

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

■ **To approve the State Constitution is a national duty of the entire people today. Let us all cast “Yes” vote in the national interest.**

Mandalay observes International Year of Sanitation (2008)



Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe views paintings and posters of Sanitation and Personal Hygiene Activities Week at opening of International Year of Sanitation (2008).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—A ceremony to open the International Year of Sanitation (2008) was held in conjunction with the ceremony to mark the Sanitation and Personal Hygiene Activities Week at the meeting hall of Chanayethazan Township Union Solidarity and Development Association’s Office in Mandalay on 29 March

with an address by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe.

This was followed by the ceremony to donate sanitation items by well-wishers for townships in Mandalay Division. And Dr Daw Khin Thida, wife of the commander, ac-

cepted the donations.

After the ceremony, the commander and wife viewed posters on sanitation and personal hygiene activities at the booth of the Sanitation and Personal Hygiene Activities Week.

The environmental sanitation coverage in Myanmar was 46 per cent in 1997 and 83 per cent in 2007. The utili-

zation of fly-proof latrines in Mandalay Division was 86 per cent in 2006 and 87.4 per cent in 2007. Local authorities in cooperation with various social organizations and well-wishers sank small and large 24 tube-wells at a cost of K 60.353 million in Mandalay Division for drinking purposes.

Hailing ceremonies

to open the International Year of Sanitation (2008) and to mark Sanitation and Personal Hygiene Activities Week, World Vision donated 100 ac-

cessories for fly-proof latrines while PSI donated 100 water guards and MSI and Care Myanmar, 100 litter bins.

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

INSIDE

Towards the future State of loyalists and men of integrity

A RETIRED CIVIL SERVANT

The world has recognized that Myanmar have loyalty and integrity. Such characteristics come from Myanmar’s having patriotism, cherishing independence, wanting perpetual sovereignty and loathing for being a follower of the colonialists and a puppet government.

PAGE 9

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 21 April, 2008

Exploite existing infrastructures for enhancement of socio-economic life of the people

The government has placed emphasis on peace and stability and prevalence of law and order in the country. It has been implementing the projects in every sector nationwide. Moreover, the government is building a great number of infrastructures in transport, education, health, agriculture and communication sectors for the regions that lagged behind in development in the past.

Now development has been brought about throughout the country and the people are enjoying peace and stability, prevalence of law and order and development.

There has been peace and stability and prevalence of law and order in Mon State. Through concerted efforts for regional development, local people in the region will surely achieve improvement in their socio-economic life.

Transport and communication has become easier for the people in the region as the government built Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). The government is undertaking programmes for development of human resources while building infrastructures on education.

The government fulfils the basic requirements for development of all regions in the country. Socio-economic life of the people will improve with the practical exploitation of existing infrastructures.

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

CEC Member supervises regional development tasks in Mon State

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint arrived at the office of Township USDA in Kyaikto in Mon State on 13 April.

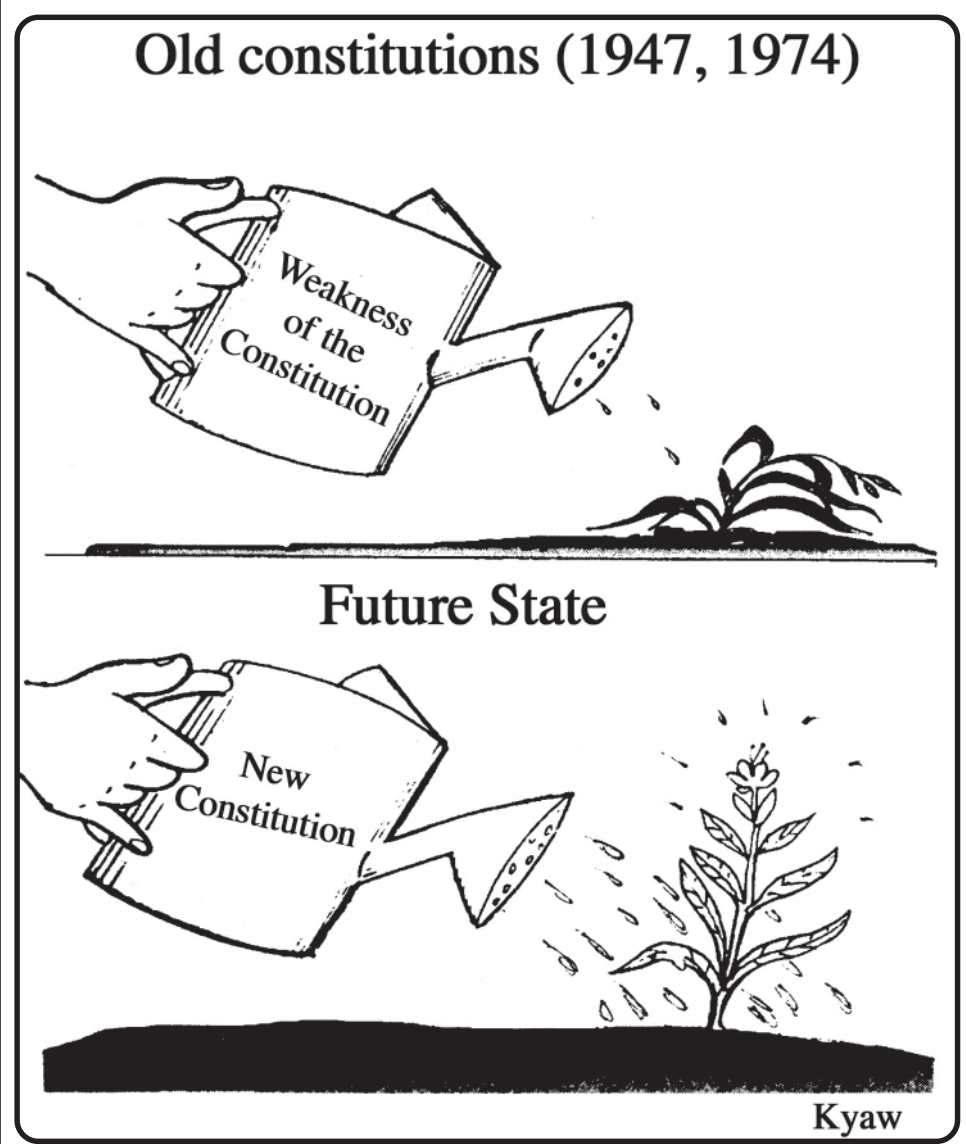
Upon arrival at the office, the CEC Member met with townsenders and township executives and held discussions on regional development tasks.

At Kinmonsakhan village Basic Education High School, the CEC Member met with local people and village USDA members, paid homage to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda and made cash donations.

The following day the CEC Member enjoyed Thingyan dance of the students and presented cash awards. He also donated cash and kind to the aged of Thaton Home for the Aged.

The next day the CEC Member viewed Thingyan Yein in Kyaikmayaw, paid homage to Hsutaungpyae Pagoda and made cash donations in Kyaikmayaw.

Next, the CEC Member paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotika and offered provisions to the Sayadaw.



After that he viewed the feast given in charity for all comers in Kyaikmayaw. Afterwards, he watched Thingyan Yein of Kadonti village and presented cash awards to the Yein trupes.

Later, the CEC Member paid homage to

Winseintawya monastery presiding Sayadaw Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara and donated cash for Buddha Image. He also paid respects to the presiding Sayadaw of Peinnetaik monastery and Gyonegyonekyatawya

monastery presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Ketevana, donated alms to the Sayadaws, presented cash donations for Sarthintaiks and visited Mudon town Kangyi pagoda in Mudon—MNA

Sky Home Language Centre opens

YANGON, 20 April — The opening of Sky Home Language Centre (Yangon Branch) of Tokyo West International Education Academy was held in conjunction with organizing educative talks on salient points for those who are learning Japanese language at Traders Hotel on 5 April.

The principal of Nishi Tokyo Language School and Japanese faculty members attended the ceremony and held talks. Sky Home Language Centre is being kept open on the tenth floor of Sandar Myaing Condominium in front of Hledan Market in Kamaryut Township. Apart from Japanese, English and Chinese can be learned. Sky Home Language Centre will join the learners to be eligible for Nishi Tokyo Japanese Language School.

All courses will be open starting from 22 April. Only fifteen learners will be limited for one class room. International experienced teachers will supervise Japanese and English language courses.

If any one is not satisfied with the teaching methods, the language centre guarantes to refund the fee. Those who want MA, MBA and ME Biz may contact the language centre.

There is a special program for those who want to learn both Japanese and English, and foreigners who want to learn Myanmar. Those who want home tuition may contact the language centre.

For further information, contact the language centre (Ph-535144 and 095048520), Email: info@skyhome.info, www.tokyo-west.com.—MNA

Afghans to probe whether US used depleted uranium

KABUL, 20 April—The Afghan government plans to investigate whether the United States used depleted uranium during its invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and if it might be linked to malformed

babies born afterwards. Parts of Afghanistan, particularly the mountainous region of Tora Bora in the east—the suspected hideout of al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden—came under heavy US bombing

in late 2001 when the Taliban regime was ousted. Depleted uranium is a heavy metal used in some weapons that can pierce armour. It has small levels of radioactivity associated with it.

Cases of malformed babies delivered in the heavily bombed Afghan areas have come to light, Faizullah Kakar, Afghan deputy public health minister for technical affairs said on Saturday, citing an unnamed US expert.

Kakar told *Reuters* the Afghan government planned to investigate the matter.

MNA/Xinhua



Palestinians gather around the wreckage of a car following an Israeli air strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. Three Palestinians were killed and 13 Israeli soldiers wounded on Saturday when Hamas militants, including suicide bombers, stormed a Gaza Strip border crossing with explosives-laden vehicles.—INTERNET

Burundi death toll rises to 26 in three-day battle

BUJUMBURA, 20 April—Burundi's army battled rebels for a third day running on Saturday, in clashes that have killed 20 fighters and six soldiers, a military spokesman said.

In some of the worst fighting in months, military helicopters were deployed to the outskirts of the capital

Bujumbura on Friday against the rebel Forces for National Liberation (FNL), spokesman Colonel Adolphe Manirakiza said.

"We have been obliged to use strong means, because the FNL planned to attack different army bases," he said, adding that the situation was now calm.

The latest violence

started on Thursday night when FNL rebels fired mortar bombs at government positions in Bujumbura, drawing return fire from the military.

MNA/Xinhua



A boy looks at the remains of a burnt vehicle after an air strike in Baghdad's Sadr City on 20 April, 2008. Residents said one child was killed and four civilians wounded during the air strike on Saturday night in Sadr City.—INTERNET



Tourists watch a performance of traditional wedding in Suzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 19 April, 2008. A traditional wedding show was put on in Suzhou to present tourists the culture and folk-custom of the ancient water town.

XINHUA

Heavy clashes in Somali capital kill eight-residents

MOGADISHU, 20 April—Eighting between Somali insurgents and Ethiopian forces killed eight people in Mogadishu on Saturday, including two Ethiopian soldiers,

residents and witnesses said.

Insurgents opposed to the interim government's Ethiopian allies opened fire on Ethiopian troops patrolling the capital's main livestock market, drawing retaliatory fire.

"As the fighting became heavier, the Ethiopian troops fired tank shells ... killing a young girl and seriously injuring her two sisters," resident Hussein Elmi told *Reuters* by phone.—MNA/Xinhua

Some 2,000 people protest against US radar base in Czech Misov

PRAGUE, 19 April—Around 2,000 people took part in the protest against the planned stationing of a US radar base on Czech soil in Misov near the Brdy military grounds where the base is to be built, local media reported on Saturday.

People arrived in Misov in some 20 buses and hundreds of cars in the rainy day. The protesters, carrying banners and flags, then marched about one kilometer to the border of the military grounds in a forest.

The organizer, Com-

munist party (KSCM) from west Bohemia and Central Bohemia regional branch, originally planned to march to the exact place where the radar is to be

built, but the military banned it, saying the law does not allow for political demonstrations on military grounds.

Xinhua

US military base-bound trucks attacked, two drivers wounded in Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 April—Armed militants attacked two trucks supplying logistic items to the US-led Coalition forces in Afghanistan's eastern Khost province, a local official said Saturday.

"There were trucks full of food and other items

moving towards Coalition base in Khost when the rebels by exploding a mine on the road and opening fire injured both the drivers," Abdul Wali Zadrán the district chief

of Ozai told *Xinhua*.

He also added that the incident occurred in Uzai district on Khost-Gardez highway Friday late afternoon.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan's missing ambassador to Afghanistan held by Taliban

ABU DHABI, 20 April—Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan, who went missing in February, said in a video tape aired on Al Arabia satellite channel on Saturday that he was being held by the Taliban.

Tariq Azizuddin, Pakistan's missing ambassador to the war-torn Afghanistan, also asked Pakistani government to meet Taliban's demands to secure the release of him and his driver and bodyguard who were kidnapped with him in February.

"We were on our way to Afghanistan in our official car on 11 Feb when we were kidnapped in the region of Khyber ... by the Mujahedeen of the Taliban," he said.

Azizuddin appeared in the video tape with two men sitting next to him and three gunmen standing in the background.

The Pakistani diplomat, who has health problems including high blood pressure and heart pains, said in the video tape that he was being held with his driver and bodyguard.

MNA/Xinhua

US, Iraqi troops build concrete walls in Baghdad's Sadr City

BAGHDAD, 19 April — US and Iraqi troops are building concrete walls through Baghdad's Shiite bastion of Sadr City in an attempt to prevent militias from firing mortars and rockets on the Green Zone, an Interior Ministry source said on Saturday.

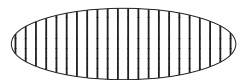
Hundreds of barriers of concrete blocks, some up to three meters high, are being erected to construct walls along the

main streets of the sprawling neighborhood of Sadr City in order to control access in and out of the divided areas, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The US military and Iraqi security forces hoped that constructing the walls in the Sadr City that begun few days ago will divide the sprawling stronghold of Mahdi Army militia which will effectively cut

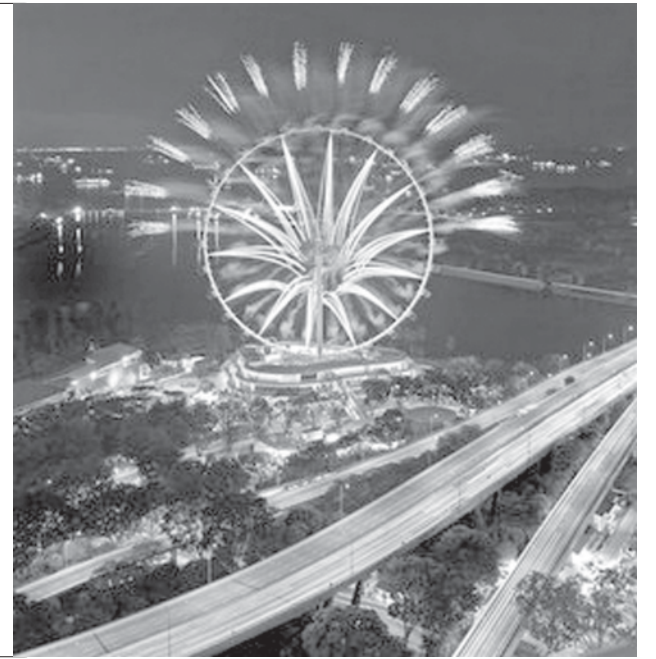
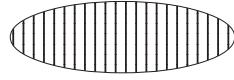
off the militiamen's ability to move freely, the source said.

The walls will lead to bring the Sadr City under the control of the Iraqi security forces and US troops, and that will also hamper mortar and rocket attacks on the heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses the US embassy and the Iraqi government offices, he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Fireworks are released at the grand opening ceremony of the world's largest observation wheel also known as the Singapore Flyer on 15 April, 2008, in Singapore.

INTERNET



Rainstorm hits central China province, affecting 200,000

WUHAN, 19 April — Continuous rainstorm has been slamming a prefecture in the central Hubei province since Friday and affected more than 200,000 people. But no casualties have been reported, a local civil affairs department spokesman said Saturday.

The rainstorm, the worst in 21 years in Enshi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, has flattened 126 houses, destroyed crops on 17,700 hectares and forced the evacuation of 107 local residents, the spokesman said.

The disaster caused a direct economic loss of 18.14 million yuan (2.6 million US dollars), he

added.

Mountain torrents also flooded Sanhe village in Longfengba Town in the prefecture.

In villager He Xiaobin's

house, the water was almost 50 centimeters deep. "We have been busy draining the water for quite a long time," he said.

Xinhua

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Nine Finnish killed, over 30 injured in bus crash in Spain

MADRID, 19 April — Nine Finnish tourists were killed and over 30 others injured when the bus they were traveling in crashed near Spain's southern coastal resort town of Benalmadena Saturday, Spanish emergency services said.

The accident occurred at around 8:00 pm local time (1800 GMT) when another vehicle trying to overtake the bus rammed into its side and shoved it off the highway, causing it to capsize.

Shortly after the accident, Spanish emergency officials set up a makeshift hospital at the site of the accident to provide first aid to the victims, who were then transferred to nearby hospitals. —*Xinhua*



Policemen stand by a crashed bus near Spain's southern coastal resort town of Benalmadena on 19 April, 2008. The bus carrying Finnish tourists crashed leaving eight passengers dead, including a 7-year-old girl, Spanish police said. —XINHUA

Hamas vows more attacks on Israel

GAZA, 19 April — A spokesman for Islamic Hamas movement's armed wing, al-Qassam Brigades, vowed on Saturday to carry out more armed attacks against Israel "until breaking the Israeli blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip."

Abu O'baida told a news conference in Gaza that the armed attacks on Kerem Shalom crossing earlier Saturday "is the beginning of more attacks to break more than ten months of Israel blockade imposed on the Gaza

Strip."

"The attack on Kerem Shalom is the beginning of breaking the siege," Abu O'baida said, adding that Hamas "is not interested in targeting Gaza crossings, and the targets will be always the Israeli soldiers."

Three Hamas militants were killed and 13 Israeli soldiers wounded on Saturday during an armed attack carried out by Hamas militants on the crossing between southern Gaza Strip and Israel.

MNA/Xinhua

At least 15 die, 35 injured in Ecuador's nightclub fire

QUITO, 19 April — A fire ignited by fireworks swept through a crowded Quito nightclub Saturday, leaving at least 15 people dead and 35 others injured, local media reported.

The nightclub is located just 500 meters from the main commercial center in the southern area of the capital.

Rescue workers continued to search for bodies, while inspectors were investigating whether proper security measures had been in place, the reports said.

Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed in bomb attacks north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 April — The US military said on Saturday that two of its soldiers were killed north of Baghdad, while it warned of potential suicide bomb attacks in the capital.

A soldier assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad was killed when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb at about 13:45 pm (1045 GMT) on Friday during a combat patrol in an area located just north of Baghdad, a military statement said.

Also on Friday, a second soldier assigned to

Multi-National Division-North was killed when a booby-trapped car went off near his patrol in Salahudin province, another statement said. The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq to about 4,038 since the Iraq war broke out in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

The attacks came as the US military warned that numerous of al-Qaida militants entered Baghdad planning to carry out suicide bomb attacks in the capital.—*MNA/Xinhua*



A man talks on the phone inside a Buenos Aires' airport hall filled with smoke, on 19 April, 2008. A thick cloud of smoke covered Buenos Aires for a fifth day on Saturday, the fallout of field burning that has forced the closure of highways, flight delays and traffic congestion.—INTERNET

Iran says oil at US\$115 a barrel is too low

TEHERAN, 19 April— Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that oil is priced too low at US\$115 a barrel, adding that the commodity “should find its real value”, the state-run

broadcasting website reported Saturday.

“Oil at US\$115 a barrel in today’s market is a deceiving figure, oil is a strategic commodity and should find its real value,” Ahmadinejad was quoted

as saying.

On Friday, New York’s main oil, light sweet crude for delivery in May, surged US\$1.83 higher to a record close of US\$116.69 a barrel. It had earlier hit an intra-day all-time peak of US\$117.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Hossein Nozari on Wednesday rejected calls from crude oil consuming countries for the OPEC cartel to act to lower oil prices that have reached record highs.

Internet



A model parades an outfit during a fashion show in Jakarta on the sideline of Indonesia National Textile Exhibition 2008.—INTERNET

S Korea’s trade balances with major trade partners worsen in Q1

SEOUL, 20 April — South Korea’s trade balances with China, the United States and Japan worsened in the first three months of this year due to a slowing US economy and Seoul’s high dependency on Japanese parts, a report by the Korea Customs Service said on

Sunday. South Korea’s trade surplus with China dropped 1.7 percent year-on-year to 4.1 billion US dollars in the January-March period, said the report.

The country’s trade surplus with the United States was 1.74 billion US dollars in the period, down

34.1 percent from the same period last year, it said.

South Korea’s shipments to the US dropped 2.8 percent year-on-year to 11.07 billion US dollars in the three-month period, while imports rose 6.6 percent to 9.34 billion US dollars.

Internet

ECONOMIC NEWS

WTO head wants World Bank, IMF to refocus on food supply

LONDON, 19 April— The head of the World Trade Organisation, Pascal Lamy, called on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to take action to help tackle rising food prices in an interview Saturday.

The surging price of basic foods like rice, wheat and corn in some of

the world’s poorest countries has triggered riots in Haiti and demonstrations in some African countries.

Factors contributing to the rise include the increasing demand for biofuels, since certain crops are used to make them, and the rising cost of oil and transportation.

“Medium and long-term, developed countries can use their power in places like the World Bank, the IMF...to make sure that these big donors refocus part of the aid they give to developing countries to improving supply in agriculture,” Lamy said in a radio interview. —*Internet*

GM unveils gas-electric model

BEIJING, 20 April — General Motors Corp will sell its first gas-electric hybrid cars in China in July, introducing a model created in part by GM’s Shanghai design center, the company said yesterday.

The Buick LaCrosse will be the second hybrid to enter the Chinese automobile market following Toyota Motor Corp’s Prius in early 2006.

The LaCrosse will be

unveiled today at the Beijing Auto Show, GM managers said.

They added it will be priced under 300,000 yuan (US\$43,000)—comparable to the Prius.

“We don’t expect to see a very high volume of sales of this car in China in a short period of time,” Joseph Liu, GM China’s vice president for sales, told reporters.

“But we bring this technology to help China

support sustainable growth and bring consumers in that direction.”

The car was developed with contributions from GM’s Pan Asia Technical Automotive Center in Shanghai, said Maryann Combs, the center’s president.

Hybrids improve fuel efficiency and cut emissions by generating extra power from the brakes as a vehicle tops. But they also cost more because they require both gasoline and electric motors.

GM says the LaCrosse will be the first hybrid made in China.

Internet

A model stands next to a Buick Riviera at the Auto China 2008 auto show in Beijing on 19 April, 2008.

INTERNET

World Investment Forum inaugurates to address opportunities, challenges in investment

ACCRA, 20 April— World Investment Forum, sponsored by the UNCTAD, announces its curtain-up in Ghana’s capital Accra on Saturday with an agenda on the opportunities and challenges facing the world in the future in investment and development. In the four-day meeting, three interaction sessions will be held in the Conference Centres of

Accra, covering topics on prospect for global foreign direct investment (FDI) and news business opportunities, the global value chain and special session on the emerging FDI destination of Africa.

“The forum is a new model of interaction to help investment promotion officials and policymakers face challenges and provides an

occasion to discuss and advise in different prospective, and opportunities and challenges to face in the future in investment and development,” Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, director general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said in the opening ceremony of the forum.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese President greets Putin as Russian ruling party chief

BEIJING, 19 April — Chinese President Hu Jintao has sent a congratulatory message to Russia's outgoing President Vladimir Putin for his election as chairman of the ruling United Russia party.

In his letter, Hu said he believed under the leadership of Putin, the United Russia party will play a bigger role in the lofty cause of achieving prosperity in Russia.

The Communist

Party of China (CPC) has maintained close friendly ties of cooperation with the United Russia party. The exchanges between the two parties strengthened mutual understanding and trust and enriched the meaning of strategic partnership between China and Russia over the past years, Hu said.

"The CPC is willing to further consolidate and deepen the friendly ties of cooperation with the

United Russia party and to boost China-Russia relations for deep and all-round development on the basis of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs," Hu said.

Putin was elected chairman of the United Russia in the party's congress Tuesday, which won a majority in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, in December's elections.—Xinhua



Delhi state Chief Minister Shiela Dikshit flags off the Magic India Discovery Tour in the backdrop of the India Gate memorial in New Delhi, India, on 20 April, 2008. Two Ferrari 612 Scaglietti are scheduled to cover a route stretching more than 11,000 kilometres (6,875 miles) on a journey across India that began in Mumbai on 25 Feb, and is scheduled to end on 8 May. — INTERNET



A visitor walks past a Chery model B240 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, on 18 April, 2008. Chery, known as China's biggest independent automotive brand, will be directly involved in the manufacturing, assembly and distribution of Chery vehicle along Alado in Malaysia.—INTERNET

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Raging forest fires in north China still spreading

BEIJING, 19 April — Forest fires which started in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Wednesday were still spreading due to high temperature and strong wind in the region, the State Headquarters for Forest Fire Control said on Saturday.

About 5,173 people have been deployed to fight forest fires raging in four spots in the Greater Hinggan Mountains areas, according to the local forest fire prevention headquarters.

However, blazes in these four locations were still spreading by 7 pm on Friday, as local temperature in Wuerqihan reached 30 Celsius

degrees in the afternoon along with gusts of 90 kilometers per hour.

The state headquarters had asked to put out the fire with the help of man-made facilities despite the unfavorable weather conditions. Deputy commander-in-chief Lei Jiafu of the State Headquarters

for Forest Fire Control has headed for the site to better manage the fire-fighting efforts there.

The region's forestry administration said the fires were caused by the remains of other blazes for creating firebreaks. Strong winds led to their re-ignition.—Xinhua

S Korea confirms 25th outbreak of H5N1 strain of bird flu

SEOUL, 19 April — The South Korean government confirmed Saturday a new outbreak of H5N1 strain of bird flu, which becomes the 25th confirmed cases of the deadly epidemic in the country since late March.

According to the Ministry for Food,

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the new case of bird flu was reported on Thursday on a chicken farm in Jeongeup, North Jeolla province, and has been tested positive for the H5N1 virus. The farm is located 4 km away from the area where an outbreak of bird flu was confirmed

earlier this month. The ministry said it plans to limit the movement of poultry, people and cars to a 10-km radius of the area, while seeking to cull and bury 525,000 chickens and ducks raised within three kilometers of the affected farm.—Xinhua

Heavy fighting breaks out in Iraq's Basra

BASRA, 19 April — Heavy fighting erupted in the southern city of Basra on Saturday when Iraqi Army troops swept a Shiite militia stronghold, a local police source and witnesses said.

Hundreds of Iraqi soldiers backed by coalition aircraft entered the neighborhood of Haiyyania in western part of Basra early in the morning and clashed with Mahdi Army

militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi Army attack came after the Mahdi Army militia pounded the troops positions with mortar rounds and rockets on Friday night, the source said. Heavy gunfire resonated in the neighborhood as powerful explosions could be heard at dawn,

which was the heaviest since Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki supervised a major crack down on Sadr's followers in late March, he said.

Hours after the clashes, the Iraqi troops moved in the center of neighborhood and chased some wanted militiamen, the source said, adding that no information about casualties was available.

Xinhua

Palestinian ambulances to halt due to fuel crisis

GAZA, 19 April — Palestinian health ministry's ambulances will stop working in Gaza Strip later on Saturday due to lack of fuel, an official said.

"At 6:00 pm, no ambulance vehicle will be able to move and they will completely come to a halt," said Mu'awia Hassanein of the ministry's emergency department.

"After checking with gas stations, it was sure

they have had no single liter of benzene," he told reporters.

Israel gradually reduced fuel shipments into Gaza since Hamas seized control of the area last June. In recent months, Gaza petrol distributors rejected to receive fuel supplies after

Israel applied more reductions to the shipments.

Israel also closed Nahal Oz fuel crossing last week following Palestinian militants attack on the spot where two workers at an Israeli gas utility were killed.

Xinhua



Biologist Tatiana Teran, right, holds a one-month-old Ferruginous Pygmy-owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, at the National Zoo in Managua, on 18 April, 2008. The owl was brought to the zoo after its nest fell from a rotten branch at a construction site.—INTERNET

● Towards the new nation Will ratify Constitution.

Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay)

Article: Tin Maung (Myanmar News Agency) Photos: Myanmar News Agency



Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han accepts donation for Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay) from a wellwisher.

(from page 16)

The government established Sangha hospitals in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Taunggyi to provide health care services to members of the Sangha and nuns who are making all-out efforts for ensuring purification, promotion and propagation of the Buddhism in the Union of Myanmar. Moreover, the government has set up the trust funds of the Sangha hospitals with the contributions of wellwishers.

On 18 April 2008, the Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay) was opened

in front of Pyigyimon Barge on Kandawgyi Lake ring road in Thanlyethmawtaung Ward of Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay.

To report matters related to the Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay), I made interviews with responsible persons at the hospital on 18 April afternoon.

In the interview, a responsible person said that during the inspection tour of Pyin Oo Lwin a year ago, the Head of State gave guidance to officials to choose about 40-acre land where health care services can be provided to about 200 in-

patient monks and 50 in-patient nuns in line with the Vinaya rules in addition to that of a Sangha Hospital (40-bed) in Mandalay with a view to upgrading health standard of the monks and nuns. Afterwards, the present site close to Sagaing, Mandalay and Amarapura was chosen. The hospital is located on 39.84 acres of land.

It was learnt that the departments concerned of the government, town-sellers and wellwishers provided necessary assistance for construction of the hospital.

The new Sangha Hospital was built in accord with the characteristics of a modern hospital such as 14 medical wards and other supporting facilities including the administration office, the monks' out-patient ward, the nuns' out-patient ward, five 36-bed-capacity monk patient wards, two 25-bed-capacity monk wards, two 36-bed-capacity nun patient wards and one 25-

bed-capacity nun patient ward, the operation theatres, the intensive care units and the laboratories. At the same time, about 250 in-patient monks and 100 nuns can be separately warded at Jivitadana Sangha General Hospital (Mandalay). Furthermore, modern hospital equipment has been provided to the hospital in addition to one ambulance and three vehicles for the hospital.

Plans are under way to open the surgery unit, the general care department, the eye care department, the ear, nose and throat department, the orthopedics and prosthesis physiotherapy department, the child care department, the mental health department, the gastroenterology department, and the cardiac and neurology department at the hospital.

Arrangements are being made to offer suitable meals to ailing members of the Sangha and nuns in line with the Vinaya rules in addition to the food for the monks and nuns who are accompanying ailing members of the Sangha and nuns to assist them.

Moreover, clinical psychologists and other specialists including local retired medical professors, physicians, surgical specialists and urosurgical specialists will provide health care services to the patients at the hospital.

At the specialist department for patient monks and nuns, the specialists will give eye, surgical and general treatments to the



The ceremony to unveil bronze plaque of Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay) in progress.

patients from 9 to 11 am on every Monday (remarks: the orthopaedic surgery will be provided.); orthopaedic, gynaecological, gastroenterological treatments to the patients from 9 to 11 am on every Tuesday (remarks: the general surgical and eye treatment will be provided); urological, ear, nose, throat, mental health and dental treatments to the patients from 9 to 11 am on every Wednesday (remark: eye and dental surgical treatment will be provided.); orthopaedic, gynaecological and dental treatments to the patients from 9 am to 11 am on every Thursday (remarks: urological, ear, nose, throat and dental treatment will be provided); and orthopaedic, gynaecological

and dental treatments to the patients from 9 am to 11 am on every Friday (remarks: surgical and urological treatments will be provided.)

Indeed, the Head of State realized the fact that members of the Sangha do not want to undergo medical treatments together with the people at the same hospital under single shelter due to the prohibition in the Vinaya rules. As a result, the establishment and opening of Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay) built in accord with the guidance with goodwill given by the Head of State is a remarkable meritorious deed performed by the government.

Translation: TTA



Hospital equipment at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay).



Patient wards at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay).

USDA CEC member on tour of Bago Division

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min met the members of USDA and local social organizations in Kyaukgyi Township and Kyaukdagar Township and explained tasks of regional development and made cash donations.

At the meeting hall of Htantabin Township USDA's Office, the minister met the members of USDA and social organizations in Htantabin, Taungoo, Phyu, Oaktwin and Yedashe Townships and made cash donations for regional development tasks. — MNA

Documentum Software Course in May

YANGON, 20 April—A training course on Documentum Software jointly organized by Winner Computer Group and Verinon Technology Solutions from Singapore will be opened in May, 2008.

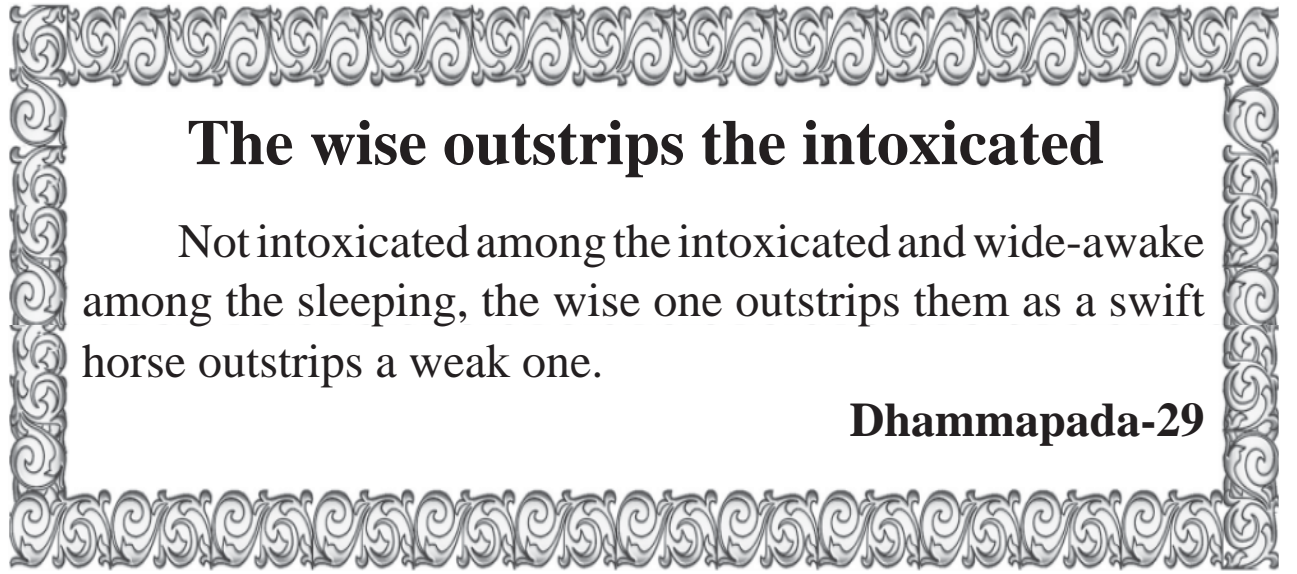
Documentum is an enterprise content, management software which is connected to document management system, workflow management and web management distributed by EMC Corporation of USA. Enterprise content management is a technology to perform receiving, storing, maintaining and distributing content, document which are related to work processes of the businesses.

Basic and Advanced Content Management System and developing EMC/Documentum content management solution will be lectured by experts of Verinon Technology Solutions, Singapore and the examination will be held in Singapore.

The course will benefit IT professionals and certificate holders will have access to job opportunities in international level.

Enterprise Content Management, Object types and objects, Users and Privileges, Groups and Roles, Object Security, Workflow, Life Cycles and DQL concepts will be lectured in basic course and Advanced DQL concepts, Fundamentals of Documentum, Foundation Classes (DFC), Advanced DFC Programming, Fundamentals of WDK Framework and Advanced WDK Framework, in advanced course.

Those interested may contact Winner Computer Group, No (202), U Wizaya Road, Ph: 01 374165, 503599, 703232 and 703230. —MNA



The wise outstrips the intoxicated

Not intoxicated among the intoxicated and wide-awake among the sleeping, the wise one outstrips them as a swift horse outstrips a weak one.

Dhammapada-29

Announcement on Bird flu free-nation

YANGON, 20 April—Yangon Division was struck by an outbreak of Bird flu on 28-2-2007 and it was able to put the disease under control on 21-4-2007. The virus spread to Bago Division (East) and Mon State on 3-6-2007 and it was put under control on 9-11-2007.

The incident of Bird flu in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) occurred on 18-11-2007 and it spread to Mongphyat Township where it was put under control on 18-1-2008.

Bird flu that broke out in Myanmar is H5N1 virus and according to laboratory test it is assessed that the virus originates in other countries.

Veterinary surgeons of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Myanmar in cooperation with experts from FAO, OIE, local authorities, those from Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation conducted a series of laboratory tests on 19-1-2008 and confirmed that the nation was free from the disease.

The LBVD under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries on 20-4-2008 announced to OIE and FAO in accord with procedures and prescriptions that

the nation was free from Bird flu virus three months after culling infected poultry and disease carriers.

Bird flu broke out in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions on 8-3-2006 as the first incident. But the nation was able to announce itself free from the virus on 4-9-2006.

Bird flu broke out in Yangon and Bago Divisions and Mon State on 28-2-2007 and in Shan State (East) on 18-11-2007. But the nation became free from the virus on 20-4-2008.

Laboratory tests revealed that the virus originates in other countries.

The LBVD urged the people not to consume poultry and poultry products, eggs and virus vaccines that were smuggled into the country, not to breed indigenous chicks together with other poultry, to separately carry out the marketing of live poultry and the processing of chicken, to increase bio-security in the breeding firms, not to sell infected poultry and to systematically bury the dead poultry and to inform the death of poultry to LBVD and local authorities.

MNA

Dy Minister inspects power stations

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No-2 Brig-Gen Win Myint accompanied by officials inspected construction of the control room and Switch Yard of the sub-power station construction project in Lashio in Shan State (North) on 15 April.

On 16 April, the deputy minister discussed construction of the project and inspected construction of Shwesayan main sub-power station in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Division and transformers.

MNA

MFPTMA CEC Members leave for Malaysia

YANGON, 20 April—Honorary principal of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants' Association U Kaung Yin together with CEC members U Moe Thaw and U Win Ko left for Malaysia by air this morning to attend the 7th ASEAN Skills Competition

Meeting and the First Technical Committee Meeting to be held in Malacca of Malaysia from 21 to 25 April.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Joint-Secretary U Aung Naing Oo and Executive Officer U Shein Min. —MNA



U Kaung Yin, U Moe Thaw and U Win Ko of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants' Association seen at the airport before departure for Malaysia on Sunday. They will participate in the 7th ASEAN Skills Competition Meeting and 1st Technical Committee Meeting to be held in Malacca, Malaysia from 21 to 25 April.— UMFCCI

*** Let's get democracy
By voting at polling booth**

* For flourishing of democracy Ratify Constitution

Towards the future State of loyalists and men of integrity

A retired civil servant

It is certain that every Myanmar citizen of today wants democracy and wishes for establishment of democracy if they are asked.

What is democracy? Primarily, it is the inclusiveness. Such right is the fundamental right as well as the duty of every citizen.

On 10 May 2008, every Myanmar citizen will have the right to vote in the national referendum in accord with the law. Having the right to vote means to people basically enjoy the principal right of the fundamental rights. In other words, the right to vote is to serve the primary duty out of a lot of duties.

Despite having the right to vote in the national referendum, perhaps one does not go to the polling booth or casts 'No' vote, what will happen? There is an expression, Don't postpone the work to be done today until tomorrow. It is sure that it may prolong the time for both the country and the people.

The draft constitution that has to be approved by the majority vote of the people in the national referendum fully guarantees for restoration of democracy for both the nation and the people.

Only when the constitution is approved, can people's democratic administrative system be practiced. The basic foundation of people's democratic administrative system is the new constitution. Only when there is infrastructure, can superstructures such as political, economic and education, health and social sectors be undertaken fully.

Every citizen is responsible for approval of the constitution in the national referendum.

Here is a question. Why should we support the constitution? The easiest and simplest answer is that administration with a constitution is more democratic than administration without a constitution. The constitution provides anyone with equal rights before the law. It also protects anyone equally by law.

The draft constitution was published nationwide for study. One may think that there are difficult legal terms in the constitution. It is clearly written for everyone who can read Myanmar to understand.

In the draft constitution there are preamble and 15 chapters. Just read the Chapter 8 showing citizens and their fundamental rights and duties without reading any other chapters. Then one can be proud to be a meaningful national who enjoys rights on equal terms with others.

After reading the Chapter 8, one is urged to read the Chapter 1 stating the fundamental principles of the State. The future State will be built in accordance with the fundamental principles included in the Chapter 1. The Chapter 1 covers the practice of genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democracy, the Union System and its formation, the practice of market-oriented economic system as well as independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

If one studies the draft constitution, one will find that it is the most suitable constitution, which has vested all the citizens with cent-per-cent fundamental rights and other rights.

It can be reviewed that criticisms levelled at the 25 percent participation of representatives from military service and 75 percent participation of representatives-elect in the parliament are none other than the instigation of politicians craving for power.

This is because the 25 percent participation of military servicemen, though they are not elected, is just to handle the situation of the country through check and balance on behalf of the people if defects and loopholes occur in exercising legislative, executive and judicial powers.

The very essence of the present constitution is that it has been formulated to help practise a genuine multiparty democratic system with the flourishing discipline. This is the way paving for the promising future of each

and every citizen.

It can also be analysed that the present constitution will not cause any problems at all like the problem created by the political parties while they were vying for power in practising parliamentary democracy in accord with the 1947 constitution and the problem that occurred because of the single power-wielding party in practising one-party system in accord with the 1974 constitution.

It is the undeniable fact that the three branches of State powers, legislative, executive and judicial, are not in the hands of Tatmadaw at all. They are in the hands of the people and they are within the national sovereignty. The three powers are being shared to ensure check and balance.

There is no doubt about the policy of foreign affairs. The Chapter Detailed Basic Principles of the State describes as follows:

Article 41 states the State practises independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy, aims at world peace, and friendly relations with nations, and upholds the principles of peaceful co-existence among nations.

Article 42 states

a) the State never starts aggression against any nation;

b) no foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union.

No matter what those opposing say, the world always respects and recognizes Myanmar's foreign policy. *The London Times* (1, November 1971 issue) states in its editorial as follows:

"If there is a country from Asia that deserves to win a prize for practising non-aligned policy, that country should be Myanmar. While the rival nations were cajoling other nations into being their followers with the use of carrots when the Cold War was at its peak, Myanmar was able to stand firm and could not be influenced. The country has its loyalty and integrity in spite of being poor."

The world has recognized that Myanmar have loyalty and integrity. Such characteristics come from Myanmar's having patriotism, cherishing independence, wanting perpetual sovereignty and loathing for being a follower of the colonialists and a puppet government.

I, therefore, believe that all citizens with loyalty and integrity will support and cast 'yes' vote for the approval of the constitution in the national referendum.

(Translation: NY+ST)

The world has recognized that Myanmar have loyalty and integrity. Such characteristics come from Myanmar's having patriotism, cherishing independence, wanting perpetual sovereignty and loathing for being a follower of the colonialists and a puppet government.

China's first test-tube Pere David's deer born in Beijing

BEIJING, 19 April — China's first artificially conceived Milu, or Pere David's deer, has been born in Beijing.

The male fawn was out of danger seven days after its birth on 11 April, and was being monitored by staff in the Beijing Nanhaizi Pere David's

Deer Park, the Beijing Daily reported on Saturday.

The deer, used to be a unique species in China, were once extinct in China before imported animals were reintroduced in the middle of 1980s.

On July 15 last year, a stud was selected for the artificial insemination of six females.

About 2,000 Pere David's deer exist across the world, but all are descended from 18

animals that lived 100 years ago, the paper said.

This inbreeding caused a low reproduction rate, a sex ratio imbalance, and high rates of difficult and abnormal births, a park spokesman was quoted by the paper as saying.

Wild species of the rare animal have been extinct for over a century. Experts had hoped that the deer would breed once it is returned to its wild habitat.

MNA/Xinhua

Number of dengue cases sharply increases in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 19 April — Singapore has so far reported 1,400 cases of dengue disease this year, up 47.3 percent over a year ago.

Singapore's Channel NewsAsia reports quoted the Ministry of Health as saying on Saturday that there were 1,400 reported cases of dengue between January and 12 April this year.

Construction sites are blamed to be one potential hotspot for the spread of dengue disease.

Officers from the city state's National Environment Agency have been conducting checks at public areas at the Housing and Development Board's estates since the beginning of this year. And after that, the fight against dengue disease moves into homes.—MNA/Xinhua



An emergency vehicle waits at the scene where rubble from earthquake damage lies strewn along a sidewalk in an old section of Louisville, Ky, on 18 April, 2008. The 5.2 magnitude earthquake, centered in southern Illinois, rattled skyscrapers in Chicago's Loop and homes in Cincinnati but appeared to cause no major injuries or damage.—INTERNET

One in two Dutch oppose Afghanistan mission

AMSTERDAM, 19 April — Almost half the population of the Netherlands opposes the Dutch mission in Afghanistan, according to a poll conducted after the son of the new chief of the Dutch military was killed there on Friday.

Dutch troops have been participating in the NATO-led operation in Afghanistan since 2006. The Dutch government decided last year to extend the mission in southern Afghanistan until 2010 after a heated debate and under pressure from allies.

The survey by pollster Maurice de Hond, released late on Friday, showed that 49 percent of the Dutch were against the mission, up from 44 percent about six months ago. Support for Dutch participation shrank to 46 percent from 51 percent.

Forty-nine percent of the respondents wanted the government to pull out its troops from Afghanistan this summer, the poll showed.

MNA/Reuters



This picture released by the French Army shows crew members of the French luxury sailing ship Le Ponant's after being freed by pirates off the Somali coast on 11 April. Six suspected Somali pirates who commandeered a French luxury yacht and held its 30 crew members hostage for a week are to face several charges including hijacking in France, prosecutors have said.—INTERNET

Smoke cloud engulfs Argentine capital for 5th day

BUENOS AIRES, 19 April — A thick cloud of smoke covered Buenos Aires for a fifth day on Saturday, the fallout of field burning that has forced the closure of highways, flight delays

and traffic congestion.

The smoke started to appear over the Argentine capital more than a week ago, but visibility deteriorated considerably in the city on Friday and Saturday,

with an acrid smell pervading homes and causing watery eyes and sore throats among city residents. Visibility downtown was barely 500 yards (metres).

Emergency services marshaled traffic in some areas of the city, while the capital's domestic airport Jorge Newbery diverted incoming aircraft to the international airport outside Buenos Aires — where the smoke also caused some flight departure delays.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt considers to upgrade diplomatic representation in Iraq

CAIRO, 19 April — Egypt is considering to upgrade its diplomatic representation in the war-torn country of Iraq, a senior official said on Saturday.

Mohammed Badredin, Egypt's Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs told reporters that Cairo made the consideration as Baghdad is exerting pressure on Arab countries to upgrade their diplomatic representation

in Iraq.

After a blast at the Jordanian embassy in Iraq in August 2003 killed at least 17 people, many Arab diplomats chose to stay away from Baghdad.

MNA/Xinhua

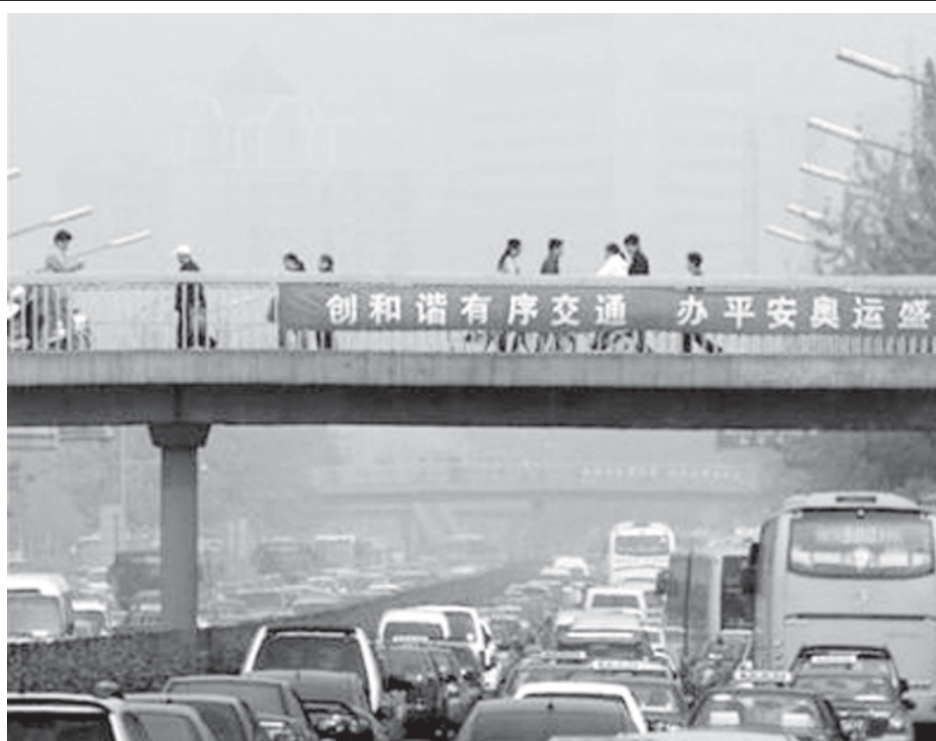
Over 2,000 Chinese, US children paint for Green Olympics

BEIJING, 19 April — Hundreds of Chinese and US children exchanged their two giant paintings

Saturday at the Beijing International Sculpture Park, with a common theme of environmental protection designed for the Green Olympics.

The US environmental artist Robert Wyland and Chinese artist Yuan Xikun each worked with over 1,000 children from their countries to create giant paintings of around 80 square meters, symbolizing the unity for the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games.

The artwork created by Wyland and the US children depicts three dolphins racing through the oceans, representing the Olympic motto—"Faster, Higher, Stronger", said Steve Creech, programme director of the Wyland Foundation, non-profit organization founded in 1993 by Wyland.—MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians walk across a footbridge above a busy road as smog obscures buildings in the distance in Beijing, on 16 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



A young Ring-tailed Lemur jumps in its enclosure at Rapperswil zoo, in Rapperswil, Switzerland, on 18 April, 2008.—INTERNET

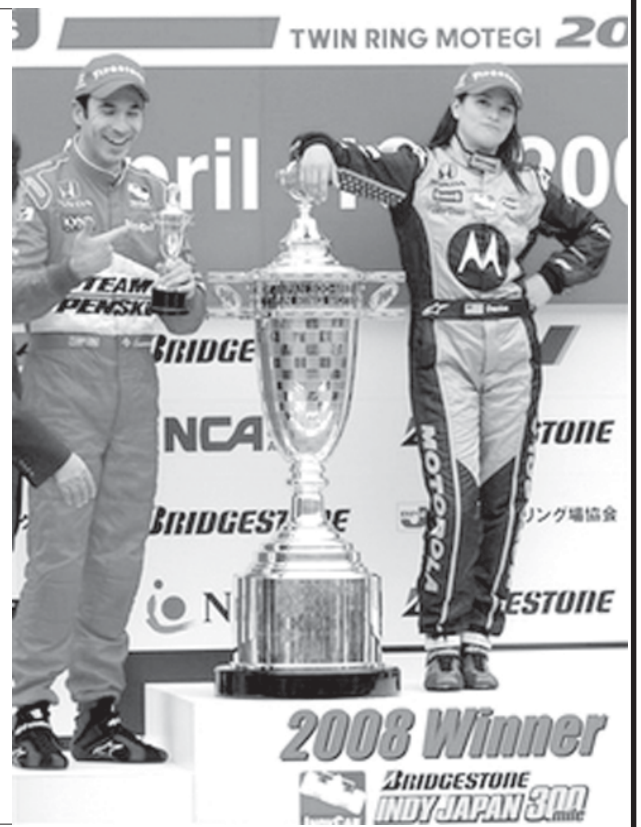


Researchers with the Geological Survey of Canada are living on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island in two camps like this one this week as they study the contours and composition of the ocean floor.—INTERNET



A wax figure of Spiderman at Madame Tussauds in London. The US film industry is gearing up for summer's blockbuster movie season.—INTERNET

American winner Danica Patrick of Andretti Green Racing, right, poses with her trophy on the podium as second place finisher Brazil's Helio Castroneves of Team Penske shows his smaller one on the podium after the Indy Japan 300 auto racing at Twin Ring Motegi in Motegi, northeast of Tokyo on 20 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Men dressed as ancient Roman centurions parade next to the ancient Colosseum to celebrate the birth of the city of Rome, on 20 April, 2008. Legend has it that Rome was founded on 21 April, 753 BC by Romulus and his brother Remus, the twin sons of the god of war Mars, who were suckled as infants by a she-wolf in the woods.—INTERNET



An Ariane 5 rocket ready for its second mission of 2008 at Kourou Spaceport, clearing the way for a final countdown to its liftoff on 19 April, 2008 with the Star One C2 (for Brazilian operator Star One) and VINASAT-1 (built par Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems for Vietnam Post and Telecommunications Corporation) telecommunications satellites.—INTERNET

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 P.O.Box 109, Ph: 723043
 (For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand.)
 Dated: 21 April, 2008

China, Russia hold talks on strategic stability in Beijing

BEIJING, 18 April — A consultation between China and Russia on strategic stability was held here on Friday, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The two nations exchanged views on the current international security situation, non-proliferation, hot regional issues and multilateral arms control, a Press release from the ministry said.

The two nations agreed, according to the press release, that it is of vital importance for world peace and security to safeguard global strategic stability, boost mutual trust among nations and resolve international disputes by peaceful means.

Support for the arms control process under the multilateral framework and settlement of issues concerning the non-proliferation process are also of great significance, the press release said.

MNA/Xinhua

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McCain paid \$157,231 in federal taxes in 2006-07

WASHINGTON, 18 April — US Republican presidential candidate John McCain paid \$157,231 in federal income taxes for 2006 and 2007, according to records released on Friday that did not include those of his wealthy wife, Cindy McCain, 71, an Arizona senator, had taxable income of \$474,104 in those two years combined based on his Senate salary, his book royalties, a Navy pension and Social Security income.

McCain paid \$157,231

in federal income taxes for the two years. During these years he and Mrs McCain donated \$340,323 to charitable causes, most of it to the John and Cindy McCain Family Foundation, which makes direct contributions to charities.

The McCain campaign did not release the tax returns of McCain's wife, who inherited a multi-million-dollar Anheuser-Busch beer distributorship, one of the country's largest, from her father.

MNA/Xinhua

France holds meeting on energy, climate for major economies

PARIS, 18 April — Representatives from 16 major world economies and international organizations are meeting here for the third time to discuss energy and climate issues, notably on the fight against global warming, according to reports.

During the two-day meeting which begun Thursday, the participants will discuss long-term objectives of sustainable development, technology transfers, reduction of green house gases (GES)

by the production sectors, as well as the means of meeting the challenges posed by climate changes.

The French state secretary for European Affairs Jean-Pierre Jouyet urged participating countries to open frank negotiations to reach a consensus on the issue of green house emissions from the year 2012. He also underscored the important role of the United Nations UN in the discussions on climate change, saying the process should be undertaken within the UN framework.

MNA/Xinhua

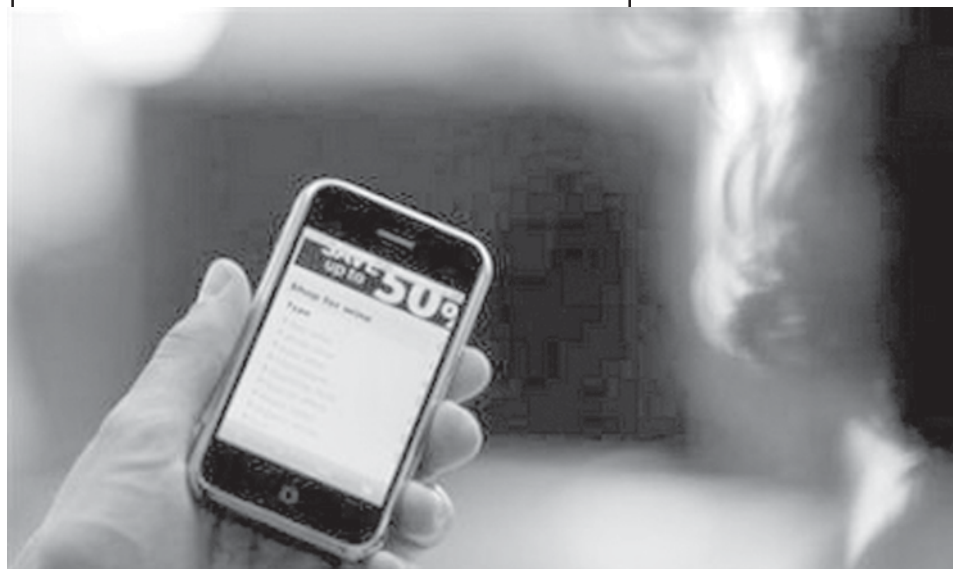
Macao closes bridges amid tropical storm

MACAO, 19 April — Macao's three sea-spanning bridges were closed by the traffic authorities Saturday as the escalating tropical cyclone Neoguri swept through the island city.

The Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) hoisted Gale Signal No 8 at 1:30 pm Saturday, warning that the hurricane has been detected 250 km southwest off Macao's coast, and was moving at a speed of 15 km per hour northward.

MNA/Xinhua

The new Apple iPhone is displayed at the Apple store in central London, recently. Mobile phone groups O2 and Carphone Warehouse have cut the price for the most basic version of Apple's iPhone in Britain by 100 pounds (\$197) ahead of the expected launch of a new model.—INTERNET



Turkey to employ geostrategic advantages in energy projects

ANKARA, 19 April — Turkey's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources is taking advantage of the country's geostrategic position by launching and participating in major energy projects, local newspaper Zaman reported on Saturday.

"70 percent of the world's oil and natural gas is produced in our region," the report quoted Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Hilmi Guler as saying, adding that Turkey has abundant wind energy, coal resources and hydroelectric potential which have not been fully exploited. "What we are doing now is using them efficiently," he noted.

Guler said Turkey's investments in wind energy had increased for a 42 megawatts capacity, a great gain from the previous 17 megawatts.

Meanwhile, "Turkish government has so far invested a significant amount of money in mines and privatized the majority of them," he added.

Moreover, he also noted that Turkey sits on a major earthquake zone which brings advantages such as geothermal energy.

"Turkey ranks second in Europe and seventh in the world in terms of geothermal energy potential," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two people killed, 12 injured in bomb attack in northern Iraq

MOSUL, 19 April — Two people were killed and 12 others injured on Saturday in a roadside bomb attack targeted a US patrol in Mosul, capital of Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, a provincial security source said.

The incident occurred after midday near a parking lot in eastern Mosul when a roadside bomb struck a bus carrying passengers, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast targeted a US patrol but apparently missed its target and hit the bus, the source added.

Five women were among the wounded passengers.

Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, has been the hotbed of insurgency since the US-led invasion five years ago. —MNA/Xinhua

China completes its first road tunnel across Yangtze River

WUHAN, 19 April — China completed its first road tunnel across the Yangtze River on Saturday in central China's Wuhan City after more

than three years of construction.

The 3,609-meter, bi-directional four-lane road tunnel connects Wuhan's two major parts — Wuchang, where government offices and universities are based, and Hankou, the business center.

The tunnel will allow 52,000 vehicles to travel at 50 kilometers per hour each day, said Yin Weizhen, Wuhan vice mayor.

"It will take only seven minutes from Wuchang to Hankou, while traveling above the ground costs half an hour."

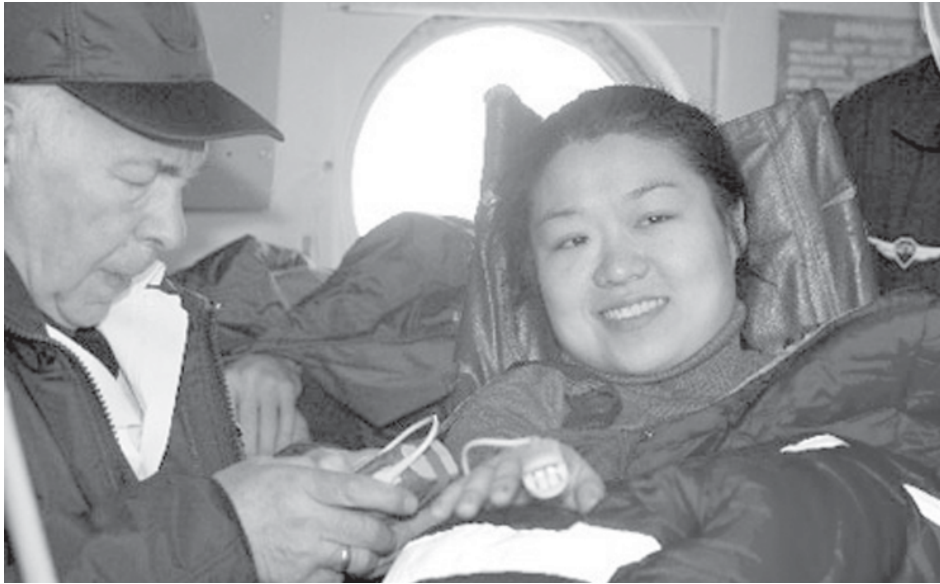
The strongly permeable

tunnel can combat a flood occurring once in 300 years and earthquake measuring up to six on the Richter scale, Yin said.

The two-billion yuan (286 million U.S. dollars) project began in November 2004 and is expected to be open late this year.

Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, is one of the largest city in central China with a population of eight million. It is the center of five railway lines, six expressways, and several highways. The city serves as the gateway to China's hinterlands and is nicknamed the "thoroughfare to nine provinces".

MNA/Xinhua



South Korea's first astronaut Yi So-Yeon smiles during a medical test after returning to Earth in a Russian space capsule in northern Kazakhstan. Yi returned to Earth, touching down with two International Space Station crew members slightly off target in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan.—XINHUA

First South Korean astronaut returns to earth

Moscow, 19 April — The Russian Soyuz spacecraft with South Korea's first female astronaut Yi So-yeon aboard landed safely in the Kazakh steppe on Saturday, according to the Mission Control Center.

The spacecraft carrying Yi, US astronaut Peggy Whitson and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko undocked with the International Space Station (ISS) and

started trip home earlier Saturday.

The Soyuz capsule landed in the Kazakh steppe at 12:51 Moscow time (0851GMT), 20 minutes later than the planned time and 420 km from the planned landing site, the Mission Control said. Rescue and search groups have evacuated the cosmonauts from the capsule.

The cosmonauts are safe and sound, federal

space agency head Anatoly Perminov told a press conference at the Mission Control.

Whitson and Malenchenko have worked in orbit for more than 191 days, while Yi, a 29-year-old biosystems engineer, arrived at the ISS on April 10 together with Sergei Volkov and Oleg Kononenko, the ISS Expedition 17 crew who will work in orbit till next autumn.—Internet

Record \$500,000 paid for 27 bottles of red wine

LONDON, 19 April — While the global credit crunch has forced many consumers to rein in spending, one Beijing-based billionaire has splashed out a record \$500,000 on 27 bottles of red wine, London-based Antique Wine Company said on Saturday.

The anonymous Chinese entrepreneur bought a mix of vintages of Romanee Conti, a Burgundy wine and considered to be among the world's most exclusive with only 450 cases produced each year.

The client bought 12 bottles of Romanee Conti 1978, two bottles of the 1961, 1966, 1996 and 2003 and single bottles of the 1981, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1999, 2001 and 2002. "It is the highest price that has ever been achieved for a single lot," Managing Director Stephen Williams

of the London-based Antique Wine Company told Reuters on Saturday.

"I don't think he has bought this as an investment — he has bought it to drink," he added. "The fine wine

industry is completely immune from the global credit crunch." The client's biggest previous purchase was 30,000 pounds (\$59,880) for a case of 1982 Chateau Petrus.—MNA/Reuters



A copy of "Bathers" by 17th century French painter Georges Seurat, made of chocolate Smarties, is seen at an exhibition at London's Victoria & Albert Childhood Museum, in this undated handout photograph received on April 17, 2008. The exhibition called "Smartie Art", at London's Victoria & Albert Childhood Museum, features three chocolate paintings by Staite that copy well-known artworks, including Andy Warhol's "Marilyn Monroe", English graffiti artist Banksy's "Spotless" and 17th century French painter Georges Seurat's "Bathers".—XINHUA

Less TV watching time reduces risk of being overweight for kids

LOS ANGELES, 19 April — Getting kids to exercise more and cut down on television watching can dramatically reduce their risk of being overweight, according to a new study. The American

Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that boys take at least 11,000 steps per day, girls 13,000 steps per day, and total screen time should be limited to two hours per day. But researchers in the department of kinesiology at Iowa State University found that many children have failed to follow the guidelines.

The researchers gave pedometers to a group of 709 children (ages 7 to 12) from public elementary schools in Iowa and Minnesota to wear for a week. They also surveyed the children about their weekday and weekend television habits, which included watching TV as well as playing video games.—Internet

Eurostar train reaches Paris 10 hours late

PARIS, 19 April — A Eurostar train from London to Paris arrived in the French capital on Saturday almost 10 hours late after passengers were forced to change trains twice during an overnight journey that normally takes just over two hours.

"There was a whole series of technical problems and mix-ups but the situation is completely unacceptable," Mireille Faugere, director of passenger services for French rail operator SNCF, told reporters waiting for the train to arrive at the Gare du Nord in Paris. Eurostar, which carried a record 8.26 million passengers in 2007, has been boosted by the opening of the renovated St Pancras terminal in London last year and posted a 21.3 percent rise in passenger numbers in the first three months of the year.—MNA/Reuters

Shells grown with Olympics emblem displayed in E China

BEIJING, 20 April — A pair of shells grown with the Beijing Olympics emblem made appearance at the 6th China (International) Pearl Festival held in east China's Zhejiang Province.

The shells are gifts produced by Zhejiang-based company Grace Pearl, a Beijing Olympics sponsor, China News Service reported.

Since the company

received the authorization to produce the Olympic licensed products two years ago, Grace Pearl began to cultivate freshwater mussels with molds in the shape of the Beijing Olympics emblem.

Finally, they selected about 10,000 shells from among 200,000 pieces as souvenirs for the Olympics. Freshwater pearl farming is a unique industry in China. Nearly

99 percent of freshwater pearls in the world are cultivated in China, but accounts for only 9 percent of global output value.

Internet

A pair of shells grown with the Beijing Olympics emblem are shown at the 6th China (International) Pearl Festival in east China's Zhejiang Province on 18 April, 2008.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Celtic move above Rangers with 1-0 win over Aberdeen

GLASGOW, 19 April — Georgios Samaras earned champions Celtic a 1-0 win over Aberdeen that put them two points ahead of Rangers in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday.

The Greek striker headed home in the 56th minute from 10 metres following a free kick by Barry Robson.

But Celtic had to survive a first half scare when Scott Severin cracked a shot that hit both posts before landing in the arms of Polish keeper Artur Boruc in the fourth minute.

Celtic top the standings with 77 points from 34 games while Rangers have 75 points from 31. Rangers face second division St Johnstone in their Scottish FA Cup semi-final on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Federer reaches first final of the year in Portugal

LISBON, 19 April — World number one Roger Federer recovered from one set down to beat unseeded German Denis Gremelmayr 2-6 7-5 6-1 on Saturday to reach his first final of the year at the Estoril Open.

The 26-year-old Swiss struggled to counter Gremelmayr's powerful baseline game but pulled clear with a series of aces in the third set to face either Nikolay Davydenko of Russia or France's Florent Serra in Sunday's final.—MNA/Reuters

Man United leave it late to earn precious point

LONDON, 19 April — Carlos Tevez pounced late to earn Manchester United a 1-1 draw at Blackburn Rovers on Saturday just when it looked like the Premier League title race had been blasted wide open.

Roque Santa Cruz's 21st minute shot had given Rovers the lead and they were hanging on grimly despite intense United pressure until Tevez swooped to flick in a header with two minutes of normal time remaining.

Defeat would have left United just two points above Chelsea, who they face at Stamford Bridge next week, but thanks to Tevez they are three clear with three games to go and still in the driving seat thanks to their superior goal difference.

MNA/Reuters



Blackburn Rovers' Roque Santa Cruz (L) challenges Manchester United's Wayne Rooney for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Ewood Park in Blackburn, northern England on 19 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Lyon edge nearer title with comeback victory

PARIS, 19 April — Olympique Lyon edged closer to a record seventh consecutive Ligue 1 title by fighting back from a goal down to win 2-1 at 10-man Racing Strasbourg on Saturday.

Lyon have 71 points with four matches left, seven ahead of second-placed Girondins Bordeaux, who play their game in hand at Toulouse on Sunday.

Colombia striker Wason Renteria put Strasbourg ahead on 20 minutes before the home side had Gabon forward Eric Mouloungui sent off for a second booking on the stroke of halftime. Lyon stepped up a gear in the second period with headed goals from midfielder Mathieu Bodmer and Italy defender Fabio Grosso.

The win was marred by a knee injury sustained by Lyon and France striker Karim Benzema, who had to go off after 36 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

Espanyol hold Barca to bore draw at the Nou Camp

MADRID, 19 April — Barcelona failed again to put pressure on leaders Real Madrid after being held to a 0-0 draw at home by city rivals Espanyol in the Primera Liga on Saturday. The Champions League semi-finalists have only managed one win in their last eight league matches and put in a toothless display in a passion-free derby with their struggling neighbours.

Barca stay second with 61 points, eight short of Real who can extend their lead at the top to 11 with a win at fifth-placed Racing Santander on Sunday.

"When our luck changes and the ball goes in, then the dynamic we are in will change. We aren't giving up on the title," Barca coach Frank Rijkaard said.

Barcelona lacked pace and a cutting edge in the Nou Camp until Rijkaard brought on Lionel Messi and Andres Iniesta for the second half.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Cesc Fabregas (L) challenges Reading's Kalifa Cisse during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 19 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Austria striker Hoffer extends rapid contract

VIENNA, 18 April — Rapid Vienna have kept promising Austria striker Erwin "Jimmy" Hoffer at the club after agreeing a two-year extension to his contract.

The league leaders, who can wrap up the title with a win over eighth-placed Altach on Sunday, said on Friday that the 21-year-old had signed a new deal running until June 2011.

Hoffer has attracted attention after helping Austria reach the semi-finals of the 2007 under-20 World Cup but the club said there was no get-out clause in the extended contract.—MNA/Reuters

Bolton beat Boro to climb out of bottom three

LONDON, 19 April — Bolton Wanderers secured a priceless three points in their bid to escape relegation on Saturday, winning 1-0 at Middlesbrough.

Gavin McCann struck after the break at the Riverside to take Wanderers out of the relegation zone, above Birmingham City and Reading, who had earlier lost 2-0 at Arsenal.

Reading could find themselves in the relegation zone on Sunday should Birmingham beat Aston Villa.

While Bolton earned a second consecutive 1-0 victory to claw themselves towards safety, things were looking grim for Fulham who lost 2-0 at home to a below-strength Liverpool.

Jermaine Pennant and Peter Crouch, both of whom are unlikely to start in Liverpool's Champions League semi-final, first leg against Chelsea next week, were on target to leave Fulham five points from the safety zone with three games to play.—MNA/Reuters

Jermaine Pennant and Peter Crouch, both of whom are unlikely to start in Liverpool's Champions League semi-final, first leg against Chelsea next week, were on target to leave Fulham five points from the safety zone with three games to play.—MNA/Reuters

Zimbabwe U-20 plays Lesotho in youth tourney

HARARE, 19 April — Four years after their last meeting in the same competition, the Zimbabwe Under-20 team take on Lesotho in an African Youth Championships preliminary round qualifier in Maseru on Sunday, according to *The Herald* on Saturday.

The two sides will clash in the reverse fixture in two weeks' time with the winners progressing to the first round where they meet Egypt in June.

Egypt were handed a bye in the preliminary round and the winner from the Egypt/Zimbabwe/Lesotho game is set to take on either Zambia, Mauritius or Madagascar in the final qualifying round for the championship set in Rwanda next year.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	S	2	A	3	S	4	C	5	S	6	A					
7	L	O	G	G	E	R	8	R	H	Y	T	H	M			
	A		O		A		9	C		E		A		P		
10	V	A	N	I	L	L	A		11	R	E	G	A	L		
	E		I		S		R		I		E		E			
12	R	A	S	H		13	S	P	A	S	M					
	Y		E		14	W		E		H		15	A		16	L
					17	C	R	A	N	K		18	U	N	D	O
19	A		20	T		S	I		21	E		S		D		N
22	B	A	R	O	N		23	E	T	C	H	I	N	G		
	B		E		K		R		L		R		I			
24	O	R	A	C	L	E		25	M	A	R	O	O	N		
	T		D		E			T		N						



Liverpool's Martin Skrtel (R) challenges Fulham's David Healy during their English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage, in London on 19 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Boavista players go ahead with strike

LISBON, 18 April — Boavista's players have confirmed they will go on strike this weekend after the club failed to pay salaries that are two months overdue, the head of the players' union told reporters on Friday. Joaquim Evangelista said the players will not turn out against Nacional Madeira in the Portuguese Premier League on Sunday after failing in their attempts to reach agreement.

Portuguese sports daily A Bola quoted Boavista director Alvaro Braga Junior on its Web site (www.abola.pt) saying: "Until lunch time (Saturday) we will try to find a solution and I hope that it is not a sad Sunday for the history of Boavista and football".—MNA/Reuters

Let us all

- * who are equipped with ardent patriotism,
- * who cherish genuine independence,
- * who aspire perpetuation of sovereignty,
- * who loathe foreign interference and manipulation, and
- * who oppose puppet government with strings of colonialists,

VOTE "YES" for ratification of the Constitution.

* **To ratify Constitution
Let's go to the polling booth**

* **We remain ever united
whoever tries to divide us
And will cast "Yes" vote**

● **Democracy cannot be
achieved by anarchism or
violence, but by Constitution.**

● **Let's approve Constitution to
shape our future by ourselves.**

Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay)

Article: Tin Maung (Myanmar News Agency) Photos: Myanmar News Agency

The Lord Buddha allowed members of the Sangha to accept four kinds of donations such as 'soon', robes, monas-

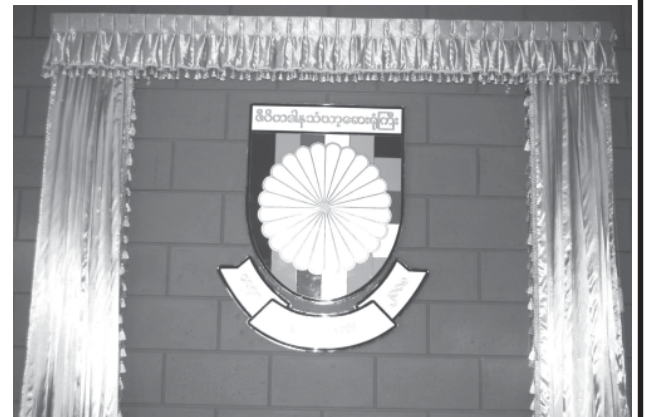
teries and medicines.

In addition to urging the disciples to provide medical treatment to the sick monks, the Lord Bud-

dha Himself gave treatments to the ailing monks.

The Lord Buddha gave guidance that giving treatment to the ailing

members of the Sangha can obtain the merits with the equal term of providing medical treatment to Lord Buddha Himself.



Hence, those wishing to provide treatment to Lord Buddha are to care the ail-

ing members of the Sangha.

(See page 7)



Newly opened Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Mandalay.

● **For ratification of Constitution
Let's go to polling booth to cast "Yes" vote.**