Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to South African President

**YANGON, 27 April—** Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Thabo M Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa which falls on 27 April 2005. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of Serbia and Montenegro

**YANGON, 27 April—** Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2005.—MNA

In the world, small nations are now facing many difficulties. So, it is important for Asian and African nations to cooperate more

Senior General Than Shwe calls on Indonesian President

**YANGON, 26 April—**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Jakarta Convention Centre in Jakarta on 23 April morning.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the SPDC Maj-Gen Nay Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Kyaw Myint, Director-General of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun, Coordination Minister of Politics, Law and Security Adm (Rtd) Widodo, AS, Minister of State Secretary Prof Dr Yusril Ihza Manhendra, and Cabinet Secretary Lt-Gen (Rtd) Sudhi Silalahi.

The Indonesian President in his speech expressed his pleasure, saying that the bilateral ties and cooperation have come into existence since the times of the independence struggles of the two nations. The two nations also cooperated in the first Bandung Conference held in 1955. At that time, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India held discussions on development and cooperation of Asia and Africa and laid down Bandung principles. (See page 8)

**INSIDE**

Myanmar has been actively participating in the global family while extending friendly relations with the world nations, especially, the neighbours.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Asian-African Summit to promote friendship and forge strategic partnership

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, at the invitation of President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, attended the Asian-African Summit 2005 and the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asia-Africa Conference held in Jakarta and Bandung from 22 to 24 April.

Myanmar was one of the 29 countries which attended the Bandung Conference in 1955. Present at the Asian-African Summit 2005 together with Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe were Heads of State and Government from 105 countries in Asia and Africa and others.

In his address on the first day of the Summit held at the Jakarta Convention Centre, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe said, “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.”

Regional organizations such as the ASEAN, the African Union, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and the East Asia Summit play a crucial role in promoting economic, social and cultural cooperation among nations. Growing people-to-people contacts will contribute to the success of the new partnership between our two continents. Therefore, the Union of Myanmar fully supports the call to reinvigorate the Bandung spirit and to forge a new strategic partnership.

The Union of Myanmar is essaying to further strengthen friendship and cooperation between nations, always adhering to the Bandung principles. 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 believe that attendance at the Asian-African Summit by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe will contribute a lot to promotion of friendship and cooperation and to reinvigorating the Bandung spirit and forging a new strategic partnership among the nations of the two continents.

Doe Kyeywa journal comes out

YANGON, 26 April—Volume II, Number 9 of Doe Kyeywa journal has come out today with variety of topics. It is published with the aim of turning out persons with high moral and calibre. Those interested may send manuscripts and advertisements to the journal at No (30-32)-10th Street in Lammawad Township and contact phone numbers 371342, 252452 and 379768. —MNA

Commander welcomes back health staff

YANGON, 26 April—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe together with Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Than Lin and officials this morning met with specialists, health staff and departmental officials who lent themselves to the tasks for providing health care services to local people and regional development tasks at Coocogyun Township at local battalion in Thanlyetsoon in Botaung Township.

FM sends felicitations to Serbia and Montenegro

YANGON, 27 April—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitation to His Excellency Mr Vuk Draskovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2005. —MNA

Thai Trade Fair (2005) from 4 to 7 May

YANGON, 26 April—Under the Myanmar-Thai economic cooperation enhancing programme and with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade Division of Thai Embassy in Myanmar will conduct Thai Trade Fair (2005) from 4 to 7 May at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Press conference on the trade fair was held this morning at Grand Plaza Park Royal hotel on Alanya Pagoda Road.

Present on the occasion were Charge d’Affaires ai of Thai Embassy Mr Opas Chantarasarb, Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, Director (News) U Win Tin of News and Periodicals Enterprise, the editors-in-chief and officials, President of Myanmar Correspondents Club U Sai Kai Hpa, Secretary U Nyan Tin and club members, economic attaché Mr Matayawongse Amatayukl of Thailand and guests. The Charge d’Affairs ai and the command specialists and six health staff provided health care services to local people in Coocogyun on 23 April and arrived back here this morning. —MNA

EC of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon to be re-organized

YANGON, 26 April—Executive Committee of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon will be reorganized under the supervision of the Ministry of Information at Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise at No 50 Shwetaunggya Street with the following programmes and members of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon from motion picture and video fields are invited to attend the ceremony:

Basic levels to be chosen and agenda
1. (a) Producer at basic level 29-4-2005 09:00-hour
(b) Dramatists at basic level
—MNA

2. (a) Edit and record at basic level 30-4-2005 09:00-hour
(b) Administration, distribution and showman at basic level
—MNA

3. (a) Play and script-writer at basic level
(b) Mechanics at basic level
—MNA

4. (a) Director at basic level 2-5-2005 09:00-hour
(b) Video at basic level
—MNA

5. (a) Supporting actor at basic level 3-5-2005 09:00-hour
(b) Main actor at basic level 3-5-2005 13:00-hour
—MNA

Mr Opas Chantarasarb makes clarification at the press conference. —MNA
Malaysia, Singapore settle land reclamation dispute

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Malaysia and Singapore have amicably agreed to sign an agreement on Tuesday to settle a dispute over land reclamation activities by Singapore, a Foreign Ministry statement said on Sunday.

The dispute arose in December 2002, when Singapore began reclamation activities along the eastern and western parts of the Straits of Johor, in close proximity to the Malaysian mainland.

Malaysia referred the dispute to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea which, through an order on October 2003, directed both nations to conduct a joint study and proposed mitigating measures.

"Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abd Razak, agent of the government of Malaysia, and Professor Tommy Koh, agent of the government of Singapore, will sign the settlement agreement on behalf of their respective governments," the statement said.

The signing ceremony would be witnessed by Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar and his Singaporean counterpart, George Yeo, at the Singaporean Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

Syed Hamid would also call on Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and hold a news conference later the same day, it added.

The agreement will include points that "the waters in the Straits of Johor constitute a shared water body" and "the two sides have a common interest in cooperating to ensure the safety of navigation in the Straits of Johor," according to earlier Press reports.

The two sides also recognize that they have a common interest in protecting the environment, including the monitoring of water quality to protect marine and estuarine environment, and monitoring ecology and morphology in the Straits of Johor and to address any adverse impacts, if necessary, the reports said.

Other thorny outstanding issues between the two countries include the price of raw water supplied from Johor to the republic, proposed construction of an elevated bridge to replace the existing Causeway over the Straits of Johor, Central Provident Fund (CPF) withdrawals by workers from Peninsular Malaysia in Singapore and the use of Malaysian airspace by low-flying Singapore Air Force jets.—MNA/Xinhua

1,569 members of US mily killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 26 April—As of Monday, 25 April, 2005, at least 1,569 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,192 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia, one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,431 US military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 1,083 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet

Bomb attacks kill US sailor, soldier in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 April—Separate bomb attacks killed two US service members in Iraq's western province of Anbar, the US military said on Sunday.

A US sailor assigned to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force was killed on Saturday when a US convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in Fallujah, some 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. A US soldier also assigned to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force was killed on Saturday by a roadside bomb blast near the town of al-Hawamah, west of Baghdad, the military said.

Over 1,580 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003. MNA/Xinhua

China becomes world’s third largest film maker

HANGZHOU, 25 April—China has become the third largest film producer in the world following the United States and India, a film industry official said Saturday.

China shot a record number of 212 films in 2004, and cinemas nationwide reported a total box office income of 1.5 billion yuan (180 million US dollars), said Zhang Pimin, vice director of the film bureau of State Administration of Radio, Film and Television.

Chinese films made 3.6 billion yuan (433 million US dollars) in overseas cinemas and the movie channel of China Central Television. Zhang said at an annual meeting on the Chinese cultural market, held Saturday in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province.

"But problems still exist in China's film industry," he said. "We have very few good films, for example."

According to Zhang, only three of the 212 Chinese movies produced in 2004 were really successful in terms of box office income, namely, "The House of Flying Daggers", "Kong Fu Hustle" and "A World Without Thieves".

These three blockbusters took up nearly 60 per cent of the country's total box office revenue for that year, he said.

Zhang said China also needs to build more cinemas to entertain the growing number of moviegoers. "China's 1.3 billion people share only 1,200 cinemas, or 2,500 screens. The United States, however, has 36,000 screens for its 200 million people."

That means the world's most populous nation needs also to renovate some old, single-hall movie theatres into multi-hall complexes to screen more films and accommodate larger audiences, he said.

Earlier reports said Warner's China division has signed an agreement with the state-owned Shenzhen International Trust Investment Corp. to open eight new cinemas in China this year in Shenzhen, Nanchang, Changsha, Zhengzhou and Chongqing. MNA/Xinhua

Annan says next UNSG should come from Asia

JAKARTA, 25 April—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Saturday expressed his preference that his successor would be an Asian.

Although the succession issue is obviously for the member states to decide, "there is a general sense that it's now time for Asia and that the next secretary-general should come from this region," Annan said in a Press conference on the sidelines of the Asian-African Summit in Jakarta.

On the occasion, Annan underlined the need of reform in the UN Security Council. "I believe the time has come for us to really reform the Council and everybody agrees that the Council is in the need of reform, and I hope this time we will succeed," he said.

In its Press release distributed Saturday, the world body says the Security Council should be broadly representative of the "realities of power in today's world."—MNA/Xinhua
China to improve navigable capacity of its longest waterway

Wuhan, 24 April — China will spend 10 billion yuan (1.2 billion US dollars) in improving the navigable capacity on the Yangtze River, the country’s longest, in 17 years, an official said on Saturday.

The money will be spent in dredging of the river’s lower reaches, expanding the middle reaches, and extending the navigable course on the upper reaches, said Huang Qiang, director of the Yangtze River Shipping Affairs Bureau with the Chinese Ministry of Communications.

According to Huang, the lower reaches downstream Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province in east China, will be dredged to facilitate navigation of 50,000 dead-weight-tonnage ocean-going ships on all weather conditions. “Study of the impact of the Three Gorges Project on the navigation course on the middle reaches will be intensified,” said Huang, who emphasized river sections on the middle reaches that form barriers to navigation must be tackled and removed.

Efforts will be made to extend the navigable course to Shufu of Yunnan Province in southwest China on the upper reaches.

Currently, only 15 per cent of the Yangtze’s navigable capacity is being utilized, said Cai Qihua, director of the Yangtze River Committee with the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources.

According to Cai, shipping capacity of the mainstream of the Yangtze River will reach 800 million tons by the year of 2020, including eight million TEUs of containers, almost three times and five times the 2004 levels, respectively. — MNA/Xinhua

Oppn parties attack Blair over Iraq war

London, 25 April — With less than two weeks left in the national election campaign, opposition parties Monday attacked British Prime Minister Tony Blair over the Iraq war and questioned his integrity.

The Conservatives, who supported the war, accused Blair of lying to justify the US-led invasion. The Liberal Democrats, who opposed it, called for Blair to resign. The Labour Party, which supported Blair, shrugged off the attacks.

But Blair’s Labour Party’s declining popularity in polls, the opposition is turning up the heat.

Japan reiterates support for Africa’s development

Jakarta, 24 April — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi reiterated here Friday Japan’s support for Africa’s self efforts to establish an industrial foundation and develop human resources in order to facilitate trade and investment between Asia and Africa.

“At the Asia-Africa Summit today (Friday), I proposed to propagate to Africa ‘the productivity movement,’ which was one of the driving forces behind the growth in Asia,” Koizumi told a gathering of prominent business people from the two continents in Jakarta.

He recalled that Japan has been promoting the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process for more than a decade. Koizumi said the lack of information is among the major obstacles to promoting trade and investment between Asia and Africa.

He said Japan along with the United Nations Development Pro- gramme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) planned to establish the TICAD Exchange Network, which will provide relevant information on business in Asia and Africa via Internet.

“Japan will provide further support or the entrepreneurial spirit that contributed to initiating Asia-Africa cooperation,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Pollution, urbanization threaten health of East Asian people

Beijing, 24 April — Pollution and environmental degradation increasingly threaten the health of East Asia and Pacific’s rapidly urbanizing population, according to two new environmental reports from the World Bank.

Water-borne diseases now cause half a million infant deaths annually in the region and air pollution causes thousands of premature deaths. Each year in China 50,000 people die prematurely due to pollution just from coal burning, according to the World Bank’s new Environment Strategy for the East Asia and Pacific region.

These trends are a growing concern as more people move to the region’s already crowded cities. More than 39 per cent of the region’s 1.8 billion people now live in cities, according to the World Bank’s annual compendium of environmental data, the Little Green Data Book 2005. By 2015, according to the Environment Strategy, urban areas will be home to more than 50 per cent of the region’s population.

This growth presents huge environmental challenges, as migration to urban areas in many countries relaxes the ability of cities to provide clean water and sanitation infrastructure. For example, a quarter of the region’s population does not have access to clean drinking water and more than half lack access to basic sanitation, according to the Little Green Data Book 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippines to raise electricity rates

Manila, 24 April — The Philippine Government has approved the raising electricity rates which could further strain social atmosphere following widespread transport strikes caused by soaring oil prices over the past two weeks.

The price of electricity in the Philippines capital Metro Manila is the third highest in Asian cities, after Tokyo and Hong Kong. The official Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Friday approved the petition of the debt-ridden National Power Corporation (NAPCOR) and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp (PSALM) to increase power rates nationwide.

The ERC granted NAPCOR a 0.0912- peso rate hike per kilowatts hour for Luzon, 0.1495 peso for the Visayas and 0.0330 peso for Mindanao, in northern, central and southern Philippines respectively.

The local radio station DZMM reported that NAPCOR and PSALM filed a joint petition to increase the power rate by an average of 1.87 pesos per kilowatts hour in June last year.

The ERC said that the increase is inevitable since there has been no increase in NAPCOR’s basic rate since 1996. The rate hike is meant to boost interest in generation and transmission assets of NAPCOR, which the government put up for privatization, said DZMM.

NAPOCOR generates electricity at an average cost of 3.52 pesos a kilowatt hour, but it has been forced, as a state utility, to sell at 2.25 pesos a kilowatt hour for a loss of 1.27 pesos for every kilowatts hour of electricity that it produces.

ERC said that the effects of the increase will not be felt much in Luzon, which is largely serviced by the Manila Electric Co since this area only draws 46 per cent of the power supply from NAPCOR. — MNA/Xinhua

A man attends to his daughter, injured in a car bomb explosion, at the al-Hakim Local Hospital in Baghdad, on 24 April, 2005. — INTERNET
Thai earthquake warning system to be operational by year end

BANGKOK, 25 April — Thailand will have a preliminary earthquake warning system completed by the beginning of next month, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra confirmed Saturday.

Making the announcement on his weekly radio address to the nation, Thaksin said that the warning system would use seismic monitoring data, and would be fully up and running by the end of the year once monitoring buoys were in place, reported The Thai News Agency.

He also stressed that while the government was fully prepared to bear the costs of investment in the system, it would also welcome cooperation from outside sources, especially where this would provide links with other seismic monitoring networks.

The early warning system was recently shown to the Danish Prime Minister who visited Thailand last week, when he led the relatives of Danish victims of the December tsunami to Phuket for a memorial event.

Thailand has expressed its intention of investing 10 million US dollars in a regional seismic warning system, and Denmark has said that it will consider matching this sum.

Senior Chinese leader vows to further ties with Nepal

BOAO, HAINAN, 25 April — Senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin said here Sunday that China adheres to the good-neighbourly policy and will treat neighbouring countries as partners, vowing to further promote the relationship with Nepal, which borders China by the Himalayas.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China’s top advisory body, made the remarks when meeting with Nepali King Gyaneendra, who is attending the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) annual conference 2005 in this Chinese southern-most island province of Hainan.

“All the Chinese and Nepali people enjoy their friendship,” Jia said. “Despite the differences in each domestic situation, the two countries strictly adhere to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, treated each other equally, trusted and supported each other.”

“The Sino-Nepali ties maintained a momentum of constant and sound development and our two countries forged a model of good relations between nations with different social systems,” he said.

“The friendship is in line with the interests of both Chinese and Nepali people and beneficial for regional peace and stability.”

Taking the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic ties between the two countries this year, China will join Nepal to inject new energy to China-Nepal good-neighbourliness and mutual-beneficial cooperation, Jia said.

Gyanendra, who met with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Jakarta on the sideline of the Asia-Africa summit on Friday and then came to this small coastal town of Boao to attend the forum, said the high-level exchange will help promote the Nepal-Chinese relations.

Expressing his appreciation of China’s constant support, the King said the Chinese people and government are trustworthy friends and Nepal will strictly abide by the one-China policy and support the anti-sessions law adopted by the Chinese National People’s Congress in March.

After their meeting, the King and Jia visited a Buddhist temple in Boao where Nepal contributed an image of Buddha.

Sino-ASEAN business park under construction

NANNING, 26 April — Construction began on the Sino-ASEAN business park last Friday in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Yang Rongcai, general manager of the Nanning Municipal Urban Construction, Investment and Development Corporation, said the Sino-ASEAN business park would house a 110-hectare central zone for international business, and buildings for liaison offices of ASEAN member states, covering an area of some 60 hectares.

Main infrastructure includes seven roads, the installation of pipelines for civilian use, afforestation and illumination, which all will be built during the first-phase construction. The total investment budget is set at 320 million yuan (approximately 38.55 million US dollars).

The first phase construction of the business park, situated in Fengling New Area of Nanning, the regional capital, is expected to be finished by late this year.

Initiated by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in 2003, Sino-ASEAN fair is a regular trade event that is held in early November, with Nanning as the permanent venue. The first such fair was held in November last year.

The ASEAN membership comprise Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines.

Jordan’s King to participate in Singapore’s world economic forum

AMMAN, 25 April—Jordan will take part in World Economic Forum’s Asia Round Table to be held in Singapore on 28-29 April, the state-run television reported Sunday.

King Abdullah II will lead a delegation of top political and business leaders for the event to highlight the Middle East’s political and economic situations as well as Jordan’s reform plans, said the report.

Abdullah will also hold talks with Asian business leaders on investment opportunities in Jordan and discuss means to boost bilateral relations with Singapore officials. The two countries are bound by a free trade agreement.

The WEF’s web site said that more than 250 famous economic, political and academic figures from 34 countries will convene in Singapore to identify critical issues and generate insights necessary to develop the strategic response to Asia’s growing global economic and political influence.

Ethiopian PM speaks highly of China-Africa Cooperation Forum

ADDIS ABABA, 24 April — Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said Saturday the third China-Africa Cooperation Forum, scheduled for 2006 in Beijing, will help African countries boost their multi-dimensional cooperation with China.

When meeting with China’s Assistant Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng, Meles believed that the third forum in Beijing would further bring about various opportunities for African countries and China to enter into mutually beneficial investment and trade cooperation.

He said his government has ever been proud of hosting the forum for the first time in the African region, where some African leaders and most foreign ministers attended the forum.

The China-Africa Cooperation Forum was established in 2000 with the framework of collective dialogue between China and African countries to promote peace and development on the basis of equality.

The first conference was held in 2000 in Beijing, China, during which the Beijing Declaration was adopted. And the second forum, held in Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa in late 2003, endorsed the Addis Ababa Action Plan after evaluating the Beijing Declaration.

A woman looks at bolts of colourful textiles stacked up at a market in Singapore on 24 April, 2005.—INTERNET

A couple of Singaporean bride and groom leave a bridal couturier for a photo session, in Singapore on 24 April, 2005.—INTERNET

A woman looks at bolts of colourful textiles stacked up at a market in Singapore on 24 April, 2005.—INTERNET

A bridal couturier for a photo session, in Singapore on 24 April, 2005.
NAM needs to acquire new direction

ON BOARD SPECIAL PLANE, 25 April — The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) needed to acquire a “new focus and direction” in the wake of changing times, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Friday as he prepared to address the summit of Asian and African countries in Jakarta.

“Times have changed. I think NAM needs to acquire a new focus and direction,” Singh told reporters accompanying him on his three-day visit to Jakarta. He expressed confidence that the two-day Asian-African Summit, which began on Friday and which he will attend on Saturday, will help India further strengthen its relations with the countries of Asia and Africa, particularly in the field of trade.

Noting that South-South cooperation had increased lately, he said there was still scope for tremendous opportunity to promote such ties at bilateral and multilateral fora. He said India desired to be a partner of various processes in Asia, including ASEAN and East Asian Summit, as part of its “Look East” policy.

India has been invited to participate in the East Asian Summit later this year, Singh said. Pointing out that Africa and West Asia had vast resources of energy, he said India, whose hydrocarbon needs were increasing, could benefit from stronger cooperation with the countries of these continents.

Insects plague French wood exported to China

CHANGCHUN, 24 April — More than 53,000 insects have been discovered by Chinese quarantine officers in four containers of oak imported from France, officials said Saturday. The pests, more than 40 species, were found in about 115.7 cubic metres of oak shipped to northeast China’s Jilin Province on 13 April from Hongdu, with the Jilin Exit-Entry Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, said it was rare to find so many insects in imports.

A rat’s memory is recorded by computer sensors connected to its head in a laboratory at East China Normal University in Shanghai on 25 April, 2005.

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China committed to int’l cooperation against corruption

BANGKOK, 25 April — China has always been committed to international cooperation in fighting against corruption and is ready to push forward the efforts, Justice Minister Zhang Yuwen said at a United Nations conference here.

“Chinese law enforcement authorities have long put the priority on anti-corruption and achieved remarkable results in recent years,” said Zhang in a speech to the 11th United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Congress held in Bangkok.

In a bid to further crack down on corruption and other forms of crime, the Chinese Government also reached for international cooperation in related fields, said Zhang.

China has ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and signed the UN Convention against Corruption, signed 71 bilateral justice cooperation instruments with 47 countries, had agreements on extradition with 23 countries and been a member of more than 20 international justice cooperation conventions, according to Zhang. “We also called on UN member states to speed up their adoption and implementation of the anti-corruption convention and the convention against transnational organized crime,” he said.

The Chinese Government is ready to use the two instruments as basis for international cooperation in fields of extradition, seeking and returning embroiled assets and cross-border sample collection, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian PM calls for removal of trade barriers to developing countries

JAKARTA, 25 April — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said the countries of Asia and Africa must strive to phase out trade-distorting agricultural subsidies in developed countries and remove barriers to agricultural exports, while protecting the livelihood security of millions of farmers in these continents.

“We need a lowering of tariff and non-tariff barriers to our exports,” Singh told leaders from over 100 countries gathered here for the historic Asian African Conference.

The Prime Minister expressed concern over the rigid visa restrictions which continued to obstruct the free movement of people and services, depriving the people of Asia and Africa of full benefit from their main economic strength.

“We need greater protection for our biodiversity resources and fair recompense for their exploitation by others,” he told the audience. He said the international concern for the protection of the environment was fully appreciated by the countries of the two continents.

However, this goal needs to be balanced with the development aspirations of the developing nations, he noted. “We need assured access to environment-friendly technologies and the resources to induce them into our countries,” Singh called for urgent measures to generate additional financial resources for development, especially for the least developed countries and the highly indebted poor countries.

The Prime Minister emphasized that new structures must be created of mutual support, solidarity and cooperation to benefit from the best practices and appropriate technologies among the people of Asia and Africa.

“This is required as urgently today as it was fifty years ago,” he noted.

Singh outlined specific areas where such cooperation was vital including agriculture, technology, combating terrorism and bringing out democratization of the United Nations.

“We must ensure that access to both new and appropriate technologies, and to cutting edge areas of science are expanded greatly. Advances in biotechnology can promote revolutionary changes in agriculture and health,” he said.

He noted that while Asia and Africa included both major producers and consumers of energy, the framework within which the two continents produced and consumed energy was determined elsewhere.

2.7 tons of drugs seized in central Iran

TEHERAN, 25 April — Iranian anti-drug police seized over 2.7 tons of various narcotic drugs in the central province of Yazd during the past 48 hours, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

Nabilollah Heidari, police chief of Yazd Province, was quoted as saying that the drugs were confiscated during several operations and 20 smugglers were also arrested.

The provincial police seized some 14 tons of illicit drugs and bustled 41 gangs during the past Iranian calendar year from March 20, 2004 to March 20, 2005, showing a 200-per-cent increase compared to figures of the previous year, Heidari said.

Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, a country sitting in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions.

According to official statistics, there are at least two million drug addicts in Iran. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese perform Romantic Drum dance at the inauguration of a cultural festival to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China, in New Delhi, India, recently.

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The State's electric power projects

Kyeeown Kyewwa Multi-purpose Dam Project on Mone Creek in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Division.

(Continued from yesterday)

At that time, the plants were installed with the turbines, each of which could generate only 10 megawatts. However, each of the two turbines of the Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant can generate 60 megawatts. So, the operators had to undergo thorough training at home and abroad to be able to operate the plant smoothly.

Taking into account the environmental conservation, the Ministry installed in the plant the modern machinery and technologies that the developed nations and neighbouring countries are using, to establish the Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant. So, the emergence of the plant does not compromise the environmental conservation. The Government had to spend a large amount of cash including US$ 42.9 million on the project.

The first turbine of the plant was put into service in 2004. And the other is targeted to start in the last week of April. The Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant has firmly stood as an infrastructure that makes modern machinery in various sectors. So the nation’s electricity consumption is greatly on the increase now.

In order to fulfil that requirement, the government is seeking all possible ways and means in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State. In addition to the hydropower projects being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Electric Power, there are also hydropower projects that are being implemented separately by respective ministries.

Now, the Ministry of Electric Power is putting into motion the Ahtet Paunglaung Hydel-power Project upstream the Paunglaung Dam.

The project will be able to generate 140 megawatts and supply water to the Paunglaung Dam. The Ministry is also implementing Ye Ywa Hydel-power Project on Dokhtawady River. On completion, the plant will be able to generate 790 megawatts, and will be the largest of its kind in the nation.

Thanks to the endeavours of respective employees and the correct leadership of the government, without doubt, there will emerge hydel-power plants that will be larger than Paunglaung and Ye Ywa hydel-power plants. For instance, Tarhsan Hydropower Project being designed to be constructed on Thanlawin River will be able to generate 7,100 megawatts, and Htamanthi Hydropower Project on Chindwin River, 1,200 megawatts. They are the State’s giant projects for electric power development of the nation to be translated into reality soon.

The government is implementing the hydel-power projects along the Sittoung Basin at the same time. The facilities will be put into services next year. Therefore, it will be able to fully fulfil the increasing electricity demand of the nation in the near future.

The State has to pour great investments into the hydel-power projects and it takes long time to complete them. So, the people, on their part, are to make efforts collectively to enable the nation to be economically strong.

The electric power sector plays an indispensable role in the drive for the economic development of a nation. And only when a nation has enjoyed economic development, will it be able to build more hydel-power plants. The most important point is to ensure development of national economic life of the motherland. In the process, the people should exert their abilities and capabilities at the highest degree instead of placing reliance on foreign assistance. Only then, will it enhance the national prestige and integrity and national unity of the mother country.

In a nutshell, now is the time when the nation has to gather momentum in all spheres for its all-round development. It is therefore the bounden duty as well as the most crucial duty of the entire national people to apply the national solidarity effectively and thoroughly in order to achieve the national goal.
In the world, small nations... (from page 1)

The Indonesian President expressed his belief that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries will therefore continue to flourish. Indonesia will make continued efforts to adhere to its belief.

Senior General Than Shwe said that he thanked the Indonesian President for his invitation to the Summit and he was glad to have an opportunity to meet the latter. He said he would like to praise Indonesia for its ability to host such an important Summit. The arrangements for the meeting were specially fine. He expressed his belief that the Bandung spirit will continue to flourish and the two continents will cooperate as in the past.

It is heartening to witness the Indonesia’s leading role in organizing the historic Summit and its active participation in the interests of Asian nations. He said he believed that the Indonesian President will brilliantly lead the nation for its further development.

Bandung spirit will continue to flourish and the two continents will cooperate as in the past.

Senior General Than Shwe

In the world, small nations are now facing many difficulties. So, it is important for Asian and African nations to cooperate more.

He said he would like to give an account of Myanmar. The nation has regained its independence for more than 50 years. However, she lagged behind in development. She has to strive for development up to now.

In the process, some nations understand her efforts, while some misunderstand hers. He also explained points about the development of Myanmar.

Next, the Indonesian President expressed his thanks for the Myanmar side’s opinions of the Asian-African Summit and briefings about the development of Myanmar. Indonesia is a true friend of Myanmar. He and the Myanmar Prime Minister held discussions at the meetings held recently in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Indonesia.

Senior General Than Shwe meets... (from page 16)

U Kyaw Myint, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Li-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun, Special Envoy of UN Secretary-General Mr Brahimi, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy to Myanmar Mr Razali Ismail and senior officials. At the meeting Mr Kofi A Annan said he was pleased to meet Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe. He cordially extended greetings and invited open discussions.

Senior General Than Shwe said he was glad to see the UN Secretary-General as if he had met a close relative. He would like to clarify the developments of Myanmar. He said Myanmar is making democratic reforms and it laid down seven-point Road Map for democratic transition on 30 August 2003.

He said the National Convention is being held for drafting the State Constitution. Based on basic principles agreed at the National Convention the draft of the State Constitution would be drawn up. The referendum will be held for the approval of the draft. Free and fair elections would also be held and a government would be formed, he said.

The first session of the National Convention was held from 17 May to 9 July 2004 and it was attended by over 1,000 delegates. Seventy per cent or the majority of the population in Myanmar are Bamar. However, only 40 per cent of the delegates to the National Convention are Bamar and the rest or 60 per cent are national races. Moreover, the delegates of 17 armed groups that made peace with the government are attending the National Convention.

Apart from seven states and seven divisions, there will be six self-administered areas for national races. At the first session of the National Convention legislature was discussed in detail. The delegates agreed to the legislative programmes in the central, state, division and self-administered areas and the delegates continued to discuss executive and judicial sectors. The second session of the National Convention was held from 17 February to 31 March 2005 and the third session will be held in the open season. As the majority of the population of Myanmar are farmers the National Convention is held at the break of their work.

He said he believed that basic principles for sharing of the executive and judicial powers would be laid down. There is still much to be done, he added.

The Senior General said he would like to explain the brief history of Myanmar. Armed opposition occurred three months after she regained independence and it lasted for 50 years.

The government laid emphasis on peace and unity among the national races. He said he would like to state the development works being carried. The government is endeavouring for development of political, economic, education and health sectors. Three projects are being implemented for equal development of the entire State.

The first project is a rural development project that aims at improving education, health, transport sectors in rural areas, supplying pure water and water for agriculture and improving rural economy.

All nations need to understand the situation of Myanmar. Myanmar, Indonesia and the ASEAN have common interests. President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Myanmar, Myanmar, Indonesia and the ASEAN have common interests. Indonesia and Myanmar need to continue to deal with each other and to make efforts to be able to catch up with other global nations.

It is unwise for a nation to interfere in other’s internal affairs. Indonesia will to never interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. In conclusion, he expressed his belief that the two nations will continue to cooperate cordially and closely. — MNA

(See page 11)
Myanmar supports China’s relations have reached the 55th anniversary. The Senior General thanks China for her technological and other assistance to Myanmar, expressing belief that China will continue to help Myanmar in all-round development drive. Concerning the seven-point Road Map, he said Myanmar has resumed the National Convention to draft a new constitution. The holding of the National Convention is the first and most important step of the Road Map. Of the over 1,000 delegates to the National Convention, 60 percent represent national races. Moreover, nationalities of the 17 armed groups that have returned to the legal fold have also been attending the National Convention. It is important that the constitution should be the one all the nationalities can accept. The holding of the National Convention is a profound and delicate task. The most important thing for the nation is to ensure equality between the interest of the national races and that of the entire nation. Thanks to the Government’s relentless efforts, it is winning the understanding and cooperation of the nationalities. The results of the National Convention are satisfactory. The majority’s wish to strive for successful materializing of the future policy programmes has become obvious.

Concerning the economy, the Senior General said, Myanmar has been making many changes in its transition from centralized economy to market-oriented economy. Myanmar now is in the process of implementing the five-year economic programme from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006, which goes, “Haste makes waste”. Mr Hu in his discussions expressed satisfaction with the opportunities to exchange visits and views between leaders of both nations, and to extend bilateral political and economic cooperation in the international and regional fields. China thanks Myanmar for her adherence to One China Policy and her support for the Anti-sesecession Law. Sino-Myanmar friendly relations are important for China and must be further extended. He expressed satisfaction at witnessing developing Sino-Myanmar cooperation in various fields. The PRC Government is urging Chinese companies to make more investments in Myanmar. Constant meetings should be held to promote bilateral cooperation. The PRC is making arrangements to build an international convention centre in Myanmar. Agreement documents for the matter should be exchanged. China will promote its assistance to Myanmar to the best of its ability. The Chinese Government, people and people support Myanmar’s drive to restore internal peace. China accepts that Myanmar has the right to choose and practise the most suitable system. He said all must respect Myanmar sovereignty, adding that China opposes outside interference in Myanmar’s internal affairs. China will never change her stand concerning Myanmar. He expresses belief that Myanmar Government and people will overcome the difficulties. China sees UN reforms are important and need coordination from all angles. There is a Chinese proverb, which goes, “Haste will face difficulties in marching to a goal.” He thanked the Senior General for inviting him to visit Myanmar. The goodwill visit to Myanmar is an unforgettable one for him, he said. He expressed the invitation with pleasure and will visit Myanmar at an opportune time.

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Serbia and Montenegro YANGON, 27 April—Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2005. —MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint discusses extension of paddy surpluses in Pakokku District YANGON, 26 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence discussed with members of Pakokku District Agricultural Supervisory Committee extension of paddy sown acreage at the regional battalion in Pakokku on 24 April. Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that Pakokku District should apply the four methods to ensure regional food sufficiency. It should build dams and extend paddy cultivation. Collective efforts are required for realizing the aims.

Officials also explained efforts being made to ensure regional food sufficiency.

Chairman of Sagang Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials were also present. Accompanied by officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected tree plantation at the battalion, paddy cultivation and pumps and water tanks. At the town water supply project, he heard a report on salient points of the project, and building of reservoirs on Hnitkyaik Shitshu hill presented by officials. He spoke of the need to sink tube-wells and build reservoirs for water supply to Pakokku. During the inspection of the main hall project of the Pakokku University, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report on academic matters, and progress in construction of the main hall presented by the rector and officials. After visiting Winthuza shop, he inspected landscaping of the Myakantha Park. He also paid obeisance to Thihoshin Pagoda.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived back here in the evening. —MNA

China opposes outside interference in Myanmar’s internal affairs. It will never change her stand concerning Myanmar.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myakantha Park in Pakokku. —MNA

Senior General Tha Shwe meets Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao at Hotel Mulia in Jakarta, Indonesia. —MNA

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Senior General Than Shwe meets...

(from page 8)
The second project is the 24 special region development project based on experiences and lessons through which Myanmar passed. He was glad that it is obvious that the government is making concerted efforts for development of rural areas, 24 special regions and border areas.

He said he understood and was glad to learn the efforts to draft the State Constitution by holding the National Convention in political aspect. He said he believed that the government is exerting utmost efforts for all the citizens of Myanmar and national races and the UN praised the efforts.

There are comments and misunderstanding because of some foreign nations and news agencies. According to the statements, some assumed that the UN is the enemy of Myanmar. In fact, the UN is not an enemy of Myanmar but a friend. International communities should provide assistance for development of Myanmar, he said.

He thanked Senior General Than Shwe for inviting him to visit Myanmar and he hoped that he would visit Myanmar one day.

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Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspects upgrading of Pathein-Mawtin Road

YANGON, 26 April—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, on 23 April morning inspected roads and bridges along Pathein-Thalakphaw, Seintaung-Nyokaungtaung-Mawtin Road.

At the briefing hall of the 12-mile long road, Vice-Admiral Soe Thein heard reports presented by officials concerned on work being carried out and future tasks and construction of short cuts.

After attending to the needs, Vice-Admiral Soe Thein gave instructions, calling for paving the road into all-weather gravel one, building of village-to-village roads as many as possible and development of the coastal region. Next, they inspected upgrading of roads and bridges along the road. At the briefing hall, Vice-Admiral Soe Thein met with departmental officials and local people and fulfilled the requirements. He then presented K 100,000 for regional development.

After that, they inspected village-to-village motor roads and measures being taken for beautifying the villages and proceeded to Kayukchaung Village where they viewed a self-reliance library.

At the library, Vice-Admiral Soe Thein met local authorities, social organizations and local people and made cash donations to the library.

The road leading to Mawtinsun Pagoda was built by Pathein District Public Works with the aim of enabling the people to have access to the pagoda by car. After that, Vice-Admiral Soe Then arrived at the pagoda and paid homage to it. Then he gave instructions on all-round renovation of the pagoda to members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

In the evening, they arrived at Hainggyikyun and inspected construction of circular road and department offices.

On 24 April morning, Vice-Admiral Soe Thein visited the IPRD office. He thanked Senior General Than Shwe for inviting him to visit Myanmar and he hoped that he would visit Myanmar one day.

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Information Deputy Minister inspects departmental work in Mongphyat, Tale, Tachilek

YANGON, 26 April—Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by Director of Information and Public Relations Department U Tun Min and Deputy Chief Engineer of Myanmar Radio and Television U Win Thu, on 23 April morning inspected functions of Mongphyat Township.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister met Local Tactical Operations Commander Col Kan Nyunt and departmental officials at the IPRD Office in Tale and explained measures being taken by the government for successful realization of the national objectives and gave instructions on regional development.

The deputy minister and party proceeded to Tachilek where they inspected the IPRD office. At the office, the deputy minister met Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye and departmental personnel and gave necessary instructions. They then looked into the TV retransmission station there.

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USDA CEC member inspects rural development tasks

YANGON, 26 April—CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein made a tour of Kayin Township, Yangon South District, to inspect the five rural development tasks yesterday morning.

First, the USDA CEC member arrived at Sasanaajotika Dhammayon pagoda in Kwanmodain village, Kayin Township and paid respects to the Kwanmodain Sayadaw. Next, he inspected progress of all-round renovation of Sasanajotika Dhammayon Pagoda and arranged for upgrading of the bridge in Kyunmaye village and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister met village and departmental personnel and health and education staff at the USDA office in Kayan. On the occasion, the CEC member called for taking part in five rural development tasks and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the CEC member proceeded to Kayinmu village where he inspected construction of a new BEPS building.

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Bomb goes off in Mandalay

YANGON, 26 April—A bomb in polythene bag near a dustbin between Ayekabar footwear shop and Rising Sun textiles shop on the ground floor of Zaygyo Market in Mandalay went off at about 4 pm today, leaving two people dead and 15 others injured.

The two dead were women and the 15 injured were two men and 13 women.

The subversive act was committed by a group of insurgent destructive elements who wanted to disturb and destroy stability of State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order already in place in the nation.

The authorities concerned rushed to the scene and provided all the necessary assistance and investigations are under way to expose those who perpetrated the inhumane act.
The Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 18 to 24 April 1955, has entered its golden jubilee this year. The conference is also known as Bandung Conference. It was sponsored by five Colombo nations. In 1954, leaders of the five countries — Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Pakistan — met in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and discussed the convening of an Asia-Africa conference to enhance friendship and mutual understanding and cooperation among the Afro-Asian nations as their role was becoming more important. The meeting continued in Kandy, Sri Lanka, on 1 and 2 May the same year. The five nations then met in Indonesia and made final arrangements to convene the Asia-Africa Conference in April 1955.

Twenty-nine nations — Cambodia, Gold Coast, Japan, Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, People’s Republic of China, Ceylon, Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), Myanmar, Yemen, Lebanon, Laos, Liberia, Libya, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia, and Italy — of the two continents attended the conference.

At the conference, leaders of the Asian and African nations exchanged views on global problems, and issued the Bandung Declaration at the end of the conference as follows:

1. Respect for the fundamental rights of man, as also the aims and principles of the UN Charter.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of equality of all races and nationalities — big and small.
4. Abstention from intervention and interference in the internal affairs of other countries.
5. Respect for the right of every country for individual or collective defence in conformity with the UN Charter.
6. (a) Abstention of exerting pressure on other countries.
   (b) Abstention from exploiting agreements on colonial and semicolonial territories.
7. Abstention from acts or threats of aggression and use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means through talks, conciliation, arbitration, or judicial settlement as also through other peaceful means as the parties may choose in conformity with the UN Charter.
9. Assistance in mutual interests and cooperation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

The principles sowed the seeds for emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The first NAM conference was held in September 1961. Later many NAM countries regained independence and became UN members. NAM summits and ministerial meetings were then held. NAM now has over 100 member nations. In the previous centuries, about half a dozen European capitalist nations forcefully colonized and exploited 77 per cent of the global territory where 70 per cent of the world’s population resided. Peoples from colonized nations sacrificed blood, sweat and tears in the struggle for independence. World War II broke out as the three Axis nations tried to grab the colonies with the use of force. The war ravaged the whole world and killed about 60 million lives. The west bloc joined hands with the former Axis countries to form the Soviet Union. After the end of WWII, the UN was founded with 51 nations on 24 October 1945 to prevent future world wars and ensure global peace and security. Now the UN has 191 members. Most of the UN member nations are former colonies. The UN nations should observe the aims and basic principles of the global body. The UN Charter matches with the 10 principles of Bandung Conference.

The colonialist nations including Britain, France and Holland faced financial problems because of the war and loss of colonial territories. America which never faced the war on its soil became richer and contributed 62 per cent to the industrial production of the capitalist nations and owned 70 per cent of the global gold reserves. It provided assistance to the West European and organized them to join the many organizations it formed.

After the fall of fascist group, the US-led group with three names — the west bloc, the capitalist bloc and rightist group — emerged. On the other hand, East European nations became socialist nations as the peoples of those nations cast votes for the revolutionaries (communists). The Soviet Union with 15 socialist republics also emerged. Socialist countries also emerged in Asia, Latin America, Middle East and Africa. Those nations were called the east bloc, the socialist (communist) bloc or leftist group.

The countries that regained independence during the period from 1945 to 1950 decided to launch nation-building drive without participating in the two blocs as they had already faced the evil consequences of occupation and war.

The two groups were launching the cold war as they were deadlocked in the arms and ideological race. So the two are vying against each other to gain supremacy in organizing the newly independent nations.

During the 57 years after the regaining of independence, Myanmar has never wavered from the right course in exercising the non-aligned policy or independent foreign policy. It has discharged the global duties well under the banner of the UN. And it has been 50 years since the nation has been practising the principles of Bandung Declaration of the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference.

Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia made arrangements to hold the Asia Conference. So, the Asia Conference was held in New Delhi from 20 to 23 January 1949. At the meeting 18 nations discussed means to support and help one another in exercising the non-aligned policy or independent foreign policy. It opposes the acts that may harm the world and makes decisions and assessments independently.

Myanmar has been practising the five principles of peaceful co-existence that are in accord with the Four Cardinal Values. The principles are:

(a) Abstention of exerting pressure on other countries.
(b) Abstention from exploiting agreements on colonial and semicolonial territories.
(c) no foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union.
(d) no foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union.
(e) peaceful co-existence.

During the 57 years after the regaining of independence, Myanmar has never wavered from the right course in exercising the non-aligned policy or independent foreign policy. It has discharged the global duties well under the banner of the UN. And it has been 50 years since the nation has been practising the principles of Bandung Declaration of the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference.

(Translation: TMT)

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for LION CORPORATION P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 27 April 2005

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
ROAD TRANSPORT
INVITATION TO TENDER
TENDER NO. 002/OME/2005-2006
1. Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are Invited for the supply of following Office Machinery and Equipment, prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats.

(a) Airconditioner Split Type (1 H.P) 8 Nos. 2.4 GHz 80GB HDD 256 MB 5D RAM Multimedia 15” SVGA Digital control Colour Monitor and accessories 8 Nos.
(b) Laserjet Printer A4 6 Nos. (c) Lap Top 1 No. 1.6 GHz 60 GB HDD 512 MB 15” TFT Thin Frame Transisrtor
(f) LCD Multimedia Projector 1 Set. 130 ANSI Lumens (Typical), SGA 1204 x 763, SVGA Compressed 1280 x 1024, Projection Image Size 40” to 300” Projection Distance Size 5’ to 33’
2. (a) Tender Documents are available at the Office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport No. 375/Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Commencing on the 29th April 2005.
(b) Tender will be closed on 13th; May, 2005 at (16:00) hours. (The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders).
3. Detailed Information will be available at the office of the procurement & Stores Department, (Phone Nos. 01-252574 (or) 01-376549).

ROAD TRANSPORT

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
ROAD TRANSPORT
INVITATION TO TENDER
TENDER NO. 001/ME/2005-2006
1. Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are Invited for the Supply of following Reconditioned Engine Ass’y & Rear Axle Ass’y, prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats.

(a) Reconditioned Engine (HINO HO 7c/HO 7D) Ass’y with Gear Box Ass’y (H.P 175) (47)Sets.
(b) Reconditioned Rear Axle (HINO/NISSAN 14 Ton) Ass’y (46)Sets.
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ROAD TRANSPORT
At least 37 dead, 239 injured in train derailment in Japan

TOKYO, 26 April — The death toll in Monday’s train accident in western Japan has risen to 37, and at least 239 were injured, NHK reported.

The seven-carriage train with about 580 passengers aboard collided with a car at a junction at about 9:20 am (0020 GMT) Monday in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, with the first three carriages derailing.

The first carriage rammed into a building after the derailment. A NHK TV report shows the first carriage was seriously mangled, curving in the middle around the corner of the building, and the other two carriages lying across the track. The car was also badly deformed.

The rescue works are now focused on the first carriage where some passengers are feared to still be trapped, according to the live TV report.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has urged railway operators to take precautions against such accidents. “They have to take precautions on a routine basis,” he said. “I think it will take time to clear up the causes of it but we want solid measures to be taken to make sure this kind of incident never happens,” Kyodo News quoted him as saying at his office.

The Japanese Government has set up an emergent task force headed by Construction and Transport Minister Kazuo Kitagawan to conduct the rescue work.

This has been the most deadly train accident in Japan since 1991. A train tragedy occurred in western Japan on May 14, 1991, leading to 42 dead and 527 injured when two trains collided and detailed.— MNA/Xinhua

Aerial shot of the wreckage of train carriages near an apartment building in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture. It was Japan’s worst accident since November 1963 when 161 people died in Yokohama near Tokyo when a freight train collided with a truck and was then hit by two passenger trains from opposite directions.— INTERNET

China’s early-warning system for risk control in commercial banks

BEIJING, 25 April — China’s banking regulator said Thursday that it is establishing an early-warning system to control risks in the country’s commercial banks.

The system will improve the regulator’s sensitivity towards and effectiveness in dealing with the risks facing the banks, the China Banking Regulatory Commission said in a statement.

The commission has formulated pilot guidelines of operations on risks facing commercial banks and will launch the early-warning operations, according to the statement.

The guidelines include such quantitative indices as capital adequacy ratio, credit risk, market risk, business operation risk and liquidity risk.

The guidelines also involve six types of qualitative indices, such as evaluation of management teams, business environment, corporate governance, risk management and internal control, information disclosure and major events of crisis.

The system will send normal, blue, orange and red early-warning signals according to the values of the indices of the different categories.

The system will be applied to China’s large, medium and small commercial banks on a routine basis, he said.

Lobbyists pay for US House leader’s trip abroad

WASHINGTON, 25 April — Embattled US House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, under an ethical cloud in recent months, was found to have had his airfare for a trip abroad charged to a credit card issued to a Washington lobbyist at the centre of a federal criminal and tax probe, The Washington Post reported Sunday.

Documents showed that the airfare of DeLay’s trip to London and Scotland in 2000, when he was House Majority Whip, was charged to an American Express card issued to lobbyist Jack Abramoff, the report said.

His expenses during the same trip for food, phone calls and other items at a golf course hotel in Scotland were billed to a different credit card also used on the trip by a second registered Washington lobbyist, Edwin A. Buckham.

US House ethics rules bar lawmakers from accepting travel and related expenses from registered lobbyists. DeLay, a Republican from Texas, has said that his expenses on this trip were paid by a non-profit organization and that the financial arrangements for it were proper. He has also said he had no way of knowing that any lobbyist might have financially supported the trip, either directly or through reimbursements to the non-profit organization.

New AU panel mulls tax on air travel to fund projects

NAIROBI, 25 April — A new African Union (AU) body aimed at bringing “people power” to Africans said Sunday they had proposed to place a tax on air travel to raise funds to support development projects in Africa.

Addressing a news conference on the outcome of their first meeting in Nairobi, the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) Deputy President Officer Maurice Tadadjeu said 440 million US dollars could be raised every year by charging a small levy on flights within Africa and on international flights.

“We have recommended to the AU to create an air ticket tax to fund the development projects. Studies have been done for three years on this issue.”— MNA/Xinhua

China, Egypt sign agreement on establishing Chinese university

CAIRO, 25 April — China and Egypt on Sunday signed an agreement on establishing the Egyptian Chinese University (ECU) in Cairo, the first Chinese university to be set up in the Middle East region.

The agreement was signed by Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Wu Sike, President of China’s Liaoning University Cheng Wei and Karima Abdullah Karim, the board chairwoman of Egypt’s International Education Institution (IEI).

“The agreement will further enrich the cooperative relations between China and Egypt, which have witnessed steady development in political, economic, cultural and educational fields,” Ambassador Wu Sike said at the signing ceremony.— MNA/Xinhua

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Documents showed that the airfare of DeLay’s trip to London and Scotland in 2000, when he was House Majority Whip, was charged to an American Express card issued to lobbyist Jack Abramoff, the report said.

His expenses during the same trip for food, phone calls and other items at a golf course hotel in Scotland were billed to a different credit card also used on the trip by a second registered Washington lobbyist, Edwin A. Buckham.

US House ethics rules bar lawmakers from accepting travel and related expenses from registered lobbyists. DeLay, a Republican from Texas, has said that his expenses on this trip were paid by a non-profit organization and that the financial arrangements for it were proper. He has also said he had no way of knowing that any lobbyist might have financially supported the trip, either directly or through reimbursements to the non-profit organization.

New AU panel mulls tax on air travel to fund projects

NAIROBI, 25 April — A new African Union (AU) body aimed at bringing “people power” to Africans said Sunday they had proposed to place a tax on air travel to raise funds to support development projects in Africa.

Addressing a news conference on the outcome of their first meeting in Nairobi, the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) Deputy President Officer Maurice Tadadjeu said 440 million US dollars could be raised every year by charging a small levy on flights within Africa and on international flights.

“We have recommended to the AU to create an air ticket tax to fund the development projects. Studies have been done for three years on this issue.”— MNA/Xinhua
Leverkusen on course for European spot with win over Werder

BERLIN, 26 April—Bayer Leverkusen clinched a 2-1 home win over Bundesliga champions Werder Bremen on Sunday. Victory kept Leverkusen in seventh place, within a point of fifth-placed Werder in the final UEFA Cup qualification slot.

Leverkusen took a 2-0 lead with goals from Jacek Krzynówek and Marko Babic and held off a determined fight back after Miroslav Klose had reduced the arrears.

Bayern Munich have the title all but secured after they beat Bochum 3-1 on Saturday to move nine points clear.

With four games left to play, Bayern have 65 points, followed by Schalke on 56 after they were beaten 4-1 at Hertha Berlin also on Saturday.

VB Stuttgart are a point further back in third after a goalless draw at home to VfL Wolfsburg, with Hertha fourth on 53.

Juve stay level with Milan after beating Lazio 1-0

ROME, 25 April—Juventus managed to stay level with AC Milan at the top of Italian first division with a 1-0 win at Lazio on Sunday. Pavel Nedved struck five minutes at his former club Lazio and the win leaves Juventus on 73 points with Milan, who beat Parma 3-0 on Saturday.

In the battle for the other two Champions League spots, third placed Inter Milan suffered a 2-1 defeat at Messina, ending their unbeaten away record this season.

Sampdoria take over from Udinese in fourth place after they defeated AS Roma 2-1 in Genoa.

The defeat leaves Roma with just a single point from their last eight games, drifting dangerously close to the relegation zone.

Palermo’s bid for Champions League football looks over after their 1-0 defeat by bottom club Atalanta.

Roddick takes third clay court crown

WASHINGTON, 25 April—Andy Roddick of the United States beat Sebastien Grosjean of France 6-2, 6-2 easily for his 17th career title and third US Men’s Clay Court Championship in five years on Sunday in Houston.

Roddick, playing his first tournament since a wrist injury forced him out of the ATP tournament at Key Biscayne three weeks ago, needed just 70 minutes to complete a run through the tournament field without losing a set.

With his wrist in a splint for 10 days, Roddick used the time off the court to do extra training and footwork. It paid off against Grosjean.

It was Roddick’s fifth straight appearance in the clay court final, the longest streak on the ATP tour since Russia’s Yevgeny Kafelnikov reached the title match at Moscow from 1996-01, winning the last three.

“I feel as good as I have,” Roddick was quoted as saying. “It hit it (training) hard. A couple of weeks I couldn’t do much. I was just focusing a lot on off-court stuff and I feel it paid dividends this week. I felt I was moving really well. Roddick earned 52,000 US dollars, and Grosjean, who upset second-seeded Andre Agassi en route to the final, took 30,600 US dollars for his first final.

Arsenal beat Hotspur to leave Chelsea waiting for glory

LONDON, 26 April—Jose Antonio Reyes scored a first-half winner to help Arsenal beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 on Monday, ensuring Champion-elect Arsenal have to wait until Saturday to clinch their first league title in fifty years.

Arsenal are now 11 points behind Chelsea and all eyes will be on the Blues in five days when a win at Bolton will hand them the Premiership crown.

With that margin now all but unbridgeable, Arsenal will take more satisfaction in that they pulled four points clear of Manchester United in the race for second.

Reyes started in attack with Robin van Persie and the pair linked for the first chance of the game after a mere 30 seconds.

The Dutchman played in Reyes, but

Benitez eyes upset against Chelsea

LONDON, 26 April—Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez is confident that his side will beat Chelsea to reach the UEFA Champions League final.

The Spanish coach has fared well in his first season at Anfield given the in-jury problems he’s had to deal with.

The Reds have reached the Carling Cup final and the Champions League semis, but Benitez is more concerned with what looks will be a futile pursuit of the Premier League.

With four games left to play, Liverpool have 65 points, followed by Schalke on 56 after they were beaten 4-1 at Hertha Berlin also on Saturday.

VB Stuttgart are a point further back in third after a goalless draw at home to VfL Wolfsburg, with Hertha fourth on 53.

Cameroon win final round berth in women’s volleyball world championship

CAIRO, 26 April—Cameroon became the second African women’s team to secure a 2006 world championship final round spot after defeating Tunisia 3-1 (25-13, 24-26, 25-21, 25-19) to win the 2006 women’s world championship first round tournament (Africa Pool C) in Vacoas, Mauritius on Sunday.

Cameroon used the artistry of their star players Ondouma Messina, the top scorer in the match with 17 points, and the solid block of Rose Beleng to win the deciding match in 103 minutes of exciting volleyball.

After Cameroon won the first set following little Tunisian resistance, the Tunisian superstar Arbia Rafrai led her team to win the most thrilling set of the tournament. However, Cameroon soon regained their rhythm in the second and third sets and used the solid block of Beleng and captain Mbeya Ambatta to penetrate the Tunisian defence and clinch the famous victory.

“We were confident even when we lost the second set,” Cameroon head coach Lavosier Yende said. “This victory today is for all this generation of players who are so talented. Now we can focus on Japan in 2006”.

“We got beaten by a more experienced side,” Tunisia coach Lofti Ben Slimane said. “My girls are still learning. I hope now that we can participate in these tournaments more often so we can progress and build on this performance.”

Hosts Mauritius claimed the other victory on the final day of the tournament after beating Uganda 3-0 (25-22, 25-14, 25-21) to leave them in third position in the final standings and rinseless Uganda in fourth.

Cameroon’s victory means they now join Egypt, who won a first round tournament in March, and the automatic qualifiers — hosts Japan and defending champions Italy — in the prestigious final round. There are now 20 of the 24 vacancies left to be determined in the 2006 world championship final round including the third and final CAVB ticket (Africa Pool B) which will be held in Kenya in June.

The next tournament to feature in the world championship is a first round event (CABV Pool C) in France from April 27 - May 1, 2005 featuring the hosts, Finland, Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belgium where the two top places getters will advance to the second round.

Kenya’s Rono wins Madrid Marathon

MADRID, 25 April—In his marathon debut, Kenyan Daniel Rono won the men’s event in Madrid on Sunday, while Larissa Malikova of Russia took the women’s title with a race record.

Rono completed the course in two hours 12 minutes and 29 seconds, just 10 seconds behind the Madrid men’s record of 2:12:39 set 14 years ago by John Burra of Tanzania.

Malikova, who ran 2:32:16 in Hamburg last year, set the women’s record in 2:33:27, 29 seconds in a row that the record has been broken.

Seven of Rono’s countrymen followed him across the finish line as African runners took the first 10 places in the men’s race. Spain’s Jose Antonio Casasau was 11th.

Race organizers said a record number of 12,999 entries had been accepted, although only 9,000 were able to meet the requirements for starting.
**Melted snow helps curb sandstorms in N-W China**

MANGYA (Qinghai Province), 26 April — Northwest China’s Qinghai Province has for two years diverted melting snow from Kunlun Mountains to irrigate arid land and curb sandstorms, local officials said Monday.

The Mangya area of the Mongolian-Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Haixi, the notorious Gobi desert origin of sandstorms that hit north China in spring, is now covered with some 1,000 hectares of trees and grass since it began to divert melted snow in 2003, said Liu Bajin, an official in Mangya.

Liu said the local government decided in 2003 to irrigate more than 3,300 hectares of forests with snow water for 10 years at the cost of 70 million yuan (8.4 million US dollars).

“We’ve spent 20 mil-

lion yuan (sine 2.4 mil-

lion US dollars) digging

canals, and have diverted

snow water from two

rivers on the eastern and

western sides of Kunlun Mountains to run small hydropower projects,” he said. He said the project also involves building of a 2,000-hectare ecologi-

cal zone and betterment of some 6,000 hectares of grassland.

The State Meteorological Bureau said that sandy land extends 700,000 square kilometres in Qinghai, Gansu and the southern part of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The Mangya area in the western part of the Qaidam Basin is at the centre of this dusty belt.

“Mangya area reports an annual rainfall of less than 40 millimetres and is ravaged by strong winds at least 180 days a year,” said Lu Guoxiang, a local meteorologist.

“The area has about 10 strong sandstorms yearly, the worst of which could affect north and east China.” Melted snow has helped greatly in easing sandstorms, said Lu.

“Plus the intensified for-
estation efforts in Gansu and Xinjiang, we’re having fewer sandstorms this spring.”—MNA/Xinhua

**Afghanistan to upgrade national airliner company**

KABUL, 26 April — Afghan Government is seeking support of the United States to upgrade Afghanistan’s national airline company Ariana, Minister for Transport said on Sunday.

“In our bid to up-
arize Ariana, we have requested the US civil aviation organization to become our partner.”

Anatayallah Qasimi told journalists at a Press conference after a for-

giour tour including the United States.

He avoided com-

menting on the response of US side but acknowled-

ged that a group of US advisers are working with his ministry to study the possibility of partnership with Ariana.

“We want to buy new aircraft and increase Ariana’s capacity,” Qasimi added.

Ariana, the Afghan national carrier with a batch of eight serving old passenger aircraft in-

cluding three Boeing like other Afghan infra-

structures, has been badly damaged due to over two decades of war.

The Afghan national carrier, having flights to few countries including neighbouring nations, has been the victim of Mafia over the past three years, but no more de-

tails can be known.

Five advisers from German aviation firm Lufthansa have also been cooperating with the Afghan airline company to renovate and upgrade it, the minister added.

With the capital of over 20 million US dol-

lars and running 24 ho-

tels inside the country, Ariana is among Af-

ghanistan’s top national firms in the post-war nation.”—MNA/Xinhua

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**WEATHER**

**Tuesday, 26 April, 2005**

Summary of observations reported at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagen and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machenbaw, Bhamo and Mandalay (0.12) inch each. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayezawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, Magway and Aunglan (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 25-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 26-4-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-4-2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 25-4-2005 was (10.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-
Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.63 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.69 inches) at Kaba-
Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from West at (19.15) hours MST on 25-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-4-2005: Likeli-
hood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degrees 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 thundershowers in the upper Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-4-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-4-2005:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degrees of certainty is (60%).

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**Donate blood**

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**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

**Myanmar supports China's ratification of Anti-secession Law**

Senior General Than Shwe

PRC Government urging Chinese companies to make more investments in Myanmar

President Mr Hu Jintao

**YANGON, 26 April** — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe held talks with President Mr Hu Jintao of the People’s Republic of China in Ballroom 3 of Hotel Mulia in Jakarta on 23 April.

President Mr Hu Jintao said that since ancient times the two countries have extended fraternal relationships. Exchange of views between the leaders is a task important for both nations.

Senior General Than Shwe expressed wish to perpetuate and further strengthen the existing fraternal relationship. He said, Myanmar was glad to see China’s rapid economic development which has been achieved since adoption of the open-door economic policy in 1978. As the people of China and the people of Myanmar have witnessed China’s developments under her own leadership with great pleasure. He said, Myanmar was proud of China’s success as China has become one of the top nations of the world, thanking China for her support for Myanmar in international affairs. Myanmar will continue to accept the One China Policy. Myanmar supports China’s ratification of the Anti-secession Law. Both nations have the tradition of always paying attention to the exchange of goodwill visits between the Sino-Myanmar leaders and further strengthening the existing cordial ties. The Senior General said that he always remembered and thanked the warm welcome accorded to him by Chinese leaders during his visit to the country in 2003, inviting Mr Hu, who had visited Myanmar in 2000, to visit Myanmar again. Sino-Myanmar

(See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe and Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao shake hands at the Hotel Mulia in Jakarta on 23 April. — MNA

**Senior General Than Shwe meets UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan**

YANGON, 26 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe met Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Kofi A Annan at Room 4 of Jakarta Convention Centre, in Jakarta at 12.10 pm on 23 April. Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe holds a cordial meeting with UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan at Jakarta Convention Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia. — MNA