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

**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

**Four economic objectives**
- Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project is part of the Pyundaza plain cluster of dams together with Baidah, Kawliya, Bawni and Pyinbongyi dam projects, and the drive will yield fruits towards more than 200,000 acres of crops.

**INSIDE**
- "Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project is part of the Pyundaza plain cluster of dams together with Baidah, Kawliya, Bawni and Pyinbongyi dam projects, and the drive will yield fruits towards more than 200,000 acres of crops." — Thida Aung

**YANGON, 24 April —** A ceremony to keep religious objects into the reliquary of Laykyun Sakkyashin Maha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda was held in conjunction with the Shwehtidaw hoisting and consecration ceremony at the pagoda in Sitpintaung Ward, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, this morning, attended by Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Dawei Saydaw Abhidha Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Arjinnabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and nuns. Also present on the occasion were Daw Mya Mya San, wife of 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, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Then Sein, wives of the SPDC members, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Vice-Adjuant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, officials and local authorities and local people. (See page 8)
To play a vital role in building a new nation with lofty aims

The work coordination meeting of Myanmar Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs was held at the meeting hall of the MPF on 22 April with an address by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Myanmar Police Force has been operating to make reforms for betterment of its form and essence since 1995 in accord with the guidance of Head of State as it is an organization equipped with arms which has always to enforce community peace and prevalence of law and order and deal with the people.

The Myanmar Police Force has been participating practically in the drive for the emergence of a modern and developed nation in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

A glance at administrative machinery of the global nations will reveal that a nation is different from another but its police force has to be involved in the task of administrative machinery.

A dynamic and bona fide administrative machinery is indispensable in building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

To keep pace with changes and developments, the State Peace and Development Council is introducing reforms for regional general administrative departments and police forces. Police officers should understand that the tasks of building a new nation entering a new age and the tasks of transforming the entire MPF have interrelations.

The MPF is discharging duties in different sectors ranging from ensuring peace, stability and regional development and improving the people’s living standard to national development in addition to its normal duties.

That is why police officers should have administrative, political, security and economic outlooks as their functions involve in political, economic and social sectors. Meanwhile, they should try to improve their qualification and professionalism in serving the interest of the State and the people while re-vitalizing and upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

This being so, the MPF members are to try their utmost for MPF to become a patriotic, qualified and modern force on which the people can rely while enthusiastically taking part in nation-building endeavours with the lofty aims.

Commander meets with specialists, staff before their departure for Cocokyun Township

YANGON, 24 April — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe met with specialists, health staff and departmental personnel bound for Cocokyun Township, at the hall of the local regiment in Thanbyuzetoon, Botataung Township, yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the specialists, health staff and departmental personnel will start their trip to Cocokyun Township soon for providing health care services to local people.

As the Government fulfilled facilities of education, health, economic and transport to Cocokyun Township that is the most distant township in Yangon Division, remarkable progress has been made in the township. Later, the Commander thanked them for their performance of health care services to be given to a distant township of the city.

Afterwards, the specialists, health staff and departmental personnel were introduced to the commander.

Also present on the occasion were No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, authorities and departmental officials, Cmnd Thura Thet Swe of the local regiment and official. — MNA

Construction Minister inspects road & bridge construction projects in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 24 April — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, inspected road construction tasks along Yangon-Pathein Highway on 22 April and gave instructions on early completion before the rain and proper water drainage.

The minister and party proceeded to Pammawady River Bridge Project and looked into the worksite. At the briefing hall, he heard reports on the progress of the tasks and future plans. After hearing the reports, the minister left necessary instructions.

On 23 April, the minister and party inspected the road construction tasks along Maungmya-Labutta Road. Next, they attended the ceremony of ordination and novitiation at Thiriyanaung Monastery in Kanyingone Village in Labutta Township.

After donating the provisions to sayadaws, the minister and family and party offered Soon to sayadaws.

Later, the minister and party inspected the durability of Labutta suspension bridge on Maungmya-Labutta Road. Similarly, they looked into the road construction projects on Maungmya-Einme Road and progress of No 1/70 Mayanngu Bridge on the road. — MNA

Armed Forces day commemorative teleplay to be telecast again

YANGON, 24 April — In commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, teleplay, “Thuye-gaung-do-hutun-ga-the” will be broadcast again from Myawady TV dividing into three parts after the news programs on 27, 28 and 29 April.

The teleplay was directed by Academy Bagyi Win and starred by Academy Kyaw Thu, Academy Zin Wine, Academy Yan Aung, Academy Dwe, Academy Minmawgun, Naing Naing, Sai Sai Kham Hlaing, Academy May Than Nu, Academy May Thinzado and Academy Soe Myat Nander. — MNA
Chinese President meets with Thai Prime Minister

JAKARTA, 23 April — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Friday that China will continue to vigorously participate in the reconstruction of Thailand’s disaster areas and support efforts in promoting bilateral tourism cooperation.

He made the remarks while meeting with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on the sidelines of the Asian-African Summit which kicked off here on Friday, said sources from the Chinese delegation.

Thaksin expressed his thanks to the Chinese Government and people for providing fund and material assistance after Thailand was hit by the December 26 earthquake and tsunami. He said such move fully demonstrated the deep friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Thailand and China are both neighbours and relatives, the Thai Prime Minister said. The Year 2005 will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Thailand and China are good neighbours, good friends and good partners. In recent years, bilateral relations have been well developed with frequent exchanges of high-level visits. The decision made in 2001 on starting strategic cooperation between Thailand and China is playing a “leading role” in establishing China-ASEAN strategic partnership, he added.

The two countries also made remarkable achievements in economy and trade. Bilateral trade volume totalled 17.3 billion US dollars in 2004, a 37 per cent increase over the previous year. China and Thailand also conducted well coordinations on international and regional issues, the Chinese President noted.

China is ready to join with Thailand to conduct all-round, multi-level friendly cooperation in various areas and push forward bilateral ties, Hu added.

Thaksin also reiterated that the Thai Government will firmly stick to the “One China” policy and will support any move that is in the interests of China’s reunification.

Hu Jintao meets UN Secretary-General

JAKARTA, 24 April—Chinese President Hu Jintao met here Saturday with Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and exchanged views with him on issues of common concerns.

Hu Jintao and Annan were here attending the 60th Asian-African Summit, which wrapped up Saturday after endorsing a statement declaring the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two continents.

Hu and Annan both praised the summit as a success, saying the conference demonstrated unity between Asia and Africa, and is one with far-reaching historical significance. The UN Secretary-General briefed Hu about his UN reform plan and hopes China will give him support.

Hu praised the UN as having played an indispensable role in maintaining world peace and promoting common development as well as in international affairs.

“We advocate that the new therapy not only prevents atherosclerotic plaque formation in the major artery, but is able to significantly regress the plaque thickness by nearly 10 per cent. Recently, the benefit of high dose statin therapy was also confirmed by an international multicentre trial which was announced in the American College of Cardiology annual scientific meeting in March 2005.

According to the university, ischaemic heart disease is the second top killer in Hong Kong, just after cancer. Every year about 4,000 people died from this disease in Hong Kong.

HK finds new therapy for ischaemic heart disease

HONG KONG, 23 April — A research done by the Chinese University of Hong Kong found a new therapy for ischaemic heart disease, according to the university’s Press release on Friday.

Ischaemic heart disease is caused by atherosclerosis of the vessels in the body, a disease process characterized by the thickening of the arteries with deposition of plaques inside the wall of the vessel.

One of the main targets of treatment in patients with ischaemic heart disease is to limit the amount of atherosclerotic plaque formation in the arteries.

For the past 10 years, the Division of Cardiology of the university has been in the forefront of research and new therapies for ischaemic heart disease. One of the new treatment strategies is the use of drugs that limits atherosclerotic plaque formation in the artery. A recent study found that this can be achieved by the use of high dose statin, a cholesterol-lowering drug, therapy.

Studies results show that the new therapy not only prevents atherosclerotic plaque formation in the major artery, but is able to significantly regress the plaque thickness by nearly 10 per cent.

Eight killed as car bomb hits Shiite mosque in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 April — A car bomb detonated at a Shiite mosque in Baghdad on Friday, killing at least eight people and wounding 20 others, police said.

The blast took place at a Shiite mosque in eastern Baghdad during Friday prayers after midday, police said, adding the powerful explosion caused heavy damages to the mosque and nearby buildings. The US military had no immediate information on the incident.—MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania’s eco growth to exceed expectations for 2004-05

DAK-ES-SALAM, 24 April — Tanzania is predicted to achieve the major economic targets under the 2004-2005 budget with an annual growth rate of over 6.3 per cent expected.

Economic indicators available here on Friday showed that good performance in the first half of the financial year, July-December in 2004, had made it possible for the country to exceed the earlier estimated 6.3 per cent of gross domestic products growth rate.

Statistics also indicated that the national inflation rate had been put under control and was predicted to be at about 4 per cent by June this year compared to the 6.3 per cent in the previous period and the 22 per cent ten years ago.

According to Friday’s local newspaper Business Times, during the first half of the financial year, a total of $70 million US dollars has been collected as domestic revenue, a 3.4 per cent increase over the estimated sum of $842 million dollars.

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WEF to host Asia Roundtable in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 23 April — The World Economic Forum (WEF) will host its Asia Roundtable in Singapore on 28-29 April, WEF Asia Director Lee Howell said on Thursday.

With the theme “tilting the global balance: the strategic implications of Asia’s growth”, the meeting will address critical issues concerning the region’s increasing global economic and political influence.

“the goal of the roundtable is a frank exchange on both the challenges and opportunities that will be the focus of the coming months,” Howell noted.

Topics to be discussed during the event include the business impact of the geopolitics of Asia, the impact of China and India on Asian competitiveness and future growth, the future supply of key natural resources and its impact on regional relations, as well as the prospects for Asia’s financial integration.

A delegation of political and business leaders from the Middle East led by King Abdullah II of Jordan will join the discussion on the growing trade and investment ties between the Middle East and Asia in the roundtable, according to Lee.—MNA/Xinhua

A worker prepares to install telecommunication cables on a street in Hong Kong recently.—INTERNET

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A worker prepares to install telecommunication cables on a street in Hong Kong recently.—INTERNET
China, Zimbabwe friendship further strengthened

HARARE, 23 April — The peoples of China and Zimbabwe enjoy a profound fraternal relationship and an all-weather friendship in spite of thousands of miles afar, Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Chang Xianyi said on Friday.

Speaking at the reception celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe, Chang said Zimbabwe declared independence on 18 April 1980 and just on the same day the diplomatic relation was established between the two countries.

He said tracing back to the past quarter of century, the friendly cooperation between the two countries has witnessed steady growth in various fields.

The two countries have supported each other in international affairs and jointly safeguarded the rights and interests of the developing countries, he said. Chang said the Chinese Government and people highly appreciate the Zimbabwean Government for its adherence to the “one China” principle and resolute support for China’s peaceful reunification cause.

On the same occasion, Zimbabwean Acting Foreign Minister Herbert Murerwa said the relations between the two countries have positively unfolded and grown from strength to strength over the years.

The acting minister said China is now the single largest investor in Zimbabwe and the two countries should therefore continue to develop synergies which would lead to a win-win situation for both countries. He said Zimbabwe was endowed with the minerals, the raw materials and agricultural land while China has the expertise and capital to process and add value to the products of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe’s policy that Taiwan question is an internal affair of China, adding that any external actions on Taipei is an encroachment on China’s sovereignty and is an interference in China’s internal affairs. “We therefore support the ‘one country, two systems’ policy and the Anti-Secession Law adopted on 14 March, 2005 by the National People’s Congress. Taipei’s ‘dollar diplomacy or bribery diplomacy’ will be defeated internationally,” said Murerwa. Murerwa said that within a year of unification, China will be fully committed and geared to promote the Sino-Zimbabwe relations to new heights.

Economists say Singapore might be Asia’s first global city

SINGAPORE, 23 April — Economists calculated that Singapore might be the first global city in Asia in the near future, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Thursday.

Defining global city as cosmopolitan with ethnic and cultural diversity, they said that this is a big advantage Singapore enjoys over its rival cities in Asia like Hong Kong and Tokyo.

“The global city, unlike an industrial model, requires an organic mixing of a number of ingredients,” the report quoted Senior Economist at Deutsche Bank Sanjeev Sanyal as saying, indicating that setting up the integrated resorts with casinos is just a part of Singapore’s strategy. Analysts tagged education and tourism as two key growth areas for the city state to build up its strength, forecasting that Singapore will eventually become a service economy with focus on high value-added manufacturing.

Some economists also suggested the island state continue to expand its international trade links, which they believe will feed back to the home-country. The report said that Singapore is exerting efforts to realize the goal “by reinventing its economy to one that is conducive to creative and knowledge-based industries”.

“Polish Culture Days” to be held in Beijing

BEIJING, 23 April — The most well-known Polish musicians will perform in Beijing during the “Polish Culture Days” from 9 to 15 May, according to a notice released on Friday by the Polish Embassy to China.

The activity is sponsored by the Polish Government according to an agreement between the two culture ministries, said Aquicuzka Lobacz, Charge d’Affaires of the Polish Embassy. She noted the musicians will play both classical and pop music during their stay. An exhibition of Polish handicraft will also be held in Beijing.

Kidnappers in Iraq threaten to kill Romanian journalists

BAGHDAD, 24 April — Guerillas in Iraq threatened to kill three Romanian journalists they kidnapped last month, unless the Romanian Government pulls out troops from Iraq, the Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported on Friday.

“The militants gave the Romanian Government four days from the date of the videotape to withdraw from Iraq or they would kill them,” the broadcaster of the Arabic TV said.

Romania has about 730 troops in Iraq. The video showed the three journalists sitting on the ground with militants’ weapons pointing to their heads.

The three journalists, two men and a woman, were kidnapped on 28 March in Baghdad.

State agencies and mobile phone operators agreed to implement the new rule at a meeting held on Thursday, Bangkok Post quoted Kanawat Wasinsungwong, vice-minister of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry, as saying.

The operators would draft the agreement together on 4 May, including details on how personal information would be stored and the standard form to be filled by SIM card buyers.

Previously, customers can buy a prepaid phone SIM card at any convenient store. However, the system has raised security concerns when continuous bombs hitting the country’s restive deep south were set off by mobile phones with prepaid SIM card.

With the new rule requiring buyers’ identification, the authorities wish they can cut down such bomb attacks or easily track down those who set off bombs.

Still, the existing 22 million prepaid phone users are not required to register themselves with their mobile phone operators, said Kanawat.

Instead, the mobile phone operators will carry on promotions to attract more existing prepaid card users to switch to new card so as to get their identification. But some analysts question whether the rules will truly improve the southern security, saying that assailants can use a prepaid mobile card bought at neighbouring Malaysia to set off bombs.

Thailand’s repaid SIM card buyers to report identity

BANGKOK, 23 April — Customers buying prepaid phone SIM card in Thailand will have to show their identifications starting from 10 May, a measure aimed to prevent bombs set off by mobile phone in the country’s restive deep south.

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ASEM finance officials gather in China

BEIJING, 23 April — Deputy finance ministers representing 39 members of Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) gathered in Xi’an, capital city of north China’s Shaanxi Province, on Friday to brace for the upcoming Sixth ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting to be held later in China, according to the Chinese Ministry of Finance said on Friday.

The ministry noted that the meeting was aimed at preparing for the forthcoming Sixth ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM) to be held in Tianjin, north China, on 26 June 2005.

Friday’s meeting was chaired by Li Yong, Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance, and was attended by the Finance Deputies of 39 ASEM members and representatives of international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Central Bank.

Participants conducted in-depth discussions on a range of issues, such as the global and regional economy development, enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the ASEM FMM, and economic and financial cooperation between Asia and Europe, the ministry said in a statement.

They also conferred on the expected outcome of the Sixth ASEM FMM, the framework and major contents of the Chairman’s Statement of the Sixth ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting and the Tianjin Initiative on Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation.

It was decided that the next ASEM Finance Deputies’ Meeting would be held in an EU country in 2006.

The ministry said preparations for the Sixth ASEM FMM are progressing smoothly. Media registration will start on May 8. Interested reporters, both domestic and foreign, are welcome to visit the official web site of the Sixth ASEM FMM: www.asemfmm.gov.cn, for on-line registration, according to the statement.

China follows steadfastly its chosen path of peaceful development

JAKARTA, 23 April — Chinese President Hu Jintao reaffirmed here on Friday that China will follow steadfastly its chosen path of peaceful development and commit itself to achieving common development with other countries in Asia and Africa.

He made the remarks while delivering a speech entitled “From the Glorious Past to a Bright Future: Building a New Type of Strategic Partnership between Asia and Africa” at the two-day Asian-African Summit which kicked off Friday at the Jakarta Convention Centre amid tight security.

Development is the most pressing task for the Asian and African nations, the Chinese President said.

The development of Asia and Africa is closely linked with that of the other parts of the world. The two continents make up half of the world’s land mass and three quarters of the world’s population.

“China will follow steadfastly its chosen path of peaceful development. The purpose of China’s foreign policy is to maintain world peace and promote common development,” Hu said.

China will always be a member of the developing world, and strengthening solidarity and cooperation with the other developing countries is the cornerstone of China’s diplomacy, he added.

“In the pursuit of world peace and common development, China will always stand by and work through thick and thin with the developing countries in their large members,” he noted.

China would have been unable to achieve its development without the cooperation from the developing countries.

“China will always commit itself to achieving common development with other countries in Asia and Africa,” Hu said.

China has become the fastest growing export market for Asia and African countries. In 2004, China’s trade with the rest of Asia and Africa reached 462.99 billion US dollars, accounting for 40 per cent of its total foreign trade.

China has provided preferential tariff treatment to many Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Asia and Africa and reduced or forgave debts owned by some of them.

Record exhibitors come to Hong Kong Houseware Fair

HONG KONG, 23 April — Over 2,100 exhibitors from 37 countries and regions around the world are taking part in this year’s “Hong Kong Houseware Fair,” making it the largest of its kind ever in Asia.

The four-day event, unveiled Thursday at its 20th anniversary, is displaying a wide range of artificial flowers, handicrafts, health & personal care items, home decorations, furniture, bathroom accessories, tableware, kitchenware, and gadgets.

According to Jeffrey Lam, chairman of the fair organizing committee, there are six newcomers from the Bahamas, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Egypt, New Zealand and Poland.

He noted that overseas exhibitors account for half of the total sellers, and he expected that overseas buyers will also account for a high percentage.

“With a strong export industry on household products and effective market platforms, such as the Houseware Fair, Hong Kong is evolving into a key sourcing centre in the region for house-hold goods,” he said.

Hong Kong manufacturers have been escalating up the value chain by developing their design capability and adding value to their services in order to stay competitive, said Andrew Leung, honorary president of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries.

He noted that Hong Kong industry needs to remain competitive for high-volume goods, as well as to leverage strengths in business, creating its own brand names and entering into licensing agreement with globally recognized brands.

To highlight Hong Kong’s design capability, a central product display area will be staged during the fair period.

A series of seminars will also be held during the fair to share views among buyers, sellers and industry researchers.

Singapore Premier urges progress in WTO

JAKARTA, 23 April — Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Friday that making progress at the World Trade Organization is the most critical thing for his country, where “the benefits of globalization far outweigh the disadvantages”.

“It is like casting a huge net and hauling in a large catch of fish, because at the WTO, every economy makes a commitment to open up,” Lee said when addressing a speech to delegates of the Asian-African Business Summit in Jakarta.

Lee noted that in a globalized world, Singapore could earn a good living by exporting goods and services to China and India, whose fast growths put them in the need of raw materials, components and commercial services.

But Singapore cannot just rely on WTO to develop its external linkages.

“The unsuccessful WTO ministerial meetings at Seattle and Cancun are constant reminders not to take the multilateral trading system for granted,” he said.

He said regional initiatives such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and bilateral free trade agreements can serve as good fallbacks should “the big net fail”.

S Africa ready to respond to Marburg virus

JOHANNESBURG, 23 April — The South African Government said on Thursday that the nation has countrywide systems in place to respond to suspected cases of the Marburg virus.

“No confirmed case of Marburg has been reported in South Africa. Isolation facilities for suspected cases have been identified in all provinces,” Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said in Pretoria.

The minister made the statement at the opening of a seminar between her department and Britain’s health protection agency.
China aims to control reliance on oil imports

Boao (Hainan), 23 April — With looming challenges in energy resource management, China will lower its reliance on oil imports to around 35 per cent by 2020, and seek to maintain it at that level, said Wang Tao, senior vice-president of the World Petroleum Congress (WPC), here on Friday.

A large petroleum consumer, China faces serious challenges in energy resource management as its economy has been growing at an average rate of 9 per cent in the past 20 years.

Energy supplies, especially oil supply, cannot meet the demand of the soaring economy, said Wang, at a roundtable meeting, part of the Annual Conference 2005 of Boao Forum for Asia.

Last year, China’s oil output reached 174 million tons, ranking fifth in the world. However, in the same year about 40 per cent of China’s oil supply was from imports.

Due to its large population, China’s average resources per capita are much lower than the world average level. The average storage of coal per capita is only 79 per cent of the world average, oil 11 per cent and natural gas 4.5 per cent, said Wang, also director of the Chinese National Committee under the WPC.

The latest evaluation results show that China’s petroleum storage is 61.9 billion tons and only 23.4 billion tons, or 37.8 per cent, have been discovered. Potentials lie in western regions and marine areas, where the percentage of oil fields being discovered is 21.5 per cent and 22.6 per cent, respectively.

Despite of its bad effects, the price hike in the international oil market could help China to collect more money and improve oil field exploration, said Wang.

Meanwhile, China could also enhance exploration efficiency of oil field by adopting advanced technologies, he said.

Wang predicted that China’s oil output would keep rising and the oil and gas production would reach a peak period by 2020.

On the other hand, China is taking an energy-saving approach to development to ease its energy pressures. Wang suggested that more detailed policies and regulations should be made to save energy in economic growth.

In the next 15 years, China is likely to quadruple its national economy while its energy consumption will only double, Wang said. — MNA/Xinhua

BFA releases first Annual Report 2005 on Eco Integration in Asia

Boao (Hainan), 23 April — The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) released its first Annual Report 2005 on Economic Integration in Asia here on Friday to provide the latest information on economic integration in Asia and advance the latest suggestions for the process.

According to the BFA’s annual report, deeper economic and political cooperation will be conducive to the further enhancing of bilateral and multi-lateral trade among Asian nations.

The report says that it is necessary for the governments of Asian nations to improve their macro-economic measures so as to attract more direct foreign investment, or FDI, and that FDI will promote the development of trade.

The deepening of the international division of industry demand more efficient policy coordination between different governments in Asia in order to avoid unnecessary trade friction, said Fidel Ramos, chairman of the board of BFA, at the Press conference for the launching of the annual report that China and other fast growing economies in Asia would not only push forward economic integration in Asia but also promote such a process around the world.

The fast economic growth in China has served as a driving force for its neighbouring countries, particularly for East Asian economies, said Ramos.

In 2001, China accounted for 30.6 per cent of trade in East Asian region, up from the 24.7 per cent in 1985. Meanwhile, China has grown into an important market in the region. Between 1995 and 2003, the nation’s imports from ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) member countries soared dramatically.

According to the report, the sustained growth of the Chinese economy has promoted the rise of Asia. A slow down of the Chinese economy would affect the regional economy as a whole.

The report says that from 1986 to 1995, developed nations posted an average annual economic growth of 3.9 per cent, and the growth rate slowed down to 2.8 per cent for years between 1996 and 2005. During the same two periods, the economic growth in emerging Asian economies was 8.1 per cent and 4.3 per cent, and the growth rates for developing Asian nations headed by China stood at 7.7 per cent and 6.6 per cent on average.

Long Yonggu, general-secretary of BFA, said at the Press conference that from this year forward BFA will release an annual report on economic integration in Asia every year at its annual conference, making it an authoritative report on the issue in the world. — MNA/Xinhua

France ready to improve cooperation with N-E China

Shenyang, 23 April — French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said here on Friday that France is optimistic about the economic prospects of China’s northeast region and wants to step up cooperation with the area.

The northeast region is an old industrial base, consisting of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces.

At a seminar, Raffarin told local officials and entrepreneurs that the northeast China has advantages in industrial infrastructure and personnel. France’s cooperation would involve ground transportation and environmental protection, he said.

Senior officials from the region, including Governor Zhang Wenyue of Liaoning Province, Governor Zhang Zuoji of Heilongjiang Province and Executive Vice-Governor Tian Xueren of the Jilin Province, briefed Raffarin on each province’s background, inviting France to take part in China’s plan of rejuvenating the old industrial base.

Prior to the seminar, Raffarin visited the Imperial Palace of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province.

France signed 20 agreements and contracts with a total value of three billion euros, following four-hour-long talks between Raffarin and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. — MNA/Xinhua

Putin, Lukashenko meet to advance integration

Moscow, 23 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarus counterpart Alexander Lukashenko met here on Friday to give a fresh boost to the two countries’ integration into a union state.

Putin and Lukashenko jointly presided over a session of the Supreme State Council of Russia and Belarus, at which the budget of the Russia-Belarus union state for 2005 was approved.

“This document fully meets the current and long-term tasks of our countries’ economic development,” which include the harmonization of Customs and tax legislation, advancement in currency integration and further integration of the two economies, Putin was quoted by the Interfax as saying. The two presidents also signed an agreement on mutual observance of the rights of both countries’ citizens.

“The nationals of Russia and Belarus must have the equal degree of confidence and social security,” Putin said after signing the document. — MNA/Xinhua

Official says China, Ethiopia ties further consolidated

ADDIS ABABA, 23 April — Visiting Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Lu Gaoqiang said here Friday that the bilateral cooperation between China and Ethiopia has been further consolidated.

During his talks with Ethiopian State Minister of Foreign Affairs Tekeda Alemu, Lu said the cooperation between the two countries in various sectors have been strengthened in particular after Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi’s visit to China.

The increasing trade volume between the two nations and the success of the development activities being carried out by Chinese investors in Ethiopia are some indicators for the enhancement of bilateral cooperation, he said.

The relations between the two nations have been strengthened since the first ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2000, said the Chinese official.

Hosting the second ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum successfully shows that how Ethiopia is committed to successful completion of the forum, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

A disabled Cambodian works at the business incubator park set up by the Development Technology Workshop (DTW) in Phnom Penh on 23 April, 2005. — INTERNET

A disabled Cambodian works at the business incubator park set up by the Development Technology Workshop (DTW) in Phnom Penh on 23 April, 2005.
The Head of State also visited the Pyu Chaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyu Township, on 13 March. The officials concerned reported on facts about the project, and salient points about Thaukyaykhat Hydropower Project to be implemented in Bago Division. The Senior General gave guidance on the programmers and responsibilities for implementation of Thaukyaykhat Hydropower Project, and plans for Pyu Chaung Multi-purpose Dam Project to be jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Electric Power.

On completion, the Pyu Chaung Multi-purpose Dam Project will be able to benefit some 100,000 acres of farmland in Ottwin and Pyu townships and generate 40 megawatts.

On 14 March, the Senior General, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council, senior military officers, ministers and departmental heads, inspected the Kunchaung Hydel-power Project, nine miles south-west of Pyu, and gave guidance, saying that in implementing the dam projects, it was required to ensure completion ahead of schedules to enable the people to enjoy the fruits of the projects earlier. Thus, related construction tasks included in the project were to be carried out simultaneously rather than one after another. For instance, it was needed to ensure parallel completion of the main dam and its canal system. And innovative measures were to be taken for producing electrical apparatus locally.

The Kunchaung Hydel-power Project will be implemented by construction group 3 of the Hydel-power Department, and the diversion weir and the irrigation canal system. And innovative measures were to be taken for producing electrical apparatus locally. The project is being undertaken by construction group 3 of the Hydel-power Department near Myochaung Village in Kyaukdaga Township and gave guidance to the officials. On completion, the project will be able to generate 110,000 acres of farmland and generate 60 megawatts.

In the afternoon, Senior General Than Shwe inspected the Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented by construction group 3 of the Hydel-power Department near Myochaung Village in Kyaukdaga Township and gave guidance to the officials. On completion, the facility will be able to irrigate about 118,500 acres of crops and generate 25 megawatts.

Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project is part of the Pyunzada plain cluster of dams together with Baikaa, Kawi-ya, Bawin and Pymbonjyi dam projects, and the drive will yield fruits to a total of 200,000 acres of crops.

(To be continued)
First, Daw Kyai
Kyaing and Daw Mya Mya San and party, to-
gether with the congrega-
tion opened the ceremony
by reciting Namo Tassa
times. They took
the Nine Precepts from
the Vice-Chairman
Sayadaw.

Daw Kyai
Kyaing offered Sein-
budaw and religious ob-
jects for the pagoda to
the Vice-Chairman
Sayadaw.

Similarly, Daw
Mya Mya San donated
Hangmyatnadaw and re-
ligious objects for the
pagoda to Joint-Secre-
tary Sayadaw Kalewa
Sayadaw. Bhaddanta Jagara-
bhivamsa.

Daw Kha
Lay Thet, Daw Than Than
Nwe and Daw Khin
Khin Win offered
Hngetmyatnadaw and tiers
of the Htidadaw for the
pagoda to members of
the Sangha.

The commander,
the vice-adjutant-general
and officials donated of-
fertories to the
Sayadaws. The Joint-
Secretary Sayadaw de-
ivered a sermon and
Daw Kyai
Kyaing and party poured water as an
act of sharing merits.

Next, they con-
veyed the Seinbudaw,

Daw Mya Mya San offers provisions to the Joint-Secretary Sayadaw.— MNA

Hngetmyatnadaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and reli-
gious objects round the
pagoda. Daw Kyai
Kyaing and Daw Mya Mya San sprinkled
scented water and con-
veyed them atop the pa-
goda. At the same
time, the Sayadaws, the
commander, the
vice-adjutant-general
and lay persons hoisted
Htidadaws atop the encir-
cling zedis.

Daw Kha
Lay Thet, Daw Than Than
Nwe and Daw Khin
Khin Win offered
Hsathaphudaw to a Sayadaw.— MNA

rituals of golden and sil-
er showers to mark suc-
cessful completion of the
ceremony. Later, the
consecration ceremony
followed at the
Gandakuti Building of
the pagoda.— MNA
The factory and mill management committee will have innovation and initiative to meet ISO and ensure Add on in producing machine parts in order to be able to penetrate foreign market.

When the industry is in the process of advancement, it will be able to add other items such as spectrometer, ultrasonic crack detector, precision measuring instrument, preheating furnace, CNC machine etc. one after another.

Then only, are the factories and mills to apply the electronic technology to catch up with those of international community and they will be able to switch from import-substitute industry to export-oriented one which is exporting mechanical spare parts.

Hence, officials concerned are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for ensuring proper management system at the foundries, constantly producing technicians and technocrats and penetrating foreign markets.

With development of foundry industry, progress will be made in industries such as power tiller production industry, farm-used small trucks production industry, motorcycle production industry, bus and lorry production industry and small rice mill and hydel power turbine production industry.

With development of foundry industry, progress will be made in industries such as power tiller production industry, farm-used small trucks production industry, motorcycle production industry, bus and lorry production industry and small rice mill and hydel power turbine production industry.

To be able to do so, those in charge of the respective industrial zones and sub-committees are to make close supervision and coordination. The government on its part is to provide all the necessary assistance to the industrialists to put them on the right track on which they handle their jobs on their own.

At the same time, it is required for other industrial zones to meet with success. It can be assessed that industries of other industrial zones will make progress at a time when foundry industry is meeting with success.

However, it is important to search and expose the industrial talent in the industrial zones, he said.

Based on the strength of qualification, money and kinds of entrepreneurs in industrial zones, encouragement is to be given to industries with great potentials. Only then, will all the industrial zones meet with success. If development pace of the industrial zones slows, development gap among the industrial zones will be great later on. In short, today’s discussions cover ensuring development of private industry, constant production of machine parts by foundries of Industrial Zone-3 and parallel development of all the industrial zones.

Only when private industries develop will a modern and developed nation emerge. At present, the existing factories and mills are required to run at full speed, development gap among the industrial zones.

**Industrial sector has promising future...**

(See page 10)

**Li-Gen Ye Myint inspects Kyunchaung Fertilizer Plant, Kyunchaung Natural Gas Power Plant**

**Yangon, 24 April —** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left here by air on 22 April morning and arrived at Bagan-Nyaung-U Airport later at 11 am.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint was welcomed there by Brig. Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpaduang Station, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

Accompanied by Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint proceeded to Tantkyitaung Jetty in Pakokku Township where they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials.

They arrived at No 2 Fertilizer Plant (Kyunchaung) of the Ministry of Energy near Kyunchaung Village of Pakokku Township.

Plant Manager U Kyaw Sein Than reported on implementation of the tasks, availability of gas, production and distribution of fertilizer and progress of the plant.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed them to repair heavy machinery and perform maintenance of the plant. Next, he inspected the gas liquified plant.

At the Natural Gas Power Plant (Kyunchaung), Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report on matters related to the power plant. The power plant was installed with three duel fuel gas turbines that can generate 18.1 megawatts. The plant produces 475,668 million kwh a year to supply electricity to factories in Sale, Wazi, Kyunchaung and Nyaungbinhyi as well as Pakokku, Yezagyo, Monywa, Salinngyi, Yinnabin and Pale Townships.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversaw the power control room of the plant and gave necessary instructions to the officials. They headed for the site of Tantkyitaung Greening Project of the Arid Zone Greening Department. Staff Officer U Tun Lwin submitted reports on establishment of forest plantation, conservation of natural forest, water supply and future plans. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected progress of forest plantations.

In Seikpyu, he met with departmental personnel and social organization members at Seikpyu Township Peace and Development Council Office. Next, he inspected Seikpyu Township Hospital and Win Thuza Shop.

At Tegyi Dam, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on matters related to the dam by officials. Tegyi Dam was built on Migyoung Creek. It is an earth dam measuring 1,350 feet by 27 feet. It will supply water to 150 acres of farmland. Similarly, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected functions of Wunlochaung Dam that benefits 300 acres of land. In his tour, Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into progress of roads and bridges. Afterwards, they proceeded to Kyaukhtu of Magway Division.
Based on the strength of qualification, money and kinds of entrepreneurs in industrial zones, encouragement is to be given to industries with great potentials. Only then, will all the industrial zones meet with success. If development pace of the industrial zones slows, development gap among the industrial zones will be great later on.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets departmental officials, social organizations, officers of local battalion, other members of the BPDKK (Ayethaya) Industrial Zones, and paid homage to the pagoda.

 Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets officers, other ranks and their families at the hall of local battalion in Kyaukkyi in Bago Division. — MNA

NGO-NGP

NPED Minister leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 24 April — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha left here by air this evening to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat to be held from 24 to 27 April in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung and departmental officials.

The minister was accompanied by Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office U Maung Maung Yi, Director-General Daw Myo Nwe of Foreign Economic Relations Department and Director U Khin Maung Ba of Planning Department. — MNA
China, Japan enjoy rapid development of economic ties

BEIJING, April 24 — China and Japan have enjoyed rapid development of economic and trade relations since China began its reform and opening up more than 20 years ago, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai in a recent interview.

When asked to comment on the current situation of Sino-Japanese economic and trade relations, Bo told local Press that benefits of the economic and trade cooperation between China and Japan, in general, is balanced to both sides.

Thanks to such mutual benefits, Sino-Japanese economic and trade ties have witnessed quiet and substantial progress for more than 20 years, according to Bo. This has brought concrete advantages for the people of both countries, he noted.

According to Bo, economic and trade relations with Japan, the United States and the European Union have composed three major parts of China’s foreign trade. Bilateral trade volume between China and the three regions exceeded US$1 trillion last year.

“Sino-Japanese economic and trade relations is crucial not only for the two countries, but also influential for Asia and the world at large,” he acknowledged.

MNA/Xinhua

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views all-round development tasks of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo on 24-4-2005.—YANGON COMMAND

Departmental and Tatmadaw vehicles checked on dry day

YANGON, 24 April — Vice-Chairman of the Dry Day Supervision Committee for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, together with committee members Director General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Kyi, senior military officers and departmental heads led by deputy leader of the supervision group Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe this morning supervised dry day inspection teams that were checking Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles in the main points of Capital Yangon.

Similarly, Dry Day Supervision Committee members senior military officers and departmental heads led by leader of the supervision group Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu performed supervision tasks in the evening.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver’s licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of respective uniforms and breaking of traffic rules from 7 am to 5 pm today. — MNA

Berlusconi forms 60th Italian government

ROME, April 24 — Silvio Berlusconi on Saturday was sworn in as Italian Prime Minister of the nation’s 60th government, ending a political crisis which had threatened to topple him from power.

The centre-right leader, who has been in the driving seat since May 2001, was sworn in at a brief ceremony presided over by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

The Prime Minister is now hoping his revamped executive will ensure he completes his full, five-year term. Berlusconi is keeping most ministers in their old jobs, including Gianfranco Fini, head of the National Alliance Party, who remains foreign minister and deputy premier.

He also brought back his long time ally Giulio Tremonti as deputy premier. Berlusconi’s new government confirmed the three portfolios held by the Northern League, whose reform plan devolving powers from the state to the regions has created tensions with AN and the UDC. — MNA/Xinhua

Maj-Gen Aung Htwe on tour of township in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 24 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence explained regional development work in meeting with departmental officials of Shan State (East) at the meeting hall of Coastal Region Command on Monday morning on the morning of 21 April.

It was attended by Shan State (East) PDC Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Brig-Gen Tin Yu and Brig-Gen Win Aung of Kengtung Station and local authorities. U Aye Thein, Manager of Shan State Myanmar Agriculture Service, reported on yield cultivation target of 400,000 acres of paddy in 2004-2005 in Shan State (East); and Head of Shan State Settlement and Land Records Department U Ohn Myint on efforts to meet the cultivation target of 400,000 acres of paddy, cultivation of 2,504 acres of rubber and extension of rubber cultivation up to 3,600 acres. Officials concerned also reported to Maj-Gen Aung Htwe on upgrading of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Road and Takaw-Mongpyin-Kengtung Road sections and targets of other development projects. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave a supplementary report. In response to the reports, Li Gen Aung Htwe urged those present for combined efforts to undertake development tasks.

Next, Li Gen Aung Htwe visited Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image in Kengtung and proceeded to Pungahkhyem Township Hospital. During meeting with service personnel at the hospital, Li Gen Aung Htwe briefed them on the seven-point road map and regional progress after hearing reports by officials on functions of various departments. He presented cash in aid to township Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, township Organization for Women’s Affairs and War Veterans Organization. Li Gen Aung Htwe visited Pungahkhyem Township Hospital and inspected progress in building the BEHS. Li Gen Aung Htwe and party went to Mongton and met with officers and other ranks and their families of Mongton Station. He gave an instruction on fulfillment of the needs of education, health and social welfare tasks of the families. At Mongton Township PDC office, Li Gen Aung Htwe met government employees, social organizations and local people and explained the seven-point road map of the State and regional development work. Li Gen Aung Htwe together with Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, met departmental officials at the township hall of Monghsat and heard reports on tasks being carried out for various sectors in the township. After leaving necessary instructions, Li Gen Aung Htwe met Tatmadaw members and their families of Monghsat Station.

MNA

Maj-Gen Aung Htwe on tour of township in Shan State (East)
Donate blood

China funds African Union’s peace efforts

Adhia Abara, 23 April — China on Friday donated 400,000 US dollars to the African Union (AU) in support of the continent’s peace efforts.

China’s Assistant Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng said the donation here to AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare. At the handing over, Lu said the stated sum was for the AU in support of its ongoing peace initiatives particularly in Darfur, western Sudan. — MNA/Xinhua

17 miners bodies found in mine gas blast in western Turkey

Ankara, 23 April — Bodies of 17 miners who were trapped as a mining shaft collapsed on Thursday, were found, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

A methane gas explosion on Thursday ripped through a coal mine which is in Gokler hamlet of Gediz Town in the western Turkish city of Kutahya, bringing down a mining shaft and trapping 17 miners. Two workers were rescued earlier.

MNA/Xinhua

Don’t smoke

Colombian journalist killed by gunmen

BOGOTA, 23 April — A Colombian journalist and trade-unionist was killed by unidentified gunmen in Sabaneta of Antioquia department in northwest Colombia, authorities said Friday.

Police said the journalist, identified as Oscar Acosta Arias, working for local newspaper El Sabanetelo, was attacked Thursday when he left his house. Arias was also a member of the Central Workers Trade Union, Colombia’s main trade union.

Colombia is regarded as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. According to government statistics, 154 journalists have been killed in the country since 1977. — MNA/Xinhua

Donate blood

Happy Golden Jubilee

Wishing Grandpa Cyril Khin Aung and Grandma Violettee a happy Golden Wedding Anniversary.
Loving Children, Grandchildren & Great-granddaughter

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Swiss President reminds scientists of ethical responsibility

GENEVA, 23 April—While attending the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich on Thursday, Swiss President Samuel Schmid reminded the country's scientists of their ethical responsibility and warned them to remain "humble".

Speaking at the institute which he called "perhaps the most pioneering project of 19th Century Switzerland", Schmid called on researchers to pay extra attention to ethical issues raised by modern science.

"These are fundamental questions because they concern creation. Men will never be able to bend nature to their own will. Superior scientific minds admit that there is a greater plan at work," he was cited by an official website Swissinfo as saying.

"Anyone who wants to play God will not only fail miserably, but will be acting irresponsibly," he added.

The Swiss Government created the first Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich in 1855. About 18,000 people from Switzerland and abroad are currently studying, working or conducting research at the institute. According to Swissinfo, no less than 21 Nobel Prize winners have studied or taught at the institute, including Albert Einstein, Wilhelm Rontgen, Wolfgang Pauli or more recently Richard Ernst and Kurt Wuthrich.—MNA/Xinhua

Netherlands reports first human case of mad cow disease

BRUSSELS, 23 April—The human form of "mad cow disease" has been diagnosed for the first time in the Netherlands, Radio Netherlands reported on Thursday.

A 26-year-old woman in the Mesos Medical Centre in Utrecht in central part of the country is suffering from Variant Creutzfeld-Jakob, it said.

This fatal brain disease can be caused by eating proteins called prions in infected beef. It is not yet clear whether the patient in Utrecht was infected in this way as the disease can also be contracted by transplanting nervous tissue. Scientists are also beginning to suspect that the disease can be transported by blood. The Dutch Health Inspectorate is investigating whether the patient has infected others, the report said.

In Europe, Variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease has only occurred in the Great Britain, Ireland, France and Italy. The Dutch authorities have said that Dutch beef is safe to eat. —MNA/Xinhua

US researchers develop microbial fuel cell

LOUISIANA, 23 April—US Researchers said Friday that they have developed a new electrically-assisted microbial fuel cell that does not require oxygen, enabling bacteria to produce four times as much hydrogen directly out of biomass than can be generated typically by fermentation alone.

This process is not limited to using only carbohydrate-based biomass for hydrogen production like conventional fermentation processes. Theoretically, it yields hydrogen from any biodegradable, dissolved, organic matter and cleans the wastewater, according to Bruce Logan, a professor at Pennsylvania State University who led the study.

"While there is likely insufficient waste biomass to sustain a global hydrogen economy, this form of renewable energy production may help offset the substantial costs of wastewater treatment as well as provide a contribution to nations able to harness hydrogen as an energy source," Logan said.

The researchers described their findings in a paper "Electrochemically Assisted Microbial Production of Hydrogen from acetate." The paper is published in the online issue of journal Environmental Science and Technology.

In their paper, the researchers explain that hydrogen production by bacterial fermentation is currently limited by the "fermentation barrier," the fact that bacteria, without a power boost, can only convert carbohydrates to a limited amount of hydrogen and a mixture of "dead end" fermentation end products such as acetic and butyric acids.

However, giving the bacteria a small assist with a tiny amount of electricity, about 0.25 volts or a small fraction of the voltage needed to run a typical six volt cell phone, they can leap over the fermentation barrier and convert a "dead end" fermentation end products such as acetic and butyric acids.

Thousands of wildebeest wind through the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya on 23 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Study finds snow melt causes large ocean plant blooms

LOUISIANA, 23 April—A new study supported by US space agency NASA has found a decline in winter and spring snow cover of Southwest Asia, and the Himalayan Mountain range is creating conditions for more widespread blooms of ocean plants in the Arabian Sea.

The decrease in snow cover has led to greater differences in both temperature and pressure systems between the Indian Subcontinent and the Arabian Sea. This mixing leads to better growing conditions for tiny, free-floating ocean plants called phytoplankton, scientists said on Thursday.

The study, appearing in this week's journal Science, was led by Joaoquim Goes, a researcher at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. The researchers used satellite observations of ocean colour to show phytoplankton concentrations in the Western Arabian Sea have increased by more than 350 per cent over the past seven years.

When winter and spring snow cover is low over Eurasia, the amount of solar energy reflected back into the atmosphere is less.

A decline in the amount of snow cover means less of the sun's energy goes towards melting of snow and evaporation of wet soil. As a result, the land mass heats up more in summer, creating a larger temperature difference between the waters of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Subcontinent landmass.

The temperature difference is responsible for a disparity in pressure over land and sea, creating a low pressure system over the Indian Subcontinent and a high pressure system over the Arabian Sea.

This difference in pressure causes winds to blow from the southwest Arabian Sea bringing annual rainfall to the Subcontinent from June to September. In the western Arabian Sea, these winds also cause upwelling of cooler nutrient-rich water, creating ideal conditions for phytoplankton to bloomp every year during summer.

Since 1997, a reduction in snow has led to wider temperature differences between the land and ocean during summer. As a consequence, seasurface winds over the Arabian Sea have strengthened leading to more intense upwelling and more widespread blooms of phytoplankton along the coasts of Somalia, Yemen and Oman.

According to Goes, while large blooms of phytoplankton can enhance fisheries, exceptionally large blooms could be detrimental to the ecosystem. Increases in phytoplankton amounts can lead to oxygen depletion in the water column and eventually to a decline in fish populations.

MNA/Xinhua

The eroding banks of the mighty Yangtze seen on 23 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Berlusconi to form Italian new government

ROME, 23 April—Silvio Berlusconi was given the green light on Friday by Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi to form a new government.

Berlusconi told reporters after a 60-minute meeting with Ciampi that he had received the president's mandate to form a new executive, averting the need for snap elections. —MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 25 April, 2005 13
**Blackburn Rovers were City moved off the foot of the table.**

Crystal Palace dragged themselves out of the relegation zone and Norwich back into the bottom three ever Premiership title with a 3-1 home win over Fulham on Saturday while

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**Chelsea within touching distance of title**

**London, 24 April — Chelsea moved within touching distance of their first ever Premiership title with a 3-1 home win over Fulham on Saturday while Crystal Palace dragged themselves out of the relegation zone and Norwich City moved off the foot of the table.**

West Brom slipped back into the bottom three courtesy of a defeat to Middlesbrough, while Everton were held at home by Birmingham City. Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers were also held on their own patch, by Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City respectively.

Joe Cole fired the Blues in front but Fulham were level before half-time courtesy of a well-taken effort from Collins John. But second half goals from the ever-impressive Frank Lampard and Eidur Gudjohnsen left Chelsea just a win away from the title, although an Arsenal slip-up against Tottenham could hand Jose Mourinho’s side the championship on Monday.

Everton’s push for a UEFA Champions League berth suffered a setback as they had to come from behind to earn a point at home to Birmingham.

Former Liverpool striker Emile Heskey returned to haunt his old Merseyside rivals with the opener after five minutes but Duncan Ferguson rescued a point four minutes from time. Palace moved out of the bottom three as Andy Johnson’s header was enough to sink Liverpool at Selhurst Park.

Middlesbrough produced a rampant first half performance to ensure a miserable return to The Riverside for West Brom manager Bryan Robson. The ex-Boro boss saw his side start brightly but the three goals in the space of 10 minutes kept Boro on course for a UEFA Cup place and plunged West Brom back into the drop zone. —MNA/Xinhua

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**Nine-man Real Madrid beat Villarreal 2-1**

**Madrid, 24 April — Nine-man Real Madrid came from behind to beat Villarreal 2-1 at the Bernabeu on Saturday after Zinedine Zidane and Walter Samuel had been dismissed with red card.**

With the home win, second-placed Real moved up to 69 points, three behind Barcelona who travel south to play Malaga on Sunday. Champions League-chasing Villarreal are third on 52 points with a game in hand on Real. Zidane was dismissed for two bookings for referee Michel Salgado to fire the win four minutes later.

Real were reduced to 10 men after 72 minutes when Argentina defender Samuel received his second yellow card. The home side then lost Zidane to a straight red in stoppage time as the French international scuffled with Villarreal defender Quivize Alvarez, who was also marked. Earlier, Osasuna overcame Atletico Madrid 1-0 to record their second victory in four days over the capital club and all but secure their Primera Liga place. —MNA/Xinhua

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With the goals from Brazilians Kaka and Cafu and Dane Jon Dahl Tomasson, Milan eased to a win which put them on 73 points. The Bianconeri claimed a 3-2 away win at Siena on Saturday and climbed above Sampdoria into fourth place, thanks to two goals from David Di Michele.

Milan, without the injured Andrea Pirlo and the suspended Gennaro Gattuso, dominated from the outset and took the lead after 34 minutes. Rui Costa had a shot parried by Parma keeper Sebastien Frey and, after Andry Shevchenko’s follow-up was blocked, Kaka pounced on the loose ball.

European Footballer of the Year Shevchenko then provided then second goal and Tomasson beat Frey to fire home at 62. Milan made it 3-0 when Ukrainian Shevchenko’s shot was half blocked and Cafu lashed in the rebound in the 71st minute.

Carlo Ancelotti’s side face freshly crowned Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal on Tuesday. —MNA/Xinhua

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**Club says Maradona to work for Boca**

**Buenos Aires, 24 April — Retired soccer player Diego Maradona is about to work with Boca Juniors, announced on Saturday by the boss of the Argentine soccer club.**

“Next week there will be a meeting of the board of directors to discuss this issue,” Mauricio Macri, President of Boca, told Argentine Radio Mitre station as he was taking part in the installation of Pope Benedict XVI in Italy.

The boss declined to reveal what position Maradona will take.

Maradona, 44, who retired from soccer in 1996 and has been struggling to control obesity and drug-addiction since then, said he would never take a job as a coach official and he wishes to share his experience with players.

The Boca president, however, backed the coach, Jorge Benitez, who was in conflict with striker Guillermo Barros Schelotto, and assured the player “wants to leave” the club.

"The thing is that there is a player (Barros Schelotto) who for seven years has been a key of the team, and now there is an alternative (Rodrigo Palacio) for his position according to the coach," he pointed out.

Thus Macri backed Benitez as saying “his responsibility is to form the best team possible” and “this has to be clear from Guillermo all the way to the youngest player of minor leagues; whoever doesn’t understand this is wrong and loses.” —MNA/Xinhua

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**Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**

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**AMBROS**

**PANTOMINE**

**EENEX**

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**Chelsea’s Claude Makelele, right, fights for the ball with Fulham’s Brian McBride during their FA Premiership soccer match at Stamford Bridge on London on 23 April, 2005. —INTERNET**

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GUAM members pledge closer security, economic cooperation

BUCHAREST, 24 April—Leaders of GUAM members pledged on Friday to change the regional organization into a "structure" which would be able to promote their economic ties and guarantee their security and stability, said reports from the Moldovan capital of Chisinau. At the end of a summit in Moldova, the presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova said in a statement that they will strengthen cooperation in the political and military fields, including peace-keeping missions.

The four GUAM members are ready to step up their energy cooperation and sign joint contracts to carry fuels produced around the Caspian Sea to European markets, and also hope to strike a deal soon on establishing a free trade area. The leaders also said they are willing to form partnerships with the European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United States and all other security organizations who endorse GUAM's purposes.

The leaders called on members of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to urge Russia to withdraw troops and arms from Moldova and Georgia. Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and his Romanian counterpart Traian Basescu attended the summit as observers. Also present were representatives from the United States, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland. According to the Moldovan Information Agency, Russia's Ambassador to Moldova voiced his country's displeasure with not being invited to the GUAM summit.

GUAM, a regional organization for economic cooperation, was set up in 1997 by Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

MNA/Chisinau

WEATHER

Sunday, 24 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers has been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagan Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (7°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagan and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in lower Sagon, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (4°C) each in Monywa, Magway and Myingyan. (43°C) each in Mandalay, Nyaung Oo and Mibin, (41°C) each in Kalaywa, Shwebo, Meiktila, Pyinuma, Shweyin and Hpa-an.

Maximum temperature on 23-4-2005 was 104°F. Minimum temperature on 24-4-2005 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-4-2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 23-4-2005 was (10.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 24-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall 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 North-west at (15:30) hours MST on 23-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South and West Bay and generally fair elsewhere on the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-4-2005: Isolated rain or thunder-showers are likely in Kachin State, upper Sagan, Mandalay and Tanninthu Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagan Division, Rakhine and Shan States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers in the northern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-4-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Asleep in Jesus

Saw Dee Shoo

Saw Dee Shoo (Senior Engineer, Yangon Airways), age 58 years old (4/1), Mahathukita Road, East Gyoingone, Insein, beloved husband of Saw Myo Lay (IFRC), Naw Mu Lar Bwe+Saw J Mya Nyo Lay (MBL), Saw Dee Boe, beloved father of Naw Debra Mya Nyo Lay and Saw J Juner Mya Nyo Lay, beloved brother of Naw Deed Na+U Soe Thin, Saw Dee Noe+Nav Tulip San Kyaw, Naw Dee Shav+U Chit Aye, Saw Dee Loe+Naw Palsh Shue, Saw Dee Ee+Nav Coral Jeanne Tin Cho, was called to his heavenly home on 24th of April, 2005 at 02:10. Funeral service at Pho Tha Byu memorial hall on 26-04-2005 at 03-00 am and thence to Way Kay Win Baptism cemetery for entombment.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 25 April, 2005 15

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Industrial sector has promising future
Prime Minister addresses coord meeting (2/2005) on industrial development

YANGON, 24 April — The coordination meeting (2/2005) on industrial development took place at the Ministry of Industry-1 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon with an address by Industrial Development Committee Chairman Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present at the meeting were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers who are also members of the committee, the Yangon City Development Committee chairman mayor, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, chairmen and members of industrial zone supervisory committees and industrial zone management committees, the president and members of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, chairmen and members of Myanmar Industrialists Association, Myanmar Engineering Society, Yangon Division All Business Control Committee and other committees.

Next, Industrial Development Committee Chairman Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win made a speech. He said that at every meeting of the committee for industrial development, all the members are able to hold discussions and seek better ways and means for industrial development. As a result, remarkable success has been achieved in the development of the private small and medium enterprises.

The Prime Minister called for figures of large, medium and small enterprises to be coordinated for making such an essential requirement strong on the correct path. Hence, it is needed to collect data and figures for the industrial sector such as number of factories, types and scales of enterprises, and strength of employees.

Each modern forging shop in the three industrial zones has a capacity to melt more than 1,000 tons a year. So, the industrial zones have been able to manufacture iron products on a large scale.

The process can be divided into two categories. The first includes development of Mandalay, Monywa and Ayeyawady industrial zones. The modern foundry plants, forging shops, and forging machines in these three industrial zones will launch their manufacturing processes in late May. It has been a great change in the private enterprise as the nation’s iron casting industry was transformed from cottage industry to better one with the use of modern machinery.

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With the use of lathe machine, milling machine, drilling machine, slotting machine, grinding machine, boring machine, gear cutting machine and tongs grinding machine, the workshops of the foundry plants can produce a larger range of iron products.

So, it is important to operate the plants and workshops at full capacity round the clock. It is important to have man, material, money and market for the industrial development in the long run as there have been modern machinery.

Management system of factory and mill should be flexible according to the economic nature and it cannot be practised as the management system of the governmental department. Only when there is proper management system of factory and mail, will the foundry industry run constantly and gain benefits.

Prime Minister addresses coord meeting (2/2005) on industrial development