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

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

**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

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**INSIDE**

We Myanmars celebrate the Thingyan Festival in a polite way every year. In every Thingyan Festival, we follow the rules and regulations laid down by the Maha Thingyan Discipline Enforcement Committee and hold a peaceful attitude and avoid the acts harmful to peace and stability. It is indeed such a fine tradition of which Myanmars can be proud.

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* Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing paying homage to Aungsekkya Muni Buddha Image at Aungsekkya Muni Ordination Hall of Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway. — MNA*

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* Chairman of Rakhsine State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Vice-Chairman Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, senior military officers of the military command, departmental officials, social organization members and traditional dance troupes welcomed the Senior General and party by pouring scented water.

* Next, the Senior General and party arrived at Bandoola Yeiktha in Sittway Station. The Senior General and party inspected development of Sittway and maintenance of the Strand Road by car.

* Accompanied by the commander, the Senior General and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party went to the Sittway View Point in the evening and enjoyed scenic beauty of Sittway and its environs. (See page 8)
People practising meditation, merrily taking part in Thingyan festival on Akya Day

Yangon, 14 April — On Thingyan Akya Day, Yangonites made meritorious deeds in famous pagodas in the city. They practiced meditation, offered flowers and lights to Buddha images and made donations and served meals individually or in groups. The Yangonites also doused one another with water merrily.

With the arrangements of Rakhine Literature and Culture Committee (Yangon), Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Festival was held in Theinbyu Driving Training Centre in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Rakhine traditional food was also served there. Pandals along Shwepyitha Road and other roads and streets in Bahan Township were packed with Thingyan revellers. Diplomats of Indonesian embassy and French embassy also took part in the festival together with Yangonites. Similarly, festive moods could be also seen at pandals in Yangon West District, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, North Okklapa Township and Hminthaya Township.

On Thingyan Akya Day, pagodas in Yangon were crowded with people seeking peace through meditation, offering lights and flowers and serving meals.

Fish available for Nyaung U's annual fish release

Yangon, 15 April — Fingerlings such as Hamilton’s carp, Barbus spp., variety of carp are on sale from Fisheries Camps (Laydaunkan) and (Hlawga) of Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries on 17 April 2005, Myanmar New Year Day to release fish in Mingala Kandawgyi in Kaba Aye, Thadukan Pagoda in Shwepyitha Township and Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwesekan) in Bahan Township.

Those who want more than 1,000 fingerlings may place an order in advance contacting the following numbers, 708519, 635196, 635727.

Information tasks inspected in Lashio

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects machinery of Lashio Sub-printing House. — MNA

Yangon, 15 April — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, on 13 April, met with staff of Lashio TV retransmission station. Lashio District Information and Public Relations Department, Lashio Sub-Printing House and Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise at the hall of Lashio Township IPRD Office and gave instructions.

After hearing reports presented by officials, the minister fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions saying that staff are to discharge their duties actively to meet with success; that most of the staff are the residents and thus they are to serve the interests of the region with goodwill; that in carrying out all-round development of the region, staff are to disseminate knowledge through media; and that all are to unitedly discharge their duties helping one another.

Next, the minister inspected wall-magazine distribution, wall-magazine printing, organizing people to use more radio and television.

The ministers also inspected the Ministry of Mining, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Prize winners announced

Yangon, 15 April — The list of those who won the best entries of the year in Myawady colour photo contest, Myawady and Nwetayi magazines article contest for 2004 announced in dailies on 17 March 2005.

The winners who will attend the prize presentation ceremony to be held at Defence Service TV Broadcasting Unit in Hnawby at 6 pm on 19 April are to contact in Myawady literary house (branch), No181, 32nd street in Pabedan Township, Yangon and the following numbers 282674 and 642203, not later than 18 April (Monday).

MNA
Vietnam, China to strengthen economic cooperation

HANOI, 15 April — Vietnam and China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region will promote their economic cooperation, especially in the fields of trade, tourism, industry and agriculture.

At a conference on economic and commercial cooperation between Guangxi and Vietnamese northern localities held on Thursday, delegates agreed that the two sides should make use of the China-ASEAN trade fair, which will be held in Guangxi’s capital city Nanning on 19-22 October, to expand their trade cooperation.

The localities should also frequently organize trade fairs, exhibitions, more exchange information, and take full advantages of border trade to increase bilateral trade, improve living standards of people in the two countries’ border areas, they added.

Regarding transports, the two sides need to cooperate in upgrading road and railway systems in border areas, accelerating construction of seaports, opening new border gates and improving some old ones into international ones, meeting increasing demand for trade and tourism exchange of the two countries’ people, the participants said.

Tourism, the two sides should beef up cooperation in exploiting border and transnational tourism projects, exchanging information, and enhancing tourism promotion, the delegates stated.

They also urged the two countries’ governments to issue preferential policies on tourism development between Guangxi and Vietnam’s northern localities.

Together with trade, transport and tourism, the participants also asked the two sides to expand cooperation in industry, agriculture and aquaculture, especially in the fields of energy, minerals, fertilizer, seafood and annual feed. Guangxi and Vietnam should support together in exploiting and processing iron ores, manganese, aluminum, and building metallurgy factories and power plants.

Cambodia’s tourist arrivals increase in first 3 months

PHNOM PENH, 15 April — Cambodia’s international visitors in the first three months of 2005 increased sharply, up 52 per cent from the same period last year.

The figures from the Tourism Ministry, carried on Thursday’s newspapers, showed that about 400,000 foreigners visited Cambodia in the first three months of 2005.

Japan was Cambodia’s No 1 source market during the period, followed by South Korea. Their tourists stay in the country averaged at 6 days.

Statistics also show that daily tourist arrivals at Cambodia’s two international airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap averaged at about 1,000 each. And the number of tourists to the beach city of Sihanoukville in the first three months increased about 10 per cent compared with the same period of last year.

Tourist arrivals in 2004 exceeded 1.05 million, reaching the government’s earlier estimation for the year.

There are 19 international and domestic airlines operating in Cambodia now, and every week, 278 flights take off and land at the Phnom Penh and Siem Reap international airports.

With improved domestic situation and infrastructure, Cambodian Government estimates that by 2010, international visitor arrivals will top 3.12 million. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian Minister urges services sector to face competition

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 April — A Malaysian minister on Thursday urged the country’s services sector to face competition which would continue to intensify indicated by global and regional developments.

With global trends shifting toward services liberalization, it was natural for domestic industries to be cautious toward the process and the ensuing competition, Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz said at the ministry’s Annual Dialogue 2005 with Malaysian services sector here.

Malaysia had made an initial offer to liberalize the services sector during the World Trade Organization (WTO) Negotiations on Services in December last year.

The sectors to be covered are architectural, construction and related engineering, computer and related services, telecommunications, health and social, and education services.

"It will be more fruitful and in the interest of domestic service industries to take advantage of the opportunities which can arise out of the liberalization process rather than to persistently seek protection," she added.

Rafidah said one way to benefit from the process was to form synergistic partnerships with competitors in the region to expand operations beyond Malaysia.

"The government on its part will work with the industry to ensure that appropriate safeguard mechanisms are put in place for fair and rules-based trade in services," she said.

— MNA/Xinhua

American kidnapped in Iraq pleads for his life on video

BAGHDAD, 15 April — A kidnapped American subcontractor was identified on Wednesday after he was shown on Arabic-language satellite TV pleading for his life, on a day in which bomb blasts killed 16 Iraqis.

Al Jazeera news channel aired a videotape of a man who US officials confirmed was Jeffrey Ake, 47, of La Porte, Ind. He was shown sitting between three armed, masked men. Ake, chief executive of a mid-size manufacturer of water-bottling machines, was kidnapped Monday while visiting a factory in northern Baghdad, a source who was familiar with the incident said.

Ake held up what appeared to be a picture of his family and, according to the television announcer, asked US officials to save his life by withdrawing American troops from Iraq.

Ake made his entreaty on a day when explosions rocked the cities of Kirkuk and Baghdad.

— Internet

1,548 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 15 April — As of Thursday, 14 April, 2005, at least 1,548 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,178 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is the same as the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Thursday. The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17, Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,410 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,069 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. — Internet

A Chinese doctor puts an oxygen mask on a panda named Kangkang in Xijing Hospital of Fourth Military Medical University in Xi’an, in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, on 14 April, 2005. The 20-year-old panda has gone under the knife in a ground-breaking two-and-a-half hour operation to fix a broken back. Chinese state media said on Friday. — Internet

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Brigade-11 of SSNA…

(from page 16)

members of SSA from Special Region-3, U Zaw Yaw and members of KDA from Special Region-5, U Aik Mone and members of PSLA from Special Region-7 serve the interests of their region but also shape eternal peace for all national people and help expedite the regional development momentum, he noted. He said he honoured and thanked all of the brigade-11 of SSNA including U Kan Na and his commanding officers for their effort to organize those who would go astray in the jungles to become upright citizens. And all the members of the group are now being accorded a very warm welcome by all the local people in Hsenwi Township, the commander added. All basic needs—food, clothes and accommodations will be provided in honour of the group. All in all, he said, the government and all the national people welcomed the group members and they were urged to work for the realization of “Our Three Main National Causes” — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty — which were often cited in the guidance of the Head of State.

Next, the brigade-11 of SSNA surrendered their weapons to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe to ensure peace. The surrendered arms and ammunition included four 60 mm mortars, nine different sorts of medium machine guns, five rocket launchers, 116 assorted arms, 9,332 rounds of ammunition, 158 shells, 28 grenades, 64 mines, 141 TNT cartridge, 194 magazines, 22 rounds of ammunition for medium machine guns and 18 walkie-talkies.

Afterwards, Commander of SSNA U Kan Na explained the purpose of the exchange of arms for peace. (U Kan Na’s speech is reported separately)

Commanding Officer of Brigade-11 of SSNA U Pwan Wan made a speech as a token of gratitude to the State and the people. (U Pwan Wan’s speech is reported separately)

Dr Phyu Phyu, a local national and service personnel, gave a speech, expressing local people’s attitude and her feeling of happiness. (Dr Phyu Phyu’s speech is reported separately)

Arms and ammunition handed over by SSNA brigade No 11 led by Commander U Kan Na — MNA

The unconditionally exchanging of arms for peace by SSNA brigade No 11 led by Commander U Kan Na in progress — MNA

Dignitaries attend ceremony at which SSNA brigade No 11 led by U Kan Na exchanges arms for peace — MNA
With passing of time, SSNA Brigade 11 comes to realize that it will not win people’s support unless it discards arm struggle line

The following is a translation of a speech delivered by U Kan Na at the ceremony to exchange arms for peace.

U Kan Na said that he is a Shan national born in Namhkan. Because of his narrow mindedness he followed the armed struggle line starting 1976. In reality he was like torturing his own people during the 29 years of armed opposition against the Government. His native land was in the darkness experiencing battles and sufferings. His group has come to realize the goodwill of the government.

In conclusion, he thanks the Government and leaders of national groups which have returned to the legal fold. — MNA

With peace prevailing in region, national people will do more in interests of the State and the region, and local people will live their comfortable life and work in peace

The following is a translation of a speech delivered by U Pwan Wan at the ceremony to exchange arms for peace.

He said he was commanding officer of Battalion-27 of SSNA U Pwan Wan. It is the correct act that U Kan Na, the leader of the group, and all the group members have relinquished their armed revolt for the eternal peace in the region after realizing the goodwill of the government. With this peace prevailing in the region, national people will do more in the interests of the State and the region, and local people will live their comfortable life and work in peace. He said they all have been tired of committing their destructive acts that have always given the local people serious cause for concern. Besides, he said, their unconditional surrender to the State was also due to the realization of the goodwill of the government.

He added that while they returned to the legal fold, it was a period of building trust in the government. In the future the group would like to urge other remaining brethren groups which are following their armed struggle line for various reasons to return to the legal fold and serve the interest of the people.

In conclusion, he thanks the Government and the local people for understanding and warmly welcoming all the members of the group who have made the unconditional exchange of arms for peace.— MNA
Regarding the economy, 172 dams have been built at necessary places for development of the agricultural sector and 31 are under construction. There were 24.8 million acres of farmlands in 1988. Today, sown acreage reaches 26.6 million acres and the per acre yield increases remarkably. So also, efforts are being made for meeting the target of per-acre yield and changing from manual to mechanized farming. As the plans are being implemented to operate factories with full capacity, the Government has built new factories and established private industrial sector for development of the industrial zone. A total of 19 private industrial zones, 42,707 private factories, 833 State-owned factories and 8,500 cottage industries have so far been set up.

Beginning last decade, the country is gaining progress with momentum in all sectors. Living standard of the people in rural and urban areas improves more and more. In this regard, power consumption of the country obviously rises year after year. Thus, the Government is making utmost efforts for meeting demands of power consumption of the nation in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

Recently, hydel power plants from Thaphanseik Hydel Power Plant in Sagaing Division, Monechaung Hydel Power Plant in Sagaing Division, Monechaung Mone Hydel Power Plant, 280 megawatts by Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant and today’s Tikyit Power Plant. The Paunglaung Power Plant built on Paunglaung River is a large hydel power plant that has greater generating capacity than the well-known Lawpita Hydel Power Plant. And, the former can double the generating power more than that of Tikyit Power Plant.

However, the generation capacity of a hydel power plant depends on rain, and that of a coal-fired power plant depends on regular supply of fuel. In this regard, quality coal should be produced to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply for the plant. Similarly, technicians of the plant should operate the machines systematically. In so doing, officials concerned are to discharge their duties with goodwill.

Today’s Tikyit Power Plant is a large-scale development infrastructure of the electric power sector in Pinlaung Region of Shan State. Tatgyi Hydel Power Plant, Zawgyi-1 Plant and Zawgyi-2 Plant in Shan State connected with Zawgyi River are infrastructures for development of the electric power sector. Similarly, Shan State has 12 small-scale hydel power plants including Namsaunggaung Plant, Namhmaw Plant, Namwok Plant, Maipan Creek Plant, Namsaung Creek Plant and others. Majority of these plants were built without linking the grid as they are for local power consumption.

(Of page 7)
implementation of 24 development regions project, border area development special project and five rural development tasks are to be linked among them for equitable development of all the regions of the Union and States and Divisions and for narrowing the development gap among these regions. At present, local people enjoy fruitful results of the development projects in their respective regions.

It is known to all that Shan State lagged behind in development due to various armed insurgencies in the past. At that time, local people faced transport difficulties in the regions of Shan State.

According to the geopolitical conditions, Lashio and Kengtung regions apart from Taunggyi region were extended as State’s development regions for improvement of the Shan State in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The Shan State has become the capital of Shan State (North and East), not only old roads but also Heho Airport, Lashio Airport, Kengtung Airport, Tachilek Airport and Namhsan Airport have been upgraded.

Together with the regional capital Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung, Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, Yaksaw, Tachilek, Muse and Mongla are developing. Lashio has seen development in trade and Kengtung has become the capital of the east bank of Thanlwin River. The sustainable development Shan State has been achieving in a short span of time due to the necessary infrastructures have been built. The Government has laid down the firm and precise future policy programme for smooth transition to democracy. The National Convention has been held successfully with the active participation of the representatives of nationalities and all walks of life of the people. The work of laying down basic principles for the future constitution is in progress to a certain degree. All the national races will have to play a role in the democracy transition as it needs the strength of the national forces. Next, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut delivered an address. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint spoke on the occasion. U Khan Tin Aung, a local people of Tikyit region, expressed gratitude.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the Government has been implementing advanced plans to supply power. Manageable-scale hydel power and bio-gas power stations should be built to supply electricity for regional needs. In addition to human resources

Secretary-1 Li Gen Then Sein.—MNA

Of the two turbines of ... (from page 6)

However, concerted efforts are being made for implementing the Shweli Hydel Power Plant that can generate 400 megawatt and Kengtawng Hydel Plant 54 megawatt, and the two are planned to connect with the network of the grid. Likewise, Yeywa Hydel Power Plant Project, 30 megawatt Khabaung Hydel Power Plant Project, 40 megawatt Pyuchang Hydel Power Plant Project, 60 megawatt Kunchaung Hydel Power Plant Project and 25-megawatt Yenwe Hydel Power Plant Project are being implemented. These projects will be completed one after another in the coming years and they will fulfil power demand of the country.

The Head of State gave guidance on production of electricity needed for development of the State. So, building of national reconsolidation based on mutual trust, understanding and consideration reflects cementing cooperation between the Government and national organizations. So, all the regions can restore security, peace and tranquility.

New transport facilities — Aungban-Pinlaung, Loikaw Railroad, Shwengaung-Yaksaw Railroad, Shwengaung-Taunggyi Railroad, Taunggyi-Banyin-Saikhaung-Pyinthaya-Punchaung railroad sector and Namhsan-Mongsai-Kaungkhaung railroad sector can turn out human resources. All should make efforts continuously in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The people are enjoying the fruits of progress as almost all candidates for the future constitution are in progress to a certain degree. All the national races will have to play a role in the democracy transition as it needs the strength of the national forces. Next, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut delivered an address. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint spoke on the occasion. U Khan Tin Aung, a local people of Tikyit region, expressed gratitude.

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Senior General Than Shwe... (from page 1)

At night, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing paid homage to Buddha Image at the eastern archway of Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway. They offered flowers, water and lights to the Buddha Image at the pagoda. The Senior General and wife signed in the visitors’ book. The Senior General and wife and family donated cash towards the funds of the pagoda. The pagoda board of trustees presented a certificate of honour and picture of the pagoda to them. Next, they visited the pagoda. Next, the Senior General and wife and party paid homage to Aungsekkya Buddha Image at the ordination hall of Lawkananda Pagoda. The Senior General, wife and family presented cash donations to the pagoda board of trustees. Afterwards, the pagoda board of trustees gave a picture of the Buddha image to them. After that, the Senior General and party went back to Bandoola Yeiktha.

On 14 April afternoon, Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, CEC members Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Rakhine State USDA in-charge Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe went to Rakhine State USDA Office in Sittway and met with Rakhine State USDA Secretary U Oo Kyaw Yin and executives, Sittway District USDA Secretary U Tun Win and executives, Sittway Township USDA Secretary U Saw Hla Aung and executives, organizers and members. Rakhine State USDA Secretary U Oo Kyaw Yin reported on setting up of USDAs at different levels, strength of USDA members, conducting of summer course and plans to open basic multiplier courses.

Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave instructions on the objectives of the association, implementation of future plans laid down by the Annual General Meeting, extension of public welfare tasks, functions of the association to be undertaken for winning trusts of the people and cooperation of the association with local people and organizational tasks.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe explained growing of rubber for the Rakhine State Association’s economy, development of rural region and assistance being provided to the state association. — MNA

Traditional cultural troupe of Sittway welcome Senior General Than Shwe and party by dousing scented water on them. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Buddha Image at the eastern archway of Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing accept certificate of honour for their donations. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present cash to the funds of Aungsekkya Muni Buddha Image in Sittway to the Pagoda Board of Trustees. — MNA
Support will be provided for industrial zones to be equipped with modern machinery.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Ayethayar Industrial Zone.

YANGON, 13 April—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye together with Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khan Maung Myint, ministers, officials of SPDC office inspected Foundry Plant construction project implemented in Ayethayar Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township yesterday.

With the presence of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, the In-charge of Ayethayar Industrial Zone Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lan Thi briefed Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on workshops included in the industrial zone, progress in construction of GTC (Ayethayar), Mandalay and Monywa industrial zones to be equipped with modern machinery, encouragement has been given to industrialists in Ayethayar, Mandalay and Monywa industrial zones to emerge modern foundry plants simultaneously, efforts are to be made to manufacture quality goods through competitions, an industrial zone with skilled labour and experts are to be nurtured, all are to work hard to win the trust and satisfaction of the customers, and support will be provided for other industrial zones to be equipped with modern machinery.

After inspecting progress in building machine shops, installation of machines and test running, building of ware house, arrival of machines, completion of forging shops, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to the site for building Government Technical College (Ayethayar). They were welcomed there by Principal Dr Thi Thi Thoe and teachers and officials.

Managing Director U Chit Khaing of Eden Group Co.Ltd reported to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Party on construction of the college which has been completed 80 per cent. Next, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung made a supplementary report.

After giving instructions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected progress in construction of GTC (Ayethayar). Later, they arrived back in Taunggyi. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San enjoy water festival at Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Festival.

YANGON, 14 April—A ceremony to open the Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1366 ME of Mandalay City was held in conjunction with the ceremony to unveil the Mayor’s Pandal in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office on 13 April evening, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chairman of Organizing Committee for Mandalay City Maha Thingyan Festival Mandalay Mayor, guests from abroad, Ambassadors and diplomats of foreign missions in Yangon, officials, artists and local people.

First, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han extended greetings.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han formally opened the festival and the Mayor’s Pandal.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party doused those present with scented water. Dance troupes entertained dances and songs to the audience. The decorated vehicles of Myoma music band, decorated floats representing Myanmar, Thailand and Yunnan Province of China paid respects to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party. Similarly, the decorated floats representing Mandalay, Meiktila, PyinOoLwin, NyaungU, Kyaukse and Yamethin Districts paid respects to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San cordially greeted the ambassadors and diplomats and enjoyed the water festival together with the people.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party arrived back here by air yesterday morning.—MNA
Prime Minister, Secretary-1 participate in Maha Thingyan Festival

YANGON, 14 April—Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Thanh Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, accompanied by SPDC members and their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers and their wives, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, diplomats of foreign missions and families and resident representatives of UN agencies, this morning visited the Maha Thingyan pandal of the Yangon Mayor and the Maha Thingyan pandal of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and participated in the water festival.

On arrival at Maha Thingyan pandal of the Yangon Mayor in front of the City Hall at 11.30 am, they were welcomed by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife, Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pu and wife, committee members, heads of department and staff families.

After enjoying the Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan entertainment programmes, the Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party and diplomats participated in the water festival.

At 12.30 pm, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the national race village near Thanhlyin Bridge in Thakayta Township.

They were welcomed by the Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Than Nyunt and wife, deputy ministers and heads of department and staff families, officials of national race peace groups, members of national race cultural troupes, Kachin national races of Saodon and Kanaipakki regions in Kachin State, Kayah national races of Meise region of Kayah State, Kayin national races of Thandawaung region of Kayin State, Chin national races of Thantlang and Lonle regions of Chin State, Naga national races of Leshi and Pansat regions of Sagaing Division, Mon national races of Khawza region of Mon State, Rakhine national races of Manauung region of Rakhine State, national races of Weinkung region of Shan State (North), Palaung national races of Manton region of Shan State (South), Shan national races of Mongyan region of Shan State (East), national races of Panglong region of Shan State (South), national race cultural troupes members including Mon national races of Bokpyin region of Taninthayi Division and trainees of women vocational training schools of Kachin State and Sagaing Division, who are here to take part in the Maha Thingyan Festival at the invitation of Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

At the hall of the national race village, the guests were entertained with traditional dances and songs of the national races. Next, the Prime Minister and the Secretary-1 presented prizes to national race cultural troupes who presented entertainment.

After enjoying the water festival together with the national races, the Prime Minister and party greeted the national races and left the village.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein being doused with water at the pandal of Maha Thingyan pandal of the Yangon Mayor. — MNA
Though combats were no more people had to live in the presence of the armed forces. There broke out public panics so many times due to the armed insurgency. Her parents could not do their businesses freely, but had to pay extortion money to the insurgents.

After the Tatmadaw had assumed State duties, the national races groups exchanged arms for peace, but the local residents could not still escape from paying extortion money and being taxed. There were no more combats in the region, but locals were still afraid of those who still held arms.

Thanks to the combined efforts of those who were against armed insurgency and those who had returned to the legal fold, the region developed to a certain degree, but still lacked peace and tranquillity.

Now, members of the brigade No (11) led by U Kan Na have discarded arms unconditionally and stopped levying taxes on local people, and taken a solemn vow to live with the people in union.

With the real peace and stability, the region would be able to enjoy rapid development through unity.

In conclusion, she expressed thanks to the members of SSNA brigade No (11) led by U Kan Na, the government, and the people who gave assistance and warm welcome to the members.—MNA

**Put New Year vow into practice**

**Maung Aung Myaing**

- To avoid the behaviours and speeches that harm the Buddhist culture
- To avoid hurtful and harmful throwing of water on each other
- To avoid instigation, behaviours, and speeches inciting disorder and riots

Each and every water-thrower and reveller is to preserve the culture and to uplift the national prestige and dignity by observing discipline as national duty and by avoiding decadent culture.

While many revellers are taking part in the water festival, some perform meritorious deeds such as paying respects to elderly persons, giving medicines and shampoo to the aged, carrying out sanitisation works in premises and precincts of pagodas and monasteries, cleansing Buddha images, freeing animals, keeping Precepts, and serving others with foods and refreshments.

We Myanmars celebrate the Thingyan Festival in a polite way every year. In every Thingyan Festival, we follow the rules and regulations laid down by the Maha Thingyan Discipline Enforcement Committee and hold a peaceful attitude and avoid the acts harmful to peace and stability. It is indeed such a fine tradition of which Myanmars can be proud.

The old year will end and the New Year will start on the 9th Waxing of Tagu, 1366 Myanmar Era (17 April). We Myanmars nationals are to correctly review all the past deeds and to be armed with new vigour to continue to carry out the nation-building tasks.

In conclusion, I would like to exhort the entire people to set up and implement a New Year vow doing their best in order not to repeat the past wrongs committed in the old year, to mend the wrong ways and remedy the misdeeds with new vigour, and to make all-out efforts in the New Year in the interests of the nation, the people and their own.

**Translation:** MS Kyenon: 15-4-2005
ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV “MAWLAMYINE” VOY NO ML20/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MAWLAMYINE” VOY No. ML20/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 17-4-2005 and will be berthing on about 18-4-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

UFSoft opens regional headquarters in HK
HONG KONG, 15 April — Beijing-based software company UFSoft announced on Wednesday the official opening of its new regional headquarters in Hong Kong, in an effort to utilize Hong Kong’s unique position as the springboard for Chinese Mainland enterprises to expand overseas.

The company chose to set up its first overseas office in 2003 in Hong Kong, and now has expanded the operation into the regional headquarters to oversee its business in Asia Pacific except Japan. The company also officially launched its new corporate brand — UFIDA Co, Ltd (UFIDA).

Chairman and Founder of UFIDA Wang Wen Jing said, “the goal of UFIDA is to become the largest management software enterprise in Asia-Pacific by 2006, and to become one of the top international management software suppliers by 2010. He said as the software market evolves, products and services must now work hand in hand to deliver added value to the enterprise. “Our company is determined to develop our businesses along this strategic direction. At the same time, we have equipped ourselves for the challenges ahead as we are a domestic software company into an international market leader in the IT sector”. According to Wang, Hong Kong serves as a bridge connecting the Chinese Mainland enterprises like UFIDA with the rest of the Asia market. The city’s unparalleled location, excellent business environment, transparent legal and financial system, strong pool of talent and customer base combine to make Hong Kong the region’s premier business hub.

ADB to assist Philippines in managing major river resources
MANILA, 15 April — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will assist the Philippine Government agencies in harnessing and managing the abundant water resources of the Agusan River in southern Philippines, the Bank’s news release said on Wednesday.

The programme will be carried out through an integrated master plan to be drawn up with the help of a technical assistance (TA) grant of 970,000 US dollars.

The TA will finance extensive consultations with stakeholders and preparation of a master plan, which will promote the optimal development of resources and poverty reduction in the basin, the release said.

The programme will also help strengthen government organizations and communities in managing the river basin and identify appropriate institutional arrangements.

The ADB said the 350 kilometres Agusan River is falling short of its potential in generating economic growth and development.

During the dry season, there is insufficient water supply and occasional prolonged drought is damaging agriculture. In rainy seasons, recurrent overflow of the river brings serious and enormous damage to lives, properties and agricultural crops as well as to farm-related infrastructure, said ADB.

The Agusan River Basin, the third largest river basin in the Philippines, also lacks integrated management of the watersheds, which are heavily degraded.

In addition, irrigation systems are deteriorating rapidly due to heavy siltation and lack of budget for operation and maintenance.

Philippines moves step closer to adopting tax reform bill
MANILA, 15 April — The Philippine Senate adopted on Wednesday night its own version of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) bill being sought by the government to carry out fiscal reforms, but it will have to reach a compromise with the House of Representatives over the final version of the bill.

The Senate VAT bill retains the 10-per-cent levy on goods and services, while raising the maximum corporate income tax to 35 per cent and removing VAT exemptions on power and fuel.

The House of Representatives earlier adopted a different version of the VAT and the leaders of the House said they would fight for its version when it comes up before the bicameral conference committee. The House version calls for an overall raise from 10 per cent to 12 per cent of the VAT, which conforms to the government demand.

“We will fight for the original House version... We believe that is the best compromise the House has come up with,” Speaker Joseph de Venecia said.

The House version is expected to raise an estimated 60 billion pesos (1.1 billion US dollars) in government revenues. De Venecia said the bicameral conference committee will hold a caucus after the approval of the Senate version. The House bill exempts a number of manufactured products such as instant noodles and sardines upon which the poor people depend to survive as the basic necessities.

NW China’s biggest auto expo opens in Xining
UERQIN, 15 April — Northwest China’s biggest auto expo opened on Wednesday in the city of Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Sponsored by China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, the Fifth Xinjiang International Auto Expo attracted nearly 500 auto makers from both home and abroad, including Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and Mistubishi.

Li Shuangqing, an official with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said about 40 new car types are unveiled for the first time at the expo.

Groups of auto dealers from the nearby Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Pakistan and Russia came to the expo, which signified that the expo will serve as a good platform for China’s auto trade, Li said.

China, France to hold expo on small, medium companies
BEIJING, 15 April — China and France will jointly hold an exhibition this September to promote economic exchanges between small and medium companies in the two countries, said an official here on Wednesday.

The Sino-French Small and Medium Company Exhibition will be held in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s booming Guangdong Province from 12 to 15 September, said You Ningfeng, executive director of the organizing committee of the exhibition.

The exhibition will be hosted by the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce of China and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry of France.

Exchanges between small and medium companies represent a new mode of economic cooperation, You said. The exhibition will provide a platform for the companies to learn more information and expand the market. A forum on small and medium companies will be held during the exhibition. Senior government officials, experts and company representatives will give presentations and provide legal support for the cooperation of companies between the two countries.

Sporty equipment giant Nike Inc has published a detailed list of more than 700 factories it uses worldwide — more than half in Asia — to counter allegations it accepts poor labour standards. Vietnamese workers check the quality of sportswear at a production line for Nike recently in the Nha Be garment hub.

China, France to hold expo on small, medium companies
Chinese scientists decode brain ciphers for first time in world

SHANGHAI, 15 April — Scientists in this east China metropolis have discovered the decoding method for brain ciphers and brain coding units.

Their research was published in the April 2005 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States.

Associate Professor Lin Longnian, who is affiliated with the Research Institute of Brain Function Genoma at East China Normal University in Shanghai, said the human brain, composed of 14 billion nerve cells, was previously too complex to decipher. With limited technology, scientists had only been able to indirectly detect how memory was formed in the brain through behavioural tests.

But Lin’s new research has made it possible for scientists to directly test the formation of memory through deciphering brain coding units.

“This is of vital significance for people to explore the mysteries of the human brain,” Lin acknowledged.

Associate Professor Lin and his colleagues studied the “seahorse” area in rats’ brains. The area transforms short-term memory into long-term memory.

Lin and his peers inserted 96 microelectrodes, which are much thinner than human hair, into the “seahorse” area of rats’ brains and succeeded in recording the activity of hundreds of nerve cells. In comparison, researchers worldwide could usually only observe at most the activity of 26 nerve cells.

“If only several nerve cells could be observed, it would be impossible to analyse the coding of nerve cell groups,” Lin said. The work symbolizes that brain research has entered a new phase of nerve-cell group study.

Lin and his peers observed a set of behaviour of lab rats, including reactions against any earthquake and cold wind blowing in their backs. They used computers to analyze brain activity.

According to Lin, his research may help machines imitate human behaviour to serve people better. It could also be used to detect lies.

Lin graduated from the Biology Department of the East China Normal University in 1987. In January 2004, he returned from Princeton University in the United States and established a major lab for the study of brain function and genome at his alma mater.— MNA/Xinhua

Strict measures taken to ensure lab safety in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 April — Singapore laboratories have been taking strict measures to ensure the safety of their operations, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Thursday night.

As the recent reporting on the deadly H2N2 virus samples being mistakenly sent to labs worldwide has aroused considerable concern over lab safety, local laboratories confirmed that they only receive samples from recognized labs overseas.

Usually, biological agents are double-packed in special boxes and transported by certified service, the report quoted a lab director as saying.

It is a common practice for local labs to treat and test sample from elsewhere in biocontained facilities that are of a higher safety level than what the sample itself has been classified.

Apart from the strict physical security, labs also use auto-clave machines, which generate high temperature and steam to kill all kinds of virus and bacteria, to prevent anything contaminated from being taken outside.

— MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to hunt 12 fugitives overseas

JAKARTA, 15 April — The Indonesian Government is set to hunt down 12 fugitives who have fled the country after committing various criminal offences in Indonesia, Attorney General Abdurrahman Saleh said Thursday.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reiterated his intention to hunt down the fugitives overseas.

One of the fugitives was Sudjiono Timan, the former director of PT Bahana Pembinaan Usaha Indonesia, who was convicted in two-trillion-rupee (222.2-million-US-dollar) graft case, the attorney general was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

Sudjiono, who was sentenced to 15 years in jail for his role in the graft case, disappeared when prosecutors attempted to arrest him at his house late last year.— MNA/Xinhua

Scientists discover how fatal Ebola virus infects cells

LOS ANGELES, 15 April — A new study focused on how the Ebola virus infects cells may provide drug targets for this fatal human pathogen that causes a severe and often haemorrhagic disease, researchers said on Thursday.

Ebola virus, like the Marburg virus now alarming Angola, belongs to a virus family named filovirus. Annually it kills thousands in Africa, but there is no effective treatment for Ebola, while the molecular mechanisms the Ebola virus employs to enter host cells and initiate infection are poorly understood, said US National Institutes of Health (NIH) that sponsored the study.

The researchers, whose paper is published in the latest online issue of the journal Science, identified two cellular enzymes Ebola virus must have to reproduce. When those enzymes are blocked, the virus loses most of its infectivity.

Ebola virus co-opts and uses these two enzymes to cut up one of the virus’ surface proteins. Once this protein is snipped apart, the virus is free to begin reproducing, according to James Cunningham, senior author of the paper from Harvard Medical School.

The scientists applied broad-spectrum enzyme inhibitors to mammalian cells before exposing them to Ebola virus. — MNA/Xinhua

Duke University to help S’pore set up 2nd medical school

SINGAPORE, 15 April — The National University of Singapore (NUS) on Thursday signed an agreement here with Duke University School of Medicine of the United States on setting up Singapore’s second medical school.

Aiming to provide further opportunities in medical education for more Singaporeans, with mature graduate students in particular, the proposed Graduate Medical School (GMS) will attach great importance to clinical research as well, according to Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan.

“With Duke’s research-intensive third year of a four-year MD (Doctor Medicine) programme, the GMS offers a platform in training and producing clinician-scientists who understand both medical challenges and the potential of basic research in searching for scientific solutions,” said Tan at the signing ceremony.

Located at NUS’ Outram campus, where Singapore’s first medical school was established 100 years ago, the second one will be ready by next year.

The two sides also agreed to work together towards issuing a joint NUS-Duke Doctor’s Degree of Medicine for graduates of the school.

— MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese photographer, who rents costumes and takes souvenir pictures for tourists, puts traditional Japanese clothes onto a woman in a park in Beijing on 15 April, 2005. — Internet

An Ebola virus particle is seen as part of a transmission electron micrograph of a cell infected with an Ebola virus strain (EBOV). The Ebola virus, one of the most deadly known viruses, is highly contagious and usually fatal. Those who survive the Ebola virus often suffer long-term disabilities. — Internet

Shoppers pass by the movies posters on display at a cinema inside a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12 April, 2005. — Internet

A souvenir picture for a woman in a park in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12 April, 2005. — Internet
Mexico’s Etna Diaz wins gold medal on lightweight taekwondo

MADRID, 14 April — Etna Diaz, from Mexico, became the world champion of the lightweight at the World Championships of Taekwondo, being held in Madrid, after beating Su Li Wen, from Taipei, local Press said on Wednesday.

The bout was decided at a deciding assault, of 1 minute long, and when the Mexican tried the only attack of the assault the judges gave her the triumph. On the three required rounds, the Mexican was ahead on the score from the second one (2-1), after the first decision drew to 0.

At the last round, Diaz scored two points and Su did the same, but after suffering four sanctions —each one takes away half point—, the total resulted in a tie to three points, that is why they had to fight for the gold medal in the deciding assault.

Diaz said after the bout: “The final was very intense. I was winning because of my points, but I had four warnings, that means two points less. Then, we were tied. But when the judge raised his hand I said ‘This is it’.” — MNA/Xinhua

Liverpool upset Juventus to reach Champions League semis

LONDON, 14 April — Juventus followed in the step of Bayern Munich to fall in quarterfinals of the Champions League when they were held to a home goalless draw on Wednesday by dogged Liverpool who advance to the last four with a 2-1 aggregate victory. PSV, the 1986 European champions, knocked out Olympique Lyon 4-2 on penalties after extra time failed to separate the teams who finished 1-1 on the night and 2-2 on aggregate.

Liverpool, who showed little ambition to pounce on a defensive error to put Lyon in front ten minutes into play, Bra- zilian Alex superbly volleyed PSV level four minutes after half-time, but clear chances were at a premium in the 90 minutes as nerves got the better of both sides.

The Dutch side looked the likelier scorers in extra time, with Philip Cocu and South Korean Park Ji-sung going close and Van Bommel curling a free kick narrowly wide.

In the shootout, however, the home team held their nerve to reach the semi-final for the third time in their history, de- fying Lyon a first appearance in the last four.

Top seeds advance in Monte Carlo Masters

PARIS, 14 April — World number one Roger Federer sailed into the third round on Wednesday at the Monte Carlo Masters as the Swiss eased past Spanish Albert Montanes 6-3, 6-4.

The top seed spent just 59 minutes to join the leading players including Marat Safin, Rafael Nadal and Guillermo Coria in the third round of the claycourt event. Federer takes on Chilean Fernando Gonzalez.

Earlier on a sun-drenched Court Cent- ral, 18-year-old Nadal demolished Xavier Malisse 6-0, 6-3, dropping just nine points in a first set lasting 23 minutes. Safin met few trouble beating French- man Cyril Saulnier 6-3, 6-1, while de- fending champion Coria eased past French qualifier Thierry Ascone 6-2, 6-1.

Second seed Safin outclassed Saulnier without touching top gear, winning in just over an hour to set up a third-round clash with former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero who beat 16th seed Jiri Novak 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Of the two turbines of Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant, the advance-ment of the electricity sec-tor is also needed to de-volve the nation. In this regard, the Government has been building institu-tions of higher learning to produce qualified human resources region-wise. Qualified human resources are also required in building a democratic nation. The Government, the people and the Tatmadaw will have to make harmonious efforts to fulfill the require-ments of the national de-velopment drive.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the control room, engines and boilers. He presented gifts to the chairman and party of CHMC. He also ob-served the coal mine of the Shan Yoma Naga Co Ltd that is supplying fuel for the plant. Building of the Tikyit plant started on 4 September 2002 and it was completed on 31 March 2005. The CHMC of China and Eden Group of Myanmar built the plant under the supervision of the Energy Ministry. It will generate 120 megawatts from its two turbines. Of the two turbines, one is gener-ating electricity at full capacity as it was com-pleted in 2004. The other one will start generating power beginning last week of April. — MNA

Yangonites merrily dousing water on Thingyan Akyat Day. — MNA

U Khun Tin Aung expresses gratitude at the opening of Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant.

City packed with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day

YANGON, 15 April—As a gesture welcoming the Myanmar New Year, the Thingyan Festival (also called Water Festi-val) is being held on a grand scale in way of Myanmar traditional culture. As today being the Akyat Day, the 7th Wax-ing of Tagu 1366 ME (15-4-2005), Yangonites, collectively or individu-ally, did meritorious deeds, offering food at pandals, offering food to visitors doing meritori-ous deeds. — MNA

Yangonites merrily dousing water on Thingyan Akyat Day. — MNA

The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Magway, Minbu and Mandalay areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moder-ate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight in-crease of day temperature are likely in Daltac areas.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-4-2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Di-visions.

Earthquake Report

An earthquake of slight intensity (3.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (7) miles West of Mandalay seismological observa-tory was recorded at (16) hrs (49) min (44) sec MST on 15th April, 2005.

Friday, 15 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day tem-peratures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State, and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Magway, Minbu and Mandalay areas.

Maximum temperature on 14-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 15-4-2005 was 70°F. Rela-tive humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-4-2005 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 14-4-2005 was (10.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.63 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.69 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from North at (18:30) hours MST on 15-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-4-2005: Iso-lated light rain or thundershowers are possible in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin State, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-4-2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Di-visions.

WEATHER

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area
Of the two turbines of Tikyit coal-fired power plant, one is generating electricity at full capacity as it was completed in 2004.
The other one will start generating power beginning April last week.