<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
<th>Four economic objectives</th>
<th>Four social objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* 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</td>
<td>* 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</td>
<td>* 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win oversees dredging of sandbanks in Yangon River

**YANGON, 22 April** — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected dredging of sandbanks in Yangon River this morning.

Accompanied by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win left Nanthida Jetty on Pansodan Street, here, by boat of Myanmar Port Authority at 7 am.

They got on board dredger Thihadipa.

The Prime Minister oversaw work process of the dredger along Thanlyetsoon water course of Yangon River and dumping of silt at the mouth of Yangon River. At the hall of the dredger, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe briefed the Prime Minister on present situation of Yangon Port, dredging of the water course at inner bar and outer bar, berthing and departing of ocean-going vessels at Yangon Port and plans to gear up the dredging tasks.

Deputy Minister U Pe Than reported on capabilities of dredgers, dredging of the outer bar, work process, environs of the jetties and flow of water in Yangon River.

In response, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win gave instructions on dredging tasks to be undertaken with goodwill to enable ocean-going vessels to moor safety depth at Yangon Port.

Afterswards, the Prime Minister inspected berthing and unberthing of ocean-going vessels at Yangon Port, flow of water in the river and development of Yangon Port’s environs and went back to Nanthida Jetty.

---

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win oversees work process of the dredger along Thanlyetsoon water course of Yangon River.—MNA

---

The duty to safeguard the unity and solidarity of the national races who have been living in the Union through thick and thin since yore is the inborn duty of every citizen of the nation. (Page 2)

---

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive with Union Spirit for perpetuation of the Union

The Union of Myanmar is a nation where various national races reside. A glance at the trend of Myanmar History will reveal that the nation does not emerge overnight but has come into existence through the unity and amity of the national brethren who have been dwelling in the Union since time immemorial.

The duty to safeguard the unity and solidarity of the national races who have been living in the Union through thick and thin since yore is the inborn duty of every citizen of the nation.

Nowadays, the government is striving its utmost to safeguard and promote cultures and traditions and national character of the entire national people.

At the invitation of Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, various national race cultural troupes of respective border areas participated in the 2005 Yangon City Maha Thingyan festival.

A ceremony to host a dinner to the national race cultural troupes was held at the Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel in Yangon on 18 April with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

He stressed the need for the national races to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map by doing their bit with the nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit for propagation of national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union.

The government with genuine goodwill is taking systematic steps to bring about equitable development across the nation. As a result, there has emerged better transport in border areas, thereby contributing to enhancing the standard of economy, education and health in the region.

During their visit to Yangon, the national races witnessed progress and prosperity of the nation, and they will be able to relate their findings and experiences to those in respective border areas.

The government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point Road Map capable of guaranteeing perpetuation of the Union so long as the world exists.

This being so, the entire national people are to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map by doing their bit for further strengthening national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union.

Curricula for Archaeological Training School coordinated

YANGON, 22 April—A coordination meeting to designate curricula of the archaeological training school in Pyay, Bago Division, was held at the Ministry of Culture on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, the directors-general, the rectors, the principal of the training school and officials.

They made a general round of discussion on the curricula.

Next, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA
China, Austria agree to expand economic, political cooperation

BEIJING, 21 April— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told Austrian Federal Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel Wednesday that China welcomes Austrian investment and is ready to deepen economic cooperation with Austria.

Wen invited Austrian enterprises to take part in China’s development of its western regions and the country’s plan of rejuvenating its old industrial base in the northeast. “I especially hope the two countries’ medium- and small-sized companies will improve cooperation,” Schuessel arrived in Beijing late Tuesday night, starting a week-long official visit to China aimed at promoting political and economic ties. During an hour-long talk with Wen, Schuessel said Austria regards China as an important strategic partner. “China is the second largest trade partner of the European Union and the largest Asian trade partner of Austria.”

He said the economy of Austria and China are highly compatible and the two can borrow from each other to boost economic growth. China and Austria established diplomatic ties in 1971. The trade volume between the two countries exceeded three billion euros (3.87 billion US dollars) in 2004. Wen said China is delighted with the smooth development of China-Austria relations.

“Next year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. China would like to avail this opportunity to upgrade the bilateral ties to a new level.” He suggested the two countries boost bilateral ties by focusing on three aspects: maintaining high-level visits and communication among different departments, further probing the potential for economic cooperation, and improving exchanges on culture, education, science and technology. — MNA/Xinhua

Helicopter ‘downed’ near Baghdad, six Americans killed

BAGHDAD, 21 April—A commercial helicopter has crashed about 20km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, killing all 11 people on board.

The Bulgarian Defence Ministry said the Russian-built MI-8 aircraft had been brought down by a missile attack.

Those who died were six US security contractors, three Bulgarian crew members and two guards — who were reportedly from the Philippines.

Guerrillas have shot down several US military helicopters since the US-led invasion of Iraq.

The helicopter was owned by a Bulgarian company, Heli Air, and chartered by SkyLink, a North American company.

SkyLink said it had been flying to Tikrit, north of Baghdad. TV footage showed the burning wreckage of the aircraft in a barren area. The crash came hours after two foreign contractors were killed in a roadside bomb on the road to Baghdad airport.

Three foreign companies — an American, a Canadian and an Australian — died in an attack on the same stretch of road on Wednesday.

KOIZUMI VOWS TO WORK FOR IMPROVEMENT OF JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS

TOYKO, 22 April — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said here Wednesday that he will adhere to the spirit of “Murayama Statement” and make efforts to improve relations with China.

Koizumi, also president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, made the remarks during a Parliament debate session with Katsuya Okada, president of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan.

“I have carried out diplomacy with emphasis on Japan-China relations,” Koizumi was quoted by Japanese media as saying in the debate. He said that he shares the same view of “Murayama Statement” over historical issues.

Koizumi was referring to the statement made by former Japanese Prime Minister Tomushi Murayama on August 15, 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the World War II.

In that statement, Murayama said: “During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the peoples of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations.”

Murayama also made a clear apology for Japanese crimes before and during the war and expressed deep remorse and stressed the need for Japan to “convey to the younger generations the horror of war” so that it will never repeat the mistake.

Okada, in his meeting with the visiting Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Wednesday, criticized Koizumi for repeated visits to the notorious Yasukuni Shrine. Okada held Koizumi responsible for the current difficulties in the relationship between Japan and China.

Yasukuni Shrine honours 14 Class-A World War II criminals along with Japanese war dead since the mid-19th century. Koizumi has paid four visits to the shrine since he took office in 2001, with the latest one on New Year’s Day in 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Cabinet approves signing of Extradition Treaty with Nepal

NEW DELHI, 21 April — The Indian Government on Wednesday gave its approval for signing the ratification of an Extradition Treaty between India and Nepal to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

The treaty is meant to help Afghans in rebuilding infrastructure

KABUL, 21 April — Turkey is committed to help Afghanistan rebuild its basic infrastructures, visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Wednesday evening.

“Turkey is ready to extend all kind of support to Afghanistan rebuild its roads, hospitals, schools and housing,” Erdogan told journalists at a joint Press conference with President Hamid Karzai.

With the presence of some 60 Turkish firms in the post-war nation, Turkey has been significantly contributing in the rebuilding of the war-ravaged central Asian state.

“I would encourage more Turkish companies to invest in Afghanistan,” Erdogan stressed. — MNA/Xinhua

ONGC gets Asiamoney award

NEW DELHI, 21 April — Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has been awarded “Best Deals of the Year 2004” trophy by Asiamoney — Asia’s leading capital markets publication.

The award was given in recognition of the successful placement of 106.90 billion rupees worth of secondary shares, a company Press release said here.

At an exclusive award presentation function held in Mumbai, the trophy was received by ONGC chairman and managing director Subir Raha and director (finance) R.S. Sharma. This was for the first time that the awards road-show was held in India. — MNA/PTI

Indian Cabinet approves signing of Extradition Treaty with Nepal

NEW DELHI, 21 April — The Indian Government on Wednesday gave its approval for signing the ratification of an Extradition Treaty between India and Nepal to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

The treaty is meant to help Afghans in rebuilding infrastructure

KABUL, 21 April — Turkey is committed to help Afghanistan rebuild its basic infrastructures, visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Wednesday evening.

“Turkey is ready to extend all kind of support to Afghanistan rebuild its roads, hospitals, schools and housing,” Erdogan told journalists at a joint Press conference with President Hamid Karzai.

With the presence of some 60 Turkish firms in the post-war nation, Turkey has been significantly contributing in the rebuilding of the war-ravaged central Asian state.

“I would encourage more Turkish companies to invest in Afghanistan,” Erdogan stressed. — MNA/Xinhua

ONGC gets Asiamoney award

NEW DELHI, 21 April — Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has been awarded “Best Deals of the Year 2004” trophy by Asiamoney — Asia’s leading capital markets publication.

The award was given in recognition of the successful placement of 106.90 billion rupees worth of secondary shares, a company Press release said here.

At an exclusive award presentation function held in Mumbai, the trophy was received by ONGC chairman and managing director Subir Raha and director (finance) R.S. Sharma. This was for the first time that the awards road-show was held in India. — MNA/PTI

A Chinese woman introduces a Toyota’s REIZ on display at the 2005 Auto Shanghai exhibition in Shanghai on 22 April, 2005. — INTERNET

A construction worker watches US soldiers descending from a roof they briefly used as an observation post during a search for weapons and guerrillas in the restive Palestine District in the city of Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, on 22 April 2005. — INTERNET

A construction worker watches US soldiers descending from a roof they briefly used as an observation post during a search for weapons and guerrillas in the restive Palestine District in the city of Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, on 22 April 2005. — INTERNET
Pakistan denies plan to operate along border with US forces

ISLAMABAD, 21 April — A top Pakistani military officer Wednesday dismissed remarks by US Lieutenant-General David Barno, commander of the coalition forces in Afghanistan, that Pakistan is planning to launch an operation against militants in its North Waziristan tribal region.

“No operation is planned in North Waziristan,” Lieutenant-General Safdar Hussain, military operations chief in Pakistan’s North-West Frontier Province, told reporters in the provincial capital of Peshawar to brief them about his meeting with Barno on Tuesday, the independent News Network International reported.

“I told General Barno that the statement about operation is figment of his imagination,” Safdar said. He also denied any plan about a joint operation by Pakistani and American forces.

Barno said in the US Embassy in Islamabad on Monday that Pakistani Army was set to begin a major operation against foreign suspects and their local supporters in the tribal region.

He also denied any plan about a joint operation by Pakistani and American forces.

Barno was in Pakistan to represent the United States at a meeting of the Tripartite Commission on 18 April, which also groups Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Barno reportedly said that the US forces prepared to undertake a spring offensive in Afghanistan as it was launched in Pakistan’s North Waziristan.

Safdar condemned Barno’s statement and described it as incorrect. He said Pakistan is a sovereign country and makes decisions on its own.

“We do not take any dictation from anyone and operation will be launched if it is needed,” Safdar said, adding “We are achieving objectives without firing bullets.” — MNA/Xinhua

Militant group claims helicopter crash in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 April — A militant group in Iraq claimed on the Internet on Thursday that it shot down a commercial helicopter contracted by a US company, killing 11 on board.

“The heroes of the Islamic Army in Iraq shot down a transport plane of the army of atheism,” said a statement posted on the Internet.

Besides, a three-minute video displayed on the Internet showed the burning remains of the crashed helicopter and the burned-out corpses.

The authenticity of the video could not be verified.

A spokesman of US Embassy in Baghdad confirmed that the Bulgarian civilian helicopter crashed north of Baghdad on Thursday, killing six Americans and three Bulgarians on board.

Later reports said that two security guards said to be from Fiji were also among the dead.

Guerillas in Iraq sometimes managed to shoot down helicopters and damage planes with projectiles. A US transport helicopter was downed by rocket-s near Falluja in 2003, with at least 16 US soldiers aboard killed.

A British soldier secures the area where a roadside bomb exploded in the Iraqi southern city of Basra, on 22 April 2005. — Internet

Iranian plane crash kills infant, injures many

TEHRAN, 21 April — An Iranian passenger plane crashed fire while landing at Tehran’s main airport on Wednesday night, killing an infant and injuring a large numbers of passengers, the official IRNA news agency reported.

According to the report, the Boeing 707 of Saha Airlines had a bad landing at 11.15 local time (19.45 GMT) at the Mehrabad International Airport where one of its tires was blown off while landing.

“Due to a still unknown reason”, the plane fell into a ditch in Kan River while touching down and one of the passengers’ infant fell into the river while the passengers were being evacuated through the emergency exit, the Saha managing director was quoted as saying.

Penumbral eclipse to occur in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 21 April — A penumbral eclipse of the moon will occur in the sky above Hong Kong on 24 April, according to a Hong Kong Government Press release on Tuesday.

If weather permits, it can be observed by local residents after moonrise that evening.

The so-called “penumbral eclipse” means that the moon only passes through the penumbra (partial shadow) of the Earth’s shadow without entering the umbra (total shadow). During the event, the moon will become only slightly dimmer.

The penumbral eclipse will occur between 3.50 p.m. and 8 pm local time and last for around four hours.

However, since the time of moonrise in Hong Kong on that day is 6.46 pm, the penumbral eclipse will be visible only for around one hour and 14 minutes.

Arroyo orders contingency plans to control oil prices

MANILA, 21 April — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Department of Energy (DOE) to set contingency plans in response to the increasing prices of petroleum products both in the international and domestic markets.

In a radio interview, Press Secretary Ignacio R Bunye Wednesday said the President directed the DOE to paint possible scenarios as far as oil prices are concerned, and propose courses of action that the government can take to mitigate the impact on the economy and the public.

“The response that Malacanang (Presidential Palace) would take would have to be a calibrated one. That’s why the President has ordered the DOE to explain the possible scenario as a result of the continued increase in oil prices.” Bunye said.

A research report issued by Goldman Sachs, the biggest trader of energy derivatives in the world, forecast that oil prices could range from 50 US dollars to 105 US dollars per barrel, due to thin spare capacity in the energy supply chain and long response times for bringing on supply additions.

The report also cited the robust demand for oil and in United States and in big developing countries like China and India, despite the recent rapid increase in energy costs.

Bunye said Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla is expected to submit the contingency plan in the next few days, so the national government would be guided as to the course of action it could take, should oil prices reach the level of the 1970s.

World oil prices vaulted over 52 US dollars per barrel on Tuesday, with US light crude for climbing 1.92 US dollars or nearly 4 per cent to 52.29 US dollars a barrel.

The regulations to take effect on 1 May, stipulates a ban on the use of clean water for gardening. The alternatives of rain water and recycled water are encouraged.

Unapproved use of water for public supply or fire control will bring a violator a minimum fine of 10,000 yuan (some 1,200 US dollars). The regulations, however, do not impose a quota on the household use of water owing to residents’ opposition to higher charge for possible over-use.

A stipulation in the draft on a cut of water supply to a user who refuses to pay is ruled out in the final version of the regulations.

The national capital with a population of approximately 15 million has been troubled with acute water shortage in recent years.

Substantial measures introduced to help save water in Beijing

BEIJING, 21 April — A water waster in Beijing might face a fine up to 30,000 yuan (more than 3,600 US dollars), says the national capital’s new-born regulations on water saving on Tuesday.

The regulations, to take effect on 1 May, stipulates a ban on the use of clean water for gardening. The alternatives of rain water and recycled water are encouraged.

Unapproved use of water for public supply or fire control will bring a violator a minimum fine of 10,000 yuan (some 1,200 US dollars). The regulations, however, do not impose a quota on the household use of water owing to residents’ opposition to higher charge for possible over-use.

A stipulation in the draft on a cut of water supply to a user who refuses to pay is ruled out in the final version of the regulations.

The national capital with a population of approximately 15 million has been troubled with acute water shortage in recent years.

An aircraft ready for take-off at Mumbai Airport. British Midland International Airlines said it will start four weekly flights between London and Mumbai from next month in a bid to tap the growing Indian market of overseas travellers.
Japan, Australia agree to start feasibility study on FTA

Tokyo, 21 April — Japan and Australia agreed on Wednesday to start a joint feasibility study of the possibility of the two countries signing a bilateral free trade agreement. Scholars will not formally participate in it.

The two leaders also said they agreed on the need for Japan and Australia to work together closely on the reconstruction of Iraq.

Hoarded arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a three-day visit. He will visit the site of the World Exposition in central Japan’s Aichi Prefecture on Thursday.

India’s gem & jewellery exports up 29% at $15.67b in 2004-05

New Delhi, 21 April — In line with India’s total export growth figures, gem and jewellery exports during 2004-05 increased 29.27 per cent to 15.67 billion US dollars.

The figure stood at 12.12 billion US dollars in the previous fiscal. “The export figure for the sector has surpassed the 13.3 billion US dollars target set by the Commerce Ministry. Keeping in view the achievement, the target for this fiscal as well as 2006-07 has been revised upwards to 18 billion US dollars and 20 billion US dollars,” Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council chairman Rakesh R Mehta told reporters here.

Exports of cut and polished diamonds, which contribute about 72 per cent of the total exports in this sector, rose 29.60 per cent to 11.18 billion US dollars compared to 8.62 billion US dollars in 2003-04. Gold jewellery exports jumped by an impressive 42.23 per cent to 3.81 billion US dollars while exports of coloured gemstones increased 8.1 per cent to 192 million US dollars.

Imports of gems and jewellery grew 23.65 per cent to 11.56 billion US dollars over 9.3 billion US dollars a year ago.

Imports of rough diamonds grew 6.3 per cent to 7.59 billion US dollars in 2004-05 while imports of cut and polished diamonds jumped a huge 137.8 per cent to 2.82 billion US dollars.

The sector employs 13 lakh people at present. Mehta said, adding it has the potential to create three lakh additional jobs every year.

The GJEPC is also setting up a Bharat Diamond Bourse in Mumbai which would be ready by 2006-07, as part of efforts to make India the world’s diamond hub, he added.

Earthquake jolts west Japan

Tokyo, 21 April — An earthquake registering a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 jolted west Japan’s Kyushu area on Wednesday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There were no immediate reports of injury or damage from the 6:11 am (2111 GMT) quake. No tsunami warning was issued.

The quake measured upper 5 in the city of Fukuoka and its vicinity and upper 6 in the city of Fukuoka and its vicinity.

The agency said completion of the study will turn out to be very difficult.

Koizumi and his Australian counterpart John Howard said at a joint Press conference they had reached an accord on the start of the study aimed at verifying the merits and demerits of an FTA, but Koizumi said completion of the study will not automatically lead to formal FTA talks.

Koizumi said the “difficulties involving Japan’s sensitive farm sector”.

Two US Marines killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 21 April — Two US Marines were killed in a bomb attack in western Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

The two marines, assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device, or homemade bomb, detonated in Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad as the start of the military statement.

The names of the deceased were being withheld until next of kin was notified. Over 1,500 US military personnel have died in Iraq since the US-led forces launched the war in Iraq on March 2003.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and his Australian counterpart John Howard said at a joint Press conference they had reached an accord on the start of the study aimed at verifying the merits and demerits of an FTA, but Koizumi said completion of the study will not automatically lead to formal FTA talks.

Koizumi said the “difficulties involving Japan’s sensitive farm sector”.

Two US Marines were killed in a bomb attack in western Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

The two marines, assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device, or homemade bomb, detonated in Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad as the start of the military statement.

The names of the deceased were being withheld until next of kin was notified. Over 1,500 US military personnel have died in Iraq since the US-led forces launched the war in Iraq on March 2003.

Earthquake jolts west Japan

Tokyo, 21 April — An earthquake registering a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 jolted west Japan’s Kyushu area on Wednesday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There were no immediate reports of injury or damage from the 6:11 am (2111 GMT) quake. No tsunami warning was issued.

The quake measured upper 5 in the city of Fukuoka and its vicinity and upper 6 in the city of Fukuoka and its vicinity.

The agency said completion of the study will turn out to be very difficult.

Koizumi and his Australian counterpart John Howard said at a joint Press conference they had reached an accord on the start of the study aimed at verifying the merits and demerits of an FTA, but Koizumi said completion of the study will not automatically lead to formal FTA talks.

Koizumi said the “difficulties involving Japan’s sensitive farm sector”.

Two US Marines were killed in a bomb attack in western Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

The two marines, assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device, or homemade bomb, detonated in Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad as the start of the military statement.

The names of the deceased were being withheld until next of kin was notified. Over 1,500 US military personnel have died in Iraq since the US-led forces launched the war in Iraq on March 2003.

Two US Marines were killed in a bomb attack in western Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

The two marines, assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device, or homemade bomb, detonated in Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad as the start of the military statement.

The names of the deceased were being withheld until next of kin was notified. Over 1,500 US military personnel have died in Iraq since the US-led forces launched the war in Iraq on March 2003.

Two US Marines were killed in a bomb attack in western Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

The two marines, assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device, or homemade bomb, detonated in Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad as the start of the military statement.

The names of the deceased were being withheld until next of kin was notified. Over 1,500 US military personnel have died in Iraq since the US-led forces launched the war in Iraq on March 2003.

Two US Marines were killed in a bomb attack in western Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

The two marines, assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device, or homemade bomb, detonated in Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad as the start of the military statement.

The names of the deceased were being withheld until next of kin was notified. Over 1,500 US military personnel have died in Iraq since the US-led forces launched the war in Iraq on March 2003.

China’s new gem exports up 29% at $15.7bn

New Delhi, 21 April — In line with India’s total export growth figures, gem and jewellery exports during 2004-05 increased 29.27 per cent to 15.67 billion US dollars.

The figure stood at 12.12 billion US dollars in the previous fiscal. “The export figure for the sector has surpassed the 13.3 billion US dollars target set by the Commerce Ministry. Keeping in view the achievement, the target for this fiscal as well as 2006-07 has been revised upwards to 18 billion US dollars and 20 billion US dollars,” Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council chairman Rakesh R Mehta told reporters here.

Exports of cut and polished diamonds, which contribute about 72 per cent of the total exports in this sector, rose 29.60 per cent to 11.18 billion US dollars compared to 8.62 billion US dollars in 2003-04. Gold jewellery exports jumped by an impressive 42.23 per cent to 3.81 billion US dollars while exports of coloured gemstones increased 8.1 per cent to 192 million US dollars.

Imports of gems and jewellery grew 23.65 per cent to 11.56 billion US dollars over 9.3 billion US dollars a year ago.

Imports of rough diamonds grew 6.3 per cent to 7.59 billion US dollars in 2004-05 while imports of cut and polished diamonds jumped a huge 137.8 per cent to 2.82 billion US dollars.

The sector employs 13 lakh people at present. Mehta said, adding it has the potential to create three lakh additional jobs every year.

The GJEPC is also setting up a Bharat Diamond Bourse in Mumbai which would be ready by 2006-07, as part of efforts to make India the world’s diamond hub, he added.
Activities of groups...

(from page 16)

At this press conference today, I will clarify points relating to the reason of declaring unlawful association the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa and related groups which committed acts posing grave danger to the Union of Myanmar and the entire national people.

As it has already been known to the journalists, the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa who is the son of Nyaungshwe Sawbwa Sao Shwe Thaik, from abroad, announced formation of the so-called Shan State provisional government and independence of Shan State on 17 April. In that government, it was announced Sao Hkam Hpa (alias) Sao Hse as president; Hkun Sai Sit as prime minister; Sao Khum Hom (alias) Sai Soe Nyunt as foreign minister; Hkun Hti as home affairs minister; and Kyaio Kin Sai (alias) Sao Khay Say as defence minister.

Thus, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a Notification on 19 April 2005 declaring that the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa, its members and other related groups as an unlawful association under section 16 and as per interpretation of section 15 (2) of the Unlawful Associations Act. It can be found that this has been an attempt of the descendants of some Shan sawbwas to secede from the Union in accordance with the wishes of colonialists and their lackeys designed to cause disintegration of the Union, which has been in existence in unity since the pre-historic times. The attempt may be seen as part of machinations perpetrated constantly following the dictates from outside the country and relying on the external elements.

In review of the formation of an alliance of SURA and SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council, announcement of aims and attitude and the declaration of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa, it is found that they would be establishing a genuine Union. The genuine Union means the Union made up of eight states namely Kachin state, Kayin state, Mon state, Bamar state which will be made up of the seven divisions. The entire national people might be misled by the beautiful wording “Genuine Union”. In fact, their aim was to form a nominal Union and later secede from the Union.

The declaration of the independence of Shan State and formation of Shan State provisional government by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts can also be found as part of the conspiracies of SURA, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council to form a nominal Union and later secede from the Union. The activities of the groups are very dangerous to the stability of the State, national solidarity and it could lead to disintegration of the Union. Hence, such activities are unacceptable.

In fact, their aim was to form a nominal Union and later secede from the Union. The activities of the groups are very dangerous to the stability of the State, national solidarity and it could lead to disintegration of the Union. Hence, such activities are unacceptable.
Activities of groups…

(from page 6) anti-Bamar sentiments and racism to mislead the Shan nationals with the aim of ensuring their continued authority.

In 1952, the pro-active people’s forces opposed to feudalism launched campaign to force Shan sawbwas to relinquish their power and privileges. In 1957 before the split of AFPL, members of parliament Namkhun U Tun Aye submitted proposals again and again to the parliament raising the case of sawbwas to relinquish power and for Shan State not to secede from the Union. However, Ya-tasanya-pha (People of Shan hilly regions solidarity association) demanded the secession from the Union. At that time, Hsipaw sawbwa and Mongrai sawbwa supported the secession and established Ya-pa-nya-pha (Shan State People’s Unity Association).

In July 1967, Moe Hein resigned from SSA membership as well as from chairmanship of Shan State Insurgents Unity Supervision Committee. Together with Nom Sit Han leader Sai Nwe, Moe Hein joined some members of nationalist Chinese No 3 division and formed SURA (Shan United Revolutionary Army).

In 1964, Kwa'msein (alias) Moe Hein formed the Shan National United Front. In 1965, Nom Sit Han and SNUF (South) Division-I and SSA (Shan State Army) was formed with Nam Hein Kham (Mahadevi) as patron. The SSA was formed as SSA (South) and SSA (North). The SSA (North) Division (1) was headed by Mahadevi’s son Sao Hsaw Waing and the SSA (South) Division-2 by Moe Hein.

In July 1967, Moe Hein resigned from SSA membership as well as from chairmanship of Shan State Insurgents Unity Supervision Committee. Together with Nom Sit Han leader Sai Nwe, Moe Hein joined some members of nationalist Chinese No 3 division and formed SURA (Shan United Revolutionary Army).
The Prime Minister added that efforts are being made to carry out reform tasks after the Committee for Reforming Management System of Myanmar Police Force has been formed under the leadership of the State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 to enable the MPF to become an auxiliary force for the defence of the State, which must be the disciplined and one respected by the people.

In line with the directive of the State Peace and Development Council led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the MPF, while carrying out its reform tasks in accord with its aims and objectives, is also actively participating in the nation-building tasks, he said.

If we study administrative machinery of the global nations, we can find that a nation is different from another, its police force has to be involved in the task of administrative machinery. Every nation has to form a police force with its lofty aims and objectives not only to protect the people but also to ensure the prevalence of law and order and community peace. However, the Prime Minister said, the role of a police force needs to be reformed to catch up with the changing world. He pointed out that police forces of some nations are subject to the oppression of their ruling class. It is necessary for Myanmar police force to take lessons from the past history when it was born under the colonial rule. But, it is wise to note that at a time when the people were armed with the political spirit, the police force of the country actively participated in the fight against colonialists when the independence was at hand to regain.

It is essential for the country to have dynamic and bona fide administrative machinery in building up a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic State. That is why the State Peace and Development Council has assigned duties to respective regional administrative bodies. At the same time, reform tasks are being undertaken for regional general administrative departments and police forces to be on a par with the modern world, the Prime Minister noted.

Police force will discharge duties as firm foundation of future discipline-flourishing administrative machinery. Police officials will have to jointly discharge the duties of the different levels of local authorities in addition to their normal task. They are assigned to the local administrative duties as the administrative task is connected with other fields and in accord with the requirement of the transition period.

Only then will they be able to have greater consideration for the entire nation. They should be role models in observation of the law and rules and regulations in the entire nation. They should have administrative, political, security and economic and social sectors. Thus, they should understand the historic duty, their role and public life. They should foster patriotism, the spirit of serving and reliance of the people. — MNA

---

**Honorary titles awarded to outstanding persons**

YANGON, 22 April — A ceremony to present honorary titles for 2005 to outstanding persons of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Sports Federations was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) this morning. It was attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials. The Minister made a speech on the occasion. Next, the minister presented certificates of titles and cash to title recipient persons.

The minister also gave good service medals to 31 outstanding employees of the Ministry of Sports. — MNA

---

**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects progress of Moeyungyi Sluice Gate Project**

YANGON, 22 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence inspected development in Bago Division on 21 April. Accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at the site of Moeyungyi Sluice Gate Project being implemented by Construction-1 of Irrigation Department in Waw Township.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on facts about the project and its progress by officials. He gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks meeting set standard and storage age of water. Next, he oversaw construction of the sluice gate.

They proceeded to Penegwen and met with officers and other ranks and families of the local battalion. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed officials to join hands with the people for nation-building tasks and public welfare tasks upholding Our Three Main National Causes, to meet basic needs of the families and to carry out manageable livestock breeding and agriculture tasks.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially conversed with those present. — MNA
Yangon Div Supervisory Committee for WVO Preliminary Conference 2005 held

Yangon, 22 April — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for War Veterans Organization Preliminary Conference 2005 was held at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindahma Road in Mayangon Township this morning, with an address by Honorary Patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for WVO Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar War Veterans Central Organizing Committee Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd), members of the COC Organizing Work Group-15 leader Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, COC member Organizing Work Group-14 Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and WVO members. The commander, presiding over the first session of the preliminary conference, delivered an opening address.

In the second session, Chairman of Yangon Division SCWVO Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee Col Tin Soe presided over the preliminary conference, and spoke on the occasion. Next, Major Hla Swe (Retd), Captain Aye Myint (Retd) and Major Nyunt Aung (Retd) submitted the report to the conference. Five persons took part in the discussions of five sections from the report. The meeting chairman sought approval for seven future tasks to be laid down at the Yangon Division Preliminary Conference (2005). The preliminary conference decided three matters, sought one approval, and put three matters on record.

Later, Col Tin Soe gave the concluding remarks, and the preliminary conference ended successfully with chanting of the slogans. — MNA

Tatmadaw has not given any directions to Wa group or has any involvement in clashes between Wa and Shan groups

Yangon, 22 April — Information for Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan answered to questions raised by the journalists at the press conference today. At the press meet, U Aung Shwe Oo of NTV said he has learnt that so many organizations and groups have opposed the acts of the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa. Thanks to the clarification of the minister, he has also learnt the strength of some organizations, parties, and groups. He said he would like to know the extent of the support provided by the Tatmadaw.

The minister said with regard to the strength of parties and NGOs, the strength of the Union Solidarity and Development Association is more than 21 million. The nation’s population is more than 54 million. So, it accounts for nearly half of the nation’s population. The minister added that the strength of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is over four million, and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, around one million. So, the minister said the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa was formed at the instigation of neo-colonialists. As it is known to all, there is also a group led by fugitive Sein Win. He asked if there was inter-relation between these two groups. And he would like to know the conditions of the two groups.

Thirdly, he asked if there was any moral actual support of the BCP regarding the forming of the group, and if there is, he would like to know the extent of the support. The minister said with regard to the strength of parties and NGOs, the strength of the Union Solidarity and Development Association is more than 21 million. The nation’s population is more than 54 million. So, it accounts for nearly half of the nation’s population. The minister added that the strength of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is over four million, and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, around one million. So, the minister said the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa was formed at the instigation of neo-colonialists. As it is known to all, there is also a group led by fugitive Sein Win. He asked if there was inter-relation between these two groups. And he would like to know the conditions of the two groups.

Thirdly, he asked if there was any moral actual support of the BCP regarding the forming of the group, and if there is, he would like to know the extent of the support. The minister said with regard to the strength of parties and NGOs, the strength of the Union Solidarity and Development Association is more than 21 million. The nation’s population is more than 54 million. So, it accounts for nearly half of the nation’s population. The minister added that the strength of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is over four million, and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, around one million. So, the minister said the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa was formed at the instigation of neo-colonialists. As it is known to all, there is also a group led by fugitive Sein Win. He asked if there was inter-relation between these two groups. And he would like to know the conditions of the two groups.

Thirdly, he asked if there was any moral actual support of the BCP regarding the forming of the group, and if there is, he would like to know the extent of the support. The minister said with regard to the strength of parties and NGOs, the strength of the Union Solidarity and Development Association is more than 21 million. The nation’s population is more than 54 million. So, it accounts for nearly half of the nation’s population. The minister added that the strength of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is over four million, and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, around one million. So, the minister said the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa was formed at the instigation of neo-colonialists. As it is known to all, there is also a group led by fugitive Sein Win. He asked if there was inter-relation between these two groups. And he would like to know the conditions of the two groups.

Thirdly, he asked if there was any moral actual support of the BCP regarding the forming of the group, and if there is, he would like to know the extent of the support. The minister said with regard to the strength of parties and NGOs, the strength of the Union Solidarity and Development Association is more than 21 million. The nation’s population is more than 54 million. So, it accounts for nearly half of the nation’s population. The minister added that the strength of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is over four million, and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, around one million. So, the minister said the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa was formed at the instigation of neo-colonialists. As it is known to all, there is also a group led by fugitive Sein Win. He asked if there was inter-relation between these two groups. And he would like to know the conditions of the two groups.

Thirdly, he asked if there was any moral actual support of the BCP regarding the forming of the group, and if there is, he would like to know the extent of the support. The minister said with regard to the strength of parties and NGOs, the strength of the Union Solidarity and Development Association is more than 21 million. The nation’s population is more than 54 million. So, it accounts for nearly half of the nation’s population. The minister added that the strength of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is over four million, and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, around one million. So, the minister said the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa was formed at the instigation of neo-colonialists. As it is known to all, there is also a group led by fugitive Sein Win. He asked if there was inter-relation between these two groups. And he would like to know the conditions of the two groups.

Thirdly, he asked if there was any moral actual support of the BCP regarding the forming of the group, and if there is, he would like to know the extent of the support. The minister said with regard to the strength of parties and NGOs, the strength of the Union Solidarity and Development Association is more than 21 million. The nation’s population is more than 54 million. So, it accounts for nearly half of the nation’s population. The minister added that the strength of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association is over four million, and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, around one million. So, the minister said the group led by Sao Hkam Hpa was formed at the instigation of neo-colonialists. As it is known to all, there is also a group led by fugitive Sein Win. He asked if there was inter-relation between these two groups. And he would like to know the conditions of the two groups.
Activities of groups…

(from page 7)

These events stand witnesses to the fact that the people, parties and organizations of that period did not accept the demands of Shan sawbwas for federal principle and their attempts to secede from the Union.

On review of history of Myanmar, it can be seen that patriotic Myanmar nationals refused to pulsed colonialists with unyielding spirit in all the three aggressive wars of British colonialists. However, Nyaungshwe sawbwa and Hsipaw sawbwa, Sao Maung and Sao Khun were those who invited the colonialists to Shan State. It is mentioned in the “Major Blunder of Shan State” written by Sao Khun Kyi of Thaion.

When Nyaungshwe sawbwa was in power, he collected taxes by allowing all kinds of gambling. Various taxes such as poll tax, farm tax, bamboo tax, banana tax, etc were collected. Other taxes were also collected for buying elephants, building Hwag palace or to visit Mandalay. He spent the taxes in his personal interest. His children were given extraordinary service by servants and courtiers. Grand ceremonies were held for putting his children onto cradle, for naming, for novitiation and for ear-boring. Nothing whatsoever was done in the interest of local people. It is documented in historical records.

Successive Nyaungshwe sawbwas invited colonialists and they suppressed the local people in Shan State in collaboration with the colonialists. The local people were made poorer through various forms of gambling and no development project was implemented for the people.

Nyaungshwe sawbwa Sao Shwe Taikhe who was the father of the self-styled president Sao Hkam Hpa, served as a private in the British army beginning 1917 during World War I. As he served till 1923, he was underveningly made asalist of British government. This being the case, he took part in leading role of federal campaign and his fourth wife Nam Hein Kham (Mahadevi) fled the country and betrayed the nation. Their children took refuge in foreign countries and betrayed the nation and the people.

When Nyaungshwe sawbwa was in power, he collected taxes by allowing all kinds of gambling. Various taxes such as poll tax, farm tax, bamboo tax, banana tax, etc were collected. Other taxes were also collected for buying elephants, building Hawag palace or to visit Mandalay. He spent the taxes in his personal interest. His children were given extraordinary service by servants and courtiers. Grand ceremonies were held for putting his children onto cradle, for naming, for novitiation and for ear-boring. Nothing whatsoever was done in the interest of local people. It is documented in historical records.

Now the descendants of sawbwas are pretending that they love the people and are trying to deceive the simple and honest national peoples. These acts are, in fact, committed as directed by the external elements.

The last Nyaungshwe sawbwa had five wives. His first wife Daw Nan Yi had two sons, and his second wife Daw Nan Sinta had one daughter. His third wife Daw Nyunt May had no children. He got married with the fourth wife Nam Hein Kham (Mahadevi) in June 1937 and they had four sons and two daughters. Of them, Sao Hkam Hpa is the eldest and he is also known as Sao Hso (alias) Winstone Thaikhe (alias) Sao Hkam Hpa. Nyaungshwe sawbwa’s second son Sao Kyan (alias) Eugene Thaikhe (alias) Sao Hsaw Waing passed away in Canada. The third offspring is a daughter Ying Sita. The fourth offspring, Sao Mee, has also passed away. The fifth son Sao Pi (alias) Ham Yaung Wai is in Belgium and he is a director of Euro-Burma group. The sixth and youngest is a daughter Sao Lin and she is in Canada. Sao Shwe Taikhe’s fifth wife Daw Mya Win had one daughter and one son. Eugene Thaikhe, the second son of Nyaungshwe sawbwa Sao Shwe Taikhe and Nam Hein Kham, joined SNA insurgent group in 1963 and took part in armed insurgency till 1972. After 1972, he fled to Chiangmai of Thailand and took refuge there. Then he joined CRDB (Committee for Reviving Democracy in Burma) of expatriate Sein Win and also took part in the activities of NCGUB. He passed away on 24th-7-2004 in Canada.

The eldest son Sao Hkam Hpa now formed Shan State provisional governments and appointed himself as president. History shows that on the basis of racism, the nation was unstable in the past and the people were confronted with hardships. Now again, descendants of expatriate Shan sawbwas are sticking to wrong-doings. Altogether 33 national races residing in 56乡镇s of Shan State do not accept the provisional Shan government and they condemn it. The remaining national people residing in other states and divisions do not accept nor recognize the Shan State provisional government either. In addition, the Union Solidarity and Development Association with membership of over 21 million as well as the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association opposed and objected the wrongful act of expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa and group. Likewise, political parties such as National League for Democracy and the National Unity Party issued declarations that the wrongful act of Sao Hkam Hpa is totally opposed by them.

Similarly, 15 peace groups which have returned to legal fold in Shan State as well as 13 peace groups in other states and divisions have issued declarations that the wrongful act of Sao Hkam Hpa was unacceptable. The daily newspapers have also carried declarations of NGOs, political parties and peace groups to the effect that they do not accept and they oppose the wrongful act of Sao Hkam Hpa. These declarations are put on display on boards.

It can be seen that circa 1960 Shan sawbwas attempted to establish federal state and parties, organizations and the people of that time did not accept the plot. Now descendants of Shan sawbwa Sao Hkam Hpa’s formation of Shan State provisional government, declaration of Shan State independence and announcing Shan State as a war zone are absolutely opposed by the national people, NGOs and peace groups which have returned to legal fold. It shows that patriotism for ensuring non-disintegration of the Union as well as non-disintegration of national solidarity is the genuine and proper patriotism. However, while the entire national
Activities of people and organizations are opposing and condemning Sao Hkam Hpa’s wrongful act, western broadcasting stations such as BBC and VOA are encouraging Sao Hkam Hpa and daily broadcasting instigation. Thus, BBC and VOA will be held responsible for the consequences.

Since long long ago, Myanmar has been a Union where over 100 national races are living together sharing weal and woe. For instance, about 50 national races are living in Yangon Division while 33 national races such as Shan, Wa, PaO, Palaung, Labu, Akha, Bamar, etc are residing together unitedly in Shan State. No state or division is being inhabited solely by one race. Various national races are residing in all states and divisions unitedly. Hence, the Union of Myanmar is made up of 14 states and divisions and each state or division is home to various national races.

Circa 1988, the nation’s economy was in decline and politically it was near collapse. Unavoidably, the Tatmadaw had to take over State responsibilities. Emphasis was laid on national reconsolidation. At the same time, efforts have been made for developing border areas and national races. The Border Areas and National Races Development Central Committee was formed with the Head of State as Chairman. Development plans are implemented with might and main. So far, the State has spent over K56,000 million in developing border areas and national races.

Moreover, to develop the national races which lagged behind in development through various periods, 24 Special Regions development projects are also being carried out energetically. Of the 24 Special Development Regions, Panglong, Taunggyi, Kengtung and Lashio special development regions are located in Shan State. In addition, to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas, the five rural development tasks are carried out throughout the country. Schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, dispensaries, roads, bridges, dams, reservoirs and electric power stations are built through-out the Union. The national people are now enjoying fruitful results of the development undertaken unceasingly. It shows that the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government serving the interests of all the national people irrespective of race of location. As mentioned above, our country is a country where all the people will continue to uphold Our Three State Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty without fail. Thus, the Government will never let secession of any state or division from the Union.

The Minister for Information answered the queries raised by journalists, and the press conference ended at 4.45 pm.

Next, the journalists viewed declarations of NGOs, political parties and national race groups which had exchanged arms for peace in other States and Divisions opposing and condemning acts and aims of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and his group, cohorts, that endanger peace and law enforcement of the State and peace and tranquility of the entire people, facts about Shan State Joint Action Committee (SSJAC), biographies of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and his cohorts and documentary photos.

Western broadcasting stations such as BBC and VOA are encouraging Sao Hkam Hpa and daily broadcasting instigation. Thus, BBC and VOA will be held responsible for the consequences.

ROK deputy minister calls on Minister for Mines

YANGON, 22 April — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Vice Minister Mr Cho Hwan-Eik of Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Energy of the Republic of Korea and party at his office this afternoon. They discussed matters related to cooperation in mining sector.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and officials. — MNA

Nepal unveils local tourism plan for poverty alleviation

KATHMANDU, 21 April — The Nepali Government’s Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme has formulated a five-year tourism development and management plan for Chitwan and Rupandehi districts in southern Nepal.

The objective of the plan is to help alleviate rural poverty by promoting eco-tourism and village tourism, Rabu Pande, manager of the government programme, told reporters on Wednesday.

“We are planning to develop the Royal Chitwan National Park and a River-Conservation zone, and impart training to the local people on tourism products like handicraft, medicinal herbs and naturopathy for developing Chitwan and Rupandehi into prime tourism destinations,” Pandey said. — MNA/Xinhua

Officials, doctors sent to Chinese villages to fight AIDS

ZHENGZHOU, 21 April — Central China’s Henan Province sent 114 government officials and doctors to AIDS-hit villages on Wednesday in an attempt to fight the deadly disease.

The team, comprising 76 officials and 38 doctors, will fan out in 38 villages in six cities across Henan and will stay there for one year, said Wang Jumei, vice-governor of the province.

They will replace a 76-member team sent to these villages last year to help village authorities in offering free medication to HIV/AIDS victims, free anonymous HIV/AIDS tests of villagers and free education for children orphaned by AIDS, and will take care of the elderly who have been left childless by AIDS.

Prior to their departure, they had got training in AIDS prevention and application of technologies to help local farmers improve living conditions. — MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese visitor views the Lexus concept luxury coupe LF-A during the opening of the 2005 Auto Shanghai exhibition in China’s financial capital Shanghai, on 22 April, 2005. — INTERNET

S Korea to develop maritime observation satellite

SOUTH KOREA, 21 April — South Korea will embark on a plan this month to develop a maritime observation satellite capable of providing data on waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency on Tuesday.

The envisioned geostationary satellite will be jointly designed and constructed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute and Astron, a French satellite maker, Yonhap quoted the South Korean Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as reporting. — MNA/Xinhua

KNNP destroys Tower No 130

YANGON, 22 April — Tower No 130 whose grid links Lawpita Power Station (Lonkaw) and Toungoo was destroyed at around 2 am today due to the bomb explosion committed by a group of KNNP insurgents.

Officials from local station and departments, and Head of the power station U Tin Maung Win and staff inspected the site. All necessary measures are being taken for the grid to return to normal and the explosion did not hit the power station. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 23 April, 2005 11

A Chinese visitor views the Lexus concept luxury coupe LF-A during the opening of the 2005 Auto Shanghai exhibition in China’s financial capital Shanghai, on 22 April, 2005. — INTERNET

MNA
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV “SITTWE” VOY NO ST120/N**

Claims of cargo carried on MV “SITTWE” Voy No ST120/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 23-4-2005 and will be berthing on/about 24.4.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority 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 into 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.

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE**

MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296570, 295754

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

“M.V. SPRING TRADER VOY: NO (72)”

Claims of cargo carried on M.V. SPRING TRADER VOY: NO (72) arrived on 22.4.2005 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority 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 into 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.

**TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE**

REEBOK INTERNATIONAL LTD., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, and having its principal office at 1895 J. W. Foster Boulevard, Canton, Massachusetts 02021, United States of America is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:

**THE PUMP**


Used in respect of:-

“Leather and imitations of leather and goods made of these materials, animal skins, hides, bags, trunk and travelling bags, umbrellas, parasols and walking sticks, whips, harness and saddlery; clothing, footwear, headgear, sporting articles, toys, games and playthings”

Any unauthorized use, infringement or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

**TIN OHNMAR TUN**

BALAWILLI, MUKI

P.O. Box. 109, Ph:248108/723043 (For. Domnern Somgai & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand.)

**DATE**: 23 April 2005

**Nigeria destroys fake drugs worth $60m**

LAGOS, 21 April — The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has seized and destroyed fake drugs worth 8 billion naira (about 60 million US dollars) in the last two years, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported on Wednesday.

NAFDAC Director-General Dora Akunyili was quoted as saying that the fake drugs were mainly smuggled into the country through Lagos and Port Harcourt ports in southern Nigeria.

She said the NAFDAC had warned them not to encourage open drug hawkers to sell wholesome drugs and adulterated medicines to the public.

The director-general also said all patent medicine stores that were found to be selling fake drugs had been shut down.

The survey is held every five years, but in the last one, in 2003, the NAFDAC found that counterfeiters’ weights were increasing.

**Russia plays “positive role” in Iran’s nuke issues**

MOSCOW, 21 April — The United States believes that as Russia’s involvement in Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant plays a “positive role” in dealing with Iran’s nuclear issues, the US does not oppose it, visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in an interview with the Ekho Moskvy radio station here on Wednesday.

Russia’s Bushehr involvement helps in the process of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the country, Rice said before meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Rice softened her recent harsh tone against Moscow during the interview by calling Russia a “strategic partner” and urged cooperation on various areas.

**Chubbier passengers add to weight of S African airline**

JOHANNESBURG, 21 April — Increasingly chubbier South Africans are adding to the weight South African Airways (SAA) are already carrying, a report revealed on Tuesday.

SAA, South Africa’s flag carrier, on Tuesday announced it is to weigh 1,000 passengers and their luggage at random in a survey to calculate correct take-off weights.

The survey is held every five years but in the last one, in 2003, SAA found that passengers’ weights were increasing.
US has nearly 100,000 “stay-at-home” dads

WASHINGTON, 21 April—There are an estimated 98,000 “stay-at-home” dads in the United States now, says with children under 15 years old, statistics released by the Census Bureau on Tuesday showed.

The stay-at-home dads are married fathers who have remained out of the labour force for more than one year primarily so they can care for the family while their wives work outside the home.

Across the country, the estimated number of fathers stands at 66.3 million, of whom 26.5 million are part of dual-couple families with their own children under the age of 18, and 2.5 million are single fathers. The number of single fathers was 393,000 in 1970.

The Census Bureau released the figures to observe this year’s Father’s Day, which falls on June 19. Father’s Day has been celebrated annually in the United States since 1972, when the then President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

leader for food animal production at the Department of Agriculture.

The tests, which look at regions of the genome associated with tenderness, found that animals should be given the best diet and produced in feed costs by specifying which animals should be branded based on specific health examination rate from 60 percent to 70 percent.

China faces severe occupational illness situation

BEIJING, 21 April—China is facing a severe occupational illness situation and efforts on the prevention and control of occupational diseases have lagged far behind the country’s fast-growing economy, said a senior Chinese health official here.

“Occupational illness has become both a major public health and social problem in China,” said Jiang Zuojun, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Health, at the ongoing 10th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases.

More than 200 million employees from more than 16 million Chinese enterprises are exposed to occupational health threats, according to statistics released by the ministry. In 2003, China reported 10,467 occupational disease cases, 80 per cent of which were pneumoconiosis cases and the rest acute and chronic poisonings. The country has reported a total of 850,000 occupational pneumoconiosis cases, which are caused by long-term inhalation of dust, especially mineral or metallic dust, since the 1950s. More than 140,000 have died from it.

In three animal tests, the new convention will enter into force only when gaining ratification from 30 countries. Describing the new standards as “groundbreaking”, Vlassis told a Press conference. “Up until now, embedded assets confiscated in one country have to be shared with the other country that has involved in the investigation leading to the bust of the theft. According to the new convention, the property in question will go back to the origin country without question if it is proved to be part of the country’s public funds.

While setting minimal 30 states’ ratification as a goal, Vlassis hoped the convention would witness more ratification of the convention so as to strengthen the fight against corruption.

Corruption’s threats and trends in the 21st Century are part of the major topics being discussed at UN crime prevention congress, which is being held in Bangkok from April 18 to 25.

UN convention to combat corruption under globalized background

BANGKOK, 21 April—A new anti-corruption convention is expected to enter into force after gaining enough minimal ratification at an ongoing United Nations crime prevention meeting, a senior UN official said here Wednesday.

The new anti-corruption convention will enter into force only when gaining ratification from 30 countries. Describing the new standards as “groundbreaking”, Vlassis told a Press conference. “Up until now, embedded assets confiscated in one country have to be shared with the other country that has involved in the investigation leading to the bust of the theft. According to the new convention, the property in question will go back to the origin country without question if it is proved to be part of the country’s public funds.

While setting minimal 30 states’ ratification as a goal, Vlassis hoped the convention would witness more ratification of the convention so as to strengthen the fight against corruption.

Corruption’s threats and trends in the 21st Century are part of the major topics being discussed at UN crime prevention congress, which is being held in Bangkok from April 18 to 25.

MNA/Xinhua

China researchers find new anti-cancer compounds

LOS ANGELES, 21 April—Novel anti-cancer compounds called Enigmols can suppress the growth of a wide range human tumour cells, US researchers announced on a meeting on Tuesday.

In three animal tests, the compounds restrained cancers of the prostate, breast, colon, ovary, pancreas, brain and blood, but did not show side effects at effective doses, according to the research conducted at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Emory University and Wayne State University. The findings were presented at the annual meeting of American Association for Cancer Research in Anaheim, California.

In coming weeks the researchers will submit the results to a scientific journal. However, human trials must still be done to determine safety and efficacy in people. “Many agents suppress cancer cells in a Petri dish and then not in the whole animal, or have unacceptable high toxicity for normal tissues,” said Al Mellor, professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

“Finding that Enigmols are effective in three animal models leads us to hope these may be a new approach to treat cancer.”

Enigmols are synthetic analogues of sphingolipids, a group of cell-signalling molecules that help cells decide whether to grow or die via a controlled process called apoptosis. Cancer cells are usually defective in these regulatory pathways, so researchers hypothesized that structurally modified sphingolipid analogues might be even better at making cancer cells behave more normally.

MNA/Xinhua

Biotec companies hope to produce tender beef, pork, chicken

WASHINGTON, 21 April—Eating non-vegetarian fare might just be a new experience, thanks to biotechnology.

Biotec companies in the US are analysing DNA, betting on more tender beef, pork and chicken, the Washington Post in a report.

Thanks to biotech, it said “the potential exists to revolutionize how cows, pigs and chickens are reared and marketed — saving the industry millions of dollars in feed costs by specifying which animals should be given the best diet and production at the Department of Agriculture. The tests, which look at regions of the genome associated with tenderness, found that animals should be branded based on specific health examination rate from 60 percent to 70 percent.

US convention to combat corruption under
globalized background

BANGKOK, 21 April—A new anti-corruption convention is expected to enter into force after gaining enough minimal ratification at an ongoing United Nations crime prevention meeting, a senior UN official said here Wednesday.

The UN Convention against Corruption is “the first global instrument,” which is expected to curb corruption and cut down related economic loss through international cooperation, said Dimitri Vlassis, substantive coordinator for the 11th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The convention set new standards to guarantee recovery and return of embezzled properties to the country where the corruption occurred. Vlassis told a Press conference.

“My work on the convention will help to enter into force only when gaining ratification from 30 countries. Describing the new standards as “groundbreaking”, Vlassis told a Press conference. “Up until now, embedded assets confiscated in one country have to be shared with the other country that has involved in the investigation leading to the bust of the theft. According to the new convention, the property in question will go back to the origin country without question if it is proved to be part of the country’s public funds.

While setting minimal 30 states’ ratification as a goal, Vlassis hoped the convention would witness more ratification of the convention so as to strengthen the fight against corruption.

Corruption’s threats and trends in the 21st Century are part of the major topics being discussed at UN crime prevention congress, which is being held in Bangkok from April 18 to 25.

MNA/Xinhua
United lost 1-0 to Everton on Wednesday and Ferguson’s position has come under threat after another failed Premiership and Champions League quest.

“The only way we would ever be separated from Alex Ferguson is if he decides,” said Charlton.

“He is the best manager that has ever been, certainly in England, and we have no reason to change.

“I think it’s been an unusual season this year in as much as we’ve had Chelsea spend a lot of money,” Charlton added.

“They’ve brought in really good players and been very successful. That’s one of the reasons why we haven’t maybe been successful.

“Without Chelsea, we might have been champions this year and there wouldn’t be a problem,” Charlton said.

United chief executive David Gill recently stated Ferguson was “sackable” but said his comment had been taken out of context.

The Red Devils may be through to an FA Cup final date with Arsenal but they suffered their second successive Premierships defeat on Wednesday, at Everton, and surely must have to settle for a third place for the second season running.

A disappointing UEFA Champions League campaign was ended by Milan as United continued to fail to reach the latter stages of the competition they won in 1999. Ferguson, for the first time in years, has faced some criticism from sections of the club’s support, despite retaining the backing of the majority of fans. — MNA/Xinhua

Charlton says Ferguson not to be sacked,

LONDON, 22 April — Manchester United club director Bobby Charlton said on Thursday that team manager Alex Ferguson will not be sacked, though the Red Devils will finish the league empty-handed again.

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson wants to get one over arch-rivals Arsenal even before the English giants meet for next month’s FA Cup final here at the Millennium Stadium — INTERNET

Johansson set to stay as UEFA president until 2007

KIEV, 22 April — Lennart Johansson is expected to remain as UEFA president at least until 2007 after new voting procedures were adopted at the UEFA Congress in Tallinn on Thursday.

In line with FIFA and the Asian, South American and African federations, UEFA has agreed to hold its presidential election in odd-numbered years to avoid clashing with the World Cup, continental championships and the Olympics. — MNA/Xinhua

FA clears Blackburn skipper Todd

LONDON, 22 April — Blackburn skipper Andy Todd has been cleared of violent conduct by the Football Association.

Todd, 30, was charged following a clash with Arsenal’s Robin van Persie in Saturday’s FA Cup semi-final.

Van Persie had just scored his second goal in Arsenal’s 3-0 win in Cardiff when defender Todd appeared to elbow the striker in the face.

Todd denied the charge, claiming it was “purely accidental” and that van Persie “ran into my shoulder”. — MNA/Xinhua

Olympic champion Holmes plans to retire in 2006

LONDON, 22 April — Britain’s double Olympic gold medallist Kelly Holmes said on Thursday that this will be her last full season of competition.

The 35-year-old will make her last track appearance in Britain at the August 21 Grand Prix in Sheffield, and may continue until the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne next March.

“This will be my last track season on British soil and there will be no more indoors,” Holmes confirmed.

“Sheffield will be my last race on the track in the UK,” added the winner of the 800m and 1,500m at the Athens Games.

Holmes, appointed a Dame (the female equivalent of a knighthood) in the last Honours list, was forced to withdraw from the European Indoor Championships in Madrid in March with a hamstring injury. — MNA/Xinhua

Susilo, Li win Singapore sports top honours

SINGAPORE, 22 April— Singapore’s badminton Olympian Ronald Susilo and his wife Li Jiawei, a table tennis player, have won the country’s Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year titles.

According to the Channel NewsAsia reports on Thursday night, Susilo, who will earn 10,000 Singapore dollars (about 6,110 US dollars), was honoured the title as he brought Singapore badminton to a higher level when competing in the Athens Olympics and narrowly missed out winning a medal for himself.

His 26-year-old wife clinched the Sportswoman award for her exploits at the recent Olympics.

Meanwhile, the team sports award was given to the Singapore national football team, or Lions, for their victory in the Tiger Cup.

Lions coach Raddy Avramovic was nominated for the Coach of the Year title, but he lost the title to badminton coach Zhang Qing Jin, a China-born-turned-Singaporean, who played a key role in promoting Susilo and other shuttlers to international standards.

The Sportsboy of the Year award went to Mohd Saifuddin Julaimi while the Sportsgirl of the Year title was clinched by Saiedah Said.

The annual Singapore sports awards are given to local athletes for their excellence performance in their respective fields. The winners will be honoured in a ceremony later next month. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany beats Canada 3-1 in women’s soccer

BERLIN, 22 April — Germany defeated Canada 3-1 with a pair of late goals in a women’s soccer friendly in Osnabrueck, Germany on Thursday.

To tune up for this summer’s European Championship, Germany found its net broken in the 14th minute by Sonja Fuss but the home side on the same level with an equalizer just before halftime before Birgit Prinz and Hannelore Bechler scored in the second half.

Germany will face Canada, Brazil, Argentina and Chile, in a ceremony later next month. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany, on loan from Liverpool, is accused of disorderly conduct following an incident at the Riverside Stadium in November where he appeared to spit a mouthful of drink into the crowd after being substituted.

A spokesperson for the CPS in Cleveland said: “Information has been laid and a summons is being sent out.”

Dioiu face to court over spitt charge

LONDON, 22 April — Bolton striker El Hadji Dioiu has been summoned to appear before magistrates over an alleged spitting incident involving fans at Middlesbrough.

The Senegalese international, on loan from Liverpool, is accused of disorderly conduct following an incident at the Riverside Stadium in November where he appeared to spit a mouthful of drink into the crowd after being substituted.

A spokesperson for the CPS in Cleveland said: “Information has been laid and a summons is being sent out.”

Dioiu will face magistrates on Teesside for disorderly conduct, although a date has yet to be set. — MNA/Xinhua

Johnsson set to stay as UEFA president until 2007

KIEV, 22 April — Lennart Johansson is expected to remain as UEFA president at least until 2007 after new voting procedures were adopted at the UEFA Congress in Tallinn on Thursday.

In line with FIFA and the Asian, South American and African federations, UEFA has agreed to hold its presidential election in odd-numbered years to avoid clashing with the World Cup, continental championships and the Olympics. — MNA/Xinhua

Int’l Wheel-Chair Tennis tournament inaugurated in Chile

SANTIAGO, 22 April — The 3th International Wheel-Chair Tennis Open, which counts with the participation of players from Europe and Latin America, was inaugurated here on Thursday.

A total of 40 representatives from nine countries France, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Canada, Brazil, Argentina and Chile, to take part in the contest which has a bourse of 6,000 US dollars in prizes for the winner.

Among the participants is defending champion Miroslav Brychta of Czech Republic, world number 10, Slovakian Jozef Felix, the world number 17, and the top Chilean wheelchair tennis Robinson Mendez, the world’s number 34.

“Never has a Chilean won this tournament. Last year I reached the semifinals and now I hope to defend the honour of Chile, and I will do what it takes to win,” said Mendez, who is coached by Horacio de la Pena, the coach of distinguished Chilean professional tennis player and ex-captain of the country’s Davis Cup team Fernando Gonzalez.

The meeting will be held until April 24 in the courts of Bank of Chile. — MNA/Xinhua

FA clears Blackburn skipper Todd

LONDON, 22 April — Blackburn skipper Andy Todd has been cleared of violent conduct by the Football Association.

Todd, 30, was charged following a clash with Arsenal’s Robin van Persie in Saturday’s FA Cup semi-final.

Van Persie had just scored his second goal in Arsenal’s 3-0 win in Cardiff when defender Todd appeared to elbow the striker in the face.

Todd denied the charge, claiming it was “purely accidental” and that van Persie “ran into my shoulder”. — MNA/Xinhua

Canada’s Randee Hermus, right, challenges for the ball with Germany’s Birgit Prinz, left, during the women’s national friendly soccer match between Germany and Canada in Osnabrueck, northern Germany, on 21 April, 2005. Germany won 3-1.

The European Championships take place in England from 5 June up to 19 June, 2005. — INTERNET
Japan, Russia hold ministerial talks on oil pipeline project

**Tokyo, 22 April —** Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa and Russian Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko held talks on Thursday in Tokyo on a pipeline project linking eastern Siberia and near Nakhodka in the Russian Far East to ship oil to Japan and other markets.

The meeting was held ahead of a Japan-Russia intergovernmental trade and economic meeting on Friday to be co-chaired by Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and Khristenko.

During the talks, Nakagawa is believed to have asked Khristenko about remarks he made suggesting Russia will build a branch oil pipeline to China before completing the main pipeline that will cater to the Japanese market, according to Kyodo News.

The two ministers are also expected to talk about Russia’s accession to the World Trade Organization and Japanese automaker Toyota Corp.’s plan to build an automobile assembly plant on the outskirts of St Petersburg, Kyodo said.

The meeting is the key UN forum bringing together countries to consider ways to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Two years ago, the 53-member panel approved a multi-year work plan featuring different thematic clusters of issues for each cycle. This year’s policy session is discussing water, sanitation and human settlements.

MNA/Xinhua

---

**United Nations, 22 April —** UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette on Wednesday called on the international community to do more to help poor countries meet internationally agreed targets for clean water, basic sanitation and decent housing.

“It would be tragic and shameful if, come 2015, we find ourselves scrambling to explain our failure,” she told the ministerial segment of the 13th UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

With millions of lives at stake, the international community has a responsibility to be bold and innovative — “do whatever we can” — to support governments in their efforts to meet these needs and build safe, health and prosperous communities, she stressed.

The commission is the key UN forum bringing together countries to consider ways to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Two years ago, the 53-member panel approved a multi-year work plan featuring different thematic clusters of issues for each cycle. This year’s policy session is discussing water, sanitation and human settlements.

MNA/Xinhua

---

**Weather**

**Friday, 22 April, 2005**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State, lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeayawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myaung Mya (2.52) inches, Heho (0.98) inch, Taunggyi (0.53) inch and Pyapon (0.08) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and Shan and Chin States, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Ayeayawady Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Mibbu (42°C).

Maximum temperature on 21-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 22-4-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-4-2005 was 58%. Total sunshine hours on 21-4-2005 was (7.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 22-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.63 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.69 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Northwest at (13:15) hours MST on 21-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the West Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-4-2005: Like- hood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions are likely in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-4-2005: Thundery conditions are likely in the afternoon/ evening.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-4-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for third weekend of April 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be normal in Yangon Division and isolated rain for thundershowers are likely in Mandalay Division.
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting of Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends work coordination meeting of MPF

The police force will discharge duties as the firm foundation of the discipline-flourishing administrative machinery

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends work coordination meeting of MPF

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting of Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

Activities of groups led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa are very dangerous to stability of the State, national solidarity and it could lead to disintegration of the Union

Information Committee of SPDC holds Press Conference 3/2005

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarifies the declaration of unlawful association led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and other related groups.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarifies the declaration of unlawful association led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and other related groups.—MNA

It can be found this has been an attempt of the descendants of some Shan sawbwas to secede from the Union in accordance with the wishes of colonialists and their lackeys designed to cause disintegration of the Union, which has been in existence in unity since the pre-historic times. The attempt may be seen as part of machinations perpetrated constantly following the dictates from outside the country and relying on the external elements.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified points relating to the reason of declaring unlawful association the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and related groups which committed acts posing grave danger to the Union of Myanmar and the entire national people. He said:

(See page 6)