Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Ayethaya Industrial Zone

Quality products are to be manufactured for customers’ satisfaction

With the progress of industries other private industries will also develop

NAI PNY TAW, 28 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Aung Hwee, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Maj-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office inspected development activities in Yaksawk on 26 April.

Yesterday morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township.

Ayethaya Industrial Zone in-charge Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on the zone. He said the area of the zone was 285 acres when it was established. Now the area has increased up to 782.12 acres. Modern foundry plants were built with the assistance of the government, he said.

The minister said efforts were made for production of quality products and for turning out skillful human resources. The foundry plant can produce 112 quality parts. Private industrialists in the zone produce small vehicles, light trucks, 10-ton and above vehicles including Shan Star Jeep, various kinds of their spare parts, machines for making brick, small generators, fertilizers and foodstuff.

(See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Hydropower projects to be completed on schedule

The government is implementing the Kengtawng Hydropower Project with the aim of ensuring development of the townships in Loilem and Langkho districts and raising the living standard of local people.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the project on 25 April.

The project is being implemented on the Namtein Creek, 30 miles northeast of Mongnai, Langkho District. So far, diversion weir Nos (1) and (2), power intake building, silt excluder, outfall channel and water channel have been constructed.

The water control lake, pipeline, power plant, sub-power station and outlet channel of the plant are under construction. The whole project has been completed by 73 per cent now. Upon completion, it will be able to generate 54 megawatts.

Now plans are under way to implement Ahtet Kengtawng Hydropower Project to support the Kengtawng Hydropower Project and to generate electric power. So there will be the Kengtawng Hydropower Project and the Ahtet Kengtawng Hydropower Project on the Namtein Creek soon.

Simultaneously power lines are being installed to distribute the electric power from the Kengtawng Hydropower Project.

Generation of more electric power is now much needed for national development and better socio-economic life of the people. Responsible persons are, therefore, making efforts with might and main for completion of the ongoing hydropower projects according to schedule.

Minister meets hoteliers, tourism entrepreneurs

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 April — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing met with hoteliers and tourism entrepreneurs at the ministry, here today. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and officials.

The minister made a speech on the occasion. Officials of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services submitted reports to the minister.

Next, the entrepreneurs present made suggestions. And the minister made the concluding remarks.

The minister, the deputy minister, officials and those present viewed displays of Hotels and Tourism Websites and e-Government on Line Systems.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing speaks at the meeting with hoteliers and tourism entrepreneurs. — MNA

Talks on prevention against trafficking in persons held

Yangon, 27 April — Organized by Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, talks on prevention against trafficking in persons was held at Pacific Knitters Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Township this morning.

National Literary Awards winner Writer Dr Ma Tin Win (University of Education) gave talks on “How to prevent trafficking in persons”. Members of MWAF, Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization, Yangon North District WAO, township WAOs and officials of the company attended the talks.

Before the talks, Prof Daw Mya Mya Win of Information Department extended greetings on behalf of Head of the department Daw Kyi Kyi Win.

Chairperson of Yangon North District WAO Daw San San Htay presented gifts to Dr Ma Tin Win after the talks.

Writer Dr Ma Tin Win gives talks on prevention against trafficking in persons in Shwepyitha Township. — MNA

Minister inspects roads, bridges in Shan State, Mandalay Div

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 April — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works inspected Tonhione Bridge at mile post (160) on Pinlaung-Tonhione Road on 24 April. At the briefing hall on new Pinlaung-Tonhione road, Superintending Engineer U Myint Aung of Shan State (South) reported on work of building new Pinlaung-Tonhione Road, building of Shwnyaung-Nyaungshwe-Monghathau-Nampaung-Tonhione Road and Tonhione-Lonmon Road to the minister.

The minister called for meeting set standards in building new roads and attended to the needs. He later inspected construction work along Pinlaung-Tonhione Road. On 25 April, the minister inspected roadworks along Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road on a motorcade. At the briefing hall, at mile post (61/2), the minister heard reports on progress of Yinnabin-Kalaw road section, Meiktila-Yannabbin road section and Pyawbwe-Payangau road and gave necessary instructions. — MNA
US House Committee subpoenas Rice on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 April — Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday subpoenaed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to testify about a central and later refuted administration justification for the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq.

But the administration said it might fight the subpoena, citing a legal doctrine that can shield a president and his aides from having to answer questions from Congress. “Those matters are covered by executive privilege,” said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack, moving toward a possible legal showdown with the Democratic-led Congress.

On a party-line vote of 21-10, the House of Representatives’ Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved a subpoena for Rice, which was quickly issued.

It directs her to answer questions from the panel next month about the administration’s claim — later proven false — that Iraq had sought uranium from Niger for nuclear arms.

“There was one person in the White House who had primary responsibility to get the intelligence about Iraq right — and that was Secretary Rice who was then President George W Bush’s national security adviser,” said committee Chairman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat.

S Korea to tighten technology protection law

SEOUL, 27 April — South Korea will enforce a law banning unauthorized transfers of technology that could have an adverse impact on the economy and national defence from Saturday, said the country’s Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy on Thursday.

Anewlycreated industrial technology protection committee will designate sensitive technologies and monit or cross-border movements, said the ministry.

Under the law, private companies, universities and laboratories that received state research and development funds will have to get authorization before they export technology. Small and medium enterprises that do not have the resources to protect their technology could receive funds and security training from the government, the ministry added.

The ministry said the new law defines the illegal transfer of technology as a felony and allows the government to confiscate any profits from such transfers.

According to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency, local companies and the government spend roughly $24 trillion ($25.8 billion US dollars) each year on various research and development projects.

Some foreign students attended a mock ancient Chinese wedding ceremony in Wuhan, Hubei Province, on 21 April, 2007, experiencing and learning traditional Chinese culture. — INTERNET

Workplace cancers cause 200,000 deaths a year: WHO

GENEVA, 27 April— At least 200,000 people die every year from cancers related to their workplaces, mainly from inhaling asbestos fibers and second-hand tobacco smoke, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Friday.

The UNagency said every 10th lung cancer death is related to occupational hazards, and about 125 million people worldwide are exposed to asbestos at work, leading to at least 90,000 deaths each year.

Thousands more die of leukemia from workplace exposure to benzene — an organic compound used in rubbers, dyes, drugs, and pesticides, widely used in chemical and diamond industries — and those exposed to second-hand smoke at work have twice the risk of lung cancer than those in a smoke-free environment. “Known and preventable exposures are clearly responsible for hundreds of thousands of excess cancer cases each year,” Maria Neira, WHO director of public health and environment, said in a statement released in Geneva.

The WHO urged governments and industry to tighten safety standards to ensure workers are not exposed to carcinogens. Stopping the use of asbestos, using benzene-free organic solvents and banning tobacco in the workplace could help prevent hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths, it said.

US soldiers face Spanish charges

MADRID, 27 April — A Spanish judge indicted three US soldiers on Friday in connection with the death of a Spanish TV cameraman in Baghdad in 2003, according to a copy of the court order viewed by CNN.

The National Court judge Santiago Pedraz issued the indictments just over a year after a three-judge panel at the same court revoked his international arrest warrants against the three soldiers, stating that Spain had “no jurisdiction” to pursue the case.

The three-judge panel at the National Court ruled in March 2006 that US tank fire directed against the Palestine Hotel, where Spanish cameraman Jose Couso was videotaping the US assault on Baghdad, was “an act of war carried out against an apparent enemy, incorrectly identified,” according to a copy of that court order.

But on Friday, Judge Pedraz indicted the three soldiers, identified as officers Philip de Camp and Thomas Gibson, a sergeant.

The indictment stated that they “knew that the Hotel Palestine was occupied by civilians and that there is no evidence of any threat from a sniper or other outgoing fire against them.” — INTERNET
Iran to strike US, Israel if attacked

TEHERAN, 27 April — Iran will strike US interests around the world and Israel if attacked over its disputed nuclear programme, a senior official was quoted on Thursday by the official IRNA news agency as saying.

“Nowhere would be safe for America with (Iran’s) long-range missiles ... we can fire tens of thousands of missiles every day,” said Mohammad Baqer Zolghadr, the Deputy Interior Minister in security affairs.

“The bodies were left on the site.”

Christopher Garver said in the statement.

The military said explosives and weapons were also found in the building.—MNA/Reuters

Visitors look at Spanish artist Pablo Picasso’s masterpiece “Guernica,” at Madrid’s Reina Sofia museum on 25 April, 2007. Thursday marks the 70th anniversary of the aerial bombing of the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil war — the subject of Picasso’s famous painting.—INTERNET

Mily says, Iraqi civilians believed dead in US strike

BAGHDAD, 27 April — Two Iraqi women and two children were believed to have been killed in a US airstrike aimed at al-Qaeda militants north of Baghdad on Thursday, the US military said.

Soldiers were searching buildings near Taji, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Baghdad, for a car bomb network with links to al-Qaeda when they came under small arms fire, a military statement said.

The soldiers called in an air strike and four insurgents were killed.

“Additionally, coalition forces believe that two women and two children were also killed during the strike,” the statement said.

Christopher Garver said in the statement.

The military said explosives and weapons were also found in the building.—MNA/Reuters

MOSCOW, 28 April — A Russian military helicopter crashed in Chechnya on Friday, killing three crew members and 15 paratroopers on board, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported, citing military sources.

“During an airlifting operation of paratroopers south of Shatoi, a helicopter Mi-8 has fallen down at 11:34 Moscow Time (0734 GMT) on Friday,” Russian Air Force spokesperson Alexander Drobyshhevsky was quoted as saying.

A team of investigators have arrived at the site to look into the cause of the crash, the spokesman said.

He said the incident might be caused by technical malfunction or shelling from the ground.

Russian military force is conducting a special operation against a group of gunmen in the Shatoi Region, ITAR-TASS said, citing anonymous sources in the Chechen republican law enforcement agencies.

Three helicopters with paratroopers were dispatched for fire support in the area, where the special operation is underway, ITAR-TASS said.—MNA/Xinhua

18 killed as Russian chopper crashes in Chechnya

Spanish hospital ship lands migrants in Senegal

DAKAR, 27 April — A Spanish hospital ship began disembarking a group of African illegal migrants in Senegal on Thursday after they had been rescued from their sinking craft off the coast of West Africa while trying to reach Europe.

The 91 migrants, including at least two women, had desperately stormed aboard a Spanish fishing vessel that went to their aid in the Atlantic off Mauritania on Monday, before being transferred to the Spanish hospital ship Espenanza del Mar.

It was the latest migrant problem to confront Spanish authorities, who have been trying to stem a flood of thousands of illegal job seekers from Sub-Saharan Africa who try to reach the Spanish Canary Islands in often flimsy boats. They seek to escape poverty and find better lives in Europe.

More than 30,000 illegal migrants, including a large number from Senegal, came ashore last year in the Spanish Canary Islands after making long, risky voyages in open wooden boats from the coast of West Africa.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Indian Tata Tea acquires Polish trademarks**

*Mumbai (India), 27 April* — India’s Tata Tea’s subsidiary, the Tetley group, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the Vitax and Flosana trademarks in Poland, from Indian Foods, news website businessstandard.com reported here Thursday. The acquisition of the trademarks is being funded by the Tetley Group.

It is reported that the combined turnover of Vitax and Flosana brands is 23 million US dollars. Vitax is one of the leading players in the Polish specialty tea segment. Their range of fruit, herbal and green teas complements the Tetley portfolio of black and Earl Grey teas.

It is reported that the acquisition springboards Tetley to the No2 position in the Polish tea market with a turnover of 36 million US dollars.

*MNA/Xinhua*

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**Missouri warns seniors about charity scam**

*KANSAS CITY, 27 April* — Missouri seniors are being told to be cautious about a Tennessee company soliciting investments in a charity that supposedly offers a lucrative “tax-deductible” return. Instead of making money, seniors may be signing away control over their life savings.

Missouri Department of Insurance Director Doug Ommen said his office is investigating complaints against National Foundation of America, head-quartered in Franklin, Tenn. Already, three states, Florida, Iowa and Washington, have filed cease and desist orders to stop NFOA. Iowa is seeking to impose as much as $150,000 in fines against the company.

Officials for the company declined to respond for requests for comment. On its Website, the company claims it helps consumers support charities and at the same time fulfill their financial needs. Investigators say NFOA advertises a way to divert money to charitable programs, but requires seniors to sign away their ownership rights in existing annuities or insurance policies.

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**Greece, India to boost economic cooperation**

*Athens, 28 April* — Greek President Karolos Papoulias and the visiting Indian President Dr. Abdul Kalam announced on Thursday the goal for commercial exchanges between the two countries to reach and exceed one billion euros (about 1.35 billion US dollars) in 2010.

Two agreements were signed by the Greek and Indian delegations: one on cooperation in science and technology, and the other on the promotion and mutual protection of investments. Papoulias said talks were held in a very friendly climate, which was an exceptionally auspicious sign for the further development of relations between the two countries.

“I am very glad the two agreements have been signed,” said Kalam. “Greece is indeed very good on infrastructure building, so Greece and India will be partners in creating infrastructure.”

*MNA/Xinhua*

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**Airbus “A380” aircraft to come to India for promotional flight**

*Mumbai, 27 April* — The Airbus A380 superjumbo aircraft, the world’s largest passenger liner, will arrive in Indian skies next month on a promotional flight for India’s Kingfisher Airlines, news website economictimes.com reported here Thursday.

The A380 is a double deck, four-engined airliner manufactured by French firm Airbus SAS (Societe par Actions Simplifiee).

*MNA/Xinhua*

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**Siemens chief to step down amid corruption scandal**

*BERLIN, 27 April* — German engineering giant Siemens AG’s chief executive Klaus Kleinfeld said Wednesday that he was standing down as the 160-year-old company has been rocked by a damaging corruption scandal.

Kleinfeld told a meeting of the company’s supervisory board that he did not want to extend his current contract after it expires at the end of September.

“The company needs clarity with regard to its leadership during these times,” Kleinfeld said. “I have therefore decided not to make myself available for an extension of my contract.”

Kleinfeld, 49, who has been working in the company for two decades, decided to quit after Siemens chairman Heinrich von Pierer announced last week that he was resigning.

Siemens is in the mire of a series of allegations of bribery, corruption and embezzlement, which culminated recently in the arrest of Johannes Feldmayer, a member of its central management board.

Feldmayer was arrested and has been released on bail. Pressure has been mounting on von Pierer as he was the company’s chief executive during 1992-2005, when corruption happened.

It was reported that as much as 420 million euros (570 million US dollars) was allegedly used for bribes. — *MNA/Xinhua*

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**Lushun cherry blossom festival kicked off in Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 25 April**. Many folk performances were staged in the opening ceremony in a cherry blossom garden. — *INTERNET*

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**Lindsay Lohan graces the May issue of Nylon magazine.** — *INTERNET*

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*MNA/Xinhua*
Ex-CIA chief says “slam dunk” Iraq quote misused

NEW YORK, 27 April — A former US spy chief accussed President George W Bush’s Administration of ruining his reputation by misusing a “slam dunk” comment he made during a White House meeting ahead of the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Former CIA director George Tenet told CBS Televisions’s “60 Minutes” that the administration leaked his comment as opposition to the war grew when no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq. “You don’t do this. You don’t throw some-body overboard just because it’s a deflection. Is that honourable? It’s not honourable to me,” Tenet said in an interview to be broadcast on Sunday.

Tenet said his comment did not refer to whether Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, but related to what information could be used to make a public case for the war. The “slam-dunk” comment first surfaced in journalist Bob Woodward’s 2004 book, Plan of Attack, which portrayed Tenet as assuring Bush that finding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq would be a virtual certainty.

“We can put a better case together for a public case. That’s what I meant,” Tenet told “60 Minutes”.

“I’ll never believe that what happened that day informed the President’s view or belief of the legitimacy or the timing of this war. Never!” said Tenet, whose memoirs “At the Centre of the Storm” are due to be published next week. White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said she had not seen the book and would not comment on it.

The expression “slam dunk”, used originally to describe a basketball move, has come to mean something which can be done with near certainty.

The 2003 Iraq invasion was justified largely by intelligence that Saddam Hussein had such weapons. No such weapons were found, and the prewar intelligence efforts has since been condemned by a presidential commission as one of the most damaging failures in recent US history.

Six injured in explosion near bus terminal in Ambon, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 April — A low-explosive bomb exploded at the exit of a bus terminal in downtown Ambon, the capital of eastern Maluku Province, on Wednesday, injuring six people, local police spokesman Tomi Napitapulu said.

The bomb exploded at 20:30 local time or at 18:30 Jakarta Time at Pantai Merdika Street near a market, the spokesman said. The province had been hit by a three-year sectarian clashes between Muslim and Christian starting in 1999, killing more than 4,000 people and leaving thousands of homeless. The three year-conflict was terminated by a peace deal in February 2002.

Indonesia may print money abroad

JAKARTA, 27 April — The Indonesian central bank has mulled printing the local currency abroad as state-run banknote printing firm Peruri is not able to fully meet the demand, an official said Wednesday.

Bank Indonesia, the central bank, is currently in the need of 6.6 billion new notes for this year alone.

The bank has considered Peruri unable of printing all the notes in the given period, Bank Indonesia deputy governor Budi Rochadi was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

Suicide car bomb kills nine Iraqi soldiers N-E of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 April — A suicide car bomb attack struck an Iraqi Army checkpoint northeast of Baghdad on Thursday, killing nine soldiers and wounding 15 others, local police source said.

“A suicide bomber drove an explosive-laden car into a checkpoint manned by Iraqi Army in the town of Khalis, some 75 kilometres northeast of Baghdad,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack resulted in the killing of nine soldiers and wounding 15 others, including civilians, the source added.

The town is located in Diyala Province, which has recently witnessed a worsening wave of violence since insurgents are believed to have fled to the area after the US and Iraqi troops launched a major security crackdown in Baghdad on 14 February.

Yang Jiechi appointed China’s new Foreign Minister

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We still prioritize Peruri in money printing but for this time around we plan an overseas printing, he said.

He did not say the value of the notes or if they will have a new design.

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BAGHDAD, 27 April — A suicide car bomb attack struck an Iraqi Army checkpoint northeast of Baghdad on Thursday, killing nine soldiers and wounding 15 others, local police source said.

“A suicide bomber drove an explosive-laden car into a checkpoint manned by Iraqi Army in the town of Khalis, some 75 kilometres northeast of Baghdad,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack resulted in the killing of nine soldiers and wounding 15 others, including civilians, the source added.

The town is located in Diyala Province, which has recently witnessed a worsening wave of violence since insurgents are believed to have fled to the area after the US and Iraqi troops launched a major security crackdown in Baghdad on 14 February.

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Wider utilization of lesser-used species

Win Hlaing Kyaw

The world is now paying more attention to environmental conservation. Many problems including climate change, global warming, ozone layer depletion, melting polar ice, rising sea level and acid rain are threatening mankind. One of the basic causes of the problems is the weakness in nation-wise conservation and regeneration of forests. But when nations noticed the basic cause, they started to lay down and implement programmes to protect and regenerate forest resources, reduce forest industrial wastage and apply effective production means.

Of the programmes, the substitution of lesser-used species (LUS) for valuable forest species is an important step. Every tree species has its own properties. Normally, man prefers well-known and more valuable species. But because of the practice, valuable forest species become rare and expensive. The worst is the widespread illegal logging of valuable forests. As a means to protect forests from illegal felling, LUS search and research programmes and LUS uses and markets have been broadened.

Because of her location and topographical features, Myanmar has different climates and various types of forests. Naturally, Myanmar forests are categorized into eight groups. Myanmar has about 7000 tree species, and of them 1347 are large tree species and 741 are small tree species. And of the 1347 large tree species, only 85 species are classified into five groups for extraction and use. Teak, Pyingadoe, Padauk, In and Kanyin are included in the largest export forest products of Myanmar. Generally, about 30 species including Thitya, Ingyin, Tanalan, Thirwin, etc. are extracted for domestic and international markets.

To the extent of my knowledge, the ratio of tree species growing in Myanmar forests are: Teak 6.2 per cent, Padauk 0.6 per cent, In/Kanyin 11.6 per cent, Thitya/Ingyin 8.4 per cent, and other species 67.5 per cent. Myanmar has a large number of LUSs and prospects are high to produce tons and tons of LUSs.

Most of the timber species growing in Myanmar are lesser known species. They are lesser known species not because of their properties, but because of the difficulty to estimate their volume as their numbers in the natural forest are small. Based on their degree of durability, timber species in Myanmar forest can be divided into three groups — durable timber, semi-durable timber and non-durable timber. When the research division of Forest Department studied qualities, physical properties, durability and the impregnation power of 54 tree species, 31 are found to be suitable to be used for construction purpose. Some other species can be useful in producing plywood, parquet, sleepers, sculptures, farm implements, pencils, match boxes, boxes and musical instruments.

One important method is the impregnation to enhance the durability from two to ten times. As Myanmar has large areas of valuable forest including teak and Pyingadoe, people are using only the valuable species. They use other species only in the construction term. Besides, they have never extended the durability of those species. Here, the cost of substituting the depleting wood materials with new ones is high. If those species are prepared and processed to extend their durability, people can use them longer, thereby, the practice will contribute to forest conservation.

Wider use of LUSs will increase the nation’s foreign exchange earnings. Currently, local consumption of valuable timber species is in hundreds of tons annually. If we use more LUSs, we will be able to export more valuable timber species including teak and Pyingadoe and extend our forest conservation programmes.

In pursuit of these aims, the ministry is implementing the plan for wider use of lesser-used timber species in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State. The points of the plan are:

(a) to enable the people to know and accept that buildings can be constructed and furniture and wood-based products, made with lesser-known timber species in place of teak and other marketable species of wood,

(b) to persuade the people not to use much teak and other species of timber that have ready market,

(c) to extensively use lesser-known timber species in wood-based industries.

Under the plan, nine out of 17 timber sales centres in states and divisions had built and displayed sample houses with the use of lesser-known timber species. The Local Timber Trading and Sawmill Division of the Myanma Timber Enterprise is mainly undertaking the plan upholding the leadership of the ministry. It needs about five tons of sawn timber worth about 200,000 kyats and construction materials and labour charges worth about 800,000 kyats totalling about 1 million kyats to build a house. The division is planning to distribute ready-made sawn timber pieces through the timber sales centres in states and divisions.

As the second step of the plan, the division will build a sample house each at the timber sales centres in district level cities, disseminate the methods of soaking non-durable timber species with chemical agents and distribute chemical agents used to extend the durability of timber.

Myanmar earns a good reputation both at regional and international levels in possessing and conserving lush and green forests. And Myanmar teak is valued globally. Moreover, other species of hardwood such as Pyingadoe, Padauk, Thitya and Ingyin have gained a foothold in the international market. Now the whole world is facing scarcity of timber raw materials. Unlike other countries, Myanmar does not have such problem, but it has experienced the problem of insufficient supply of timber because of its growing population, increasing demand and of having to prohibit and limit extraction of timber due to the forest conservation policy.

In such a situation, there will be a significant change if the entire people come to use lesser-known timber species extensively. At present the plan is just aimed at building houses, and it will soon cover making furniture and handicrafts.

In conclusion, Myanmar has a large number of lesser-used timber species. The Ministry of Forestry is striving for enhancing public knowledge about lesser-known timber species. The people on their part should study the specific characteristics and properties of lesser-used timber species and use them extensively in the national interests.

Translation: TMT+MS
(Myanma Ain: 26-4-2007)
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects...

(from page 1)

He said strenuous efforts are being made for continued progress and for seeking more markets.

Next, Commander Brig-Gen Thaung Aye reported on production of motor vehicles, agricultural implements and arrangements for manufacturing of food-stuff.

In his discussions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said the zone was only a smathy when it was first set up. Later, it developed with greater momentum due to the assistance of the government and united efforts of zone in-charges, officials and the industrialists.

Out of the industrial zones in the respective regions, modern foundry plants were built in Ayethaya, Mandalay and Monywa Industrial Zones with the assistance of the government, he said.

With the progress of industries other private industries will also develop. Like industrial zones in Ayethaya, Mandalay and Monywa, the government has given priority to the development of other zones, he added.

He spoke of the need for the industrialists to conduct research on quality of the products. Suggestions of the consumers should be taken into consideration and quality products are to be manufactured for customers' satisfaction, he continued.

He said after laying down plans for development of the industrial sector, the government established industries that are not easy for private industrialists to make investment.

The government will build plants like Pinpet that explore mineral deposits with the use of modern technology for production of iron and steel needed in industries, he said. He urged the industrialists in Ayethaya zone to try to achieve more progress. Next, he greeted the industrialists and officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets responsible persons and industrialists of Ayethaya Industrial Zone. — MNA

Next, the Vice-Senior General and party inspected production process of fly wheel, brake drum and hub drum of vehicles at the machine shop of foundry plant. They also inspected the storage of iron rods machinery and steel blocks to be used in the projects of Ministries of Electric Power Nos 1 and 2 and machines to be used in rice and edible oil mills. They viewed the assembly of light truck at forging shop and production of auto parts.

Later, the Vice-Senior General and party casting of steel blocks, production of equipment ordered by Ministry of Electric Power No 2 to be used in installation of power grid and the process of producing iron rods measuring 40 feet in length. And, they viewed various kinds of foodstuffs, fertilizers, small vehicles and tippers, and concrete posts manufactured in Ayethayar Industrial Zone and the Vice-Senior General gave necessary instructions.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Taunggyi and inspected condition of circular roads and development of Taunggyi.

Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min inspected Taunggyi Hydro power station that supplies power to Yaksawk and Bahtoo Tatyino in Yaksawk Township on 26 April.

Joint Secretary General Col Zaw Min and CEC Member Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein of Union Solidarity and Development Association on 25 April visited Basic Computer Training Course organized by Yaksawk Township USDA at the office of the association and met with secretary and members of township association.

USDA Joint Secretary Col Zaw Min, CEC members Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Brig-Gen Thura Maung on 27 April inspected Public Internet Access Centre being opened at the office of Shan State USDA at Taunggyi and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Bangladeshi delegation concludes visit

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April — Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and party who was on an official visit to Myanmar at the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here by air for Yangon yesterday evening.

They were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During their stay in Nay Pyi Taw, the Bangladeshi delegation called on Deputy Minister for Construction U Tin Swe yesterday and visited Nay Pyi Taw City Hall. — MNA

Vietnamese delegation leaves

YANGON, 28 April — Vice-President Mr Tran Trong Khanh and party of Friendship Federation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam left here by air this morning after completion of their goodwill visit.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by CEC member U Aung Thein Lin of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Vietnamese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and officials. — MNA


d.jpg

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win sees off Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Adviser to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

The Adviser and party left Yangon by air this morning. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Director-General U Win Mra of International Organizations and Economic Department, Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohamed Kharuzzaman and embassy officials. — MNA

CEC Member of USDA U Aung Thein Lin sees off Vice-President Mr Tran Trong Khanh and party of Vietnamese Friendship Federation. — MNA
Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) commissioned...

(from page 16)

In his speech, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win said the government is giving priority to the development of road transport across the nation. Likewise, to keep pace with the developing Yangon, the commercial capital, the State is building infrastructures such as roads and bridges. As there was only one bridge named Ngamoeyeik on Ayeyawun Road in Thakayta Township in the past, there was traffic congestion during rush hours. Now that four warsy Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) was opened, one can travel within a short time to Thaylwin, Kayan, Thonegwa, Thilawa and Kyauktan townships in Yangon South District. Thus commodity flow will be smooth and living standards of the local people will also improve. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun made a speech saying Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) was built so that commodities from Thilawa Port can be transported to all parts of the nation through the bridge via Dagon Bridge without passing through Yangon city. He said Public Works is building roads and bridges that are most fundamental for the development of economic, education and health sectors by overcoming barriers to a network of rivers and creeks across the nation. Now the people can travel to Kungyangon-Dadaye-Pyapon-Kyaiklat-Maubin-Nyaungdon-Yangon (road network) by passing through Bayintnaung Bridge and Twantay Bridge. So far, the Ministry of Construction has built 29 over-180-foot bridges in Yangon Division and Dagon Bridge and Bawchaung Bridge will be opened soon. In addition, 12 bridges, 100 to 180 feet long, have been built and 560.5 miles of road have been constructed in the division. The building of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) started in May 2004 and it is of reinforced concrete. Since the time of the Tatmadaw government after 1988, Dago Myothit Bridge, Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Parami), Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Thingangyun), Maha Bandoola Bridge and Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) have been built crossing the Ngamoeyeik Creek, and the local people can travel from place to place from town to township. So, the minister said, all are urged to try to maintain the bridge for its durability. Afterwards, a local expressed thanks to the government for the construction of the bridge. Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and party strolled along the bridge across Ngamoeyeik creek links Thingangyun Township with Thakayta Township. The length of the bridge is 970 feet and its width 60 feet. It has 48-foot motorway flanked by footpaths. In addition, 16-inch water pipes are installed along the bridge for supplying drinking water. Its clearance is 65 feet wide and 11 feet high and the bridge can withstand 60 tons of load. Upper structure of the bridge was built with pre-stressed reinforced concrete beam and the lower structure with RCD bored piles.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveils the stone inscription of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi).—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cut the ribbon to open Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi).—MNA

A & I Minister meets Vietnamese guests

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Vice-President Mr Tran Trong Khanh and party of Vietnamese Friendship Federation.—MNA

Yangon, 28 April—The visiting seven-member Vietnamese delegation led by Vice-President of the Friendship Federation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Trong Khanh called on Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at his office yesterday morning. Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry. The discussion focused on bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector and extensive cooperation on growing oil palm, fruit, beans and pulses and rubber.

Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) linking Thingangyun Township (Thuwunna) with Thakayta Township.—MNA
Tasks of factories under Myanmar Textile Industries inspected

Minister U Aung Thaung visits Vest Factory (Taungtha) in Taungtha Township. — MNA

YANGON, 28 April — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected production process of Vest Factory (Taungtha) of Myanmar Textile Industries in Taungtha Township on 26 April. At Win Thuza Shop, the minister viewed products of the Ministry of Industry-1. Next, the minister paid homage to ShweUmin Pagoda and looked into construction of the prayer hall and renovation to the platform.

Yesterday afternoon, the minister inspected functions of Cotton Ginning Factory of Myanmar Textile Industries in Myingyan, and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Mines Minister meets Vietnamese delegation

NAV Pyu Taw, 28 April — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Vietnamese delegation led by Vice-President Mr Tran Trong Khanh of Friendship Federation of Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the minister’s office, here, this morning.

Present at the call were Director-General U Than Myint of Mining Department, Managing Director U Saw Lwin of No 1 Mining Enterprise, Managing Director U Hla Thein of No-2 Mining Enterprise, Managing Director U San Tun of No 3Mining Enterprise and Director U Zaw Win of Mining Department. — MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects production of Vest Factory (Taungtha) led by Vice-President Mr Tran Trong Khanh of Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Vietnamese delegation of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue. — MNA

The 88th meeting of the Banks Supervisory Committee and the executive committee of the Myanmar Banks Association took place at the ministry here this morning.

Patron of the Banks Supervisory Committee Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun in his address called for cumulative improvement of banking services and following the laws, regulations and directives. He said that research and development sections installed for sustainable progress of the banks need to work well.

He spoke of the need for the staff to observe the orders, directives and procedures on prevention of money laundering.

Chairman of the Banks Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Thein Nyein made speeches. Responsible persons of the Myanmar Banks Association submitted reports.

Also present were directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, and chairmen, managing directors and executives of State-owned and private banks. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses the 88th meeting of the executives of Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association. — SINA

UMFCCI, Vietnamese delegation hold meeting

UMFCCI officials meeting with Vietnamese guests. — UMFCCI

YANGON, 28 April — Vice-Presidents of the Union of Myanmars Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and CEC members met Vice-President Mr Tran Trong Khanh and party of Friendship Federation of Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the office of the federation on 25 April. At the meeting, they discussed opportunities to cooperate in investment and trade. — MNA

UMFCCI, Vietnamese delegation hold meeting

Malaysian entrepreneurs to visit Myanmar

YANGON, 28 April — A 26-member Malaysian delegation led by Tan Sri Dato Soong Siew Hoong of Federation of Malaysia Manufactures (FMM) will pay a visit to Myanmar from 9 to 12 May. The delegation will discuss matters related to trade and investments with Myanmar’s entrepreneurs on 10 May. They will also hold a business matching on bilateral trade and cooperation.

It is learnt that Malaysian entrepreneurs will discuss matters on employment of competent workers and purchasing of timber, agricultural products, marine products and finished leather and others. They want to sell palm oil products, auto parts, fruit juice base concentrates, first aid equipment, hollow steel sections for furniture, retread tyres, leather footwear for industrial safety, fertilizer, building materials and steel ware in Myanmar. In addition, they want to invest in industries, agricultural-based food industries, production of fertilizer and drinking water in Myanmar. Those wishing to take part in the discussion are to contact Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, dial 214344-49 not later than 7 May. — MNA

World Red Cross Day

8th May, 2007

“Together for Humanity”

“ကြယ်ဝန်ဆောင်ရွက်မှု စိတ်ချိန်ကိုးကွယ်ျပ်မည်”
Microsoft posts public beta of “Longhorn”

BEIJING, 27 April — Microsoft Thursday posted the feature-complete, third beta for Windows Server “Longhorn,” marking the final time the product will be available for testing and feedback before the server update is available later this year.

The latest build follows an unanticipated Community Technology Preview (CTP) build of Longhorn Server, which Microsoft made available earlier this month.

“As they take it for a test drive, our customers and partners will find we made some vast improvements in Windows Server ‘Longhorn’ to help them reduce costs and adapt to changing business needs,” said Bill Laing, general manager of the Windows Server Division at Microsoft.

“This is our most customer-centric release aimed at improving administration, protection and flexibility,” according to Hilary Wittman, senior product manager, Windows Server, Microsoft Canada.

In Beta 3, customers will see new features and enhancements that include stronger security, better performance, new server roles and features, and additional server management and remote administration tools.

The Beta 3 release of Windows Server “Longhorn” marks the beginning of the second wave of innovation to be delivered by Microsoft over the next year. Following on the heels of launch of Windows Vista and the 2007 Office system are Windows Server “Longhorn” and the next versions of Visual Studio, code-named “Orcas,” and Microsoft SQL Server (TM), code-named “Katma.”

These products will provide organizations with an advanced development and Web platform as well as streamlined data management and analysis, enabling infrastructure optimization.

New genes connected to diabetes identified

BEIJING, 27 April — Several teams, including one led by Harvard researchers, claimed Thursday that they had identified several new genes connected to the most common form of diabetes in a major collaborative effort.

The findings, presented in three reports by independent scientists and done by apriate company, offer novel insights into the biology of a disease that affects 170 million people worldwide.

“We’re able to get insights in the journals, Science and Nature Genetics provided great insight into the role played by genes in a disease also tremendously influencely behavior — eating too much and exercising too little.”

They identified three new genetic risk factors and confirmed five others that were discovered over the last few years. An additional risk factor identified by one group has not yet been confirmed by others.

New prostate cancer test of 94% accuracy coming

BEIJING, 27 April — A new prostate test that focuses on a blood protein called EPCA-2 produced by prostate cancer cells accurately found cancer 94 percent of the time, according to researchers at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The new test for EPCA-2 — or early prostate cancer antigen — not only detected prostate cancer but also determined whether it had spread to other parts of the body, according to the study published in the May Issue Urology on Thursday.

“We’ve been able to show that blood levels of it are low in normal individuals and high in prostate cancer, and that it distinguishes between cancers that are confined to the prostate and those that have spread outside the gland,” explained study lead researcher Dr Robert Getzenberg, professor of urology and director of research at Johns Hopkins University’s James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, in Baltimore.

Experts note that the most commonly used screening test today — the PSA, which measures a protein called prostate-specific antigen in the blood — is far from perfect.

Each year, about 1.6 million men in US undergo biopsies because they test positive on a PSA test — but only about 230,000 of them actually have cancer.

Using blood samples from 385 people, Getzenberg found that EPCA-2 correctly spotted 94 per-cent of prostate cancers. Previous studies have found that the PSA finds only about 80 percent of cancers.

“If this test works out, we can avoid a lot of unnecessary biopsies,” Getzenberg said. About 1.3 million men in the United States will have biopsies this year to find only 200,000 cancers, he noted.

“Unfortunately, it does look very promising,” Dr Durando Brooks, director of prostate and colorectal cancers at the American Cancer Society, said of the ECPA-2 test. But much more work must be done, he added.

Earthquake jolts N Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 28 April — An earthquake of 5.0 degrees in the Richter Scale shook Argentina’s Jujuy’s Province on Thursday, causing neither victims nor damages, the National Earthquake Prevention Institute (Inpres) reported.

The epicentre of the quake was located in the Jujuy locality of Santa Clara, 75 kilometres east of San Salvador City, the Jujuy’s provincial capital, some 2,000 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires.

The earthquake was registered by Inpres at 02:26 local time this morning, lasting a few seconds.

According to the Mercalli modified scale, the earthquake reached a three to four degree intensity when it was registered in San Salvador.

Graffiti street to debut in Chongqing

BEIJING, 27 April — A street decorated with graffiti will soon debut in southwest China’s Chongqing City, becoming the largest graffiti building group in China.

Chongqing Evening News reports that the project, when finished, will decorate the roughly 40,000-squaremeter of wall surfacing buildings on the 1.25-kilometer-long Huangjiaping Street in suburban Chongqing.

Artists and students from the Sichuan Fine Art Institute have worked alongside workers, comprising a total of 300 contributors, spending nearly one year on the project. The huge project is expected to be completed on June 9.

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Iranian Olympic wrestlers invited to train in US

WASHINGTON, 27 April — Iranian wrestlers have been invited to train in the United States for the 2008 Beijing Olympics as part of an effort to increase US ties with the Iranian people, the US State Department said on Wednesday.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey said that in January of this year, about 20 American athletes and their coaches participated in a wrestling event in Iran and following that an invitation was made for the Iranians to come to the United States to train for the Olympics. “To my knowledge, the Iranians have not accepted this invitation but we sincerely hope the Iranian regime will allow them to travel to the US,” Casey told reporters.

The United States is at loggerheads with Iran over its nuclear programme and has spearheaded sanctions against Tehran for its refusal to give up sensitive uranium enrichment work. Washington says is aimed at building a bomb and Iran insists is for strictly civilian power purposes.

Despite these tensions, the Bush Administration has tried to encourage contacts with the Iranian people via sports and cultural exchanges, making clear it has problems with Iran’s Government and not the population.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia slams BBC for interviewing Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 April — Malaysia has complained to the BBC for giving air time to failed opposition leader, state newswagancy Bernama said on Wednesday, in an apparent reference to a recent report.

Washington says is aimed in Iran and following that an invitation was made for the Iranians to come to the United States to train for the Olympics. “To my knowledge, the Iranians have not accepted this invitation but we sincerely hope the Iranian regime will allow them to travel to the US,” Casey told reporters.

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MNA/Reuters

Over 50 children fall ill after breakfast in central China

ZHENGZHOU, 27 April — More than 50 children were poisoned by a kindergarten breakfast in central China on Wednesday morning. The children in Xinmen kindergarten, a private one in Zhengzhou City of Henan Province, complained of stomach ache and some of them began vomiting about half an hour after breakfast, for which they had soy-bean milk and fried eggs and cucumber.

The children were immediately taken to hospital. Thirty have been discharged and the others remain under observation. According to initial test results, the cause of the poisoning was that the soy-bean milk was not boiled properly, said doctors with Zhengzhou First People’s Hospital. — MNA/Xinhua

Twenty-three lost at sea off Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, 27 April — Twenty-three people were missing at sea on Wednesday after their fishing boat capsized off the Dominican Republic, authorities said. The US Coast Guard said 16 of those aboard the vessel called the Abracadabra were plucked to safety after it sank about 1 am on Tuesday, 20 miles (32 kilometres) out from the town of Montecristi on the Dominican border with Haiti.

But the Coast Guard, Dominican Navy rescue crews and a fleet of fishing boats were still searching for 23 of the 39 people aboard the Abracadabra when it went down.

The US Coast Guard said its rescue crews, backed by helicopters and jets, had searched an area covering more than 2,380 nautical square miles by 11 am Wednesday.

The doomed fishing vessel, which Dominican officials described as 65-feet (20-metre) long, set out at about 5 pm on Monday from the northern Dominican resort of Puerto Plata. — MNA/Reuters

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 30th April (Monday) Full Moon of Kason, 1st May (Tuesday) Mayday 2007, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act Central Bank of Myanmar

America’s Cup challengers Arona Challenge of France (R) and United Internet Team Germany round the windward mark during their Round Robin I flight 10 match race at the Louis Vuitton Cup in Valencia on 27 April, 2007. — Internet

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Claims Day Notice

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (043)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (043) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am 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.

CHRONICLE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMPARISON BETWEEN PERIOD PRECEDING 1988 AND AFTER

(UP TO 31·12·2006)

This book features five indexes, correct data and figures and documentary photos.

It addresses the success in building the infrastructure according to the political, economic and social objectives for the brighter future of the State.

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Hotels, Supermarkets and Shopping Malls in Yangon.
Indonesia to get influenza vaccine technology from WHO

JAKARTA, 27 April — Indonesia and other five countries are being awarded grants by the World Health Organization to establish in-country manufacturing capacity for influenza vaccine, according to Indonesian branch of WHO.

As part of a concerted effort to ensure more equitable access to a potential pandemic influenza vaccine, up to 2.5 million US dollars sponsored by the governments of Japan and the United States will go towards Brazil, India, Mexico, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia as immediate funding to begin the process of acquiring the needed technology.

"With increased developing country flu vaccine production, there is a dual life-saving benefit," said Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, Director of the WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research.

"Countries will be able to protect their populations against seasonal influenza, which causes up to half a million annual deaths worldwide, as well as millions of cases of severe illness."

In addition, he said, should a pandemic emerge, production lines at these facilities can be converted to manufacture vaccine based on the pandemic strain.

The grants are part of the implementation of the global pandemic influenza action plan which aims to close the influenza vaccine production gap of several billion doses, according to WHO.

It will take a minimum of three to five years for the grant recipient countries to begin producing vaccine locally. Until then, these countries will require support in the shorter term to ensure they can access vaccine to protect their populations.

Kanye West, Rod Stewart added to Diana concert

LONDON, 27 April — US rapper Kanye West and British rocker Rod Stewart have been added to the lineup of artists performing at a July 1 concert to mark the 10th anniversary of Princess Diana’s death in a car crash.

Joining them on stage will be Lily Allen, Natasha Bedingfield, The Feeling, James Morrison, Orson and Status Quo, according to the concert’s website www.concertfordiana.com.

They will join previously announced acts including Elton John, who sang a special version of his hit “Candle In The Wind” at Diana’s funeral, Duran Duran, Bryan Ferry, Joss Stone and Pharell Williams.

Media commentators have said that the concert, organised by Diana’s sons Princes Harry and William, will go “mediocre to steal the show.”

Madonna, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Black Eyed Peas have already committed to that event.

The Diana concert will be held at the newly refurbished Wembley Stadium in London, and a further 10,000 tickets go on sale via the website from 0800 GMT on Friday, 27 April. — MNA/Reuters

ADB approves $7.4b loans to development projects in 2006

MANILA, 27 April — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a total of 7.4 billion US dollars in loans in 2006, 28 per cent more than that of the previous year, the Bank said in its annual report on Wednesday.

There are 67 projects supported by the loans approved in 2006, according to the ADB Annual Report 2006, released by its headquarters in Manila ahead of the 40th Annual Meeting to be held on 4 May in Kyoto, Japan.

"Sustainable economic growth was the most prevalent theme," the report said of the projects in various developing countries that have been funded by the ADB loans.

In the country statistics, China received 1.6 billion US dollars, or 21 per cent of the total loans that the ADB extended last year, making it the biggest loan recipient. From the sectors’ perspective, the finance sector was the top recipient of ADB loans last year, receiving 1.8 billion US dollars or 24 per cent of total loans, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

Laos seeking teachers from Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 April — Laos is asking Indonesia to send its teachers to help its Southeast Asian neighbour improve its human resources quality, visiting president of National University of Laos (NUOL), Professor Soukkongseng, said Thursday.

“We are happy with the cooperation we have with Indonesia,” Soukkongseng was quoted by the national news agency as saying. He made the remarks during his visit to state-run Gadjah Mada University, locally abbreviated as UGM, in the southern Java town of Yogyakarta.

Vientiane-based NUOL and UGM have signed agreement under which UGM would provide scholarships for Lao students.

UGM Rector Sofian Effendi said that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed at the momentum of the 50th anniversary of Indonesia-Laos diplomatic relations.

Effendi said UGM also agreed to send teachers to Laos. — MNA/Xinhua

A woman works in Shanghai Stock Exchange room during the IPO of China Citic Bank in Shanghai on 27 April, 2007. Shares in China CITIC Bank Corp rose 21 percent in their Hong Kong trading debut and surged more than two-fold in Shanghai on Friday after its US$5.4 billion IPO, the world's largest this year, drew heavy investor demand. — Internet

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They will join previously announced acts including Elton John, who sang a special version of his hit “Candle In The Wind” at Diana’s funeral, Duran Duran, Bryan Ferry, Joss Stone and Pharell Williams.

Media commentators have said that the concert, organised by Diana’s sons Princes Harry and William, was in danger of being overshadowed, with a series of major Live Earth environmental gigs only six days later threatening to steal the show.

Madonna, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Black Eyed Peas have already committed to that event.

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Park undergoes knee surgery in US

LONDON, 27 April—Manchester United midfielder Ji-Sung Park will miss the rest of the season after undergoing knee surgery.

The operation was conducted by renowned knee specialist Dr Richard Steadman in the United States. “We couldn’t get to the bottom of it. It does put an end to his season,” said United boss Sir Alex Ferguson.

Park has not played since 31 March and newspaper reports suggested he could be sidelined for a year, but the club have played down those rumours. Dr Steadman is renowned for his work with a host of sports stars.

Ronald, Raul van Nistelrooy, Michael Owen and Alan Shearer are among those to have visited him, along with England cricketers Michael Vaughan and Simon Jones.—Internet

Owen set for Newcastle comeback at Reading

LONDON, 28 April—Newcastle United striker Michael Owen could play for the first time since the 2006 World Cup in Monday’s Premier League game at Reading.

Newcastle manager Glenn Roeder told the club’s Website (www.nufc-premiumtv.co.uk) on Friday that Owen, who damaged knee ligaments in England’s group stage draw with Sweden last June, had a “definite chance” of facing the Royals.

“I will see how he trains over the next three days and if that goes well he will play on Monday,” Roeder said.

Newcastle signed Owen from Real Madrid for 16 million pounds (31.9 million US dollars) in 2005, but the striker had been dogged by injury even before the World Cup in Germany.

He has only made 11 appearances for the north-east club, but still managed to score seven goals including a hat-trick in a 4-2 win at West Ham United in December 2005.—MNA/Reuters

Angry Ferguson attacks Mourinho

LONDON, 27 April—Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson says he is surprised Jose Mourinho has not been called to account for some of his recent remarks.

The Chelsea manager has stated that United have received favourable refereeing decisions this season.

Ferguson said: “Mourinho seems to be on some sort of personal crusade. I am surprised no action has been taken. It’s calculated. We have four games to go now. If we get a penalty against us, Mourinho wins that war. That is wrong.”

He went on: “It is a rant all the time now. I don’t think it is fair to the game.”

Ferguson also pointed to several decisions that he felt had gone against his own club.

“Does he remember the goal Paul Scholes had disallowed for offside when we played against Porto in the European Cup?” said the United boss.—Internet

United may gamble on Vidic

LONDON, 27 April—Rio Ferdinand is expected to figure in the second leg against Milan, while Sir Alex Ferguson will make a late decision on Nemanja Vidic.

Manchester United have encountered a defensive injury crisis in recent weeks, with four senior stoppers struck down by fitness issues.

Ferdinand is the least serious of the quartet due to a slight groin problem and he could be fit to tackle Milan in the UEFA Champions League semi-final second leg next Wednesday.

He will sit out Saturday’s Premiership game at Everton, but Ferguson remains optimistic about the centre-half’s chances of travelling to the San Siro. “Rio won’t play tomorrow, but hopefully he will be okay for Wednesday,” said Ferguson.

Vidic returned to training at the start of the week after suffering a dislocated shoulder against Blackburn Rovers at the end of March.

The Serbian hard man will undergo a scan on Monday, leaving Ferguson to ponder about gambling on Vidic against Milan.

Surprise defeat for Bundesliga leaders Schalke

BERLIN, 28 April—Bundesliga leaders Schalke 04 suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at VfL Bochum on Friday, throwing the title race wide open.

Schalke, top since early February, have 62 points from 31 matches. Second-placed Werder Bremen (60) play their game in hand at Arminia Bielefeld on Sunday while VfB Stuttgart (58), in third spot, travel to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday.

Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi put Schalke ahead in the ninth minute, out-jumping his marker to head a free kick from Christian Pander past Bochum goalkeeper Jaroslav Drobny.

Gerard Asamoah squandered a chance to make it 2-0 before Bochum equalized in the 33rd when Bosnia playmaker Zvjezdan Misimovic nodded in a cross from Dennis Grote.

MNA/Reuters

Kaka: Milan to go for kill

MILAN, 27 April—Kaka insists Milan will be ‘going for the kill’ against Manchester United in the San Siro next Wednesday.

Wayne Rooney’s late winner secured United a 3-2 victory at Old Trafford on Tuesday in the first leg of the UEFA Champions League semi-final.

Brazilian ace Kaka, who scored both Milan goals, does not feel the Italians would be in a vastly improved position if the score was 2-2 and outlined the desire to attack in the second leg.

“That we drew 2-2, it would not have meant the second game would be any easier,” Kaka told the Daily Telegraph. “We would still have had to work our socks off.”

“The two teams are very similar, both very strong, who both espouse an attacking brand of football.

“We are two teams who instinctively like to come forward and attack. I think the combination of the teams makes it a joy to watch.”

“So there is no guarantee we would be in a better position next week if we had come away with a 2-2. You could never hold back and settle for a draw against a team like Manchester United.”

“The second leg will be an exciting match, because it would always be this way whenever these two teams of players meet. But we are going to go for the kill in the San Siro, to win outright.”—Internet

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Small coins
4 Channel port
8 Spirit alphabet
9 Love affair
10 Worship
11 Escape
12 Item at auction
14 Duck
15 Residence
18 Little rascal
21 Force out
23 Femal performer
25 Fixed in opinion
26 Blood pump
27 Show film again
28 Light wind

DOWN
1 Polish composer
2 Fatty
3 Iris flowers
4 Cache
5 Plastic covering
6 Wind jacket
7 Fish basket
13 British prime minister
16 Error
17 Thief
19 Black & white animal
20 Water heater
22 Sweetener
24 Knock unconscious

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 29 April, 2007
Manchester United tightens grip on Premiership; Chelsea draws

**LONDON, 28 April — Manchester United extended its lead atop English soccer’s Premiership today by rallying to beat Everton 2-1 as Chelsea was held to a 2-2 tie by Bolton.**

Former Everton player Wayne Rooney scored United’s third goal in the 79th minute at Everton’s Goodison Park after the home team had taken a 2-0 lead, and Chris Eagles rounded off the scoring in injury time. Everton captain Phil Neville, previously at United, had scored an own goal to tie the scores.

Chelsea let slip a 2-1 halftime lead at its Stamford Bridge stadium in London to hand the initiative back to United in the latter’s 2-2 draw with Bolton. With three matches remaining, United leads the Blues by five points and has a better goal difference — the measure used to determine the tie should the teams be level on points after 35 matches. After the contest, coach Alex Ferguson went over to the United fans to celebrate a result that puts United closer to its first league title since 2003.

United’s first three goals were the result of an own goal on 61 minutes. Neville kicked the ball into his own net when he decided not to use his left foot. Rooney, wearing the No 8 jersey and jeered every time he touched the ball, capitalized on a defensive slip to slide the ball past Turner.

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**Premiership**

28 April, 2007

- **Everton**
  - 2-4 Man Utd
- **Chelsea**
  - 2-2 Bolton
- **Blackburn**
  - 4-1 Charlton
- **Man City**
  - 0-2 Aston Villa
- **Middlesbrough**
  - 2-3 Tottenham
- **Portsmouth**
  - 2-1 Liverpool
- **Shelf Utd**
  - 1-0 Warford
- **Wigan**
  - 0-3 West Ham

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**WEATHER**

Saturday, 28 April, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan, Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Chin State, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan and Thayawady (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungtau (1.70) inches, Ye (1.14) inches, Hsipaw (0.99) inch, Thaung (0.91) inch, Kawthoung (0.87) inch and Kengtung (0.66) inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-4-2007 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 28-4-2007 was 80°F. Relative humidity at 09-30 hours MST on 28-4-2007 was 71%.

Sunshine hours on 27-4-2007 was (9.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 28-4-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 27-4-2007.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 29-4-2007:** Isolated to scattered rain or thunderstorms are likely in Kachin, Chin, northern Rakhine, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago, Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate with temporary rough in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2007:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2007:** Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2007:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).
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

YANGON, 28 April — A ceremony to inaugurate Ngamoeik Bridge (Kamakyi) built by Public Works was held at the pandal near the bridge on Kamakyi Road in Thuwunna of Thingan-gyun Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Huy Win, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers, local authorities, members of social organizations and local people.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that thanks to opening of Ngamoeik Bridge (Kamakyi) linking Yangon East District and Yangon West District, people of Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa Townships will have easy access to Yangon City. Furthermore, the bridge will contribute to development of Yangon South District. As seventy per cent population of the country live in rural areas, the government is undertaking five rural development tasks.

Ngamoeik Bridge (Kamakyi) was the 224th over 180-foot facility of its kind throughout the nation after 1988 and the 29th one in Yangon Division. The four-lane bridge is 970 feet long and it has 48 feet wide motor way flanked by four feet wide pedestrian way. The 16-inch diameter water pipeline was laid on either side along the bridge to supply drinking water from Thuwunna to Thakayta Township. Furthermore, arrangements were made to supply water to Dawbon Township.

The six-lane Dagon Bridge that will withstand 75-ton loads linking Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and Thanlyin Township will be completed soon. On completion, the bridge will contribute much to smooth commodity flow of Thilawa International Port and development of Yangon South District. In conclusion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged officials and local people to maintain durability of the bridge.

(See page 9)