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Thursday, 28 April, 2005

Forty major bridges already built stand witness to government's goodwill towards local people of Ayeyawady Division Prime Minister attends inauguration of Kunchaung Dam in Kyangin Township

YANGON, 27 April— The opening of the Kunchaung Dam, constructed by construction group-2 of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, took place at the pandal near the facility in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Division, this morning, with an address by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Ayeyawady Division PDC Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, local authorities, officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and

social organizations, teachers, students, and local residents.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that the Kunchaung Dam is

a facility that will strengthen the agricultural capacity of

Ayeyawady Division, the granary of Myanmar. Thanks to the facility,

local farmers will be able to carry out double cropping of cold season crops



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win oversees Control Tower and storage of water at Kunchaung Dam. — MNA



Aerial view of conduits at Kunchaung Dam. — MNA

and summer paddy on the 20,000 acres in Kyangin and Myanaung townships. The development of the agricultural sector, the main pillar of the State, will make the national economy strong and raise the socio-economic life of the rural folks and farmers.

That is why the government has been steadfastly encouraging reclamation of vacant land, (See page 8)

INSIDE

He worked here for seven years and left Myanmar last year. I hope he could repeat those words to many friends of his so that they get the correct and true picture of our country.

(Page 7) AYE PHYU

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 28 April, 2005

International community should help Myanmar's development efforts

In the world today, cooperation among the Asian and African nations plays a crucial role in solving the problems facing small countries. It was with the purpose of cementing friendship and boosting cooperation among the nations of Asia and Africa that the Asian-African Summit 2005 was held in Jakarta and Bandung, the Republic of Indonesia, from 22 to 24 April.

Present at the Summit together with Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe were Heads of State/Government from 105 countries in Asia and Africa and others. On 23 April, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe met with UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan at Room 4 of Jakarta Convention Centre and they had discussions in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

At the meeting, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe said that the seven-point policy programme, known as the Road Map, was publicly declared on 30 August 2003, with a view to making democratic reforms, that the National Convention was being held to be able to write a draft constitution and a national referendum would be held to approve the draft constitution and that finally free and fair elections would be held to form a government.

UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan said that he believed that the Myanmar Government was exerting all-out efforts for the sake of all Myanmar citizenry including national races and the UN praised its efforts. He added that, due to criticism of some nations and reports of some news agencies, the UN was assumed to be the enemy of Myanmar, that, in reality, it was not Myanmar's enemy but friend and that the international community ought to help Myanmar to facilitate its development efforts.

The Union of Myanmar is not just talking about democratic reforms but practically translating them into reality. And it has been making every endeavour for all-round development of the nation since its assumption of State responsibilities. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe invited the UN Secretary-General to visit Myanmar at any time convenient to him so that he can have a first-hand study of the development of the nation.

We believe that friendly and cordial discussions between Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan will enable the international community to understand Myanmar's modernization and democratization efforts.

People's Desire

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

Foreign Minister leaves for PRC

YANGON, 27 April— At the invitation of Mr Li Zhaoxing, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here for the People's Republic of China by air this afternoon to pay a goodwill visit.



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win being seen off at the airport.—MNA

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, officials and Ambassador

of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. The Foreign Minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials. —MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 27 April— After attending the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 25 April, the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin arrived back here yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Director-General U Mya Nyein of the Office of the Attorney-General and officials.

Police Lt-Col Kyaw Win Thein of Myanmar Police Force also arrived back together with the deputy attorney-general on the same flight. —MNA

Deputy FM to attend ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultations

YANGON, 27 April— At the invitation of Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Wu Dawei, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left for PRC to attend the 11th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultations to be held in Shanghai from 28 to 30 April. The Deputy Minister was seen off at the airport by Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

Director-General of the Consular and Legal Department of MOFA U Nyan Lynn, Assistant Director of the Minister's Office U Kyaw Sithu and Second Secretary of the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing U Aye Ko Ko will also be attending the meeting together with the deputy minister.

MNA



CASH DONATED FOR SEINTAMUNI PAGODA: Under the supervision of Insein Buddha Pujaniya Hsimee 9,900 Association, all-round renovation tasks for Seintamuni Pagoda in Singu, NyaungU District, is being carried out. The photo shows U Sai Phone Htoo (Video & Photos) + Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt of Botahtaung Township presents K 450,000 for sinking tube-well at the precinct of the pagoda to Patrons of the association U Yin Kyaw, U Soe Win, U Khin Maung Soe and personal concerned on 24 April. —H

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီလ (၂၆)ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၆၃၁၇)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေ ပြည်သူအများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

MILK POWDER FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: Mo Asia Co Ltd Dumex donated Dumex brand instant full cream worth K 900,000 to Yangon Children's Hospital on Wednesday. First Manager Dr Daw Beauty Kyi explained the purpose of the donation and handed over the packets of milk powder to Medical Superintendent Dr U Chit Ko Tin who presented a certificate of honour to the donor. —NLM



ASEAN Eco Ministers Retreat Meeting opens in Vietnam

HA LONG CITY (Vietnam), 26 April— The 11th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Retreat Meeting kicked off here on Tuesday, bringing together economic ministers and representatives from 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the block's General Secretary Ong Keng Yong.

During the one-day meeting, the delegates will seek major orientations and specific measures to gradually step up economic integration of the 10 countries toward the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2020, as well as to expand and deepen economic ties with non-block members.

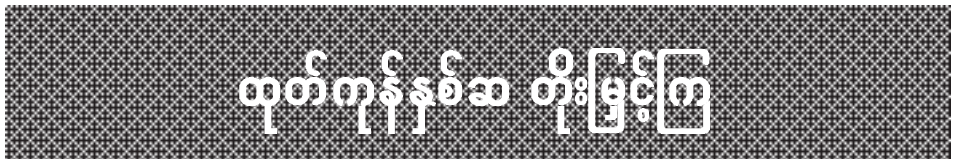
To foster intra-block economic cooperation, the ministers are expected to focus their discussions on the implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors signed in 2004 in Laos, under which principal measures are identified to enable the progressive, expeditious and systematic integration of agro-based products, air travel, automotive, e-ASEAN, electronics, fisheries, healthcare, rubber-based products, textile and apparels, tourism, and wood-based products.

"Besides intra-cooperation, ASEAN economic ministers will touch upon issues regarding economic cooperation

with non-block members in many fields, especially on negotiations for the establishment of free trade areas (FTAs) or comprehensive economic partnership (CEP)," a local official from the Trade Ministry said before the meeting, noting that ASEAN is negotiating FTA/CEP with six partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

"Among other things, the ministers will examine possible impacts of FTAs on ASEAN integration plans. ASEAN should have an effective coordination mechanism to ensure the overall interest of all block members," the official added.

On Wednesday, the ministers will meet with Peter Mandelson, Trade Commissioner of the European Union (EU) in the 6th AEM-EU Consultation also to be held in the northern city of Ha Long. During the one-day gathering, they are expected to agree on new measures to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two blocks.—MNA/Xinhua



Sino-Philippine ties undergoing quick development

MANILA, 26 April— Along with the maturing of political relations between China and the Philippines, the defence officials of the two countries have also begun to engage in cooperation in security and defence with the establishment of a mechanism of dialogue in the field.

Faced with complicated international and regional situations, the two countries have expressed their intention to strengthen information exchange and strategic cooperation in the field of security, to jointly contribute to maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Meanwhile, China and the Philippines have been making progress in co-operation in building a free trade zone and in cooperation in regional affairs. The Philippines joined this year the "Early Harvest Plan" in the

framework of a China-ASEAN free trade area, signalling the completion of the earliest phase in the building of a regional free trade area which will cover a market of 1.8 billion consumers, 2 trillion US dollars of GDP, and 2 trillion US dollars in trade volume.

Chinese and Philippine officials have estimated that in five years from now, the Sino-Philippine trade volume will attain at least 20 billion US dollars. The two countries see huge potential for cooperation in infrastructure, mining, fishing, forestry and many other fields. China will continue to support the Philippines to develop its

agriculture with Chinese technology and equipment.

In the field of people-to-people exchanges, more and more Filipinos are visiting China and have become aware of the importance of the role being played by China in economic development and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Former Philippine President Ramos once said that Filipinos used to focus their pay interest in the United States, Europe and Japan, but now they are equally interested in China, as they have realized the importance of China in regional development and stability.—MNA/Xinhua

Army sergeant from Long Beach dies in Iraq bombing

LONG BEACH, 26 April— An Army sergeant from Long Beach was killed when a bomb exploded next to his armoured vehicle in Iraq, the US Department of Defence said.

Anthony J Davis Jr, 22, was the fifth Long Beach resident to die in Iraq since the US invaded in March 2003. Davis was in a 19-ton, eight-wheeled troop transport known as a Stryker when he was killed Saturday in the town of Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad. The married father of two enlisted in August 2001, Army officials said Monday.—Internet

Thai Govt to step up fight against human trafficking

BANGKOK, 26 April— The Thai Government will intensify fight against human trafficking by cracking down on those involved in the illegal activity as well as assisting victims.

A national committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai will be set up to address human trafficking issues.

"Our panel will be focus on cracking down on trafficking gangs and on helping victims," Surakiart on Monday was quoted by *Bangkok Post* newspaper as saying during an inspection trip to the northern Tak Province. On the rehabilitation scheme for the victims, he said that the rehabilitation scheme consists of physical and mental assistance as well as occupational training, and the government will work with non-governmental organizations and civil society in this field.

Seri Laopram, chief of the Social Development and Human Security Office in Tak, said the 15-20 victims of trafficking rescued in Bangkok and other provinces had been sent back home.—MNA/Xinhua



The new 'Audi A6' is on display during its launch function in Mumbai on 26 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Malaysia, Indonesia to limit warships in disputed sea

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Malaysia and Indonesia had agreed to respectively reduce their patrol boats in the disputed Sulawesi Sea as soon as possible, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Sunday.

The agreement to withdraw all other patrol boats from the disputed area was reached at a meeting between the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) chief, Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Nor, and Indonesian Navy chief Vice-Admiral Slamet Subidyanto in Batam recently, the Deputy Prime Minister told reporters in Shah Alam near here.

Each country will station only one warship in the disputed marine border and

other boats of the two sides will withdraw simultaneously, according to earlier Press reports. The navies of the two countries had sent more ships to patrol the disputed area following an incident on 8 April in which RMN's *KD Rencong* and the Indonesian navy's *KRI Tedung Naga* brushed against each other, causing damage to both ships.

Both countries had sent protest notes to each other following the incident.

The maritime border dispute arose following the award by Petronas, Malaysia National Oil Company, to Shell of oil and gas contracts in two blocks in the Sulawesi as both countries have claims over the oil-rich sea. Najib, who is also Defence Minister, said Malaysia viewed the understanding reached as good because sovereignty was not determined by the number of ships in an area.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi girl weeps by her injured father at a hospital in Samarra. The man was caught in crossfire on 26 April, 2005.—INTERNET

UNSC calls for strengthened cooperation against terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April — The UN Security Council called on Monday for strengthened cooperation through enhanced information sharing, coordinated visits to countries and other issues of relevance to fight against terrorism.

In a statement read out by Wang Guangya of China, President for the month of April, the Council welcomed the briefings by the Chairmen of the al-Qaeda/Taleban Sanctions Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1267 (1999), the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1373 (2001), and the Committee on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction established pursuant to Resolution 1540 (2004).

The Council stressed the different mandates of the three Committees and reaffirmed its call for enhanced cooperation among them in monitoring member states implementation of the respective Security Council resolutions relevant to them.

It also invited them to continue cooperation with the working group established pursuant to Resolution 1566 (2004).

The Council reaffirmed the responsibility of member states for implementing the resolutions relevant to their respective mandates, including the preparation of reports to them, and encouraged international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance their efforts to further their members'

implementation of Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540.

It also encouraged those organizations, as well as states, to provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of implement those resolutions.

The Council reaffirmed that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constituted a threat to international peace and security, and recalled its grave concern over the risk posed by non-State actors that attempted to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use such means and related delivery systems.

It reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The Council welcomed the General Assembly's consensus adoption on 13 April, 2005 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

MNA/Xinhua



Japan sees Japan-China summit very significant

TOKYO, 26 April — The summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday was very significant, a top Japanese Government spokesman said on Monday.

"It is of great significance that the two leaders agreed to comprehensively promote the future-oriented cooperative relations," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a Press conference, referring to the summit on Saturday on the sidelines of the Asian-African summit in Jakarta.

Hosoda said to strengthen and develop bilateral relations is important for the Asian countries and the international community at large.

The top spokesman also stressed the importance of solving long-standing disputes between the two countries through dialogue.

In Saturday's talks, Hu initiated five proposals on developing the Sino-Japanese relations and urged Japan to seriously reflect over its wartime history and properly handle the current difficult situation in the Sino-Japanese relations.

Koizumi recognized the importance of bilateral relations, saying Japan will take vigorous actions to promote the ties in the spirit of President Hu's five proposals. — MNA/Xinhua



Visitors look at kitchen appliances displayed at the Canton Trade Fair in Guangzhou recently.—INTERNET

Pace of guerilla attacks in Iraq rises

WASHINGTON, 26 April—After a postelection respite, the pace of guerilla attacks in Iraq has increased in recent weeks to approach last year's levels, Pentagon officials said on Tuesday.

"Where they are right now is where they were almost a year ago, and it's nowhere near the peak," said Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a Pentagon Press conference.

That's about 400 attacks a week of all kinds: bombings, shootings, rocket and mortar attacks, Pentagon officials said. About half cause significant damage or injure or kill someone.

Though they vary daily, those figures are close to the rate of attacks that took place through much of last year, except for spasms of violence in

Najaf, Fallujah and elsewhere. In pre-election violence in January, the number spiked to twice the usual rate.

The frequency of attacks is one measure of the strength of the guerilla in Iraq, and the success of the efforts of the US-led coalition to combat it.

But Myers and Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld disputed a suggestion that the figure demonstrates a lack of progress in Iraq. Rumsfeld said the focus of US forces has been training Iraqi security forces rather than directing counter attack operations.

Internet

China's largest land port to set new record in Sino-Russian trade

HOHHOT, 26 April — Manzhouli, China's largest land port on the China-Russia border, will hopefully handle 18 million tons of goods for import and export this year, an all time high, according to relevant figures released by the Manzhouli Port Office.

The value of Sino-Russian trade to be handled by Manzhouli Port, in northeast China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, is to reach the record 1.7 billion US dollars in the year.

As the largest land port on the Sino-Russian border, Manzhouli handles nearly 60 per cent of the annual trade volume between China and Russia. In recent years, Sino-Russian economic and trade ties recorded steady growth.

The main commodities imported from Russia via Manzhouli include timber, crude, pulp and chemical products, while textiles, garments, building materials and home appliances are popular Chinese export items to Russia. Beginning this year, fruit,

vegetables and automobiles have been added to China's export list.

To boost bilateral trade, China will allocate 280 million yuan (about 34 million US dollars) to extend the scale of Manzhouli Port this year. An additional 21 million yuan (some 2.5 million dollars) will be used to improve and upgrade highways at Manzhouli, said Zhang Jinghua, director of the Manzhouli Port Office.

Manzhouli customs will simplified customs clearance procedures and introduce round-clock service, Zhang added.

Local customs statistics showed that goods for import and export between China and Russia via Manzhouli came to 10 million tons in 2003 and rose to 14 million tons last year. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi policeman and bystanders look at the wreckage of a car used in a suicide bomb attack in the al Shelia neighbourhood of Baghdad, on 25 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Annan urges world leaders to take decision to overhaul UN

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April — The United Nations must undertake the most sweeping overhaul in its 60-year history in order to strengthen collective security, lay down a truly global strategy for development, Secretary-General Kofi Annan argued in the latest issue of *Foreign Affairs*.

Annan's commentary, which was published Monday, restated the case he made in his recent ground-breaking report, "In Larger Freedom," which outlines a series of proposals for adapting the world body to meet current and emerging challenges.

His article cited cross-border threats, such as organized crime syndicates, AIDS and terrorism, in pressing world leaders to adopt the recommendations when they meet for a summit in September at the UN.

Specifically, he called for measures to ensure that catastrophic terrorism never becomes a reality, protect civilians, eradi-

cate poverty and foster a strong UN capability of these important tasks.

In perhaps the most closely watched of all reforms, Annan proposed expanding the Security Council to 24 members from 15, providing two alternative formulas for doing so. Neither changes the current status of the veto power enjoyed by the five permanent members.

"Member states should make up their minds and reach a decision before the September summit," he declared.

Annan urged states to adopt a comprehensive convention against terrorism, and establish a UN peacebuilding commission. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Vietnamese students wearing Ao Dai, a traditional dress, maneuver their bicycles through the traffic in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, on 27 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Blair under fresh election pressure as lawmaker quits over Iraq

LONDON, 27 April—Prime Minister Tony Blair was forced onto the defensive over Iraq again as a senior member of his Labour Party quit in protest at the war and urged voters to give the premier "a bloody nose" at next week's election.

Also turning up the heat, the main opposition Conservatives launched a fresh poster campaign calling Blair a liar as the gloves come off ahead of polling day on 5 May.

Brian Sedgemore, a Labour lawmaker for 27 years who is now retiring from parliament, said he had joined the smaller opposition Liberal Democrats, who opposed the March 2003 Iraq conflict.

"I urge everyone from

the centre and left of British politics to give Blair a bloody nose at the general election and vote for the Liberal Democrats," Sedgemore told reporters.

The defection was not entirely unexpected — Sedgemore was a long-time Labour rebel who had consistently criticised the Iraq war — but was nonetheless deeply uncomfortable for Blair, just nine days before Britain votes.

Michael Howard,

leader of the Conservatives, also powered in with a targeted attack on the Prime Minister's character.

"If he's prepared to lie to take us to war, he's prepared to lie to win an election," declared a new poster emblazoned with a picture of Blair's face.

Howard defended the hard-hitting campaign during a visit to Birmingham, in the West Midlands. — *Internet*

S Korea to help Nepal build power project

KATHMANDU, 26 April — The South Korean Government has agreed in principle to assist Nepal Electricity Authority in building the 30-megawatt Chameliya Hydroelectric Power Project in far-western Nepal, an official revealed here on Monday.

The South Korean Government has assured the Nepalese power authority of implementing the project soon, and the framework of assistance will be formalized following government-to-government negotiations, Janak Lal Karmacharya, executive director of the authority, told reporters.

The project is a medium-sized, six-hour daily peaking run-off-river project, which will be built at the Chameliya River, a tributary of the Mahakali River, in Darchula District, some 800 kilometres west of Kathmandu. The project, has an estimated cost of 74.9 million US dollars. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China's automobile industry faces three major challenges

BOAO (Hainan Province), 26 April — A sluggish market demand and continuous price drops have made China's burgeoning auto industry a hot topic at the annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), according to Sunday's *Economic Daily*.

A discussion on the subject cited three major problems: the disadvantages of China's self-designed auto brands, pressure caused by oversupply and inefficient financing services.

Despite the lack of effective solutions, the discussion clarified the thorny issues and made the sector more alert of its severe situations, according to the *Economic Daily* article.

Currently, there are 355 auto brands in China's market, according to figures from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

Of the 100 brands for sedans, 37 were domestically designed. Meanwhile, about 90 per cent of the 97 truck brands and 76 per cent of 158

passenger car brands are designed in China.

Many of these Chinese auto brands did not hold inspiring market shares in spite of the large percentages, said CAAM executive deputy director Jiang Lei.

So far, the aggregated market share of domestic brands has dropped from 23.97 per cent in 2003 to the present 19.67 per cent.

The sales volume of self-designed luxury sedans Red Flag and Zhonghua reported declines of 40 per cent and 58 per cent separately.

"Everyone is concerned about the year's slower growth rate of 15.17 per cent in China's sedan sales, the drastic decline in terms of self-designed brands, how-

ever, have posed increasing pressure," said Jiang.

Another problem as many participants acknowledged, is the oversupply of automobiles. According to figures from the National Bureau of Statistics, the present auto supply is some 130 per cent of the market demand.

Other foreign experts predicted that 60 per cent of China's auto machines will be left unused by 2007.

The rough competition already forced out some non-public companies that were tempted into the auto industry last year.

"A new round of mergers and restructuring is just around the corner," according to the newspaper.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Cuba to strengthen bilateral ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Malaysia and Cuba would explore ways to further strengthen bilateral relations, especially in the economic and social fields, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Monday.

Cuban First Vice-President Raul Castro Ruz's visit to Malaysia opened up new opportunities for the two countries to enhance bilateral ties, Najib told reporters after meeting the Cuban guests in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre near here. Raul Castro, the younger brother of Cuban President Fidel Castro, arrived here last Saturday for a four-day visit to Malaysia to foster ties between the two countries.

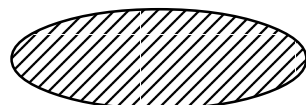
"We note that trade between Malaysia and Cuba is currently very small," he said, referring to Malaysia-Cuba trade which totalled around 1.84 million US dollars last year. Najib said Malaysia and Cuba hold potential to cooperate in commercial and manufacturing activi-

ties as well as research and development in vaccines and pharmaceutical products.

"This takes into account the fact that Cuba is strong in the production of vaccines and pharmaceuticals. For its part, Malaysia is seen as having potential to be a centre for clinical tests for vaccines," he said.

Cuba also expressed its commitment to contribute more knowledge and expertise to the local development of biotechnology through the existing technical cooperation between Cuban institutions and University Sains Malaysia (USM) and University Putra Malaysia (UPM).

MNA/Xinhua



A Vietnamese man

packages coffee at

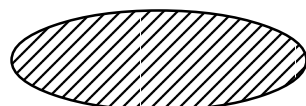
the Mai coffee

shop in Hanoi,

Vietnam, on 27

April, 2005.

INTERNET



Hu Jintao meets with Indonesian Vice-President

JAKARTA, 26 April — Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao met here on Monday with Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla to exchange views on deepening strategic partnership between the two countries.

The Chinese President said that Sino-Indonesian relations had entered a new era with rapid, healthy and stable development. He added that he and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had fruitful talks on the same day and signed joint declaration on establishing a strategic partnership between the two countries, according to sources from the Chinese delegation.

The Sino-Indonesian relations will be further developed under this strategic partnership, Hu added.

On bilateral economic and trade cooperation, the Chinese President said as China and Indonesia are both developing countries, developing economy should be their top priorities.

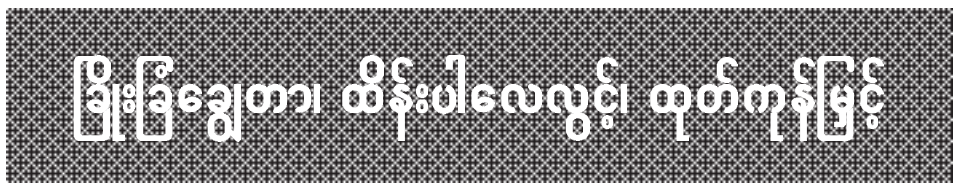
In recent years, the two countries have made remarkable achievements in economic and trade cooperation, Hu

said, adding that the two countries should continue to strengthen cooperation in areas of infrastructure construction, energy and natural resources development, agriculture and fishing.

For his part, the Indonesian Vice-President noted that the Indonesian economy is recovering with increasing investment from both domestic and abroad. He added that the two countries should tap the cooperation potentials in sectors of infrastructure and energy development.

On the same day, the Chinese President also met respectively with Hidayat Nur Wahid, chairman of People's Consultative Assembly; Agung Laksono, speaker of House of Representatives, and Ginanjar Karta Sasmita, speaker of Regional People's Representative Council.

MNA/Xinhua



Nissan Motor president and CEO, Carlos Ghosn, stands beside a 'Serena' in Tokyo on 25 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Economic growth to moderate in Asia-Pacific in 2005

SINGAPORE, 26 April — A survey conducted by the International Trade Institute of Singapore predicted that the growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) for developing countries in Asia-Pacific will be at 6.2 per cent in 2005 against the 7.2 per cent increase achieved in 2004.

Survey results released on Monday said that factors such as persistent high oil prices, a weakening US dollar as well as the slowdown of global trade will pose special near-term challenges for the region.

“China’s rapid growth has provided impetus to regional growth with rapid increases in intraregional trade,” the survey found, adding that a successful “soft landing” of China’s economy will contribute to the region’s prospect for this year.

The surveyor marked

2005 as the Year of the Microcredit to underscore ways of strengthening income and employment generation in Asian and Pacific nations as they are facing challenges like growing populations and youth unemployment.

Poverty reduction, the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in some countries, as well as the financial sustainability of microfinance are among long-term development policy issues for the region, according to the survey. As far as Singapore’s economy is concerned, the survey echoed

the government’s forecast as saying that the GDP growth will be in the moderated range of 3-5 per cent in 2005 with possible rise in retail prices.

The government is taking measures to address the structural unemployment issue, attract foreign direct investment, diversify its economy and enhance its competitiveness, the survey said.

MNA/Xinhua

Visa extension within hour in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 April — The Nepali Department of Immigration has started extending visa for tourists within an hour, an official said here on Sunday.

“We have been providing the visa extension service from three minutes to one hour,” Kamal Bahadur Rajlawat, immigration officer at the department told reporters.

It used to take about three hours, he noted, adding “Some tourists are astonished at getting the prompt service and remarked as unexpected pleasure”.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh’s frozen food exporters warned against foul play

DHAKA, 26 April — The Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association has warned its members against any foul play in exports as complaints of underweight in packed shrimp are pouring in from European buyers, *The New Age* reported on Monday.

Some of the packets contain smaller quantity of shrimps than declared and the gap is wider than the weight loss permissible in case of packaging perishable goods, the industry sources were quoted as saying, referring to complaints reached them from Bangladesh mis-sions abroad.

The association will cancel membership of any exporter found guilty of miss-declaration and miss-gradation, and will recommend the government to cancel factory licence, said Kazi Belayet

Hossain, vice president of the Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association.

Frozen food is the country’s second largest export earner after ready-made garment. In 2003-2004 fiscal, exports of shrimp and other sea food fetched 390 million US dollars against 321.81 million dollars in the previous fiscal.

Shrimp accounts for more than 90 per cent of the frozen food export basket.

MNA/Xinhua

Western regions become new clean energy base in China

URUMQI, 26 April — Dotted with numerous solar and wind power facilities, once barren desert areas in western China have become a new clean energy base in the country.

Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur, which is rich in wind power, began building a wind power project with a generating capacity of 188,000 kilowatts this year at a place 40 kilometres away from Urumqi, the regional capital, said Wang Liming, senior engineer of the regional wind power research institute.

The Inner Mongolia, another major wind power producer, is also making use of its troublesome sandstorms to produce more electricity to facilitate its people and those in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The region is preparing to build a wind power project with a generating capacity of 300,000 kilowatts, tripling the region’s wind power

projects built in the past 10 years.

Last year, China installed 1,292 wind power generating units with a combined capacity of 764,000 kilowatts, up 34.7 per cent over the previous year.

With operation of 20-plus solar energy stations in Xinjiang over the past three years, more than 1,000 residents living around the Taklimakan Desert, the world’s second largest of its kind, have been provided with adequate electricity and water supply.

The Xinjiang New Energy Co Ltd. has installed 30,000 solar energy devices at desert areas, making 48 townships with no electricity to bid farewell to the life of being in

dark at night.

China is now being challenged by a nationwide short supply of power.

Consequently, the country will give a major boost to the development of renewable energy, including wind power, to benefit 23 million people living in hinterland areas or on the coastal islands by 2010.

Currently, the reserve of available wind power in China tops 270 million kilowatts, 70 per cent of which are produced in Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang.

Other leading producers include Gansu Province and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China.

MNA/Xinhua



A model displays a creation of Indian fashion designer Anju Modi during a fashion shows in New Delhi on 25 April, 2005.—INTERNET

To those who have turned a blind eye

Aye Phyu

Many of us have heard of the old adage "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder", implying that whether anything—a lifeless object or an organism including human being—is beautiful or not depends on the person who looks at it. If we look at someone with love and affection, no doubt we would be overlooking all his minor faults and weaknesses and we tend to look at his positive side, looking for the little sparks or the potential in him.

However, if we have already formed an unfavorable opinion of him with preconceived ideas or bias, then undoubtedly we would feel like we are on a 'faultfinding' mission and ready to pick out the smallest excuse to his disadvantage.

It is of paramount importance that in judging anyone, the judgement should be made with a clear unbiased mind on the part of the people who make the judgement. Otherwise, it wouldn't be fair to the person judged.

Several weeks ago, I came across a piece of writing in the "You Said It" section of the May 2004 issue of Reader's Digest. As we have been reading all the negative writings about our country in international magazines and at the same time hearing the many pessimistic views aired on some broadcasting stations, that little piece of writing made me so happy that I would like to share it with other people. It goes:

Burma Bashing

When are you going to write something positive about Myanmar?

I have been going there on a regular basis for the past 30 years, and all I see are improvements. I think it's about time you removed your "blinkers!"

G Douglas

I feel really thankful to Mr. Douglas (whoever he might be), for saying like that and to Reader's Digest for putting his words in print.

As citizens living in the country, we do want to see some mentioning about all the good things we have been witnessing all along. It is unjust that not even a small percentage of all the improvements in Myanmar that deserve mentioning gets what it deserves.

Common citizens like us don't know anything about politics, which everyone accepts as a very complicated issue. We have to agree that each na-

tion in this world has its own social, cultural, economic and political backgrounds.

Nobody can deny that our country has greatly improved over the last decade with the development infrastructures having taken up a sound foundation. Dams, roads, bridges, schools, colleges, hospitals, power stations... just to name a few... have been popping up here and there all throughout the country. The best part of it is the easy and fast transportation for people from remote areas as well as for the quick and smooth flow of commodities.

There is no doubt about the development efforts that are shaping up well in Myanmar. Despite all these efforts, we rarely see positive writings about our country. For the improvements we have steadfastly been making, we deserve some mention thereon. People from outside, who have never been to Myanmar or who have not visited here recently, would surely have formed wrong images about our beloved country just by reading all those pessimistic

Nobody can deny that our country has greatly improved over the last decade with the development infrastructures having taken up a sound foundation. Dams, roads, bridges, schools, colleges, hospitals, power stations... just to name a few... have been popping up here and there all throughout the country. The best part of it is the easy and fast transportation for people from remote areas as well as for the quick and smooth flow of commodities.

writings.

Besides, the foreign broadcasting stations are making it worse for us. As rational citizens, we would willingly accept those statements made for our country by the learned professors from prestigious universities, who have been doing country research for so many years. Not only our country, they have been doing research on other countries, too. Any constructive criticism they make will play an important role in our development path.

However, what mostly come on air are personal view points of all sorts of people, most of whom make their expressions with the faultfinding mind. As I mentioned in the beginning, 'Beauty is only in the eyes of the beholder'.

So what can we expect from those people? I remembered the words of a social studies teacher to his students. He stressed that it is always crucial to differentiate facts from opinions in learning social studies because it can lead to the case of being misinformed. That is perfectly true in the case of the news given by the media.

As a developing country, we still have a long way to go. Like other countries, our people consist of the rich and the poor as well as the middle class. The lowest level group live in poverty, facing the vicious cycle of missing the opportunity to education due to poverty, which lead to their getting low-paid jobs that make them poor. Efforts are being constantly made to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor and also to provide necessary assistance as much as possible to those from the low-income bracket, and those from remote and border areas.

However, as everyone knows poverty eradication takes times and cannot be accomplished within a very short time. Many will be still taking blue collar jobs like 'labourers' who carry heavy baskets of sand or rocks or rice bags.

An article in one foreign magazine wrote that as if it were a shame to have these labourers. Other developing countries experience more or less the same thing. The lowest income group is engaged mostly in hard labour jobs. We are quite familiar with the fact that many developed nations in the world have homeless people, an issue they have not succeeded in solving it.

So why is it to everyone's concern that we have workers in the lowest status doing hard jobs, a fact also common in other developing countries? It seems that some people and the media world, in trying to mar our country's image, has deliberately turned a blind eye to all our development efforts.

An American expatriate friend of my cousin, with 17 years of teaching experience in various international schools all over the world, told her that Myanmar is the safest country he had been to. "I don't need to keep the spraybottle handy to defend myself. Everywhere else, I've to take it with me and keep it handy."

He worked here for seven years and left Myanmar last year. I hope he could repeat those words to many friends of his so that they get the correct and true picture of our country.

2005 Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV begins

YANGON, 27 April — The 2005 Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV, hosted by Myanmar, was opened at Theinbyu Tennis Court, here, at 8 am today.

Together with umpires, managers, coaches and players from tennis teams of Bangladesh, Iraq, Jordan, Kirgystan, Omen, Syria, Singapore, Turkmenistan, UAE and host Myanmar took the designated places.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an opening address. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Mr Suresh Menon of International Tennis Federation formally opened the matches.

They cordially greeted the players. Myanmar Tennis Federation President Dr Tin Aung Lin presented a commemorative pennant to the commander. The commander, the minister, the mayor and party posed for documentary photos with the tennis teams.

Also present were members of the leading patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, Chairperson of the Central Committee of the MWSF Daw Aye Aye and members, officials of the foreign missions and tennis fans.

Myanmar and the Philippines met in a match of Davis Cup Tennis Tournament in 1955. However, Myanmar organizes hosting of today's Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV for the first time.

Tennis teams from 10 countries are participating in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV Matches. Two best teams from each group will have opportunities to enter the Asian Zone Group-III matches.

The tennis matches will be held up to 1 May. Any fan may watch the matches.

MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Syria makes significant progress in implementing UN Resolution

UNITED NATIONS, 27 April — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday Syria has made significant progress withdrawing troops from Lebanon as required by Security Council Resolution 1559, but that Syria's stated full withdrawal has yet to be verified.

"As of April 26 2005, the requirements of Resolution 1559 have not yet been met. However, the parties concerned have made significant and noticeable progress toward implementing some of the provisions contained in the resolution," Annan said in a report to the Security Council.

He said "of particular importance" is a letter sent to him by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara, which stated that Syria had completed the full withdrawal of its troops, military assets and intelligence forces from Lebanon on Tuesday.

The Secretary-General said the stated complete withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon has yet to be verified by a team of UN observers, whose conclusions will be a supplement to Tuesday's report.

MNA/Xinhua

Forty major bridges already built stand...

(from page 1)

beefing up per acre yield of crops, expansion of multi-cropping areas, and extended use of machinery and farm implements, while constructing irrigation facilities and promoting the agricultural sector.

In the Ayeyawady Division that is endowed with rivers and creeks and streams with a great deal of a rainfall, most of the land is flooded in the rainy season, and there is scarcity of water in summer. On the basis of that point, the government has also built Nankathu dam and diversion weir, Panhlaing Sluice Gate, Mezali Sluice Gate, Wadaw Sluice Gate, Htani Sluice Gate in addition to Kunchaung Dam for proper flow of water of the rivers and creeks and for prevention against entering of salty water. Moreover, it has established waterworks and canals with a length of many miles. There have emerged Ma Mya Dam Project, Kanyin Dam Project, Ngapiseik and Myogwin water pumping stations one after another in the environs of the region.

As a result, the drive has ensured adequate water supply for Ayeyawady Division along with a success in the multi-cropping. In the past, Ayeyawady Division could cultivate summer paddy in name. Now

it has increased its sown acreage of summer paddy to more than 1.7 million, accounting for over half the total sown acreage of summer paddy of the entire nation.

Previously, the division could put around 3 million acres under monsoon paddy, and now the number of total acres has mounted to 3.5 million. However, Ayeyawady Division is to make continued efforts to be able to meet the target of 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy laid down by the government.

On the whole, Ayeyawady Division has been able to stand as the granary of the State due to the effective combination of the application of modern agricultural methods and land and water resources through innovative measures. Furthermore, its another salient point is that it is extending the production of beans and pulses and edible oil crops encouragingly a year after another.

With respect to the livestock sector, it has been able to increase the area of fish breeding ponds to about 96,000 acres, and prawn breeding ponds to more than 40,000 acres. And its raising of ducks, pigs and domestic chicken is more than any other states and divisions. Thus, the dependable region has remained as



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets local people after opening ceremony of Kunchaung Dam.—MNA



the agriculture and livestock breeding zone as well as the food basket zone of the nation. All are to recognize that point as its great success.

The Prime Minister cited the speech of the Head of State, as saying Ayeyawady Division is blessed with favourable conditions for achieving success in the agriculture and livestock sector, so steps are to be taken thoroughly for considerably raising the sector.

Ayeyawady Division, whose paddy sown acreage makes up more than one fourth of that of the State, has a rich soil.

If the region is able to boost per acre yield of paddy significantly, it will help meet the target of the State's paddy output of 1,200 million baskets of paddy.

Measures are to be taken for promotion of



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing.—MNA

the breeding of fish and prawn and for extending the area of prawn breeding ponds.

Ayeyawady Division is to strictly follow and put the guidance into reality. In order to meet the target, the government has constructed the transport infrastructure close to cent per cent.

According to its topography, Ayeyawady

Division had to rely mainly on the waterways for transport up to the period seven years ago.

The poor transport made the division lag behind in development. In addition that, the instability due to the internal armed struggle line caused a great hindrance to regional development undertakings.

In contrast, the region

has been facilitated with a network of roads and bridges owing to the harmonious efforts of the State and the local folks.

The 40 large river or creek spanning bridges have stood witness to the government's goodwill towards local people of Ayeyawady Division, and now one can travel by bus from one place to any other places in the region.

The Ayeyawady Division dwellers have realized that now they can travel to any other states and divisions in a short time. Indeed, it is the result of peace, tranquillity and smooth transport.

As there is peace and stability in all the regions in Ayeyawady Division with no insurgency, and gateways to the division open, economic and social conditions of the division have improved. Besides agricultural and fish and meat sectors, hotels and tourism have also improved rapidly because of Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches.

Apart from traditional livelihood, the division has developed due to new economic (See page 9)



Newly opened Kunchaung Dam built in Kyangin Township.—MNA

Forty major bridges already built stand.....

(from page 8)

enterprise and products.

In order to speed up the development momentum of the division, the government designated Pathein, Hinthada and Maubin as special development regions and established universities, colleges and hospitals. The government is also creating better foundations to turn out outstanding, brilliant, fit and strong human resources, he said.

He said the development rate of the entire nation is very rapid as other states and divisions of the Union have also improved with greater momentum. Rapid development has been made in economic sector according to the short-term and annual projects, he said.

He said all economic fields such as production, services and trade have developed yearly. One can witness the improvement of living standard of the people both in urban and rural regions.

The objective of the continued efforts of the government led by State leader Senior General Than Shwe is for emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation and raising the living standard of the national people, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the government laid down the twelve objectives— four political objectives, four economic objectives and four social objectives and has been building the nation. The government is making reforms in all sectors in order to fulfill social requirements such as to be able to work with peace of mind, creating economic opportunities, longevity and well-being, learning of higher education and ensuring smooth transport.

There emerged minion organizations that would destroy the nation, opposing Our Three Main National Causes. The attitude towards them is clear. They are to be warded off in accord with the four-point People's Desire. The Prime Minister urged the people to fight against any destructive act or hindrance at a time when the objectives of high living standard of the people are realized.

With equal development in border and rural areas, seven-point Road Map which is practical and reasonable were laid down for transforming the nation into a genuine democratic one smoothly. As is known to all, the government is implementing it systematically. Basic principles needed for future State Constitution were laid down at the National Convention to a certain extent.

He said transitional tasks cover political, economic, administrative, education and health sectors. The State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to participate in the transitional tasks for success in accord with work programmes laid down.

He urged the people of Ayeyawady Division to



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for documentary photo with officials and local people at the opening ceremony of Kunchaung Dam.— MNA

work hard by making good use of better foundations established by the Head of State and the government with goodwill and to boost production.

In conclusion, he also urged them to safeguard the Union of Myanmar with Union spirit and national solidarity spirit, upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said that the Kunchaung is the 173rd dam of the nation and the eighth of Ayeyawady Division. With the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the Tatmadaw Government has been striving for harmonious development of all their regions of the nation. The Ministry of Agricul-

ture and Irrigation has been building dams, water pumping stations, tube-wells in regions with less rainfall, and sluice gates and dams in the areas which receive a lot of rain annually. It is reclaiming more land for cultivation. In addition, it is providing assistance to the agricultural sector for introducing mechanized farming. The Kunchaung Dam will benefit 21 village-tracts. In the past, the region grew 33,000 acres of crops including over 21,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 2,700 acres of summer paddy and over 9,300 acres of beans and pulses. Thanks to the dam it will now cultivate over 21,000 acres of

monsoon paddy, 16,000 acres of summer paddy and 5,350 acres of beans and pulses totalling over 42,000 acres of crops. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing said that Ayeyawady Division will put 3.6 million acres of land under monsoon paddy in 2005-2006, up from 3,508,291 acres in the previous fiscal. It cultivated 1.42 million acres of beans and pulses in 2003-2004 and 1.528 million acres in 2004-2005. The division has 40,274 acres of prawn farms and 94,732.88 acres of fish ponds in addition cage breeding of fish in Ngawun River and fish-plus-paddy cultivation. It has raised over 10 million chicken. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, rubber plantation of the division will reach 100,000 acres in 2007-2008. A local thanked the Government for building the dam.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win unveiled the stone plaque of the dam, and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Maj-Gen Htay Oo formally inaugurated the dam. The Prime Minister and party then inspected the dam. At the briefing hall of the dam project, the Prime Minister heard a report on arrangements to extend irrigated crops in the division presented by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo. The Prime Minister said that thanks to the irrigation facilities, crops can be cultivated on 100,000 acres of contiguous land all year round in the division. It is a significant progress and an example for other states and divisions. The Government has been providing all-round assistance to farmers to use farm machines and to entrepreneurs to play a role in the farm mechanization process.

Kunchaung Dam is located three miles from Pathein-Monywa Highway near Tatkon village, Kyangin Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division. The earth dam is 16,720 feet long, and 135 feet high. Its surface area is 98,400 acre-feet at highest water level. It can irrigate 20,000 acres of crops. It is now irrigating 1,500 acres of summer paddy. — MNA

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Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein presents prize to a winner in Myanmar National (Category-A) Contest.— MNA

Prizes awarded to winners of ASEAN Photo Show and Contest 2004

YANGON, 27 April — The prize presenting ceremony of ASEAN Photo Show and Contest 2004 was held at the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum this morning with a speech by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

Also present on the occasion were departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture, ambassadors of ASEAN countries and prize winners.

On behalf of the Information Minister, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein made a speech. Next, the deputy minister presented prizes to winners of Myanmar National (Category A) contest, Pyae Phy

Aung, Ye Aung Htoo, Zeyar Tun, Naing Zaw Lin and Aung Paing; winners of Category B contest, Aung San Win (Shwe-inn-tha), Lin Htin and AK Moe (Zoology), Mann Tekkatho Nay Myo Win and Khin Maung Myint and Pyae Phy Aung who stood second and AK Moe (Zoology) who stood third in the regional level (Category B) contest respectively.

Next, AK Moe (Zoology) expressed thanks on behalf of prize winners.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and party posed for documentary photo and viewed the prize winning photos of the winners.

MNA

Sanyo showroom launched in Kyaukdata Township

YANGON, 27 April— The Sanyo Showroom of OK Myanmar Co Ltd was launched at the showroom on Pansodan Street in Kyaukdata Township this morning, attended by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views round the showroom of OK Myanmar Co Ltd. — MNA



Managing Director of Sanyo Electronic Corporation, Japan Head Office, Mr Kojimori speaking at opening of the showroom. — MNA

Tun, departmental heads, officials of the company and Sanyo Electronic Corporation Head Office,

entrepreneurs and guests. Managing Director of OK Myanmar Co Ltd U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing extended

greetings and Managing Director of SECJHO Mr Kojimori formally opened the showroom.

Next, the commander and party were conducted by the officials round the showroom. The air con-

ditioners, fridges, washing machines, digital cameras and LCD projectors are available at the showroom. In commemoration of opening the showroom, Sanyo brand electrical appliances will be sold on discount with presents on 27,28 and 29 April. Those wishing to buy may contact Tel: 544464, 544465 and 241077. — MNA

Land Surveying Course (3/2005) opened

YANGON, 27 April— The opening of Land Surveying Course (3/2005) for Staff Officers conducted by Settlement and Land Records Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held on 25 April at Central Land Records Development Training School in Taikkyi with an address by Director-General U Win Kyi of Settlement and Land Records Department.

Also present were Deputy Director-General U Win Tun Ni, Principal of the training school U Myint Oo, the directors, officials and 20 staff officer trainees.

MNA



Managing Director of OK Myanmar Co Ltd U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and Managing Director of Sanyo Electronic Corporation, (Japan Head Office) Mr Kojimori formally open the showroom. — MNA

Preliminary Conference of Mandalay Division WVO Supervisory Committee held

YANGON, 27 April — The Mandalay Division War Veterans Organization Supervisory Committee Preliminary Conference 2005 was held at the National Theatre in Aungmyethazan Township yesterday morning.

It was attended by Honorary Patron of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin, COC member Organizing Group-11 leader Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, officials, delegates, social organization members and guests.

The commander presided over the preliminary conference and spoke on the occasion.

In the second session, Lt-Col Aung Soe (Retd) presided over the preliminary conference.

Delegates presented reports and discussed them.

The preliminary conference sought approval for five future tasks to be laid down. The preliminary conference decided two matters, sought one approval and put six matters on record. Later, the preliminary conference ended with chanting of the slogans.

MNA

Deputy Information Minister meets with Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad

YANGON, 27 April — Member of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by Chairman of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye, Director of Information and Public Relations Department U Tun Min, Deputy Chief Engineer U Win Thu of MRTV and Tachilek District Police Force Commander Police Lt-

Col Aung Hsan Oo, met with members of Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad at the squad office on 24 April.

District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye, Police Inspector Officer Tin Aye and members of the squad, Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association of Tachilek District U Maung Ohn and leader of Akha national race U Ah Zee who is carrying out drug addicts rehabilitation task

reported on providing knowledge on danger of narcotic drugs.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein gave instructions that today, neo-colonialists still use narcotic drugs, evil legacy of the colonial era, as a political weapon.

Therefore, the special anti-drug squads, information staff, members of MANA and sponsor people are to organize the educative tasks to enable the local

people to realize the danger of drugs.

Wellwisher local Akha national race leader U Ah Zee established the community-based youth nurturing camp in Lwedawkhan Village, Tachilek Township.

With the assistance of the departments concerned, the camp was opened on 22 November 2004. Up to date, a total of 114 have been given treatment.

MNA

With strength of national ...

(from page 16)

Myitkyina Township. Principals of Myitkyina GCC and Myitkyina GTC and faculty members welcomed them.

Myitkyina GCC Principal Dr Daw Hnin Min Oo and Myitkyina GTC Principal U Aung Moe reported on matters related to respective colleges.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung reported on extension of courses, arrangements for upgrading the GCC to university, academic matters of GTC and construction of buildings at GTC.

The commander briefed the Secretary-1 on arrangements of better transport for faculty members of the two colleges and fulfillment of their requirements.

Project Engineer U Teza Win of Ever Green Co Ltd reported on construction of a three-storey building, an assembly hall, 42 lecture halls, the road to GTC and decoration of the landscape.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 stressed the importance of producing qualified students in quantity at GCC and GTC, innovative measure to be taken for generating electricity from methane gas with the use of biotechnology, timely completion of construction of buildings at the GTC meeting set standard, a supervisory committee to be formed for construction tasks, growing of flowery plants on the campus and keeping the campus clean and pleasant. He urged them to organize the local people to participate in human resource development tasks.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected scale model of the GTC and oversaw progress in construction of buildings at the college.

Construction of buildings at Myitkyina GTC was completed by 85 per cent and all construction tasks will be completed in November 2005.

At the city hall in Myitkyina, the Secretary-1 met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders and gave instructions on regional development tasks.

Also present were Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein oversees construction of new operation theatre at Myitkyina General Hospital.— MNA

Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, officials and local people.

First, the commander explained the area, population and national races in the state, geographical and climate conditions, land utilization, cultivation of 10 major crops in 2004-2005, reclamation of 1,000 acres of farmland in Hnaungmi region of Phakant Township, cultivation of summer paddy in Putao District, extension of 6,000 acres farmland in 2005-2006, completion of 6,621 acres of rubber, arrangements for extending 4,000 acres of rubber in three years, water and power supply, local food sufficiency, economic development, transport, education and health matters.

Minister U Than Aung reported on endeavours of the Government for entire people to be able to pursue basic and higher education across the nation including Kachin State and success achieved in school enrolment programme.

Minister U Thaung also presented reports on development of human resource development being carried out by the Ministry of Science and Technology, turning out of intellectuals and intelligentsia,

opening of science and technological universities and colleges in States and Divisions and future tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 said that all the citizens have two inborn duties of the nation, and that are to defend the nation and to develop the nation. In defending the country, the people will have to play their respective roles in ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty, which are Our Three Main National Causes. Formed with 14 states and divisions, the Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races, and the states and divisions themselves are also the mini-Unions. Thus all will have to protect and safeguard independence and sovereign with the national solidarity. With the strength of national unity the people will have to ward off all attempts to encroach on the sovereignty, and it is their bounden duty.

The people will have to take part in the respective sectors in materializing the 12 political, economic and social objectives for the national economic development. Once, Myanmar was one of the top countries in Southeast Asia. Because of the armed insurgency that broke out soon after regaining independence, Myanmar was a backward nation when compared with her neighbours.

The Government has been materializing the four political objectives without fail and striving to put an end to the internal armed insurgency. As peace and stability is prevailing in the nation, the development drive is also gaining momentum. Industrial development plays a key role in the national de-

velopment and modernization drive. But capital as well as technologies are needed for industrial development. Thus, the Government has been striving for the development of the agro-based economy of the nation, and is also making arrangement to production of sufficient adequate food and other necessities for the growing population and accumulation of capital for the future. Multiple-cropping, use of quality strains and advanced methods are a must for agricultural development.

The nation now has 19 industrial zones, but the efforts to invite foreign investments face an obstacle because of the destructive acts. Development of a nation is measured with the gross domestic product, per capita income and inflation rate. The Government at present is materializing the seven-point Road Map in the smooth transition to a discipline-flourishing democratic state. The holding of the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map, is in progress.

He said that a new constitution was being drafted as both the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution could no longer meet the demand of time and circumstances.

The National Convention started in 1993 and 104 basic principles to be drafted in the new constitution were laid down in 1996. The National Convention was reconvened from 17 May to 9 July 2004, and from 17 February to 31 March, 2005, and distribution of legislative power, executive power and judiciary power was discussed and approved in unison by the delegates. At those discussions, the basic principles for distribution of legislative power, which is of great importance to the Union, were

laid down. Distribution of executive power and judiciary power had already been discussed. Now the National Convention has been adjourned towards the end of 2005 in order not to disturb the private businesses of the delegates and for the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee to be able to continue doing what ought to be done.

At the National Convention, over 1,000 delegates for eight categories of groups are taking part in discussions and submitting proposals. The sixty per cent of the delegates represents various national races from states and divisions. The Secretary-1 urged the entire national people including departmental personnel and members of the social organizations to continue participating actively and unitedly in implementation of the Road Map in accordance with the seven-point policy programme when the National Convention has adopted all the basic principles for the constitution. Then the meeting came to a close and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted departmental personnel, members of social

organizations and local people.

At Myitkyina General Hospital, Acting Medical Superintendent Dr Ko Ko Lay reported on the history and progress of the hospital, health care services, giving lectures to house surgeons, training of X-ray technicians and arrangements for construction of new operation theatre.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo presented a report on budget for the new operation theatre.

The Secretary-1 urged health personnel to implement the aims of the Ministry of Health, accelerate not only giving health knowledge to the people but also providing health care services, emphasize prevention and treatment of six diseases, give health educative tasks to the people for their longevity and build the new operation theatre in time meeting set standard.

Next, they inspected land preparation in building the theatre.

The theatre will be 90 feet long, 54 feet wide and 28 feet high RC building. It will have three rooms. The building will be completed within eight months.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party left the hospital.

MNA

Basic course on performing arts opened in Botahtaung Township

YANGON, 27 April — The summer basic course training of Yangon Division Myanmar traditional culture performing arts was opened at the Basic Education High School No 6 in Botahtaung Township this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The commander and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay formally opened the course.

Next, the commander made a speech. Afterwards, the chairmen of supervisory group for performing arts reported on matters related to the course.

Later, the artistes entertained those present and the ceremony ended. — MNA

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2. (a). Tender Documents are available at the Office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375/Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Commencing on the, 29th April 2005.

(b). Tender will be closed on 13th; May, 2005 at (16:00) hours.

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SD RAM Multimedia 15" SVGA
Digital control colour Monitor and accessories
- (c) External Modem for Internet and E-mail 8 Nos.
- (d) Laserjet Printer A4 6 Nos.
- (e) Lap Top 1 No.
1.6 GHz 60 GB HDD 512 MB
15" TFT Thin Frame Transister
- (f) LCD Multimedia Projector 1 Set.
1300 ANSI Lumens (Typical), SGA 1204x763, SVGA
Compressed 1280x1024, Projection Image
Size 40" to 300"
Projection Distance Size 5' to 33'

2. (a). Tender Documents are available at the Office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375/Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Commencing on the 29th April 2005.

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ROAD TRANSPORT

Tanzania probes tax evasion of oil imports

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 26 April— The Tanzanian Government has vowed to curb the massive tax evasion of oil imports due to flow metres tampering in the Dar es Salaam port.

According to Monday's local newspaper Daily News, the responsible authorities have formed a team to investigate into the allegations that some oil marketing companies had tampered with the flow meters to make it operate intermittently to evade taxes.

Records show that the flow meter on the diesel line has been out of order since 24 March to 22 April, likely resulting in massive revenue loss for the country.

MNA/Xinhua

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In respect of: Int'l class 9, eyeglasses, sunglasses, protective eyewear, cases for glasses, sport glasses, chains for glasses, frames for glasses, lenses for glasses, pince-nez; protective clothing, protective and safety shoes and boots, protective helmets, cd player cases.

In respect of: Int'l class 10, arch supports for boots and shoes, orthopedic footwear, orthopedic soles, orthopedic supports.

In respect of: Int'l class 14, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, rings, pendants, brooches, chains, pins, diadems, medallions, cufflinks, tie clips; jewelry, imitation jewelry; watches, clocks, chronometers, watch straps; jewelry and watch cases made of precious metals, trays and ashtrays of precious metals, cigarette boxes of precious metals, napkin rings of precious metals; shoes ornaments (of precious metal).

In respect of: Int'l class 16, bond paper, illustration paper, gift wrapping paper, writing paper, envelopes, gift cards, occasion cards, postcards, blank cards, scratch pads, paper boxes, paper boards, posters, greeting cards, cardboard boxes, pictures, anniversary books, recipe books, picture books, guest books, drawing books, telephone number books, calendars, photograph albums, exercise books, photographs, erasers, magnetic boards, pencil sharpeners, pens, pencils, pencil cases, pen cases, office requisites namely punches, glue for stationery or household use, artists' pastels, paint brushes, paper cutters, paperweights, paper fasteners, file folders, document holders, desk sets, desk top organizers, paper bags, general purpose plastic bags, paper bathmats, paper ribbons and paper bows, paper cake decoration, decorative paper centerpieces, paper doilies, paper handkerchiefs, paper table cloth, paper napkins, paper mats, paper towels, paper tray covers, food wrappers, paper filters for coffee makers.

In respect of: Int'l class 18, handbags, luggage, shoulder bags, beach bags, clutch bags, all purpose sports bags, attache cases, school bags, tote bags, shoe bags for travel; travelling bags, credit card cases, document cases, passport cases, cosmetic cases sold empty, keycases, knapsacks, rucksacks, briefcases, purses, wallets, travelling trunks, suitcases, umbrellas, parasols, walking sticks.

In respect of: Int'l class 20, chairs, tables, benches, deckchairs, armchairs, furniture partitions; armchairs, tables for meeting rooms, desks, typing desks, drawers, sofas, writing desks; wardrobes, cupboards, beds, shelves, chests, of drawers, file cabinets, umbrella stands, furniture namely chests, tea carts, footstools, seats (furniture), mirror stands, mirrors, book cases, clothes hangers, doors for furniture, furniture frames, non-metal window frames, window blinds, window shades, chair legs, table leaves, arm rests, decorative wall plaques not of textile; plastic stoppers and lids, cushions, pillow, mattresses, beds for household pets, hand fans, shopping baskets, picture frames, trays not of metal, towel dispensers not of metal, clothes hooks not of metal, mannequins, cradles, plastic and wooden sculptures; non-metal door handles and knobs, non-metal window handles, non-metal key holders, non-metal ladders.

In respect of: Int'l class 21, empty perfume atomizers, plastic bath racks, soap boxes, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, shaving brushes and brush stands, cosmetic brushes, hair brushes, shoe brushes, shoe horns, shoe trees or stretchers, shoe polish applicators without shoe polish; fitted vanity cases, comb cases, hair combs, sponge holders,

toilet tissues holders, house hold sponges, powder puffs, towel bars and rings, wash basins, grills, confectioner's decorating bags, serving spoons, slotted spoons, basting spoons, mixing spoons, cutting boards, bread boxes, cake servers, casseroles, strainers, sieves and collanders all for household use, cookery molds, cookie cutters, cruets not of precious metals for oil and vinegar, garlic presses, pepper grinders, non-electric griddles, graters, spatulas, whisks, ice cube molds for refrigerators, kitchen ladles, lemon squeezers, non-electric juicers, scoops, salt and pepper shakers, bowls, cannister sets, containers for food, insulating jars, pitchers, pots, vases, gravy-boats, covers for dishes and pots, butter dishes, napkin holders, toothpick holders, non-electric kettles, non-electric coffee percolators, non-electric pressure cookers, frying pans, cooking pots, plates, serving platters, saucepans, saucers, soup tureens, serving trays not of precious metals; seltzer bottles, caviar coolers, cocktail picks, cocktail shakers, decanters, beverage stirrers, swizzle sticks, funnels, bottle openers, cork screws, cups, jugs, mugs, drinking glasses, dust bins, ironing boards and shaped covers therefor, cloth brushes, lawn sprinklers, gardening gloves, pails, wastepaper baskets, non metal decorative boxes and plates, non-electric candelabras not of precious metal, candlesticks not of precious metals, flower pots, flower pot holders; glass, stained glass, unwrought glass, decorative crystal prisms; earthenware, crystal.

In respect of: Int'l class 24, fabrics for the manufacture of clothing articles; lining fabric for shoes, fabric for boots and shoes; cotton fabrics, gauze fabrics, quilts, curtains, textile wall hangings, textile tapestries, cloth flags, felt cloths, bath linen, fabric table runners, textile place mats, dish mats and carafe mats, bed linen, towels, face cloth napkins, wash-cloths, fabric handkerchiefs, table linen, coasters, pillow cases, napkins, kitchen towels, mosquito nets, bed and table covers.

In respect of: Int'l class 25, pullovers, gloves, cardigans, jerseys, neckwear, sweaters, socks, stockings, tights, trousers, leggings, skirts, jackets, jerkins, shirts, vests, waistcoats, jumpers, track suits, blouses, blousons, jeans, sweat pants, gym suits, knickers, pants, shorts, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, suits and dresses, overcoats, coats, anoraks, raincoats, belts, suspenders, loungewear, underwear, beachwear, sleepwear, footwear, work shoes and boots, shoe parts, non-slipping devices for shoes and boots, metal fittings for shoes and boots; headwear.

In respect of: Int'l class 26, shoe hooks, shoe laces, shoe ornaments not of precious metals, shoe eyelets, shoe buckles.

In respect of: Int'l class 28, action skill games, action target games, board games, card games, coin-operated video games, electronic dart games, parlor games, party games, role playing games, playing cards, baby multiple activity toys, children's multiple activity toys, construction toys, electric action toys, infant toys, inflatable toys, mechanical toys, musical toys, pet toys, plush toys, pop up toys, printing toys, pull toys, punching toys, push toys, squeeze toys, stuffed toys, talking toys, transforming robotic toys, water squirting toys, wind-up toys, sleds, snow rackets, snow boards, skis, monoskis, waterskis, ski bindings, ski poles, ski cases, tennis rackets, tennis balls, table tennis bats, roller skates, ice skates, golf clubs, golf balls, basketballs, basketball backboards, skateboards, sport balls, exercise bars, exercise machines, surf boards, windsurf boards, sportsman fishing bags, archery equipment, elbow, hand and shin pads for athletic use; Christmas tree decorations (except confectionery or illumination articles).

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Ph: 371 990

28 April 2005

**The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.
Second best time is now.**

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေး ဝန်ဆောင်ခံရမှု နှင့် အခြား အကျိုးအမြတ်များ ရရှိစေရန်

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Microsoft launches 64-bit Windows

LOS ANGELES, 26 April—Microsoft's chairman **Bill Gates** introduced on Monday long-awaited **64-bit version of its Windows operating systems that run most of the world's computers.**

With 64-bit server and desktop computer chips already on the market for about two years, Gates announced the general availability of Windows XP Professional x64 Edition and Windows Server 2003 x64 Editions.

"The next decade will bring about a new wave of innovation in the technology industry through the increased security, greater reliability and faster performance enabled by 64-bit computing and continued advances in Windows," Gates said.

Microsoft will start selling 64-bit editions of both Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP Professional and PC makers are taking orders for machines installed with 64-bit Windows.

But the new Windows will not be showing up on retail shelves, according to a CNET report. Customers

who buy a desktop or server with a 64-bit chip will have the option of getting the new operating system, while people who own an existing 64-bit machine will have the option of trading in their old 32-bit Windows for the 64-bit upgrade.

Speaking at the Microsoft Windows Hardware Engineering Conference in Seattle, Gates also demonstrated how the next version of the Windows operating system, code-named "Longhorn," will put even more of the power of 64-bit computing to work for people.

"Longhorn" and the new x64-bit versions of Windows are the best foundation for a new generation of faster, more powerful hardware and software that expands the possibilities for computing and transforms the way we work and play," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Three Gorges area to launch archaeological tour

CHONGQING, 26 April—Wushan County of southwest China's Chongqing Municipality plans to launch an archaeological tourist route to trace and study the palaeoanthropological cultural ruins in Longgupo, the prestigious ruins of prehistoric man, according to a local source.

Experts from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences spotted the fossils of ape-man dating back 2.04 million years at the

site of Longgupo in Miaoyu Town of Wushan County in the 1980s. The findings were named "Wushan Man" by the archaeologists.

The Wushan County is striving to make the

ruins in Longgupo into a national ecological park and launch archaeological inspection routes to encourage foreign and domestic tourists to visit.

The travel route will start from Fengjie County

of Chongqing Municipality and pass through a number of caves and waterfalls before reaching the ruins and the Research Institute of "Wushan Man."

MNA/Xinhua

Aspen to produce new AIDS drugs in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 27 April—Africa's biggest generic drug maker, Aspen Pharmacare, has entered into a nonexclusive agreement with US drug maker Gilead Sciences to manufacture its patented AIDS drugs.

Local daily *Business Day* reported on Tuesday that under the terms of the deal, which would be finalized in September, Aspen would have the distribution rights for the Truvada and Viread drugs in Africa.

The deal is good news for Aspen as it broadens its portfolio of anti-retroviral AIDS drugs, which already includes generic copies of patented drugs made by GlaxoSmithKline, Boeh-

ringer Ingelheim and Bristol-Meyers Squibb.

But AIDS activists questioned whether the deal would bring prices down for patients. AIDS law project attorney Jonathan Berger said the deal meant Aspen would take over part of Gilead's not-for-profit market, rather than becoming a competitor offering cheaper, generic versions of the drugs.

Aspen's head of strategic trade, Stavros

Nicolau, said Gilead would provide Aspen with the ingredients and technology to make the drugs, and Aspen would seek licensing approval in African countries where they were not registered. Aspen had lodged an application to register Viread with the Medicines Control Council and planned to follow suit with Truvada shortly.

Nicolau declined to comment on projected sales volumes, but said the

African market had strong potential as only about 7-8 per cent of patients who needed AIDS drugs had access to them.

Viread and Truvada are new-generation antiretrovirals that are increasingly prescribed in the United States and Europe for strains of HIV that are resistant to other drugs. They had fewer side effects and were taken only once a day, said Nicolau.

MNA/Xinhua

France imports more Chinese clothes

PARIS, 26 April—French imports of clothes made in China increased by 40 per cent in volume and by 30 per cent in value during the first two months of 2005, compared with the same period last year, according to the latest figures of the French Customs quoted by the French Institute of Mode (IFM).

"The growth of imports from China is a little less important than in other European countries, for France imports somehow less Chinese goods than other countries," said Gildas Minvielle, an IFM official.

According to him, the part of the Chinese import of clothes from the 25-member European Union will rise to 40 per cent in 2010 from the current 20 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Jackie Chan calls for end to HIV/AIDS discrimination

HANOI, 26 April—Jackie Chan, Chinese action film star, appealed all organizations and individuals, especially Press circles, to more actively combat stigma and discrimination against people having HIV/AIDS.

"I need your help to keep on spreading a message: say no to discrimination and care for people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, especially children," Chan said at a Press conference here before concluding his visit to Vietnam on Monday as a goodwill ambassador of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

During his four-day stay in northern Quang Ninh Province and Hanoi City, he heard firsthand "sad and long stories" about local people having HIV/AIDS such as the death of the whole family within one year, Jackie Chan said, noting that such people, especially children, need greater care and support of the community so that they can learn how to take care of their relatives, protect themselves from the disease, and continue to make contribution to the society.

"I'm, perhaps, a hero on screen. But, real heroes are people I've met in Vietnam. They're grandparents, mothers, wives, youths and children who show

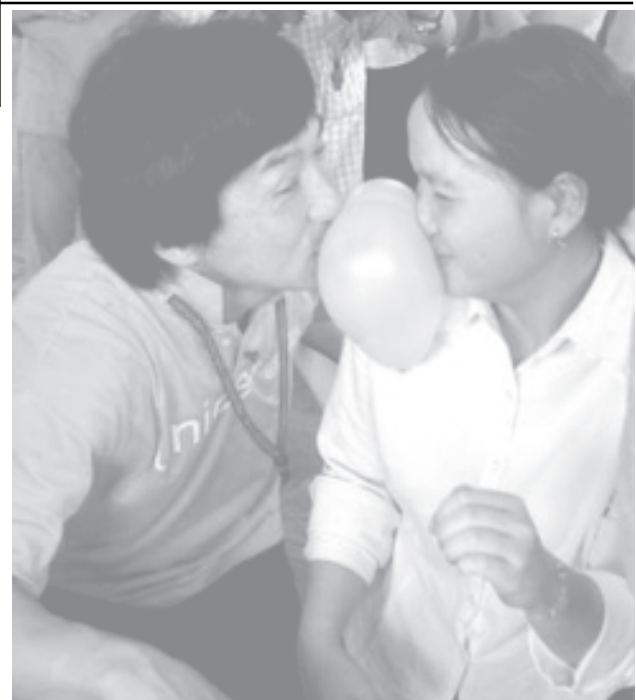
their courage by struggling and living with HIV/AIDS. They are people that need more assistance," Chan stressed.

The 51-year-old actor and director, who rose to international stardom from humble origins in Hong Kong, has taken a leading role in 95 films, mostly hyper-kinetic action ones which combine skilful martial arts and slapstick comedy such as *Rumble in the Bronx*, *The Medallion*, *Jackie Chan's First Strike*, *Police Story* and *Rush Hour*.

Chan has won many international awards honouring his talents in acting, choreography and filmmaking. He has also earned many prestigious awards and accolades for his charity, humanitarian and public service work.

Apprenticed to an opera troupe in China's Beijing city at the age of six, he was trained in all aspects of traditional Chinese opera, including acting, singing and martial arts.

MNA/Xinhua



Hong Kong actor Jackie Chan (L) plays with a member of *Huong Sen* club, a club for the HIV/AIDS infected, at the *Phap Van Pagoda* in Hanoi, on 24 April 2005. Chan made his first visit to Vietnam as a goodwill ambassador of UNICEF to promote HIV/AIDS awareness in a country where health experts warn infection rates are on the verge of exploding.—INTERNET

Maradona to have new job coming Friday

BUENOS AIRES, 27 April— Boca Juniors president Mauricio Macri will officially announce on Friday that Diego Maradona — once considered the best player of the world — will start working for the team this week.

Macri told reporters here Tuesday that the club want Diego "to be the image of Boca" and create a "executive post" for him.

Nonetheless, other sources reminded that a few days ago, Maradona did not hide his intention "to become the coach of Boca's senior team."

When the Boca Juniors Board gather on Friday, Diego will be officially a member of the club "after eight years of absence", Macri said.

Yet, in spite of the wishes of the parties involved, some sources assure that "the terms of Macri and Maradona do not coincide" although they do not say which, so according to some, "it will be necessary to wait and see what happens." —MNA/Xinhua

Liverpool, Everton locked in verbal tie for Euro berth

LONDON, 27 April— Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez says they should be handed a place in next season's Champions League if they win the competition this season, but their city rivals Everton think otherwise.

The Reds could deny Everton, who are favourites to finish fourth in the Premiership, if they miss the top four but are crowned European champions.

Liverpool would need the Football Association's approval to replace them.

But Benitez said: "Common sense says that if you win a trophy next year you need to defend this trophy."

But Everton chief executive Keith Wyness said: "It's also common sense that the domestic league, which is 38 games as opposed to a cup competition which probably is about 16 or 17 games, should also take priority.

"I understand the thought that the cup winners want to defend their trophy but nevertheless I do believe that the domestic league is the cornerstone of football."

Ex-Everton boss Howard Kendall also thinks they deserve Champions League football if they finish fourth in the Premiership.

Kendall, whose 1985 side were excluded from Europe after the Heysel disaster, told BBC Five Live: "Evertonians will be looking back and thinking 'oh no, not again'."

"We believed we were the best then and we were denied the chance to prove it." Kendall's team won the league in 1985, the year in which English clubs were banned from Europe after Heysel.

"We won the league that year, the

Cup Winners' Cup and we were looking forward to the European Cup," he said.

Of the current side, Kendall added: "Everyone was tipping us for relegation with the sale of Wayne Rooney. I think they've done a magnificent job and deserve to go into the Champions League."

Everton will be back in Europe for the first time in 10 years following Tottenham's defeat at the hands of Arsenal.

It means they cannot finish below seventh in the Premiership — guaranteeing them at least a UEFA Cup place.

UEFA reaffirmed on Monday it will not offer an extra Champions League place for an English team next season even if Liverpool win this year's tournament and finish outside the Premiership's top four.

If that happens the FA will have to decide who enter next season's competition — the fourth-placed team or the Reds.

And Toffees boss David Moyes, fully focused on claiming fourth spot, said: "The players have done everything they can, we are really pleased with the way the season has gone here and we are optimistic that we can finish on an even more positive note.

"Considering what people were saying about us at the beginning of the season, this is a magnificent effort by the lads," he added. —MNA/Xinhua

Nice fire coach Rohr for poor results

PARIS, 27 April— French first division strugglers Nice have decided to put an end to its contract with coach Gernot Rohr after a series of poor results, the club said in a statement on Monday.

"Mr Rohr is blamed for behaviour incompatible with his duties," a statement from the club said. "This has had consequences on the side's results".

Nice are taking disciplinary action to try to terminate his contract, which still has two years to run. Should the club fail, they would owe Rohr 1.5 million euros in wages.

With four games left, Nice are 17th in the 20-strong table, just one spot above the relegation zone.

The 50-year-old German coach had been in charge since January 2001. He is the ninth Ligue 1 coach to lose his job this season. —MNA/Xinhua

Milan beat PSV in first leg of Champions League semis

ROME, 27 April— AC Milan posted a 2-0 win over Dutch side PSV Eindhoven at the San Siro on Tuesday in the first leg of a Champions League semi-final.



AC Milan's Andriy Shevchenko (R) battles PSV Eindhoven's Alex for the ball during their Champions League semifinal first leg soccer match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, on 26 April, 2005. AC Milan won the match 2-0. — INTERNET

European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko broke the deadlock with a cool finish three minutes before half-time for his sixth goal in eight European matches, before substitute Jon Dahl Tomasson doubled Milan's advantage with a close-range effort

in stoppage time.

Victory leaves the Italian giants in a strong position to reach their second Champions League final in three seasons.

The recently-crowned Dutch champions also produced some strong performance but squandered chances to lose the game.

Midfielder Andrea Pirlo and central defender Jaap Stam, formerly of PSV, both overcame injuries to start for Milan, joint leaders of Serie A alongside Juventus.

With Alessandro Nesta suspended, Kakha Kaladze came into the starting line-up to play at left-back and captain Paolo Maldini moved into the heart of Milan's defence alongside Stam.

PSV coach Guus Hiddink, who made himself the most unpopular man in Italy three years ago when his South Korean team beat the Azzurri in the second round of the 2002 World Cup, was able to field his strongest team with no injuries or suspensions. Milan were crowned European champions for the sixth time in 2003 when they defeated Serie A rivals Juventus in a penalty shoot-out.

MNA/Xinhua

Report says Italian AS Roma wants Ancelotti

ROME, 27 April— Crisis-hit Serie A club Roma thinks AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti is the man to sort out its woes, an Italian sports daily reported on Tuesday.

Corriere dello Sport, a daily with sources close to the 2001 champions, claimed Ancelotti was interested in the job. It quoted him as saying: "Roma is a club I really like. You might say no to other clubs but not Roma."

Roma has lost its last seven games and hovers dangerously close to the relegation zone.

Caretaker manager Bruno Conti's contract runs out this summer.

According to Corriere, the club has set May 15 for signing a new coach, with former coach Zdenek Zeman of Lecce and ex-Perugia coach Serse Cosmi also in the frame.

Ancelotti, who played with Conti in Roma's scudetto-winning side of 1983, has just renewed his contract with Milan, which he led to the 2003 Champions League title and last year's Italian League crown. —MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea eyes long-time dominance

LONDON, 27 April— Chelsea, who could claim the League title with a win at Bolton on Saturday, will not turn out to be a one-season wonder, said club chief executive Peter Kenyon on Tuesday.

Chelsea are 11 points ahead of Arsenal, who kept the Blues waiting for their first top-flight crown since 1955 with a 1-0 win over Tottenham on Monday.

"What has happened this season is a remarkable achievement," said Kenyon, who predicted more Chelsea success.

"But there's nothing with the team or set-up that suggests it's a one-off. The key for us is that it's sustainable."

And on Monday, the Blues announced a record club sponsorship deal of 50 million pounds over five years with electronics firm Samsung.

But the club are committed to breaking even within that period, rather than continuing to rely on the millions of owner Roman Abramovich.

And coach Jose Mourinho is well aware that his spending over the summer will be controlled.

Kenyon said: "We have plans and parameters and Jose is very comfortable

and happy with those.

"Clearly, there are two aspects to this company becoming profitable — one is the ability to grow sales and the other one is to control costs.

"Everyone has bought into that, including Jose, and we're committed to our academy system and youth structure.

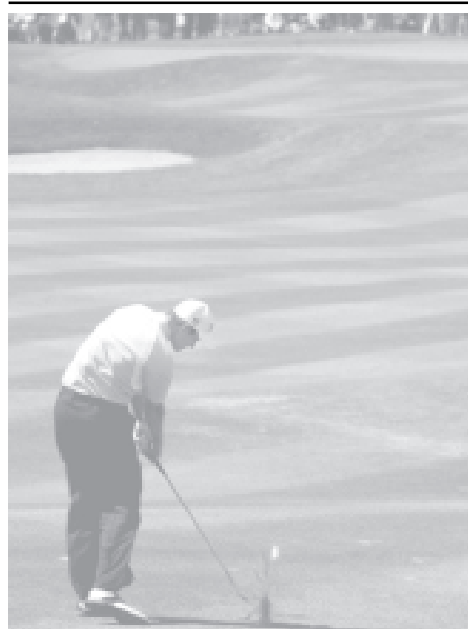
"Jose feels that whether it's one million or ten million being spent needs to justify it. Each player is one of 24 and he needs them to perform well.

"It's not about pressure from Abramovich. He's a serious businessman and is committed completely.

"But although there is a lot of flexibility, we all think, for the long-term, that Chelsea have to reach a position whereby the club is run right as a business, as well as on the field.

"I don't think that one is in conflict with the other. It's about the long-term sustainability of Chelsea FC."

MNA/Xinhua



Adam Scott takes his second shot from the fairway during the Johnnie Walker Classic in Beijing. While the sport is booming here, attracting big names and big money, it remains a distant dream for the vast majority of people in the world's most populous nation.

INTERNET

Romanians hail signing of accession treaty with EU

BUCHAREST, 27 April — Romania signed its accession treaty on Monday with the European Union (EU), which was hailed by the Romanians

as a “great event” in the country’s history and widely expected to bring immense benefits.

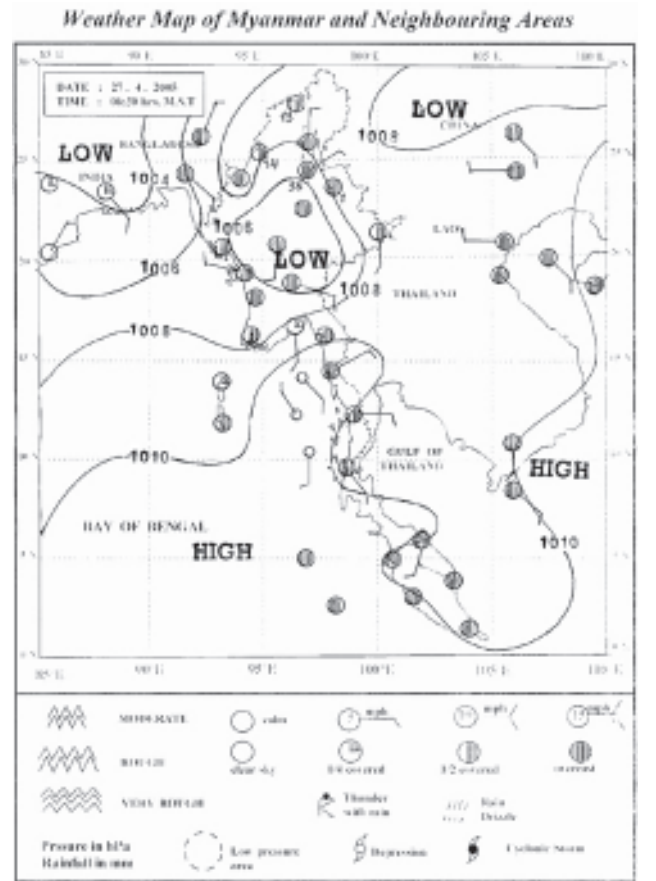
Romanian President Traian Basescu said after

the signing ceremony that “EU membership will represent the fulfillment of a dream more than half a century old.” “I can assure you that we will

spare no effort in fulfilling our commitments,” he said.

Adrian Nastase, leader of the Chamber of Deputies, hailed Romania’s signing the accession treaty with the EU as an “historic moment” which will bring a better-off life for the Romanians and give the country a bigger role in the EU bloc. According to Romanian Press reports, though the Romanians have mixed feelings about the prospect of the country’s joining the EU, a majority of people believed the benefits will outweigh the disadvantages it will bring about.

EU entry will accelerate Romania’s social and economic reforms. The prosperous EU economy and advanced technologies will accelerate Romania’s economic development, said the media.—MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 27 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division, isolated in Chin and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bhamo (1.30) inches and Katha (0.94) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin and Kayin States, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (43°C) and Minbu (42°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 27-4-2005 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-4-2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 26-4-2005 was (10.1) hours approx. Rainfalls on 27-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.63 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.69 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 26-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-4-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Shan, Mon, Kayin, Rakhine States, northern Mandalay, upper Sagaing, Yangon 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 continuation of rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-4-2005:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Asleep in Jesus Dr. Tun Min (Ben)

Rector (Retd.)
Institute of Medicine (1), Yangon
Age (80) years

Son of (U Yi)-(Daw Aye May), beloved husband of Daw Aye Khin (Amy Khin), brother of (John Tun Yi)-Daw May May Lwin, (Peter Tun Aye)-Daw Khin Sein, Margaret May May Yi, beloved father of Dr. Aung Min B.D.S(UHC)-Daw May Si Sein, Daw Win Win Min-U Kyaw Htike 2nd mate (Hanseatic), Captain Aye Min-Daw Khin San Lwin, Dr. Myoe Minn M.B.B.S, M.D(USA), beloved grandfather of Dr. Okka Aye Min, Myat Htet Aung Min, Thuwun, Su, Khine Moe Aung Min, May Wai Thi Aye Min, of 138-D, New University Avenue, Bahan passed away at NYGH on 26 April 2005, at 5:00 pm. Funeral service will be held at Judson Church on 28 April 2005, Thursday at 8:30 am and thence to Yay Way Baptist cemetery for entombment.

Bereaved Family

တိလားပီးယားငါးဈေးပွဲတော်

နေ့ရက်။ ၃၀-၄-၂၀၀၅ မှ ၁-၅-၂၀၀၅ ထိ(၂)ရက်

အချိန်။ ၁၅:၃၀ နာရီ မှ ၂၀:၀၀ နာရီထိ

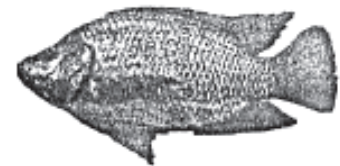
နေရာ။ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းအဖွဲ့ချုပ်

ဘုရင့်နောင်လမ်းမကြီးနှင့် ဆေးဝါးစက်ရုံလမ်းထောင့် အနောက်ကြို့ကုန်းရပ်ကွက်၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်

ရောင်းချမည့်ဆိုင်များ။ တိလားပီးယားငါးအကင်ဆိုင်(၂)ဆိုင်

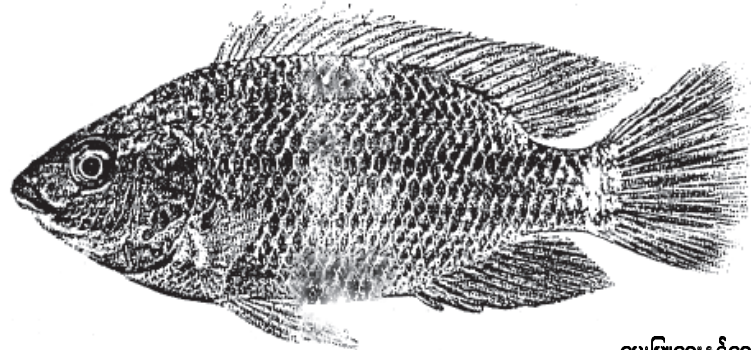


တရုတ်နည်းဖြင့်ချက်ပြုတ်မည့်ဆိုင်(၃)ဆိုင်
မြန်မာရိုးရာထမင်းဆိုင်(၂)ဆိုင်
အိန္ဒိယနည်းဖြင့်ချက်ပြုတ်မည့်ဆိုင်(၂)ဆိုင်
ငါးခေါက်ဆွဲနှင့်ငါးကြော်အိုးဆိုင်(၃)ဆိုင်
မုန့်ဟင်းခါးဆိုင်(၂)ဆိုင်



တိလားပီးယားငါးအသားလွှာငါးအူချောင်း
ငါးဆုပ်လုံးများကိုလည်း အသင့်ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးနိုင်ရန်
ဈေးနှုန်းသက်သာစွာဖြင့်ရောင်းချသွားပါမည်။

ငါးဈေးပွဲတော်သို့ဝင်ကြေးမရှိ
လာရောက်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။



မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Radio Myanmar

Thursday, 28 April
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: Venus
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: My love
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: Crazy little party girl
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: Don't close your eyes
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Love is all
- Just between you and me
- When you wish upon a star
- Heaven in your eyes
- Because I love you
- If you love me
- 9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- Jaggery Article
- 9.10 pm Pourri
- 9.20 pm -Rino census concludes in Nepal's National Park
- WHO says destruction of fatal flu virus samples to finish soon
- 9.30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
- Anyone of us--Garath Gates
- Try again--Westlife
- I have a dream--ABBA
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Thursday, 28 April
View on today:

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး။ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယုမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာနရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ တိပိဋသင်္ဂါ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာ တိပိဋသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြား၊ တော်မူ အပီသော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တီပါဠိတော်

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. Dance of national races

8:05 am

7. Dance variety

8:15 am

8. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:25 am

9. လမူးတံတား

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV.

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. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တမော၊ ရက္ခမော အထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခမော)

5:15 pm

6. Cute little dancers

5:30 pm

7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:35 pm

8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:50 pm

9. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး

6:00 pm

10. "မနိုင်သောအရှုံး"

(ဟက်ကက်၊ စင်ရဲထက်၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-အဝမ်း၊ မောင်လှမျိုး)

6:10 pm

11. Musical programme

6:20 pm

12. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်

6:30 pm

13. Evening news

7:00 pm

14. Weather report

7:05 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုစံသောညီမ" (အပိုင်း-၂၅)

7:30 pm

16. Musical programme

7:45 pm

17. ကြည့်နူးချမ်းမြေ့ပျော်ပျော်ရွှင် အမျိုးသားကန်တော်ကြီးဥယျာဉ် (ပြင်ဦးလွင်) (အပိုင်း-၂)

8:00 pm

18. News

19. International news

20. Weather report

21. ဒွါဒသအကြိမ် (၁၂) ကြိမ်

မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီး ပြိုင်ပွဲ (ရာမယဏဇာတ်တော်ကြီး ပြိုင်ပွဲ) (ခုတ်ယဉ်ပိုင်)

(တတိယဆု)

(ဧရာဝတီတိုင်း)

22. The next day's programme

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



Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with departmental personnel, social organization members and local people at the city hall in Myitkyina.— MNA

With strength of national unity, people will have to ward off all attempts to encroach on sovereignty
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects regional development of Myitkyina

YANGON, 27 April — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the State Peace

and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State

Peace and Development Council office and departmental officials, left here for Myitkyina by air yesterday morning to inspect development of

Myitkyina.

At 11.30 am, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at Myitkyina Air Base where they were welcomed by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-

Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Acting Commander of the Air Base Col Min Zaw and officials.

Accompanied by

the commander, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party proceeded to Myitkyina Government Computer College near Shwe-aik Village of Panmati Village-tract in

(See page 11)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects construction of Government Technological College in Myitkyina.— MNA

SNLD opposes acts, aims of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa, his group, cohorts

YANGON, 27 April — Social organizations, political parties and armed groups that have returned to the legal of the Union of Myanmar have been issuing their declarations totally condemning and opposing the acts of the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts disturbing and endangering the stability of the State, law enforcement, and peace and tranquillity of the entire people. The following is a translation of the full text of the declaration issued by the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD).

Declaration of SNLD

Dated: 23 April 2005

1. On 17 April 2005, we heard a news report on the announcement of the formation of the Shan State provisional government in a certain foreign country, and the declaration of independence of Shan State.
2. The announcement is against the SNLD's policy and stance, and the SNLD has no connection at all with the group that issued the announcement.
3. The SNLD has never accepted and practised the policy of secession, nor will it in the future.
4. Thus, the SNLD declares that it totally opposes the formation of the Shan State provisional government and the declaration of independence of Shan State as the announcement is totally unacceptable to us.

**Central Executive Committee
 Shan Nationalities League for Democracy**