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

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

It is the duty of mass communication to broadcast prevalence of law and order, development and cooperation of the Tatmadaw, the people and the State

Myawady TV marks 11th Anniversary

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the 11th anniversary of Myawady Television. — MNA

YANGON, 23 April — The 11th anniversary of Myawady Television was held in conjunction with a prize-presentation ceremony for the best manuscript award of Myawady and Ngwetayi magazines and Myawady colour photo contest of Myawady Literary House at the Myawady Television this evening.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein spoke on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Maj-Gen Mya Win, Maj-Gen Tin Soe and Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, officials of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Photographic Society, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Asiayon and personnel of Myawady TV.

In his speech Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said 27 March 2006 was the 61st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day as well as the 11th Anniversary of Myawady Television. In conjunction with

(See Page 8)

Some developed nations of the world with superiority in military, economy and technology dominate, threaten and invade developing countries and it is found that they are trying to control those countries through media channel.
PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 24 April, 2006

Toward successful realization of the seven-step Road Map

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 22 April inspected the site to construct Kyunong Bridge in Wakema and Pyapon Bridge in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Division and gave guidance. During his inspection tour, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe met with members of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, chairmen of Pathelin, Myaungmya, Hinthada and Maubin District Peace and Development Councils, chairmen of Pyapon, Bogalay, Kyakhtla and Dedaye Township Peace and Development Councils, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and townswaiters at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said that the government has laid down and is implementing the seven-step Road Map to ensure smooth transition to democracy; that democracy cannot be introduced through words; and that the introducing of democracy without discipline can incite mob rule and anarchy.

Today is the time when the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are making all-out efforts for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The government has laid sound foundations for laying the sound foundations for the flourishing of democracy are to be laid in the long and met their end.

Today’s intervention, State, the government and the Tatmadaw are making all-out efforts for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The government has laid solid foundations for laying the sound foundations for the flourishing of democracy are to be laid in the long and met their end.

Restoring peace and stability and prevalence of law and order in the nation including timber and mining and on bilateral trade held in Kunming, the People’s Republic of China from 19 to 23 April 2006 at the invitation of Mr Chen Jian, Deputy Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China. The deputy minister and Myanmar delegation members were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials from ministries concerned and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and officials from the Embassy of the PRC.

During his visit to Kunming, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu discussed matters relating to bilateral relations, economic cooperation and trade between PRC and Myanmar with Chinese Deputy Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian.

The deputy minister also held a discussion with Mr Liu Ping, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province on bilateral economic cooperation at the border areas. Together with the Deputy Foreign Minister, the members of Myanmar Delegation, the responsible officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign affairs, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Home Affairs, also arrived back here.

Monday, 24 April

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs back from China

YANGON, 24 April — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air yesterday afternoon after attending the Myanmar-China Deputy Minister level consultaion on cooperation on timber and mining and on bilateral trade held in Kunming, the People’s Republic of China from 19 to 23 April 2006 at the invitation of Mr Chen Jian, Deputy Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China.

The deputy minister and Myanmar delegation members were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials from ministries concerned and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and officials from the Embassy of the PRC.

During his visit to Kunming, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu discussed matters relating to bilateral relations, economic cooperation and trade between PRC and Myanmar with Chinese Deputy Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and Chinese Deputy Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian sign documents at Myanmar-China Deputy mini level meeting. — MNA

Minister receives Thai guest

YANGON, 23 April — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut met Energy Minister of Thailand Mr Vised Choopiban at the ministry this morning and discussed bilateral cooperation in electric power sector.

Also present at the call were Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Director-General of Electric Power Department Dr Thein Tun and officials. — MNA

Sale promotion of Royal Gold soap launched

YANGON, 23 April — The sale promotion of Royal Gold soap was launched along with entertainment at Excel Shopping Mall near Shwegondine Traffic Lights on Kaba Aye Pa-goda Road in Bahan Township this noon.

Participants in the game to mark the sale promotion were R Zarni, Kaung Htet, L Hsai Zi, Kyokya, Khin Phone, Yadana Mai, April Moon, The Tree Band, Mittar, Paw Lay and Talent & Models group. And gifts were presented to those present on the occasion.

The six-colour soap is of Luxury type and is rich in Vitamin-E. Weighing 80 grams, it is popular among customers.
Iran says rich states must pay “real” oil price

TEHRAN, 22 April — Iran’s President said on Friday that his country was looking at ways to help protect poor states from the impact of surging oil prices while rich countries should pay what he called the “real price”.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was reiterating Iran’s increasingly hawkish position on prices that have charged to record levels, partly on the back of worries that Iran’s dispute with the West over its nuclear programme could disrupt Iranian crude supplies.  Ahmadinejad said earlier this week that oil prices had not reached their “real value” yet, suggesting they should rise further. He did not specify an appropriate level.

“There is a fund in OPEC, and the Oil Ministry and Foreign Ministry are in talks to see whether this OPEC fund has the capacity to support poor countries,” Ahmadinejad said when asked about his plans to set up an assistance fund.

“If so, then we will strengthen this fund and find a formula to protect poor and weak countries not to be harmed because of the crude price hike,” he told reporters while touring an oil industry exhibition.

“But those rich and industrial countries that have billions of dollars in income should pay the real price for their crude oil,” he added.

He did not give details about the financing mechanism to protect poor countries but the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries already has a fund to promote development.

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, a huge kite, ‘the dragon of Suzhou,’ flies in the sky during the first China Suzhou International Kite Festival in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 22 April, 2006. Some 500 kites by 17 professional kite teams home and abroad participated in the festival. —INTERNET

TV time linked to overweight risk for some kids

NEW YORK, 21 April — Too much television watching may increase a child’s risk of being overweight, according to a study in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. However, another study in the same journal found that the association is true only for children of obese parents.

In that study, among children of normal-weight parents, television viewing time did not seem to affect their overweight risk. For children with at least one obese parent, however, the opposite was true.

“You can’t think about the impact of television and obesity as uniform for all children,” study author Dr Elizabeth A Vandewater, of the University of Texas at Austin, told Reuters Health.

“The findings of this study suggest that parental weight status is an important moderator of the relationship between television viewing and child weight status, and that researchers interested in understanding and intervening in childhood obesity would do well to collect information from parents as well as children,” Vandewater and her coauthor, Xuan Huang, write. Their in-home and telephone interviews of 1,483 children aged 6 to 19 years in 2002 revealed that parental obesity was generally associated with an increased overweight risk for all of the children, except 6 to 9-year-old boys. —INTERNET

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, a huge kite, ‘the dragon of Suzhou,’ flies in the sky during the first China Suzhou International Kite Festival in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 22 April, 2006. Some 500 kites by 17 professional kite teams home and abroad participated in the festival. —INTERNET

US envoy publicly states respect of Venezuela’s sovereignty

CARACAS, 22 April — US Ambassador to Venezuela William Brownfield made a public statement on Thursday, saying the United States respects Venezuela’s sovereignty in oil matters. He said the US-Venezuela relationship in terms of trade and gasoline was “positive”, and described the countries as natural partners for geographical reasons.

It was up to the Venezuelan Government whether or not it wanted to retain or change its policies toward the United States, said the ambassador at a donation ceremony, adding that he did not expect any change.

On Wednesday, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said in Paraguay that Venezuela would blow up all its oil wells if the US ordered an invasion of his country, following US naval manoeuvres in the Caribbean. He described the exercises as a new attempt by “the empire” to intimidate him.

Washington deployed an aircraft carrier and three other warships in the Caribbean in April, and exercises in the area will continue until the end of May. This comes at a time when US Government officials have publicly stated their concern that Chavez is trying to influence the region’s politics. —INTERNET

US soldier killed, Afghan soldier wounded in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 April — A US service member was killed and an Afghan soldier wounded on Friday when a patrol was attacked by small-arms fire while investigating a cache near Deh Rawod in the southern province of Uruzgan Province, said US-led forces.

The wounded soldier was evacuated to Kandahar for treatment, the US-led coalition forces said in a news release.

“We will continue to relentlessly pursue the enemy and help the Afghan National Army bring security to the people of Afghanistan,” Army Colonel Thomas Collins, Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan spokesman, was quoted as saying. The lost of the US soldier raised the death toll of US troops in Afghanistan up to 15 this year. —MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan paramilitary soldiers guard near a check post in Miranshah, the main town of the North Waziristan region bordering Afghanistan on 20 April, 2006. —INTERNET
**Scientists say Sun’s rays more harmful this summer**

OTTAWA, 22 April— Sun’s rays could be more dangerous than ever expected as levels of harmful ultraviolet radiation are expected to rise 4 per cent, warned Canadian health and environment experts. As the Earth’s protective ozone layer is thinning, levels of harmful ultraviolet radiation are expected to rise 4 per cent this year because more radiation reaches land, scientists from the Environment Ministry said on Friday.

**Dozen nations urge Norway to stop commercial whaling**

LONDON, 21 April— A dozen countries including Britain, France, Germany and Australia called on Thursday for an end to commercial whaling by Norway, which plans to step up whaling hunts this year to the highest in two decades.

Norway’s Foreign Ministry rejected the protest, saying the minke whales Norway harpoons for food in the North Atlantic are plentiful and well able to withstand the planned catch of 1,052 of the giant marine mammals in 2006.

“The UK and many other countries remain strongly opposed to Norway’s existing and unnecessary lethal whaling activities and we urge Norway to stop them,” British Fisheries Minister Ben Bradshaw said in a statement delivered on behalf of the 12.

“We shall continue to register our disapproval of all these whaling activities, which undermine the moratorium on commercial whaling,” he said. A senior British diplomat in Oslo delivered the formal statement to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry.

Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Spain were the other countries to back the statement, issued soon after the start of the Norwegian whaling season on 1 April.

**Actor in 11 September movie denied entry to US**

LONDON, 22 April— An Iraqi actor who plays a hijacker in a new film about the 11 September attacks on the United States complained on Friday he had been denied entry into the country for the movie’s premiere.

But the US Embassy in London said Lewis Alsamari, who has lived in Britain since 1995, had not given sufficient notice about his planned trip.

A spokeswoman said officials at the embassy would try their best to get Alsamari to New York on time but could give no guarantees.

Alsamari stars in “United 93”, a film about the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania which has sparked intense debate about whether Americans are ready to see an on-screen portrayal of the events.

The movie, directed by Briton Paul Greengrass, premiers at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York next week.—INTERNET

**Parasite kills endangered tigers in Pakistan zoo**

Karachi, 22 April— A blood parasite that has killed scores of tigers in India and Bangladesh has now killed two endangered Bengal tigers at a zoo in Pakistan, officials said on Friday.

The tigers died in Lahore Zoo on Wednesday, victims of the “Trypanosoma” parasite which is spread by flies and mosquitoes, Nasir Saleem, a deputy director of the zoo, said.

The parasite is known to have killed over 100 tigers in India and Bangladesh in the last six months. Zoo director Mohammad Youssuf Pal said the parasite killed eight tigers in Pakistan in 1995 and 1997.

“We are taking every precautionary measure and treatment to ensure it does not become an epidemic in our country,” he said.

The Bengal tiger is endangered because of poaching and loss of habitat, with less than 3,000 left in the wild today.

**Vietnam-China ties to further develop**

HANOI, 22 April— “The Vietnam-China relations are developing very finely, especially in the fields of economy and trade,” Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien said at a Press conference here on Friday.

In the coming time, the ties between the two countries will be cemented, he said at the Press conference, held on the occasion of the ongoing 10th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Vietnam and China handled border and Beibu Gulf issues, and will embark on more cooperative programmes, like acceleration of the construction of two economic corridors and the Beibu Gulf economic belt, he said.

“China is Vietnam’s leading trade partner. Tourist activities are effervescent. Nearly one million Chinese visitors come to Vietnam a year. More and more Vietnamese people are visiting China,” the minister stated.

**Iran-India gas link deal close despite US fire**

DOHA, 21 April— Iran, India and Pakistan are close to signing a gas pipeline deal, the Iranian and Pakistani oil ministers told Reuters on Saturday, defying US opposition to the project.

The plan to pump Iranian gas to India through Pakistan was first proposed more than a decade ago, but progress has been slow because of hostility between India and Pakistan and, more recently, US opposition to Iran because of its nuclear programme.

Iranian Oil Minister Kazem Vaziri said he had an understanding with India and Pakistan and was unconcerned by US opposition.

“We have a very good understanding,” Iranian Oil Minister Kazem Vaziri told Reuters. “They are willing and Iran is ready.”

Asked when the deal would be signed, he said only: “I hope we are going to have a ministerial meeting in Teheran in June,” adding it would be attended by the same three ministers.

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Farm fire kills 2,000 pigs in eastern Canada

OTTAWA, 21 April — More than 2,000 hogs were killed on Thursday as fire raced through a hog barn in Canada’s Atlantic province of Nova Scotia. The fire occurred around 8 a.m. Thursday local time at the Annapolis Valley farm owned by Mitchell and Jennifer Visser near Waterville, Moskow. Bent said among the 2,500 pigs on the Vissers’ two barns, only 300 were believed to have been saved by the time the fire died down.

The Vissers said the barns and animals were insured, so they hope to be able to return to raising hogs.

Fire kills at least 11 at Russian building site

MOSCOW, 21 April — At least 11 workers were killed in a fire while sleeping at a temporary cabin on a building site near Moscow, Interfax news agency reported on Thursday.

Four others were hospitalized after the fire, which broke out in the early hours at a construction site near the town of Krasnogorsk, just north of Moscow.

The workers were from other regions of Russia, Interfax said, citing the Emergency Ministry.

Migrant workers, attracted by Moscow’s building boom, often face grim conditions and employers frequently breach safety rules, officials and labour organizations have said.— MNA/Reuters

Man in central China dies from bird flu

WUHAN, 21 April — A man died from bird flu in central China’s Hubei Province on Wednesday, local health authorities confirmed on Thursday.

The victim was a 21-year-old man surnamed Lai who was employed as a migrant worker in Wuhan, capital of Hubei. Lai started showing symptoms of fever and pneumonia on April 1. He was hospitalized in Wuhan after being diagnosed with the lethal H5N1 strain on Monday.

Local health authorities have undertaken the prescribed safety measures, placing under observation all people who have been in close contact with the patient, the authority sources said, adding that so far none of them have shown any abnormal symptoms.

China has reported 17 human cases of bird flu, which have resulted in 12 deaths. — MNA/Xinhua

Three residents of Sihala under observation for bird flu

ISLAMABAD, 21 April — Three persons with a history of fever were admitted Monday night at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) where they are currently under observation on suspicion of being hit by the avian influenza virus, local newspaper The News reported on Wednesday.

According to The News, 22-year-old Syed Wali, his 8-year-old sister Haleema and a 44-year-old woman named Khadija were brought to the PIMS following manifestation of symptoms of bird flu.

This is the first three suspected human cases of bird flu in Pakistan. All three were reported to be dwelling in close proximity to the Sihala poultry farm where the latest outbreak of H5N1 has been detected.— MNA/Xinhua

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi observes an earthquake simulation model during a disaster prevention meeting attended by government leaders and experts at the prime minister’s official residence in Tokyo, on 21 April, 2006. — Internet

Vietnamese university students sit at a row of computers at an Internet shop in Hanoi, Vietnam on 21 April, 2006. — Internet

A local resident wears a mask to protect himself from ashes spewing from Peru’s volcano Ubinas (background) in Querapi, Moquegua, some 550 miles (900 km) south of Lima on 20 April, 2006. — Internet

Illegally smuggled orangutans sit on a chair during a news conference in Bangkok, on 18 April, 2006. Thailand will soon send home 53 endangered orangutans probably smuggled from Indonesia and seized two years ago at a private Bangkok zoo. — Internet

China, UNDP agree on rural technology transfer project

BEIJING, 21 April — The Chinese Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have agreed on a project to provide innovative technologies and expertise to poverty-ridden rural areas in China.

With three million US dollars from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and one million US dollars from UNDP, the four-year project, titled “Alleviating Rural Poverty through Innovative Technologies Transfer,” will set up technical task forces to introduce to farmers both better technologies and innovative organizational methods for farmers to receive tailor-made technological services to increase their income.

MOST Vice-Minister Liu Yanhua said, “The UNDP is the first international organization that helps China to develop and enhance technical task forces to extend technologies to rural China.”

Nanping City, south-east China’s Fujian Province, piloted a scheme in 2002 to send technical experts to help rural people raise their earnings with appropriate technologies.

Since then, 598 counties in 24 provinces nationwide have followed suit.

Khalid Malik, UNDP resident representative in China, said, “We hope that the project will help generate new job opportunities in local communities and allow agriculture technology experts from government agencies, academies, research institutes, and other organizations to participate more effectively in lifting farmers out of poverty.” — MNA/Xinhua
Two Chinese monks to retrace “journey to the west”

GUANGZHOU, 22 April — Two Buddhist monks are to follow in the footsteps of a famous predecessor Xuanzang on a journey from China to India.

Huikuan from Taiwan — Province and 36-year-old east China’s Jiangxi year-old Mingxian from Xuanzang’s exact route.

In 629 AD travelled from the city of a famous predecessor Xuanzang on a journey from China to India. Their 120-day journey will travel on foot along certain sections of the journey. They will travel through Pakistan and Nepal and will arrive at Nalanda in India, the ancient centre of Buddhist learning. They will depart on 20 November. Mingxian said he hoped their journey would promote world peace.

Northeast India bus accident toll mounts to 64

NEW DELHI, 22 April — With 13 more bodies recovered on Friday, the death toll in Thursday’s bus accident in Assam has risen to 64, local police said.

The 120-day journey to India will follow Xuanzang’s exact route. They will depart on 20 November. Mingxian said he hoped their journey would promote world peace.

Ex-CIA agent says White House ignored WMD intelligence

WASHINGTON, 22 April — The CIA had evidence Iraq possessed no weapons of mass destruction six months before the 2003 US-led invasion but was ignored by a White House intent on ousting Saddam Hussein, a former senior CIA official said according to CBS.

Tyler Drumheller, who headed CIA covert operations in Europe during the run-up to the Iraq war, said intelligence opposing administration claims of a WMD threat came from a top Iraqi official who provided the US spy agency with other credible information.

The source "told us that there were no active weapons of mass destruction programmes", Drumheller said in a CBS interview to be aired on Sunday on the network’s news magazine, 60 Minutes. "The (White House) group that was dealing with preparation for the Iraq war came back and said they were no longer interested," he was quoted as saying in interview excerpts released by CBS on Friday.

"We said: 'Well, what about the intel?'" And they said: "Well, this isn’t about intel anymore. This is about regime change." added Drumheller, whose CIA operation was tasked the assignment of debriefing the Iraqi official.

He was the latest former US official to accuse the White House of setting an early course toward war in Iraq and ignoring intelligence that conflicted with its aim. CBS said the CIA’s intelligence source was former Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri and that former CIA Director George Tenet delivered the information personally to President George W Bush.

White House officials in September 2002. They rebuffed the CIA three days later. "The policy was set. The war in Iraq was coming and they were looking for intelligence to fit into the policy," the former CIA agent told CBS.

British troops should get out of Iraq now

LONDON, 22 April — British troops should get out of Iraq now because it is in a state of civil war, former foreign secretary Michael Ancram said on Friday.

In a stark contradiction of Conservative party policy, Ancram said Britain’s withdrawal from Iraq “should come home now, while they can with honour and dignity”.

“Whatever word games Tony Blair, Jack Straw and John Reid may try to play, everyone knows that Iraq today is effectively in a state of civil war,” Ancram wrote in the Daily Mail. He said the US-led coalition had made “crass mistakes” following its invasion three years ago, notably by dismantling Iraq’s security forces to rid them of Saddam Hussein’s supporters, and by failing to put in place a postwar reconstruction plan.

Two girls killed by hippo in Zambia

LUSAKA, 22 April — Two girls died earlier this week in Mazabuka, southern Zambia, after a boat they were travelling in was attacked by a hippo.

Namalundu Ward councillor Beatrice Haloba said in Mazabuka that a boy who was in the company of the two girls aged 13 and 19 managed to swim to safety.

Haloba said villagers have managed to retrieve one body while the other has not been recovered because the hippo has become violent against people trying to fish it out.

People sit in a truck past collapsed houses while they flee the flooded village of Rast, near the Danube River, 308 km (186 miles) southwest of Bucharest, on 22 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Barylesque artiste Dita Von Teese, arrives at the Harrods store to launch her new book “Burlesque, the art of the Teese” in central London, England, on 22 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Moderate quake jolts Aceh Province

JAKARTA, 22 April — An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter Scale jolted the western coast of Indonesia’s Aceh Province Friday, folowing two more powerful quakes that struck the province Thursday.

Local geophysics agency head Syahman said the epicentre of the tremor, which occurred at 10:36 local time (03:36 GMT), was felt in several other regions, including Aceh Barat, Aceh Jaya, Nagan Raya, Aceh Barat Daya, Aceh Selatan and the provincial capital Banda Aceh, reported Antara news agency.

Indonesia, the world’s largest archipelago, sits atop a volcanically active region in the Pacific known as the Ring of Fire and experiences daily earthquakes of varying magnitudes.

Two earthquakes measuring 4.8 and 5.8 on the Richter Scale rocked parts of the province Thursday but there was no report of casualty and damage.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian film actress and former Miss India Universe 2002, Neha Dhupia, poses during a promotion show for an award ceremony in Ahmedabad on 22 April, 2006. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua
It took me five to ten years to learn an important event in the past. For example, in the year when I joined the Defence Services Academy, the story about Point 6041 Battle was well-known. Major Thha Thuin Tun Tin, who commanded the Tatmadaw members in the battle, gave a lecture to us, the cadets at the DSA with the use of sand maps. After leaving the DSA, I carried the booklet about the battle wherever I went. When I was posted to Tangyan in 1988 and assigned duties to supervise Naunglai camp, I happened to study Point 6041, Parphan and Naunglai battles with the use of the map. Some village elders who had knowledge and experiences of these battles recounted facts about the battles in detail to me. I had an opportunity to learn the military objectives and offensive strategies of the Burma Communist Party (BCP).

Sisiwan-Tarpang Battle that took place in 1986 was another example. My friends Myo Myint and Captain Tin Ko of Defence Services (Air) fell in that battle. About ten years later, I met a national race leader from Mongla Region of Shan State (East) Special Region 4. He recounted to me his experiences when he was under the BCP. He said national race people were never given opportunity to play a leadership role in the BCP, and were repressed. And young men of national races had to take risks in the front lines of violent battles.

He also recounted his involvement in Sisiwan-Tarpang Battle, heavy casualties BCP suffered due to the attacks of fighter planes of the Defence Services (Air), and shooting down a fighter by Migyaung (2) camp with the use of 0.5 machine gun. I studied all the facts about the Sisiwan-Tarpang Battle and desperate moves the BCP made through the book “Attributes of Tatmadaw Members” by Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe (Retd). The book also featured wholehearted support with documentary photos by the people including members of Red Cross Society and auxiliary fire brigade for the Tatmadaw.

I remember an event that took place more than three decades ago when the operation of four cuts reached its peak and delta region command (Central) led by BCP Bo Aung Pe was under siege by the Tatmadaw with the help of tens of thousands of local people including my uncles. When they returned home, I learnt from them that Bo Aung Pe was captured dead.

At that time, Bo Aung Pe was well-known to all local people around the region. He was also known as Darkhokkiy (big scar) because he had a big long scar on his cheek hit with a sword. When I was interviewed for joining the Defence Services Academy, the chairman of the examination board asked if I knew about the four cuts in reference to cutting or preventing supplies and from reaching the enemy so on in the delta region and facts about the biography of Bo Aung Pe. Later I learnt that the chairman took part in the military operations launched in the delta region.

The book “True experiences, operation after operation” by Brig-Gen Than Tin (Retd) who served as commander of South-West Command Headquarters and won the National Literary Award for 2004 enhanced my knowledge about military operations. At that time, the BCP and KNDU insurgent groups took a stronghold in the delta region and collected extortion money from local people. Out of it, they provided yearly K 4 million for the BCP (Central) and K 5 million for KNU (Central). And BCP’s delta region command served as a bridge between Rakhine and Taninthayi regions and the BCP (Central).

The book “True experiences, operation after operation” reminded me of basic education schools at the foot of the west Yoma mountain range — Sein Taung basic education primary school, Hlwakhaht basic education middle school, now high school, and Laymyet-ina basic education high school. It was because I spent my school days of primary and middle school education in the period when military operations were launched in the delta region. Memory still serves me right that at that time it was the period of the operation of four cuts, and I drew a day’s rations for my family every morning, I strained my ears to the crack of gunfire I sometimes heard while studying in the classroom, and I was acquainted well with Tatmadaw members who were stationed in the village monastery.

The operation “Moe Hein”, the operation “Shwe Lin Yon”, the operation “Shwe La Win”, the operation “Aye Ya Min”, the operation “Taung Lon Aung” were conducted from 1968 to 1974. In the operation “Taung Lon Aung”, the Tatmadaw swept away all the remnant insurgents. The Tatmadaw also had to launch the operation “Hau Paing” to crush the expatriates who entered Bogale Township in 1972. At the time, among the 26 townships in Ayeyawady Division, only a few townships were free from the danger of insurgency. The Tatmadaw launched military operations one after another to wipe out the insurgency and managed to change the region from black region to brown region, and then to white region which means it was totally free from insurgents.

It is common knowledge that “Chaungtha” is now a site where people can stay for recreation and leisure in peace. But I do not think all the people know that more than 30 years after the massive forms of over 20,000 local people including Tatmadaw columns, members of the Myanmar Police Force and people’s militia collectively put Chaungtha and its surrounding areas under siege to crush the insurgents of KNDU.

Like Ayeyawady Division, many places in Yangon Division saw the stresses and strains of public life. In November 2001, 104 excursion team members from Kengtawng and Kengkham regions in Shan State (South) paid a visit to Yangon. They were provided with accommodation in No 1 Transit Centre in Bayintnaung, Hlone Township. I remember that Maj-Gen Maung Bo (now Lt-Gen Maung Bo) visited and asked after them. He asked if they had a good sleep at the previous night. He elaborated that they could enjoy a good sleep thanks to the fruit of peace and stability; that many violent combats occurred in the places of the hosts the members were lodging; and the members were to make earnest efforts to ensure peace and stability in their native towns Kengtawng and Kengkham.

As peace and stability has been restored, Inlay, the cultural hub of Shan State, has become a region that people can visit for recreation, and cultures of Intha tribes are preserved and safeguarded well, as well as an economically strategic region. Various forms of battles that occurred in the eastern and western parts of Inlay Lake in olden days harmed the beauty of the lake.

Previous governments employed various ways and means to restore stability of the State and community peace and built as far as they could national reconsolidation. However, they could not gain much success. Since 1989, the Tatmadaw Government has been striving for national reconsolidation as the national ploicy. And the drive has come to fruition that is unprecedented in the nation. Seventeen national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and that has helped restore peace and stability fully.

With the fruitful results of peace and stability, development tasks are being implemented with added momentum in border areas with an investment of K 78,794.93 million in total. The regions where local people had to stay in a state of alarm in the past have been put on the track towards development. It took a large number of years to restore peace and stability in a village or a town. It has taken a greater number of years, a huge investment has to be made, and many lives have to be sacrificed to restore peace and stability in the entire state or division made up of many towns. Peace and stability serves sound foundations for prospects and progress to a region.

The ultimate goal of the State is to build a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. Indeed, peace and stability is fundamental to the drive for building a new nation.

Entire national people are therefore dutybound to protect and safeguard in concert all ready-restored peace that is essential for a nation.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 23-4-2006
It is the duty of mass …

the anniversary of Myawady TV, the prize-presentation ceremony for the best manuscript award and colour photo competition of Myawady Literary House was also held today, he said. Nowadays, the term ‘Technology Age’ is very popular as global nations are vying each other for getting ahead in technology. And the world’s technolo-
gies are advancing very rapidly today.

Myanmar has been striving for the development of human resources with the use of technology.

With the development of technology information can be sent from one place to another in the world in no time. In other words, television and periodicals draw to the public as mass communication has developed rapidly.

Some developed nations of the world with superiority in military, economy and technology dominate, threaten and invade developing countries and it is found that they are trying to control those countries through media chan-

Ignoring the developments of Myanmar, some big nations make others misunderstand Myanmar with the use of media as a weapon and they spread false news and rumours in order to weaken national solidarity, to break up the Union Spirit and to undermine peace and stability. At the same time, they are trying to instill their thoughts, attitudes and culture into the people in the country. They also provide assistance to internal destructive elements and destroy the developments of Myanmar.

It is the duty of the mass communication to broadcast prevalence of law and order, development and cooper-
tion of the Tatmadaw, the people and the State. Among the media, television and periodicals are the most effective mass communication in information and education. Myawady TV plays important role in the mass commu-
nication and entertains, educates and informs the people.

He stressed the need to produce the programmes that will benefit the State and people while sustaining their achievement. The Tatmadawmen and staff who worked hard in the year were deservedly awarded in the prize presentation ceremony. He urged the prize winning staff to make more efforts in their tasks and the other Tatmadawmen and staff are to participate in achieving more success of Myawady TV.

Best short story, novelette, article, poem and car-
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In conclusion, the Secretary-I urged those from Myawady TV and Myawady Literary House to strive for improvement of their media works while serving the interests of the State and the people; and to try their best to uplift integrity of respective works while discharging duties assigned by the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.

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Secretary-1 attends keeping...

(from page 16)

The commander, senior military officers, departmental officials and wellwishers offered Sasana Flag, Shwekyar Thingan (robes), eight requisites and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Joint-Secretary of SSMNC Myingyan Zeyalinkara Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kitti delivered a sermon, and the Secretary-1 and party shared merits gained. Brig-Gen Win Than of the Ministry of Defence presented cash awards to architects, designers, artists and craftsmen who contributed their shares in the task.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win conveyed Seinbudaw and Pankalat round the pagoda, Lt-Gen Tin Aye Hngetmyatnadaw, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Hay Win Sasana Flag, and officials and wellwishers Shwekyar Thungans, religious objects, Seinbudaws, Hngetmyatnadaws and Htidaws for encircled zedis. Brig-Gen Win Than of the Ministry of Defence put the religious objects into the upper reliquary.

The Secretary-1, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win hoisted (See page 10)
Secretary-1 attends keeping…

(from page 9)

Htidadaws atop the encircled zedis. At the same time, officials also hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw atop the pagoda by the decorated carriage. At the same time, officials also hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw atop the pagoda by the decorated carriage. At the same time, officials also hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw atop the pagoda by the decorated carriage. At the same time, officials also hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw atop the pagoda by the decorated carriage.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party hoisted Seinbudaw, Sasana Flag, Shwekyar Thungan atop the pagoda.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Lt-Gen Tin Aye sprinkled scented water on it. Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win fixed Sasana Flag atop the pagoda and offered Shwekyar Thungan to the pagoda.

At the opening ceremony of Banner Post, Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveiled the post. Next, the Secretary-1 and Lt-Gen Tin Aye sprinkled scented water on the post. At the Gandakuti Building, members of the Sangha consecrated the Bronze Buddha Image and the Pagoda. Next, the Sayadaws consecrated Nagayon Musalinda Buddha Image. As part of the successful completion of the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party opened the ceremony to plant a Bo tree. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and well-wisher U Kyaw Nyunt planted Bo saplings and sprinkled scented water on them.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and wife, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials donated ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws at the Gandakuti Building.

Construction of railroad, functions of locomotive and carriage sheds inspected

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min views functions of Diesel Locomotive Shed (Mahlwagon). — RAILWAY

YANGON, 23 April — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspected construction of Yangon East University Railway Station, functions of Diesel Locomotive Shed (Mahlwagon) and Carriage Workshop (Mahlwagon) today. Division-7 of Myanma Railways plans to construct the railroad to link Yangon East University and Okposu Station in Thanlyin. At present, a railway station is under construction near Yangon East University.

Buffalo milk may help meet China’s growing cheese demand

NANNING, 23 April — China may tap its rich buffalo milk resources to meet the growing domestic demand for cheese, which has become so popular on the Chinese dinner table thanks to the prevalence of Western food.

China has 22.76 million buffaloes that together produce 2.65 million tons of milk a year, says Zheng Hua, an expert attending the ongoing fifth Asian Buffalo Congress in Nanning, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Buffalo milk contains more fat and protein than cow’s milk and therefore provides ideal raw material for cheese production, says Zheng, a food engineering specialist.

“In Italy, almost all the buffalo milk is used to produce cheese, including the world-famous Mozzarella,” he said.

If China fully taps its own buffalo milk resources, he said the country will not have to rely on imports to satisfy its domestic cheese demand and can even enter the world cheese market with its own brands.

MNA/Xinhua

Union of Myanmar
Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission
Announcement No 1662
9th Waning of Oo Tagu, 1368 ME
(21 April 2006)

Subject: Permission given to U Saw Hay to resign as Pyithu Hluttaw representative elected from Singu Township Constituency, Mandalay Division

1. U Saw Hay, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative elected from Singu Township Constituency, Mandalay Division in the Multiparty Democracy General Election, said that as a member of the National League for Democracy he performed only party politics but not with personal attachment. He was fed up with the NLD because of personal grudge and division within the party. The NLD practised the pro-West policy and relied on western countries against the expression, “The strength of the nation lies only within” ignoring the internal solidarity. Therefore, he said, he submitted his own volition to the Commission through Mandalay Division sub-commission that he resigned as Vice-chairman of Mandalay Division NLD, as Hluttaw representative from Singu Township and member of NLD on 6 March and expressed his support to the seven-point Road Map and the National Convention.

2. Concerning the above-mentioned submission, the Commission hereby announced that U Saw Hay has been permitted to resign as Hluttaw representative-elect of Singu Township Constituency effective today under Section 11 (e) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

Sd Aye Maung
Secretary

Union of Myanmar
Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission
Announcement No 1663
9th Waning of Oo Tagu 1368
(21 April 2006)

Subject: Cancellation of late Representative-elect U Thein Win of National League for Democracy in Kale Township Constituency No 2, Sagaing Division, from the list of representatives-elect

U Thein Win of National League for Democracy, who was elected as Representative of Kale Township Constituency No 2, Sagaing Division, in the Multiparty Democracy General Election, passed away on 15 March, 2006. The Commission hereby announced that U Thein Win was cancelled from the list of representatives-elect.

Sd Aye Maung
Secretary

Amaeywa Agricultural Cooperative Ltd set up in Kayan

YANGON, 23 April — CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa attended the ceremony to set up Amaeywa Agricultural Cooperative Ltd with the contribution of K 50 million by Yangon Division USDA in Tamangyi and Kyonu Villages of Kayan Township this morning.

Amaeywa Agricultural Cooperative Ltd was organized with 537 members. U Hla Myint was elected as chairman together with 15 members of the board of directors and two audit members. They took oaths at the ceremony. The mayor delivered an address at the organizing ceremony.

After that, Kayan Township USDA Secretary U Myint Oo accepted 1,325 membership applications from Tamangyi and Kyonu Villages.

MNA

MNA
Myanmar has put avian influenza under control in bird flu-infected townships in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

Continued observation on disease control and detection is being conducted in the rest of poultry farms.

The LBVD also issued a reminder regarding regular flow of fowls and ducks and their eggs and quail eggs and safe consumption.

From the first week of March 2006 the bird flu occurred in Myanmar and it spread to 13 townships in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

The bird flu is now under control in those townships. Duration of the outbreak of the disease is between seven days and 20 days.

In bird flu-free townships, measures on transport of fowls and their eggs are to be taken with the support of the township livestock breeding and veterinary department and Bird Flu control Committee comprising LBVD, Health Department, Development Affairs Committee and Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

In disease control townships arrangements are being made for transport, sale of chickens, ducks and quails with the permission of local authorities and safe consumption.

Regarding the rehabilitation, arrangements are to be made for raising of new fowls, training and holding talks on disease control.

The reminder also includes detailed instructions for breeders and producers, transport, buying and selling of fowls and fowl eggs and safe consumption.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

Vietnam conducts anti-bird flu rehearsal

HANOI, 23 April — Vietnam on Friday conducted a rehearsal on fighting against potential large bird flu outbreaks among people in central Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam News Agency reported.

In the mock situation, a communal healthcare establishment received a person with bird flu symptoms, and then sent the person to a healthcare centre in the province’s Quang Ngai City. The number of suspected patients increased dramatically to 20. They are members of 15 families.

The National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology conducted quick tests, concluding that samples from the people were positive to bird flu virus strain H5N1, and that there was a phenomenon of human-to-human bird flu transmission.

Three mobile prevention teams including 18 health staff from provincial healthcare establishments, who were medically equipped, completed such missions as monitoring and isolating affected areas, and quickly handling the outbreaks.

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Swiss glacier tourist rescued in NZ

WELLINGTON, 23 April — A Swiss tourist rescued from Franz Josef Glacier, New Zealand, is recovering, said a local hospital Friday.

The hospital said the man has a broken leg and a bad cut to his head, but is described as alert and doing well.

The 20 year old tourist fell about 150 metres on the glacier on Thursday evening and was rescued by helicopter.

His climbing companion was stranded on the glacier for several hours afterwards, but was picked up by a search and rescue helicopter shortly before midnight.

There was concern that the second man might have been suffering from hypothermia because he was dressed only in shorts and a T-shirt. But he was released after a medical assessment, said the hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive with care
Iranian President says oil prices "very good"

Tehran, 22 April— Iran’s President said on Friday the rise in oil price was "very good", Iran’s Mehr news agency reported, emphasizing the hawkish position of the world’s fourth largest oil exporter as crude prices have hit record levels.

"The increase of the oil price and growth of oil income is very good and we hope that the oil prices reach their real levels," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said as he toured an oil exhibition in Teheran, the agency reported.

He did not say what those real levels should be. But these and other earlier remarks suggest they should rise above this world economic growth and Iran had previously shared that view.

OPEC member Venezuela has also taken a hawkish position. Zeng, who is the deputy head of the national leadership group on information technologies, made the remarks at the start of the third session of a national expert committee.

The Vice-Premier urged the experts to strengthen research into digital television and other key IT technologies, he said.

Emphasis must also be given to the development of policies that encourage the application of IT technologies, such as the upgrading of traditional industries, Zeng said.

The new expert committee has 55 members and is functioning as an advisory body to the national leadership group on information technologies.—MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow hits Jilin Province

YANJIN (Jilin), 22 April — An unusual heavy snow fall has hit the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in northeastern Jilin Province since Wednesday, affecting more than 33,000 people and causing an economic loss of 11 million yuan (1.38 million US dollars).

More than 25 centimetres of snow has fallen on eight counties in Yanbian in the most serious snow storm in the last two decades, according to the prefecture government.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Vice-Premier stresses application of information technology

BEIJING, 22 April — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan has called for the development of a national strategy to promote the application of information technologies in social and economic development.

Zeng, who is the deputy head of the national leadership group on information technologies, made the remarks at the start of the third session of a national expert committee. The Vice-Premier urged the experts to strengthen research into digital television and other key IT technologies, he said.

Emphasis must also be given to the development of policies that encourage the application of IT technologies, such as the upgrading of traditional industries, Zeng said.

The new expert committee has 55 members and is functioning as an advisory body to the national leadership group on information technologies.—MNA/Xinhua

New FMD cases confirmed in south Brazil

BRASILIA, 22 April — Brazil’s Government on Thursday confirmed 20 new cases of foot-and-mouth disease in the southern Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul.

The new cases were detected in Japora, some 25 kilometres from the Para state border, the State Animal and Vegetable Hygiene Defence Agency reported.

Of 137 animals examined, 20 tested positive for the disease, said the agency, which added that the infected animals would be culled this week.

The Mato Grosso do Sul farmers’ association said a resurgence of foot-and-mouth could cost them an estimated 47 million US dollars.

On Wednesday, when rumours of foot-and-mouth infections began to circulate, the price of Mato Grosso beef fell 17 per cent in the meat markets of the former capital city of Sao Paulo.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 100 people likely food poisoned in central India

NEW DELHI, 22 April — Over 100 people fell ill after feasting at a marriage dinner in central India’s Madhya Pradesh, the second such incident in the past five days, Indo-Asian News Service reported Thursday.

Among the affected people, 65 were sent to hospital in Ratlam District and the rest were discharged after first aid, a hospital spokesman said.

As many of the sick are diagnosed as gastroenteritis, the administration could not rule out the possibility of botulism infection, a rare but serious digestive disorder, Ratlam District chief medical officer KC Pathak said.

Earlier, 35 people had fallen ill after eating at a marriage feast in the same district.

The police have registered a case and taken food samples for tests.—MNA/Xinhua
Three Chinese movies to compete in Cannes Film Festival

PARIS, 22 April — Three Chinese movies will compete in the upcoming 59th Cannes Film Festival, organizers said here on Thursday.

“Summer Palace,” by Chinese “sixth generation” director Lou Ye, is the only Asian film in Cannes’ main competition section which tells a story of two youth fond of arts experiencing their love against the backdrop of changing time and space. Two other Chinese films, “Luxury Car” by Wang Chao and “Gwaiwik” by directors from Hong Kong, enter “The Wind That Shakes The Barley” by British Ken Loach, “Il Caimano” by Italy’s Nanni Moretti, “Sénon Charlie” by Nicole Garcia of France, and “Fast Food Nation” by US director Richard Linklater.

Outside the competition, some movies are also certain to catch attention, such as “United 93,” a real-time account of what was believed to have happened on the fourth plane hijacked in the 11 September, 2001 attacks in the United States.

“The Da Vinci Code,” by US director Ron Howard, will be the opening-night movie on 17 May, but will not compete for prizes.

Earthquake damages buildings in Russian Far East

MOSCOW, 22 April — A major earthquake struck the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia’s Far East on Friday, damaging some buildings and slightly injuring a few people in the remote region, the Emergencies Ministry said.

The 7.7 magnitude tremor occurred at 12:25 pm local time (2325 GMT Thursday) roughly 7.8 miles (12.6 kilo-metres) underground, the US Geological Survey said on its website.

The initial quake was followed by aftershocks with magnitudes ranging between 4.5 and 6.1, according to the survey. “Buildings and a runway have been damaged but there are no reports of casualties,” said regional Emergencies Ministry spokesman.

The epicentre was on Kamchatka’s eastern coast, 70 kilometres (40 miles) east of the settlement Tilichiki, he added. Around 12,000 people live in the area affected by the quake. “Some people had slight injuries but have been treated on the spot. Two planes with rescue workers have been dispatched to the area and people have been moved to higher ground where temporary camp is planned,” he added.

Lula da Silva decorates first Brazilian astronaut

BRASILIA, 22 April — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Thursday awarded the nation’s first astronaut Marcos Pontes with the National Order of Merit after he returned to Brazil from a mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

“When we assume the responsibility of continuing our space programme, it was another signal that Brazil would take the big steps needed to be master of its own fate, Brazil is developing very quickly towards exercising its full sovereignty,” Lula said at the welcoming ceremony, describing the Pontes mission as a historical achievement.

The 43-year-old Pontes told a crowd of cheering primary schoolchildren, from the Brasilia Federal District, that the mission was a complete success and had allowed Brazil to conduct important experiments in space.

“All of these were very important, not only for their results but also for their future effect,” he said, adding that an important goal of the mission was to awaken an interest in space among young people.

Pontes’ journey aboard Soyuz TMA-8, the 13th manned mission to the ISS, was the first trip to space by a South American.
Under-strength Villarreal lose 2-0 to Sociedad

MADRID, 23 April—A weakened Villarreal clearly had their focus on next week’s Champions League semifinal return against Arsenal as they slumped to a 2-0 home defeat against Real Sociedad in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Villarreal rested several key players with six out injured and it showed when the Basque side raced into an early lead with Mikel Alonso and Mark Gonzalez scoring in the first 27 minutes to effectively settle the match.

The defeat left Villarreal eighth on 49 points while Sociedad climbed away from the relegation zone and are now 12th with 38 points after their third win in four outings.

Later on Saturday relegation-threatened Alaves host Atlético Madrid and Champions League-chasing Celta Vigo welcome Real Zaragoza.—MNA/Reuters

Liverpool foil Chelsea’s double bid

LONDON, 23 April—Liverpool reached the FA Cup final and foiled Chelsea’s bid for the league-Cup double with a 2-1 victory in their semifinal at Old Trafford in Manchester on Saturday.

“IT was a fantastic goal for Luis and necessary for us,” said Benitez, relieved that his team withstood Chelsea’s late onslaught.

Liverpool went ahead midway through the first half when John Arne Riise scored from a free kick, curling a low shot between Paulo Ferreira and Frank Lampard at the near end of the wall and past unsighted keeper Carlo Cudicini.

Chelsea conceded the second goal from a throw-in on the right on 53 minutes when a poor headed clearance fell to Luis Garcia. The Spaniard raced away from three defenders to hit a dipping shot high into the far top corner.

“It was a shame,” a clearly angry Wenger told Sky Sports. “There was a hesitration by Carrick when he saw two players down. They said they did not see it from the (Spurs) bench, to lie about that I find very disappointing.”

Jol, whose side will finish fourth if they win their last match of the season, preferred to concentrate on their first-half performance.—MNA/Reuters

Premier League match reports

LONDON, 23 April—Brief reports of English Premier League matches played on Saturday:

Bolton Wanderers 4 Charlton Athletic 1

Bolton, who ended a run of six defeats and four matches without scoring, were three goals up with just over half an hour on the clock.

They took a 14th minute lead with Ricardo Vaz Te’s header from Hidetoshi Nakata’s cross from the right. Striker Kevin Davies doubled the lead seven minutes later when he scored with the rebound after Mexico striker Jared Borgetti’s shot hit the post.

Borgetti made it three in the 31st with a right-footed shot into the roof of the net and Davies added a late fourth. Striker Darren Bent pulled one back for Charlton with a 76th-minute penalty for his 18th league goal of the season after keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen fouled substitute Jay Bothroyd.

Everton 0 Birmingham City 0

Birmingham were clear of the relegation zone on goal difference in 17th place before kickoff but fell back to 18th with this draw after Portsmouth’s home victory. Everton striker James Beattie had a goal disallowed in the 55th minute and an overhead kick six minutes later saved by keeper Maik Taylor.

Newcastle United 3 West Bromwich Albion 0

Newcastle stuck another nail in West Brom’s relegation coffin with their first victory in the post-Alan Shearer era.

Peru’s Nolberto Solano opened the scoring on the half hour when he netted the rebound after Michael Chopra’s shot was blocked by defender Curtis Davies.

China’s Peng Shuai returns the ball to Indonesia’s Romana Tejaksuama during their match at the first round of Fed Cup World Group II at Gelora Bung Karno tennis stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 22 April, 2006. Peng won the match, 2-6, 6-4, 6-0.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

S V A T A I R
P A I N T E R T A N G O
E C U A D O R
O N
K A M E R N D
A L P A T E R I D L E R
C A N O T E Z
H A R B O U R S O L V E
O L E N H A
D L A R A
A A B D S S E C I B
P E Y R N A
Mechanism needed to further push ASEAN-China ICT cooperation

PNAK (Malaysia), 23 April — A follow-up mechanism is needed to implement and further refine those proposals generating from the ASEAN-China information and communication technology (ICT) cooperation, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said here on Friday.

Significant initiatives and benefits had been seen since the First ASEAN-China ICT Week was launched in China last year and issued the Beijing Declaration. Najib said the ASEAN-China ICT Ministerial Forum opened here in conjunction with the Second ASEAN-China ICT Week. The proposals, including the construction of the ASEAN-China information superhighway, joint development and promotion of applicable technology suitable for rural and remote areas, and the creation of an ASEAN-China Coordination Framework for Network and Information Security Emergency Responses, are highly commendable, he said.

The measures, including the establishment of working groups which will meet each year before the ASEAN-China ICT Week, are needed to be tapped to discuss, plan and strategize to implement and realize the proposals or benefits, he said.

Daw Tin Tin Hla
Coop-Officer (Retd)
Thazi

Age 67 years
Beloved daughter of U Mauk Kha-Daw Ngwe Yin of Ward 6 of Thazi, beloved daughter-in-law of (U Maung Maung-Daw Khin Tha), beloved wife of Assistant Division Education Officer (Sports) (U Hla Pe), sister of (U Zaw Win) B.P.L. (Retd) Daw Mya Nyunt (Township Education Officer-Ahlon) (Retd), (U Kyaw Nyunt) of Survey Department (Daw Tin Hla), beloved mother of Daw Nilar Oo (ICRC), U Kyaw Naing Oo (CVT)-Daw Khang Mar. (Ko Tun Win Oo)-Ma Nge Lay, U Tun Lin Oo (ICRC)-Daw Saw Yu, and Ko Bu Htoo Maung (a) Maung Kyaw Lin Oo, beloved grandmother of eight grandchildren, Daw Tin Tin Hla passed away at 4 am on 23-4-2006 at Room-002, Building L-1, Mya Kan Tha Housing Estate, Hlaine Township, Yangon. Funeral services will be held at Yay Way Cemetery at 2 pm on 25-4-2006. The vehicles will leave the house at 12.30 pm on that day.

Bereaved Family

Former soccer referee Pierluigi Collina of Italy attends a promotional event in Shanghai on 22 April, 2006. Collina is in Shanghai for the first time as part of a promotional event in town. — INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 23 April 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder showers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kayin and Mon States. Lower Sagraing, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Magway and Aunglan (42°C) each and Minbu (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yay (0.99) inch,Yangon (Coco Island) (0.87) inch and Dawei (0.56) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-4-2006 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 23-4-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 23-4-2006 was (69%). Total sunshine hours on 22-4-2006 was (7.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 23-4-2006 were nil at Mongaladon and Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (0.04) inch at Mongaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.59) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (00:30) hours MST on 23-4-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-4-2006: Isolated rain or thunder showers are likely in Mon and Kayin States, Ayeayawady, Yangon, Bago, Taninthayi and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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 two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 24-4-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Secretary-1 attends keeping of religious objects in upper reliquary, hoists Shwehtidaw (umbrella) at Maha Tejamuni Pagoda in Hlinethaya

Yangon, 23 April — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to keep religious objects in the upper reliquary and hoist Shwehtidaw (umbrella), emerald bowl and Shwekyar Thingan (robes) and consecrate the pagoda held at Maha Tejamuni Pagoda in Ngwe Pinle Fishery Industrial Zone on Bawgawady Hill in Hlinethaya Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan Maha Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathaga Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win, senior military officers, departmental officials, members of BODs of Ngwe Pinle Fishery Industrial Zone, Shwehtidaw—(umbrella) donor U Kyaw Nyunt and other wellwishers, members of Myanmar Material and Child Welfare Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, teachers and students, and guests.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cornerstone-laying and cash donation ceremonies of Sasana Beikman in Thanlyin

Yangon, 23 April — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to lay cornerstones for the construction of Sasana Beikman at the corner of Kyaiikkhauk Pagoda Road and Co-operative Degree College Street in Thanlyin this morning. A cash donation ceremony for the Beikman was also held in conjunction with the cornerstone-laying ceremony.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe was accompanied by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa. In the office of the administrative committee for construction of the Sasana Beikman, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party were briefed by Committee Chairman Lt-Col Myat Soe (Retd) on the site chosen for construction of the Beikman, formation of committees, land preparations, stake-driving and collecting of funds.

At 7 am, the cornerstone-laying ceremony took place. At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Myint Swe put a gems casket in the cornerstone.

At the cash donation ceremony for construction of the Sasana Beikman, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Col Tin Oo of Thanlyin Station and Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyae accepted cash donations made by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Today’s cash donations amounted to K 70,280,640.

Myint Soe (Natala)