Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San visit palace museums in St. Petersburg

YANGON, 9 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Soe and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, the ministers and senior military officials, visited the Palace Museums in St. Petersburg on 5 April afternoon.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party arrived at Ekaterinsky Palace in Pushkin City of St. Petersburg at 3:30 pm local time. They were welcomed by Director of the museum Mr Ivan Petrovich Sautov and officials.

Officials of the museum conducted Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party round the section of the Ekaterinsky Palace Museum of Empress Catherine, Tzar dynasty of Russia.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party proceeded to Palovsky Palace in Palovsky City where they were welcomed by Deputy Director of the museum Mr Rozov I Victor and officials.

They visited the Palovsky Summer Palace of Pavel I, Tzar dynasty of Russia.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye signed the visitors’ book.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party went back to Hotel Astoria in St. Petersburg.

MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Further strengthen friendly ties between Myanmar and the Russian Federation

Myanmar has been adhering to the five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence in dealing with neighbouring countries, countries in the region and the global community. And it is trying its utmost for further cementing friendly ties with congenial nations, while constantly striving for boosting economy and enhancing cooperation in all spheres among those nations.

The Russian Federation is a friendly nation of Myanmar. Since Myanmar has regained independence, its relationship with the nation has improved all the more.

As part of opening a new chapter of bi-lateral relations for further cementing the existing friendly ties between the governments, the peoples and the Tatmadaws of the two nations, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye held a discussion at the Office of the Russian Federation from 2 to 7 April.

During his visit, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye held a discussion with Chief of Staff of the Russian Federation First Vice-Minister for Defence General YN Ralushvky at the Russian Ministry of Defence in Moscow on 4 April. At the discussion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General YN Ralushvky cordially dealt with matters related to friendly relationship between the armed forces of the two countries.

Similarly, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Deputy Governor of St. Petersburg Mr Lobko held discussions at the Office of the Governor of St. Petersburg in the Russian Federation on 5 April. At the meeting, they frankly discussed matters on economy and investment between the two nations.

The Russian Federation takes interest in economic cooperation with countries of East Asian and South East Asian regions.

The Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation share a common view in assessing situations in the region as well as in the world.

During the goodwill visit of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, cooperation between the governments and private entrepreneurs was discussed for boosting trade of the two nations.

As a result, Myanmar has been able to invite Russian entrepreneurs to make investment in agricultural, oil and gas sectors as well as in tapping of natural resources in Myanmar.

Such being the case, we firmly believe that the goodwill visit of Myanmar delegation to the Russian Federation will be able to enhance cooperation in such spheres as economy, trade and education and to further strengthen friendly ties between Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

Sanitation tasks carried out, cash donated at CWH

YANGON, 9 April — Organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, staff of Health Department and Yangon City Development Committee and members of social organizations gathered at Central Women’s Hospital on Baho Street in Lanmadaw Township this morning and collectively carried out sanitation tasks.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin arrived there and cheered them. Next, the commander presented K 200,000, MWAF K 200,000, Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai K 200,000 and wellwishers and various organizations K 5 million to the medical superintendent and officials.

After the ceremony, the commander and the mayor and party encouraged 75 blood donors from the Union Solidarity and Development Association and 15 from WAO at the hospital.

Gold foils offered, 50-KVA transformer donated, consecration held in Maubin

YANGON, 9 April — Ceremonies to offer a gold foils, donate a 50-KVA transformer and consecrate Muniyamayonnay MyoU Pavdwamu Pagoda took place in Maubin, Ayeyawaddy Division, on 8 April.

Present on the occasion were Dhammayoen Shwekyin Kyaunztai, Presiding Sayadaw Apga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhja U Anadibhara and members of the Sangha and C.E.C. Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw. The minister and wife offered alms to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. The minister met with executives and members of division and district USDAs in Kyakkaht and attended to their needs.

The following day, the minister attended a ceremony to donate cash for Bogale Education College by USDA. At the ceremony, the minister presented K 4 million to the college through Principal Daw Khin Khin Hay. Next, the minister viewed lecture halls, hostels and the mess hall.

Myanmar delegation back from China

YANGON, 9 April — A Myanmar delegation led by CEC Member U Maung Pa, Mr Yu Boren of the Chinese Embassy and officials concerned from USDA Headquarters arrived back at Yangon International Airport by CEC.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt meets departmental officials and local people in Bogale.

YANGON, 9 April — The Office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be relocated to No 61, Maha Bandoola Park, Street, at the corner of Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, beginning 10 April. Anyone may contact UMFCCI at the new address.
Chinese Premier begins official visit to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 8 April— At the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived here Friday by a special plane for an official visit to the southeastern Asian country. Prime Minister Hun Sen and other senior government officials greeted Premier Wen at the airport and held a red-carpet welcome ceremony for the Chinese leader. In a written statement released upon his arrival, Premier Wen said he is delighted to pay an official visit to the beautiful country of Cambodia and would like to take this opportunity to convey the cordial greetings and best wishes of the Chinese people to the hospitable people of Cambodia.

"China and Cambodia are friendly neighbours and the traditional friendship between the two peoples has a long history," he said. "In recent years, China-Cambodia friendship, forged and cultivated by several generations of Chinese leaders and His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, the King Father, has been flourishing."

"Our two countries have engaged in productive exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic, trade, cultural and other areas and maintained good coordination and cooperation in regional and international affairs," the Premier said. MNA/Xinhua

Circus artists of the Atlantis ensemble perform during this season’s premiere of Circus Krone, in Munich recently.—INTERNET

Cuba claims drug war victory without US help

BOCA DEL TORO (Cuba), 9 April — Flying over chains of sandy keys in a clattering old Soviet Mi-17 helicopter, Colonel Jorge Samper declares a Cuban victory over South American drug traffickers — with no thanks to the United States.

Seizures have declined over the past five years. The 2.2 tons (2,200 kilos) of marijuana and 0.3 ton (300 kilos) of cocaine seized last year were the lowest quantities in the past decade, indicating traffickers have turned to other routes, Samper said.

"It is the United States that benefits from all Cuba’s efforts," said Colonel Jose Ruiz, deputy head of the Cuban National Antinarcotics Agency.

That is because the drug shipments are destined for the streets of US cities and not Cuba, where domestic consumption of illegal drugs is minimal, Cuban officials say. MNA/Reuters

Three Americans injured in suicide explosion in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 April — Three Americans were injured Friday in a suicide car bomb in Afghan southern province of Helmand, US military said and denied the former report about the involvement of British soldiers. “Two US service members and one US civilian contractor received minor injuries today when a suicide car bomb exploded outside the main gates of the Lashkar Gah Provincial Reconstruction Team compound in Helmand Province at 11:30 am (0700 GMT) today,” US military said in a Press release.

“The suicide bomber was killed in the blast. A nearby pickup truck and the bomber’s vehicle were destroyed,” it added. Afghan National Police officers were at the scene of the explosion investigating this attack, according to the release."This attack on Coalition Forces, like so many others that have occurred in southern Afghanistan in the last month, failed," said Brigadier-General David Fraser, commander of the Coalition’s Combined Task Force Aegis. "This latest attack won’t affect our on-going efforts to work with Afghan authorities to improve security in Helmand.” MNA/Xinhua

A woman looks at debris caused by a tornado in the backyard of her family’s home in Gallatin, Tennessee on 8 April, 2006. INTERNET

Tornadoes strike Tennessee

NASHVILLE, 8 April — Tornadoes battered the southeastern United States on Friday, killing 12 people in Tennessee in the second deadly tornado strike in the state this week, officials said on Saturday.

Nine people died in Sumner County where the tornado hit a heavily populated area outside the town of Gallatin and another three people were killed in Warren County, said Randy Harris of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

What had been stately brick homes near Gallatin were heavily damaged, and rubble was strewn across upscale neighbourhoods. Several people were rescued after being trapped in their cars by storm debris. In Warren County, authorities said some mobile homes were destroyed and a truck overturned.

The winds knocked over walls at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin where some 200 students huddled inside a building as the storm approached. Despite the heavy damage to the campus, the injuries were mostly minor cuts and bruises.

In Georgia, to the south, severe thunderstorms rolled through the northern part of the state early Saturday, damaging homes and businesses in several metropolitan Atlanta counties.

Local television reports showed businesses that had been leveled and trees that crashed into homes.—Internet

A helicopter of the Cuban Army casts a shadow while flying over a key on the northern coast of Cuba in the eastern Camaguey Province, on 5 April, 2006. Cuban authorities are cracking down on drug traffickers who use the island-dotted coast line to smuggle cocaine and marijuana from Colombia and Jamaica to the United States in the ongoing drug enforcement operation ACHE III. —INTERNET

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (L) holds a red-carpet ceremony to welcome visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R, Front) at an airport in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on 7 April, 2006. —INTERNET

The New Light of Myanmar Monday, 10 April, 2006 3

Local and foreign newsmen, officials of local media raised queries regarding the clarifications by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Hsan, other issues and clarifications of five persons who involved in connection with FTUB Pyithit Nyunt Wai and Their Win of NDD. Questions and replies are as follows.

U Hla Htway (Nihon Keizai Shim bun)

May I ask the minister a question? It is the question that I asked at the press conference in Lashio. The minister said in his reply that the government is still opening its doors in contact with KNU and that the government is still in touch with KNU. Another question is that the press conference the terms 'other country' and 'Maesot' were used. Can the groups, known as, insurgents or terrorists, start their operations in places where destructive elements can hide were cleared. The Tatmadaw does not launch particular operation. In connection with the third question, there is no change in both previous and present conditions.

U Tin Maung Aye (Asahi Shim bun)

I heard that Saya Ye (a) Ko Than Oo made arrangements for demonstration of the runs in front of the city hall and the embassy according to the instructions of Their Win. Please explain how you were involved in it. I think money was spent on demonstrations and UG operations. How did you get and spend the money?

Saya Ye (a) U Than Oo

On 5 January 2003, Their Win told me that nun Daw Malar Ye was in the country. She preceeded some nuns to stage protests. He made me help them in their protests. In a few days, I came to Bago and met nuns Daw Malar Ye and Daw Thlawady. They said that the attempts demonstration on 4 January failed and they wanted a photo of Boyoke Aung San and needed to talk with Their Win. They made contact with Their Win for 15 minutes through satellite phone I took. Then we made an appointment. After taking the photo of Boyoke Aung San, they left Bago at 6 am. By the time we arrived at the Sule Pagoda it was about 8 am. The two nuns and I went to Pansodan. The plan was to go to the bus stop on the side of the park first and to give away pamphlets to passengers at the bus stop and at the flower shops at the Sule. Afterwards, they went to the City Hall. They left 10 minutes earlier than I and I followed them. I saw two young nuns together with four or five security members under the porch of the City Hall. Hence, I thought the protest of two young nuns had finished. And, I went back to Anawrahta Street and gave a phone message to Ko Win Myint from Bago. I told him that the protest of the young nuns was finished; that they were taken by security guards; and that I would return to Bago.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets local and foreign journalists.

MNA
At arranging bomb attacks. But I came to know how much Thein Win's skill and in making explosives when I paid a visit in late 2002 to his place in 200-baht market. There he was making something with a set at that time. Whenever they met each other, he gave her K 200,000, K 100,000 or 50,000 to spend if necessary for her and he made her send K 50,000 or K 100,000 by chance to three persons that she had to make contact with at that moment, including the appliances for sale at the store. At such time, she did not know if they that they were talking to were UGs. Moreover, they said that they were together in prison and he helped them to want to help as much as he could. Later, due to their saying, she came to realize that they were former NLD representatives.

Dr Zaw Than of Sankei Shimbun:— The incident that occurred: Saya Ye (a) U Than Oo, member of PP-21? What extent is NDD's exactly that they are also interested in it. That's why I think he must be a bomb expert.

Dr Zaw Than of Sankei Shimbun:— NLD representatives. A U Aung Shwe Oo of NTV News Agency said he would like to know about the facts of NTV News Agency representatives.

A U Aung Shwe Oo of NTV News Agency:— NTA township was going down and he suggested to file a complaint to the government, the experienced politicians and NLD together with a letter each. At the time of receiving the letter, the paddy and rice were at good price and there was no reason to be discontent among the farmers. He did nothing as there was no one to file a complaint.

A U Khaing of NTV News Agency:— It is learnt that a suspicious item thought to be an explosive was found recently at Yangon International School. I would like to know in detail how action has been taken regarding this if the incident was true?, and the second question is that salary of State service personnel has been increased since 1 April. I would like to know if the increase of the salary could lead to inflation?. How can such large amount of money be obtained? And how many State service personnel are there in Myanmar? And how much they constitute in the nation’s population?

Director-General of MFP Brig-Gen Khin Yi:— As far as I know, the incident at Yangon International School took place on 6 April. The incident was that teacher of the school U Win Htut Kyaw on 6 April found smoke coming out of a Cookies box in the toilet of students. And he put out the smoke on the assumption that it came from secretly smoking done by a student. It was at about 1.15 pm. And he continued his teaching and thought the incident over. Reflecting the two round objects thought to be explosives and things thought to be explosive wires along with a London cigarette end, he informed the security personnel. It was at about 4 pm. The security personnel together with those from US Embassy inspected and exposed the incident. It is learnt that there are about 400 students learning at the school, most of them are the offspring of diplomats in Yangon. Two of the students did it as a matter of kidding. To do so, the two students bought potassium nitrate and sugar at a shop in downtown Yangon. To play a trick on the students to mark April Fool, the two students also bought firecrackers to copy Jolly Walker they found on the Internet Website. They mixed one to six ratio of sugar and potassium nitrate and heat the mixture. And then, they cool it down to such an extent that it became solid. At that time, they planted a stick onto the solid mixture and played such a joke on the students copying the findings on the Internet Website. In this regard, it is learnt that the US Embassy will issue a press release.

(See page 6)
Questions and replies at press conference 3/2006... (from page 5)

Kaw Kyaw Maung of the Central Bank of Myanmar: The number of State service personnel is only about one million. It is not safe to say that there will be inflation and a rise in commodity prices just as the salary of service personnel has increased since the nation’s population is about 50 million. The money was obtained from proper collection of taxes. That is why it cannot be asserted that there will be inflation or deflation in this regard.

Aung Thu Myaing (Ji Ji News Agency): I would like to ask Ma Khine Mar Soe. What case were you sentenced on and what did you do to work with political parties? I would like to ask the government. Is it true to the price that petrol and diesel increase up to K 2500 and one unit price of electricity up to K 75?

Daw Khine Mar Soe: I together with one of my friends went to Wyentaw to make a living according to my family’s economy in 1998. One year after, I returned to Yangon. After taking 10 days I get back. But the factory did not accept me cause being one day late. For this reason, I started to put U May Tha Zin bookstall. While staying there, I asked the shopkeepers from the bookstall what I could help them. They replied that they had difficulties to buy books. I answered them to see to it and bought books for them through my own expense. I saw the person so called Thein Win enquiring into the bookstall in March and he took out money and gave the girl sitting at the counter. When he left the bookshop, the woman I intimated told me that the bookshop was opened by students and Thein Win was a student. I consid­ ered it was a business and I continued buying books for them from Yangon 31st day. In July Thang Myo Aye of No 25 Investigation Unit questioned me and I was given four years by the section 172/2 on conviction of 13/1.

Information Minister Brig-Kyaw Hsan: I would like to reply the question asked by U Aung Thu Myaing. Price rise of petrol and diesel up to K 2500 and one unit rate of electricity up to K 75 were rumours. As the service personnel were high paid by the government, the rumours came out. Daw Ei Myat (Myawaddy Journal): I would like to raise one question. I know that the Yangon Mayor held meeting on stability of commodity price with officials concerned. The meeting was for controls on commodities. If the shops did not follow the current rules, the authorities would take action against them. How many actions were taken up to now?

Information Minister Brig-Ken Hsaw: Concerning the above question, there were no actions taken yet.

Daw Nwe Aye (Myanmar Times Journal): The minister said in his speech about ILO case. ILO said there were no satisfactory measures on forced labour in Myanmar. How does Myanmar respond to it? Would Myanmar keep on joining hands with ILO next or resign from it? After pre­ scribing the law for amending trade and in­ come taxes last month, Myanmar merchants sent a letter to leaders of the State. In the letter it was suggested that instead of collecting tax from the price of petrol and diesel would be enhanced from K 1500 to K 3000 and so would one unit rate of electricity from K 25 to K 100. How do the heads of state consider these?

Deputy Labour Minis­ ter Brig-Ken Win Sein: Myanmar keeps joining with ILO now. Arrange­ ments have been made for constant joining with ILO in future.

Information Minister Brig-Ken Hsaw: In accordance with ILO, there are no collecting tax in accord with the laws recently re­ leased. In this junction, the petrol price would be up K 2500 or K 3000 and K 1500 due to cropping up of the sections.

U Min Zin (Living Color Magazine): I would like to ask U Aung Thu two questions. The first point was that Daw San San from NLD (LA) sent a satellite phone. Which local news was sent through phone? Which media did it consist of? The next point was concerning with sending money. Was money sent on spending messages or where was it spent?

U Aung Thein: NLD (LA) and IMPU are illegal or­ ganizations but they have to live up to the resolutions and demands of NLD and other political parties as if dancing to the tune. I had to release the declaration of NLD’s political cer­ tainly. I had to send the demands of politicians and CRPP and NLD to Daw San San. In fixed for the area for one and a half week of a month. In launch­ ing the campaign, MPF concentrated on crime con­ trol and prevention. If the crime free week meets with success, the people will also participate by drive. Furthermore, if the crime free week does well in other areas, the peo­ ple will be able to enjoy their fruitful results of security measures in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. These activities commenced in November 2005. Regarding the murder case, Daw Nan Kham Mu of Thinganayun was killed on 6 November. As the case happened during the crime free week, the murderer was exposed within three days with the help of the people through the 199 report system. Though three persons were killed in a case on 22 No­ vember, those who com­ mitted murder were es­ posed within about two days. Likewise, murder Nyunt Wai and NLD’s Daw San San. Aung Cho Oo (a) Yu Noot: Once I saw Pyitht Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung come round to Thein Win’s house and they were talking about something upstairs. Maung Maung was ac­ companied by KNU’s Mehr Nyein Maung. They went then for a parcel. I learned later that inside the parcel were some weapons. Maung Maung, who is mainly responsible for bombing at­ tacks, is providing explo­ sives for Thein Win via whom they are distributed to Tin Moe and Aung Min inside the country in order to commit subversive acts. I am sure that Thein Win and Maung Maung mas­ terminded the bomb at­ tack because of the people in the city because I had to give them the phone numbers of those centres. First I didn’t know Ko Thein Win would commit such acts. I thought he would only hold protests against the government as usual. That was why I gave him the phone numbers. He com­ mitted the acts under the command of Pyitht Nyunt Wai.

Htein Latt (Popular Journal): Yesterday I at­ tended the meeting of YCDC’s committee for raising the campaign, MPF would commit such acts. I thought he would only hold protests against the government as usual. That was why I gave him the phone numbers. He com­ mitted the acts under the command of Pyitht Nyunt Wai.

U Aung Thu Myaing of Ji Ji News Agency.

cases that occurred in No­ vember, December and Janu­ ary were exposed in a short time or almost a week. Similarly, hundreds of burg­ lar case happened in Yangon. In six other divi­ sions, hundreds of theft and narcotic drugs cases were exposed due to launching the crime free week. These crimes, crim­ inal cases did not increase. The next procedure of Govern­ ment departments to Naypyitaw from Yangon, some thought there would be an increase in the number of criminal cases. Before we moved to Naypyitaw, the number of major crimes was 37, af­ terwards it was 38. Hence­ ever, the number of major crim­ inal cases did not rise.

U Myo Aung (Kyiwaye Lannyun Journal.—MNA)

YCDC’s committee for raising the campaign, MPF would commit such acts. I thought he would only hold protests against the government as usual. That was why I gave him the phone numbers. He com­ mitted the acts under the command of Pyitht Nyunt Wai.

The State has approved a pay rise for government employ­ ees in order to fill the gap between their former sala­ ries and the current prices of goods. In doing so, to ensure no budget de­ ficit, the State, after making thorough reviews and assessments, ap­ proved the pay rise within the framework of law by having systematically col­ lected taxes and revenues for one or two years ear­ lier. With the collected taxes and benefits gained from State’s projects, the government was able to approve the pay rise for the departmental staff. The ill attempts to increase the prices of commodities with profiteering from service person­ nel’s increased salaries are not a new phenomenon. It is also unacceptable. It is because they will have to enjoy their increased sala­ ries only after the end of April. Moreover, the com­ modities being sold at the moment have already manufactured before the approval of pay rises. With the overall production costs plus reasonable prof­ its, such goods have been and being sold to the pub­ lic. So, it is not natural if they would be further increased at the expense of service person­ nel’s pay rates. If so, it will be responsible for unscrupulous persons. In response to the question concerning the State’s plans to stabilize the prices of commodities, I would say that there are four stra­ tegies: (1) boosting pro­ duction, (2) practising thrift in order not to cause State budget deficit, (3) employing systematic management and supervi­ sion concerning the prices of goods, and (4) organiz­ ing ways to stabilize the prices of goods.

They are measures being taken to stabilize the commodity prices. Regarding this, there are important points in which the entire people includ-
Questions and replies at press conference 3/2006...

(from page 6)

If they do so, it amounts to stabilizing the commodity prices. Two—every family is to engage in growing vegetables for the household use. By doing so, they can maintain the prices of vegetables and fish & meat and can save money. Three—there have been rumours such as the rise in the prices of this item or that item as regards the increase of salary of State service personnel. And it is required for the people not to believe those rumours. Otherwise, the rumours will bear fruits for unscrupulous persons. At present, the nation produces over 1,000 million baskets of paddy yearly. It is required only 600 million baskets of paddy yearly for 54 million of the nation’s population. It is found that the supply is greater than the demand. Therefore, the people are advised not to believe the rumours manufactured by unscrupulous persons. If the entire people participate in this regard, there is no reason for the commodity prices to rise. The government, on its part, is taking measures to maintain the commodity prices in line with the market-oriented economic system. Hence, the people need to participate in it to stabilize the commodity prices.

U Nyein Thu (Mukhin Shudaung Journal):

Due to the accusations of foreign media, there were suspicions among the public that some members of MPF tortured and bullied the people. Are there any such incidents or not? If such incidents are found, is there any reason? If there is any, to what extent action is taken against those who committed the incidents?

Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi:

To answer these questions, I would like to explain the functions of MPF. The MPF is an organization that is implementing the four objectives—taking measures for prevalence of law, ensuring community peace and tranquillity, eliminating of narcotic drugs and serving the interest of the public. They are the long term plan. For successful realization of the plan, MPF has laid down short-term plans and is implementing them. For example, 2004 was designated as changing of the appearance of MPF. And 2005 was designated as changing of the essence of MPF. In the process, the policies of MPF were laid down and work is under way. The 2006 was designated as law enforcement year to be able to change MPF both in appearance and essence. To do so, the participation of the people is indispensable.

As far as I know, the police force and the people have become closer and the people give more assistance to the police. I honestly believed that more tasks have become closer and the people give more assist­ance to the police. I honestly believed that more tasks have become closer and the people give more assistance to the police.

MNA

Vietnam wants deepened ties with China

HANOI, 8 April — General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nong Duc Manh said on Friday both Vietnam and China currently have common tasks of opening-up, renovation, economic development, and stability and security maintenance.

The Vietnamese side would like to, along with China, broaden and deepen the bilateral cooperation, he said when meeting with visiting Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan.

Manh said the visit of the Chinese high-ranking Army delegation is a vivid manifestation of increasingly closer ties between the two governments, parties, peoples and armies. The visit has come to a common consensus, he said, strongly beefing up cooperation between the two countries in defence and Army, making great contribution to the comprehensive development of the two countries’ relations.

For his part, the Chinese Defence Minister said in recent years, under the leadership of the two parties and the two governments, ties between Vietnam and China have deepened and been widely welcomed by the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party visit Palovsky Palace in Palovsky City. (News on page 1)—MNA

**Foreign masters pretended as if they did not know terrorist acts of renegade Sein Win of NCGUB and Pyithit Nyunt Wai of FTUB and followers**

(from page 16)

According to tip-offs in December 2005, we learnt that expatriate Sein Win of NCGUB and expatriate axe-handle Aung Lin Htut who were taking refuge in USA and ABSDF military advisor Aye Myint who was in Australia directed their sabotage groups to blast bombs at Nyaungshapin Camp, the venue of the National Convention, airports and aircraft as well as in Yangon and Pyinmana; the saboteurs infiltrated into the country in various guises; the saboteurs would be rewarded lavishly and their families would be well looked after if they had accomplished the mission; otherwise the saboteurs would be killed and their families would be under control; and if it was impossible to blast bombs at targeted places the saboteurs were to explode bombs at schools and busy places. According to further information received, it was revealed that the terrorist groups led by expatriate Sein Win of NCGUB were conspiring to launch media attack against the Government. It was also learnt that they had planned to blast bombs in Yangon, Mandalay and Pyinmana cities by joining hands with ABSDF and KNU whose members have expertise in exploding mines. Their motive was to frighten the people and cause the Government lose people’s confidence.

Likewise, Saya Ye (a) U Than Oo, Daw Khaing Mar Soe, U Khin Maung Win, U Aung Thein and Yunoot (a) Aung Cho Oo who were hard-cores of FTUB Pyithit Nyunt Wai and NDD Theyin Win answered the queries raised by journalists. The press conference ended in the afternoon.

The journalists and personnel of media viewed documentary photos on the person who committed bomb blasts at two places in Taungoo, and his partners, the photos on bomb explosions in Penwegen, Bago and Pyu, sabotage acts of SSA and KNU against the nation and the people, conspiracy of NCUB, DAB, NDF, NLD-LA and NLD-LA against the internal unrest, the photos on organizational set-up of NCUB, DAB, NDF, NLD-LA, MPU, and ABSDF. — MNA

A meeting was held by The Pho of KNU brigade-3, Michael of KNU brigade-4, ABSDF joint secretary Sonny and ABSDF central committee members Soe Htut and Maung Maung Tae and they discussed measures for accelerating the terrorist acts of blasting bombs in the country. ABSDF saboteur Aung Ko Naing infiltrated into the country on 30-5-2005. He returned to Wawlaykhee camp on the border on 6-1-2006. Aung Ko Naing was chosen to blast bombs in the country and he was sent into the country during the first week of February, it was learnt.

Information was also received that according to the decision of KNU central committee, KNU brigades 3, 4 and 7 would launch military and sabotage attacks in the country in 2006. To blast bombs in Yangon, Bago and other cities, cooperation would be made by ABSDF, NLD (LA) and DPNS.

A bomb blast took place in Penwegen market on 2-11-2005. It was committed by three KNU members under orders of KNU brigade-3 and ABSDF. It was confessed by arrested KNU private Wah Lay (alias) Saw Tin Win, of Kywechan Village of Kyaunkki Township. According to the confessions of Saw Tin Win and others who were involved in the plot, it was learnt that the bomb blast of a pylon in the west Tawkywe-inn on 29-3-2003 and the bomb blast at a cinema house in Pyu on 15-5-2003 were committed by KNU terrorists. Moreover, it was learnt that KNU Wah Lay (alias) Saw Tin Win is a womanizer and he raped some village girls. It was disclosed by the victims. That disclosure shows that terrorists raped the girls. There are also other evidences.

At the previous press conference No 2/2006, I had clarified that SSA-S Ywet Sit group set Meethwaygon village of Namhsan Township on fire, (See page 9)
Foreign masters pretended as if they…

(killed 13 persons and raped village girls on 18-1-1997 evening. Clarifications have been made that the group demanded extortion money from 30 passengers, raped women and killed 25 persons on Kunhein-Kentung road.

In replying to the questions at that press conference, sergeant Sai Tun Kyaw of SSA-S brigade-241 who had returned to legal fold said that Ywet Sit has two wives and many mistresses; Ywet Sit is a womanizer and he abused other girls by using money. Sai Tun Kyaw also revealed that SSA-S brigade-758 commander Mein Sit has 40 wives and SSA-S brigade-756 commander Khor Lawng has 20.

Foreign masterminds and their minions, traitors and terrorist insurgents made media attack against the Tatmadaw by dubbing it with the term “Licensed to Rape”. Actually, those who are committing rapes are KNU, SSA-S and their cohorts. Similarly, a bomb exploded near Shwemawdaw Pagoda road and about 50 feet away from a gate of high road and about 50 feet away from a gate of high road and about 50 feet away from a gate of high road and about 50 feet away from a gate of high road. An explosive with a detonator fuse packed with the cover of Paruss soap was found in a drainage 20 feet away from the second blast. No one was injured in those two bomb blasts.

At about 4 am on 12-1-2006, electric power grid pylon number 254 was exploded by KNU insurgents and it pylon collapsed. On 14-1-2006, the pylon was repaired and the TE motor vehicle with the workers on board on their return from the repair of the pylon was torched by KNU insurgents on Leiktho-Yado road.

At 4.30 am on 15-1-2006, a mine blasted the rail track, 200 yards north of Toungoo railway station. The track was torn about 11 inches and a crater measuring about 18 square inches was left. Mine clearing was made along the railroad and another mine was discovered at about 300 yards south of the station.

According to the information received in the second week of January 2006, it was revealed that on 11-1-2006 morning a closing ceremony of training course on politics and UG tactics was held at Daungkhwin camp at the border. The course was conducted from 2 to 11 January and attended by Pyithit Nyunt Win and group of FTUB, chairman Than Khe and group of ABSDF, Than Aye and group of NLD (LA), Khin Maung Tint and group of DPNS, Thein Win and group of NDD. Meesu Pwint and group of BWO (Burma Woman Organization), foreign affairs in-charge Phado David Hlaw and group of KNU, nine persons from NGOs in USA and Australia and seven persons from VBSW totalling 151. Among the trainees, 38 were platoon commanders of ABSDF, DPNS, NDD, KNU and NLD (LA). The course instructors were ABSDF chairman Than Khe, Myo Win, Lwan Ni, Zaw Min of ABSDF, Hlaing Aung, Maung Maung Gy and Thein Win of NDD and Than Aye of NLD (LA).

The terrorist groups such as KNU, ABSDF, NLD (LA) and DPNS which have been launching terrorist acts in the country met with SSA-S in northern part of Chiangmai district during the second week of January 2006. They plotted to blast bombs in Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Mudon around the Armed Forces Day. They plotted to feign bomb blasts in some areas in the country hitting one out of two under-mentioned Operation Reflection.

The Operation Reflection was being carried out by DPNS, FTUB, ABSDF and VBSW by making use of UGs of PP-21.

Information was received in January that a group comprising 9 men and 3 women from KNU and ABSDF could not get a chance to blast bombs at targets, thus they exploded bomb at Toungoo railway station and they are said to be trying to explode bombs at every opportunity.

Consequently, due to a tip-off of a duty conscious citizen, a time bomb was uncovered in time from a dried fish box at a shop in Spinhthaya market of Pyu on 30-1-2006. The bomb was removed immediately to a safe place covered with sandbags and rice-bags. Hence, the explosion caused no injury. The person who planted the bomb was Min Oo, 13, and he was exposed immediately due to the cooperation of the people. Min Oo’s confession led to interrogation of Zaw Myo, 31, of Lay-ein-su village and Hsan Nyunt Soe, 36, of Paunkhon village of Pyu. They confessed that while Zaw Myo was making charcoal in a jungle near Kyunngypyar village of Kanyunkwain, KNU regional in-charge Er Hlaw threatened and coerced him to blast a bomb at Pyu Spinhthaya market. Zaw Myo organized charcoal carrier Hsan Nyunt Oo by paying 25,000 kyats. Hsan Nyunt Oo asked his son Min Oo to leave the time bomb in the market, it was exposed. On 1-2-2006 evening, KNU insurgents blasted a bomb at a gas pipeline to Myainggalay cement factory near Kwanly village of Mudon Township. The gas pipeline was exploded.

In late January, Thein Win of NDD sent mercenaries saboteurs Kuppali, Myint Win and Yunol of ABSDF to blast bombs in the country. Similarly, under the arrangement of FTUB secretary Pyithit Nyunt Nai, DPNS chairman Aung Moe Zaw, NDD Thein Win and Maung Maung Gyi, saboteurs Myat Kyaw of DPNS, Aung Ye Thway and San Wai of VBSW were also sent to explode bombs at departmental buildings, offices, houses and bus terminals. Moreover, 15 persons led by saboteur Aung Naing of ABSDF held a meeting at Wlayaw village at Myanmar-Thai border and sent two sabotage teams into the country on 7-2-2006. One team comprised Thet Tun, Aung Tha, Ma Aye Oo, Ma Thu Bar and Nan Thida Oo and another team comprised Aung Ko Naing, Aung Zaw Moe, Sai Tun Tun, Nyi Nyi Naing and Zin Myo Ko.

According to the information received in early February, it was learnt that under the joint arrangement of NCGUB, ABSDF, NDD, FTUB and DPNS, vice-chairman Yin Htwe, Nay Lin and
Foreign masters pretended as if they…

(from page 9) Aung Myint Thein conceived a plot at DPNS office in Mae Pa village at the border and sent saboteurs Ye Thway, Ko Soe, Than Myint and May Thazin into the country. Thanks to security measures, two mines planted on Yangon-Manme trees about 400 yards east of road near a farmland were un首个 released due to the landmine being exposed eight feet from the wall of No 1 BEHS in Toungoo on 2 March 2006. About two hours later, a transformer, near Panyoma women’s hostel at the corner of Myogyi and Sathin streets, Ward 20, in the town was blown up by a bomb. The explosion destroyed parts of the brick building where the transformer was kept.

Another information revealed that KNU, ABSDF and some terrorist groups would use flask-shaped explosive measuring 4 inches in diameter and 8 inches in length and it could be used as water bomb in river or creek or lake. Consequently, it was also learnt that when two persons were visiting ABSDF Aung Ko Oo, DPNS Aung Naing Oo and NDD Thein Win in Maesot in the first week of March 2006, a phone message asked them to send two condensed milk containers. Then, Thein Win and group gave the two condensed milk containers to the two persons. The password of condensed milk container might be explosives.

Another information revealed that KNU brigadier Issaz, saboteur Moe Phyu, ABSDF chairman Thanhe and NDD Thein Win would launch more subversive plots beginning 1-3-2006; NDD Thein Win and group would take charge of obtaining explosives and ABSDF chairman Thanhe’s group would link the sabotage teams with internal UGs for smooth entry and exit. It was also learnt that KNU chief of staff Mutu, Issaz and ABSDF chairman Thanhe had a meeting at horticultural farm of KNU Hpa-an district chairman Phado Arto in east of Maealam on 25-2-2006 and they discussed matters on launching military, sabotage and political attacks simultaneously beginning March.

A bomb exploded at a place eight feet from the wall of No 1 BEHS in Toungoo on 2 March 2006 morning. About two hours later, a transformer, near Panyoma women’s hostel at the corner of Myogyi and Sathin streets, Ward 20, in the town was blown up by a bomb. The explosion destroyed parts of the brick building where the transformer was kept.

(See page 11)
Foreign masters pretended as if they…

With public help, the authorities were able to expose and arrest the terrorist, Saw Gethe Mu (a) Nay La, of KNU brigade 5, and his accomplices, soon after the incident. Together with other 70 KNU members, Saw Gethe Mu attended an explosives course at Hteelekewee region. He confessed that commander of KNU 5 brigade, Saw Baw Kyaw He ordered him to blow up bombs in Taungoo, Pyay, Taung, and Meiktila, Saw Ta Wa in Pyu, Nyuanglebin, Bago and Yangon, and Saw Te Po in Papun.

His uncle, Saw Se Kale He of Sanegon Ward, Taungoo, showed the authorities how to realize the explosives and related equipment. According to Saw Gethe Mu he would continue to realize his farther plans to blow up bombs in Meiktila highway terminal, and Thazi railway station, if he was not caught and arrested.

The authorities received the information, which said that Pakak Htoo and Zaw Tin Win, under orders of KNU brigade 7, together with ABSDF bomber Ye Win, had plans to blow up bombs in Pyinnmana.

Another information said that the KNU brigade 4 conducted a bomb explosions course in Hteelekewee region with foreign assistance. A French taught about the time bomb and an Australian, remote-controlled bomb explosion technique.

Thanks to the information given by a duty conscious person, the authorities were able to seize a mine, place 80 yards west of the railroad between Yedashe and Kyuangon railway stations on 19 March, 2006. It was found that the fleeing terrorists left behind the mine as they were not able to plant it.

We can always expose and arrest the terrorists in time and save the people from grave dangers, thanks to the duty conscious people, who have the tradition of actively cooperating with authorities, with full security awareness.

The people do not accept the terrorists and their acts to harm the good results of peace, stability and progress of the nation. It is obvious that they are always ready to join hands with the Tatmadaw to root out the terrorists.

When we analyse the links, we can find that expatriate Win of NCGUB, secretary Pyithit Nyunt Wai of FTUB, Thwin of NDD, and KNU, SSA-S, ABSDF, NLD (LA), DPNS and VBSW and their foreign masters have a hand in the conspiracies.

As they are of the same type, they formed the so-called fronts, alliances and national councils. The group called National Democratic Front (NDF) compiles KNU, KNPP, SDU, SSA-S, CNP, and ALP terrorist groups. The NDF office is in the other country. Its chairman is Phada Bu Tha Tha Suu of KN. A similar group, Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), is formed that secretary of FTUB and NCGUB Pyithit Nyunt Wai and expatriate Win of NCGUB are like-minded persons.

Expatriate Win and Pyithit Nyunt Wai are controlling and ordering terrorists attacks inside Myanmar by providing money to terrorists. I have already explained their crimes to be known to the world with firm evidence at the previous press conferences. The dailies in Myanmar also carried the news about the confessions made by the seized mercy thugs in public or at the courts together with news photos.

Myanmar is party to 11 international conventions to suppress terrorism, which include the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing and International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. According to the two conventions, it is obvious that expatriate Win and Pyithit Nyunt Wai are committing terrorist acts under cover of tomatoes and pyit thaws.

On 30 November 2003, NCUB and NCGUB issued a Joint Policy Declaration. In the declaration the NCUB and NCGUB said that they would firmly take the responsibility for working out for the future of Myanmar’s politics and fate. It is obvious that secretary of FTUB and NCGUB Pyithit Nyunt Wai and expatriate Win of NCGUB are like-minded persons.

Their foreign masters pretended as if they did not know terrorist acts of renegade Sein Win of NCGUB and Pyithit Nyunt Wai of FTUB and followers. But, whenever authorities managed to seize NDD Thwin’s UG’s, they were arrested in Bago and foreign masters have a hand in the conspiracies.

All the six hard-core UG members of NDD Thwin who were arrested in Bago confessed that they witnessed a large map showing construction projects of the State at the office of Pyithit Nyunt Wai in the neighbouring nation to carry out a destructive scheme.

These evidences were clarified at the press conference No 6/2005. Moreover, also clarified with reliable evidences were that under the control of NCGUB Sein Win and FTUB Pyithit Nyunt Wai, some members of ABSDF, NLD (LA) and VBSW committed bomb explo­ sions at three busy places in Yangon on 7 May, 2005, with the help of hard-core UGs of NDD Thwin Win. Member of NDD Thwin Win’s hard-core Yunod confessed at the press conference No 2/2006 that the explo­ sions took place just after Thwin Win asked him for some information as to whether security was tightened or not in such busy places.

NDD Thwin Win’s hard-core UG member Saya Ye (a) Than Oo, 53, of Pyu, who was arrested on 24-3-2006 confessed that with the payment of Thwin Win, he incited a demonstration of one or two protestors each in three places in Yangon; that he gave cash and supervised for two months to stage protests in front of the City Hall; that he gave cash and supervised for some information as to whether security was tightened or not in such busy places.

NDD Thwin Win’s hard-core UG member Saya Ye (a) Than Oo, 53, of Pyu, who was arrested on 24-3-2006 confessed that with the payment of Thwin Win, he incited a demonstration of one or two protestors each in three places in Yangon; that he gave cash and supervised for two months to stage protests in front of the City Hall; that he gave cash and supervised for some information as to whether security was tightened or not in such busy places.

Similarly, Thwin Win’s hard-core UG U Aung Thwin of Tharkayta Township as organized by NLD (LA) secretary Daw San San who is living in Maesot; that when he visited Thwin Win’s house near Baht-200 market in the neighbouring country in July 2003 he saw Thwin Win conducting a course on blasting time bomb to saboteur Thet Thaung; that Thwin Win told him that some arms were hidden under a duck pond at the back of his house; that while he visited NDD Thwin Win in the neighbouring country in August 2004, Thwin Win told him that the attack with launcher to a ship at Kyimyindine jetty was masterminded by Pyithit Nyunt Wai and his co-horts; that NDD Thwin Win mainly ordered saboteur Tin Moe in blasting bombs within the country; that Tin Moe together with Ko Naing (Bago) and Win Min (Sagaying) used to blasting bombs; and that a close follower of Thwin Win disclosed to him that the blasting of bombs at 3 busy places in Yangon were masterminded by Thwin Win.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 10 April, 2006
Exercising a constant vigilance, the people, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, hand in hand, have been able to take sufficient preventive security measures against the terrorist acts into the country; that she was arrested in Thengn Nyin'aing in 2001 and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment; that she was released on 1-6-2005 and she contacted NDD Thein Win in Maesot; that Thein Win gave her about 400,000 kyats as cash assistance; that as ordered by Thein Win she distributed cash assistance to hardcore NGOs within the country; that as arranged by Thein Win she was interviewed by a foreign broadcasting station through a satellite phone at Thein Win’s house in January and February 2006 and that she was fabricated about summer paddy cultivation in Myanmar.

Moreover, according to the confessions of Oktwin Township NLD vice-chairman (former chairman of Oktwin Township NLD) U Khin Maung Win, that the NLD members and the noted persons with the country had contacts with expatriate terrorists. All members of NCUB including NCGUB of expatriate Sein Win, FTUB of Pyithit Nyunt Wai and KNU are actually terrorists. Their hardcore NGOs have been brought here in this hall for you journalists to ask them. A recent attack from abroad was made at the ILO governing body’s 295th meeting held on 30-3-2006 in Geneva. At that meeting labour delegates leader Sir Leroy Troman disclosed that he did not accept the declaration of FTUB of Pyithit Nyunt Wai as an unlawful terrorist organization. Moreover, the iLLo delegation was made that forced labour in Myanmar has no improvement. They attempted to raise the issue of Myanmar at ILO conference to be held in the coming June. It is obvious that Nyunt Wai and four or five others were given with FTUB badge and asked to send fabricated news about the country.

Actually, renegade Pyithit Nyunt Wai was given a limelight by permitting him to attend ILC (International Labour Conference) meeting, CAS (Committee on Application of Standards) meeting and ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) meeting as labour representative. It is questionable that ILO is recognizing the terrorists. It was the acceleration of above-ground attack in line with the three-pronged attack of above-ground, underground and external attacks against the Government. The minions and their foreign masters accused that there were forced labour in Myanmar, child soldiers and licensed to rape, ethnic cleansing and villages were removed by force.

The one which is actually undertaking ethnic cleansing is NCUB which has been setting villages on fire, blasting bombs at crowded places and railroads. Ignoring the true fact, USA and some EU countries imposed economic sanctions lop-sidedly against Myanmar, as a measure of foreign attack tactics. In addition, they asked China, India and ASEAN countries to put pressure on Myanmar. Moreover, they exaggerated Myanmar’s affairs into the global concern and tried to put the case to UN Security Council. On 29-3-2006, the Senate hearing was conducted on Myanmar and it was discussed to continue sanctions against Myanmar until the release of detained axe-handles in the country. The discussion also included matters for Bush administration to join hands with other governments to take action on Myanmar and to try again to put Myanmar’s affairs to UN Security Council as, according to the hearing, it was threatening the regional stability. Moreover, according to the hearing, as a measure of foreign attack tactics, Myanmar was imposed economic sanctions lop-sidedly against Myanmar. As a measure of foreign attack tactics. In addition, they asked China, India and ASEAN countries to put pressure on Myanmar. Moreover, they exaggerated Myanmar’s affairs into the global concern and tried to put the case to UN Security Council. On 29-3-2006, the Senate hearing was conducted on Myanmar and it was discussed to continue sanctions against Myanmar until the release of detained axe-handles in the country. The discussion also included matters for Bush administration to join hands with other governments to take action on Myanmar and to try again to put Myanmar’s affairs to UN Security Council as, according to the hearing, it was threatening the regional stability. Hence, internal and external destructive elements should be opposed and crushed as common enemies in line with the People’s Desire as they are hindering the progress in endeavours of the Tatmadaw and the people in building the Union into a discriminate-flourishing democratic nation. The people are to vigilantly expose the terrorists who are disguising themselves as ordinary people and to inform any suspicious looking ones to authorities concerned. Mass vigilance is required to ward off terrorist destructionists. —MNA
Cuban Coast Guards kill one human trafficker

HAVANA, 8 April — Cuban Coast Guards was forced to fire at a US-registered smuggling boat in the west of the country on Wednesday, leaving one smuggler dead, Cuba's official newspaper Granma reported on Thursday.

The smugglers on a 40-foot speedboat tried to land in Cuba's western province of Pinar del Rio, about 165 kilometres west of Havana. They attacked the Coast Guards when asked to halt their boat, triggering an exchange of fire, the report said.

Two of the three crew aboard were badly injured and one later died in a hospital in Pinar del Rio Province. The Coast Guards said the two survivors were Cuban citizens with US passports.

The Cuban authorities also arrested 20 men, 12 women and seven children who appeared to be waiting for the boat. Two of the crew were Cuban citizens with US passports.

The Cuban Coast Guards said the speedboat had been used for previous smuggling operations, including one last month when the boat attacked and damaged a Cuban Coast Guard vessel.

Havana said the constant smuggling was a result of US policies under which Cuban citizens found on US soil would be granted US residency in most cases, regardless of how they arrived in the country. Those picked up at sea would be sent home.

BAE in talks to sell Airbus stake to EADS

LONDON, 8 April — Britain’s biggest defence firm, BAE Systems Plc, said on Friday it was holding negotiations on the sale of its 20-per-cent stake in Airbus to the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS).

“Discussions are at an early stage and a further announcement will be made if and when appropriate,” BAE said in a brief statement.

“We believe that now is the right time for us to divest our Airbus shareholding to allow us to concentrate on our core trans-Atlantic defence and aerospace strategy,” it added.

The sale, reported to be worth 3 billion British pounds (5.3 billion US dollars), would probably affect 13,000 jobs in Britain.

EADS, which has an 80 per cent stake in Airbus, is Europe’s leading aeronautic industrial group.

Three arrested for killing pasta tycoon in Venezuela

CARACAS, 8 April — Venezuelan police have arrested three persons suspected of involvement in the kidnapping and murder of a prominent pasta company owner last week, the Justice Minister said on Wednesday.

Justice Minister Jesse Chacon told state television that some 10 persons were involved in the case of kidnapping and killing 74-year-old Filippo Sindoni, an Italian-born businessman who had built his fame and fortune in Venezuela with his popular Pasta Sindoni brand.

The motive behind the killing has yet to be decided, personal revenge being a possibility, Chacon said.

Three of the ten suspects had been arrested, Chacon said, without naming any, and among the involved was a middle-ranking police officer from the north-eastern state of Aragua, where the case happened.

The policeman was suspected of providing uniforms and equipment for the kidnappers who stopped Sindoni’s car and ordered his driver to get out on 29 March. Sindoni was found dead a day later in the town of Carora, some 370 kilometres west of Caracas, with a bullet wound to the head and cuts covering his body.

Authorities were searching for the other seven suspects in Aragua, neighbouring Carabobo State and Caracas.

Apart from the pasta company, Sindoni also owned a regional TV station and a small newspaper.

Bird flu kills third Egyptian

CAIRO, 8 April — An Egyptian girl died from bird flu on Thursday, taking to three the country’s human death toll from the virus, the official MENA news agency reported.

The latest death was a 16-year-old girl from a province north of Cairo, who was admitted to hospital on Wednesday.

“Iman Mohamed Abdel Gawad, a 16-year-old girl from Monoufiya, died after being infected by bird flu,” MENA said, quoting official information.

Late on the Wednesday the health minister said a 16-year-old girl from the same province had been admitted to hospital with bird flu after handling dead birds, taking to 11 the number of people the Egyptian Government says have caught the virus.

The World Health Organization has so far confirmed four of those cases as the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus, including the previous two people who died.
Bayern expect Ballack to move to Chelsea
FRANKFURT, 9 April—Bayern Munich are resigned to losing midfielder Michael Ballack to Chelsea at the end of the sea-son. "I'm all but certain that Ballack will move to Chelsea," Bayern manager Uli Hoeneß told Pre-miere TV on Saturday.

Ballack's contract runs out at the end of the season, leaving the German captain a free agent. The 29-year-old has so far re-jected offers to sign a new deal with the Bavarians.

Real Madrid held 1-1 at home by Real Sociedad
MADRID, 9 April—Real Madrid failed to keep the pressure on Primera Liga leaders Barcelona as they were held to a 1-1 draw at the Bernabeu by relegation-threatened Real Sociedad on Saturday.

Brazil striker Ronaldo scored his fourth goal in as many games in the first half to put Real in front, but Sociedad's impressive Mark Gonzalez equalized after the Madrid defense was caught napping and failed to clear a cross from his compatriot Luis Figo.

Inter beat Ascoli to go second in Serie A
ROME, 9 April—Inter Milan put their Champions League elimination by Villarreal behind them with a 2-1 win at Ascoli that moved them up to second place in Serie A.

The result gave Inter five points from 20 matches, eight points behind leaders Juventus and one ahead of AC Milan who host Fiorentina and Chievo Verona respectively on Sunday.

Inter's bid to claim the second automatic place in next season's Champions League group stage is now looking more likely after the victory at Ascoli.

Premier League match reports
LONDON, 9 April—Brief match reports of Premier League matches on Saturday:

Charlton Athletic 0 Everton 0
A point was all either side deserved in a game of little passion at The Valley. Both clubs are comfortably mid-table and raring to go for their FA Cup quarterfinal replay against Middlesbrough on Wednesday.

Portsmouth 2 Blackburn Rovers 2
Craig Bellamy scored twice for Rovers before Bulgarian substitute Stattler made it 2-0. Todorov headed a precious 78th minute equalizer for Portsmouth to keep alive their hopes of avoiding relegation.

The Welshman opened with a blistering run and left-footed strike after 32 minutes. Pompey striker Lomana LuaLua replied with a fine solo effort of his own four minutes before the break before Bellamy swivelled to blast home his eighth goal in eight league games just after the hour. Todorov netted the equalizer a few minutes after teammate Dejan Stefanovic had missed a similar chance.

Inter beat Ascoli to go second in Serie A

Ronaldinho scored a hat-trick as Inter Milan moved into second place in Serie A with a 3-1 win over Ascoli at the San Nicola Stadium in Leghorn.

The Brazilian midfielder scored twice in the first half and added a third after the break to move Inter to within seven points of leaders Juventus.

Sporst edge closer to Champions League qualifiers
LONDON, 9 April—Midfielder Michael Carrick guided Tottenham Hotspur to a 2-1 victory over Manchester City that tightened their grip on a place in the Champions League qualifiers on Saturday.

Canadian defender Paul Stalteri put the hosts in front in the first half at White Hart Lane and Carrick made it 2-0 before Greek forward Georgios Samaras pulled one back for City in the 52nd minute.

Tottenham Hotspur's Jermaine Jenas, left, tackles Manchester City's Kiki Musampa during their English Premier League soccer match at the White Hart Lane Stadium, London, on 8 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Swimmers compete in the Women's 50 Metres Freestyle semi-final at the FINA World Short Course Swimming Championships in Shanghai, China, on 8 April, 2006.—INTERNET
“Casablanca” tops 101 greatest screenplays

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — The Writers Guild of America (WGA) on Friday put the script for the 1942 film classic “Casablanca” on top of the 101 greatest screenplays list.

The screenplay for “The Godfather” came in second, followed by the scripts for “Chinatown,” “Citizen Kane” and “All About Eve.”

Professional film and television writers selected the 101 finalists from more than 1,400 screenplays. Any film, past or present, English-language or otherwise, was eligible. The list covers plays released from the 1930s to the present. Names of the screenplays were sent out last summer asking WGA members to list up to 10 of their favourite produced screenplays. The WGA consists of members of the Writers Guild of America, West, and the Writers Guild of America, East.

“Like a composer of a classic symphony or an author of a beloved novel, the most memorable and moving pictures would not exist without their principal architect — the screenwriter,” the WGA noted in a statement.

“Too often, classic films are linked only to their stars or directors, overlooking the original artists who first put pen to paper — or more recently keyboard to laptop — to create the kind of enduring works that have entertained and inspired generations of movie-going audiences around the globe,” said the statement.

“Casablanca,” written by Julius J and Philip G Epstein and Howard Koch, based on the play “Everybody Comes to Rick’s” by Murray Burnett and Joan Alison, received the most votes.

Here’s the list of top 10 movies and screenwriters:

1. “Casablanca,” screenplay by Julius J, Philip G Epstein and Howard Koch;
3. “Chinatown,” Robert Towne;
4. “Citizen Kane,” Herman Mankiewicz and Orson Welles;
5. “All About Eve,” Joseph L Mankiewicz;
8. “Network,” Paddy Chayefsky;
9. “Some Like It Hot,” Billy Wilder and IAL Diamond;

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake survivors cut log meant for rebuilding their house in the village of Uri, 110 kilometers (69 miles) northwest of Srinagar, India, on 7 April, 2006. ---INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 9 April, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Shan State and lower Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (7°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin State, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (42°C), Minbu, Aunglan and Hinthada (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (0.39) inch, Myinkaba and Katha (0.36) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 8-4-2006 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 9-4-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09-30 hrs MST on 9-4-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 8-4-2006 was (10.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Hinthada (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (0.39) inch, Myinkaba and Katha (0.36) inch each.

Peratures were (7°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (42°C), Minbu, Aunglan and Hinthada (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (0.39) inch, Myinkaba and Katha (0.36) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 8-4-2006 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 9-4-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09-30 hrs MST on 9-4-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 8-4-2006 was (10.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest.

Maximum temperature on 8-4-2006 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 9-4-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 8-4-2006 was (10.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 10-4-2006: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw City and neighbouring areas for 10-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 10-4-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 10-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

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NLD members and the noted persons within the country had contacts with expatriate terrorists

All members of NCUB including NCGUB of expatriate Sein Win, FTUB of Pyithit Nyunt Wai and KNU are actually terrorists

YANGON, 9 April — The following is a translation of clarifications made by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the Press Conference No 3/2006 held at the Ministry of Information here today.

At this press conference today, clarifications will be made on conspiracies of terrorist groups such as NCUB (National Council of the Union of Burma), NCGUB (National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma), KNU, FTUB (Free Trade Unions of Burma), ABSDF, LDL (LA), NDD, DPNS, SSA-S (Shan State Army-South), VBSW (Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors), etc to blast bombs to undermine the stability of the State and harming the lives and property of the people.

Clarifications will also be made on how FTUB (Free Trade Unions of Burma) secretary Maung Maung (alias) Pyithit Nyunt Wai and accomplices who were masterminding terrorist acts in the name of labour affairs, were thrown a limelight on ILO stage as launching political attack against the Government.

In previous press conferences, I had explained in detail how internal and external terrorists attempted to launch a three-pronged attack against the Government; how they synchronized external attack and underground attack when the Government exposed in time their above-ground attack; how they were desperate and blasted bombs when the people did not accept their terrorist acts; (See page 8)

YANGON, 9 April — The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the press conference No 3/2006 to clarify matters relating to sabotage acts of terrorists against the nation and the people, at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street, here, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General Brig-Gen Khan Yi of Myanmar Police Force, members of the Information Committee, departmental heads, personnel of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, information officials, U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and member correspondents, editorial staff of local magazines and journals, and guests.

First, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified matters relating to sabotage acts of terrorists against the nation and the people. (The full text of the clarification made by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan is reported separately.) (See page 8)