True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation wherever he lives to cultivate and possess strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to uphold and safeguard.

YANGON, 25 April—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein received the visiting President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev and party at Zeyarthiri Beikman, Konmyinttha, here this evening.

Also present at the call were Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials and Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Oleg V Kabanov.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation and party.

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

Wednesday, 26 April, 2006

**Work towards an industrial nation and boost production**

It hardly need be emphasized that industrial development plays a pivotal role in our endeavour for modernization of the nation. And only with the industrial development, trade and manufacturing industry will flourish.

Therefore, the government is striving for the establishment of basic industries to transform the nation into an industrial one. Not only are new factories that produce import-substitute items being constructed but also existing ones are being upgraded.

At such a time like this, it is necessary to make efforts to produce consumer goods and equipment that are in great demand in agricultural and manufacturing industries.

The Ministry of Industry-1 is establishing, wherever necessary in the nation, factories that produce consumer and household goods. The pulp factory (Thaibaung) and the Maubin paper factory meet the domestic consumption for paper in addition to creating job opportunities for local people. Similarly, the textile factories at Pakokku, Sagaing, Pwintbyu and Salingyi and the textile and finishing factories at Shwedaung and Paleik meet the domestic demand for textiles.

The Ministry of Industry-1 has also opened a 30-ton hydrogen peroxide factory in Chauk Township in Magway Division on 24 April. Hydrogen peroxide can be used in bleaching pulp, textiles, fats, wax, leather, glue, wool and tobacco, treating industrial waste water and manufacturing vitamin B1 injection and prothionamide (TB drug), dexamethasone, cortisol and pesticides.

Establishment of modern factories and the ones that produce import-substitute items create jobs for local people and will surely contribute to the emergence of an industrial nation. At a time when the government and the private sector are working in concert to transform the nation into an industrial one, we would like to call on all those responsible for factories and workshops to work as hard as they can be able to boost production as high as possible.

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**Departments, enterprises under F&R Ministry inspected in Myitkyina, Waingmaw MEB (Branch) opened**

**Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses the opening of Waingmaw Myanma Economic Bank (Branch).** — MNA

**Yangon, 25 April** — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, together with Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Myanma Economic Bank Managing Director U Myat Maw and Internal Revenue Department Director-General U Hsan Tun, met with service personnel of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue at the town hall of Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 22 April and they, after hearing reports by officials concerned, called them on to strive for the realization of the set objectives of the ministry and to work in the interest of the country.

Next, the commander and the minister visited the Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Small Loans Enterprise, Myanma Insurance, Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department and Pension Department in Myitkyina. On 23 April morning, the commander, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe attended the opening of Waingmaw MEB (Branch). Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun spoke on the occasion. — MNA

**‘Carrier’ aircons introduced**

**Yangon, 25 April** — Constructive Engineer Ltd introduced ‘Carrier’ airconditioners at Traders Hotel here this afternoon. Managing Director of the company Daw Thin Waiyi Kyaw and Export General Manager of Carrier Singapore Ltd Mr Alan Chew gave speeches.

The company will distribute in Myanmar market airconditioners from household use to industrial and hotel use. — MNA

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**Workshop on Development of Regional Competency Standards for Training in Renewable Energy**

**Yangon, 25 April** — The Workshop on Development of Regional Competency Standards for Training in Renewable Energy jointly sponsored by Myanmar Engineering Association under the Ministry of Energy, ASEAEN Energy Centre and Global Sustainable Energy Solutions (GSES) Pty Ltd took place at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel here yesterday morning.

The officials of Myanmar Engineering Association under the Ministry of Energy, ASEAEN Energy Centre and Global Sustainable Energy Solutions (GSES) Pty Ltd made speeches on the occasion.

After the opening ceremony, those present had a group photo taken and the workshop came to an end at 4 pm. — MNA

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**U Shwe Mya and family members of No 1321, Zaitgon Street, Mityanyuant Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Division, recently donated K 100,000 to the funds of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Secretary of the Administrative Board of Trustees Major Aung Than (Retd).**

MNA
“LA Times” calls for Dick Cheney’s early retirement

Earlier this week, Bush Press Secretary Scott McClellan resigned and Karl Rove gave up his policy role as part of a White House sweep aimed at reviving Bush’s sagging job-approval ratings ahead of November’s pivotal mid-term elections.

“The remaking of the president in the public eye likely will require more than last week’s game of musical chairs,” the editorial said. “Bush has acknowledged that he has spent much of his political capital on Iraq, and the way to replenish the reserves is to replace the officials most associated with the overreach that led to the tragedy in Iraq —and with the administration’s broader disdain for diplomacy.”

The paper noted broad speculation that Secretary John Snow will likely be ushered out next, but said a better solution would include the resignation of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld —whose critics, including retired generals, have demand that he step aside —and Cheney’s ouster.

“Throwing Cheney overboard would be an implicit repudiation of the excessively hawkish foreign policy with which the Vice-President, even more than Rumsfeld, has been associated,” the paper said.

Cheney told CBS television’s “Face the Nation” on 19 March he had no intention of resigning. “I didn’t ask for this job. I didn’t campaign for it. I got drafted,” Cheney said.

“I’ve now been elected to a second term,” he told CBS. “I’ll serve out my term.”

Indonesia evacuates villagers near rumbling volcano

JAKARTA, 24 April — Indonesia has evacuated more than 600 people living near a rumbling volcano after warnings it could erupt in a few days, but some have refused to leave their land, officials said on Saturday.

Most of those who have been moved are women, children and the elderly, but hundreds are still living near the slopes of Mount Merapi on Java, which has been placed on “Orange Code”— the second highest alert level — due to an increase in tremors.

The volcano, which overlooks the ancient city of Yogyakarta, has been rumbling and spewing out thick clouds of smoke for nearly a week.

“We have been evacuating the residents since yesterday,” said Edi Purwanto, an official at the evacuation station. “About 630 people had been evacuated last night.”

Libyan plane carrying food crashes near N’Djamena

N’DJAMENA, 24 April — A Libyan cargo plane carrying humanitarian aid crashed on the Chad-Cameroon border on Sunday while attempting to land at the Chadian capital N’Djamena, killing all six people on board, officials said.

“It was a Russian-made Antonov plane travelling from Libya to Chad. There were six persons on board. All the six died,” a local government official from Cameroon’s northern Logone-Chat region told Reuters.

The dead included the plane’s Ukrainian pilot and at least two Libyan nationals, the official said. The other victims were not immediately identified.

Chadian aviation officials said the plane aborted its first attempt to land at N’Djamena airport after apparently detecting a fault and then crashed in a field on the bank of the Chari River, opposite N’Djamena, while making a second attempt.

Libyan Airlines Company sources said the cargo plane had been hired by the company from a foreign firm to transport humanitarian assistance. They attributed the accident to “technical reasons” but gave no more details.

Russia test-launches “K65M-R” missile

MOSCOW, 24 April — Russia successfully test-launched a K65M-R missile on Saturday, the commander of Russia’s Strategic Rocket Forces said. The Strategic Rocket Forces launched the missile from a testing ground at Kapustin Yar in the southern Astrakhan region at 19:40 Moscow Time (16:40 GMT), said Nikolai Solotyov, the commander of the forces.

The main purpose of the launch was to test a uniform warhead for land- and sea-based ballistic missiles and newly developed elements of a system designed to penetrate missile defences, said Solotyov.

Peru declares emergency in towns near volcano

LIMA (Peru), 24 April — The Peruvian Government declared a state of emergency on Saturday in southern towns that have been showered by ash from the Ubinas Volcano and asked the military to help evacuate poor farming families from the area.

Ubinas, which had been inactive for almost 40 years, has been spitting out ash, smoke and toxic gases for most of the month, alarming thousands of people living in nearby rural areas, killing livestock and polluting water sources.

The government recommended evacuation early in the week, but it was not until Friday that dozens of people began reluctantly to leave farming towns in the area covered in a thick carpet of ash.

“The Head of State asked for the Armed Forces to help evacuate 42 families from the town of Querapi, in the Ubinas District, the town nearest the volcano,” the government said in a news release. Querapi is an impoverished, telephone-less hamlet 2.5 miles from the volcano, which is in the Moquegua department 550 miles south of Lima.

Evacuees arrived on Friday and Saturday in Arequipa, the city closest to Querapi — a rough six-hour bus ride. Others have refused to leave because they want to stay to protect their livestock, crops, and belongings, or because they have no transport out of the area.

An image provided by the European Space Agency shows an artist’s impression of the Venus Express as it enters an orbit around Venus, which took place recently.
Susilo calls for solving smoke problem

JAKARTA, 24 April — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono here on Saturday called on regional and central government officials to solve the smoke problem in the country and stop the haze Indonesia always exports to the neighbours each time a forest fire took place in the country.

The President was ashamed of the haze Indonesia exported annually to neighbouring countries from its forest fires, Antara news agency reported.

"Let us declare a war against haze. We are ashamed of it as we always send smoke each year to Malaysia, Singapore and other regions," the President said during the launching of the "Indonesia Menaman Regreening Programme".

Hun Sen meets Chinese delegation

PHNOM PENH, 24 April— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Saturday he will head a delegation to attend the 3rd China-ASEAN Expo and the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit in Nanning, later this year, to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

Hun Sen made the remarks in a meeting with Cao Bochun, Secretary of Communist Party of China’s Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and they exchanged views on friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to further strengthen their cooperation on trade and economy, as well as other fields.

Fossil of new dinosaur species classified in N-E China

CHANGCHUN, 24 April— Chinese archaeologists have classified a new dinosaur species, and named it “Changchunosaurus” as it was unearthed in Changchun, capital of Northeast China’s Jilin Province.

The fossilized remains, excavated three years ago, belonged to the ornithopod (having legs or feet like those of a bird) family. Its distinct skull shape distinguished it from other known species, said Jin Liyong, curator of the Museum of Jilin University.

The fossil is one-metre long with each eye socket measuring a third of its 115-millimeter wide skull, and a unique zygomatic process, or protrusion, of its cheekbone.

Road accident kills nine in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, 24 April— A truck, heading to the country’s capital Addis Ababa from Wondo-Genet, south Ethiopia’s Oromia State, hit and killed nine pedestrians and injured seriously nine others, police said on Sunday.

The accident took place Saturday in Arsi Negele Town, some 250 kilometres from the capital, said a police statement. The victims were heading to a local church for Easter congregation when the accident occurred. The injured are receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Chavez backs former US foe in Nicaragua election

CARACAS (Venezuela), 24 April — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday backed the favourite to win Nicaragua’s November presidential election, days after Washington warned the country not to vote for its former cold war foe.

"I shouldn’t say I hope you win because they will accuse me of sticking my nose into Nicaraguan internal affairs," Chavez quipped to former Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega, who joined him on his weekly television show. "But I hope you win. "The US State Department last week urged the Central American nation not to vote for Ortega, departing from its practice of refraining from explicit opposition to candidates in foreign elections.

Along with Mexico’s July presidential election, Nicaragua’s November vote is seen as a test of whether a trend of leftist election wins in South America can take root further north.

Ortega’s Soviet- and Cuba-backed Sandinista government fought US-funded Contras in the 1980s. Washington referred to him last week as a ‘former dictator’, urging Nicaraguans to reject discredited figures of the country’s political past. The North American government is actively trying to unite the right to avoid a Sandinista victory and they say with all clarity that they are investing millions," Ortega said.

Nicaraguans fear America will cut off aid if they elect Ortega, but in a region wary of US interference, Washington’s call not to vote for Ortega could boost support for him.

Cyclone Monica made landfall in the Northern Territories

NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 25 April— A tropical cyclone predicted to be one of the worst to hit Australia has been downgraded, bringing relief to the city of Darwin, thought to be in its path.

Cyclone Monica had been expected to hit the city as a category five storm, with winds of up to 350 km/h (220 mph).

But the national weather bureau downgraded it to category two on Tuesday morning, when it lost power after making landfall.

Forecasters Andrew Tupper warned Darwin residents to remain cautious, however.
"It is still a category two cyclone and we are expecting strong wind, so people shouldn’t become too complacent," he told the Associated Press.

Monica was still a category five cyclone when it touched down in the remote Aboriginal community of Maningrida, in the Northern Territory, late on Monday night.

A spokesman for the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services said some parts of the area had been damaged by the storm.

Maningrida “certainly suffered extensive damage to some buildings and structures,” she told the Sydney Morning Herald, although no serious injuries have been reported.

Cyclone Monica hit Australia just a month after category five Cyclone Larry tore through the community of Innisfail, about 100 km (60 miles) south of Cairns.

A Nissan Terranaut SUV prototype concept study is displayed as a first world presentation at the 76th Geneva motor show in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28 February, 2006. Nissan Motor Co posted on 25 April a 3.4 percent fall quarterly operating profit after it had no new models to bring to the all-important US market, and forecast a lower-than-expected rise in earnings for this year.—INTERNET

Policemen investigate the area of a bombing in the Red Sea resort of Dahab on 25 April, 2006.—INTERNET
Chinese President arrives in Saudi Arabia for state visit

RIYADH, 23 April— Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived here on Saturday for a state visit aimed at expanding cooperation between China and Saudi Arabia.

In Riyadh, Hu and Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz are expected to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral friendly cooperation.

Since China and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic ties in 1990, the bilateral relationship has developed rapidly with frequent exchanges of high-level visits and fruitful cooperation in economy, trade and energy.

Saudi Arabia is now China's largest trading partner in West Asia and North Africa. In 2005, trade volume between the two countries exceeded 16 billion US dollars, an increase of 56 per cent as compared with the previous year.

In January, King Abdullah paid a successful visit to China, during which the two countries signed a number of cooperation documents.

President Hu flew here from the US state of Connecticut after a state visit to the United States. Saudi Arabia is the second leg of his five-nation tour, which will also take him to Morocco, Nigeria and Kenya.— MNA/Xinhua

Ethiopian police seize illegal arms

ADDIS ABABA, 23 April— Ethiopian police said Saturday they have seized some illegal arms following successive surprise searches carried out in the country’s capital Addis Ababa.

Police said in a statement that they have seized 15 various pistols, a Kalashnikov and several grenades and others to landmines.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blasts, but various authorities have identified the most likely culprits as being separatist rebels, Somali Muslim extremists, opposition groups or Ethiopia's archrival Eritrea.

The two countries fought a war over their common border from 1998 to 2000 that cost at least 80,000 lives and tensions remain acute.— MNA/Xinhua

14 injured in Ukrainian supermarket explosions

KYIV, 23 April— Twin explosions struck two supermarkets in Ukraine's second largest city Kharkiv on Saturday, injuring 14 people, Interfax Ukraine news agency reported.

Interfax, quoting police in the eastern city, said the explosions occurred virtually simultaneously around noon in the two stores — about 1 kilometre (half a mile) apart.

Other reports from the city said the blasts were caused by explosive devices detonating in the area where shoppers are requested to leave packages.

Police and Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry were investigating the incidents.

There was no indication what may have been behind the explosions.

Many such incidents in ex-Soviet states are linked to quarrels between competing business groups.— MNA/Reuters

S African agricultural worker found seven years after crash

JOHANNESBURG, 23 April — A wreckage believed to be of a helicopter that went missing seven years ago was found in a forest near Knysna in Western Cape Province, South Africa’s Civil Aviation Authority said on Saturday.

Spokeswoman Phindiwe Gwebu said the wreckage was found with two human remains still strapped into the seats. Another body was found outside the helicopter.

"When we looked at our records we found that it might have been a helicopter that went missing in March 1999 with three people, including the pilot," Gwebu told the SAPA news agency.

She said, according to their records, the occupants were on a leisure trip to Knysna from Port Elizabeth.

The search team at the time had believed that the helicopter crashed into the sea.

However, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) news reported that the wreckage matched that of a green Bell Jet Ranger that crashed in March 1991.

On board were Pretoria businessman and pilot Ian MacFarlane, 55, his wife Francis and his father Boyd, 85.

The trio had been on their way to a bed and breakfast lodge in Hoekwil when they crashed between Knysna and Willowmore, the report said.

Four Canadian soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 April— Four Canadian soldiers were killed on Saturday in a roadside bomb explosion in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, said Canadian military.

The explosion occurred around 7 a.m. (0100 GMT) as a Canadian military vehicle patrolled in the Shahwali Kot District of the province, Canadian military spokesman Major Quentin Innis told Xinhua.

Four service members lost their lives and the investigation is underway, he added.

Some 3,000 Canadian troops have been stationed in Afghanistan with majority of them in Taleban’s former stronghold Kandahar serving under NATO and US-led Coalition flags to stabilize security in the post-Taleban nation.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said last month in Kabul that his country would reduce its military presence in Afghanistan in future.

Twenty-six-year-old Liang Yong carries his child in a basket in China’s Chongqing Municipality, on 17 April, 2006. Liang, who weighed 220 kg at his heaviest, had slimmed down to 110 kg after receiving treatment for obesity at age 23. But his wife Tang Xiaoian, who gave birth to a child, said, “I am very happy.”— MNA/Reuters
Asia Defence expo opens in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 April — Defence Services Asia 2006 (DSA 2006) exhibition opened here on Monday as some 560 companies from over 40 countries gathered to demonstrate their military and civil defence technology and equipment.

The four-day showcase, or the 10th edition of DSA, will see military and civilian defence planners meet with vendors from the United States, Europe and the Asia Pacific Region to discuss various technology platforms as well as procurement of equipment and services for national defence.

“The DSA series has grown significantly to become a world-class exhibition since it was first introduced in 1988 and it is now increasingly recognized as Asia’s procure-ment hub…,” the organizers said.

Currently, the biennial exhibition covers the entire spectrum of cutting-edge technology for the Army, Navy and Air Forces and also increasingly as the showcase for security and homeland enforcement used to boost vigilance, detention and interception at majoraviation and maritime entry points and international border checkpoints.

Meanwhile, this year’s event features a demonstration centre which allows visitors to see exhibitors demonstrate their products.

Bombers hit Egypt’s Sinai resort, 23 killed

DAMAR, 25 April — Bombers have struck again at a resort in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, killing at least 23 people in three nearly simultaneous explosions in a market and restaurant area popular with foreign tourists.

The dead in the budget resort of Dahab, a beach and diving centre for backpackers, included a young German boy and two other foreigners, the Egyptian Interior Ministry said.

Sixty-two people were wounded in the bombings on Monday evening, including three Danes, three Britons, two Italians, two Germans, two French people, a South Korean, a Lebanese, a Palestinian, an American, an Israeli and an Australian, it said.

The attack bore many of the hallmarks of the mysterious Sinai-based group which attacked the Hilton hotel in the resort of Taba to the north in October 2004 and the upmarket resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to the south in July 2005.

In all three cases, three bombs went off within minutes of each other on the evening of a national holiday. In some cases the bombers used small trucks, in others they left explosives in suitcases.

The governor of South Sinai, Mohamed Hani, told Reuters the blasts on Monday were suicide attacks, but security sources in his province said initial investigations suggested the attackers had planted the bombs. — MNA/Reuters

Blair sees party support slip to 19-year low

LONDON, 25 April — Support for British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s ruling Labour Party has fallen to a 19-year low ahead of local elections next month, according to a poll on Tuesday.

Blair has faced a barrage of negative headlines for weeks over Labour’s handling of the state-run healthcare system and his party’s acceptance of loans from wealthy businessmen.

Since winning a third straight election last May, he has also been dogged by speculation over how long he will remain in power. His announcement in 2004 that he would not seek a fourth term led some to question his authority. Labour is braced for losses in the May 4 elections in which more than 4,000 council seats will be decided. The vote is widely seen as a test of Blair’s authority.

The ICM survey for the Guardian newspaper put Labour’s support at 32 per cent, 2 percentage points behind the main opposition Conservative Party and 5 points down from the last poll in March.

The Conservatives were unchanged on 34 per cent and the country’s third-biggest party, the Liberal Democrats, were unchanged on 34 per cent and the country’s third-biggest party, the Liberal Democrats, were unchanged on 34 per cent.

The poll found Labour’s support was at its lowest point since the 1987 election, when the party suffered a heavy defeat to the Conservatives under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

MNA/Reuters

Five killed, five missing in Afghan air crash

KABUL, 25 April — At least five people were killed, five missing and 10 injured in an Afghan air crash on Monday, said authorities.

A Russian-made An-12 plane, which was under contract to US State Department dealing with implementation of counter-narcotics, skidded off the runway and plunged into residential areas close to the airbase of Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand, at noon.

Two among 16 people on board were killed while eight others were injured during the crash in the southern province of Helmand, Mayor Quentyn Innis, spokesman of US-led coalition forces in Kandhar, told Xinhua.

The identification of those people is still unclear, he said.

Earlier in the day, US Embassy to Afghanistan confirmed that some American citizens onboard sustained minor injuries.

On the ground, three locals were killed, five were missing and two were injured in the accident, added Innis.

Monday’s incident took place amid the visit of John Reid the Defence Secretary of Britain to Helmand where some 3,000 of his troops are going to be stationed there in the coming months.

MNA/Xinhua

Fourth car bomb rocks Baghdad, eight wounded

BAGHDAD, 25 April — A fourth car bomb exploded in Baghdad on Monday, wounding eight people, a police source said.

The blast occurred when an explosive-laden car blew off in central Baghdad, injuring eight people and causing damages to nearby buildings and vehicles, the source added.

Earlier, three car bombs detonated in Baghdad, killing five people and wounding at least 40 others.

Monday’s series of car bomb attacks came as the trial of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and his seven aides over charges against humanity resumed in a court in Baghdad’s heavily-fortified Green Zone. — MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese firefighters manage to put out a massive fire caused by an explosion in an oil tank in a workshop in Harbin, in China’s northeast Heilongjiang Province, on 24 April, 2006. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua
The auspicious news of the Myanmar New Year is the significant increase in the monthly salaries of State service personnel, with effect from 1 April 2006. I can imagine the happiness of the service personnel, because a non-service personnel like me also feel happy for the news. I hope that service personnel appreciate and value the government’s goodwill and serve the nation’s interest more.

On the other hand, prices of foodstuff and personal goods are rising at an alarming rate even at the time not any one of the service personnel has received his monthly salary yet. Traders in major cities are selling cooking oil in retail sellers in quota system. Some of the goods available at rising prices in the morning were said to be out of stocks in the afternoon. We have heard gold shop owners saying that they are going to close their shops for a long pilgrimage trip.

Although an unrest occurred when the rice price reached K 2.5 per pyi (small basket), people are now able to pay round about K 500 for a pyi, thanks to the government’s development undertakings that are helping increase the nation’s per capita income. Consumers are suffering much from rapacious traders’ attempts to raise commodity prices, with market oriented economy which has no restrictions in prices and other limitations, as the cause.

Merchants are making huge profits out of price hikes resulting from rumours to weather, world situation and Myanmar’s conditions. Price hikes that are based on a certain reason stop when the said reason has been solved. But they never fall back to the level where they started to rise.

The Buddha taught the Samma Ajiva, the just way of earning a living. The Singjo treatise says that the Samma Ajiva has the rules — free from killing lives, stealing other’s property, lying and using rude and loathsome conversation. The persons who are trying to manipulate the commodity prices are against the Samma Ajiva.

The attempts to raise commodity prices citing the increase in monthly salaries as an excuse is an undesirable act. Merchants too should see the salary hikes with pleasure.

Service personnel in every country that practices the multi-party democracy system have to stay away from getting involved in party politics. They must be loyal to the government that represents the nation. All service personnel enjoying the monthly salaries provided by the government should be loyal to the state.

As the government has duly increased the salaries, service personnel should serve the national interest with extra momentum. Serving national interest and earning a living is a way of Samma Ajiva.

Adding zeal and physical and intellectual efforts to the service will speed up the national development pace. The more the nation achieve progress, the higher monthly salaries will the service personnel enjoy.

The Tatmadaw government has made arrangements for setting up a democratic state in accord with the public desire. It has reached a certain stage in convening the National Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map.

Service personnel in every country that practices the multi-party democracy system have to stay away from getting involved in party politics. They must be loyal to the government that represents the nation. All service personnel enjoying the monthly salaries provided by the government should be loyal to the state.

Merchants on their part should stay away from human trafficking, gun running, drug trafficking and other misdeeds and sins. They should have goodwill and sincerity in doing their work.

Hence, let us all including service personnel and the merchants welcome the auspicious news about the salary increases with noble mind.

(Translation: TMT)

China’s Wu Yi calls for improving people’s quality of life

HANGZHOU, 25 April — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi has called for developing leisure services and steadily improving the quality of people’s life.

She noted the Chinese Government always supports and encourages people to develop civilized and healthy lifestyle. The Expo, scheduled to last from 22 April to 22 October, is expected to receive 11 million domestic visitors and one million overseas visitors, according to the organizers. Over 100 events including exhibitions, conferences, arts and sports activities and tourism projects will be launched.

Germany hails Indian PM over improved Indo-Pak ties

HANOVER (Germany), 25 April — Germany on Sunday hailed Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for making efforts to improve ties with Pakistan and make South Asia a safer place.

“I think we can notice good development between India and Pakistan,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel told a joint Press conference with Singh after their talks here.

“I express gratitude to the Prime Minister (Singh) for his efforts over the last two years to improve ties with Pakistan and turn the region a safer place.”

Iranian President threatens to “reconsider” nuclear policy

TEHERAN, 25 April — Iran’s hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Monday that his country would “reconsider” its cooperation with the UN atomic agency if Western countries continue to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear technologies.

“Working in the framework of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the nuclear agency is our concrete policy, but what has more than 30 years of membership in the agency given us?” the President complained at a Press conference.

Mr Romi Malhotra, Managing Director, Dell International, inaugurating the ‘Dell Computer Centre’ in Hyderabad on 24 April, 2006. — INTERNET
Commander, minister inspect extension of runway of Myitkyina Airport

YANGON, 25 April — Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected extension of Myitkyina Airport. — (TRANSPORT)

The commander and the minister gave instructions on growing of plants, cultivation of physic nut, efforts for earning income and security. They inspected paving of road in the north of the runway and progress of work. MNA

YANGON, 25 April — Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected extension of Myitkyina Airport. — (TRANSPORT)

Preventive measures against diarrhoea launched in Insein Township

YANGON, 25 April — Jointly organized by Department of Health under the Ministry of Health and Yangon City Development Committee, preventive measures against diarrhoea in which mass of the people participated took place in Insein Township, Yangon North District, this morning. Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa encouraged the participants and made arrangements to fulfill the needs. First, the mayor and the vice-mayor arrived at Head of Township Administration Department Office and they met with officials from Department of Health, local authorities and members of social organizations.

During the meeting, officials reported to the mayor and the vice-mayor on an area of the township, residing of over 230,000 people in 21 wards, diarrhoea outbreak in the wards from January to April during 2006, preventive measures against diarrhoea and the outbreak of the disease occurred in four districts monthly and yearly in Yangon Division with the use of charts.

Next, the mayor and the vice-mayor inspected educative talks on preventive measures against diarrhoea given by health officers from Township Health Department and YCDC, building of fly-proof latrines by departmental officials and members of Township Union and earth work. The commander and the minister gave instructions on growing of plants, cultivation of physic nut, efforts for earning income and security. They inspected paving of road in the north of the runway and progress of work. MNA

USDA CEC member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint donates sports gear to trainees of the second national culture, morals and public welfare courses of Sagaing Division USDA on 25 April 2006. (News reported) — SPED

Agricultural farms inspected in Lashio Township

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing on 21 April inspected the model mixed-crop plantation of physic nut and sunflower, physic nut research farm, the research farm of physic nut, pineapple and lychee, the mixed-crop plantation of physic nut and sunflower and 100-acre physic nut plot of the command.

Next, the commander inspected No 3 highland farming near Narpha Village in Lashio, the 1000-acre physic nut farm of the command, the 1000-acre physic nut farm of Hnin Hnin Khaing Co Ltd, the model 100-acre physic nut farm of local regiment near Hopeik Village, and the 10-acre model physic nut plantation of local regiment of Lashio Station and gave instructions to the officials on the farms. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April — A workshop on education on prevention against human trafficking held in Pathein City on 20 April. Present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Thu Maung Aung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, staff officers, Col Khin Maung Si of Special Investigation Department of Myanmar Police Force, deputy leader of the project on prevention against human trafficking and cooperation in Asia region Mr Willem Pretorious and members and departmental officials.

The commander delivered a speech and greeted the participants. Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs discussed measures taken on prevention against human trafficking in Myanmar and those of project on prevention against human trafficking and cooperation in Asia region international laws. MNA

Gifts for Nophahtaw Village Primary School, Hlegu Township

YANGON, 25 April — Myanmar ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association made cash donations towards the basic education primary school in Nophahtaw Village in Hlegu Township this morning.

Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mme Dr Daw Khin Mya Win, Soe, wife of the Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min; Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, staff officers, Col Khin Maung Si of Special Investigation Department of Myanmar Police Force, deputy leader of the project on prevention against human trafficking and cooperation in Asia region Mr Willem Pretorious and members and departmental officials.

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Solidarity and Development Association and sanitation tasks. — MNA
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Wednesday, 26 April, 2006

YANGON, 25 April—The General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs launched its Course No 4 for administration staff (grade II) at its training school in Mingaladon Township here yesterday.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivered an address to the ceremony, saying that the trainees, township deputy heads, will become heads of township GADs. The course is aimed at enabling the trainees to effectively shoulder duties assigned by the State after being promoted to township heads. He spoke of the need for the trainees to enhance their qualifications and morale.

The minister later inspected crop plantations and fish breeding ponds at the farm No 3 of the Prisons Department in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division.

YANGON, 25 April — Central Executive Committee member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met with secretaries, joint secretaries and executives of Sagaing Division, Monywa, Shwebo, Kale, Katha, Tamu and Mawlaik district associations and township associations in Monywa on 21 April.

The following day, Patron of Division USDA Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the minister and party attended the ceremony to open Nawade building of Winmama village affiliated high school in Kani Township. The 150-foot by 30-foot one-storey building was built at a cost of K 1.3 million, to which the government provided K 0.6 million and the locals contributed K 7 million. Later, they attended the ceremony to open the village biogas-run power station. Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe and family donated K 5 million and the public provided K 0.65 million to erect the station at a cost of K 5.65 million. The 15-kilowatt station is supplying power to switch on 200 2-foot fluorescent lamps and two televisions, and operate two video houses. The commander and the minister cordially met with the villagers, speaking of the need to make concerted efforts for rural development. They presented exercise books and sports equipment for the village.

At Tapon village, they attended the ceremony to open a biogas-fired power station that was built by Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe and family at a cost of K 5 million. After a meeting with the locals, they presented exercise books and sports equipment for the village. They also attended the ceremony to repair the schools in Thakhutta and Nyaunggan villages. A total of K 3.6 million was presented for the schools. — MNA

YANGON, 25 April — President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev and party called on Chief Justice U Aung Toe at his office here at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Ambassador of Russian Federation Mr Oleg V Kabanov, Director-General of Supreme Court and Director U Htin Zaw. President of Supreme Court Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev also called on Attorney-General U Aye Maung at the latter’s office.

Present at the call were Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and officials of the Attorney-General’s Office.

At 7.30 am, the guests together with Justice U Aung Ngwe and officials visited the Shwedagon Pagoda where they offered flowers, light and joss sticks.

Next, the guests paid homage to Jade Buddha image and observed the bell of King Thalun and the umbrella zedi. After signing in the visitors’ book, Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev viewed the documentary photo booth of the Pagoda. After that, the guests visited the Myanmar Drugs Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawady and Kyundaw Streets in Kamayut Township.

Next, the guests observed hearing the case by Justice U Chit Lwin at Supreme Court.

At 6.30 pm, Chief Justice U Aung Toe hosted a dinner to the guests at Karaweik Palace.

President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation calls on Chief Justice U Aung Toe

Chief Justice U Aung Toe hosts dinner in honour of President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev and party. — MNA
UN renovation clears hurdle after US stands aside

UNITED NATIONS, 25 April—A UN committee on Monday approved the next phase of a long-awaited renovation of United Nations headquarters after the United States dropped its opposition to some of the spending.

Washington let the project move ahead after Louis Frederick Reuter, who is managing the project as executive director of the UN Capital Master Plan, publicly warned last week that each day of delay increased costs by $225,000 US dollars. A resolution adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly’s budget committee authorized the immediate spending of $23.5 million US dollars for design and preconstruction work and the commitment of an additional $77 million US dollars toward building a new office building on a lawn inside the headquarters compound.

The United States had blocked the resolution for about a month, arguing it was premature to approve the $77 million US dollars before UN members decided whether the new building would be a temporary or permanent addition.

“We believe such a decision on strategy is critical before significant funds are approved for this project. Therefore we must dissociate from the consensus on this resolution today,” US Ambassador John Bolton told the committee.

MWAF Vice-President observes tasks of women’s affairs in Mon State

Myitmaung Maung Tin and Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China Vice-President Ms Niu Yuhong sign the supply contract between the two nations in the presence of Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Chinese Minister for Information Industry Mr Wang Xudong, on 25 April. (News Reported) — MNA

Agricultural tasks inspected in Kyaukse District

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspected the 50-acre long-staple pre-monsoon cotton plantation at the farm No 52 in Mogang Village-tract, Singaung Township, on 21 April.

He then inspected cotton quality, seeds and products. Manager of Division Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise U Myint Swe reported on putting 32,004 acres under pre-monsoon long-staple cotton in 2006-2007. The commander gave instructions.

Kyaukse District exceeded the target of putting 15,500 acres under pre-monsoon long-staple cotton in 2006-2007.

He inspected the 500-acre summer paddy plot and 200-acre Manawthukha strain paddy plot and broadcasting of fertilizers.

In 2005-2006, Kyaukse District has grown 67,032 acres of summer paddy out of the target of 65,813 acres.

He also visited Thittektkon Dam near Thittektkon Village in Myitha Township.

Third China-ASEAN Expo to be held in Guangxi in October

HONG KONG, 25 April—A top official of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region announced here on Monday that Guangxi’s Nanning City is to host the third China-ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Expo in October.

Cao Bochun, secretary of the Communist Party of China Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Regional Committee, said at a Press conference that during the expo, Chinese leaders and leaders of the 10 ASEAN members will participate in the expo.

Cao said the expo will focus on commodity trade, investment and cooperation, advanced agro-technology.

He said, Nanning City is to allocate huge sum of funds to improve services of exhibition centres, hotels, ports, communications and telecommunications, in a bid to provide better service.

He said, by April 18, 2,698 in-door booths and 6,000 square metres of outdoor booths have been pre-registered and the number of booths pre-registered by the ASEAN members rose from one fourth in last expo to one thirds in the coming expo. Statistics show that the total trade volume during the previous two China-ASEAN trade fairs reached $2.24 billion US dollars, with the signing of over 620 investment and cooperation contracts which involved 22 billion US dollars of investment. — MNA/Xinhua
Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department issued a statement on enhanced preventive and control measures against bird flu in Myanmar.

**Outbreak of bird flu and control**

Starting from early March 2006, the outbreaks of bird flu occurred in 13 townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, in central Myanmar. Altogether 9,206 fowls from 408 poultry farms and 5,606 quails from 137 quail farms were culled and 0.33 million of fowls and 0.32 million of quails were destroyed. About 100,000 eggs and 80,000 quail eggs were also destroyed.

During the outbreak of the disease, ban on transport of fowls, ducks, quails and their eggs and movement of equipment used in poultry farms, promotion of bio security and public education were undertaken. The bird flu was under control in those areas on 6 April 2006 with the supervision and assistance of local authorities and the cooperation of Myanmar Police Force and staff of LBVD and Health Department and farmers.

**Transport**

During the outbreak of the disease, the respective bird flu control committees banned sale of fowls and eggs temporarily in the affected townships and transport of fowls and eggs in disease-free states and divisions.

The disease was under control in the restricted zones and the committees will lift the ban before the end of April and are making arrangements for regular flow of commodities.

**Support for animal health**

The bird flu control committee will take measures on transport of fresh fowls and eggs and their products from one place to another with the support of LBVD, the respective laboratories and township LBVD.

**International and technical cooperation programme**

The staff of LBVD are carrying out tasks on spraying poultry farms and disease surveillance, public education and issuing press release. Bird flu control was conducted in cooperation with Regional Coordinator of FAO Dr K Wantanee, expert Dr Parasit, adviser of USAID Dr J Mac Arthur and expert of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Dr Sudarat. Moreover, LBVD staff together with FAO expert Mr Anthony Williams, a British citizen and Mr Harvey Westbury of Australia conducted disease control and discussed emergency measures for the project and performance of the department.

**International assistance**

JICA, FAO, National Laboratory for Animal Health (NAH) and Livestock and Development Centre of Thailand provided equipment, pesticides and laboratory equipment worth US $ 660,000. Besides, the People’s Republic of China also provided RMB Yuan 1 million for use in disease control and the Japanese government equipment, medicines and others worth US $ 2.1 million.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV CHI YUN VOY NO (129)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHI YUN VOY NO (129) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 23.4.2006 and cargo will be discharged into VOY NO (129) are hereby notified that the vessel has declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo. The vessel has arrived on 23.4.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.6 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the pay bylaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 1:20 pm and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Said in a statement.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agents For: MS COSCO Shipping Co., Ltd.**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**Four killed by storms in Bangladesh**

Dhaka, 24 April—At least four people have been killed and over 150 others injured when violent storms swept different districts of Bangladesh, UNB news agency reported on Sunday. Two people were killed when trees blew down on them during storms that lashed southwestern Jessore District on Saturday afternoon and night. Over 100 people were also injured. Standing crops were damaged and a number of trees were uprooted during the nature’s scourge. In northwestern Naogaon District, one person was killed and over 50 others were injured when hailstorm lashed the district Saturday evening. The northeast damaged crops on vast tracts of land. Hundreds of dwellings were also razed to the ground. In Gazipur District, about 30 kilometres north of Dhaka, one person was killed in wall collapse during a storm on Saturday night.

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**Roadside bomb kills three US soldiers in Iraq**

Baghdad, 24 April — Three US soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb attack on their vehicle northwest of Baghdad on Sunday, the US military said in a statement. The statement said that three soldiers died when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb at 11:30 am (0730 GMT), but it did not give further details.

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**Zambia heads for bumper maize harvest**

Lusaka, 24 April — Zambia is heading for a bumper maize harvest due to good rains experienced in this agriculture season and its total maize output is expected to rebound to 1.2 million tons, local media reported on Sunday. Chairman of the Food Reserves Agency (FRA) Costain Chilala was quoted as saying that the bumper harvest is imminent as opposed to the 108,000 tons maize deficit experienced during the 2004-2005 agricultural season.

But for the Zambian farmers especially the small-medium ones, bumper harvest is both a joy and worry. They are anticipating a good harvest and looking forward to a good income as a result. They are also worried about no ready markets for their maize at a profitable price. The farmers and their union are urging the government to take measures to protect them from the exploitation of “uncrusable maize buyers”.

On the other hand the farmers are urged not to rush into selling their maize at the peanut price for fear of losing their grain because of the delay by the state-funded FRA, which is responsible for purchasing the maize. The farmers waste no time to sell their maize also for immediate money.

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**World Bank urges new breed of clean energy funding**

Washington, 24 April — The World Bank is urging its steering committee to approve a new breed of loans and grants that would go to developing countries to help them make power generation cleaner and more efficient. A report drafted for this weekend’s meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank at the request of Group of Eight leading nations already seems to have gained traction among some emerging economies. Scientists have said greenhouse gas-driven climate change could be responsible for everything from Hurricane Katrina and melting polar ice caps to severe droughts on rich farmlands. High birthrates in developing countries mean global energy demands will continue to escalate, adding urgency to the need to act. The World Bank said developing nations need to invest some 300 billion US dollars each year for the next 25 years to meet their energy needs — largely in electricity — so the report focused on ways to make projects less environmentally taxing.

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**Power plant in central Bangladesh trips following fire**

Dhaka, 24 April — Two units of a thermal power plant in central Bangladesh, which usually generates 420 megawatts of power, tripped Sunday following a devastating fire, UNB news agency reported on Sunday.

According to UNB, the fire erupted at No 3 and 4 units of the Ghorashal Thermal Power Plant at about 2:50 pm (0850 GMT) and destroyed its valuable equipment in a two-hour-long blaze. The plant located in Narsingdi District, about 50 kilometres northeast of the capital Dhaka. “Fire fighters from Narsingdi and Ghorashal stations rushed in and extinguished the fire after two hours’ hectic efforts,” UNB quoted a spot account as saying.

The disruption in electricity production is feared to escalate the power shortages in national grid, at a time when people across the country are suffering a nagging problem of outages, said UNB.

Production in the two units resumed on Tuesday following the fire havoc.

“We are trying to resume operation of the unit 3 within tonight. The other unit will take some more time to mend,” UNB quoted an official of Power Development Board as saying.

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**50 injured in stampede at garment factory in Bangladesh**

Dhaka, 24 April — A stampede caused by an electrical spark inside a garment factory here has left at least 50 people injured as panicked people tried to escape hurtlingly suspecting a fire, The Daily Star reported on Sunday.

The spark occurred at 3:30 pm (0930 GMT) on Saturday on the 7th floor of an eight-storied Sofia Plaza, which houses the garment factory Mega Tex Limited, in Jatrabari area in southeastern suburban Dhaka. The injured victims said they heard a sound of an explosion followed by screams “fire”. “Without wasting any time to check the matter, we ran to the stairs to escape as soon as possible,” said Shilpi Akhter, an injured machine operator who was working on the 7th floor.

Hearing screams of the 7th-floor garment workers, other workers on the 5th and 6th floors also rushed to the stairs Workers of Sweater Concern, a sweater factory, situated on the 2nd to 4th floors, also rushed to the stairs causing a stampede.

Mega Tex workers were injured during the stampede as they failed to come down due to overcrowding by workers of the sweater factory.

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**Don’t smoke**

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In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations namely oral contraceptives”.

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Win My Tha, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L., for Wyeth

P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Dated: 26 April 2006.
Japanese version of ancient Chinese medicine tome found in N-E China

Changchun, 24 April—A Japanese version of the Compendium of Materia Medica, an ancient Chinese medicine masterpiece, has been found in Northeast China’s Jilin Province.

The Japanese version was translated in 1927 and published in 1929 by a Japanese publishing house, which produced specialist reference publications, said Pi Fusheng, a collector of and expert on ancient documents in the province. The book was spotted at a flea market in Jilin City by another collector, Pi said.

“It is a rare book even in Japan,” Pi said. The book was probably brought into China by Japanese medical experts during the 1931-1945 Japanese aggression of China.

The Compendium of Materia Medica was written by the pharmacologist and physician Li Shizhen (1518-1592) and published in 1596, four years after his death.

The book was known as the most comprehensive pharmacopoeia in the world, containing specifications of 1,892 medicinal herbs and 11,000 prescriptions—all identified by Li himself.

The Compendium of Materia Medica, or Bencao Gangmu in Chinese, is considered one of the key achievements of China’s ancient civilization for its wealth of information on medicine, mineralogy, botany, zoology, and natural sciences.

The book was introduced to Japan in the later Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and had a huge influence on herbal medicine research there. It has also been translated into English.

Sri Lanka PM says Asia’s development needs peaceful environment

Addressing a plenary session of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2006, Wickramanayake said while speaking of new models and opportunities for Asia to drive development to higher levels, a peaceful environment is needed and the Asian countries must be conscious of the challenges to which they need to respond.

The Asian region is not without disputes, he said, adding that many territorial disputes, which are the unfortunate legacies of history, can sometimes cloud even a bilateral vision of development.

Addressing disputes through negotiations, rather than military gestures, creates a more conducive atmosphere for economic cooperation and the disputes need to be managed rather than escalating them to a point where they poison the opportunities for development, he said.

Wickramanayake noted that under the chairmanship of China, the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula is being sensitively, patiently addressed through multilateral negotiations.

Considering the diversity of economic systems and their mix of “developed” and “developing” states, Asia needs to strengthen its complementarities and promote practical cooperation, and given economic disparities between Asian nations, safeguards to protect the interest of the more vulnerable states would also be required, he said.

Wickramanayake pointed out major organizations such as ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) that Asian countries established, he said, the mosaic of linkages, networks and institutional mechanisms need to be coordinated in practical terms to move Asia to the next level of economic growth and development.

Further more, a united Asia working in concert cannot be a region in isolation, and “linkages with other continents need to be strengthened”, he said.

Expert warns of possible massive landslide from Mt Merapi

Jakarta, 24 April—Volcanic debris now piled up at the top of Indonesia’s Mount Merapi which was recently declared under alert status is now estimated to total around 10 million cubic metres, meaning that a massive landslide may occur when it erupts, a volcanologist said.

The head of the Mt Merapi Section of the Volcanological Technology Research and Development Agency in Yogyakarta, Central Java Province, Subandriyo said on Saturday that although the condition of the lava dome was stable it was not impossible that the dome would collapse posing danger to people living at the mountain’s feet. Antara news agency reported on Sunday. The agency from 00:00 to 05:30 on Saturday recorded one shallow volcanic tremor and a surface tremor 24 times as well as a lava fall twice. On the same period earlier it recorded shallow volcanic tremor 18 times, surface tremor 162 times and 12 lava falls.

One killed, two injured in Taleban attack on Afghan road firm

Kabul, 24 April—Taleban militants attacked on Saturday a local road construction company in Afghanistan’s southern province of Kandahar, killing one guard and injuring two others, head of the company said on Sunday.

“Last night a group of Taleban militants attacked the compound of Tawazo, the road construction company. One guard of the company was killed, two others were injured during the two hours fighting back,” Haji Mohammad Yusuf, head of the company told Xinhua.

“After the exchanging fire, the guards escaped from the place and the militants occupied the compound, set fire to 14 vehicles of the company and left,” he added.

Tawazo company, according to Yusuf, is in charge of building the road between Kandahar and Uruzgan, another southern province Kandahar, together with Uruzgan, Helmand and Zabul, has become the hotspot of Taleban militancy since the beginning of this year.
**SPORTS**

**Malbranque goal gives Fulham 1-0 win over Wigan**

**London, 25 April**— French midfielder Steed Malbranque scored just before the break on Mon- 

day to give Fulham a 1-0 win over Wigan in their Premier League clash.

Malbranque curled the ball left-footed into the top right-hand corner of the net after Wigan had dominated play.

Fulham are 14th in the league with 42 points while Wigan remain ninth, outside the European berths, on 51 points.

Wigan had the better of the first half and Gary Teale had their best chance when his shot from the right of the area was tipped round the post by Fulham goalkeeper Antti Niemi. Niemi was called into action after the break, saving a header from Matt Jackson and parrying a shot from Jimmy Bullard.

Wigan striker Jason Robert put the ball into the back of the net in the 75th minute but his header was disallowed as the free kick it came from was taken early.

David Connolly missed an open goal in injury time and when the ball fell to Henri Camara he could only find the side netting. **—MNA/Reuters**

**Sainz to run for presidency of Real Madrid**

**Madrid, 25 April**— Former world rally champion Carlos Sainz told Spanish state television station RTVE on Sunday that he wishes to stand for the presidency of Real Madrid, if they are called.

Real Madrid’s board of directors is due to meet on Wednesday, to discuss the presidency.

Sainz told RTVE that he had already put together a team of “young, professional and independent” people who would give Madrid a push and would bring “fresh air” to the organization. **—MNA/Xinhua**

**Palmeiras fire coach**

**Sao Paulo, 25 April**— Former Brazil goalkeeper Leao was fired by Palmeiras on Monday after his team’s 6-1 drubbing at the hands of modest Figueirense at the weekend.

Leao, who coached Brazil for eight months and was sacked after the 2001 Confederations Cup, lost his job two matches into the Brazilian championship which started on 15 April.

**Penarol coach fired after seven games**

**Montevideo, 25 April**— Penarol, one of Uruguay’s two big clubs, fired coach Luis Garisto on Monday after only seven games of the season.

The veteran coach was dismissed after Penarol had three players sent off and lost 1-0 to provincial club Deportivo Colonia at the weekend, leaving them bottom of the Clausura championship.

“Penarol have minus five points. They have taken seven points from seven games but had 12 deducted after a gang of their fans stabbed a rival supporter to death outside the Centenario stadium in Montevideo on March 29. Penarol claimed the punishment was unfair because they could not control events outside the stadium. **—MNA/Reuters**

**China beat Indonesia 4-0 in round 1 of Fed Cup Group 2**

**Jakarta, 25 April**— China won another two games against Indonesia here on Sunday in the first round of the Fed Cup World Group II tennis, wrapping up a landslide 4-0 victory to reach the last 16 of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) competitions.

In the singles played at the Bung Karno Tennis Stadium in Senayan, Central Jakarta, Li Na defeated Romana Tedjakusuma 6-3, 6-4, and Peng Shuai won over Angeline “Angie” Widjaja 6-3, 6-0.

The doubles match between Peng Shuai / Yan Zi and Ayu Fani Damayanti / Septi Mende was cancelled due to heavy rain and an already clear result. On Saturday, host Indonesia trailed China 2-0, as Widjaja bowed out to Li Na 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, and Tedjakusuma struggled hard before losing to Peng Shuai 2-6, 6-4, 6-0.

The Chinese team led by captain Jiang Hong were returned to China Monday morning to get prepared for competitions against India from Group I. **—MNA/Xinhua**

**Belgian clubs relegated for financial problems**

**Brussels, 25 April**— Belgian first division clubs La Louviere and Excelsior Mouscron were relegated to the third division on Monday after being refused a professional licence because of financial irregularities. An FA spokesman said Beveren and Lierse had been given until May 8 to come up with a guarantee of around one million euros (1.24 million US dollars) otherwise they would also be relegated.

Five Belgian first division clubs are under investi- 
gation by police for alleged match fixing.

Police opened their inquiry in November after internet betting exchange Betfair logged heavy betting patterns for La Louviere’s 3-1 win over St Truiden on October 29. La Louviere and St Truiden deny any involvement.

As part of the investigation into match fixing in Belgium, La Louviere’s chairman Filippo Gaone and the club’s lawyer Laurent Denis were charged last month.

Mouscron sacked coach Paul Put in February after he admitted he fixed two matches while in charge at Lierse last season.

Players Marius Mitu and Laurent Delorge were sacked by their new club Anderlecht after they admit- ed to club officials they had helped to influence results last season with Lierse. **—MNA/Reuters**

**FIFA, WADA both claim victory over CAS ruling**

**Bern (Switzerland), 25 April**— FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) were both claiming victory on Monday after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) published a non-binding opinion on a long simmering dispute between them.

In a 68-page report, CAS told world soccer’s governing body FIFA that its anti-doping regulations did not correspond fully to those of WADA.

The court added, however, that FIFA is not legally obliged under Swiss law to modify any of its ex- isting rules.

“This independent opinion con- 

firms that FIFA anti-doping rules do not comply with the World Anti- 

Doping Code,” WADA chairman Dick Pound said in a written state- 

ment.

“Their rules differ with the Code in several key areas, including sanc- 

tions. We will now wait to see whether FIFA wishes our assist- 

ance in making sure that their rules are amended in time for their World Cup in Germany this summer and the commencement of the Olympic qualifying tournament.”

FIFA and WADA both made separate applications for an advi- 

sory opinion from the court follow- 

ing years of wrangling over the dif- 

ferences in their respective rules.

FIFA has yet to fully sign up to the WADA code, the main sticking point being its unwillingness to agree that a first offence by a player should automatically attract a two-year ban.

In its own written response to the court’s findings, FIFA said CAS had “confirmed FIFA’s practice of using individual case management when sanctioning doping offences”. The Swiss-based body also said CAS had ruled that FIFA’s provi- 
sions over doping were “to the great- 
est possible extent in line with the World Anti-Doping Code (and) fully in line with Swiss law”.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter was quoted as saying that Monday’s le- 
gal opinion “laid the foundations for 

resolving any differences that exist with regard to the World Anti-Dop- 

ing Code.”

Blatter added that his organiza- 

tion “will attempt to solve any dif- 

ferences on its own initiative”.

According to Monday’s report neither WADA nor the IOC are le- 

gally able to force FIFA to adopt the 

WADA code.

The court reminded FIFA however that the IOC would be able to remove soccer from the Olympic programme if the federa- 
tion did not incorporate the WADA code into its statutes. **—INTERNET**

Japan’s Ai Sugiyama (R) and Akiko Morigami celebrate with team officials after winning their Fed Cup doubles tennis match against Switzerland’s Timea Bacsinszky and Stefania Boffa in Tokyo on 23 April, 2006. **—INTERNET**
Abuse of prisoners in Iraqi jails continues

WASHINGTON, 25 April — US and Iraqi inspectors have discovered abuse of prisoners in detention centres run by Iraq’s Interior Ministry that were visited as recently as February, the Washington Post reported on Monday.

Citing US and Iraqi sources involved with the inspections, the Post said US troops did not respond by transferring all of the detainees to safety, as they did after finding 173 prisoners, some of whom showed signs of torture, in a secret Baghdad bunker in November.

Only a small number of the most severely abused detainees at one of six detention centres inspected since November were moved for medical treatment, while detainees at one of six detention centres inspected since November were moved for medical treatment, while prisoners at two others were transferred to ease overcrowding, the Post said.

Leaving some of prisoners in centres where their abusive treatment was discovered has prompted inspectors to ask whether the military is following a pledge they saw, the Post said.

“They tell us, ‘If you leave us here, they will kill us,’” the Post quoted an anonymous Iraqi official as saying. US military authorities confirmed that there were signs of severe abuse, including separated shoulders and strap marks, at two of the centres, the Post said.

“I was not sure of the team who went to the sites. If so, I would have taken them out,” the Post quoted a US official as having written in an e-mail. But Major-General John D. Gardner, the commander of US detention operations in Iraq, told the Post, “I would strongly disagree with the statement that Americans are seeing cases of abuse and not doing anything.”

Pace’s directive to US troops to stop any inhumane treatment they see followed the discovery on 13 November of 173 prisoners in a compound run by Iraq’s Shi’ite-dominated Interior Ministry which also runs most of the detention centres that have been inspected since then. — MNA/Reuters
Title-recipient monks honoured, rice offered in Shan State (East)

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April — A ceremony to honour religious title-recipient Sayadaws of Shan State (East) and to offer rice took place at the Sasana Beikman in Kengtung on 22 April.

It was attended by member of Shan State (East) Sangha Nayaka Committee Kengtung Damawdaya Paryafti Sarthintak Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Arieya and members of the Sangha, Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, senior military officers, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.


After that, the commander and officials offered provisions to the three Sayadaws and seven title-recipient Sayadaws.

Later, the commander and party donated rice and alms to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. — MNA

Equipment related to project for generating solar energy for power supply to Kyaikhtyo Pagoda handed over

YANGON, 25 April—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Minister of Energy of Thailand Mr Viset Choopiban and party at his office on Pyay Road here on 23 April.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister Mr Viset Choopiban together with officials concerned on 24 April morning visited Kyaikhtyo Pagoda in Kyakhto Township.

The Thai Minister made cash donations towards the funds of the pagoda, and Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave him the picture of the pagoda as a gift.

Under Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy, a ceremony to hand over equipment related to project for generating solar energy for power supply to Kyaikhtyo Pagoda was held on the precinct of the pagoda yesterday morning.

It was attended by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister of Energy of Thailand Mr Viset Choopiban, Commander of local LID Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win, Secretary of Mon State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung, officials and guests.

The two ministers made speeches on the occasion.

Next, Director-General of Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency of Thailand Mrs Siriporn Saitasuta handed over facilities related to the project to those from the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Those present on the occasion received the Five Precepts from a Sayadaw and heard parittas recited by members of the Sangha.

Next, the Thai guests presented offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

At the auspicious time, the cornerstone laying ceremony for the project was held in the presence of the two ministers and officials.

Under the plan, power to be generated through solar energy will be used for the pagoda. — MNA

* Price hikes that are based on a certain reason stop when the said reason has been solved. But they never fall back to the level where they started to rise.

* As the government has duly increased the salaries, service personnel should serve the national interest with extra momentum. Serving national interest and earning a living is a way of Samma Ajiva.