Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myitkyina-Sumprabum Road extension tasks

NAYPYIDAW, 6 April — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and departmental officials arrived at Tiyanzwet Village in Myitkyina Township on 4 April and cordially greeted local people.

At the briefing hall of Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Patao Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party heard reports on construction of the 218-mile road. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report. After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on durability of the roads and timely completion and presented gifts to the local nationals.

When Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Dayukha Bridge and Tiyanzwet Bridge, they inspected the facilities and the road extension tasks and left instructions.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Inzwok Bridge and (See page 7)

Shan State (East) plans to grow 100,000 acres of rubber by 2007-08

NAYPYIDAW, 6 April — State service personnel in Tachilek, a border area, are to perform their tasks in line with the rules and regulations with national outlook, and the personnel are to undertake development tasks of the region with goodwill, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence said at a meeting with departmental officials, senior military officers of local station, members of social organizations and local people at Aung Myat Hall in Tachilek yesterday afternoon.

He stressed the need to place emphasis on local food sufficiency. For ensuring economic development of the region, departments concerned are to extend cultivation of perennial and industrial crops. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on progress of Tachilek District by Chairman of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected Kengtung-Mongphyat-Tachilek Road and thriving summer paddy plantations by helicopter. They viewed No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge and gave instructions to staff discharging duties at the bridge. (See page 7)

Politics and political parties will be dutiful in the national cause only if they give priority to national politics (national cause)

Democracy cannot be installed in a social environment which lacks national unity, peace and the rule of law. Thus, the national cause comes first and democracy second. Politicians and political parties will be dutiful in the national cause only if they give priority to national politics (national cause). The government is not against liberal democracy and federal democracy. It has given first priority to the discipline-flourishing democracy (national democracy) according to the present requirement. It gives second priority to liberal democracy and federal democracy. It seems that the NLD has not understood this.

MAUNG CEDANA (BA, BED)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For durability and sustainable progress of rural libraries

The government is mobilizing the participation of the national people in its effort to build a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

In order to practise democracy firmly and correctly with full essence, there need three basic requirements — stability of the State and community peace and prevalence of law and order, development of social economic life of the State and the entire people, and high intellectual power of the entire people.

The government is opening more and more universities and colleges and conducting doctoral courses in respective regions across the nation for the development of human resources and raising the education standard of new generations who will contribute towards the drive for building a modern developed nation.

In addition, the Ministry of Information is playing a leading role in opening libraries across the country to enhance knowledge and intellectual power of the people.

Rural folks make up 70 per cent of the nation’s population of more than 54 million. So, the Ministry of Information is putting its all-out efforts into the establishment of self-reliant libraries in the villages to ensure development of human resources, enrich the knowledge and strengthen the habit of reading of rural people, the majority of the population of Myanmar.

Up to 31 March 2006, 52,762 rural libraries have been opened in the villages the length and breadth of the nation.

Rural libraries play an important role in carrying out the five rural development tasks. It is high vision of the Head of State to have given guidance on rural development projects and establishment of rural libraries keeping in mind political, economic and social affairs in future.

Myanmar is proud to be a nation where all villages have a library each.

We would like to urge the entire national people to maintain the libraries for their durability and to upgrade them hand in hand with the government.

Commander, Mayor inspect regional development tasks in Coco Island

YANGON, 6 April — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win, together with Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Coco Island Township, South Yangon District this morning.

They were welcomed by Lt-Col Nay Win of Local Battalion, departmental personnel and members of social organizations and local people.

They paid homage to Jinnarajein Pagoeda on the island.

Next, the commander and the mayor and party arrived at Coco Island Police Station and met with policemen and their families and presented souvenirs to them. Afterwards, the commander and the mayor looked into measures for digging drinking water pond which could hold 80,000 gallons of water. They met with service personnel, members of social organizations and local people at the office of Coco Island Township SPDC and gave necessary instructions.

The commander and the mayor and party later oversaw physical nut plantation and extended construction of the runway of the township’s airport from 4,400 to 5,000ft.

Upon arrival at Township People’s Hospital, they met patients who were undergoing treatment and comforted them as well as provided them with cash assistance.

Afterwards, Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Mar Mar Wai and party met with members of WAO and MCWA and held discussions on matters related to education, health and raising of living standard.

The commander and the mayor and party later inspected the dam of Coco Island and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned and grew physic nut plants near the runway.

Lectures given to trainees of USDA’s basic organizational courses

YANGON, 6 April — Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave lectures on the national policy and progress of the State to 130 trainees of the basic organizational course Nos 24 and 25 conducted by Thakayta Township USDA at its office this afternoon.

Likewise, the CEC member also gave lectures to 100 trainees of the basic organizational course No 12 conducted by Kyauktada Township USDA yesterday afternoon.

Myanmar Cricket Federation President meets journalists

YANGON, 6 April — A ceremony to clarify development of the cricket event in Myanmar was held at the office of Myanmar Cricket Federation in Aung San Stadium, here, this morning.

President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win explained arrangements being made for promoting the cricket event in Myanmar.

Chief Executive Mr Syed Ashraful Haq of Asian Cricket Council and Development Officer Mr Roger Binny extended greetings. Next, the MCF President and officials replied to the questions raised by journalists and those present.

Also present on the occasion were MCF Vice-Presidents U Kyaw Naing and U Kyaw Kyaw and executives.
China has contributed to the international effort against bird flu by achieving great progress in preventing and controlling the disease in the country, said David Nabarro, UN System Coordinator for Influenza. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the prevention and control of bird flu and has adopted national strategies and taken a series of measures in fighting bird flu, Nabarro said at a Press conference. Nabarro is visiting China and attending the APEC Symposium on Emerging Infectious Diseases held in Beijing.

Earlier Tuesday, Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu met with Nabarro. The two discussed China’s role in the global fight against bird flu and the ways to strengthen China’s participation in regional and international technical cooperation, according to Nabarro. The knowledge and experience that China has gained from fighting bird flu may help the world, he said, hoping that Chinese officials would communicate with colleagues from governments who are “just beginning to struggle” against the disease.

Henk Bekedam, the World Health Organization’s representative in China, also noted that information sharing should be made available for all countries.

Beijing, 5 April—The Deputy Press secretary for the US Department of Homeland Security has been arrested on sex charges stemming from a Florida-based Internet sting, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said on Tuesday.

Brian Doyle, 55, faces 23 charges in Polk County, Florida, related to use of a computer to seduce a child and transmitting harmful material to a minor, Judd said in a statement.

Doyle was taken into custody at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland, outside Washington, on Tuesday evening while he was on the line with undercover detectives, Judd said. “He was on his computer communicating with the undercover detective who believed he was a 14-year-old girl at the time, we knocked on his door in Maryland, took him into custody and served a search warrant,” Judd said in an interview on CNN. On 12 March, Doyle attempted to contact a 14-year-old girl whose profile was posted on the Internet and initiated a sexually explicit conversation. The “girl” was actually an undercover Polk County detective, the statement said. “There is no question that Doyle believed that he was having these disgusting, obscene discussions, on-line and on the phone, with a young girl,” Judd said.

“What stands out to me the most in this particular case was the fact that Brian, on his first case was the fact that Doyle believed that he was dealing with a 14-year-old girl, clearly identified himself as a deputy Press secretary for Homeland Security,” Judd told CNN.

Nuke plant gets new locks after keys lost

Berlin, 4 April—German authorities are changing 150 locks at a nuclear power plant after its owner said they had lost keys to a security area, a ministry spokesman said Monday.

Plant operator EnBW said that in spite of intensive searches and questioning it had not been able to recover 12 keys for its Philippsburg plant after discovering they were lost in March.

The environment ministry said EnBW informed it the keys were missing and the operator had put extra safety measures in place to control access to the secure area. “This has never happened anywhere in Germany before,” the ministry spokesman said.

“The keys have simply disappeared.” Prosecutors have launched an investigation for theft.

Kuwait City, 5 April—Kuwaiti women voted in a local council by-election on Tuesday, the first time in the Gulf Arab kingdoms’ history. Two women were among eight candidates running for the one seat up for grab in the 16-member council in the Salmiya District, south of the capital Kuwait City.

Last May, women were granted suffrage with the Parliament’s final approval of a government-sponsored bill, which had been stranded in the National Assembly for six years. About 28,000 eligible voters, 60 per cent of whom were women, cast their ballots on Tuesday in segregated polling booths in accordance with a clause in the amended election law.

According to the law, Kuwaiti women will be able to vote in the parliamentary elections in 2007. Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasseral-Mohammad al-Sabah welcomed women’s participation in Tuesday’s ballot, saying that women’s suffrage would help boost Kuwaiti’s international standing.

UNICEF calls for attention to “AIDS” orphans in Africa

Luanda, 5 April—The UNICEF has called to the international community to “fulfil their pledges” to respond to the needs of AIDS orphans, particularly in Africa.

According to a report reaching here Monday from Maputo, capital of Mozambique, speaking at the close of a two-day conference of lawmakers from the parliaments of the eight-nation Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), Per Engebak, UNICEF’s regional director, said some 2.5 million children in Africa lacked the financial resources to attend school due to the deaths of their parents.

The number of children orphaned by AIDS in the CPLP could rise by 25 per cent in the next four years, Engebak warned in Maputo.
Hungary orders thousands of troops to battle floods

BUDAPEST, 5 April — Hungary will deploy 6,000 troops to battle record water levels on the Danube, and it has banned shipping, shut schools and moved polling stations ahead of Sunday’s general elections.

“The flood situation in Hungary continues to be serious,” Environment and Water Minister Miklos Persanyi told a news conference on Tuesday.

The Danube is expected to peak at a record 8.60 metres (28 ft) in Budapest by Wednesday morning, but recovery will be slow and there could be more flood waves on the Danube and the more unpredictable Tisza, Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany said.

Budapest is safe up to a level of 10 metres, Mayor Gabor Demoszky said, adding the threat remained high in the capital. “According to the latest estimates, the total damage will exceed 10 billion forints and it will probably not be more than 30 billion (137.8 million US dollars), but that is assuming no major dams bursting anywhere,” Gyurcsany said. — MNA/Reuters

WHO calls for action to ensure medication for poor

GENEVA, 5 April — All countries need to take action to ensure that poor people, mainly in developing countries, have access to necessary medication, the World Health Organization (WHO) suggested on Monday.

“Over half of the people in the poorest parts of Africa and Asia lack regular access to existing essential medicines because they cannot afford them, or because the health system in their country is too weak,” said the WHO in a newly-released report.

“Apart from access to existing medicines, some health products specifically for diseases which disproportionately affect developing countries are simply not developed at all due to the lack of a sustainable market,” it added.

The report, titled “Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights”, is a result of two years’ analysis of how governments, industry, scientists, international law and financing mechanisms can work best to overcome the public health challenges faced by poor countries.

It recommends key measures needed to ensure that poor people in developing countries have access to existing and new products to diagnose, treat and prevent the diseases which affect them most.

According to the report, developed countries and pharmaceutical companies (including generic producers) should take measures to promote the transfer of technology and local production of pharmaceuticals in developing countries.

Governments of low and middle income countries where there are both rich and poor patients should formulate their funding and price regulation with a view to providing access to poor people, it suggests. — MNA/Xinhua

Five killed by strong rainstorm in northern Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 5 April — At least five Cambodians were killed by a strong rainstorm in the northern province of Kampong Thom, official sources said on Tuesday.

More than 10 others were also injured and about 50 houses were destroyed by the rainstorm in Kampong Svat District, about 180 kilometres north of the capital Phnom Penh, Ut Samorn, deputy chairman of Red Cross of Kampong Thom Province, told Xinhua over telephone.

The rainstorm attacked the district at around 17:30 pm on Monday, he said.

Members of Cambodia’s Red Cross have rushed to the disaster area to provide relief to the victims, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Seventh case of bird flu in Czech Republic

PRAGUE, 5 April — The seventh case of bird flu has been confirmed in the Czech Republic after tests proved that a swan found dead at the weekend was infected with the H5 virus.

Jan Duben, the spokesman for the State Veterinary Authority, said on Tuesday that the swan that died in Tyn nad Vitavou, South Bohemia, was killed by bird flu virus.

A 10-kilometre zone will be established around the spot and special measures will be applied. Tests are underway on the remaining dead birds in the region, Duben said.

All previous cases of bird flu in the country have been detected in South Bohemia.

The Prague national reference laboratory is carrying out tests on a further six swans, Duben said, adding that it could not be ruled out that new cases of bird flu might appear. — MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu spreads to more villages in western India

MUMBAI, 6 April — More poultry samples have tested positive for H5 avian influenza in India’s western state of Maharashtra, which has been struggling to contain bird flu since February, officials said on Wednesday.

The latest outbreak has hit 14 new villages in the Jalgaon District of Maharashtra, near the site of two earlier outbreaks.

Maharashtra’s health director TP Doke told Reuters.

Officials said they suspected that further tests would confirm the virus was the H5N1 strain which had already struck the area.

“Laboratory tests have shown it is H5, which is bird flu. We suspect it will also turn out to be H5N1 because the new outbreak is in the same area,” said Uttam Khobragade, Maharashtra’s top animal husbandry official.

Besides Maharashtra, the virus has struck poultry in Burhanpur District of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, close to Jalgaon.

Indian authorities have sought to play down those are coming out in phases.”

In Jalgaon, veterinary and civic workers were identifying a 10-kilometre (six-mile) radius around the newly affected villages where all poultry would be culled.— MNA/Reuters

Duben said.

Tests are underway on the spot and special measures needed to control the disease, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Workers work on production line of Proton car ‘WIRA’ at a Proton factory in Shah Alam, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 5 April, 2006. —INTERNET

View of the flooded Danube River and Margaret bridge in centre of Budapest seen on 5 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Israeli emergency rescue personnel take part in a drill simulating an attack on a passenger train in Tel Aviv on 5 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Xinhua 2006
US uses front companies for “rendition”

LONDON, 5 April — Human rights group Amnesty International accused the United States on Wednesday of using front companies to transfer individuals to countries where they have faced torture or ill-treatment.

The fresh charges come after months of allegations by campaigners who say the Central Intelligence Agency transports terrorism suspects outside normal legal channels to countries where they could be tortured under interrogation.

Washington says it does sometimes transfer suspects outside normal extradition procedures — a practice known as rendition — but denies sending them to countries that use torture.

Amnesty said in a report it has records of nearly 1,000 flights directly linked to the CIA, mostly using European airspace, which were made by planes that appear to have been permanently operated by the CIA through front companies.

It also said it had records of about 600 other flights made by planes confirmed as having been used at least temporarily by the CIA.

“The latest evidence shows how the US Administration is manipulating commercial arrangements in order to be able to transfer people in violation of international law,” said Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan in a statement.

Fiji reiterates its commitment to one-China policy

NADI (Fiji), 5 April — The Fiji Government reiterated on Tuesday its commitment to the one-China policy.

Fiji recognizes the government of the People’s Republic of China as the only legal government representing the whole China and Taiwan as an inalienable part of China, the communiqué says.

The Fiji side is opposed to any attempts to create “two Chinas” or “one China, one Taiwan”, to “Taiwan independence” and to Taiwan’s participation in international and regional organizations that are open only to sovereign states, the communiqué says.

The only relations Fiji will maintain with Taiwan are “unofficial economic and commercial ties”, it says. “The Fiji side reiterated Fiji’s commitment to developing the closest degree of friendship and cooperation with the People’s Republic of China”, the document says. It reaffirms its adherence to respect for international law, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful resolution of disputes and support in economic and social development, as the guiding principles in Fiji-China relations, the document says.

Iran test-fires ‘top secret’ missile

TEHERAN, 5 April — Iran said Wednesday it has successfully test-fired a “top secret” missile, the third in a week, state-run television reported.

The report called the missile an “ultra-horizon” weapon and said it could be fired from all military helicopters and jet fighters.

The tests came amid war games being held since Friday by the elite Revolutionary Guards in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea at a time of increased tension with the United States over Tehran’s nuclear programme.

Iranian television called it a “turning point” in its missile tests but gave no other details.

At the same time, the head of the Revolutionary Guards, Gen Yahya Rahim Safavi, said the United States must recognize Iran as a “big, regional power.”

Speaking on state television, Safavi said Iran could use the Straits of Hormuz to apply pressure on foreign powers. About two-fifths of the world’s oil supplies pass through the 34-mile-wide entrance to the Gulf.

“The Straits of Hormuz are a point of control and economic pressure on the energy transfer route for those foreign powers that might want to undermine regional security,” Safavi said.

He reiterated that Iran could defend itself against any invasion and added: “I advise Americans not to move toward a military strike against Iran.”

On Tuesday, Safavi called for foreign forces to leave the region. The US 5th Fleet is based in Bahrain.—INTERNET

Shipyard accident kills three, injures three in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 5 April — The boom of a ringer crane collapsed in a shipyard in Singapore Tuesday morning, killing three workers including a Chinese national and injuring three others.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, the accident happened at around 9:35 am at PPL Shipyard on the western coast of Singapore, which is an 85 per cent owned subsidiary of SembCorp Marine, one of the leading marine engineering groups in the city state.

The report quoted the shipyard’s spokesperson as saying that the boom fell during a normal shipyard lifting operation and that it is not clear if the dead workers were SembCorp Marine employees or subcontractors’ staff.

The other two victims were one Singaporean and an Indian national.

The injured have been sent to the National University Hospital.— MNA/Xinhua

A man makes his way through a light snowfall in New York on 5 April, 2006. A mixture of rain and snow fell throughout the New York metropolitan area.

A farmer uses a hammer to smash a portrait of US President George W Bush during a protest against rice imports in Seoul on 5 April, 2006. The sign on the floor (L) reads, ‘Stop the public auction of rice from US’.—INTERNET

A mixture of rain and snow fell throughout the New York metropolitan area.
Third China-ASEAN Expo starts inviting exhibitors

NANNING, 6 April — The third China-ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Expo has embarked on inviting purchasers to rent exhibition positions, announced the expo secretariat in Nanning, capital of South China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Tuesday.

“The China-ASEAN expo is the only national one aimed at accelerating trade and economic cooperation between China and ASEAN member states,” said Vice-Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng.

This coming expo will focus on the import of ASEAN are expected to increase trade volumes. China and the ASEAN are expected to enjoy a trade advantage with ASEAN countries in order to increase the trade volumes. China and the ASEAN are expected to achieve the goal of increasing trade volumes to 200 billion US dollars by 2010, with a growth rate of nearly 30 per cent a year.

The exposition will provide 2,500 indoor booths and 500 outdoor booths, with a floor space of 25,000 square metres, said sources with the expo secretariat.

“This year marks the 15th anniversary of the bilateral strategic partnership and the China-ASEAN friendship and cooperation year,” Gao said, adding that other commemorating activities will also be held during the expo.

The second China-ASEAN Exposition was held in Nanning in October 2005. Statistics from the organizing committee show that more than 25,000 purchasers attended the event, with 126 international cooperation projects signed, involving 5.29 billion US dollars of investment, an increase of 5.9 per cent over the last one.

MNA/Xinhua

US students practise traditional Chinese exercise in S China city

BEIJING, 6 April — A non-competitive traditional Chinese exercise has won favour among a group of US middle school students in Foshan City, South China’s Guangdong Province.

The American students on Tuesday practised “pushing hands” of taijiquan between two people, with 70 students from the No 2 Middle School of Foshan. The US-based Washington Culture Exchange (WCE) and the Guangdong International Sports Exchange Centre jointly organized the event, which brought 60 middle school students and parents from the United States to the city to study the martial art.

The local students taught their US guests tuishou, or “pushing hands” and played as their opponents.

“Pushing hands,” a part of taijiquan, or shadow boxing, is also known as “adhering hands” or “whirling hands”.

The attacker must push over the defender in 20 seconds, but cannot move their feet or touch any part of the defender except for their arms and trunks. — MNA/Xinhua

HFMD death toll rises to 9 in eastern Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 April — A 16-month-old boy on Tuesday died of the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in eastern Malaysia, bringing the death toll to nine in Sarawak State since the outbreak of this disease early this year.

The child, who was admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) at Miri Hospital in critical condition last Saturday, died at 14:30 local time (0630 GMT), said State Deputy Chief Minister George Chan.

“The boy already had a number of fits when he was sent to the hospital. It is very sad as I wonder why the parents only sought treatment very late,” Chan told reporters Tuesday in Kuching, capital of the Sarawak State.

All the nine children who had succumbed to the disease were admitted to hospitals under stressful condition, with neurological signs, while those who came early for treatment survived, said Chan, who is also Chairman of State Disaster and Relief Management Committee.

MNA/Xinhua

Vitamin D and calcium may lower diabetes risk

NEW YORK, 6 April — Women with high intakes of vitamin D and calcium appear to have a lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes, according to Boston-based researchers.

Dr Anastassios G Pittas, of Tufts-New England Medical Centre and colleagues looked at data on 83,779 women enrolled in the Nurses’ Health Study. The women had no history of diabetes, cardiovascular disease or cancer when they enrolled in the study. Vitamin D and calcium intake from foods and from supplements were evaluated every 2 to 4 years.

A total of 4834 new cases of diabetes were documented over 20 years of follow-up.

“Based on the latest guidelines set by the Institute of Medicine, only 3% of women in our cohort had adequate vitamin D intake, and only 24% had adequate calcium intake,” Pittas’ group reports in the medical journal Diabetes Care.

Total vitamin D intake was not significantly associated with type 2 diabetes, but there was a difference when it came to vitamin D supplements.

The team saw a 13 per cent lower risk of diabetes among women in the highest versus the lowest category of vitamin D intake from supplements. — MNA/Reuters
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects maintenance tasks at Tiyanzwep Bridge in Myitkyina Township. — MNA

Shan State (East) plans…

While in Tachilek, they met with Tatmadawmen and families of the local battalion. Next, they paid homage to Tachilek Shwedagon Pagoda in Macaokham Ward and made cash donations. At Tachilek Airport, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on matters related to the airport by officials. Afterwards, they flew to Mongphyat.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win together with Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspected the Agricultural and Livestock Breeding Farm of the command headquarters in Kengtung.

A total of 1,988 acres of land have been put under rubber in Kengtung District, 512 acres in Monghsat District, 2,006 acres in Mongphyat District, and 2,857 acres in Tachilek District, totalling 7,363 acres. The plan is being implemented to grow 50,986 acres of rubber plantation in 2006-07, and 41,651 acres in 2007-08 against the target of 100,000 acres. MNA

Blazon Department Store holds Food Fair

Yangon, 6 April — An opening ceremony of the Food Fair of Blazon Department Store took place at the store, No 72 U Wisara Road, corner of Chindwin Street in Kamayut Township this morning.

Mr Matyawongse Amanyakul of embassy of Thailand and Manager Dilok Siripensopa of Myanmar CP Co Ltd. formally opened the ceremony.

The Food Fair is kept open at the stores in Yangon and Mandalay from 2 pm to 7 pm daily till 12 April.

The booths of SS Food, Love Boat, TZK, CP and Fair Deal are taking part in the Fair. An assorted kinds of food and sauce, dairy products and a variety of soft drinks are being sold, it is learnt. — MNA

The opening ceremony of Blazon Food Fair in progress at its store. — MNA

African catfish farming prohibited

Yangon, 6 April — Action will be taken against those who raise African catfish, said the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Live-

The photo shows African catfish farming in the country and import of which is prohibited. — MNA

According to the notification, the Fisheries Department also banned hatching and selling of African catfish in the country as the exotic fish pose competition for struggling native fish. MNA

Working Together for Health

Yangon, 7 April— The following is the full text of the message sent by United Nations Secretary-General on the occasion of the World Health Day which falls today.—Ed

Health workers save lives. They strive to ensure that advances in health care reach those most in need. They contribute to the social and economic well-being of their countries. And they are essential to their countries’ security, by being the first to identify a new disease or a new threat to public health.

Yet today, in many parts of the world, the health workforce is in crisis. The global population is growing, but the number of health workers in many of the poorest countries is falling. Across the developing world, health workers face economic hardship, deteriorating health infrastructures and social unrest. And the HIV/AIDS pandemic has hit health workers particularly hard, taking their own health and lives, as well as those of their patients.

It is clear that to protect and improve the health of people worldwide, and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, we need to rapidly bolster the global health workforce. Africa alone will require one million new health workers to achieve the Goals. Without such a dramatic increase in capacity, pediatric immunizations will not be administered; infectious outbreaks will not be contained; curable diseases will remain untreated; and women will keep dying needlessly in childbirth.

Addressing this crisis demands partnership and cooperation nationally and globally, across different sectors — including education, transport and finance — as well as within the health workforce itself. That is why the theme of this year’s World Health Day is “Working Together for Health”. On this Day, I urge all concerned — Governments, professional organizations, civil society, the private sector, the media and international donors — to join forces and step up investment in the health workforce. Let us work together for health in the 21st century. —UNICEF
If a person never changes his nether garment, it is a revolutionary government, although it is called a caretaker government. It was the year 1988 that forced it to stage a coup and take over the country. If a person never changes his nether garment, he will have negative impact. All should know the answers correctly, or else, the result will be against expectation.

The existing government is already a legitimate government. It is impossible for Myanmar to make great strides second. Politicians and political parties will be placed in the position of demands and armed conflicts. They should change their priority of the national cause. It is not a minion of a foreign power nor a pocket army of any political party. It has become a sovereign nation with specific territory and population, and that has diplomatic relations with other nations. Although SPDC is not an elected government, it is a sovereign nation with specific territory and population, and has diplomatic relations. Hence, it has been a legitimate government for 18 years. On the other hand, U Sein Win-led NCFGB, although formed with elected persons, cannot be called a legitimate government because it lacks territory, sovereignty, population and diplomatic relations.

The existing government is already a legitimate government. The attempts of the National League for Democracy to make it a legitimate government or a de jure government are very much like applying the ointment in the wrong place. It's too late for the NLD, which is like a couple thinking about a wedding ceremony only after having 12 children. Moreover, the SPDC is a national government, not a democratic government yet.

As a national government

The government run by true citizens cannot be called a national government. Only the government, which gives priority to fulfilling the basic needs covering national consolidation, peace and the rule of law on all the classes regardless of race and religion, can be proclaimed a national government. The act of fulfilling the basic needs is the act of materializing national democracy, that is different from liberal democracy. The cause of a class is not the national cause. Hence it is a common interest. Anyone who opposes the work of implementing the discipline-flourishing democracy will have more errors in their tactics compared with its enemy as well as the entire nation's. Any opposition will delay the transition from liberal democracy to democracy. It will only harm the process. Those who oppose the task of setting up discipline-flourishing democracy will surely meet with a tragic end like the Burma Communist Party (Red Flag) that launched political and military battles against the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League and Burma Socialist Programme Party governments in the past.

Concerning the national politics, one of the late political leaders once said that the APPFL and the BSSP might have more errors in their tactics compared with the group’s, but they were correct in strategy; that the BCP was wrong to make demands and wage wars against them; that the armed struggle line was wrong; that it should be abandoned.

Likewise, the ruling government may have certain errors in the tactics. But its strategy of national politics is still correct. Hence those who are wrong in strategy should make amendments to be in conformity with the government. They should change their priority and programmes. In this way, cooperation will take the places of demands and armed conflicts. The national democracy cannot be installed in a social environment which lacks national unity, peace and the rule of law. Thus, the national democracy cannot be installed in a social environment which lacks national unity, peace and the rule of law. The government and national democracy, that can only fulfill the entire nation's basic needs. The national democracy hasn't the power to serve the causes of classes and races. Thus, those causes are placed in the second priority. The causes can be realized only after national democracy has been set up. Because the classes as well as and the awareness of the classes are absent in the society. Offering and demanding social rights in such a society is like drawing pictures on the water surface. In this situation, the policies and actions of racial and political organizations should not have ill effects on the national democracy. It is an important point for the organizations. If they do not know the situation well, they will fall prey to the armed struggle line, that is contrary to the national democracy, should be unconditionally abandoned. Conditional or partial abandonment will not be enough. The work of realizing the liberal democracy and the federal democracy should be according to the government’s programme. In this way, the national forces will not be divided and the armed struggle line can be abandoned.

At present, the Tatmadaw is discharging the national duty, while keeping in the fore the national cause. It is not a mission of a foreign power nor a pocket army of any political party. It has become a sovereign nation with specific territory and population, and has diplomatic relations. Hence it is a common interest. The facts show that the discipline-flourishing democracy is much better than the constitutional monarchy system. As it is said above that in the constitutional monarchy system, which is not a liberal democracy, but a national democracy.

In the martial law period, the three branches of power are in the hands of the government. The discipline-flourishing democracy of the government has distributed the three branches of three power more systematically than the constitutional monarchy system. The facts show that the discipline-flourishing democracy is much better than the constitutional monarchy system. As it is said above that the discipline-flourishing democracy is much better than the constitutional monarchy system, which is not a liberal democracy, but a national democracy.

Crow and goose

National consolidation, peace and the rule of law are national democracy (national cause), but not the cause of class and race. China passed through the stage of national democracy in 1949, India after regaining independence from the US after the Civil War during the Lincoln administration. They did not turn back. Thus, they can reach the present economic and political stage smoothly. Myanmar is a different story. The people were united when the national regained independence in 1948 to 1988. The government had to strive with various means to restore unity or in other words serve the national duty, which was its first priority, no matter who ruled the nation. The present government has restored the national democracy, and not the period of setting up the liberal democracy yet. All will have to place in the fore the national politics and the national duty.

Today is the era of globalization, and in theory, most of the nations are liberalized capitalism and democracy. But they are now at the different stages, and the development gap is wide. There are over 100 developing nations. The US is at the top in all economic, political and social sectors. Myanmar cannot reach the top of the US position quickly. It has to start from its own stage according to its historical background. It is a must for Myanmar to pass through the stage of national democracy. It is impossible for Myanmar to make great strides like China, India and the US do. And if the country does, it will be like a crow imitating a goose. It seems that NLD does not realize this.

Legitimate government

We need to know the definition of the words “legality” and “legalize” to determine whether the SPDC is legitimate or not. A legitimate government is an elected government that is administering a sovereign nation with specific territory and a population, and that has diplomatic relations with other nations.
Wearing the same old nether garment

Maung Cedana (BA, BEd)

Democracy cannot be installed in a social environment which lacks national unity, peace and the rule of law. Thus, the national cause comes first and democracy second. Politicians and political parties will be dutiful in the national cause only if they give priority to national causes over personal gain. The government is not against liberal democracy and federal democracy. It has given first priority to the discipline-flourishing democracy (national democracy) according to the present requirement. It gives second priority to liberal democracy and federal democracy. It seems that the NLD has not understood this.

The above-mentioned national political sector is yet to be extended to the entire people. People can fully enjoy human rights and taste of democracy at this level. However, it cannot be considered to be absolute democracy. And it is equivalent to liberal democracy that is common in Western countries. But, they are similar in form, but not identical. China will reach this phase if it has moved to the next level. However, this level of China cannot be regarded as liberal democracy but as modern democracy (MD), because it is unlike the development of the class (capitalist phase) leading role in the US, but the democracy that will come into existence with harmonious combination of people from all strata of life. So, it is wise to call that third level modern democracy rather than liberal democracy.

Like sugarcane stem

Democratic progress in Myanmar will be discipline-flourishing democracy (national democracy) in the first phase, bourgeois democracy (BD) in the second phase (for example that in China), and modern democracy in the third phase. These three phases are combined and have different characteristics. Like a sugarcane stem, the combination has the top part, the middle part and the root part. So, measures for democracy may be taken step by step and progress can be made through thesis, anti-thesis and synthesis. According to the historic requirements of Myanmar, the Tatmadaw will have to participate in every phase. However, there will be changes in character and vision of the three phases. Hence, those who assume Myanmar democracy to be not a genuine one due to the participation of the Tatmadaw will have to emigrate from Myanmar to a foreign country where democracy flourishes without involvement of its armed forces. Myanmar democracy campaign and the Tatmadaw are indivisible like heads and tails of a coin. So, all the attempts to put aside the Tatmadaw from democracy campaign will face danger. Persons who express their wish to join hands with the Tatmadaw and then are anxious to be hard-line, arrogant and anxious to stick to State power. NLD does not realize this.

Compromise

In economics, there are supply and demand. It depends on a commodity. If the commodity is no more, the compromise between supply and demand will be no more. Only when it is based on this fact will a compromise be reached.

In an interview by BBC, KNU major-general San Ma Tu said, "He compromises and I will compromise". His idea was true only 50 per cent. He should say "I compromise, he will compromise". Throughout the period of internal armed opposition, the Burma Communist Party and Red Flag without giving up armed struggle held talks for peace and reunion. Their armed insurgency was hindrance to peace talks between the then government and KNU. The armed group clung on to its armed conflict and so, the policies were different from each other and the two sides did not reach a compromise. It would be possible if KNU gave up armed insurgency. Saw Han Tar Thar Hmwe and Phado U Aung San gave up their armed struggle line and helped local people in Kayin State enjoy peace and unity. No armed group can stay in exile without giving up armed struggle line. If it is said armed insurgency is to continue until democracy flourishes, there will be no democracy until armed insurgency is given up. So, whatever government is in power, it will not be able to work. Kayin revolution will be extended to 570 years from its 57th anniversary. So, a compromise can be reached only when the two sides share same attitude. If it is same attitude, two sides will have to accommodate to the case, and if it is not, either side will have to accommodate to the case. It does not seem NLD understands that point.

No difference

NLD once submitted a proposal of wiping the slate clean and holding talks and it was believed that implementation of the 1990 election results was also dropped. It released an announcement on 12 February, 2006 (Union Day) with a call for convening of the Hluttaw which will change the ruling government into the interim government. The proposed convening of a Hluttaw was based on 1990 election results. The NLD’s wiping the slate clean in the past seemed to settle Dabayin affair only and NLD sticks to the 1990 election results. So, its new proposal is not different from its old ones. The way it was presented in the issue was very nice and smooth in the choice of words, but it was just to recognize the SPDC Government under the 1990 election results in accordance with liberal democracy.

The 1990 elections were multi-party election for liberal democracy. Thus, the ruling government does not make any compromise as the 1990 elections were negative result for national democracy. However, NLD again submitted a proposal based on the 1990 election results or negative result. So, their call for international and international support is a more terrible blunder. And all those who have...
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than calls for meeting …

(from page 16)

There are 20,000 physic nut saplings in the farm, and Bago Division set its target of 500,000 physic nut plants within 3 years.

In 2005-2006, the farm could produce 89.41 viss of another eatable mush-rooms and 2497.97 viss of physic nut on it, presented by officials. Later, he inspected durability of Kayinchaung bridge.

At the briefing hall of the project, he heard a report on progress in building of the road and 47 small and medium bridges on it, presented by officials. Later, he inspected durability of Kayinchaung bridge. 150 foot long and 14 feet wide.

In Yedashe Township, he oversaw the cultivation of 1,000 acres of summer paddy with water from nearby small dams. In meeting with locals, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made arrangements for them to grow more summer paddy and mixed crops, and cultivate crops the whole year.

He also inspected Nachatchaung bridge project and Yengangyoung bridge project and road projects.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than observed construction of Thit-kyein-Lonbogyi district-to-district road on east bank of Sittoung River and heavy machinery at work in building a road section between Lonbogyi village Kayinchaung bridge.

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Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries issued a press release on death of chicken in central Myanmar.

1. Death of chicken: The LBVD carried out restriction and control measures on prevention and control of disease regarding the death of chicken and quails in Shwebo District, Sagaing Division from the first week of February 2006 to 26-3-2006 and Mandalay District, Mandalay Division from 8-3-2006 to 26-3-2006.

(A) Death of chicken/those destroyed
Out of 60,929 fowls at 93 poultry farms 6,731 died in Shwebo District (Shwebo, KhinU, Kanbalu and YeU) from the time of chicken death to 26-3-2006, altogether 24,836 fowls were culled and buried. In Mandalay District (Pyigyidagun, Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye and Aungmyethazan) 2,060 fowls died at 99 poultry farms where 111,919 were kept and 96,159 were destroyed. Therefore, 8,791 fowls died and 120,995 fowls and 560 eggs were destroyed and buried in those districts.

(B) Death of quails and those destroyed
Altogether 1,941 quails at two quail farms in Shwebo District and 115,650 quails in 44 quail farms in Mandalay District and 50,515 eggs were killed/destroyed and buried. Therefore, 117,591 quails and 50,515 quail eggs were killed/destroyed and buried.

(C) Finding of bird flu virus
After the initial outbreaks in the cull zone in Kanbalu, KhinU, YeU, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye and Aungmyethazan Townships, investigation was made at 47 poultry farms. A total of 433 samples (blood, inner organs of the chicken and trachea) were collected and examined through rapid test and HA, HI and PCR processes. The H5N1 virus was detected in 26 samples of 35 chicken farms.

2. Control of disease: Under the supervision of local authorities the LBVD is taking measures on disease control in the cull zones in cooperation with Health Department, Development Affairs Departments, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation and breeders and with the assistance of disease control experts from international organizations. All the fowls in the farms from one kilometre radius of the farm where the virus was found were culled for risk prevention. The destruction included 120,995, fowls, 112,414 quails, 50,515 quail eggs and 560 eggs.

The farms and other materials were sprayed with pesticides. The ban on sale and transport of animals and their products was imposed after the control and restricted and control areas were designated between 3 kilometres and 7 kilometres from the infected farm. It was found that there was no evidence of human and other animal infections from the H5N1. The situation is now under control in affected townships of Mandalay Division.

3. The latest condition up to 26-3-2006: The disease has been brought under control in Shwebo, KhinU except in Kaboe Village in Kanbalu Township and Mandalay District; control measures continue at Kaboe Village.

4. Cooperation with international organizations: Regional Coordinator of FAO Dr K Watanabe and Regional Coordinator of USAID of the United States Dr John MacArthur in cooperation with the LBVD made a field trip to the affected areas in Mandalay and Shwebo Districts and took emergency measures on control of the disease. Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein received the FAO and WHO resident representatives to Myanmar and discussed bird flu control programmes. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and a regional laboratory in Australia provided educative posters and laboratory equipment. Myanmar received protective gear, testing kits and others worth about US $ 100,000 provided by FAO, JICA and the regional laboratory in Australia. Three experts from FAO, JICA and DLD of Thailand together with Dr K Watanabe will conduct disease control in Mandalay and Shwebo for two weeks beginning 28-3-2006.

5. Rehabilitation: Under the programme of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Myanmar Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Development Bank and the Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation will jointly take measures for rehabilitation of the affected chicken runs.

6. Regions that have not been infected: To ensure normal rate of consumption and trade of domestic chickens and chicken products in such regions, State/Division Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Departments will hold coordination meetings and issue animal health certificates to livestock breeders and traders to distribute products with the permission of respective local authorities.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOY NO (605)N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOY NO (605)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S Eagle Shipping
Phone: 256908/378316/376797

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Russia detains round-the-world
Briton in far north

Moscow, 5 April — A Briton attempting to complete an unbroken walk around the world has been detained by Russian border guards after crossing the frozen Bering Strait, his father said on Tuesday.

Former paratrooper Karl Bushby was stopped with a Belgium passenger called Renee Vermeulen on 1 April on the remote Chukotka Peninsula after a perilous two-week journey around the world has been suffering an heart attack. — MNA/Xinhua

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B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
Dated. 7 April 2006

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B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O.Box 109, Ph: 248108/7233043
(Dor: Donnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated. 7 April 2006

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Passenger plane makes emergency landing at Ankara Airport

Ankara, 5 April — A passenger jet of the Dutch Martinair made an emergency landing at Ankara’s Esenboga Airport on Tuesday after a passenger on board died of heart attack, semi-official Anatolius news agency reported. The report said that the plane en route from Maldives to Brussels made an emergency landing while flying over Turkey after a Belgian passenger called Renee Veurneul suffered an heart attack. — MNA/Xinhua
Chinese elderly models walk on Singapore’s stage

ZHENGZHOU, 5 April — Thirty-two middle-aged and elderly models, all from Central China’s Henan Province, will walk on the stage of an international dance and costume competition in Singapore, said Li Haoying, Director of Henan Model Art Research Association, on Tuesday.

The Singapore Orchid Award Competition is especially designed for middle-aged and elderly amateurs and will be held from 5 to 10 April. Chinese models will present a dance performance named the Glamour of Central China. Their costumes are decorated by patterns of Chinese written characters and the symbols of the Chinese dragon.

Liu Le, a 63-year-old performer, said, “Such activities make me young. I’m glad to show myself like this.” Liu also went to Hong Kong and Macao for similar competitions last year.

Another 54-year-old model, named Li Shuqin, said the performances are more interesting than playing poker at home and women her age should attend more activities. “And in this way we are no less charming than the young people,” she said. — MNA/Xinhua

Mt Everest climb to raise funds for Nepali children

KATHMANDU, 5 April — A security officer for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Nepal is on his way to the Mt Everest region in the hopes of scaling the world’s highest peak while raising money for WFP programmes helping children in Nepal, a statement issued by WFP on Tuesday said.

Mark Squirrell left Kathmandu on Monday towards the Mt Everest to accomplish his mission to raise awareness in the region about child hunger, according to the statement.

He normally makes many trips to the remote and undeveloped districts of the country, where WFP assists thousands of families each year.

The expedition will be hoping to summit Mt Everest on 21 May, on the same day as “Walk the World”—when hundreds of thousands of people around the world will walk in communities to call for an end to child hunger.

“Walk the World” is organized each year by WFP and its partners to raise awareness and funds to fight the scourge of child hunger, which accounts for 18,000 deaths a day, the statement said.

In 2005, over 200,000 people participated in “Walk the World”, raising 1.5 million US dollars.

“I’m very excited to finally be going,” the WFP statement quoted the Australian national Squirrell as saying. “To be able to combine a personal dream with the potential of helping children in this country while raising awareness about hunger is both rewarding and humbling,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka records more tourist arrivals

COLOMBO, 5 April — The tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka during the first two months of 2006 were 104,918 as against 74,832 in 2005 and 93,534 in 2004, said the official Daily News on Tuesday.

India continued to be the highest prime generating market of tourists accounting for 21 per cent of tourist traffic, said the newspaper.

The second and third highest are Britain and Germany. These three countries together accounted for nearly 46 per cent of the tourist traffic. The new emerging markets to Sri Lanka are China, Russia and the Middle East.

Tourist arrivals from China during the first two months were 3,251 as against 765 in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua
Barca reach semis with nervy win over Benfica

BARCELONA, 6 April — Goals from Ronaldinho and Samuel Eto'o earned Barcelona a nervy 2-0 win at home to Benfica on Wednesday that set up a mouth-watering Champions League semifinal showdown against AC Milan.

World Player of the Year Ronaldinho stoked afood earlier missed penalty when he steered home midway through the first half and Eto'o secured the victory by smashing into the roof of the net two minutes before the final whistle.

The goals secured the Catalans a 2-0 aggregate win and allowed them to book a place in the last four for the third time in seven seasons where they will be joined by fellow Primera Liga side Villarreal, who beat Inter Milan on Tuesday.

Frank Rijkaard's side looked edgy throughout but Benfica failed to take advantage and wasted their best chance of the match when Simao Sabrosa lashed wide with the goal at his mercy on the hour.

Barca, who have struggled to score in recent games, were given the perfect chance to settle their nerves just five minutes into the game at the Nou Camp. Benfica midfielder Petit conceded a penalty after he cut out a Mark van Bommel pass with his hand just inside the area.

Ronaldinho stepped up to take the spot kick but Marcelo Moretto, who had denied Barca with an inspired performance in the first leg, produced a spectacular full-stretch save to boost the Brazilian's mid-height shot.
Filipino chefs rush out of the Intercon Hotel as they participate during an evacuation and rescue drill for earthquake and fire preparedness at an upscale hotel in the financial district of Makati, south of Manila, Philippines, on April 4, 2006. — Internet

Seoul makes effort to identify hijackers of S Korean fishing ship

SEOUL, 6 April — The South Korean Government on Wednesday is still trying to identify the hijackers of a South Korean fishing ship that was hijacked off the coast of Somalia on Tuesday afternoon.

The 361-ton Dongwon-ho No 628, owned by Busan-based Dongwon Fisheries, was hijacked by a group of unidentified gunmen on Tuesday off the coast of Somalia, confirmed South Korean Foreign Ministry earlier Wednesday.

All the 25 crew members on board were abducted. The crew includes eight South Korean fishermen, nine from Indonesia, five from Vietnam and three from China, according to the South Korean Foreign Ministry. The South Korean Foreign Ministry also informed Chinese Embassy in Seoul of the information that three Chinese are among the abductees, according to source at the Chinese Embassy.

Moreover, South Korean Yonhap news agency quoted Dongwon Fisheries as saying that the captain of the hijacked ship managed to contact the company’s Busan office stealthily by radio after the incident occurred. “Eight armed insurgents believed to be pirates have just seized our ship after threatening us with gunfire,” Choi Sung-sik, the captain of the ship, said in the radio message. “We have been taken hostage by the pirates, but all crew members are safe,” he said, according to the transcript of the communication.

Choi also told his company the hijackers took all the food from his ship and have instructed crew to sail to the Somali port of Obbia.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 6 April, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and (3°C) below normal in Kachin State, (6°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (42°C) and Minbu (41°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (1.26) inches.

Maximum temperature on 5-4-2006 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 6-4-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 6-4-2006 was (70%). Total sunshine hours on 5-4-2006 was (9.9) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 6-4-2006 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 at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 5-4-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 7-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be generally fair 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: Continuation of light rain or thunderstorms are likely in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring areas for 7-4-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 7-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 7-4-2006: Generally fair weather.
10th Waxing of Hnaung Tagu 1367 ME

Friday, 7 April, 2006

YANGON, 6 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, on 3 April arrived at Kyauktaing Coffee Farm (Branch) of Myanma Agriculture Service in Toungoo, Bago Division and inspected cultivation of coffee plants and lingzhi mushrooms.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for collective efforts to meet the targeted cultivation and to grow good quality coffee plants. He also urged those present to use grafting methods systematically and attended to the needs. On his inspection tour, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected cultivation of 141,200 coffee plants in the farm and called for the extended cultivation.

So far, 1,402 acres of coffee have been grown in Bago Division and 7,327 acres in Thandaung Township, Kayin State, in 2005-2006.

As part of an extensive cultivation of coffee in the region in 2006-2007, 140,000 coffee saplings are cultivated in the farm. Regarding the rubber plantation, a total of 51,931 acres have been put under rubber in 2005-2006 in Bago Division, and it is expected that the extended cultivation of rubber will reach 23,800 acres in 2006-2007.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than calls for meeting coffee plantation target in Bago Division

YANGON, 6 April — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this morning unveiled the signboard of Mibagon Hall of Mibagon Home for the Aged in Twantay, attended the physic nut plants growing ceremony and inspected progress of Twantay Bridge project.

At the opening ceremony of the hall of Mibagon Home for the Aged, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyae and Chairman of the Home for the Aged Committee wellwisher U Tun Kyaing formally opened the hall. Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 1.4 million donated by U Sein Tin-Daw Tin Tin Win and family; K 600,000 by Maung Min Htet Kyaw-Ma Mya Pwint Phyu; and K 500,000 by Maung Sit Naing Tun-Ma Nyein Chan Thu.

Officials also accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

Today’s donations to the fund of the home from 22 wellwishers amounted to K 6.4 million.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects Twantay Bridge Project

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects progress of Twantay Bridge Construction Project in Twantay. — MNA

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Partly cloudy

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather