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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
<th>Four economic objectives</th>
<th>Four social objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order</td>
<td>* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well</td>
<td>* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* National reconsolidation</td>
<td>* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system</td>
<td>* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution</td>
<td>* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from</td>
<td>* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution</td>
<td>sources inside the country and abroad</td>
<td>* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lt-Gen Maung Bo hoists Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw atop Shwenattaung Pagoda in Mawlamyine**

NAYPYIDAW, 2 April — A ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw atop Shwenattaung Pagoda in Mawlameine, Mon State, was held at the pagoda on 31 March. It was attended by Presiding Sayadaw of Kawhla Pariyati Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Obbasa and members of Sangha, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, senior military officers, local authorities and guests.

First, the congregation took the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Obbasa. Members of Sangha later recited the Parittas.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and the ministers offered the Seinbudaw, the Hngetmyatnadaw and the Shwehtidaw to the Sayadaw and members of Sangha. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party conveyed the objects around the pagoda.

*(See page 8)*

**Phayapyo Model village opened in Yangon Division**

YANGON, 3 April — Phayapyo Model village was opened in Kayan Township, Yangon South District, yesterday morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hta Win unveiled the village signboard, and his wife, Daw Mar Mar Wai, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, formally opened the village.

Accompanied by officials, the commander and party inspected a tube-well that is supplying clean water to the village. They also viewed the skill demonstrations.

*(See page 8)*

**Mental and physical rest plays an important role in leading a healthy and peaceful life.**

Taking rest and recreation together with family members on holidays, playing a sports game, reading, and listening to music can reduce stress.

**In Inside**

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Hta Win unveils the signboard reading Phayapyo Model Village in Kayan Township.—MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo hoists Seinbudaw (Diamond bud) atop Shwenattaung Pagoda.—MNA

Professor Dr. Daw Khin Myo Hla

PAGE 7

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
More roads for rural development

Nowadays, the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are making concerted efforts for national development and improvement of the living standard of the entire people.

The majority of the nation’s population are rural people. Development of rural regions is a must for development of urban regions. In other words, rural development contributes to urban development.

Therefore, systematic steps are being taken for rural development, and work is well under way to bring about better transport in rural regions and to ensure supply of potable water and development of health, education and economy of the rural people in this regard.

A ceremony to open a concrete bridge on Mudon-Kawparan road in Mudon Township, Mon State was held in conjunction with the opening of the new Pyidawtha street in Kyonkadat village, Thanbyuzayat Township on 25 March. The two facilities were built with the contributions of the Development Affairs Committee and the public.

Likewise, the 4,120 feet long Thameinbaran road in Paung Ward, Paung Township, Mon State was upgraded on 26 March. The facility is now benefiting a lot to the people.

Moreover, a new tarred road at the entrance to Yanlaw model village in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) and a gravel road linking Yanlaw and Kathbalna villages were opened on 26 March 2006. The 3,600 feet long new tarred road was built with the assistance of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council along with the contributions of the local civil engineering unit.

The Yanlaw-Kathbalna earth road was upgraded into gravel one with the contributions of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs coupled with the assistance of Public Works and local people.

The government is building roads and bridges for development of rural regions. And local people, social organizations and well-wishers are contributing their shares in the process. As a result, rural development tasks are meeting with success all the more.

At a time when all-out efforts are being exerted for the development of rural regions where the majority of the nation’s population reside, regional authorities, local people and members of social organizations are to actively participate in the drive.

Workshop on Establishment of Statistics of International Trade opened

YANGON, 3 April—ASEAN Workshop on the Establishment of Statistics of International Trade for New Members of ASEAN (CLMV Countries) opened at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel here this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Director-General of Customs Department U Khin Maung Lin, officials of ASEAN Secretariat, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Singapore Representative Office and representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

First, Director Mr Karl Peter Schoenfish of Hanns Seidel Foundation, Singapore Representative Office explained the purpose of the workshop.

Mayor inspects pipe factory

YANGON, 3 April—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected pipe factory run by Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of YCDC in Hpyawgan Ward in Insein Township.

At the factory, officials reported to the mayor on arrangements being made to produce concrete pipes and installation of machines. The mayor gave instructions to officials and attended to their needs. — MNA

Next, German Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Dietrich Andreas and Director-General U Khin Maung Lin made speeches. The workshop will be held up to 5 April. — MNA

Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf C’ship 7 to 9 April

Altogether 16 golfers—four prize-winner amateur golfers of each competition held in Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio and Yangon—are eligible to take part in the final rounds under knock out system and handsome prizes will be presented to them.

Under the special programme, Pro-Am competitions will be held at the same venue.

The main sponsor of the championship is IBTC together with Air Mandalay, Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, Srixon, Crusher Club Soda and Han Event Management who organized the competitions. — MNA

Officials leave for Thailand, Singapore

YANGON, 3 April—To attend the Lanna Trade Fair to be held in Chiang Rai in Thailand, from 4 to 9 April, Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin, CEC U Tun Aung and U Soe Myint and Executive U Myo Thant left here for Thailand yesterday.

Joint Secretary U Tun Aung of UMFFCCI also left here for Singapore yesterday to attend the ASEAN Tripartite Seminar on Enhancing Tripartite Partnership in Industrial Relations and Workforce Employability to be held in Singapore from 3 to 9 April.

MNA
India holds out bait of growth in nuclear industry

WASHINGTON, 2 April—
In the midst of US Congress debate on Indo-US nuclear deal, India Thursday said there is a “strong security rationale” behind the pact and held out the bait of spin-offs of the country’s expertise in reactor refurbishment which could help revive global nuclear industry.

In an address at the Heritage Foundation here, India’s Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran made it clear that India “cannot be a partner and a target” of international nuclear regime and brushed aside suggestions that the separation of military and civil nuclear facilities would open the possibility of massive increase in New Delhi’s weapons programme. “The issue that encapsulates the convergences of relations between the United States and India is that of the civilian nuclear energy arrangement and this initiative will determine for good reasons the direction of future ties between the two countries,” he said.

“India has a strong security rationale as it would enable India to make a fuller contribution to global non-proliferation efforts,” Saran said. Saran spoke of the economic rationale and benefits of the nuclear agreement, pointing out the acceleration in India’s progress will not only have dramatic anti-poverty consequences but would significantly strengthen global economy.

Pointing out that the accord had a technology component as well, he said, “Indian scientists now have much to bring to the table, especially in areas where they have established technology leads. Even in fields like reactor refurbishment, we are extremely innovative and competitive and our activities outside India can expedite the global revival of the nuclear industry.”

MNA/PTI

Rice meets Muslim leaders, protesters say “Go Home”

BLACKBURN (England), 2 April—US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met Muslim leaders in northwest England on Saturday in a trip during which protesters expressed anger that an architect of the Iraq war was on their home turf.

About 300 protesters chanted slogans such as “Condoleezza Rice Go Home” and “No War” while Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw spoke with Muslim leaders at the town hall. The protesters’ noisy cries were clearly audible at a news conference after the meeting. Rice waved at supporters and protesters alike on her arrival and seemed undeterred by the demonstrators, who were kept behind barriers by dozens of police, some on horseback.

“They (protesters) have their freedom of speech and I’m glad they did it,” said Mayor Yusef Janvirmani, who shook hands with protesters before formally welcoming Rice. The mayor, who opposes the war in Iraq, said Rice was welcome in his town and her visit would be good for the region’s economy. Any publicity was good publicity, he said. Rice told the news conference she thought she had been “very warmly welcomed” to Blackburn and had enjoyed her visit.

Straw, asked if he was embarrassed by all the protests, said he hoped journalists would also notice the “strength of positive feeling and affection” for his American guest.—MNA/Reuters

Iraqis pass the door of a wrecked humvee hit by a roadside bomb on 2 April, 2006 in Ramadi, Iraq. 115 kilometres (70 miles) west of Baghdad. —INTERNET

Nepal has 28,000 strong manpower in science, technology

KATHMANDU, 2 April —The Royal Nepal Academy for Science and Technology (RONAST) said Nepal has about 28,100 strong manpower related with science and technology, state-run Radio Nepal reported on Sunday.

“Every year, the number has increased by 300 per cent on the earlier 9,400 since 1996 with the intensity of opening science and technology colleges on science and technology after 1990,” the radio quoted Dayananda Bajracharya, vice-chancellor at RONAST, as saying.

“There are great opportunities of higher education in foreign countries in science and technology and enough potential of employment at home” Bajracharya said in a function organized on the occasion of completion of his 8-year term on Saturday.

RONAST, a government institute, in the past eight years honoured 40 talents and 126 scientists and technicians along with eight women of the country, Dineshraj Bhuju, spokesman of the academy said at the function.

The academy has submitted a 20-year action plan as well as the concept paper in the concerned ministry, Bhuju revealed.

RONAST has a staff of 125 including 28 scientists, 20 assistant scientists and technicians, 75 in administration, he added. —MNA/Xinhua

Two US helicopter pilots killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 April—
The US military said Sunday that the bodies of two American pilots killed when their Apache helicopter crashed near Baghdad were recovered and the aircraft was probably shot down.

Three other US soldiers were reported killed in Baghdad and northern Iraq. The AH-64D Apache Longbow went down about 5:30 pm Saturday during combat operations west of Yussefiyeh, about 10 miles southwest of Baghdad, the US command said in a statement. “The soldiers’ remains were recovered following aircraft recovery operations at the crash site” of the helicopter “which went down due to possible hostile fire,” the statement said.

In political developments, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw made a surprise visit to press Iraqi politicians to speed up the formation of the government. The trip came as Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari faced mounting pressure from his fellow Shiites to withdraw his nomination for a second term.

No further details were released on the helicopter crash, but Yussefiyeh is located in the “triangle of death,” a religiously mixed area notorious for attacks by Sunni extremists against Shiites travelling between Baghdad and religious shrines south of the capital.

It was the first loss of a US helicopter since three of them crashed in a 10-day period in January, killing a total of 18 American military personnel. At least two of those helicopters were shot down.—Internet

A Hmong hill tribe member carries her son in Doi Straw, asked if he was embarrassed by all the

INTERNET

Thousands of Chinese are stranded at the Jiangzhou ferry crossing because ferries were suspended due to thick fog, and Jiujiang, east China’s Jiangxi Province on 2 April, 2006. —INTERNET

A mobile-phone displaying a programme aired using the digital TV broadcast, called ‘one seg,’ is shown off at a Tokyo electronic shophon,2 April,2006.Digital TV broadcasts for mobile phones equipped with special receivers began in Japan’s smauiurbanareas on 1 April.—INTERNET

Biological warfare: Indian experts say they can stop US from doing it

NEW DELHI, 31 March—Indian experts on biological warfare are confident that their US counterparts have been foiled in their attempts to develop biological weapons.

“The US has been stopped...
Canada for strengthening ties with India

TORONTO, 2 April — Expressing Canada’s commitment to strengthen ties with India, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said the two countries need to work harder to realize the full potential of the bilateral relationship.

“As Canada looks ahead to the anticipated visit of the Indian Prime Minister later this year, two-way commerce continues to intensify and expand to new areas. Indeed, we are working towards a true partnership,” Harper said in a message read out by Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter Makay at a conference. Observing that collaboration has intensified and bilateral trade reached record levels, he said “There was a 25 per cent increase in Canadian exports to India in 2005. But we have much more work to do to bring the Canada-India relationship to its full potential,” he said.

“Canada is also exploring the possibility of a free trade agreement with India,” Harper said.

Foreign Minister Peter Makay in his message said Canada remains committed to strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

“India and Canada have much to offer to one another. Over the decades, we have built on our shared values of democracy, rule of law and commitment to the Commonwealth, and created a strong partnership. “And India’s expanding role as a global player means the time is ripe for Canadian businesses and investors, from a range of sectors, to become even more active in this immense market,” David Emerson, Canadian Trade Minister said.

A sculpture of Hungary’s first king Stephen I is seen submerged in water in Pap island, near Budapest on 2 April, 2006, as flooding of the Danube river nears its peak. — INTERNET

Lack of women turns tables on India’s suitable boys

MUMBAI, 3 April — Long, twirling moustaches and bejewelled daggers are no longer enough for a man seeking to marry in India’s desert state of Rajasthan, long considered a land of fearless warriors.

But if he is lucky enough to have a sister, he can relax, a newspaper report said on Sunday. A declining sex ratio in the state is prompting a girl’s parents to spurn offers of marriage from men unless the potential groom’s family also has a marriageable daughter for their son, the Sunday Express said.

“Around 30 percent of the marriages in the past year in Shekhawati region of Rajasthan were fixed on this swap system,” local lawmaker Rajendra Chauhan said.

The sex ratio in many of Rajasthan’s districts has dropped to 922 girls for every 1,000 boys, according to the last census. In one or two villages, it has plummeted to less than 500, the paper reported. — Internet

Istanbul bus station blast kills one, wounds five

ISTANBUL, 2 April — A blast in a rubbish bin killed one person and injured five others near a bus station in a historic area of Istanbul on Friday, Turkish media reported.

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion. A bomb disposal unit picked through the debris following the blast in one of the rubbish bins.

Militant groups including Kurdish separatists, Islamists and ultra-leftists have carried out attacks on civilians, security and military targets in Turkey in the past.

The explosion coincides with violent clashes between Kurdish protesters and police in Turkey’s troubled southeast, which have cost the lives of up to seven people since Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

France’s Breton says retirement at 60 “nonsense”

BRUSSELS, 2 April — Finance Minister Thierry Breton said on Friday France’s retirement-at-60 law was “the biggest nonsense” and forecast that the pensions system would have to be overhauled again painfully in 2008.

In comments that could fuel further political tension ahead of a general strike next Tuesday over a youth jobs law, Breton said he was stunned when the Socialist government of the late president Francois Mitterrand slashed the retirement age in the early 1980s. “One day, about 20 years ago, I heard in my country that there was going to be a great revolution and the retirement age would go down from 65 to 60,” Breton told a European Commission conference.

On the impact of ageing on public finances, “I heard then news when I was driving on the motorway I stopped and said to myself: ‘This is the biggest nonsense I’ve ever heard, the biggest nonsense’. And indeed it has cost the French national debt dearly.”

Breton, a former chief executive of France Telecom, became finance minister last year. — MNA/Reuters

Landslide kills four in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 2 April — Four labourers Saturday died in landside while cutting a hill at Bamerchhara Village in southeastern Chittagong, private news agency UNB reported Saturday. Of the four victims, three died on the spot while another one died on the way to hospital.

Survivors said a huge chunk of earth fell on the victims as they were cutting the hill to make the ground level at about 5 am (23:00 GMT) Saturday and provide the earth to a brick kiln in the same area.

The hillocks in the area are being cut illegally mostly at night flouting the Environmental Act. A case was filed with local thana. — MNA/Xinhua
Kids wearing alcohol logos start drinking sooner

NEW YORK, 2 April — Middle-schoolers who sport alcohol-branded T-shirts and caps may start drinking sooner than their peers, according to a new study.

The findings, researchers point out, are similar to those of studies from the 1990s that linked cigarette-branded merchandise to a greater risk of adolescent smoking.

It is uncertain whether clothes or bags with beer logos encourage some kids to start drinking. But the study results are concerning enough that parents and schools should consider keeping the merchandise out of kids’ hands, said lead author Dr Auden McClure of Dartmouth Medical School in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Besides possibly swaying a child’s own attitude toward drinking, alcohol-branded gear turns kids into “walking advertisements” aimed at their peers, McClure noted in an interview.

She and her colleagues report their findings in the April issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

The study followed 2,400 middle school students, ages 10 to 14, who said during an initial survey that they had never used alcohol.

The students were surveyed again one to two years later, at which time they were asked if they owned any alcohol-branded merchandise and if they had ever tried drinking.

Overall, 14 per cent said they had some alcohol-related item, usually T-shirts, caps or jackets. These children were 50-per-cent more likely than their peers to have started drinking—even with factors such as school performance and friends’ drinking habits taken into account.

The study has its limits, McClure said, and it cannot establish beer-bearing T-shirts as the cause of some kids’ drinking.

Wild rats cause woodland damage in China

BEIJING, 2 April — Wild rats have caused increasing damage to woodlands in parts of China and fear that they may spread plague to more people, reported Saturday’s China Daily.

According to the latest figures from the State Forestry Administration (SFA), wild rats had caused damage to 1.2 million hectares of woodlands by the end of 2005, up 26 per cent from 2004. The figure has risen to 1.4 million hectares in 2006.

Wu Jian, chief engineer of the SFA’s department of afforestation, was quoted as saying that the SFA was worried that with the coming trial operation of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway in July, plague carried by wild rats would be likely to spread to more areas.

Remote northwest Qinghai Province is known for plague harassment as victims usually become infected by plague while hunting wild marmots carrying the disease bacterium. Its spread from human to human is well controlled in this area at present for a lack of access to rail services linking the remote areas of the province to other places.

Ryu Takahashi, 3, rides on the shoulders of his father Akira as they watch cherry blossoms in full bloom at Ueno park in Tokyo on 2 April, 2006. Tens of millions of people across the country take pleasure in viewing the annual cherry blossoms.—INTERNET

Four US troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 April—The US military announces the death of four troops across Iraq, with two soldiers killed together by a roadside bomb attack, when conducting a dismounted patrol in central Baghdad.

“The two soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb at approximately 9 pm (1700 GMT) on 1 April in central Baghdad,” the military said.

Earlier Sunday the military said two other troops had died, a soldier near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk and a marine in the restive western province of Al Anbar.

The Marine, assigned to the second brigade combat team stationed in Anbar Province’s turbulent capital, died from wounds sustained during combat on Friday. The soldier, from the 101st Airborne Division, died from injuries received in the course of an operation near Kirkuk on Thursday.

China publishes over 5,000 chorographies

BEIJING, 2 April—China has published over 5,000 local chorographies which reflect economic and social development after the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

China’s 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions planned to compile at least 6,000 such historical records. The published accounted for 88.8 per cent of the planned.

At an awarding ceremony Saturday for nationwide outstanding chorography compilers, Chen Kuiyuan, president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), said the voluminous local historical records would be the biggest compiling work in the half century.

Meanwhile, such books in Tibetan, Uygur and another dozen of ethnic languages were published for the first time, said Chen, who also heads a coordination group overseeing the nationwide chorography compilation.

Quake jolts New Zealand’s Raoul Island

WELLINGTON, 2 April—An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale rocked New Zealand’s volatile Raoul Island Saturday, officials said.

The tremour hit Raoul Island at 2:05 am (1405 GMT) and its epicenter was 100 kilometres east of Raoul in the remote Kermadec Islands.

The Kermadeces are New Zealand’s northernmost territory, about 1,000 kilometres from the mainland. Following the March 17 eruption, up to 30 earthquakes a day have been recorded in the area, which is one of the most active sites in the world for earthquakes caused by tectonic plate movement.

On 17 March, one of the six Department of Conservation (DoC) staff was missing on the Raoul Island after a volcanic eruption. — MNA/Xinhua

A man searches the rubble at the village of Heidarabad devastated in Friday’s earthquake, 300 miles (500 kilometres) southwest of the capital Teheran, Iran, on 2 April, 2006. —INTERNET

A model presents a creation from the Mark Cheung Haute Couture Collection at the 14th China International Fashion Week in Beijing on 2 April, 2006. —INTERNET

On 1 April, a volcanic eruption at the entrance of New Zealand’s Raoul Island killed two DoC officers and two soldiers. — MNA/Xinhua

A man searches the rubble at the village of Heidarabad devastated in Friday’s earthquake, 300 miles (500 kilometres) southwest of the capital Teheran, Iran, on 2 April, 2006. —INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 4 April, 2006 5
China joins hands with world forces in IPR protection

SHANGHAI, 3 April — China pledged on Saturday to work together with other countries to defend intellectual property rights (IPR), demonstrating again its resolution in the crackdown on piracy.

The “Shanghai Initiative” passed here by IPR protection organizations of China, European Union, the United States and many other countries, called for intensified efforts in fighting infringements of intellectual property rights. The document which was also signed by Canada, Australia, France, and Germany at the China forum on Critical IPR Protection, suggests measures including information exchanges and joint campaigns to uproot the production, storage, export and import and sales of pirated products.

The joint initiative also called for more exchanges and cooperation in the judicial system and against transnational crimes.

The tracking of equipment that produces piracy should also be intensified to reduce and prevent violation cases the document said.

Police seize two tons of cocaine in N-E Colombia

BOGOTA, 2 April — Colombian police said on Friday they had seized two tons of cocaine hidden in cement bags in a mule-drawn cart on a main road in the northeastern province of Cordoba.

The mule-driver was arrested, police Colonel Jaime Velasco said, adding that they were “trying to establish the origin of the drug shipment”.

The seizure, made on the road linking Monteria, the capital of Cordoba, to Arboletes, a smaller Cordoba settlement, is the largest made by the country’s Sijin department of Meta and they also seized two tons of explosives.

An Army statement said the complex appeared to belong to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia’s (FARC) 44th Troop. The Army’s Special Anti-Drug Brigade, carried out the so-called Operation Tormenta, or Storm, during which several minefields were dismantled and a number of weapons seized. — MNA/Xinhua

At least 50 injured by storm in northern Bangladesh

DHAKA, 13 April — At least 50 persons were injured and more than 500 houses were flattened by a storm on Saturday night that swept through several villages of northern Kurigram District, 352 kilometres from Dhaka, television channels ATN Bangla and Ntv reported Sunday.

The storm, which lasted for about three hours with a wind speed of more than 80 kilometres per hour disrupted power supply in many areas, including Kurigram Town, levelled over 500 houses, uprooted trees, electric poles and damaged paddy crop on hundreds acres of land.

The people were injured following house collapse and tree falls in the Kurigram Town and adjoining areas.

The television channels did not mention if relief work started by the district administration.

But the televisions did not mention if relief work started by the district administration. The officials said the actual damage of crops could not be assessed immediately. — MNA/Xinhua

Floods force hundreds to flee homes in central Europe

Prague, 3 April — Floods are threatening much of Central Europe, displacing hundreds of people across the region, with many more on standby for evacuation as the river levels continued to rise on Saturday.

The floods on Saturday claimed a fifth victim in the Czech Republic’s 14 regions. The Czech meteorological office extended its nationwide warning until Monday evening, saying all areas of the country were in danger.

About 1,800 people in the most-threatened parts of the historic city of Olomouc were advised to leave home short after midnight. In another flood-threatened town of Melnik, local authorities said 2,000 people might have to be evacuated.

In Germany, about 300 people were evacuated from their homes in Saxony’s maincity Dresden on Friday night as the rising Elbe threatened to flood the historic centre. — MNA/Xinhua

Andean nations hammer out action plan on bird flu control

BOGOTA, 2 April — Health ministers from Andean nations on Friday adopted here a joint action plan to prevent the bird flu epidemic from spreading to the Andean region, including the establishment of a regional mechanism of cooperation.

The plan was agreed on at the conclusion of a two-day meeting, which drew health ministers from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and a representative of Ecuador’s Foreign Minister. Under the plan, the six Andean countries will implement stricter health controls and increase information sharing to prevent bird flu outbreaks in the region. The participants agreed on measures to set up a bird flu monitoring network and boost efforts to raise public awareness about the epidemic, as well as pressing on with existing surveillance systems on migratory birds and banning imports of poultry products from affected countries and regions. So far, Latin America has been free of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. Bird flu cases reported in the continent have been confirmed as of the H9N2 type, a non-lethal strain. — MNA/Xinhua

Blasts in S-W Pakistan kill at least four

Islamabad, 13 April — Two blasts in southwestern Pakistan’s Baluchistan Province killed at least four people on Sunday, officials said. A bomb exploded at a security post in a small town some 100 kilometres southeast of Baluchistan’s capital Quetta, killing two policemen, local authorities were quoted as saying.

Earlier, another blast occurred at a government-run farm in the small town of Kohba, some 300 kilometres east of Quetta, killing two workers and injuring 10 others. — MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier secures a street during a patrol in the northern town of Tal Afar on 2 April, 2006. — INTERNET

A fisherman tries to catch fish through the hole in the frozen Pripyat River in the 30 km (19 miles) exclusion zone around the closed Chernobyl nuclear power plant on 1 April, 2006. — INTERNET
Let us lead healthy and happy life through physical activities

Professor Dr Daw Khin Myo Hla

Lord Buddha discoursed, “Arojam Paramam Labham” which means good health is a blessing. In Myanmar there is a tradition that when someone pays respects to elderly persons, they bless him wishing “Be healthy and all your wishes be fulfilled.”

One of the social objectives the government has laid down in its drive for building a modern developed nation says “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation”. In compliance with the guideline of the National Health Committee, the Ministry of Health is implementing the National Health Plans. In addition, it is taking measures for dissemination of its two objectives — to enable every citizen to enjoy longevity and to be free from diseases — to local people at the grassroots level, for promoting health awareness, prevention and control of diseases, and giving effective treatments.

Health is defined by WHO as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease. It also suggests taking regular exercise suitable for one’s age and a good rest physically and mentally at the end of a day’s hard work. The word “healthy lifestyle” is defined variously. I would like to present four important points to ensure a lifestyle of physical and mental well-being.

1. Positive relationship

Throughout life, one has to make choices and do right actions for one’s choices. One should be positive about physical fitness, work, relationships, stress, and nutrition and medication for other benefits. Researchers suggest that we make a firm resolution “From now on, I will try to keep fit throughout my life” and if we follow our resolution, we will be able to enhance increased confidence and self-esteem and enjoy mental well-being.

2. Appropriate exercise

Appropriate exercise is fundamental to a healthy and fine life. By taking regular physical exercises, we can prevent heart disease, normalize blood pressure, regulate blood sugar, prevent bone mineral loss, support body structure, promote weight loss and promote flexibility. And we can also enjoy sense of well-being, decrease anxiety and depression and increase self-esteem.

If one is going to take physical exercise, one should:
- consult the family doctor before starting the physical exercise,
- extend gradually the physical exercise,
- concentrate on the physical exercise,
- take warming up and muscle flexing exercises before and after the physical exercise,
- adjust your diet and physical exercise programme.

(You should have your meal at least an hour after your physical activities and should have your meal at least 90 minutes after the exercises if you take physical exercise before your meal),
- set the first month as the test period in taking exercise,
- take exercise together with friends if possible,
- avoid taking exercise when sick.

Those at the age of 40 without experience of taking physical exercise, those suffering or having suffered heart disease, those who have suffered from chest pains, those without irregular heartbeat, those who have suffered from paralytic stroke, and those who received treatments for heart disease and cardiovascular disease within the past three months should take a medical check-up first if they want to start taking physical exercise.

It is common in taking physical exercise that enthusiasm dwindles away later. So I suggest a firm resolution to take physical exercise throughout the life.

Here one should include daily routine activities in physical exercise to be able to take appropriate exercise for the long run. For example, when taking a bus, getting off at the third or fourth last bus stop and taking a walk home; taking stairs instead of the lift and escalator; growing trees; and carrying out sanitation tasks in the house compound.

3. Proper nutrition

It is required to take a diet proposed for the people by the Nutrition Development and Research Division of the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health. In reality, the Myanmar diet is suitable and correct for Myanmar people. The practice of too strict diet is unnecessary and taking excessive amount of fat, sweet and salty food is to be avoided. A person should take eight glasses of water a day. If one takes physical exercise, one should take nine to thirteen glasses of water daily.

4. Adequate rest

Mental and physical rest plays an important role in leading a healthy and peaceful life. Taking rest and recreation together with family members on holidays, playing a sports game, reading, and listening to music can reduce stress. Taking breathing exercises for ten minutes while lying down can increase flexibility mentally and physically. Doing meritorious deeds according to one’s faith can improve mental and physical well-being. So, everyone should take appropriate physical exercise and diet regularly to be able to lead a healthy and happy life.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 2-4-2006

Malaysia to develop “new agriculture” in next 5-year plan

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 April — Malaysia will revitalize the agricultural sector to turn it into the third engine of growth during the next five-year national plan, according to the 9th Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) tabled Friday.

The government will place emphasis on the New Agriculture, which entails further expanding of large-scale commercial farming and venturing into high quality and value added activities, said the report which was presented by Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the Parliament here.

To realize the goal, the government will take measures to widen the application of modern technology, strengthen research and development in the agricultural sector, improve marketing capability and promote more participation of the private sector.

During the 2006-2010 period, the agriculture sector is expected to grow at a higher average annual rate of 5 per cent and, with the inclusion of the agro-based industry, the growth rate is expected to reach 5.2 per cent, said the report.

In line with the new emphasis on agriculture, a total of 11.4 billion ringgit (3.08 billion US dollars) will be provided to carry out various agricultural programme and projects in this country, an increase of 7 per cent compared with the eighth plan.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepali mountaineer to release CDs atop Mt Everest

KATHMANDU, 3 April — A Nepalese adventurer who had successfully scaled Mt. Everest twice without using oxygen is planning to set a record by releasing the collection of national songs atop the world’s highest peak.

The 19-year-old Tashi Lakpa Sherpa will begin Sunday the expedition to scale Mt. Everest from the south ridge.

The Nepali Minister without Portfolio Buddhi Raj Bajracharya handed over the National Flag of Nepal to Sherpa at a ceremony held here Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Bajracharya said that this kind of expedition will enhance the national pride as well as spread the message of peace.

Sherpa, who is also the singer, lyricist and musician of the AD “Sherpeni Kanchi” to be inaugurated at the summit, said that he has taken up this campaign with the hope of rendering contribution to the nation.

Winner Tirunesh Dibaba of Ethiopia shows off her country’s national flag after winning the women’s eight-kilometre race of the 34th IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Fuukuoka, southwestern Japan, on 1 April, 2006.

Dibaba won the race in 25 minutes 21 seconds. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua
Lt-Gen Maung Bo hoists Seinbudaw, Hnetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw atop …

After hoisting the Htidaw, Seinbudaw and Hnetmyatnadaw atop Naungdawgyi Pagoda, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and the ministers hoisted the Shwehtidaw, the Hnetmyatnadaw and the Seinbudaw atop Shwenattaung Pagoda.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party sprinkled scented water on a stone inscription, which marks the renovation tasks of the pagoda.

The officials offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaw and members of Sangha and the ceremony ended. — MNA

Minister Dr Chan Nyein greets those attending the meeting on upgrading basic education curricula and syllabuses.

Yangon, 3 April — Ministry of Education commenced a meeting on upgrading basic education curricula and syllabuses and a seminar on national education promotion at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township here this morning.

Present at the meetings were Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general, rectors, deputy directors-general, prof-rectors, directors, principals of basic education colleges, state and division education officers, heads of department, professors, associate professors and officials.

In his opening speech, Minister Dr Chan Nyein said in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, refresher courses for English, Maths and Physics teachers are being conducted in 30 universities and degree colleges in order to improve the skills of senior assistant teachers. That is why those representatives at the meetings are to decide and coordinate matters on upgrading basic education curricula and syllabuses, he said.

Next, the minister studied sample lessons at high school levels displayed at the meetings. Afterwards, the deputy minister briefed on matters related to the upgrading of basic education curricula and syllabuses and national education promotion.

The meeting and seminar continue till 6 April. — MNA

Phayapyo Model village opened in Yangon Division…

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(From page 1)

YANGON, 3 April — Commerce Journal came out.

The journal was distributed from No.38, 30th Street in Panbedan Township. — MNA

Commerce Journal comes out

Yangon, 3 April — Volume 6, No.7, the Commerce Journal came out. The journal covers news release on rice and onion, thriving onion on the bank of Shweli river, prices of household goods in neighbouring nations, new kinds of jobs in China, Korean TV and On-line shopping, biotechnologies against Bird Flu, various articles of famous writers such as Maung Susan, Maung Taing and news from movie world.

The journal was distributed from No 38, 30th Street in Panbedan Township. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and ministers convey religious objects. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai present books to LinYaungchi libary in Phayabyo village. — MNA

Matters coordinated to upgrade basic education curricula, syllabuses

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Minister Dr Chan Nyein greets those attending the meeting on upgrading basic education curricula and syllabuses. — Education
Naypyidaw, 2 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mon State PDC Chairman South East Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Min, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Tin Htut, and other ranks and officials, arrived at the project site for building the approach road to Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on the morning of 31 March.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than reported on construction work and building of Mawlamyine-Mottama railroad. The commander and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, after giving necessary instructions to officials, inspected the construction progress of the railway station. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party next inspected tarring of the road at the entrance to Mottama railway station. They also attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Mawlamyine Station. The regiment and battalions under the South East Command have grown 4.5 million physic nut plants on 45 acres of land.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party met military officers and other ranks and their families at Aung San Hall of the command.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Soe Naing, MdM, and other ranks of the command commander and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min gave ceremony, Director-General of the Hydro-electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and Executive Director of MDX Group of Companies Mr Roy Jutabha inking the agreement on the joint venture.

Pre-engineering tasks of the project started in early 2004 and the project will be completed within 15 years. — MNA

Agreement on US $ 6,000 million hydropower project inked

YANGON, 3 April — Ta Sang Hydropower Project will be implemented on Thanlwin River in Shan State South and a joint venture agreement between the Hydroelectric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power and MDX Group of Companies of Thailand was signed today here in the presence of Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut.

About US $ 6,000 million will be injected into the project and 7,110 MW capacity machinery will be installed at the project. Upon completion, it will supply certain amount of electricity to areas in Myanmar free and the rest will be sold to Thailand.

At the signing ceremony, Director-General of the Hydro-electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and Executive Director of MDX Group of Companies Mr Roy Jutabha inked the agreement on the joint venture.

Pre-engineering tasks of the project started in early 2004 and the project will be completed within 15 years. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister visits Mandalay Division

YANGON, 3 April — Secretariat member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and officials visited thriving physic nut plantations cultivated by local farmers in Sinde Watthe creek in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division yesterday.

At the Vest Factory (Taungtha), Minister U Aung Thaung inspected production process of the factory and left instructions.

The minister viewed physic nut nursery in the factory compound and urged the officials to grow physic nut in a manageable scale and carry out beautifying tasks in the factory’s environments. He also visited Winthuza shop in Taungtha.

The secretariat member met with members of USDA of Taungtha, Natogyi, Kyaukpadaung and Ngazun Townships, Myingyan District at Taungtha Township USDA office.

Joint Secretary U Myint Swe of Myingyan Township USDA reported on regional development and future tasks.

The secretariat member urged them to organize local people in growing physic nut and to keep implementing five rural development tasks. He met with members of Mahlaing Township USDA.

In Meiktila, the secretariat member held talks with departmental officials and businessmen of the township at Kandaw Mingala Hall.

He met with members of Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi Township USAs at the same venue.

At Soap Factory in Yamethin Township, the minister held talks with local businessmen and replied to the queries raised by them.

In the evening, the minister met with merchants of Tatkon Township at the township USDA office and a local businessman expressed thanks for rendering assistance. — MNA
**Minister assists in production of Mawlamyine Industrial Zone**

**YANGON**, 3 April — In-charge of Mawlamyine Industrial Zone Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint on 1 April went to the Mawlamyine Industrial Zone in Mawlamyine, Mon State, to assist in production of goods.

He inspected the tri-cycle motorized vehicles and import substitute goods manufactured by the factories at the zone. He also met with industrialists and attended to the needs.

The minister and party also went to Kandawgyi Pagoda in Mudon and inspected the all-round renovation tasks of the pagoda. During his tour of inspection on 1 April, he also went to the nursing training school and Mawlamyine Education College in Mawlamyine. On his tour, he met with USDA-member nurses and trainees and presented cash assistance.

**Transport beat Defence 3-0**

**YANGON**, 3 April — A quarterfinal match of the Myanmar League Closing Cup Knockout Football Tournament for 2005-06 football season took place at Aung San Stadium, here, this evening.

Transports Team-3

Defence Team-0

Three goals through Nyi Nyi Aung, Htet Aung and Pyi Phyoo Oo led the Transport to semifinal of the tournament. So the Transport team will meet the winner of second quarterfinal match in the semifinal.

Tomorrow’s fixture:
Commercial Vs Energy. — NLM

**Thet Naing Tun of Defence and Bo Than of Transports fighting for the ball.**

**Bolivia says links to US bomb suspect “clarified”**

**LA PAZ** (Bolivia), April 3 — Bolivian President Evo Morales no longer suspects US involvement in two hotel bombings that killed two people last month, the US ambassador said.

A US citizen and his Uruguayan girlfriend were arrested after the blasts on March 21 and 22, spurring Bolivia’s leftist leader to say the attacks seemed politically motivated and to question the US commitment to fighting terrorism.

“Everything has been clarified,” Morales said late on Saturday after dining with US Ambassador David Greenlee. “The ambassador gave us first-hand information about the US citizen who is the main suspect in the two explosions in La Paz. We value this participation.”

The US citizen jailed in Bolivia, identified as Lestat Claudius de Orleans y Montevideo of California, “is not a messenger of the US Government,” Greenlee said.

“Now the President has another perspective on what happened... and he is not accusing my country of having participated in the event,” Greenlee said.

Bolivian police arrested the American and his girlfriend, Alda Ribeiro Acosta of Uruguay, after the bombings but said the motive for the attacks was unclear. — MNA/Reuters

**On line “memorial halls” launched for China’s tomb-sweeping festival**

**BEIJING**, 3 April — More Chinese are paying tribute to their ancestors by clicking a computer mouse instead of using a broom during the traditional Chinese tomb-sweeping festival.

By posting messages or setting up “memorial halls” on-line, Internet mourning allows people to light virtual candles, incense, play songs, send virtual flowers and even buy clothes for the dead.

The Qingming Festival, or tomb-sweeping festival, falls on April 5 this year. It is a traditional festival in which Chinese people cherish the memory of ancestors by travelling to their graves to light incense, burn fake paper money and present flowers.

The first memorial website was launched in 2000 but now there are several hundred funeral websites operating across China.

About 1,200 “virtual memorial halls” honouring individuals have been posted on the website sponsored by the Badaling Funerary Park, Sunday’s Beijing Youth Daily quoted an executive surnamed Chen with the park as saying.

“People can access the service for free after registering on our website,” Chen said. “They can post life stories, photos, and family trees. They can modify the content whenever they want.”

Wu Yali, head with the park predicted that the number of virtual memorials to individuals on their website may rise to 5,000 by the end of the year as more people will realize the convenience, flexibility and variety brought by the Internet.

The festival still draws a huge crowd of the pious. Statistics from Beijing’s Civil Affairs Bureau show that graveyards in the municipality received nearly 400,000 tomb-sweepers on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua
1. Incidences of Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza (bird flu) is of zoonotic nature, (infection to human beings) that has occurred since December 2003 and spreads to 15 countries in Asia and 33 countries in other parts of the world totaling 48 countries. Up to the end of March this year there were 186 cases and it caused 105 human deaths.

2. Situation in Myanmar

Starting from the 1st week of February 2006 to the early March, the outbreaks of chicken disease, suspected Avian Influenza, occurred in some townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. In the first week of March samples were collected from the suspected poultry farms and examined through various processes. The H5N1 virus was detected from the samples. The virus was found in 30 samples out of 460 of 56 farms at the end of March.

3. Measures currently taken

Avian flu occurred in Shwebo, KhinU, Kanbalu, YeU and Monywa townships in Sagaing Division and Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye, Aungmyethazan, Amarapura and Singaing Townships in Mandalay Division in central Myanmar. Infected farms were destroyed and other farms around 1 kilometre radius were also destroyed for risk prevention. Up to 2 April, 240,000 fowls and 230,000 quails of 307 poultry farms and 102 quail farms were culled and buried. Altogether 90,000 eggs and 60,000 quail eggs were also destroyed and buried. The farms were sprayed with disinfectants. The above-mentioned townships are confined as restricted zones and the movement control, temporary closure of markets and disease investigation in the poultry farms are being undertaken under the supervision of local authorities. Field investigation and disease surveillance are carried out continuously in cooperation with experts from international organizations. The spread of bird flu in the townships is now under control.

4. Signs and Symptoms

(a) Sudden death and high mortality, drop in egg production

(b) Dull, decreased feed intake and excessive drinking

(c) Difficult in breathing, eye and nasal discharges.

(d) Oedema in head and face

(e) Oedema in comb and wattles

(f) Haemorrhages and red spots in legs and knee joints

(g) 100% mortality if it is severe

5. Disease control measures to be taken

(a) To notify promptly the local authorities or Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) if the disease suspected of Avian Influenza is noticed.

(b) If chickens are affected with any kind of disease, not to sell out to the market or any other region.

(c) To protect the domestic birds from contact with wild and migratory birds.

(d) Not to convey the birds from other farms to the own farm and not to raise livestock and fowls together.

(e) Not to allow the entry of people including young children from outside into the farm.

(f) On entering the farm, use boots, overcoat, head wear, gloves and mask for protection.

(g) To keep the farm hygienic and apply disinfectants and lime regularly on the farm.

(h) Not to send farm workers to poultry markets or on return from the markets they are to be made to change clothes and shoes before entering the farm.

6. Prevention of transmission to humans

(a) To cook well poultry meat and eggs to prevent infection to humans.

(b) To wash hands of those who touch the chickens with soap

7. The Animal Health and Development Law has been promulgated for the control of animal infectious diseases. Those involved in poultry farming and trading are notified to coordinate and cooperate in contributing effectively to the control of Avian Influenza.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
Four more arrested over bomb scares in Zambia

LUSAKA, 2 April—Four more suspects have been arrested in Lusaka in connection with the recent bomb scare alerts in the capital city of Zambia, Inspector-General of Police Ephraim Mateyo said here on Saturday.

This is the third day after three people were picked up by police for the same offence.

Mateyo said two suspects have confessed that they telephoned central bank, Bank of Zambia, on 8 March and Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) Headquarters on 21 March, alerting the telephone operators that a bomb had been planted in the respective buildings.

The suspects are currently in custody to help with investigations.

He warned that police will not rest until the law catches up with any person who will not rest until the law helps with investigations.

The public, he said, will not rest until the law catches up with any person who will not rest until the law helps with investigations.

Zambian Farm Union concerned with illegal sugar import

LUSAKA, 2 April — The Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) voiced here Saturday its deep concern over what it called illegal imports of sugar into the country.

ZNFU president Guy Robinson said that the imported sugar is purported to be for industrial use and ends up on the domestic market contrary to the laws of Zambia which requires such kind of sugar to be fortified with Vitamin A. He said ZNFU believes that more than 500,000 tons of illegal imported sugar has been released on the market.

Zambia produces 270,000 tons of sugar against a national consumption requirement of 130,000 tons both for domestic and industrial use. The surplus 140,000 tons of industrial sugar is sold to the international market.

Robinson said ZNFU will not allow the sugar cane farmers to be driven out of business by the illegal importers of sugar.

The illegal sugar currently on the market is creating unfair competition with the local sugar on the market, he said. Robinson urged the government and other relevant authorities to conduct a full inspection on how the import permits were issued.

Power outage hits S Korean southern island

SEOUL, 2 April — A wide-ranging power outage hit South Korea’s southern island of Jeju on Saturday, causing chaos throughout the resort island, reported local media.

The outage was caused by the malfunction of the two underwater power cables transmitting power between the island and the city of Haenam on the mainland’s south-western coast, South Korean Yonhap news agency quoted South Korea Power Exchange as saying. The electricity transmission was fully recovered at around 13:00 pm (0400 GMT) local time, two and half hours after the outage hit the region, according to the South Korea Power Exchange.

However, during the two and half hours, the outage caused chaos on the island.

The regional office of rescuers was swamped with calls from people stuck inside halted elevators, said Yonhap.

So far, this is the third day after three people were picked up by police for the same offence.

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An archaeologist holds three ancient Greek coins out of a group of 48 returned to Greece from Sweden on 31 March, 2006. Excavated by Swedish archaeologists in Asine, southern Greece, in 1922, the coins were lost for 55 years until their discovery, in 1975, in the Swedish universities of Lund and Upsala.— INTERNET

UN says famine could kill thousands in Somalia

GENEVA, 2 April — Famine could soon claim 10,000 lives every month in Somalia if the upcoming rainy season is as dry as forecast, United Nations aid agencies said on Friday. Extensive drought across the Horn of Africa — the worst in decades — has already caused food shortages across south and central Somalia, as well as neighbouring Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti.

Some two million Somalis suffer from drought, and without enough rain, by September about 900,000 could be facing famine, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

“That would translate into 10,000 to 12,000 deaths per month,” Graham Farmer, the FAO’s officer in charge for Somalia, told a Press briefing.

MNA/Reuters
Brazillian, Russian-US crew arrive at “ISS”

MOSCOW, 2 April—A Soyuz spacecraft delivered Brazil’s first astronaut and a Russian-US crew to the orbiting International Space Station (ISS) on Saturday, two days after blasting off from earth.

“The docking was smooth and the crew are now preparing to open the hatches to enter the ISS,” a spokesman for mission control, situated outside Moscow, said.

Marcos Pontes, a 43-year-old Brazilian Air Force pilot, had spent the journey hunched inside the capsule with Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov and US astronaut Jeffrey Williams, both off whom are starting a six-month rotation in space.

Dozens of Brazilian, Russian and US space officials at Mission Control watched on a big screen as the outgoing team — American Bill McArthur and Russian Valery Tokarev — welcomed the newcomers aboard.

“Is Marcos alright?” was the first question asked by Tokarev when the hatch was opened.

“Marco is fine,” McArthur replied.

“It was a great privilege to welcome Marcos, our first Brazilian astronaut onboard the ISS,” McArthur said.

The departure of the 13th expedition to the ISS on Thursday has been marred by a brief communication glitch soon after the Soyuz blasted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome, which Russia leases from ex-Soviet Kazakhstan.

Russian space officials have said that the glitch did not threaten the mission. But the head of Energia corporation, which builds the Soyuz spacecrafts, said that overloaded communication network created in 1970s will be upgraded using the latest generation of satellites to fully meet the demands of busy traffic to the ISS.

MNA/Reuters

Indian man sacrifices son after visions of Kali

LUCKNOW (India), 2 April—A man in a north Indian state killed his four-year-old son after he started seeing visions of the Hindu Goddess Kali demanding a sacrifice.

“The goddess appeared before me and commanded me to offer a human sacrifice. “The goddess appeared before me and commanded me to offer a human sacrifice. “Thereafter I could repeatedly see Goddess Kali appearing before me and asking for the sacrifice — which I ultimately offered,” he told police.

Kali is considered the destroyer of evil in the Hindu pantheon.

Police superintendent Ashutosh Pandey said officers were wary of the claims. “We do not rule out the possibility that the killing was done because Pramod suspected the boy had been fathered by another man.”

MNA/Reuters

Nile basin countries set up commission to resolve water dispute

AZIZ ABARA, 2 April — Nine riparian countries on Saturday agreed to set up a permanent commission to coordinate the use of transboundary water resource from the Nile River basin.

The Nile River Basin Commission, which will act as an executive body on behalf of member states, will be based in Kampala, capital of Uganda, said an agreement reached here at the end of a two-day extraordinary meeting of the Nile council of ministers.

The agreement, known as the Nile River Basin Agreement, was signed by water ministers of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Sudan and Tanzania after years of tough negotiations.

MNA/Xinhua

3,000-year-old wall found in E China

NANCHANG, 2 April—Some ramparts of ancient tribes built 3,000 years ago were recently discovered in Yujiang County, East China’s Jiangxi Province.

These ramparts were found at an expressway construction site by experts with the Jiangxi provincial archaeological research institute.

According to the experts, the ramparts are made from earth, and measure 15 metres wide and cover an area of more than 40,000 square metres.

Research on earthenware pieces unearthed from the ramparts showed that the walls were built in the Shang Dynasty (1600 BC- 1100 BC) and the Zhou Dynasty (1046 BC- 256 BC).

The discovery will provide valuable clues in the study of culture and history of ancient tribes and towns in the area, the experts said, adding that further excavation on the ramparts is going on.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake jolts Taiwan

HONG KONG, 2 April— A strong earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale hit Taiwan at 18:02 (1002 GMT) Saturday.

According to TV news from Taiwan, the epicentre was initially determined to be east of Binan Town near the city of Taitung, 250 kilometres southeast of Taipei.

The Hong Kong Observatory said the epicentre was initially determined to be over the coastal waters of southeastern Taiwan (22.9 N, 121.2E), about 100 kilometres east northeast of Gaoxiong.

The strong earthquake equals to two nuclear bombs and most of the island could feel the quake, which is 10 kilometres underground, according to the reports. Taitung has the strongest feeling and an old city wall fell down because of the earthquake. Transport lights fell down and Taitung now is in a situation of chaos.

MNA/Xinhua

Great Pyrenees line up at FCI Asia International Dog Show in Tokyo on 2 April, 2006. About 3,000 dogs took part in Asia’s largest dog show. —INTERNET

This undated file photo, originally supplied by Warner Bros Pictures and Legendary Pictures, shows Brandon Routh in his title role in ‘Superman Returns.’ ‘Superman Returns,’ according to Warner Bros. The film will be released on 30 June, 2006, in regular movie theatres as well as the Imax theatres. —INTERNET

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This undated file photo, originally supplied by Warner Bros Pictures and Legendary Pictures, shows Brandon Routh in his title role in ‘Superman Returns.’ ‘Superman Returns,’ according to Warner Bros. The film will be released on 30 June, 2006, in regular movie theatres as well as the Imax theatres. —INTERNET

Indian man sacrifices son after visions of Kali

LUCKNOW (India), 2 April—A man in a north Indian state killed his four-year-old son after he started seeing visions of the Hindu Goddess Kali demanding a sacrifice.

“The goddess appeared before me and commanded me to offer a human sacrifice. “Thereafter I could repeatedly see Goddess Kali appearing before me and asking for the sacrifice — which I ultimately offered,” he told police.

Kali is considered the destroyer of evil in the Hindu pantheon.

Police superintendent Ashutosh Pandey said officers were wary of the claims. “We do not rule out the possibility that the killing was done because Pramod suspected the boy had been fathered by another man.”

MNA/Reuters

Nile basin countries set up commission to resolve water dispute

AZIZ ABARA, 2 April — Nine riparian countries on Saturday agreed to set up a permanent commission to coordinate the use of transboundary water resource from the Nile River basin.

The Nile River Basin Commission, which will act as an executive body on behalf of member states, will be based in Kampala, capital of Uganda, said an agreement reached here at the end of a two-day extraordinary meeting of the Nile council of ministers.

The agreement, known as the Nile River Basin Agreement, was signed by water ministers of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Sudan and Tanzania after years of tough negotiations.

MNA/Xinhua

3,000-year-old wall found in E China

NANCHANG, 2 April—Some ramparts of ancient tribes built 3,000 years ago were recently discovered in Yujiang County, East China’s Jiangxi Province.

These ramparts were found at an expressway construction site by experts with the Jiangxi provincial archaeological research institute.

According to the experts, the ramparts are made from earth, and measure 15 metres wide and cover an area of more than 40,000 square metres.

Research on earthenware pieces unearthed from the ramparts showed that the walls were built in the Shang Dynasty (1600 BC- 1100 BC) and the Zhou Dynasty (1046 BC- 256 BC).

The discovery will provide valuable clues in the study of culture and history of ancient tribes and towns in the area, the experts said, adding that further excavation on the ramparts is going on.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake jolts Taiwan

HONG KONG, 2 April— A strong earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale hit Taiwan at 18:02 (1002 GMT) Saturday.

According to TV news from Taiwan, the epicentre was initially determined to be east of Binan Town near the city of Taitung, 250 kilometres southeast of Taipei.

The Hong Kong Observatory said the epicentre was initially determined to be over the coastal waters of southeastern Taiwan (22.9 N, 121.2E), about 100 kilometres east northeast of Gaoxiong.

The strong earthquake equals to two nuclear bombs and most of the island could feel the quake, which is 10 kilometres underground, according to the reports. Taitung has the strongest feeling and an old city wall fell down because of the earthquake. Transport lights fell down and Taitung now is in a situation of chaos.

MNA/Xinhua

Great Pyrenees line up at FCI Asia International Dog Show in Tokyo on 2 April, 2006. About 3,000 dogs took part in Asia’s largest dog show. —INTERNET
Manchester City lost to Middlesbrough 1-0

LONDON, 3 April— Lee Cattermole scored his first Premiership goal to give Middlesbrough a 1-0 victory over Manchester City in a dismal match at Eastlands on Sunday.

The midfielder’s neat header from Stewart Downing’s cross was the only chance of note in a dire first half.

The tempo increased in the second period as Yakubu, Cattermole and James Morrison all went close, with Boro firmly in control.

Manchester City keeper David James made four fine saves but one goal was enough for Boro to clinch a win.

Middlesbrough gained their morale-boosting win on the back of the disappointing defeat in Basle on Thursday, while Manchester City again failed to record their first victory over Boro in the Premiership.

The slippery conditions at Eastlands made for a scrappy opening, with both sides cancelling out each other in a tepid first period.

Boro’s already depleted side was given further problems when Franck Queudrue limped off after only nine minutes after the defender challenged for the ball with City striker Darius Vassell. —MNA/Reuters

Valencia find form with 5-3 win over Cadiz

MADRID, 3 April— Valencia reignedit their challenge for a Champions League place on Sunday by claiming their first win in seven matches with a thrilling 5-3 victory at home to relegation-threatened Cadiz in the Primera Liga.

Leading striker David Villa and midfielders Miguel Angel Angulo scored classy doubles in a win that saw Quique Sanchez Flores’ side leap-frog Osasuna to take third place.

Fellow high-flyers Osasuna lost ground after a 4-0 hiding by Bernd Schuster’s Getafe in front of their own fans at the Reyno de Navarra with Serbian striker Veljko Paunovic scoring twice. 

Champions Barcelona remain on course for a second successive league title despite being held to a 1-1 draw by 10-man Real Madrid at the Nou Camp on Saturday. The Catalans enjoy a comfortable 11-point advantage over Real at the top with seven games left to play.

Valencia trail Real by two points in third and Osasuna, who occupy the final Champions League place, are a further point behind. Valencia striker Villa broke his recent goal drought when he netted for the first time in eight games to put the home side into the lead with less than two minutes on the clock.

Cadiz midfielder Enrique levelled 10 minutes later, sliding in at the far post after Santiago Canizares had made a great save low to his right to keep out a free kick. —MNA/Reuters

Rijkaard says sending off hurt Barca as much as Real

MADRID, 3 April— Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard believes the dismissal of Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos hurt his side as much as it did their rivals in the 1-1 draw at the Nou Camp on Saturday.

‘Before Roberto Carlos was sent off it was a more open game, but once he went they decided to sit back and concentrate on defence,’ the Dutchman told a news conference. —MNA/Reuters

Fiorentina hold on to 4th with 1-1 Roma draw

MILAN, 3 April— Fiorentina held on to fourth place in Serie A after drawing 1-1 at home with their closest challengers AS Roma on Sunday.

Fiorentina’s Luca Toni, right, and AS Roma’s Olivier Ducourt of France in action during the Italian first division soccer league match between Fiorentina and AS Roma at Florence’s Artemio Franchi stadium, Italy, on 2 April, 2006. The match ended 1-1. —INTERNET

Leandro Cufre.

Fiorentina remain a point ahead of Roma in the fourth place that means a place in the qualifying round of next season’s Champions League.

The top three all played on Saturday with leaders Juventus held to a goalless draw at Treviso but extending their advantage over AC Milan to nine points after Carlo Ancelotti’s side were beaten 1-0 at lowly Lecco.

Third-placed Inter Milan beat Messina 3-0.

With six games remaining Juveants lead on 79 points with Milan on 70, Inter on 68 and Fiorentina seven points behind Roberto Mancini’s side.

Tomori’s strike, a fine shot from the edge of the area, put him in the history books as 26 goals in a campaign equals his club’s record for a season set by Swede Kurt Hamrin and Argentine Gabriel Batistuta.

The Florence side had their keeper Bogdan Lobont thank for maintaining their lead until the break as the Romanian produced a great save to keep out a header from Simone Perrotta and then from the resulting corner foiled compatriot Cristian Chivu.

Roma deserved at least a point out of the game though and they got on level terms when Lobont parried a header from Cufre and the Argentine reacted well to slot in the loose ball.

‘We were a bit all over the place in the first few minutes and it is always hard when you concede a goal so early,’ said Roma coach Luciano Spalletti.

‘But I want to congratulate my team for the way they reacted. It isn’t easy away to a team like Fiorentina but they showed character to come back like that,’ he said.

An injury-time own goal from Lazio defender Massimo Oddo gave Empoli a 3-3 draw at the Ol-

“S P O R T S”

S P O R T S

Parma’s Francesco Righo, right, jumps for the ball with Udinese’s Cesare Natuli during an Italian first division soccer match between Udinese and Parma at the Friuli stadium in Udine, Italy, on 2 April, 2006. — INTERNET

Hamburg beat Schalke to keep title hopes alive

FRANKFURT, 3 April— Hamburg SV cut Bayern Munich’s lead in the Bundesliga to seven points with a 2-0 win at 10-man Schalke on Sunday.

Schalke lost Brazilian full-back Rafinha to a red card in the 28th minute and fell behind just 12 minutes after the break when a Rafael van der Vaart free kick evaded everyone and crept in.

Ailton added the second with a cool finish 10 minutes from time to secure a win that takes Hamburg back up to second place.

Bayern, surprisingly held to a 2-2 draw at home by bottom club Cologne on Saturday, have 66 points from 28 games.

Their seven-point lead looks comfortable enough with six games to play but the Bavarians have a difficult game away to Werder Bremen next weekend and may just be starting to look nervously over their shoulders.

Weder are in third place on 56 points after winning 1-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

They now have a four-point advantage over Schalke 04 in the race for third place and the final Champions League slot.

Hamburg were far the better side in the opening quarter and might easily have been two goals ahead before the sending-off of Rafinha.

Sergej Barbarez set Benjamin Lauth through on goal in the third minute only for the German striker to balloon his shot over the bar. —MNA/Reuters

ANOC general meeting kicks off in Seoul

SEOUL, 3 April— Leaders from national Olympic committees around the world gathered here Sunday for the 15th general assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun declared the opening of the general assembly with a speech.

“ANOC has greatly contributed to reconciliation and peace of the humankind, realizing the sublime ideal of the Olympic Games. Along with the IOC (International Olympic Committee), ANOC is now at the centre of the international sports arena, bringing together 203 members from all over the world,” said Roh.

“The Republic of Korea will continue to make its best efforts for the goal of helping the Olympics attain world peace and harmony,” pledged the South Korean President. —MNA/Kindusa

Valencia’s Mario Regueiro from Brazil, right, duels for the ball with Cadiz Roberto Suarez, left during their Spanish League soccer match at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, Spain, on 2 April, 2006. Valencia won the match 5-3. —INTERNET

West Ham United’s Teddy Sheringham, front, beats Charlton Athletic’s Hermann Hreidarsson to the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at the Upton Park stadium, London, on 2 April, 2006. —INTERNET

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Guatemala reports 11 murders, 1 suicide in last 24-hours

Mexico City, 3 April — At least 11 people, including a 10-year-old child and two women, have been murdered and one has committed suicide in Guatemala in the last 24 hours, according to the country’s National Civil Police, said reports from Guatemala on Sunday.

The murders included two young men, aged 23 and 25 respectively, who were shot dead in the settlement of San Bartolome Becerra, about 50 kilometers from the capital Guatemala City, when their motorcycle was overtaken by another vehicle carrying armed men.

Elsewhere, in western Guatemala City, a 37-year-old man was killed while he was entering a hotel.

In Taxisco, volunteer firefighters found the body of a woman aged 20 killed by several shots.

In Santa Cruz del Quiche, 110 kilometres north of the capital, a 23-year-old man killed his 22-year-old wife and then shot himself.

And in San Juan Cotzal Municipality around 80 kilometres north of the capital, a 10-year-old was killed presumably by a young gangster with machetes. Police said a local angry mob grabbed the alleged killer, beat him and burned him to death.

— MNA/Xinhua

1 m Mexican children exploited in US farms

Mexico City, 3 April — Around 1 million Mexican children are exploited in the US farming industry, Mexican legislator Francisco Mora Cipres said on Sunday.

The children have to work for more than eight hours a day, and are exposed to harmful chemicals, said Mora, head of a special commission for children, adolescents and families of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies.

He cited the figures from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

WEATHER

Monday, 3 April, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in upper Sagaing Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State, lower Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were 17°C above normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and 5°C above normal in Tanintharyi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Mbnhu, Magway, Myingyan, Sagaing and Tharyawaddy (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Hkamti (0.39 inch) and Bhamo (0.20 inch).

Maximum temperature on 2-4-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 3-4-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 2-4-2006 was 78%. Total sunshine (9.9) hours approx on 3-4-2006.

Rainfalls on 3-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch in central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 2-4-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-4-2006:
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook: For subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Napyidaw and neighbouring areas for 4-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 4-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

ORBITUARY

Willy Graham (96)
Descendant of Grahams of Myanam Railways (Gyongone)

Fell asleep peacefully in Jesus on 3-4-2006 at 134-37° St Yangon. Buried on the same evening at Yayway Cemetery.
Minister inspects Pyuchaung Multi-purpose Dam Project

YANGON, 3 April — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited Pyuchaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyu Township, Bago Division, on 1 April. Accompanied by Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win, the minister inspected the building of diversion tunnel and the site to construct the main dam.

Later, the minister observed concrete laying of the completed parts of the tunnel. The tunnel will be 2,477 feet long and has a diameter of 13 feet. The tunnel has now been dug up to 2,465 feet. Officials of the ID reported to the minister on construction of the main dam, the spillway, and the tunnel and the location of the project.

The minister stressed the need to complete the dam on schedule.

MNA

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Pyuchaung Multi-purpose Dam project. — MNA

Mercantile Marine Officer Cadet Training Course (CD/33) concludes, course (CD/34) opens

YANGON, 3 April — The concluding ceremony of Mercantile Marine Officer Cadet Training Course CD/33 was held today in conjunction with the opening of the course (CD/34) at the parade ground of the Institute of Marine Technology on Bayintnaung Road in Kamayut Township.

Present were directors-general and managing directors under the Ministry of Transport, the rector of Maritime University, the principal of Institute of Marine Technology, relatives of cadets. First parade companies took place at the parade grounds.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivered a speech and presented prizes to cadets Kyaw Aung Khaing Lat and Zin Lat and outstanding awards to cadets Phyo Min Thu and Pyi Sone Aung.

Next, the ceremony to present completion certificates took place at the hall of the institute. Principal U Win Thein and officials presented prizes and certificates to the trainees.

MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivers an address at the conclusion of Mercantile Marine Officer Cadet Training Course CD/33 and opening of CD/34 course. — MNA

Armed Forces Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 3 April — The public including monks and students today visited the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition opened at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon pagoda road here.

The exhibition continued for the ninth day at the museum from 9 am to 5 pm.

At the exhibition, students also took part in the computer quiz, and officials awarded the winners of the quiz.

The booth of the Northern Command displayed the photos of the scene of Maykha-Malikha confluence in northern Myanmar, 19,315-ft-high Mt Khakaborazi located in Kachin State and the highest in Myanmar, photos of 3,000-ton jade found in Kachin State and documentary photos of five rural development tasks in Kachin State and it attracted the students.

MNA

Armed Forces Day exhibition being opened. — MNA

Weather Forecast for 4-4-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy