Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for industrial development

The industrial sector is the largest sector of the national economy after the agriculture sector. The agriculture sector contributes 40.7 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP), the meat and fish sector 9.2 per cent and the industrial sector 10.7 per cent.

As the government is striving hard for development of the industrial sector through the formation of the Industrial Development Committee, the growth of the industrial sector is quite remarkable. And the industrial sector has potential for future growth and promising future.

The coordination meeting No. 2/2005 of the Industrial Development Committee was held at the training hall of the Ministry of Industry-1 on 24 April and it was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that, in striving for the development of the industrial sector, it was specially necessary to encourage small and medium enterprises which had greater quantity as well as larger production value, and that the entire private sector will develop only with the growth of its small and medium enterprises.

As small and medium enterprises play a pivotal role in the development of the industrial sector, measures are being taken to put small and medium enterprises on the right track for development and strengthen them.

Development of all industrial zones is necessary for the growth of private industries, preparations are being made to put into commission foundries, forging shops and forging machines at Mandalay, Monywa and Ayethaya Industrial Zones after May. Later, all these machines will also be introduced at other industrial zones. While efforts are being made for private enterprises of national entrepreneurs to be on the right track for development, private industrialists should be invited.

We would like to call on national private industrialists to take advantage of the assistance rendered by the government and fully cooperate with it for industrial development.

Concrete frame installed

YANGON, 25 April—A ceremony to install concrete frame at the Kyaukyedwin overpass was held this morning attended by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

Also present were Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Thaung, Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Min Swe and officials.

First, the minister, the mayor, the managing director and officials sprinkled scented water on Pier Nos 4 and 5.

At the auspicious time, the piers were erected.

U Myint Swe accredited to Israel

YANGON, 26 April—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Nepal, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Israel. — MNA

Lucky draw programme of Follow Me & Secret products

YANGON, 24 April—The Lucky Draw Opening ceremony for Follow Me & Secret beauty products was held at the Hotel Royal Lake here this morning.

Present on the occasion were journalists, agents and guests. Managing Director U Kyin Sein of Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd extended greetings.

Next, new items of products of Follow Me were introduced followed by lucky draw programme. Prizes will be presented to winners on 7 May at Sedona Hotel. — MNA

Deputy F&R Minister returns from PRC

YANGON, 25 April—Myanmar Delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe attended Asia-Europe Deputy Finance Ministers’ Meeting held in Xi’an, the People Republic of China from 21 to 22 April, 2005.

The opening ceremony of the meeting was held at the Sofitel Convention Centre on 22 April morning. It was attended by Deputy Minister of Finance Mr Li Yong of the PRC, Deputy Finance Ministers from Asia and Europe and the delegates from int’l monetary institutions. They exchanged views on prospects of economy, economic reforms, review on tsunami and response on it in future.

Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe attended dinner hosted by Shaanxi provincial government at Imperial Banquet Hall, Tang Paradise.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back on yesterday afternoon. They were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, departmental heads of Ministry of Finance and Revenue and officials.—MNA

President of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint received Asia and Ocenia Managing Director of Maruberi-Itochu Steel Pte Ltd of Singapore Mr Yasu-shiko Kokie who had completed his tour of duty here and his successor Mr Hiroku Some and Managing Director Mr Shigeru Mura Kari of Myanmar Steel Industries Co Ltd on 20 April and discussed matters on producing corrugated iron sheet. — H

All this needs to be known

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Eighth respect paying ceremony of Dagon BEHS-1 in progress on 23-4-2005. — H

Managing Director of Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd U Kyin Sein extends greetings at lucky draw opening ceremony. — MNA
China says globalization needs quicker opening pace

BOAO (Hainan), 25 April — It is inevitable that all countries will quicken the pace at which they open to fit into economic globalization, said Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Liao Xiaohui here Saturday at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2005.

Liao made these remarks while addressing the Minister's Dialogue on Challenges for World Economic Growth of the conference.

World Bank reports show that the global economy grew by 5.1 per cent in 2004, a record high in the past 30 years.

Yet Liao said what hides behind the statistics is a grievous imbalance in economic development. He said the imbalance not only exists between developed and developing countries, but are also seen within the two groups.

The official said the imbalance is caused by various factors. The most important one is that many countries failed to take effective measures to cope with the trend of economic globalization.

"Economic globalization means opportunities as well as challenges," said Liao. The successful experiences of some nations show that anyone who wants to benefit from economic globalization must stick to and quicken its pace of opening to the outside, namely to participate in globalization with an active attitude.

Liao said a fair and free global economic system with huge resource flows and sufficiently open markets can take shape only after nations, as many as possible, open themselves to the world market to the largest extent.

China has made great achievements since it put forward its opening policy in 1978. Its average GDP growth rate reached 9.4 per cent during the past 26 years. — MNA/Xinhua

Four top US Army officers cleared in prisoner abuses

WASHINGTON, 24 April — A US Army inspector-general's report has cleared four of five senior Army officers overseeing prison policies and operations in Iraq of responsibilities for the abuse of military prisoners there, newspaper reports said Saturday.

The investigations essentially found to culpability on the part of Lieutenant-General Ricardo S Sanchez, who was the top US commander in Iraq from June 2003 to July 2004, and three of his senior deputies, ruling that allegations they failed to prevent or stop abuses were "unsubstantiated".

Sanchez was the highest ranking officer to face allegations of leadership failure in connection with the abuse scandal, but the inquiry, barring new evidence, effectively closes the Army's book on whether the highest-ranking officers should be held accountable for command failings described in past reviews.

The only Army general officer recommended for punishment for the failure that led to abuses at the Abu Ghraib Prison and other facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan was Brigadier-General Janis L. Karpinski, who was in charge of US prison facilities in Iraq as commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade in late 2003 and early 2004.

Karpinski was relieved of her command and reportedly has received an administrative reprimand and a letter of retraction. She has repeatedly said she was made scapegoat for the failures of superiors.

The findings came nearly a year after shocking photographs of US military police officers stacking naked Iraqi prisoners in a human pyramid and of other abuses first surfaced.

A 10-member team began the investigation in October and based its conclusions on the 10 major defence inquiries into abuse and interviews with 37 senior officials, including L Paul Bremer, who led the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. The report has not been released.

Army officials were quoted as saying that they have identified 125 soldiers and officers who were either tried at courts-martial or issued administrative punishments for detainee abuses.

So far, seven low-ranking soldiers have faced the most serious charges in abuse cases arising out of Abu Ghraib. Five have pleaded guilty or have been found guilty, and two have courts-martial scheduled for next month. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka Development Forum to be held next month

COLOMBO, 24 April — The Sri Lankan Government has invited all multilateral, bilateral and donor country representatives for the Sri Lanka Development Forum meeting scheduled for 16 and 17 May in its central city of Kandy, the official Daily News said Saturday.

The newspaper quoted official sources from the Finance Ministry as saying that this annual meeting will review future donor assistance for development projects in Sri Lanka and discuss its way forward with regard to peace initiative.

Nearly 40 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies including the World Bank, IMF and the Asian Development Bank and around 100 foreign government representatives will attend this meeting, organized as a platform for Sri Lanka to present its future development strategies for donor review.

Former US President Bill Clinton, the UN special envoy for tsunami reconstruction, is also scheduled to attend this said group meeting which was previously held in Paris or Washington.

The donors will review overall development assistance to Sri Lanka at this meeting, and relief assistance for reconstruction in tsunami-devastated areas will be one of the main topics in the meeting, said the report. — MNA/Xinhua

Asia, Africa to forge strategic partnership

JAKARTA, 24 April — Leaders and officials from Asian and African countries have decided to build a new strategic partnership between the two continents at a meeting here hailed as historic.

The partnership is not directed against anyone but designed to serve the peoples of the two continents, they said, and a declaration on the New Asia-African Strategic Partnership, which will be officially endorsed as they visit Bandung, the venue of the first Asian-African Summit in 1955, on Sunday.

The partnership between Asia and Africa, which has a total population of 4.7 billion, will feature economic and socio-cultural relations apart from political solidarity, the focus of the Bandung conference.

Co-chairman Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono expressed confidence with the partnership, saying "we will create in the years ahead a legacy of socio-economic and cultural development to future generations of Asians and Africans". He hailed the declaration on the partnership as "a milestone in history and such a relationship will serve as a bridge between Asia and Africa for the betterment of their peoples' interests in meeting various challenges in today's world."

At a Press conference at the end of the two-day meeting, both Susilo and another co-chairman Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa, stressed that the partnership is not against anyone.

Asked if the multilateralism advocated by the leaders is targeted against or unilateralism by the United States, Susilo said "the spirit of the summit is not to confront, but to connect", adding that the partnership will serve to facilitate exchanges and cooperation within the two continents and with other parts of the world for the benefit of Asians and Africans.

Mbeki said the partnership is not directed against anyone, although multilateralism is very important in the context of unilateralism. He said the conference was a success as reflected by the massive attendance and the high level of representation in the gathering. — MNA/Xinhua
SSNA abandons destructive acts, armed insurgency

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing delivered a speech. Next, Commander U Kan Na, Deputy Commander U Einda, Commanding Officer U Pwan Wan, Commanding Officer U Kham Mon and Commanding Officer U Sai Phone handed over their weapons to Li-Gen Aung Htwe. The arms and ammunition were four 60 mm mortars, nine different sorts of medium machineguns, five rocket launchers, 116 assorted small arms, 9,332 rounds of ammunition, 158 bombs, 28 hand grenades, 64 mines, 141 TTN cartridges, 194 magazines, 22 belts of rounds of ammunition for medium machineguns, and 18 walkie-talkies.

After the ceremony, we held an interview with U Kan Na at his residence in Kunkauk village, Hsenwi Township.

Q: May I know your opinion on the ongoing National Convention?
A: The principles that the National Convention is adopting are the very ones we have been looking forward to since long ago. And we are going to enjoy the rights irrespective of race and religion. So, we support it.

Q: I would also like to know your experiences and feelings on the day you exchanged arms for peace.
A: I was greatly delighted with it. The people extended warm welcome to us. They are very very pleased with our abandonment of armed insurgency. We are no longer a burden to them. So, they garlanded us as a gesture of welcoming us. It was the sort of feeling that I had never experienced before.

Q: When did you start to take up arms?
A: We did it in 1976 and rose against the successive governments. In reality, it was due to the evil legacy of the colonialists. We stuck to insurgency and committed wrong acts because of the divide-and-rule policy and feudalism and racism. Now, we trust the government, and we have committed to making combined efforts for regional development.

I have also witnessed the government engaged in efforts day in, day out, in education, health, social and transport sectors for the development of Shan State. We have followed armed struggle line and risen against the government for 29 years. But, we did nothing in the interests of the people. Then, we came to realize that it was no use sticking to the armed insurgency. Our armed struggle line had adverse effects on the people, and it did create a great hindrance to regional development. Local people disliked us holding arms. We did nothing for them but collected taxes and extortion money for our armed group members to survive. We came to realize the undesirable consequences of our wrongdoings and the genuine goodwill of the government and therefore, we decided to unconditionally exchange arms for peace.

Q: May I know your attitude towards the government?
A: The State will give encouragement and all necessary assistance including heavy machinery and fuel to us. On 12 April, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing provided us with 160 bags of rice, 60 viss of edible oil, 250 sets of clothes, 20 heads of cattle and K 2 million. Moreover, entrepreneurs in Shan State (North) presented K 22 million to us for regional development tasks. They are: Kanbawza Bank Ltd, K 5 million; Asia World Co Ltd, K 3 million; Silver Co, K 3 million; Tiger Head Co, K 2 million; Triple A Co, K 2 million; So So Pyay Pyay Co, K 2 million; Ngweyi Pearl Co, K 2 million; entrepreneurs in Lashio, K 1 million; Ruby Garden Co, K 1 million; and Manpan Htarnay People’s Militias, K 1 million.

Q: What are your future plans?
A: We’ll take part in regional development tasks in cooperation with the government. We’ll serve the interests of the local people who have understood and forgiven us. We’ll also help them enjoy the fruits of peace fully. I thank all very much for their warm welcome. Here, I’d like to exhort the national brethren who haven’t given up armed insurgency yet, to try to remove the suspicions and return to normal life.

Q: I would like to know your attitude to the exchange of arms for peace.
A: That is the correct decision of our leader. We SSNA members

See page 5)
The coal-fired power plant put into commission on 12 April in Pinlaung Township, Shan State, has a strong point that it can generate all-year round as it is supplied with coal without interruption.

Thiha Aung

Kunkauk Village where U Kan Na and members reside.
State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers, senior military officers, Indonesian Ambassador Mr Wyoso Prodjowarsito and embassy staff, military and civilian officers. Members of the delegation Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Than Aung, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Prime Minister’s Office, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Thaung Tun of Political Department, senior military officers and departmental heads also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

YANGON, 25 April—Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by officials concerned, on 21 April, arrived in Kengtung where they inspected the office of Kengtung District Information and Public Relations Department and gave instructions.

Next, the deputy minister looked into Kengtung Sub-Printing House and called for systematic arrangements for spare parts, maintenance of machinery and distribution of quality newspapers.

In meeting with staff of the ministry in Kengtung, the deputy minister underscored the need for them to make field trips right down to villages for increasing the number of readers and keeping spare parts for output power that had often been out of order.

On 22 April afternoon, the deputy minister arrived at Mongyaung where he met with departmental officials and attended to their needs. After inspecting the Township IPRD Office there, the deputy minister and party arrived in Mongyu in the evening.

After inspecting the libraries of IPRD and TV retransmission stations, the deputy minister met Lt-Gen Win Thein of Mongyu Station and departmental officials and fulfilled the requirements.

The deputy minister and party arrived back in Mongyoung in the evening.

In meeting with departmental personnel in Mongyou, the deputy minister stressed the need for them to discharge duties with goodwill, to cooperate with one another and to present difficulties to local authorities if any.

MNA

YANGON, 25 April—With the sponsorship of the Information Department of Myanmar Women Federation, a talk was given at the meeting hall of the office of the Ministry of Information on Themyin Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were heads of department under the MWF, working group leaders, members of Yangon Division Women Affairs Committee, women affairs committee members under the Ministry of Information and others numbering about 500. Head of the Information Department of MWF Daw Kyi Kyi Win extended greetings on the occasion. Next, Professor (Retd) of the Institute of Education National Literary Award Winner Dr Ma Tin Win gave a talk on Myoantawmyin.

Later, Head of the Information Department of MWF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presented a gift to Dr Ma Tin Win.—MNA
Senior General Than Shwe attends...
(from page 16)
President Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono delivered the opening address. The heads of State/Government and representatives of organizations posed for souvenir photos and cordially greeted one another. Members of the Myanmar delegation Secretary-I of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun also attended the summit.

Military Assistant to State Peace and Development Council Chairman Maj-Gen Nay Win, Director of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Than Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Kyaw Myint, SPDC Office Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein and departmental heads of the delegation attended the opening ceremony as observers at Cendrawasih Room.
The sessions of the summit were held in Plenary Hall at 10 am. Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Hassan Wirajuda explained the results of the 2005 Asian-African Ministerial Meeting.

Concerning the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, President Mr Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, King of Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, President Mr Hu Jintao of the People’s Republic of China, President of Algeria Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Prime Minister of Japan Mr Junichiro Koizumi, and Prime Minister of Malaysia Mr Dato Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi delivered addresses.

When the summit took a recess for a luncheon at noon, Prime Minister for Republic of Korea Mr Kim Jong Nam, and Prime Minister of Morocco Mr Driss Jettou delivered addresses.

As there was no opposition to the communiqué of the summit, the meeting chairman approved it. The summit was adjourned at 6.45 pm. Together with heads of state/government of other nations, the Senior General signed the communiqué.

The Indonesian President hosted a dinner in honour of the Senior General and other heads of state/government and representatives of organizations at Istana Negara in Jakarta. — MNA

In the afternoon session, President of Madagascar Mr Ravalomanana, President of Afghanistan Mr Hamid Karzai, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, President of Sudan Mr Omar Hassan Ahmad, His Majesty Gyendendra King of Nepal, President of the Philippines Madame Macapagal Arroyo, President of Botswana Mr Fest G Mogae, President of Comoros Mr Monsieur Azali Assoumani, Prime Minister of ROK Lee Hae-chan, Prime Minister of Tunisia Mr Mohamed Ghannouchi, President of the Preisdium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Mr Kim Yong Nam, and Prime Minister of Morocco Mr Driss Jettou delivered addresses.

Senior General Than Shwe on his way to the second day session of Asian-African Summit. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe signs the communique. — MNA

Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe Mr R G

Senior General Than Shwe and party on their way to attend the Summit. — MNA

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivers an address at the Summit. — MNA

South African President Thabo Mbeki delivers an address at the Summit. — MNA
Political freedom without...

The successful outcome of the First and Second Asian-African Sub-Regional Conference in Bandung in July 2003 and in Durban in August 2004. The process reaffirms the commitment of Asian and African countries to the principles and framework of cooperation agreed upon at the Bandung Conference. The ten principles adopted in Bandung continue to be relevant and the spirit of Bandung remains a potent force for closer cooperation between the two regions. What needs to be done now is to galvanize our efforts by adopting an effective and sustainable mechanism for interregional dialogue and cooperation.

The ten principles adopted in Bandung continue to be relevant and the spirit of Bandung remains a potent force for closer cooperation between the two regions. What needs to be done now is to galvanize our efforts by adopting an effective and sustainable mechanism for interregional dialogue and cooperation. We live in an era of rapid change. In recent years we have witnessed significant transformations in many fields. However, the challenges we face are complex and can only be overcome with vision and fortitude.

I am confident that the new strategic partnership we have agreed to launch at this summit will serve as an effective means to enhance solidarity of the two regions.

In view of the common challenges we face, the creation of strong linkages between Asia and Africa is an imperative of the times. Although the countries of our two regions have made progress in the political field, the vast majority of our peoples still remain mired in abject poverty due to the adverse external environment. Our nations are blessed with vast human and natural resources. We must seek ways to complement each other’s strength, and develop workable political, economic and social-cultural programmes to achieve our full potential.

In this regard, we recognize the crucial role that regional organizations such as the ASEAN, the African Union, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and the East Asia Summit can make in promoting economic, social and cultural cooperation. I am also convinced that growing people to people contacts will contribute to the success of the new partnership between our two continents. Let us rededicate ourselves to the Bandung principles and strengthen the ties that bind us. Myanmar fully supports the call to reinvigorate the Bandung spirit and to forge a new strategic partnership.

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

Our nations are blessed with vast human and natural resources. We must seek ways to complement each other’s strength, and develop workable political, economic and social-cultural programmes to achieve our full potential.

With regard to natural disasters, the unmitigated impacts of the tsunami disaster of 26 December should serve to remind us that our two continents are bound together. It is therefore appropriate that we establish an integrated strategy for the development of a multi-nodal early warning system. In this connection, we must encourage closer interaction among our experts in sharing best practices and experience. We must empower those at risk to be able to protect themselves by way of capacity building and promoting education and awareness.

Myanmar therefore welcome the joint statement on tsunami, earthquake and other natural disasters to be adopted at this summit. We must work together to ensure that a human catastrophe of the magnitude we experienced recently will never occur again.

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, I thank you for your kind indulgence.—MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, Heads of State/Heads of Governments of Asian and African countries, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and the ministers of Asian and African countries, arrived at Halim Perdana Kusuma Airport at 6.30 am.

Heads of State/Government left for Bandung by special flight and arrived there and went to Savoy Himann Hotel. At 9 am, they had a historical walk along Asia-Africa Street to the Merdeka building where the commemoration of the golden jubilee would be held. They arrived at the building and they had taken documentary photos.

Next, the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asian-African Conference was held. Students of Padjadjaran University in Bandung sang a song “Halo Halo Bandung”.

Afterwards, President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono delivered an opening address. On behalf of African countries, President of the Republic of Nigeria Mr Olusegun Obasanjo delivered a speech, on behalf of Asian countries, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr Manmohan Singh delivered a speech. On behalf of the Heads of State/Government of the nations of Asia and Africa, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President of the Republic of South Africa Mr Thabo Mbeki signed the statement of the Asian-African Summit. The students of Padjadjaran University in Bandung sang songs.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived from Jarkata Hilton Hotel by motorcade. They were seen off at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia U Kyaw Myint and wife, Military Attache Brig-Gen Khin Maung Soe and wife and embassy staff and families.

Senior General Than Shwe plants a tree in commemoration of the golden jubilee of Asia-Africa Conference. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and heads of State/Government of the nations of Asia and Africa pose for a documentary photo at the Merdeka Building in Bandung. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe bids farewell to officials from Indonesia. Senior General Than Shwe bids farewell to officials from Indonesia.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived back here in the afternoon.— MNA
YANGON, 25 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe attended the second day session of the Asian-African Summit held at the Plenary Hall of Jakarta Convention Centre in the Republic of Indonesia on 23 April 2005.

The summit was attended by heads of State/Government from the nations of Asia and Africa and other nations and representatives of organizations.

At the start of the second day session, heads of State/Government from the nations of Asia and Africa delivered speeches on a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.

Together with the Senior General at the summit were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Kyaw Myint, Military Assistant to the State Peace and Development Council Chairman Maj-Gen Nay Win, Director of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Brigadier General Than Aung, the Director General of the SPDC Office and heads of department observed the holding of the second day session of the summit at Cendrawasih Room.

During the recess of the summit, Senior General Than Shwe cordially met Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong at the recreation center.

When the summit resumed, leaders of representative groups and observers of respective nations delivered speeches. Next, the chairman of the Indonesian Traders Association presented matters related to the Asian-African Economic Summit to the summit.

Afterwards, the summit approved the declaration of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership and the declaration of tsunami disaster.

Later, the summit concluded at 6.30 pm after the speeches delivered by South African President Mr Thabo Mbeki and Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who jointly presided over the summit. — MNA

YANGON, 25 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence on 23 April morning inspected measures being taken for construction of ThanU Chauk Dam in Kyauktu.

Accompanied by officials concerned, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived at ThanU Chauk Dam construction project site and heard a report presented by Director U Tin Win of Irrigation Department on work being carried out and future tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the site for construction of the dam and gave instructions to officials.

After that, they arrived at Chauk People’s Hospital where they inspected women’s medical ward, operation theatre, X-ray unit and others and gave instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Winthuza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyauktu and inspected items being sold there.

Later, they arrived at the nurseries of the Forest Department where they inspected Manawhan strain summer paddy plantations, irrigated summer paddy plantations, Thitseint and shade tree plantations and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Minledaw Diversion Dam near Pansan Village where an official reported on the salient points of the diversion dam.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted local people and gave instructions to them.

On arrival at Pauk, Pakokku Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected Winthuza Shop where he heard a report presented by General Manager U Maung Ni on sale of items.

Afterwards, they looked into Pauk People’s Hospital and gave instructions to officials.

At the office of Pauk Township Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met departmental officials, social organizations and town elders and gave instructions on regional development and fulfilled the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Pauk Bridge No 1 construction project site in Pauk Township and inspected progress of work and gave instructions.

On arrival at Pauk Bridge No 2 construction project site, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected work being carried out and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, they arrived at Ye Pyar River Water Pumping project of Water Resources Utilization Department where they gave necessary instructions.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived in Myaing, Pakokku District and inspected Winthuza Shop and the People’s Hospital and gave instructions.

At the office of Myaing Township PDC, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met departmental officials, social organizations and town elders and gave necessary instructions.

Next, they arrived at Pakokku where they stopped over for the night.

This morning, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met officers and other ranks of the local battalion in Kyauktu and gave instructions on regional development. — MNA
YANGON, 25 April — At the invitation of President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Director of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Than Aung, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and heads of departments, left here by special flight of Myanma Airways International at noon on 21 April to attend the Asian-African Summit 2005 and the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asia-Africa Conference to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The special aircraft carrying Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at Halim Perdana Kusuma Airport in Jakarta at 4.25 pm local time. Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia U Kyaw Myint and Head of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Djoko Hardomo boarded the plane and welcomed them.

Senior General Than Shwe was also welcomed by State Minister of Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Kusmayanto Kadiman.

CNG filling Station No 009 commences functioning

YANGON, 25 April — The CNG filling station No-009 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy was opened at the station on Yangon-Pathein Road, in Hlaingthaya Township this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, departmental officials, members of USDA and social organizations.

First, Director U Myint Htay of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise reported on the matters concerning the station. Next, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the filling station.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the station.

Next, the commander, ministers and guests inspected the station. The director conducted them round the station.

Next, they viewed filling of CNG to vehicles.

MNA

CNG filling Station No 009

A young Indonesian girl garlanding Senior General Than Shwe. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receiving a bouquet from a young Myanmar woman of Myanmar Embassy. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe greeting members of the welcoming party. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe being welcomed by State Minister of Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Kusmayanto Kadiman at the airport. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Jakarta Hilton Hotel where they would be staying. — MNA
Four killed in train-truck crash in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 24 April — At least two people were killed Friday after the explosion of a truck carrying gas hit by a train in San Tiago Teyahuacalco, Mexico state.

Local authorities confirmed the death of two people Friday, but did not say whether there were more fatalities.

An ensuing fire was brought under control but local residents close to the scene had been evacuated as firemen feared the 8,000 litres of LP gas carried by the burning truck could cause any immediate damage to lives or property.

MNA/Xinhua

THAILAND TO DEPORT 49 NIGERIANS

BUSH NOMINATES MARINE GENERAL AS HEAD OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, 24 April — US President George W. Bush on Friday nominated Marine General Peter Pace, who has played a key role in shaping the US strategy on the war against terrorism, to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

If approved by the Parliament, the 59-year-old Pace would succeed Air Force General Richard B. Myers, who was scheduled to retire on 30 September after four years on the job. "He knows the job well," Bush said in a ceremony at the White House. If confirmed by the Senate, Bush noted, Pace would become the first US Marine General to be promoted to the top military post. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Pace graduated from the US Naval Academy before serving in the Vietnam War, where he led a rifle platoon. He was put in charge of the US Southern Command in September 2000, and was promoted a year later to serve as vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pace has been involved in defining strategy for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is widely seen as closely aligned with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

CRUDE OIL PRICES RISE AMID FUEL-SUPPLY CONCERN

New York, 24 April — Crude oil futures rose Friday, ending the biggest rally week in three months, as traders worried about gasoline supplies in the summer. The New York law newpaper reported shutdowns after maintenance. This development threatened to curb gasoline supplies.

MNA/Xinhua

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Prolonged use of computer can lead to hand disorder

**Hong Kong, 25 April** — Prolonged use of computer and incorrect postures can lead to hand disorder, researchers from the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Medicine said on Saturday at the second international forum on occupational diseases. The latest studies on occupational hand problems by the medical faculty showed that non-physical work in the offices can also lead to occupational hand disorder, though serious hand injuries occur frequently in physical-related industries, such as construction.

Researchers said many office jobs require prolonged use of computer. Incorrect sitting postures and repetitive work may lead to disorders in hands and wrists, or called Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS). It is estimated that there are about 4,000-6,000 new CTS cases in Hong Kong annually.

The research findings revealed that when conducting daily activities, frequent flexion would increase the risk of CTS by 4 times and frequent extension and sustained force of the wrist would increase the risk of CTS by 2.5 times.

The researchers hope the public would gradually realize the risks of occupational hand diseases through their studies and prevent repetitive stress injuries by taking correct postures and healthy lifestyle.

MNA/Xinhua

**A Chinese woman works at a textile workshop in Ranuy town, Chengdu, in southwest China's Sichuan Province on 25 April, 2005.** — Internet

**Medicare change in US to limit access to claim hearing**

**Washington, 25 April** — A new US federal policy will make it significantly more difficult for Medicare beneficiaries to obtain hearings in person before a judge when the government denies their claims for home care, nursing home services, prescription drugs and other treatments, officials said.

For years, hearings have been held at more than 140 Social Security offices around the United States. In July, the Department of Health and Human Services will take over the responsibility, and department officials said all judges would then be located at just four sites, The New York Times reported Sunday.

Under the new policy, Medicare officials said, most hearings will be held with video conference equipment or by telephone. A beneficiary who wants to appear in person before a judge must show that “special or extraordinary circumstances exist”, the rules say.

But a beneficiary who insists on a face-to-face hearing will lose the right to receive a decision within 90 days, the deadline set by statute.

The policy change comes as officials of US President George W. Bush’s government are predicting an increase in the volume of cases, with the creation of a Medicare drug benefit expected to generate large numbers of claims and appeals.

All beneficiaries of the Medicare are 65 or older or disabled. About 5 million of the 41 million beneficiaries are between 65 and 69, and some are so sick that they may still appear.

When claims are denied, beneficiaries and their health care providers cannot challenge the decisions in an appeal process that has several levels of review.

MNA/Xinhua

**Heavy use of BlackBerry causes thumb pain**

**Washington, 25 April** — Heavy use of the BlackBerry, a small electronic device with a tiny keyboard to send and receive messages, causes pain leading the wrist to throb in some cases, doctors said.

The device is becoming increasingly popular with executives and students, who regard it as almost indispensable.

Orthopaedicians said they were seeing an increasing number of patients with similar symptoms, a condition known as “overuse syndrome” or “Blackberry thumb” as most users prefer to use the index finger to hit the tiny keyboard, The Wall Street Journal reported.

In some patients, the disability has become severe.

Bette R. Keltner, Dean of the Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies has been forced to put her BlackBerry down, it said.

After two years of constant use, her hands were in so much pain, she had to stop typing. She remembers the trigger-point: It was a 10-hour conference on Saturday where she answered about 150 e-mails. “Days later, I was excruciating pain,” she said.

The American Society of Hand Therapists issued a consumer alert in January saying that handheld electronic devices are causing an increasing amount of carpal tunnel syndrome and tendinitis.

MNA/PIT

**“Soyuz” carrying “ISS” crew lands in Kazakhstan**

**Moscow, 25 April** — Russia’s Soyuz spaceship carrying a three-man crew from the International Space Station (ISS) landed on the Kazakh steppe early Monday morning, Moscow-based Mission Control officials said.

The Soyuz TMA-5 capsule landed about 90 kilometres north of the Kazakh town of Arkalyk at 02:08 a.m. Moscow Time (2208 GMT), bringing Russian Salizhan Sharipov and American Leroy Chiao and Italian Roberto Vittori safely back to Earth, Mission Control officials were quoted by Interfax as saying.

“All proceeded as planned,” a Mission Control spokesman told ITAR-TASS.

Helicopters spotted the capsule as it made a soft landing on the Kazakh steppe two hours before daybreak.

The Soyuz capsule unfurled a large parachute after it entered the atmosphere and fired a final burst of rockets to cushion its landing on the steppe.

Engineers followed the descent of the capsule on a large screen at the Mission Control Centre outside Moscow. Mission Control officials said the three astronauts reported by satellite link that they were feeling fine.

Sharipov and Chiao, who completed their 192-day mission as the 10th crew on the orbiting laboratory, left the station at 22:45 Moscow Time (1845 GMT) along with Vittori, who spent eight days onboard the ISS conducting scientific experiments.

MNA/Xinhua

**A Chinese woman works at a textile workshop in Ranuy town, Chengdu, in southwest China’s Sichuan Province on 25 April, 2005.** — Internet

**Turkeys marks 90th anniversary of Canakkale Wars**

**Angarsk, 25 April** — Turkey held a ceremony on Sunday to mark the 90th anniversary of Canakkale Wars during World War I, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Addressing the ceremony which was held in Gelibolu Town of Turkey’s northwestern province of Canakkale, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, “we should exert more efforts to prevent wars and act with cooperation and determination against elements threatening peace in any place of the world.”

“Within that scope, instead of struggle based on military methods, we should take measures to remove real reasons of disagreements,” he added.

“I lost well-educated youths of that generation during the war. Certainly, we commemorate with respect the soldiers of Australia, Ireland, France, Greece, Russia, Italy, Holland, Germany and Turkey. They are heroes who volunteered to fight for the peace.”

MNA/Xinhua

**Pope Benedict XVI formally installed**

**Rome, 25 April** — Pope Benedict XVI was formally installed in a high-profile ceremony in the St Peter’s Square in the Vatican Sunday to officially start the ministry of the 265th leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

The open-air ceremony, known as Coronation, included an inaugural Mass to provide the new pope a major platform to set the tone for his pontificate.

Attending the ceremony were an estimated 350,000 people, including a large number of pilgrims from the new pope’s native Germany, political leaders and ceremonial dignitaries.

The 78-year-old Benedict XVI was elected the 265th pope on April 19, 11 days after the death of Pope John Paul II on April 8. The new pope began the ceremony by processing into the area under St. Peter’s Basilica where St. Peter is believed to be buried.

In a symbolic moment of the inaugural Mass, Benedict was given a Fisherman’s Ring and a wooden pallium of ashes — symbols of the papal authority. Benedict ended the inaugural Mass by riding in a white open-toped white jeep surrounded by plain-clothed guards.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Mourinho issues Robben warning

LONDON, 25 April — Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho is sure that winger Arjen Robben will perform better to torment Liverpool in the Champions League semifinal, first leg.

Robben returned from an ankle injury in the win over Fulham and Mourinho said: “Arjen will be better for Wednesday.

“He can train from now through to the day before the game, so he has more days to get his confidence back and be more comfortable on the pitch. ‘Of course, he is a very important option as he is a special player.”

The 21-year-old Dutchman had been out since the end of March when he damaged an ankle tendon in his country’s 2-0 win over Romania.

He played the whole of the second half against Fulham at Stamford Bridge and Mourinho was buoyed by his performance.

“I think that without Arjen Robben we wouldn’t have won this game,” added Mourinho. “He was sharp and, because of that, he brought a different pace and intensity to the game.” — MNA/Xinhua

Manchester United beat Newcastle

LONDON, 25 April — Wayne Rooney scored a stunning second-half equalizer and Wes Brown hit in a rare goal on Sunday when Manchester United beat Newcastle United 2-1 to keep pressure on Arsenal in the race for second-spot.

As Chelsea are virtually assured of the title on 85 points, what is up for grabs is their league semifinals. Newcastle — thumped 4-1 by United, Newcasel — are sensible that a spot kick was denied as Smith的时间里，referee Neale Barry waved away the protests.

The Red Devils gradually warmed up in the second half as they dominated with 70 points, one point adrift of Arsenal who are to face Tottenham Hotspur in the north London derby on Monday.

On the other game of Sunday, Portsmouth thumped Harry Redknapp’s bottom-placed Southampton 4-1, with the Portsmouth thumped Harry Redknapp’s bot-

LONDON, 25 April — Following are the leading goal scorers of the Premier League on Saturday:

14 — Yakubu Aiyegbeni (Portsmouth), Robbie Keane (Tottenham Hotspur), Andy Cole (Fulham), Robert Pires (Arsenal), Eidur Gudjohnsen (Chelsea)

9 — Wayne Rooney (Manchester United), Paul Dickov (Blackburn Rovers), Milan Baros (Liverpool), Robbie Fowler (Manchester City), Shaun Wright-Phillips (Manchester City), Tshibetah (Everton)

8 — Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Luis Boa Morte (Fulham), Emilie Heskey (Birmingham City), Nolberto Solano (Aston Villa), El Hadji Diouf (Bolton Wanderers), Luis Garcia (Liverpool)

MNA/Xinhua

Italian Serie A Top Scorers

Rome, 25 April — Following are the top scorers of the Italian Serie A on Sunday:

27 — Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma)
26 — Luca Toni (Palermo)
17 — Alberto Gilardino (Parma)
16 — Cristian Lucarelli (Livorno)
15 — Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Juventus)
12 — Francesco Flachi (Sampdoria)
11 — Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
10 — David Di Michele (Udinese)
9 — Romanos Roso (Fiorentina)
8 — Franco Brienza (Palermo)
7 — Hamburg (Bayern Munich)

MNA/Xinhua

German Bundesliga Top Scorers

Berlin, 25 April — Following are the top scorers of the German Bundesliga after matches on Saturday:

22 — Marek Mintal (Nuremberg)
17 — Marcelinho (Hertha Berlin)
16 — Delvon Buckley
15 — Romanos Roso
14 — Marian Piatnitski
13 — Jan Ullrich (Borussia Dortmund)
12 — Andrei Voronin
11 — Hernan Crespo (AC Milan)
10 — Oliver Neuville (Borussia Dortmund)
9 — Lukasz Piszczek (Bayer Leverkusen)
8 — Andriy Voronin
7 — Nolberto Solano (Aston Villa)
6 — Arturo Di Napoli (Messina)
5 — Jari Litmanen (Fiorentina)
4 — Christian Chivu (Siena)
3 — Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
2 — Vincenzo Iaquinta (Udinese)
1 — Enrico Chiesa (Siena)

MNA/Xinhua

Terry named English PFA player of the year

LONDON, 25 April — Chelsea captain and defender John Terry beat teammates Frank Lampard and Petr Cech to win the English Professional Footballers’ Association player of the year award on Sunday.

Among the nominees also included Arsenal striker and last year’s winner Thierry Henry, Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard and Crystal Palace striker Andrew Johnson for the prestigious award. Terry is the first Chelsea player to receive the award and the first defender to win since Paul McGrath in 1993.

The England defender has been in imperious form this season as Chelsea head for their first title in 50 years and he has also been instrumental in leading his side to the Champions league semifinals.

He also has eight goals to his name this season. — MNA/Xinhua
Study says GM tissue alleviates Alzheimer’s disease

Los Angeles, 25 April — Inserting genetically modified tissue directly into brain will significantly alleviate the Alzheimer’s disease, US researchers said on Sunday.

Tests showed that the surgery reduces the rate of patients’ cognitive decline and increases their brains’ metabolic activity, according to a study published in the 24 April online issue of the journal Nature Medicine by researchers at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine.

In this first-ever gene therapy for Alzheimer’s disease, the researchers took skin cells from eight patients diagnosed with early Alzheimer’s disease. The tissue was modified in the lab to express nerve growth factor (NGF), a naturally occurring protein that prevents cell death and stimulates cell function.

In surgeries that took place in 2001 and 2002, the genetically modified tissue was implanted deep within the brains of the eight patients who had volunteered for the study. This human clinical trial was undertaken following extensive studies in primates, which showed that grafting NGF-producing tissue into the brains of aged monkeys restored atrophied brain cells to near-normal size and quantity, and also restored axons connecting the brain cells, essential for communication between cells.

In the study, two patients moved as the cells were being injected, resulting in bleeding in the brain. One of these patients died five weeks later.

Cognitive outcomes were assessed in the six patients who completed the procedure safely. The Mini Mental Status Examination, which evaluates cognitive function, was administered. Over an average post-treatment follow-up period of 22 months, the tests showed the rate of cognitive function decline of the patients was reduced by 36 to 51 percent. An additional test also showed improvements in rates of cognitive function decline.

The researchers scanned the patients’ brains with positron emission tomography (PET) finding significant increases in the brains’ metabolic activity. They also examined the brain tissue of a study participant who had died, finding robust growth of extensions from the dying cholinergic cells near the site of growth factor gene delivery. Cholinergic neuron loss is a cardinal feature of Alzheimer’s disease.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran denies missile equipment deal with Germany

Teheran, 25 April — Iran on Sunday rejected a report by German media that it had bought parts from Germany for its missile programme, the official IRNA news agency reported. “This is a baseless claim and theory. It is unclear how crate equipment can be used in Shahab missiles,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi was quoted as saying.

German weekly Der Spiegel, in an issue due to be published on Monday, has quoted German pro-secutors as reporting that a firm in Teheran was under investigation because it was suspected of buying a crane from Germany to help manufacture Iran’s Shahab missiles.

Rejecting the report as “un warranted”, Asefi said that Iran enjoyed industrial cooperation with all countries and Germany was among Iran’s economic partners.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Monday, 25 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan States and upper Sagaing, Mandalay Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (0.24) inch in Kyauk Se. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Southern Shan, Kayin States, Yangon, Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Chin State and Ayeyawady Division, (7°C) above normal in Tanintharyi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (43°C) in Magway.

Maximum temperature on 24-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 25-4-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-4-2005 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 24-4-2005 was (10.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 24-4-2005 was 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 (5) mph from North-west at (01:10) hours MST on 25-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26-4-2005: Isolated rain or thunder-showers are likely over Kachin, northern Rakhine, northern Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, weather will be 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: Continuation of the likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers in northern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-4-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-4-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Asleep in Jesus

Saw Dee Shoa

Saw Dee Shoa (Senior Engineer, Yangon Airways), age 58 years old, was killed on Sunday in a road accident near Kyauk Pyin, Magway Division, at 24.20pm on the Mandalay-Magway highway, 17kms away from Kyauk Pyin. He is survived by his wife and one daughter. He was father to the Saw Dee Shoa family. He was buried on Sunday afternoon in the same village after a short funeral service at the village.

The accident was caused by an oil tanker that collided with the Toyota car in which he was riding in his car. The accident occurred in the early hours of the morning on Monday 26th April. The family is deeply saddened by the loss of their loved one and asks for prayers for their family.

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Senior General Than Shwe delivers a speech at the first day session of Asian-African Summit 2005 in Jakarta. — MNA

**Declaration of KIO**

**Yangon, 25 April** — The social organizations, political parties and peace groups that had returned to the legal fold issued declarations condemning and opposing the acts disturbing and endangering peace and stability and law and order and condemnation of the State and peace and tranquility of the entire people of the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and his cohorts. The following is a translation of the declaration made by KIO:

1. The Union of Myanmar is home to such national races as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan who have been living in the country through thick and thin. With the united strength of the national brethren, fascism and colonialism were warded off successfully and independence was regained.

2. National race leaders believed that it was better to live unitedly than living separately and living in unity could safeguard the nation from colonial subjugation and thus they, in pre-independence period, unanimously decided to establish the Union of Myanmar at Panglong Conference. Therefore, as soon as independence was regained, the Union of Myanmar was established based on the principle of equality of all the national races.

3. Since yore, Kachin national race preferred to the union system in which all national races from hilly and the plain regions living peacefully. Therefore, they have participated in the drive for forming the Union and history shows the fact that they have done their best for perpetuation of the Union.

4. The declaration of independence of Shan state by renegade Sao Khum Hpa and his cohorts on 17-4-2005 is not in conformity with the Union System which we of Kachin Independence Organization of Kachin Special Region-2 accept and so we oppose it. Such act could harm national unity and lead to disintegration of the Union and thus, we disapprove of the declaration on seceding from the Union to form a separate state.

Lamon Tu Jai
Chairman
Central Committee
Kachin Special Region(2), Kachin Independence Organization.