The opening of the Kunchaung Dam, constructed by construction group-2 of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, took place at the pandal near the facility in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Division, this morning, with an address by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Ayeyawady Division PDC Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, local authorities, officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that the Kunchaung Dam is a facility that will strengthen the agricultural capacity of Ayeyawady Division, the granary of Myanmar. Thanks to the facility, local farmers will be able to carry out double cropping of cold season crops and summer paddy on the 20,000 acres in Kyangin and Myanmar townships. The development of the agricultural sector, the main pillar of the State, will make the national economy strong and raise the socio-economic life of the rural folks and farmers.

That is why the government has been steadfastly encouraging reclamation of vacant land.

Page 7  AYE PHYU

PRIME MINISTER LT-GEN SOE WIN OVERSEES CONTROL TOWER AND STORAGE OF WATER AT KUNCHAUNG DAM. — MNA

AERIAL VIEW OF CONDUITS AT KUNCHAUNG DAM. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Thursday, 28 April, 2005

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 28 April, 2005

International community should help Myanmar’s development efforts

In the world today, cooperation among the Asian and African nations plays a crucial role in solving the problems facing small countries. It was with the purpose of cementing friendship and boosting cooperation among the nations of Asia and Africa that the Asian-African Summit 2005 was held in Jakarta and Bandung, the Republic of Indonesia, from 22 to 24 April.

Present at the Summit together with Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe were Heads of State/Government from 105 countries in Asia and Africa and others. On 23 April, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe met with UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan at Room 4 of Jakarta Convention Centre and they had discussions in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

At the meeting, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe said that the seven-point policy programme, known as the Road Map, was publicly declared on 30 August 2003, with a view to making democratic reforms, that the National Convention was being held to form a government. He added that, due to criticism of some nations and reports of some news agencies, the UN was assumed to be the enemy of Myanmar, that, in reality, it was not Myanmar’s enemy but friend and that the international community ought to help Myanmar to facilitate its development efforts.

The Union of Myanmar is not just talking about democratic reforms but practically translating them into reality. And it has been making every endeavour for all-round development of the nation since its assumption of State responsibilities. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe invited the UN Secretary-General to visit Myanmar at any time convenient to him so that he can have a first-hand study of the development of the nation.

We believe that friendly and cordial discussions between Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan will enable the international community to understand Myanmar’s modernization and democratization efforts.

FOREIGN MINISTER leaves for PRC

YANGON, 27 April—At the invitation of Mr Li Zhaoxing, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, the Myanmar delegation led by Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here for the People’s Republic of China by air this afternoon to pay a goodwill visit.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, officials and Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. The Foreign Minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials. —MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 27 April—After attending the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 25 April, the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin arrived back here yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Director-General U Mya Nyein of the Office of the Attorney-General and officials.

Police Lt-Col Kyaw Win Thein of Myanmar Police Force also arrived back together with the deputy attorney-general on the same flight. —MNA

CASH DONATED FOR SEINTAMUNI PARISH

MILK POWDER FOR CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Milk Powder for Children’s Hospital: Mo Asia Co Ltd Dumex donated Dumex brand instant full cream worth K 900,000 to Yangon Children’s Hospital on Wednesday. First Manager Dr Daw Beauty Kyi explained the purpose of the donation and handed over the packets of milk powder to Medical Superintendent Dr U Chit Ko Tin who presented a certificate of honour to the donor. —NLM

Deputy FM to attend ASEAN-China Senior Officials’ Consultations

YANGON, 27 April—At the invitation of Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China Wu Dawei, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left for PRC to attend the 11th ASEAN-China Senior Officials’ Consultations to be held in Shanghai from 28 to 30 April. The Deputy Minister was seen off at the airport by Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

Director-General of the Consular and Legal Department of MOFA U Nyan Lynn, Assistant Director of the Minister’s Office U Kyaw Sithu and Second Secretary of the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing U Aye Ko Ko will also be attending the meeting together with the deputy minister.

—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

People’s Desire

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

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Thursday, 28 April, 2005
ASEAN Eco Ministers Retreat Meeting opens in Vietnam

Ha Long City (Vietnam), 26 April— The 11th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Retreat Meeting kicked off here on Tuesday, bringing together economic ministers and representatives from 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the bloc’s General Secretary Ong Keng Yong.

During the one-day meeting, the delegates will seek major orientations to gradually step up economic integration of the 10 countries toward the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2020, as well as to expand and deepen economic ties with non-block members.

To foster intra-block economic cooperation, the ministers are expected to focus their discussions on the implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors signed in 2004 in Laos, under which the AEC is expected to identify economic measures to ensure the overall interest of all block members,” the official added.

On Wednesday, the ministers will meet with Peter Mandelson, Trade Commissioner of the European Union (EU) in the 6th AEM-EU Consultation also to be held in the northern city of Ha Long. During the one-day gathering, they are expected to agree on new measures to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two blocks.—MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Philippine ties undergoing quick development

MANILA, 26 April— Along with the maturing of political relations between China and the Philippines, the defence officials of the two countries have also begun to engage in cooperation in security and defence with the establishment of a mechanism of dialogue in the field.

Faced with complicated international and regional situations, the two countries have expressed their intention to strengthen information exchange and strategic cooperation in the field of security, to jointly contribute to maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Meanwhile, China and the Philippines have been making progress in cooperation in building a free trade area and in cooperation in regional affairs. The Philippines joined this year the “Early Harvest Plan” in the framework of a China-ASEAN free trade area, signalling the completion of the earliest phase in the building of a regional free trade area which will cover a market of 1.8 billion consumers, 2 trillion US dollars of GDP, and 2 trillion US dollars in trade volume.

Chinese and Philippine officials have estimated that in five years from now, the Sino-Philippines trade volume will attain at least 20 billion US dollars. The two countries see huge potential for cooperation in infrastructure, mining, fishing, forestry and many other fields. China will continue to support the Philippines to develop its agriculture with Chinese technology and equipment.

In the field of people-to-people exchanges, more and more Filipinos are visiting China and have become aware of the importance of the role being played by China in economic development and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Former Philippine President Ramos once said that Filipinos used to focus their pay interest in the United States, Europe and Japan, but now they are equally interested in China, as they have realized the importance of China in regional development and stability.—MNA/Xinhua

Thai Govt to step up fight against human trafficking

BANGKOK, 26 April— The Thai Government will intensify fight against human trafficking by cracking down on those involved in the illegal activity as well as assisting victims.

A national committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai will be set up to address human trafficking issues.

“Out panel will be focus on cracking down on trafficking gangs and on helping victims,” Surakiart on Monday was quoted by Bangkok Post newspaper as saying during an inspection trip to the northern Tak Province. On the rehabilitation scheme for the victims, he said that the rehabilitation scheme consists of physical and mental assistance as well as occupational training, and the government will work with non-governmental organizations and civil society in this field.

Seritho Laopram, chief of the Social Development and Human Security Office in Tak, said the 15-20 victims of trafficking rescued in Bangkok and other provinces had been sent back home.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Indonesia to limit warships in disputed sea

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Malaysia and Indonesia had agreed to respectively reduce their patrol boats in the disputed Sulawesi Sea as soon as possible, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Sunday.

The agreement to withdraw all other patrol boats from the disputed area was reached at a meeting between the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) chief, Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Nor, and Indonesian Navy chief Vice-Admiral Slamet Subiyanto in Batam recently, the Deputy Prime Minister told reporters in Shah Alam near here.

Each country will station only one warship in the disputed maritime area and other boats of the two sides will withdraw simultaneously, according to earlier Press reports. The navies of the two countries had sent more ships to patrol the disputed area following an incident on 8 April in which RMN’s KD Rencong and the Indonesian navy’s KRI Tedung Naga brushed against each other, causing damage to both ships.

Both countries had sent protest notes to each other following the incident. The maritime border dispute arose following the award by Petronas, Malaysia National Oil Company, to Shell of oil and gas contracts in two blocks in the Sulawesi as both countries have claims over the oil-rich sea, Najib, who is also Defence Minister, said Malaysia viewed the understanding reached as good because sovereignty was not determined by the number of ships in an area. —MNA/Xinhua

The new ‘Audi A6’ is on display during its launch function in Mumbai on 26 April, 2005. —INTERNET

An Iraqi girl weeps by her injured father at a hospital in Samarras. The man was caught in crossfire on 26 April, 2005.—INTERNET
UNSC calls for strengthened cooperation against terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April — The UN Security Council called on Monday for strengthened cooperation through enhanced information sharing, coordinated visits to countries and other issues of relevance to fight against terrorism.

In a statement read out by Wang Guangya of China, President for the month of April, the Council welcomed the briefings by the Chairmen of the al-Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1267 (1999), the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1373 (2001), and the Committee on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction established pursuant to Resolution 1540 (2004).

The Council stressed the different mandates of the three Committees and reaffirmed its call for enhanced cooperation among them in monitoring member states implementation of the respective Security Council resolutions relevant to them.

It also invited them to continue cooperation with the working group established pursuant to Resolution 1566 (2004).

The Council reaffirmed the responsibility of member states for implementing the resolutions relevant to their respective mandates, including the preparation of reports to them, and encouraged international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance their efforts to further their members' implementation of Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540.

It also encouraged those organizations, as well as states, to provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of implement those resolutions.

The Council reaffirmed that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constituted a threat to international peace and security, and recalled its grave concern over the risk posed by non-State actors that attempted to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use such means and related delivery systems.

It reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomever committed.


Japan sees Japan-China summit very significant

TOKYO, 26 April — The summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday was very significant, a top Japanese Government spokesman said on Monday.

“It is of great significance that the two leaders agreed to comprehensively promote the future-oriented cooperative relations,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirohiko Hosoda told a Press conference, referring to the summit on Saturday on the sidelines of the Asian-African summit in Jakarta.

Hosoda said to strengthend and develop bilateral relations is important for the Asian countries and the international community at large.

The top spokesman also stressed the importance of solving long-standing disputes between the two countries through dialogue.

In Saturday's talks, Hu initiated five proposals on developing the Sino-Japanese relations and urged Japan to seriously reflect over its wartime history and properly handle the current difficult situation in the Sino-Japanese relations.

Koizumi recognized the importance of bilateral relations, saying Japan will take vigorous actions to promote the ties in the spirit of President Hu's five proposals.

Pace of guerilla attacks in Iraq rises

WASHINGTON, 26 April — After a postelection respite, the pace of guerilla attacks in Iraq has increased in recent weeks to approach last year's levels, Pentagon officials said on Tuesday.

"Where they are right now is where they were almost a year ago, and it's nowhere near the peak," said Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a Pentagon Press conference.

That's about 400 attacks a week of all kinds: bombings, shootings, rocket and mortar attacks, Pentagon officials said. About half cause significant damage or injure or kill someone.

Though they vary daily, those figures are close to the rate of attacks that took place through much of last year, except for spasms of violence in Najaf, Fallujah and elsewhere. In pre-election violence in January, the number spiked to twice the usual rate.

The frequency of attacks is one measure of the strength of the guerilla in Iraq, and the success of the efforts of the US-led coalition to combat it.

But Myers and Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld disputed a suggestion that the figure demonstrates a lack of progress in Iraq. Rumsfeld said the focus of US forces has been training Iraqi security forces rather than directing counter attack operations.

China’s largest land port to set new record in Sino-Russian trade

HOMNET, 26 April — Manzhouli, China's largest land port on the China-Russia border, will hopefully handle 18 million tons of goods for import and export this year, an all time high, according to relevant figures released by the Manzhouli Port Office.

The value of Sino-Russian trade to be handled by Manzhouli Port, in northeast China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, is to reach the record 1.7 billion US dollars in the year.

As the largest land port on the Sino-Russian border, Manzhouli handles nearly 60 percent of the annual trade volume between China and Russia. In recent years, Sino-Russian economic and trade ties recorded steady growth.

The main commodities imported from Russia via Manzhouli include timber, crude, pulp and chemical products, while textiles, garments, building materials and home appliances are popular Chinese export items to Russia. Beginning this year, fruit, vegetables and automobiles have been added to China's export list.

To boost bilateral trade, China will allocate 280 million yuan (about 34 million US dollars) to extend the scale of Manzhouli Port this year. An additional 21 million yuan (some 2.5 million dollars) will be used to improve and upgrade highways at Manzhouli, said Zhang Linghua, director of the Manzhouli Port Office.

Manzhouli customs will simplified customs clearance procedures and introduce round-clock service, Zhang added.

Local customs statistics showed that goods for import and export between China and Russia via Manzhouli came to 10 million tons in 2003 and rose to 14 million tons last year.
Annan urges world leaders to take decision to overhaul UN

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April — The United Nations must undertake the most sweeping overhaul in its 60-year history in order to strengthen collective security, lay down a truly global strategy for development, Secretary-General Kofi Annan argued in the latest issue of Foreign Affairs.

Annan’s commentary, which was published Monday, restated the case he made in his recent ground-breaking report, “In Larger Freedom,” which outlines a series of proposals for adapting the world body to meet current and emerging challenges.

His article cited cross-border threats, such as organized crime syndicates, AIDS and terrorism, in pressing world leaders to adopt the recommendations when they meet for a summit in September.

Specifically, he called for measures to ensure that catastrophic terrorism never becomes a reality, protect civilians, eradicate poverty and foster a strong UN capable of these important tasks.

In perhaps the most closely watched of all reforms, Annan proposed expanding the Security Council to 24 members from 15, providing two alternative formulations for doing so. Neither changes the current status of the veto power enjoyed by the five permanent members.

“Member states should make up their minds and reach a decision before the September summit,” he declared.

Annan urged states to adopt a comprehensive convention against terrorism, and establish a UN peacebuilding commission. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese students wearing Ao Dai, a traditional dress, maneuver their bicycles through the traffic in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, on 27 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Blair under fresh election pressure as lawmaker quits over Iraq

LONDON, 27 April — Prime Minister Tony Blair was forced onto the defensive over Iraq again as a senior member of his Labour Party quit in protest at the war and urged voters to give the premier “a bloody nose” at next week’s election.

Also turning up the heat, the main opposition Conservatives launched a fresh poster campaign calling Blair a liar as the gloves come off ahead of polling day on 5 May.

Brian Sedgemore, a Labour lawmaker for 27 years who is now retiring from parliament, said he had joined the smaller opposition Liberal Democrats, who opposed the March 2003 Iraq conflict.

“When you see everyone from the centre and left of British politics to give Blair a bloody nose at the general election and vote for the Liberal Democrats,” Sedgemore told reporters. The defection was not entirely unexpected — Sedgemore was a longtime Labour rebel who had consistently criticised the Iraq war — but was nonetheless deeply uncomfortable for Blair, just nine days before Britain votes.

Michael Howard, leader of the Conservatives, also powered in with a targeted attack on the Prime Minister’s character. “If he’s prepared to lie to take us to war, he’s prepared to lie to win an election,” declared a new poster emblazoned with a picture of Blair’s face.

Howard defended the hard-hitting campaign during a visit to Birming- ham, in the West Midlands. — Internet

S Korea to help Nepal build power project

KATHMANDU, 26 April — The South Korean Government has agreed in principle to assist Nepal Electricity Authority in building the 30-megawatt Chameliya Hydroelectric Power Project in far-western Nepal, an official revealed here on Monday.

The South Korean Government has assured the Nepalese power authority of implementing the project soon, and the framework of assistance will be formalized following government-to-government negotiations, Janak Lal Karmacharya, executive director of the authority, told reporters.

The project is a medium-sized, six-hour daily peaking run-off-river project, which will be built at the Chameliya River, a tributary of the Mahakali River, in Darchula District, some 800 kilometres west of Kathmandu. The project, has an estimated cost of 74.9 million US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s automobile industry faces three major challenges

BOAO (Hainan Province), 26 April — A sluggish market demand and continuous price drops have made China’s burgeoning auto industry a hot topic at the annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), according to Sunday’s Economic Daily.

A discussion on the subject cited three major problems: the disadvantage of China’s self-designed auto brands, price war caused by oversupply and inefficient financing services.

Despite the lack of effective solutions, the discussion clarified the thorny issues and made the sector more alert of its severe situations, according to the Economic Daily article.

Currently, there are 355 auto brands in China’s market, according to figures from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

Of the 100 brands for sedans, 37 were domestically designed. Meanwhile, about 90 per cent of the 97 truck brands and 76 per cent of 158 passenger car brands are designed in China. Many of these Chinese auto brands did not hold inspiring market shares in spite of the large percentages, said CAAM executive deputy director Jiang Lei.

So far, the aggregated market share of domestic brands has dropped from 23.97 per cent in 2003 to the present 19.67 per cent. The sales volume of self-designed luxury sedans Red Flag and Zhonghua reported declines of 40 per cent and 58 per cent separately.

“Everyone is concerned about the year’s slower growth rate of 15.17 per cent in China’s sedan sales, the drastic decline in terms of self-designed brands, however, have posed increasing pressure,” said Jiang. Another problem as many participants acknowledged, is the over-supply of automobiles.

Other foreign experts predicted that 60 per cent of China’s auto machines will be left unused by 2007.

The rough competition already forced out some non-public companies that were tempted into the auto industry last year.

“A new round of mergers and restructuring is just around the corner,” according to the newspaper. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Cuba to strengthen bilateral ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Malaysia and Cuba would explore ways to further strengthen bilateral relations, especially in the economic and social fields, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Monday.

Cuban First Vice-President Raul Castro’s visit to Malaysia opened up new opportunities for the two countries to enhance bilateral ties, Najib told reporters after meeting the Cuban guests in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre near here.

Raul Castro, the youngest brother of Cuban President Fidel Castro, arrived here last Saturday for a four-day visit to Malaysia to foster ties between the two countries.

“We note that trade between Malaysia and Cuba is currently very small,” he said, referring to Malaysia-Cuba trade which totalled around 1.84 million US dollars last year. Najib said Malaysia and Cuba hold potential to cooperate in commercial and manufacturing activities as well as research and development in vaccines and pharmaceutical products.

“This takes into account the fact that Cuba is strong in the production of vaccines and pharmaceuticals. For its part, Malaysia is seen as having potential to be a centre for clinical tests for vaccines,” he said.

Cuba also expressed its commitment to contribute more knowledge and expertise to the local development of biotechnology through the existing technical cooperation between Cuban institutes and University Sains Malaysia (USM) and University Putra Malaysia (UPM). — MNA/Xinhua

A Vietnamese woman packages coffee at the Mai coffee shop in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 27 April, 2005. — Internet

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Hu Jintao meets with Indonesian Vice-President

JAKARTA, 26 April — Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao met here on Monday with Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla to exchange views on deepening strategic partnership between the two countries.

The Chinese President said that Sino-Indonesian relations had entered a new era with rapid, healthy and stable development. He added that that he and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had fruitful talks on the same day and signed joint declaration on establishing a strategic partnership between the two countries, according to sources from the Chinese delegation.

The Sino-Indonesian relations will be further developed under this strategic partnership, Hu added.

On bilateral economic and trade cooperation, the Chinese President said as China and Indonesia are both developing countries, developing economy should be their top priorities.

In recent years, the two countries have made remarkable achievements in economic and trade cooperation, Hu said, adding that the two countries should continue to strengthen cooperation in areas of infrastructure construction, energy and natural resources development, agriculture and fishing.

For his part, the Indonesian Vice-President noted that the Indonesian economy is recovering with increasing investment from both domestic and abroad. He added that the two countries should uphold the cooperation potentials in sectors of infrastructure and energy development.

On the same day, the Chinese President also met respectively with Hidayat Nur Wahid, chairman of People’s Consultative Assembly; Agung Laksono, speaker of House of Representatives, and Ginanjar Kartasasmita, speaker of Regional People’s Representative Council.

Economic growth to moderate in Asia-Pacific in 2005

SINGAPORE, 26 April — A survey conducted by the International Trade Institute of Singapore predicted that the growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) for developing countries in Asia-Pacific will be at 6.2 per cent in 2005 against the 7.2 per cent increase achieved in 2004.

Survey results released on Monday said that factors such as persistent high oil prices, a weakening US dollar as well as the slowdown of global trade will pose special near-term challenges for the region.

“China’s rapid growth has provided impetus to regional growth with rapid increases in intraregional trade,” the survey found, adding that a successful “soft landing” of China’s economy will contribute to the region’s prospect for this year.

The surveyor marked 2005 as the Year of the Microcredit to underscore ways of strengthening income and employment generation in Asian and Pacific nations as they are facing challenges like growing populations and youth unemployment.

Poverty reduction, the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in some countries, as well as the financial sustainabiility of microfinance are among long-term development policy issues for the region, according to the survey. As far as Singapore’s economy is concerned, the survey echoed the government’s forecast as saying that the GDP growth will be in the moderated range of 3-5 per cent in 2005 with possible rise in retail prices.

The government is taking measures to address the structural unemployment issue, attract foreign direct investment, diversify its economy and enhance its competitiveness, the survey said.

Bangladesh’s frozen food exporters warned against foul play

DHAKA, 26 April — The Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association has warned its members against any foul play in exports of complaints of underweight in packed shrimp are pouring in from European buyers, The New Age reported on Monday.

Some of the packets contain smaller quantity of shrimps than declared and the gap is wider than the weight loss permissible in case of packaging, the industry sources were quoted as saying, referring to complaints reached them from Bangladesh missions abroad.

The association will cancel membership of any exporter found guilty of miss-declaration and miss-gradation, and will recommend the government to cancel factory licence, said Kazi Belayet Hossain, vice president of the Bangladeshi Frozen Food Exporters Association.

Frozen food is the country’s second largest export earner after ready-made garment. In 2003-2004 fiscal, exports of shrimp and other sea food fetched 390 million US dollars against 321.81 million dollars in the previous fiscal.

Shrimp accounts for more than 90 per cent of the frozen food export basket.

Western regions become new clean energy base in China

URUMQI, 26 April — Dotted with numerous solar and wind power facilities, once barren desert areas in western China have become a new clean energy base in the country.

Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur, which is rich in wind power, began building a wind power project with a generating capacity of 188,000 kilowatts this year at a place 40 kilometres away from Urumqi, the regional capital, said Wang Liming, senior engineer of the regional wind power research institute.

The Inner Mongolia, another major wind power producer, is also making use of its troublesome sandstorms to produce more electricity to facilitate its people and those in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The region is preparing to build a wind power project with a generating capacity of 300,000 kilowatts, tripling the region’s wind power projects built in the past 10 years.

Last year, China installed 1,292 wind power generating units with a combined capacity of 764,000 kilowatts, up 34.7 per cent over the previous year.

With operation of 20-plus solar energy stations in Xinjiang over the past three years, more than 1,000 residents living around the Taklimakan Desert, the world’s second largest of its kind, have been provided with adequate electricity and water supply.

The Xinjiang New Energy Energy Ltd. has installed 30,000 solar energy devices at desert areas, making 48 townships with no electricity to bid farewell to the life of being in dark at night.

China is now being challenged by a nationwide short supply of power.

Consequently, the country will give a major boost to the development of renewable energy, including wind power, to benefit 23 million people living in hinterland areas or on the coastal islands by 2010.

Currently, the reserve of available wind power in China tops 270 million kilowatts, 70 per cent of which are produced in Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang.

Other leading producers include Gansu Province and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China.

A model displays a creation of Indian fashion designer Anju Modi during a fashion show in New Delhi on 25 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Nissan Motor president and CEO, Carlos Ghosn, stands beside a ‘Serena’ in Tokyo on 25 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Visa extension within hour in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 April — The Nepali Department of Immigration has started extending visa for tourists within an hour, an official said here on Sunday.

“We have been providing the visa extension service from three minutes to one hour,” Kamal Bahadur Rajlawat, an immigration officer at the department told reporters.

It used to take about three hours, he noted, adding “Some tourists are astonished at getting the prompt service and remarked as unexpected pleasure”.

A model displays a creation of Indian fashion designer Anju Modi during a fashion show in New Delhi on 25 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Western regions become new clean energy base in China

URUMQI, 26 April — Dotted with numerous solar and wind power facilities, once barren desert areas in western China have become a new clean energy base in the country.

Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur, which is rich in wind power, began building a wind power project with a generating capacity of 188,000 kilowatts this year at a place 40 kilometres away from Urumqi, the regional capital, said Wang Liming, senior engineer of the regional wind power research institute.

The Inner Mongolia, another major wind power producer, is also making use of its troublesome sandstorms to produce more electricity to facilitate its people and those in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The region is preparing to build a wind power project with a generating capacity of 300,000 kilowatts, tripling the region’s wind power projects built in the past 10 years.

Last year, China installed 1,292 wind power generating units with a combined capacity of 764,000 kilowatts, up 34.7 per cent over the previous year.

With operation of 20-plus solar energy stations in Xinjiang over the past three years, more than 1,000 residents living around the Taklimakan Desert, the world’s second largest of its kind, have been provided with adequate electricity and water supply.

The Xinjiang New Energy Energy Ltd. has installed 30,000 solar energy devices at desert areas, making 48 townships with no electricity to bid farewell to the life of being in dark at night.

China is now being challenged by a nationwide short supply of power.

Consequently, the country will give a major boost to the development of renewable energy, including wind power, to benefit 23 million people living in hinterland areas or on the coastal islands by 2010.

Currently, the reserve of available wind power in China tops 270 million kilowatts, 70 per cent of which are produced in Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang.

Other leading producers include Gansu Province and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China.
Many of us have heard of the old adage “Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder”, implying that beauty is subjective and depends on the perception of each individual. It is important to keep in mind that each person’s perspective is unique, influenced by a variety of factors such as culture, personal experience, and individual preferences.

Nobody can deny that our country has greatly improved over the last decade with the development of infrastructures having taken up a sound foundation. Dams, roads, bridges, schools, colleges, hospitals, power stations, just to name a few, have been popping up all over the place. In Myanmar, despite all these efforts, we see little progress being made in our country’s development path. We need to remember that the development efforts are only the beginning, and we must continue to work towards achieving greater success.

As a developing country, we still have a long way to go. It is not easy to change the minds of people who are used to a certain way of life. It takes time and patience. We need to focus on the positive aspects of our development and not dwell on the negative.

So why is it so important to focus on the positive? Because when people see the progress being made, they are more likely to support our efforts. We need to create a positive image of our country so that others can see the potential in us.

In conclusion, we must continue to work towards our development goals and focus on the positive. We must believe in our country’s potential and work towards a better future for all.

Aye Phyu

2005 Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV begins

Yangon, 27 April — The 2005 Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV, hosted by Myanmar, was opened at Thinniehu Tennis Court, here, at 8 am today.

Together with umpires, coaches, and players from tennis teams of Bangladesh, Iraq, Jordan, Kirgyzstan, Omen, Syria, Singapore, Turkmenistan, UAE and host Myanmar took the participation in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV. Despite all these efforts, we see little progress being made in our country’s development path. We need to remember that the development efforts are only the beginning, and we must continue to work towards achieving greater success.

The Secretary-General said the stated complete withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon as required by Security Council Resolution 1559, but that Syria’s stated full withdrawal has yet to be verified.

“As of April 26 2005, the requirements of Resolution 1559 have not yet been met. However, the parties concerned have made significant and noticeable progress toward implementing some of the provisions contained in the resolution,” Annan said in a report to the Security Council.

A letter sent to him by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara, which stated that Syria had completed the full withdrawal of its troops, military assets and intelligence forces from Lebanon on Tuesday. The Secretary-General said the stated withdrawal had been verified by a team of UN observers, whose conclusions will be a supplement to Tuesday’s report.

All this needs to be known

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

MNA/Xinhua
Forty major bridges already built stand...

(from page 1)

beefing up per acre yield of crops, expansion of multi-cropping areas, and extended use of machinery and farm implements, while constructing irrigation facilities and promoting the agricultural sector.

In the Ayeyawady Division that is endowed with rivers and creeks and streams with a great deal of a rainfall, most of the land is flooded in the rainy season, and there is scarcity of water in summer. On the basis of that point, the government has also built Nankathu dam and diversion weir, Panlhong Sluice Gate, Mezali Sluice Gate, Wadaw Sluice Gate, Htani Sluice Gate in addition to Kunchaung Dam for proper flow of water of the rivers and creeks and for prevention against entering of salty water. Moreover, it has established waterworks and canals with a length of many miles. There have emerged Ma Mya Dam Project, Kanyin Dam Project, Ngapiseik and Myogwin water pumping stations one after another in the environs of the region.

As a result, the drive has ensured adequate water supply for Ayeyawady Division along with a success in the multi-cropping. In the past, Ayeyawady Division could cultivate summer paddy in name. Now it has increased its sown acreage of summer paddy to more than 1.7 million, accounting for over half the total sown acreage of summer paddy of the entire nation.

Previously, the division could put around 3 million acres under monsoon paddy, and now the number of total acres has mounted to 3.5 million. However, Ayeyawady Division is to make continued efforts to be able to meet the target of 5.6 million acres of monsoon paddy laid down by the government.

On the whole, Ayeyawady Division has been able to stand as the granary of the State due to the effective combination of the application of modern agricultural methods and land and water resources through innovative measures. Furthermore, its another salient point is that it is extending the production of beans and pulses and edible oil crops encouragingly a year after another.

With respect to the livestock sector, it has been able to increase the area of fish breeding ponds to about 96,000 acres, and prawn breeding ponds to more than 40,000 acres. And its raising of ducks, pigs and domestic chicken is more than any other states and divisions. Thus, the dependable region has remained as the agriculture and livestock breeding zone as well as the food basket zone of the nation. All are to recognize that point as its great success.

The Prime Minister cited the speech of the Head of State, as saying Ayeyawady Division is blessed with favourable conditions for achieving success in the agriculture and livestock sector, so steps are to be taken thoroughly for considerably raising the sector.

Ayeyawady Division, whose paddy sown acreage makes up more than one fourth of that of the State, has a rich soil. If the region is able to boost per acre yield of paddy significantly, it will help meet the target of the State’s paddy output of 1.200 million baskets of paddy.

Measures are to be taken for promotion of the breeding of fish and prawn and for extending the area of prawn breeding ponds.

Ayeyawady Division is to strictly follow and put the guidance into reality. In order to meet the target, the government has constructed the transport infrastructure close to cent per cent. According to its topography, Ayeyawady Division had to rely mainly on the waterways for transport up to the period seven years ago.

The poor transport made the division lag behind in development. In addition that, the instability due to the internal armed struggle line caused a great hindrance to regional development undertakings. In contrast, the region has been facilitated with a network of roads and bridges owing to the harmonious efforts of the State and the local folks.

The 40 large river or creek spanning bridges have stood witness to the government’s goodwill towards local people of Ayeya-wady Division, and now one can travel by bus from one place to any other places in the region.

The Ayeyawady Division dwellers have realized that now they can travel to any other states and divisions in a short time. Indeed, it is the result of peace, tranquility and smooth transport.

As there is peace and stability in all the regions in Ayeyawady Division with no insurgency, and gateways to the division open, economic and social conditions of the division have improved. Besides agricultural and fish and meat sectors, hotels and tourism have also improved rapidly because of Chaungtha and Ngwehaung beaches.

Apart from traditional livelihood, the division has developed due to new economic (See page 9)
Forty major bridges already built stand......
(from page 8)

In order to speed up the development momentum of the division, the government designated Pathein, Hinthada and Maubin as special development regions and established universities, colleges and hospitals. The government is also creating better foundations to turn outstanding, brilliant, fit and strong human resources, he said.

He said the development rate of the entire nation is very rapid as other states and divisions of the Union have also improved with greater momentum. Rapid development has been made in economic sector according to the short-term and annual projects, he said.

He said all economic fields such as production, services and trade have developed yearly. One can witness the improvement of living standard of the people both in urban and rural regions.

The objective of the continued efforts of the government led by State leader Senior General Than Shwe is for emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation and raising the living standard of the national people, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the government laid down the twelve objectives— four political objectives, four economic objectives and four social objectives and has been building the nation. The government is making reforms in all sectors in order to fulfill social requirements such as to be able to work with peace of mind, creating economic opportunities, longevity and well-being, learning of higher education and ensuring smooth transport.

There emerged union organizations that would destroy the nation, opposing Our Three Main National Causes. The attitude towards them is clear. They are to be warded off in accord with the four-point People’s Desire. The Prime Minister urged the people to fight against any destructive act or hindrance at a time when the objectives of high living standard of the people are realized.

With equal development in border and rural areas, seven-point Road Map which is practical and reasonable were laid down for transforming the nation into a genuine democratic one smoothly. As is known to all, the government is implementing it systematically. Basic principles needed for future State Constitution were laid down at the National Convention to a certain extent.

He said transitional tasks cover political, economic, administrative, education and health sectors. The State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to participate in the transitional tasks for success in accord with work programmes laid down.

He urged the people of Ayeyawady Division to work hard by making good use of better foundations established by the Head of State and the government with goodwill and to boost production.

In conclusion, he also urged them to safeguard the Union of Myanmar with Union spirit and national solidarity spirit, upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said that the Kunchaung is the 173rd dam of the nation and the eighth of Ayeyawady Division. With the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the Tatmadaw Government has been striving for harmonious development of all their regions of the nation. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Tourism has been building dams, water pumping stations, tube-wells in regions with less rainfall, and sluice gates and dams in the areas which receive a lot of rain annually. It is reclaiming more land for cultivation. In addition, it is providing assistance to the agricultural sector for introducing mechanized farming. The Kunchaung Dam will benefit 21 village-tracts. In the past, the region grew 33,000 acres of crops including over 21,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 2,700 acres of summer paddy and over 9,300 acres of beans and pulses. Thanks to the dam it will now cultivate over 21,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 16,000 acres of summer paddy and 5,350 acres of beans and pulses totalling over 42,000 acres of crops.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing said that Ayeyawady Division will have 3.6 million acres of land under monsoon paddy in 2005-2006, up from 3,508,291 acres in the previous fiscal. It cultivated 1.42 million acres of beans and pulses in 2003-2004 and 1.528 million acres in 2004-2005. The division has 40,274 acres of prawn farms and 94,732 acres of fish ponds in addition cage breeding of fish in Ngawun River and fish-plus-paddy cultivation. It has raised over 10 million chicken. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, rubber plantation of the division will reach 100,000 acres in 2007-2008. A local thanked the Government for building the dam.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win unveiled the stone plaque of the dam, and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Maj-Gen Htay Oo formally inaugurated the dam. The Prime Minister and party then inspected the dam. At the briefing hall of the dam project, the Prime Minister heard a report on arrangements to extend irrigated crops in the division presented by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo. The Prime Minister said that thanks to the irrigation facilities, crops can be cultivated on 100,000 acres of contiguous land all year round in the division. It is a significant progress and an example for other states and divisions. The Government has been providing all-round assistance to farmers to use farm machines and to entrepreneurs to play a role in the farm mechanization process.

Kunchaung Dam is located three miles from Pathein-Monywa Highway near Tatkon village, Kyangon Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division. The earth dam is 16,720 feet long, and 135 feet high. Its surface area is 98,400 acres at 1.42 million acres of beans and pulses totalling over 42,000 acres. It can irrigate 20,000 acres of crops. It is now irrigating 1,500 acres of summer paddy. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win poses for documentary photo with officials and local people at the opening ceremony of Kunchaung Dam.— MNA

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Prizes awarded to winners of ASEAN Photo Show and Contest 2004

YANGON, 27 April — The prize presenting ceremony of ASEAN Photo Show and Contest 2004 was held at the National Museum, this morning with a speech by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein. Also present on the occasion were departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture, ambassadors of ASEAN countries and prize winners.

On behalf of the Information Minister, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein made a speech. Next, the deputy minister presented prizes to winners of Myanmar National (Category A) contest, Pyae Phyo Aung, Ye Aung Htoo, Zeyar Tun, Naing Zaw Lin and Aung Paing; winners of Category B contest, Aung San Win (Shwe-inn-tha), Lin Htin and AK Moe (Zoology), Mann Tekkatho Nay Myo Win and Khin Maung Myint and Pyae Phyo Aung who stood second and AK Moe (Zoology) who stood third in the regional (Category B) contest respectively.

Next, AK Moe (Zoology) expressed thanks on behalf of the winners. Afterwards, the deputy minister and party posed for documentary photo and viewed the prize winning photos of the winners.

MNA
Deputy Information Minister meets Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad

YANGON, 27 April  — Member of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by Chairman Tachilek District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye, Director of Information and Public Relations Department U Tun Min, Deputy Chief Engineer U Win Thu of MRTV and Tachilek District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Aung Hsan Oo, met with members of Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad at the squad office on 24 April.

District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye, Police Inspector Officer Tin Aye and members of the squad, Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association of Tachilek District U Maung Ohn and leader of Akha national race U Ah Zee who is carrying out drug addiction rehabilitation task reported on providing knowledge on danger of narcotic drugs.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein gave instructions that today, neo-colonialists still use narcotic drugs, evil legacy of the colonial era, as a political weapon.

Therefore, the special anti-drug squads, information staff, members of MANA and sponsor people are to organize the educative tasks to enable the local people to realize the danger of drugs.

Wellwisher local Akha national race leader U Ah Zee established the community-based youth nurturing camp in Lwedawkhan Village, Tachilek Township.

With the assistance of the departments concerned, the camp was opened on 22 November 2004. Up to date, a total of 114 have been given treatment.
With strength of national ...

-from page 16-

Myitkyina Township

Principal of Myitkyina GCC and Myitkyina GTC and faculty members welcomed them.

Myitkyina GCC Principal Dr Daw Hnin Min Oo and Myitkyina GTC Principal U Aung Moe reported on matters related to respective colleges.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung reported on extension of locations and arrangements for upgrading the GCC to university, academic matters of GTC and construction of buildings at GTC.

The commander briefed the Secretary-1 on arrangements of better transport for faculty members of the two colleges and payment of their requirements.

Project Engineer U Pe Than reported on construction of a three-story building, an assembly hall, 42 lecture halls, the road to GT and decoration of the landscape.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 stressed the importance of producing qualified students in quantity at GCC and GTC, innovative measures to be taken for generating electricity from methane gas with the use of biotechnology, timely construction of buildings at the GTC meeting set standard, a supervisory committee to be formed for construction tasks, growing of flowery plants on the campus and keeping the campus clean and pleasant. He urged them to involve the local people to participate in human resource development tasks.

Next, the Secretary-1 urged the supervisory model of the GTC and overview in construction of buildings at the college.

Construction of buildings at Myitkyina GTC was completed by 85 per cent and all construction tasks will be completed in November 2005.

At the city hall in Myitkyina, the Secretary-1 met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders and gave instructions on regional development tasks.

Also present were Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National and Development Affairs Col U Thein Nyunt, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Maung Oo, departmental heads, officials and local people.

First, the commander explained the area, population and national races in the state, geographical and climate conditions, land utilization, cultivation of 10 major crops in 2004-2005, reclamation of 1,000 acres of farmland in Haungme region of Phakant Township, cultivation of summer paddy in Putao District, extension of 6,000 acres of farmland in 2005-2006, completion of 6,621 acres of rubber, arrangements for extending 4,000 acres of rubber in three years, water and power supply, local food sufficiency, economic development, transport, education and health matters.

Minister U Than Aung reported on endeavours of the Government for every person to be able to pursue basic and higher education against the inclusion Kachin State and success achieved in school enrollment programme.

The Minister U Thaung also presented reports on development of human resource being carried out by the Ministry of Science and Technology, turning out of intellectuals and intelligentsia, opening of science and technological universities and colleges in States and Divisions and future tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 said that all the citizens have two inborn duties of the nation, and that are to defend the nation and to develop the nation. In defending the country, the people will have to play their respective roles in ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Union.

The people will have to take part in the respective sectors in materializing the 12 political, economic and social objectives for the national economic development. Once, Myanmar was one of the top countries in Southeast Asia. Because of the armed inwards, the country's development was broke out soon after regaining independence. Myanmar was a backward nation when compared with other countries.

The Government has been materializing the four political objectives without fail and striving to put an end to the armed insurgency. As peace and stability is pre- vailing in the nation, the development drive is also gaining momentum. Industrial development plays a key role in the national development and modernization drive. But capital as well as technologies are needed for industrial development. Thus, the Government has been striving for the development of the agro-based economy of the nation, because it is also making an arrangement to production of sufficient adequate food and other necessities for the growing population and accumulation of capital for the future. Multiple-cropping, use of quality strains and advanced methods are a must for agricultural development.

The nation now has 19 industrial zones, but the efforts to invite foreign investments face an obstacle on the executive in- vestments acts. Development of a nation is measured with the gross domestic product, per capita income and inflation rate. The Government at present is materializing the seven-point Road Map in the smooth transition to a discipline-flourishing democratic state. The holding of the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map, is in progress.

He said that a new constitution was being drafted as both the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution did not meet the demand of time and circumstances.

The National Convention started in 1993 and the basic principles were drafted in the new constitution were laid down. Distribution of executive power and judiciary power had already been discussed. Now the National Convention has been adjourned towards the end of 2005 in order to not to disturb the private businesses of the delegates and for the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee to be able to continue doing what ought to be done.

At the National Convention, over 1,000 delegates for eight categories of groups are taking part in discussions and submitting proposals. The sixty per cent of the delegates represents various national races from states and divisions. The Secretary-1 urged the entire national people including departmental personnel and members of the social organizations to continue participating actively and unimiedly in implementa- tion of the Road Map in accordance with the seven-point policy programme when the National Convention has adopted all the basic principles for the constitution.

Then the meeting came to a close and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.

At Myitkyina General Hospital, Acting Medical Superintendent Dr Ko Ko Lay reported on the history and progress of the hospital, health care services, giving lectures to house surgeons, training of X-ray technicians and arrangements for construction of new operation theatre.

Deputy Minister Dr Maung Oo presented a report on budget for the new operation theatre.

The Secretary-1 urged health personnel to implement the aims of the Ministry of Health, accelerate not only giving health knowledge to the people but also providing health care services, emphasize prevention and treatment of six diseases, give health educative tasks to the people for their longevity and build the new operation theatre in time meeting set standard.

Next, they inspected land preparation in building the theatre.

The theatre will be 90 feet wide, 54 feet wide and 28 feet high RC building. It will have three rooms. The building will be completed within eight months.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party left the hospital.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein oversees construction of new operation theatre at Myitkyina General Hospital. — MNA

Basic course on performing arts opened in Botataung Township

YANGON, 27 April — The summer basic course training of Yangon Division Myanmar traditional culture performing arts was opened at the Basic Education High School No 6 in Botataung Township this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The commander and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay formally opened the course.

Next, the commander made a speech. Afterwards, the chairmen of supervisory group for performing arts reported on matters related to the course.

Later, the artistes entertained those present and the ceremony ended. — MNA
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 the 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.

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 Office Machinery and Equipment. Prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats -

(a) Airconditioner Split Type (1 H.P) - 8 Nos.

(b) Micro Computer Pentium 4  2.4 GHz 80GB HDD 256 MB SD RAM Multimedia 15” SVGA

c) External Modem for Internet and E-mail - 8 Nos.

(d) Laserjet Printer A4 - 6 Nos.

(e) Lop Top - 1 No.

(f) LCD Multimedia Projector - 1 Set.

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Tanzania probes tax evasion of oil imports

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 26 April—The Tanzanian Government has vowed to curb the massive tax evasion of oil imports due to flow meters tampering in the Dar es Salaam port.

According to Monday's local newspaper Daily News, the responsible authorities have formed a team to investigate into the allegations that some oil marketing companies had tampered with the flow meters to make it operate intermittently to evade taxes.

Records show that the flow meter on the diesel line has been out of order since 24 March to 22 April, likely resulting in massive revenue loss for the country.

MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. Second best time is now.
Three Gorges area to launch archaeological tour

CHONGQING, 26 April—Wushan County of southwest China's Chongqing Municipality plans to launch an archaeological tour route to trace and study the palaeoanthropological cultural ruins in Longgupo, the prestigious ruins of prehistoric man, according to a local source.

Experts from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Palaeoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences spotted the fossils of ape-man dating back 2.04 million years at the site of Longgupo in Maoyu Town of Wushan County in the 1980s. The findings were named "Wushan Man" by the anthropologists.

The Wushan County is striving to make the ruins in Longgupo into a national ecological park and launch archaeological inspection routes to encourage foreign and domestic tourists to visit. The travel route will start from Fengjie County of Chongqing Municipal and pass through a number of caves and waterfalls before reaching the ruins and the Research Institute of "Wushan Man."
Evertonians will be looking back and disaster, told BBC Five Live: "included from Europe after the Heysel the Premiership. The Reds could deny Everton, who are favourites to finish fourth in the Premier League if they finish fourth in the Champions League is the cornerstone of football." Nevertheless I do believe that the domestic game should also take priority. Which probably is about 16 or 17 games, the fans are favourites to finish fourth in the season, but their city rivals Everton think otherwise. "Everyone was tipping us for relegation forward to the European Cup," he said. "The players have done everything they can, we are really pleased with the way they've done a magnificent job and with the sale of Wayne Rooney. I think they've done a magnificently. "What has happened this season is a remarkable achievement," said Kenyon, who predicted more Chelsea success. "But there's nothing with the team or the manager. It quoted him as saying: "Roma is a club I really like. You might say no to other clubs but not Roma." Rome has lost its last seven games and hovers dangerously close to the relegation zone. Caretaker manager Bruno Conti's contract runs out this summer.

Milan beat PSV in first leg of Champions League semis

ROME, 27 April— AC Milan posted a 2-0 win over Dutch side PSV Eindhoven at the San Siro on Tuesday in the first leg of a Champions League semi-final. Midfielder Andrea Pirlo and central defender Jaap Stam, formerly of PSV, both came over injuries to start for Milan, joint leaders of Serie A along-side Juventus. With Alessandro Nesta suspended, Kakha Kaladze came into the starting line-up to play at left-back and captain Paolo Maldini moved into the heart of Milan's defence alongside Stam. PSV coach Guus Hiddink, who made himself the most unpopular man in Italy three years ago when his South Korea team beat the Azzurri in the second round of the 2002 World Cup, was able to field his strongest team with no injuries or suspensions. Milan were crowned European champions for the sixth time in 2003 when they defeated Serie A rivals Juventus in a penalty shootout.

Report says Italian AS Roma wants Ancelotti

ROME, 27 April— Crisis-hit Serie A club Roma thinks AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti is the man to sort out its woes, an Italian sports daily reported on Tuesday. Corriere dello Sport, a daily with sources close to the 2001 champions, claimed Ancelotti was interested in the job. It quoted him as saying: "Roma is a club I really like. You might say no to other clubs but not Roma." Roma has lost its last seven games and hovers dangerously close to the relegation zone. Caretaker manager Bruno Conti's contract runs out this summer.

Chelsea eyes long-time dominance

LONDON, 27 April— Chelsea, who could claim the League title with a win at Bolton on Saturday, will not turn out to be a one-season wonder, said club chief executive Peter Kenyon on Tuesday. Chelsea are 11 points ahead of Arsenal, who kept the Blues waiting for their first top-flight crown since 1955 with a 1-0 win over Tottenham on Monday. "What has happened this season is a remarkable achievement," said Kenyon, who predicted more Chelsea success. "But there's nothing with the team or the manager. It quoted him as saying: "Roma is a club I really like. You might say no to other clubs but not Roma." Roma has lost its last seven games and hovers dangerously close to the relegation zone. Caretaker manager Bruno Conti's contract runs out this summer.

Midfielder Andrea Pirlo and central defender Jaap Stam, formerly of PSV, both came over injuries to start for Milan, joint leaders of Serie A along-side Juventus. With Alessandro Nesta suspended, Kakha Kaladze came into the starting line-up to play at left-back and captain Paolo Maldini moved into the heart of Milan's defence alongside Stam. PSV coach Guus Hiddink, who made himself the most unpopular man in Italy three years ago when his South Korea team beat the Azzurri in the second round of the 2002 World Cup, was able to field his strongest team with no injuries or suspensions. Milan were crowned European champions for the sixth time in 2003 when they defeated Serie A rivals Juventus in a penalty shootout.

Chelsea's title run is now well underway, and the club is on track to win the top-flight crown for the first time since 1955. The Blues are 11 points ahead of Arsenal in the Premier League table, and a win at Bolton on Saturday would put them one step closer to实现 the long-term sustainability of Chelsea FC.
Romanians hail signing of accession treaty with EU

BUCHEST, 27 April — Romania signed its accession treaty with the European Union (EU), which was hailed by the Romanians as a “great event” in the country’s history and widely expected to bring immense benefits.

Romanian President Traian Basescu said after the signing ceremony that “EU membership will represent the fulfillment of a dream more than half a century old.” I can assure you that we will spare no effort in fulfilling our commitments,” he said.

Adrian Nastase, leader of the Chamber of Deputies, hailed Romania’s signing of the accession treaty with the EU as an “historic moment” which will bring a better-off life for the Romanians and give the country a bigger role in the EU bloc. According to Romanian Press reports, though the Romanians have mixed feelings about the prospect of the country joining the EU, a majority of people believe the benefits will outweigh the disadvantages it will bring about.

EU entry will accelerate Romania’s social and economic reforms. The prosperous EU economy and advanced technologies will accelerate Romania’s economic development, said the media.—MNA/Xinhua

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**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 27 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division, isolated in Chin and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bhamo (1.30) inches and Katha (0.94) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C to 27°C) above normal in Chin and Kayin States, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C to 6°C) above normal in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (43°C) and Mawlamyine (42°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 27-4-2005 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-4-2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 26-4-2005 was (10.1) hours approx. Rainfalls on 27-4-2005 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 (8) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 26-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-4-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Shan, Mon, Kayin, Rakhine States, northern Mandalay, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-4-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

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Asleep in Jesus
Dr. Tun Min (Ben)
Rector (Retd.)
Institute of Medicine (I), Yangon
Age (80 years)

Son of (U Y)-Daw Aye Mayベル, beloved husband of Daw Aye Khan (Amy Khan), brother of (John Tun Y)—Daw May May Lwin (Peter Tun Aye)-Daw Khan Sein, Margaret May May Yi, beloved father of Dr. Aung Min B.D.S(UHC)-Daw May Si Sein, Daw Win Win Min-U Kyaw Blyke 2nd mate (Hanseatic), Captain Aye Min-Daw Khan San Lwin, Dr. Myoe Minn M.B.B.S, M.D.(USA), beloved grandfather of Dr. Myat Aung Min, Aung Min, Thuwun, Su, Khine Moe Aung Min, May Wai Thi Aye Min, of 135-D, New University Avenue, Bahan passed away away at NYGH on 26 April 2005, at 5:00 pm. Funeral service will be held at Judges Church on 28 April, 2005 and Thursday at 8:30 am and thence to Yang Wai Baptist cemetery for entombment.

Bareaved Family
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

With strength of national unity, people will have to ward off all attempts to encroach on sovereignty
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects regional development of Myitkyina

YANGON, 27 April — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council office and departmental officials, left here for Myitkyina by air yesterday morning to inspect development of Myitkyina. At 11.30 am, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at Myitkyina Air Base where they were welcomed by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Acting Commander of the Air Base Col Min Zaw and officials. Accompanied by the commander, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party proceeded to Myitkyina Government Computer College near Shwe-aik Village of Pannmati Village-tract in (See page 11)

SNLD opposes acts, aims of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa, his group, cohorts

YANGON, 27 April — Social organizations, political parties and armed groups that have returned to the legal of the Union of Myanmar have been issuing their declarations totally condemning and opposing the acts of the group led by renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and cohorts disturbing and endangering the stability of the State, law enforcement, and peace and tranquillity of the entire people. The following is a translation of the full text of the declaration issued by the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD):

Declaration of SNLD
Dated: 23 April 2005

1. On 17 April 2005, we heard a news report on the announcement of the formation of the Shan State provisional government in a certain foreign country, and the declaration of independence of Shan State.
2. The announcement is against the SNLD’s policy and stance, and the SNLD has no connection at all with the group that issued the announcement.
3. The SNLD has never accepted and practised the policy of secession, nor will it in the future.
4. Thus, the SNLD declares that it totally opposes the formation of the Shan State provisional government and the declaration of independence of Shan State as the announcement is totally unacceptable to us.

Central Executive Committee
Shan Nationalities League for Democracy