

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 22 April, 2008

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

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

Commander, USDA CEC member meet village people in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein, CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Rakhine State in-charge) Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and officials met village people in Kwantaung Village Basic Education Primary School in Ponnagyun Township on 19 April.

CEC member of the USDA Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe presented K 500,000 for township USDA, longyis for village USDA and books and other publications for rural library.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Shein pre-

sented textbooks and exercise books for BEPS and medicines for rural health care unit. The commander and the minister met townsenders and village people at Wabo village

Basic Education Middle School.

Next, the commander presented exercise books, uniforms and medicines for BEMS and CEC member of the USDA text

books, clothing and uniforms and K 500,000 for Sittway Township USDA.

The commander and the minister paid obeisance to the Sayadaw of Wabo Village Monastery

and presented offertories to the Sayadaw.

They met service personnel of Inland Water Transport and Myanma Port Authority in Sittway.

They also met district

and township secretaries of USDA at the Rakhine State USDA office and presented K 500,000 each for Sittway, Rathedaung and MraukU Township USDAs.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe meeting with local people in Ponnagyun Township. — TRANSPORT

INSIDE

Genuine goodwill is the essence

AN OBSERVER

Now, Myanmar people are looking forward to a political environment that can guarantee a social economic life with which they can trade and do business peacefully and freely.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 22 April, 2008

Purposeful Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay)

The government is providing health care services to members of the Sangha and nuns who are engaged in the promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. The Sangha hospitals have been opened in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Taunggyi and necessary requirements are being fulfilled to the health care facilities with the contributions of well-wishers.

Again, Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay), another health care facility for members of the Sangha, was opened in Chanmya Thazi Township, Mandalay on 18 April. It is a modern health care facility capable of providing health care services to about 250 members of the Sangha and 100 nuns in line with Vinaya rules.

The newly opened hospital was facilitated with 14 medical wards and other necessary buildings. And it is complete with the characteristics of a modern hospital.

The new hospital will be able to provide health care services to over 50,000 members of the Sangha and 8,000 nuns in Mandalay, Amarapura and Sagaing as well as to members of the Sangha and nuns in Upper Myanmar.

The Lord Buddha allowed members of the Sangha to receive and enjoy the four requisites such as meals, robes, accommodation and medicines and advised sick members of the Sangha to receive medical treatment. Providing medical treatment to sick members of the Sangha amounts to taking care of the Lord Buddha.

We firmly believe that the newly opened hospital will be able to further provide health care services to members of the Sangha and nuns.

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

Commander opens new school buildings



Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe accepts cash donated by a wellwisher. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April — A ceremony to hand over two new buildings of Basic Education High School No 16 was held at the school in Chanaye Thazan Township today.

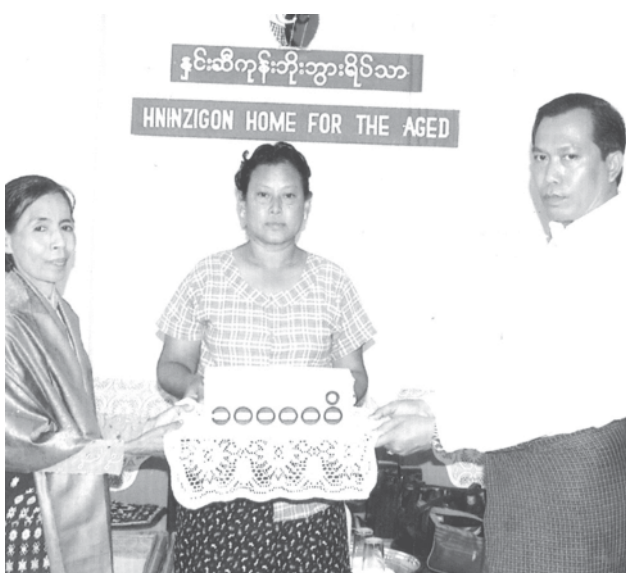
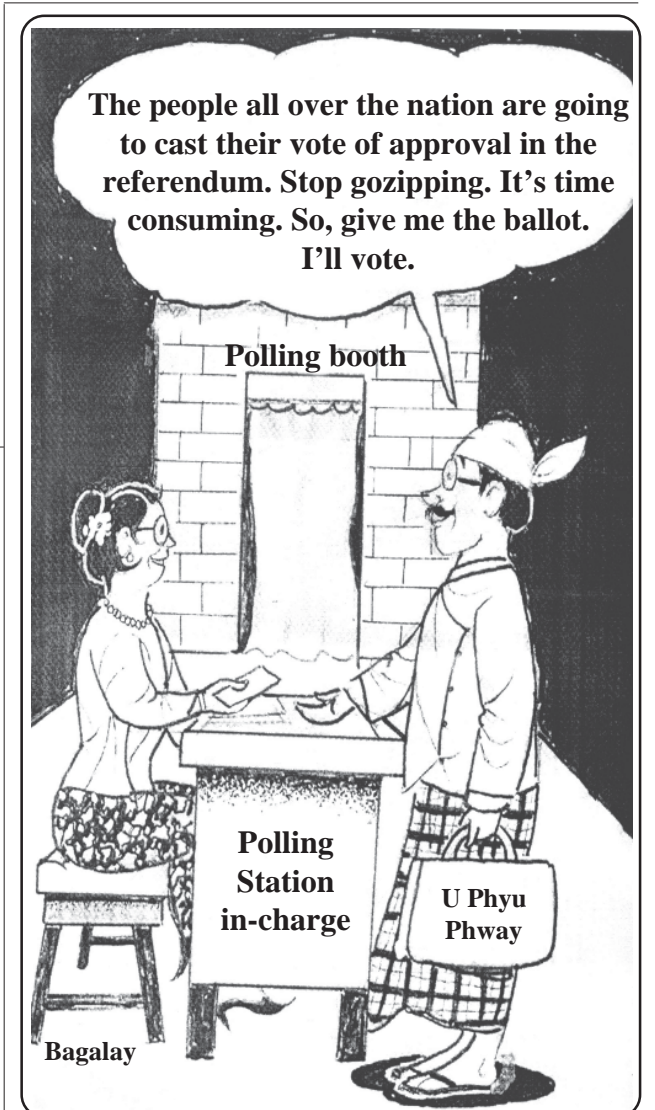
Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe opened the new buildings of the school.

Principal Daw Htwe Htwe Than handed over the documents related to the new buildings to Division Education Officer U Aung Shwe.

The newly-opened Nilar two-storey building was constructed at the cost of K 51 million contriued by U Kyin Sein-Daw Tin Hla.

The newly-opened Thamee Chit two-storey building was costructed at the cost of K 120 million donated by U Myint - Daw Khin Ma Ma.

U Karka - Daw Sein donated K 11 million to buy furniture for the schools. At the ceremony, wellwishers also donated 7.5 million to the funds for the construction of the three-storey school building which is under construction. — MNA



In memory of late U Kyaw Soe of Sagawa Road, Dagon Township, Daw Aye Aye Than and Maung Kyaw Thura Aung donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Member of the executive committee of the Home, Daw Khin Than Cho accepts the donation. — H

Ministers inspect road works

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug inspected construction of Kyaukse-Phyaukseikpin-Yeywa road on 18 April.

Next, the ministers looked into construction of Chaukhtetkwe road and progress of construction of gravel retaining wall and road works of Yeywa junction.

At the briefing hall, the ministers heard reports on progress of Kyaukse-Yeywa road section and Yaythyauk-Kyatharhin road and works to be done.

After hearing reports, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave instructions on timely completion of road works in accord with the work plans.—MNA



New lamps in the shape of birdcage are seen on Qianmen Street in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Iran says US shows “Iranophobia” over Iraq

TEHERAN, 21 April—Iran accused US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice of “Iranophobia” on Sunday for trying to blame Teheran for Iraq’s security problems.

Rice said last week she would press Iraq’s Arab neighbours at a meeting on Tuesday in Kuwait to do more to support Baghdad’s Government and

shield it from Iran’s “nefarious influences.”

Iran, as a neighbour of Iraq, will also attend the gathering.

“Regarding Rice’s statements, these statements are not something new. American officials follow the policy of Iranophobia,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini

told reporters in a weekly news conference.

“We see the developments in Iran today are the outcome of the US administration’s illogical policies. The American officials want to externalize the problems they are facing inside Iraq,” he said, adding US policies in Iraq had failed.

MNA/Reuters

Al-Qaeda calls for renewed attacks on US troops in Iraq

LONDON, 21 April—The leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq has called for renewed attacks on American troops over the next month, the US based terrorism monitoring service SITE Institute said on Saturday.

The call came in an hour-

long audio tape issued by Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, who urged militants from the Sunni Islamist group to “celebrate” the recent announcement that the number of US troops killed in Iraq had passed 4,000.

“We must celebrate this

event in our special way, and make the defeated Bush join us in this celebration” he said, according to a transcript released by SITE. He called on al-Qaeda fighters to provide “a head of an American as a present to the tricker Bush” in a month-long campaign he called the “Attack of Righteousness”.

President George W Bush expressed his sorrow last month when the number of US troops killed in Iraq since 2003 reached the milestone of 4,000.—MNA/Reuters



Aerial photo taken on 17 April, 2008 shows the separation barrier separating Palestinian town of Qalqilya from Jewish settlement.—XINHUA

Two killed, eight wounded in attacks in Thai south

YALA (Thailand), 21 April—Two policemen were shot dead at a polling station in Thailand’s Muslim south on Sunday, while a bomb blast wounded seven people in another part of the restive region, police said.

The two officers were

killed when at least five gunmen opened fire during voting for a local election in Narathiwat, one of three southernmost provinces where at least 2,900 people have been killed in four years of separatist violence.

A local villager was also

wounded in the attack, police said.

Separately, a bomb hidden in a rubbish bin exploded at a busy market in neighbouring Yala Province, wounding seven people, four of whom were police.

MNA/Reuters

Israeli airstrikes kill five Gaza militants

GAZA, 21 April—Israeli air strikes killed five Hamas gunmen in the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday, hours after militants from the Islamist group drove bomb-laden

vehicles into an Israeli border crossing.

While violence raged, Hamas engaged in an internal debate over proposals by former US President Jimmy Carter

for a unilateral ceasefire with Israel and greater political flexibility, Palestinian politicians said.

Carter, who had talks in Damascus with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal demanded the group stop firing rockets into Israel while he pursues efforts with Israel and the West to lift a blockade on the Gaza Strip, politicians familiar with the discussions said.

MNA/Reuters

Peruvian police seize drug smuggling aircraft

LIMA, 21 April—Peruvian police Saturday captured a small plane used for smuggling drugs, killing the pilot and wounding two others during the operation.

Police said the aircraft from neighbouring Bolivia was captured in Peru’s southeast region bordering the Puno and Madrc

Dc Dios departments. The pilot and two-member crew were loading cocaine onto the aircraft when they were found by police. The Bolivian pilot

was killed during the ensuing gunfire, while the two others, a Bolivian and a Peruvian, were injured.

MNA/Xinhua

Eleven kidnapped north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 April—Nine university students and their driver were kidnapped on Sunday near Baquba, north of Baghdad, when gunmen stopped their vehicle at a fake checkpoint, police said.

The gunmen also

grabbed another man in a truck at the same checkpoint and took all of the hostages to an unknown location, police said. The students were returning to Diyala University after a weekend break.

The kidnapping oc-

curred two weeks after 40 students were seized by gunmen at a fake checkpoint near the northern city of Mosul. They were held for several hours before security forces freed them.

MNA/Reuters



Palestinians extinguish fire from a Reuters news agency car hit by an Israeli missile in the central Gaza Strip, on 16 April. A Palestinian cameraman killed by tank fire in the Gaza Strip along with five other civilians this week may have been deliberately targeted by Israeli forces, Human Rights Watch said on Sunday.—INTERNET

Clinton, Obama go on attack ahead of crucial vote

JOHNSTOWN (Pennsylvania), 21 April — With two days to go before a crucial US presidential vote, Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton sharpened their attacks on Sunday, with Clinton pouncing on Obama for saying Republican John McCain would be better for the country than George W Bush.

Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary to help pick the Democratic candidate

to take on McCain in November's presidential election is the first contest in six weeks and has become a major test in the race to the party's nomination. Clinton, a New York senator who needs a win in the state to keep her presidential ambitions alive, leads in polls but Obama, an Illinois senator and the national front-runner, has cut into her one-time double-digit lead in recent weeks.

Clinton criticized

Obama on Sunday for including McCain when saying all three presidential candidates would be better for the country than President George W Bush. "We need a nominee who will take on John McCain, not cheer on John McCain," she said at a rally in Johnstown.

Obama had said: "Either Democrat would be better than John McCain... and all three of us would be better than George Bush."

MNA/Reuters



Children walk on a wooden bridge across the Yao River at Yaoli Town in Fuliang County, Jiangxi Province of China, on 19 April, 2008. The town of Yaoli boasts a great natural view as well as hundreds of houses dating back to ancient China's Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty, and has been listed as one of China's natural and cultural heritage since 2005. —XINHUA

Afghan police seize 4.7 tons of opium

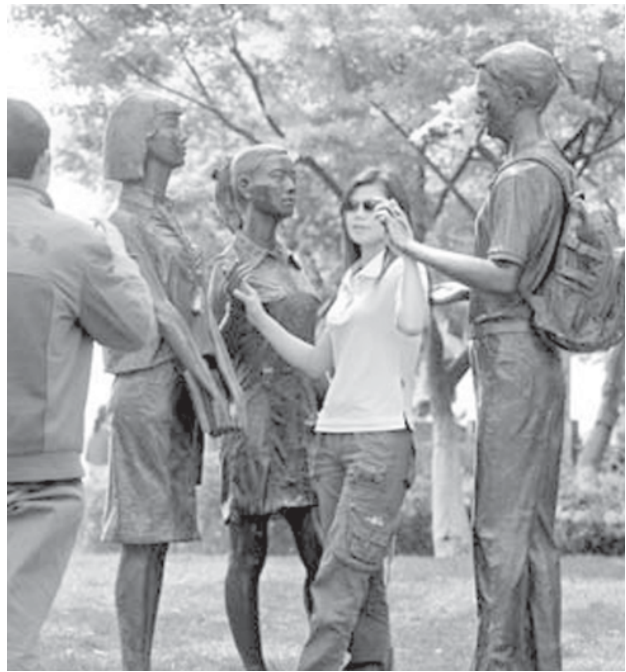
KABUL, 21 April — Police in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar Province confiscated more than four tons of opium, according to a Press release of Interior Ministry issued here on Sunday.

"Our police in Shirzad District discovered 4,700 kilos of opium and have arrested two persons in this case," the Press release said.

However, it did not mention the exact date of confiscating the contraband.

The Afghan Government has called on its citizens to replace with poppy with legal crops in the country.

MNA/Xinhua



A tourist poses with a group of sculptures at a park beside the famous West Lake in Hangzhou, capital of China's Zhejiang Province, on 18 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Typhoon Neoguri disrupts air and sea traffic in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 19 April — Air and sea traffic in Hong Kong was disrupted by Typhoon Neoguri on Saturday, with more than 100 flights delayed or canceled and a number of ferry services suspended.

By 5 pm, nine flights to and from the Hong Kong International Airport had been canceled and 17 flights to Hong Kong was diverted to other places, the Hong Kong Airport Authority said, adding 102 flights to and from Hong Kong had

been delayed.

Meanwhile, sea ferry services between Hong Kong and Macao were suspended starting from early Saturday afternoon.

A number of ferry services within Hong Kong waters were also suspended.

At 8 pm, Neoguri was estimated to be about 150 kilometres west-northwest of Hong Kong and is forecast to move northeast at about 18 kilometres per hour moving into Guangdong Province on the Chinese mainland.

MNA/Xinhua

US drivers paying record pump prices, costs seen rising

NEW YORK, 21 April — US drivers are paying record prices to fill their gas tanks and they could see prices surge as much as 30 cents more per gallon over the next few weeks, according to an industry analyst.

US average retail gasoline prices hit a record 3.4737 US dollars per gallon on 18 April, up 15.66 cents from the April 4 average, according to the nationwide Lundberg survey of about 7,000 gas stations.

Higher driving costs come at a tough time for US consumers, who are already struggling with higher food prices, a slowing economy, job losses and sinking home prices. In addition, surges in gasoline demand during the peak driving months of June, July and August and higher costs could force motorists to cut back on their vacation travel plans, or reduce spending in other areas.

MNA/Reuters

Cleric Sadr threatens "open war" on Iraqi Govt

BAGHDAD, 21 April — Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Saturday threatened an "open war" against the Iraqi Government unless it halted a crackdown by Iraqi and US security forces on his followers.

The spectre of a full-scale uprising by Sadr sharply raises the stakes in his confrontation with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who has threatened to ban the anti-American cleric's movement from political life

unless he disbands his militia. A rebellion by Sadr's Mehdi Army militia — which has tens of thousands of fighters — could abruptly end a period of lower violence at a time when US forces are starting to leave Iraq.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi children in Baghdad's Sadr City look at a car wrecked by US missiles. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in a surprise visit to Baghdad said Iraqi leaders were more united than ever, as Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr warned of a war against the government.

INTERNET

Mass grave found north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 April — Iraqi Army and policemen discovered 30 decomposed bodies on Sunday in a mass grave north of Baghdad, the Iraqi military said.

The bodies were found near the town of Muqdadiya, 90 kilometres (55 miles) northeast of Baghdad, in the restive province of Diyala where al-Qaeda Sunni Arab militants have regrouped after being driven out of other areas.

"The bodies were decomposed and dumped in a mass grave," Abdul-Kareem al-Rubaie, the head of military operations in Diyala told Reuters. "Some were in police and Army uniforms, others in civilian clothes." — MNA/Reuters

OPEC chief says oil prices would go higher

BEIJING, 21 April—OPEC Secretary-General Abdullah el al-Badri said Sunday oil prices would likely go higher and that the group was ready to raise production if the price pressure was due to a shortage of supply—something he doubted.

“Oil prices, there is a common understanding that has nothing to do with

supply and demand,” al-Badri said on the sidelines of an energy conference in Rome.

Oil prices reached a new high Friday at 117 US dollars a barrel.

A host of supply and demand concerns in the US and abroad, along with the dollar’s weakness, have served to support prices, even as record

retail gasoline prices in the US appear to be dampening demand. Crude prices have risen as much as 4 percent last week. The OPEC chief said the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries “will not hesitate” to increase production if the group thought the higher prices were due to shortages. But he said more oil will not solve the high prices.

OPEC’s production levels were just one of many factors, he said.

Internet



The Volkswagen Lavida is shown at the 10th Beijing International Automotive Exhibition (Auto China 2008) in Beijing on 20 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Hitler ad fans tensions over Mexico oil reform plan

MEXICO CITY, 21 April—A political row in Mexico over an oil reform plan intensified at the weekend as a TV ad

compared a firebrand leftist leading a siege of Congress to 20th century dictators Hitler and Mussolini. Funded by a Mexican businessman angry at a 10-day blockade of Congress by opposition left-wing lawmakers, the television ad says the antics of protest leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador are endangering democracy in Mexico.

MNA/Reuters



Gardeners protect saplings against sandstorm in the county seat of Ruoqiang, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 19 April, 2008.—XINHUA

Californians’ confidence in US eco drops to record low

LOS ANGELES, 21 April—Confidence among Californians in the American economy has dropped to a record-low level, according to a tracking survey released on Saturday.

The poll, conducted by Harris Interactive, showed that only 45.4 per cent of California workers feel confident in the economy. What may be worse, 77

percent of workers believe the economy is still getting weaker.

The survey, which was conducted for the Spherion Corporation, a Florida-based employment placement company, showed that the percentage of California workers believing the economy is tanking increased by three percentage points last month.

While opinions may be poor about the economy in general, the survey found that 63 per cent of workers are confident in the future of their current employer, an increase of four percentage points from the previous month. The overall weakness in the economy may explain why a whopping 61 per cent of workers said it was

unlikely they would seek a new job in the next year, an increase of 14 percentage points from February.—MNA/Xinhua

UN trade, development conference opens in Accra

ACCRA, 21 April—The 12th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) opened here on Sunday with the theme being “Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development”.

“What are the options for improving the international monetary and financial system in order to correct imbalances and asymmetries and avoid future crises? Can the current commodity price boom be translated into more employment?” are among the questions that Supachai Panitchpakdi, secretary-general of UNCTAD, put before the conference in a welcoming statement as he outlined the salient features of what he called the “second wave of globalization”. At the UNCTAD conference scheduled from 20 to 25 April, participants would examine how the growth in South-South trade, investment and aid was transforming the world economic landscape.—MNA/Xinhua

Russia signs bilateral trade deal with UAE

MOSCOW, 21 April—Russia took a step closer to joining the World Trade Organization on Sunday when the country’s finance minister signed a bilateral accession agreement with the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi.

Alexei Kudrin, who

leads Russia’s WTO accession talks working group and is said to be outgoing-President Vladimir Putin’s chief authority on economic issues, called Sunday’s protocol a key achievement on the road to the WTO. “The agreement

signed here is testament to the two sides’ intentions to develop and fortify bilateral cooperation in the economic sphere within a framework of the multi-lateral trade system,” RIA news agency quoted Kudrin saying in Abu Dhabi.—MNA/Reuters



The Nokia N810 Internet Tablet sits on display at the Web 2.0 Summit in San Francisco, California. Top mobile phone maker Nokia is introducing an upgraded version of a wireless multimedia device without a phone, the company said on Wednesday, as it takes aim at Apple Inc’s iPod Touch.

INTERNET

Demand for flat screen TVs surges

BEIJING, 21 April—Sichuan Changhong Electric Co, China’s second-biggest television maker, said full-year profit climbed 47 percent as higher incomes spurred sales of flat-screen televisions.

Net income increased to 337 million yuan (48.2 million US dollars), or 0.18 yuan a share, from a restated 229 million yuan, or 0.12 yuan, a year earlier, the Mianyang, southwest

China-based company said in a statement to Shanghai’s stock exchange on Saturday. Sales rose 22 percent to 23 billion yuan.

Demand for flat-screen TVs surged as China’s economic expansion boosted incomes, letting more consumers replace bulkier glass-tube sets. The Beijing Olympics may spur Chinese shoppers to buy 77 percent more flat-screen tele-

visions this year, according to researcher DisplaySearch.

Changhong fell 2.9 percent to close at 6.02 yuan in Shanghai on Friday. The stock has fallen 30 percent this year, compared with a 39-percent decline for China’s benchmark CSI 300 Index.

Disposable incomes in China’s urban areas climbed 11.5 percent in the first quarter.—Internet



Iraqi girls walk near the site of a bomb attack that targeted a US military convoy on a bridge in Basra, 550 km (342 miles) south of Baghdad, on 21 April, 2008. The roadside bomb attack struck the US military armoured vehicle and wounded two US soldiers on Monday in Basra, police said.—INTERNET

Iran rejects US, Britain's nuclear arms allegations

TEHERAN, 21 April — Iran on Sunday rejected US and British leaders' latest allegations that the Islamic Republic may be trying to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran has no secret or confidential nuclear activity and the entire programme is under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad-Ali Hosseini told his weekly Press briefing.

He rejected as "baseless" the recent allegations made by US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown against Iran's nuclear programme, the official

IRNA news agency reported.

At a joint Press conference with Bush after their talks in the White House on Thursday, Brown called for strengthening sanctions on Iran.

"Iran continues to defy the will of the international community. And we are agreed on the need to strengthen the sanctions regime and ensure that these sanctions are effectively implemented," Brown said.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Turkey to play key role in Balkans if accepted to EU

SOFIA, 21 April — If accepted to the European Union, Turkey would play an important role in the currently unstable Balkans, local Press reported on Saturday citing Bulgarian EU Affairs Minister Gergana Grancharova.

The statement was made at the opening of the international conference entitled "Scenarios for Turkey's (Non)-Accession to the EU: Prospects and Consequences," held in Sofia on the initiative of Open Society Foundation.

Grancharova argued that as far as Turkey and its European prospect is concerned, Bulgaria as a member of the EU has always stated its political position clearly. "Bulgaria is directly interested in Turkey's accession to the block as that way it would have a powerful and reformed neighbouring country," the minister explained.

Xinhua



Subaru France driver Morgan Picard of France and his compatriot, co-driver Denis Schurger, compete during the second stage of the Dakar Series Central Europe Rally (CER) near Baia Mare, 620 km (385 miles) north of Bucharest on 21 April, 2008. The rally will be held in Hungary and Romania until 26 April.—INTERNET

UNCTAD urges govt action to increase food production

ACCRA, 21 April — Supachai Panitchpakdi, chief of UN trade and development body UNCTAD, said here Saturday that governments should not count on market alone to adjust food production and should take actions to increase food production.

"For years we have been told that the market .. balance in everything, we think price can determine the best

production structure, now we know that because of the huge demand, the weather conditions, energy prices, we just cannot leave the food production to the market alone," Supachai said one day before the 12th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to be convened Sunday.

He urged developed countries to pledge

substantial support for the least developed countries, which suffer the biggest strike from the food crisis, and reduce agricultural subsidies.

Xinhua

Constituent Assembly voting concludes in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 21 April — With the successful polling in Surkhet Constituency-1 and Dhading-1 on Saturday, the elections to the Constituent Assem-

bly (CA) election in Nepal have concluded in all its 240 constituencies, The *Rising Nepal* daily reported on Sunday.

The Election in Surkhet-1 in mid-western Nepal was postponed due to the murder of a candidate from the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML) Rishi Prasad Sharma, while the election in 19 polling stations in Dhading district of central Nepal was postponed from April 10, because of disputes among the contesting parties.

The Election Commission (EC) of Nepal has said that the election in Surkhet and Dhading concluded in a peaceful manner.

Xinhua

G-77 plus China ministerial meeting highlights Doha talk

ACCRA, 21 April — The Group of 77 (G-77) plus China ministerial meeting, held in Ghana's capital of Accra on Sunday, put much emphasis on impasse of Doha Round talk and recent spreading of subprime financial and credit crisis, as learnt from the ministerial declaration of the meeting.

"We are particularly concerned that the Doha Round negotiations in the WTO so far have not met the expectations of developing countries. All WTO members should uphold and reiterate their

commitment for the WTO to promote an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory and development-friendly multilateral trading system," said the statement.

It said the Doha Round should bring about improvements in multilateral rules that address and remove existing asymmetries and enhance the fairness and equity of the multilateral trading system, and must eliminate all forms of export subsidies.

Xinhua



A trader gives a thumbs up on the floor of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in early April. Asian stocks rallied sharply on Monday as hopes grew that the worst of the global financial crisis may be over.—INTERNET

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

Genuine goodwill is the essence

An Observer

So far, Myanmar has exercised two constitutions: the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution.

The 1947 constitution was approved on 24 September 1947. The constitution came into force on 4 January 1948. The parliamentary democracy system was exercised in line with the constitution, and the constitution became defunct on 2 March 1962 due to party politicians' misuse of it.

The 1974 constitution was approved through a referendum. It was ratified with the votes of more than 90 per cent of the voters on 3 January 1974. Socialism was practiced in accordance with the constitution, and the constitution was defunct on 18 September 1988 due to the weak points of the one-party system.

Accordingly, Myanmar has yet to exercise an enduring new constitution. Only then, will it be possible to build a modern and developed nation in accordance with the new constitution.

Now, Myanmar people are looking forward to a political environment that can guarantee a social economic life with which they can trade and do business peacefully and freely.

The State constitution (2008) has been drafted to fulfil the wishes of the people in accordance with the background history and prevailing situations of the nation. The constitution is free from defects, loopholes and weak points of the previous constitutions. According to the planned Union system, self-administered areas are formed.

The legislative power is not monopolized by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw but is shared with Region hluttaws, State hluttaws, self-administered division and self-administered zones. Rights are also vested in ethnic minorities to avert any domination based on the populations of national races in exercising the legislative power.

At the central level, the executive power is vested in the Union government led by the President, and at the Region and State level, in the governing bodies led by respective chief ministers. In self-administered division and self-administered zones, respective leading bodies will be vested with legislative power and executive power.

The Supreme Court of the Union, Region high courts, State high courts, courts of self-administered division and self-administered zones, district courts, township courts and other courts set up according to the law will be formed to practise administration of justice.

The three sovereign powers are shared as much separately as possible and through reciprocal control.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will select the President. The President is to be responsible to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The term of the President is five years. The President can serve two terms at most. The term of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw is five years. The term of other legislative bodies and executive bodies is the same.

However, the chief justice of the Union or the head of the Union Supreme Court and judges have the rights to serve till they are fully 70 years of age if there do not arise any reasons in connection with the designation of their terms. That is aimed at ensuring practicing the administration of justice uprightly without any interference.

Now, journalists are presenting the essence and benefits of the constitution from various points of view. The constitution carries a chapter of amendment of the State constitution in order to make necessary amendments if there arise weak points in practicing the constitution.

The constitution (2008) clearly describes the functions of how the people's representatives will build the future State, form the government, exercise future politics and fundamental principles, and practise the economic system to build the new nation, the rights bestowed on the citizens (national races), ways to safeguard the fundamental rights of the citizens, and set up and exercise legislative, executive and judicial powers and control them reciprocally.

In the book 'State Constitution of the Union of Myanmar', Dr Maung Maung said that in fact, a constitution is the interpretation of the stance and principles of the State, and how the organs are formed and how they deal with each other to share sovereign powers, with the use of legal terms. In this regard, the expressions are not very important and the essence is the stance, principles, goodwill and cooperation of respective bodies.

If the people work together with the stance of living together through thick and thin, principles of no discrimination against or in favour of any particular citizens (national races), goodwill to ensure development of the nation and the people, and the desire of enabling the motherland to stand tall in the global community, there will be a good political environment in the nation.

So, I would say there is no reason that the people should miss the unique opportunity to participate in creating the prosperous future of the State and the people by casting 'yes' votes for the draft constitution, the foundation of the people's democracy administration.

Translation: MS

The legislative power is not monopolized by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw but is shared with Region hluttaws, State hluttaws, self-administered division and self-administered zones. Rights are also vested in ethnic minorities to avert any domination based on the populations of national races in exercising the legislative power.

Hna-kyeik-shit-su Pagoda in Hmawby consecrated

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—A ceremony to hoist Htidaw (Umbrella) atop Hna-kyeik-shit-su Pagoda in Hlawga Garden Road in Hmawby Township was held in conjunction with a ceremony to consecrate the pagoda yesterday.

At the ceremony, other pagodas in the compound of Hna-kyeik-shit-su Pagoda were also consecrated.

After receiving Five Precepts from Sayadaw

Bhaddanta Janinda, Chairman of Hmawby Township Sangha Nayaka Committee, the congregation conveyed the religious objects around Hna-kyeik-shit-su Pagoda clock-wise three times as a gesture of paying homage to the pagodas.

Afterwards, 108 Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagodas and the congregation shared the merits gained.

MNA

Intoxication is always despised

Through non-intoxication did Maghava attain supremacy among the gods. Non-intoxication do they praise. Intoxication is always despised.

Dhammapada-30



Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe speaks at the opening of International Year of Sanitation (2008).— MNA

International Year of Sanitation (2008) observed in Sagaing

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April – A ceremony to open the International Year of Sanitation (2008) was held at the city hall of Monywa, Sagaing Division on 29 March.

Chairman of the Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen

Myint Soe gave an opening speech.

Deputy head of the Division Health Department Dr Than Lwin Tun reported on measures taken for Sanitation tasks.

After the ceremony, the commander and officials viewed posters and photos on sanitation.

MNA

USDA Secretariat Member meets executives of USDAs at Myingyan District office

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April – Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung held a meeting with executives

of USDA, members of social organizations and local people of Ward 1, Nahtogyi Township, Myingyan District, on 18 April.

At the office of Myaigyan District

USDA, he also met with executives of Mandalay Division USDA, secretaries and executives of Myingyan, Taungtha, Nahtogyi and Nganzun Township USDAs and saw to the needs.

Later, the minister inspected sales of goods at Winthuzar Shop in Myingyan and stressed the need to mind that there is no running out of the goods.

MNA



Specialists treat persons with eye complaints. —MNA

Medical treatment provided to eye patients

YANGON, 21 April — A medical treatment team led by Prof Dr Kan Nyunt and Prof Dr U Ko Ko Tin went on a free medical treatment to Mon State from 7 to 10 April.

The medical treatment team comprised four eye specialists and three nurses. The medical treatment team examined a total of 608 poor persons

with eye complaints from villages within Mon State in addition to eye patients who have leprosy disease free of charge at Leprosy Hospital in Mawlamyine.

Free medical treatment was provided to a total of 123 cataract patients. The medical treatment team performed 12 eye patients minor eye surgery to 12 eye patients.

Prof Dr U Khin Maung Htoo and family living in America donated lens to be used in the eye operation. The medicines were donated by Dr U Htin Kyi and Daw Than Ngwe and family living in Baukhtaw ward of Yangon.

The team initiated free medical treatment to eye patients for ten times starting from 1998.—MNA

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

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

USDA Secretary-General meets members

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April— Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo met the members of USDA and townsenders at the office of Sagaing Division USDA in Monywa, Sagaing Division on 12 April.

MNA

Industry-2 Ministry novitiates 100 boys

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Under the auspices of Thekka Beikmam Kanthaya Tawya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indra Ceka, the staff family of Ministry of Industry-2 held a ceremony to novitiate 100 boys at Jotesan Tawya Sasana region in Htonebo, Padaung Township, from 12 to 13 April.

At the ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and wife Daw Moe Moe Myint donated provisions to the Sayadaw and Members of the Sangha. Next, the congregation received Five Precepts from the Sayadaw, and Members of the Sangha recited partitas.

Next, the minister and his wife and staff families offered robes to the Sayadaw and they shared merits gained.—MNA

Mayor inspects upgrading of roads

YANGON, 21 April — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-charged) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the upgrading tasks of the roads here today.

The mayor looked into paving a section of the Strand Road between junction of Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township and paving concrete to the pavements of Bo Aung Kyaw Road and Marchent Street in Kyauktada Township.

Next, the mayor inspected paving gravel to Bomma 10th Street in North Okkalapa Township in Yangon East District.—MNA

Talks on 'Social Enterprise' to be given

YANGON, 21 April – Jointly organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanma Prawn Entrepreneurs Association and sponsored by Han Sein Thant Engineering & Trading, Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet, Prof U Maw Than and Prof Daw Hla Myint will give talk on 'Social Enterprise' in forum-type at the Federation, Insein Township, at 2 pm on 26 April. Those interested may attend it.

MNA

Two separate blasts occur in Yangon, causing slight damage to two vehicles but no one injured

Authorities concerned have asked the people to come forward with information

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Two vehicles were slightly damaged in two separate explosions in Kyauktada and Pabedan Townships, Yangon on 20 April. No one was injured in the incidents.

The first blast occurred between left platform and the front of a Subaru taxi with the number plate Kha Kha/1029 parked beside ABC Restaurant at the corner of 36th Street and Maha Bandola Street in Ward 3, Kyauktada Township at 7.55 pm. The incident caused a crack to the windscreen, a dent in left door and a crack in the glass, damage to glass of the rear door and puncture of the front wheel of the vehicle.

The second blast went off beneath a Toyota Corona GX Salon with number plate Pa/7062 parked behind Traders Hotel at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and 32nd Street in Ward 11, Pabedan Township at 9.10 pm. The blast made a hole, 5 inches wide and 2 inches deep, on the street and caused damage to rear seat, floor, rear bumper, rear windscreen, front wheel and left signal light of the vehicle.

According to information provided by some

duty-conscious people, it is learnt that the perpetrations were committed by a man dubbed Mone Dine who was sent into the nation after attending explosive courses conducted by Vigorous Burma Student Warriors (VBSW) in the other country.

It is learnt that at a time when people are living a peaceful life in new year after Maha Thingyan and long public holidays the blasts caused anger to people in Yangon.

According to security cameras, the man is about 5.6 feet tall with shoulder length hair, fair complexion, thin face and about 30 years of age.

The authorities concerned including police stations have asked the people to come forward with relevant information.

MNA

A man carrying explosives approached a vehicle being parked at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and 32nd Street behind the Traders Hotel to blow off the vehicle on Sunday.—MNA



Fires broke out 162 times across the nation in March

YANGON, 21 April—Fires broke out 162 times across the nation in March 2008, rendering 6,693 people homeless, leaving three people dead, 17 others injured and 101 animals dead. Of them, 134 cases were due to negligence, 12 were due to electrical circuits, nine were arson committed by unscrupulous persons, four were forest fires, one was arson perpetrated by insurgents and two others.

According to 162 incidents of fire in the nation, it is found that 82.72 per cent of them were due to

negligence. Mandalay Division was the highest incident, followed by Yangon Division and Bago Division. Out of 35 reported fires that broke out in Mandalay Division, 30 were due to negligence.

The Fire Services Department is making domiciliary visits to ensure the use of fires, issuing warnings, practising fire drills and conducting educative talks on prevention of fires in the open season in order to make the people know hazards of fires and carry out fire preventative measures.—MNA



File photo shows a salesman adjusting his window display in a Hong Kong gold shop. As per-capita disposable income grows, gold jewellery is becoming more popular with Chinese consumers.—INTERNET

Poll shows most French see no improvement under Sarkozy

PARIS, 21 April — A large majority of French people think President Nicolas Sarkozy has failed to improve their country's situation since his election almost a year ago, according to an opinion poll issued on Saturday.

The Ifop poll, to be published in the Sunday weekly *Journal du Dimanche*, found 79 per cent of those questioned did not think Sarkozy had improved France's situation, against 59 per cent who felt the same way in

November 2007.

A separate survey in the same newspaper found Sarkozy's personal approval ratings down to 36 per cent from 37 per cent a month ago.

Prime Minister Francois Fillon, whose approval scores have been well ahead of Sarkozy's in recent months, saw his rating down six points to 52 per cent from 58 per cent in March.

After a triumphant debut following his election in May, 2007, dis-

approval of Sarkozy's hyperactive personal style has eroded his approval ratings steadily.

Growing economic worries, notably over the rising cost of living, have added a potentially more serious threat, given the limited room for manoeuvre left to the government by France's strained public finances.

Tensions in the Cabinet, reflected in persistent infighting among ministers, forced Sarkozy last week to threaten to sack members of the government stepping out of line with undisciplined public comments.

MNA/Reuters

Romania needs constructive relationship with Russia

BUCHAREST, 21 April — Romania needs a constructive relationship, of cooperation, with the Russian Federation, Romanian Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu said on Saturday at a local TV Channel.

It is in Romania's interest to have a friendly relationship with Russia and not a "cold one", Tariceanu said at Realitatea TV Channel.

According to him, the enhancement of the relationship with Russia has an extremely pragmatic goal because this country can become an outlet for Romania, but also because Russia is the main supplier of natural gas for Romania. Tariceanu admitted there is a possibility for him to meet with Vladimir Putin if the latter becomes the new premier of the Russian Federation.

The Romanian Prime Minister voiced confidence that the new Foreign Minister Lazar Comanescu will actively contribute to improving the ties with the Russian Federation.

The relations between Romania and Russia have been anything but friendly in recent years. Russian President Vladimir Putin's presence at the NATO summit in Bucharest on early April, the first visit by a Russian head of state to Romania since 1990, was seen as a new beginning of the bilateral relations.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan, Iranian border clash kills Afghan teacher

KABUL, 21 April — An Afghan teacher was killed and two Iranian border guards wounded in a gunbattle between Iranian and Afghan forces in Afghanistan's border province of Nimroz, the Interior Ministry in Kabul said on Sunday.

The clash broke out after four Iranian border guards crossed the Afghan border village of Pul Abreshum on Saturday afternoon and beat up a number of residents, the ministry said in a statement. According to provincial police, the four Iranian border guards entered the village and announced that part of the area belonged to Iran. Afghan forces were sent in and the Iranian border guards began firing as they fled the area, the ministry said. — MNA/Reuters



People take a sun bath at the beach of Stakendorf at the Baltic Sea, northern Germany, as temperatures reach twelve degrees Celsius (53.6 Fahrenheit) on 20 April, 2008.

INTERNET

UAE vows transparency in nuclear energy quest

ABU DHABI, 21 April — The United Arab Emirates will work closely with the UN's nuclear watchdog for its planned nuclear power programme to assure the world it remains peaceful, its Foreign Minister said

on Sunday.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan said the close US ally had discussed its plans with the permanent members of the UN Security Council among other countries.

The UAE lies across a short stretch of the Gulf from fellow oil exporter Iran, which is facing international pressure to halt its nuclear enrichment programme. "The United Arab Emirates recognizes the special circumstances and considerations that surround not only the deployment of nuclear reactors but also the simple evaluation of such possibility," Sheikh Abdullah said.—MNA/Reuters

Two pro-government officials shot dead in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 21 April — Gunmen shot dead two local officials of a Christian party that is a member of Lebanon's ruling anti-Syrian coalition in eastern Lebanon on Sunday, security sources said.

Phalange members, who had just opened a new party office in Zahle.

MNA/Reuters

They said other three people, all members of the Phalange Party, were wounded in the shooting in the Christian town of Zahle in the Bekaa Valley. The two dead were identified as Nasri Marouni and Salim Assi.

It was not immediately clear who shot at the

A jeep and a pedicab inch against water on the flooded road in Shantou City, south China's Guangdong Province, on 20 April, 2008. Typhoon Neoguri, the first of its kind hitting China this year, brought to Shantou City a heavy rainfall lasting for more than 10 hours on Sunday.

XINHUA

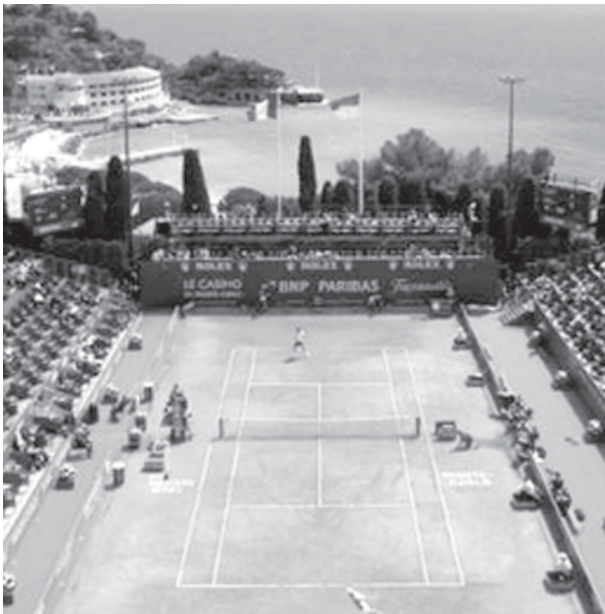




A model demonstrates a new IPEVO Free.2 Skype Internet phone.
INTERNET



Models display creations from the 2008 spring and summer creation by the fashion house of Tekbir during a fashion show in Istanbul on 20 April, 2008.—INTERNET



A general view of the Monte Carlo Country Club is seen during a match between Andy Murray of Britain and Feliciano Lopez of Spain in their first round match in the Monte Carlo Masters Series tennis tournament in Monaco on 21 April, 2008.
INTERNET



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a parachutist dives off a TV tower as an attraction for the torch relay in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 April, 2008. Kuala Lumpur is the 13th stop of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games torch relay.—XINHUA



People look at an Easter exposition made of 17,000 eggs representing onion-domed churches and fortresses in Kiev, Ukraine, on 21 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Images of the Day

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARINA STAR-2 VOYNO (510)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARINA STAR-2 VOY NO (510) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 20.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MAXICON CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL Dip in Marine Affairs(UK) MYINTAdvocate@mpmail.net.mm Ph: 371 990 22.April.2008

Don't Smoke

Pakistan Air Force inducts home-made UAVs

ISLAMABAD, 21 April— The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Sunday inducted the indigenously manufactured Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System (UAVs), the PAF said in a statement. The induction and operationalization ceremony was held at a PAF operational base, the PAF statement said.

"Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are ideal systems to support the emerging joint character and the asymmetric nature of warfare," it said.

It said that the long endurance of UAVs provides sustained support for more efficient and time-critical targeting, and other missions requiring greater persistence than what is provided by manned aircraft.

"UAVs offer a unique capability to get closer to a target and provide detailed bird's eye view while remaining invisible to enemy's eyes and ears," it said.

The statement said that their small size, low noise propulsion system and ability to feed information directly to battlefield commanders enhance the effectiveness of any combat force, more so of the Pakistan Air Force.— MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်အဖွဲ့

Civil Service Selection and Training Board

ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၁၁/ ၂၀၀၈

၁၃၆၉ ခုနှစ်၊ နှောင်းတန်ခူးလဆန်း ၅ ရက်

(၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီ လ ၁၀ ရက်)

ရေးကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၁၁/ ၂၀၀၈



၁။ ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်အဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၁၁/ ၂၀၀၈ ပြင် လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခဲ့သော ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှင့်အခွန်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပင်စင်ဦးစီးဌာန၊ ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (ငွေစာရင်း/ ကွန်ပျူတာ/ သုတေသန) ရာထူး ၃ နေရာနှင့် ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၈/ ၂၀၀၈ ပြင် လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခဲ့သော ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှင့်အခွန်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်တပ်တော်၊ ဦးစီးအရာရှိ/ သုတေသနအရာရှိ (ဘောလုံး)/ လက်ထောက်အင်ဂျင်နီယာ ရာထူး ၁၆ နေရာ တို့အတွက် ရေးကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၁၁-၅-၂၀၀၈ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) မှာ အစား ၂၄ - ၅ - ၂၀၀၈ (စနေနေ့) နှင့် ၂၅ - ၅ - ၂၀၀၈ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) များသို့ ပြောင်းရွှေ့ပြင်ဆင်လိုက်ပါသည်။

၂။ စာမေးပွဲ ပြုဆိုခွင့်ကတ်ပြားများကို ၂၂ - ၅ - ၂၀၀၈ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့) မှစ၍ ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်အဖွဲ့မှ နှိုးအမှတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော်တွင် ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၃။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုချက်ရှိပါက ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်အဖွဲ့မှ နှိုးအမှတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော် (တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် ၀၆၇ - ၄၀၉၀၅၂ နှင့် ၀၆၇ - ၄၀၉၄၀၀) သို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်းဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ် စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၄။ ဤကြော်ငြာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်အဖွဲ့၏ Website များဖြစ်သော csstb.imis.com.mm နှင့် www.csstb.gov.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

Poll shows oil running out as prime energy source

WASHINGTON, 21 April— Most people believe oil is running out and governments need to find another fuel, but Americans are alone in thinking their leaders are out of touch with reality on this issue, an international poll said on Sunday. On average, 70 per cent of respondents in 15 countries and the Palestinian territories said they thought oil supplies had peaked. Only 22 per cent of the nearly 15,000 respondents in nations ranging from China to Mexico believed enough new oil would be found to

keep it a primary fuel source. "What's most striking is there's such a widespread consensus around the world that oil is running out and governments need to make a real effort to find new sources of energy," said Steven Kull, director of WorldPublicOpinion.org, a global research organization that conducted the poll. Concerns over climate change, which is spurred by emissions from fossil fuels including oil, also were a factor among respondents, Kull said. MNA/Reuters

NZ Govt plans to boost police search powers

WELLINGTON, 21 April— The New Zealand Government intended to introduce a Bill this year to strengthen police search and surveillance powers, Radio New Zealand reported on Sunday.

Justice Minister Annette King announced the move at a conference on victims' rights organized by the Sensible Sentencing Trust in Wellington on Saturday.

She said the law will be updated so computers may be searched and electronic data seized when a search is authorized.

King said new powers will be introduced, including the ability to

search people, places or vehicles on arrest, and the extent to which police can search without a warrant will be clarified.

She said many of the laws governing police investigative powers are outdated and complex, and the bill will give the police and other agencies greater tools.

King also announced the government is drafting a bill aimed at removing the stress of the legal aid system for victims.

She said the bill will enable the Legal Services Agency to write off legal aid debt for victims at the time the aid is granted.

MNA/Xinhua

Hamas militants attack Israel Gaza Strip crossing

GAZA, 21 April— Hamas militants drove bomb-laden vehicles into an Israeli border crossing on Saturday in an attack described by an Israeli commander as the most ambitious since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

At least three militants were killed and 13 Israeli soldiers wounded in the bombing at Kerem Shalom, the third major Palestinian attack in less than two weeks on Israeli border crossings used to transfer humanitarian goods and fuel to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, home to 1.5 million people.

Two other Palestinians, including a Hamas militant and a civilian, were killed in separate Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, the Islamist group said. Israel tightened its economic and military blockade of the coastal enclave after Hamas seized control in June from secular Fatah forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Israeli General Yoav Galant said the Kerem Shalom attack was the most sophisticated since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Israel, which controls Gaza's air space, coastal waters and goods

crossings, has accused Iran and Syria of providing Hamas fighters with advanced training and equipment.

"There is no doubt that we have not seen such attacks since the pullout," Galant told reporters at the scene of the attack.

"It was synchronised along this stretch (of the border) in an attempt to cause mass killings, kidnap soldiers and take them out of the field into the Palestinian side using armoured vehicles," he said.—MNA/Reuters

Drive with care

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Dated: 22 April 2008

Chile copper strike keeps two Codelco divisions shut

SANTIAGO, 21 April— A strike by Chilean mining subcontractors in its fourth day and denting output will keep state-run copper powerhouse Codelco's Andina and Salvador divisions closed through the weekend, the firm said on Saturday. Codelco, the world's largest copper producer, said its Teniente division had resumed normal operations after a brief slowdown on Saturday due to a strike by subcontracted workers who argue windfall revenues from copper prices at record highs are not trickling down to them.

But the company's Salvador and Andina divisions, which have been paralyzed since Wednesday in the latest in a series of sometimes violent protests by subcontractors, would stay shut until Monday, a company source said.

MNA/Reuters

Study finds the older, the happier

BEIJING, 21 April — People usually think late life is far from the best stage of life, but a new research in April's American Sociological Review said the happiest Americans are the oldest.

This eye-opening research was conducted by Yang Yang, a University of Chicago sociologist.

"The good news is that with age comes happiness," Yang said: "Life gets better in one's perception as one ages." People in old age face a certain amount of inevitable distresses, in-

cluding aches and pains and the deaths of loved ones and friends.

But older people generally have learned to be more content with what they have than younger adults, Yang said.

"Partly because older people have learned to lower their expectations, and they accept their achievements," said Duke University aging expert Linda George: "it's fine that I was a schoolteacher and not a Nobel Prize winner."

Yang's findings are based on periodic face-

to-face interviews with a nationally representative sample of Americans from 1972 to 2004. About 28,000 people ages 18 to 88 took part.

There were ups and downs in overall happiness levels during the study, generally corresponding with good and bad economic times. But at every stage, older Americans are the happier ones.

In general, the odds of being happy increase 5 percent with every 10 years of age.

Internet



The words "SOS Taihu Lake", written using blue-green algae, are seen on the bank of the lake in this recent photo taken in Yixing, East China's Jiangsu Province. Outbreaks of blue-green algae, which sparked last year's water shortage crisis in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, may hit Taihu Lake again this summer, say some scientists and top environmental officials.—INTERNET

China develops ways to prevent drug residue in eel

FUZHOU, 21 April — Chinese experts said they had developed technology to quickly detect illness of eel facilitating timely treatment and thus reducing or exempting the use of drug.

The technology, featuring molecular biology technology, has passed evaluation by a team of experts with China's General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine.

Sources with the expert team said that eel raisers can detect three kinds of eel disease in one day by using the reagent test on eel, winning time for preventing an outburst of disease. The research programme of the new molecular biology technology was sponsored by the

provincial government of Fujian, which is China's biggest eel exporter.

A notice issued by the Fujian Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine

Bureau called for eel raisers to embrace the technology, which it says would help them avoid export barriers.

MNA/Xinhua



View of the Danube river in Vienna, Austria. Austria has been forced to reconsider its environmental policy after two reports indicated the renewable energy leader will likely fail to meet its Kyoto greenhouse gas emissions targets in 2012.—INTERNET

World map of metabolism finds blood pressure clues

WASHINGTON, 21 April — Researchers creating a map of human metabolism around the world have found compounds in urine that

point to some surprising differences affecting blood pressure, based not on genes but on what people eat and their gut bacteria.

They hope their findings, published in the journal *Nature* on Sunday, can help lead to the development of new drugs to fight high blood pressure or perhaps even non-drug therapy.

They analyzed urine samples from 4,630 people in the United States, Britain, Japan and China to find some surprising new link to blood pressure dif-

ferences.

"On one end of the metabolic world we have got people in southern China and at the other end we have got people from Corpus Christi, Texas," said Jeremy Nicholson of Imperial College London, who led the study. "And you can geographically map people according to their metabolic patterns," he added. "Britain is the 51st state as we are really in the middle of America. Our lifestyle and our diets and our ethnic mixes are quite similar in many ways to America."

MNA/Reuters

China starts building world's largest panda breeding base

CHENGDU, 19 April — Construction has begun on the world's largest giant panda breeding base at a major habitat in southwest China's Sichuan Province amid efforts to increase the population of the endangered animals.

Set in Gengda Town of Wolong Giant Panda Nature Reserve, the one-square-kilometre base will be able to hold about 200 pandas. Construction

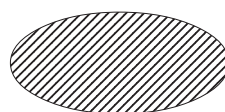
started on Friday and is expected to be finished later this year, said Zhang Hemin, administration director of the reserve, which comes under the State Forestry Administration.

"The new base, which stands at Huangcaoping, a primitive area 1,800 metres above sea level, is an ideal place for the protection of pandas," said Wang Pengyan, reserve vice director.

Besides pens for feeding and breeding, the base will also include a 19,400-square-metre zone for out-door activities, according to the plan.

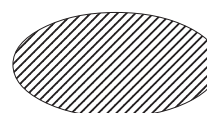
Thanks to the advancing breeding technology, the number of pandas in captivity in the reserve has increased to 130 from ten, but the current facility is not enough for them to breed, Zhang said.

MNA/Xinhua



The camel called Valeska, left, looks on at her offspring at the children's zoo in the Swiss circus Knie in Rapperswil, Switzerland, on 18 April, 2008. The calf was born the day before.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Messi ready for United



Lionel Messi

BARCELONA (Spain), 21 April— Lionel Messi says he is 'ready' to face Manchester United after the Barcelona star continued his comeback from injury.

The Argentina international played the second half of Saturday's 0-0 draw with Espanyol after recently returning from five weeks on the side-

lines with a thigh injury.

Messi is now expected to start Wednesday's UEFA Champions League semi-final, first leg against United, live on Sky Sports 2, and he is looking forward to the encounter.

"I am ready for United," Messi told the Spanish media. "I am well. The fans are waiting for me to show what I can do on Wednesday. —Internet

Ronaldo wants win in Barca

LONDON, 21 April— Cristiano Ronaldo is targeting a win in Barcelona as he tries to prove the current Manchester United team is the best in the club's history.

United face Barcelona at Camp Nou on Wednesday, live on Sky Sports 2, in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League semi-final meeting.

Portuguese winger Ronaldo is expecting an absorbing encounter in Spain, but is hoping United can secure an advantage to take back to Old Trafford.

"At this stage, no game is easy," Ronaldo told Sport newspaper. "They



Cristiano Ronaldo

are very important games where the pressure is very high for both teams and maximum concentration is required.

"Anything can happen.

Our goal is to win as quickly as possible and to get the best result in the Nou Camp. I want to win." —Internet

Birmingham deep in trouble after Villa thrashing

LONDON, 21 April — Aston Villa thrashed local rivals Birmingham City 5-1 on Sunday to take their goal tally to 15 in their last three Premier League games.

John Carew and Ashley Young both scored twice for Villa to leave City stuck in the relegation zone with three matches left to save themselves.

Sunderland are still not safe after losing 2-0 at Newcastle United in the day's second derby, Michael Owen scoring twice for Kevin Keegan's resurgent side at St James' Park.

Birmingham are third from bottom with 31 points, one behind Reading who sit just above the drop zone. Sunderland have 36.

Young fired Villa in front after 29 minutes and it was one-way traffic from then on.

MNA/Reuters



Newcastle United's Michael Owen (C) scores against Sunderland during their English Premier League soccer match at St James Park in Newcastle, northern England, on 20 April, 2008. — INTERNET

Sao Paulo flee as dressing-room fills with mystery spray

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 April — Brazilian champions Sao Paulo were forced to flee their dressing-room at halftime after it filled with an unidentified spray during their match away to Palmerias on Sunday.

A 15-minute blackout at the Parque Antartica stadium also marred the Paulista championship semi-final second leg match, which Palmerias won 2-0.

Sao Paulo coach Muricy Ramalho, who gave his halftime team talk on the pitch, said he and several members of the delegation had come close to vomiting. —MNA/Reuters



Manchester City's Gelsen Fernandes (R) challenges Portsmouth's Papa Bouba Diop for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester, northern England on 20 April, 2008. — INTERNET

Real Madrid go 10 clear after 2-0 win at Racing

MADRID, 21 April — Real Madrid moved closer to retaining their Primera Liga title with a 2-0 win away at Racing Santander on Sunday.

Raul tapped in Robinho's cross early on and Bernd Schuster's men withstood some sustained pressure from Champions League-chasing Racing, before Gonzalo Higuain stroked in a second in injury time.

Real's players swamped the Argentine to celebrate as the victory put them 10 points clear at the top of the standings with five matches left to play.

"It's not in the bag yet, but this was another important step forward in a difficult stadium," Real coach Bernd Schuster told Radio Marca.

"This advantage should give us confidence for the remaining games."

Villarreal are now their closest challengers on 62 points after they leap-frogged Barcelona with a 2-0 win over struggling Valladolid at the Madrigal.

MNA/Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland holds the trophy after winning the Estoril Open tennis tournament in Lisbon on 20 April, 2008. — INTERNET

Roma's Totti could miss start of next season

ROME, 21 April — AS Roma striker Francesco Totti could miss the start of next season after undergoing a knee operation, the club doctor said on Sunday.

The 31-year-old, troubled by niggles all season, suffered a cruciate ligament injury in title-chasing Roma's 1-1 draw with Livorno on Saturday.

"Professor Pierpaolo Mariani will perform a surgical operation to reconstruct the anterior cruciate ligament, which will take place in the afternoon," Roma club doctor Mario Brozzi said in a statement.

Brozzi also told reporters: "In the past Roma have dealt with these kinds of injuries. We remember in

the cases of Emerson and (Eusebio) Di Francesco they returned to action after four months."

A similar recovery time for Totti would mean he would be back in August but would miss most of pre-season training.

MNA/Reuters



Vera Zvonareva of Russia returns the ball against Serena Williams of the US in the championship match of the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, South Carolina, on 20 April, 2008. — INTERNET

Kaka, Del Piero shine in Milan and Juve wins

MILAN, 21 April — Kaka netted a hat-trick to help AC Milan keep their Champions League qualification hopes alive with a 5-1 win over relegation-threatened Reggina on Sunday.

Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero also scored three in a 4-0 victory at Atalanta, which means third-placed Juve are almost assured of a Champions League qualifying place.

Milan in fifth are 12 points behind Juventus with four games left but cannot overhaul their rivals because of

their inferior head-to-head record against Juve.

Sixth-placed Sampdoria, on the same points as Milan, won 3-0 at home to UEFA Cup hopefuls Udinese and can theoretically catch Juve, whom they host in the final game of the season.

Fiorentina, in the fourth and final Champions League spot, are four ahead of Milan and Samp after beating Palermo 1-0 on Saturday. Sampdoria travel to Florence next weekend.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing Olympic flame arrives in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 April — The sacred flame of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games on early Sunday arrived in the Malaysia capital of Kuala Lumpur, the 13th leg of its global torch relay.

A chartered plane carrying the flame, which was ignited on 24 March in ancient Olympia of Greece, landed on the Kuala Lumpur international Airport at local time 02:30 am local time (1830GMT) from Bangkok, capital of Thailand.

Jiang Xiaoyu, vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee of Olympic Games (BOCOG), carried the lantern of the flame and walked off the plane.

Upon arrival at the airport, Jiang and the flame received a warm welcome by a cheering crowd, among whom are Deputy president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) M

Jegathesan and OCM honorary secretary Siah Kok Chi.

Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Cheng Yonghua also came to the airport to welcome the flame of the Beijing Olympics, which is scheduled to be held this August.

The Kuala Lumpur leg of the torch relay, which will be started from Dataran Merdeka and concluded at the famous "Twins Tower" KLCC, will start on Monday afternoon. Eighty torch bearers will take part in the relay.

The Olympic global torch relay will cover 137,000 kilometres before the flame returns to Beijing. *MNA/Xinhua*

Lebanese General calls for return of law, justice

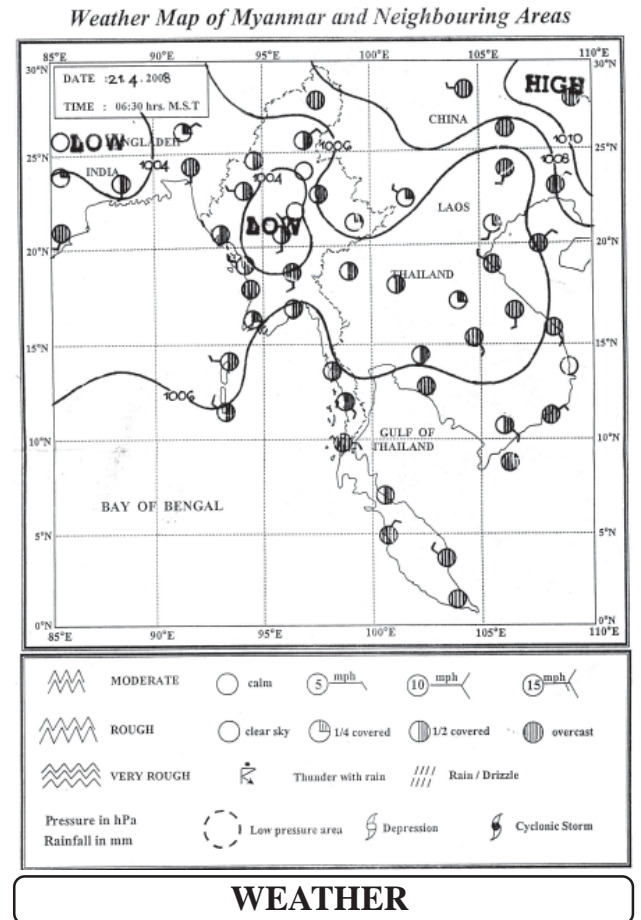
BEIRUT, 21 April — Lebanese Army Commander General Michel Suleiman Saturday said the Lebanese people want the constitutional institutions to resume their "effective national role", local Naharnet news website reported.

Such a return to constitutional authorities opens the door to achieving economic growth and development and "leads to building the state of law, justice and equality", he was quoted as saying at a conference on military

medicine.

Meanwhile, the general said accomplishments by the military are "a ray of hope in darkness", adding that the Army is "determined on proceeding with its national missions... and would allow no one to target the nation's unity and its civic peace".

Lebanese leaders agreed on Suleiman as a consensus candidate, but could not agree on the shape of the new government or the new election law. *MNA/Xinhua*



WEATHER

Monday, 21 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, Bago Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) above April average temperatures in Chin State, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (45°C), Shwebo, Monywa, Nyaung U, Magway and Minbu (44°C) each, Myingyan and Aunglan (43°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hsipaw (0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-4-2008 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 21-4-2008 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-4-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 20-4-2008 was (6.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 21-4-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (1.69) inches at Mingaladon, (1.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.83) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 20-4-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-4-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-4-2008: Generally fair weather.



A young girl, injured during clashes, is treated for wounds in hospital in the Shiite enclave of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, on 20 April, 2008.

INTERNET

Italian Ambassador to S Africa killed in accident

JOHANNESBURG, 21 April — Italian Ambassador to South Africa Alessandro Cevese was killed in a freak accident in northern province of Limpopo Saturday, the South African media reported.

The South African Press Association (SAPA) quoted Limpopo police as saying that Cevese was apparently part of a hunting party that was travelling in an open vehicle early Saturday morning.

The vehicle swerved to avoid an eland that crossed its path and overturned, said police spokeswoman Ronel Otto. Cevese died on the scene.

Police have opened a culpable homicide inquest.

Cevese, 57, was married with three children. He had been the ambassador of Italy to South Africa, Lesotho, Mauritius and Madagascar since July 2006. *MNA/Xinhua*



Tuesday, 22 April
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရား၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Dance variety

7:55 am

- ရှုဖွယ်စုံညီမြန်မာပြည်

8:10 am

- လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's Go

4:00 pm

- Martial songs

4:25 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ- တတိယနှစ်(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

4:50 pm

- မံဆောင်းတံတား(ချင်းပြည်နယ်)

5:00 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

- Sings and Enjoy

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:50 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တယ်---ချစ်တယ်" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

7:35 pm

- "စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှန်"

8:00 pm

- Local news

- International news

- Weather report

- "သပြေကုန်းမှရွှေအမြီးများ"

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်"

- (အပိုင်း-၁၉)

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.

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

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

* **For flourishing of democracy
Ratify Constitution**

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

Commander, CEC member attend road opening ceremony

YANGON, 21 April— An opening ceremony of new Konpalun-Thayetgone-Ahngone gravel road built by Pathein Township Development

Committee in Ayeyawady Division took place on 19 April. It was attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development

Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development

Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.

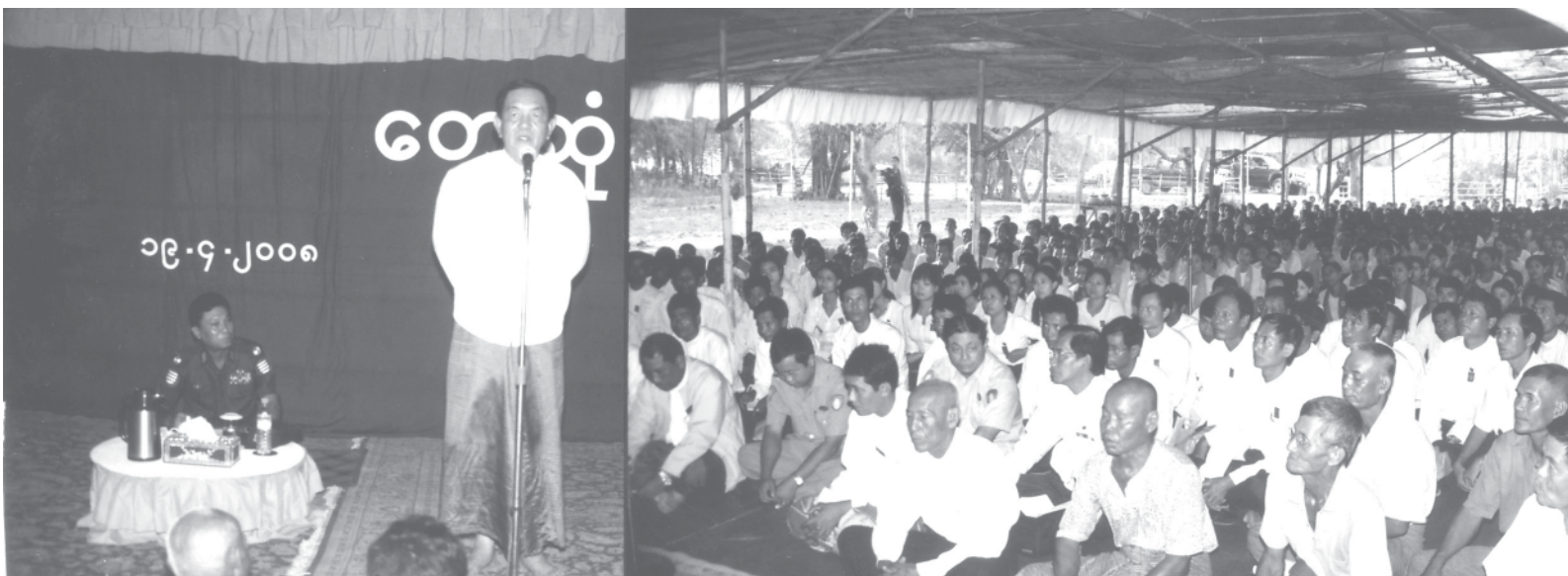
The road, three-mile

long and 10-feet wide, links Pathein and Ngwesaung road. The people of Tonpalun, Wartawgyi, Thayetcho-gone and Thayetgone vil-

lages can use Pathein-Ngwesaung road to Pathein in any season.

Afterwards, the commander and the CEC member met local people of Thitpokegone village in Pathein Township.

The CEC member on 19 April met the members of Township USDAs, social organizations and townsenders at the Hlaing Pyinya Hall of No 1 BEHS in Nyaungdon, Sasana Waiponla Monastery in Pantanaw, Shwe Nyila Hall of No 1 BEHS in Einme and Pyinya Yadana Hall of BEHS in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt meeting with local people in Thitpokegone village in Pathein Township. — MNA

**Towards the new nation
Will ratify Constitution.**