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Tuesday, 27 April, 2004

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Serbian and Montenegro President

YANGON, 27 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2004.— MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to South African President

YANGON, 27 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa which falls on 27 April 2004. — MNA



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 receives visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta. — MNA

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 receives Bangladeshi goodwill delegation

YANGON, 26 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 visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta this morning.

Present at the call were Military Adviser to Chairman of the State Peace

and Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar MR AB Manjoor Rahim and Defence Attaché Brigadier General Helal Uddin Ahmed, psc.

MNA

Work coordination meeting on preparations for convening of National Convention held

YANGON, 26 April — A work coordination meeting on preparations for convening of the National Convention was held at Anawrahta Yeiktha in Nyaungnapinkwin in Hmawby Township this evening, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development

Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the commission, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, heads of departments and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said in implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State necessary prepa-

rations are being made systematically for the first stage of holding of the National Convention. Preparations are also being made in a short time for successful holding of the National Convention after formation of the National Convention Convening Commission led by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

He said the National Convention Work Committee and Management Committee were reconstituted and matters relating to the (See page 8)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt makes a speech at the Work Coordination Meeting on preparations for convening of National Convention. — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 27 April, 2004

Towards speedy completion of projects that would fulfil immediate needs of the State and people

In its drive for national economic development and the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation, the government has given top priority to the construction of all the necessary infrastructures. As a result, new roads and bridges, dams and embankments and hydroelectric power stations and river-water pumping stations have appeared all over the nation.

Due to the cooperation between the government and service personnel, almost all the fundamental requirements have been fulfilled during the period of 15 years and the people are enjoying the benefits. Now, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, efforts are being made for transforming conventional farming to mechanized farming and development of the transport sector in border regions and the electric power sector.

Of all the sectors to be implemented in the year 2004-2005, the government has given first priority to the electric power sector and is trying to fulfil electricity needs of the nation by investing in enormous hydroelectric power projects.

In his meeting with responsible personnel of the Shwegyin hydel power project in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win said that now was the time when electric power was in greatly needed and the more electricity needs can be fulfilled, the faster the development of the nation will be.

It is very important to complete the hydelpower projects ahead of schedule so that the State and the people can enjoy the benefits as early as possible. As our country has entered the electronic era, the use of computers and televisions is on the rise.

The government has been endeavouring to satisfy the rising demand of electricity due to the changes and developments in people's lifestyle. Before 1988, hydro-powered, gas-fired and steam-powered turbines produced 580 megawatts of electricity. After 1988, 28 hydelpower plants and gas-powered power stations generate 560 megawatts of electricity.

With economic development and higher living standard, the demand for electricity has been increasing by 15 per cent every year.

On completion of the Shwegyin hydel power project in Shwegyin Township, the Yenwe multi-purpose dam project in Kyaukdaga Township, the Kunchaung hydel power project and the Pyu multi-purpose dam project in Pyu Township and the Khabaung multi-purpose dam project in Ottwin Township, the capacity of power supply will be increased by 230 megawatts.

We would like to urge all those responsible and service personnel to put their energies into hydelpower projects to complete them ahead of schedule.



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 cordially greets the visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta. (News on page 1) — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Serbian and Montenegro President

YANGON, 27 April — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2004.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Israeli counterpart

YANGON, 27 April — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel which falls on 27 April 2004. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitations to Serbia and Montenegro

YANGON, 27 April — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Vuk Draskovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2004.

MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends message of felicitations to Israeli Foreign Minister

YANGON, 27 April — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 27 April 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Silvan Shalom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.

MNA

MMCWA's Annual General Conference concludes

YANGON, 26 April — The third day (final day) session of the 14th Annual General Conference of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association successfully concluded at the meeting hall of MMCWA at the corner of Parami and Thanthuma Roads in South Okkalapa Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, patrons of State and Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees, the presidents, the secretaries and others.

Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe presided over the conference

while Joint-Secretary Dr Nwe Oo acted as master of ceremonies. First, members of State and Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees put into discussion what they encountered State and Division-wise.

Regarding the matters, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Meeting Chairman Dr Kyi Soe gave supplementary reports. Next, Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe read resolutions laid down by the conference, suggestions and future tasks for approval. The conference ended with the concluding remarks by President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

MNA



President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers an address on the third day (final day) session of the 14th Annual General Conference of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. — MNA

Iraq violence kills nine US troops: Suicide attacks hit gulf oil facilities

BAGHDAD, 26 April—Suicide attackers detonated explosive-laden boats near oil facilities in the Persian Gulf on Saturday, killing two US sailors in a new tactic against Iraq's vital oil industry.

Elsewhere, violence across Iraq on Saturday killed seven American soldiers and at least 33 Iraqis.

In the worst of the attacks on US troops, five soldiers were killed and six wounded in a rocket attack on the sprawling military base in Taji, about 10 miles beyond the northwestern outskirts of Baghdad and a 30-minute drive from Fallujah.

It has been used as a base for some of the US military operations in Fallujah.

In Kut, a predominantly Shiite city 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, the police chief said two more US troops had

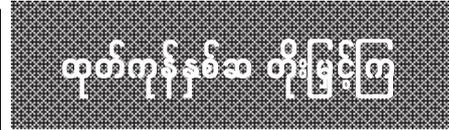
been killed when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at a convoy 25 miles south of the city.

In addition, an Army reservist originally from Vallejo who was missing in Iraq since his convoy was attacked on 9 April was confirmed dead Saturday.

The remains of Sgt Elmer Krause of Greensboro, NC, were found Friday, according to a statement from the Department of Defence.

He was assigned to the Army Reserve's 724th Transportation Company, of Bartonville, Ill.

Internet



Death toll of US troops in Iraq rises to 719

BAGHDAD, 26 April — The explosion of a roadside bomb in Baghdad has killed a US soldier and sparked a gunbattle.

Military authorities say troops evacuated the dead soldier, then returned to the bomb site. But when they came back, several children were looting their vehicle.

As the American soldiers approached, gunmen on neighboring rooftops opened fire and a battle ensued.

Witnesses report Iraqi casualties in the fight. It's not known whether any children were among them.

With the soldier's death today, 110 US troops have been killed since the beginning of April — the deadliest period yet for Americans in Iraq. At least 719 servicemembers have died in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion.—Internet



Italian soldiers patrol the centre of Nasiriyah, southern Iraq, on 25 April, 2004. The Italian compound in Nasiriyah came under mortar attack early Sunday, injuring two Italian soldiers.—INTERNET

UN uses atomic technology to fight malaria mosquito

SEIBERSDORF (Austria), 26 April— The United Nations is harnessing nuclear technology to try to eradicate the mosquitoes whose bite transmits malaria, a deadly disease devastating the African continent.

Sunday is Africa Malaria Day, when governments will focus attention on a disease which kills millions of Africans a year, most of them children, and costs the continent at least 12 billion US dollars in lost gross domestic product. Bart Knols, a Dutch entomologist at the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), estimates there are "three to five hundred million cases of malaria every year on a world-wide scale, 90 per cent of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa".

"Sub-Saharan Africa also suffers the major burden... of mortality," he told Reuters during a tour of the IAEA's entomology laboratories.

One African child dies of malaria every 20 seconds. People in poor, remote villages are usually unable to get treatment and so Knols' research aims to nip the problem in the bud by destroying the mosquito that transmits the malaria parasite.

The IAEA is best known for its inspections of countries like Iran and Iraq who are suspected of building atomic weapons. But the agency has already used its expertise to wipe out the dreaded tsetse fly, which can transmit fatal sleeping sickness, from the island of Zanzibar.—MNA/Reuters

US Marine dies of combat wounds in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 April— A US Marine has died from wounds suffered in hostile action west of Baghdad 10 days ago, the US military said on Saturday.

The military said the Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died on Thursday of wounds received on 14 April while fighting anti-US forces in the Al Anbar Province. Al Anbar includes the restive towns of Fallujah and Ramadi.

MNA/Reuters

Tanzania faces stiff shortage of doctors

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 26 April — A Tanzanian official has said that the country is faced with a stiff shortage of doctors, local newspaper *The Guardian* said Friday.

This was revealed by Deputy Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education Zabein Mhita at a Parliament session held in the central city of Dodoma Thursday.

"The ratio of medical experts against the number of people in Tanzania is not good compared to other countries in the south of the Sahara," she said. Tanzania has a ratio of

1:23,000, which means that one doctor serves about 23,000 people, but the World Health Organization recommends a ratio of 1:10,000, she added. The Deputy Minister

cited examples from Tanzania's neighbours, Kenya and Uganda, which she said have 1:7,000 and 1:9,000. She said that the government had been making efforts to increase the number of doctors in the country through a national policy targeted to develop higher education.

The government will facilitate establishing private medical colleges in the future to narrow the present gap, she added.

MNA/Xinhua

Access to malaria treatment in Africa threatened by drug shortages

NAIROBI, 26 April— A leading international medical humanitarian organization warned here Friday that access to effective malaria treatment in Africa is threatened by potential drug shortages.

"Artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) is really a cause for hope in Africa — more and more countries with extremely high rates of resistance to old malaria treatments are starting to use it with excellent results," Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders said in a Press release from the organization's Nairobi office.

"But donors and producers need to take action to avert a major supply crisis of ACT. Since the key ingredient of the combinations is extracted from plants, only

firm orders now will enable enough plants to be ready for the huge expected increases in demand next year," said the release.

The MSF's warning comes as the world to commemorate Africa Malaria Day which falls on 25 April.

The World Health Organization estimates that 132 million treatments of malaria patients will be needed in 2005 in the world, of which 92 million are for Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

Britains to be issued with ID cards in anti-terror plan

LONDON, 26 April — Thousands of Britons will be issued with identity cards next week for the first time since the 1950s, in a trial that is central to the government's strategy against terror attacks.

The pilot scheme will record thousands of fingerprints, face and eye scans, as part of a 12-week trial starting from Monday, said a Home Office spokesman.

"There will be a large scale hi-tech biometric trial as part of preparing Britain for a national identity card scheme," he told Reuters. "Numbers will definitely be in the thousands."

The BBC earlier reported that the trial might involve up to 10,000 volunteers.

The government sees ID cards as key to protecting against the threat posed by groups like Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda. The proposal also comes amid mounting pressure for a clampdown on illegal immigration.

MNA/Reuters

Spanish soldiers should have never gone to Iraq

MADRID, 26 April — Spain will soon withdraw its troops from Iraq and the soldiers should have never gone there, said Spanish Defence Minister Jose Bono on Saturday.

The Spanish forces deployed in Iraq will return home soon and the prime minister will clarify his position on the issue in the congress next week, Bono said.

Spanish troops work for peace but will do so in accordance with International Law, he noted.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers secure the area after rockets hit two hotels, a hospital and a police vehicle maintenance department in the northern city of Mosul, Iraq, on 25 April, 2004. The attack killed four Iraqis and wounded 16, police said.—INTERNET

Iraq blast kills US soldier, wounds three others

BAGHDAD, 26 April—A roadside bomb has killed a US soldier and wounded three others in the Iraqi capital.

A US military spokesman said the bombing triggered a shootout with gunmen and that Iraqi children were caught in the crossfire. There were no immediate reports of civilian casualties.

Earlier Sunday, US military officials extended a ceasefire in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, where they say Iraqi police and US Marines will begin joint patrols Tuesday.

The extension comes one day after President Bush conferred with top national security and military advisors on the three-week stand-off between US Marines and insurgents holed up in the city.

Elsewhere, two rocket attacks in Mosul killed four Iraqis and wounded at least 10 others early today.

In a separate development, a third US sailor has died from wounds sustained Saturday in a seaborne raid on a Persian Gulf oil facility.

Internet

Another US servicemember dies from suicide attack on oil terminal

BAGHDAD, 26 April—A third American has died as a result of a suicide attack on Iraqi oil facilities.

A Coast Guardsman died today and two Navy sailors were killed yesterday in the boat attacks off the Iraqi coast. The Coast Guardsman was part of a team sent to intercept a boat near an oil terminal. When the team approached, the boat exploded.

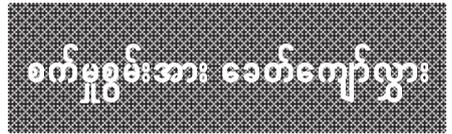
With the latest death, 111 U-S troops

have been killed in Iraq since the beginning of April.

Iraq's biggest oil terminal remains closed a day after the attack but is expected to reopen tomorrow. The country's oil minister says the country is losing nearly a million barrels a day in exports as a result. —Internet



Al-Basra Oil Terminal, the bulk of Iraq's oil exports, will be halted for at least two days, on Sunday, 25 April, 2004, following three small boats drew close to two major oil terminal in the Persian Gulf about 100 miles from Iraq's main port, Umm Qasr on Saturday, 24 April, 2004, exploded when occupation craft tried to intercept them. —INTERNET



Canadian opposition leader says he would not send troops to Iraq

TORONTO, 26 April—Canadian opposition leader Stephen Harper said Sunday that he would not send troops to Iraq if he is elected prime minister.

"I think that's not feasible, given our limited military capacity and the extent to which our people are already over-committed across the world," the Conservative leader said on CTV's "Question Period" show.

Last April, Harper said on the Fox News Channel that a "silent majority" of Canadians endorsed the war, but acknowledged Sunday that public sentiment had turned against the war over the past year.

"... public opinion's clearly different now, but I would continue to emphasize that it's in all of our interests that the coalition be successful in Iraq and not fail," he said.

Canada, which has troops serving in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Haiti, opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq and said again last month it would not send troops to the country.

The United States, facing an eroding military coalition in Iraq, is working on a new UN resolution that President Bush said could "help other nations to decide to participate."

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, battling low polling numbers amid a government spending scandal, is expected to call an election in the next few months.

Internet

Gulf countries urged to tap huge gas resources

ABU DHABI, 26 April — Gulf states control nearly 40 per cent of the world's proven gas resources but their production does not exceed 10 per cent of the global gas output, the *Gulf News* reported Saturday, quoting a senior official of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"A rapid growth in global consumption of natural gas as a cleaner source of energy should prompt the UAE and other regional countries to exploit their gas wealth," said Obeid bin Saif Al Nasiri, UAE's Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources.

In a monthly magazine, which was published here Friday by UAE's Ministry of Oil and Industry, Nasiri said world gas demand is projected to grow by around 2.4 per cent in the next 30 years while oil consumption is forecast to rise by 1.6 per cent and coal by 1.4 per cent.

The share of gas currently stood at around 24 per cent of the total world energy demand while oil accounts for 40 per cent and coal for 26 per cent. By 2010, natural gas will be in the second place as it is projected to surpass coal because it is a cleaner source of energy, he pointed out.

The Middle East is set to play a key role in gas supplies in the future, the region controls around 72 trillion cubic metres of natural gas, accounting for nearly 40 per cent of the world's total proven gas reserves but current production does not exceed 245 billion cubic me-

tres a year, or around 10 per cent of the global gas output. This means that production falls short of the size of reserves.

Nasiri referred to massive projects being carried out in the region to tap gas resources, mainly in Qatar, but noted huge investments are needed to exploit available reserves.

The coming projects should cover gas liquefaction and petrochemicals as part of the region's programmes to diversify their economies, larger gas quantities are also needed to feed power plants and aluminium smelters, he said.

"But we should note that the utilization process in the region's gas sector is still very low, this has created an imbalance between production levels and the size of the region's recoverable gas reserves. This requires further investments in this sector not only to meet domestic needs but to face global demand and diversify exports."

Nasiri's figures for gas reserves covered that in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as well as that in Iraq and Iran, which also control at least 60 per cent of the world's oil.

MNA/Xinhua

Yemeni President calls for "immediate" US pullout from Iraq

SANAA, 26 April—Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh called for the "immediate" pullout of US-led coalition troops from Iraq and warned Washington it was earning the Muslims' hatred by backing Israel in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"A year has passed without the realization of the slogans raised by the occupation forces, (who promised) security, stability, justice, freedom and democracy" when they invaded Iraq in March 2003, Saleh told the opening session of a conference of Arab and African parliamentary bodies.

"It has been proven to the world that there are no weapons of mass destruction," he said, referring to the main reason invoked by the United States and Britain to invade Iraq and overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein.

"We want an immediate withdrawal of occupation forces. We do not want to see blood being shed" in Iraq, Saleh said of the escalating violence in the country.

The three-day conference is attended by representatives of 27 countries and organizations affiliated to the association of upper houses and shura (consultative) councils in Arab and African states.—Internet

Up to one-fourth of US reconstruction money for Iraq is going for security

WASHINGTON, 26 April—Money that should be used for rebuilding Iraq instead is going to protect workers and insure their projects.

American officials monitoring their work say US financed contractors are spending as much as a quarter of their money on security because of the surging violence in Iraq.

Officials say the siphoning of resources is slowing

work on projects like building roads and refurbishing electric plants.

More than 18 billion dollars has been appropriated to restore Iraq's economy and government by repairing and building facilities and training Iraqis. But the inspector general

for the Coalition Provisional Authority says contractors were spending ten to 15 per cent of their money for security costs earlier this year, and that figure could go as high as 25 percent due to the recent anti-American violence. —Internet

At least two killed in US factory explosions

WASHINGTON, 26 April — At least two workers were killed and some others were injured in a series of explosions at a plastics plant in central Illinois Friday night, reports said Saturday.

Two bodies were discovered early Saturday and two people remained missing, local authorities said. The dead and injured were among the 18 workers who were on duty at the plant.

About 1,000 people living in areas close to the plant were evacuated after the explosions, but most of them were allowed to return home Saturday morning. —MNA/Xinhua



A burning US Humvee on a highway east of Baghdad, on Sunday, 25 April, 2004. The Humvee was abandoned on the roadside before people set it on fire. Four schoolchildren, all aged around 12, were killed by US gunfire while reaching the vehicle and some others injured and a US Army soldier was killed in the attack. —INTERNET

Four children killed by gunfire after Baghdad attack

BAGHDAD, 26 April—Four schoolchildren were killed by gunfire in Baghdad on Sunday, shortly after a roadside bomb ripped through a US military vehicle, witnesses said.

Some witnesses said the children, all aged around 12, were shot dead by US troops who had opened fire randomly after the blast on Canal Street in eastern Baghdad. At least five other people were wounded.

The children had left their nearby school to look at the burning Humvee, the witnesses said. Children and some passersby were "celebrating" the attack near the vehicle when the deadly shots were fired.

The US military had no immediate word on the incident. "I saw a child lying on the street with a bullet hole in his neck and another in his side," said a driver who witnessed the incident. "He had his schoolbag on his back. Some 15 minutes later his relatives came and took his body away."

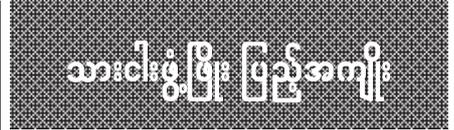
A nearby hospital confirmed receiving the bodies of four children with gunshot wounds.

The targeted Humvee was part of a military convoy driving through the street.

Two soldiers in the Humvee were evacuated from the scene by military medics, they said.—MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi man is checked for weapons while passing through an American military checkpoint entering Fallujah, Iraq on Sunday, 25, April 2004. —INTERNET



Rockets kill four, wound 13 in northern Iraq city

MOSUL (Iraq), 26 April—*Katyusha* rockets hit a hospital, a hotel and a police facility in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, killing two hospital and two hotel workers and wounding 13 people, police said.

They said a rocket slammed into the Salam (Peace) Hospital in the town, 240 miles north of Baghdad, killing two women staff and wounding 10 other people.

Less than an hour later, a second rocket hit Ashour Hotel in the city centre, causing extensive damage and wounding three people. Two of the wounded, both hotel workers, died shortly afterwards in hospital.

A third rocket struck a police vehicle maintenance department next to police headquarters in southern Mosul's Wadi Hajar District, wounding two policemen.—MNA/Reuters

El Salvador undecided on Iraq troop presence past June

SAN SALVADOR (El Salvador), 26 April—El Salvador has yet to decide whether to keep its small troop contingent in Iraq after June as sought by the United States, President Francisco Flores said in comments published on Sunday.

"El Salvador is going to carry out the duty of maintaining troops in Iraq until June 30 and any continuation will be a subject of analysis," Salvadorean dailies quoted Flores as saying.

El Salvador has a force of 380 troops in Iraq which have been under Spanish command but Spain is pulling its forces out, possibly at the end of May.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Friday he hoped several nations such as Norway, the Netherlands and El Salvador who have a total of almost 2,000 troops in Iraq, would stay after an interim Iraqi Government takes power June 30.

Flores' term in office finishes on June 1 and his successor Tony Saca, a fellow member of the rightist Arena Party, has not said how long he wants the troops to stay for.

The initial Salvadorean plan was to post forces in Iraq until the beginning of August but many countries in the US-led coalition, like Norway, are looking to withdraw at the end of June.—MNA/Reuters

Italian govt urged to withdraw troops from Iraq

ROME, 26 April — Thousands of Italians took to streets across the country on Sunday, celebrating the Liberation Day and urging the government to withdraw Italian forces from Iraq.

In Rome, people gathered at the Campidoglio Square where the municipal government is located, holding banners saying "Italy keeps distance from wars" and "Immediate withdrawal of Italian forces from Iraq". Several leaders of the

Green Party and other political parties also attended the demonstration in the capital city.

Demonstrators also gathered in the country's Northern city of Milan, asking the end of the foreign forces' occupation in Iraq and

the transfer of power to the Iraqi people.

Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has stood firmly with US President George W. Bush in the Iraqi war. The country has deployed nearly 3,000 soldiers in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows Dubai among top digital cities in the world

ABU DHABI, 26 April—Dubai has outranked several digitally advanced cities in the world in terms of privacy and security on its official portal, the official WAM news agency quoted a new global survey as reporting Sunday.

The survey of 100 major cities, conducted by Rutgers University of the United States, ranked Dubai in the 9th position, along with Auckland, scoring 7.86 out of 20 points, against the average score of 2.85.

The survey ranked Dubai 11th worldwide in the service delivery category, ahead of Dublin, Helsinki and Tokyo, according to

Dubai-based Madar Research Group, which released the findings.

According to the findings, only 17 cities showed that they identified the organizations collecting data on their web sites and only 14 cities identified the kind of data being collected.

Dubai was one of the 12 cities whose privacy policy identified both. In service

delivery, Dubai was ranked 11th worldwide, with a score of 8.25 against the world average of 4.77.

The report also cited Dubai as one of only 10 cities that have web sites allowing citizens to pay fees online. Service delivery is one area in which Dubai eGovernment has been making rapid strides.

MNA/Xinhua

China to issue early warnings on geological disasters

BEIJING, 26 April—The Chinese Government plans to set up an early warning system and an emergency headquarters for dealing with geological disasters, said Lu Xinshe, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Land Resources Sunday.

Lu, who spoke at a working conference on the issue of e-government of the ministry, the early warning system will become one of the three safety networks to be built by the ministry in the coming four years. The other two are designed for protecting land and mineral re-

sources, respectively.

The geological early warning system will be able to monitor the disasters and collect data and information in the field, which is expected to increase the country's capabilities in controlling geological disasters and reducing losses brought about by

the disasters.

In 2003, a total of 13,832 geological disasters were reported in the country, leaving 743 deaths, 125 missing, and 564 injured, as well as a direct financial loss of 4.87 billion yuan (about 588 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

China plays active role in Asia-Pacific financial cooperation

SHANGHAI, 26 April—China is joining hands with its neighbouring countries to develop the bond market in Asia, an official with China's central bank said here Sunday.

China has actively initiated and participated in the regional financial cooperation, said He Jianxiong, deputy director general of the International Department of the People's Bank of China, at the ongoing Asia-Pacific Business Forum, a side event of the 60th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (ESCAP).

As a major method to develop the Asian bond market, the Asian Bond Fund (ABF) was launched in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in June, 2003 by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and China, Japan and South-Korea (10+3).

The second phase of the ABF has been approved to

pave the way for investments in local currency-denominated Asian bonds after the successful launch of the first-phase one-billion-US dollar ABF. Financial experts have said the establishment of the Asian bond market indicates that the regional financial cooperation has entered into the phase of preventing monetary crisis from the headstream.—MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi family passes into Fallujah, Iraq through a military checkpoint run jointly by the US Army and the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps on Sunday, 25, April 2004. The Marines and the ICDC are planning joint patrols in Fallujah this week. —INTERNET



An Iraqi woman soothes her 12-year-old wounded daughter Hajer Ayid in a Baghdad hospital on 24 April, 2004. Ayid was injured overnight in an incident involving US troops and forces of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City. Three sisters were burned when their house, which was in the area of a firefight, caught fire.



Iraqi child Isra Jawad, 9, screams in pain as she is comforted by her mother in the hospital in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City, Iraq, Saturday, on 24 April, 2004. Isara and two of her sisters suffered severe burns during an explosion when al-Mahdai army, supporters of the Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and US troops clashed late Friday.

Images of Iraq



A picture of Iraqi woman Isra Cesuer, 28, mother of three children, is seen through a hole after a rocket slammed into her bedroom in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City, Iraq, on Saturday, 24 April 2004. Isra was killed instantly.



An Iraqi woman soothes her 15-year-old wounded niece Saja Ayid in a Baghdad hospital, after she was injured in an overnight incident involving US troops and forces of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City on 24 April, 2004.



A car burns at the entrance of one of the police stations hit by an explosion in Basra. Three Iraqis were arrested in connection with suicide bomb attacks that killed 74 people in southern Iraq, and 3.5 tonnes of explosives were found in their truck, a police official said in Basra.

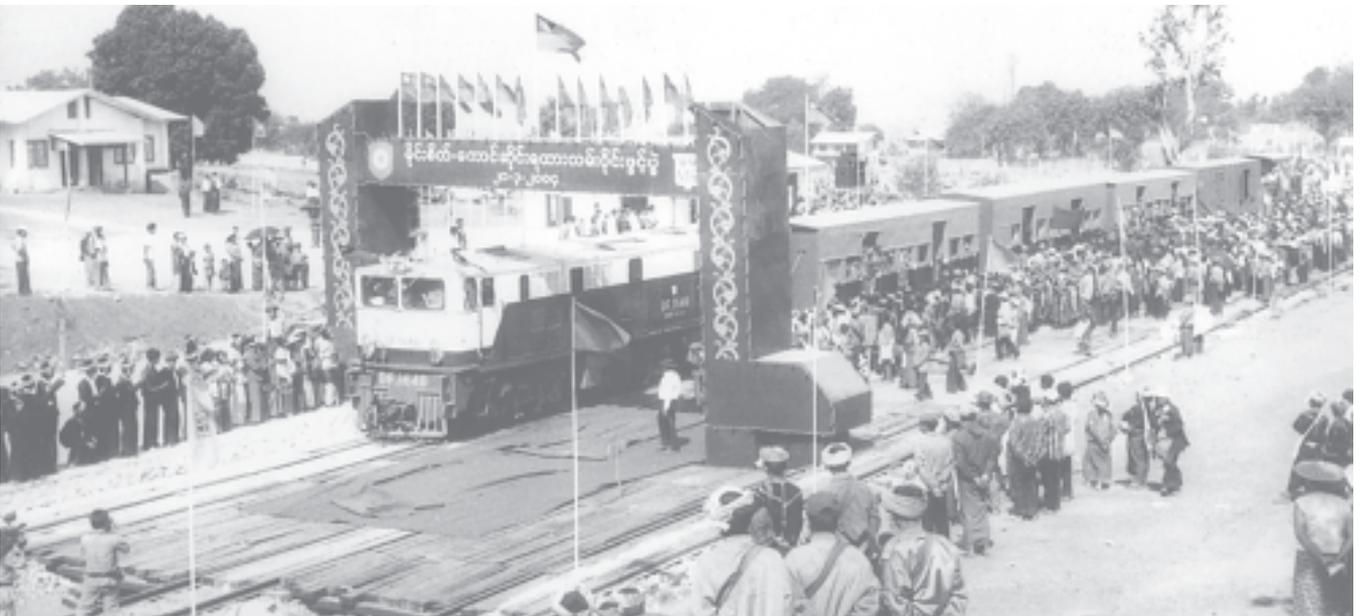


An Iraqi man, wounded by a bomb which hit a bus, is helped by a friend while lying in a hospital bed in the town of Iskandariya, 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of the capital Baghdad, on 24 April, 2004.

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



The newly opened runway of Patheingyi Airport in Ayeyawady Division.



Mongseik-Kaunghsai section of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Rail Road in Shan State (South) was inaugurated on 20-3-2004.



Aerial view of Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant in Kyaukse.

Work coordination...

(from page 1)

National Convention were undertaken. The delegates to the National Convention have been invited and the date of the National Convention to be reconvened is approaching fast.

In order to successfully undertake the tasks for the National Convention and for the delegates to attend the National Convention with peace of mind, the National Convention Hall and the National Convention Compound were constructed after formation of various committees comprising the ministers, the deputy ministers and heads of departments, he said. He said various committees—decoration committee, greening committee, lamp-post decoration committee, construction material stockpiling committee, renovation committee, sports committee, welfare committee, communication committee and entertainment committee—implemented the works systematically.

He said the delegates include various national races

and age groups.

For health care services, a hospital equip with modern disease diagnostic and treatment centres, medical equipment and specialists and physicians was constructed and opened in the compound where the National Convention is going to be held for ensuring full health care services as there are those who are in good health, those who need medical attention and those who need regular medical check-up, he noted.

In addition, arrangements have been made by the respective sub-committees for enabling the delegates who are going to attend the National Convention to enjoy wholesome foods at fair prices and good health, he stressed.

The government has spent a huge sum of funds on building the meeting halls for the delegates, hostels, sports grounds and gymnasiums, welfare and entertainment facilities together with the splendid National Convention Hall.

He said that as arrange-



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects preparations for convening of National Convention. — MNA

ments have already been made for convening the National Convention, he met with members of the National Convention Convening Commission and officials of the construction committees to fulfill the requirements. Therefore, the

National Convention Convening Commission is to present its requirements if any, he disclosed.

Next, Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein reported on arrangements made by the NCCC for successful holding of the National Convention, followed by a general round of discussions.

After that, ministers, the Yangon Mayor and deputy ministers from the construction committees reported on renovation of the meeting halls including the Pyidaungsu Hall, arrangements for power supply, greening tasks, decoration of lamp-posts, extension of buildings, sports and welfare facilities for the delegates, work being carried out for



Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents reports on preparations for convening of National Convention. — MNA

communication and entertainment.

Those present gave supplementary reports.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Prime Minister.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected decoration of the Pyidaungsu

Hall, recreation hall for the delegates, hostels, mess halls, welfare shops, photo studio, beauty parlour, optical shop, communication centre, gymnasium, discussion rooms and hospital and left the Nyaungnapinkwin in the evening.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects maintenance of machines in GTC Printing House after opening of basic printing course (1/2004) organized by PPE. MNA

Basic Printing Course opened

YANGON, 26 April—The Basic Printing Course No 1/2004, conducted by Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, was opened today at the training hall of GTC Printing House in Insein Township here this morning, with an address delivered by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, Man-

aging Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi, Advisor to the ministry U Than Maung, and officials.

A total of 26 trainees are attending the course, which

will last till 31 May. After the opening ceremony, the minister inspected the conditions of machines at the printing house and heard reports. He later attended to the requirements. — MNA

Courses opened at central training school of PBANRDA Ministry

YANGON, 26 April—The advanced tailoring course No 6, the basic engineering course No 6, the management course No 18, and the clerical courses Nos 31 and 32 were opened at the central training school of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas

and National Races and Development Affairs in Ward 51, Dagon Myothit (North) Township here this morning.

Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for PBANRDA, delivered an address on the occasion. It was attended by directors-general of departments un-

der the ministry, deputy directors-general, directors and officials. After the opening ceremony, the deputy minister inspected the hostels, mess halls, lecture halls and classrooms at the school and measures taken for keeping the school pleasant and attended to the requirements.

MNA



Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun makes a speech at opening of courses in the central training school of Education and Training Department under the ministry. MNA



Myanmar Wushu team seen on departure for China. — NLM

Myanmar Wushu team leaves for China

YANGON, 26 April—Myanmar Wushu athletes are being trained in the People's Republic of China to participate in the sixth Asia Wushu Championship to be held in

Myanmar in November, 2004. A Myanmar Wushu team headed by Myanmar Wushu selected Swe Swe Thant left here for PRC by air this evening to undergo

training. The delegation was seen off by Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay and officials. The team comprises six athletes.

NLM

Six-storey Myanmar...

(from page 16)

The minister and party inspected the office of case officer, notice boards.

Passports are issued quickly to those who apply them in

accord with the rules and regulations and procedures. It is necessary for those who apply for passports to ask about the matter in person. Legal action is being taken against those who applied for the passports in improper way through the brokers in accord with the existing law.

MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and Secretary of Myanmar Passport Board Commander of SID Police Brig-Gen Thet Htut formally open extension building of the Six-storey Myanmar Passport Board Office. — MNA

Health Minister attends 7th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting

YANGON, 26 April — The 7th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting and the first ASEAN+3 Health Ministers' Meeting was opened with addresses by Malaysian Minister for Health Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek and Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak on 22 April at Penang, Malaysia.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint on 21 April arrived at Penang, Malaysia, and attended the meet-

ings.

After the opening ceremony, Malaysian deputy prime minister and ASEAN health ministers held the press conference.

Dr Chua Soi Lek acted as the meeting chairman together with Dr Kyaw Myint as deputy meeting chairman.

At the meeting, Dr Kyaw Myint made an address. In his address, he said priority will be given to urgent concerns for infectious diseases and promotion of traditional medi-

cines in the region, in line with the motto "Health without Borders".

At the end of the meeting, the health ministers present approved and signed the draft resolutions of the meeting.

On 23 April, the first ASEAN+3 Health Ministers' Meeting was held and the Malaysian health minister and the Chinese deputy health minister presided over the meeting.

On behalf of the health ministers of the ASEAN countries, China, Japan

and South Korea, Dr Chua Soi Lek and the Chinese deputy minister for health made addresses at the meeting.

The meeting expressed a commitment to enhance cooperation in health sectors among ASEAN+3 countries promoting health care using traditional medicines and to lay the plans to fight the infectious diseases.

Later, it was agreed to hold the 8th ASEAN+3 Health Ministers' Meeting in Myanmar in 2006.

MNA



Health Ministers from ASEAN member countries pose for a documentary photo at the 7th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting held in Penang, Malaysia. — HEALTH

Myanmar-Korea economic cooperation discussed

YANGON, 26 April — Entrepreneurs from local companies in Myanmar and businessmen from Kyungsan Trade Mission of the Republic of Korea held a meeting on economic cooperation between the two countries at the Traders' Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

Organized by the KOTRA of Korean Em-

bassy in Myanmar, the meeting was also attended by Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung-Woo, Commercial Attaché Choi Yong-Tae and officials of the Korean embassy, and businessmen from 50 local companies in Myanmar and Kyungsan Trade Mission of Korea.

The Korean ambassador

and the Korean commercial attaché cordially met with businessmen from both countries, followed by a general round of discussions by specific business groups for mutual cooperation in economy.

Han Joong Tooling Inc, Namseo Precision Co Ltd, Taesung Ind Co, Korea Insam Hana Won, Karma Cosmetic Industry,

Wooshin Industrial, Tae Youn Textile Co Ltd, Sung Hwa Textile and Genieworks from Kyungsan Trade Mission of Korea put into discussions matters related to selling in Myanmar their products ranging from stone-grinding machines to stationery, ginseng medicines, digital cameras and clothing.

MNA



Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung-Woo greets entrepreneurs from the two countries at Myanmar-Korea Economics Cooperation Meeting. — MNA

Second Meeting of ASEAN Energy Policies and Management Network held

YANGON, 26 April — The second meeting of ASEAN Energy Policies and Management Network was hosted in Myanmar at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Energy, invited guests of the Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Science and Technology, Min-

istry of Forestry and Ministry of Industry-2, Myanmar delegates to the meeting, representatives from ASEAN countries and Institute of Energy Economics of Japan (IEEJ). At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay made a speech. The executive director of Central Bureau of ASEAN Energy and Deputy Director-General of Energy Planning Department U Thein Lwin made speeches. The meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Malaysia International Food & Beverages' 2004 demonstrated

YANGON, 26 April — Jointly-organized by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Malaysia International Food & Beverages' 2004 to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15 to 17 July, was clarified at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpaya Pagoda Road this morning.

Present on the occasion were officials of Ministry of Cooperatives, Vice-Presi-

dent of the UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, officials of MWEA and invited entrepreneurs.

U Sein Win Hlaing and managing director of TTF (Yangon Co, Ltd Mr Anant Prasertsit made speeches and managing director Mr L S Chan of Expomal Network Sdn Bhd explained matters related to the exhibition.

Representatives from countries are attending the exhibition.

MNA



Malaysia International Food & Beverages' 2004 being clarified at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects...

(from page 16)

Union Road. At the briefing hall, he heard reports on construction of the road. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye also gave a supplementary report. After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Bawdhi Tahtaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada and offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Afterward, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left there by car and inspected construction of Bawdhi Tahtaung Road along the road. On arrival at the junc-

tion of Monywa-Mandalay Road and Monywa-Bawdhi Tahtaung Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party gave instructions on matters relating to Bawdhi Tahtaung Road.

They arrived in Mandalay in the evening. Also in the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with officers and other ranks and their families at Zeyathiri Hall of North-West Command and urged them to extend agricultural and livestock breeding tasks and to lend themselves to regional development activities.

He also cordially greeted them on the occasion. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence looks into construction site of Yama Creek Bridge.

(News Page 16)— MNA

The visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc pays tribute to fallen heroes at Memorial to Fallen Heroes.

MNA



Bangladeshi goodwill delegation on tour of downtown Yangon

YANGON, 26 April—The visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc visited downtown Yangon this morning.

On arrival at Memorial to Fallen Heroes, the goodwill delegation was welcomed by Chairman of Maintenance Committee for Memorial to Fallen Heroes Yangon Station Commander Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials.

Next, the goodwill delegation laid flower basket at Memorial to Fallen Heroes

and signed in the visitors' book. They paid tributes to King Zafar Shah's Tomb on Ziwa Road in Dagon Township.

Afterwards, the goodwill delegation proceeded to Defence Services Museum where Maj Kyaw Kyaw Myint of Directorate of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute conducted them round the museum.

In the evening, the goodwill delegation visited Shwedagon pagoda where officials of pagoda board of trustees explained about background history of the pagoda.—MNA

Chinese president in South China's island province

HAIKOU, 26 April—Chinese President Hu Jintao inspected Qionghai and Haikou cities in south China's Hainan Province after attending the opening session of the Boao Forum for Asia 2004 Annual Conference. The forum ended Sunday afternoon. Hu, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Sat-

urday went to Jiayi Town of Qionghai City, where he inspected cropland improvement projects and inquired about grain production in the locality. He talked cordially with farmers working in the fields and asked them whether they had learned of the central government's policy to encourage them to increase grain production.

MNA/Xinhua

Significant aid increase needed to meet India's MDGs

WASHINGTON, 26 April—Though India's recent growth rate has been universally admired, without more international assistance and for longer periods, the country will be unable to reach most Millennium Development Goals, India's Finance Secretary D C Gupta said Sunday. "The South Asia region, and particularly the countries in our constituency (the Indian Executive Director also represents Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan) are on track to meet the goal of income poverty," Gupta told the Development Committee of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"But in various social indicators, like universal primary education, infant and maternal mortality, and gender gap, will require a step-up in efforts.

"It is, therefore, necessary at this juncture for the international community to take stock of the situation in terms of achievements and shortfalls, and of the performance of the three parties to the Monterrey Compact — developing countries, developed countries and the international financial insti-

tutions," Gupta said.

The Global Monitoring Report, he said, "rightly highlights the wholly inadequate levels of global flows of Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a critical constraint that impedes performance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals." Most conservative estimates, he pointed out, are that as much as an incremental 30 billion US dollars in ODA can be effectively utilized by developing countries annually even today, "and far more, say 50 billion

US dollars, as capacity develops."

He pointed out that the current level of ODA as a percentage of Gross National Income of the developed countries is at a much lower level than what was prevailing in the early 1990s, the reference point for the MDGs.

Moreover, said Gupta, at a closer look, global statistics of ODA flows reveals that, lately, even the meager increases in ODA flows have been accounted for almost wholly by special-purpose allocations. — MNA/PTI



Hein Htet Saw Naing takes part in U-10 Men's tennis event in Theinbyu Tennis Plaza on 26-4-2004.

NLM

Cash donated to hail Third Literary Conference

YANGON, 26 April — Organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, a ceremony to donate cash to hail the Third Literary Conference Central Leading Body Meeting was held at the meeting hall of MWJA this afternoon.

It was attended by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairman U Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twintay), Joint-Secretary U Khin Swe (Shwe Sunnyo), Fund-raising Work Committee Secretary U Soe Shein (Maung Soe Htaik-Thonse) and wellwishers.

Donations included 650 books on Thutathara worth K 150,000 by Kaung Thant Sarpay; K 30,000 by Police Lt-Col Win Myint (Ye Gaung Win-Kyaikkaw) of Yangon Division; K 20,000 by writer Ni Ni; K 15,000 by Magway Township WJA; K 10,000 by Mingala Taung Nyunt Township WJA; K 3,000 by writer Aung Lan-Soe Pay; and K 3,000 by writer U Nyein Aung. Officials accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Those wishing to donate cash or kind may contact No 529, the second floor, Sarpay Beikman, corner of Merchant Street and 37th Street (Ph 254173, 252417).

MNA

Donate blood

Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve, a tiger habitat

Aung Din (Forestry)

According to the scientific research, there are eight species of tiger in the world, the largest cat species native to Asia. But, now there remain only five species of tiger — South China tiger, Siberian tiger (a) Amur tiger, Sumatran tiger, Indo-China tiger and Bengal tiger. The species of Bali tiger, Caspian tiger and Javan tiger are no longer in existence.

According to the announcement issued by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on 16 March 2004, the Bali tiger species was extinct in the 1940s; Caspian tiger species, in the 1970s; and Javan tiger species, in the 1980s.

The number of South China species is estimated to be between 20 and 30; Siberian species (a) Amur species, 368 and 406; Sumatran species, 400 and 500; Indo-chinese species, 1,220 and 1,785; and Bengal species, 3,176 and 4,556, totalling between 5,184 and 7,277 in the world. The number of tigers is decreasing.

Among the five tiger species, Indo-China and Bengal species are found in Myanmar. Tigers inhabit naturally in 14 nations — Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia, Korea, Russia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar. According to the previous surveys, except India, Myanmar is a place where tigers inhabit most in Asia. Conservationists had predicted that there were some 3,000 tigers around 1980 and 600 to 1,000 around 1996 in Asia. Based on the surveys, the Forest Department issued an estimated number of tigers at 178 to 495 at Tigers' Year Conference held in 1998. According to the forest rangers, those who took forest animal census, hunters and researchers, tigers are found every part of Myanmar except the nation's northernmost very high region.

In the past, a large number of tigers could be seen in the forests and jungles. But, the number has decreased to a certain degree, and now tigers have gone hiding only in the places which is safe and far away from people. Some of the reasons are that the areas to serve as habitat for tigers is dwindling and animals for their food become rare owing to increasing utilization of land for growing population of people. Another cause is that the rate of killing tigers exceeds that of tiger births. And another one is that there is still ineffectiveness in enforcing ban on hunting tigers. And yet another fact is that the hunting of tigers on a commercial scale to satisfy the growing demand for tiger products to be used as ingredients for some Asian nations' traditional medicines.

The Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry, in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), took a tiger census from December 1998 until April 2002, as part of the initial plan to protect tiger species which are on the brink of extinction. Under the plan, experts and service personnel of the Forest Department carried out a survey of tiger population in 18 regions — Alaungdaw Kathapha National Gardens, Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary, Thaugdwut forest reserve, Maha Myaing forest reserve, Nankhamu forest reserve, Mt. Saramayti Nanthaleik forest reserve, Lwegyi-Paunglaung watershed region, Panlaung and Pyadalin wildlife sanctuary, Bago Yoma mountain range, Rakhine Yoma mountain range elephant sanctuary, Hukaung valley region, Sumprabum region, Paletwa and Kalatdan region, Khaunglanphu region, Momeik Mabein region, Myinmo Letkhat hilly region, Taninthayi Thayetchaungphyra region and Phonkanrazi

wildlife sanctuary.

In taking a tiger census, the groups carried out survey of the tigers and conditions on the tigers' prey with the use of infra-red-triggered camera traps, made inquiries to local people about tigers, studied traces of tigers and marks, and put the conditions of the forests on record. The survey has revealed over 50 tigers are left in Hukaung valley region and Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary and over 50 in Taninthayi Thayetchaungphyra region. And it also found out that in Myanmar there are still many tiger habitats where tigers can inhabit in Southeast region. In some of the survey regions, there were no snapped pictures of the tigers while making the surveys, but the officials still get information about local tigers. The Forest Department will have to continue to carry out tiger survey works. According to the reports of the service personnel of the department, there are some tigers in Shan Yoma mountain range and southern part of Kachin State where tiger survey cannot be carried out yet. Based on the facts about the tiger surveys, pictures snapped by the camera traps and other measures, the number of tigers in Myanmar is expected to be around 150 only. If there is no effective protection in time, tigers will be extinct in Myanmar soon.

Therefore, based on the facts gained from the 3-year-and-six-month survey, the Forest Department is implementing the National Tiger Action Plan. In an effort to implement a short-term plan, the department is taking systematic and thorough measures — designating two tiger habitats, namely, Hukaung valley region and Taninthayi region as tiger sanctuaries, taking measures to give effective protection for the existing tigers and their prey animals reducing the selling and buying or killing of such tiger prey as barking deer (muntjac), Hsat (sambur) and wild ox, finding out poaching tigers and smuggling tiger products, conducting courses for its service personnel in connection with providing protection for tigers, banning trade of tiger organs and tiger products, enacting additional laws similar to international laws and enforcing existing rules and regulations on protection of tigers, organizing courses and giving educative tasks for ensuring participation of the people for protection of tigers, and conserving forests of tiger habitats.

In implementing a long-term plan, the department is giving more educative talks on protection of tigers to the entire people, speeding up organizing measures for ensuring more participation of local people in the plan, tightening controls and forest rules and regulations in order not to decrease the area of tiger habitats but further protecting tigers, designating tiger habitats as forest reserves, and cooperating with international community especially neighbouring countries.

Considering all the survey results, the Forest Department is making arrangements for establishing Myanmar's first tiger reserve at Hukaung valley region where a large number of tigers inhabit.

(To be continued)

(Translation: MS)

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 25-4-2004

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

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



မီးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသိယှဉ် အစဉ်သတိ အမြဲရှိ

Nepal participates in Beijing cooperative fair

KATHMANDU, 26 April — Nepalese women entrepreneurs are showcasing their products at the International Cooperative Fair 2004 being held in China's capital Beijing from Monday, the Nepali Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply said here Monday.

A 17-member Nepali team led by Rita Bhandari, chairperson of the Nepalese Women Entrepreneurs Association, is in Beijing to participate in the fair, the ministry said in a Press statement. Nepali goods such as wool, pashmina, woolen clothes, silver ornaments, ornamental beads and hand-made paper will be shown at

the fair. "The exhibition will help find market for Nepali goods produced by cooperatives," the statement said. The international fair is being organized by the International Cooperative Alliance and hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives.

MNA/Xinhua

အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကာကွယ်ရေးနည်းဆော်ချက်

ယခုအခါတွင် နေရာသီရောက်လာပြီးဖြစ်သဖြင့် ရာသီဥတု ပူပြင်းလာပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထိုအပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ရွှေ့ထွက်လွန်ပြီး နွေကုန်အထွေထွေ ရှိ ရေနှင့်ဓာတ်ဆားများ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုများပြားပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ဆုံးရှုံးမှုကြောင့် မိတ်နှင့်ယားဖျားထွက်လာခြင်း၊ ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ မူးမော်ခြင်း၊ ကြွက်တက်ခြင်း၊ ရွှေ့ခြောက်ပြီး ကိုယ်အပူချိန် တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းတို့အပြင် အသက်အန္တရာယ် စိုးရိမ်ရသော အခြေအနေအထိ ဖြစ်တတ်ပါသည်။

- သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် မလိုလားအပ်သော အကျိုးဆက်များ မဖြစ်ပေါ်စေရန် အောက်ပါအချက်အလက်များကို လိုက်နာကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
- (၁) နံနက် (၁၀)နာရီမှ ညနေ (၅)နာရီအတွင်း လွှင့်တံ့ခေါင်ပြင်း မြစ်ကမ်းနား၊ ရေဆိပ်စသည်တို့တွင် ရေချိုးခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်၍ အရိပ်ရ အေးမြသောနေရာများတွင် နေပါ။
 - (၂) နေပူထဲမှပြန်လာပြီး ချက်ချင်းရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - (၃) နေပူထဲတွင် ပြင်းထန်သောကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်သင့်ပါ။
 - (၄) အရက်သောက်ခြင်းသည် အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကို ဖြစ်ပေါ်လွယ်စေခြင်းနှင့် ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြင်းထန်စွာ စောင့်ရှောက်ကြောင့် ရှောင်ကြဉ်သင့်ပါသည်။

- (၅) နေ့ခင်းတက် အပြင်ထွက်သည်အခါတိုင်း အရိပ်လုံလောက်စွာ ရရှိနိုင်သည့် ထီး၊ ဦးထုပ်များ ဆောင်ပါ။
- (၆) အလင်းရောင်ပြန်သော အဖြူရောင် သို့မဟုတ် အရောင်ဖျော့ဖျော့ အဝတ်အထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၇) ပွပူရောင်ချောင် ချည်ထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၈) ရွှေ့ထွက်လွန်ပါက ကိုယ်တွင်းရှိ ရေနှင့်ဓာတ်ဆားဆုံးရှုံးမှုကို ပြန်လည်ဖြည့်တင်းနိုင်ရန် ဓာတ်ဆားရည်သောက်ပါ။
- (၉) ကိုယ်အပူရှိန်တက်ပါက ရေအေးဖတ် နိုင်နိုင်တိုက်ပါ။
- (၁၀) ဆီးချိုရောဂါ၊ နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ သွေးတိုးရောဂါအခါရှိသူများက လေးသွယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများအနေဖြင့် နေ့လယ်နေ့ခင်းတွင် အရိပ်ရ၍ လေဝင်လေထွက်ကောင်းသော နေရာမျိုး၌ နားနေပါ။
- (၁၁) မိတ်ဖျား ယားနားများထွက်ပါက ရေအေးဝတ်ကပ်ခြင်း၊ သနပ်ခါးလိမ်ခြင်းတို့ကို ပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်အပူရှိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းနှင့် အတတ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပါက နီးစပ်ရာ ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ပြသပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

မညာရူးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲ ပြီးစီးတတ်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

China to ensure permanent water supply to Tarim River

URUMQI, 26 April — Chinese water conservancy experts are working to divert water through new channels to the lower reaches of the Tarim River to ensure the section has water permanently.

The new plan is to divert water from Lake Bosten, through Qiwenkouer River and Laota River, two old river courses of Tarim River, to the current river course in the lower reaches. With the materialization of the plan, the lower reaches of the Tarim River could have a stable supply of 350 million cubic metres of water annually as of 2007.

China has diverted water from Lake Bosten directly to the river in dry seasons since April 2000 as a temporary measure. But because of high sand content and excessive branches of the Tarim River, a large quantity of water was squandered during the diversion procedure.

"Lake Bosten is likely to undergo years of normal or dry weather in the years ahead, thus new channels for water injection needs to be considered," said Hu Wenkang, spokesman for the autonomous regional ecological geography institution.

The 1,321-kilometre-long Tarim River is

the longest inland river in China's western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Running west to east along the northern edge of the Taklimakan Desert, China's largest desert, the river valley is home to 120,000 local residents and covers some 86,670 hectares of farmland.

Because of the deteriorating ecological environment, local population increase, excessive reclamation and overuse of water, the 320-kilometre section of the lower reaches of the Tarim River dried up in 1972.

To improve the eco-environment in the river valley, the Chinese Government in 2001 earmarked 10.7 billion yuan (about 1.3 billion US dollars) to launch a Tarim River comprehensive management project, in which advanced irrigation technologies are introduced to farmers living at the river's upper and middle reaches in a bid to reduce water consumption on agriculture.

MNA/Xinhua

Oman in talks with Shell, Total to renew oil concession

ABU DHABI, 26 April — Oman's Ministry of Oil and Gas is negotiating with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) partners Shell, Total and Partex to renew their concession agreement, the English daily *Khaleej Times* reported Saturday.

An agreement has been reached in principle to sign a new deal to renew the 75-year concession to conduct operations in Oman and which expires in 2012, pending the completion of the current discussions on details, according to the *Middle East Economic Survey* (MEES) reports in its Monday edition.

The government holds a 60-per-cent stake in the firm, of which Shell holds 34 per cent, Total 2 per cent and Oman's Partex Corporation 2 per cent.

"The fact that there is an agreement in principle on renewing the concession

puts an end to speculation that the Oman Government might be seeking another major international oil company as a partner in place of Shell because of the decline in PDOs production in recent years," the industry newsletter says, quoting authoritative sources.

"The two sides are also keen to renew the concession ahead of the 2012 expiry date," it adds. The concession was signed in 1937.

PDO has allocated two billion US dollars for new technology over the next five years in an effort to boost oil production by 50,000 barrels per day (BPD).

PDO, which produces almost 90 per cent of Oman's total crude output, has reported its output fell to 703,000 bpd in 2003 from 771,000 bpd in 2002 and blamed ageing oilfields. Further 5 per cent drop is expected in 2004.

Oman, a non-OPEC crude producer with current output of around 710,000 barrels per day (BPD), has been battling to halt a drop in daily output.

Oman also has proven gas reserves of around 0.6226 trillion cubic metres, with potential reserves more than doubling that figure.

MNA/Xinhua

China calls for more financial aid to poor countries

WASHINGTON, 26 April — Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Li Yong said on Sunday that developing countries' efforts in deepening the reforms in key areas could not be sustained unless there is adequate financial support.

In a written statement to the 69th Development Committee Meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he noted that the global economy has been recovering at a rapid pace since last autumn's IMF meeting and the developing countries have been further deepening their structural adjustments. These developments have created a favourable condition for global agenda of poverty reduction.

However, he said that the structural reforms by developing countries should be supported by adequate aid from developed nations. This is key to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations at the beginning of the new century.

Therefore, sufficient aid should be provided for the

countries which have committed to implement necessary reforms and are capable to use aid effectively, Li said.

He also said that China appreciated the progress of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) in conducting necessary structural reforms and welcomed the efforts by the international community to reduce the debt burden of HIPC countries.

Meanwhile, he stressed that there is still a long way to go before the debt burden of the least developed countries could be completely relieved.

The Chinese vice-minister said that development in the poor countries required increased investment in infrastructure and continued external financial support.

MNA/Xinhua

WTO head positive on Doha round trade talks

WASHINGTON, 26 April — The head of the World Trade Organization, Supachai Panitchpakdi, said on Saturday he saw positive signs on the restarting of the Doha Round of world trade talks.

"I do see good signs but some of the commitments that have been made have yet to be translated into substance," Supachai told reporters on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank spring meeting.

Asked about a meeting of trade representatives from around the world in London next week that would try to give a booster shot to talks on revitalizing the Doha Round, he said: "The signs are positive. People are getting together." Agricultural trade is the main potential stumbling block in the stalled talks, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Newlyweds pose for photos on the 600-year-old city wall in Xian, the capital of Shaanxi Province, on 24 April, 2004. A total of 30 couples attended the mass wedding ceremony on the Xian city wall which is the largest and best preserved city wall from the Ming Dynasty in China. INTERNET



Thailand imposes stringent measures for clean markets

BANGKOK, 26 April — The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand requires fresh markets all over the country to maintain food safety during the hot summer months to prevent infectious diseases like cholera.

Speaking after inspecting the Chokchai 4 Market on Saturday, Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said the market would be certified in three to four months after it improves market cleanliness and hygiene in some areas to meet the requirement of the ministry, the *Thai News Agency*

reported Saturday. Suradatt said the ministry enforces stringent measures to reduce any risk of food contamination and protect people from illnesses coming with the hot summer.

She added that the regulations ban the use of hazardous chemical substances like Borax, Formalin, So-

dium Hypochlorite, Beta-Agonist, and pesticides. Offenders will face 20,000-baht (513-US-dollar) fine and two months in prison.

The ministry also requires fresh markets cleaning once a week during summer and once a month at other seasons. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian landslide kills 44, more still trapped

PADANG, 26 April — At least 44 people were killed and five others were trapped after a landslide enveloped a bus and nearly swept it off a cliff in Indonesia's Sumatra Island, a police officer said on Saturday.

The landslide occurred in Pasaman regency West Sumatra, about 625 miles from Jakarta, as the bus was heading to Medan, the capital of North Sumatra.

"The number of casualties is 44 people. Another 13 survived and are being

treated in hospitals and five were trapped," said M Zaini, Pasaman police chief said.

He did not expect those trapped to survive.

The landslide was triggered by heavy monsoon rains in an area that had been cleared of forest cover, a major problem in Sumatra where deforestation has been blamed for many deadly landslips.

The police chief said the landslide crashed down on the bus on a tight and twisty section of road with a cliff on one side. He said the bus was nearly swept over the side, making rescue efforts dangerous. About 330 feet of road had been covered by the debris and heavy machinery had arrived to help the rescue effort, he added. — MNA/Reuters

Bangkok suffers as drought grips country

BANGKOK, 26 April — Thailand's capital city is fast falling prey to the devastating drought that is sweeping across the country, with residents of its suburbs already complaining of severe water shortages.

Siriwattana Chuenwiset, assistant director of Minburi District on the outskirts of Bangkok, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Sunday that the district has seen a barrage of complaints

relating to water shortages this year.

Vehicles are now plying the streets of the district offering free water, with residents queuing outside their houses with receptacles to store it in.

Siriwattana said that the district's farmers are also suffering from the drought conditions, with water levels in local canals at record lows.

MNA/Xinhua

DON'T SMOKE

SPORTS

Striker Scotland earns Dundee Utd 3-3 draw with Rangers

GLASGOW, 26 April—Trinidad and Tobago striker Jason Scotland scored twice in the second half to earn Dundee United a 3-3 draw in a pulsating Scottish Premier League match with Rangers at Tannadice on Saturday.

Rangers have already lost the title to champions Celtic, who they trail by 15 points with four games to play, and could not even avenge their 2-0 defeat at United on February 29.

Rangers forward Steven Thompson had struck on six minutes and then added a 14th minute penalty after the visitors' former striker Billy Dodds had put United ahead in the first minute.

Substitute Hamed Namouchi grabbed a third for Rangers on the stroke of halftime before forward Scotland launched United's comeback from close range just ahead of the hour mark.

Rangers seemed to have held out for a 3-2 win but Scotland fired home in injury time to earn his side a merited point.

Bottom side Partick Thistle lost 1-0 at home to Dundee and are relegated, while their rivals for the drop Kilmarnock beat Hibernian 2-0 to make absolutely sure of staying up. —MNA/Reuters

Lyon crush Rennes to move clear of beaten Monaco

PARIS, 26 April—Olympique Lyon moved four points clear at the top of Ligue 1 on Saturday as they crushed 10-man Stade Rennes 3-0 while Monaco slumped to a 1-0 defeat to Nantes.

Lyon now have 69 points from 33 matches with five games left while Champions League semifinalists Monaco could be overtaken in second place by Paris St. Germain who play on Sunday.

Lyon struggled until the dismissal of defender Gregory Bouillon on 42 minutes gave them the upper hand after the break.

Brazil's Juninho Pernambucano, Ghana's Michael Essien and French international Peguy Luyindula all scored for Lyon.

A swift counter-attack by Marama Vahirua sank Monaco, who looked tired and uninspired after their emphatic 3-1 victory against Chelsea in the Champions League on Tuesday.

"We were far from our best physically but it's not an excuse," said coach Didier Deschamps.

"It's always tricky to play after a Champions League match, especially as Nantes were well organized," he added.

Monaco had struggled at home in recent weeks and Deschamps made it clear they were in a tricky situation.

"We have let points go at home and our direct opponents took advantage of it," he said.

The principality team have been first or second since the start of the season but could slump to third if Paris St. Germain beat Olympique Marseille in their home game on Sunday.

"We have shown against

Real Madrid or Chelsea that we could fight to the bitter end. That's what we're going to do in Ligue 1 too," said defender Sebastien Squillaci.

Lyon seemed somewhat restrained in the first half but were more enthusiastic once Rennes found themselves a man down.

Juninho's penalty in the 57th minute was just reward after Rennes' Cyril Jeunechamp handled the ball inside the box.

Essien's goal six minutes later was a relief for the defending champions, who also won the title in 2002, as they had hit the woodwork three times just before his strike. Luyindula sealed victory in the 71st with his 15th goal of the season, although he is a long way behind AJ Auxerre's Djibril Cisse in the goalscoring charts.

Cisse scored the winner with a close range header as Auxerre beat Sochaux 2-1 to move on to 22 league goals this season.

In the relegation clash between the bottom two in Ligue 1 Montpellier lost 3-0 at home to basement club Le Mans, who are now a point behind them and five points from the safety zone.

MNA/Reuters

Deportivo stay fourth after 1-1 draw at Malaga

MADRID, 26 April—Champions League semifinalists Deportivo Coruna remained fourth in the Primera Liga after they were held to a 1-1 draw at Malaga on Saturday.

Depor looked in control after midfielder Victor put them ahead with a well-struck shot midway through the first half but they eased up too quickly and Malaga equalized before the break when substitute Manuel Canabal stabbed in from close range.

The result left Deportivo a point behind Barcelona, who play arch-rivals Real Madrid at the Bernabeu on Sunday. Valencia are level with Real on 70 points, but lead the table with a better head-to-head record. Barca follow on 63 and Depor have 62.

Relegation-threatened Espanyol got out of the drop zone with a priceless 3-1 win at home to Atletico Madrid thanks to a late double from substitute striker Claudiu Raducanu.

The victory left the Catalans a point above Real Mallorca, although the islanders could reclaim their position if they beat fellow strugglers Valladolid on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Man United's title hopes ended by Murphy strike

LONDON, 26 April — Manchester United's last hopes of retaining the Premier League title ended when Danny Murphy converted a penalty to give Liverpool a 1-0 victory at Old Trafford on Saturday.

With Arsenal hoping to clinch the title on Sunday when they play Tottenham Hotspur, Saturday's focus was the battle for European football and Premier League survival.

Fourth-placed Liverpool edged closer to a place in the Champions League qualifiers, while Leicester City's hopes of staying up suffered a body blow when Paul Dickov had a late penalty saved by England keeper David James in their 1-1 draw with Manchester City.

United remained third on 71 points with three games left as they chase Chelsea (72) and Arsenal (81).

Their faint hopes of a ninth title in 12 seasons ended midway through the second half when a rash challenge by defender Gary Neville brought down Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard and Murphy converted the spot kick. It was the third time in four seasons the midfielder has scored the winning goal at Old Trafford.

Arsenal can secure their 13th championship on Sunday if they beat Spurs and Chelsea fail to win at Newcastle United in an earlier kick-off.

United have now handed the initiative to Chelsea in the race for second place and a guaranteed place in next season's Champions League group stage. The hosts badly missed Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, who has been struggling with injury, and were unlucky when a Ryan Giggs effort hit the woodwork.

For Alex Ferguson's side, who face First Division Millwall in next month's FA Cup final, it was the eighth league defeat of a frustrating season.

Victory kept Liverpool on course to finish fourth with 53 points although Newcastle, three points behind, have a game in hand in addition to Sunday's clash with Chelsea at St. James' Park.

Ten-man Aston Villa also stayed in the hunt for a qualifying slot in the money-spinning Champions League by rallying to win 2-1 at Middlesbrough. Peter Crouch scored a late winner after a 57th-minute red card for Villa's Peruvian midfielder Nolberto Solano.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Louis Saha beats Liverpool's John Arne Riise during Premiership clash at Old Trafford, Manchester on 24 April, 2004. —INTERNET

Porto crowned Portuguese champions for 19th time

LISBON, 26 April—Porto were crowned Portuguese champion for the 19th time without kicking a ball on Saturday after second-placed Sporting's 1-0 defeat at Uniao Leiria ended their title challenge with two games left.

Champions League semifinalists Porto have an unsailable six-point lead since they have a better head-to-head record over Sporting and Benfica who can only now equal them on points.

Porto fans chanting "champions, champions" gathered at the hotel where the players were resting ahead of Sunday's match to

rejoice after a second successive title. Porto host Alverca at the Estadio do Dragao where the celebrations will continue.

Middle of the table Uniao Leiria ended Sporting's title hopes when they scored the winning goal after 49 minutes through midfielder Joaquim Alhandra after a goalmouth scramble.

Third-placed Benfica beat relegated bottom club Estrela Amadora 3-1 as striker Nuno Gomes opened the scoring with a penalty after 13 minutes.

Croatian striker Tomislav Sokota was left unmarked inside the box and fired Benfica into a 2-0 halftime lead.

David Dias scored a consolation goal for Estrela after 86 minutes before defender Miguel Monteyro completed the rout for Benfica four minutes later. —MNA/Reuters

Struggling Espanyol gain priceless 3-1 win over Atletico

MADRID, 26 April—Relegation-threatened Espanyol claimed a priceless 3-1 win at home to Atletico Madrid to move out of the Primera Liga relegation zone on Saturday.

The victory left the Catalans a point above Real Mallorca, although the islanders could reclaim their position if they beat fellow strugglers Valladolid on Sunday.

Brazilian midfielder Fredson broke the deadlock in what had been an even match by outjumping the Atletico defence to power in a header from Ivan de la Pena's perfectly struck corner in the 64th minute.

MNA/Reuters



Christian Woerns (R) of Borussia Dortmund jumps for the ball with Joerg Butt of Bayer Leverkusen during their German Bundesliga soccer match in Leverkusen, on 24 April, 2004. Woerns is carried out on a barrow after the collision. Leverkusen won the match 3-0. —INTERNET



Guillermo Coria of Argentina returns the ball to Marat Safin of Russia during their semi final match of the Monte Carlo Masters tennis open in Monaco on 24 April, 2004. Coria defeated Safin 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. —INTERNET



27-4-2004 (Tuesday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Devoutly Making Donations
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Let's Talk About Lahu Nationals
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Everything you want to know about star tortoise, but dare not ask? Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Bagan Archaeological Museum
- 9:40 Song "You can take me but not my love"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

27-4-2004 (Tuesday) Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Devoutly Making Donations
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Let's Talk About Lahu Nationals
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Everything you want to know about star tortoise, but dare not ask? Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Bagan Archaeological Museum
- 16:10 Song "You can take

- me but not my love"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Discussion Points on Lacquerware College Fair Price High Quality Myanmar Carpets
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Interview on Marquetry Painting
- 16:55 Htaung Yaung Nay (Classical Dance of the Royal Maids)
- 16:58 Fishery In Kayin State
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Golden Jubilee of Myanmar Motion Pictures
- 17:10 Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (II) (Upper Shangaung-Awadam)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)

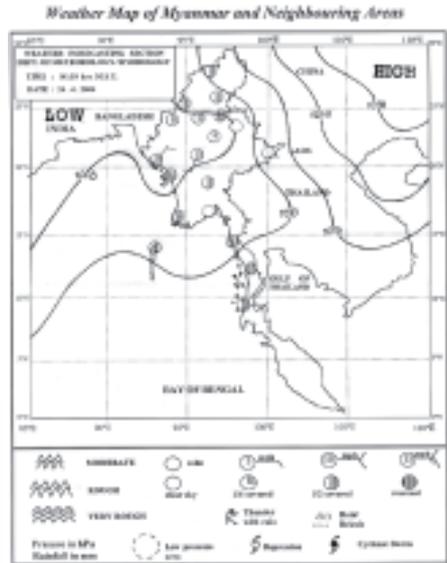
- 19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Akauk Mountain)
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Aungpan Oranges
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Butterfly Garden In Yangon
- 19:55 Artist Maung Kyaw Nyunt "Cover Poster and Creative Painting"
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 A Peaceful Place of Mind
- 20:10 Song "Lovely Dusk"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Beauty of the Woman of Myanmar (Pre-War Period)
- 20:25 Song "Nationalities Village"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 A Hidden Treasure

- (Kekku)
- 20:40 Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the connoisseurs
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 A Thin Kind of Paper
- 20:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana or Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (I) (Yangon-Putao-Upper Shangaung)
- 21:10 Song "No Matter In Whichever Country You Are Remember"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 38 Modes of Auspicious Conducts (Savior of His Nation)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 21:35 Devoutly Making Donations
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Let's Talk About Lahu Nationals
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Everything you want to know about star tortoise, but dare not ask? Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
- 21:55 Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Bagan Archaeological Museum
- 22:10 Song "You can take me but not my love"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
- 22:25 Song "The Smooth Way with Beautiful White Flowers"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Discussion Points on Lacquerware College Fair Price High Quality Myanmar Carpets
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Interview on Marquetry Painting
- 22:55 Htaung Yaung Nay (Classical Dance of the Royal Maids)
- 22:58 Fishery In Kayin State
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Golden Jubilee of Myanmar Motion Pictures
- 23:10 Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Re-

- gion (II) (Upper Shangaung-Awadam)
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

27-4-2004 (Tuesday) & 28-4-2004 (Wednesday) Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)

- 23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Devoutly Making Donations
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Let's Talk About Lahu Nationals
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Everything you want to know about star tortoise, but dare not ask? Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Bagan Archaeological Museum
- 00:10 Song "You can take me but not my love"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Discussion Points on Lacquerware College Fair Price High Quality Myanmar Carpets
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Interview on Marquetry Painting
- 00:55 Htaung Yaung Nay (Classical Dance of the Royal Maids)
- 00:58 Fishery In Kayin State
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Golden Jubilee of Myanmar Motion Pictures
- 01:10 Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (II) (Upper Shangaung-Awadam)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"



WEATHER

Monday, 26 April, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in northern Shan State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin State, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and eastern Shan States, Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (43°C) each in Yamethin, Minbu and Magway. Maximum temperature on 25-4-2004 was 40.0°C (104°F). Minimum temperature on 26-4-2004 was 22.7°C (73°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-4-2004 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 25-4-2004 was (10.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-4-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 5 mm (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport and 12 mm (0.47 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 3 mm (0.12 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from South at (14:30) hours MST on 25-4-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South and Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-4-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-4-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-4-2004: Partly cloudy.



Tuesday, April 27 View today:

- 7:00 am**
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
- 5. တနင်္ဂနွေညာစုံ (သန့်သန့်အောင်မြင်) (သန့်သန့်)
- 8:00 am**
- 6. အတိတ်ပြန်
- 8:10 am**
- 7. Song of yesteryear

- 8:20 am**
- 8. တစ်ခါတည်း
- 8:30 am**
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 10. Grammar made easy
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လမ်းညွှန်ရာ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယပုဒ် (သန့်သန့်အောင်မြင်) (သန့်သန့်)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Musical programme
- 5:25 pm**
- 7. Dance of national races

- 5:40 pm**
- 8. မင်းနားဆင်စောစောတံတိုင်း
- 5:50 pm**
- 9. Sing and enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
- 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
- 11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
- 12. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးပြည့်အောင်
- 7:15 pm**
- 13. Musical programme
- 7:30 pm**
- 14. အပန်းဖြေရအောင် ကမ်းခြေပွင့်စောင့်
- 7:40 pm**
- 15. The Mirror Images Of Musical Oldies
- 8:00 pm**
- 16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လှမ်းတဲ့ "အရူးမိသည့်မှာ" (အပိုင်-၂၇)
- 20. The next day's programme



Tuesday, April 27 Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: Flash back (Tina Arena) Perspectives
- 8.40 am** Music: Sail on sailor (Li Li + Sting)
- 8.45 am** National news/ Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music: Lonely (Britney Spears)
- International news
- 9.05 am** Music: Don't look any further (In People)
- 9.10 am** News/Slogan
- 1.30 pm** Lunch Time Music - She's crazy for living (Randy Crawell)
- Even now (Exil)
- True love (Den Williams)
- Look at us (Vince Six)
- 9.00 pm** English Lesson: Look Ahead (II)
- 9.15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Weekly Sports Reel
- 9.35 pm** Music for your listening pleasure -Loving you so long now (Crystal Gayle)
- Love song (Madonnah)
- You know that I loveyou (C. Richard)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

OBITUARY
U Hla
B.S (Hons.), M.S. (Electrical Power), Lehigh University, U.S.A Superintending Engineer, MEPE (Retd.)
Aged 71 Years
U Hla, beloved husband of Daw Ohn Kyi, 142, Anawrahta Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, father of Mg Nyan Soe Hla (Final Part I, IM 1), brother of DrShwe Htoo-Anne Htoo (New York, U.S.A.), (Dr Mya Tha)-Gerlind Tha (Hanover, Germany), Dr Aung Kyaw-Dr Khin Than Tin, (U Tin Tun)-Daw Tin Htay, Ruamrudee International School, Bangkok, Daw Tin Tin Aye (New York, U.S.A.), (U Pyin Nyeinda), Dr Saw J Tha-Dr May Khin Htwe (Australia), passed away on 26 April, 2004, Monday, (4:15 pm) at Kan Thar Yar Lake View Hospital. His remains will be cremated at Yay Way Cemetery on Wednesday, 28 April, 2004 at (11:30 am).
The bereaved family

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Israeli President

YANGON, 27 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Moshe Katsav, President of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel which falls on 27 April 2004. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects road and bridge construction tasks in Sagaing

YANGON, 26 April — April morning attended the Ngwetha Dam-opening ceremony and inspected Salingyi Textile Mill (project) of Myanma Textile Industries, the Ministry of Industry-1 at 10.15 am. Lt-Gen Ye Myint was accompanied by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials.

At the hall of the factory, assistant manager reported on construction works being carried out for the project and future tasks to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, who then gave necessary instructions to him.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the construction progress of the main factory building and arrangements for installation of machines. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into the new road linking Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road, Monywa-Pale-Gangaw Road and Pakokku-Monywa Road. At the briefing hall at Aung Chantha Village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on construction of Yama Creek Bridge and attend to the needs. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the construction site of

(See page 10)

Aviation Courses for new generation youth open

YANGON, 26 April—The Basic Aviation Course No 1/2004 and Advanced Aviation Course No 1/2004 for new generation youths aviation sponsored by the Union Solidarity and Development Association (central) and Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office were opened at the training hall of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association at the corner of Saya San Street and West Race Course Road in Bahan Township here this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Col Tin Maung Tun and senior military officers, Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tin Hsan, Secretary of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aye Myint and executives, course instructors, trainees and others.

First, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech.

Next, Deputy Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Col Tin Maung Tun spoke and the open-

ing ceremony came to a close. The five-week Basic Aviation Course No 1/2004 is being attended by 50 trainees whereas five-week Advanced Aviation Course is being attended by 25 trainees.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence meets with military officers, other ranks and their families at Zeyathiri hall of North-West Command, Monywa. — MNA



(See page 10)

Six-storey Office of Myanmar Passport Issuing Board opens

YANGON, 26 April — The six-storey Myanmar Passport Board Office built by Special Investigation Department of Myanmar Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs was opened on Pansodan Street in Kyauktada Township this morning.

Present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi,

heads of departments of the Ministry of Home Affairs, members of Myanmar Passport Board, senior officers of MPF and members of SID. Minister Col Tin Hlaing and Secretary of Myanmar Passport Board commander of SID Police Brig-Gen Thet Htut formally opened the office.

Next, Minister Col Tin Hlaing formally unveiled the inscription of the office and

sprinkled scented water on it. The minister and party inspected photo studio on the ground floor, passport issue branch on the first floor, the head of branch office on the second floor and application branch on the third floor.

Next, Police Brig-Gen Thet Htut and deputy commander of SID Police Col Khin Maung Latt reported that construction of five-storey record office of SID, 90 feet long, 35 feet wide and 55 feet high, started on 21 December 2001 and completed on 22 December 2002. It cost K 41.5 million.

The Myanmar Passport Board, 60 feet long, 39 feet wide and 74 feet high was built at a cost of over K 80 million. The construction began on 10 June 2003 and completed on 9 April 2004.

With the opening of the new office, those who apply for passport can easily submit applications and draw the passport book and personal data of the applicants can be stored systematically.

The minister gave instructions on working for the applicants with goodwill and dealing with the people in a polite manner.

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Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe makes a speech at opening of Basic Aviation Course No (1/2004) and Advanced Aviation Course (1/2004). — MNA

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

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