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Sunday, 24 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

Adequate fertilizers needed to beef up per acre yield of crops

Prime Minister visits factories, construction projects in Aunglan



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Duyingabo river water pumping project site in Aunglan Township.— MNA

YANGON, 23 April— Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win made an inspection tour of Aunglan Township in Magway Division for supervising regional development undertakings today.

Together with Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung

Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, officials of the State Peace and De-

velopment Council Office, and departmental heads, the Prime Minister arrived at No 3 Fertilizer (Kyawswa) of the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise under the Min-

istry of Energy near Kyawswa village in Aunglan Township. They were welcomed there by local authorities and departmental officials.

On the occasion, Min-

ister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on the background history of the facility, and annual production capacity of Sale and Kyungyaung fertilizer plants; and officials, on

production process and steps taken for the plants to be operated at full capacity.

In response, the Prime Minister said that the (See page 8)



No 3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyawswa) of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise near Kyawswa Village in Aunglan Township.— MNA

INSIDE

Local farmers were worried about inundation in the paddy fields. But thanks to the drainage the Government has built the fields are safe.

MYINT SOE (NA-TA-LA)

(Page 7)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 April, 2005

Strive together with the government to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

It is known to all that the government declared unlawful association the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and other related groups whose aims and acts endanger the State and the entire people.

The group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa, son of the late Nyaungshwe Sawbwa Sao Shwe Thaike, from a foreign nation on 17 April announced the formation of the so-called Shan State provisional government and independence of Shan State. The announcement poses a grave danger to stability of the State and national solidarity and it could lead to disintegration of the Union.

With regard to it, the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a press conference on 22 April.

In his clarification, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the announcement has been an attempt of the descendants of some Shan Sawbwas to secede from the Union in accord with the wishes of colonialists and their lackeys designed to cause disintegration of the Union, which has been in existence in unity since time immemorial. The attempt may be seen as part of machinations perpetrated constantly following the dictates from outside the country and relying on the external elements, he added.

The acts and declaration of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa can also be found as part of the conspiracies of SURA, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council to form a nominal Union and later secede from the Union and it could lead to disintegration of the Union.

Hence, social organizations, political parties and national race armed groups, which had returned to the legal fold, made their declarations, unanimously opposing and objecting the aims and acts of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa.

Altogether 33 national races residing in 56 townships of Shan State did not recognize and support the so-called Shan State provisional government and denounced it in the strongest terms. The response highlights the genuine nationalistic spirit based on non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity.

However, broadcasting stations of the West bloc such as BBC and VOA are broadcasting the formation of the so-called Shan State provisional government and abetting it.

This being so, the entire national people are to oppose and condemn any acts detrimental to stability of the State, prevalence of law and order and community peace and tranquillity and safeguard Our Three Main National Causes under the leadership of the government.

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

Htidaw hoisted atop Kyaukhmawwun Yaile Pagoda

YANGON, 23 April — A ceremony to hoist the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw atop Kyaukhmawwun Yaile Pagoda in Kyauktan, was held in the precinct of the pagoda this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Kyauktan Minkyauung Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Commodore Maung Oo Lwin of Thanlyin Station, Commander of No 2 Military Region Col Tun Kyi, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and departmental officials, Chairman of

Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyi and officials, the chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and members, well-wishers, religious associations and social organizations.

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tassa three times by members of the Sangha and lay persons.

Next, State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Kyauktan Minkyauung Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara invested the congregation with the Nine Precepts and members of the Sangha recited parittas. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw to be hoisted atop the pagoda, to the Sayadaw.

Next, the commander, the deputy minister and officials presented offertories to members of the Sangha.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe hoists Seinbudaw atop Kyaukhmawwun Yaile Pagoda in Kyauktan.

YANGON COMMAND

Later, Kyauktan Minkyauung Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merit gained. After that, the commander, the deputy minister and officials flanked by regal processions conveyed tiers of the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and

Shwehtidaw round the pagoda clock-wise. Next, the commander and the deputy minister hoisted tiers and the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw of Htidaw atop the pagoda, and sprinkled them with scented water.

The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu.—MNA

Work coord meeting for Vannamei prawn breeding held

YANGON, 23 April — The Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association, under Myanmar Fisheries Federation, held the second

work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries yesterday afternoon, with an address by Minister for Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Deputy Director of the Fisheries Department U Min Thein clarified progress of the Vannamei prawn being bred in other countries and requirements for breeding in Myanmar.

Afterwards, Chairman of Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association

U Hla Maung Shwe, President of Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Htay Myint and Deputy Director-General U Hla Win made the discussions on rules to breed Vannamei prawn, the profits for the entrepreneurs and seeking the markets. After hearing the reports, the minister gave the concluding remarks.

MNA

Cricket promotion

YANGON 23 April — A ceremony to honour those who lend themselves to the tasks for progress of Myanmar Cricket Federation promotion of cricket was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal on Alanpya Pagoda Road here at 6 pm yesterday attended by officials from the Ministry of Sports, President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win and executives, well-wishers and invited guests.

First, U Nyunt Win extended greetings. Next, U Nyunt Win and Vice-President U Kyaw Naing presented certificates of honour to 30 well-wishers, and a dinner was hosted to those present. Well-wishers including the Pakistani Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry donated K 6,650,000 to the federation, it is learnt. — NLM



President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win presents a certificate of honour to K 200,000 donor Pakistani Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry.— NLM

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လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည်ကိုစွဲရပ်မှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။

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Chinese President meets Algerian Head of State

JAKARTA, 23 April — Chinese President Hu Jintao met with Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika here on Friday and held friendly talks with him on China-Algeria relations and South-South cooperation.

Both Hu and Bouteflika were here attending the Asian-African Summit, which began here Friday morning with an aim to promote strategic cooperation between the two continents.

China and Algeria enjoy profound traditional friendship and have trusted each other and treated each other with sincerity, regardless of the changes in international and domestic situation, Hu said.

Since China and Algeria established strategic cooperative relations last year, they have witnessed huge progress in the cooperation in political, economic, trade areas as well as in energy development and

infrastructure construction, Hu noted.

On the international arena, China and Algeria have had good coordination and cooperation in safeguarding the legitimate interests of the developing nations, said the Chinese President.

“The Chinese Government attaches great importance to its strategic cooperative relations with Algeria, and will explore new ways and means to expand economic cooperation and trade with Algeria,” Hu Jintao said.

For his part, President Bouteflika reiterated his support on China’s stance concerning the issue of Taiwan and an earlier reunification of China.

The Algerian President praised Chinese

firms in his country as “having good credibility”, and said Algeria welcomes more Chinese firms to invest there.

On China’s cooperation with Africa and the Arab League, of which Algeria now holds the rotating presidency, Hu said China will work with Algeria and contribute to the South-South cooperation.

“China will always be a member of the developing countries, and has set the cooperation with developing countries as a cornerstone of its foreign policy,” Hu said. “We are ready to work with Algeria and revive the spirit of Bandung for the South-South cooperation.”

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi crude oil production reaches 9.5 million bpd

PARIS, 22 April — Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest crude oil producer and exporter, produces currently 9.5 million barrels per day and is ready to use its excess capacity to meet market needs, Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Nuaimi said here on Thursday.

“The kingdom has a sustainable production capacity of 11 million barrels per day, that means an excess capacity of 1.5 million barrels per day,” said the minister at the sixth international oil summit.—MNA/Xinhua

Lok Ma Chau checkpoint e-channels open in HK

HONG KONG, 22 April — Two automated vehicle clearance systems opened Thursday at Hong Kong’s Lok Ma Chau checkpoint to improve traffic flows.

Cross-boundary drivers who are Hong Kong permanent residents holding smart identity cards may use these e-channels for immigration clearance, said a government Press release.

Eighteen immigration auto-gates at Lo Wu control point, the largest of its kind among land check points in Hong Kong, have become operational.

Also known as e-channels, the gates were first launched at Lo Wu

departure hall in December 2004.

The e-channels, at the departure kiosk No 11 and arrival kiosk No 11 at Lok Ma Chau checkpoint, aim to help cross-boundary drivers familiarize themselves with the operation. They are open to traffic from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

The Immigration Department will fine-tune the system and roll out more e-channels in the coming months.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese model poses beside a Honda sports concept car during the 2005 Auto Shanghai Exhibition in China’s financial capital on 22 April, 2005.— INTERNET

Singapore, S Africa to enhance bilateral cooperation

SINGAPORE, 22 April — Singapore and South African leaders on Thursday vowed to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, tourism, maritime affairs, academia, human resources development, as well as crime and terrorism.

Besides, the two sides will negotiate a more liberal air services pact, hoping to reach an Open Skies Agreement in the end.

All these were specified in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two countries signed here Thursday at the witness of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and visiting South African President Thabo Mbeki, said a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two leaders discussed key developments in both Asia and Africa with the way Africa could build links with Asia in particular, and shared the view that the upcoming Asian-African Summit must lead to practical results beneficial to both regions, according to the statement.

After meeting with other

Singapore leaders including President SR Nathan, Mbeki agreed with his Singapore counterparts to establish a Joint Trade Committee, which will explore the possibility of a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA).

Mbeki also agreed to start talks on an FTA between Singapore and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which comprises South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana and Lesotho.

He assured that such a proposal will be discussed next week at the SACU’s Council of Ministers’ Meeting.

Mbeki arrived in Singapore for a one-day state visit on Thursday before leaving for Jakarta to attend the Asian-African Summit, which will be held in Indonesia on 22-23 April.

MNA/Xinhua

1564 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 22 April — As of Friday, 22 April, 2005, at least 1,564 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,191 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Friday.

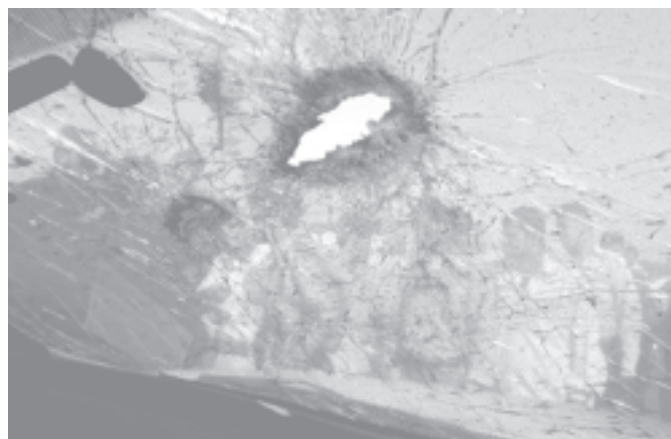
The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary,

Kazakhstan and Latvia have died, according to AP’s count. That

includes at least 1,078 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,426 US military members

Internet



Iraqi civilians are seen from behind a smashed wind shield of a car that was destroyed in a roadside bomb in the Iraqi southern city of Basra on 22 April, 2005.—INTERNET

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Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on French PM's China visit

BEIJING, 22 April — French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin is paying an official visit to China and talked with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Thursday morning.

According to Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang at a regular Press conference, Premier Wen and Raffarin exchanged views in their talks on furthering Sino-French and Sino-EU ties and on other international issues of common concern. Both sides, during their talks, spoke highly of the development of Sino-French relations in recent years. China hopes that the two countries can continue to keep their current momentum in high-level visits and actively expand cooperation in economy, trade, energy, transport, aviation, agriculture and environment.

Premier Wen also proposed to establish and improve various kinds of cooperation mechanisms between the two governments, and to promote cooperation in law between the two sides based on mutual respect.

Wen and Raffarin attended a signing ceremony of 20 agreements

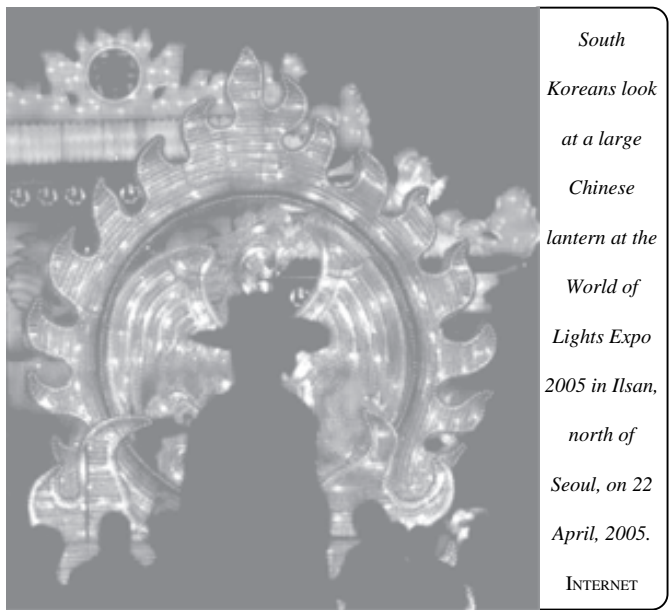
on cooperation between China and France in such fields as agriculture, aviation and energy.

On the European Union's arms embargo on China, China reiterated that the embargo has become an obstacle to the development of Sino-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, and that the early lifting of the embargo will be conducive to further development of Sino-EU relations.

Raffarin also reiterated France's support for lifting the arms embargo against China. Raffarin arrived here Thursday morning on a three-day official visit to China. Besides Beijing, he will also visit Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, and Shanghai, China's economic hub.

Raffarin is scheduled to leave Shanghai Saturday, concluding his second visit to China since 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



South
Koreans look
at a large
Chinese
lantern at the
World of
Lights Expo
2005 in Ilsan,
north of
Seoul, on 22
April, 2005.
INTERNET

Nine die in Iraq bombing;

Romania gets hostage ultimatum

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Captors threatened to kill three Romanian journalists unless Bucharest pledged withdrawal of its troops from Iraq within four days as a car bomb killed nine people outside a Baghdad mosque packed with Shiite worshippers.

Another 26 people were wounded by the blast during the main weekly Muslim prayers, in what appeared to be the latest in a string of sectarian attacks by Sunni Arab armed group against Iraq's Shiite majority community.

"Six of those hurt are in a serious condition," said a staffer at the capital's Kindi hospital where many of the casualties were treated.

An interior ministry official said the attack might have been a suicide operation.

"Some witnesses said they saw a bomber in the car, a white BMW, but we are checking these reports," he said.

The ultimatum to the Romanian

government came in a videotape sent to the Qatar-based Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera.

The footage showed the three hostages — Marie-Jeanne Ion and Sorin Miscoci of Prima TV and Eduard Ohanesian of Romania Libera— appealing to their government to announce the withdrawal of all 800 Romanian troops within four days "otherwise they will execute us."

Romanian President Traian Basescu cut short a visit to the Moldovan capital Chisinau on the news.

The trio were kidnapped 28 March in the latest of a string of abductions of foreign hostages in Iraq.

Internet

စက်မှုဥစ္စာအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Indonesia urges Asian-African countries to open market

JAKARTA, 22 April — Indonesian Economic Minister Aburizal Bakrie on Thursday called on countries in Asia and Africa to open their market wider in order to strengthen economic cooperation between the two continents.

Aburizal said trade relations between the two continents do not represent their actual potential and there are a lot of opportunities to boost trade and investment.

"Both regions still have a large room to explore economic opportunities among themselves. Therefore, government-to-government coopera-

tion must be accompanied by business-to-business cooperation," Aburizal told reporters on the sidelines of the Asian-African Business Summit here. He said the Indonesian Government will initiate greater access to the trade of goods and services from other Asian and African countries.

Separately, Trade Minister Mari Elka

Pangestu said countries in Asia and Africa are faced with various challenges in their efforts to strengthen economic ties, including the lack of information about each other's markets. Other obstacles in the economic cooperation between the two continents are geographical distance and relatively small trade volume, Pangestu said.—MNA/Xinhua

Pre-Pharaonic funerary complex excavated in Egypt

CAIRO, 23 April — An American-Egyptian team has excavated what is believed to be the largest ever found pre-Pharaonic funerary complex in southern Egypt, Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni said on Thursday.

The funerary site, thought to be more than 5,000 years old, is in the southern Kom al-Ahmar region between Luxor and Aswan, the minister said in a statement.

The complex is enclosed in a well-preserved wall of wooden posts and consists of a large rectangular tomb covered with the earliest known superstructure and a wooden offering table.

The remains of seven people were discovered inside the necropolis, four of whom are believed to have been buried alive as human sacrifices, said the statement. A flint statuette of a cow's head was also found at the site. In 2000, fragments of a limestone statue thought to be the oldest life-size human depiction in Egypt were discovered in the same area.

Secretary-General of the Supreme General of Antiquities Zahi Hawas said in the same statement that the complex should yield significant information on pre-Pharaonic Egypt.

The site is thought to have belonged to a ruler of the ancient Nile city of Hierakonpolis or the city of the falcon, which was the dominant pre-dynastic urban centre and the capital of the kingdom of Upper Egypt.

MNA/Xinhua

1,800 kilos of cocaine seized in Nicaragua

MANAUGA, 22 April — The naval force of Nicaragua seized 1,853 kilos of cocaine from drugpushers who ran away from near Tasbapouni, east of the country, Press reports here said on Wednesday. This is the largest haul of drug seized this year in the Central American country, said Navy Commander Roger Gonzalez in a statement.

The cocaine was kept in 78 sacks and was seized on Sunday, he said. The drugpushers abandoned the drug in two boats fixed with four 200-horsepower engines and a radio.

The drug is worth 7.5 million US dollars in the Nicaraguan market and 40 to 50 million dollars in the United States.

MNA/Xinhua



Smoke trails behind a flaming helicopter carrying civilian contractors shot down by missile fire north of Baghdad, Iraq on 21 April, 2005.—INTERNET

China issues first stamp to commemorate World Earth Day

BEIJING, 23 April — The first Chinese “World Earth Day” stamp was issued here on Friday by the State Post Bureau (SPB) to encourage the whole society to treasure resources and protect the Earth.

The one-piece set of stamp has a face value of 80 fen (10 cents). Its print features a pair of reaching hands against a white globe surrounded by blue.

Designer Chen Shaohua said that he wished to use the hands to express human beings’ respect and appreciation towards Mother Nature.

Vice-Minister Lu Xinshe of the Ministry of Land and Resources which jointly initiated the stamp issue campaign with SPB said he hoped the tiny stamp would raise people’s awareness of the Earth’s dwindling resources and encourage them to live in harmony with nature.

“With a population of 1.3 billion, China has left a severe impact on the natural environment in its economic and social development. To realize sustained development, the Chinese people must become more aware of the nature, make better use of resources, reduce pollution and improve their production efficiency,” he said.

At the issuing ceremony, Vice-Chairwoman He Luli of the Standing Committee of the National Peo-

ple’s Congress and Minister Sun Wensheng of the Ministry of Land and Resources presented the stamp and its commemorative cover to children of the Experiment Primary School of the Beijing Normal University.

These children made a proposal earlier this year calling on all Chinese children to protect the Earth. Premier Wen Jiabao was said to have responded, calling their proposal “valuable and meaningful”.

The World Earth Day began on 22 April, 1970 through the efforts of Harvard student Denis Hayes. Twenty years later, former Chinese Premier Li Peng made a TV speech on behalf of the Chinese Government, supporting the campaign of the “World Earth Day” approved by the United Nations. Since then, China has celebrated the special date annually.

The theme of this year’s commemorative activities in China is “Take good care of the Earth by seeking scientific development and establishing harmony”.

MNA/Xinhua

China, France to launch first forum on local govt’s cooperation

BEIJING, 22 April — China and France will hold their first high-level forum on local governments’ cooperation in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, from 27-28 October this year.

The forum was initiated by France and organized by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), with the theme of “friendship, cooperation, development and mutual benefits”.

Each of the two countries will send 100 participants to the forum, to discuss the topics of city environmental protection, construction, transportation and ways for cooperation between the two countries’ local governments. Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, said the cooperation among local governments serves as

a solid foundation of China-France relations. “The forum will actively push forward our bilateral ties, and provide guidance for the two countries’ local governments through sharing experience in city planning, administration and cultural exchanges,” he said.

Jacques Valade, French senator and president of the French guidance committee on the forum, said the forum will function as a more efficient platform for the two countries’ regional cooperation, and promote sister city links among even more French and Chinese cities.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian students wear the kimono, a traditional Japanese dress, during a function organised by the India-Japan Initiative (IJI) in Mumbai on 21 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Austria-China economic, trade cooperation fruitful

BEIJING, 22 April — Visiting Austrian Federal Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel Thursday said that Austria-China economic and trade cooperation had scored remarkable achievements in the past 40 years and China had become Austria’s important trade partner.

Addressing the opening ceremony of an exhibition on Austrian economic achievements in China, Schuessel said the event was aimed at sharing Austrian experience in fields like environmental protection, education, transportation, economy and technology transfer with China, which hopefully could help China’s economic growth. Schuessel said political cooperation could provide a sound basis for economic development, while rapid economic development could create opportunities for world peace and stability.

Austrian enterprises could explore the Asian market with assistance from their Chinese counterparts, while Chinese businessmen could also make best use of Austria’s geological advantages to promote their businesses in Europe, he said.

A Chinese hi-tech park will be set up

in Vienna soon in order to strengthen bilateral cooperation, said Schuessel.

Yu Guangzhou, China’s Vice-Minister of Commerce, said China and Austria were “highly complementary” in economy, calling for more Austrian entrepreneurs to invest in China and to take an active part in China’s efforts to revitalize the old industrial base in its northeast regions and develop its vast western hinterland.

According to sources with the Chinese Customs, the trade volume between the two countries reached 2.29 billion US dollars in 2004, an increase of 28.8 per cent over the previous year. Statistics from the Austrian side showed its export volume to China last year topped one billion euros for the first time, arise of more than 25 per cent, thus making China the second biggest market for Austria’s export. — MNA/Xinhua

Annan calls on rich countries to assist poor countries

JAKARTA, 22 April — The UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan here Thursday called on rich countries to meet their commitment of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) for poor countries this year, a special adviser to the UN Secretary General Jeffrey Sachs said.

According to the special adviser, the Secretary-General called on rich countries to be true partners of poor countries by honouring the commitment of giving 0.7 per cent of their GDP as official development assistance.

The rich countries only gave 0.25 per cent of their GDP or two-third of what their promised to poor countries.

The Secretary-General laid out a rigorous timetable for all rich countries and urged them to implement the commitment in 2005.

The Secretary-General said that it was important for the world to achieve the millennium development goal and cut extreme poverty by half by 2015. He said that large investment in healthcare, education, environment and infrastructure in poor countries can help reduce poverty. — MNA/Xinhua

South Korean company develops new PECVD system

KWANGJU (South Korea), 22 April — South Korea’s Jusung Engineering Co Ltd has developed a new generation of plasma enhanced chemical vapour deposition (PECVD) system, the company said on Thursday.

The system allows for the first time production of liquid crystal display (LCD) panels with a size of up to 3 X 3 metres, according to the company.

The PECVD system is one of the core apparatuses in the process of manufacturing thin film transistor (TFT)-LCD panels, which are commonly used in such application areas as LCD monitors for personal computers, television sets and other flat displays.

Jusung, one of the world’s leading PECVD manufacturers, said the brand new equipment adopts an in-line processing system instead of the currently prevailing cluster system. The in-line system allows its PECVD users to boost productivity by some 30 per cent while helping them sharply reduce costs by more than 30 per cent in manufacturing the five-millimeter-thick LCD panels, according to the company. — MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese woman works at a production line in a textile company in Liaocheng, east China’s Shandong Province on 20 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Tourists to Nepal to get VAT refund

KATHMANDU, 21 April — The Nepali Government has decided to refund the value added tax (VAT) paid by foreign tourists on goods worth more than 15,000 Nepali rupees (214.3 US dollars) at the time of their departure.

The decision, which was made recently according to a Financial Ordinance provision, will come into effect from 1 May. The Himalayan Times newspaper on Wednesday quoted government sources as saying. Any international tourist, who has not been employed in Nepal for the past six months and has not stayed for more than 183 days in Nepal, can claim VAT refund on his or her purchases.

The VAT refund applies only to goods being taken out of Nepal within 60 days of the date of purchase. The Finance Ministry has directed the Rastriya Banijya Bank, one of the country's leading commercial banks, to open a branch at the Tribhuvan International Airport lounge to provide refund services to tourists.

The ministry has also directed the Inland Revenue Department to provide VAT refund application forms at department stores with immediate effect. —MNA/Xinhua



Fish swim about a coral outcrop in the Great Barrier Reef off Australia's northeastern coast.—INTERNET



IE Singapore launches programme to help local companies

SINGAPORE, 21 April — A new programme named "Intellectual Property (IP) for Internationalization" was launched by Intellectual Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) here on Tuesday to help local companies develop long-term IP management strategies.

"Singapore-based companies that are internationalizing should develop strategies for using IP to protect market share and exploit new revenue streams, thus creating competitive advantages for themselves," said a statement by IE Singapore.

With this initiative, consultants will audit and assess a company's IP

portfolio to determine its strategic value, which will eventually be integrated into the company's internationalization plans.

IE Singapore will also support industries and trade associations to conduct IP-related market research for the benefit of their members, as well as provide companies with customized training pro-

grammes, workshops and seminars. Supported by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), IE Singapore's latest effort expects to benefit more than 500 local companies in the next three years, generating IP value outputs of over 100 million Singapore dollars (about 60 million US dollars). —MNA/Xinhua

Iran firm on N-talks with EU, but warns against dishonest

TEHERAN, 21 April — Iran said on Wednesday that its nuclear talks with the European Union (EU) trio are going on well, but warned that Teheran would quit talks if it found the EU dishonest, reported the official IRNA news agency.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani told a Majlis (Parliament) session that recent talks between Teheran and the three EU powers of Britain, France and Germany were "satisfying", said IRNA.

The EU-Iran nuclear working group started a two-day talks in Geneva on Tuesday and talks are due to continue at a more senior level in London on 29 April.

Rowhani was quoted as saying that "our gen-

eral assessment (on the talks) is not negative. We do not believe the Europeans are wasting time. They are settling the issue".

"We should be optimistic that we will reach results in the near future and (if so,) we will continue talks," he underlined.

However, Rowhani also warned that Iran would discontinue negotiations if the Europeans proved they were dishonest, reiterating that Iran would never give up ura-

nium enrichment.

"We will quit negotiations when we feel they will bear no fruit and Europe intends to waste time ... This issue has no specific timetable," Rowhani said. The Iranian negotiator elaborated that Tuesday's meeting was focused on technical matters, adding "most technical discussions were held to materialize the ideas agreed upon by the two sides on 23 March, 2005". "The talks are focused on how the Islamic Repub-

lic's ideas can be realized and how enrichment is done without causing any concern" and the two sides held no discussion over enrichment suspension, he said.

Rowhani also complained that the Europeans had always announced they were negotiating with Iran, but "practically they had been in coordination with the United States".

"We hope the Europeans would be able to finally settle the issue," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

CAS warrants technology to top game provider

BEIJING, 21 April — The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of Automation signed here Tuesday a cooperation agreement with Shanda Networking, a NASDAQ-listed online game provider, allowing the company to apply its advanced interactive technologies game service. With two million yuan (240,000 US dollars) worth of technological licensing fee, the CAS Institute transferred five technologies concerning biometrics verification and interactive role control for games.

Tan Min, vice-director of the CAS Institute, said that all the transferred technologies were newly developed by the Institute.

"The interactive technologies as well as graphics and voice processing technologies would be very helpful to developing more real-scenario games," Tan said. Chen Tianqiao, chair of the board and CEO of Shanda, said, "Developing advanced interactive games is part of Shanda's overall strategy for cultivating diversified family entertainment."

The CAS Institute organized a research team in March 2003 to develop interactive technologies for entertainment application.

Wang Yangsheng, a senior researcher who is in charge of the team, said, "Players can change their own faces to roles in games and control the roles with their own gestures and voices," Wang said.

MNA/Xinhua

Philips to set up global R&D centre in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 22 April — World leading electric appliance producer Philips will set up a global research and development (R&D) centre in this east China municipality, said Gerard Kleisterlee, president and CEO of the Dutch company, Wednesday.

Gerard Kleisterlee was in Shanghai to attend a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of Philips' investment in China and an innovation exhibition. The company will invest 40 million euros for the establishment of the R&D centre, Gerard Kleisterlee said.

He said the company chose Shanghai as the site of its global centre because of the city's favourable investment environment.

He also said he hopes the centre, after its establishment, can help boost the growth of the company's business in the Chinese market in the future.

Shanghai Vice-Mayor Zhou Yupeng said, when meeting Gerard

Kleisterlee, that the city will create a more favourable environment for overseas businesses by improving its management mechanism and strengthening its efforts in intellectual property rights protection. Zhou said that the city hopes Philips can participate in the World Exposition to be held in Shanghai in 2010.

Gerard Kleisterlee said that the company can provide technological support to the event.

Philips set up its first venture in China in 1985, and the company now has 35 businesses in the Chinese Mainland, with a total investment of 3.4 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

China's largest oil producer sets new daily production record

HONG KONG, 22 April — China's largest offshore oil producer announced here on Thursday that the oil field discovered independently by the company in the Bohai Bay outperforms the initial target.



China National Offshore Oil Corp said in a Press release that LD 10-1 oil field in the Bohai Bay is now producing more than 28,000 barrels per day, which is quite higher than expectation.

An oil well in the field numbered as A11 has achieved a steady daily production of 7,000 barrels per day since its commencement on 29 March, setting a new record in daily production.

MNA/Xinhua

Yeni Choi, 22, a student from South Korea at Hawaii Pacific University, dresses as a traditional Korean bride outfit in front of the Korean flag in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 22 April, 2005.—INTERNET

A village called Naryaing

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

A hamlet appeared in my mind first, when I thought about writing an article. It is located in Namsang Township, southern Shan State. Every time I get the opportunity, I feature its name in my articles. But only few readers will remember its name as the hamlet is located in a far corner of the nation, and

agriculture they had no time to choose whether to grow seasonal or perennial crops. First, they planted corn that grows well at the place. A primary school was built on self-reliant basis.

It started with an impoverished situation. But later, brick houses with CI sheet roofing were gradually taking over the place of huts. A

With the leadership of teachers, over 150 students of the school observe the Independence Day and Union Day every year to the best of their ability. The school also provides nutritious food to the students.

While looking at the seasonal crop fields in the surrounding areas of the village, I came to remember the words of



School children happily taking part in School Family Day.

very few outsiders have visited it. It can be said an unknown little village. The hamlet's name is Naryaing.

When the MTA led by U Khun Sa unconditionally abandoned the armed struggle line in 1996, some members of the Loimaw troops settled at Shwepyi Aye (Kathegwin) in Phekon Township, some at Manpang village in Tangyan Township, northern Shan State, and others at Monhin/Monha, Homein and Monhtaw/Momhta in Mongrai Township.

But the way U Chan Li and his men chose a place to live in was somewhat strange. They never made a request to settle at a place near Namsang where transport is good, nor to set up a village near Mongnai. They expressed their wish to stay at their own Naryaing village. When they started their settlement there it was not even a village. They cleared the bushes and built long temporary shelters with thatch roof and bamboo matting walls. Small huts were built for the leaders. As for

sublime pagoda and a fine monastery emerged in the village. The Government graveled the Hainarle-Naryaing road and built 14 bridges on it. It erected the Naryaing Bridge on Naryaing-Monghsit road to facilitate transport for the locals, and a primary school and a rural dispensary and also provided financial assistance to build the Naryaing village monastery.

I have already mentioned Naryaing as an unknown village. But I was astonished to know that the village primary school was holding school family day annually. The school family day includes sports events and fun fares.

Phahti (Phado Aung Hsan). Phahti said, "We were heartily happy when the State officials warmly accepted and welcomed our offer to exchange arms for peace. Since we have exchanged arms for peace with the Government, we have made a resolution to join hands in the task of developing the nation's agriculture. So, when citizenship scrutiny cards were issued for us, we asked the personnel concerned to mention our job in the card as farmer. We have already put 100 acres of land under paddy this year. We apply both the manual and mechanized methods. We are so encouraged as the Govern-



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and party attending the opening of Naryaing Basic Education Middle School.

ment has provided all necessary items from chemical fertilizers to seeds. Local farmers were worried about inundation in the paddy fields. But thanks to the drainage the Government has built the fields are safe. We are now planning to cultivate 100 acres of summer paddy. We will also grow sugarcane and rubber and

village has put over 2,580 acres of land under seasonal crops this year. It is in the process of reclaiming 600 more acres of land. Test plantation of orange and lemon is well under way. The village is also extending pig and fish farming.

At present, the village primary school has

Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Shan state level officials, members of the Naryaing region development and new lifestyle settlement group led by U Li Chan and local national races attended the ceremony. The commander met with local people at the village hall and made arrangements for further development of the region.

The locals are happy as motor roads have emerged in the region where only footpaths and mule/horse tracks were available in the past. Now the local children can pursue middle school education at their own village. When U Chan Li and his men were clearing ground to set up the village, they had no idea which place would become a rural health centre, a mini-market and a community hall. The TV retransmission has also helped improve their knowledge. From far and near, the village looks pleasant with a pagoda, a monastery, a middle school echoing the sweet voice of children reading their lessons, a community hall, a rural health centre, a mini-market and the thriving seasonal crop fields. And the village is called Naryaing.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma'Alin+Kyemon:
22 April 2005.

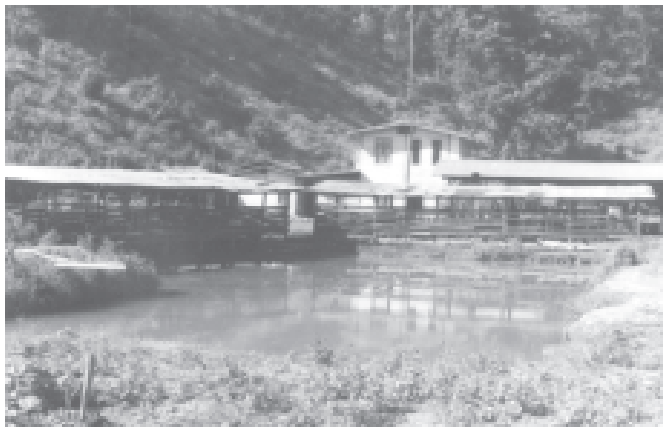
The Government graveled the Hainarle-Naryaing road and built 14 bridges on it. It erected the Naryaing Bridge on Naryaing-Monghsit road to facilitate transport for the locals, and a primary school and a rural dispensary and also provided financial assistance to build the Naryaing village monastery.

conduct poultry and fish farming".

I wonder whether the former MTA troops under the leadership of U Li Chan of the Naryaing village filled in the space provided for occupation IDs with the word "farmer". Corn is their major seasonal crop. They also grow paddy, niger, garlic and soy bean. The

been upgraded to a middle school and the dispensary to a rural health centre. The Government has already erected a retransmission station at the village for locals to enjoy TV programmes. It also provided financial assistance to construct a new building of the middle school. The entire nation heartily welcomed the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which fell on 27 March 2005. Likewise, the locals of Naryaing village launched the development drive in commemoration of the Armed Forces Day.

At 8 am on 20 March, the village held the ceremony to put into service the Naryaing TV retransmission station, to open the middle school and rural health centre and to commission into service the Hainarle-Naryaing gravel road. Commander of Eastern



A fish breeding pond and pigsties in Naryaing village.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Korean guests

YANGON, 23 April — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received Deputy Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy Mr Cho Hwan-Eik and party of Republic of Korea at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthatha yesterday evening.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Energy

Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and Director U Soe Win of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deputy Minister Mr Cho Hwan-Eik and party were accompanied by Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Ju-Heum and embassy staff.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Mr Cho Hwan-Eik of ROK at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Mr Cho Hwan-Eik of ROK at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA



Adequate fertilizers needed...

(from page 1)
purpose of his inspection tour is to learn requirements for industrial development, promotion of production capacity of the factories, and meeting the targets.

Despite the best performance of the employees, the factories could not boost production much due to their old age.

He noted that Myanmar, an agro-based

nation, needs adequate fertilizers to beef up per acre yield of crops, but local demand is still greater than the supply, so it still has to import the products. In conclusion, the Prime Minister called for collaboration and innovative measures for raising the production capacity of local factories to fulfil the local requirement of fertilizers.

The Prime Minister proceeded to Duingabo

water pumping project being undertaken by the Water Resources Utilization Department on the eastern bank in Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division. The Agriculture and Irrigation minister gave an account of the cluster of Duingabo, Panmata, Zeya, Nanzupin and Yoneseik river water pumping stations in the district.

Director-General of the WRUD U Win Shwe reported on salient points

about Duingabo water pumping project, and irrigated area of the water pumping stations in Magway Division.

Manager of Magway Division Myanma Agriculture Service U Kyawt

Maung reported on cultivation of 1,700 acres of paddy, 705 acres of sugarcane and other crops according to Duingabo river water pumping project in Aunglan Township.

The Prime Minister then gave instructions and inspected pumping of water from Ayeyawady River, water pumping station and control room.

(See page 9)

Duingabo water pumping project being undertaken by the Water Resources Utilization Department on the eastern bank in Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division. The cluster of Duingabo, Panmata, Zeya, Nanzupin and Yoneseik river water pumping stations are also built in the district.



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win hears reports on progress of Bwetygi Bridge on Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Highway in Aunglan Township by an official.— MNA

Adequate fertilizers needed...

(from page 8)

Duyingabo river water pumping project was implemented in 1989-90 and it benefits 10,400 acres of land. Monsoon and summer paddy, cotton and sugarcane are grown with the supply of water from the water pumping station.

The Prime Minister and party went to Bwetyi Bridge project site on Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Road in Aunglan Township and inspected it. Managing Director of Public Works U Han Zaw reported on work. Magway Division Superintending Engineer U Tin Lwin reported on the project and progress of work. The Managing Director of Public Works took part in the discussions and the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

A pre-stressed new bridge, 1,770 feet long and 34 feet wide including three feet wide walkway on each side, is being built as the old one could no longer withstand the heavy trucks. It can now withstand 60 tons of load.

The Prime Minister and party inspected No 10 Sugar Mill (Duyingabo) where factory manager U Sein Hlaing reported on data of the factory, sugarcane needed for



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects production sections of No 10 Sugar Mill (Duyingabo) in Aunglan Township.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win views spare parts of machinery at Central Maintenance Workshop of No 3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyawswa) in Aunglan Township.—MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Urea Plant of No 3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyawswa) in Aunglan Township.—MNA



crushing, annual growing of sugarcane and production. Minister Brig-Gen Htay Oo gave a supplementary report. The Prime Minister inspected maintenance of machines in the mill. The mill can crush 1,600 tons of sugarcane a day and it aims at producing 4,375 tons of sugar.

The Prime Minister and party went to No 3 fertilizer plant (Kyawswa) where Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Deputy

Myanmar, an agro-based nation, needs adequate fertilizers to beef up per acre yield of crops, but local demand is still greater than the supply, so it still has to import the products. Innovative measures are to be taken for raising the production capacity of local factories to further fulfil the local requirement of fertilizers.

Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thuang Lwin reported on supply of spare parts by the ministries concerned and requirements for the plant. The Prime Minister inspected ammonia factory, the main control room, process of production, stockpile of spare parts and maintenance.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the evening.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win holds a meeting with the officials in No-3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyawswa). (News on page-1).—MNA



No-10 Sugar Mill (Duyingabo) of Myanmar Sugarcane Enterprise in Aunglan Township. MNA

Minister for Forestry inspects saw mills, reserved forests



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects Lathagon Nursery in Taikkyi Township.—FORESTRY

YANGON, 23 April — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung made an inspection tour of saw mills, forests and greening tasks at Yoma mountain range in Bago Division (West) on 22 and 23 April.

On 22 April, the minister and party oversaw functions of No 66 Saw Mill in Minhla. The minister heard reports on progress of teak plantations at plot 52 of Mokkha reserved forest and plots 11 and 12 of Minhla reserved forest and separate teak plantations and gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected bamboo nursery at

Pyinmabinsan Camp and firewood plantations.

Seinkantlant Raft Jetty in Minhla Township, the minister heard reports on timber extraction and transport by the regional manager.

In the evening, the minister looked into No 100 Saw Mill in Phalon of Taikkyi Township, No 101 Saw Mill in Taikkyi and Lathagon nursery.

On 23 April, the minister inspected Kan-3 Raft Jetty of Myanma Timber Enterprise in Ahlon Township, Aungzeya Raft Jetty, Bayintnaung Raft Jetty, Sethsan Raft Jetty in Pazundaung Township. —MNA

Outstanding MPF members honoured

YANGON, 23 April — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo attended the coordination meeting of Committee for Reforming Management System of Myanmar Police Force at the MPF Headquarters this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi, directors-general, senior police officers, State and Division Police Force Commanders, commanders of Police Training Depots and commanding officers of Police Battalions.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivered an address. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented certificates of honour and letters of promotion to outstanding police members and officers.

MNA

Billboards erected to hail MWVO Conference

YANGON, 23 April — As a gesture hailing the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005), a billboard was erected at the corner of 20th and 66th streets in front of the National Theatre (Mandalay), Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay, yesterday morning.

Present at the billboard-erecting ceremony were member of Mandalay Division WVO Supervisory Committee Commissioner of Division General Administration Department U Kyin Lin, Secretary of Division WVO member of Mandalay City Development Committee Lt-Col Kyaw Win, departmental officials and social organizations. Commissioner U Kyin Lin formally unveiled the billboard.

Similarly, billboards were erected in front of the MCDC Office and near Zaycho Market in Mandalay to mark the MWVO conference. —MNA



The setting up of the billboard in progress.

MNA

Htidaw hoisted atop Thirimingala Nyeingyanaung Hsutaungpyay in Kyaukdaga Township



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and party convey Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and tiers of Htidaw atop Thirimingala Nyeingyanaung Hsutaungpyay Pagoda in Pado Village of Kyaukdaga Township. — MNA

YANGON, 23 April — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Thirimingala Nyeingyanaung Hsutaungpyay on Pado Village of Kyaukdaga Township was held at the precinct of the pagoda yesterday morning, attended by Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Mandalay Nandithenayama Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Joint-Secretary Sayadaws Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Tatkon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandasiri and Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Kalewa Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Rail Transport Maj-Gen Aung Min, officials and local people.

Bago Township Sudhamma Nikaya Maha Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddha administered the Nine Precepts.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the commander, the minister and officials offered

Buddha images, Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and tiers of Htidaw for the pagoda to the Sayadaws.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the commander, the minister and officials sprinkled scented water on them and hoisted them atop the pagoda.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the commander and the minister donated alms to the Buddha image at the pagoda. Then planted a Bo tree in the precinct. Later, they offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha at the monastery in Pado Village. — MNA

Korean Deputy Minister calls on Energy Minister



ROK Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Mr Cho Hwan-Eik, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein sign an agreement in the presence of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. — ENERGY

YANGON, 23 April — The visiting Korean delegation led by Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of Republic of Korea Mr Cho Hwan-Eik called on Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi yesterday morning at the Ministry of Energy.

During their meet, the two sides discussed co-operation of energy sector between the two countries and speedy exploration of natural gas according to the agreement inked between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and Daewoo Int'l Corporation to jointly explore oil and natural gas Rakhine Offshore block A-1.

In the evening, Korean Deputy Minister Mr Cho Hwan-Eik and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein signed terms of reference of Joint Co-operation Committee for Energy and Mineral Resources between the Union of Myanmar and the Re-

public of Korea at the Sedona Hotel.

Also present on the occasion were Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum and officials. — MNA

Communal ordination & novitiation ceremony of SWRR held

YANGON, 23 April — The 41st communal ordination and novitiation ceremony of the Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at SWD on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and wife Daw Khin Aye, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and wife Daw Khin Nwe Nwe, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaug, directors-general of departments under the ministry, donors and staff families.

The congregation received eight precepts and a sermon from Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Arçinnabhivamsa.

Next, the minister and wife, the deputy minister, the officer on special duty and directors-general donated the offertories to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the congregation shared the merits gained.

MNA

RELIGIOUS OBJECTS DONATED: The Phugyi Station Commander, local Tactical Operations Commander, Captain Kyi Shein and family, Daw Tin Tin Win and U Aung Myo and family donated religious objects for Zabuaye Hsetameenyein Pagoda to be built on Pantawint Hill in Taikkyi Township to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañāsiri today. The photo shows wellwisher Daw Tin Tin Win offers religious objects to the Sayadaw. —(H)



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More new hotel rooms in HK by 2006

HONG KONG, 22 April — The number of hotel rooms will increase by about 14,000 by the end of 2006 and more than half of them will be medium-priced, Secretary for Housing, Planning & Lands Michael Suen said here on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Legislative Council, Suen said information from the Planning Department and the Hong Kong Tourism Board as at December 2004 suggests the number of hotel rooms will increase from 39,000 to about 53,000 by the end of 2006.

Based on the location, facilities and number of rooms to be provided as reported, it is expected that more than half of them will be medium-tariff hotels, Suen said.

This reflects the market's responsiveness to tourism growth and changing trends to meet the visitors' demands, he added. The government will continue to monitor the hotel-room supply closely, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for ROLLS-ROYCE p.l.c. P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 24 April 2005

Oil tanker leakage eliminated in N China port

SHENYANG, 22 April — Oil leakage caused Monday morning by an oil tanker berthed in the new port of Dalian in northeast China's Liaoning Province has been removed due to timely cleaning-up measures, said source with the local port office on Wednesday.

The oil tanker, *Jingbohu*, berthed at the No 4 berth in the new Dalian port on 16 April, the source said, adding the leakage occurred after the oil tanker loaded with 14,000 tons of crude oil.

Oil drops and stains were discovered around the tanker immediately after the leakage took place, and four rescue boats rushed to the scene to stop the leakage and cleaned up the floating oil drops. All the cleaning-up work was completed in about two hours, the source said.

The current leakage was the third one occurred in the port in the recent period. The aging part of the tanker hull was blamed for the leakage, the source added.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for USINOR P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 24 April 2005

Guangdong to build world's largest garbage treatment project

GUANGDONG, 22 April — A multiple-functional garbage treatment project is expected to be built and go into operation in Guangzhou, capital city of south China's Guangdong Province, by the end of 2006.

Costing 320 million yuan (38.69 million US dollars), the Likeng Domestic Garbage Treatment Project, is the first garbage treatment project in Guangdong which has the functions of sorting out garbage, anaerobic fermenting and generating electricity with methane gas, said Lu Zhiyi, director of the Guangzhou Urban Outlook and Environmental Protection Administration.

The project has a disposing capacity of 1,000 tons daily, larger than the daily disposing capacity of 600 tons of the currently world's largest multiple-functional garbage treatment project in Spain.

Lu said, Likeng multiple-functional garbage treatment project is one of the seven garbage treatment facilities scheduled to be built in Guangzhou before 2010, at a cost of five billion yuan (about 600 million US dollars).

Also among the seven projects is the Likeng Garbage-burning Power Plant, which is now under smooth construction.

MNA/Xinhua

ချိုပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်အတူ ခေလုပ်ငန်းကြီးကြပ်မှုအောက်ရှိ အမှတ်(၃၀) စက္ကန့်(ပလိမ်)နှင့် ရေနံအမှတ်(၂)စက္ကန့်ရုံများအတွက် အောက်ပါ ပစ္စည်းများအား မြန်မာ့ကျပ်ငြေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူကြောင်း ခြေစာပြင်အပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်စဉ်နှစ်/အချိန်
(က)	Hydrogen Peroxide	210 MT	(၅-၅-၂၀၀၅) နေ့လယ် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ
(ခ)	Acetone	11 MT	(၉-၅-၂၀၀၅) နေ့လယ် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ
(ဂ)	Calcium Carbide	150 MT	(၉-၅-၂၀၀၅) နေ့လယ် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ

၂။ သိရှိလိုသည့် အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာနမှ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်-၅၄၃၃၆၅ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်အတူ ခေလုပ်ငန်း

China values ties with Austria

BEIJING, 22 April — Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong Wednesday told visiting Austrian Federal Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel that China values its relations with Austria and wants to deepen the bilateral cooperation.

China attaches importance to Austria's role in Europe and its influence in the international affairs, Zeng said. "We hope to deepen political trust with Austria and expand bilateral cooperation in economy, environmental protection, forestry, agriculture and culture."

Zeng also urged the two sides to seek more consensus in international affairs and improve consultation and coordination in the United Nations and the other international organizations.

He said the Taiwan issue concerns China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "China highly appreciates the Austrian

Government's adherence to the one-China policy. We hope Austria understands and supports China's efforts to realize peaceful reunification."

China and Austria established diplomatic ties in 1971. The trade volume between the two countries exceeded three billion euros (3.87 billion US dollars) in 2004.

Schuessel, who is currently here for a week-long visit, said China is the sixth largest economy in the world and Austria's largest trade partner in Asia.

He said the economic and trade cooperation between Austria and China has produced significant

results over the past years, adding that the two also enjoyed smooth cooperation in other fields including personnel training and judicature. He said the Austrian Government will remain committed to the one-China policy and his government will continue to work with China to deepen the friendship between the two countries.

Schuessel arrived here Tuesday for a week-long official visit to China. He will also head to South China's island province of Hainan for the annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia and visit Shanghai and east China's Jiangsu Province.

MNA/Xinhua

China protects varieties of agricultural, forestry plants

BEIJING, 22 April — China had enhanced protection of new varieties of agricultural and forestry plants and handled more than 800 cases of infringement of new agricultural plant variety rights and of faking new agricultural plant varieties by the end of 2004, says a white paper released by the Information Office of China's State Council here on Thursday.

The white paper, titled New Progress in China's Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, says that since 2001, the Chinese Government began experimental law enforcement on the protection of new varieties of plants in 12 selected provinces and municipalities, and then gradually spread the work across the country.

By the end of 2004, 17 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) had handled 863 cases of infringement of new agricultural plant variety rights and of faking new agricultural plant varieties.

According to the white paper, the Chinese Government has set up the Office of Protection of New Varieties of Plants and the Reexamination Board for New Varieties of Plants at the Ministry of Agriculture and State Forestry Administration, respec-

tively, forming an institutional protection system combining examination and approval agencies, law-enforcement organizations, intermediary service organizations and other rights protection organizations.

A technological support system has been established, which includes the

Centre for the Preservation of Breeding Materials of New Varieties of Agricultural Plants, Centre for Testing of New Varieties of Plants and its 14 sub-centres, and the Centre for the Testing of New Varieties of Forest Plants and its five sub-centres and two molecule determination labs.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Russian police crack cross-border drug ring

HARBIN, 22 April — Chinese and Russian police have cracked a cross-border drug ring and seized about 935 kilos of ephedrine in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, local police announced on Wednesday.

Police seized 13 suspects from a ring headed by Guo Changhai and their weaponry.

The ring allegedly started trafficking drug from China to Russia in 2002 and allegedly has dealt with about two tons of ephedrine, raw materials to make "ice" drug, according to Wang Xiaoxi, spokesman of Heilongjiang Provincial Public Security Department.

At Heilongjiang's 17 ports opening to Russia, drug trafficking crimes have been increasing along with the booming economic activities. Russian and Chinese police have cooperated in cracking about 160 drug crimes over the past years, involving 110-plus suspects and two tons of drugs, according to local police. — MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြီးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

One million Chinese women to get breast screening to avoid breast cancer

BEIJING, 22 April—China on Thursday launched a nationwide project to check and cure breast diseases and reduce the death rate from breast cancer.

The project, called "one million women breast screening project", is expected to select 100 hospitals from all over the country which will provide four breast examinations to one million women in six years, said Xu Guangwei, head of the Chinese Anti-cancer Association.

According to figures, the death rate from breast cancer in China has been increasing by 3 per cent annually in recent years. It has replaced lung cancer as the most rapid growing cancer in the country.

Xu said more than 90 per cent of early breast cancer patients can live 10 more years and their breast can be kept as much as possible. However, current ordinary physical exams cannot effectively diagnose early breast cancer, so an advanced and special exam of breasts is needed.

Under the guidance of the Health Ministry, the association set up an office to formulate standards of diagnosis methods, service and equipment and developed a mobile vehicle for screening and treating.

The first group of 15 qualified hospitals has been selected and will start screening women in Beijing, Shanghai and 10 provinces, said Xu.

"Preventing and controlling breast cancer is a long-term difficult task because China has more than 300 million targeted women and one million is only a small part of it. But we will always try our best," he said. "The programme sends a signal to the rest of the world that the Chinese Government is paying more attention to and making more efforts for improving people's health," said Stephen Sener, president of the American Cancer Society.—MNA/Xinhua

Extreme life in US provides clue for life's origin

LOS ANGELES, 22 April—US researchers said Wednesday a bizarre group of microbes were found living inside rocks in an inhospitable geothermal environment at Yellowstone Park, a discovery providing new clues about ancient life on the Earth and helping seek evidence of life on the Mars.

The microbes were found in the pores of rocks in a highly acidic environment with high concentrations of metals and silicates at roughly 35 degrees in Yellowstone's Norris Geyser Basin.

The microbe communities are subject to fossilization and have the potential to become preserved in the geologic record, researchers at the University of Colorado said in the April 21 issue of journal Nature.

Scientists believe similar kinds of geothermal environments may once have existed on the Mars, where astrobiologists have intensified the search for past and present life forms in recent years.

The prevalence of this type of microbial life in Yellowstone means that Martian rocks associated with former hydrothermal systems may be the best hope for finding evidence of past life

there, the researchers said.

Norris Geyser Basin is considered to be the hottest and most active geyser basin in Yellowstone and perhaps the world. It also is extremely acidic.

"The pores in the rocks where these creatures live has a pH value of one, which dissolves nails," said Norman Pace, Professor of the University of Colorado who led the study. "This is another example that life can be robust in an environment most humans view as inhospitable."

Scientists discovered the new microbe community in 2003 after breaking apart a chunk of sandstone-like rock in the Norris Geyser Basin. An analysis determined the green band was caused by a new species of photosynthetic microbes in the Cyanidium group, a kind of alga that is among the most acid-tolerant photosynthetic organisms known.—MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean worker displays domestic beef at a department store in Seoul on 22 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Swiss tourism sector to grow this year

GENEVA, 22 April—The Swiss tourism sector looks set to grow this year after foreign visitors, especially from Japan and China, returned in bigger numbers in 2004, according to an official website Swissinfo on Thursday.

Switzerland Tourism, the national tourist board, estimates turnover in the tourism sector grew by up to 2 per cent last year, Swissinfo said.

The domestic market lost ground again in 2004, with the number of Swiss tourists making overnight stays dropping 2.8 per cent. This decrease was blamed on bad weather conditions.

But this was compensated by the arrival of foreign visitors, whose numbers rose by 1.7 per cent.

"Compared with countries such as France, Italy, Austria or Spain, where

visitor numbers have dropped, we have done better," said Jurg Schmid, head of Switzerland Tourism.

"These nations are feeling the competition from cheap destinations such as Turkey now, something we experienced years ago," he said.

Statistics show that stays by Chinese nationals doubled, while they were up by a quarter for the Japanese. The mass arrival of groups of Chinese as well as Korean tourists mostly benefitted central Switzerland and the country's cities.—MNA/Xinhua

Anti-biotics found unable to prevent heart disease

WASHINGTON, 22 April—Long-term anti-biotic medication against a bacterial infection linked in many studies to heart attacks and clogged arteries does not work to prevent heart problems as scientists expected, showed two large studies to appear on Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. The bacteria is Chlamydia pneumoniae. Its infection can double the risk of developing subsequent heart attacks, and was found in previous studies in more than three-quarters of heart attack patients. But to the disappointment of the researchers in the above-mentioned two studies, anti-biotics showed effect not different from that of the placebo in reducing the risk of heart attack. One study, led by Dr J Thomas Grayston of the University of Washington in Seattle, tested Pfizer's Zithromax, or azithromycin, in 4,012 heart disease patients who took the drug or a placebo once weekly for more than one year. The other one, led by Dr Christopher Cannon of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, used a different and theoretically more powerful anti-biotic, Bristol-Myers Squibb's Tequin, or gatifloxacin. A total of 4,162 patients took the drug or a placebo 10 days monthly for two years.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria to supply gas to neighbouring countries next year

ABUJA, 22 April—Nigeria will supply natural gas to its neighbouring countries of Benin, Togo and Ghana in December 2006, a high-ranking official said here on Thursday.

At the meeting of committee of ministers of the West Africa Gas Pipeline Project (WAGPP), Edmund Daukoru, special adviser on petroleum and energy to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, said the WAGPP would take natural gas from Nigeria to power industries in the three West African countries. "The project has now moved beyond concept to reality," he said, adding that "the ministers have already approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project and that the parliaments of member states have ratified the treaty setting up the project". "The implementation stage requires more efforts, cooperation, support and hard work not only on the part of the

states, but all stakeholders," he added. According to the presidential adviser, the ministers will deliberate on the effective date for the construction of a 600-kilometre pipeline from Nigeria to Ghana through Benin and Togo.

Daukoru also reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to the project and described it as a key to the economic emancipation of the West African sub-region and a practical spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to which the four member nations subscribed.

At the closed-door meeting, Ghana's Energy Minister Mike Oquaye said the project demonstrated what a private-public partnership could achieve when undertaken in mutual trust.—MNA/Xinhua



Farmers ride on a cart pulled by a cow through a rice field in Vietnam recently.—INTERNET

SPORTS

China enters Fed Cup Asia-Oceania Group final

NEW DELHI, 23 April— Top-seeded China defeated India 2-0 to top Pool A and enter the final of the Fed Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group I here on Friday.

On Saturday, China will play the final against second-seeded Australia to decide the Pool B competition as the latter beat South Korea 2-0.

Zheng Jie, who ranked 69th in the world, gave China a flying start beating Rushmi Chakravarthi 6-3 and 6-0, before Li Na, who placed 41st in the WTA Tour, downed India's Shikha Uberoi 6-1 and 6-2.

In other actions of the day, Evie Dominikovic won the opening singles for Australia 6-0, 4-6 and 6-3 against South Korea's Lee Yera before Aussie No. 1 Samantha Stosur defeated Kim Jin-hee 6-3, 7-5.

The winner of Saturday's final will advance to the World Group II playoffs. —MNA/Xinhua

Ferrero edges past Gaudio into Barcelona semis

MADRID, 23 April— Juan Carlos Ferrero overcame second seed Gaston Gaudio of Argentina 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 on Friday to reach the semifinals of the Barcelona Open tennis tournament.

Czech Radek Stepanek joined Ferrero in the last four after coming from one set down to beat Swiss qualifier Stanislas Wawrinka 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Ferrero, who won the French Open in 2003, took an evenly balanced first set after earning himself a break point in the 10th game with a delicate drop

volley and then finished off with a clever crosscourt winner.

Gaudio, the only one of the top six seeds to make it into the quarterfinals, fought back hard to claim a 4-0 lead at the start of the second set and although Ferrero pulled it back to 5-4 he wrapped up with a confident service game.

Neither player gave any quarter in the decisive third set, trading a succession of powerful ground strokes during the course of some lengthy rallies. But Ferrero stretched his opponent around the court and gained the crucial breakthrough in the eighth game, breaking to go 5-3 up when he forced Gaudio into a forehand error and the Argentine then double faulted. Gaudio saved three match points but succumbed at the fourth, sending the home fans into joy.

Teenager Rafael Nadal takes on Agustin Calleri in another Spanish-Argentine duel later on Friday.

In the other quarterfinal Max Mirnyi of Belarus faces Russia's Nikolay Davydenko.

MNA/Xinhua



Arsenal and France striker Thierry Henry has a shot at goal during a Premiership match against Norwich at Highbury, on 2 April, 2005. Henry will miss the club's next two games and faces a race against time to recover full fitness in time for the FA Cup final, manager Arsene Wenger said.—INTERNET

Henry likely to miss FA Cup final

LONDON, 23 April— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said on Friday that injured striker Thierry Henry is doubtful for next month's FA Cup final against Manchester United.

Wenger said he was waiting for the results of a scan which Henry, the club's main goalscorer, was having on a groin injury on Friday.

Asked if the France forward would be fit to face United at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wenger told Sky Sports News: "I don't know yet. It's impossible to say today." —MNA/Xinhua

Ferguson wants Keane to take over Man Utd

LONDON, 23 April— Manchester United coach Alex Ferguson wants captain Roy Keane to take over the team when he eventually quits the post.

Three years ago Ferguson abandoned plans to retire and said he will be in charge for at least one more year, marking the 20th anniversary of him taking the job after moving from Aberdeen in November 1986.

"I will carry on at United next season and I have a contract to do that," Ferguson told Friday's Sun newspaper. "But when I do move on I would like to see Roy Keane taking over.

"He is a leader on the pitch and he could be that kind of leader sitting on the United bench too."

Ferguson will be on a 12-month rolling contract next season.

Keane, 33, has been at United since 1993 and is taking his coaching badges.

The Ireland midfielder has been outspoken in his criticism of some of his fellow players in recent seasons and last week said that not every United player could say they were giving 100 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

Neither player gave any quarter in the decisive third set, trading a succession of powerful ground strokes during the course of some lengthy rallies. But Ferrero stretched his opponent around the

Teenager Nadal continues stormy campaign in Barcelona

MADRID, 23 April— Spanish teenager Rafael Nadal turned in another irresistible display on Thursday, beating Slovak Dominik Hrbaty 6-1, 6-2 to reach the Barcelona Open quarterfinals.

The 18-year-old, the youngest player in 15 years to win a Masters event last week in Monte Carlo, will next meet Agustin Calleri, who claimed a 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 victory over fellow Argentine and fourth seed Guillermo Coria.

"It wasn't as easy as the scoreline suggests," said Nadal. "It was a tough game. I seem to be making few mistakes which is good but I certainly don't feel unbeatable at the moment."

Aggressively competing for every point, the Spaniard gave his opponent little chance as he reeled off a string of precise two-handed backhands and spectacular running passes on his way to an emphatic victory.

Third seed Carlos Moya of Spain was ousted from the third round after losing 6-4, 6-4 to big-serving Max Mirnyi of Belarus.

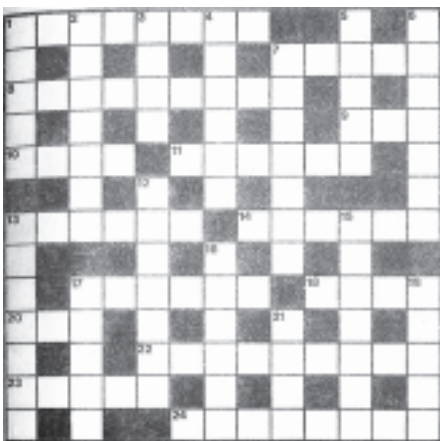
French Open champion Gaston Gaudio become the only one of the top six seeds to reach the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over in-form Spaniard David Ferrer. The second-seeded Argentine next faces Juan Carlos Ferrero, who continued his revival with a comfortable 6-1, 6-2 win over fellow Spaniard Alberto Martin. —MNA/Xinhua

Robben to return against Fulham

LONDON, 23 April— Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has confirmed Arjen Robben will return to the Blues in the game against Fulham on Saturday.

The Dutch midfielder, sidelined since last month when he damaged ankle ligaments while on international duty with Holland, has been included in the Blues' squad for the clash at Stamford Bridge — which is live on Sky Sports 1. —MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Inspiring personal quality
- 7 Hits hard
- 8 Dumb show
- 9 River of SW England
- 10 Chance
- 11 Canopy over bed
- 13 Instantaneous
- 14 Joints
- 17 Irritable
- 18 Commotion
- 20 Wretched dog
- 22 Game-bird
- 23 Age
- 24 Empty words

DOWN

- 1 Playful skip
- 2 Loss of memory
- 3 Metal
- 4 Damsel
- 5 Wanderer
- 6 Bony
- 7 Navigational instrument
- 12 Tombstone inscription
- 13 School-bag
- 15 Wash clothes
- 16 Pertaining to choir
- 17 Body of soldiers
- 19 Clean with broom
- 21 Season's yield

Ferguson must be given time to decide, says Webb

LONDON, 23 April— Alex Ferguson must be given time to decide when he steps down as Manchester United boss, former Old Trafford and England star Neil Webb was quoted as saying on Friday.

Webb played under Ferguson at United for three years and saw the Scot turn the club around and deliver its first league title in 26 years in 1993.

"When you've won what he has and transformed a club, you decide when you go, nobody else," Webb told BBC Sport.

"He's still got the passion. I think next season will be his swansong."

Webb, who played for United from 1989 to 1992 and won 26 England caps, thinks Ferguson will "move upstairs" at Old Trafford at the end of next season, with Roy Keane succeeding

him as manager.

Webb played with Keane when the duo were at Nottingham Forest under Brian Clough. "He was only a kid when we were together at Forest," Webb said.

"But he's gone on to become a great leader and motivator, with experience at the very top level, so if anyone's going to become a top manager, you'd think it would be him.

"But it's dangerous to predict these things. I played with Mark Hughes at United and never thought for a minute he would become a manager.

MNA/Xinhua



Spain's Sergio Garcia chips out of a bunker on the 8th hole of his second round at the 2005 Johnnie Walker Classic at the Pine Valley Golf Resort in Beijing, on 23 April, 2005. Garcia finished the second round with a score of six-under-par.—INTERNET

Israel, Palestinians urged to do more to sustain peace hopes

UNITED NATIONS, 23 April — The Palestinians must do more to reorganize their security forces to prevent violence and Israel must halt all settlement activity if recent hopes for resolving the Middle East conflict are to be sustained, a senior UN official said on Thursday.

“Recent events in the Middle East continue to confirm the potential for peace, but warn us as well that this new process is still fragile,” said Under-secretary-General for Political Affairs Kieran Prendergast in a briefing to the Security Council.

He welcomed the public reiteration by both sides of their willingness to coordinate Israel’s planned withdrawal of its settlements in the Gaza Strip this summer, but voiced concern “at reports that this announced readiness to coordinate has not yet been sufficiently translated into practice. “Direct dialogue and communication are essential first steps towards ensuring that the disengagement is as smooth and non-violent as possible,” he added. “The pressing challenge for the parties and the international community is to take all possible actions to ensure that disengagement happens, that it happens in a coordinated way, and that it does not become a dead end, but contributes to the momentum for peace,” he said.

While stressing that there is “no quick fix” to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he urged the two parties to implement their commitments under the roadmap peace plan and the accord reached recently at Sharm el-Sheikh. — MNA/Xinhua

US to seek passenger lists for flights over American soil

WASHINGTON, 23 April — The US Government plans to force foreign airlines flying over American soil to turn over the names of passengers on board or check the names against its watch lists in an effort to prevent terrorists from entering US airspace, the Washington Post reported on Thursday.

The proposal was prompted by a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Mexico on April 8 that was prohibited from flying over American airspace because two passengers were found to be on the US Government’s no-fly list, the report said.

“We are currently considering a measure that would require foreign carriers to vet their passenger manifests against the ‘no-fly’ list and ‘selectee’ lists on overflights,” Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokeswoman Yolanda Clark was quoted as saying.

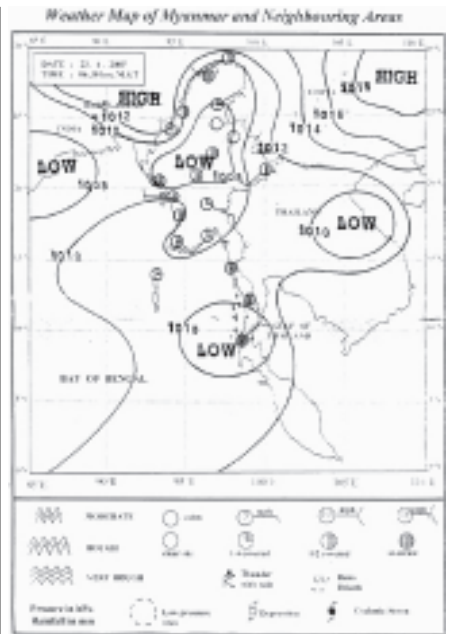
The secret no-fly list has thousands of names of known or suspected terrorists who the US Government fear may pose a threat to its aviation. The selectee

list contains the names of individuals who are not known terrorists but present a possible threat to the airplane.

Under current rules, overseas carriers are required to provide passenger manifests to US officials within 15 minutes of take-off if they are to land in the United States, according to the TSA. The proposal has angered European, Mexican and Canadian airlines, which operate most of the 500 estimated daily overflights, according to the report.

If foreign airlines do not comply with the order, which is expected to be issued in coming weeks, they could have to re-route flights, adding time and cost to the journeys.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 23 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (0.63) inch in Pyay. Day temperatures were (7°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Monywa, Myingyan, Minbu and Magway.

Maximum temperature on 22-4-2005 was 104°F. Minimum temperature on 23-4-2005 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-4-2005 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 22-4-2005 was (10.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 23-4-2005 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 (4) mph from Northwest at (15:25) hours MST on 22-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-4-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-4-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Sunday, 24 April
View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by missionary Sayadaw U Oaktamathara

7:15 am

2. တီဗီကလေး မပျာအောင်ရိုက် အရှင်မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြား: တော်မူအပ်သော ဥပုသ်တော်

7:25 am

3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning news

7:40 am

5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

6. ယဉ်ကျေးစုံစုံ (၃၈) ခြံ မင်္ဂလာ

8:05 am

7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

8. ထပ်ဆင့်အောင်ပွဲ ရော့တီ တံတား (ဒေးဒရီ)

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Say it in English

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of The Week’s international news

11:40 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရုစီနို-မေတ္တာ” (အပိုင်း-၂၅)

12:15 pm

5. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်း လင်းခေး တံတား

12:25 pm

6. Myanmar video feature: “အပိုင်းပိုင်ပြတ်တဲ့ရေ” (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ နိုင်ငံသားကြည့်ရှုရေးမဟာ)

2:00 pm

၁။ နိဂုံးတား-အောင်ဆွေ (မြန်မာ)

2:00 pm

7. Musical programme

2:15 pm

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:30 pm

9. ရောင်းမကြီး (ဇွဲလှ) ရေလှောင် တစ် (ပဲခူးတိုင်း)

2:45 pm

10. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. သာယာချိုအေး (၃၈) ခြံ မင်္ဂလာတေး

5:00 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တန်းတိုက်ပညာရေး ရုပ်ပြိုင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ အထူးဖြူ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

6. Dance of national races

5:30 pm

7. Musical programme

5:40 pm

8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

6:00 pm

9. Sing and enjoy

6:30 pm

10. Evening news

7:00 pm

11. Weather report

7:05 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရုစီနို-မေတ္တာ” (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

7:30 pm

13. Agricultural source of Myanmar development

7:40 pm

14. Musical programme

8:00 pm

15. News

8:00 pm

16. International news

8:00 pm

17. Weather report

8:00 pm

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်သံသရာ” (အပိုင်း-၃၅)

8:00 pm

19. The next day’s programme



Sunday, 24 April
Tune in today:

8:30 am

Brief news

8:35 am

Music: Sunny holiday

8:40 am

Perspectives

8:45 am

Music: -The light

8:55 am

National news/Slogan

9:05 am

Music: -Love will find a way

9:10 am

International news

9:15 am

Cultural images of Myanmar: -Myanmar lacquerware

1:30 pm

News/Slogan

1:40 pm

Stroy for children

1:50 pm

-The story of Mg Pauk Kyaing

9:00 pm

Songs for children

9:00 pm

Weekly news review

9:10 pm

Music Article

9:15 pm

Let’s improve English through songs!

9:25 pm

-Love will keep us alive

9:45 pm

-Always on my mind

10:00 pm

News/Slogan

10:00 pm

PEL

National race peace groups issue declarations totally opposing, condemning acts, aims of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa, his group, cohorts

YANGON, 23 April — The social organizations, political parties and peace groups that had returned to the legal fold issued declarations condemning and opposing the acts disturbing and endangering peace and stability and law enforcement of the State and peace and tranquillity of the entire people of the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and his cohorts. The following is a translation of the full texts of their declarations:

Declaration of SSA Special Region-3

Dated: 21 April 2005

1. We have learnt a group of fugitives from abroad on 17 April 2005 declared independence of Shan State. In this regard, we Shan State Army (SSA) Special Region-3, that has made peace, issue our attitude.
2. The SSA is an organization, which has made peace with the Government so in order to solve political problems through political means peacefully. We take a firm stand on equality, self-determination and genuine Union policy in the Union of Myanmar to bring about peace and regional development.
3. We SSA of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 hereby declare that we protest at the declaration that could lead to disintegration of the Union and misunderstanding among the national races.

Sao Yah Pay
Secretary
Central Leading
Committee
Shan State (North)
Special Region-3
Shan State Army

Sao Kai Hpa
Vice-Chairman
Central Leading
Committee
Shan State (North)
Special Region-3
Shan State Army

Sao Lwe Maw
Chairman
Central Leading
Committee
Shan State (North)
Special Region-3
Shan State Army

Statement of SSNA

Dated: 21 April 2005

1. We have learnt from a broadcast of the RFA that a group of Shan nationals announced independence of Shan State on 17 April 2005. Regarding the announcement, we Shan State National Army (SSNA), issue our statement.
2. The SSNA is in favour of the Union principle, in which all can enjoy equality and self-determination. We therefore make clear our attitude that we oppose the declaration of secession from the Union.

Sao Sai Yi
Commander-in-Chief
Central Leading Committee
Shan State National Army (SSNA)

Declaration of Group led by Phado Aung San which exchanged arms for peace

Date: 21 April 2005

1. It is learnt that VOA broadcast on 17 April 2005 the formation of Shan State government made up of five persons with positions of the president, prime minister, foreign minister, defence minister and home affairs minister announced by the ministry of foreign affairs based in Bangkok. It is also learnt on 18 April that Sao Hkam Hpa announced on the Internet through BBC Burmese Com independence of Shan State under federal principle.
2. As the State Peace and Development Council, has made relentless efforts in accord with 'Our Three Main National Causes' and the twelve political, economic and social objectives, the country is now enjoying peace and tranquillity and is on the way to progress. And the State will become a discipline-flourishing democratic one.
3. Therefore, their declarations stated in para 1 are indeed detrimental to Our Three Main National Causes. Our group which have exchanged arms for peace hereby declares that it opposes and shall never recognize their unilateral declarations as the group always wants to see the Union of Myanmar, where all national races live in unity, enjoying peace and stability.

Phado Aung San
The Group which exchanged arms for peace

Declaration of New Mon State Party

Date: 20 April 2005

1. We have heard that a handful of renegade Shan nationals declared independence of Shan State on 17 April, 2005. We of the New Mon State Party make clear our stand on their declaration of independence.
2. We of the New Mon State Party take a firm stand on the establishment of federal Union System that guarantees equality and self-determination. Based on this concept, the genuine multi-party democracy system is to be established after exchanging views at the round-table discussion.
3. At this juncture, the unilateral declaration of independence and secession from the Union is an act that can cause misunderstanding among the national races. The NMSP, therefore, totally disapproves of and opposes it.

Naing Raw Sa
Vice-Chairman-2
for Central Executive Committee
The New Mon State Party

Declaration on present domestic situation

1. With regard to present domestic situation, Wa State submitted 11 points of suggestion to the National Convention on 30 April 2004 and issued seven points on 1 December 2004. The Wa State continues to abide by the above-mentioned policies.
2. Wa State will strive for safeguarding the State's territorial integrity, national solidarity and unity of the entire nation, and it hereby declares its opposition to any conspiracy to cause disintegration of the country and words and expressions to endanger national unity.

Central Committee
Wa Solidarity Party
22 April 2005

Declarations condemning and opposing acts of group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts issued

YANGON, 23 April — National race armed groups in the Union of Myanmar that returned to the legal fold and peace groups, namely, MTA (Matkyan) group, MTA (Homain) group, SSNA (break-away) Wunyein group, Naryaing Region Development and New Lifestyle Settlement Group, MTA (Shwepiyaye) group, SSA Brigade-1 group, SSA Brigade-7 group, Kayan Region Development Group (Kayah Special Region-1), Kayinni National Democratic Party (Dragon) Group, Mon Peace Group (Mycik Region), Arms for Peace Group (Thandaung North Special Region), Mon Peace Group (Nai Saik Chan), Arakanese Army (AA) Group, Rakhine Peace Group led by U Saw Tun Oo and Mongha Regional People's Militia Group, issued their declarations condemning and opposing the acts of the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts that harm the State stability, prevalence of law and order and peace and tranquillity of the people.

MNA