Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Thai military delegation.

YANGON, 29 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Military Attaché Col Ko Ko Maung and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence.

The Thai delegation was accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat.

PSLA serves as pioneer and example for other nationality groups to reach the correct way.

PSLA led by U Aik Mone unconditionally exchanges arms for peace.

YANGON, 29 April — The Palaung State Liberation Army led by U Aik Mone, who had returned to the legal fold since 1991, unconditionally exchanged arms for peace at Mangton Sports Grounds in Mangton Township, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North), this morning.

It was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, senior officials and representatives of civil society and various armed groups.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Saturday, 30 April, 2005

COMPLETELY CRUSH Destructive Elements in Accord with People’s Desire

The State Peace and Development Council upholding Our Three Main National Causes has been able to implement nation-building tasks after adopting the 12 national objectives. As a result, remarkable progress has been made in the nation with the emergence of a number of dams, reservoirs and bridges large and small. Such progress and prosperity has been made owing to the active participation of departmental officials, social organizations and the national people under the leadership of the government.

At a time when the government and the people are making concerted efforts in accord with 12 national objectives for national development based on Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, there have emerged groups of destructive and disruptive elements attempting to destroy the nation.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win on 26 April met departmental officials at Kyangin Cement Plant of Myanmar Ceramics Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyangin Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division, and made a speech on the occasion.

He underscored the need for the entire national people to work off in accord with the people’s desire the dangers of destructive and disruptive elements resorting to various ways and means.

There have so far emerged various forms of wicked acts and machinations perpetrated by minions who formed groups to oppose Our Three Main National Causes.

The national solidarity is indispensable as the Union of Myanmar is made up of a variety of national races. The national independence and sovereignty is to be safeguarded through the national unity. It is inborn duty of the entire national people to guard against possible dangers which are detrimental to independence and sovereignty of the State.

Therefore, at a time when relentless efforts are being made through the national unity for enhancing the socio-economic life of the people, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to decisively stamp out in accord with the people’s desire any subversive acts that are harmful to national development.

Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV continues

YANGON, 29 April — The 2005 Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-VI continued at Thienbyu Tennis Centre, here, at 9 am today.

Among the tennis fans were officials of the Ministry of Sports, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation Dr Tin Aung Lin and executives.

In the third-day matches, Bangladesh beat UAE 2-1; Kirgystan trouced Turkmenistan 3-0; Oman won over Iraq 3-0; and Myanmar beat Jordan 3-0. The fourth day matches continue at the same venue tomorrow.—MNA

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 29 April — U Nyunt Aye scored a hole-in-one while he was playing together with his partners U Sein Than and U Thein Too at City Golf Resort (Myakantha Golf Course) on 22 April morning. He drove the ball with wood 3 callaway stick to 16th hole from 167 yards away. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 29 April—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Vice President Mr Wang Bo of China Cane Engineering Co Ltd and party at 4.30 pm yesterday at the ministry.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and directors-general and managing directors of the departments and industries.

Don’t tarry till tomorrow

* Our Three Main National Causes We’re implementing seriously
* While taking refuge in his domain Look him in the face while eating his food
* To return to own land
* To commit destructive acts

Country Coordinating Mechanism Assessment Meeting held

YANGON, 29 April — The Country Coordinating Mechanism Assessment Meeting for GFATM, co-organized by Global Fund to Fight against AIDS/TB/Malaria (GFATM) and the Ministry of Health, was held at the meeting hall of National Health Committee in Dagon Township at 2 pm today.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address. Next, Ms Lyndal Pearce of Compass Research explained CCM Assessment Survey.

CCM Joint-Secretary Director Dr Hla Hla Aye of International Relations Division of the ministry reported on component part-A, CCM performance checklist.

Later, the minister gave the concluding remarks.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Defence, resident representatives of UN agencies, social organizations and others.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivers an address at Coordinating Mechanism Assessment Meeting for GFATM.—HEALTH

Myanmar-ROK business meeting held

YANGON, 29 April — Organized by KOTRA of the ROK Embassy to Myanmar, the Myanmar-ROK business meeting was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning. At the meeting, the matters related to the digital accessories and other electrical appliances, CAD computer softwares, industrial equipment, communicative equipment, computer software used in banking services and the software prohibited from pirate copying were discussed.

It was attended by Commercial Attache from the ROK Embassy to Myanmar Mr Choi Young Tae and officials. — MNA

Entries invited to religious literature awards

YANGON, 29 April — The entries were invited to the Dhamma Beikman Literature Award and Hsan Lwin Literature Award. The contest organizers are to submit two copies of their works to Dhamma Beikman, not later than 30 September. The applications are available at Dhamma Beikman at 606, second floor, between 5th and 6th Streets, Strand Road, Lannadaw Township. (Tel: 211359 and 385193). — MNA

Po Wa (Trs)

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivers an address at Coordinating Mechanism Assessment Meeting for GFATM.—HEALTH
China predicts trade with ASEAN to double in five years

MANILA, 28 April — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Wednesday that he is confident the total trade volume between China and ASEAN will almost double its current figure in five years time.

Hu predicted in a speech at a joint session of the Philippine Parliament that before 2010, China and ASEAN trade will grow from 105.9 billion US dollars last year to 200 billion US dollars. “With steady progress in the development of a China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA), we have full confidence in meeting the target of 200 billion US dollars in annual trade volume by 2010,” said the Chinese President.

China and ASEAN will begin to cut their tariffs from July 1 this year as a step to build the CAFTA. Hu said China hopes to expand cooperation with ASEAN nations in areas of agriculture, fishing, infrastructure construction, energy development and tourism.

Malaysian MPs to get higher allowance

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 April — The Malaysia House of Representatives sitting on Wednesday passed a bill giving a 10-per-cent increase in the allowance of all Members of Parliament, effective on 1 January, 2005.

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said although the increase was small compared to the burden borne by the elected representatives, it could reduce the burden a little.

“We understand the small increase, but the problem will not end by giving high remuneration because the more remuneration given, the higher is the expectation of the people,” he said when winding up the debate on the Members of Parliament Remuneration (Amendment) 2005 Bill at the House.

“The allowance is paid according to the government’s capacity at the moment...the bill will involve an additional expenditure estimated at 1,120,428.52 ringgit (821,165 US dollars) annually to the government,” he added.— MNA/Xinhua

Hu makes three-point proposal on strengthening coop with ADB

MANILA, 28 April— Chinese President Hu Jintao made a three-point proposal here Wednesday on strengthening cooperation between China and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Hu met with ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda on the sidelines of his state visit to the Philippines. Hu said the ADB’s loans and technical assistance have greatly supported China’s economic growth and infrastructure construction.

“China will firmly continue with its reform and opening up policy,” Hu said. “China pays great attention to its cooperation with international financial organizations.”

He proposed that China and the ADB enhance cooperation in the following three areas:

— to expand the scope of credit loans from infrastructure construction currently to China’s agriculture, public health, culture, education and environmental protection.
— to enhance cooperation in regional and sub-regional areas including the Greater Mekong sub-region, and the China, Japan, South Korea plus ASEAN nations.

— to increase cooperation in poverty reduction and development programme in the developing nations, which has been the common task for all developing countries.

Kuroda described the ADB’s cooperation with China as great. He thanked China for its donation of 30 million US dollars for the Asian Development Fund, and another 20 million US dollars as the fund for China’s poverty reduction and regional development within the framework of the ADB.

He said he agreed with Hu on the three-point proposal, adding the ADB will work with China to make the cooperation more productive.— MNA/Xinhua

India’s Maruti rolls out five millionth car

NEW DELHI, 28 April— Indian auto major Maruti Udyog Ltd Wednesday rolled out its 5 millionth car, a red WagonR, two after the company started operations on the outskirts of Delhi.

The landmark has come at a time when the Maruti-Suzuki partnership is planning to invest 32.72 billion rupees (486.5 million US dollars) in a new car plant and transmission facility at Manesar in Haryana.

Maruti is also setting up more state-of-the-art driving schools across the country with its first three schools in Chandigarh, having received an enthusiastic response. “Maruti’s five millionth vehicle is a milestone not just for Maruti, but also for India and India manufacturing,” said Managing Director of Maruti Udyog Ltd Jagdish Khattar in a statement.

The first Maruti vehicle, a Maruti800, rolled out on 14 December, 1983. The one million target was reached in March 1994. The rise in sales in recent years has helped Maruti chalk new milestones. The company sold 536,301 vehicle units during financial year 2004-05, the highest annual sales since it began operations.

US soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 April— One American soldier was killed and four wounded when an improvised explosive device was detonated in northern Iraq, the US military said.

The incident, targeting soldiers from Task Force Liberty, happened near Hawija, about 240 kilometers north of Baghdad, late yesterday, the military said in a statement.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to a coalition medical facility and were listed in stable condition.

The name of the dead soldier was withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Internet
ASEAN, EU eye free trade agreement

HÀ NỘI (Vietnam), 28 April — The ASEAN and the EU agreed Wednesday to conduct a joint feasibility study to look into a potential free trade agreement (FTA) between the two blocks, and their future economic cooperation orientations.

"We agreed to deepen and intensify work together to boost ASEAN-EU economic cooperation. I'm pleased to add my support to our agreement this morning to undertake a high-level feasibility study for a FTA," EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said at a Press briefing after the 6th Consultation between ASEAN Economic Ministers and the commissioner concluded in the northern city of Hà Nội.

A working group with representatives from the European Union (EU) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) would make specific reports by the end of this year, he said, noting that the "Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative" (TREATI), initiated by the EU in 2003 to beef up trade and investment ties between two regions, will act as a pillar of their cooperation ties in the future.

Under the TREATI, the cooperation initially centres on information exchange, mutual understanding enhancement and technical assistance for ASEAN. Economic ministers from ASEAN members, at the consultation, agreed to have TREATI focus on policy dialogue and regulatory initiatives while other ASEAN-EU programmes would complement TREATI through provisions of technical assistance, Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said at the briefing.

China's law-enforcers urged to be fair

BEIJING, 28 April — China's law-enforcers should deal with problems that have irritated the ordinary people most, further improve their quality and set up an even better code of conduct, so as to ensure a fair law enforcement, a senior official said Wednesday.

Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made this remark at a teleconference held by the Political and Legislative Affairs Committee (PLAC) of the CPC Central Committee. Luo, who is also the secretary of the PLAC, said at the briefing.

India expresses support for UN reforms

NEW DELHI, 28 April — India said Wednesday it supported UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the reforms in the United Nations.

Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh conveyed India's support for the stand during talks here with Annan, who is in the country on a four-day visit.

During the meeting, visiting UN chief Annan reiterated that UN reforms should be finalized by September and that lack of consensus should not be a reason for putting off a decision in this regard, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters.

The Foreign Minister briefed Annan about India's views on UN reforms — that they had to be comprehensive to effectively reflect today's global realities, Sarna said. He said India, which is an aspirant for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, was in touch with a large number of countries and that the reforms process should be completed by September. — MNA/Xinhua

US soldier sentenced to death for attacking fellow soldiers

WASHINGTON, 29 April — A soldier from the 101st Airborne Division of the United States was sentenced to death Thursday night for a fatal grenade attack on his fellow soldiers days before the invasion of Iraq.

A military jury at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, gave Sergeant Hasan Akbar the death penalty for killing two officers and wounding 14 others in Kuwait in 2003.

The 15-person jury deliberated seven hours before returning the sentence. The same jury last week convicted Akbar of two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted premeditated murder.

Transnational cos’ purchasing value in China to top $60b

CHONGQING, 28 April — A senior Chinese logistics official predicted Wednesday that transnational companies will purchase 60 billion US dollars worth of goods in China this year, hitting a record high.

Currently, 80 per cent of the 500 large-sized transnational companies have built 3,000 projects in China, including 400 regional purchase centres in the Chinese Mainland. Metro, a German retail giant, has taken Tianjin and Shanghai as its leading purchasing centres in north and south China, Ding Junfa, vice-president of the China Federation of Logistics and Purchase, at the ongoing 10th Chongqing Trade Fair held in Chongqing, the largest metropolis in western China.

Many transnational companies have shifted their global purchasing centres to China. Wal-Mart, the world's leading retailer, moved its purchasing centre to Shenzhen, a flourishing city in south China.

The French retailer Carrefour has built a worldwide purchase centre in Shanghai and set up a number of regional purchase centres on the Chinese Mainland. Metro, a German retail giant, has taken Tianjin and Shanghai as its leading purchasing centres in north and south China, Ding said.

Their growing purchases in China have opened an international outlet for Chinese companies and promoted China's exports as well, he added.

America’s image in Italy darkens on death in Iraq

ROME, 28 April — An incident in Iraq last month in which US forces killed an Italian agent who had rescued an Italian journalist from hostage-takers is generating new anti-American sentiment in Italy.

Small, colourful signs critical of the US death in Iraq were seen on street corners and in store windows around Rome this week. The most popular of the homemade posters resembles an Old West-style "wanted" poster. It shows the face of President Bush.

The Rome-based Opinion poll company, which sells surveys to Italian media, says preliminary results from a poll that will be released Friday show that the already low support for the US-led war in Iraq is unchanged and that the percentage of Italians with a positive view of the USA is dropping.

The Italian agent, Nicola Calipari, was died on 4 March when US soldiers at a checkpoint fired on the car in which he and Giuliana Sgrena, the freed hostage, were riding. Sgrena, who had just been released after a month in captivity, was wounded, as was another Italian agent who was driving.

The United States and Italy have differed over what led to the shooting. The US Army's 3rd Infantry Division said the car was speeding toward the checkpoint and the driver ignored warnings to stop. The driver and Sgrena have said that the car wasn't speeding and that the soldiers gave no warning.
S Korea ratifies WHO agreement in tobacco control

SEOUL, 27 April — The South Korean Government on Tuesday signed the ratification of an international agreement that would disallow any promotional policies or advertisements for tobacco use within the next five years, government officials said, according to Yonhap.

The decision came at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan, according to the officials.

The ratification will become effective 90 days after an endorsement by President Roh Moo-hyun that is expected soon.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by the World Health Organization (WHO) requires its member states to implement strong health warnings on tobacco packaging within three years upon entering the treaty.

Official says Chinese trade unions to stick to socialist road

BEIJING, 27 April — Chinese trade union chief Wang Zhaoguo said on Monday that unswerving efforts must be made to ensure the country’s trade unions develop on the socialist path with Chinese characteristics.

Wang Zhaoguo, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and president of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), made the remarks at a meeting commemorating the 80th anniversary of the founding of the ACFTU.

Wang, also vice-chairman of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee, China’s top legislative body, spoke highly of the contributions made by the federation over the past eight decades in uniting and leading the entire working class in the Chinese revolution and construction and the reform and opening up drive.

Wang said the major achievements scored after years of hard efforts and the scientific summing-up of the fundamental experience that the Chinese trade unions must answer for the needs of the era and conform to the actual situation of the country and give play to the law of the trade union work.

Philippines investigates new case of mass food poisoning

MANILA, 27 April — Health authorities said on Monday they were investigating the mass poisoning caused by the food at a birthday party Saturday afternoon in Poblacion, Manaoag that downed 83 people, children, teenagers and adults.

Dr Jesus Canto, chief of the Region 1 Medical Centre, said a team of epidemiologists was now on its way to Manaoag from the regional office of the Department of Health in San Fernando City, La Union, northern Philippines to investigate the mass food poisoning.

Canto told newsmen on Monday that of the 78 persons they admitted since Sunday noon, only 12 have remained at R1MC so far and undergoing further observation.

The rest have all been treated and sent home, he said.

A report said five other victims of mass poisoning in Manaoag were brought to the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital in San Carlos City on Sunday night as R1MC was already running short of hospital beds.

Japan’s derailed train travelled faster than speed limit

TOKYO, 27 April — The train derailed early Monday was running over 100 kilometres per hour, much faster than the 70 kilometre per hour upper limit, according to Japanese media reports on Tuesday.

The finding boosted speculation that speeding was to blame for the bloody accident. The initial report said the derailment might result from a collision with a car at the crossing.

Investigators also are looking into marks on the track, suspecting that the train might run over stones possibly placed by someone on the rail.

The accident has killed 76 people and left more than 450 injured. Rescuers believe that there are still 10 to 20 people trapped into the first two carriages about 36 hours after the derailment.

The seven-car train with about 580 people aboard rammed into an apartment building nearby after the derailment in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture. The two front cars were badly damaged, making it difficult for rescue workers to reach the remaining passengers.

Local police determined the train’s speed after having found its speed recording device, the reports said.

Many survivors also said in TV reports that they felt the train was running unusually fast.

The train was one and half minutes behind schedule when it started at the last station. The 23-year-old driver missed the proper stop position by 40 metres and had to back up, the West Japan Railway Co said on Tuesday. — Internet

South Korean students look at a miniature replica of the ‘turtle’ ship of Admiral Yi Sunshin at the war museum in Seoul on 26 April, 2005. — Internet

Malaysia demands 50,000 Nepali workers

KATHMANDU, 27 April — Nepali manpower agencies have received demands of 50,000 workers from Malaysia, an official said here on Tuesday.

“Representatives of manpower agencies are in Malaysia to get additional demands of Nepali workers,” the official told Xinhua.

The Malaysian Government has said about one and a half months ago that the country was in need of about half a million foreign workers from different manpower supplying countries, he noted, adding, “The Nepali Government is facilitating the employment agencies to find as many jobs as possible.”

Guingona approved to be Philippine Ambassador to China

MANILA, 27 April — The Philippine Commission on Appointments on Tuesday confirmed the appointment of Teodisto Guingona as Philippine Ambassador to China, a local TV reported.

According to the ABS-CBN news channel, the commission’s foreign relations committee ignored the opposition to the former vice-president’s appointment, citing his age of 76 year old violates the requirement for ambassadors.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo designated Guingona as ambassador to China in January, stressing that he is qualified for the job.

“The former vice-president is fit for the job and will certainly sustain and promote the interest of our people in that sensitive and crucial diplomatic post,” Arroyo’s spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement after the appointment was announced.

The government also noted that Guingona’s appointment reflected the “great and enduring importance” the government placed in its relations with China.

Guingona was elected to the Senate in 1987, and re-elected in 1992. In 1993 he was appointed Executive Secretary, then he was appointed secretary of the Department of Justice in 1995. In 1998 he was again elected senator. During his time as senator, he had served as Senate Minority Leader and Senate Majority Leader.

In 2001, following the EDSA 2 Revolution, Guingona was appointed vice-president by President Arroyo. He also concurrently served as Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

In the 2004 Philippine elections, Guingona did not run for re-election and was succeeded by Noli de Castro.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 30 April, 2005 5

Jason Cheomicki rides down a waterfall on the New Haven River in Bristol, Vt, on 26 April, 2005. — Internet
The following is a translation of speech delivered by U Aik Mone, Joint-Secretary of PSLA

U Aik Mone said that the Palaung State Liberation Army returned to the legal fold on 12 February 1991. The PSLA of the Shan State (North) Special Region 7 has unconditionally exchanged arms for peace as it has full confidence in the Tatmadaw Government and has made a resolve to always stay loyal to the State, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes. In the past the region where Palaungs lived was under the influence of different armed groups. The Palaungs could not forge unity under various armed groups, and were suffering a lot as there was no security and regional peace and stability. The Palaung National Force was founded as a body to safeguard the lives and property of Palaung people and foster unity among them. It became the PSLA in 1976. Together with Myanmar's political transition, change of stance also occurred among the armed groups. Because of the sincerity and goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government, the PSLA held negotiations with it many times, and in the end reached a peace agreement. During the period from 1993 to 2004, the PSLA, with the funds provided by the Government and the cooperation of the locals, used K 214.23 million to build 351 miles of earth roads, K 14.81 million to maintain and repair 158 miles of roads, K 19.91 million to erect 26 dispensatories, K 73.74 million to build 24 primary schools, 26 affiliated middle schools and one high school and to provide assistance for education staff, K 8.4 million to grow 230 acres of seasonal and perennial crops, K 16.67 million for hydel power project, K 16.87 million to build six pagodas, four religious buildings and one ordination hall, and K 126.9 million for industries, totalling K 493.08 million. The Palaung people have preserved their race, mode of dress, traditions, religion, literature, lifestyles, performing arts and customs as national traits. The Palaungs will foster their Union Spirit and patriotism born of their true nature. The PSLA has unconditionally exchanged arms for peace for the benefit of posterity. Like all other armed groups that have come back to the legal fold, the PSLA profusely accepts and has total belief in the State’s national policy based on national unity. The PSLA also have full trust in the seven-point Road Map and will strive together with the locals till it is successfully completed. After attending the ceremony where the brigade 11 of SSNA led by U Kan Na unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, the PSLA has made a decision to totally abandon the arms.

After making the decision, the PSLA members made detailed discussions and presented the wish to the commander. As the narrow racism and doubts are clear among the members they have made the unconditional exchange of arms for peace of own volition. The members have made a firm pledge to live within the framework of the law and the embrace of the Government like other citizens. In the past the region was reverberated with the sound of guns in darkness where people faced loss of lives and property. The region has started to see the rays of peace when the PSLA returned to the legal fold in the time of the State Peace and Development Council. All the locals gladly welcome the group’s decision. All the brethren of the region can now enjoy the loving kindness. They are also happy with unprecedented joy. The PSLA made a firm pledge that it would never become a burden of the people. The PSLA has urged all other armed groups of the brethren to realize the truth and to unconditionally exchange arms for peace with the Government. The PSLA has come to realize that as long as it holds arms, it cannot win the true public support.

If the brethren armed groups really wish to serve the people’s interest, they should totally discard their arms and collectively restore perpetual peace and stability.

The following is a translation of speech delivered by U Maing Ohn Khang, Secretary of PSLA

U Maing Ohn Khang expressed thanks, saying that he is joint-secretary of PSLA as well as a Palaung national. He took the armed struggle line with the intention of serving the interests of Palaung brethren in Palaung region. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council government, PSLA armed group returned to the legal fold with the aim of carrying out regional development tasks in the interest of own national races.

Although PSLA had returned to the legal fold, it had not handed over the arms. It took a period of over one decade with suspicions to build confidence. During that period, PSLA itself learnt and witnessed efforts and endeavours of the government with genuine goodwill to bring about equitable development in all parts of the nation. Unprecedented progress has been made in Palaung region. But, the arms PSLA was still holding turned out to be those that cause a hinderance to the development pace in the region. Frankly, he said the PSLA collected various kinds of taxes and extortion money including crops and beans and pulses. However, it really had realized the feelings of its people as the members were residing among the people. In this regard, it assessed that its members are likely to be the burden of national races. Both PSLA leaders and members realized it.

Therefore, it now participated in the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of PSLA held today. It is pleased and delighted for this occasion. It will be able to equally enjoy all-round development in Palaung region under the law.

Other groups who are still holding arms need to realize that their arms do not serve the interest of the people.

Other groups who are still holding arms like ours need to realize that their arms do not serve the interest of the people. Therefore, it now participated in the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of PSLA held today. It is pleased and delighted for this occasion. It will be able to equally enjoy all-round development in Palaung region under the law. Other groups who are still holding arms need to realize that their arms do not serve the interest of the people but they can be used only for extortion money.

It is time to unconditionally abandon their arms if they really want to serve the interest of own national races and own region.

He urged the remanant groups to review the feelings of own national races, reviewing their suspicions and mistrust towards the government. He called on them to unconditionally hand over their arms and be in oneness with the people and to become those who are dutiful towards present generation and the posterity.

Local people warmly welcome PSLA leader Chairman U Aik Mone, Vice-Chairman U Nyi Lone and members. — MNA

Provisions presented by the State for the PSLA — MNA
People are now free from the hardships they have encountered

A ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of Palaung State Liberation Army led by U Aik Mone in progress.— MNA

No one likes people holding arms illegally

Ma Nan Mya Sein, a local Palaung national as well as a member of blue staff Mangton People’s Hospital.

The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Ta-awng Palaung national Ma Nan Mya Sein. Ma Nan Mya Sein said that she was a local Palaung national as well as a member of blue staff Mangton People’s Hospital.

She said she was pleased with an opportunity to participate in the regional development task, and as a member of the public, she was very pleased with it.

The regions of Palaung nationals had made progress to a certain degree. Previously, the regions were facilitated with only basic primary schools, and the children had to stay in Namatu, more than 30 miles from their homes, to pursue middle and high school education.

Then, almost all the villages in the region had basic education schools, and Mangton had been facilitated with a basic education high school. The region had also enjoyed fruitful results of better transport.

However, the local people could not enjoy peace fully because the insurgents had returned to the legal fold but were still holding arms. They collected various forms of hardship and oppression.

She solemnly urged the national brethren, who were still holding arms and entertaining suspicions and doubts, to satisfy the people’s long-lasting desire of eternal peace.

Now, the people had realized the adverse effects of armed insurgency. The armed struggle line under the pretext of serving the interests of the people and safeguarding them was a burden to the people. So, it was high time they had abandoned arms.

In conclusion, she, on behalf of the entire people, solemnly urged them to give up arms illegally and to enhance peace by abandoning arms and taking part in the regional development undertakings in the interests of the region and the people.—MNA

The armed groups echoing voices and demanding liberation of the people who live in the Shan State are indeed doing it for self-interest not for the people. He said the real freedom that the people have longed for is to escape from their oppression.

He said when he heard all the members of PSLA led by U Aik Mone would unconditionally exchange arms for peace after realizing the goodwill of the State, he prayed for the news to be true. The prayers have now been answered and the PSLA has unconditionally handed over their arms to the State, he added. So it is heartening to see that the people are now free from the hardships they have encountered.

U Khun Pwint requested that like the PSLA which exchanged arms for peace, the remaining armed groups should hand over their arms to the State if they want the local people to be liberated from various forms of hardship and oppression. All in all, he said he welcomed and thanked the group led by U Aik Mone for unconditionally exchanging arms for peace. MNA
PSLA will help nation …

(from page 16)

as masters of ceremonies.

First, MC Ma Moe Moe Aung announced the start of the ceremony. The commander delivered an address, saying that the consolidation of national unity is the main requirement. The national races have been living in amity and unity since the past. They also migrated to places where conditions were better. Myanmar had been under subjugation for over 100 years. The nation faced armed conflicts among the national races for nearly 40 years, as armed struggles broke out soon after the independence was regained in 1948. Thus, the nation with rich natural resources lagged behind in development. As the Tatmadaw Government is able to build trust between the armed groups and itself, 17 major armed groups and other smaller groups have returned to the legal fold. As the Government and the groups are jointly carrying out development undertakings, while strengthening the mutual trust between them, regional peace and stability can be restored and sound foundations for development laid. On behalf of the nation, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing welcomed the PSLA’s unconditional exchange of arms for peace, which will lead to restoration of the perpetual peace, the wish of the entire national people, and help develop and benefit the nation with greater acceleration.

He then quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying, “The ensuring of protection for the people to fully enjoy peace and security within the framework of law is the essential basic requirement to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.” He continued to say that by making the unconditional exchange of arms for peace, the PSLA will help the nation to reach the goal of everlasting peace, which is longed for by the people. Thus, the group led by U Aik Mone is now enjoying the warm embrace of the nation and the entire nationalities. U Aik Mone, Vice-Chairman U Nyi Lone, Joint Secretary U Maung Ohn Khang, battalion commanders U Han Thein, U Aung Pe, U Pan Si Ya and U Aik Hsam and other PSLA members are like the pioneer and an example for other nationality groups to march to the correct way. Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing said as a gesture welcoming the firm resolve of PSLA led

(See page 9)
The State will provide …

He said the State and all national people cordially welcomed all the members of PSLA led by U Aik Mone, and they are urged to work in cooperation and unitedly for the development of the State by upholding ‘Our Three Main National Causes’, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, which have often cited by the Head of State.

State and all national people cordially welcomed all the members of PSLA led by U Aik Mone, and they are urged to work in cooperation and unitedly for the development of the State by upholding ‘Our Three Main National Causes’, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, which have often cited by the Head of State.
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party offer alms to Mankant Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada and Aungmingala Myole Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Saddhammapiya in Mangton.— MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents gifts to a commanding officer of PSLA.— MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe accepts arms from a commanding officer of PSLA.— MNA

Maya Myint presents 150 bags of rice, 100 viss of edible oil and 400 sets of uniform to U Aik Mone and U Nyi Lone.— MNA

Ma Nan Mya Sein, a local national, gave a speech, welcoming U Aik Mone and party and expressing her feeling of happiness for achieving peace, stability and prospects of development in Palaung languages. (Ma Nan Mya Sein’s speech is reported separately.)

At Mangton BEHS, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the dispensary and the operation theatre. Next, the Secretary-1 viewed the site for construction of the X-ray building and presented cash assistance to staff.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party flew back to Lashio in the afternoon.— MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects storage of medicines at Mangton Township Hospital.— MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents clothes and gifts provided by the State to PSLA leader Chairman U Aik Mone and Vice-Chairman U Nyi Lone.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave gifts to Commanding Officer U Aik Hsang, U Han Them of PSLA. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also presented gifts to Commanding Officer U Aung Pay and U Pan Si Ya of PSLA. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing handed over 150 bags of rice, 100 viss of edible oil and 400 sets of uniforms to U Aik Mone and U Nyi Lone.

The ceremony ended successfully at 9.45 am. After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers inspected the unconditional exchange of arms and ammunition handed over by PSLA.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected clothes and gifts provided by the State and gifts by North-East Command for PSLA.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted U Aik Mone, party and members of PSLA.

At Mangton BEHS, the Secretary-1 and party met with U Aik Mone and party of PSLA and heard reports on requirements of transport, education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and regional development matters.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Immigration and Population and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Thein Sein Htwa, USDA CEC member-in-charge of Shan State (North) Mr. Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers inspected the unconditional exchange of arms for peace and spoke words of thanks. (U Aik Mone’s speech is reported separately.)

Li-Gen Ye Myint gave gifts to Commanding Officer U Aik Hsang, U Han Them of PSLA. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also presented gifts to Commanding Officer U Aung Pay and U Pan Si Ya of PSLA. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing handed over 150 bags of rice, 100 viss of edible oil and 400 sets of uniforms to U Aik Mone and U Nyi Lone.

The ceremony ended successfully at 9.45 am.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers inspected the unconditional exchange of arms for peace and thanked the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people for their warm welcome in Myanmar and Palaung languages. (Li-Gen Ye Myint’s speech is reported separately.)

Local Ta-aung Palaung national U Khun Pwint made a speech, welcoming U Aik Mone and party and expressing his feeling of happiness for achieving peace, stability and prospects of development in Mangton and Namhsan region in Myanmar and Palaung languages. (U Khun Pwint’s speech is reported separately.)

Leader of the PSLA U Aik Mone explained the purpose of the unconditional exchange of arms for peace and thanked the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people for their warm welcome in Myanmar and Palaung languages. (U Aik Mone’s speech is reported separately).

Joint-Secretary U Maing Ohn Khaing of PSLA explained the purpose of the unconditional exchange of arms for peace and spoke words of thanks. (U Maing Ohn Khaing’s speech is reported separately.)

Local Ta-aung Palaung national U Khun Pwint made a speech, welcoming U Aik Mone and party and expressing his feeling of happiness for achieving peace, stability and prospects of development in Mangton and Namhsan region in Myanmar and Palaung languages. (Ma Nan Mya Sein’s speech is reported separately.)
(Continued from yesterday)

Uncle Ohn: I regularly read Kanaung Journal. According to the list of registered private enterprises, the Saging Division stands with 4,472 private enterprises at the fifth in the list of states and divisions that have private enterprises most in the nation. So we can guess the volume of the industrial development of the regions on the west bank of Ayeyawady River. There are also many large factory projects the Ministry of Industry-1 is implementing under the guidance of the Head of State for the development of the entire region of the west bank of Ayeyawady River. They are all nearing completion.

Uncle Ohn: You mean the textile factories under construction in Pakokku, Pwintbyu and Salingyi? The Prime Minister formally opened the Pwintbyu Textile Factory on 18 March 2005. I read that story in the newspaper. I have learnt the two other factories will be launched soon. A special cotton farming zone has been established on the west bank of Ayeyawady River for ensuring constant supply of raw materials for these three factories. The cotton zone stretches from Thayet to Salingyi. Aunt: Not only these factories, but the ministry is also constructing a 200-ton pulp mill in Thabaung Township, Ayeyawady Division. It will be put into service soon. It will be the largest of its kind in the nation. And it will use locally-produced bamboo to produce quality paper.

Uncle Ohn: Then, our nation will be able to produce type of paper that the nation is importing now. It is good news for us, writers and readers. By the way, nowadays, I hear that Win Thuzar Shops are being opened one after another in the regions on the west bank of Ayeyawady River. How many shops have been launched so far?

Aunt: It just reflects the goodwill of the Head of State. The fulfillment of the three basic needs plays the fundamental role in raising the living standard and in alleviating poverty of the people. The Head of State has assigned duties to the ministry to manufacture and distribute the goods related to the three basic requisites. So far, the ministry is running 13 shops in Yangon and 19 shops in other cities. The 11 shops on the west bank of Ayeyawady River you said has been opened recently to hail the 60th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Including the two shops in Htilin and Gangaw, the number has now reached 13.

Uncle Ohn: I have read the daily papers featuring the opening of the shops for putting these on sale. I take interest in such kind of news because it is related to the development of the regions on the west bank of Ayeyawady River. Tell me where and when they were opened.

Aunt: Three shops in Yinnabin, Salingyi and Pale in Monywa District, Saging Division, three in Htilin, Saw and Gangaw in Gangaw District, Magway Division, five in Pauk, Kyaukhtu, Seikpyu, Myaung and Yesagyo in Pakokku Division, one in Mindon, Thayet District, Magway Division, and one in Pidan, Miab District, Magway Division, totalling 13. These shops were opened in 16 days from 24 March to 8 April 2005.

Uncle Ohn: I’ve heard that these shops were crowded with the customers on the opening days. That’s for sure. I’ve got the list of the sales of the shops. On the opening day, Saw Win Thuzar Shop sold goods worth more than K 4.3 million, Pauk Win Thuzar Shop, more than K 1.7 million, Kyaukhtu Win Thuzar Shop, more than K 450,000, Seikpyu Win Thuzar Shop, more than K 600,000, Yesagyo Win Thuzar Shop, more than K 4.1 million, Mindon Win Thuzar Shop, more than K 2.6 million, Salingyi Win Thuzar Shop, more than K 1.6 million, and Pale Win Thuzar Shop, more than two million.

Uncle Ohn: The items of Win Thuzar shops meet quality and the prices are reasonable. So, only when I want to buy goods that aren’t available at Win Thuzar shop, I visit the other shops. Local people are happy as the ministry gives them substitute goods and clothes at reasonable prices at Win Thuzar Shop in our region. Some say that previously kinds of goods were available just in the cities. Some doubt Win Thuzar shops will be kept open permanently, and they bought so many items more than enough. Some say a Maung Myanmar brand bicycle is priced only K 20,000, and it is very cheap. And some like the shop for putting on sale a wide range of goods.

Aunt: Yes, a total of 25 bicycles were sold on the opening day alone in Mindon. I learn local folks like various sorts of soup and colourful clothes with various designs and patterns. The ministry has to take responsibilities for both manufacturing and distribution of the items, and the ministry must be very busy. We locals wish Win Thuzar shops would last long.

Aunt: Don’t worry about that. The minister often gives instructions to the officials on constant supply of goods at the shops, neat display of the goods, dealing with the customers in a polite way, and abstaining from dishonest acts. And he occasionally inspects the shops.

Uncle Ohn: Well done, well done! The style of Win Thuzar shops are the same as that of tax-free markets. Previously, there were so many brokerage steps between the producers and the consumers, and it caused many ill effects such as slow flow of commodities, being expensive unnecessarily, and wasteage and loss, and reduction of freshness of the goods.

Aunt: Well, the objectives of the purpose of running the shops are fine. I’d like to explain these to you. To have an access to quality goods at reasonable prices. To help raise the living standard of the people by using quality clothes and personal goods. To produce import-substitute goods and to enable the people to consume locally-produced goods. To produce substitute goods and to equalise the prices of goods.

To keep commodity prices stable. To help raise the local currency, and to supply goods for the consumers directly.

Uncle Ohn: All right! I’d say the Win Thuzar shops are running under the guidance of the Head of State are the trees of plenty of the west bank of Ayeyawady River.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 28-4-2005
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount (Units)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Foreign Duplex Board (270 GSM) (31 * 43) (100 Sheets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Art Paper (85 GSM) (31 * 43) (250 Sheets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sticker Paper (21 * 30) (100 Sheets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>60 GSM Woodfree Printing Paper (31 * 43) (500 Sheets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

M.V. ZHE HAI 315 VOY: NO (007)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

Myanmar Port Authority
Agent For: MN INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376791

**Indonesia's electronic products sales up**

Jakarta, 28 April — The sales of electronic products in the first quarter of 2005 increased significantly between 16 per cent to 40.8 per cent, compared to the same period last year, the Biro Pers Frank mentioned in Wednesday.

Based on the data of the Electronic Marketer Club the sales of refrigerator in the first quarter of 2005 reached 418,044 units or 16.0 per cent higher than the same period last year. Air conditioner was 185,224 units or 48.0 per cent higher, and washing machine was 183,596 units or grew by 23.7 per cent from the same period in 2004.

However, the sales of television sets in the first quarter decreased by 5 per cent from the same period last year, it said.

The decline was due to the shifting of people interest to purchase the flat screen type television, said spokesman of the Electronic Marketer Club Stefanus Indrayana.

He said that the trend of the demand every month showed that the domestic market is still potential.

**Laos opens National Assembly session**

HANOI, 28 April — The National Assembly (NA) of Laos started its session in capital Vientiane on Wednesday to review the socio-economic development and approve some bills.

In the 7th session of the fifth NA tenure, Laos' highest legislative body is expected to approve the report on the socio-economic development in the first half of the 2004-2005 fiscal year, which lasts from last October to the same month this year, according to news agency KPL.

The NA will also pass bills on civil aviation, national heritage, economic disputes, anti-corruption, and taxation.

Laos has targeted GDP growth of 7 per cent in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.— MNA/Xinhua
Miss France 2004 barred from crown for six months
PARIS, 28 April — Laetitia Bleger, Miss France 2004, who posed half-naked for Playboy, was barred from wearing her crown and sash for six months, the Committee Miss France announced on Wednesday.

“Laetitia Bleger broke the rule forbidding Miss France winners from posing for licentious photos that are either partially or totally revealing,” the committee said in a statement signed by its president, Geneviève de Fontenay, the French news channel TFI reported.

“The Committee Miss France decided to punish Laetitia Bleger by barring from wearing sash Miss France 2004 and the crown for six months,” it noted. However she could not have been deprived of her title and forced to return the gifts she received as Miss France. Bleger will be replaced by the 2004 runner-up, Lucie Delgatene who was Miss Burundi 2003.

EC proposes new measures against infectious diseases
BRUSSELS, 28 April — The European Commission (EC) adopted an action plan here Wednesday to strengthen efforts to help combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis outside of the borders of the European Union (EU).

The proposed menu of concrete actions, first put forward by European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel, includes a distribution of free mosquito nets and contraceptives, as well as free access to voluntary counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS, an EC Press release said.

Together with global partners such as the World Health Organization, the action programme intends to strengthen regional networks to promote affordable and safe pharmaceutical products, to strengthen the regulatory capacity in partner countries and to support further research at country level, it proposed to launch a political dialogue on issues of discrimination.

Penguins march at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise amusement park in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 29 April, 2005. A crowd of visitors enjoyed the penguins’ performance on the first day of the long Golden Week holidays in Japan.

Miss Kovarikova and Jon are partners, language teachers by profession and they have published three books on their experience from their travels.

Czech duo return from three-year journey around world
PRAGUE, 28 April — Lucie Kovarikova and Michal Jon returned to the Czech Republic on Sunday after a three-year cycling tour around the world, which started on May Day 2002.

Kovarikova is the first Czech woman to make such a journey. The 67,668-kilometre long journey included all continents though in the Antarctica they only symbolically rode several metres before the bicycles got stuck in the snow. Kovarikova and Jon are the first Czech duo to cycle around the world. They had no accommodation and took all their equipment with them on the bikes.

They said there were moments during the journey when they were scared. “We were certainly afraid when a bush in Australia was on fire behind us and we had to ride fast away. And also when there was shooting close to our tent in Russia,” Jon said.

Kovarikova said they had to change their itinerary twice, once because of snow in Japan and once because of a flood in South Africa.

When asked how they managed to live with each other three years all the time, Kovarikova said that all problems were easy to solve as each of them had his own bike and could ride on his own for a while.

The journey started in Prague and led via Asia, Australia and New Zealand to South and North America, with the short visit to the Antarctica, and finally from South Africa back to Europe.

Kovarikova and Jon’s journey had two patrons, Vítězslav Dostal, who cycled around the world in 1994-1997, and Jan Vesely, who was a cycling champion in the 1950s and who died recently.

Jon said they saved ten years to have money for the journey which cost 1.5 million crowns (about 65,000 US dollars) and which was partly covered by sponsors.

Kovarikova and Jon are partners, language teachers by profession and they have published three books on their experience from their travels.

Mexican police seize 1 kilo of heroin hidden in woman’s stomach
MEXICO CITY, 28 April — Mexican police on Wednesday captured a Venezuelan woman with nearly one kilo of heroin hidden in her stomach, the authorities said.

A communique issued by the prosecutor’s office said after being tipped by the International Criminal Police Organization, Mexican police arrested the Venezuelan woman from Caracas, Venezuela.

After several hours in custody, the woman, feeling nausea due to the drugs in her stomach, disgorged five little bags of heroin.

Police sent the woman to a hospital for further inspection, and eventually retrieved 80 bags of heroin, weighing 960 grammes, from the woman’s stomach.

US to publish Reagan’s hand-written White House diaries
LOS ANGELES, 28 April — The hand-written White House diaries of late US President Ronald Reagan will be published next year, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library said on Tuesday.

In a joint announcement, the library and HarperCollins Publishers, the publishing house which acquired the rights to publish Ronald Reagan’s hand-written diaries from his eight-year term as 40th US president, said the diaries will be published as a book to be released in 2006.

“When we left Sacramento (for Washington), we felt the time passed so quickly, we could hardly remember the eight years,” said Nancy Reagan.

“When Ronnie became president, he wanted to write it all down so we could remember these special times.”

US nutrition programme for poor needs changes
WASHINGTON, 28 April — A government nutrition programme for poor women and children needs to take changes in line with the current science of nutrition, suggested a panel report released on Wednesday.

The report by the Institute of Medicine proposed more whole grains, fruits and vegetables in federal diet aid to about eight million people, who yearly benefit from the programme of WIC — the Special Supplementary Nutrition Programme for Women, Infants, and Children.

The recommendations, which also encourage breast feeding and reduction of the volume of eggs, cheese and milk, display a better knowledge about the links between nutrition and chronic diseases and an alertness to an obesity epidemic in the United States, the report said.

The WIC, which covers about half of all infants in the country, has hardly changed since it was launched in 1974. It provides pregnant women, new mothers and their young children with food packages as well as vouchers for buying specific food.

The institute panel managed to keep the total food cost within the average of 35 US dollars monthly for each participant, while expanding the selection of foods for people of different cultures and tastes. For example, it offered yogurt, tofu or soy to replace milk.

The panel also proposed to provide vouchers of eight US dollars for children, and 10 US dollars for women per month to buy fresh produce in exchange of reducing by more than half the monthly juice allowances.

Mexican police seized 1 kilo of heroin hidden in a woman’s stomach.

Penguins march at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise amusement park in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 29 April, 2005. A crowd of visitors enjoyed the penguins’ performance on the first day of the long Golden Week holidays in Japan.
Juventus to get one million euros a match on Japan tour

ROME, 29 April — Juventus will get one million euros a match for a two-game summer tour of Japan, club sources said on Thursday. The tour by the 27-time Italian champions is scheduled for May 30 to June 7 and may also take in Hong Kong. However, it may be called off if a scudetto play-off is needed with Juve's fellow Serie A team AC Milan.

Many of Juve's stars will be missing from the line-up because of World Cup qualifiers but the club's legions of Japanese fans are not expected to complain. The two matches will be played in Tokyo against the Japanese title winners and the winners of the country's top cup competition.

Many big Italian clubs have summer tours abroad to thrill their foreign fans and boost their coffers. — MNA/Xinhua

Barcelona target Gallas

LONDON, 29 April — Chelsea defender William Gallas has revealed that he is a transfer target for Spanish league leaders Barcelona. Gallas, 27, has recently been forced to play at left-back rather than his preferred central-defensive role at Chelsea because of injury problems. And the French defender has voiced his dismay at the situation, prompting speculation that he may leave Chelsea.

Asked whether other clubs had expressed an interest in him, Gallas said: “Yes, Barcelona want to sign me.”

Gallas may find it difficult to reclaim his central position, as John Terry, Ricardo Carvalho and Robert Huth all compete for places. But the Frenchman is believed to want to hold discussions with Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho before deciding his future plans.

Gallas' revelation comes just one day after Chelsea striker Mateja Kezman said he was ready to go directly to club owner Roman Abramovich about his lack of first-team action.

The Serbia & Montenegro star has only scored four goals in 25 games for the Blues and is regularly on the bench. But the Frenchman is believed to want to hold discussions with Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho before deciding his future plans.

The Serbia & Montenegro star has only scored four goals in 25 games for the Blues and is regularly on the bench. But the Frenchman is believed to want to hold discussions with Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho before deciding his future plans.

He told the newspaper he had been cold during the match between Wairarapa United and Manawatu United, which was called off in the second half when Azim Sheikh, 19, suffered severe hypothermia. After the match between Wairarapa United and Manawatu United, which was called off in the second half when Azim Sheikh, 19, suffered severe hypothermia, the match was called off in the second half when Azim Sheikh, 19, suffered severe hypothermia.

CSKA, Sporting edge toward UEFA Cup final

LONDON, April 29 — CSKA Moscow and Sporting Lisbon moved one step closer to a UEFA Cup final showdown after scoring positive results in their semifinal clashes on Thursday.

CSKA held Parma in Italy to a 0-0 draw while Sporting beat Dutch side AZ Alkmaar 2-1 to ensure a narrow edge ahead of the return meeting in the Netherlands. Giving priority to their battle against relegation from Serie A, Parma, twice winners of the UEFA Cup, fielded an under-strength side and omitted leading scorer Antonio Cassano.

CSKA then came close to breaking the deadlock 13 minutes from time when a free-kick from Brazilian Daniel Carvalho cleared the bar by inches. In a long-distance strike by Chilean substitute Mauricio Pinilla in the 80th minute gave Sporting a 2-1 win over AZ Alkmaar.

The 21-year-old Pinilla had only been on the field for 10 minutes when he made his dramatic contribution. He dribbled the ball to 30 yards out and unleashed a powerful drive which left Alkmaar goalkeeper Henk Timmer with no chance. It was tough luck on the Dutch side who had taken the lead in the first half and had plenty of opportunities to win the tie themselves.

Sporting, who had knocked out English sides Middlesbrough and New Castle to reach the last four, had most of the possession in the first half but fell behind after 36 minutes. Alkmaar defender Kew Jaliens broke down the right and his cross was met first time by skipper Denny Landzaat who swept the ball past Ricardo in the Sporting goal. However, the Portuguese side were level within aminate. A long-range shot came off the legs of Ron Vlaar and fell invitingly into the path of Cameroun striker Roudolphe Douala who scored a low drive past Timmer.

Mara said “we have the firm purpose to have an honourable participation in the name of Venezuela even though we are a rival that is considered favourite, I believe it is not impossible to win, though”.

The Venezuelan team is made by the top players of the country, Jose Antonio De Armas, Jonathan Me-dina, Yohny Rivero and Daniel Vallverdu as replacements. On April 29 there will be two singles games, at 16.00 hours, local time, while the doubles game will take place on Saturday 30. The last two singles are due Sunday. The Canadian team, headed by captain Martin Laurendau, has Frank Dancevic, Frederic Neimeyer, Philipp Kohler and Robert Stieckley.

Canada, with four victories, and Venezuela will play for the seventh time in the Davis Cup, and in this occasion the winner will play a repechage game with one of the teams losing in the first round of the World Group.

Nepal to host Asian badminton championship

KATHMANDU, 29 April — Nepal Badminton Association will host the Nepal Asian Satellite Badminton Championship in Kathmandu on 7-11 June, the association said here Thursday.

As many as 20 of 38 invited countries and regions have confirmed participation so far, it said in a Press release. As many as 20 of 38 invited countries and regions have confirmed participation so far, it said in a Press release.

Asian Badminton Confederation has announced a 5,000-US-dollar contribution for the tournament and will also provide technical assistance to the Nepal Badminton Association to hold the competition, the Press release added.

Mara said “we have the firm purpose to have an honourable participation in the name of Venezuela even though we are a rival that is considered favourite, I believe it is not impossible to win, though”.

The Colombian team, headed by captain Alfonso Mora, assured Wednesday that the series will be played at the refurbished courts of the Rafael Yanez Goridis de Valencia complex.

Mara said “we have the firm purpose to have an honourable participation in the name of Venezuela even though we are a rival that is considered favourite, I believe it is not impossible to win, though”.

The Colombian team, headed by captain Alfonso Mora, assured Wednesday that the series will be played at the refurbished courts of the Rafael Yanez Goridis de Valencia complex.

Mara said “we have the firm purpose to have an honourable participation in the name of Venezuela even though we are a rival that is considered favourite, I believe it is not impossible to win, though”.

The Venezuelan team is made by the top players of the country, Jose Antonio De Armas, Jonathan Me-dina, Yohny Rivero and Daniel Vallverdu as replacements. On April 29 there will be two singles games, at 16.00 hours, local time, while the doubles game will take place on Saturday 30. The last two singles are due Sunday. The Canadian team, headed by captain Martin Laurendau, has Frank Dancevic, Frederic Neimeyer, Philipp Kohler and Robert Stieckley.

Canada, with four victories, and Venezuela will play for the seventh time in the Davis Cup, and in this occasion the winner will play a repechage game with one of the teams losing in the first round of the World Group.
China submits rights report to UN committee

GESEYA, April 29 — China presented its initial report to the implementa-
tion of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to
a UN committee on Wednesday.

“The report focuses on the laws, plans and
measures adopted, and or-
gans established by the
Chinese Government to
promote various rights
under the covenant, in-
cluding our achievements
as well as our difficulties
and problems,” Ambassa-
dor Sha Zukang, head of the
Chinese delegation, told a session of the UN
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural
Rights.

DONATE BLOOD

Earthquake Report

An earthquake of strong intensity (6.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1100) miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological ob-
Aseyawady Division (6°C) below normal in upper
Sagaing Division and isolated in the remaining ar-
as. The significant day temperatures were Magway and
Minbu (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-4-2005 was 103°F.
Minimum temperature on 29-4-2005 was 69°F. Relative
humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-4-2005 was 75%. Total
sunshine hours on 28-4-2005 was (9.1) hours (approx).
Rainfalls on 29-4-2005 were (0.83) inch at Yangon Air-
port, (0.24) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon.
Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (1.46) inches at
Yangon Airport, (1.93) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.32)
inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon
(Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours
MST on 29-4-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the north and south Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 30-4-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divi-
sions, and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of cer-
tainty is (80%).

State of the seas: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions are likely in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-4-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers in the after-
noon or evening. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and surrounding area for 30-
4-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty
is (80%). Weather outlook for first weekend of May 2005:

During the coming weekend rain or the showers will be
isolated in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

***

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).
YANGON, 29 April — Social organizations, political parties and peace groups that have returned to the legal fold 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 texts of the declaration issued by the Lahu National Development Party. — MNA

Declaration of Lahu National Development Party

1. The Union of Myanmar is a land, where various national races have been living as national brethren sharing weal and woe and keeping eggs and nest intact.
2. We learnt that some fugitives in a foreign country announced the formation of the Shan State provisional government and independence of Shan State on 17 April 2005.
3. We cannot accept the announcement as it is merely an act that can undermine national unity and perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar.
4. Thus, we hereby declare that the Lahu National Development Party strongly opposes and protests against the declaration of the formation of the Shan State provisional government and independence of Shan State.

Dated: 29 April 2005

U Yaw Aye Hla
Joint General Secretary-2
Central Executive Committee
Lahu National Development Party