### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

### Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

### Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Work hard for regional development making best use of favourable conditions and projects of the State**

**Senior General Than Shwe inspects development of townships in Rakhine State**

YANGON, 15 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Thihtha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and heads of departments, left Sittway for Maungtaw by helicopter on 13 April.

Senior General Than Shwe and party toured Maungtaw by car. Senior General Than Shwe met Chairmen of Maungtaw District and Township and Buthidaung Township Peace and Development Councils and members, departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townsmen at Thiri Mingala Hall in Maungtaw.

*(See page 8)*

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* Administration is the main machinery that contributes toward development of economic and social conditions of a region.

* Maungtaw which borders the neighbouring country has been upgraded to the district level and power has also been conferred to make the administrative body effective, to deal with other country on equal terms and to undertake regional development effectively.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For development of own regions

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Therefore, steps are being taken for the development of agricultural, industrial and fish and meat sectors, making better use of terrestrial and aquatic resources in the nation. Better transport plays an important role in ensuring the development of national economy. With better transport, there are opportunities for economic development, resulting in bringing about equitable development in all parts of the nation. The government spent a large amount of funds on building bridges large and small and Union Highways in Rakhine State for better transport. Hence, local people from Rakhine State can now travel from one place to another by land and engage extensively in trade and business.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe toured Rakhine State on 12 April to inspect development tasks there and fulfill the requirements.

During his inspection tour, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe met with members of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council, state-level departmental officials, members of Sittway District and Sittway Township Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials of Sittway district and township at Sittway Station and gave guidance.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said that local authorities, departmental officials and the people are to make concerted efforts with farsightedness for national development and strengthening economy in the respective regions. Only then will different parts of the nation develop, he stressed.

At present, Rakhine State is making relentless efforts for self-sufficiency in rice. Moreover, it is growing rubber, Tisicent, palm, pepper and physic nut plants in addition to ten major crops. At the same time, it is engaging in prawn and aquaculture in the nation.

With better transport, the socio-economic life of local people in respective regions will improve. Therefore, local people of the respective regions are to exert earnest efforts for the development of their own regions, making the best use of development infrastructures created by the government.

**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**214-mile Sagaing-Shwebo-Katha district-to-district road under construction**

- Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of No 3 district-to-district Sagaing-Shwebo-Katha road. — MNA

**Thingyan Golden Cup Golf Tournament commence**

- The 48th Thingyan Golden Cup Golf Tournament was opened at Pyin Oo Lwin Golf Club this morning. Pyin Oo Lwin Station Commander and Rector of Defence Services Academy Brig-Gen Nyi Tin, Commandant of Defence Services Administration School Col Zami Win and Executive of MPOGA and MGF U Ko Ko Lay opened the tournament.

- In the professional golfers division, Min Naing (Srixon) and Zaw Zaw Latt stayed at the top position by shooting one-stroke-under par 71 each. Myint Shwe (Srixon) and Aung Htun Win (Srixon) fired a par score each. Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) and Yin Htwe (KM Golf Centre) stood in the third position 75 each.

- In the amateur golfers division, Aung Win (Forestry) was leading the game with 71 strokes. Win Htuk was the closest runner-up of the leader, shooting 73. Than Naing Oo scored 75 in the third position. Myanmar Golf Federation and Pyin Oo Lwin Golf Club organized the tournament with co-sponsors Air Bagan Ltd, KS Ltd, Mandalay Golf Association, AK Group, KBZ Bank, Srixon, MK Fashion, KY Golf and Hotel Pyin Oo Lwin. Pyin Oo Lwin Golf Club and Han Event Management were performing the functions of the competition. The second round of the tournament continued on 13 April. — MNA

**Valiant water-throwing pandal opened in Latha Township**

- Yangon, 13 April — A ceremony to open Valiant water-throwing pandal was held at No 4 Ward on 19th Street, Latha Township this afternoon. No 4 Military Region Commander Lt-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Latha Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Thein Tun and Patron of Myanmar Towards Co Ltd Daw Ni formally opened the pandal. At the pandal, the entertainers of vocalists with the songs and serving of refreshments to the people would be presented until Ayeswadyaw Festival. — MNA
Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong (R) shakes hands with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Antanas Valionis.  

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore-Malaysia relations to remain good

SINGAPORE, 14 April — Singapore’s Foreign Minister George Yeo said on Wednesday that he believed that the bilateral relations between Singapore and Malaysia will continue to be very good.

Yeo’s comment came after the Malaysian Government announced earlier on the day its decision not to proceed with the construction of a bridge to replace the Causeway linking its Johor State and Singapore. According to Channel NewsAsia report at night, Yeo told reporters that Singapore respects the Malaysian Government’s decision and the result has nothing to do with victory or defeat.

“Whatever we work on should be to our mutual benefit. And we negotiated on the full bridge on the basis of mutual benefit for both sides. And I am quite sure we will be able to find other areas where we can cooperate to our mutual benefit,” he was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia boost alert status at volcano

JAKARTA, 14 April — Indonesia has raised the alert status of a massive volcano on Java Island to the second-highest level, warning increased activity at its crater means it could erupt anytime, local media reports said on Thursday.

Mount Merapi volcano spews lava and hot clouds from its crater as dawn breaks as seen from Ngoser observatory in Muntilan subdistrict, Magelang, in February 2001. Vulcanologists have upgraded an alert on Indonesia’s Mount Merapi volcano on densely-populated Java island after it recorded increased activity. — Internet

MNA/Reuters

Retired US general demands Rumsfeld to resign

WASHINGTON, 14 April — A recently retired two-star general who just a year ago commanded a US Army division in Iraq on Wednesday joined a small but growing list of former senior officers to call on Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to resign.

“Believing we need a fresh start in the Pentagon. We need a leader who understands teamwork, a leader who knows how to build teams, a leader that does it without intimida- 
tion,” Major General John Batiste, who commanded the Germany-based 1st Infantry Division in Iraq, said in an interview on CNN.

In recent weeks, retired Marine Corps Lieutenant-General Gregory Newbold, Army Major-General Paul Eaton and Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni all spoke out against Rumsfeld. This comes as opinion polls show eroding public support for the three-year-old war in which about 2,360 US troops have died. “You know, it speaks—volumes that guys like me are speaking out from retirement about the leadership climate in the Department of Defence,” Batiste said.

“But when decisions are made without taking into account sound military recommendations, sound military decision making, sound planning, then we’re bound to make mistakes.”

Batiste, a West Point graduate who also served during the previous Gulf War, retired from the Army on November 1, 2005. While in Iraq, his division, nicknamed the Big Red One, was based in Tikrit, and it wrapped up a yearlong deployment in May 2005.

Critics have accused Rumsfeld of bullying senior military officers and disregarding their views. They often cite how Rumsfeld dismissed then-Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki’s opinion a month before the 2003 invasion that occupying Iraq could require “several hundred thousand troops”, not the smaller force Rumsfeld would send.

MNA/Xinhua

Dragon Boat Competition is held on Lancang River in Jinghong, Xishuangbanna, southwest China’s Yunnan Province on 13 April, 2006. Activities celebrating the New Year 1368 in Dai Ethnic Group Calendar and the 2006 Splashing Water Festival kicked off here on Thursday. — Internet
Chinese State Councillor meets Goh Chok Tong

BEIJING, 14 April — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan met here on Thursday with visiting Singaporean Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Tang said relations between the two countries were good, with mutual trust and common interests.

The two countries effectively cooperated in the fields of high technology, and China’s western and northeastern regions, Tang said. “This cooperation has breathed new vitality into the development of bilateral ties.”

Tang said China attached great importance to relations with the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and its ten member countries, including Singapore. China and the ASEAN had comprehensive and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Chinese Government was willing to actively forge a strategic partnership and promote a free trade zone with the ASEAN to improve cooperation.

Goh Chok Tong said China’s development had brought opportunities to ASEAN countries, including Singapore.

Singapore was willing to boost cooperation in trade and economy, investment and energy and promote regional development and prosperity, he said.

He reiterated that Singapore would adhere to the one-China policy and oppose “Taiwan independence”.

Egypt wants diplomatic solution to Iran crisis

CAIRO, 14 April — Egypt said on Thursday it wanted a diplomatic solution to the dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme and could not accept the emergence of a nuclear-armed power in the region.

In a statement after a meeting with the US State Department’s senior arms control official, it also said that failure to persuade Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was a setback to the non-proliferation system.

“It is important to reach a diplomatic solution to the crisis over the Iranian nuclear file,” Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said in the statement.

“Egypt cannot accept the appearance of a military nuclear force in the region, since that would further complicate the regional security imbalance in the Middle East,” he added.

The Foreign Ministry released the statement after Aboul Gheit had talks with US Under Secretary of State Robert Joseph, who handles arms control and international security.

Joseph will also visit other countries in the region to talk about Iran’s nuclear programme after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced this week that his country has succeeded in producing enriched uranium, officials said.

Aboul Gheit said there had been no progress towards the Egyptian goal of a nuclear-free Middle East “in the light of Israel’s persistence in refusing to join the NPT or even announce its intention to join the NPT”. After talks between Joseph and Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa, league spokesman Alaa Rashid said Israel’s nuclear programme should be treated in the same way as Iran’s “without using a double standard”.

Thieves steal ancient cannon from British barracks

LONDON, 14 April — British police are hunting for thieves who stole a 200-year-old cannon from outside a military barracks in southern England.

They said at least two people would have been needed to hoist the (68 kilo) cannon from outside St George’s Barracks in Gosport on the south coast.

“The artefacts are loaned to various locations in Gosport to show the pride that people have in the history of our town,” said Josephine Lawler, curator of the museum which owned the cannon. “However, if this is what happens to them, there will soon be no more left to display.” — MNA/Reuters

Imperial Prayer Hall in Beijing ready to reopen next month

BEIJING, 15 April — The year-long repair work has been completed on the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, the landmark of the Temple of Heaven in downtown Beijing, a popular UNESCO’s World Heritage site. The repaired hall will be reopened to visitors on 1 May, said Jiang Shibin, head of the culture department of the Temple of Heaven park, on Thursday.

The maintenance work started in May 2005 with an investment of 47 million yuan (5.8 million US dollars). The maintenance has restored the prayer hall’s imperial appearance in the reign of Emperor Guangxu (1875-1908), when the ancient structure underwent a major reconstruction, said Yang Xiao-dong, manager of the park. The lofty, round structure with triple eaves and a cone-shaped deep blue-tile roof crowned with a gilded knob is 38 metres high and 30 metres in diameter. — MNA/Xinhua

The picture shows the maiden flight of Xiaolong 01. The maiden flight of China’s third generation fighter Xiaolong 04 will take place at the end of April 2006, according to China Aviation News. Xiaolong 04 is equipped with complete avionics systems. In addition, its structure has been optimized and appearance adjusted, which gives certain boost to the combat capability. — INTERNET

Egyptian Minister of Defence General Amr Moussa, right, and Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, left, talk at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, capital of China. The maintenance project of the hall, beginning on 21 May, 2005, has been completed, and it will be reopened to the public on 1 May. — INTERNET

Five young cheetah cubs watch from their habitat at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo in Washington on 13 April, 2006. — INTERNET

Two Marines killed, 22 wounded in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 April—Two US Marines were killed and 22 wounded in combat against guerrillas in Anbar province in western Iraq on Thursday, the US military said on Saturday. The military issued a statement on the casualties but gave no details on the fighting.

More than 2,370 US troops have been killed since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March, 2003. — Internet

Smoke rises from a grain silo on 13 April, 2006 in Baghdad, Iraq. A mortar shell landed in the silo, injuring at least 6 workers and causing fire according to the Iraqi police. — INTERNET

The year-long repair work has been completed on the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, attached great importance to relations with the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and its ten member countries, including Singapore. China and the ASEAN had comprehensive and mutually beneficial cooperation. The Chinese Government was willing to actively forge a strategic partnership and promote a free trade zone with the ASEAN to improve cooperation.

Goh Chok Tong said China’s development had brought opportunities to ASEAN countries, including Singapore. Singapore was willing to boost cooperation in trade and economy, investment and energy and promote regional development and prosperity, he said.

He reiterated that Singapore would adhere to the one-China policy and oppose “Taiwan independence”.
**China could be a very large investor in Latin America**

SANTIAGO, 14 April — China, which is the world’s third largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI), is potentially “a very large investor” in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said here on Wednesday.

Jose Luis Machiner, executive secretary of the ECLAC, said that although China did not play a prominent role in the investment field at present, the country would invest more to ensure access to the natural resources of the region in the future.

“Traditionally, foreign investment in Latin America has come from the United States and Europe,” he said, citing the chapter covering China in ECLAC’s annual report on the region’s FDI in 2005 entitled “Latin America’s World Presence.” However, it is essential to diversify capital flows, he added.

Commenting on the report published on Wednesday, Machiner highlighted China’s investment and joint ventures in projects in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Cuba, but he also said Chinese investment levels were not significant enough yet to be mentioned in the ECLAC document.

The report, which includes advice for government and businesses, says the policies and institutions designed to attract investment to the region are weak, given the fierce competition from elsewhere.

It praises the Asian countries whose governments have developed close relationships with large companies to promote closer ties between trade strategy and development policy.

Latin America and the Caribbean received 61.6 billion US dollars of FDI in 2005, about the same as in 2004, the report says.

**Hanks picks “Space Odyssey” as favourite film**

BERLIN, 14 April — Two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks picked “2001: A Space Odyssey” as his favourite film of all time and selected four other favourites.

Hanks, who won two Academy Awards for best actor in “Philadelphia” and “Forrest Gump”, said that although he had nothing to do with. “I just can’t see enough of 2001: A Space Odyssey.” the American actor told Germany’s Bild newspaper in an interview published on Thursday.

Stanley Kubrick directed the 1968 film.

Hanks also picked “Elephant” (2003) by Gus Van Sant because it “is one of the most moving films I’ve ever seen.” He also listed “The Godfather” (1972) by Francis Ford Coppola, “Fargo” (1996) by Joel and Ethan Coen among his all-time favourites.

**Student exchange programme to help improve Sino-Japanese ties**

BEIJING, 14 April— China and Japan will send more young people to visit each other’s nation in an effort to strengthen educational co-operation and cultural exchanges.

China Daily reported on Thursday.

Starting this year, China will send 1,250 senior middle school students to Japan each year, the newspaper quoted the Ministry of Education as saying.

The same number of Japanese students will also come to China annually to gain a better understanding of the country, the newspaper said.

**Eight dead, over 30 missing in Colombian mudslide**

BOGOTA (Colombia), 14 April — Colombian rescue workers have found eight bodies and more than 30 people were missing after a mudslide swept over a small town in the country’s south, police said on Thursday.

The mudslide hit the town of Bendinero in Colombia on Wednesday after heavy rains.

A local television news reporter who had gone to recover the disaster, Jairo Munoz, added to the toll of missing when a fresh mudslide washed him away and injured his cameraman, colleagues said.

Rescue workers, using earth-moving equipment in the rain, have recovered six bodies and located another two, but a further 30 people were missing, police said.

**Moderate quake jolts Turkey, no injuries**

ANKARA, 14 April — A moderate earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter Scale hit western Turkish Province of Izmir on Thursday, no injuries or damage reported, according to semi-official Anadolu news agency. The earthquake occurred at 7:18 pm (1718 GMT) and the epicentre was Urla town, some 50 kilometres from the city of Izmir, Anadolu reported.

No injuries or property damage has been reported, said Anadolu. Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey, which straddles on several seismological fault lines.

Two massive quakes in Turkey killed more than 18,000 people in 1999.— MNA/Xinhua

**Argentina seizes 2.5 tons of marijuana**

BUENOS AIRES, 14 April — The Argentine authorities seized 2.5 tons of marijuana on Wednesday in the northeast province of Corrientes, the country’s National Guard said in a statement.

The seizure took place in Tataro, some 600 kilometres northeast of Buenos Aires, when officials stopped a truck to carry out a routine drug inspection, said the statement.

“When we intercepted the vehicle there was an intense shootout,” which led to the escape of the drug traffickers, it said, adding that no one had been arrested or hurt in the incident.— MNA/Xinhua

**At least 50 injured in traffic accident in Brazil**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 April — At least 50 people were injured in southeastern Brazil on Wednesday, when a coach was in collision with two other vehicles.

The coach was travelling along a main access road when it was in collision with a car and a bus. The three vehicles were all travelling in the same direction.

The accident on Brasil Avenue, which leads to the centre of the port city of Rio de Janeiro, also caused serious traffic jams in the Tijuca neighbourhood and 15 ambulances attended the incident.— MNA/Xinhua

**46 killed in road accidents**

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Sunday, 16 April, 2006  5

Children surf the Internet at an Internet cafe in Hanoi, on 14 April, 2006. The different faces of Vietnam’s changing state-controlled media have been on view in the weeks before the ruling Communist Party National Congress, which opens on 18 April.— INTERNET

A motorcycle passes by a building carrying an anti-United States poster in Teheran, capital of Iran, on 13 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Men perform a stunt of pouring tea at the folk tea ceremony at the Wushan Square in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 14 April, 2006. —INTERNET
What you want to happen, what ought to be and what is possible

Kyaw Swa Myo Htet

Nowadays, internal and external anti-government elements in collusion with certain media members and organizations of the West bloc are attempting to win the support of the international community, claiming that the National League for Democracy (NLD) issued the so-called most flexible offer to the Tatmadaw Government for Myanmar’s democratic transition and national reconciliation. The Tatmadaw Government for Myanmar’s democratic transition and national reconciliation is, in fact, in contrary to the desire of Myanmar national people.

To present the announcement in brief, the Tatmadaw Government should call a Hluttaw; the Hluttaw will proclaim the ruling government as a de jure government from de facto one and recognize it as a government for democratic transition (interim government); the two sides should fix a term of transition through coordination; Daw Suu Kyi should be released unconditionally for a dialogue on national reconciliation; a leader of a certain ASEAN nation should be chosen as the mediator in the dialogue on national reconciliation if required; and the Tatmadaw Government should launch the implementation of the announcement on 17 April 2006.

The announcement is not different from its old demand for a dialogue with participation of Daw Suu Kyi. The basic of the dialogue calls on the government to recognize the 1990 election results without a State constitution, in other words the government should hand over State power to NLD with a temporary constitution NLD has drawn.

Instead of holding discussions at the National Convention where representatives from political parties under the influence of the West bloc are attempting to win the support of the international community, NLD issued the announcement 10/2/2006. The announcement was released unconditionally for a dialogue on national reconciliation. NLD is opposing the State’s seven-step Road Map. At the same time, anti-government elements in exile are resorting to various organizational means around the world and persuading the UN to force through the Security Council the government to honour the 1990 election results.

The 1988 disturbances were followed by a period of anarchy and the nation was on the verge of losing sovereignty in the absence of stability, peace, prevalence of law and order. That called for the Tatmadaw to take over State power and restore normalcy. It nullified the Socialist Programme the people no longer favoured and introduced the market-oriented economic system and the multi-party democracy system in the nation. That symbolized the Tatmadaw’s drive for rebuilding the nation and democratization. Nevertheless, anti-government elements at home and abroad, considering what is right as wrong, still persist in claiming that the Tatmadaw mounted a coup and is suppressing the democracy movement.

They should assess the activities of the Tatmadaw Government based on its economic, political and social policies, but they regard it as a military junta although it is practising the market-oriented economic system and has allowed the people to establish political parties legally for democracy.

The West bloc and its minions and internal and external anti-government groups in Myanmar consider that the country will be able to transform itself into a democratic one after the downfall of the ruling Tatmadaw government with mass demonstrations that stem from economic crisis of the nation and the people who due to economic sanctions imposed against the nation and when NLD comes to power. They say that they give priority to the interests of the people rather than to that of the political party. But they are in practice misleading the people into believing their activities for NLD to be in power as public interests.

Members of the West bloc and foreign media tors to reconcile the two sides for democracy in Myanmar fail to view objectively the attitude and activities that anti-government elements are perpetrating economically and politically for disrupting the nation from democratic progress such as economic sanctions and pressure on the nation and opposition to the Tatmadaw Government’s drive to implement the market-oriented economic system, opposition to the efforts to translate the election results into reality in accordance with the parliamentary democracy traditions through elections for political and democratic affairs, and the National Convention being held for drafting the State constitution. But they are formulating the State constitution by downplaying and encouraging as democracy campaign the activities to hinder economic, political and democratic affairs that are, to all outward appearances, acts just to oppose the government.

These points are major causes that hinder the Tatmadaw Government’s efforts to ensure peaceful transition, the Myanmar’s democratic transition and national reconciliation.

Myanmar is an unfortunate country. Concerning national unity, many national race armed groups including 17 major ones have made peace with the government and are dedicating themselves to the tasks hand in hand with the people for national and regional development in respective regions across the nation.

It is NLD that never recognizes the National Convention being held based on Our Three Main Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

And it is the National League for Democracy and the nations that are dissuading international community from providing assistance and loans, dealing with Myanmar, and making investment in the nation and persuading them to withdraw the foreign investments made in the nation with the intention of blocking the economic and social progress of Myanmar.

Given the conditions of productive forces in Myanmar, NLD ought to join hands with the Tatmadaw Government for proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system that can guarantee stability of the State and tranquillity and national cohesion. Only then will there emerge necessary materials needed for genuine and enduring democracy.

With the proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system, the class of national capitalists will grow and the classes of modern workers and educated people will develop. Then, the nation will see traditions on democracy step by step and will be able to turn itself into a democratic one. If so, the national political leadership role will evolve accordingly.

* Instead of making continued attempts to seize State power by inciting mass demonstrations through various means and economic and political pressure with the wrong concept that only with the downfall of the Tatmadaw Government can democracy be introduced to the nation while regarding it as a military junta without assessing its economic, political and social policies and performances, NLD should cooperate with the Tatmadaw Government in carrying out tasks for stability of the State and community peace, national reconciliation and proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 13-4-2006
YANGON, 14 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing paid homage to Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway on 13 April evening.

Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and party, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at Lawkananda Pagoda at 8 pm, and paid homage to Gotama Buddha Image in the Gandakuti Building.

The Senior General and wife made cash donation to the fund of the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees.

Members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, handed over cash donations of those who accompanied the Senior General to the pagoda board of trustees.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visited the pagoda.

They paid obeisance to Çakkyamuni Buddha Image being kept in the Aung Çakkyamuni Ordination Hall. Later, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing presented cash donations to the fund of the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees.

MNA
Maungtaw has developed to some extent and the region has been upgraded to the district level. Administration is the main machinery that contributes toward development of economic and social conditions of a region. Maungtaw which borders the neighbouring country has been upgraded to the district level and power has also been conferred to equal terms and to undertake regional development effectively.

The Senior General urged those in charge in the regions, service personnel and local people to work hard for the progress of their region politically, economically and socially.

Field trips are also necessary for rural development in the area in carrying out regional development tasks. Concerted efforts are to be made for greater development of Maungtaw like Muse, Tachilek, Myawady and Tamu which border neighbouring countries, he said.

Arrangements are being made for administration to work hard for the progress of the regions, service personnel and local people to work and to discharge their duties with sense of duties, loyalty and patriotism. He spoke of the need for making the administrative body effective, to deal with other country on better foundations and make greater progress.

Field trips are also necessary for rural development in the area in carrying out regional development tasks.

Concerted efforts are to be made for greater development of Maungtaw like Muse, Tachilek, Myawady and Tamu which border neighbouring countries.
General Thura Shwe Mann explained building of units and regiments. Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance and cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected development of Buthidaung Township. In meeting with the Tatmadawmen of Buthidaung Station and their families at Bandoola Hall, General Thura Shwe Mann spoke at length on equal development in various regions including border areas, the Tatmadaw’s participation in nation-building tasks, importance of unity inside and outside the regiments and units, hindrance and destruction of internal and external destructive elements who begrudge the development of the State.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe cordially met with military officers, other ranks and their families.

On arrival at the local battalion of Rathedaung Station, Senior General Than Shwe and party met with military officers, other ranks and their families of units and regiments and General Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions on observing the military codes of conduct strictly and oneness with people.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe clarified the Tatmadaw’s participation in the State’s affairs and the need to build a capable and modern Tatmadaw and cordially greeted Tatmadawmen and their families.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the development of Rathetaung, greeted local people and left for Sittway.

Interest rate of banks increased

YANGON, 12 April—With a view to serving the interests of the people, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has increased the interest rate of banks as follows with effect from 1 April 2006 in line with the market-oriented economic system.

1. The interest rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar 12%
2. The interest rate of private banks
   (a) normal loan 17%
   (b) loan for special projects (agricultural & industrial projects) 15%
   (c) savings 12%
Kyaukpyu-Yangon Motor Road is under construction passing through mangrove forests. Hence, Kyaukpyu-Yangon Union Highway will emerge soon.

Kyaw Myint submitted man beings. disease from animal to human beings.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on increased in- come of the state from breeding prawn, and prevention against spread of disease from animal to hu- man beings.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint submitted reports on arrangements being made to fulfil re- quirements of health sec- tor in the state.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint reported on progress of hydel power projects being imple- mented in Rakhine State.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi briefed them on matters related to offshore oil and natural gas blocks in Rakhine State.

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guid- ance. He said that they arrived in Rakhine State to fulfil requirements for more development by re- viewing progress of Rakhine State. The State had constructed Yangon to the highway.

He continued to say that Kyaukpyu-Yangon Motor Road is under con- struction passing through mangrove forests. Hence, Kyaukpyu-Yangon Union Highway will emerge soon.

The State has spent a large sum of money on construction of roads and bridges crossing rivers and creeks in Rakhine State. The roads and bridges had been con- structed in Ayeyawady Division that relies on waterway transport. Therefore, remarkable development has been made with momentum in Ayeyawady Division. In reality, transport facilities can contribute toward progress of economic and social sectors of all re- gions, and uplift of living standard of the local peo- ple.

The Senior General stressed the need for all to strive for improve- ment of the respective states and divisions by utilizing development facilities built by the State. Only when they work hard, will the produc- tion increase. Hence, all people should re- spond to goodwill and aims of the State through hard work.

He noted that all parts of the nation are precious regions. Eco- nomic prospects can be witnessed in all the re- gions. For example, Rakhine State is similar to delta region where agricultural tasks meet success. Likewise, physical nut plants from which bio-diesel can be produced grow in Rakhine State. In the country, physical nut plants grow naturally. In addition, they can sys- tematically be grown in all parts of the nation to be able to produce bio- diesel that can be used in all kinds of machines in rural areas.

He said that as rub- ber can be cultivated in almost all of the regions of the country growing of rubber plantations are to be extended for earning foreign exchange.

In conclusion, the Senior General said that Myanmar is rich in terres- trial and aquatic resources. Therefore, local authori- ties, State service person- nel and local people are to join hands for ensuring progress of the State and strengthening economic de- velopment of the re- spective regions.

After the meeting, Senior General Than Shwe and party met with Tatmadawmen and their families of regiments and units in Sittway Station at Bandoola Hall in Sittway.

(See page 11)
State spent large sum of money on construction of roads, …

(From page 10)

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence explained the purpose of the inspection tour of Senior General Than Shwe in Rakhine State, and the building of the Tatmadaw to become a strong and efficient one.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the important role of organizational tasks inside and outside the units in building the nation and the Tatmadaw, and strengths of the Tatmadaw and the people. He cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families.

In the evening, Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo, and CEC member Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe who accompanied the Senior General met with Secretaries, Executives, organizers and members of State/District and Township USDAs at the office of Rakhine State USDA in Sittway. — MNA

Water-throwing pandals crowded with merry-makers

YANGON, 15 April — Yangonites enjoyed Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1367 ME on Akyat Day today.

Belles and young men joyfully participated in the water festival at pandals in Botataung, Mingala Taungnyunt, North Okkalapa, Yankin, Thakayta, and Thingangyun Townships.

A total of 578 pandals were erected 14 townsips of Yangon East District.

Likewise, pandals in 13 townships of Yangon West District were crowded with merry-makers and revellers.

Merry makers joyfully participate in Maha Thingyan Festival at Jewellery Luck Co Ltd Pandal in front of the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road on Akyat Day. — MN

Similarly, those who enjoyed the Maha Thingyan Festival thronged 25 pandals in the townships of Yangon North District.

On Akyat Day, today devotees and pilgrims visited the Shwedagon, Sule, Botataung, Shwepone-pwint, Kaba Aye, Tooth Relic (Yangon), Lawka Chantha Abbaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, Maha Wizaya, Kyakkan, Koedatgyi, Chaukhtetkyee, Meila mu pagodas and other religious buildings here.

Myanmar Traditional Water Festival

* In Meiktha Tagu month, Sitra constellation Yinkhat and Gantgaw, fragrance spreads Waterfest prides special beauty.
* New Year’s love, which finds rejoice Summer month Tagu, this period Golden Padauk blooms, special beauty Usher in New Year, in brilliant yellow ‘Cause its the season, there’s brilliance.
* Thingyan New Year, in month Tagu One and another, let all rejoice Early dousing, brimming with joy Minds all clear, free from strife Season’s timeliness, all so apt.
* Buddhist, of Myanmar race Tradition upheld, to elderly folks Old Grandpas, Grandmas, parents Donate water, douse the heat May they feel fresh, we supplicate ‘Tis cool because ‘tis festive water.
* To monasteries and pagodas, they repair Preachings overwhelm, blessings aplenty May multitudes, at New Year tide May all beatitudes, rest on them To the statue, they offer water There’s music befitting the time Free eats plenty given to all Amid village, in the rest place Sound of Thingyan drum, lilt sound Incessant music, at traditional fest Young men, and women celebrate Traditional eats, they enjoy Tha Hla, Chet Kyee, those bachelors Caught with pepper, they’re surprised That’s what all festival goers enjoy.

Po Yan Naing (Kyaunkyi) (Trs)
Many firm evidences uncovered NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF & NLD-LA committing terrorist acts individually or in groups from inside and outside the Union of Myanmar

Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Declaration No 1/2006
Nay Pyi Taw City, Full Moon Day of Hnaung Tagu 1367 ME
12 April 2006
Declaration as terrorist groups

1. At a time when the entire national people of the Union of Myanmar are participating in the drive for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, certain groups are committing atrocious acts against the nation and the people such as planting and blasting bombs, manufacturing fabricated news stories designed to undermine national unity, exaggeration of news stories in order that the government might be misunderstood in various sectors, and providing cash assistance and masterminding such destructive acts with the intention of causing bloodshed and panic among the people.

2. Some of despicable acts perpetrated by some terrorist groups are as follows:

(a) A three-inch-long TNT time bomb went off near the entrance to Maha Bandaoola Park in Kyauktada Township at 6.25 am on 27 March 2003 while it was being checked, leaving a security member wounded. At 12.55 pm the same day, a bomb exploded near the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications office on Bo Sun Pet Street in Pabedan Township, Yangon Division, while workers of the Development Affairs Department were carrying out sanitation tasks, killing worker Aung Tun Shwe, 18, and injuring Aung Hay, Hla Hay and Ma Aye San. According to the confessions of some members of the People Power 21st Century (PP 21), the bomb explosion was responsible for the PP 21, which was founded with the expatriates from the National League for Democracy led by renegade Sein Win and insurgents of the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) led by Moe Thee Zun in Chiangmai, the neighbouring country, in 1998.

(b) A bomb explosion occurred at Myaukmin Sports Gear Shop in front of Aung Than Lwin Sports Ground in Kayin State at noon on 24 December 2004. The incident killed selected Kayin State footballers Aung Myo Myint, 20, and wounded Chit Nyi Nyi, 19, and Aung Soe Moe, 19, and shopowner Win Phone Kyaw, 17. According to the confessions of private San Htwe (a) Shan Pok of company 2, battalion 9 of the ABSDF who was seized on 24 December 2005, it was exposed that he committed the act under orders of company commander captain Saw Kyaw Lay (a) Saw Thamu He.

(c) At 14.45 hours on 7 May 2005, a series of bomb explosions took place at Yangon Trade Centre where Thailand Trade Fair was being held in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Division; Junction-8 Shopping Center City Mart on Kyaiwkaung Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township; and Dagon Centre in Sanyang Town, leaving 23 innocent people dead and 150 wounded. According to the confirmation and admission of members of Network for Democracy and Development (NDD), members of ABSDF who had returned to the legal fold, it was exposed that the explosions were committed by Aung Min of NDD, Zaw Win Lwin, Ne Paledo and Ko Paik of ABSDF under the sponsorship and instructions of National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB), Federation of Trade Union of Burma (FTUB) and NLD-LA.

(d) The bomb blast that took place at a restaurant kitchen in Nan Phar Lon Market in Tamu Township, Sagaing Division, at 8.15 am on 8 January 2006 killed innocent restaurant proprietor U Maung Maung Tun, 43, and the bomb blast in the kitchen at Shwe Kaung Hlyan Tea Shop at 10.45 am, killed owner Maung Soe (a) Soe Myint, 38, Deputy military operation in charge of ABSDF (West) Chit Thein Tun and in charge of Moreh office of ABSDF (West) Maung Maung Oo who were seized on 15 January 2006 confessed that they committed the terrorist acts.

3. Some events in which destructive acts were exposed in time saving lives of many people and property due to the collaborative efforts of the people, the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force are as follows:

(a) On 4 January 2000 while people were enjoying themselves at the Independence Day commemorative fun fairs, a bomb was uncovered and cleared near Maha Bandaoola Park in front of the City Hall in Yangon. According to the confessions of Soe Thin (a) Thura Kyaw Zin, a member of PP 21, who was arrested, he took a leading role in the crime together with PP 21 members Ye Kyaw Swa, Naing Naing and Min Min (a) Kyaw Kyaw.

(b) At Chaunggyi Ward, Taninthayi Township, Taninthayi Division, at about 1700 hours on 5 February 2005, Win Aung (a) Nyo Win Aung (a) Saw Nyan Lin of ABSDF was arrested together with 24 2.5-inch bamboo cartridges, one pound of cordite, five Power Brand batteries, and devices used in planting bombs. He confessed that he was arrested while he was on his way to pile No 8 of Taninthay Bridge to blast it.

(c) Security members exposed two mines weighing about ten pounds of TNT cordite and an 85-foot-long wire on Kwinchaung Bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Railroad at 02.05 hours on 7 February 2006. At 07.30 hours the same day, a 3.5 rocket launcher shell and a clock set for 11.00 hours attached with the shell were exposed at the foot of a tree near that site. According to the reliable source, San Gy of the National League for Democracy (Liberated Area) (NLD-LA) and five accomplices entered the nation from Mae Hong Son region of the other country in the first week of February 2006 and planted explosives along Bago-Tougoon-Pynnmma road.

(d) At 06.40 hours on 23 February 2006, seven pounds of TNT cordite, one pound of cordite, one pound of gunpowder, 12 detonators, and 20 batteries were exposed under Yangon-Mandalay Railroad at mile post No 176/21 in Tougoon Township, Bago Division. According to the reliable information, the acts were responsible for the group of San Gy of NLD-LA and five accomplices.

4. In addition to above-mentioned incidents, the following acts were perpetrated to cause unrest among the people.

(a) According to Hla Myint Than (a) Hla Myint of No 910, Ottwa 2nd Street, Nandawya Ward, Bago, who was arrested on 5 July 2005 in Bago, he received an illegal satellite phone from NLD-LA Secretary Myint Thein abroad in around April 2003 and as a hard-core he sent news stories that could cause unrest in the State to NLD-LA abroad.

(b) According to the confessions of member of NDD Saya Ye (a) Than Oo who was arrested in Myawady at 11.00 hours on 23 March 2006, Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung was a follower of expirette Sein Win of NCGUB, under the advice of expatriate Sein Win, he received aid from international community to the terrorists in the nation through NDD Thein Win. Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung is skilful in detonating bombs with the use of a computer. Moreover, these facts are also disclosed by the confessions of members of NDD Wai Lin, Aung Moe and Yu Nut (a) Aung Cho Oo.

(c) According to the confessions of Aung Than (a) Aung Moe and Zeya Aung of Bago who were arrested at Myawady toll gate at 16.00 hours, on 24 March 2006, as assigned by NLD-LA youth in charge Thaung Dan Cho, they organized some university students and distributed poem books designed to incite political unrest in the nation.

5. Many firm evidences have been uncovered that the following illegal organizations have been committing terrorist acts individually or in groups from inside and outside the Union of Myanmar.

(a) Dr Sein Win and National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) led by himself

(b) Hla Oo, Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung and Federation of Trade Union of Burma (FTUB) led by themselves

(c) Than Khe and All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) led by himself

(d) Win Khet and National League for Democracy (Liberated Area) (NLD-LA) and led by himself

6. The organizations and members stated in the para No 5 are hereby declared as terrorists.

By order
Maj-Gen Maung Oo
Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs
UAE, Qatar agree to provide more jobs to Nepalis

KATHMANDU, 14 April — Nepali Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey said on Thursday that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar have agreed to provide more employment opportunities to Nepalis. Pankey, who just returned from a visit to the two countries, said that the UAE has also agreed to conduct a feasibility study to set up special economic zone and it was positive about investing in Nepal. According to a Foreign Ministry release, Qatar has also agreed to provide employment on security-related sector and to invest in some special economic zones. As according to statistics from the Department of Labour and Employment Promotion, Qatar may soon replace Malaysia as the most favoured labour destination of Nepali workers. The statistics revealed that the total number of workers leaving for Qatar on employment purpose increased by 70 per cent in the first eight months of the current fiscal year (starting from July 2005) to 99,397, compared to 23,125 of the same period of last fiscal year. — MNA/Xinhua

Ethiopian archaeologists uncover ancient relics

ADDIS ABABA, 14 April — Ethiopian archaeologists have uncovered several ancient relics and building through excavations they conducted at the northern ancient town of Axum. Tekke Hagos, coordinator of the archaeologists’ team told journalists that the team has been carrying out excavations beginning from 8 February on the tombs of King Izana and King Remhah around the Statue of Queen of Sheba in Axum Town. Tekke said the team has uncovered claywares, several metallic and stone-made relics as well as a four-pillar building. He added that by the side of the ancient building was found a throne statue erected for a warrior named Hatsani Daniel. “The script on the statue describes the victory of Hatsani Daniel at Kessela and Wolqait and his refusal to accept the appointment offered to him by the Aksumite king,” said Tekke. — MNA/Xinhua

China cracks down on illegal foreign publications

BEIJING, 14 April — China’s publishing authority has warned it will crack down on illegal foreign publications “to prevent disruption to the publishing market and a negative impact on the people”. A spokesman from the General Administration of Press and Publication (GAPP) said that unlicensed journalists had been publishing illegally after misleading low-ranking officials with the serial number of a foreign publication registered overseas. Under Chinese publishing regulations, foreign publications must be licensed by the state council, or the central government. Foreign publishers, news agencies or editing offices that engage in unlicensed publishing, printing and distribution are considered illegal. Among the couple of illegal foreign publications shut down this year are the Baoding-based China Art Circle newspaper in the northern Hebei Province and China News, whose reporters engaged in “illegal activities” in Jianhu County, east China’s Jiangsu Province. Heilongjiang publishing department on 16 March closed the office of China Business, a newspaper claiming to be based in Hong Kong. — MNA/Xinhua
Barcelona striker Larsson suffers thigh injury

**ACROSS**

9 Grew vigorously

11 Able to speak two languages

14 Past one’s prime

16 Stringed instrument

17 Island in the Irish Sea

18 Plenty

19 Pensive poem

20 Abbonding in riches

**DOWN**

1 Ensnare

5 Hungarian composer

6 Gold coin

7 News

10 Breathie in (anag.)

12 Sprint

13 Enormous

15 Past one’s prime

16 Student

17 Family Circle Cup tennis tournament

18 Battleground

22 No score

23 Board game

MNA/Reuters

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Barca edge nearer title with win over Villarreal

Madrid, 15 April — Samuel Eto’o struck his 24th goal of the season to give Barcelona a 1-0 win over Villarreal on Saturday that took them closer to retaining the title.

The Cameroon striker turned sharply on the edge of the area and fired low to finally end Cardiff’s bid to make the playoffs. United have 85 points from 43 games.

The win sent Barca 14 points clear of Valencia and Real Madrid at the top with five games left, although the Catalan side’s two rivals have yet to play this weekend. Valencia host King’s Cup winners Espanyol on Sunday, while Real Madrid travel to the south of the city to meet modest neighbours Getafe. — MNA/Reuters

Sheffield United on brink of promotion with Cardiff win

London, 15 April — Sheffield United moved to the brink of promotion to the Premier League when they won 1-0 at Cardiff City in the English Second Division on Friday.

United will be promoted on Saturday if Leeds United fail to beat champions Reading at Elland Road after third-placed Watford were held to a 1-1 draw by Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Danny Webber scored the Sheffield side’s winner after 76 minutes at Ninian Park when he fired into the corner of the net to finally end Cardiff’s bid to make the playoffs.

United have 85 points from 43 games. Watford are on 74 and Leeds have 73 from 42 matches. Reading, who have 98 points from 42 games, wrapped up the title earlier this month.

MNA/Reuters

Kaladze strike gives Milan derby victory

Milan, 15 April — AC Milan celebrated a 1-0 derby win over city rivals Inter thanks to a 70th minute strike by Georgian defender Kakha Kaladze in Serie A on Friday. The victory takes Milan within four points of leaders Juventus, who visit Cagliari on Saturday, while third-placed Inter are now five points adrift of Milan. There are four rounds of matches to be played after this weekend’s fixtures.

“It was an important win for us,” said Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti.

“We have extended our lead over Inter and need to keep that in the coming games. "Now we are thinking only about Tuesday’s game with Barcelona,” he added, referring to the first leg of their Champions League semifinal at the San Siro.

Milan’s Alberto Gilardino and Inter’s Luis Figo missed good chances as they sent headers wide from promising positions but neither team looked sharp going forward in a rather flat game.

The decisive goal came when Milan’s Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf looped in a high cross from the left and with the Inter defence stationary Kaladze chested the ball down and blasted past Inter keeper Julio Cesar. Despite a 74,000 crowd there was an unusually subdued atmosphere in the San Siro, largely due to a boycott by Inter fans who left their section of the north stand largely empty. The “ultras” were protesting against a disappointing season and in place of the colourful flags that normally fill their sector, banners criticizing the team were displayed in front of empty seating. — MNA/Reuters

Man United held goalless by relegated Sunderland

London, 15 April — Sunderland held Manchester United to a shock 0-0 draw at Old Trafford on Friday but were still relegated despite their battling display.

United’s bid to catch Chelsea also seems doomed as they are six points behind the leaders, who visit Bolton Wanderers on Saturday needing seven points from five games to win the title.

“We need a miracle now of course and it has given a great boost to Chelsea,” said disappointed United manager Alex Ferguson. “But we can’t give up because we have come too far to give up. We’re still a very good team.”

Sunderland, rooted to the bottom with 12 points from 33 games, cannot now catch 17th placed Birmingham City and swiftly return to the Second Division after promotion as champions.

United were overwhelming favourites to pick up three points in their late bid to catch Chelsea in the title race but ran into a Sunderland team determined to go down fighting. Ferguson’s side dominated play and created countless chances but inspired goalkeeper Kelvin Davis managed to keep strikers Wayne Rooney and Ruud van Nistelrooy at bay.

In the first half man-of-the-match Davis produced sparkling saves to deny Ryan Giggs and Rooney before Sunderland went close through Liam Lawrence and Jon Stead, who hit the side netting.

After the break United piled on the pressure but Sunderland refused to wilt as van Nistelrooy just failed to connect with the ball in front of an open goal after Davis misjudged a cross. — MNA/Reuters

AC Milan goalkeeper Nelson Dida Brazil, right, tries to stop a ball as AC Milan’s Kakha Kaladze of Georgia, left, and Inter Milan striker Adriano of Brazil pull each others jerseys during an Italian major league soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 14 April, 2006. — Internet

Masaaki Inoue of Japan competes during the men’s 1km time trial event final at the track cycling world championships in Bordeaux, on 14 April, 2006. — Internet
UNSG urges int’l community to work for harmonious coexistence

HANGZHOU, 15 April — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the international community to work for the common interests and harmonious coexistence of people across the world in a letter congratulating the opening of the First World Buddhist Forum on Thursday.

The letter was read by Tung Chee Hwa, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. Annan urged people to think beyond their narrow and short-term interests, and raise themselves to a universal perspective from which the well-being of the broader human community can be seen to be as important as the individual well-being. He said that the Buddhist ethic and humanist ideals gave birth to a vibrant spiritual tradition that continues, more than 2,500 years later, to enoble the lives of millions of people.

“Today, the Buddha’s vision of peace may be more relevant than ever before. Indeed, if we want to have a chance of overcoming the many challenges that face us today — in the fields of peace and security, development, and the protection of our global environment — we must work together for the common good.” — MNA/Xinhua

Tibet’s first railway to start unmanned operation next month

BEIJING, 15 April — The Golog-Lhasa section of the Qinghai-Tibet railway will start unmanned tests run from 1 May in preparation for its trial operation on 1 July.

Sources from China’s Ministry of Railways said here on Thursday that the country will complete the construction of a number of key railway projects with an investment of 34 billion yuan (about 4 billion US dollars) in the second quarter this year, including the opening of the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

Built on the “Roof of the World” and zigzagging across 5,000-metre-high mountain ranges and a 550-kilometre-long frozen belt, the Qinghai-Tibet railway is the first railway in Tibet, aiming at building a closer tie between the plateau and other parts of China.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 15 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 and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Shan State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Kayah States, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Mandalay Divisions, (7°C) to (8°C) above normal in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan, NyaungU and Magway (44°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthong (0.15) inch and Putoa (0.07) inch.

Maximum temperature on 14-4-2006 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 15-4-2006 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 14-4-2006 was (74%). Total sunshine hours on 14-4-2006 was (10.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 15-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, KabAye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kab-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (15:00) hours MST on 14-4-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-4-2006: Isolated rain or thunder showers are likely in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Rakhine, Chin, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and upper Saguang Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent days: Continuation of isolated rain or thunder showers are likely in the extreme northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 16-4-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 16-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 16-4-2006: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 04:30 hours M.S.T. Today)

A slight earthquake of intensity (4.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter near Myanmar-Thailand Border about (172) miles Northeast of Kachin-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (01) hrs (19 min) (02) sec M.S.T on 15th April 2006.
State spent large sum of money on construction of roads, bridges in Rakhine State

Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental personnel, Tatmadawmen in Sittway

YANGON, 14 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, the Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Than Shwe and party met members of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council General Maj-Gen Khin Htay Oo reported on land utilization, cultivation of 10 major crops, and extension of cultivable land circular road in Minbya Road, Myebon-Pauktaw Road, and upgrading of telephone installation in Sittway and requirements of regional development.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann explained cultivation of various kinds of crops on cultivable land for development of the state, enhancement of cultivation capacity, local food sufficiency and surplus production, extended cultivation of edible oil crops for ensuring sufficiency of edible oil, the increase of per-acre yield, efforts to be made for meeting the target production of 10 major crops, and boosting of the production in Rakhine State to have economic development on which the State can rely.

Minister for Agriculture Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein briefed the NLD should have realized that there is no country in the world that has transformed itself from dictatorship into democracy due to economic sanctions. And it should take lessons from the countries that were able to build democratic ones from stopping economic sanctions and put pressure on the nation.

At the meeting hall of Sittway Station, Senior General Than Shwe and party met members of Rakhine State PDC, departmental officials, local authorities and departmental heads, arrived at Sittway Airport by special aircraft from Nay Pyi Taw Airport in Nay Pyi Taw City at 11.40 pm on 12 April.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, senior military officers, departmental officials and traditional dance troupes.

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to local authorities and departmental personnel at the hall of Sittway Station. — MNA

Excerpts from guidance given by Senior General Than Shwe

- Roads and bridges in the state were built with the aim of narrowing the development gap among all parts of the Union.
- Transport facilities can contribute toward progress of economic and social sectors of all regions, and uplift of living standard of the local people.
- Physic nut plants can systematically be grown in all parts of the nation to be able to produce bio-diesel
- Local authorities, State service personnel and local people are to join hands for ensuring progress of the State and strengthening economic development of the respective regions.