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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Military Attaché of the People's Republic of China Senior Colonel Xu Shulai and his successor Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives PRC Military Attachés

YANGON, 23 April — 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 received Military Attaché Senior Colonel Xu Shulai of the People's Republic of China who has completed his tour of duty and his successor Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Military Adviser to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein.

Development Council General Khin Nyunt, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein.

MNA

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Chinese Military Attachés Senior Colonel Xu Shulai and Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 April, 2004

For strong national unity

The national brethren have been living in the land on which the Union of Myanmar would emerge for years countable by the thousand.

It is a fine tradition bestowed by the history that the national races have been living in unity in the Union in successive eras.

After the colonialist invasion, they drove a wedge among the national races practising divide-and-rule policy. As a result, there emerged suspicions among the national races.

That was why the national race leaders with farsightedness assembled on Panglong soil and restored the fine tradition of national unity. As a result, the Union made up of states and divisions was conceived and born along with the independence.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, projects for development of border areas and national races have been laid down and are being implemented while making efforts for bringing about harmonious and equitable development across the nation and restoring the national unity.

Therefore, there has now been better transport in border areas, thereby contributing to development of education, health and social sectors and further strengthening friendship among the national races.

Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosted a dinner in honour of cultural troupe members of respective national races from border areas who took part in Yangon Maha Thingyan Festival 2004, at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel on 18 April.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that he was very pleased to see that all the national races stayed in Yangon happily like family members during the Thingyan festival in accord with noble traditions existed in the history and that he believed that they would meet the next time and they are always to safeguard the concept of "Whoever tries to divide us, we will ever remain united."

The government made arrangements for national people to understand culture and customs of a region and to strengthen goodwill during the Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival.

We would like to urge all the national brethren to convey the already-achieved friendship and noble traditions to the respective regions and to take part in the efforts to strengthen national solidarity spirit among the national races and the concept — "Whoever tries to divide us, we will ever remain united".

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်ရောဂါ၊ အသည်းကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS) နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများစသည့်တို့ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည်အပြင်၊ စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူခံရခြင်းတို့ ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှကင်းဝေးစေရန် မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည်သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

People's Desire

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

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယာဉ်မတော်တဆမှုများမှအချို့သည် ခါးပတ်မပတ်ကြ၍ မလိုလားအပ်သော ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရ သေဆုံးမှုများ ဖြစ်ကြရသည်။ သို့ပါ၍ ခါးပတ်ပါရှိသော ဆလွန်း၊ ဗင်နှင့် စတေးရှင်ဝပ်ရှန် အပါအဝင် ခါးပတ်ပါသောယာဉ်များ ပေါ်တွင်မောင်းနှင်စီးနင်းကြသူများ အနေဖြင့် ခါးပတ် ပတ်၍စီးနင်းကြရန်သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ



MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers an address at the closing ceremony of the course. — MOHA

Course on prevention of trafficking in persons concludes

YANGON, 23 April — A course on prevention of trafficking in persons, jointly organized by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the UNIAP, concluded at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

The closing ceremony was attended by MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Khin

Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, advisors and leaders of the work group for prevention of trafficking in persons and the working group for rehabilitation, and others.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivered an address on the occasion and presented course completion certificates to trainees. Next, trainee Daw Khin May Soe spoke words of thanks. A total of 29 trainees from the two work groups attended the course, which lasted three days. —MNA

Ambassador donates cash for tube-wells in arid regions

YANGON, 23 April — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr R K Bhatia and party at the hall of the ministry at 3 pm today. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun, Development Affairs Department Director-General Col Myo Myint and embassy staff. The minister explained matters on efforts for supplying sufficient drinking water in rural regions, contribution of well-wishers in sinking tube-wells and border areas development works.

Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr R K Bhatia donated US\$ 22,500 for use in rural water supply projects in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions. — MNA



The Indian Ambassador hands over cash donation of US\$ 22,500 to Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt. — MNA

Work Group for Prevention of Violence Against Women meets Transport Ministry staff

YANGON, 23 April — Work Group for Prevention of Violence Against Women of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation met with service personnel of the Ministry of Transport at Institute of Maritime this morning.

Present were Vice-President of MWAFF Prof

Dr Daw May May Yi, advisers and members of the group, and officials and service personnel of the ministry totalling 250.

Prof Dr Daw May May Yi gave a speech. Adviser of the group Prof Dr Daw San Mya and leader of the group Director of Attorney-General's Office

Daw Kyin San gave talks on the functions of the group and laws and rights protecting women.

Adviser of the group Daw San San Myint presented K 200,000 for the group to Adviser Daw Malar Tint. Prof Dr Daw May May Yi gave the concluding address. —MNA



MWAFF Vice President Prof Dr Daw May May Yi delivers an address at the talks. — TRANSPORT

The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

Swedish PM doubts June handover of power in Iraq

STOCKHOLM, 23 April — Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson, who visits US President George W. Bush next week, said on Thursday instability in Iraq could prevent the handover of power from the US-led authority to Iraqis on June 30.

"It is difficult to see that there will be an administration to hand over to Iraq on June 30," Persson, a critic of the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, told reporters.

"The country is now in deep disorder, partly because of the strong internal opposition. To believe that such a situation could quickly become a democratic model is hoping for too much," said the Social Democrat Prime Minister.

The United States plans to transfer power to an interim Iraqi government on June 30. But preparations have been eclipsed by bloodletting and hostage-taking this month.

Since the start of the war in March last year, 511 US soldiers have been killed, according to the US Defence Department. More than 100 have been killed this month.

Sweden is militarily non-aligned and has not sent troops to Iraq like its neighbour Denmark, a NATO member.

MNA/Reuters

Germany confirms two missing in Iraq believed dead

BERLIN, 23 April — Two German security specialists whose convoy was ambushed in Iraq earlier this month are believed to be dead, Interior Minister Otto Schily said on Thursday.

The two elite anti-terror specialists were heading from Jordan to Baghdad by road when their vehicle was attacked near Fallujah two weeks ago.

"Unfortunately I have to record, to my great sadness, that these two security officials have certainly...or with a probability bordering on certainty, been killed," Schily told foreign journalists at a briefing. He said he had commissioned an investigation into the

incident but this had not yet been completed.

The two men were travelling between the Jordanian capital Amman and Baghdad, to take part in a routine changeover of staff at the German Embassy.

Dozens of foreigners have been abducted in Iraq amid a worsening security situation in recent weeks, including several who were taken hostage on the dangerous road near Fallujah. Germany, which strongly opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq last year, does not have troops in the country and has ruled out sending any.

MNA/Reuters

ထိုက်တိုက်နင်းနင်း ခိုးယူခြင်း

FM says two Swiss hostages released in Iraq

BERN, 23 April — Two Swiss nationals were released by an unknown group in Iraq after being held hostage for 48 hours, Switzerland's Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey revealed.

The pair, a married couple who worked for a non-governmental organization, were kidnapped on Tuesday by a small band of people, she told a press briefing in Bern, without revealing further details.

Ambassador Peter Sutter, who participated in the news conference, said Thursday that Switzerland's mission in Baghdad helped to negotiate the couple's release.

"We were able to resolve the problem quickly thanks to the good contacts we have established on the ground," said a foreign office spokesperson Carine Carey.

The two ex-hostages had restarted the work they were doing in Iraq, explained Carey, but she declined to reveal who they were employed by. She was equally vague on the circumstances surrounding their kidnap. "They are not very clear," she told AFP. — Internet



A US Army soldier checks the ID's of Iraqis driving into the embattled Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib, Iraq on 22 April, 2004. — INTERNET

Poland, France urge bigger role for UN in Iraq

PARIS, 23 April — The foreign ministers of France and Poland expressed concern over the situation in Iraq and urged a leading role for the United Nations to oversee the transfer of powers next month.

Michel Barnier and his Polish counterpart, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, said they were "worried about the deterioration of the situation in Iraq" and they stressed "the importance of the role of the United Nations" in organising a transfer of sovereignty

from the US military occupation, French foreign ministry spokesman Herve Ladsous said Thursday.

Cimoszewicz told journalists that his country planned to reduce the number of its troops it has deployed in Iraq to support the occupa-

tion after elections tentatively scheduled for early next year.

"After the elections... we believe that next year it will be possible to reduce our presence," he said, adding: "The question is not in terms of pulling out — none of us believe (we will) participate forever." France, which led international opposition to the US-led invasion of Iraq at the UN Security Council, has repeatedly insisted that Washington keep to its pledge of handing over power to an interim Iraqi administration June 30. Poland is a close US ally which has contributed 2,500 troops to the occupation, although its prime minister, Leszek Miller, said this week that Warsaw may revise that deployment after decisions by Spain, Honduras and the Dominican Republic to withdraw from the US-led coalition. — Internet

Foreign hostages released in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Three more foreign hostages have been released by their captors in Iraq, following a spate of kidnappings in recent weeks.

One of them was an Israeli Arab abducted two weeks ago and accused of spying for Israel.

Switzerland says a married Swiss couple were freed in southern Iraq, after being held for 48 hours.

The news comes amid reports that two major contractors have suspended most of their work in Iraq.

About 50 foreigners have been abducted in Iraq in the last month.

One Italian hostage was killed by his captors, and a Danish national was found dead a day after he was seized, but most of the others have been released unharmed.

US company Research Triangle International was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying one of its employees - Nabil George Yaakob Razuq - had been released. RTI Vice President Sally Johnson said Mr Razuq, a Palestinian with an Israeli identity card, had been released earlier on Thursday and was "safe and sound".

Mr Razuq, who was working for the North Carolina-

based company on local governance work in Iraq, was taken hostage on 8 April.

Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey said the married couple, who work for a non-governmental organisation, were kidnapped on Tuesday by a small band of people.

Their release followed negotiations by Swiss diplomats in Baghdad, and both are thought to have resumed their work in Iraq.

Siemens and GE are reported to have suspended most of their work in Iraq because of the continuing insurgency. The reports are being carried by US newspapers quoting officials of the US-led governing organisation in Iraq, the Coalition Provisional Authority.

But Siemens and GE say they will not discuss projects or numbers of people on the ground for security reasons.

Siemens, of Germany, and GE, the biggest company in the US, have big contracts in the Iraqi electricity and telecommunications sectors.

Internet

Romanian firm pulls out of Iraq after attack

BUCHAREST, 23 April — A Romanian private security company said on Wednesday it had pulled out of Iraq after one of its workers was killed and another one injured in an ambush near Baghdad this month.

Foreign firms employ tens of thousands of staff in Iraq working for the country's reconstruction and some have said they were considering leaving due to the growing risks.

New NATO member Romania remains committed to keeping in Iraq around 730 troops it has contributed to the US-led coalition.

The Romanian security

firm Bidepa, which had eight staff working under a three-month contract as bodyguards for members of Iraq's transitional Coalition Provisional Authority, said it had withdrawn its staff until the situation improved.

"The contract we signed with our foreign partner is temporarily suspended because of the situation in Iraq," Bidepa director Dumitru Nicolae told

a news conference. "Our staff in Iraq have already arrived in Romania."

One Bidepa security guard was shot dead and another one wounded when a coalition forces convoy they were protecting came under fire about one mile outside Baghdad last week. Romania's Foreign Ministry advised Romanian civilians two weeks ago not to travel to Iraq. — MNA/Reuters



A soldier from the 1st Battalion 5th Marines with his machine gun at a frontline position in Fallujah, Iraq on 22 April, 2004. — INTERNET

Denmark says Kidnapped Dane found dead in Iraq

COPENHAGEN, 23 April — A Danish businessman kidnapped in Iraq has been found dead, Denmark's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

"There is as yet no information about the perpetrators or a motive for the killing," it added in a statement.

The ministry said that since being informed of the man's disappearance on April 11, it had been in talks with a Sunni Muslim sheikh, US forces and local authorities in order to find him.

MNA/Reuters

Spain to withdraw 1,400 Iraq troops soon for own safety

MADRID, 23 April — Spain's new government decided to withdraw its 1,400 troops from Iraq as soon as possible for their own safety and the bulk of them could be home by May 30, Defence Minister Jose Bono said on Wednesday.

Domestic opponents have accused Spain's new Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of jumping the gun on Sunday by ordering the withdrawal of troops. Sunday was only his second day in office.

"Why was it so quick? For the security of the troops," Bono told Cadena Ser radio, saying Spanish commanders in Iraq had reported 17 grenades being fired at their barracks overnight.

"When Spaniards do not know what their troops are doing in Iraq, then perhaps their troops should not be in

Iraq," he said. Zapatero pledged during the election campaign to pull out Spanish forces if the United Nations did not assume political and military control in Iraq by June 30.

The White House is pushing for a new UN resolution to encourage other nations to help with security and rebuilding in Iraq, but Bono reiterated the Spanish Government's view that this would not meet its conditions.

"I cannot see the United Nations taking command of the troops (in Iraq)," Bono said.

During a month of consultations with allies before Spain's pull-out, Bono said two governments had made it clear to him their forces in Iraq would never serve under foreign commanders. He declined to name the countries.

In an interview with *El Pais* newspaper published on Wednesday, Bono said coalition forces had pledged to protect Spanish troops as they withdrew.

Asked when the bulk of the soldiers would return to Spain, Bono replied: "Perhaps they will be able to celebrate the festival of San

Fernando at home (on May 30)."

US President George W Bush told Zapatero by telephone he was disappointed with the decision, which was followed by the announcement of withdrawals by Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

Spain's Parliament is due to vote on the troop pullout on Tuesday, but the Socialists are expected to win approval comfortably with the support of smaller regional and left-leaning parties. Only the outgoing Popular Party backs keeping the troops in Iraq. — *MNA/Reuters*

ဝက်သ္မန်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Iraqi forces kill four guerillas, seize car bombs

KIRKUK (Iraq), 23 April — US-backed Iraqi soldiers killed four guerillas and seized three cars laden with explosives in a swoop on a guerilla hideout in northern Iraq overnight, an Iraqi officer said on Wednesday.

Major-General Anwar Amin said Iraq Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) forces attacked the hideout 85 miles south of Kirkuk after a tip-off.

The bodies of the guerillas were not identified, he said, adding that assault rifles were also seized in the raid.

Three car bombs exploded near police stations in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Wednesday, killing at least 55 people and wounding more than 200 in the latest massive attack in the war-scarred country. — *MNA/Reuters*

Khatami says US realizes time to leave Iraq

TEHRAN, 23 April — The United States has realized it would be better off withdrawing its troops from Iraq but cannot bring itself to do so, Iran's President Mohammad Khatami said on Wednesday.

"The Americans have understood that continuing the occupation (of Iraq) is not to their benefit but because of their vanity they are continuing with the occupation," Khatami told reporters after a weekly Cabinet meeting.

Some US officials have accused Iran of stirring up anti-US sentiment in Iraq, particularly among the Shiite Muslim population.

But Khatami, considered a moderate voice in the Islamic republic, laid the blame for the increased level of violence and attacks in neighbouring Iraq squarely

at Washington's door.

"We want calm in Iraq and condemn any activity which might cause disorder in Iraq but we say the source of problems is the continuation of the occupation," he said.

The United States and Iran have been enemies since Washington broke diplomatic relations with Tehran in 1980, after militant Iranian students seized the US Embassy and took hostages. Khatami voiced Iranian support for Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, now viewed by the West as a moderate Shiite leader

compared with the firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who this month started a violent uprising against US-led forces.

But Khatami warned US-led troops against trying to storm the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala to flush out Sadr and his supporters.

"If the occupying forces were to attack Kerbala and Najaf they would be committing suicide and mobilizing all the sentiment of the Islamic world and especially Shiites against them," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqis burn a US flag during a protest in the southern city of Basra against US and British forces in Iraq on 22 April, 2004. — INTERNET

Chinese consumers demand right to know about GE food

BEIJING, 23 April — A food brand which contains genetically engineered (GE) ingredients but is not labelled as such will create an unfavourable image among Chinese consumers, according to a recent survey.

Seventy-one per cent of the 600 respondents in the survey, commissioned by Greenpeace and a research institute in Guangzhou-based Zhongshan University, said they would trust a food brand less if it did not declare its GE ingredients. Only 20 per cent said their loyalty would remain unchanged.

Carried out in February by Research International, the telephone survey polled 600 ordinary consumers in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou cities.

Thirty-eight per cent of the respondents said they cared a lot about GE ingredients in food, while 42 per cent showed an attitude of indifference.

Approximately 40 per cent of the respondents prefer buying food without GE ingredients, while some 24 per cent would choose food with GE ingredients.

Nearly 90 per cent of respondents supported establishing a GE food labelling system. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Hong Kong launches mini-card for ladies

HONG KONG, 23 April — Wearing a card may become a fashion for Hong Kong young ladies after the Bank of China (BOC) Credit Card (International) Limited launched the first mini-card in Hong Kong Wednesday.

Less than half of the classic card in size, the baby card can be used as a key chain or an accessory.

The classic and mini-card are under same card account, which ensures easy card account management.

The cards are specially "designed for modern young ladies who are in search of trendy lifestyle and independence", said Dickson So, General Manager of BOC Credit Card. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Contract firms suspend Iraq projects

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Violence across Iraq has interrupted repair on key electricity and water systems and forced giant firms Siemens AG, Bechtel and General Electric to suspend some reconstruction projects, threatening to undermine the critical US goal of rebuilding Iraq.

Even the US Agency for International Development, which oversees some reconstruction projects, has been affected. Some 10 per cent of its non-Iraqi employees are outside the country, either sent out of Iraq or unable to come in because of the violence.

Rebuilding infrastruc-

ture is key to Iraq's economic growth and would show Iraqis a tangible benefit of the US-led occupation, which many feel has brought instability. Iraqis often complain about sporadic electricity supplies in particular.

Staffers for Germany-based Siemens have stopped

their work refurbishing a pair of generators at a crucial electrical plant in southern Baghdad. GE workers have left a project building a new power plant in the same area. Work by Iraqi employees and other foreign contractors continues at both sites.

The plant where

Siemens was working is key to boosting generating capacity to meet the surge in power demand during Iraq's scorching summer. A coalition spokesman said the goal for electricity production — 6,000 megawatts a day — will be met on schedule in June.

Internet

An Iraqi family, displaced

by fighting between

American soldiers and

guerillas two weeks ago,

waits for hours at a US

military checkpoint in

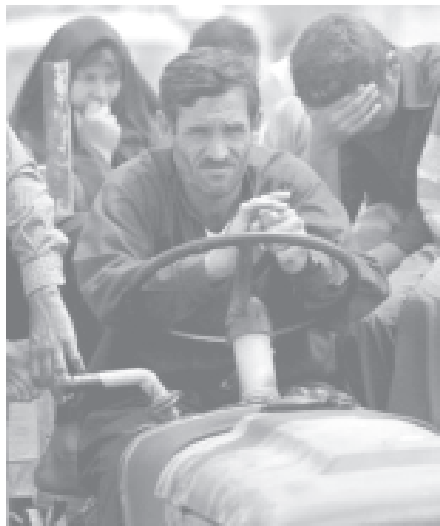
Fallujah in order to

continue their journey

home to Ramadi, Iraq on

22 April, 2004.

INTERNET



Mortar barrage on Baghdad prison kills 21

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Guerillas fired mortar bombs at a Baghdad prison run by US-led forces in Iraq on Tuesday, killing 21 detainees, the US military said.

A military spokesman said initial reports indicated that all the casualties at the Abu Ghraib jail, just west of Baghdad, were prisoners, but could not say if they were held as suspects for criminal or guerilla activities. The spokesman said more than 100 people had been wounded in the attack.

MNA/Reuters

Security remains "constraint" for UN to play role in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 23 April — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday that the security situation in Iraq may continue to delay the return of UN staff despite growing international calls for a vital UN role in the country.

"Many countries are looking to the UN to play an important role in Iraq. We would like to play an important role in Iraq, but the circumstances have to allow us to do that," Annan told reporters.

"The security situation on the ground has a very important impact on our decisions, on our activities," he said, hours after bombings in the southern Iraqi city of Basra killed more than 60 people.

"We hope the attempts to reduce the violence will succeed. Until that is done, security is a constraint for us,"

he added.

While admitting Iraq needs international assistance to restore stability, Annan ruled out again the possibility of deploying UN peacekeepers in the country.

He suggested that the UN Security Council authorize the deployment of a multinational force in Iraq after the June 30 sovereignty transfer.

"There is need for assistance in the effort to create a secure environment," he said. "Some international military presence is going to be required for the foreseeable fu-

ture to fill that bridge, and I do not think it can be or ought to be UN peacekeepers."

"So the Council may have to allow a multinational force to do it," he added.

Annan's special adviser Lakhdar Brahimi will brief the Security Council Wednesday afternoon on his recommendations to form a caretaker government in Iraq before June 30.

Brahimi, who just re-

turned from a tour to Europe, went to Iraq early this month to help Iraqis find ways of establishing the interim government.

Annan ordered withdrawal of all UN international staff from Iraq in October after the UN office in Baghdad was bombed twice. The August 19 blast left 20 people dead, including Annan's special envoy Sergio de Mello. — MNA/Xinhua



US Army troops of the 1st Infantry Division take battle position on a road leading to their base in the Iraqi town of Baquba after their convoy was attacked on 22 April, 2004. — INTERNET

Top US general says cost of Iraqi conflict growing

WASHINGTON, 23 April — A top US general said Wednesday that the Iraqi military operation would cost more money than expected, citing the need to deploy more US troops in Iraq than the Pentagon had planned.

General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the House Armed Services Committee that it would cost an estimated 700 million US dollars just to keep 20,000 troops in Iraq for an extra three months.

"Additional time in Iraq is going to cost us more money," Myers said. "We are working those estimates right now."

The Bush Administration has funded the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with supplemental appropriations that are not included in its budget requests. Congress has passed two bills appropriating more than 160 billion US dollars since the war started last March.

White House Spokesman Scott McClellan said the administration did not expect to seek additional money before January, but President George W Bush "is committed to making sure our troops have everything they need to do their job", he

added. Two senators said the US military will need at least 50 billion dollars to keep troops in Iraq for the next year, and the Bush Administration is trying to avoid disclosing the price tag because of election-year politics.

"Every ground squirrel in this country knows that it's going to be 50 billion US dollars to 75 billion US dollars in additional money required to sustain us in Iraq for this year," Senator Chuck Hagel, Republican from Nebraska, told NBC's "Today" show.

Hagel and Senator Joseph Biden, Democrat from Delaware, said the White House has not sought more funding for the war to avoid criticism in an election year.

"Why aren't they asking for it? They don't know? We already know it's going to cost at least a minimum of 60 billion US dollars to keep the troops there," Biden told the "Today" show.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ to play role in UN meeting of small island states

WELLINGTON, 23 April — New Zealand is being asked to play a central role in the lead up to a major United Nations meeting later this year on the sustainable development of small island states, Foreign Minister Phil Goff said Wednesday.

Goff said in a statement that Associate Foreign Minister Marian Hobbs would be among the inner circle of international leaders overseeing the meeting in Mauritius from August 30 to September 3. New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Don MacKay, had been asked to chair lead-up negotiations.

The Mauritius meeting will give small island devel-

oping nations, including those in the Pacific, an opportunity to present their case to the international community, and to seek assistance to meet the key challenges they are facing in achieving sustainable development, Goff said.

He said a similar process was held in Barbados 10 years ago, but many new challenges have emerged since then, and the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action has not always been adequate.

Diseases like HIV/AIDS are one new threat, as is the international security situation, which small islands have to respond to just like every-

one else despite their limited capacity to do so, Goff said.

The reality is that small islands are especially vulnerable in the modern world, both to new threats and to those such as climate change that were identified in Barbados, he said, adding despite the commitments made 10 years ago, overall development assistance to small island states had actually declined.

As chair of the negotiations, New Zealand will be well placed to focus on ensuring practical outcomes that will help small island states in the years ahead, Goff said. — MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai Airlines launches new flight to Osaka

SHANGHAI, 23 April — Shanghai Airlines launched a new air service Wednesday to Osaka, Japan, offering a daily flight to and from Osaka with Boeing 757 passenger planes.

The new flight is expected to greatly increase exchanges between the two coastal cities, which forged friendly relations in 1974.

Shanghai Airlines has become one of China's major operators of overseas air flights after opening new routes in recent years to Ho Chi Minh city in Vietnam, Phuket in Thailand, Phnom Penh in Cambodia and Vladivostok in Russia, as well as Macao. — MNA/Xinhua

Intelligence says Italian hostages are alive

ROME, 23 April — The negotiations to secure the release of three Italian hostages in Iraq have come to a crunch and the next 48 hours will be crucial, local media reported Wednesday.

According to the report that an Italian intelligence source said talks to free three Italian hostages in Iraq "had come to a turning point", and "today and tomorrow are crucial days, 48 decisive hours".

Contacts between Italian intelligence and the hostage takers had received "special impetus" in the last few hours, the source said, adding that "furthermore, after days, we have had indications that all three are alive".

Another local report said that the head of Italian Red Cross operations in Iraq Maurizio Scelli denied Wednesday that his organization had taken ransom money to an Iraqi group holding three Italian hostages.

"Whoever is writing these reports is placing our lives at risk. We went to Fallujah despite warnings not to go there and we ran risk doing so. We certainly wouldn't have made the mistake of taking money with us and ruin everything," Scelli said from Baghdad.

The Italian Red Cross convoy arrived in Fallujah on Tuesday, carrying medicine and humanitarian aid. Scelli said another convoy would arrive today.

MNA/Xinhua

China's urban utilities open doors to private investors

BEIJING, 23 April — After a year of experimenting, China has decided its policy on the private sector's entry into urban utilities once monopolized by the government.

A regulation made public here Wednesday says that private investors could run water, gas and heat supply, public transportation, and water and trash treatment if they win public bids and get the franchise from the government.

However, they can only run for 30 years at most, and their companies would be taken over if the government believed after a due procedure that they threatened the public security.

"We started the pilot in 2003, and discovered some local governments have given the investors over-long franchise terms or promised fixed rates of return," said Li Dongxu, a Construction Ministry official responsible for urban infrastructure. While giving the government more power, the regulation also protects investors from government's abuse of power, said Li.

MNA/Xinhua



A protester (R) wearing a mask of US President George W Bush aims a toy gun at his colleagues, dressed as Iraqi civilians, at a protest against the US military presence in Iraq, near the US Embassy in Seoul, on 22 April, 2004. The demonstrators demanded the withdrawal of the US and South Korean troops from Iraq. — INTERNET

US contractor fired for military coffin photo

WASHINGTON, 23 April — A US contractor and her husband have been fired after her photograph of 20 flag-draped coffins of US soldiers going home from Iraq was published in violation of military rules.

"I lost my job and they let my husband go as well," Tami Silicio, who loaded US military cargo at Kuwait International Airport for a US company, told Reuters in an email response to questions.

The Pentagon tightly restricts publication of photographs of coffins with the remains of US soldiers and has forbidden journalists from taking pictures at Dover Air Force Base, the first stop for the bodies of US soldiers being sent home.

The military says the policy is in place to protect the privacy of families of those killed, but critics have said the rules are aimed at sanitizing the war for the public.

The *Seattle Times* printed Silicio's photograph last weekend and again on Thursday. The picture shows soldiers tending to 20 coffins completely covered with American flags on April 7 inside a military cargo plane at the Kuwait Airport.

Silicio, who was raised in the Seattle area, was not paid by the newspaper for the

picture, which a friend in the United States, Amy Katz, passed on to the newspaper. Katz said she had since found an agent to sell the photograph.

Silicio's former employer, Colorado-based Maytag Aircraft Corp., a subsidiary of Mercury Air Group Inc., said the couple was dismissed for violating US Government and company regulations.

"Maytag deeply regrets these actions and fully concurs with the Pentagon's policy of respecting the remains of our brave men and women who have fallen in service to our country," said Maytag President William Silva.

The Pentagon has declined to comment on Silicio's case but spokesman James Turner said the policy of media coverage of war dead has been in effect since 1991.

"The principal focus and purpose of the policy is to protect the wishes and the privacy of the families during their time of greatest loss and grief," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Salvadoran troops patrol a neighborhood in the central Iraqi city of Najaf on 22 April, 2004. First Emergency, a NGO in Iraq, slammed the occupation of the biggest hospital in Najaf by Salvadoran troops. — INTERNET

French journalist shot dead in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Masked gunmen have shot and killed a foreigner in northern suburb of Baghdad and severely wounded his translator, witnesses said.

The victim was a French journalist, according to the Iraqi police, but there was no immediate confirmation of that report.

The attack took place near the Azimiyah neighbourhood, where gunmen have recently been active.

Unknown gunmen have repeatedly attacked US military convoys in Baghdad as well as foreigners who have been accused of collaborating with occupiers of Iraq.

Many foreigners have sharply restricted their movements in the capital.

MNA/Xinhua

36 Iraqi militants killed in fighting in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Thirty-six guerillas were killed during fierce fighting in the besieged Iraqi city of Fallujah, a US-led coalition statement said Thursday.

The fighting on Wednesday morning broke out when about 60 militants attacked US Marines with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades in northwest Fallujah, the statement said.

"Marines responded to the attacks with overwhelming small arms and mortar fire, as well as close-air support, killing 36 anti-Iraqi forces," said the statement.

The military reported Wednesday that nine guerillas were killed and three Marines were wounded in the battle.

A truce deal was put in place Monday but the US Army said clashes threatened to derail the peace initiatives.

The return of families to the city was again suspended on Thursday because of the tensions in the city.

Medical sources in the city said more than 600 Iraqis have been killed in fighting in Fallujah since April 5. The US military said it had suspended offensive operations in the city but would hit back if attacked.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi resistance uses bicycle bomb to attack US troops

BAGHDAD, 23 April — As the tension between the American forces and the Iraqi resistance increased, the latter started using such new method as bicycle bomb to attack the occupation forces, said Thursday *Azzaman* newspaper.

In an unprecedented event, the Iraqi resistance used a bicycle placed with bomb in an attack on an American convoy two days ago in Haswa City, 50 kilometres south of Baghdad, said the

newspaper. The bicycle was placed on the sidewalk in the mostly unsuspecting way, said the paper, adding the bicycle exploded causing a big noise, which was heard all over the city, without causing

them any damages.

The newspaper noted that "in spite of the fact that the American forces are being daily attacked by all kinds of weapons, but this is the first time that the resistance use a bombed bicycle, which means a change in the style of attacking those people".

According to the report, members of the resistance have also used many other ways to attack Americans, like carriages and dead animals, which were stuffed with explosives and left by the road to be detonated later on.

MNA/Xinhua

Three foreigners released in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Three foreigners, two Swiss nationals and one Israeli Arab, were released in Iraq on Thursday, Qatar-based al-Jazeera satellite channel reported.

The two Swiss nationals were released after being taken hostage for two days in southern Iraq.

Switzerland's Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey confirmed that the pair, a married couple who worked for a non-governmental organization, were kidnapped on Tuesday by a small band of people. The Israeli Arab, identified as Nabil George Razzouq, was also released on Thursday after being held hostage by an armed Iraqi group.

Razzouq was working for a US company in Iraq. He is a Palestinian holding the Israeli nationality and was mistaken by Iraqi resistance fighters for a spy. Coalition officials have said there are some 40 foreign hostages from 12 countries being held in Iraq by militants trying to exert political pressure on US allies in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Economic growth in emerging Asia to remain high

WASHINGTON, 23 April — The economic growth in emerging Asia is expected to remain high in 2004, based on the continued momentum of domestic demand and the strong outlook for the global economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a report released Wednesday.

The growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) in emerging Asia is expected to be 7.4 per cent in 2004 and 7.0 per cent in 2005, much higher than that in other regions, said the IMF's *World Economic Outlook*.

In Asia, the report said, GDP growth accelerated to 7.0 per cent in 2003, accounting for about 50 per cent of world growth. Economic activity surged in the second half of the year, reflecting both domestic de-

mand and export growth.

Consumption and tourism rebounded, especially in those economies that had been affected by SARS, supported by accommodative monetary policies and increased consumer credit.

Exports were boosted by the pickup in global growth, the upturn in global demand for technology goods and exchange rate depreciations. Imports were also robust, reflecting both the strength of exports and the rebound in domestic demand, so the region's current account surplus was broadly unchanged. Reflecting increasing capacity utilization rates and rising global commodity prices, inflation picked up modestly in most countries, but still remained low. The balance of risks in the short run is on the rise, with the possibility of favourable surprises to exports and capital inflows, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua



A protester protest to demand the return of Salvadoran troops in Iraq in front of the US embassy in San Salvador on 22 April, 2004. The banner reads 'Yankies out of Iraq, Salvadoran Troops Back Home.' — INTERNET

Six killed, 13 injured in Nepal's road accidents

KATHMANDU, 23 April — At least six people were killed and 13 others injured in three separate road accidents that occurred Wednesday in Nepal, *The Kathmandu Post* newspaper reported Thursday.

Two persons aboard a bus died and three others were injured when the bus collided with a truck at Ramnagar on the Mugling-Narayangadh Highway. A 65-year-old man died on the spot and 10 other passengers were injured when the jeep they were taking turned over on the Hetauda-Birgunj Road.

Meanwhile, three passengers including a child died in another bus accident occurred Wednesday afternoon at Ambot Odare in Parbat District, some 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu. — MNA/Xinhua

Those who daren't show their face — 51

Pauk Sa

How amazing the world is! See...the bad guys are trying to threaten the good guys, while the demon is saying prayers, the liar is clever, and the wicked going deeper into committing sinister acts. No human or celestial beings would like their misdeeds, and they will end up in hell.

I read the above-mentioned para aloud with a sad voice after the VOA aired a news report under the heading "RSF demands Myanmar Government to allow press freedom" at 6 am on 10 April 2004.

The brief account of the news report was that the France-based RSF or reporters without borders demanded press freedom in Myanmar, after learning the ban of a magazine featuring political news; that the publishing of the magazine began last year; that the July 2003 issue of the magazine, the Shanpai in Shan language meaning miscellaneous matters magazine in Myanmar, presented an article about the meeting between the AUN national race group and UN Special Envoy Razali Ismail; and that the Myanmar Government threatened to put the editor on trial.

Too bad, the RSF is not only lacking borders, it is also without discipline, rules and dignity, thereby committing a lot of random acts and misdeeds. Pitiful RSF doing wrong things again and again while boasting itself as an international media watch group.

And now, it has demanded press freedom in Myanmar. How ridiculous! It was demanding press freedom in Myanmar where large circulation of periodicals of various categories are publishing weekly or monthly.

The worst is that no Shan magazine by the name of Shanpai has ever appeared in Myanmar. A journal published in Shan language did appear in Myanmar once. But it was banned not because of touching the political issue, but because of misusing the publication permit issued for a political party.

The owner stopped publishing the journal under own volition after the authorities pointed out the misuse of the permit. No one faced punishment concerning the case. So, the gentlemen of the RSF should better understand that their group has become a stooge of the Myanmar expatriates and fugitives, without knowing the truth.

Intel invests in digital home development

LOS ANGELES, 23 April — Intel, the world's biggest chip maker, said that it has made investment in four companies developing technologies for the digital home.

The chip maker said it made the investment through its venture investing arm, Intel Capital, in four companies focusing on consumer electronics networking and wireless ultra-wideband technologies, including Digital 5, Staccato Communications, Trymedia Systems and Wisair.

Intel expects their technologies to help solve problems that are hampering the exchange of games, music and video between multiple home entertainment devices.

Intel said the money came from its 200-million-US-dollar Intel Digital Home Fund it established in January. But it did not disclose how much it had invested in any of the four companies.

"The Intel Digital Home Fund investments we're announcing today support Intel's initiatives to enable people to enjoy digital content — including music, games, photos and video —

on multiple devices in the home and beyond," said John Miner, president of Intel Capital.

"These four companies' technologies help solve key inter-operability, bandwidth and distribution issues."

He said Intel Capital's top investment priorities for this year are related to communications infrastructure, the digital home, modular computing solutions for IT departments, and wireless mobility.

Prior to launching the Intel Digital Home Fund, Intel Capital had invested in several digital home-related companies, including BridgeCo, Entropic Communications, Musicmatch Inc and Zinio Systems Inc.

Intel Capital invests in hardware, software and services companies in several market segments, including computing, networking, and wireless communications.

MNA/Xinhua

It is quite clear. Shanpai is not a legal magazine published with the permission of the Press Scrutiny and Registration Division. But a Myanmar-language miscellaneous matters magazine does come out every month in the country.

There was another point in which an illegal magazine, which wrote that the Shanpai magazine had been published by the Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) under the permit No na/tha at Zaladni Press owned by U Sai Nyunt Lwin since 2001. What they are doing is like making matters worse and causing simple things complicated.

They are claiming themselves to be the cleverest, but doing the foolish. The permit na/tha is issued for political parties to present their policy, ideology and news, but not to publish it for profit. The secretary of the SNLD was misusing the na/tha permit and printing it at his own press for economic gains. True, it is a magazine featuring a wide array of topics without touching the political matter. The SNLD secretary was enjoying all the profits of the magazine including the printing charges. I wonder whether chairman U Khon Tun Oo, knew about it or not.

The Myanmar expatriates and fugitives, without studying or knowing the source of a case, are publishing periodicals of inferior quality and featuring them through the Internet, just to beg money from their masters, but not for democracy cause.

The reporters without borders or the persons without rules have never studied the source and purpose of a news report to verify whether it is true or not. Amazing! Never in my whole 40-year service as a journalist have I met or heard of reporters of that kind. Reporters like those from the RSF can rarely be found in the world. It is great opportunity for me to hear about them.

No reporter or editor of any periodical would feature a news item randomly. The RSF is boasting about itself to be an international media rights watch group. But in reality, it is acting as a broker receiving and distributing slanderous news on Myanmar. I feel sad to find out that it is being cheated and misused.

Now, I am going to conclude my article. The Myanmar expatriates and fugitives are publishing illegal publications without observing the journalism ethics with the sole aim of discrediting Myanmar, and the RSF is distributing the slanderous news reports received from the Myanmar expatriates and fugitives.

All the people of Myanmar including those from the journalism profession know that the shameless misdeeds of Myanmar expatriates and fugitives and the RSF are meant to destroy Myanmar and her people and journalism industry. For reasons mentioned above, they are just like the persons who daren't show their face.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 23-4-2004

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့.
လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နေ့နေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်နေ့နေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီလအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်နေ့နေ့ (၂၅-၄-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ မေလအတွက်
(၉-၅-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့နှင့် (၃၀-၅-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကာကွယ်ရေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုအခါတွင် ရွှေ့ရောင်းရက်လာပြီဖြစ်သဖြင့် ရာသီဥတုပြောင်းလဲလာပြီ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထိုအပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ရွှေ့ထွက်လွန်ပြီး နေ့ကုန်အတွင်းရှိ ရေနံဓာတ်ဆားများ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုများပြားပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ဆုံးရှုံးမှုကြောင့် မိတ်နှင့်ယားဖျားထွက်လာခြင်း၊ ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ မူးမော်ခြင်း၊ ကြွက်တက်ခြင်း၊ ရွှေ့ခြောက်ပြီး ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းတို့အပြင် အသက်အန္တရာယ် နှိမ့်ရသော အခြေအနေအဝတ် ဖြစ်တတ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် မလိုလားအပ်သော အကျိုးဆက်များ မဖြစ်ပေါ်စေရန် အောက်ပါအချက်အလက်များကို လိုက်နာကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) နံနက် (၁၀)နာရီမှ ညနေ (၅)နာရီအတွင်း လွင့်တီးခေါင်ပြင်၊ မြစ်ကမ်းနား၊ ရေခဲပင်သစ်တို့တွင် ရေချိုးခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်၍ အရိပ်ရအေးမြသောနေရာများတွင် နေပါ။
- (၂) နေပူထဲမှပြန်လာပြီး ချက်ချင်းရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၃) နေပူထဲတွင် ပြင်းထန်သောကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်သင့်ပါ။
- (၄) အရက်သောက်ခြင်းသည် အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကို ဖြစ်ပေါ်လွယ်စေခြင်းနှင့် ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြင်းထန်စွာ ခံစားရခြင်းကြောင့် ရှောင်ကြဉ်သင့်ပါသည်။

- (၅) နေ့ခင်းဘက် အပြင်ထွက်သည့်အခါတိုင်း အရိပ်လုံလောက်စွာ ရရှိနိုင်သည့် ထီး၊ ဦးထုပ်များ ဆောင်းပါ။
- (၆) အလင်းရောင်ပြန်သော အဖြူရောင် သို့မဟုတ် အရောင်ဖျော့ဖျော့ အဝတ်အထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၇) ဖွပ်ချောင်းချောင်း ချည်ထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၈) ရွှေ့ထွက်လွန်ပါက ကိုယ်တွင်းရှိ ရေနံဓာတ်ဆားဆုံးရှုံးမှုကို ပြန်လည်ဖြည့်တင်းနိုင်ရန် ဓာတ်ဆားရည်သောက်ပါ။
- (၉) ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ပါက ရေအေးဖတ် နိုင်နိုင်တိုက်ပါ။
- (၁၀) ဆီးချိုရောဂါ၊ နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ သွေးတိုးရောဂါအစရှိသူများ၊ ကလေးသူငယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများအနေဖြင့် နေ့လယ်နေ့ခင်းတွင် အရိပ်ရ၍ လေဝင်လေထွက်ကောင်းသော နေရာမျိုး၌ နားနေပါ။
- (၁၁) မိတ်ဖု၊ ယားနားများထွက်ပါက ရေအေးဝတ်ကပ်ခြင်း၊ သနပ်ခါးလိမ်းခြင်းတို့ကို ပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းနှင့် အတတ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပါက နီးစပ်ရာ ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ပြသပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the project site of Pyuchaung Multi-purpose Dam in Pyu Township.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects implementation of Shwegyin Hydroelectric Power Project in Shwegyin Township.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win hears reports on Kunchaung Hydroelectric Power Project presented by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint.— MNA

Increased in power generation...

(from page 16)

completion of the project as soon as possible.

On completion, the dam will be able to irrigate some 100,000 acres of arable land and generate 30 megawatts.

The Secretary-1 then inspected the project site.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party looked into construction of the main embankment and the inlet portal of the diversion tunnel. They also inspected the outlet of the diversion tunnel.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the site

chosen for a power station to be constructed by Construction-3 of the Hydel-Electric Power Department.

They also inspected the power tunnel outlet.

The Secretary-1 and party arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Coordination meeting for Third MWJA Central Body Conference held

YANGON, 23 April—Members of Central Executive Committee and work committee of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held the coordination meeting to hold the Third MWJA Central Body Conference, to be organized by MWJA in the second week of May, at the hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street this afternoon, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein,

directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), joint-secretaries, CEC members and work committee members.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the MWJA, being a large social organization, was formed

with over 6,000 members in 177 townships out of over 300 townships in the country. Moreover, the association gets in touch with over 53 million people through the literature. It is necessary to hold the Third MWJA Central Body Conference on a grand scale. For holding the conference, all the work committees have made arrangements and ministries concerned are also providing assistance for the conference. After reviewing weak and strong points of the programmes laid down by the previous conference, the future programmes are to be laid down for serving interest of the literature, literati, the country and the people. In addition, it is necessary to

draw the plan for uplift of standard of the press, and the Myanmar literature. Furthermore, quality papers for the conference are to be compiled and requirements of the respective work committees are to be submitted. Next, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) reported on progress in preparations for the conference and future tasks.

Afterwards, Chairman of Management Work Committee, Delegate Scrutinizing Work Committee and Information Work Committee U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), Finance Work Committee Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), Reception Work Committee U Than Maung (Than

Maung) and officials reported on requirements and their respective sectors.

The minister fulfilled their needs.

Next, Deputy Minister

Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials took part in the discussions. Later, the minister gave the concluding remarks.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents K 500,000 donated by Ministry of Information to MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung).— MNA

Donate blood

Commander inspects tax-free markets

YANGON, 23 April — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, commanders of military regions, local authorities, and officials, oversaw tax-free markets here this morning and attended to the requirements.

The commander and party arrived at the tax-free market in Dagon Township,

Yangon West District, at 6.30 am and inspected the sales.

The commander also went to the tax-free markets in Kamayut, Mayangon, Yankin, Tamway and Kyimyindine townships. At the markets, the commander looked into the shops opened by ministries, Yangon City Development Committee and other private companies.

The commander was conducted round the markets by officials concerned.

Giving instructions to officials, the commander spoke of the need to open the markets daily and sell fresh vegetables, meat and fish, to keep the markets clean and pleasant by adopting the proper garbage-dumping system, and to place emphasis on maintenance of shops for their durability. After hearing the reports presented by market officials concerned, the commander fulfilled to the requirements.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the tax-free market in Yangon City.

YANGON COMMAND

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang speaking at the coordination meeting to review works of the Ministry of Industry-1. — INDUSTRY-1



Important role of industries emphasized

YANGON, 23 April — Staff should understand the important role of industries in the national development drive, said Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang at his meeting with officials this morning. As the industries are also advancing together with the national development drive, the ministry staff will have to expedite their task in accord with the time and condition, the minister pointed out.

At the meeting, the minister, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, heads of departments and enterprises under the ministry and other officials reviewed the work done in 2003-2004 and sought means for successful realization of the goals for fiscal 2004-2005.

The Head of State is making efforts for development and modernization of the nation, the minister said, adding, the ministry is also implementing 30-year plans for industrial development. As they are working in the interest of the State, the staff should enhance their efficiency and should work with goodwill, he stressed. —MNA

Golden jubilee of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory held

YANGON, 23 April — The ceremony to mark the golden jubilee of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries was held at the hall of the factory in Gyogon, Insein Township, this morning, attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang and wife.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors under the ministry, retired

factory managers and deputy factory managers of the MPF and guests.

On behalf of the factory manager, Deputy Factory Manager U Win Aung extended greetings. Next, Managing Director U Myint Oo presented prizes to senior workers. Deputy Factory Manager U Win Aung gave away prizes to winners in the quiz. Later, staff members presented songs and dances to the guests. —MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses annual ceremony of Printing and Publishing Enterprise. — MNA

Minister inspects test running of mini-rice mill

YANGON, 23 April — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun looked into test running of six-ton rice mill of the main workshop of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading on Upper Pazundaung Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this afternoon.

Managing Director U Min Hla Aung and officials conducted the minister round the mill. The minister gave instructions on taking extended innovative measures for development of milling industry and manufacturing of import-substitute items. — MNA

Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 23 April — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone met the visiting business delegation led by Mr Yang Chong Hui, Chairman of Yunnan Provincial Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, CPPCC, at the Ministry of Commerce on Strand Road here at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Border Trade Department Director General U Nay Win, Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading Managing Director U Min Hla Aung and officials. — MNA

Sports Minister receives guests

YANGON, 23 April — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint receives the visiting Chinese delegation led by Mr Cheng Liangzhou, Deputy General Secretary of Guangdong Province of the People's Republic of China at Kyaukse Hall, National Sports Stadium-1, at 9 am today. Also present at the call were officials of the Ministry of Sports, the chairman of Myanmar Wushu Federation and officials of Chinese Embassy. During their meeting, they discussed co-operation of sports activities between the two countries. The delegation watched skill demonstration by athletes of Myanmar Chinlon Federation, Myanmar Martial Arts Federation and Myanmar Wushu Federation. — MNA

Minister for Mines receives guests

YANGON, 23 April — Mr Yang Chong Hui, Chairman of Yunnan Provincial Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, CPPCC, and party, called on Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint at the latter's office at 10 am today.

Present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry. During their meeting, they discussed mining co-operation between the two countries. —MNA

Enterprise of the Ministry of Information held prize presentation ceremony (2003-2004) in conjunction with providing cash assistance to the school children of the staff at the PPE on Theinbyu Road here this morning. It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads, officials, guests and service personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that only when the staff are thoroughly realized the objectives of the State and the ministry, will they be able to carry out tasks with a sense of duty. The government has been translating the State's national objective — prevalence of peace and sta-

bility and building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation — for 15 years hand in hand with the people, he said. Now, almost all the groundwork has been laid, which is needed for development of the nation, he said. Based on the already-achieved success, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, emphasis is placed on greater development of the industrial and electric power sectors, border areas development sector and transforming the conventional farming into mechanized farming in 2004-2005. In this regard, the staff are to make efforts by doing their bit for success of the tasks, he said. The ministry's seven objectives for 2004-2005 and those of the PPE are to be accomplished through the endeavours of the service personnel, he urged.

Next, the minister presented cash awards to six personnel who won good service medals, four who won medal for outstanding performance in industrial field and two, in social field. The deputy ministers, Managing Director U Myint Thein and officials presented uniforms to outstanding personnel and cash assistance to the school children with a total value of over K 14.5 million. —MNA

Outstanding service personnel honoured

YANGON, 23 April — The Printing and Publishing

ICO special meeting on Middle East begins

PUTRAJAYA (Malaysia), 23 April — The Organization of Islamic Conference's (ICO) special meeting on the Middle East began at Putrajaya Convention Centre on Thursday.

Malaysian Prime Minister and Chair of the 57-member ICO, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, opened the one-day meeting attended by foreign ministers and ambassadors of 13 member states.

They are Qatar, Malaysia, Senegal, Sudan, Iran, Turkey, Guinea, Pakistan, Palestine, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Indonesia. Abdullah expressed the hope that ICO would find ways to resolve the Palestinian and Iraqi conflicts.

ICO, consisting of 57 Islamic countries the worldwide, was set up in 1970 to boost political, economic and social cooperation

among member states and support the justice struggle by the Palestinians.

All sessions at this special meeting would be closed-door except the opening and closing ceremonies. The meeting will discuss the Palestine conflict in the morning and the Iraqi crisis in the afternoon.

The meeting is expected to issue a declaration on Palestine, calling on Israel to respect International Law, and come up with a statement on Iraq, urging the United Nations to play a pivotal role to restore peace and stability in the war-torn country.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia, Singapore sign agreement on telecommunications

JAKARTA, 23 April — Indonesia and Singapore signed Wednesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on telecommunications equipment conformity testing, becoming the first among the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) members with such a bilateral agreement.

Singapore's Director-General of Infocomm Development Authority Leong Keng Thai and Indonesia's Director-General of Post and Telecommunications Djahhari Sirat signed the agreement in Jakarta, *The Jakarta Post* reported Thursday.

Quoting an Infocomm release as saying, the report said telecommunications equipment must be tested against the standards of the importing country before they can be approved for sale and distribution. Testing is usually undertaken by an accredited laboratory based in the receiving country. Under the MoU, equipment testing can be conducted at any laboratory based anywhere in the world, as long as it is recognized by the importing country.

The MoU will enhance Indonesia's telecommunications equipment imports and exports, as tests by accredited laboratories will help avoid duplicate testing.

It will also offer faster market entry to telecommunications business at reduced costs, saving up to 45 days' delivery time and up to 700 Singaporean dollars (416.60 US dollars) per model.

In 2003, Singapore's telecommunications equipment trade with Indonesia respectively accounted for 8.3 per cent and 10.1 per cent of Singapore's total imports and exports.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai banking industry posts impressive 1st quarter results

BANGKOK, 23 April — The Thai banking industry posted impressive first quarter operating results with an 88-per-cent increase in net profit or about 12 billion baht (307.692 million US dollars) up from the same quarter last year.

The 13 banks in the sector altogether contributed 25 billion baht (641.025 million US dollars) in net profit, compared with 13 billion baht (333.333 million US dollars) in the first quarter in 2003, according to on-line news Business Day on Thursday. Among those banks, Bank Thai Plc (BT) had the most favourable growth ratio with a 425-per-cent leap in net profit.

Calculated from profit figures, Siam Commercial Bank Plc (SCB) had the biggest gain in the industry with 6.8 billion baht (174.358 million US dollars), or a 123-per-cent rise.

MNA/Xinhua

More business deals struck at 95th China Export Commodity Fair

GUANGZHOU, 23 April — Business deals worth 14.89 billion US dollars were struck at the first phase of the 95th China Export Commodity Fair that opened last Thursday in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

The volume of business shows a rise of 14.5 per cent according to comparable figure of the previous fair, said Xu Bing, the spokesman for the fair.

According to Xu, 91,511 businessmen from 200 countries and regions visited the first phase of the two-segment fair, up 8.3 per cent. European Union, the United States and the Middle East are placed ahead of other regions in terms of business deals. Manufactured goods, textile and garments, foodstuffs and medicine were showcased at the first stage of the fair, which ran from April 15-20.

In the second stage, from April 25 to 30, souvenirs and gifts, and commodities for daily use will be exhibited.

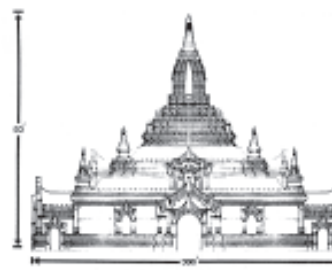
China (Guangzhou) Export Commodity Fair, a biannual event held in spring and autumn, is dubbed the "weatherglass" of the country's foreign trade. Business deals worth 20.49 billion US dollars were struck at the 94th China Export Commodity Fair.

MNA/Xinhua

တကောင်းမြို့ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတရားကြီး ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် တည်ဆောက်ရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ငါးဝင်လှူ နှိပ်နင်း



အေဒီ(၁၁)ရာစု အစောပိုင်းကတည်းကတော့ တည်ဆောက်ထားတဲ့ နတ်တော်တော်ကြီးကြီးတွေကို ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် တည်ဆောက်ရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ငါးဝင်လှူ နှိပ်နင်းတာကို တားမြစ်ပေးဖို့ အမိန့်ချခဲ့တာပါ။



အုတ်တစ်ချပ် (၁၂ x ၉ x ၃) - ၄၆/-
သံလေးမြစ်တစ်ချပ် - ၄၀၀/-
သံတစ်ချပ် - ၆၀၀/-
မြစ်ကျောက် (အစေး) တစ်ချပ် - ၂၀၀၀/-
သုံး (တစ်ချပ်) - ၁၀၀/-
သံကျောက်ပြား တစ်ချပ် (၁၂ x ၁၂) - ၅၀/-

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန (ဝန်ကြီးရုံး)

မှန်း ၅၄၃၂၃၅ ၅၄၃၂၃၄

စုစုပေါင်းသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန (ရုံးချုပ်)

မှန်း ၅၁၀၄၀၁ ၅၁၀၄၀၂

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအမွေအနှစ်ဒေသဌာန (မန္တလေး)

မှန်း ၁၂-၃၆၆၅၅ ၁၂-၃၆၆၅၆

တကောင်းမြို့ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတရားကြီး ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် တည်ဆောက်ရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ငါးဝင်လှူ နှိပ်နင်း

Thailand likely to sign FTA with Australia in mid 2004

BANGKOK, 23 April — Thailand and Australia are likely to sign their bilateral free trade area agreement (FTA) in mid 2004, which will be effective as of January 1, 2005, according to the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand.

Under the FTA pact, which will be Thailand's first free trade agreement covering a comprehensive list of goods and services, the two countries will eliminate import tariffs on most products by 2010, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement released here Thursday.

Thailand has signed FTAs with India and China, but they are limited to certain sectors.

Australia has agreed to bring tariffs down to 0

per cent for over 5,000 import items, or 85 per cent of the products it totally imports from Thailand, including fruits, vegetables and automobiles.

Thailand, on the other hand, has agreed to eliminate tariffs on 50 per cent of imports from Australia next year, including fuel and chemical products.

The two countries are required to eliminate the import tariffs on almost all products by 2010.

However, both countries can temporarily resume higher tariffs on specific products.

Last year, trade between Thailand and Australia amounted to around 150 billion baht, or about 3.85 billion US dollars.

Thailand expects to sign more FTAs with Japan and Bahrain this year, and with the United States and Peru next year, according to the Commerce Ministry statement. — MNA/Xinhua

Dominican Republic's 300 troops to leave Iraq in two weeks

SANTO DOMINGO (Dominican Republic), 23 April — The Dominican Republic's 300 troops in Iraq will be returning home in two weeks or less, the government said on Thursday, confirming that Caribbean nation is pulling out of the US-led coalition as soon as possible.

"President Hipolito Mejia's desire, and ours, is that they return as rapidly as possible," the secretary of the Armed Forces, Jose Miguel Soto Jimenez, told a local television station.

"The Dominican troops will return in two weeks, possibly before,"

Soto Jimenez said.

Mejia's government said on Tuesday it would remove its troops as soon as possible, and Honduras also said this week it would bring home its 370 troops.

The decision by the Latin American countries followed Spain's move to remove its troops.

Spain, with 1,400 soldiers in Iraq, has been in charge of troops from the Spanish-speaking nations the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

MNA/Reuters

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ - ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ အာဟာရ ကိုယ်စားပြုမှု၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသမေ ပြည့်ဝခြင်းတို့ ဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန်ရှင်းမှုကို ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့် လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ သင့်တော်မှုတရားကို ထိန်းသိမ်းစောင့်ရှောက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) မြင်အန္တရာယ်မှကွာကွယ်ရန် မြင်ထောင်ခြင်းအိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသဘောကို ချစ်ပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်တိုမြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှု ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

That blackout was described as Singapore's biggest in 12 years. — *MNA/Xinhua*

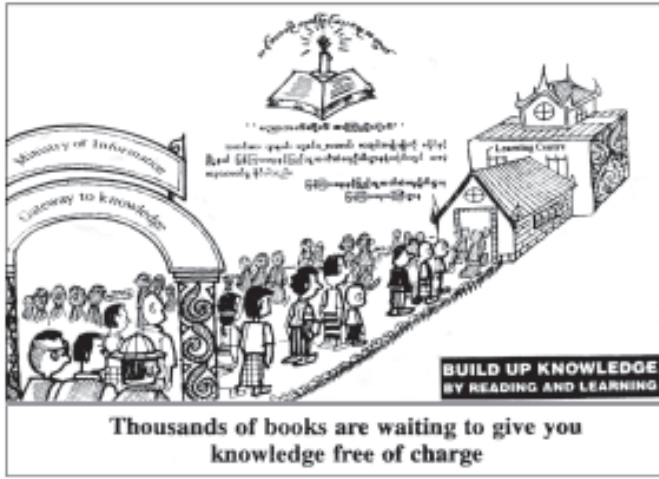
MNA/Reuters

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

MNA/Xinhua

မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ် လူ့ရန်စွယ်
ကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက် လက်ချင်းဆက်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. QING CHUN MEN Voy No (071) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-4-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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INVITATION FOR TENDER No. 001/M/E/2004-2005

Sealed Tender from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of Reconditioned HO 7C/HO 7D, Engine Ass'y (HP 175) Gear Box Ass'y (46) Sets & Reconditioned Hino/Nissan Rear Axle Ass'y (Capacity - 14 Ton) (Gear Ratio 41:6) (47) Sets prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats - Yangon.

- Tender Documents are available at the Office of procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon - Myanmar, Commencing on 26th; April 2004.
- Tender will be closed on 4th; May 2004 at 12:00 hours.
- The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders without furnishing reasons.
- Detailed information will be available at the Office of the procurement & Stores Department, or contact Phone Nos. (01) 252574 or (01) 376549.

**Managing Director,
Road Transport.**

Israeli army kills three militants in West Bank

TULKARM (West Bank), 23 April — Israeli troops shot dead on Thursday three wanted Palestinian militants in the West Bank town of Tulkarm, Palestinian medical sources said.

Witnesses said Israeli soldiers raided the town at dawn and started shooting intensively. The medical sources said all three men were wanted militants from the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of Palestinian chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah group. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli Army.

One of the militants had been shot at close range in the head and stomach, medics said. It was unclear whether the men were armed at the time of the shooting.

The shootings occurred one day after Israeli soldiers killed nine Palestinians, including four gunmen, during a raid in the town of Bet Lahiya in the Gaza Strip.

The Army said it was searching for militants firing makeshift rockets at Israeli towns and Jewish settlements in Gaza. During the raid, troops came under heavy fire from gunmen. —MNA/Reuters

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 24 April 2004

Rainstorm kills three in south Nigeria

LAGOS, 23 April — At least three people were feared dead in a rainstorm that hit Izzi of Ebonyi State, south Nigeria, the *News Agency of Nigeria* reported Wednesday.

Joseph Nwaonuma, chairman of the Izzi local government, was quoted as saying that the rainstorm hit the area on Tuesday, which also claimed about 1,000 people injured.

According to the official, seven communities in the state were affected including Iboko, Ikellagu, Ndiogbi, Mgbalukwu, Ndubia, Igbeagu and Ndi-Nwuda.

"Almost all the buildings in the council's headquarters were badly damaged, including the administrative block, legislative block, health department and the chairman's residential quarters," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Annan urges Cypriots to vote for unity plan

UNITED NATIONS, 23 April — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed on Wednesday to Cypriots to vote for the UN's Cyprus unification plan, warning of "extremely difficult" prospects of unifying the island state otherwise.

Speaking to reporters at the UN Headquarters in New York, Annan said that the Saturday referenda in the divided-Cyprus would go ahead as scheduled.

"The request for postponement has not come from any of the main protagonists. The parties to the talks have not called for a postponement and therefore we are not considering that," he said.

He said Cypriots should

realize that they would make a historic decision on Saturday, which would "allow a reunited Cyprus to find its place in Europe" or "maintain the division that has existed for so long".

"I hope they will really, really think hard before they cast their vote," he stressed. "This is an opportunity I hope they will not miss."

If the unity plan is rejected, Annan warned, "the plan will be dead, and my role (as mediator) would have ended".

"This does not mean that they (Cypriots) may not try and find other means of moving forward. But I think it's going to be extremely difficult," Annan said the international community has ex-

pressed lots of support for a reunited Cyprus entering the European Union on May 1, with assurances given on economic aid and the UN Security Council's indicating willingness to send peacekeepers.

The Security Council is currently holding intense consultations on a draft resolution which would endorse the unity plan and create a new peacekeeping mission for Cyprus.

The unity plan, if approved in the Saturday referenda, will allow a unified Cyprus to join the European Union on May 1. Otherwise, the block will only admit the internationally-recognized Greek Cypriot government. —MNA/Xinhua

Putin vows to develop Russia-EU relations

MOSCOW, 23 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia holds a positive attitude to the enlargement of the European Union (EU), and vowed to enhance economic, humanitarian, law enforcement and anti-terrorist cooperation with the bloc.

Speaking at a joint Press conference held with visiting Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, Putin said cooperation between Russia and the EU "develops dynamically on the whole", the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported.

He said Russia's ongoing dialogue with the EU — which is scheduled to add 10 new members on May 1 and will push eastward its influence to Russia's borders —

has "become more constructive" after experiencing difficulties.

Putin also expressed his belief that both Russia and the EU will find mutually acceptable solutions to the concerns that Moscow holds over the EU's expansion.

"There are no problems that cannot be settled," *Interfax* quoted Putin as saying.

On his part, Berlusconi, who arrived here Tuesday for a two-day visit, said he will continue working to bring Russia and the EU closer.

"Only with Russia can the EU develop into a greater Europe that can loudly express its opinion about world affairs and become a true partner of the United States,"

the Italian Prime Minister said.

Earlier, when attending an opening ceremony of an Italian washing machine plant in the city of Lipetsk, some 400 kilometres south of Moscow, Berlusconi pledged to stimulate Italian investment and to open more enterprises in Russia.

Putin welcomed more investment from Italy, which he said is Russia's second largest trade partner, and vowed to continue creating a "comfortable" economic, administrative and cultural environment for foreign investors.

Reports here said the two leaders have developed a close personal friendship and Berlusconi is seen as one of Putin's closest allies in Europe. —MNA/Xinhua

Briton returns Malta library book after 42 years

VALETTA, 23 April — A former British Royal Air Force employee has returned a history book to the Malta public library 42 years after he borrowed it and was given a cup of coffee instead of a fine.

Ernie Roscouet, a resident of the Channel Islands, inadvertently packed the book when he left Malta in June 1962 and returned it when his wife gave him a holiday to Malta as his 65th birthday present.

"It's actually been on my conscience all this time," he told the *Times of Malta* newspaper. Although he expected a fine he was given a cup of coffee instead.

"Perhaps this story will encourage others to bring back overdue books," librarian Joe Debattista said.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria arrests 15 fake drug dealers

ABUJA, 23 April — Nigerian National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has arrested 15 persons in connection with the importation and distribution of 7.5 million naira (about 55,550 US dollars) worth of fake drugs in the country.

A statement issued by the NAFDAC Wednesday in the Nigerian capital Abuja said that the suspects were apprehended at the Onitsha Bridge head market in Anambra, south Nigeria.

The statement said the suspects were arrested following an intensive surveillance carried out by the agency.

Director of NAFDAC Enforcement Directorate Dioka Ejionueme led the operation. He was quoted as saying the shops and warehouses belonging to the suspects had been shut down.

The statement said anti-

biotics and other fast selling medicines were seized from the offenders. The over 50 brands of fake drugs impounded include Ampiclox capsules, Cataflam tablets, Moduretic tablets, Augmentin Injection, Tetracycline capsules, Ashmanol tablets and Halfan syrup.

The arrest of the suspects attested to NAFDAC's resolve to forge ahead with its battle against fake drugs "even in the face of threats to the lives of the leadership and properties of the agency", said Ejionueme.

About 80 per cent of drugs in all major pharmacy shops in Lagos, the largest commercial city in the country, were fake or counterfeit. Worse still, at least 7 per cent out of the fake or counterfeit drugs are dangerous.

MNA/Xinhua

DON'T SMOKE

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Hours after the two-man crew of astronaut Edward M. Fincke (L) and cosmonaut Gennady I. Padalka arrived at the International Space Station, one of the gyroscopes that keeps the orbiting outpost steady failed, and NASA said on 22 April, 2004 that a spacewalk would be needed to fix it. The gyroscope problem stemmed from an underlying failure in a circuit breaker on one of the external girders on the station, a NASA space station manager said. Fincke and Padalka pose for their crew portrait in Star City, Russia in March 2004. — INTERNET

Over 600 million urgently need effective malaria treatment

GENEVA, 23 April—More than 600 million people, most of them children living in sub-Saharan Africa, face the daily threat of death from malaria because new, effective treatments are not available where they live, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Thursday.

Existing, cheaper medicines, which have been used for many years, are no longer effective in most places because the malaria parasite has developed resistance to them, the UN agency said.

"At least one million children die every year in Africa from malaria. Several million more become seriously ill. In many places, they are still given medicines whose effectiveness is very low and decreasing," said WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook.

"Better treatment is available and must be delivered urgently to the people who

need it most," he said.

Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) provide a highly effective new medicine to treat malaria for the first time in more than 20 years. But despite some progress, the new treatment has not become available as widely or as quickly as it needs to. Since April 2001, WHO has strongly recommended that countries where there is resistance to conventional treatments should switch to ACTs.

However, at around two US dollars for an adult dose, ACTs cost 10 to 20 times as much as the old monotherapies such as chlo-

roquine. For most countries in Africa, external funding will be required.

In 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB (tuberculosis) and Malaria started to make significant funds available to countries in need. Since then, 15 countries in Africa and 14 countries outside Africa have started using ACTs.

WHO's renewed call for a more rapid change to ACTs comes as the world commemorates Africa Malaria Day on April 25. This year's theme is "children for children to roll back malaria". Young children under five are the main victims of malaria.

MNA/Xinhua

Study blames corn syrup for rise of diabetes in US

WASHINGTON, 23 April—Corn syrup and other refined foods may be much to blame for the huge increase in Type-2 diabetes in the United States over the past few decades, US researchers said on Thursday.

A study of nearly 100 years of data on what Americans eat show a huge increase in processed carbohydrates, especially corn syrup, and a large drop in the amount of fibre from whole grains, fruits and vegetables.

It parallels a spike in the number of cases of Type-2 diabetes, caused by the body's increasing inability to properly metabolize sugars.

Mexico captures major drug suspect

MEXICO CITY, 23 April—Mexican police on Wednesday arrested suspected Guatemalan drug trafficker Otto Herrera, believed to be one of the principal smugglers of drugs from Central America to the United States via Mexico. Herrera, high on Washington's wanted list and a fugitive from Guatemalan justice for the past year, was arrested at Mexico City airport, Attorney General Rafael Macedo de la Concha told a news conference on Wednesday evening. "He was wanted by the authorities in the United States, Guatemala, El Salvador and Panama, who considered him responsible for the shipments by speedboat that operated in Central America," Macedo said. "With this arrest, we are succeeding in breaking up the leadership of a criminal organization linked to the most significant transfer, distribution and sale of narcotics in Central America, whose operations included Mexico and the United States." — MNA/Reuters

"We are seeing this big jump in the number of calories," that people are eating, Dr. Lee Gross, a family physician at the Inter-Medic Medical Group in North Port, Florida, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

"We tried to break down where are these calories coming from? We have heard everyone debating it is because of fat, is it because of carbohydrate and it is not really clear," Gross added.

"This shows the increase in the past 20 years is almost exclusively carbohydrates and certainly corn syrup consumption has increased dramatically," Gross said he was not "picking on the corn syrup industry", but added, "It is hard to ignore the fact that 20 per cent of our carbohydrates are coming from corn syrup — 10 per cent of our total calories."

An estimated 16 million Americans have Type-2 dia-

betes, the sixth leading cause of death overall. And many studies have linked a high intake of refined carbohydrates and other foods with a high "glycemic index" with the development of diabetes.

Foods with a high glycemic index cause a spike in insulin production. Many experts agree that, over time, repeatedly eating foods in this pattern can cause insulin resistance, which in turn leads to diabetes. — MNA/Reuters

Bolivia signs accord to sell natural gas to Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 23 April—Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and his Bolivian counterpart, Carlos Mesa, inked the Buenos Aires Declaration on Wednesday on Bolivia's export of natural gas to Argentina in the next six months.

In the declaration, Bolivia decided to sell four million cubic metres of natural gas to Argentina per day in the coming half year in a bid to ease Argentina's energy crisis. The gas export period could be extended for another six months if necessary. But the declaration clearly stated that Argentina could not

resell the gas to Chile, with which Bolivia has a century-old border dispute including a rift over a sea outlet.

Kirchner expressed his thanks to Bolivia for increasing gas export to his country. "Argentina will help Bolivia develop the natural gas industry," he said.

Mesa said his country

will sign a "mid- and long-term" energy accord with Argentina with the approval of the Congress.

The President has called for a July 18 referendum to let the Bolivian people decide whether the country's gas resources should be exported or used for domestic development. — MNA/Xinhua

Global semiconductor market to grow by 29% in 2004

LOS ANGELES, 23 April—Global semiconductor market is expected to grow by 29 per cent in 2004, much faster than it did in 2003 with an 18.3 per cent growth, according to a study released by In-Stat/MDR on Wednesday.

In-Stat/MDR, a US high-tech market research firm which accurately forecast the 2003 worldwide semiconductor sales growth with a mere 0.2 per cent disparity, said global chip sales will reach 214.7 billion US dollars in 2004, vying with 2000 for record-high annual revenue.

The global semiconductor market suffered a disastrous 32 per cent decline in 2001 and a lackluster 2002.

"Although we do not expect a replay of 2001 anytime soon, the strength of the current recovery should not be interpreted as a return to the good old days," said Mark

Kirstein, general manager of In-Stat/MDR.

He noted that fundamental changes are taking place in both demand and supply aspects of the semiconductor market that will cause the next decade to be significantly different from the last.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to launch new research centre to boost shrimp breeding

BANGKOK, 23 April—Thailand is launching a new research centre dedicated to the development of shrimp breeding in a bid to boost the Thai competitive edge in the lucrative international shrimp market, the Thai News Agency reported Thursday.

The new centre represents collaboration between four agencies: the Royal Thai Navy, Prince of Songkhla University, Mahidol University and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Under the auspices of the National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), the centre will conduct research and development into shrimp breeding and transmit this knowledge to shrimp farm-

ers, while at the same time supporting the development of Thailand's black tiger prawn farming industry. BIOTEC director Morakot Tanticharoen was quoted as saying that the most pressing problems facing shrimp farmers in Thailand today are the lack of parent broodstock, the environmental impact of shrimp farming and concerns over chemical residues.

MNA/Xinhua



A grasshopper sits in a pasture near Verdigris in northeast Nebraska, in this file photo from 15 July, 2002. Nebraska and other drought-stricken Western states have been warning of a massive grasshopper infestation since last fall. The insects are more prevalent in dry years, and much of the West is in the midst of a multi-year drought. — INTERNET

SPORTS

China hopes to strike four weightlifting golds in Athens

CHANGSHA (China), April 23 — China hopes to strike for four gold medals in the Olympic weightlifting tournament in Athens, a top Chinese weightlifting official said here on Thursday.

Ma Wenguang, director of the weightlifting centre of the State Sports General Administration of China, said that "the Chinese strongwomen are expected to reap three to four gold medals while their men compatriots for one to two titles at the Athens Olympic Games".

The women gold hopefuls are in the classes of 48kg, 58kg, 69kg and 75kgs and the Chinese strongmen also enjoy their upperhands in the categories of 56kg, 62kg, 69kg, 77kg and 85kg.

Ma, who was attending the national women's weightlifting championships in Yongzhou, Hunan Province, also a trial for the Olympic Games, singled out Wu Meijing and Le Maosheng as the hot favourites to reap gold medals for China, while injured Wang Mingjuan is another strong bet after she made a clean sweep in the 2003 World Weightlifting Championships. — MNA/Xinhua



Marseille's Habib Beye (L) challenges Newcastle United's Alan Shearer (R) in the UEFA Cup semi-final, first leg soccer match at St James' Park, Newcastle, on 22 April, 2004. The match finished 0-0. — INTERNET

Marseille denied by post in Newcastle stalemate

NEWCASTLE (ENGLAND), 23 April — Olympique Marseille were denied by the woodwork as they battled to a 0-0 draw with Newcastle United in a tense UEFA Cup semifinal first leg at St. James' Park on Thursday.

Newcastle applied most of the pressure but were spared a damaging defeat when a stunning volley by the French team's striker Didier Drogba hit the inside of the post and bounced out. The hosts, missing key players in Wales striker Craig Bellamy and England midfielders Kieron Dyer and Jermaine Jenas through injury, had their best chance when Gary Speed pounced on the ball after captain Alan Shearer's free kick was parried but fired wide.

Marseille, who knocked out Inter Milan and Liverpool in previous rounds, will look to make the most of home advantage in the second leg at the Stade Velodrome in two weeks. "There were chances at both ends, particularly in the first half, and it was a very, very even game as we thought it would be," Shearer, the former England striker, told *ITV Sport*. "But our first and main priority tonight

was not to concede. We've done that, so this tie is very very much alive.

"We always fancy our chances to score goals and I'm sure we can do that away from home." Marseille did ride their luck at times, notably when Shola Ameobi wasted two early chances to put the Premier League side ahead.

Ameobi was presented with his first opportunity when Laurent Robert curled a free kick into the penalty area but the tall striker misjudged the flight of the ball and missed an easy chance. Two minutes later, he was set free by Shearer's flick following Shay Given's long clearance but blasted the ball straight at goalkeeper Fabien Barthez who saved with his knee. Drogba outwitted Newcastle defender Andy O'Brien midway through the first half after Hugo Viana had lost possession in midfield but his low shot was saved by Given. — MNA/Reuters

Top seeds go forward in Monte Carlo Masters

PARIS, 23 April — Britain's No 1 Tim Henman and Argentine top player Guillermo Coria moved ahead into the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters on Wednesday.

Last year's runner-up Coria, the number three seed, had an easy work to beat German Nicolas Kiefer 6-0, 6-3, while Henman sealed a hard fight against his least favourite, beating Spanish baseliner David Sanchez 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

In other games, Marat Safin avenged his Davis Cup loss earlier this year to Max Mirnyi with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over the Belarus and Lleyton Hewitt overcame a nightmare start to beat Argentine Gaston Gaudio 1-6, 7-6, 6-1.

Henman will face either Spaniard Feliciano Lopez or Chile's Nicolas Massu in

the third round.

Coria has won his last 22 matches on clay and has only lost four games in his two rounds in Monte Carlo.

Spain's Carlos Moya, winner in 1998 and finalist in 2002, had the easiest task of the day. His opponent, Finn Jarkko Nieminen, pulled out with a broken right wrist and the fifth seed made it directly into the third round.

The 14th-seeded Dutchman Martin Verkerk, surprising French Open finalist last year, was knocked out by Croatian Ivan Ljubicic 6-3, 6-2.

Fabrice Santoro celebrated a record 14th year at the tournament, beating American Taylor Dent 6-3, 6-2 to reach the third round.

MNA/Xinhua

Red Star reach Cup final to close in on double

BELGRADE, 23 April — Red Star Belgrade beat bitter city rivals Partizan 1-0 in the Serbia and Montenegro Cup semifinal on Wednesday to edge closer to a domestic double thanks to an early goal from striker Marko Pantelic.

Cup holders Red Star, who lead the First Division by three points over Partizan with four matches left, deserved to win a volatile match marred by reckless tackles on a slippery pitch.

They will start the final as strong favourites against Buducnost Banatski Dvor who upset Obilic Belgrade 2-1.

Pantelic, who scored the winner against Red Star when he played for Sartil Smederevo in last year's final, was left unmarked in the 14th minute after a quick throw in and slid the ball past advancing goalkeeper Ivica Kralj.

"I've dreamt of this goal since my childhood and it's only right that I was able to set the record straight after robbing Red Star of the cup last season," said Pantelic after scoring his first goal for Red Star against Partizan.

Partizan had made the brighter start and should have scored inside the first minute when Miroslav Radovic headed wide from an ideal position after a good cross by Ivica Iliev.

But after the lapse in concentration by Partizan's bewildered back four, who stood and watched as Pantelic scored, Red Star regained their composure.

Indeed, they could have had a second in the 20th minute when Nikola Zigic headed

into the ground and just over the bar from close range after good work by Marjan Markovic.

Kralj then did well to deny Zigic in the 34th minute, when he stopped his volley from inside the box after left back Milivije Vitakic raced clear and delivered a superb low cross.

Partizan dominated the second half but to no great effect as Red Star's defence held firm and prevented their rivals from mustering a single shot on goal. — MNA/Reuters

Grizzlies Brown named Coach of the Year

WASHINGTON, 23 April — Memphis Grizzlies head coach Hubie Brown beat Jerry Sloan of the Utah Jazz to win the Coach of the Year award of the NBA Wednesday.

Brown won 466 points, including 62 first-place votes, from a ballot of sportswriters and broadcasters in the United States and Canada, with Sloan receiving 424 points at second. The 70-year-old Brown led the Grizzlies to a franchise-record of 50-32 season and the first playoff appearance.

Brown, who took the Grizzlies in the 2002-03 season, won the award in 1977-78 as coach of the Atlanta Hawks.

MNA/Xinhua

Nerves get better of Porto, Deportivo

PORTO (Portugal), 23 April — Deportivo Coruna held Porto to a goalless draw in a jittery Champions League semifinal first leg on Wednesday that featured few clear chances and only occasional moments of quality.

Porto, European champions in 1987 and UEFA Cup winners last season, were in control for almost the entire game but a hard-working Deportivo side kept them at bay.

With the game drifting towards a goalless draw, Deportivo had Jorge Andrade sent off three minutes from time for a needless kick on Deco Souza.

The Portuguese centre-back will miss the second leg and his absence, along with that of booked midfielder Mauro Silva, will be a threat to Depor's hopes of reaching a first European final.

"The referee was very rigorous as Jorge was really just having a joke by kicking out at an old friend but it's up to him to make those judgements," Mauro Silva told Spanish television.

"It's a real shame that both me and him will miss the next game but you can't control those sort of things in the heat of the moment."

Tuesday's semifinal saw a more decisive result with Monaco taking a big step towards the final in Gelsenkirchen, Germany on May 26 with a 3-1 victory at home to

Chelsea.

Porto's coveted midfielder Maniche Ribeiro hit the bar with a sublime chip from 25 metres after an hour in what was without question the best moment of the second semifinal, played at the Portuguese side's beautiful new Dragao stadium.

There was another close call for Deportivo when their defender Noureddine Naybet almost provided an own goal and Porto substitute Edgaras Jankauskas should then have scored with a header from a dangerous free kick by Deco Souza late on.

Deportivo had only one opportunity to claim an away goal that would have put them in control of the tie, Walter Pandiani volleying wide from inside the penalty area after being left unmarked in the ninth minute.

La Coruna is just 275 kilometres from Porto across the border and the game had the feel of a local derby throughout.

To reach the semifinals, Deportivo had needed a heroic 4-0 win in the second leg of their quarterfinal against AC Milan after a 4-1 defeat in the away game and their objective in Porto was clearly to avoid a similar result.

MNA/Reuters



Guillermo Coria of Argentina returns the ball to Nicolas Kiefer of Germany during the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters tennis open, in Monaco on 21 April, 2004.

Coria defeated Kiefer, 6-0, 6-3. — INTERNET

Increased power generation gives extra impetus to building modern, developed nation

Secretary-1 inspects hydel power projects and multi-purpose dam projects in Bago Division

YANGON, 23 April — Chairman of the National Electric Power Development Project Work Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected hydel power projects and multi-purpose dam projects in Bago Division today.

Accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, the Secretary-1 left here by helicopter for Shwegyin Hydroelectric Power Project in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division, at 8 am today. On arrival at the project the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint reported to the Secretary-1 on salient points of the project located near Kyauknaga Village six miles northeast of Shwegyin town, plans to build a zoned type rock fill dam, laying of foundation for the dam, progress in building of a concrete separation wall, and minimizing costs; Director of Hydroelectric Power Department U Kyi Soe on completion of the separation wall up to 70 per cent, and plans to build an outflow pipe, power intake, spillway, sub-spillway, sub-power station and power station.

After giving instructions, the Secretary-1 said that it is common knowledge that the nation can take pride in its achievements in building roads, bridges and dams needed in developing the nation after 1988. With their



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects project site of Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam in Ottwin Township, Bago Division.— MNA

amazing ability, Myanmar engineers have made dreams come true and implemented projects presumed impossible in the past. Electricity is specially required at present. Increased power generation will give extra impetus to building a modern and developed nation.

Thus, the State has been giving priority to implementing power projects. It is gathering capital to invest in hydroelectric power projects which need much financial power to implement. It is time electrical engineers showed their ability in the nation-building task.

Generally, there are difficulties in building roads, bridges and dams in the early period. Now, the nation has gained much experience in the construction task. Thus, efforts will have to be made for early completion of the hydroelectric power projects including the Shwegyin Project. Earlier completion of the project will bring benefits to the nation sooner.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the area of Shwegyin Hydroelectric Power Project and progress

of work. Deputy Minister U Myo Myint reported on the scale model of the dam for the project. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected preparations for building the diversion tunnel, construction of concrete separation wall, conditions of heavy machinery and quality of concrete used at the separation wall.

Shwegyin Hydroelectric Power Project is one of the hydroelectric projects being implemented at the Sittoung Basin. The project will generate 75 megawatt of electricity from flow of water at the 3,610 feet long and 185 feet high dam located on Shwegyin Creek.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Yenwe Multi-Purpose Dam Project in Kyaukdaga Township.

At the briefing hall, Director U Khin Maung Yu of Construction-1 of Irrigation Department reported on construction of the dam and progress of tasks.

Deputy Minister U Myo Myint reported on matters related to tasks of Department of Hydroelectric Power in the work. After hearing

the reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions that Yenwe Project can generate 25 megawatt of electricity and irrigate farmlands. Therefore, the Irrigation Department and the Department of Hydroelectric Power are to coordinate in the tasks.

The Secretary-1 and party viewed the project site.

They also saw over construction of the exit and entrance of the power intake tunnel. Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project can generate electricity and supply water for agricultural purpose. The project is being implemented on Yenwe Creek 2.5 miles south of Myochaung Village, Kyaukdaga Township.

On arrival at Kunchaung Hydroelectric Power Project in Pyu Township, the Secretary-1 heard reports on feasibility study for the project, arrangements for building the dam and hydel power buildings presented by Deputy Minister U Myo Myint. Director U Maw Tha Htwe of Construction-3 of DHE reported on construction of the dam, spillway, conduit and control tower,

building of the power intake, laying of pen stock steel pipeline and construction of the power plant and progress of tasks.

The Secretary-1 gave instructions that generating of electricity is a noble task for fulfilling power demand of the people. So, the workers are to discharge duty in the project with goodwill. Next, the Secretary-1 and party viewed implementation of the project. They also inspected construction of the dam and approach tunnel-1 and progress in building the tunnel. Kunchaung Hydroelectric Power Project is being implemented on Kun Creek nine miles southwest of Pyu. Workers are striving for completion of construction tasks including the 1,260 feet long and 240 feet high dam earlier than schedule.

On completion, the dam can generate 60 megawatt of electricity and supply water for agricultural purpose.

On arrival at Pyu Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyu Township, the Secretary-1 heard reports by officials concerned on facts about the project and con-

struction of a 755-metre-long diversion tunnel, an intake tunnel and hydropower buildings. Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and Deputy Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw gave supplementary reports. With regard to the reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions and inspected construction site. On completion of the project, the hydro electric power station will have a capacity to generate 40 megawatts and it will be able to irrigate farmlands.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 proceeded to Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Ottwin Township in the afternoon. Director of Construction Group-5 of the Irrigation Department U Victor reported on construction of diversion tunnel, spillway, diversion weir and embankment and work progress sector-wise; and the deputy minister, on tasks being carried out by the Hydel-Electric Power Department and progress of work. The Secretary-1 gave instructions on (See page 8)



Aerial view of Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented in Ottwin Township, Bago Division.— MNA