Yangon, 31 March — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered concluding address at the plenary session of the National Convention at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, officials, representatives of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahe National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States. 

The plenary session of National Convention adjourns till end of year 2005

The Government’s positive endeavours for the nation will go down in the annals of history. But there are external and internal saboteurs resorting to destructive means with selfishness, instead of taking part in the national developments with pleasure and honour. The 54 million people of Myanmar disgusting the destructive acts of the saboteurs will crush them.

People can now shape in mind the future Myanmar that is exercising genuine discipline-flourishing democracy.

YANGON, 31 March — The goodwill delegation led by Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, who arrived here to pay a goodwill visit, left by air this morning.

The visiting Singaporean Prime Minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Aung Myo Min, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr T Jasudases and embassy staff, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Hla Than, Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Earn more foreign exchange through increased sale of gems

As the Union of Myanmar is rich in natural resources, the government has been striving for the economic development of the nation through systematic and effective use of the nation’s terrestrial and aquatic resources.

The Union of Myanmar is also the source of precious stones. Therefore, special efforts are being made for the emergence of a stable gems market in the nation. As measures have been taken to produce and sell precious stones in accordance with the market-oriented economic system having introduced since 1988, national entrepreneurs are now able to produce and sell gems. As a result, production of gems has been on the increase.

At first, gems were sold to local and foreign gems merchants in March and October every year. But now, steps have been taken so that auctions can be held in June and July also. Many gems merchants from abroad usually attend Myanmar Gems Emporiums. Most of the foreign merchants are from China and Thailand. Those from Japan, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, Indonesia, India and Canada also visit the emporiums and purchase gems. Therefore, a lot of foreign exchange is fetched through the sales of gems.

The 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium sponsored by Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee under the Ministry of Mines was opened at Myanmar Gems Mart in Yangon on 30 March. On display at the emporium are finished jade products and jewellery and jade carvings and pearl of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and lots of imperial jade, commercial jade and utility jade of private gems merchants.

Up to 31 March, 743 merchants from 10 nations and 401 gems merchants of 217 local companies are now attending the 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium.

The quality of jade, gems and pearls at the current emporium is better than that of previous emporiums. Therefore, merchants at home and abroad are more interested in this emporium.

We believe that the nation will be able to earn more foreign exchange by selling gems in accordance with the market-oriented economic system.

1,144 foreign, local merchants arrive at 42nd MGE

YANGON, 31 March — A total of 1,144 local and foreign merchants—743 gems merchants of 258 companies from 10 foreign countries and 401 local merchants of 217 companies — arrived at the 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium being held at Myanmar Gems Mart, organized by Central Committee for Holding the Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Gems merchants observed gems and jade displayed at the Myanmar Gems Emporium with keen interest. More gem merchants will arrive at the emporium on 1 April. Local and foreign merchants observed lots of gems on 30, 31 March and 1 April.

Lots of jade will be sold through tender system and competitive bidding on 2, 3 and 4 April; lots of gems, through tender bidding and competitive system on 5 and 6 April and lots of pearl, through tender system and competitive bidding on 7 April.

Golf tourney to mark 10th anniversary of Ruby Dragon and Kyauk Seinn Nagar Co Ltd held

YANGON, 31 March — The golf tourney to mark the 10th anniversary of Ruby Dragon Jade and Genis Co Ltd and Kyauk Seinn Nagar Genis Co Ltd was held at Silvery Golf Resort yesterday morning. MPGA and MGF President May-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Ruby Dragon Jade and Genis Co Ltd and Kyauk Seinn Nagar Genis Co Ltd Chairman U Nay Win Tun and officials formally opened the tourney by teeing off the golf balls.

In the evening, the prize presentation ceremony was held at the golf resort. Chairman U Nay Win Tun and Director U Zaw Weik presented first, second and third prizes to the winners in the women’s event. Members of the Board of Directors gave prizes to winners in the bronze and silver classes. Next, Chairman U Nay Win Tun awarded first, second and third prizes to Than Tun, Myo Naing (Lashio) and Aung Zaw respectively in the gold class.

Officials presented most par, most birdie, nearest pin and longest drive prizes to the winners.
Singapore stresses int'l cooperation for homeland security

SINGAPORE, 30 March — Singapore on Tuesday urged governments concerned to forge strong partnerships in strengthening homeland security and fighting against transnational terrorism.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the  Global Security Asia 2005 Exhibition and Conference here, Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng stressed the shared responsibility of homeland security technologies.

“Strategic partnerships in homeland security technology development can enable countries to leverage on the cumulative know-how and complementary strengths of others to shorten their learning curve and accelerate capability development,” Wong said.

He advocated in particular that countries adopt biometric passports to restrict terrorist mobility, and that common standards for such high-tech travel documents be established as soon as possible.

Calling anti-terrorism a long-term and complex task, Wong said that governments should collaborate with the private sector in this regard so as to benefit from their creativity and productivity.

Themed “Homeland Security Partnerships for a Better Future,” the three-day event is the first of its kind in the Asia Pacific Region, which focuses exclusively on all facets of homeland security and asymmetric defence.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to boost exports to China

HANOI, 30 March — Vietnam, from 2005 to 2010, will keep on exporting products which are favoured by China, according to local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times on Monday.

To reap export revenue to the market of 3 billion US dollars in 2005 and 5.5 billion US dollars in 2010, Vietnam will maintain strong export of such key items as crude oil, coal, rubber and cashew nuts to China, approach major Chinese suppliers, processors and distributors of farm produce and seafood, and set up long-term sales networks in big urban areas and showrooms in such cities of Kunming, Nanning, Guangzhou and Shanghai, it said.

Vietnamese companies will export more fruits and vegetables to China from next year when tariffs on most of farm products drop to zero per cent. Other agricultural products to be exported to the market will also bring the firms bigger turnovers.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia targets more arrivals from China

JAKARTA, 30 March — The Indonesian government has targeted more tourist arrivals from China in its efforts to achieve the targeted foreign exchange revenue of 6 billion US dollars this year, a minister said recently.

“We seek a threefold increase in tourist arrivals from China,” Minister of Tourism and Culture Jero Wiack told reporters shortly after a meeting with Vice President Jusuf Kalla here.

He said Chinese tourists are given priority because “they love shopping and eating.”

Besides China, the government also targeted double arrivals from India and countries in the Middle East.

According to Wiack, tourist arrivals from China, India and Middle East countries are recorded at 80,000, 30,000 and 34,000, respectively.

In total, foreign tourist arrivals are set at 6 million this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian Minister to visit Pakistan for energy talks

NEW DELHI, 30 March — Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar is expected to visit Islamabad in May at the invitation of Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to discuss, among other things, the import of natural gas from Iran via Pakistan.

“I received a specific invitation to visit Pakistan after the Holi weekend (26 March) and meet with the Prime Minister. Since I need several days in Pakistan, I hope to undertake the visit in the second week of May,” Aiyar told reporters, ahead of his three-day visit to Saudi Arabia from Monday.

The visit would be held in the backdrop of a scheduled meeting of the technical committee on the Iran-India pipeline in April and the Petroleum Minister’s own trip to Teheran later in June.

Aiyar, a former diplomat, has served as consul-general in Karachi in the 1980s.

New Delhi proposes to import gas from Iran through a 4.5-billion-US-dollar pipeline, linking Iran’s South Pars gas field with India via southwest Pakistan. Options are also being examined for similar pipelines from Turkmenistan and Qatar.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Vice President meets Norway FM

BEIJING, 30 March — Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong met with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Petersen here recently, vowing to further advance bilateral ties between the two countries.

“Generally, Sino-Norwegian ties have progressed smoothly since we forged diplomatic ties more than half a century ago,” Zeng told Petersen at the Great Hall of the People. One of the first Western countries to do so, Norway recognized the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in 1954, about five years after PRC’s establishment.

“Sino-Norwegian relations are developing in all sectors and our cooperation in economics, science and technology and culture keeps deepening,” Zeng said, conveying his congratulations at the 100th anniversary of Norway’s independence.

China appreciates the Norwegian Government’s adherence to the one-China policy, Zeng acknowledged. And his country will, along with Norway, exert more efforts to push forward the two countries’ relations in a stable and sound manner.

Petersen said that Norwegian-Chinese ties were currently developing soundly with an frequent exchange of high-level visits, trading trade and fruitful cooperation in other fields such as science, technology and other spheres.

Norway will go on firmly adhering to the one-China policy and hopes to increase high-level visits and mutual political trust and stimulating cooperation in all fields so as to further increase its mutually beneficial, friendly and cooperative ties with China.

Petersen was here for a five-day official visit to China, which started Sunday as guest of his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing. Beside Beijing, Petersen is scheduled to travel to the economic and business hub of Shanghai in east China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR).

MNA/Xinhua

Al-Jazeera shows tape of Romanian journalists kidnapped in Iraq

DUBAI, 31 March — Three Romanian journalists and another individual taken hostage by an unidentified group in Iraq were shown on Wednesday on a video broadcast by the Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera.

Two hooded men were seen pointing their guns at the four visibly scared hostages, who were seated on the ground against the backdrop of a floral carpet.

The tape was the first apparent confirmation that the three Romanians were abducted, after the authorities in Bucharest initially declined to confirm that they were victims of a kidnapping.

Marie-Jeanne Ion, 32, a reporter for Prima TV, her cameraman Sorin Miscoci, 30, and Ovidiu Ohanesian, 37, of the Romania Libera newspaper were reported missing by the Romanian Foreign Ministry earlier this week.

The channel said that the three journalists identified themselves one-by-one on the tape, adding that the kidnappers had not made clear any demands to free their captives.

“An armed group, which did not identify itself, announced that it was holding three Romanian journalists hostage as well as a fourth person who was accompanying them,” it said.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldiers secure the site of a car bomb along the highway leading west out of Baghdad towards Abu Ghraib on 31 March 2005. —INTERNET
Chinese Vice-Premier meets Canadian guest

BEIJING, 30 March — The Chinese government attaches great concern to safeguarding and promoting people’s health, and is willing to join hands with Canada to ensure the health of the two nations, said Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi here recently.

In a meeting with Canadian Minister of Health Ujjal Dosanjh, Wu said China is dedicated to solving public health problems by strengthening reform and facilitating development. As the developing country with the largest population in the world, China’s efforts to invigorate its public health sector will not only benefit 1.3 billion Chinese, but also make a large contribution to the cause of world health.

Wu also praised Canada’s adherence to the one-China policy within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO), stressing that the Chinese Government is also concerned about the health and welfare of the people in Taiwan. Dosanjh said Canada vows to continue to cooperate with China on challenges in the public health sector.

India announces relief assistance for Indonesia

NEW DELHI, 30 March — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday released 2 million US dollars as relief assistance to Indonesia in the wake of Monday night’s earthquake that is estimated to have claimed up to 2,000 lives.

The Prime Minister’s decision was announced to reporters by his media advisor Sanjay Baru.

China says UN reform should consider African countries

BEIJING, 30 March — United Nations (UN) reform should take into consideration developing countries, especially African countries, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Tuesday.

The summit of world leaders for UN reform to take place in September should pay close attention to developing countries, particularly development-related issues for African countries such as poverty, diseases and fund shortage, Liu told reporters at a regular Press conference.

Liu made the remark when asked to comment on the decision adopted by the African Union (AU) Executive Council to demand no less than two permanent seats in the UN reform summit.

The decision was made by the Executive Council’s 7th extraordinary session from 7 to 8 March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

China is in favour of enhancing the UN’s role and authority through necessary and reasonable UN reform, said Liu. Reform should take into account suggestions from various sides and address their concerns. Meanwhile, the AU’s position should be valued and taken into consideration.

There is no world peace or development without stability and prosperity in Africa, Liu said. Africa is the largest continent with the most developing countries, and China hopes the African countries could play a bigger role in every UN organization, including the Security Council, Liu said.

Singapore Airlines to increase flights to Beijing

SINGAPORE, 30 March — Singapore Airlines (SIA) will increase one flight between Singapore and Beijing everyday from 1 June this year, announced the carrier recently.

This will add another 288 seats to SIA’s present twice-daily flights, representing an increase of 50 per cent in capacity, according to a statement by the airlines.

Coded SQ822, the Boeing 777-200 aircraft will depart Singapore at 16:50 pm and arrive in Beijing’s Capital International Airport six hours later, and the return flight, SQ821, will leave Beijing at 23:55 pm and arrive in Singapore at 06:05 am the next morning.

Children ‘starving’ in new Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 March — More and more children in Iraq do not have enough food to eat.

Increasing numbers of children in Iraq do not have enough food to eat and more than a quarter are chronically undernourished, a UN report says.

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Malnutrition rates in children under five have almost doubled since the US-led intervention - to nearly 8% by the end of last year, it says. The report was prepared for the annual meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. It also expressed concern over North Korea and Sudan’s Darfur province.

UN specialist on hunger Jean Ziegler, who prepared the report, blames the worsening situation in Iraq on the war led by coalition forces.

The silent daily massacre by hunger is a form of murder. It must be battled and eliminated, he was addressing a meeting of the 53-nation commission, the top UN rights watchdog, which is halfway through its annual six-week session.

When Saddam Hussein was overthrown, about 4% of Iraqi children under five were going hungry; now that figure has almost doubled to 8%, his report said.

Governments must recognize their extra-territorial obligations towards the right to food and should not do anything that might undermine access to it of people living outside their borders, it says.

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Commissioner’s office urges US to stop intervening in HK affairs

HONG KONG, 30 March — A spokesman for the Office of the Commissioner of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the People’s Republic of China in Hong Kong on Tuesday urged the US Government to immediately stop intervention in China’s internal affairs and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) affairs.

He made the remarks in response to the US State Department’s so called “Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The US Record 2004–2005” released on 28 March (local time).

He said the US report once again bears contents that intervene in China’s internal affairs and HKSAR affairs, and expressed discontent and opposition to what the US acts. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese FM holds talks with Norwegian counterpart

BEIJING, 30 March — China appreciates the Norwegian Government’s long-lived support of the one-China policy, and is willing to expand cooperation with Norway in various fields, said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here recently when holding talks with Norway’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Petersen.

Current China-Norway relations are steady, with mutually beneficial cooperation and exchanges in economic trade, culture, education, science and technology, Li told Petersen, who came to China at the invitation of Li on Sunday.

“China is willing to keep close exchanges and consultations with Norway on international affairs on the basis of mutual respect, so as to push forward the healthy and stable development of China-Norway relations,” said Li.

Petersen agreed with Li’s comment on bilateral relations, reiterating that Norway will continue to stick by the one-China policy.

The Norwegian Gov-ernment attaches great importance to relations with China, and is willing to enhance cooperation with China in economic trade, environmental protection and tourism, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

China to invest 1,300b yuan in environmental protection

BEIJING, 30 March — China’s investment in environmental protection is expected to reach 1,300 billion yuan during the 11th Five-Year (2006-2010) plan period in line with the country’s rapid economic growth, an official at the State Environmental Protection Administration said here on Tuesday.

The investment will account for 1.4 to 1.5 per cent of China’s GDP, said Chen Bin, Deputy Director of the Administration’s Financial Department, during an international seminar on investing in and financing for environmental protection in China, which opened here on Tuesday.

Chen said the Chinese Government pays great attention to environmental protection and lists the issue a top priority. The country’s investment in the sector stood at 47.6 billion yuan during the seventh Five-Year (1986-1990) plan period and is expected to exceed 700 billion yuan during the tenth Five-Year plan (2001-2005) period, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia confirms second human case of avian influenza

PHNOM PENH, 30 March — Cambodia and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday confirmed the country’s second man died of avian influenza.

In a joint statement, Cambodia’s Ministry of Health and the WHO confirmed that the 28-year-old man, from Kampot Province, died of H5 virus.

It said that the man, died on 22 March, developed symptoms of bird flu on 17 March and was hospitalized in Phnom Penh on 21 March. The laboratory tests, on the same day, by the Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh confirmed that the man was infected with H5 avian influenza virus. The suspended case has tested negative for the avian influenza virus. Samples taken from 27 other people, including family contacts of the confirmed case and Phnom Penh medical staff involved in his care, have all tested negative for H5 avian influenza infection.

Results from another six people from Kampot Province have also tested negative for H5 influenza virus.

Cambodia’s previous case, a 25-year-old woman who died in late January, was also from Kampot Province but lived in another district. The majority of poultry in Cambodia are raised in small backyard flocks in rural areas, making surveillance for outbreaks especially challenging.

The investigation team, grouped health and agricultural officials, is continuing its work in Kampot Province, joined by staff from the WHO country office and the Pasteur Institute based in Phnom Penh. — MNA/Xinhua

India puts armed forces on alert

NEW DELHI, 30 March — Indian army, air force and navy were put on high alert on Monday night in the wake of a massive earthquake off the Indonesian coast, Home Minister Shivraj Patil said.

Patil said that armed forces as also para-military forces have been asked to help authorities in coastal states and Andaman and Nicobar islands if the need arose.

The Home Minister has already spoken to his counterparts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Kerala and West Bengal. The Home Minister also spoke by the phone with Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and reviewed the preparation of the armed forces. He said authorities in the coastal areas have been asked to carry out evacuation in case there were indications of tsunami.

Patil said the control rooms at the centre as also at state levels will be working throughout the night. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan cuts loans to China in fifth consecutive year

BEIJING, 30 March — Japan will offer 85.88 billion yen low-interest loans to China during the coming fiscal year starting 1 April, 2004, a drop of 11 per cent year-on-year, according to a document signed by Chinese and Japanese officials on Tuesday.

According to the document signed by Chinese Vice-Minister, Wu Dawei, and Japanese Ambassador to China, Koreshige Anami, the loans will be used in seven projects in central and western China mainly concerning water treatment and environmental and training projects.

The two official declined to comment to reporters at the signing ceremony in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

The loans carry annual interest rates of 0.75 to 1.5 per cent with a maturity of 30 to 40 years with a grace period of 10 years, accord- ing to the document. The 11 per cent reduc tion follows up to about 24 per cent cuts in the past five years in Japanese yen loans to China since 2000, when it peaked at 214.4 billion yen (approximately 2 billion US dollars).

To date, Japan’s low-interest yen loan commitment to China totalled 3.13 trillion yen (29 billion US dollars) since 1980 for projects including the building of highways, airports, sewage systems and other infrastructure.

Japanese monthly magazine Selection in its November edition last year said China’s aid and yen loans to China have helped improve infrastructure in China, thus promoting the Chinese economy and bilateral trade. — MNA/Xinhua
Malaysia advises people in coastal areas to evacuate

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 March — People living in coastal areas in Penang, Perak, Kedah, Perlis and Pulau Langkawi were advised to evacuate to higher areas after an earthquake measuring 8.5 on the Richter Scale occurred off the coast of Sumatra.

The Malaysian Meteorological Service said it detected an earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra at 12.09 am on Tuesday.

“This earthquake has the potential to generate a widely destructive tsunami in the ocean or seas near where the earthquake happened,” it said in a statement issued here.

Many people in Penang said the tremors were similar to the ones which felt on December 26 last year when the tsunami killer waves hit many parts of the state.

Those staying in Bayan Lepas near the Penang International Airport and Teluk Air Tawar near the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base in Butterworth also felt the tremors.

Fishermen in Penang went to tie up their boats by the beach as they were afraid that they would lose their boats.

Meanwhile, wire news reports said an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.2 on the Richter Scale was reported off the coast of Sumatra.

Penang Chief Police Officer Christopher Wan said he had directed his officers to ask people staying near coastal areas to evacuate.

An eye-witness said people were more prepared this time around after the devastating 26 December tsunami killed tens of thousands of people.

The Pacific tsunami warning centre has said that the latest earthquake could generate a “widely destructive tsunami”.

EC helping Cambodia’s intellectual property protection

PHNOM PENH, 31 March — The European Commission gave Cambodia 670,000 US dollars to help it establish intellectual property protections required by the World Trade Organization (WTO), local media reported on Monday.

The grant will go toward translating European Union intellectual property laws into Khmer, training commerce officials on patent law, help in writing new regulations and educational materials.

When Cambodia joined the WTO in October, several of the 47 laws it promised to pass included a patent law and enforcement of copyright. By January 1, 2007, Cambodia must have intellectual property standards in place. This involves enforcing trademarks, such as a business’ name and logo, patents that protect ideas and copyrights that govern the reproduction of art, writing and music.

North Vietnam reports 1,100 German measles infections

HANOI, 31 March — Some 1,100 people in Vietnam’s northern localities have recently been infected with rubella or German measles, a contagious viral infection with mild symptoms associated with a rash, following an outbreak in southern Ho Chi Minh City, local newspaper Youth reported on Monday.

The five localities hosting rubella sufferers include Hanoi City and the four northern provinces of Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Bac Giang and Vinh Phuc. Nearly 800 people, mostly people living or working in unhygienic conditions, suffered from the disease in Ho Chi Minh City between November 2004 and mid-March.

To deal with the situation, local health agencies are strengthening vaccination among residents, especially women. Now, the Ho Chi Minh City is facing scarcity of rubella vaccines, the report said.

Philippines to implement four-day work week to save energy

MANILA, 31 March — The Philippine Government agencies will implement four-day work week from 4 April as an energy-saving measure, a local radio reported on Wednesday.

According to the radio dzMM, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed the administrative order including the implementing guidelines for the shortened work schedule. Ruled by the administrative order, all employees of departments, bureaus and agencies under the executive branch will work for 10 hours a day and four days a week on the months of April and May, except on holidays.

Government-owned and controlled corporations are also covered by the scheme, it added.
Blood is thicker than water

Uncle Phyo: Welcome! Have some Dawei traditional food and green tea, your aunty have prepared.

Aung Thein: I was away from Yangon on business. Hum, the food looks delicious as usually prepared by my aunty.

Phyo: By the way, there are a lot of noises criticising the National Convention, which is in progress at Nyaungmmapi Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, from various angles.

Thein: Who are criticising it?

Phyo: The RFA on 19 February aired a news report quoting a spokesman of US State Department as saying that he didn’t acknowledge the National Convention without the participation of Daw Stu Kyi and National League for Democracy which won the 1990 election. What is your view?

Thein: Such slanderous talks are nothing. These are just the routine acts of colonialist minions. These slanderous talks do not appear only at present, but have been in existence since the past colonial era.

Phyo: What were the slanders during the colonial era?

Thein: As the colonialists waged three unjust wars against our nation, we fell under subjugation on 1 January 1886. The colonialists exercised the divide-and-rule policy between the plains and hill regions. They also enacted discriminatory laws between the two. They even created set-up stories to sow mistrusts and doubts among the national races. For example, they hatched the Shwe Gyo bu story to cause hatred between Bamarans and Kayins, the Sao Mon Hla story to incite suspicion between Bamar race and Shan race, and the story of a Chin named Pha We to divide the Bamar race and Chin race. The colonialists spread the non-fictions among the nationalities as if the true stories.

Phyo: All these, they did.

Thein: The people of Dawei region, who are also called Dawei, have the tradition of making a chicken sacrifice during the harvesting time. Based on the tradition, the colonialists created a false saying, which goes, “Even a sincere Dawei steals chicken to cause misunderstanding among the nationalities. Included in the over 100 nationalities of Myanmar is the Rakhine national race who live in the western part of the nation. And there is also a plant species which is called Rakhine banana the stem of which can be used in curing snake bites. So when people meet with a viper, they cut off a nearest Rakhine banana plant for snake bite cure. As cutting a plant from the stem is like killing it, the word “cut” was substituted with the word “kill” and the word “Rakhine” made to stand for the race, instead of the plant, and created a saying, which goes “If you meet with both a Rakhine and a viper, kill Rakhine first”. Actually, these sayings and stories are just slanderous creations of the colonialists to prolong their occupation of Myanmar.

Phyo: Whatever wicked schemes they employed, they had to flee the nation when the national unity gained strength.

Thein: It is true. The patriotic leaders toured states and hill regions to demand independence from the nationalist. The locals welcomed the patriotic leaders and took part in the struggle to regain independence. While the leaders were organizing people in other regions, the colonialist representatives tried to deceive the nationality leaders of Shan State offering a large sum of money and power and asking them to stay away from the independence struggle.

Thein: Such slanderous talks are nothing. These are just the routine acts of colonialist minions. These slanderous talks do not appear only at present, but have been in existence since the past colonial era.

Phyo: What were the slanders during the colonial era?

Thein: As the colonialists waged three unjust wars against our nation, we fell under subjugation on 1 January 1886. The colonialists exercised the divide-and-rule policy between the plains and hill regions. They also enacted discriminatory laws between the two. They even created set-up stories to sow mistrusts and doubts among the national races. For example, they hatched the Shwe Gyo bu story to cause hatred between Bamarans and Kayins, the Sao Mon Hla story to incite suspicion between Bamar race and Shan race, and the story of a Chin named Pha We to divide the Bamar race and Chin race. The colonialists spread the non-fictions among the nationalities as if the true stories.

Phyo: All these, they did.

Thein: The people of Dawei region, who are also called Dawei, have the tradition of making a chicken sacrifice during the harvesting time. Based on the tradition, the colonialists created a false saying, which goes, “Even a sincere Dawei steals chicken to cause misunderstanding among the nationalities. Included in the over 100 nationalities of Myanmar is the Rakhine national race who live in the western part of the nation. And there is also a plant species which is called Rakhine banana the stem of which can be used in curing snake bites. So when people meet with a viper, they cut off a nearest Rakhine banana plant for snake bite cure. As cutting a plant from the stem is like killing it, the word “cut” was substituted with the word “kill” and the word “Rakhine” made to stand for the race, instead of the plant, and created a saying, which goes “If you meet with both a Rakhine and a viper, kill Rakhine first”. Actually, these sayings and stories are just slanderous creations of the colonialists to prolong their occupation of Myanmar.

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Uncle Phyo: Welcome! Have some Dawei traditional food and green tea, your aunty have prepared.

Aung Thein: I was away from Yangon on business. Hum, the food looks delicious as usually prepared by my aunty.

Phyo: By the way, there are a lot of noises criticising the National Convention, which is in progress at Nyaungmmapi Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, from various angles.

Thein: Who are criticising it?

Phyo: The RFA on 19 February aired a news report quoting a spokesman of US State Department as saying that he didn’t acknowledge the National Convention without the participation of Daw Stu Kyi and National League for Democracy which won the 1990 election. What is your view?

Thein: Such slanderous talks are nothing. These are just the routine acts of colonialist minions. These slanderous talks do not appear only at present, but have been in existence since the past colonial era.

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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
People can now shape in mind...

(from page 16)

Altogether 1,073 out of the 1,081 delegates or 99.26 percent attended the meeting.

Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe said that the delegates have attended the National Convention with might and main, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, for the success of the National Convention included in the seven-point policy laid down by the Government. The efforts of the delegates to frankly present appropriate suggestions in view of serving the interest of the State and the people, with full fraternal spirit, has been recorded.

After studying and compiling the presentations of the delegates concerning the detailed basic principles for legislative power and formation of Financial Commission submitted at the Convention held from 24 June to 9 July last year, the alternative panel of chairman compiled them and presented the compilations on 17, 18 and 21 February 2005. As the suggestions of some of the groups and delegates are found to be beneficial to and appropriate for the nation and the people, the Work Committee coordinated with the panel of chairmen whether or not to lay them down as detailed basic principles. The panel of chairmen after discussing with the respective groups presented papers concerning the opinions of the groups to the Work Committee.

The suggestions presented by a large number of delegates have already been laid down as detailed basic principles for the legislation and the formation of the Financial Commission on 3 March 2005. The delegates provided full cooperation to lay down the detailed basic principles.

The Convention held on 7 and 8 March 2005, presented the clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman concerning the detailed basic principles to be laid down for executive and judicial sectors.

Concerning the clarifications, the delegates held group-wise discussions and read the papers at the plenary sessions held from 21 to 30 March 2005. Delegates of political parties read their paper on 21 and 22 March; delegates of representatives-elect, on 23 March; delegates of national races, on 25 March; delegates of peasants and delegates of workers, on 28 March; delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, on 29 March; and delegates of the plenary session. The NC should be adjourned starting from today until the end of this year and then the NC be reconvened when the delegates free time. Thus, submission of bills to re-spective Hluttaws.

Now, detailed basic principles are being adopted after dividing the discussions into three categories — formation, sharing of powers and Hluttaw tasks — under the legislative, executive, and judicial sectors. Of them, detailed basic principles for the formation section have been laid down. So have the detailed basic principles on legislation for sharing of powers. The delegates have submitted their proposals for the adoption of detailed basic principles for executive and judicial sectors. Delegates will

In conclusion, he ex-

horted the delegates to study related subjects in advance to be able to give effective advice and make suggestions at the NC.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that it is now nearly two months since the National Convention has resumed on 17 February 2005. Thanks to the high sense of responsibility and harmonious efforts of the delegates, greater success has been achieved than expected. It is their unity and dutiful performance of the task assigned by the State, with patriotism and Union Spirit as the base, that has made them achieve success.

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Having the detailed basic principles for the distribution of legislative power, executive power and judicial power — the sector of legislation is delicate and wide and has many areas where difference of opinions may arise. However, the delegates were able to make discussions, suggestions and proposals in unity, giving priority to the interest of the entire nationalities and the Union rather than single group, party and race.

Hence, the Convention has successfully laid down detailed basic principles to be included in the Union legislative list, region or state legislative list and self-administered division or self-administered zones concerning the following 11 sectors:

- Defence and security sector
- Foreign affairs sector
- Finance and planning sector
- Economic sector
- Agriculture and livestock breeding sector
- Energy, electric power, mining and forestry sector
- Industrial sector
- Transport and communication sector
- Social sector
- Management sector

Judicial sector

In addition to laying down detailed basic principles for the distribution of the legislative power, the delegates have read group-wise papers on the discussions and suggestions based on the studies and presentation of the (See page 9)
People can now shape in mind...

(from page 8)

Work Committee Chairman concerning the sector of sharing the executive and judicial powers. The panel of chairmen will have to take time to study in detail and compile papers concerning the discussions and suggestions on laying down of detailed basic principles concerning the sector of distributing executive and judicial powers. Thus, the Convention will be adjourned today. Thingyan festival will usher in soon and the farmers and judicial powers. With the Convention’s approval, it will lay down detailed basic principles at the coming Convention.

As it is told by the Work Committee Chairman, his studies will be laid down, coordinated and approved for the delegates to discuss and suggest easily to lay down detailed basic principles for some of the remaining chapters as necessary, after weighing the volume of the work of making discussions and suggestions on channels among hlutaws concerning their functions at the coming Convention. Thus, it can be said that the greater the success of the Convention, the nearer the new genuine discipline-flourishing state.

The Government’s positive endeavours of the nation will go down in the annals of history. But there are external and internal saboteurs resorting to de-structive means with selfishness, instead of taking part in the national developments with pleasure and honour. The 54 million people of Myanmar disgust their destructive acts and divisions of the saboteurs will crush them. The Secretary-1 expressed thanks to all those who have taken part for the success of the National Convention.

The NCCC Secretary made clarifications on the management matters, saying that he continued the session of the NC that began on 17 February 2005 would be over soon, and the delegations were going home during the adjournment. The Commission have made all necessary arrangements for the convenience of the delegates to leave Naypyinyin by air, by train, or by bus for home starting from this afternoon, 1 and 2 April. The delegates are to follow the programmes laid down by the transport sub-committee. There are a few constraints for the buses that will leave at night to avoid possible undesirable effects. The NCCC secretary also presented some disciplines for those who will go home in their own transport. The Commission has requested respective states and divisions to provide assistance for the delegates when they arrive at respective terminals of airports and railway stations or bus terminals.

The delegates in the defence services hospitals may go home if they want, and if they have not recovered fully and want to continue to stay in hospitals, they can receive further medical treatments.

Before the NC resumes at the end of 2005, articles and suggestions submitted to the NC plenary session. The NC plenary session was successfully concluded at 9.35 am. — MNA

PUBLIC, INDUSTRIAL ZONES...

(by page 16)

Hydel power plants will provide another source in order to supply power to demands. However, it is difficult to produce full capacity of power due to lack of favourable conditions in operating the hydel power plants, lack of availability of appropriate water level for the plants and increase of power consumption with momentum. Soon, these difficulties will be turned into the fitting matters. In addition, the supervisory committee fulfills requirements in supplying power as much as possible not only for the people but also for the industrial zones.

The Prime Minister continues to say that utilization of power and fuel is one of the important roles in ensuring development of the industrial sector. In conclusion, he said the supervisory committee will explain fulfillment of power and fuel, and officials and entrepreneurs of the industrial zones are to submit the requirements.

Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise reported on generating power, supply of power to industrial zones and people, annual power consumption, implementation of power supply projects and future prospects.

Managing Director Col Sein Tin Win of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise submitted reports on production of oil and natural gas, fuel requirement of the whole country and distribution of fuel to the industrial zones.

Officials of the industrial zones presented their requirements. Departmental heads and officials gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave the concluding remarks.

Also present on the occasion were Members of the Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, departmental heads and officials.
Ceremonies of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day held in military commands

YANGON, 31 March — The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremony was held at parade grounds of Eastern Command on 27 March morning. It was attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife, senior military officers, departmental officials at state, district and township levels, social organizations, local people and guests.

Similarly, a ceremony to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at North-West Command’s sports ground on 27 March morning, with an address by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Thu Aye and senior military officers, departmental officials at state, district and township levels, social organizations, local people and guests. — MNA

Likewise, a ceremony to commemorate the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at parade grounds of Southern Command on 27 March morning, with an address by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko. It was attended by senior military officers, departmental officials at state, district and township levels, social organizations, local people and guests. — MNA

YANGON, 31 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected 80 acres of summer paddy of Yangon Command near Yangon-Bago six lane highway and No 3 Highway at Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships this afternoon.

The commander viewed thriving summer paddy and water supply tasks. Departmental officials reported on supporting tasks to set cultivation target and per-acre yield of summer paddy.

They oversaw facilities of Barlar river water pumping project.

Furthermore, the commander and party looked into summer paddy plantations of Yangon Command beside No 3 Highway in Mingaladon Township. The summer paddy plantations are being supplied water with the use of CNG powered pump. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives CAFIU Adviser Mr Cai Yu.

YANGON, 31 March — At the invitation of Union Solidarity and Development Association of the Union of Myanmar, visiting Adviser to CAFIU of the Republic of China Mr Cai Wu and delegation called on USDA Secretary-General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at USDA Headquarters this evening.

During their meeting, they discussed strengthening of mutual relations and promotion of cooperation among the youths of the two countries.

Present on the occasion were CEC members Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Than Shwe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Col Nyan Tun Aung and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. — MNA

Stimulant tablet traffickers jailed

YANGON, 31 March — Members of Tachilek Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched Room No 127 of Rigana Hotel on 11 December, 2004 and seized 100,000 WY brand stimulant tablets.

Action was taken against him by Tachilek Police Station under the sections 15, 19 (a), 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On 24 February, Tachilek District Court sentenced 20 years’ imprisonment to Aik Kyine (a) Zaw Myo Aung, son of U Loine Tit, under the section of 19 (a). — MNA

YANGON, 31 March — The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition continued at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road today.

At the booth on nation-building endeavours, a computer quiz is being held from noon to 2 pm daily, and prizes are presented to winners during the third day of the exhibition.

Visitors observe Soft Guide Computer Booth at International ICT Exhibition. — MNA

YANGON, 31 March — The annual ceremony of Sports plus Education Training School of the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) was held at the institute at Kyayakasan grounds this morning, attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

The minister presented cash prizes to winners in the local and international sports events.

Chairperson of the Central Working Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye gave prizes to the winners.

Later, the minister awarded cash prize to Ma Nanda Htaik of Mon State, the top prize winner in 2004-2005 academic year. — MNA

Summer paddy plantations of Yangon Command inspected

YANGON, 31 March — Organized by the Myanmar Computer Industrialists, the 6th International ICT Exhibition sponsored by the Myanmar Computer Federation continued today as the third day at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road. Being the final day of the exhibition, it was packed with computer technicians and industrialists, students and enthusiasts.

In the booths of exhibition, cameras for security, system of fire preventive measures and network equipment used for public meeting were put on display. — MNA

For 27 March morning, attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo in his capacity as Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command on 27 March morning.

Tachilek District Court sentenced 20 years’ imprisonment to Aik Kyine (a) Zaw Myo Aung, son of U Loine Tit, under the section of 19 (a). — MNA

USDA-ICT exhibition opens up to 4 April.

YANGON, 31 March — The 6th International ICT Exhibition honouring the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Maj-Gen Than Shwe, was held at the Myanmar Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 9 am to 5 pm today.

The competition was packed with members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students, monks and people. In the competition, Literary and Arts Competitions and Exhibition Quiz was held and winners were awarded prizes.

The competition continues up to 4 April. — MNA

Similarly, members of Tachilek Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched Room No 127 of Rigana Hotel on 11 December, 2004 and seized Aik Kyine (a) Zaw Myo Aung, son of U Loine Tit, under the section of 19 (a). — MNA

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China Daily CEO roundtable in Beijing on Wednesday.

Chairperson of the China Daily, Yu Tong, secretary-general of Asia Boao Forum, the gathering attracted 30 China-based chief executive officers and senior executives from FOR-TUNE 500-listed multinational companies, who discussed the “China-Asia business partnership and its implication for multinationals”.

“As a service from China Daily for the global business community, we are delighted to initiate such tailor-made roundtable for the CEOs of multinational companies so that they can learn and share with each other on how to better run their China operations,” said Zhu.

China and Asia-Pacific CEOs from some of the world’s largest and most famous firms, including Deloitte, IBM, Fidelity Management, Bayer, BASF, Kodak, British Airways, Nissan, Merrill Lynch, Shell, Pfizer and Walt Disney, shared their insights on China’s further economic integration with Asia and its impact on global business.

The key word is partnership. China and sovereign countries should work together to share economic growth and common prosperity. Multinationals should play a key role in this process,” stressed Long, who pledged China would seek to share its success with its neighbours.

67-year-old Simgiya, Chairman Emeritus of Raymond Group, will try to break the world “high altitude in a hot air balloon” record set by Per Lindstrand and who had reached a height of 64,997 feet at Texas in the US on June 6, 1988.

Singhania now plans to exceed that and go where no man has gone before in a hot air balloon, to 70,000 feet.

“I have been adventurous all my life and I always wanted to do some-thing that would contrib-ute to the glory of India. I had thought of doing this for the last 7-8 years,” the passionate aviator, told a Press conference here on Tuesday.

“I have the fire in me to do something not done before. A number of people have tried to reach 70,000 feet and failed. I want to do it for India,” he said.

“The cost of the project would work out to several crores and the balloon with a capacity of 1.6 million cubic feet, would tower to a height of a 30-storey building, 17 to 18 times bigger than the normal ones,” Singhania said.

The technical side of the “MI 70K” project is being put together by Andy Elson and Colin Prescott, two balloon experts from England. The industrialist had flown solo 5,420 miles in his microlight aircraft from London to Ahmedabad in 22 days in 1988 to set a record. — MNA/PTI

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Musharraf urges developed world to extend promised assistance

ISLAMABAD, 31 March — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Wednesday urged the developed world to extend its promised assistance to the developing nations in realizing millennium development goals set by the United Nations, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan.

The developed world must contribute its promised assistance of 0.7 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) to help the developing countries realize the millennium development goals, otherwise, the attainment of the objective will take centuries, Musharraf said while addressing an international conference on Gender Mainstreaming and Millennium Development Goals held in Islamabad.

If the much-needed development assistance is not forthcoming, the islands of prosperity might one day sink in the expanding ocean of poverty, Musharraf warned.

“The world can become a better place to live if the millennium development goals are implemented,” he said.

He added in addition to increasing official development assistance, the industrialized world should ease debt burdens on the developing countries. The millennium development goals emphasize worldwide efforts for reduction of extreme poverty, promotion of universal primary education, better health facilities and empowerment of women by the Year 2015. Pakistan is a signatory to the goals.

Musharraf said Pakistan is following a holistic strategy for poverty reduction through attraction of foreign investment and generation of more jobs for people at grass roots levels.

He also noted that Pakistan is committed to women empowerment and the real empowerment of women can only be achieved through a societal change based on enlightenment and wide-spread education.

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Coastal residents return after centre withdraws tsunami alert

CHENNAI, 31 March — Thousands of people in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala (southern Indian states) and Indian islands of Andaman and Nicobar, who fled their homes fearing devastating tidal waves following a massive earthquake in the Indian Ocean off Indonesia, returned to their dwellings after the centre withdrew its tsunami warning early on Tuesday.

“The earthquake does not appear to have generated tsunamis over the Indian region and, in view of this, the advise issued earlier by Indian Meteorological Department regarding possibility of tsunami stands cancelled,” Port Blair and Chennai Disaster Management director SK Swami said.

“...the possibility of danger has passed and people will go back to their homes,” the statement sent to chief secretaries of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, he said.

The warning was withdrawn hours after the 8.7 magnitude temblor struck off the coast of Sumatra, close to where a quake generated the 26 December tsunami that left over three lakh people dead or missing mostly in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Mild tremors were felt in Port Blair and Katchal Island in Andaman and Nicobar late Monday night after the earthquake that has caused devastation in Indonesia where 200 to 2,000 were feared killed, according to initial reports.

Thousands of coastal residents in Kollam and Alappuzha districts of Kerala, who were evacuated or fled their homes and settled in camps, churches and schools returned to their homes, official sources said in Thiruvananthapuram.

Around 10,000 people had earlier shifted inland in Kollam District alone. — MNA/PTI

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Industrialist Singhania to attempt unique balloon feat

MUMBAI, 31 March — Industrialist Vijaypat Singhania is trying to reach stratospheric heights in a hot air balloon and break a 15-year-old existing world record in the middle of November this year.

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Study shows a nurtured child most likely a good mom

WELLINGTON, 31 March — Girls raised in a positive, nurturing environment during their preschool, childhood and adolescent years, are much more likely to raise their own children that way, according to a New Zealand study released on Wednesday.

An international consortium of researchers says in the March/April 2005 issue of the journal Child Development that the study of 200 New Zealand families shows such parenting during the early years helps boost language, emotional well-being, thinking skills and academic achievement.

The researchers said in the scientific journal that women, but not men, raised within a low-authoritarian household during the preschool years, with a cohesive, positive family environment and little conflict during the middle childhood years, who established a trusting, openly communicative, and close relationship with their parents during their teen-age years, were more likely to engage in a warm, sensitive, stimulating parenting style themselves when raising the next generation.

Lead researcher Jay Belsky, Director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues at London University’s Birkbeck College, said there had been little other work on whether positive parenting was transmitted across generations, especially work that followed individuals in adulthood who were studied during childhood.

In comments about the study, Belsky said there had been many studies showing that negative parenting behaviour, such as harsh discipline or even child abuse, was often transmitted across genera-tions.

Belsky and researchers from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and the University of Otago and Canterbury University studied positive parenting using the Dunedin longitudinal sample of more than 1,000 New Zealanders born in the early 1970s.

The team’s study, said Belsky, shows that “it is not just problematic parenting, known to underpin a child’s well being, that can be handed down across generations, but also the kind of parenting known to foster healthy child development. “— MNA/PTI

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Jaguar mother ‘Sally’ caddies her offspring at the zoo in Munich, on 31 March, 2005. Two jaguar kittens were born on 20 January, 2005.
Three killed in derrick accident in Portugal
LISBON, 30 March—Three people were killed Monday in a civil dock in Sintra near Lisbon when a derrick collapsed, police said Monday. The three workers, one Ukrainian and two Portuguese, fell from the derrick and got killed when one of the sides of the derrick collapsed.

According to sources of the National Civil Protection Service, the derrick was going to be dismantled and two Portuguese, fell from the derrick and got killed when one of the sides of the derrick collapsed.

TRADE MARK CAUTION
KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (Honda Motor Co., Ltd. in English) a company incorporated under the laws of Japan, having its head office at No. 1-1, 2-Chome, Minami-ayoaya, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:

Annan cleared of corruption charge
UNITED NATIONS, 30 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was cleared by an independent inquiry team on Tuesday of any personal wrongdoing in the oil-for-food corruption scandal, but he was criticized for failing to detect and stop a conflict of interest with his son's employer in the bidding process.

"There is no evidence that the selection of Cotecna in 1998 was subject to any affirmative or improper influence of the Secretary-General in the bidding or selection process," the report said.

"Having weighed all the evidence and the credibility of the witnesses, the evidence is not good enough to show that the Secretary-General knew in 1998 that Cotecna was bidding on the humanitarian inspection contract," it added.

Three killed in derrick accident in Portugal
LISBON, 30 March— Three people were killed Monday in a civil dock in Sintra near Lisbon when a derrick collapsed, police said Monday. The three workers, one Ukrainian and two Portuguese, fell from the derrick and got killed when one of the sides of the derrick collapsed.

According to sources of the National Civil Protection Service, the derrick was going to be dismantled and two Portuguese, fell from the derrick and got killed when one of the sides of the derrick collapsed.

Danish schools poorly equipped to prevent drug abuse
STOCKHOLM, 30 March—The European Union has criticized Danish public schools for lagging behind other countries in preventing drug abuse among school children, Ritzau news bureau reported on Tuesday.

Danish public schools are poorly equipped to discourage young people compared with other countries in the EU, according to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

The centre said in a recent report that Denmark lies at the bottom of the Union, along with Latvia, Estonia and Finland, with regard to the schools' efforts to discourage young people from abusing drugs like hash, amphetamines, cocaine and ecstasy.

These drugs are becoming an increased problem in the European drug markets. According to the EMCDDA, Denmark's poor standing can be attributed to ineffective efforts and not being able to evaluate whether the methods work.

Danish school's preventive efforts are unsystematic because they do not have drug policies at schools. According to the report, Denmark relies on "pamphlets, sporadic seminars, activity days and exhibitions meetings, lectures and guest speakers."
Critics say sex selection will turn unborn babies into consumer items

LONDON, 30 March — Proposals to allow British parents having fertility treatment to choose the sex of their unborn baby split an influential group of lawmakers on Thursday, reigniting the debate over “designer babies”.

Couples should be able to decide the gender of the embryo being implanted to balance out families, Parliament’s cross-party Science and Technology Committee said in a report. But half of the committee’s 11 members rejected the findings as “unbalanced and light on ethics”. Critics say sex selection would turn unborn babies into consumer items and could pave the way for parents choosing other characteristics such as hair or eye colour.

“On balance, we find no adequate justification for prohibiting the use of sex selection for family balancing,” the report concluded. But lawmakers added: “The use and destruction of embryos does raise ethical issues and there are grounds for caution.”

The onus should be on opponents of sex selection for social reasons to show harm from its use, the report said. The committee said Britain’s fertility regulator — the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) — had “no role” in determining how an embryo is screened before being implanted into a woman’s womb and should lose its powers.

The report, which makes recommendations into the future of Britain’s 15-year-old fertility laws, also said “taboo” research, such as implanting human cells into animals, should be considered subject to regulation.

Under current law, sex selection is allowed if there is a risk of gender-linked disease such as muscular dystrophy or haemophilia. Several recent cases have tested those legal boundaries and provoked a heated ethical debate on the merits and pitfalls of embryo selection.

Committee chairman Ian Gibson, of the ruling Labour Party, denied the report backed the creation of designer babies. “We are looking at the regulation of new technologies,” he told Reuters. “We back proper investigation into the sex selection process.”

Local media reported that various foreign firms were found in March to be turning out shoddy goods which posed threats to human use. The firms include KFC, whose baby lotion products were found to be hazardous and Johnson & Johnson’s, whose cosmetic products reportedly have hazardous contents and Johnson & Johnson’s, whose baby lotion products were found to be problematic.

Despite strenuous efforts to return to normal, the firms have found their popularity decline greatly in less than one month. A report by the China Social Investigation Institute, released Sunday, said that 21 per cent of respondents in a survey will not buy products yielded by these firms, 27 per cent will and 52 per cent are not sure. Respondents were selected from among 10 major Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Huanghai and Shenzhen, which makes recommendations into the future of Britain’s 15-year-old fertility laws, also said “taboo” research, such as implanting human cells into animals, should be considered subject to regulation.

US commission says obstacles remain in intelligence sharing

CRAWFORD, 30 March — A commission reviewing US intelligence operations will warn this week that major obstacles remain to intelligence sharing among spy agencies, despite calls for change after the September 11, 2001 attacks, people who have seen a draft report said on Sunday.

The nine-member bipartisan commission, created by President George W. Bush and headed by appeals court judge Laurence Silberman and former Virginia governor and senator Charles Robb, is expected to issue its report on Thursday.

Bush was spending the holiday week end at his Crawford, Texas ranch. The report will also include recommendations aimed at bolstering US intelligence after a series of high-proflle failures, from missed opportunities to thwart al-Qaeda before the September 11 attacks to claims that Iraq possessed weafon of mass destruction.

None has been found. A commission spokes-
man declined to discuss the contents of the report. One of the recommendations of a separate intelligence agencies, and the assessment will be blunt and to the point,” said spokesman Larry McQuaig.

The commission’s report also expected to focus on continued hurdles to intelligence-sharing between US agencies more than two years after Bush announced that he would address problems in the report to Congress a year after the September 11 attacks.

In February, he nominated John Negroponte as the new director of national intelligence to try to curb bureaucratic in-
fighting and organize closer cooperation among the Pentagon, CIA and other agencies.

“Intelligence sharing remains an issue,” said a person with knowledge of a draft of the intelligence commission’s report. “They are not sharing the way they should.”

Each of the nine committee members are drawn from various parts of the US government.

China grants State Science, Technology Awards

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Bangladesh to allow imports of more hi-breed rice seeds

DHAKA, 30 March — Encouraged by the yield of paddy using Genetically Modified (GM) technology, the government of Bangladesh is resolved to allow imports of more hi-breed seeds and develop them locally to multiply food grain production.

The Financial Express Monday quoted Agricultural Ministry officials as saying that the country would be self-sufficient in food by the next five years if the growth of the hi-breed rice was sustained.

Hi-breed seed sellers claimed that farmers had welcomed the GM technology hoping to maximize their income that had marginalized their profits in the past years due to higher input prices.

Around 200,000 acres of land will come under hi-breed paddy cultivation this year, marking almost 100 per cent growth. Importers and seed breeders will supply 1.100 tons of hi-breed seeds to the farmers. From a mere few hundred acres in 2001, the cultivation of hi-breed rice has been growing to geometric proportions.

The report also showed that 69 per cent of respondents remain concerned about the scandals, a sign that the incidents have sparked deep concern among the masses.

When asked “what ways or attitudes taken by the three companies you consider satisfactory”, 31 per cent of respondents answered KFC.

The unified threat centre combines personnel from the CIA, FBI, and departments of defence, state and homeland secu-

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**Japan beat Bahrain 1-0 in Asian World Cup qualifier**

**Tokyo, 31 March** — Japan defeated Bahrain 1-0 thanks to a Mohamed Ahmed own goal in Saitama on Wednesday to put their World Cup qualifying campaign back on track.

Japan, who lost to Iran 2-1 last week, were looking to break Bahrain’s defence until the 72nd minute when Ahmed committed the fatal error.

The victory put Japan to second in Group B with six points from three games, one point behind Iran who beat North Korea 2-0 in Pyongyang.

Top two teams in each of the two Asian qualifying groups qualify directly for next year’s World Cup, with the third-best teams vie for a chance to play against a CONCACAF team for a possible fifth Asian berth.

Bahrain have four points with North Korea losing all three of their games.

**England beat Azerbaijan 2-0 in World Cup qualifier**

**London, 31 March** — England suffered 45 minutes of frustration before beating Azerbaijan at St James’ Park with goals from Steven Gerrard and David Beckham.

Azerbaijan survived a first-half siege, and even came close to going ahead through Gurban Gurbanov, before England broke the deadlock after 51 minutes.

Gerrard scored at the far post from Wayne Rooney’s cross before Beckham raced clear to add a second.

England were dominant with Rooney and Frank Lampard hitting the woodwork.

Steven Gerrard’s side never threatened to emulate Poland’s 8-0 thrashing of Azerbaijan, and a second-half booking for Michael Owen rules him out of the qualifier against Wales in Cardiff in September.

England, attempting to follow on from Poland’s rout, almost fell behind in sensational fashion after seven minutes.

John Terry’s mistake allowed Gurbanov to break clear and his shot beat Paul Robinson only to fly inches wide. The rest of the half was a tale of ceaseless England pressure, with the Azerbaijan goal somehow surviving intact.

Owen had a header saved by Dmitry Kramarenko, before a header ricochet off the goalkeeper on to Beckham before striking the post.

Lampard, who had earlier shot narrowly wide, struck the outside of the post from 20 yards with Kramarenko well beaten after 26 minutes.

Gerrard then tested Kramarenko, before Beckham was booked for apparently returning to the pitch with a header seconds later.

Owen missed the best chance of the game, somehow heading wide of an open goal, before Beckham wasted the last opportunity of the half with a poor far-post header.

Azerbaijan’s Elmar Bakhiyev forced Robinson’s first serious save of the night seconds after the restart, before England finally broke the deadlock after 51 minutes.

Rooney escaped two challenges on the left before crossing to the far post for Gerrard to score via the crossbar.

Owen was booked for attempting to handle Rooney’s cross into the net, a second yellow card of the qualifiers that rules him out of the game against Wales.

Azerbaijan were finally starting to look stretched, and it was no surprise when Beckham ran on to Lampard’s pass to score with a neat finish after 62 minutes.

England were almost camped in the Azerbaijan penalty area, and Rooney brought a fine diving stop from Kramarenko before hitting the post with a header seconds later.

**Venus edges out Serena**

**Washington, 31 March** — Venus won the battle of the Williams sisters to book her place in the semifinals of the WTA Nasdaq-100 Open in Miami on Tuesday.

The elder Williams defeated Serena 6-1, 7-6, (10-8) to record the first victory over her sibling in tournament play in seven meetings.

Serena, the third seed and three-time defending champion here, had not been beaten by Venus since the 2001 US Open final.

“I kept my errors down and I think the first set was much better,” said Venus.

“The second set I feel like I definitively lost some opportunities, but that was okay.”

Venus, seeded eighth, now meets second-seed Maria Sharapova of Russia in the semifinals after the reigning Wimbledon champion defeated Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium 6-1, 6-7, (6-8), 6-2 in the last eight.

**S Korea beat Uzbekistan 2-1 in World Cup qualifier**

**Seoul, 31 March** — South Korea scored a home victory over Uzbekistan 2-1 in their World Cup Asian zone Group A qualifier here on Wednesday.

After a scoreless first half, Lee Young-pyo and Lee Dong-gook put the hosts ahead before Alexander Geynrikh exploited a Korean loose ball with 11 minutes to go.

“We were unlucky in the first half not to score, but as long as you don’t have a goal it’s a bit scary,” said South Korea coach Jo Bongrere.

The result put South Korea back on top of Group A, while Saudi Arabia are still capable of reclaiming the spot with a victory against Kuwait later on Wednesday.

**Iran beat N Korea 2-0 in Asian World Cup qualifier**

**Pyongyang, 31 March** — Iran scored a 2-0 victory over North Korea here on Wednesday to lead the Asian World Cup qualifying Group B and the latter conceded its third straight defeat.

An own goal from An Yong-hak in the 33rd minute put the visitors ahead and a Javad Nekounam strike 10 minutes from the end gave Iran seven points from three games in the final round of Asian 2006 qualifiers.

North Korea’s Nam Song-chol was sent off for shoving Syrian referee Mohamed Kousaa after he had denied the defender a seemingly clear-cut penalty.

North Korea, who made a shock quarterfinal appearance at the 1966 World Cup in England, was left in tatters in its hopes of qualifying for its second World Cup after it lost the opening game to Japan (2-1) and its first home game to Bahrain (2-1).
People can now shape in mind…
(from page 1)
States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, President Office, Pyithu Hluttaw Office, Government Office, Supreme Court, Attorney-General’s Office, Auditor-General’s Office, Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Yangon City Development Committee, MCDC, ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 national groups who exchanged arms for peace, and representatives of other organizations.

Before the plenary session, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, NCCMC Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen and officials of sub-committees, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited persons signed the attendance registers at the Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation halls for the National Convention delegates.

NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presided over the plenary session and Commission Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as master of ceremonies.

(See page 8)

Public, industrial zones supplied with power as much as possible
Supervisory Committee for Efficient Utilization of Power and Fuel meets with industrialists

YANGON, 31 March — A coordination meeting of the Supervisory Committee for Efficient Utilization of Power and Fuel and members of the Management Committees of Industrial Zones and industrial entrepreneurs was held at Kanauang Hall in Hlinethaya Industrial City this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win. In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that the Supervisory Committee is compiling detailed facts townshipwise and industrial zone­wise power consumption throughout the country. The supervisory committee without losing sight of its functions is supervising efficient use of power at ministries and departments and it provides supply of power to the people and industrial zones. At present, the Government has been opening

(See page 9)

INSIDE

The patriotic leaders toured states and hill regions to demand independence from the colonialists.
AUNG THEIN (DAWEI)
(Page 7)

Li-Gen Kyaw Win addresses coordination meeting of Supervisory Committee for Efficient Utilization of Power and Fuel and industrial entrepreneurs. — MNA