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

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

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
Senior General Than Shwe
welcomes back Prime Minister
General Thein Sein who arrives back from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

MNA
Happily participate in Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan

New Year Maha Thingyan Festival will come soon, and Tagu is the first and foremost of the 12-month Myanmar calendar.

In the traditional Thingyan Festival, Myanmar people play with water. They douse each other with water and this helps reduce the summer heat in such a hot season.

This year, Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival will be held on a grand scale. So, the people in Nay Pyi Taw will enjoy the happy occasion of the new year. Maha Thingyan pandas will be built in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone along with entertainment programmes. The mode of dress, music programmes and Yein dances will be arranged in accord with the Myanmar traditional culture and norms.

The Thingyan water is a manifestation of coolness and freshness in the new year. Water can cleanse any impurities. That also means impurities of the old year will disappear and we will be free from all dangers. We will feel refreshed and invigorated.

Each race has the occasion in which the old year passes and the new year comes. They regard the new year as an auspicious occasion. The tradition of dousing each other with water in Myanmar has been rooted in the times of ancient Myanmar kings. Ngewah and Padank are symbolically significant flowers blooming in the period of Thingyan. We, therefore, are to welcome the new year as the national people across the Union happily participate in the traditional Maha Thingyan, cleansing the impurities of the old year.

Formation of political party, continued existence as political party applied

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—The Wunthanu NLD (the Union of Myanmar) and “Wa” Democratic Party today submitted their applications to the Union Election Commission for their formation as political parties.

So far, the number of parties that applied for the formation of political parties has reached 16.

Moreover, among the political parties that fall within the competence of Political Parties Registration Law Article-25, the Mro or Khams National Solidarity Organization (MKNSO) today applied to the Union Election Commission for its continued existence as a political party. So far, the number of parties that applied for their continued existence as political parties has reached three.

Public announcement for remonstration

1. Union Kayin League, headquartered at No (1) Saw Taylarn, U Lu Ni Street, Kayin Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Division, on 8-4-2010 submitted its application for its continued existence as a political party under Article-25 of Political Parties Registration Law. In its application, it is mentioned that the party will use its name, flag and seal described hereunder.
2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who want to remonstrate about the name, flag and seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the date of the announcement.

Successful mines exploration on 24 April

Yangon, 9 April—Mining Engineers Group of Myanmar Engineering Society will hold technical talks on successful mines exploration at MES building, Hlines campus, here at 9 am on 24 April.

Professor Dr. Aung Shien and U Win Myint of CNTIC will give talks on systematic transformation to a successful mine from a mineral deposit.

The talks will cover exploration, investments, drawing the mine design and other related subjects aimed at MES members, new generation engineers and potential mining investors. For further details, dial MES (Ph: 519676).

Contract signing ceremony held between Electric Power No-1 Ministry and CNTIC

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No (1) and China National Technical Import & Export Corporation (CNTIC) of the People’s Republic of China signed a contract for the supply of generators, turbines and machinery to be used in Upper Keng Tawng Hydropower Project at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min and Executive Vice President Mr. Sun Weiming spelled words of thanks. Director-General U Myint Zaw of Hydropower Implementation Department and Executive Vice President of CNTIC Mr. Sun Weiming signed the contracts and exchanged documents. Those present posed for documentary photo.

2697.42 more acres of poppy field destroyed from 1 to 6 April

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Poppy plantations were destroyed in 2009-2010. During the period from 1 September 2009 to 31 March 2010, a total of 16,718.84 acres of poppy fields were destroyed in the nation.

From 1 to 6 April, a total of 2697.42 more acres of poppy were destroyed in states and divisions. Therefore, the amount of destroyed acres of poppy plantations hit 19416.26 in total.

More areas of poppy plantations were destroyed—one acre in Namhkam Township of Shan State (North), 74.15 acres in Phekhon and Pinlaung townships in Shan State (South) and 2622.27 acres in Wangmaw, Chipwe, Patao and Tanai townships of Kachin State totalling 2697.42 acres.
Iraq al-Qaida group says it’s behind embassy hits

BAGHDAD, 9 April — Al-Qaida’s umbrella group in Iraq has claimed responsibility for a triple suicide bombing outside foreign embassies in Baghdad, which killed more than 40 people.

The group, known as the Islamic State of Iraq, posted a statement on Friday on a Web site that carries al-Qaida and other militant statements. The statement says the attacks last Sunday were a “new strike into the heart of the security plan” in the Iraqi capital. It also says “all diplomatic corps, embassies and international organizations” dealing with the Iraqi government are “legitimate targets.”

The embassy bombings are part of a wave of recent violence that suggests insurgents are seizing on political uncertainty after March elections to try to destabilize the country as U.S. troops prepare to leave.

NATO helicopter crash kills four foreign soldiers in S Afghanistan

Jan Rasouli told Xinhua by telephone that the incident took place in Nawkul village, which is close to the provincial capital Qalat.

The spokesman said that the crash was possibly caused by technical problems. The ISAF confirmed the crash but refused to provide more information noting that the incident was under investigation.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmed told reporters by telephone from unknown location that the insurgent group had shot down the helicopter around midnight killing 25 Afghan and foreign soldiers on board. NATO has planned to launch a massive offensive against the Taliban militants in neighboring Kandahar province later this year.

Pakistani troops kill 18 militants in northwest

PARACHINAR, 9 April — Dozens of militants attacking a military checkpoint in a troubled tribal region in northwestern Pakistan on Friday, triggering a gunbattle that left 18 insurgents dead, a military spokesman said.

Lt. Col. Tahir Akram, a spokesman for the Frontier Corps, said the fighting involved insurgents who arrived from the nearby Khyber region to try to retake a checkpoint in the Taliban-infested Orakzai tribal region.

He said the security forces repulsed the attack and captured four insurgents. One soldier was wounded.

Government forces had evicted insurgents last week from the same checkpoint in the Baizoti area. The military began a major operation against insurgents in Orakzai in mid-March. Nearly 300 militants have been killed so far.

Elsewhere in the northwest, police said they killed two suspected suicide bombers in a shootout.

Roadside bombing rocks N Afghanistan, no casualty

KUNDUZ, 9 April — A roadside bomb exploded in northern Afghanistan’s Kunduz province Friday, causing no casualty, a local police official said.

Abdul Rahman Haqsh, deputy police chief of Kunduz province, told Xinhua that the bombing was targeted a NATO convoy which was on road near Kunduz city, the provincial capital.

The attack caused no military or civilian casualty, said the official. No one has so far claimed responsibility for the incident.

Kunduz has been seeing the increase of Taliban militancy recently.

Five terrorists detained in Afghan capital

KABUL, 9 April — Personal of Counter-Terrorism of Afghan Interior Ministry Thursday morning arrested five terrorists including two suicide bombers in capital Kabul, the ministry said in a statement.

“Personal of Counter-Terrorism of Afghan National Police arrested five terrorists driving a Land Cruiser vehicle form precinct eight toward center of the city,” the statement added.

It also said that two suicide vests and explosive materials were found from their possession and thus foiled terrorist attacks.

Taliban militants, who have been relying heavily on suicide attacks and roadside bombings, have yet to make comments.

The outfits’ militia in bloody multiple attacks in the capital city Kabul and Kandahar city in south Afghanistan in February and March respectively which left dozens of people and security personal dead and injured.
Sentiment rises for 4th straight month in Japan

TOYKO, 9 April — Japan’s survey Economy Watchers, showed that sentiment among the nation’s public increased by 5.3 points to 47.4 in March, according to data released by the Cabinet Office on Thursday.

The survey, in which a score of over 50 means people view conditions in a positive light, has risen for four consecutive months, cited the eco-point system and a trend for purchasing cars that are more friendly to the environment as part of the reason for the rise.

On the future, the survey, which asks people in jobs such as hairdressing and taxi driving what they think the general public feels about current conditions, also showed people are becoming more positive, with sentiment rising by 2.2 points to 47 points, while it said that while the situation in terms of employment was still severe, things were beginning to improve.

Juror faints over images of girl killed, eaten

BEIJING, 9 April — The trial of two Russian men accused of chopping up a 16-year-old girl and eating her with potatoes has been halted after a juror got sick when looking at the prosecution photos, according to media reports Friday.

The murder happened in January last year, when the two suspects, Maxim Golovatshik and his friend florist Yuri Mozhnov, both 20, allegedly drowned Karina Barduchian in a bath, then cut her into pieces and served her flesh with potatoes to a lodger.

Ekaterina told the court of St Petersburg that they had a party with their Goth friends on the night of the murder and Karina Barduchian, who was in love with Golovatsikh, stayed over.

The lodger said she heard some noises in the bathroom at night but was stopped when she got up to check what was happening. Next day when she got home from work, the two men offered her meat and potatoes. She allegedly ate it not knowing where it was from.

The men later hid the rest of Karina’s remains in garbage skips, it is alleged. The deputy head of St Petersburg criminal investigations Sergei Strelin said: “They confessed their guilt straight away. They explained they were hungry and drunk.”

New foot-and-mouth disease outbreak confirmed in South Korea

SEOUL, 9 April — A new outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) was found in a cattle farm west of Seoul Friday, less than a month after the South Korean government declared the country clear of the highly contagious disease, the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said. According to the ministry, animals at the farm on Ganghwa Island, 58 km west of Seoul, started showing signs of the FMD symptoms on Thursday, as quarantine officials immediately took precautionary measures by closing off the farm and limiting movement of people and vehicles in the area. The ministry said 10 of the 180 “hanwoo” or Korean beef cattle had shown blisters on the mouth and teats, causing quarantine officials to cull livestock within a 500 meter radius of the cattle farm in order to prevent further spread of the disease.

“Survivor” producer nabbed as suspect in wife’s death

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — An award-winning TV producer has been detained by Mexican authorities as a suspect in the death of his wife whose body was found dumped near the couple’s hotel in Cancun, local authorities said Thursday.

Bruce Beresford-Redman, known for producing popular CBS reality series “Survivor” and co-creating MTV’s “Pimp My Ride” and “Restaurant,” is being questioned by investigators at the office of the attorney general for Quintana Roo state, Mexico, although he has not been charged with a crime. The body of his wife, Monica Beresford-Redman was found Thursday in a sewer at the lavish Hotel Moon Palace, local officials said.

The body bore signs of possible strangulation, but authorities were waiting on the results of an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Iranian women 7th largest cosmetics users in world

TEHERAN, 9 April — An Iranian survey shows that Iranian women became the 7th largest cosmetics consumer in the world, the satellite Press TV reported on Thursday. According to the report, about 14 million Iranian women spend 2.1 billion U.S. dollars on various brands and types of cosmetics annually.

Saeed Samadi, head of consultation department at Iran’s Tose’e Mohandesi Bazaarastaran Ati (Future Development of Market Engineering) launched a survey on the money spent on makeup in Iran. The research also suggests Iran has 29 percent contribution in the 7.2-billion U.S. dollar cosmetics market of the Middle East, according to Press TV.

The research said the high amount is mainly because half of Iran’s people are under the age of 30.
Round-the-world cyclist eyes Everest summit

Nepalese cyclist Pushkar Shah arrives at the President’s House in Kathmandu, on 7 April.

KATHMANDU, 9 April — Round-the-world cyclist Pushkar Shah has travelled to some of the most hostile places on the planet, sleeping rough and enduring robbery and kidnap — all in the name of world peace. Now, Nepal’s best-travelled and most eccentric peace campaigner is hoping to complete his mission by placing the flags of all 150 countries he visited on his decade-long tour on the summit of Mount Everest.

Shah, who returned to Nepal last November after 11 years on the road, admits that his legs have probably taken enough punishment. But he says planting the flags will be the culmination of “my own peaceful battle against the many wars being waged across the world.”

Chavez says US criticism of arms purchases “stupid”

CARACAS, 9 April — Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez called US officials “stupid” on Thursday for criticizing his arms purchases from Russia and said he would keep buying weapons until the country is ready to defend itself. The leftist leader has spent billions on weapons bought from Russia and China since the US slapped an arms embargo on the South American oil supplier after it expelled DEA agents it accused of spying.

“They are worried in the United States because Venezuela is buying I don’t know how many weapons and is arming itself to attack I don’t know who; don’t be stupid, Yankees!” said Chavez during a ceremony to receive the first of eight naval patrol boats purchased from Spain. Following a visit to Venezuela last week, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said sales of weapons to Venezuela “could exceed 5 billion US dollar” and could include T-72 tanks and S-300 advanced anti-aircraft missiles, RIA agency reported.

Oil falls on jobless data, inventory increase

NEW YORK, 9 April — Oil prices fell for a second day on Thursday as soaring jobless benefit claims and a larger-than-expected buildup in crude inventory outweighed upbeat retail sale data.

The US Labor Department reported on Thursday that the number of people filing for jobless benefits for the first time jumped 18,000 to 460,000, while economists were expecting the number to drop to 346,000.

Installed wind power capacity in North China region grows over 40 times

HOHHOT, 9 April — The installed capacity of wind power in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region grew over 40 times to 7.3 million kilowatts by the end of March from 170,000 kw in 2005, figures released Thursday by a local power company showed.

“Around 20 percent of power in the region is supplied by wind as of February. That is close to the level of some of the world’s most wind-power-boasting countries like Norway and Denmark,” said Zhang Fusheng, general manager of Inner Mongolia Electric Power Corporation.

Inner Mongolia has the most abundant wind resources in China. Wind resources in the region that can be developed by existing technologies have hit 150 million kw, accounting for 50 percent of the country’s total wind resources on land, he said.

Portrait of Michael Jackson up for auction online

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — An over-the-top portrait of Michael Jackson is going up for auction online.

The BAY.COM auction of the 50-by-40-inch painting by Australian artist Brett-Livingstone Strong will launch Wednesday evening, the portrait’s owner said Tuesday.

The colourful portrait, titled “The Book,” and reportedly the only painting for which the King of Pop ever posed, depicts Jackson in a red velvet jacket, clutching a journal at his Neverland Ranch. For over 17 years, Abrams kept the painting in storage in a New Jersey warehouse.

It was briefly on display at the Dancy-Power Automotive showroom in Harlem after Jackson’s death last June.

The fantastical painting, which also features the fairy character Tinkerbell hovering in the background, is hanging inside Abrams’ home in Kings Point, NY. The painting was originally sold to Saietti for $2.1 million in 1990. Abrams said the painting was appraised by Belgo Fine Art Appraisal and Restoration at $5.3 million in 2000, but he believes it is worth more now. Abrams hopes it will fetch over $3 million in the auction, which is scheduled to end April 17. The minimum starting bid will be $2.75 million.

First oxygen-free animals found

LODZ, 9 April — Scientists have found the first animals that can survive and reproduce entirely without oxygen, deep on the floor of the Mediterranean Sea.

The team, led by Roberto Danovaro from Marche Polytechnic University in Ancona, Italy, found three new species from the Lorxicifera group.

He told BBC World Service they were about a millimetre in size and looked like jellyfish in a protective shell. We plan to go back and see if there are new surprises for us,” he added.

One of the three new Lorxiciferae (so-called because of their protective layer, or lorica) has already been officially named Spinoloricus Cziria, after the professor’s wife. The other two, currently designated Rugoloricus and Pliloclorics, have still to be formally described.

They were discovered in the course of three oceanographic expeditions conducted over a decade in order to search for living fauna in the sediment of the Mediterranean’s L’Atalante basin. The basin, 200km (124m) off the western coast of Crete, is about 3.5km (2.2m) deep and is almost entirely depleted of oxygen, or anoxic.

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Oprah Winfrey to host new global evening show

**BEIJING, 9 April—** Oprah Winfrey is going to take her career to a new step by hosting a new series on her OWN cable network, according to media reports.

An hour-long evening show titled “Oprah’s Next Chapter” is an on-location interview series, which means she will travel around the world, according to Oprah Winfrey Network, or OWN, the Los Angeles-based cable TV venture she formed with Discovery Communications Inc.

The series, scheduled for late 2011, will air as often as three times a week.

Winfrey, whose syndicated daytime talk show ends in September, will also appear in other OWN programs. “My vision for OWN is to create a network that inspires our viewers and makes them want to be who they are on their best day,” Winfrey said.

The US talk show host announced in November on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” that she would end her popular daytime show because it “feels right.”

The top-rated daytime show is broadcast from Chicago on ABC stations across the United States and in more than 140 countries.

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**Dozens of new cars to make global debut at Beijing Auto Expo**

**BEIJING, 9 April—** Global automobile giants’ attraction to China has been underscored by the fact 89 vehicles will make their global debut at Auto China 2010 in Beijing later this month, organizers said Thursday.

“China has become the world’s fastest growing and most important auto market against the backdrop of the global financial crisis,” Wang said. “Multinational auto giants all eye China as a major source of growth.”

That is why the number of exhibitors at this year’s show hits record high in its ten years of history, he said.

More than 2,100 automotive manufacturers from 16 countries or regions have registered to participate in the show with an exhibition area of 200,000 square meters, according to the expo’s organizing committee.

China overtook others to become the world’s largest automobile manufacturer and consumer last year thanks to a stimulus package, which included sales tax cuts on vehicle purchases and subsidies for vehicles in rural areas.

China made 13.79 million cars in 2009 while sales hit 13.64 million vehicles in the domestic market, up by over 40 percent year on year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

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**Troy the owl scares of heights**

A Thai man has been released from an Indonesian prison after spending three extra years behind bars because of a typo in his paperwork, a report said on Friday.

A photo shows a green iguana being rescued from a dumping area in Singapore. Wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC lists Singapore as among the world’s top 10 wildlife smuggling hubs.

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**Typo costs prisoner three extra years in Indonesia**

Aspiring actor Kamjai Khong Thavorn, 53, should have been released in 2007 after serving a 20-year sentence for heroin possession but a clerical error wrongly stated his first year in prison as 1997 instead of 1987, the Jakarta Globe reported.

Kamjai was released Thursday after he told Indonesia’s justice minister of the mistake during a chance meeting on the minister’s tour of the maximum security prison in Central Java, it said.

“We realized the mistake that was made, so he was released unconditionally,” the prison’s warden, Sutrisman, told the newspaper.

Kamjai has been taken to the Thai Embassy in Jakarta, the warden said.

Officials at the justice ministry and prison could not immediately be reached for comment Friday.

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**14 people die of dengue fever in Dominican Republic**

**SANTO DOMINGO, 9 April—** At least 14 people have died of dengue fever this year in the Dominican Republic, the health authorities said Wednesday.

Health Minister Nelson Rodriguez said 2,000 cases of dengue fever have been registered, 291 of which were the hemorrhagic kind.

He said the country could have more dengue cases this year than last year’s 8,800. A total of 52 died of the disease last year.

Rodriguez attributed the increase of the cases to the drought affecting the country, which causes the appearance of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito that harbor the virus.

Given the situation, the Health Ministry has expanded the prevention plan and raised the red alert.

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**In an imperial yellow coat and stylish shades, China’s dwarf emperor toddlers from his tiny mushroom house to rapturous applause and a welcoming volley of ear-splitting techno music. The “Dwarf Empire” is a popular attraction at a theme park in China’s southwestern Yunnan province.**

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News Album
NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and officials, left here by special flight yesterday morning to attend the 16th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi at the invitation of Vietnamese Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Myanmar Ambassador to SRV U Khin Maung Soe and Deputy Head of the Protocol Department of Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Cao Tran Quoc Hai boarded the plane and welcomed Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

While descending from the plane, the Prime Minister was greeted by Vietnamese Minister of Science and Technology Mr Hoang Van Phong. Next, a young Vietnamese lady presented a bouquet to the Prime Minister.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, who had already arrived in Vietnam, Military Attaché of Myanmar Embassy to SRV Col Tin Tun Aye and officials welcomed the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein took the salute of the Guard of Honour. Later, the Prime Minister and entourage went in a motorcade and arrived at Sheraton Hanoi Hotel in Hanoi where they would stay.

Last date to submit for continued existence as political parties and registration announced

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — The Union Election Commission today issued the Announcement No. 18/2010.

The translation of the announcement is as follows:

Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 18/2010
11th Waning of Tagu 1371 ME
(9 April 2010)

Announcement on the last date of submission of application for continued existence as political parties and for registration

1. The State Peace and Development Council has already issued the Political Parties Registration Law on 8 March 2010 under the Law No. 2/2010 in accord with the Article 443 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. The Article 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law states - “If the political parties existing under the Political Parties Registration Law (Law No 4/88 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council) wish to continue as political parties under this law, they shall apply to the Commission within 60 days from the date this law is enacted. They shall continue their functions in accord with the provisions of this law after the Commission has permitted their continued existence. Failure to present submission shall be deemed their existence as political party automatically null and void.”

3. The time permitted for parties wishing to continue to exist as political parties to present submissions to the Commission in accord with the Article 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law reaches 60 days on 6 May 2010.

4. It is hereby announced that parties that fall within the competence of the Article 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law wishing to submit for their continued existence as political parties shall submit their applications to the Commission in accord with the law and rules within the fixed period stated in the paragraph 3.

By order
Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission
NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended the ASEAN-AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly) Meeting for the Heads of State/Government and AIPA at Room-339 on the third floor of the National Convention Centre (NCC) in Hanoi of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam yesterday evening.

Also present at the meeting were Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR Mr Bouasone Bounphavanh, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan, senior officials of the ASEAN member countries and representatives.

The Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN member countries including Myanmar arrived at the National Convention Centre (NCC) at 2.30 pm. Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung welcomed them. At 3 pm, the ASEAN-AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly) Meeting was held at the venue, and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung delivered an opening address.

President of the AIPA and Chairman of National Assembly of the SRV Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong explained the work being undertaken by the AIPA and future task.

Later, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries exchanged views and the meeting came to an end.

He continued to explain the preparations for registration of political parties and for election, and the election laws issued in accordance with 2008 State Constitution validated by the great majority of Myanmar people.

The Prime Minister had dinner together with the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries.

**Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends working dinner of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended working dinner of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries at Melia Hanoi Hotel in Hanoi of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam yesterday evening.

The dinner was also attended by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR Mr Bouasone Bounphavanh, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and senior officials of the ASEAN member countries.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung cordially greets Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein.—MNA

Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung extended greetings.

The Heads of State/Government discussed concerns about helping each other.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein explained the political developments in Myanmar, stating the announcement to hold general election which is the fifth step of Road Map in 2010, issuing five election laws, the formation of 17-member Union Election Commission for successful realization of election and registration of political parties and situations to organize polling procedures by the Union Election Commission.

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**Prime Minister General Thein Sein at working dinner of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries.—MNA**
Prime Minister General Thein Sein participates …

A ceremony to launch the 16th ASEAN Summit took place at the Main Meeting Hall at 3.45 pm. First, the cultural dance troupe and students sang the song of ASEAN. ASEAN Alternate Chairman host of the summit Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung of SRV delivered an opening address.

Next, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries including Myanmar posed for documentary photo. The Vietnamese cultural dance troupe entertained the guests with the traditional dances and the opening ceremony came to an end.

The 16th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session was held at Room 241 on the second floor of NCC at 4.45 pm, presided over by Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung.

First, the Vietnamese Prime Minister made an opening speech. Later, the Heads of State/Government exchanged views on accelerating the realization of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community and implementation of the ASEAN Charter and the promoting of ASEAN connectivity.

MWJA to hold 5th Conference

YANGON, 8 April—Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association plans to hold its 5th Conference at Karawak Palace Hotel, here, on 9 and 10 May. The delegates from Yangon are to inform the delegate scrutinizing work committee of MWJA on the second floor of Sarpay Beikman, Merchant Street, here, during office hours on 8 May and from other states and divisions at 12 noon on 8 May.

Preliminary work coordination meeting of fifth conference will be held at the same venue at 2 pm on 8 May. All delegates must attend the meeting without fail.— MNA
Death toll from Rio storm hits 175

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 April — A storm which has caused severe damage to Rio de Janeiro state since Monday has killed 175 people, the local fire department said Thursday.

Among the dead were 100 from the city of Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro’s metro area. According to Rio’s fire department, the death toll might rise. The Morro do Bumba area, which has about 200 inhabitants, was hit by mudslides, but rescue teams only found 13 bodies and 60 people alive. Colonel Paulo Machado, head of the fire department, saw little hope of finding more survivors, but insisted on continuing the rescue. “It is very hard to find survivors in such mudslides,” he said. “But hope is still there, and we will keep on working with hope.”

Jorge Roberto Silveira, mayor of Niteroi, declared a state of calamity on Thursday. The entire Rio de Janeiro state has been in official mourning since Tuesday.

Rescuers salvage a man stranded under debris in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 7 April, 2010. According to the latest release from the local fire department.

Former Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren dies at 64

LONDON, 9 April — Malcolm McLaren, the former manager of punk group the Sex Pistols, has died in Switzerland aged 64.

McLaren, the ex-partner of designer Vivienne Westwood, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer last October. He set up a clothes shop and label with Westwood on London’s King’s Road in the 1970s and was later a businessman and performer in his own right. The couple had a son, Joseph Corre, the co-founder of lingerie shop Agent Provocateur.

His agent told the BBC that McLaren passed away on Thursday morning. Speaking to Los Malloy said the artist’s family was “devastated” and “in shock” after his condition suddenly deteriorated, adding: “He had been doing very well, it’s a sad day.”

McLaren’s son said funeral arrangements had not yet been made but his father wanted to be buried in Highgate Cemetery, north London. Playing tribute to his father, he said McLaren was the “original punk rocker” who had “revolutionised the world”.

Security breach delayed numerous flights in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, 9 April — A security breach delayed at least 14 flights at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) early Thursday as three terminals were shut down while authorities looked for a man who didn’t undergo proper screening amid the stepped up security in the wake of a bomb scare aboard a Washington D.C.-Denver flight, airport authorities said.

The affected areas were Terminals 5, 6 and 7 which were shut down around 5:30 am (1230 GMT) after a male passenger was stopped from grabbing his carry-on bag and went on through a second screening, LAX spokeswoman Nancy Castles said.

Terminals 5 reopened at 6:30 am, she said. Screening resumed at all three terminals later but a long line of passengers was still visible outside. These terminals house Delta, Continental and United airlines services which reported a total of 14 departure delays as a result of the temporary closures. The man, who was pulled aside for the second screening, grabbed his carry-on bag and went on through at Terminal 7 around 5 am, officials said. About two hours later, the man had been found and rescanned without incident.

The incident came hours after the airport has already beefed up security in the wake of a bomb scare on a United Airlines flight flying from Washington D.C. to Denver of Colorado involving a Qatari diplomat overnight.

UN climate talks to resume amid fear of more divisions

LONDON, 9 April — The first round of UN climate talks since December’s bitter Copenhagen summit opens in Bonn on Friday with the future of the process uncertain.

Developing countries are adamant that the UN climate convention is the right forum for negotiating a global deal and want it done by the year’s end.

But others, notably the US, appear to think this is not politically feasible. Some delegates are concerned that the whole process could collapse, given the divisions and lack of trust. “There is the political will among developing countries. They are working for an agreement that includes further emissions reductions under the Kyoto Protocol,” Martin Khor, executive director of the South Centre, an intergovernmental organisation of developing countries, told the BBC.

Prospects for a global climate treaty could be streaming away.
Man arrested in connection with East Texas bomb cases

HOUSTON, 9 April — A man was arrested Wednesday in connection with a string of explosive devices and other suspicious devices found in east Texas in recent weeks, the US Federal authorities said. Though officials declined to provide details on the arrest, a newsrelease from the US Attorney's Office said there had been an arrest in a "significant matter".

No information was released on the suspect's identity or motives. Early reports said the man is disabled and uses a wheelchair.

At least 14 explosive devices have been found in the past several weeks, including five reported pipe bombs, according to authorities. None of the devices has detonated and no injuries have been reported, they said.

Several devices were found in mailboxes, from a rural box near the Texas oil town of Kilgore to one on a busy street in the city of Longview. Authorities have said they believe most of the cases are related.

78 SOEs files plans to exit property market

BEIJING, 9 April— Seventy eight state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have filed plans to exit the property sector after being ordered to do so within 15 working days, an official with the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) said Thursday.

"The 78 companies are very resolute on this issue and have submitted their plans to exit the property market," the official said.

The SASAC announced on March 18 it had ordered 78 state-owned enterprises (SOEs) whose core business is not property development, to withdraw from the business within 15 working days.

Shopping malls in Bangladesh affected by power shortage

DHAKA, 9 April — Power supply from the national grid to all markets and shopping malls in Bangladesh’s capital will be stopped at 7 p.m. from Thursday until further order to tackle the present power crisis.

Beyond 7 p.m., owners of shopping malls and markets may operate their businesses by arranging electricity on their own, private news agency UNB reported.

The decision came at a meeting of the Power Ministry Thursday in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who holds the charge of the Ministry of Energy, Power and Mineral Resources.

"If anyone wants to keep one’s own shops or malls open beyond 7 p.m., they will have to make their own arrangement for electricity, “ PM’s Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.

Prime Minister Hasina in the meeting asked the authorities concerned to ensure that load shedding at a particular time does not continue for more than an hour.

Two firefighters killed at Southampton flats

LONDON, 9 April— Two firefighters have been killed while tackling a fire at a high-rise block of flats in Southampton.

 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service said the fire broke out at the 15-storey Shirley Towers in Church Street shortly after 2000 BST on Tuesday.

A further two firefighters suffered minor burns to their hands in the incident and were taken to hospital.

Chief fire officer John Bonney said the death of the two firefighters had left “a devastating hole” in the service.

A spokesman for the fire service said the identities of the killed firefighters would not be released until their families had been informed.

Somali pirates hijack Turkish ship with 25 crew

NAIROBI, 9 April — Somali pirates hijacked a Turkish vessel with 25 crew onboard on Wednesday, the EU Naval Force said, the day after a hostage drowned during a separate encounter between naval forces and a pirated vessel.

The MV Yasin C was taken around midday 250 miles (400 kilometers) off the Kenyan coast, said EU naval spokesman Cmdr. John Harbour, adding the crew onboard the 36,000-ton bulk carrier are believed to be Turkish.

It is the closest successful hijacking to Kenya’s coast, said Karen Jacques of Dryad Maritime Intelligence, but two other attacks on March 31 were much closer — one a mere 85 miles (135 kilometers) from the bustling southern port of Mombasa.

“The attacks were too far apart to be from the same group,” she said, which she said indicates that at least two pirate groups are threatening shipping coming to the Kenyan port.

Somali pirate attacks have spiked in recent weeks and both pirates and navies are becoming more aggressive.

Knife killer sentenced to death for east China school attack

NANPING, 9 April— A former community doctor was sentenced to death Thursday for murdering eight children outside their primary school last month in east China.

Zheng Minsheng, 41, admitted “intentionally killing” the children on March 23 at the gate of the Nanping Experimental Elementary School.

The hearing at the Intermediate People’s Court of Nanping City, Fujian Province, began at 8 a.m. and lasted about four hours.

Prosecutors of the Nanping People’s Procuratorate played 15 video clips, totaling 55 seconds of footage, showing Zheng stabbing children with a knife as they arrived at the school.

Other evidence, including the knife, bloodstained clothes and schoolbags of the victims, were presented to the court.

Zheng told the court, “I’m willing to shoulder responsibility for what I’ve done.”

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**Sleep apnea may increase risk of stroke**

Los Angeles, 9 April — Sleep apnea may be linked with an increased risk of stroke in middle-aged and older adults, especially men, a new study suggests.

Researchers from the Sleep Heart Health Study (SHHS) based their conclusion on analysis of 5,422 participants for an average of about nine years. During the study, 193 participants had a stroke - 85 men (of 2,462 enrolled) and 108 women (out of 2,960 enrolled). After adjusting for several cardiovascular risk factors, the researchers found that the effect of sleep apnea on stroke risk was stronger in men than in women.

In men, a progressive increase in stroke risk was observed as sleep apnea severity increased from mild levels to moderate to severe levels. In women, however, the increased risk of stroke was significant only with severe levels of sleep apnea. The researchers suggest that the differences between men and women might be because men are more likely to develop sleep apnea at younger ages.

**Man jailed ‘with bullet in head’**

Dallas, 9 April — A man with a bullet in his head may have spent the night in jail before getting medical help, it was reported today. Gustavo Bautista, 30, is now in critical condition at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, myFOXdallas.com reported today.

Police said officers encountered him on Monday while responding to a suspicious person call. Mr Bautista told them he had six beers and that someone had hit him in the head with a bottle. Paramedics treated a small wound on his head before he was booked into the "drunk tank," police said. It wasn't until after he was released that a second set of paramedics found Mr Bautista and discovered the bullet. — Internet
Solar-powered plane makes successful maiden flight

PAYERNE, 9 April—Switzerland

At the pace of a fast bicycle, a solar-powered plane took to the skies for its maiden flight Wednesday, passing an important test on the way to a historic voyage around the world – a journey that would not use a drop of fuel.

The Solar Impulse lifted off from a military airport at a speed no faster than 28 mph (45 kph) after briefly accelerating down the runway. It slowly gained altitude above the green-and-beige fields and eventually faded into the horizon as the excellent weather and light wind allowed the plane to keep a straight trajectory. The Solar Impulse project aims to circumnavigate the world with an aircraft powered only by solar energy.

NY fireman gets 25 year life for arson murders

NEW YORK, 9 April — A volunteer firefighter was sentenced to 25 years in life in prison Friday for setting a fire that killed a mother and three of her children, an arson that prosecutors said was the firefighter’s attempt to look like a hero.

Caleb Lacey, who was convicted of murder, continued to insist in court that he was not guilty. Prosecutors said Lacey set the Feb. 19, 2009, fire several doors from his home because he wanted to be the first firefighter there.

Emotions ran high in the courtroom. Children who survived the fire were in the audience, crying. Edit Vanegas, who lost his wife, two daughters and a stepson, was in court but recorded his statement ahead of time because he was too distraught to read it in person.

Prosecutors said Lacey set the Feb. 19, 2009, fire to look like a hero.

Police tell court of body on beach

NEW DELHI, 9 April — An Indian policeman described to a court yesterday the circumstances in which the body of raped and murdered British teenager Scarlett Keeling was found on a beach in Goa. Head constable Kishore Naik and Pt. Atmaram Gawas were on duty when an unidentified caller informed them of the presence of a body on Anjuna beach. Pt. Vishant Chopdekar was instructed to visit the scene, the Goa Children’s Court in Panaji heard.

The bruised body of 15-year-old Scarlett, from Bideford, Devon, was found on the beach in February 2009 during her holiday to the country with her family. The trial of accused Samson D’Souza, 30, and Placido Carvalho, 42, has faced constant delays, but counsel to the Central Bureau of Investigation, S R Rivonkar, said he expected it to be completed by “the end of the year”. The duo, charged with culpable homicide, sexual assault, outraging modesty and destroying evidence, were arrested a month after Scarlett’s death, but are currently on bail. Both D’Souza and Carvalho deny the charges. Pt. Chopdekar, 27, told the court: “We found a body lying on its stomach. The body was naked except for a bra, which was near its neck.” Pc. Chopdekar said. The officers are the first of more than 70 witnesses, including Scarlett’s mother Fiona MacKeown and her Indian boyfriend Julio Lobo, to be examined during the course of the trial.

Chile’s latest quake toll is 486 dead, 79 missing

SANTIAGO, 9 April — Chile’s government has raised the number of confirmed deaths from the Feb. 27 earthquake and tsunami to 486. A report last week listed 432 dead. A report released Wednesday by the Interior Ministry also lowers the number of missing to 79 from 98.

The 8.8-magnitude quake devastated a vast area of south-central Chile, causing nearly $30 billion in damage, according to the government. In the first week after the quake, the estimated death toll rose above 800 due to double-counting among government agencies.
SPORTS

Woods back to golf at the Masters

NEW YORK, April 9 — Tiger Woods returned to the golf at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia on Thursday with a solid start. Woods shot a couple of pars then a birdie at the third hole in his debut after the sex scandal months ago in November. Tom Watson was the clubhouse leader after hitting a 5-under-par 67 but all the focus was on Woods, who was back in competitive action in the wake of numerous extra-marital affairs.

Woods received a big ovation from the Augusta National crowd before he teed off at the first. The four-time Masters champion hit drive onto the fairway and put his second shot within about 15 feet of the cup, but his birdie attempt curled just wide. Woods took another par at No. 2, knocking his second shot over the green, against the edge of a bunker. — Internet

Ashley Cole & Michael Essien near Chelsea comeback

LONDON, April 9 — Chelsea have received a double boost with Ashley Cole and Michael Essien nearing a return to action. The return of Cole, who broke his ankle in Chelsea’s 2-1 defeat by Everton on February 10, will also be welcome news for England boss Fabio Capello.

“Cole needs to train but we hope he will be ready for the Stoke game on 25 April,” said boss Carlo Ancelotti. “He (Cole) is doing very well.”

Chelsea’s defensive options have been stretched of late with Cole, Branislav Ivanovic and Jose Bosingwa all ruled out. However, Ivanovic, who has been out since injuring his knee against Blackburn on 21 March, trained on Thursday and could feature on the substitutes’ bench for the FA Cup semi-final against Aston Villa on Saturday. Should Cole, 29, return on the expected date, the left-back will be able to play in Premier League games against Stoke, Liverpool and Wigan and the FA Cup final, should the Blues overcome Villa. — Internet

Ronaldo admits dodging weight scale

MANCHESTER, April 9 — Ronaldo admits dodging weight scale — he and his coach Mano Menezes are just fine.

“Rumors pinned the striker due to his weight. By knowing, I get rid of weight scales. For my limited action in the state tournament due to my weight. I am not telling anyone. It is not important,” said Ronaldo.

Ronaldo, relaxed and hopeful of winning a little traumatized. I purposely try to avoid getting on a scale. Physically, I am just fine. I haven’t weighed myself lately, but if I had, I would not tell anyone. It is not important. My critics want to run wild with the story related to my weight. I am a little overweight, but this did not stop me from playing well last year,” said Ronaldo.

Ronaldo, relaxed and attempting to take the focus off the fact that his team did not qualify for the four-team playoffs of the Sao Paulo state championship, also stated that he and his coach Mano Menezes are just fine. Rumors pinned the striker against the coach and vice-versa, but he denied any such problems.

The striker also professed his interest in watching soccer on television. He admitted to be a fan of the Brazilian soccer team headed by Robinho, Santos, as well as a personal fan of Argentine striker Leonel Messi.

Cluj stiers crashes to world number 258

MARBELLA, April 9 — US Open champion Kim Clijsters, who celebrated her Miami title by returning to the top 10 this week, crashed out of the Anadoluca Open on Thursday to a player ranked 258 in the world. Clujsters, playing her first claycourt tournament for three years following her retirement to start a family, lost 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 to Spanish qualifier Beatrix Garcia Vidagan.

Seeded three, Clijsters had grown out a three-set win over Alexandra Dulgheru in the first round on Wednesday and looked like cruising into the last eight at one stage. She squandered three points late in the first set and also had her chances in the third before Garcia Vidagan won 11 of the last 14 points of the match. — Internet

Hewitt rallies to reach semi-final spots

HOUSTON, April 9 — Lleyton Hewitt, sidelined in the wake of the Australian Open after hip surgery, shook off the rust to book a quarter-final berth at the US Men’s Clay Court Championship. The defending champion from Australia, who didn’t drop a set here last year, lost the first set 6-1 but rallied for a 1-6, 6-0, 7-6(7/2) victory over Somdev Devvarman.

“Well, obviously, I was a little bit concerned,” Hewitt said of the opening set. He turned things around in impressive style in the second set, but Devvarman, a lucky loser from India, kept it close in the third. Devvarman, a two-time US collegiate champion, twice recovered a break of serve. — Internet

Manchester United to sign Mexican striker Hernandez

MANCHESTER, April 9 — Manchester United have agreed a deal to sign striker Javier Hernandez from Mexican side Chivas de Guadalajara for an undisclosed fee.

The deal for the 21-year-old, who has scored four goals in four senior international appearances for Mexico, is subject to a work permit.

Personal terms have been agreed and Hernandez passed a medical this week. Manager Sir Alex Ferguson said: “I am delighted to have reached a deal to sign such an exciting young striker.”

He added: “He has been in prolific form for our first Mexican international striker to become our first Mexican star. He will be a great asset to our team and we are looking forward to welcoming him to the club.”

Hernandez has scored four goals in four appearances for Mexico.

Internet

Liverpool and Fulham book semi-final spots

PARIS, April 9 — Fernando Torres fired Liverpool into the Europa League semi-finals as Thursday’s 4-1 win against Benfica clinched a 1-3 aggregate triumph over the Portuguese club.

Rafael Benitez’s side trailed 2-1 from the quarter-final first leg in Lisbon last week, but two goals in seven minutes from Dirk Kuyt and Lucas erased that deficit before half-time at Anfield.

Torres added a third goal in the second half before Oscar Cardozo’s free-kick put Benfica within one goal of going through on away goals. Just as Liverpool were getting nervous, Torres struck again in the closing minutes.

Liverpool’s Fernando Torres set up a semi-final clash with former club, Atletico Madrid, after leading the Reds to an emphatic 4-1 win over Benfica. Fulham will take on Hamburg SV in the other semi, after seeing off Wolfsburg. Internet

Robbie Fowler heading to Sydney FC

SYDNEY, April 9 — Livepool great Robbie Fowler is expected to be confirmed as the new marquee player for Australian A-League champions Sydney FC, reports said on Friday. The playing future of Fowler, who turns 35 on Friday, has been thrown open in the wake of North Queensland Fury’s financial restructuring. Reports said the Townsville-based Fury in Queensland’s tropical north were no longer in a position to meet his wages, believed to be about 250,000 dollars (695,000 US) per season.

The Sydney Morning Herald said Sydney FC on Thursday officially approached the former England international striker to replace ex-Australian international John Aloisi as their new marquee player for next season. Fowler, currently attending coaching courses in England, said he wanted to keep playing in the A-League regardless of the outcome of his situation with North Queensland Fury. — Internet

Internet

Liverpoo great Robbie Fowler

Liverpool great Robbie Fowler
Tibet’s tourism sees recovery in golden April

LHASA, 9 April — Tibetan tour guide Nyima took an early morning train to Beijing Friday to accompany an American tour group to Lhasa.

The 27 teachers from the United States are the third foreign tour group Nyima has received since April 1.

“In April last year I received six foreign groups in total,” he said. “This year the number will at least double.”

Nyima said he expects a buoyant tour market until fall. “We have reservations for the next six months.”

As a result, his Lhasa-based company, Xueyu Pandi Tours, expects a 30-percent increase in revenues this year. Nyima said social stability is the main reason for the recovery in tourism.

Xinhua
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

Prime Minister General Thein Sein participates in 16th ASEAN Summit, 16th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony of the 16th ASEAN Summit for the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries and the 16th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session on the second floor of the National Convention Centre (NCC) in Hanoi of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam yesterday evening.

Also present at the summit were Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and senior officials of the ASEAN member countries.

(See page 9)