the interest of the nation had to take over the State duties. On 28 October 1958, the leaders of the then political parties handed over the State duties to the Tatmadaw that served as the Caretaker Government. The Tatmadaw tackled all the causes that posed dangers to the nation, for ensuring non-disintegra-

tion of the Union and national solidarity.

In the time of the Pa-Hta-Sa Government in 1962, the nation was on the verge of collapse due to the Federal System, and the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties and played a leadership role in the national politics. On 1 April 1963, the Tatmadaw declared the general amnesty for the prisoners and invited armed groups to the negotiation table. It was just the Tatmadaw's lofty aim of regaining national reconsolidation, but it could make peace with only Kayin group out of the eight national races armed groups that attended the meeting. It was because the remaining groups gave priority to respective parties

In consequence, the nation today is enjoying unprecedented progress. The 17 national races armed groups that were rising against successive governments for many years have returned to the legal fold. So, it is safe to say that the Tatmadaw has managed to achieve unprecedented success in an effort to regain national reconsolidation.

rather than to the restoration of peace and tranquility, to which the entire national people was looking forward very long.

In addition, the Tatmadaw exerted continued efforts effectively to make peace with the leaders of aboveground political parties, and the leaders of national races for rebuilding national unity. Taking the advice of the then experienced leaders of political parties, the Tatmadaw formed the national unity advisory group made up of 33 persons on 4 December 1968 with a view to making unanimous efforts in the political, economic, and national races development sectors, and ensuring emergence of an enduring State constitution.

Those on the advisory body were from the political parties such as Pa-Hta-Sa (Clean), AFPFL (Stable) and Pa-Ma-Nya-Ta, and veteran politicians of various national races. Their conceptions could be grouped into three kinds only, and the 33 advisers' advice and suggestions were based on ideological differences and racism and they gave priority to retaking the State power for the individuals or political parties they supported. So, their suggestions on national solidarity could not be reconciled at all, and success could not be made as expected.

In the 1988 unrest, anarchy and undisciplined acts reigned across the nation, followed by alien instigations and interventions. As a result, the entire nation was out of control and the entire people were in alarm, and the nation was on the edge of collapse. However, no party, no organization and no individual were capable of remedying the chaotic situations and conditions. In the end, the Tatmadaw, the strongest and the most disciplined force of the nation, that always preserved fine traditions, had to take over the State duties in time. Had the Tatmadaw failed to

save the nation, the nation would have encountered tragedy. But, some elements that were not capable of doing so, variously accused the Tatmadaw of seizing the State power. In reality, the Tatmadaw had to unavoidably get involved in the national political leadership role just to shoulder the State duties in the interests of the nation and the people.

Then, the Tatmadaw Government adopted the 12 objectives to introduce the market-oriented economic system and to transform the nation into a democratic one so as to fulfil the wishes of the people. It is witnessed that the Tatmadaw Government has been making relentless endeavours to implement nation-building tasks one after another such as ensuring prevalence of law and order, restoration of peace and stability, regaining national reconsolidation, proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system, modernization and promotion of economic productive forces, raising the living standard of the people, and emergence of the State Constitution.

In consequence, the nation today is enjoying unprecedented progress. The 17 national races armed groups that were rising against successive governments for many years have returned to the legal fold. So, it is safe to say that the Tatmadaw has managed to achieve unprecedented success in an effort to regain national reconsolidation.

Peace and stability and progress are ubiquitous throughout the entire nation including border areas. And it has braved the sanctions imposed and pressure put by certain big nations through the might of the national unity. As the political party that won the majority of votes in the 1990 elections persisted in its demand for handing over the State power to it without a State constitution, the Tatmadaw Government launched the National Convention in 1993 to draw the State Constitution.

Yet, that party's representatives, who were attending the National Convention together with the delegates representing the entire national people, walked out of the NC of their own accord. Therefore, the Tatmadaw Government had to lay down the State's seven-point Road Map in 2003 and reconvened the NC on a grander scale for ensuring harmony and unity of the entire national people in a bid to build a democratic nation. The National Convention is the first-ever meeting in the nation's history that is being attended by the delegates from all strata of life, and representatives of national races. The Tatmadaw Government is doing its utmost in accordance with the seven-point programme to put the nation on the path towards a discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the National Convention.

Overall, I would say the above-mentioned tasks are the Tatmadaw's bounden duty born of the Armed Forces Day as well as that of the 21st Century's Myanmar society.

(Translation: MS)

Rubber and pepper cultivation and scientific prawn breeding should be extended

(from page 1)

After that, the minister reported on progress made in construction of bridges on Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu Road and bridges on Kyaukphyu-Maei Road.

Afterwards, the minister reported on upgrading of Kyaukphyu-Maei section, Maei-Taungup section and An-Padekyaw-Maei section on Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road.

Next, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander

Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing reported on other salient points concerning roads and bridges already completed and those under construction in Rakhine State.

The Senior General said that as the bridge construction sites are located in the tidal areas, necessary arrangements should be made to record the highest and lowest tide marks, and construct retaining walls against high tide and rock-filled embankments against waves. Efforts should be made to link the three gateways to Rakhine State — An-Minbu, Taungup-Pyay and Gwa-Ngathaingchaung roads — and to constantly maintain and upgrade them for all-weather use. Moreover, officials should strive for completion of the bridges under construction and in project stage and for maintaining the existing ones. Development in transport sector will lead to improving the road links between Rakhine state and other regions, developing the economy and production sector of the state and raising the living standard of the people. They should give attention to paddy cultivation to improve the livelihood of the people and ensuring regional food sufficiency. Rubber and pepper cultivation and scientific prawn breeding should be extended till becoming the main economies of the state. So, the state should not rely only on one business.

Regional people will enjoy rapid development only if the region has two or three main businesses, instead of relying on only one. The Government is giving more permission and encouragement to the private sector. Energetic efforts of the private sector is required in developing the economy of the whole region. The Government has been building development infrastructures including irrigation works, roads, bridges and hydel power stations in the entire country. At present, the nation has

an adequate number of development facilities. Soon all the infrastructure development projects will be completed in accord with the aims, and the nation will be developing with greater momentum.

Thanthama Bridge Construction Project on Kyaukphyu-Maei Road is situated in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State. The reinforced-concrete bridge, the seventh of the nine on Maei-Kyaukphyu Road section, is 707 feet and three inches long and 24 feet wide and it has three feet wide walkways on each side.

Thazintanpauk Bridge Construction Project is in Yanbye Township. The bridge, the eighth one of the nine on Maei-Kyaukphyu Road section, is 592 feet and four inches long and 24 feet wide and it has three feet wide walkways on each side.

Wunphaik Bridge Construction Project is also in Yanbye Township. The bridge, the ninth one on Maei-Kyaukphyu Road section, is 707 feet and four inches long and 24 feet wide and it has three feet wide walkways on each side. The bridges can withstand 60 tons of load. Senior General Than Shwe and party, accompanied by Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, inspected private hotels along Ngapali beach in Thandway and Ngapali Beach Hotel.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of Ngapali Beach Hotel being undertaken by Htoo Trading Co Ltd. Afterwards, they went to Thandway Airport and they were seen off at the airport by Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, senior military officers, departmental officials, members of social organizations, traditional cultural troupes and local people.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived back here in the afternoon.—MNA

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Regional or national development depends on individual...

(from page 16)

They were welcomed there by Deputy Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Tin Hlaing and senior military officers, the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council and departmental officials.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected development of An.

After that, they inspected newly-built An People's Hospital and gave necessary instructions.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to An Station. At the hall of An Station, General Thura Shwe Mann and party met with officers and other ranks and their families, the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council

General Thura Shwe Mann cordially greets officers, other ranks and their families of An Station at An Yoma Hall. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects An People's Hospital (100-bed) in An Township. — MNA



and departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and others.

At the meeting, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing reported on development of An region, transport conditions, arrangements for establishment of industrial zone and farming undertakings.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on roads and bridges built in Rakhine State, construction of bridges on Maei-Kyaukphyu Road, upgrading of roads and work to be carried out.

Later, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on measures taken for development of agriculture in An Township, boosting the par acre yield of paddy and arrangements for cultivation of rubber and pepper.

(See page 9)

Regional or national development depends on individual...

(from page 8)

After that, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on arrangements made for water transport and bus lines in An region.

Next, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on fish and meat sector of Rakhine State, raising of poultry and pigs, breeding of prawn and assistance to be provided by the ministry for modern breeding.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said that they led by General Thura Shwe Mann arrived there under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his tour of Rakhine State, calling for necessary measures for development of An Township.

The government is giving priority to regional development inclusive of better transport in An Township as it lagged behind in development due largely to poor transport although it has been a strategic region according to its topographical condition.

Nowadays, unprecedented progress has been made in transport sector with the emergence of Minbu-An-Sittway road, An-Taungup-Thandwe-Gwa road and An-Kyaukphyu road. To ensure potable water supply in An region, Hinywet Chaung Dam was constructed and work is well under way for implementation of An Creek Hydel Power Project to be able to supply electricity to An Township.

Likewise, An airport with a runway of 8000 feet long

If the Tatmadawmen and the people help each other on common interest like members of a family, they will become an indivisible force harmoniously working for the progress of the nation.

is being built and a 100-bed hospital was constructed in the health sector.

Meanwhile, work is being carried out for development of Kyaukphyu. The project will contribute much to ensuring development of An which is a gateway of Kyaukphyu.

He stressed the need for local people to engage in cultivation of paddy, edible oil crops, pulses and beans as well as other items such as rubber and pepper under the arrangement of the government.

The General said that development of a region or a nation depends on the individual development of its people. Individual development will lead to the progress of the family, community, township, district, state/division and the whole nation. The Government's endeavours to build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation is in the interest of all the citizens. The Government has been inviting and encouraging the people to take part in the national development drive. State level officials have been touring Rakhine State and making arrangements for its development, especially, the transport of the state. An-Maei-Taungup road has been completed and bridges have been constructed on Yangon-An-Kyaukphyu road. In addition to helping the transport sector's advancement, the roads are also contributing to the progress of agriculture, farming, economy, and social standard of the rural areas. The Government has adopted Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy, and has been launching the national development drive in accord with the 12 objectives to serve people's interest. Thanks to the united efforts of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the nation has been witnessing peace, stability and progress. Government employees will become good service personnel only if they serve the public interest, on behalf of the Government, while considering the region they are assigned to as their native land. As the Tatmadawmen have already made a firm resolve to safeguard the public interest at the risk of their lives, they should have the deep concept that they are going to protect the people as their parents. If the Tatmadawmen and the

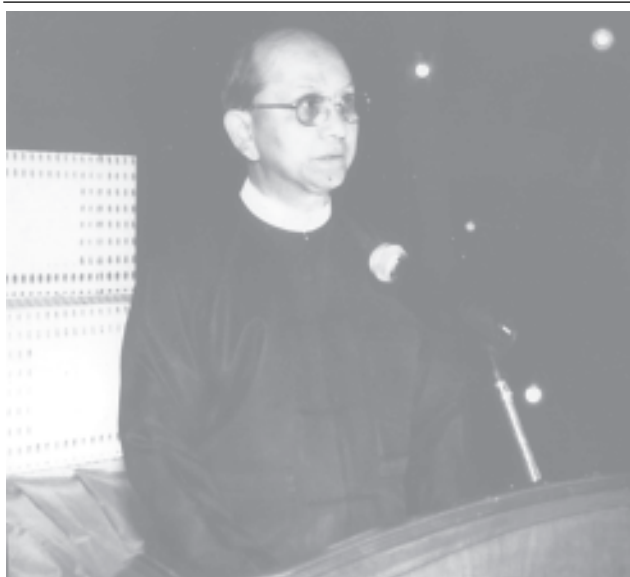
people help each other on common interest like members of a family, they will become an indivisible force harmoniously working for the progress of the nation.

During inspection of Thanthamache Bridge on Maei-Kyaukphyu section of Yangon-Kyaukphyu road in Yanbye Township, the General and party heard a report on salient points of Thanthamache and Thazinpauk bridges in Yanbye Township, and Wunphaik bridge in Kyaukphyu Township presented by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

General Thura Shwe Mann said that after studying the prospects, requirements and geographical conditions, the Government has been building large and small bridges the length and breadth of the nation in accord with the conditions. Accompanied by officials, the General observed Thanthamache, Thazinpauk and Wunphaik bridges and Maei-Kyaukphyu road. They arrived in Thandwe in the afternoon.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung visited Nyaungbinkwin oil palm plantation in Thandwe Township yesterday. The plantation is 44 acres wide and has 2,191 oil palms. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 16 April inspected Thabyugyaung fuel storage and a lubricant shop. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected a cold storage, a canning factory and farms in Thandwe Township on 16 April.

Secretariat member of USDA Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Central Executive Committee member Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe met with USDA members and townelders in Thandwe. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with personnel of Myanma Airways on 17 April and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung inspected the Government Technological College, Labour Department Office and the social welfare dispensary in Thandwe. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses national races cultural troupe members of border areas who have taken part in Thingyan Festival. — MNA

It is a national duty to safeguard perpetuation of the Union...

(from page 16)

for national races to take part in it. He said he was very pleased to see the festival, the committee makes arrangement yearly

tional races who gathered in the city and took part in Thingyan festival. They danced happily during the festival, he said.

The Union of Myanmar where national races reside, made up of 14 states and divisions, has not come into existence within a short period. All the national races have been living there in unity in the course of long history. They are to enhance the national solidarity of fine tradition. It is a national duty for them to safeguard the perpetuation of the Union as long as the world exists, he added.

The government with genuine goodwill has been making arrangements for equal development of national races.

(See page 10)



Nang Mar Mar Win of Mongyang, Shan State (East). — H



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presenting gifts to cultural troupe members of border areas. — MNA

It is a national duty to safeguard perpetuation of the Union as long as world exists

(from page 9)

As long as all the national races are united the perpetuation of the Union will last forever. With the Union spirit, the government laid emphasis on building of national reconsolidation. Therefore, there prevails peace now in border areas, he said.

With the government's systematic development projects, transport facilities, economy, education and health standards of border areas have improved and border towns have also emerged, he said.

He urged the members of cultural delegates to actively participate in regional development tasks after they had witnessed national development.

He spoke at length on implementation of the seven-point Road Map, participation in the respective roles and making en-



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo presents gifts to national races from border areas. —MNA

deavours for propagation of national solidarity and Union spirit.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented gifts to the national races from various parts of the country. Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo presented K 100,000 each for 14 cultural troupes from 14 states and divisions to

Kayin nationals from Thandaung region.

Next, on behalf of the national races, Shan national Nan Mar Mar Win of Mongyang region spoke words of thanks.

Artistes entertained the national races with Myanmar traditional dances.—MNA

MWAF President meets nationals from border regions

YANGON, 18 April — At the invitation of Chairman of the Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Daw Than Than Nwe met national girls from various border regions who participated in Yangon City Maha Thingyan Festival-2005 at the head office of the MWAF at 12.30 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, the general secretary, joint-general secretary, secretary and members, the leader of the National Races Affairs Group and members. Those national

girls from the border regions were Kachin nationals from Sadone/Kanpaikti region in Kachin State, Kayah nationals from Mese region in Kayah State, Kayin nationals from Thandaung region in Kayin State, Chin nationals from Thantalan/Lonle region in Chin State, Naga national from Leshi/Panhsat region in Sagaing Division, Mon nationals from Khawza region in Mon State, Rakhine nationals from Mannaung region in Rakhine State, nationals from Weinkaung region in Shan State (North), Palaung nationals from Manton region in Shan State (North), Shan nationals from Mongyang region in Shan State (East), nationals from Panglong region in Shan State (South), Mon

nationals from Bokpyin region in Taninthayi Division and Kachin and Naga nationals who are trainees of domestic science training schools from Putao, Dokphoneyan and Dunban regions in Kachin State and Khamdi, Leshi, Lahe and Namyon regions in Sagaing Division.

First, NRAG leader Daw Kyin Khaing presented the national girls to the MWAF President, vice-president and officials. Next, President Daw Than Than Nwe extended greetings.

MWAF Joint General Secretary Daw Khin Htar May explained facts about the MWAF and functions of the federation. Daw Kyin Khaing presented souvenirs to the national girls. Later, a national girl spoke words of gratitude.

MNA

Mandalay Mayor's Thingyan Pandal closes

YANGON 18 April— The closing ceremony of 1366 ME Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan pandal took place in conjunction with the prize-presentation at the pandal in Mandalay on 16 April evening.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, accompanied by Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and wife, staff officers of the Command and wives and departmental personnel on 16 April morning enjoyed entertainment programmes at the pandals around the moat.

The prize-distribution ceremony followed in the evening.

The commander presented the first prize for decorated float to Myanan Mandala Decorated Float representing Mandalay District, the second prize to Bagan Shwepyi Decorated Float representing NyaungU District and the third prize to Htila Myay Decorated Float representing Meiktila District.

Next, Joint-Secretary of Mandalay City Development Committee Lt-Col San Maung presented the fourth to seventh prizes to the winners. Next, the mayor presented the joint-first prize for decorated pandal to the Health Staff's Pandal and Chanaye Mandala Pandal and the third prize to Padauk Shweyi Pandal.

Next, MCDC Member-1 U Myint Thein presented the fourth to seventh prizes to the winners. After that, MCDC Member-2 Lt-Col Kyaw Win presented consolation prizes to winners.

Afterwards, the mayor presented the first prize for photo contest to Soe Paing Thu (Shwe Kyaung Gyi), the second prize to Kyaw Kyaw Win and the third prize to Myint Soe (Natmauk).

Next, the prize winners presented entertainment to the audience.

The closing ceremony took place at midnight, with a speech of the mayor and the audience were entertained with the Mann-taung-yeik-kho song by artistes, vocalists and Thingyan damsels.

MNA



MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe delivers a speech at the ceremony to meet national race damsels.— MNA



Leader Daw Kyin Khaing of National Race Affairs Working Group of MWAF presents gifts to national race damsels. — MNA

Upgrading of Yangon City gains momentum

YANGON, 18 April— Accompanied by officials, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected upgrading of Yangon city and measures being taken for smooth and secure transport undertaken by Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of Yangon City Development Committee this morning.

First, the mayor arrived at Thakayta old bridge linking Mingala Taungnyunt and Dawbon Townships crossing Ngamoe-yeik creek in Yangon East District. Officials reported to the mayor on laying of wood blocks and arrangements being made for durability of the bridge.

Renovation of the bridge started on 1 April and will be completed at the end of this month.

Next, the mayor proceeded to Dawbon Township from where tar and gravel are supplied to the construction site in the city. The mayor inspected crushing of gravel and collection of tar and raw materials. The mayor also inspected tarring of roads along Banyadala road in Tamway Township.

MNA

Equestrian tournament to be held from 30 April to 1 May

YANGON, 18 April — A meeting to conduct arrangements for the Myanmar Equestrian Federation president's trophy (open division) tournament, to re-organise President's federation and to explain the future tasks was held at the hall of MEF on Pyidaungsu Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning.

It was attended by President of MEF U Pyone Maung Maung, Vice-President-2 U Nyein Kyaw, Joint-Secretary U Than Win and journalists.

The tourney will be held at YECC Club in Dagon Myothit (North) Township from 30 April to 1 May 2005 and it will be divided into four categories in Show Jumping and

Dressage events.

Next, U Nyein Kyaw explained arrangements for the tourney in detail. The officials answered the queries raised by the journalists and brought the meeting to a close.

The equestrians who want to take part in the tourney are to contact 584962, not later than 25 April evening.—MNA

IMF warns of global risks despite prospects for growth

WASHINGTON, 18 April — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Saturday warned of risks like high oil prices, global imbalance, currency volatility and a potential spike in interest rates, despite prospects for a “robust” growth.

While “global growth will likely remain robust in 2005,” “widening imbalances across regions and the continued rise in oil prices and oil market volatility have increased risks,” the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the policy-making body of IMF, said in a communique issued after its semi-annual meeting.

Condition in the oil market will remain tight in the medium term, reflecting strong global demand, low excess capacity and supply concerns, the IMFC warned. Underscoring the importance of stability in oil markets for global prosperity, the committee called for removal of disincentives to investment in oil production and refining capacity, while urging promotion of energy sustainability and efficiency.

The communique also said that the potential for a sharper-than-expected rise in long-term interest rates and increased exchange rate volatility “calls for vigilance”. The IMFC said all countries have a shared responsibility to take advantage of the current economic condition to address key risks and vulnerabilities.

Concrete actions by all are needed to implement the agreed policy response in a timely and effective manner, said the communique. The IMFC meeting came shortly after talks held here by the Group of Seven (G-7), which also warned of the impact of high oil prices on growth.

The G-7 countries said on Saturday that the world economy is posting “solid growth” in 2005, but high oil prices and global imbalances pose a threat to the global economic growth. —MNA/Xinhua

G-7 says global economy solid but facing threat

WASHINGTON, 18 April — The Group of Seven (G-7) countries said on Saturday that the world economy is posting “solid growth” in 2005 but high oil prices and global imbalances pose a threat to the global economic growth.

“Since our meeting in February the global expansion has remained robust and the outlook continues to point to solid growth for 2005,” G-7 financial ministers said in a statement issued after their meeting.

“But challenges remain. Higher oil prices are a headwind and the expansion is less balanced

than before,” the statement said. “We welcome efforts to improve oil market data, increase medium-term energy supply and efficiency.”

The statement also said that “Vigorous action is needed to address global imbalances and foster growth: fiscal consolidation in the United States, further structural reforms in Europe, and further structural reforms including fiscal consolidation in Japan.”

On currencies, the ministers said that “exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals”.

“Excess volatility and disorderly movements

in exchange rates are undesirable for economic growth,” the statement said. “In this context, we emphasize that more flexibility is desirable for major economic areas that lack such flexibility to promote smooth and widespread adjustments in the international financial system, based on market mechanisms.”

The statement was issued after the meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from G-7 countries and G-7 consists of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

MNA/Xinhua

Talat wins presidential elections in Turkish Cyprus

NICOSIA, 18 April — Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat has won the presidential elections in the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, official results showed Sunday.

Pro-unity Talat won about 56 per cent of the vote, against 23 per cent for his nearest rival, Dervis Eroglu, who has opposed a UN plan for reunification of divided Cyprus.

Nine candidates ran in the elections, and total turnout rate was about 70 per cent.

Talat will succeed Rauf Denkash, the outgoing president who was a staunch opponent to the UN reunification plan.

Turkish Cyprus, only

recognized by Ankara, endorsed the reunification plan in a referendum in April 2004. However, the UN blueprint was rejected overwhelmingly by Greek Cyprus, which enabled the south Cyprus to enter the European Union alone while left the northern Turkey-controlled part outside.

The island was divided into the south Greek Cyprus and north Turkish Cyprus in 1974.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish security forces killed 33 PKK militants last week

ANKARA, 18 April — Turkish security forces killed 33 militants of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in operations around the southeastern city of Sirnak last week, semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported on Sunday.

According to a statement issued by Sirnak Governor’s office on Saturday, 33 terrorists had been killed and dozens of guns, explosives and tons of food were found in the operations around Cudi and Gabbar Mountains, the report said.

One young PKK militant surrendered to Turkish authorities in the town of Silopi while two others trying to infiltrate into Turkey from northern Iraq were detained, said the report.

Last week, Turkish security forces launched the biggest operation against the PKK militants

in the last six years in the southeastern border.

The PKK bent on establishing an independent Kurdish state launched an armed campaign against the Turkish Government in 1984.

Fighting has subdued significantly since PKK commander Abdullah Ocalan was captured in 1999. But the group called off a unilateral ceasefire in 2004, disrupting the fragile peace.

The Turkish Government refuses to negotiate with the PKK which it deems as a terrorists organization.

MNA/Xinhua

အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကာကွယ်ရေးနည်းဆော်ချက်

ယခုအခါတွင် နွေရာသီရောက်လာပြီဖြစ်သဖြင့် ရာသီဥတု ပူပြင်းလာပြီ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထိုအပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ချွေးထွက်လွန်ပြီး ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အတွင်းရှိ ရေနှင့်ဓာတ်ဆားများ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုများပြားပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ဆုံးရှုံးမှုကြောင့် မိတ်နှင့်ယားဖုများထွက်လာခြင်း၊ ပင်ပန်း နှမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ မူးမော်ခြင်း၊ ကြွက်တက်ခြင်း၊ ချွေးခြောက်ပြီး ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းတို့အပြင် အသက်အန္တရာယ် စိုးရိမ်ရသော အခြေအနေအထိ ဖြစ်တတ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် မလိုလားအပ်သော အကျိုးဆက်များ မဖြစ်ပေါ်စေရန်အောက်ပါ အချက်အလက်များကို လိုက်နာ ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) နံနက် (၁၀)နာရီမှ ညနေ (၅)နာရီအတွင်း လွင်တီး ခေါင်ပြင်း မြစ်ကမ်းနား၊ ရေဆိပ်စသည်တို့တွင် ရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်၍ အရိပ်ရ အေးမြသောနေရာများတွင် နေပါ။
- (၂) နေပူထဲမှပြန်လာပြီး ချက်ချင်းရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၃) နေပူထဲတွင် ပြင်းထန်သောကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုများ မပြုလုပ် သင့်ပါ။
- (၄) အရက်သောက်ခြင်းသည် အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကို ဖြစ်ပေါ် လွယ်စေခြင်းနှင့် ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြင်းထန်စွာ ခံစားရခြင်းကြောင့် ရှောင်ကြဉ်သင့်ပါသည်။
- (၅) နေ့ခင်းဘက် အပြင်ထွက်သည်အခါတိုင်း အရိပ် လုံလောက်စွာ ရရှိနိုင်သည့် ထီး၊ ဦးထုပ်များ ဆောင်းပါ။
- (၆) အလင်းရောင်ပြန်သော အဖြူရောင် သို့မဟုတ် အရောင်ဖျော့ဖျော့ အဝတ်အထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၇) ပွပူချောင်ချောင် ချည်ထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၈) ချွေးထွက်လွန်ပါက ကိုယ်တွင်းရှိရေနှင့်ဓာတ်ဆားဆုံးရှုံးမှုကို ပြန်လည်ဖြည့်တင်းနိုင်ရန် ဓာတ်ဆားရည် သောက်ပါ။
- (၉) ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ပါက ရေအေးဖတ် နိုင်နိုင်တိုက်ပါ။
- (၁၀) ဆီးချိုရောဂါ၊ နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ သွေးတိုးရောဂါ အခံရိုသူများ၊ ကလေးသူငယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများအနေဖြင့် နေ့လည်နေ့ခင်းတွင် အရိပ်ရ၍ လေဝင်လေထွက်ကောင်းသော နေရာမျိုး၌ နားနေပါ။
- (၁၁) မိတ်ဖုယားနားများထွက်ပါက ရေအေးဝတ်ကပ်ခြင်း၊ သနပ်ခါး လိမ်းခြင်းတို့ကို ပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနှမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းနှင့် အတက်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပါက နီးစပ်ရာ ကျန်းမာရေးဌာန တွင် ပြသပါ။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Turkey to host NATO Tiger Meet 2005 exercise

ANKARA, 18 April — Turkey will host the NATO Tiger Meet 2005 (NTM 05) military exercise in the northwestern city of Balikesir between 29 April and 9 May, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday.

Turkish Air Forces Command said that the exercise is hosted by a member of NATO Tiger Association (NTA) each year.

This year’s exercise will be hosted by the 192 Fleet of the Turkish Air Forces in Balikesir which has been member of NTA since 1980.

NATO members Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Britain, Poland (observer), Slovakia and Turkey will participate in the exercise. Partnership for Peace (PFP) members Austria and Switzerland will take part in the exercise as observers.

MNA/Xinhua



Shop keepers place mannequins in front of a shop in downtown Ho Chi Minh City on 16 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Nazi camp survivors mark liberation anniversary in Berlin

BERLIN, 18 April — Hundreds of Nazi concentration camp survivors gathered in Berlin on Sunday, marking the 60th anniversary of their liberation.

In Sachsenhausen camps north of Berlin, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer reiterated the obligation of Germans to remember the Nazi crimes. Germans “can never and will never” escape the responsibility, said Fischer, adding that the memory of those crimes must be kept alive for Germany’s future generations. Some 200,000 prisoners were held here between 1936 and 1945 until the Soviet Red Army liberated them on 22 April, 1945. — MNA/Xinhua

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 19 April, 2005

Castro urges US to deny asylum to Cuban militant

HAVANA, 17 April — Cuban leader Fidel Castro urged on Thursday the US Government not to give asylum to a Cuban militant involved in a Cuban plane bombing that killed 73 people in 1976, local reports said on Friday.

For the second time within a week, Castro said Thursday that it would be improper for the United States to give asylum to Luis Posada Carriles, one of the four people suspected of exploding a Cuban passenger plane near Barbados' coast.

The Cuban leader said his country only wants justice, and the militant should be judged in Venezuela, where he is wanted for escaping from a prison in 1985 while awaiting a prosecutor's appeal in that case, or at an International Court.

Posada and three associates were imprisoned in Panama in November 2000 for their roles in an alleged plot to kill Castro at a conference in Panama. However, they were pardoned last year.

Posada, who entered the United States illegally through Mexico about a month ago, fears that he would be persecuted and probably killed if deported to another country, according to his attorney.

Cuba and Venezuela have said granting asylum to Posada, 77, in the United States would be akin to harbouring a terrorist. —MNA/Xinhua

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Reg : No.4/2844/2004

Dietetic foods adapted for medical use; health care products; health supplements; health drinks; colostrum; pharmaceutical and medical preparations; vitamins and minerals supplements; herb for medicinal purposes; hygienic preparation for personal use; medicated preparations and substances for skin care; infants' and invalids' food; oils and lotions for therapeutic treatment; herbal teas; all included in Class 5.

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ventilation installations and apparatus and parts and fittings thereof; all included in Class 11.

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Reg : No.4/2845/2004

brochures; catalogues; leaflets; magazines; packaging and wrapping materials made of cardboard, paper and plastics; pamphlets; periodicals; printed matters; paper articles; printed materials for advertising and promotional purposes; photographs and films; printed publications; signs for advertising and display purpose; stationary and forms; instructional and teaching materials; artists' materials; printers' type and printing block.

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U Myint Lwin,
Advocate, L.L.B., DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
Email:MYINT.Advocate@
mptmail.net.mm
Ph:371990 19.April.2005

Irish airline to open flight from Belgium to Spain

BRUSSELS, 17 April — Irish low-cost airline Ryanair is to start a link from Belgium to Girona in the northeast of Spain, the Flemish daily newspaper *Het Nieuwsblad* reported Friday.

A daily flight carrying 180 people could start in October to Catalonia from the small airport Ostende-Bruges in western Belgium, the report said.

An initial deal had been struck and it was described as good news for Ostende, which saw its passenger numbers fall by 26 per cent in 2004, though 2003 was a record year when some 150,529 passengers were recorded at the airport.

The boards of directors of Ryanair and the airport still have to approve the outline agreement, which they probably will not do before May. —MNA/Xinhua

One illegal migrant killed in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 17 April — One illegal immigrant was killed and three others injured in eastern Turkey on Friday when Turkish security forces opened fire on a minibus carrying 36 Afghans, semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The report said the security forces opened gunfire as the minibus did not abide by their call to stop on the border linking neighbouring Iran. Turkey has been increasingly used by illegal immigrants as a springboard to Europe for its geographic location. —MNA/Xinhua

ကော်စေအယ်တင်ဒါ
ဝယ်ယူမှုပစ္စည်းများ: ရေသန့်, ဘူးထုတ်လုပ်မှုအတွက်ကော်စေများ
တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်: ၂၅-၄-၂၀၀၅
အချိန်: ၁၄:၀၀ နာရီ
တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းအသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဌာနများတွင် စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
မြန်မာ့စားသောက်ကုန်လုပ်ငန်း: တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၅၆၀၀၄
အမှတ်-၁၉၂၊ ကမ္ဘာအေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန် ၅၆၀၀၄

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (005)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.4.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M V SRI MONG KOL VOY NO (YSK) 341
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SRI MONG KOL VOY NO (YSK) 341 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.4.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No 256908/378316/376797

Zimbabwean President names Cabinet

HARARE, 18 April — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe Friday night appointed a new-look Cabinet with five newcomers, two Former Ministers bouncing back, and incumbents.

Among the newly appointed, Zimbabwe's former ambassador to Britain Simbarashe Mumbengegwi took over from Stan Mudenge as Foreign Affairs Minister.

Mumbengegwi is one of the 12 non-constituency members of Parliament appointed by Mugabe on Monday.

Another former diplomat, Tichaona Jokonya, who was Zimbabwe's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, took over the ministry of information and publicity.

Two former Cabinet ministers who bounced back are Emmerson Mnangagwa and Oppah Muchinguri.

Mnangagwa, who is a former minister of justice, will head the newly-created Ministry of Ru-

ral Housing and Social Amenities.

Another former Cabinet minister Muchinguri was appointed Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development.

Mugabe on Friday night described the Cabinet as a "development Cabinet" to give impetus to the lackluster economy.

MNA/Xinhua

Ivory Coast warring sides agree on disarmament

ABIDJAN, 18 April — The warring sides of Ivory Coast agreed on disarmament Saturday, with the West African nation's Army and rebel chiefs vowing to withdraw heavy weapons from front lines beginning on 21 April.

The "withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line" marks the first step for a disarmament campaign to be launched from May 14 to July 31, according to a joint statement issued after talks in the rebel's stronghold of Bouake.

"The war is over," declared Philippe Mangou, chief of the government forces, at the end of Saturday's meeting with rebel commanders.

The long-awaited disarmament was announced after two repre-

Lebanon's new PM vows to maintain national unity

BEIRUT, 17 April — Lebanon's newly-appointed Prime Minister Najib Mikati vowed on Wednesday to maintain national unity, saying "I hope I can embody national unity".

Mikati made the pledge to reporters after President Emile Lahoud picked him as the Premier after his consultations with members of Parliament.

Mikati, 49, told reporters that he would start immediate talks to form a Cabinet to oversee parliamentary elections in May and pull the country out of a deep political crisis.

"I come with an open hand and an open heart so that we can all cooperate in the interests of Lebanon," he said, adding "we are facing a new period... a return to democracy in the Lebanese regime".

Mikati, a wealthy businessman and a Sunni Muslim MP, was former public works minister with close ties to Syria, MNA/Xinhua

sentatives of the rebel forces attended a Cabinet meeting hosted by President Laurent Gbagbo on Friday.

Rebel leader Guillaume Soro and six other representatives, however, did not return.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြားတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Greek, Chinese legislators vow to strengthen cooperation

ATHENS, 18 April — Greek and Chinese legislators have pledged efforts to promote exchanges between their parliaments and boost cooperation between the two countries.

At a meeting on Friday with First Deputy President of the Greek Parliament Sotirios Chatzigakis, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China He Luli said the relations between the two countries have developed smoothly since the establishment of diplomatic ties, and the recent years have witnessed a constant progress of their cooperation in the fields of politics, trade and

cultural exchanges. The next Olympic Games to be held in Beijing in 2008 and the Shanghai International Expo in 2010 offer new opportunities for cooperation between the two countries and the prospects for their friendly cooperative relations are very promising, the Chinese legislator added. Sotirios Chatzigakis, for his part, noted that Greece has paid a lot of attention to China's economic and social devel-

opment, speaking highly of China's great economic achievement and the important role it has been playing in the international arena. The two sides expressed their belief that exchanges between the two parliaments have an irreplaceable significance in pushing forward the bilateral ties. The Chinese National People's Congress and the Greek Parliament would continue to boost their friendly ex-

changes, promote mutual understanding and work together for a closer cooperation in various fields between the two countries, they said. The delegation from China's National People's Congress, which arrived here Tuesday for an official visit at the invitation of the Greek Parliament, has also met with Greek Parliament President Anna Psarouda-Benaki.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian spaceship docks with ISS

Moscow, 18 April — A Russian spaceship docked with the International Space Station (ISS) at 0619 Moscow Time (0219GMT) Sunday, sending in new Russian-US crew and an Italian astronaut.

The Soyuz spaceship blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Friday. Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev and American John Phillips are expected to spend six months on the station. Italian Roberto Vittori, from the European Space Agency, was set to return to Earth in 10 days with Russian Salizhan Sharipov and American Leroy Chiao,

who have been aboard the ISS since October. The new crew's major task will be welcoming the US space shuttle Discovery to the station. A key task for Krikalev and Phillips will be to observe the condition of the insulating tiles as the Discovery approaches the ISS, conducting a photo survey of the exterior of the shuttle while it is manoeuvring prior to docking.

MNA/Xinhua

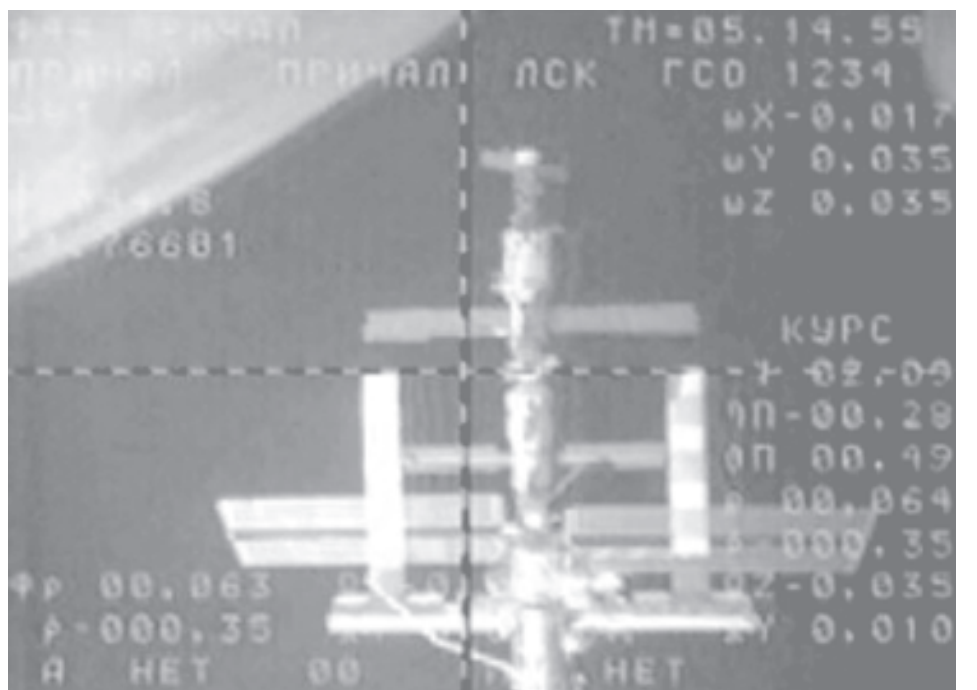
CIS, European lawmakers praise Soviet role in defeat of fascism

Moscow, 18 April — Parliamentarians from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other European nations on Saturday highlighted the important role the people of the Soviet Union played in the World War II.

In a declaration issued by the conference of legislators from the CIS, a body grouping 12 of the 15 former Soviet nations, and other European nations held in St. Petersburg, the participants confirmed "the decisive role and the invaluable contribution that the peoples of the Soviet Union made to the victory over fascism," the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The declaration called for "the consolidation of the efforts of parliaments and governments of all countries in the world to suppress the attempts to revive the ideas of fascism, the racial ideology, the propaganda of Nazi symbols, and the activities of neo-Nazi parties that have lately emerged in a number of countries." It emphasized that the rehabilitation of fascism at a government level

is "unacceptable". The declaration was passed unanimously by the leaders of national parliaments of the CIS countries, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the Nordic Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and parliamentary delegations from France, the Czech Republic, Poland, Israel, and Serbia and Montenegro.— MNA/Xinhua



The International Space Station is visible from a black and white television camera on the Soyuz as the two crafts prepare to dock on 16 April, 2005.— INTERNET

Two arrested in Cyprus on suspicion of al-Qaeda links

NICOSIA, 18 April — Cyprus police and officers of the Cyprus Immigration Department (CID) have arrested two Asian men on suspicion of being part of a terrorist organization, local Press reported Saturday. The two men, whose names have not been identified, were believed to be from Pakistan and affiliated to a terrorist organization with link to Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda network. Police officers and CID members made the joint arrest after receiving an anonymous tip-off, which took place in the early hours of Wednesday morning. The two men, who were neither working nor studying in the island country, were being questioned at the main police headquarters in Nicosia, and their apartment was being searched. Almost a year ago, Cyprus police made a similar arrest in Larnaca taking into custody a group of Asian men also suspected of being linked to terrorist organizations. — MNA/Xinhua

Visegrad Group to improve cooperation in regional policies

WARSAW, 18 April — Member states of the Visegrad Group signed here recently a declaration aiming to strengthen coordination in drafting regional policies in the fields such as city development, environment, and transport arteries. Ministers of Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic in charge

of regional economic policies signed the declaration. Irena Herbst, undersecretary of state of the Polish Economy Ministry, said after signing the document that the drafting of regional policies might not be a big problem for old European Union (EU) members, but is a serious one for new members.—MNA/Xinhua

France's Lamy emerges top candidate for WTO chief

GENEVA, 18 April — France's Pascal Lamy emerged the top candidate to head the World Trade Organization (WTO) after the first round of consultations among members recently. Lamy, the former European Union trade chief, was followed by the foreign minister of Mauritius, Jayen Krishna Cuttaree, and Uruguay's former ambassador to the WTO Carlos Perez del Castillo, said Amina Mohamed, Kenya's ambassador to the WTO and head of the election process. The Brazilian candidate, Luiz Felipe de Seixas Correa, stands last of the four hopefuls, she said.

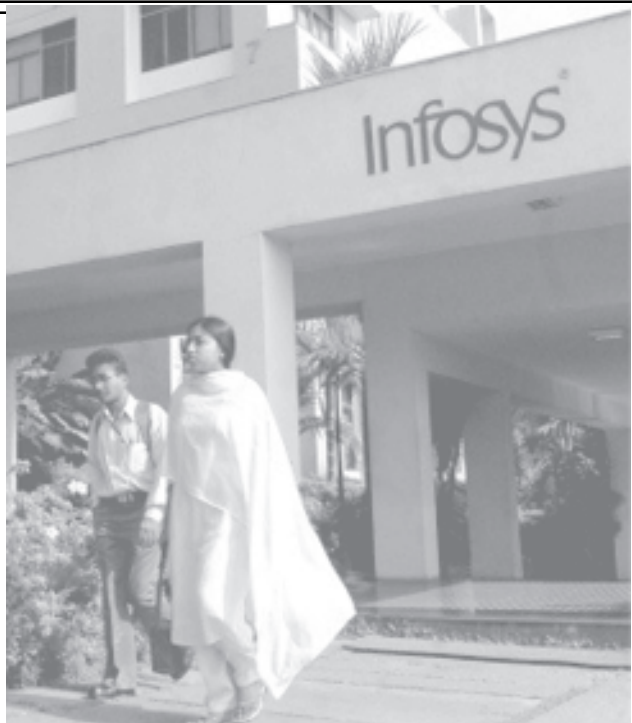
MNA/Xinhua

Strong quake jolts Sumatra

HONG KONG, 18 April — A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale rocked Sumatra, Indonesia, at 00:44 am (1644 GMT Saturday) on Sunday, according to the Hong Kong Observatory. The epicentre was initially determined to be over the seas near Sumatra, Indonesia (1.9 North Latitude, 97.6 East Longitude), about 220 kilometres south-southwest of Medan. — MNA/Xinhua

Employees of Infosys Technologies leave a building at the company's compound in Bangalore on 18 April, 2005

INTERNET



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S**Olympic champion Luo sweeps 100m breaststroke title**

HARBIN, 17 April— Athens Olympic champion Luo Xuejuan took an easy victory in the women's 100-metre breaststroke at the Chinese Spring Swimming Championships here on Saturday. Luo blitzed the rest of the field and clocked in one minute 07.88 seconds. Her Zhejiang teammate Chen Huijia came to seconds in 1:10.08.

Luo, 21, who almost fainted after her competition in Athens due to lack of trace element, said: "Physically, I am a stronger person than before. I did not try my best today but I am happy with the result."

Luo's results could be ranked fifth in the world this year behind Australian world record holder Leisle Jones and American sprinter Tara Kirk. "I believe I can get better results at the world championships to be held in Montreal, Canada in July," said Luo, who claimed three titles at 2003 worlds and two golds in 2001.

In women's 200m butterfly, Cui Li from Chinese Army Guangzhou won her seventh consecutive national title in 2:11.11. in front of Li Jie and Huang Xiaotong in 2:11.31 and 2:11.51, respectively.—MNA/Xinhua

Federer upset by Gasquet, Nadal marches on

PARIS, 17 April— French qualifier Richard Gasquet staged the biggest upset of the season so far as he put an end to world number one Roger Federer's 25-match winning streak at the Monte Carlo Masters on Friday in Monaco.

18-year-old Gasquet, ranked 101 in the world, sent the top seed packing with an 6-7, 6-2 and 7-6 quarterfinal win after two hours 18 minutes of action.

Gasquet ripped a backhand down the line to clinch a tension-filled tiebreak 10-8 on his third match point, taking the important match in his first major tour event.

Gasquet will face 18-year-old Rafael Nadal for a place in the final after the Spaniard took out French Open champion Gaston Gaudio 6-3, 6-0.

Nadal, the best player on claycourts this year with two titles already, has dropped only 13 games to reach the last four and is favourite to win his first Masters Series title. He allowed Gaudio only seven points in a second set that lasted just 22 minutes.

Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero, winner in 2002 and 2003, maintained his quest for a third Monte Carlo title, beating Italian Filippo Volandri 6-2, 6-3 to set up a semifinal against Guillermo Coria.

The wildcard player dumped second seed Marat Safin out of the tournament on Thursday.

Champion Coria, who like Ferrero is coming back from injury problems last year, stuttered against Spain's David Ferrer, before winning 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

MNA/Xinhua



Swiss's Roger Federer reacts after losing against his French opponent Richard Gasquet in the Monte Carlo Masters series quarter-finals in Monaco. Gasquet won 6-7 (1/7), 6-2, 7-6 (10/80).—INTERNET

Cars demolished, fans detained in incidents in Albania soccer match

TIRANA, 17 April— Some cars were demolished and about 20 people were detained by police Saturday in Elbasan, central Albania, in fan riots after the match between teams Elbasani and Dinamo, the local medias reported.

A penalty alleged unjust in favour of Dinamo provoked numerous fans of Elbasani, who gathered in front of the local stadium "Ruzhdi Bizhuta" and demanded cancelation of the score.

According to the report from "News 24" television station, the fans threw stones to some cars there and the police intervened soon, detaining about 20 of them.

"The irritation caused by heads of Dinamo club, who have accused Elbasani team for doping, was added by the dubious penalty," the President of Elbasani Soccer Club Arben Laze was quoted by the local news agency ATA as saying.

The police service has been reinforced in all the main roads of the town, the ATA said.—MNA/Xinhua

Inter Milan given six-match European ban, fine

GENEVA, 17 April— Inter Milan were given a six-match stadium ban on Friday by soccer's European governing body UEFA in Nyon, Switzerland Friday after Inter fans' riot in the Champions League quarterfinal between Inter and AC Milan.

Inter will play their next four matches in continental competition behind-closed-doors with an additional two-match ban activated should a further offence be committed in the next three years, UEFA said in a statement.

Inter were also handed a fine of 300,000 Swiss francs (250,000 US dollars). They have three days to lodge an appeal.

Six-times champions AC Milan were leading 1-0 and 3-0 on aggregate when Tuesday's Champions League match was called off with 17 minutes left.

AC Milan's Brazilian keeper Dida was burned on the shoulder when a flare hit him and, as more flares rained down on to the San Siro pitch, German referee Markus Merk, ordered both teams into the changing rooms and eventually abandoned the game.—MNA/Xinhua

Henin-Hardenne, Dementieva enter to Family Circle Cup finals

WASHINGTON, 17 April— Former world number one Justine Henin-Hardenne reached the final of the Family Circle Cup after beating Tatiana Golovin of France 7-6 (7-4), 7-5 Saturday in Charleston, South Carolina.



Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium

The Belgian won a high-quality encounter to set up a showdown with second-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva, who beat Swiss Patty Schnyder 3-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Henin-Hardenne, who spent most of last year ranked No 1 and is playing in just her second tournament since last year's US Open because of viral illness and then a knee injury, is ranked No 43 by the WTA Tour and was unseeded going into the Family Circle.

The 17-year-old Golovin, ranked No 25 and seeded No 13, had upset defending tournament champion Venus Williams. Henin-Hardenne reached the semifinals when top-seeded and top-ranked Lindsay Davenport retired with a muscle pull in their quarterfinal match on Friday. Henin-Hardenne was up a game in the third set when Davenport retired.—MNA/Xinhua

FIFA president ends up African visit

KIGALI, 17 April— FIFA president Sepp Blatter ended here Friday his one-week long visit to Africa where he pledged more support for the continental football.

Blatter who was honoured by a football match between the two main teams in the country said that Rwandan football is promising.

"Rwandan football is in no doubt that it will be among the best in Africa. We shall keep all our support to Rwanda and the continent in whole," Blatter told reporters before wrapping up visit.

He called on Rwandan football associations to be more organized and work

in harmony.

Blatter also officiated the opening ceremony of a new constructed football academy that was sponsored by FIFA. Rwanda is among several other nations that voted for Blatter in 2002.

The best opportunity to promote African football worldwide is expected in the 2010 World Cup to be hosted by South Africa, he said adding that this is a continental achievement.—MNA/Xinhua

Sevilla defeated by Osasuna to remain in third

MADRID, 18 April— Third-placed Sevilla suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat at home to struggling Osasuna in a Spanish First Division league match on Saturday.

Striker Richard Morales grabbed the winner midway through the first half and allowed the Navarrans to ease their relegation worries with their second win of the year.

Atletico Madrid were held to a 0-0 draw by Espanyol but the game was marred by another incident of racist behaviour by the home side's radical fans who threw a banana at Espanyol keeper Carlos Kameni.

The Cameroon international blocked a Fernando Torres penalty just after the hour and then producing a marvellous reflex stop to deny the striker in the closing minutes. Deportivo Coruna lost

1-0 at mid-table Real Sociedad in the late match, midfielder Gari Uranga scoring the winner for the home side with a spectacular diving header in the first half.

Defeat left the Galicians, who have not finished outside the top three in the last five seasons, marooned in ninth place, four points adrift of Betis.

Sevilla, despite their defeat, remain third in the table but the Andalucians are only one point ahead of Villarreal who have two games in hand. Espanyol move up to fifth on 50 points, level with Real Betis who travel to Villarreal on Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua



Sevilla's Congolese Makukula (C) vies with Osasuna's Elia (L) and Josetxo (R) during the Spanish League football match in Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium in Sevilla. Osasuna won the match 1-0.—INTERNET

IMF, WB call for accelerating efforts in realizing MDGs

WASHINGTON, 18 April— The Joint Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday that The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations five year ago will not be realized without tangible action to accelerate efforts.

A communique issued by the Development Committee after its semi-annual meeting said that overall progress has been uneven and slower than envisaged although actions by both developing and developed countries have contributed to the strongest global economic growth in over three decades.

The committee said that at stake are prospects not only for hundreds of millions of people to escape poverty, diseases, illiteracy and gender inequality but also for long-term global security and peace, which are intimately linked to development.

It called on the World Bank to undertake further analytical and institutional work, together with partners, to develop an ambitious action plan for African countries and said that developed nations must meet their commitments to help accelerate progress in the developing countries.

“We underlined the vital importance of an ambitious outcome for the Doha Development Agenda and the successful completion of the negotiations in 2006,” the communique said. “Improving trade opportunities and market access for agriculture, industrial products and services will be critical.”

The committee also stressed the need of “aid for trade” and called on the World Bank and the IMF to work with others to develop proposals to help developing countries adjust to and take advantage of the Doha Round trade negotiation. The 2005 spring meeting of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank ended on Sunday with world financial leaders calling for vigilance in the face of various risks to the global economic growth including the high oil prices and imbalance of world economic growth. *MNA/Xinhua*

World Bank calls for reducing agricultural protection

WASHINGTON, 18 April — The World Bank said on Sunday that reducing agricultural subsidies is a key factor to help reduce poverty in the poor countries and called the developed countries to cut agricultural protection.

According to the latest World Development Indicators (WDI) 2005 released by the bank, trade in the developing countries grew by 11.3 per cent in 2003, almost double the 6.3 per cent growth in global trade which is measured as the sum of imports plus exports.

The WDI said that China’s continuing expansion into the global marketplace drove trade in East Asia and the Pacific from 45 per cent of GDP in 1990 and to 77 per cent in 2003. China alone made up 5 per cent of world trade and 20 per cent of developing country trade in 2003.

The World Bank also noted that, with about 70 per cent of developing world’s poor living in rural areas, reducing agricultural protection in the rich countries would help reduce poverty by enabling farmers in developing countries to make income gains from trade. — *MNA/Xinhua*

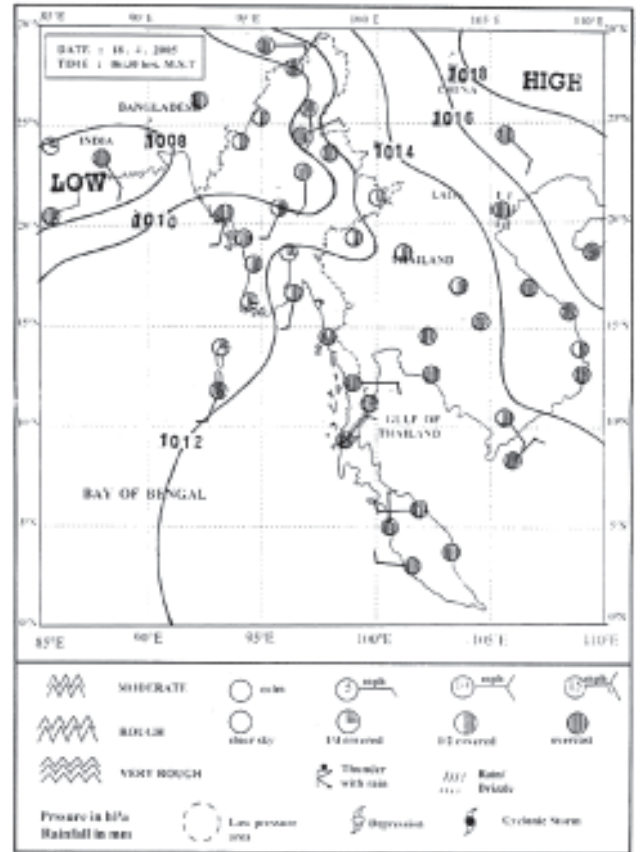
China calls for more support to developing countries

WASHINGTON, 18 April — Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Li Yong on Sunday called for more support to developing countries in their developing strategies.

In a statement to the 71st meeting of Joint Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Li Yong said that while developing countries are formulating their own development strategies and pressing ahead with reforms in key economic development areas, it is important to have the consen-

sus and support from the international community, especially, in term of official development assistance (ODA) flow and real openness in trade. *MNA/Xinhua*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 18 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Dawei (0.08) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Kayin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Chin, Shan States, Mandalay, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant day temperature was in Myingyan (44°C).

Maximum temperature on 17-4-2005 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 18-4-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-4-2005 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 17-4-2005 was (10.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 18-4-2005 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 (8) mph from Northwest at (15:40) hours MST on 17-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-4-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin, northern Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State, Mandalay, Bago, and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်ဆက် မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။



Tuesday, 19 April
View on today:

- 7:00 am
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာသကအဖွဲ့အကုံးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတီက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မတာဏှာဂါရီက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet songs
- 8:05 am
- 5. အကဖြင့်ပွဲ

- 8:20 am
- 6. Song of yesteryears
- 8:30 am
- 7. International news
- 8:45 am
- 8. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
- 5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ညွှာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ အထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Dance of national races
- 5:30 pm
- 7. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်

- 5:45 pm
- 8. ဆိုကြမယ်၊ ပျော်ကြမယ်
- 6:15 pm
- 9. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဈေးကမ်းဝင်ရန်” (အပိုင်း-၈၆)
- 6:30 pm
- 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
- 11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
- 12. Musical programme
- 7:20 pm
- 13. သားငါးစုံဖြိုးပြည့်အကျိုး
- 7:35 pm
- 14. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဟောမာန်ဆောင်း၏ ရုပ်သံစဉ်” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 19. The next day’s programme



Tuesday, 19 April
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Left and right
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Sweet dreams
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Together forever
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music -Misty blue
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Written on my heart -Together on my heart -Tell me -I really miss you -What forever for
- 9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level-II Unit (25)
- 9:15 pm Article/music
- 9:25 pm Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm Music for your listening pleasure -Nothing’s gonna change my love for you -Woman in love -Reality
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Regional or national development depends on individual development

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects development of An



General Thura Shwe Mann delivers a speech in meeting with officers, other ranks and their families of An Station and departmental officials at An Yoma Hall of An Station. — MNA

YANGON, 18 April—Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, who accompanied Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than

Shwe on his tour of Rakhine State, together with members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander

of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, the ministers and heads of department left Thandwe yesterday morning by helicopter and arrived at An at 8.25 am.

(See page 8)

It is a national duty to safeguard perpetuation of the Union as long as world exists

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosts dinner in honour of national races

YANGON, 18 April — 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 hosted dinner in honour of Kachin nationals from Sadone Kanpaikti region, Kachin State, Kayah nationals from Maise region, Kayin nationals from Thandaung region, Chin nationals from Thantlang Lonele region, Chin State, Naga nationals from Lashe Pansat region, Sagaing, Mon nationals from Khawza region, Rakhine nationals from Manaung region, nationals from Wanekaung region, Shan State (North), Palaung nationals from Mantong region, Shan nationals from Mongyang region, Shan State (East), nationals from Panglong region, Shan State (South), Mon nationals from Bokpyin region, Taninthayi Division and trainees from domestic science training schools in Putao, Dotphoneyang, Donsan, Lashe, Lahe and Nangyun regions, who participated in Thingyan Festival in

Yangon at the invitation of the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel this evening. Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the chairman of Yangon

City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon, the deputy the ministers, members of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, social organizations, delegates from national races organi-

zations, members of cultural troupes of border areas and guests. The Secretary-1 arrived at the hotel at 7 pm and cordially greeted members of cultural troupes from border areas. In his address, the Secretary-1 said the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races made ar-

rangements for national races from various parts of the country to participate in the Thingyan festival in Yangon for the 13th time. Thingyan being a traditional cultural

(See page 9)

INSIDE

The Tatmadaw Government is doing its utmost in accordance with the seven-point programme to put the nation on the path towards a discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the National Convention.

(Page 7)

AUNG MOE SAN



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets national cultural troupe members from various border areas, who participated in Yangon City Maha Thingyan Festival-2005. — MNA