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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

The entire mass of workers should clearly know neo-colonialists' and their stooges' slanders against Myanmar under pretext of serving workers' interest

YANGON, 1 May— *The following is a translation of the full text of the Workers Day message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to the workers:*

Esteemed workers,

On this Workers Day which falls on 1 May 2005, I send a message in honour of all the Myanmar workers, wishing health and happiness for you who are playing your respective roles with physical and intellectual strength for improvement of socio-economic standard of the entire citizens of Myanmar, and development and modernization of the nation.

If we look back Myanmar history, we will see bitter experiences of the nation in the dark age of the colonial rule during which the colonial government and its cohorts exploited the labour of workers by applying unjust means and pressure to take hold of the nation's rich resources and hatched plots to drive in a wedge to destroy the unity of workers, peasants and national people, who were rising against the colonialists with high alert.

Although Myanmar regained her independence, she lacked peace and stability, due to the evil schemes of the colonialists and as a result unity broke up among the workers and farmers, the main force behind the nation-building task, which just remained as a dream.

Today, every nation of the world is striving in its own way for development. Likewise, the Union of Myanmar under the correct leadership of the State Peace and Development Council, is exerting self-reliant efforts to further cement national solidarity and for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed Union of Myanmar.

In the process of building the nation on self-reliant efforts with the united strength of the entire mass of the people, development has been achieved with greater momentum together with the prevalence of peace and stability, thanks to correct policies laid down and implemented by the Government, harmonious endeavours of the Government and the people, and the efforts of the workers and peasants to boost production in their respective spheres.

The entire nation witnesses the setting up of advanced factories and workshops as well as industrial areas and industrial zones by the Government, and by the national entrepreneurs with the Government assistance. Hence, the workers themselves can now skillfully operate the advanced machinery and electronic equipment to manufacture goods of international standard. As permission has been granted to set up modern industries after inviting foreign investments, the workers have been able to enjoy salaries and rights which they deserve according to their level of skills and new job opportunities have been created.

As the national development drive is gaining momentum, the workers are enjoying the fruits of progress which are new job opportunities, increased income, the rights covering safe and pleasant working environment and higher standard of living.

At a time when efforts are being made for marked development of the nation and the people with the strength of the entire nationalities including the workers, the neo-colonialists' (See page 2)

Secretary-1 inspects regional development tasks in Myitkyina

YANGON, 30 April — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected construction of the embankment to prevent floods of Myitkyina, extension of the buildings at Myitkyina Education College and building of the retaining walls for prevention of bank erosion in Myitkyina on 27 April, and flew to Lashio, Shan

State (North).

Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, ministers, (See page 8)

INSIDE

Nyaunglebin-Madauk Road has been upgraded, the Shwegyin Bridge spanning Sittoung River constructed, and Shwegyin Township People's Hospital (16-bed) upgraded to a 100-bed facility for further development of Shwegyin region.
(Page 7) **MOE HTAT MYINT (DELTA)**



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects progress of building retaining walls at Ayeyawady River in Myitkyina.— MNA

HONOURING THE 2005 WORKERS DAY

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 May, 2005

Hailing unconditional exchange of arms for peace

Nowadays, efforts are being made for further strengthening solidarity of all the national brethren for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Different national races have been living in the Union of Myanmar amicably sharing weal and woe since time immemorial.

Myanmar was under subjugation of colonialists for over one hundred years. Due to evil legacy of colonialists, who sowed discord and dissension among national races, there were armed conflicts among national races for about 40 years after independence was regained in 1948. Hence, Myanmar lagged far behind in development although there have been abundant natural resources and potentials for development in the nation.

After its assumption of the State responsibilities, the government has been establishing mutual trust and understanding with national race armed groups. As a result, altogether 17 national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold.

The government hand in hand with the national people has been in a better position to make efforts for regional development while further consolidating mutual trust with national race armed groups. Therefore, marked progress has been made in various regions where peace and tranquillity already prevails.

At such an auspicious time, Brigade-11 of SSNA led by U Kan Na, who had returned to the legal fold since 1995, and the PSLA led by U Aik Mone, who had returned to the legal fold since 1991, realizing genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw towards the State and the people, unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, in Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North) on 12 April and in Mangton Township, Kyaukse District on 29 April, respectively to take part in nation-building endeavours.

Decisive abandonment of armed struggle line by armed groups will certainly contribute to reaching the goal of everlasting peace, longed for by the entire national people. In addition, it will also bring about peace and stability in the region and enhance socio-economic life of the people, thereby contributing to regional and national development.

All in all, we hail the unconditional exchange of arms for peace by Brigade-11 of SSNA led by U Kan Na and the PSLA led by U Aik Mone, who did so to be in oneness with the people, removing doubts and suspicions.

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

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ကျေးလက်နေ ဖြည့်သူအများ ပညာပေးသုတေသနပေးစေရန် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ဖြည့်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

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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

The entire mass of workers should...

(from page 1)

using their stooges under the guise of workers, are resorting to various means to harm the interest of Myanmar and her workers.

Their acts of sabotage have tarnished and discredited the dignity of Myanmar workers, and also caused loss of jobs resulting in economic and social sufferings.

Thus, the entire mass of workers should clearly know the neo-colonialists and their stooges' slanders and false accusations against Myanmar under the pretext of serving workers' interest, with the intention of breaking up unity, and should ward off the conspiracies with national awareness.

Esteemed workers,

It is a common knowledge that the State Peace and Development Council has laid down the seven-point Road Map and is implementing it to transform the Union of Myanmar into a modern and developed democratic state.

The National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, has been reconvened, and it is honourable for workers that their representatives

have been taking part in the Convention with heart and soul in laying down the basic principles to write a constitution for the future nation.

At a time when the nation is in the process of building a new peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing state, I would like to urge the entire mass of workers to strive together in unity with all the national people:

— to improve the national economic life, while striving to increase the nation's values in production and services sectors;

— to ward off all the attempts of the neo-colonialists' and their stooges to cause division, dissension and disturbances in the nation;

— to successfully implement the seven-point Road Map of the future nation, designed for emergence of a durable constitution and building of a new modern developed and democratic state;

— to safeguard and promote the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — as long as the world exists.

MNA

Cash donated for building monastery in Paris, France

YANGON, 30 April— The fourth donation-presentation ceremony for building a monastery in Paris, France, took place on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the Committee for Building a Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery Maha Kammathanacariya Kyunnantha Ashin Nanda Siri (French Sayadaw), Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads, members of the committee and guests.

Today's donations totalled 209,777,768, US\$ 16,564 and 2,702 FECs including K 10 million donated by Ashin Chandadhika (Shweparami Tawya); K 5 million by Kanbawza Co Ltd; K 3 million each by Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Khin Nwe and family, and U Zaw Lay of 2000 Fisheries and Marine Product Co Ltd; K 11 million each by U Myat Thin Aung-Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Khin Myint Myint and family, and Dr Aung Kyaw Win-Dr Thet Thet Khaing and family; K 1 million each by Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Nyunt and executives of Shwedagon Pagoda



Dr Khin Mya Win, Daw Tin Tin Win and family present FEC\$ 540 for building Myanmar Monastery in Paris, France to Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko — MNA

Yaykyidawwut Association, (U Kyaw Win), Daw Khin Lay Kyi (gems merchant) of Dagon Township Women Entrepreneurs Association, and Ko Than Oo (Snow White Co); K 670,000 by Inwaing Sayadaw of Zambu Aye Tawya Monastery in Pyundazar Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vijaya and lay disciples; 540 FECs by Dr Khin Mya Win, Daw Tin Tin Win and family; K 500,000 by Daw Khin Nu and family of Moon Brokerage House, Dr Khin Khin Phyu of Tamway Township, U Htwe Naing-Daw Ni Ni Lwin and family in Tamway Township, U Tin Tun-Daw Khin Win and family, and family members of (U Aung Khin and Daw Aye Kyaing);

450,000 by U Zaw Win and family of Mayangon; K 400,000 by wellwishers in Myitkyina; K 300,000 each by U Maung Maung Khaing-Daw Waing Waing Nwe and family, U Tin Htut-Daw Mar Mar Shein and family of Bahan, U Thein Han-(Daw Than Yee) and family, Daw Ohn May and family of Bayintnatung Brokerage House in Mayangon, and Daw Khin Nan Mon (Ruby City Gems) of Yankin; and 300 FECs by U Soe Lwin-Daw Khin Sein Oo of Tamway Township.

The minister, the deputy minister and officials accepted the donations. Next, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. — MNA

Respects to be paid to teachers

YANGON, 29 April — To mark golden jubilee, the ceremony of paying respects to teachers of the training of Diploma in Management (DMA) will be held at 5.30 pm on 1 May at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel together with dinner.

Tickets for dinner are available at U Win Maw of No 21, Arthawady Road (Tel: 095 002359), U Min Myat Soe of No 507/12 Pyayyeiktha Kamayut (Tel: 0980 34178), U Kyaw Phyo Lin of No 125 (Peace Computer), Theinphyu Road (Tel: 203082), U Than Htoo (Management Department) (Tel: 660822) and U Win Myint (Tel: 221430).

MNA

Singapore PM sees two major developments in Asia

SINGAPORE, 29 April — The emergence of China and India and the growing integration of Asian economies are the two major developments in Asia, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Thursday.

"The first and most major development is the emergence of China and India. This pre-occupies every businessman and political leader in the world," Lee said in the welcome reception of the World Economic Forum's Asia Roundtable.

The Prime Minister saw the changing of the economic landscape in Asia. "In the past, our economies would prosper by attracting investments from the United States, Europe or Japan, and then manufacture and export goods back to these markets.

"But now the pattern is shifting. The developed countries are still the major source of investments, but China has become the major export market for many Asian countries, overtaking the United States."

Lee said Singapore is tapping on the demand from China and India, providing consulting, marketing, finance and logistics services to Chinese and Indian companies, and also offering tourism,

healthcare, banking and education.

The second major development the Prime Minister saw is the growing integration of Asian economies. He said because of greater interaction in trade and investments, Asian countries are institutionalizing and cementing their mutual dependence.

He said that the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is working toward an ASEAN Economic Community by 2020 and taking steps toward a possible East Asia Free Trade Area some time in the future.

The reception was held for more than 250 business, government, civil society and the media leaders gathering here to exchange views on the strategic impact of Asia's growth in the Asia Roundtable on Thursday and Friday. Among the leaders are Jordanian King Abdullah II Ibn Hussein, Mongolian Prime Minister Tsakhiagiyn Elbegdorj, Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson of the European Commission. —MNA/Xinhua



South Korean visitors look at a Honda car powered by fuel cell technology at the 2005 Seoul Motor Show in Goyang, west of Seoul, on 29 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Filipino family rushed to hospital after eating cassava crops

MANILA 29 April — Nine members of a family, three of them children, from Barangay Muntal, Libungan, North Cotabato in southern Philippines, were rushed to a government hospital on Wednesday after feasting on cassava crops blended with coconut milk.

The family reportedly feasted on cassava delicacy on Monday but later felt stomach pain, dizziness, severe headache and vomiting.

A relative said they earlier bought the raw cassava crops in Midsayap Town of the same province.

Twenty-eight school children died of mass food poisoning last month in Bohol, central Philippines, after eating fried cassava.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam gains higher export revenues in first four months

HANOI, 29 April — Vietnam is estimated to reap export turnovers of nearly 9.7 billion US dollars in the first four months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 23.3 per cent.

Items recording high growth in export value include wood products, up 65.4 per cent; fruits and vegetables, 47.4 per cent; and rice, 40 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office on Wednesday.

Crude oil, garments and textiles, footwear and seafood, Vietnam's four biggest foreign currency earners, are set to bring in, respectively, 2.3 billion dollars, 1.3 billion dollars, 882 million dollars and 685 million dollars in the first four months of this year, posting increases of 45 per cent, 6.1 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

To boost export, Vietnam will develop products with potential high export growths and big added-values such as electronics appliances, agricultural machines, motorbikes and bicycles, build an export insurance mechanism, and map out a scheme on establishing a bank in charge of supplying credits and underwriting services to import and export activities.

Vietnam, which posted a year-on-year surge of 28.9 per cent in export turnover to 26 billion dollars last year, plans to obtain export revenues of 30.5 billion dollars this year, up 17.3 per cent, mainly by increasing shipments to its key markets, namely the European Union (EU), the United States, Japan and China.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier walks past the remains of a car used in a suicide bomb attack in the Athamiya district of Baghdad on 29 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Cambodian cashew market faces fierce competition

PHNOM PENH, 29 April — Cambodia's cashew market has seen more fierce competition this year, the latest weekly *Business Press* said on Wednesday.

A cashew nut-processing firm in Kompong Cham has exported roughly 1,000 tons of peeled cashew nuts to the United States' market this year. The figure is 50 per cent lower than expected, however, as the company looked but could not find more cashews to process.

"This year I bought cashew nuts at the price of 1,070 US dollars per ton, which is higher than that of other buyers, but I still could not buy many," Banh Leng, owner of the firm said. The two serious problems he highlighted were the difficulty of maintaining working

capital and competition from Vietnamese merchants who were able to buy more cashews.

He also complained that he paid more taxes than many of his competitors who were running under-the-table schemes. In the first quarter of 2005, 530 tons of unpeeled cashew nuts were exported to Vietnam without paying taxes, *Business Press* quoted the Kompong Cham Customs and Excise Office as saying.

The biggest development on cashew market in the world over the past few years has been the emergence of Vietnam as the dominant producer and

exporter, according to a report from International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The processing capacity in Vietnam is so large that processors are prepared to pay high prices for raw cashew nuts, it said.

One result is that a large part of the Cambodian cashew crop is being purchased with cash and taken informally, or smuggled, across the border with Vietnam, it added.

Cambodia has more than 30,000 hectares of cashew plantations, of which 18,000 hectares are planted in Kompong Cham Province. —MNA/Xinhua

Three US soldiers among 41 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 30 April — Guerillas unleashed a series of car bombings and other attacks across Iraq on Friday, killing at least 41 people, including three US soldiers, and wounding dozens of people a day after the country's first democratically elected government was approved.

Iraq's most-wanted terrorist, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, purportedly threatened more violence in an audiotape on the Internet, warning President Bush the insurgents "will not rest until we avenge our dignity."

At least 11 car bombs exploded in and around Baghdad on Friday, including four suicide attacks in quick succession

in the Azamiyah section of central Baghdad.

The first one hit an Iraqi army patrol, the second a police patrol and the third and fourth at separate barricades near the headquarters of the police special forces unit, police chief Brig-Gen Khalid al-Hassan said. Col Hussein Mutlak said those attacks killed at least 20 Iraqis, including 15 soldiers and five civilians. At least 65

were injured, including 30 troops and 35 civilians, he said.

"We see these attacks as another desperate attempt by the terrorists to discredit the newly formed Iraqi government," the US-led coalition said in a statement, adding the violence was failing "to drive a wedge between the Iraqi people and their right to choose their own destiny." —Internet



Volunteers take part in an tsunami evacuation drill near Patong beach on the Thai island of Phuket on 29 April, 2005.—INTERNET

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်သွား

Cambodia to strengthen weapon control

PHNOM PENH, 29 April— Cambodia will further strengthen its control on the use and export of weapons with the passing of a weapon control law.

Cambodia's National Assembly on Tuesday passed a law limiting the use and export of UXO (unexploded ordnance), firearms and ammunition, local media reported on Thursday.

The law, voted by 90 lawmakers, bans the distribution and trading of UXO and broken or working weapons left over from decades of civil conflicts.

Cambodia was regarded as one of Southeast Asia's main sources of illegal weapons in the past. Many weapons left due to its nearly 30 years civil conflicts

and which seriously threatened the social stability and the livelihood of the people.

People here welcomed the law, saying that the law would be sure to help the country reduce the domestic crimes which use weapons and would also further prevent cross-border terrorist activity.

Other laws relating to hostage-taking and bomb-making will soon be passed to bring Cambodia into line with international anti-terrorist conventions, according to Assembly President Prince Norodom Ranariddh. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam, China bus routes launched

HA LONG CITY (Vietnam), 29 April— Vietnam on Wednesday held a grand ceremony to launch a transnational passenger transport route running from its Ha Long City in northern Quang Ninh Province to Beihai and Nanning cities in China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

"This important route will help further develop the transport, tourism and trade sectors of Vietnam and China," Nguyen Minh Bach, director of the Quang Ninh Transport Department, addressed the ceremony.

Huang Huakuan, director of the Department of Communications under the government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region said the new routes will contribute to exchanges and cooperation among several countries, because

favourable conditions in Guangxi and Quang Ninh help expand economic and trade relationship between the Chinese region and Southeast Asian countries, especially Vietnam—the main entrance to the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The routes take passengers about eight hours to travel from Nanning and Beihai to Ha Long, the home to the World Heritage-listed Ha Long Bay.

In 2004, Quang Ninh, home to Ha Long Bay, recognized as a Natural World Heritage site in 1995 and a Geological World Heritage site in 2000 by the UNESCO, welcomed 2.4 million tourists. The province made tourism revenues of some 1,100 billion Vietnamese dong (nearly 70.1 million US dollars).

Called "Sea Garden," Beihai is the closest port city in China to Southeast Asia, West Asia and Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Russia stage photo show to mark WWII anniversary

BEIJING, 29 April — A photo exhibition hosted by China and Russia opened in Beijing on Thursday to mark the 60th anniversary of the victory of Russia's "Great Patriotic War", known in the West as World War II.

More than 160 photos, collected by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Russian Embassy in Beijing, were displayed in the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution, bringing visitors back to the WWII era.

The photos recorded many historic events during that period, such as the siege of Leningrad by German troops in August 1941, the Yalta Conference in February

1945, the parade at the Red Square in June 1945 and the surrender of Japan in September 1945.

Different from the usual bloody pictures of war, the photos show more displayed the valour of the former Soviet Union soldiers during the battles.

The exhibits also includes 30 photos to illustrate how China and the former Soviet Union fought against Japan side by side. "I myself didn't experience that war, but I feel greatly touched by

these photos," 69-year-old Qin Dadi said.

In addition to the more than 20 foreign ambassadors in Beijing, the visitors were mostly gray-haired elderly Chinese citizens, many of whom spent their childhood in Moscow during the war. "The teachers in Moscow often brought us to hospitals to visit wounded soldiers. It was really terrible to see some soldiers had broken their arms or legs," 74-year-old Wu Shaoyun recalled.

MNA/Xinhua

APEC trade ministers to meet in Jeju in early June

SEOUL, 29 April — The trade ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will hold a meeting in Jeju in early June to discuss such issues as free trade, transparency and energy, officials said on Thursday.

The meeting, to be held on 1-3 June in the capital of South Korea's southernmost Jeju Island, will take place ahead of an APEC summit scheduled for Busan in November, said the officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The trade ministers will hold a series of bilateral and multilateral talks on such matters as trade, corruption, knowledge-based business development, anti-terrorism and technological cooperation.

With the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda to be up for discussion, South Korea is keen to use the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings to boost its stalled free trade talks with other APEC members

like Japan, they said. South Korea, which has a free trade pact with Chile, is endeavouring to

sign similar deals with the Association of South-East Asian Nations and other countries.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Opposition chides Blair over Iraq war

London, 30 April — Conservative Party leader Michael Howard said British voters should punish Tony Blair over the Iraq war, saying the prime minister's justification for the US-led invasion epitomized his "track record of not telling the truth."

Howard told The Associated Press that he did not criticize Prime Minister Tony Blair for joining the US-led invasion two years ago, but "I'm criticizing him for not telling the truth and for not having a plan" for securing the peace afterward.

"He has a track record of not telling the truth," he added.

"That's why character and trust are an issue in this election," said Howard, who has repeatedly called Blair a liar.

The comments came after Blair delivered a robust televised defense of his decision to join the US-led war in Iraq, rebuffing criticism raised by the release of a secret memo from his top legal adviser warning of the possible legal consequences of invading.—*Internet*



A worker is seen at an oil facility in Kuwait on 30 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Airbus "A380" completes maiden flight

TOULOUSE (France), 29 April — The world's biggest airliner, the Airbus A380 double-decker, landed safely Wednesday on the runway of the Toulouse-Blagnac Airport, the Airbus headquarters in southwestern France.

The landing of the giant plane at 1222 GMT after a flight of almost four hours is witnessed by some 40,000 spectators.

The plane carried six crew members — two pilots Jacques Rosay and Claude Lelaie and four test engineers — plus 22 tons of onboard test instruments, including work stations to monitor in-flight data and other parameters.

According to Airbus, the prototype plane weighed 421 tons and its maximum takeoff weight is 560 tons. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia's economy to grow by 5.5% in 2005

JAKARTA, 29 April — The World Bank estimated the Indonesia's economic growth would reach 5.5 per cent in 2005 and 6 per cent in 2006, though the country had just been hit by earthquake and tsunami disaster, a report from the Bank said.

"The total damages caused by the tsunami in Indonesia is 4.5 billion US dollars, the direct impact of the tsunami is the decrease of economic growth by 0.1 to 0.4 per cent this year," the *Business Indonesia* quoted the report as saying on

Thursday. Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economy Aburizal Bakrie said that 1 per cent economic growth could absorb 200,000 to 300,000 workers.

"The capacity to absorb labour is relatively worst than in the period

before the economic crisis in 1997, which reached 400,000 people," he said.

He said that the decline was resulted from the implementation of technology, which need less people to operate.

MNA/Xinhua



State-run Air-India's new budget carrier, Air-India Express (in picture), took off on its inaugural flight to Abu Dhabi, becoming the first Indian low-cost airline among a host of others planning to fly out of the country on 29 April, 2005.

INTERNET

Asia Roundtable addresses major regional issues

SINGAPORE, 29 April — More than 250 elite of business, government and civil society from 34 countries and regions are convening in Singapore on Thursday to discuss critical issues that Asia is confronted with while tackling increasing global economic and political influence.

Under the theme of "Tilting the global balance: the strategic implications of Asia's growth," the World Economic Forum (WEF) hosts the two-day Asia Roundtable in order to invite frank exchange of views on challenges and opportunities that the region focuses on.

Topics to be identified include economic impact of Asia's geopolitics, China and India's impact on regional competitiveness and growth, key re-

sources supply and impact on regional relations, and forecasts on Asia's financial integration.

Co-sponsored by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the meeting is credited with eminent personnel like Peter Mandelson, Trade Commissioner of the European Commission, King Abdullah II of Jordan and Mongolian Prime Minister Tsakhiagiyn Elbegdorj.—MNA/Xinhua

World gravity moving toward Asia

SINGAPORE, 29 April — It was the consensus in a discussion of the World Economic Forum's Asia Roundtable 2005 here on Thursday that the gravity of the world is moving toward Asia.

"Definitely the centre of gravity of the world is moving toward Asia," said Claude Begle, chief executive officer of Germany's GeoPost International Management and Development Holding, at the roundtable's morning forum "The Strategic Impact of Asia's Economic Growth".

He believed that the shift is good for the world and for Europe, and agreed that Asia would indeed play a vital role on the world economic stage.

"Before, you had basically one ton of cargo from Europe toward

Asia and vice versa; Three years ago, it was a ratio of one to Asia and two from Asia; This year it is already one from Europe, three from Asia."

The impact of the rise of China and India, which are regarded as the engine of the Asian economic growth, was discussed.

"The rise of China and the opening up of India is probably the biggest story this century. China and India are the fastest growing economies in the world," said Raymond Lim Siang Keat, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore.

He pointed out that China is already overtaking the United States as the major trading partner of Japan. Some analysts reckon that in 50 years, China would overtake the United States as the world's largest economy and India will not be far behind.

Meanwhile, Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Ichiro Aisawa highlighted the economic importance of China to Japan and the world, and said that Japan's trade with China now exceeded the volume of its trade with the United States.

MNA/Xinhua

Blair under pressure over leak of document on Iraq

LONDON, 29 April — British Prime Minister Tony Blair is under pressure following the leak of secret advice from Britain's top lawyer questioning the Iraq War's legality just a week before polling day, the *Guardian* reported on Thursday.

The advice given by Attorney General Lord Goldsmith on March 2003, a week before the US and Britain failed to get a second UN resolution, raises serious concerns about the legality of the Iraq War.

It warned that an international court "might well conclude" the invasion of Iraq was illegal unless the US and Britain could demonstrate

hard evidence of non-compliance and non-cooperation by Saddam Hussein's government.

Blair, however, went to war, insisting that Saddam Hussein owned weapons of mass destruction that would pose a threat to his country. Blair's claim turned out to be false.

The opposition Conservatives seized the opportunity and accused

Blair of "gross deception" to the Parliament and the British people.

Blair has refused to make public Lord Goldsmith's advice. The leak has come at a time when Blair hopes to focus on domestic issues in the election campaign to divert the attention of the public from Iraq, which has cost him much distrust among his people.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Philippines issue joint statement

MANILA, 29 April — China and the Philippines issued a joint statement here on Thursday as Chinese President Hu Jintao concluded his two-day state visit to the Philippines.

In the joint statement, the two sides stressed that China-Philippine relations have reached the golden age of partnership and that the continuously developing friendly relationship between the two nations not only serves the fundamental interests of the two countries but also contributes to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The two sides agreed to maintain frequent high-level contacts and exchanges, vigorously promote economic cooperation and trade, further strengthen cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure and mineral resources, increase personnel exchanges and promote defence and security cooperation.

The Philippines reaf-

firmed its adherence to the one-China policy and expressed its supports and appreciation for China's efforts to peacefully resolve the Taiwan issue and to realize national reunification.

In addition, the two sides agreed to continue efforts to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.

The two sides welcomed the signing of the Tripartite Agreement for Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking in the Agreement Area in the South China Sea by China National Offshore Oil Corporation, Vietnam Oil and Gas Company and Philippines National Oil Corporation as a historic step toward the transformation of the South China Sea into a sea of friendship

and cooperation.

In the statement, the two countries reaffirmed their commitments to the China-ASEAN strategic partnership for peace and prosperity, the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area and the process of East Asian cooperation.

Hu and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the remarkable progress in cooperation in various fields over the past 30 years since China and the Philippines established diplomatic relations. — MNA/Xinhua



A KDDI employee displays a downloaded comic book photo on her mobile phone on 30 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Sino-Japanese tourism exchanges beneficial to both peoples

BEIJING, 29 April—Enhancing Sino-Japanese tourism exchanges is beneficial to both peoples, said Shao Qiwei, director of China National Tourism Administration (CNTA).

He made these remarks here Thursday when meeting with Japanese tourism delegation, headed by Kimitaka Fujino, member of the House of Councillors. He said tourism is the bridge of friendship, which can promote bilateral exchanges. He hoped the two peoples can visit each other's nation, which will not only enhance bilateral friendship and understanding, but also promote bilateral relations.

He said Japan is China's biggest inbound tourist source nation for many

years. Last year, some 3.33 million Japanese tourists visited China. Meanwhile the number of Chinese tourists to Japan kept increasing.

In the first quarter of 2005, the number reached 287,000, up 12 per cent over the previous year. With splendid culture, ancient history, various natural resources and multiple ethnic groups, China has become the popular destination for Japanese tourists.

Shao said China is a safe tourist destination, which gained global recognition and ensured its rapid development in recent years. Chinese Government will spend no efforts in guaranteeing world tourists' safety.

He said China and Japan are two friendly neighbouring nations. Since the normalization of diplomatic relations 33 years ago, two nations achieved progress in bilateral relations. Kimitaka said China is a big potential tourism market. After going back, he will let Japanese people know that China is safe for Japanese tourists.

MNA/Xinhua



The last Titan 4B rocket lifts off from its launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida on 29 April, 2005. This makes the 168th and last Titan vehicle to fly from the Space Coast since 1959.

INTERNET



“Miss Bikini” to be AIDS prevention publicists in China

BEIJING, 29 April—China will have beautiful girls from more than 50 countries in July and August to spread knowledge of AIDS prevention and control, according to sponsors of “China International ‘Red Ribbon’ is Acting” here on Thursday.

The girls, participants of a contest called “Miss Bikini of the Universe”, will travel to eight Chinese cities from 11 July to 1 August, where they will bring more awareness of AIDS prevention and control to local people and advocate a healthy life through a series of activities, according to Zeng Yi,

president of the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of STD and AIDS.

It is estimated that China will have had 10 million HIV carriers by 2010. The most urgent work of curbing AIDS is to make people aware of the situation, said Zeng.

The red ribbon activities include a beach cul-

tural festival, a sports meet, a kite meet, a sedan exhibition and entertainment parties.

At the end of 1980s, a number of artists in the United States used red ribbons to mourn their fellow people died of AIDS. By now, red ribbon has gradually become an international symbol to appeal human beings to pay attention to AIDS prevention and to care and love AIDS carriers. The contest is being held in China and more than 50 countries in five continents, and the final contest will be held in Beihai City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China from 28 to 31 July, according to one of the organizers called Miss Model of The World Organizations.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese official says new ID cards for all citizens by 2008

BEIJING, 29 April—All Chinese citizens age 16 and older will receive new version ID cards by 2008, said State Councillor Zhou Yongkang at Thursday's teleconference on the issuance of the second edition ID cards.

The issuance of the new ID cards is part of the government's efforts to modernize the country's population management and information network.

The move will further protect the rights of citizens, said the official, who is a member of both of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.—MNA/Xinhua

Drug dealer killed in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 29 April—Indonesian police have shot dead a Nepali national believed to be a member of international drug syndicate and linked with nine arrested Australians allegedly trafficking heroin, official sources said Thursday.

Mann Singh Ghale, who was believed to have supplied drugs to the nine Australians, was shot after he resisted arrest in a raid Wednesday on his house in Eastern Jakarta, National Anti-Drug chief Commissioner General Sutanto said in Bali.

“He is a member of international syndicate which got involved in drug trafficking in the golden triangle,” Sutanto said, adding that the man has been a target of police from the United States, Thailand, Nepal and Indonesia.

The police found a handgun, 500 ecstasy pills, 275 grammes of cocaine and 1.2 kilos of heroin at the man's home, he said.

The Indonesian police in cooperation with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) have arrested the nine Australians on April 18 who allegedly tried to smuggle 11.25 kilos of heroin into their country.

Bali police have said all the nine people may face a firing squad if convicted.—MNA/Xinhua

Turkey welcomes new government in Iraq

ANKARA, 29 April—Turkey offered its congratulation for Iraq on Thursday shortly after the Iraqi Parliament approved a new government lineup.

“Turkey wishes success to the new government which will undertake important responsibilities in Iraq's political transition process,” the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“Electing a government to power constitutes a step forward to establish

a democratic regime in Iraq,” said the statement, adding “time has come to reach a national compromise, heal the wounds and create a joint future for the Iraqi people”.

Turkey also pledged in the statement to support all efforts made by Iraq to achieve stability in the country.

Iraq's National Assembly approved the lineup of a new government on Thursday, ending three months of power haggling among different political groups since the landmark 30 January election.

MNA/Xinhua

World Bank lowers growth prospect for Thailand

BANGKOK, 29 April—The World Bank has cut its economic growth forecast for Thailand to 5.2 per cent from the original 5.8 per cent in 2005 due to the high fuel price and global economy slowdown, local Press reported Thursday.

The oil price, expected to rise 10 per cent this year, would cut growth rate by one percentage point. Affected by the slowdown in world trade, Thailand's exports are projected to grow 15 per cent for 2005, compared to 23 per cent in 2004, Kirida Bhaopichitr, the World Bank's country economist for Thailand, was quoted by Bangkok Post newspaper as saying.

Despite high demand in world market, growth in export volume has been decelerating since 2002, she said.

Public and private investment would be key factors driving this year's eco-

nomical growth with approved projects for investment promotions by the Board of Investment have risen steadily over the past few years.

However, the kingdom would record a trade deficit of 2-3 billion US dollars this year and the current account will remain in a small surplus.

Kirida noted if the country wanted to meet a target of annual real GDP growth of 6.6 per cent between 2005 and 2008 set by the National Economic and Social Development Board, it must improve productivity or increase investment in the medium-to-long run.—MNA/Xinhua



A farmer wades through a field being prepared for a new crop of rice in southern China's Guanxi Province, on 29 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Bago Division with promising future

Moe Htet Myint (Delta)

Situated in Bago Division are historic Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung, Ketumati (a) Toungoo where the royal palace of King Tabin Shwehti and King Bayintnaung was established, and Sri Khittaya (a) Pyi, a historic city.

Bago Division is a plain with Bago Yoma mountain range stretching from north to south. In the east of the region is Sittoung basin and in the west, Ayeyawady River. The densely-populated region has a good transport network and is next to Yangon Division.

With an area of 24,794 square miles and a population of more than 5.5 million people, Bago Division is constituted with 28 townships and 1,623 villages. Many national races such as Bamar, Mon, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, and Pa-O live together in the region. It shares borders with Magway and Mandalay Divisions in the north, Kayin and Mon States in the east, Yangon Division in the south, and Ayeyawady Division and Rakhine State in the west.

Bago Yoma is neither too high nor too low and rich in valuable hardwood such as teak, *Pyangadoc* (*Xylia dolabriformis*), *In* (*dipterocarpus tuberculatus*), *Ingyin* (*Pentacme suavis*), and *Padauk* (*Gum-tree*). The forests in Bago Yoma mountain range contribute towards the State's economy to a high degree. Its total area of reserved forests is 5,117 square miles.

Being blessed with fertile soil alongside river basins and alluvial parts, the region is making a great progress in the agricultural sector. There thrive paddy, groundnut, beans and pulses, jute, tobacco leaf and sugarcane in the region whose major business is agriculture. Bago Division has total sown acreage of 3.1 million, and after Ayeyawady Division it produces paddy most in the nation.

The government has constructed many dams, reservoirs and canals in the region for water supply. So far, the region has 40 dams, 55 river water pumping stations and 7,093 underground water taps, and it has dammed 12,063 streams and drains with the agricultural purpose. The facilities benefit 1.5 million acres of arable land including 550,000 acres of monsoon paddy, and more than 175,000 acres of summer paddy. Its total sown acreage of beans and pulses has mounted up to about 1.3 million acres, edible oil crops to more than 300,000 acres, and cash crop rubber to more than 50,000 acres. Moeyungyi dam will be able to irrigate some 40,000 acres of farmland in Khabaung and Waw town-

ships.

Now, the paddy plus fish farming is very popular among local farmers in Bago Division.

Along the Pyi mountain range are oil and gas fields and teak plantations as far as the eye can see. Ayeyawady River-crossing Nawade Bridge, Po-U mountain (Phawa-U mountain), and the Myanmar Heavy Industries on the other bank of Ayeyawady River in Pyay are famous. Rice mills, sawmills and hydropower plants are mushrooming all over the region. Sinda Heavy Industrial Factory contributes towards the drive for transition from traditional farming to mechanized farming in the nation by manufacturing tractors, paddy planters, paddy huskers, combine harvesters, paddy winnowing machines, pumps, and insecticide spray-guns.

The region has been facilitated with 578 post-primary schools, 119 basic education middle schools, 132 basic education high schools, two arts and science universities, and one degree college where close to 800,000 students are pursuing basic education and more than 60,000 students higher education.

During his inspection tour of Shwegyin

Nyaunglebin-Madauk Road has been upgraded, the Shwegyin Bridge spanning Sittoung River constructed, and Shwegyin Township People's Hospital (16-bed) upgraded to a 100-bed facility for further development of Shwegyin region.

Hydropower Plant Project near Kyauknaga village, six miles north-west of Shwegyin, Bago Division, on 11 March 2005, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to the officials, saying that Shwegyin had prospects for development of cottage industries on completion of the project. The region occupied a strategic position on the eastern bank of Sittoung River, and if it had enjoyed progress, its surrounding regions would further develop, so the State was rendering all necessary assistance for the region.

On completion, the project situated on Shwegyin Creek will be able to generate 75 megawatts.

The Ministry of Electric Power is implementing hydel-power projects in Sittoung basin. In the

process, Zaungtu Hydropower Plant Project in Bago Township in Bago Division has been completed, and Shwegyin, Kunchaung, Pyuchaung, Khabaung, Ye Nwe and Pathi hydel-power projects are under way, and Thaukyaykhat and Bawkahta hydel-power projects will be launched in Bago Division.

Nyaunglebin-Madauk Road has been upgraded, the Shwegyin Bridge spanning Sittoung River constructed, and Shwegyin Township People's Hospital (16-bed) upgraded to a 100-bed facility for further development of Shwegyin region.

Khabaung Dam Project is being implemented on Khabaung Creek in Oktwin Township. On completion, the earthen facility will be 920 feet long and 200 feet high and it will be able to irrigate about 100,000 acres and generate 30 megawatts.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, Bago Division has placed emphasis on effective use of natural resources, extended cultivation and boosting per acre yield of crops, the greening of Bago Yoma, increasing the monsoon paddy sown acreage to 3 million acres, enforcement of rules and regulations for the State service personnel, and becoming a dependable region.

On completion, Pyuchaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyu will be able to benefit some 100,000 acres in Oktwin Township and generate 40 megawatts, and Kunchaung Hydel-power Plant will be of a 1,260 feet long and 240 feet high facility, generate 60 megawatts and benefit about 110,000 acres.

Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project is under way in Kyaukdaga Township, and on completion it will be able to irrigate 118,500 acres and generate 25 megawatts. The project is part of the Pyundaza plain cluster of dams together with Baidah, Kawliya, Bawni and Pyinbongyi dam projects, and the drive will yield fruits for more than 200,000 acres of crops.

Now, the government has been fully harnessing the rivers, creeks, and water sources that have existed since many years ago in the Union of Myanmar so as to raise the living standard of the entire national people.

With a large number of irrigation facilities and thriving plantations of crops, Bago Division has a promising future to become a prosperous region soon.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin 19-4-2005

Major Zambian copper mine begins commercial production

LUSAKA, 30 April — The Kansanshi copper mine operated by Canada's First Quantum company has begun commercial operation in Zambia's North-western province, local newspaper *The Post* reported on Friday.

The 200-million-US-dollar copper mine formally started commercial production on 19 April, the report said.

First Quantum chairman and chief executive Philip Pascal said in a statement that the successful development of the Kansanshi has firmly established the company's position in the re-emergence of the Zambian Copperbelt as a leading world producer of copper.

The construction of the mine, located at about 15 kilometres to the north of North-western province capital Slowezi, began in September 2003. It began trial operation in November 2004.

According to Pascal, the mine produced 6,792 tons of copper concentrate and 1,941 tons of finished copper cathode during the commissioning period.

A 29-million-dollar capital programme com-

mitted for 2005 would expand the mine's sulphide circuit to 8 million tons of treatment capacity, resulting in an average annual production of 145,000 tons of finished copper between 2006 and 2009, he said.

The combined costs at Kansanshi is 45 cents per pound, he said. This is against a selling price of about 1.5 dollars per pound at the international market.

MNA/Xinhua

Microsoft profit doubles as legal costs fall

LOS ANGELES, 30 April — Microsoft Corp. said on Thursday that its net income for the quarter ended March 31 rose to 2.56 billion US dollars, doubling that of the same quarter a year ago as legal costs fell.

The world's biggest software maker also said its revenue increased to 9.62 billion dollars for the quarter, up 5 per cent from the same period of the prior year.

Microsoft's operating income for its fiscal third quarter reached 3.33 billion dollars, including 768 million dollars related to legal charges. But in the same quarter of the previous year, legal charges cost the software maker 2.53 billion dollars, leaving its operating income at 1.28 billion dollars.

"Despite a mixed enterprise software environment, the quarter played out largely as we expected and operating income and earnings per share results were in line with our expectations," said Scott Di Valerio, corporate vice-president and corporate controller at Microsoft.

Microsoft predicted that for the current quarter ending 30 June, its revenue is expected to be in the range of 10.1 billion dollars and 10.2 billion dollars.

The company also expects its operating income to be in the range of 4.1 billion dollars and 4.2 billion dollars, including stock-based compensation expense. For the full fiscal year ending 30 June, 2006, Microsoft said its revenue is expected to be in the range of 43.3 billion and 44.1 billion dollars, while operating income is expected to be in the range of 18.3 billion and 18.9 billion dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein...

(from page 1)

deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, the Secretary-1 arrived at the construction site of embankment for prevention of floods in Myitkyina. Director U Saw Napoleon of Irrigation Department and officials welcomed them.

In the briefing hall, Director U Saw Napoleon briefed the Secretary-1 on priority being given to building the two sections of the embankment at 1,200 cm danger level of Ayeyawady River, progress of construction tasks and 60 per cent completion of building the sewage water sluice gates.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than reported on flow of water in Ayeyawady River, prevention against floods, construction of the retaining walls and other functions of the Ministry of Transport.

The commander also gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 instructed them to give priority to construction of the embankment at the places prone to flooding and building the sections of the embankment step by step, performing maintenance tasks and meeting set standard at construction tasks and minimizing loss and wastage.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party oversaw construction of the embankment and earth work.

On arrival at Myitkyina Education College, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Principal Daw Than Than Hla and faculty members.

At Nyansitthi Hall of the college, U Nyi Nyi Lwin of Ngwe Ein San Construction Co and Principal Daw Than Than Hla presented reports on building of the lecture halls and the gymnasium.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave instructions. He said that trainees at the college will become teachers. So, the teachers should nurture their pupils to become sharp and dynamic human resources, intellectuals and intelligentsia and State's good sons and daughters wishing to serve the State and the people.

At the briefing hall of Myitkyina Township



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein oversees building of gymnasium at Myitkyina Education College.—MNA

Development Affairs Committee, Director U Tin Cho of Kachin State Development Affairs Department reported on construction of the 1,110 feet long section out of 3,750 feet long retaining walls beginning 2002-2003 and progress of work, the plan to be implemented for second and third sections and expenditure of the Township DAC on construction of roads, bridges and water supply tasks in urban and rural areas.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than submitted reports on change of waterway of Ayeyawady River, prevention against bank erosion and bank maintenance at Bala Min Htin Bridge.

The commander gave a supplementary report.

Next, the Secretary-1 inspected flow of water in Ayeyawady River and progress of building the retaining walls and gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage at the construction site.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party went to Myitkyina Air Base to proceed to Lashio in Shan State (North).

The Secretary-1 and party were seen off there

by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, senior military officers, Kachin State Special Region-2 leaders Dr Tu Ja, U Zaung Haya, U Khun Htet San and peace negotiator U Zabwe Jum and departmental officials. Before his departure, the Secretary-1 instructed the leaders of Kachin State Special Region-2 to extend agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in the region and to realize Union Spirit.

At 3.30 pm, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Lashio Airport where they were welcomed by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, senior military officers, departmental personnel, national races and social organization members.

Next, they proceeded to Shweli Yeiktha of North-East Command Headquarters.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects construction of embankment to prevent floods in Myitkyina.—MNA



Energy Minister inspects progress of Sein natural gas development project

YANGON, 30 April — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi together with officials inspected the progress of building Wellhead Platform-3 of Sein natural gas development project in Yadana natural gas field, offshore Mottama this morning.

First, the minister inspected measures being taken on Derick Laying Barge (DLB) Kuroshio K-1 where General Manager Ms Martine Valeix and officials of Total Myanmar Company conducted him round the site.

At the briefing hall of Yadana natural

gas field, Project Manager Mr L Foulhoux explained progress and future tasks to the minister. After hearing reports, the minister gave necessary instructions and presented staff and foreign experts with basket of fruit of honour.

MNA

Road construction tasks supervised

YANGON, 30 April — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected the construction of district-to-district road No 1 in Paukkaung Township, Bago Division (West),

on 28 April.

Next, he viewed the construction of Banbway Taunggyi-Ngaluhsan section, and the earth road near Shwepandaw village in Aunglan Township.

On arrival at the office of Aunglan Township Development Af-

fairs, the deputy minister heard reports by officials on progress of construction of district-to-district road No 1 in Magway Division, and gave instructions on maintenance of the facilities for their durability, and meeting the standards.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the high yield strain paddy field. — MNA

Agricultural and livestock...

(from page 16)
where he heard a report by in-charge Lt-Col Myo Chit on cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy and other crops and digging of fish ponds. The Secretary-1 inspected Hsinshweli sunflower,

yield paddy research plantation. In-charge Daw Hla Min of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on conducting of research, production of 150 baskets of black sticky rice per acre and production of paddy

and officials. At the briefing hall, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on building of quality pig breeding farm. Dr Swe Lwin reported on number of pig to be bred at the farm and extending breeding of pigs, Commander Maj-Gen Myint

and Hamiltan's carp, macardemia and honey oranges plantations.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected supply of water to 200,000-galloon capacity tank through hydram system in Lashio. Farm-in-Charge Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung reported on reclamation of 1,000 acres

opium substitute crops, distribution of quality strains and education activities.

The Secretary-1 and party went to special high yield Hsinshweli paddy fields of Lashio Station in Hopeik village where they were welcomed by local commanding officer Lt-Col Tin Aung and officials.

Lt-Col Tin Aung and District Manager U Aung Myint reported on cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy and output. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report. The Secretary-1 gave instructions on cultivation of tea in high lands in northern Shan State and conducting research.

The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to special high yield Hsinshweli paddy fields of Myanmar Police Force in Yaypusan Village. Shan State Police Commander Win Naing reported on annual cultivation of summer paddy through irrigation from Hu Mon Dam, per acre yield, future arrangements and cultivation of sunflower. Secretary of Shan State Peace and Development Council (North) Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe reported on suffi-

ciency of rice in 2004-2005. The commander reported on distribution of quality paddy to 30,000 acres of lands and cooperation with farmers and regional authorities.

In meeting with farmers, the Secretary-1 gave instructions on profits by cultivating Hsinshweli, difference between local paddy and Hsinshweli and investment.

He urged them to grow more summer and monsoon paddy for their improvement of quality of life and local authorities to organize the farmers.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected Hsinshweli paddy fields and cultivation of sunflower.

On 28 April, Secretary-General of USDA Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC member Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone met with USDA members at Shan State (North) USDA Office.

They urged the USDA members who would be going on excursion to states and divisions to cooperate with the people for regional development and to participate in building of a discipline-flourishing democratic State. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects a pig breeding farm in Shan State (North). — MNA

Hsinshweli soy bean, Hsinshweli maize grain and food products made from soy bean. He also looked into cultivation of honey orange, jack fruit, lichee, mango orange and drum stick. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported to the Secretary-1 on dissemination of methods on cultivation of crops and extended cultivation.

The Secretary-1 and party next inspected the plantations of Hsinshweli sunflower and Hsinshweli soy bean, cultivation of kitchen crops, lichee, honey orange and keeping of bees. Lt-Col Myo Chit reported on cultivation of lichee, honey orange and sunflower on a commercial scale.

The Secretary-1 and party visited the high

strains. The Secretary-1 viewed breeding of fish and cultivation of rice.

On arrival at the integrated agricultural and livestock breeding farm, the Secretary-1 inspected hatcheries. Farm in-charge Major Khun Myint Naing reported on hatching of chicken eggs. The Secretary-1 and party inspected 4000 chickens that are being bred into three categories; over weight, standard weight and under weight, and raising of 4000 Japfa Meat chickens and 800 pigs. The Secretary-1 and party went to the pig breeding farm of Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise in Lashio where they were welcomed by farm manager Dr Swe Lwin

Hlaing on extended breeding of livestock by local people and construction of a feedstuff factory.

The Secretary-1 next stressed the need to extend agricultural and livestock breeding tasks in the interests of the State and the region and the export products.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected raising of 200 pigs and left necessary instructions there. The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to the 10-acre paddy plantation in Konmyinthaya farm-1 at the entrance to Lashio. Lashio District Manager of MAS U Aung Myint reported on cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected vegetable patch, Tilapia fish

of high land, pilot plantation and irrigation from Aungchantha lake.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing also explained the purpose of reclamation of lands, earning of much money through cultivation of



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with local farmers in Lashio. — MNA

Tilapia Fish Festival 2005 opened

YANGON, 30 April — Under the leadership of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Tilapia Fish Festival 2005, co-organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association, was held in the compound of MFF at the corner of Bayintnaung and the road to Pharmaceutical Factory in Insein Township at 4 pm today.

Director-General U Than Tun of the Fisheries Department and officials formally opened the festival. The Tilapia Curry Contest followed.

Booths of the Fisheries Department, MFF, Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Fisheries and Export Entrepreneurs Association, feedstuff factories, fisheries-related companies, fish breeders and fingerling producers were displayed at the festival.

Furthermore, fish curry shops were kept open. The festival continues tomorrow from 3.30 pm to 8.30 pm. — MNA



The chairmen of Myanmar fisheries Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association and the general secretary of MFF formally open Tilapia Fish Festival 2005 —MNA

MFF President's Cup Open Championship commences

YANGON, 30 April — Organized by Myanmar Equestrian Federation, the first day events of President's Cup Open Championship-2005 commenced at the equestrian ground on Pyidaungsu Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning. Among the spectators were President of MEFU

Payne Maung Maung, Vice-President U Nyein Kyaw, executives and others. In Dressage Event, Yamone Oo secured first and Isabella second in U-12 category.

In U-16 category, Su Su Pale won first, Kyitha Lin and Aye Thetta second and third.

Ei Thet Mon came

first, Zin Min Oo and Yu Yu Hlaing second and third respectively in U-21 category.

In Senior's category, Thein Win stood first, Aung Aung and Ei Thet Mon second and third. The Show Jumping Event continues at the same venue tomorrow morning.—MNA



A competitor taking part in U-16 event of President's Cup Open Championship-2005 —MNA

Work coord meeting of Yangon Division Police Force held



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe makes an address at work coordination meeting of YDPF—MNA

YANGON, 30 April —The work coordination meeting 2004 of Yangon Division Police Force was

held at the meeting hall of its office with an address by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, Yangon Division Police Force Commander Police Col Aung Daing and departmental heads at division level, District PDC chairmen, district police force commanders, heads of branch and township police force commanders.

Yangon Commander Maj-Gen

Myint Swe made an address at the meeting. In his address, he said that MPF is an armed force which is discharging the duties of community peace and prevalence of law and order and also the firm foundation of the discipline-flourishing democracy. MPF members always need for trying to sharpen their own qualities and abilities, and arrangements are to be made for bringing down the crimes reviewing the weak and strong points, he said. In conclusion, the commander said that MPF is an auxiliary force for the defence of the State and so, they are necessary to

participate in striving to become a patriotic, qualified and modern force, in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

Next, Police Col Aung Daing presented silver cup award of YDPF to the commander. Afterwards, he clarified the instructions of the Prime Minister, the Home Affairs Minister, the deputy minister and the police director-general and future tasks to be carried out in 2005. Later, those present took part in the discussions. After hearing the reports, the commander gave a concluding remark and the meeting ended. — MNA



Fish curry contests in progress at Tilapia Fish Festival 2005.

MNA

Myanmar beat Iraq 3-0 in Davis Cup

YANGON, 30 April —The 2005 Davis Cup- Asia Oceania Zone Group-IV continued for the fourth day at Theinbyu Tennis Centre, here, this morning.

Syria beat Kirgystan 3-0; Bangladesh beat Turkmenistan 2-1; Singapore beat Jordan 2-1 and Myanmar beat Iraq 3-0.

Among the spectators were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Tennis Federation President Dr Tin Aung Lin and executives.

The fifth-day matches will be held tomorrow. MNA

Roh Moo-hyun pledges to foster convention industry

SEOUL, 30 April — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun Friday pledged his government will soon present concrete blueprints for the development of the exhibition and convention industry into one of the nation's key industries.

Speaking at the combined opening ceremony for the Seoul Motor Show 2005 and the Korea International Exhibition Centre (KINTEX) in Goyang, just north of Seoul, Roh also said: "The government will not spare assistance to help KINTEX become the largest exhibition centre in Northeast Asia".

Construction is to continue on the newly-opened KINTEX centre until it is the largest exhibition hall in Northeast Asia by 2013.

The biennial Seoul Motor Show, scheduled to run through May 8, attracted 179 manufacturers of cars, automotive parts and accessories from 10 countries, making it the biggest event since it was launched in 1995. Organizers expect more than 1 million visitors.

"I have great expectations for the Seoul Motor Show 2005 which opens today," Roh said. "I hope the motor show will make great success to become an internationally renowned one like the motor shows of Frankfurt and Detroit".

Roh stressed the need for the country to develop finance, law, exhibition and convention and other services industries so they could provide high quality jobs and enhance the competitiveness of the na-

tion's enterprises. "Among them, the exhibition and services industries are very important for the country to become an advanced economy," Roh said.

"It is not only a high value-added industry which combines business and tourism, but also serves as the soil for development of state-of-the-art industries through the exhibition of new technology products".

Roh said South Korea has already entered ad-

vanced nation status in terms of semiconductors, information and telecommunications, automobiles, shipbuilding, steel and other manufacturing industries.

"However, we are not so yet in the services industry," he said, noting South Korea last year suffered a deficit of 8.7 billion US dollars in trade in the education, tourism, intellectual property rights, consulting and other services industries.

MNA/Xinhua



Countries representatives carry national flags during the opening ceremony of the 48th World Table tennis Championship at the Oriental Pearl TV Tower in Shanghai, China on 30 April, 2005. The championship will run from 30 April to 6 May.

INTERNET

Malaysian PM announces setting up of biotechnology corporation

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 April — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi recently announced the setting up of the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (MBC) to develop the country's biotechnology industry.

"MBC is entrusted with identifying good value propositions in both research and development and commerce, and to assist these ventures via financial support and development services," he said when officiating the Bio-Malaysia 2005 Conference and Showcase, organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MSTI) here.

The Prime Minister said MBC, which was one of the main initiatives under the National Biotechnology Policy, would be overseen by an Implementation Council and advised by an International Advisory Panel (IAP).

He would head both the council and IAP.

Abdullah said MBC would work closely with all relevant agencies and ministries, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries and the Ministry of Commodities and Plantation Industries, but will come under the purview of MOSTI to enhance research and development, and to help improve the regulatory environment.

To assist research and development ventures in biotechnology sector, a fund would be established to assist in the training costs of skilled workers and the hiring of researches in promoted

areas, he said.

Abdullah said to encourage biotechnology investment from private sector corporations, the government would offer 100 per cent tax relief or deduction on qualifying investments in biotechnology and 100 per cent income tax exemption for a period of up to 10 years.

Some functions of the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation include catalyzing commercial spin-offs to the private sector; facilitating market-driven research and development and commerce via funding and industry development services.

MNA/Xinhua

S Africa expects more World Heritage sites

JOHANNESBURG, 30 April — South African officials are optimistic the country will be awarded an additional three World Heritage sites during a forthcoming meeting in Durban.

An official with the country's Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has said that the sites would be considered during the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) when it met in Durban from July 10 to 19.

"We are almost 80 per cent certain that the sites will be inscribed (on the World Heritage List)," Maria Mbengashe,

biodiversity and heritage chief director at the ministry, was quoted as saying by the SAPA news agency on Thursday.

The three additional sites South Africa is now lobbying for are Vredefort Dome bordering the North West and Free State provinces, Makapans Valley in Limpopo and Taung Skull Fossil site in the North West.

Mbengashe said the latter two would be extensions of the Cradle of Humankind site, part of which has already been on the world heritage list.

Mbengashe said South Africa had six sites already listed, with the most recent, the Cape floristic protected areas region, inscribed during the WHC's 2004 session in Suzhou, China.

MNA/Xinhua

S African gets life sentence for heroin smuggling

JAKARTA, 30 April — An Indonesian court on Friday sentenced a South African to life in prison, after being convicted of heroin offences on the island of Bali, a local media reported.

John Gabrielle alias Mpedinyane Bigboy of 37 was found guilty of smuggling 906.08 grammes of marijuana, preceding judge Linton Sirait said in the Bali island's court. Prosecutor had demanded the maximum penalty of death. Gabrielle was arrested along with his fellow on the island on December 31 last year with over 2 kilogrammes of heroin belonging to them.

Police said they found the heroin stashed in biscuit packages, soap and perfume boxes. Gabrielle's lawyer, Christo Immanuel Dugis, said he would consider to appeal against the conviction, the Detik online said.

The sentencing came amid a drugs trial on 27-year Australian woman Schapelle Corby nears an end. The woman, who has been accused of smuggling 4.1 kilogrammes of marijuana into the island, was demanded a life term.

Indonesian police in cooperation with the Australian Federal Police also arrested nine Australians this month for alleged heroin smuggling.

MNA/Xinhua

China aims to sell more aircraft to African market

CAIRO, 30 April — China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Cooperation (CATIC) aims to sell more Chinese-made aircraft to Egyptian and African customers, a senior official from CATIC's parent company said on Thursday.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to find more partners in the Egyptian and African market with MA60 regional turboprop aircraft," Tang Xiaoping, a senior official from AVIC I, said at a products-introducing meeting held at the Egyptian Ministry of Civil Aviation.

"MA60 aircraft are designed and tested with internationally- recognized standards," said Tang. "They are quite competitive to other regional commercial jets in the international market both in terms of reliability and cost-effectiveness." During the meeting, CATIC representatives in Egypt used multimedia presentations to familiarize Egyptian civil aviation officials and business people with the products. After the meeting, CATIC invited the guests to have a one-hour test flight with one MA60.

Late Wednesday, two MA60 aircraft, bought by a Zimbabwean airline, stopped over at the Cairo International Airport on its way to Zimbabwe. It was the first time the Chinese-made MA60 aircraft entered the international market. —MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks explode in the night sky as Vietnam celebrates the 30th anniversary of the end of the war with the US and its allies, which reunified the country under communist rule, in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, on 29 April, 2005. —INTERNET

TRADE MARK CAUTION
 POKKA CORPORATION,
 a Japanese Corporation of 35-
 16, Daikoku-cho, Higashi-ku,
 Nagoya, Japan, is the Owner
 of the following Trade Mark:



Reg. No. 1509/2009
 in respect of "coffee, tea, fruit
 drink, aerated waters and
 other non-alcoholic drinks".
 Fraudulent imitation or
 unauthorised use of the said
 Trade Mark will be dealt with
 according to law.
 Win Mu Tin
 M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
 for POKKA CORPORATION
 P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
 Dated: 1 May 2005

China grants sewing machines to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 April — China handed over 60 sewing machines and two computers on Thursday as gifts to Enterprising Women Federation of Nepal, a non-governmental organization.

Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Sun Heping handed over the machines and computers to Shanti Chadda, chairman of the federation. The machine will be utilized for skill-oriented development programme conducted by the federation.

Speaking at the function, Sun expressed his conviction that such cooperation will help to strengthen the existing relations between the two countries.

On 18 March and 12 April, All China Women's Federation also handed over 60 sewing machines as gifts each to the Women's Association of Royal Nepal Army and Business and Professional Women of Nepal respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

Diesel vehicles increase in Europe

STUTTGART (Germany), 29 April — The share of diesel vehicles is increasing significantly in Western Europe, the leading German automotive and industrial technology supplier Bosch said on Thursday.

About 48.4 per cent newly registered cars have diesel engines, meaning that nearly every second new car is diesel-powered, Bosch said in its annual report.

"We can see good market potential for diesel-powered cars in the US, as well as in China, (South) Korea, and India," it added.

Bosch's Chairman Franz Fehrenbach, speak-

ing to reporters in Stuttgart where the company is headquartered, was critical of the debate about pollution by diesel vehicles.

He stressed that today's diesel already produced a good 90 per cent less particulate than in 1990.

"This is why the diesel exhaust from local passenger car traffic only makes up three per cent

of dust pollution," Fehrenbach said.

Any call for bans on diesel-driven vehicles is highly questionable, he said.

In terms of emission, diesel engine is even more friendly to the environment. The carbon dioxide emission from a diesel vehicle is about 20 per cent less than a gasoline-powered one, Richard

Backhaus, who works for Bosch's Corporate Communications.

Bosch, the largest automotive supplier in 2004, will start to produce a new filter, which can reduce 97 per cent of the particulate produced by diesel engines.

Backhaus told Xinhua that diesel engines have many advantages comparing with gasoline vehicles.

A diesel-powered engine will consume 30 per cent less fuel, but will add more than 30 per cent torque than a gasoline engine, he said.

One of the focus of Bosch's investment will be on further expanding the company's facilities for advanced diesel systems in the near future, Bosch's report said.

MNA/Xinhua

US researchers turn programmed bacteria into living computers

LOS ANGELES, 29 April — US researchers reported on Wednesday they have successfully programmed bacteria to communicate with each other and produce colour-coded patterns, making living cells function as "tiny computers".

This achievement will finally help manipulate living cells to detect hazards, build structures or repair tissues and organs within the body, said researchers at Princeton University. Their work is published in the 28 April issue of journal *Nature*.

"We are really moving beyond the ability to programme individual cells to programming a large collection — millions or billions — of cells to do interesting things," said Ron Weiss, an assistant profes-

sor at Princeton University who led the study.

The researchers programmed E. coli bacteria to emit red or green fluorescent light in response to a signal emitted from another set of E. coli. In one experiment, the cells glowed green when they sensed a higher concentration of the signal chemical and red when they sensed a lower concentration.

The bacteria formed a bull's-eye pattern, a green circle inside a red

one surrounding the sender cells, in a Petri dish. This sensing system could be useful for the detection of chemicals or organisms in laboratory tests.

"The bull's-eye could tell you this is where the anthrax is," Weiss said.

In previous work, Weiss showed the feasibility of inserting modified pieces of DNA into cells to make them behave in the same manner as digital circuits. The cells could be made to perform basic mathematical logic

and produce crisp, reliable readouts that are more commonly associated with silicon chips than biological organisms.

The new study applied similar techniques to a large population of cells, showing an integrated package where the cells have an ability to send messages and other cells have the ability to act on these messages, according to Weiss.

The creation of patterns, such as the bull's-eye effect, is a key step to

have the cells secrete materials that build physical devices such as antennas or transmitters in places that are hard for humans to reach.

Programmed cells also could be used to control the repair or construction of tissues within the body, possibly guiding stem cells to the locations where they are needed for the growth of new nerve or bone cells in a process called "programmed tissue engineering".

MNA/Xinhua

Senior CPC official hails China-Germany relations

BEIJING, 29 April — A senior CPC official said Thursday that the Communist Party of China (CPC) is ready to step up exchanges and cooperation with all political parties in Germany so as to push forward the development of the relations between China and Germany.

Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark during a meeting with Thomas Jurk, Minister of Economy and Labour and President of German Social Democratic Party in Saxony, Germany.

Speaking positively of the Sino-German ties, Wang said the friendly exchanges among political parties of the two countries played an active role in promoting relations between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

S Africa, Airbus sign military transport plane deal

JOHANNESBURG, 29 April — The South African Government on Thursday signed a contract with the European aerospace consortium Airbus to participate in the design and manufacture of A400M the world's most modern military transport aircraft.

The A400M airlifter programme is expected to help revitalize South Africa's aerospace sector and the near-bankrupt state arms manufacturer Denel, according to a government statement and media reports on Thursday.

"The programme (with Airbus Military) involves the design, development, manufacture and longer-term maintenance of the airframe for the A400M military transport," the government said, adding that eight such aircraft would be delivered to the country's Air Force as the programme matures between 2010 and 2014.

Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota signed the final contract in Pretoria on behalf of the South African Government.

Airbus said the same engineers involved in the launch of the Airbus A380, the world's biggest airliner that successfully com-

pleted its maiden flight Wednesday in France, would be joined by a South African team for the design and specifications of the A400M.

"This confirmed the confidence placed in the programme by countries outside the existing group of seven European launch nations", Airbus Military said in a statement.

The South African Government has been developing a strategy for the long-term development and sustainability of the country's high technology aerospace sector since 2000.

"This initiative will see South Africa joining in at ground-level, delivering sustainable opportunities for export oriented industrial activity over the next 30 to 50 years," said

the government. The deal has been opposed by the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), which said it "looks set to be another costly mistake," according to a report of the SAPA news agency.

Pretoria said limited capability of military transport has prevented the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) from deploying personnel, resources and material into certain African peacekeeping operations.

But the DA argued that the deal created the impression that it was conceived more to rescue the money-losing Denel than because of the operational requirements of the South African Air Force, the SAPA said.

MNA/Xinhua



A Malaysian motorcyclist drives past a billboard at one of the diesel available petrol stations in Kuala Lumpur on 29 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Drive safely

ဝဠာရော့ဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



Jeh, a three-year-old female monkey, sits as her owner, a rubber tapper, cuts fruits to sell them later in Baan Susoe in Songkhla Province, 1,100 km (680 miles) south of Bangkok, on 29 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Natural gas reserve found in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 29 April — The Nepali authority has found 300 million cubic metres natural gas reserve in the central and southern part of Kathmandu Valley.

“An extensive study conducted by the Department of Geology and Mines detected reserve gas which will be enough for 20,000 families with five member each to use for 30 years,” the department said Thursday in a Press statement.

The gas reserve is found mixed in the ground water 160 metres below the surface and the water also needs to be pumped out while taking out gas, the statement added.

The study has shown that a cubic metre of gas will produce 7,000 kilo calorie energy, and 400 litres of water should also be retracted while drawing

out a cubic metre gas.

Different non-governmental organizations had conducted a feasibility study about five years ago and recommended that the gas could be used for domestic and industrial use.

The study report has also recommended for the establishment of gas industry that includes gas production, gas storage, distribution, necessary equipment, project cost and economic validity.

“The government has called for national and international investors for gas production and mine excavation,” the statement revealed. — MNA/Xinhua

Six countries ask to launch European digital library

PARIS, 29 April — Six European countries on Thursday petitioned the European Union (EU) to launch a European digital library to protect European heritage in face of Google’s ambitious plan to put tons of English-language books on the web.

Heads of state and government of France, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Spain made the request, initiated by France, in a letter to president of the European Council Jean-Claud Juncker and president of the European Commission Jose Manuel Durao Barroso. The letter was re-

leased by French President Jacques Chirac’s office on Thursday. The initiative intends to protect the heritage of Europe, which is of matchless richness and diversity, the letter reads.

The six leaders find the heritage, if not digitized and made accessible on the web, could lose its position in the

future among the vastness of the world’s knowledge and information. They ask the EU to back the digitization already begun in many European libraries to set up the net and build up a European digital library for integrated and organized on-line access to the European cultural and scientific heritage. The

letter was signed by Chirac, German Chancellor Gerard Schroeder, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

MNA/Xinhua

German unemployment could fall below five million

BERLIN, 29 April — The number of people out of work in Germany could fall below the sensitive five million mark in April, local media reported on Wednesday.

The Nuremberg-based Federal Labour Office would report 4.967 million jobless in April, 210,000 lower compared with that in March, the German news agency DPA quoted informed sources as saying.

If confirmed, it would be the first time that the jobless total falls below the sensitive five million mark since Germany introduced a new jobless benefit system on 1 January.

MNA/Xinhua

Global cell phone shipments up 9.2% year over year

LOS ANGELES, 29 April — Worldwide mobile phone shipments totalled 174.3 million units in the first quarter of 2005, up 9.2 per cent year over year, IDC reported on Wednesday.

IDC, a high-tech market research firm which tracks global mobile phone sales, said the first quarter figure represents a 12.6-per-cent decrease from the record setting fourth quarter of 2004, due to seasonal adjustments.

“Most vendors have increased their shipment levels from a year ago, showing that despite a slight downturn from the previous quarter, consumer demand is still strong and vendors are prepared to meet that demand with a broad selection of phones,” said Ramon Llamas, research analyst for IDC’s Mobility Group.

Among the leading vendors, Nokia maintained its number one po-

sition within the industry, collecting 30.9 per cent market share resulting in year on year growth of 20.4 per cent in shipments, IDC said.

According to figures released by IDC, Motorola once again captured second place with further penetration into Europe and leadership in the Americas, closing out the first quarter with 16.5 per cent market share and year on year growth of 13.4 per cent.

Samsung, the only company among the leading vendors to post a sequential gain, locked up third place with 14.1 per cent market share. Posting year on year growth of 22.5 per cent, Samsung regained its momentum to

catch up with Motorola after experiencing declining shipments in 2004.

Holding steady in fourth place is LG Electronics, marking the company’s third consecutive quarter of shipments greater than 10 million. Returning to the top five is Sony Ericsson, which beat out former number 5 vendor Siemens by just 100,000 units, IDC said.

MNA/Xinhua



A four-day-old tigrion cub, Samil, rests on the arm of its keeper at the Italian Circus in Vigo, northwestern Spain recently. Samil is a cross between a female tiger and a lion. —INTERNET

Israel rejects US request to arm Palestinian police

JERUSALEM, 30 April — Israel has rejected a US proposal to supply Palestinian police officers in the West Bank with weapons that would assist them in performing their duties, the leading *Ha’aretz* daily reported on Friday. A political source in Jerusalem was quoted as saying that the Bush Administration’s envoys, Elliott Abrams and David Welch, raised the request for arming the Palestinian police during their visit to Israel last week.

“They only reported to us on the Palestinian requests. One of the things was to get weapons; they received a negative answer and that was that,” the source said.

US officials said that Palestinian security forces need weapons to maintain order in the territories.

The United States is helping train Palestinian security forces and is also interested in supplying them with appropriate materiel. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Moya wins Ferrero clash in Estoril Open marathon

LISBON, 30 April— Top seed Carlos Moya overcame fellow Spanish Juan Carlos Ferrero 7-5, 6-7, 6-4 in a marathon second-round match at the Estoril Open claycourt tournament on Thursday.

Moya will play Paul-Henri Mathieu in Friday's quarterfinals after the Frenchman thrashed Tomas Cakl 6-1, 6-1.

Fourth seed Tommy Robredo booked the last eight ticket, defeating countryman Santiago Ventura 7-5, 6-0, and experienced Italian Davide Sanguinetti, a 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 winner over Spain's Albert Costa.

Moya and Ferrero, both former world number ones and French Open champions, toiled two hours 48 minutes.

Moya won the first set thanks to a lucky net-cord and had three match points in the second set before Ferrero battled back to force a decider.

In the women's draw, second seed Dinara Safina stormed into the quarterfinals by beating Katerina Bondarenko 6-2, 6-2.

Mariana Diaz-Oliva beat Olga Savchuk 6-2, 6-3, American Jill Craybas overcame Ludmila Cervanova 6-4, 6-1 and Lucie Safarova defeated Michaela Krajicek 3-6, 7-6, 7-5 to complete Friday's quarterfinal line-up.—MNA/Xinhua

Tampines Rovers defeat Home United 2-1 in S'pore League match

SINGAPORE, 30 April— Tampines Rovers beat Home United 2-1 in a Singaporean League match at Tampines Stadium on Friday night.

In the 33rd minute, Noh Alam Shah scored the first goal for defending champions Tampines Rovers, whose second goal was scored by Mirko Grabovac in the second half.

Thanks to the efforts made by Indra Sahdan Daud, Home United, the 2003 champions, finally got one goal in the 61st minute.

Currently, Tampines Rovers is at the top of the table with 19 points while Home United stands at 6th spot, with 9 points. —MNA/Xinhua



Iran in action against Algeria. Iran has complained to FIFA over sanctions imposed for a fatal crush after a match against Japan on 26 March.—INTERNET

Ferdinand promises to stay with red devils

LONDON, 30 April— Rio Ferdinand, in response to Alex Ferguson's demand, claimed on Saturday that he would stay at Manchester United.

Ferdinand, backed by Ferguson during an eight-month ban for failing to take a drugs test, has yet to sign a new deal.

And Ferguson warned:

"We are not going to be messed about. We have shown great faith in signing these players and we need to see it returned."

But Ferdinand said: "I

want to stay at Manchester United. I have said that from the beginning."

Ferguson was also angry about Ferdinand's meeting with Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon in a London restaurant, even though the Stamford Bridge club have been at pains to insist they have no interest in signing him.

MNA/Xinhua

Ebdon, McCulloch take leads in semifinals

LONDON, 30 April— Former champion Peter Ebdon edged toward the snooker world championship semifinal on Thursday by taking a 6-2 lead over fellow Englishman Shaun Murphy.

Ian McCulloch, bidding to become the first qualifier to reach the final since Terry Griffiths in 1979, also took a 6-2 advantage against 2000 finalist Matthew Stevens. 2002 world champion Ebdon took three of the opening four frames before Murphy narrowed the gap a 77 break but the young qualifier struggled to find the form which saw him beat John Higgins and Steve Davis earlier in the tournament.

Ebdon, who produced a great comeback to knock out defending champion Ronnie O'Sullivan in the quarterfinals,

continued to hold the upper hand and finished the afternoon with breaks of 69 and 93 to establish a four-frame lead.

McCulloch won a scrappy opening frame against Welshman Stevens and the Englishman also claimed the next three, including a 127 clearance.

Stevens opened his account in the fifth frame but a break of 122 restored McCulloch's four-frame advantage.

Stevens won the penultimate frame of the session but McCulloch ended the evening with an 83 break to lead by four frames overnight.—MNA/Xinhua

UNICEF appoints Barca's Eto' o as ambassador

MADRID, 30 April— The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Friday appointed Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o of Spanish soccer club Barcelona as its ambassador.

The official appointment will take effect on 27 May at the Economic Social Council of Madrid, said UNICEF in a communique.

Eto'o "is very aware about the social reality of the country both in his country and in his continent," said the head of the UNICEF programme in Catalonia, Nieves Prieto.

The striker has the profile of an athlete who has shown sensibility towards children and humanitarian causes, said UNICEF.

Eto'o will share the UNICEF honours with Spanish Formula 1 pilot Fernando Alonso.

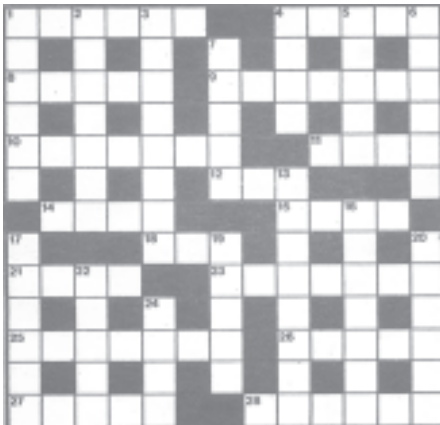
UNICEF praised the sensibility of the player, who comes from Cameroon, a country affected by the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), hunger and other calamities.

Eto'o participated during a week in the production of five publicity spots as part of the campaign "Sport for Development".

The player said "helping people in Cameroon is an additional motivation, as what I do is for the whole world."

MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Arrived (6,2)
- 7 Is aware
- 8 21 down individual (3,6)
- 9 Type of rummy
- 10 Lemon rind
- 11 Cave
- 13 Tittle-tattle
- 14 West wind
- 17 Blush
- 18 Snare
- 20 Falsehood
- 22 Explorer by sea
- 23 Scion
- 24 Devoted to study

DOWN

- 1 Pass in a body
- 2 Set right
- 3 Always
- 4 Not certain
- 5 African river
- 6 Apart
- 7 Grew together
- 12 Commanding
- 13 Hungarian stew
- 15 —Nelson
- 16 Silk-pile fabric
- 17 Refurnish with weapons (2-3)
- 19 European city
- 21 Ancient

Boca offers Maradona direction of youth divisions

BUENOS AIRES, 30 April— Boca Juniors offered Friday to Maradona the charge of director-general of the youth divisions, said president of the club Mauricio Macri, who affirmed that this task could "grow in the organization".

The post was chosen by the former player, who will respond to the offering by mid-May. "Now it all is up to him," said the president. "We offer Maradona to start working on 1 June or 1 August, when he could start," said Macri, after the announcement of the direction in La Bombonera Stadium offices.

"With this we seek to start relations between Boca and Diego, in an increasing way, lasting the whole life. Everyone knows how important it would be to us having him linked to the club," he indicated.

Macri commented that

Maradona will travel Friday to Cuba and next week to Spain. "We expect to have his reply upon his return and know whether or not he will work with Boca's amateur teams," he said.

He added that his work will consist in searching "new talents", for the youth divisions and "the formation" of players, a task that until recently was made by the club's coach Jorge Griffa.

"We see a Diego who is eager to work; a Maradona who wants to do something for a club that is his own. There is no better place for him to start working. We all want to work together and start to move along this path," said Macri.

MNA/Xinhua

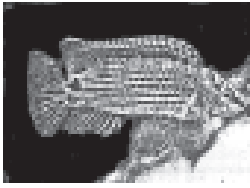


Andretti Green Racing driver Dan Wheldon of Britain, left, pours champagne over the team's President Tim Green after winning the Indy Japan 300 on the 1.5-mile oval track at Twin Ring Motegi in Motegi, northeast of Tokyo, Japan, on 30 April, 2005.

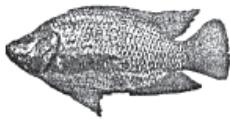
INTERNET

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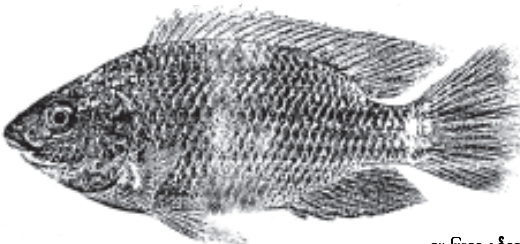
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အချိန်။ ၁၅:၃၀ နာရီ မှ ၂၀:၀၀ နာရီထိ
နေရာ။ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းအဖွဲ့ချုပ်
 ဘုရင့်နောင်လမ်းမကြီးနှင့် ဆေးဝါးစက်ရုံလမ်းထောင်
 အနောက်ကြိုက်ကုန်းရပ်ကွက်၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်
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 မြန်မာရိုးရာထမင်းဆိုင်(၂)ဆိုင်
 အိန္ဒိယနည်းဖြင့်ချက်ပြုတ်မည်ဆိုင်(၂)ဆိုင်
 ငါးခေါက်ဆွဲနှင့်ငါးကြေးအိုးဆိုင်(၃)ဆိုင်
 မုန့်ဟင်းခါးဆိုင်(၂)ဆိုင်



တိလာပီးယားငါးအသားလွှာ၊ ငါးအူချောင်း၊
 ငါးဆူပိလုံးများကိုလည်းအသင်ချက်ပြုတ်စားသူ နိုင်ရန်
 ရွေးချွန်နံ့သက်သာစွာဖြင့်ရောင်းချသွားပါမည်။



မျိုးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

All this needs to be known

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



World Bank credit for Bangladesh healthcare system

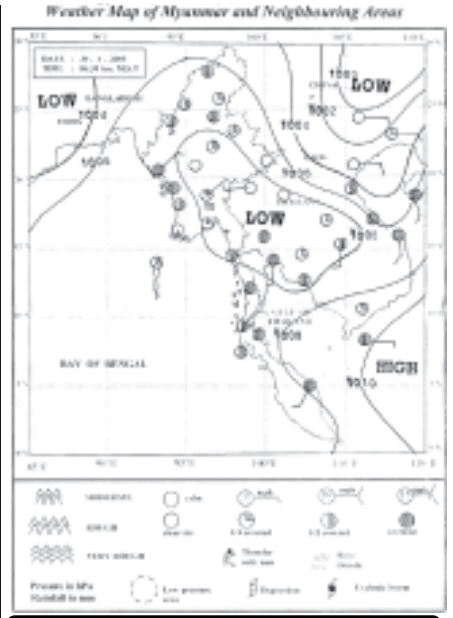
WASHINGTON, 1 May— The World Bank has approved a 300-million-US-dollar credit to assist Bangladesh improve the quality of its healthcare system along with access to it.

The amount, approved on Thursday for a health, nutrition and population sector programme would be used for strengthening the public health sector, improve service delivery, and develop health awareness campaigns, a Bank release said.

“While Bangladesh health indicators have improved significantly over the past decade, the country now faces the threat of an increase in non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases”, the release said.

The programme aimed to assist Bangladesh with the implementation of its Strategic Investment Plan by supporting the government’s social development goals.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 30 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, isolated in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Taunggu (0.98) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin, Rakhine State, Bago and Magway Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway and Hpa-an (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 29-4-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 30-4-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-4-2005 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 29-4-2005 was (9.3) hours (approx). Rainfalls on 30-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (1.46 inches) at Yangon Airport, (1.93 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 29-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the north and south Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 1-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions in Upper Myannnnnmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-5-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**ASLEEP IN JESUS
 Matron Daw Naw Gaily
 (Retired, EENT Hospital)
 Age 80 Years**

Daughter of (U Saw Sharley-Daw Naw Moo), beloved wife of (Mr. W.A.L Coomber), beloved mother of U William Myint Soe-Gina, Daw Doris Yin Yin Htwe, beloved grandmother of Michelle and Wayne, fell asleep in Jesus at SSC on 29th April, 2005 at 00.05 am.

Funeral service will be held at Phoo Tha By Memorial Hall at Insein Seminary Compound on 1st May, 2005 (Sunday) at 08.30 am thence to Yay Way Christian Cemetery (all denominations) for entombment.

(Buses will leave building 18, Room 3, U Wisara Housing at 07.30 am.)
Bereaved family



Sunday, 1 May
 View on today:

- 7:00 am**
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းထွန်းအရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာယော နာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်အစည်းအဝေး အဘိဓမ္မာရှင်ဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မသတ္တာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ အိဝသင်္ဂါ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၀)ပြာအင်္ဂလော
- 8:05 am**
 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am**
 7. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း ပေါင်းလင်း (ဇော်ရိပ် ရေကု) ရေကုလင်္ကာ
- 8:30 am**
 8. International news
- 8:45 am**
 9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am**
 1. Martial song

- 11:10 am**
 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am**
 3. Round-up of the Week’s International News
- 11:40 am**
 4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်ဆိုင်တွဲ “ချစ်ပန်းအရာ” (အပိုင်း-၃၁)
- 12:20 pm**
 5. တိလာပီးယား ငါး ဈေးပွဲတော် ဆိုင်ရာသိတောင်းခံစရာ
- 12:30 pm**
 6. Myanmar Video Feature: “အချစ်မည်သော ရုပ်ဝန်း၌” ဓမ္မပြုကုန်၊ နိုင်ငံသစ်ကြည့် ဝါရိတ်တာ-မောင်မိုးလွင်(သပြေ)
- 2:20 pm**
 7. Musical programme
- 2:30 pm**
 8. ဆီပန်းတီးတီး
- 2:45 pm**
 9. International news
- 4:00 pm**
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
 4. ယာယာချိုအေး(၃၀)ပြာ မင်္ဂလာတေး
- 4:55 pm**
 5. အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ယူညာရေး

- ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ဇန်နဝါရီ
 -ပထမဇန်န (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
- 5:05 pm**
 6. Song of national races
- 5:20 pm**
 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး
- 5:30 pm**
 8. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm**
 9. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
 11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်ဆိုင်တွဲ “ချစ်ပန်းအရာ” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 7:30 pm**
 13. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm**
 14. ASEAN စာတိုက်ပြုပွဲ စည်းကမ်းပြုသရုပ်နှင့် ဆုချီးမြှင့်ပွဲ အစမ်းအစား
- 7:45 pm**
 15. Summit ဆိုမှ Summit
- 8:00 pm**
 16. News
- 8:15 pm**
 17. International news
- 8:30 pm**
 18. Weather report
- 8:45 pm**
 19. လပတ်စီလေဝသန့နှင့်စလေပေး ခန့်မှန်းချက်
- 9:00 pm**
 20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်ဆိုင်တွဲ “အချစ်သံသရာ” (အပိုင်း-၃၇)
- 9:15 pm**
 21. The next day’s programme



Sunday, 1 May
 Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
8:35 am Music -When we were young
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: Looking for heaven
8:55 am National news/Slogan
9:05 am Music: -It’s alright
9:10 am International news
9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar: -Myanma Conventional Bullockcart
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Story for children -The fox and two others
1:50 pm Songs for children
9:00 pm Weekly news review
9:10 pm Music
9:15 pm Article
9:25 pm Music -Herd -Puppy love
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Agricultural and livestock breeding tasks in Lashio inspected

YANGON, 30 April — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected agricultural and livestock breeding tasks in Lashio, Shan State (North) on 28 April morning. During his inspection tour, he was accompanied by SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwé,

Shan State (North) PDC Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental officials.

At the local battalion of the command the Secretary-1 inspected cultivation of Hsinshweli honey

orange, sunflower, onion, carrot, tomato, pepper and tea and bee-keeping. Next, he viewed growing of 500,000 coffee plants and 15,000 macademia plants. Next, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to the 100-acre plantations of perennial trees and seasonal crops,

(See page 9)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the chicken run in Lashio, Shan State (North). — MNA

Aims and acts of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts endangering interest of Union of Myanmar and entire people Political parties oppose announcement of renegade group

YANGON, 30 April — Social organizations, political parties and peace groups that have returned to the legal fold 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 are a translation of the full texts of the declarations issued by Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization. — MNA

Declaration of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party

30 April 2005

1. The Union of Myanmar is a state where various kinds of national races live on the same land, drinking water from the same source.
2. Our party called Kokang Democracy and Unity Party will make concerted efforts for emergence of all-round developed nation hand in hand with all national races.
3. At a time when we are making efforts for national development, the announcement of formation of Shan State Provisional Government on 17 April 2005 and establishment of Shan State as an independent State that will lead to breaking up the Union and harm the national solidarity is totally against the policy and attitude of our party.
4. We declare that we totally oppose and disapprove of the measures that endanger the State stability, prevalence of law and order and peace and tranquillity of the people.

U Law Hsin Kwan
Organizer

Central Executive Committee
Kokang Democracy and Unity Party

Declaration of Union Pa-O National Organization

1. We learnt that some fugitives in a foreign country announced the formation of the Shan State provisional government and independence of Shan State on 17 April 2005.
2. The announcement is contrary to the policy of the Union Pa-O National Organization, and the UPNO has no involvement with the group that has issued the announcement.
3. The UPNO never accepts and adopts the secession policy, and will not accept and adopt it in future.
4. We UPNO hereby announce that we oppose and are totally against the announcement on the independence of Shan State and formation of the Shan State government.

U Khon Tin Shwe
Central Executive Committee

Union Pa-O National Organization

Dated: 30 April 2005

Declaration of Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization

1. The VOA and BBC broadcasting stations aired on 17 and 18 April 2005 that the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa announced formation of the so-called Shan State provisional government and independence of Shan State.
2. The Government upholding Our Three Main National Causes has made a good headway in convening the National Convention in accord with the State's seven-point Road Map, while shouldering nation-building duties through the 12 political, economic and social objectives.
3. Since yore, a total of 135 national races have been living in the Union of Myanmar through thick and thin.
4. Secession of the national races from the Union cannot yield any fruitful results, but can pose danger to the Union. The declaration of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa is against the principles adopted by the National Convention.
5. We hereby declare that the act of Sao Hkam Hpa can lead to the disintegration of the Union and bring evil effects to the national races, so we Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization strongly oppose and protest against the declaration.

U San Tha Aung
Chairman

Central Executive Committee

Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization

Dated: 30 April 2005

Booklet on Clarifications at Press Conference (3/2005) in circulation

YANGON, 1 May — The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the press conference 3/2005 on points relating to the reason of declaring unlawful association the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and related groups

which committed acts posing grave danger to the Union of Myanmar and the entire national people, on 22-4-2005. At the press conference the Information Committee clarified that history shows that on the basis of racism, the nation was unstable in the past and the people were confronted with hardships; that now again, descendants of expatriate Shan sawbwas are sticking to wrongdoings and such acts pose a grave danger to the nation and the entire national people and thus the people, social organizations, political parties

and peace groups which have returned to the legal fold denounce and oppose it and that the Government, hand in hand with the people, will safeguard Our Three Main National Causes and it will never let secession of any state or division from the Union.

The booklet on the clarifications at the Press Conference will be distributed together with the dailies on 1 May 2005 issue. If the book is not attached to the daily, readers may ask it from newspaper agents free of charge. — MNA