

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.

Commander inspects Wantakhet Bailey Bridge in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspected Mongpyin-Metman Road and bridges and 440 feet Wantakhet Bailey Bridge across Namkha Creek on 8 April.

The commander met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at Tarkawlay Village Basic Education Primary School and discussed regional development. He presented 104 corrugated iron sheets for repair of rural dispensary and school damaged by the strong wind.

The commander also provided village people with personal and consumer goods. He met service personnel, members of social organizations in the



Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspects Wantakhet Bridge across Namkha Creek. — MNA

villages and presented K one million for water supply and K 500,000 each for hydro power projects in two villages.

The commander also

provided village people with personal and consumer goods.

The commander inspected upgrading of the road between Sutwo vil-

lage and Metman and met local people. He presented CI sheets for monastery in Pankha and Onkalaung Villages.

(See page 9)

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

Every citizen who really loves motherland urged to cast ‘Yes’ vote

MAUNG DE DOH

What I understand is that the constitution, as example that you give, is nutriment that is indispensable for a nation to survive. However, to be nutritional one cannot eat all what he likes. He needs to choose suitable foods according to his health condition although every food is beneficial to health. So also, we are to choose the most appropriate constitution capable of serving the national interest.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 23 April, 2008

Emphasis to be placed on industrial development

Today, the government is establishing industrial zones, constructing factories and encouraging boosting production of import-substitute goods in its drive for development of the industrial sector.

Of the industrial zones in various regions, Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zone, Mandalay Industrial Zone and Monywa Industrial Zone have set up modern foundry plants and forging shops with the assistance of the government. Due to the development of the industries that produce iron wares, other private industries are developing.

In the 10 industrial zones in Yangon Division, 2921 factories are manufacturing and distributing import-substitute goods.

The Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Industry-2 are extensively opening factories and workshops that manufacture personal goods, household utensils, medicines, foodstuff, and machines. As a result, the nation has a prosperous future for industrial development.

In manufacturing products, factories and industrial zones are required to fulfil the demands of the markets and the people, boost production of quality products and popular items, and take innovative measures to win customer satisfaction.

The drive for building a modern developed nation lies in the centre of industrial development. At a time when more and more industrial zones, industrial regions and modern factories are being erected, emphasis is to be placed on boosting production of quality goods, and production and distribution of quality personal goods at full capacity for industrial development.

Mayor inspects water supply tasks, road works in Dagon Myothit (South)

YANGON, 22 April—CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected a new tube-well and water supply tasks in Tamway Township yesterday.

Afterwards, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin met with local people Mittanyunt Ward in the township and discussed matters on construction of a bridge crossing Khun-hna-pin-lein Creek and water supply tasks in the ward. After the meeting, the mayor inspected the site chosen to construct the bridge.

During the tour, the mayor also inspected road work on Thanthuma Road in North Okkalapa Township and upgrading Kaytumadi Road and sinking tube-wells and water supply tasks in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Seventy per cent of the water supply project in Dagon Myothit (South) Township has been carried out, and upon completion, the project will supply safe drinking water to ten wards in the township.—MNA

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

Work proficiency course concluded

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April—The concluding of work proficiency course 1/2008 for assistant engineers of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise was held at the Hall of Ministry of Electric Power No 2 here on 10 April.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint addressed the concluding ceremony of the course.

Next, the minister presented prizes to U Kyaw

Kyaw Latt who won first literary award and U Tin Tun Aung who won second literary award at the junior officer course No 27 at Central Institute of Civil Service in Pahunggyi.

After the prize presentation, Director-General Dr Thein Tun gave certificates to trainee U Zaw Lin Tun.

MNA

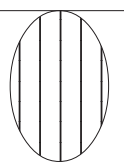
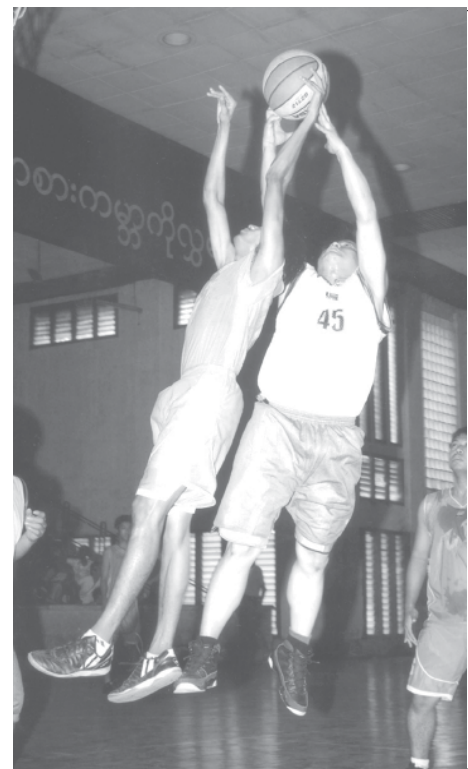
Horizon League Basketball tournament 2007-08 continues

YANGON, 22 April — Horizon League Basketball tournament 2007-08 continued at Kyaikkasan Gynasium here on 20 April.

In the men's events, KKS passed through with 81-71 points, Blue Boy won over Furious with 76-67, Red Star beat CCY with 20-0, Filipino defeated by Last Vampire with 20-0. KKS stood at the first and Blue Boy stood at second.

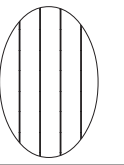
Horizon League Basketball Tournament was jointly organized by Myanmar Basketball Federation and Horizon International Education Center.

NLM



A member of Filipino fights for the ball with a member of GB.

NLM



Mountaineers successfully scale Khawnuthom (a) Natmataung

YANGON, 22 April — A 109-member climbing team successfully scaled the 10,300 feet high Khawnuthom (a) Natmataung in Kanpetlet Township in Mindat District, Chin State on 15 April. The trip was co-organized by Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation and Myanmar Women's Sports Federation for development of hiking and mountaineering under the arrangement of Myanmar National Olympic Committee.

The trip from Mindat to the summit of the mountain took four days. The team comprised 70 men and 39 women from Mandalay University of

Medicine, University of Dental Medicine (Yangon and Mandalay), Mandalay University of Nursing, University of Veterinary Science (Yezin), Institute of Forestry (Yezin), Institute of Agriculture (Yezin), Technological University (Mandalay),

Yadanabon University, Meiktila Institute of Economics, Monywa Institute of Economics, Monywa University, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages, Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Distance Education and high

schools.

Preparations are under way for scaling Khawtakaw ice mountain by Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation. Hiking and Trekking will be made in Shan Yoma ranges and Popa mountain.—MNA

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Malaria—a disease without borders

UN official in Iran to press for nuclear answers

TEHERAN, 22 April — The UN nuclear watchdog's top investigator arrived in Teheran on Monday to press Iran for answers to Western intelligence which suggested it covertly studied how to design atomic bombs. Iran's official IRNA news agency said Olli Heinonen, during a two-day visit, would meet Javad Vaedi, deputy head of the Islamic Republic's Supreme National Security Council. It quoted an unnamed Iranian official

as saying his visit was intended to "advance cooperation" between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN body seeking to clear up suspicions about Iran's disputed nuclear ambitions. Last week, US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown pledged a united effort to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, possibly by expanding sanctions.

Iran says its nuclear

programme is a peaceful drive to produce electricity so that the world's fourth-largest crude exporter can sell more of its oil and gas abroad. It has been hit by three rounds of limited UN sanctions since 2006.

Heinonen raised a diplomatic stir in February with a presentation that indicated links in Iran between projects to process uranium, to test explosives and to modify a missile cone in a way suitable for a nuclear warhead.—MNA/Reuters



File photo shows an oil production facility in Australia's North West Shelf gas project. The country has recently gained large gas and oil deposits but reaching them represents a major challenge—XINHUA



A man of Miao ethnic group beats drum during the folk dance performance in Taijiang County of southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 20 April, 2008.—XINHUA

Swedish nurses set to go on strike

STOCKHOLM, 22 April— Swedish nurses and healthcare workers staged protests across the country at the weekend over wages and prepared to go on strike on Monday after mediated talks with employers stalled.

Tor Enquist, spokesman for the Swedish Association of Healthcare Professionals, said 3,500 of the unions' 108,000 members were preparing to walk off the job after negotiations broke down on Saturday.

"Nothing has happened today so it look like it will be a strike tomorrow because they (the sides) had a meeting with mediators yesterday and the mediators don't see a possibility of

finding a deal." Enquist told Reuters on Sunday. Another 3,500 members will strike on 5 May should the wage dispute not be settled by then, he added.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan tests nuclear capable ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, 22 April—Pakistan's Army test-fired a long-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missile on Monday, the military said, the second test since the weekend.

The launch marked the culmination of a field training exercise for the *Hatf-VI (Shaheen-II)*, which included a test firing on Saturday.

"It validated the operational readiness of a strategic missile group equipped with (the) *Shaheen-II* missile," the military said in a statement, referring to Monday's test.—MNA/Reuters



In this photo provided by NASA, Dr Stephen Hawking, a professor of mathematics at the University of Cambridge, left, is praised by his daughter Lucy Hawking, as he delivers a speech entitled 'Why we should go into space' during a lecture that is part of a series honouring NASA's 50th Anniversary, on 21 April, 2008, at George Washington University's Morton Auditorium in Washington.—INTERNET

US election looms over north American summit

WASHINGTON, 22 April — With the US election looming over their annual summit, North American leaders gather in New Orleans this week for what is expected to be a largely symbolic meeting overshadowed by questions about free trade.

During the two-day meeting that begins on Monday, US President George W Bush and his

Canadian and Mexican counterparts will likely find themselves defending the 14-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, which has come under fire in the United States among concerns that the country is already in a recession or headed toward one.

The location of the summit is significant. Bush is hosting the meeting in New Orleans

to demonstrate how the city has rebounded since being swamped during Hurricane Katrina.

Bush's Administration was lambasted for its poor response to the August 2005 hurricane—the worst natural disaster in US history—and critics have said recovery has been slow in the city once known for its jazz scene and lively night life.

MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Zimbabwe sees fresh vote delay as violence rises

HARARE, 22 April— Zimbabwe announced a delay in the partial recount of its disputed 29 March election on Sunday, extending a political deadlock in which the opposition says 10 of its members have been killed and hundreds arrested.

The delay increased opposition concern about possible vote-rigging by veteran President Robert

Mugabe's ZANU-PF party. The recount could overturn the results of the parliamentary election, which showed ZANU-PF losing its majority to the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) for the first time.

Results of the parallel presidential election have not been released, but MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai says he has won.—MNA/Reuters



Some 26 rescued Chinese fishermen arrive at Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 21 April, 2008. A total of 140 Chinese and foreign fishermen have been rescued by Chinese rescuing team after typhoon Neoguri approached and hit Xisha Archipelago on 19 April while another 40 are still missing. Rescuing work is in full swing. —XINHUA

Assad says efforts under way for Israel-Syria talks

DAMASCUS, 21 April — Mediators are working to relaunch peace talks between Syria and Israel, President Bashar al-Assad said on Sunday. “There are efforts being made in this direction and they are not new. The Israeli side knows

full well what Syria would or would not accept,” Assad was quoted as telling a meeting of the ruling Baath Party’s command. Assad did not identify the mediators but diplomats in the Syrian capital said Turkey had been

relaying messages between Damascus and Israel. Negotiations between the two countries collapsed in 2000 over the scope of a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in 1967. International attempts to persuade Syria and Israel to resume talks foundered with the two sides attaching conditions to a return to the negotiating table.

MNA/Reuters

E Timor President denies linked Indonesia to attack

JAKARTA, 21 April — East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta denied on Sunday that he had linked Indonesia’s Army to an attack on him after Jakarta said such a suggestion could hurt ties between the countries. The 58-year-old Nobel laureate nearly lost his life when he was shot twice after gunmen loyal to rebel leader Alfredo Reinado launched early-morning attacks on the president and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao in Dili in February.

Ramos-Horta said his remarks on Thursday, upon his return home from Australia, that investigations indicated the involvement of elements within Indonesia in Reinado’s action had been misinterpreted. He said he had not blamed the Indonesian Government or military. “I always said individuals in Indonesia, and individuals can be of East Timorese origin although they might already be Indonesian citizens,” Ramos-Horta said after mass in a Dili church.

MNA/Reuters



People of Miao ethnic group perform folk dance in Taijiang County of southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 20 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Obama faults Presidents Bush, Clinton on Mideast

READING, (Pennsylvania), 21 April — White House hopeful Barack Obama on Sunday criticized both US President George W Bush and former President Bill Clinton for waiting too long to make a big push to achieve Middle East peace.

Obama, a Democratic senator from Illinois, said he would pursue an active diplomacy from the beginning to try to reach a peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians.

Campaigning in Reading, Pennsylvania, Obama

was asked his view on former President Jimmy Carter’s meetings with leaders of the Islamist Palestinian group Hamas during a trip to the Middle East that began a week ago. “I actually disagree with him on his meeting with Hamas,” Obama said.

Obama is vying with former first lady Senator Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination and the right to run against Republican Senator John McCain in the November presidential election.

“On the other hand,

what I also disagree with is a habit of American presidents which is every president in their last year, they finally decide, we’re going to try to broker a peace deal,” Obama added. “Bill Clinton did it in his last year and he ran out of time. George Bush tried to do it.” The peace conference launched in Annapolis, Maryland, in November marked a shift for Republican Bush, who previously had avoided a hands-on role in Middle East peace negotiations.

MNA/Reuters



Environmental activists perform on the eve of Earth Day in Makassar, Indonesia’s South Sulawesi Province, on 21 April, 2008. The performance is a call to protect trees on Earth. —INTERNET

Chechen commander warns ex-rebels ready for new war

MOSCOW, 21 April — A dissident Chechen military commander said on Saturday amnestied rebels recruited by Chechnya’s pro-Kremlin leader Ramzan Kadyrov were engaged in violence and stood ready for another war with Russia.

Sulim Yamadayev, in

an interview with Echo Moskvyy radio station, described a situation in Chechnya at odds with Kremlin claims that it has re-established control there. Russia fought Chechen rebels in two wars since 1994 which killed thousands.

“You think there is order here? This amnestied Army goes around with weapons. They do not have to hide and run... They have everything. They are just waiting,” said Yamadayev.

MNA/Reuters

Israel air strikes kill two in Gaza

GAZA, 21 April — Israeli air strikes killed two Palestinians, at least one of them a Hamas militant, and wounded eight others in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, the Islamist group and medical staff said.

The Israeli military confirmed it had carried out air strikes and said militants had been targeted.

One man was killed and three others wounded when a missile hit a house in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah, medics and Hamas officials said.

An Israeli Army spokeswoman said that a number of armed men had been targeted. Hamas said they were civilians. —MNA/Reuters

Somali clashes kill at least 20 in last day

MOGADISHU, 21 April — Somali Islamist insurgents and Ethiopian troops exchanged mortar fire on Sunday in some of the heaviest clashes in months with at least 20 people killed in the last 24 hours, residents and witnesses said.

The fighting was fiercest in the Islamist stronghold of northern Mogadishu. Residents said the two sides, which had reinforced positions overnight, exchanged heavy fire in the early hours of Sunday around the Save Our Souls (SOS) Hospital.

MNA/Reuters

Iranian Ambassador lashes US offensive in Sadr City

BAGHDAD, 21 April — The Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Saturday criticized the US military operations in Baghdad's main Shiite bastion of Sadr City which killed many civilians.

"We criticize the pounding of cities and the siege of people, which will aggravate the situations and make things worse," Ambassador Hassan Kazemi Qomi told a news conference at the Iranian Embassy.

"The insistence of the Americans to lay siege on Sadr City has led to the killing of innocent people and is a mistake that will lead to negative results and the Iraqi Government will have to shoulder the

responsibility," Qomi added. He said his country supports the Iraqi Government's crackdown on Shiite militias in the southern city of Basra launched on 25 March.

Qomi's comments came as US and Iraqi troops, backed by aircraft, conducted an operation in several parts of the sprawling slum of Sadr City on Friday, killing at least eight people and wounding some 61 others.

For the past three weeks, Sadr City has witnessed fierce clashes between Shiite militias and Iraqi and US forces. US military staged dozens of airstrikes in the sprawling district of over

two million people.

Local Beladi TV channel quoted medical sources as reporting that at least 330 citizens were killed and 1621 others wounded during the continual clashes and airstrikes in Sadr City since 25 March.

Xinhua

Vietnamese PM urges farmland protection

HANOI, 22 April— Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has asked local authorities and relevant agencies to minimize the conversion of agricultural land, especially rice-growing areas for non-agricultural use, local newspaper *Vietnam News*

reported Monday.

Projects violating the Land Law should be restored to their original agricultural state, he said. The government fears that the unregulated conversion of farmland into industrial parks, urban areas or construction sites will affect national food security and push thousands of farmers to unemployment.

The Prime Minister has required the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to cooperate with other relevant agencies to set up a taskforce to evaluate the status of farmland usage nationwide.

He also directed local agencies to reassess the land use situation. Land being ineffectively used or reserved for projects behind schedule should be restored.

Vietnam had lost 34,330 hectares of land for paddy cultivation between 2005 and 2007, said Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Tran The Ngoc. Of the figure, 16,000 hectares in the Mekong River Delta, the country's rice basket, and 8,000 hectares in the Red River Delta, another key rice-growing area, had been converted for other purposes.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Hamas says will positively respond to Carter proposals

GAZA, 21 April — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) will respond positively to the ceasefire and calmness proposals offered by former US president Jimmy Carter, said Mohammed Nazzal, an exiled member of Hamas politburo, on Sunday.

However, the positive responses "will not be at any price because the interests of the Palestinian people should be calculated," he said.

Carter kicked off a week-long trip to the Middle East on 13 April to look for ways in a personal capacity to push the Mideast peace process. He has held several meetings with Hamas leaders, including exiled Hamas politburo chief Khaled Mashaal in Damascus.

Nazzal, a top figure in Hamas' political bureau, said the discussions between Hamas and Carter focused on achieving truce between Israel and the Palestinians, exchanging prisoners and lifting the Israeli siege on the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. — Xinhua

A visitor looks at a Mercedes-Benz smart mini car on the Press day of the 10th Beijing International Automotive Exhibition (Auto China 2008), in Beijing, on 20 April, 2008. —XINHUA



Brussels' famous Manneken Pis statue is dressed in a Belgian cartoon character Spirou's uniform, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Belgian cartoon magazine "Siprou's start publication, near the Grand Place in Brussels on 21 April, 2008.—XINHUA

Moderate quake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 April— An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 rocked eastern parts of Indonesia on Monday, no report of damages or casualties, the meteorology agency said here.

The quake jolted at

12:33 Jakarta Time (0533 GMT) with epicentre at 171 kilometres northwest Saumlaki Town of Maluku Province and at 108 under sea bed, an official of the agency told Xinhua.

In 2004, over 170,000 people were killed in Aceh Province in northern tip of Sumatra Island after a tsunami triggered by a powerful quake devastated coastal areas of the province and others countries in southeast Asia.

Indonesia is laid at a vulnerable zone so called "the Pacific Ring of Fire" where two continental plates meet causing frequent volcanic movements.—Xinhua

Chinese protest against distorted media coverage

MANCHESTER (Britain), 21 April— Over 2,000 Chinese studying or working in Manchester and neighbouring cities in central Britain held a silence demonstration against media distortion in front of the BBC office building on Saturday. Yang Tiandu, one of the demonstration organizers, said that they have come to the BBC office to show their anger over its "unbalanced, unfair and distorted coverage of China and the Tibet issue".

"We are coming to urge the media here to stick to fairness and balance in their reporting on China, to urge people here to go to China to look with their own eyes, not to be misled by the media," Yang said.

"We are here for understanding and friendship, and we want the common people to hear our voice," he said.

Yang said that most of the protesters had registered online, and he was surprised to see so many Chinese, mainly students, showing up for the event.

In a open letter to the BBC, the protestors said that the BBC adopted "double-standards" and failed to provide credible and independent coverage.

Xinhua

The flame of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games early Tuesday arrived in the Indonesia capital of Jakarta, the 14th leg of its global torch relay.

XINHUA





Waterproof digital movie cameras "xacti DMX-CA8", newly developed by Japan's electronics giant Sanyo, is displayed in Tokyo on 18 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Ban says food price rises may hit growth, security

ACCRA, 22 April — Higher food prices risk wiping out progress towards reducing poverty and, if allowed to escalate, could hurt global growth and security, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Sunday.

Opening a UN trade and development conference in Ghana, Ban pledged to use the full force of the world body he heads to tackle the price rises, which threaten

to increase hunger and poverty and have already sparked food riots in Asia and Africa.

"I will immediately establish a high-powered task force comprised of eminent experts and leading authorities to address this issue," Ban said, after a group of the world's 49 least developed countries called on

Saturday for such a team.

The UN head warned the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting that huge increases in prices of staple foods such as cereals since last year could erase progress made towards goals set by the UN of halving world poverty by 2015.

MNA/Reuters

World economies urged to improve macroeco policy coord

ACCRA, 21 April — The difficulties facing the global economy highlight the urgent need for improved macroeconomic policy coordination among key economies and better rules and regulations regarding international finance, said a UN Press release received here on Saturday.

The financial turmoil that began with the

collapse in the US subprime mortgage market and spread to European countries has had limited impact on the financial sectors of developing countries so far, instead the main danger for the developing world comes from the wider economic implications, said the Press release by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, which will

launch its 12th session here Sunday.

The Press release said "the direct impact would be felt most strongly by those countries that have a large share of their exports in the United States market, especially the other members of the North American Free Trade Agreement and other Latin American and Caribbean countries". —MNA/Xinhua



Beef from cattle reared in South Korea is displayed for sale at a stock farm products market in Seoul on 21 April, 2008. South Korea agreed on Friday to open its market to US beef. The deal with Washington will particularly hurt Australian importers and local producers, who have benefited from the country's protective measures for domestic farmers. —INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Oil price deepens pain, producers dodge the blame

ROME, 22 April — Record high oil prices have deepened economic pain and even energy producers have begun to fret, but at talks with their customers in Rome they blamed the US dollar and said they could not halt the rally.

Speaking after oil hit yet

another record above 117 US dollars a barrel on Monday, the IMF's John Lipsky told Reuters the price was one of many factors eating into economic growth.

"It's dampening growth — that's for sure, but of course it is benefiting

exporters."

Lipsky, the No 2 official at global watchdog the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was arriving for talks between energy producers and consumers that continue until Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

China Southern Airlines posts nearly 9-fold rise in profit

BEIJING, 22 April — China Southern Airlines Co, the country's largest carrier by fleet size, said Sunday its 2007 profit soared 786 per cent on the stronger yuan and greater passenger numbers.

Net profit jumped to 1.85 billion yuan (264 million US dollars), or 0.42 yuan per share, from 209 million yuan, or 0.05 yuan per share, in 2006, the airline said in a statement to the Shanghai Stock Exchange, citing domestic accounting standards. Revenue rose 18.2 per cent to 55.9 billion yuan, according to the statement.

Chinese currency, the yuan, gained 6.9 per cent against the US dollar last year, reducing the value of China Southern's repatriated dollar-denominated debts.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese electronic books have \$28.6m market capacity

BEIJING, 22 April — China has an estimated market capacity of 200 million yuan (about 28.6 million US dollars) for electronic books this year, a report shows.

The report, jointly released by China Book Business Report and www.du8.com, an online reading website, showed

that China had about 660,000 electronic books in 2007 with a market revenue of 160 million yuan, a 24.5-per-cent and 14-per-cent rise over the previous year respectively.

Readers of electronic books also increased sharply last year, hitting 59 million, a 37-per-cent rise over the previous year,

according to the report.

The report attributed the increase to the expansion of Web bandwidth and diversity and richness of electronic publications.

Young people still accounted for most of the readers, the report added, but it did not mention the exact percentage.

MNA/Xinhua

Trucks load diesel at the EL Segundo Chevron Refinery in El Segundo, Calif, on 21 April 2008. Crude oil set a new record, spiking after an attack on a Japanese oil tanker in the Middle East to close above \$117 a barrel for the first time.
INTERNET



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

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

Every citizen who really loves motherland urged to cast 'Yes' vote

Maung De Doh

Maung : Friend, I would like to talk about something with you. Some are urging the people to cast 'yes' vote in the forthcoming referendum. It is all right. But, the people will cast 'yes' vote only if the constitution that is to be approved through a referendum is really good.

**Shwe
Oh**

Maung : Then, what is your opinion. Do you think the constitution is not good?

**De Doh
Oh:**

I don't mean that way. But, some say that 25 per cent of the representatives to each of the legislative bodies are Tatmadaw member representatives, so there will not be cent per cent democracy. Moreover, some say that the Union government gets more power than that of state governments. And the Union government takes all the residual powers. So, that does not reflect genuine Union system. If so, how can we say that the constitution is a good one?

Doh:

In this regard, may I put you some questions? You like coconut milk noodle, biriani, ice-cream, durian jam, and coconut milk djenkol bean, don't you? Why do you like these foods?

Oh:

Oh, because of their good taste. In my youth, I could have at least three or four helpings of coconut milk noodle in a row. I could have at least two helpings of biriani at one sitting. When I ate durian, I felt contented only after I had had a big one. And sometimes, I ate boiled djenkol bean as much as a meal.

Doh:

Now, can you have them as you did in the past?

Oh:

No, I can't. Some days ago, I felt dizzy and I got tired easily. So, I went to see the doctor, and the medical check-up said that I had cardiovascular disease with high blood pressure. Now, I have to suppress my desire to have such foods.

Doh:

Well, that is what I want to say. Not everyone can have such a delicious food. **Whether the draft constitution meets the standard set by political science does not matter. What is more important is that the draft constitution is in conformity with our country's geographical features, culture, custom and political historical background,**

Oh:

The more the draft constitution meets international standard, the better it is, isn't it? Otherwise, international community will comment that the draft constitution is a sub-standard one.

Doh:

I want to explain it for public knowledge. To answer your question, no constitution in the world meets the standard cent per cent. And no country can be boast of the fact that its people fully enjoy democracy both in form and in essence. If it is said that democracy is the rule of the representatives who have been elected from among the people and who will have to serve the public interest, I would say that in the democracy pioneer country, senate is formed with those who are

descended from noble families and ministers. Here, you can say that they are elected by the public. But, the representatives are from among the rich and the beautiful in the societies that rely on money. The preamble of the 200-year-old constitution of the democracy pioneer country says that God created man equally. However, only in the 1960s, would the Blacks in that country enjoy the right to vote. If compared with the Whites in standing for election to legislative bodies, the number of the Blacks is very low in proportion to the Black population. For example, the Blacks make up more than 10 per cent of the nation's population. But, in more than 200 years, there has been only a Black senator. However, a tribe that constitutes less than 0.01 per cent of the nation's population wins over 10 per cent of the seats in the Senate. They are very rich. I would say it is the democracy of the beautiful.

In making comments, international community practices double standard. There are many countries that exercise feudalism or semi-feudalism. However, not anyone has made comments on that countries. But, they are targeting the countries that fail to follow their instructions and the countries whose rulers do not win their favour.

Oh:

Then, what is your opinion about the sharing of power between the Union government and the state governments?

Doh:

Well, in our country, just as the Union system is mentioned, the people judge it from two points of views. The first view concerns worries about secession of states from the Union. The other is related to the concept that the Union government is vested with the power to generate bank notes, and to deal with defence and foreign affairs only, and the residual power is vested in state governments.

In our country, according to the 1947 Constitution and the draft Constitution to be approved by the people through national referendum on 10 May, the sharing of the State power between the Central Government and the State Governments is based on the table compiled. Other matters exclusive of the table are vested in the Central Government.

Such system of sharing of the State power is also practised in Canada and India. Although they are identical in the system of sharing of the State power, Canada and India are different in the status of the Union System. Most of political science analysts assessed that Canada is more flexible than India as it is free from the central control unlike India. There are reasons for the difference. As you know, the population of India is greater. The difference between races, religions and economic conditions is great. And also, the gap between illiterates and needy people is great. There

are still social conflicts and armed insurgencies in India. This being the case, although it is under the Union System the central control is much required in order to ensure perpetuation of sovereignty, non-disintegration of territory and the Union. In Canada, economic development gap among people is narrow while the education and social status is high. Although it has two regions—one belongs to English speakers and another belongs to French speakers, there is no problem in the relations between the two regions. And there is no socio-economic conflict. Therefore, there is less central control.

Famous political scientists Thomas O. Hueglin and Alan Fenna made assessments in the book titled "Comparative Federalism" that the federal states with much central control enjoy better peace and stability while the federal states with less central control face greater instability and conflicts.

Oh:

In our country also, there are over 100 national races with a gap in socio-economic status. Hence, the central control is still required to bring about equitable development in economy of different regions. Did you mean this?

Doh:

Certainly. If all the states are granted rights to freely engage in social and economic sectors, the gap between those states with rich natural resources and human resources and those states with few population and poor natural resources will become great. **The greater the gap between socio-economy the greater the conflict among national races. Finally, it will lead to disintegration of the Union. Therefore, the leadership and control of the Central Government is required.** In the Central Government there will be Pyithu Hluttaw in which the national races have equal right to participate, the Ahmyotha Hluttaw, administration and cabinet made up of the state ministers. Therefore, there is no reason for national races to lose rights.

Oh:

It will be good if things happen as you say. **What I understand is that the constitution, as example that you give, is nutrient that is indispensable for a nation to survive. However, to be nutritional one cannot eat all what he likes. He needs to choose suitable foods according to his health condition although every food is beneficial to health. So also, we are to choose the most appropriate constitution capable of serving the national interest.**

Doh:

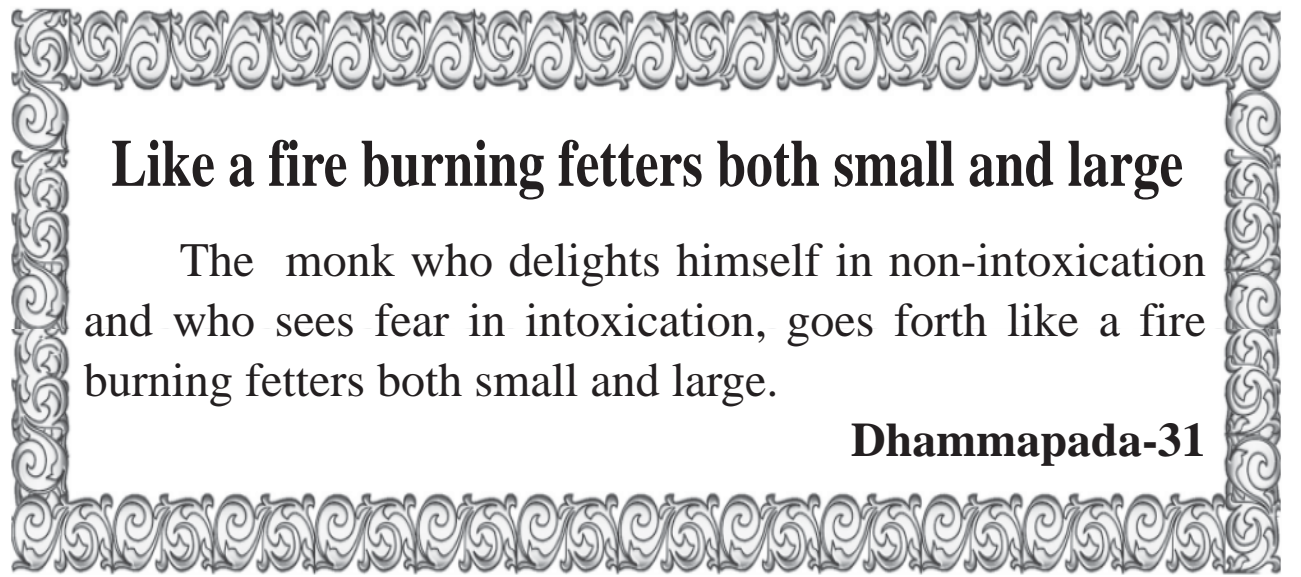
You're right, my friend. Therefore, I would like to urge every citizen who loves and cherishes the nation and who is desirous of serving the national interest to go to the polling booth and cast 'Yes' vote in the referendum.

(Translation: MS+TS)

U Thaung Tun accredited to Kingdom of the Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thaung Tun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Belgium, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

MNA



Like a fire burning fetters both small and large

The monk who delights himself in non-intoxication and who sees fear in intoxication, goes forth like a fire burning fetters both small and large.

Dhammapada-31

Secretary-General of USDA meets village people in Meiktila, Thazi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April—Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association presented provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arcara of Kaphyu monastery in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division, on 13 April.

He met members of the USDA and village

people and explained rural development, boosting production of agricultural produce and approval of the State Constitution (Draft) in the referendum to be held on 10 May.

Next, the Secretary-General presented provisions to Nyaungkaya village Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala Bhuddhi and cordially met

village elders and villagers.

The Secretary-General donated cash and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kheminda in Shwehlan village in Thazi Township. He also discussed rural development and boosting production of agricultural produce.

MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo meeting with local people and USDA members at Kaphyu Village in Meiktila Township. — A & I

Funfair, market festival held

YANGON, 22 April — Karaweik Garden held its market festival and funfair at the Kandawgyi here on 9 April. The Karaweik Garden families and personnel concerned of European-Asia Commercial Company Ltd attended the opening

ceremony.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin's wife Dr Daw Khin San Nwe opened the festival by cutting the ribbon and viewed the booths selling goods put

on special sale by the main sponsor European-Asia Commercial Company Ltd.

Karaweik Garden funfair was held from 9 to 12 April with entertainment every night on grand scale.

MNA

Commander, CEC member inspect regional development tasks in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April — Chairman of the Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein and CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Rakhine State In-charge Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met residents of Myintga Village, Pauktaw Township at the village's

Basic Education Middle School on 20 April.

At the meeting, the commander presented 25 dozens of exercise books, medical equipments and uniforms for Auxiliary Fire Brigade and the CEC member presented USDA uniforms, clothes and journals to the villagers.

Next, the commander and the CEC member met township departmental staff, townselders and members of social

organizations in Pauktaw Township at the meeting hall of the Township PDC office.

The commander presented 25 dozens of exercise books, medical equipments and uniforms for Auxiliary Fire Brigade and the CEC member presented K 500,000 , Longyi, journals and clothes to the Pauktaw Township USDA through officials.

MNA

New tarred roads opened in Maubin, Kyaiklat

YANGON, 22 April — 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 attended a ceremony to inaugurate roads in Maubin and Kyaiklat, Ayeyawady Division on 20 April.

Myathiri Road in Maubin is 2,140 feet long and 12 feet wide. Thanks to the completion of the road, Maubin can be easily accessible and students of the University of Computer Science can enjoy the smooth transportation.

The newly opened U Pyon Cho Road in Kyaiklat is 3,250 feet long and 12 feet wide. The road

can provide smooth transportation to students attending at No 1 BEHS in Kyaiklat.

During his tour of Ayeyawady Division, the CEC member also met with the members of district, township USDAs, social organizations and townselders at the Toeshwewa Hall in Maubin, members of township USDAs, social

organizations and townselders at the Shweayeya Aung Hall in Kyaiklat, the members of township USDAs, social organizations and townselders at the Ayeyathiri Thu Kha Hall in Kangyidaunt, Sports Hall in Kyaungon and Education College Hall in Bogale, Ayeyawady Division.

MNA

MWEA to hold 13th AGM

YANGON, 22 April — Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association will hold its 13th Annual General Meeting at Sedona Hotel, here, on 26 April, along with market festival. Dinner will also be served in the evening the same day. Members may attend the dinner after buying tickets in advance.

MNA

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

For flourishing of democracy Ratify Constitution

Towards the new nation Will ratify Constitution.

Stake driving ceremony held in Bagan

YANGON, 22 April—A ceremony to drive stake at Bagan International Theravada Buddha Dhamma Thabin of Ministry of Religious Affairs was held in Bagan on 20 April.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Minister for Religious

Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials concerned drove the stake.

At the building, Buddha's Doctrine are to be delivered and propagated to the tourists around the world who visit ancient Bagan and take interest in Buddhism. Wellwishers may make donations.

MNA

Commander, Minister attend cash donation for rural development

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta U Kovida of Thirimingalar MyoU monastery in Namhsan Township on 19 April.

Next, the commander and the minister made speeches at the donation ceremony for education, health and rural development in the township.

Afterwards, they also offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silarnanda at Yadanasi Pariyatti monastery in Loilem Township. They also presented the cash

for development of four wards in Loilem and Panglong Townships and village-tracts.

The commander and the minister met townselders, villagers and social organizations members at townships hall in Hopong Township on 20 April. They presented the cash for education, health, social and rural development.

They met with executives and members of township USDA in Taunggyi district in Shan State (South).

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein also met with townselders and USDA members of Nyaungshwe at the Peace and Development Council office and Kalaw USDA office.

MNA

Commander inspects Wantakhet Bailey Bridge...

(from page 1)

The commander presented 50 bags of rice, personal and consumer goods, clothing and medicine for service personnel in Metman and corn seeds for local people.

He visited Metman People's Hospital and handed over K 1.6 million donated by the Chairman of Myanmar

National Health Committee to the fund of the hospital to Dr Sai Saing Mong.

On 9 April, the commander met departmental personnel and local people from villages at Nanhtaw Village Basic Education Primary School. He also inspected tea plantation in Haungkan Village.

MNA

A&I Minister meets service personnel

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htey Oo on 13 April met service personnel of the enterprises under the ministry from Sagaing District and townships and social organization member of Sagaing at the office of Myanmar Agriculture Service

in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division. Afterwards, the minister also met service personnel at the Myanma Farm Equipment Factory under Agriculture Mechanization Department in Inngone in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division at 11 am.

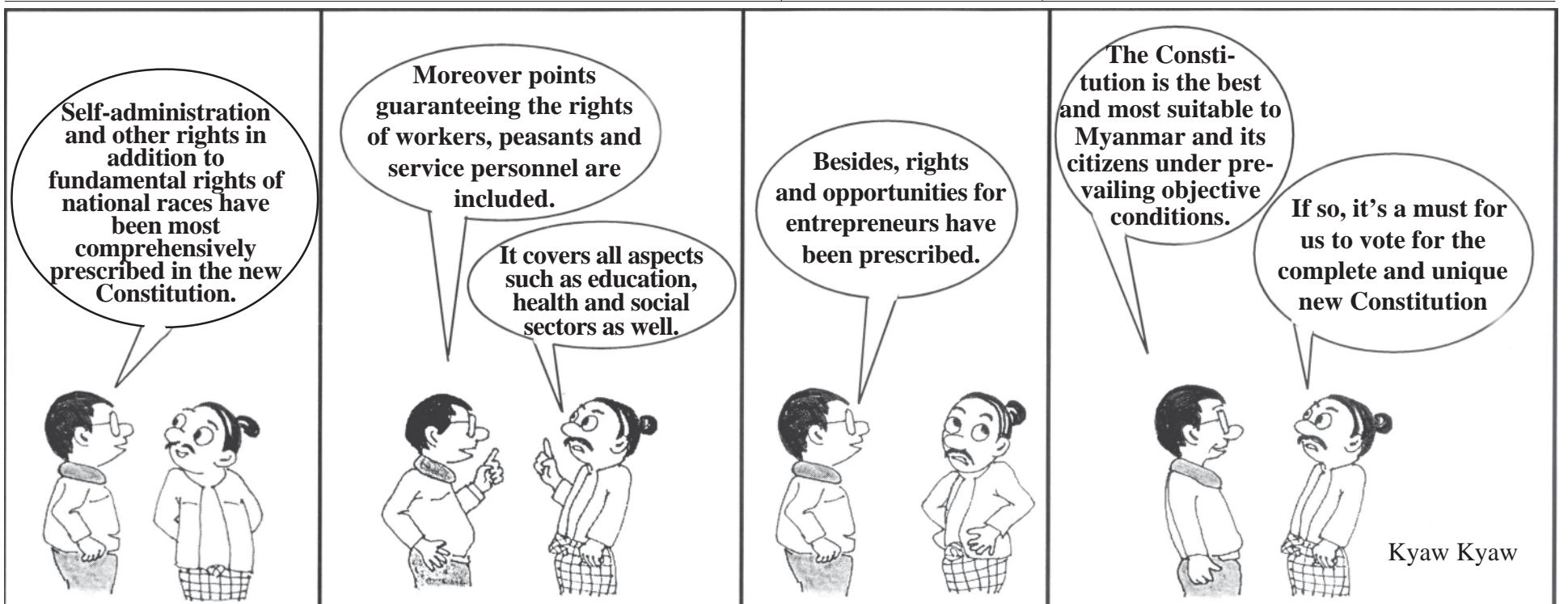
MNA

**Beware of
Fire**

**Take
Fire
Preventive
Measures**



Police Col Thein Soe (Retd) and Daw Tin Tin Win donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Yangon recently. Member of the executive committee of the Home Col Tin Thein Lwin (Retd) accepts the donation. — H



UN says half of Afghan children not in school

KABUL, 22 April — Half of Afghan children are still not going to school and the biggest group missing out on an education are girls, the United Nations said on Monday.

The Taliban banned girls from school when they were in power from 1996 to 2001, but there are now more girls in education than there were boys at school under the hardline Islamists.

There are also more

Afghan children in school now than ever before, but many problems remain.

“In Afghanistan, despite the progress in school enrolment over the last two years, half of school-age children are estimated to be out of school,” Shigeru Aoyagi, country director of UNESCO in Afghanistan, told a news conference in Kabul.

Working children, street children, children in prison and disabled

children were among those excluded, the UN said, but by far the biggest group are girls.

“We still have 1.2 million girls of school age who do not have access to school in this country,” Catherine Mbengue, head of UNICEF in Afghanistan, told the news conference.

The main reasons for girls missing out on school were that many of them either work to support their families or marry young, Mbengue said. There is also a lack of woman teachers.

The literacy rate for women aged 15-24 in Afghanistan is 14 per cent compared with 51 per cent for men. —MNA/Reuters

FM says Iraq will confront Sadr, not allow open war

MANAMA, 22 April — The Iraqi Government will not allow Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to wage an “open war” in Iraq and will move to curb his militia, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said on Monday.

Sadr, whose Mehdi Army militia has battled US and Iraqi Government forces, threatened on Saturday to launch an “open war until liberation” against the US-backed government if it continued a month-old crackdown on his followers.

The threat was followed by what the US military called the heaviest fighting for weeks in his

east Baghdad stronghold of Sadr City.

“Of course nobody will accept open warfare in Iraq or allow the rule of militias to be established,” Zebari told Reuters in Bahrain.

“The Iraq Government will be very firm to confront all outlaw militias as was proven in Basra and other places,” he added, referring to Iraq’s southern oil city.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice backed Iraq’s crackdown on the militias in a visit on Sunday to Baghdad, where the worst fighting in weeks killed 23 people.

MNA/Reuters

UN envoy says food price rises are “mass murder”

VIENNA, 22 April — Global food price rises are leading to “silent mass murder” and commodities markets have brought “horror” to the world, the United Nations’ food envoy told an Austrian newspaper on Sunday.

Jean Ziegler, UN special rapporteur on the right to food, told Kurier am Sonntag that growth in biofuels, speculation on commodities markets and

China supports UAE’s peaceful N-energy programme

BEIJING, 22 April — China said on Monday it appreciated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for taking a “transparent” and “responsible” approach in implementing its peaceful nuclear energy plan according to international law.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu made the remarks when commenting on the UAE’s release of a white paper on its policy for the potential development of a peaceful nuclear energy on Sunday.

“China supports the UAE, a signatory state to the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT), to enjoy the right

of the peaceful use of the nuclear energy.”

She said China had noticed the white paper that expressed the UAE’s pledges to renounce the development of any domestic enrichment or reprocessing capabilities in favour of long-term arrangements for the external supply of nuclear fuel.

The emirates will also follow a set of guiding principles, including complete operational transparency, the highest standards of non-proliferation, safety and security, and close coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the white paper said.

MNA/Xinhua



Buffoons pose for photos in the International Festival of Arts in San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, on 20 April, 2008. The 9-day festival ended on 20 April, had attracted 70 art groups from 20 countries and regions. —XINHUA

Bomb explodes in Spain’s Basque region, no injuries

MADRID, 22 April — A bomb ripped through the office of the ruling Socialist Party in the Basque town of Elgoibar early on Sunday, following a warning from separatist guerillas ETA, Basque police said.

No one was hurt as police had received a telephoned warning in time to clear the area.

Although most of the damage was inside the Socialist party office, the blast was strong enough to buckle nearby cars and shatter windows.

“A bomb placed by ETA exploded at 0325 (0125 GMT) this morning ... at the Socialist party office in Elgoibar (Guipuzcoa Province),” a police statement said.

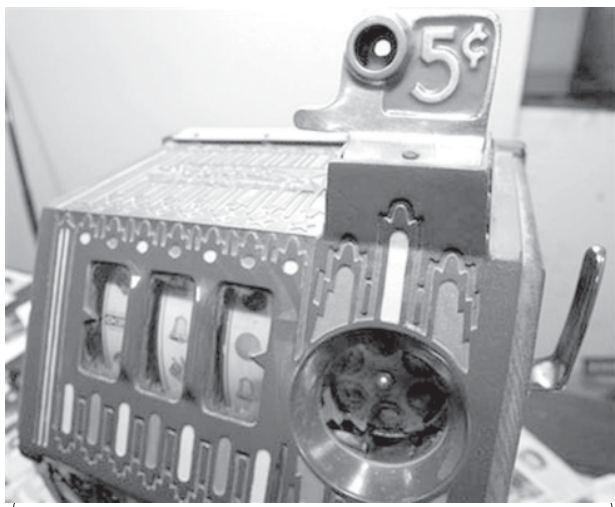
The attack was similar to a bombing blamed on ETA on Thursday outside a Socialist office in the city of Bilbao, which wounded seven police officers.

ETA has killed more than 800 people in four decades of armed struggle for independence for the Basque Country from Spain. —MNA/Reuters



Protesters demonstrate as US President George W Bush arrives for the North American Leaders’ Summit in New Orleans, Louisiana on 21 April, 2008. —XINHUA

**Images
of
the
Day**



An old slot machine that once was part of an illegal casino will be displayed at the Gangster Museum of America in Hot Springs, Ark, on 9 April, 2008. The collection is scheduled to open 20 April.—INTERNET



A Ukrainian clergyman passes Mikhaylivsky Cathedral in central Kiev, Ukraine in this file photo. Founded over 1,500 years ago, Kiev is one of the oldest and historically richest cities in Eastern Europe. The site of the ancient Kievan Rus, it is considered the birthplace of Slavic civilization.—INTERNET

Huang Shan, a folk artist, puts the final touches on a lacquer painting made with eggshells in Yuncheng city, north China's Shanxi Province, on 9 April, 2008. The 64-year-old folk artist has created some 300 lacquer paintings with eggshells.—XINHUA

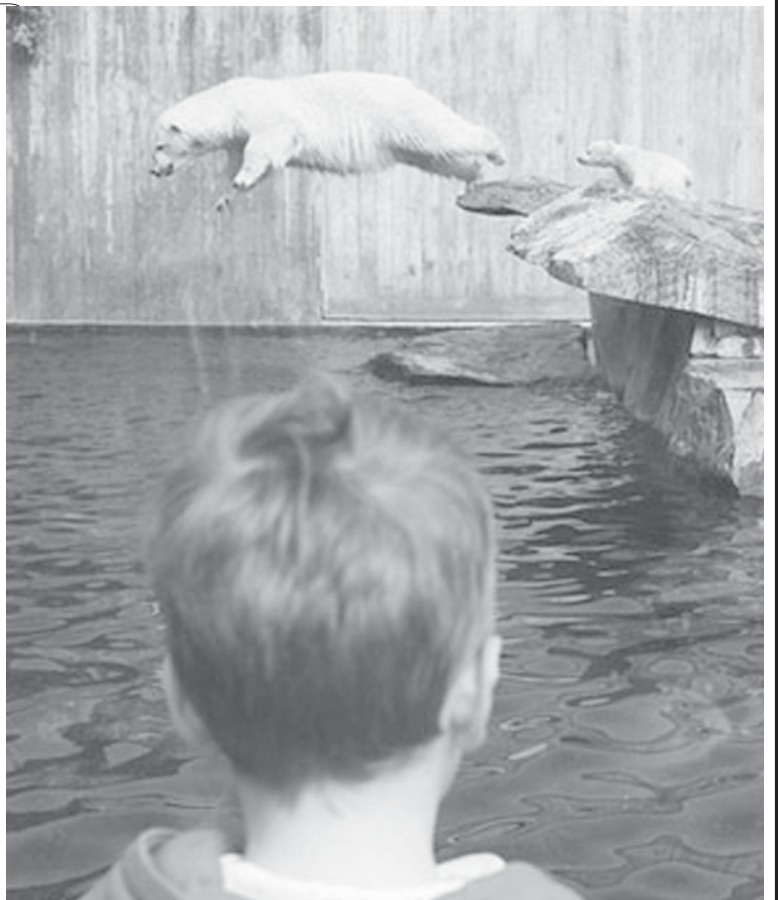


Looking almost as scary as the real thing, this young girl roared like a lioness during her visit to the new Legoland in the western city of Duisburg in Germany, on 17 April. INTERNET



A young biker jumps over rocks as several thousands of Hungarian cyclists arrive in the King Hill of Budapest at the end of an environmental demonstration.—INTERNET

Polar bear cub 'Wilbaer', right, watches his mother 'Corinna' jumping into the pool of their open air enclosure at the zoo in Stuttgart, southern Germany, on 20 April, 2008. Zoo officials introduced Germany's latest polar bear cub on 16 April, 2008 to the public. INTERNET



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (183)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (183) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 23.4.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (62)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (62) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 22.4.2008 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

Obama hauls in \$42.8m in March

WASHINGTON, 21 April—US Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama raised more than \$42 million in campaign donations in March, his campaign reported on Sunday.

The Illinois senator hauled in 42.8 million US dollars in the scramble for cash ahead of a showdown with rival Sen. Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary, the campaign said in a monthly finance report filed with the US Federal Election Commission.

The Obama campaign spent 30.5 million US dollars in March and reported debts of only 66,000 US dollars.

The 42.8 million US dollars Obama raised in March was less than the \$55 million his campaign brought in during February.

The February total for the Illinois senator was an all-time high for any presidential candidate during a primary and the March number, while lower, was the second highest. —MNA/Reuters

Drive with care

Some five PKK rebels killed in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 22 April—Turkish troops killed five rebels of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in a clash in eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Monday.

The operation against the PKK was staged in rural areas of Kagizman Town of eastern province of Kars on Sunday, said the report, adding that operations are still going on in the region.

Meanwhile, one Turkish soldier was killed in the Sunday's clash, while another was wounded, added the report. The PKK, listed by the United States and Turkey as a terrorist group, took up arms against Turkey in 1984 with the aim of creating an ethnic homeland in the southeast. More than 30,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict. —MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for Lanxess Deutschland
GmbH

P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 23 April 2008

Change of Name

Ma Sin Thidar Kyaw of Grade IV of B.E.H.S No. 5, Botahtaung Township, daughter of U Kyaw Kyaw, shall hence forth be called Ma Hnin Aye Shwe Yee. Ma Hnin Aye Shwe Yee

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
LL.B, DBL

Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)

MYINTAdvocate@mpmail.net.mm

Ph : 371 990 23.April.2008

Pirates seize Spanish tuna boat off Somalia

MADRID, 21 April—Pirates have seized a Spanish tuna fishing boat carrying a crew of 26 off Somalia, Spanish media reported on Sunday.

The vessel *Playa de Bakio* was attacked with grenade launchers about 250 miles from the coast before being boarded by armed men, according to the reports quoting government sources. No-one was injured.

Officials were not available to comment.

The vessel was now heading towards the Somali coast and a Spanish Navy frigate had been sent to the area from the Red Sea, the reports said.

Six Somali pirates who seized a French luxury yacht and held its crew hostage for a week were arrested by French troops in the Somali desert last week after they handed over their 30 hostages and fled with their ransom. They were flown to France for questioning.

MNA/Reuters

US gives Cambodia \$2m for genocide museum

PHNOM PENH, 22 April—Cambodia is to build a Khmer Rouge genocide museum and library, funded by the United States, as a permanent reminder of the "Killing Fields" atrocities of Pol Pot's guerilla movement, its director-to-be said on Monday.

Documentation Centre of Cambodia head Youk Chhang, who has been cataloguing the ultra-Maoist regime's crimes for more than a decade, said the museum would be on the site of an old re-

education camp in the capital.

"Genocide does not discriminate. It kept happening in the last century and one way is to use education as a tool help to prevent genocide," he told Reuters.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, himself a former Khmer Rouge soldier who defected to Vietnam in the late 1970s, handed over the land on 17 April, the 33rd anniversary of the 1975 downfall of Phnom Penh to Pol Pot's peasant Army. —MNA/Reuters

Bus plunges into gorge in India, 14 killed

JAMMU (India), 22 April—A bus veered off a mountainous road in Indian Kashmir on Monday and crashed into a gorge, killing at least 14 people and injuring 27 others, police said.

About 45 people were travelling on the bus to Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, when the driver lost control near Banihal, about 180 kilometres (110 miles) east of Jammu, the winter capital, police said.

"We don't know the cause of accident yet, however, we have ordered an investigation," AK Sahu, a senior police officer said on Monday. —MNA/Reuters

Sri Lankan Air Force destroys three rebel boats

COLOMBO, 22 April—The military in Sri Lanka said three heavily armed fast boats of Tamil Tiger rebels were destroyed by the Air Force in the northeastern district of Mullaitivu Saturday afternoon. The Ministry of Defence said in a statement

that Air Force fighter jets bombed the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) boats in the Mullaitivu lagoon around 5:30 pm (1200 GMT) on information provided by Navy units patrolling in the area. The bombing was carried out after verifying

the Navy's information through Unarmed Air Vehicles, said the statement. Having taken over control of the Eastern Province last July, Sri Lanka's security forces are currently engaging LTTE rebels in the north.

MNA/Xinhua

Almost 200 trapped by mudslide in three Gorges area

YICHANG (Hubei), 22 April—Emergency workers are trying to rescue almost 200 people from a village that was almost inundated by a massive landslide in central China on Saturday.

Continuous rain triggered a landslide of 60,000 cubic metres of mud, which swept into a schoolyard and a village of 37 homes at the Three Gorges Dam area in Hubei Province on Saturday afternoon.

The rain had washed away 20,000 cubic metres of the mud in Xiaohe Village of Gaoyang Township, Xingshan

County, by Sunday morning, said a county government spokesman.

Chen Hua, the county head leading the rescue work, said the mud flow covered the playground of the Zhongxin Primary School in Gaoyang, and damaged the dining hall and some classrooms.

No casualties were reported, since the school was out over the weekend, said the official.

However, the mud flow still threatened to inundate a school building and the homes of 179 people in the village.

The county has ordered the school to suspend

classes for the next three days. Rescuers are working to get the stranded residents to safety. Rainstorms have slammed the geographically vulnerable reservoir area since Friday, said Chen.

Up to 106 millimetres of rain had fallen so far. Weather forecasters say the rain would continue in coming days, which would continue to swell exuding underground water at the landslide site.

The disaster relief staff expected that the landslide area would worsen due to the bad weather.

MNA/Xinhua



An expert identifies the species of the dead whale on the shore of Cheng'ao in Ningde city, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 20 April. A minke whale was found dead here Sunday, which measures 6.7 metres in length. The local fishery department called for its carcass to be made into a specimen for research and display. —XINHUA

McCartney urges vegetarianism to fight climate ills

NEW YORK, 21 April—Former Beatle Paul McCartney is urging the world to go vegetarian in a bid to fight global warming and is surprised more green groups do not promote it.

In an interview with the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), McCartney said the global meat industry was a major contributor to global warming. A transcript of the PETA interview was given to Reuters.

"The biggest change anyone could make in their

own lifestyle would be to become vegetarian," McCartney, a longtime vegetarian and advocate of vegetarianism, said. "I would urge everyone to think about taking this simple step to help our precious environment and save it for the children of the future."

McCartney says the amount of land and water used to maintain the meat industry makes it a major contributor to climate change and complains that most environmental groups do not list vegetarianism as one of their top priorities.

"It's very surprising that most major environmental organizations are leaving the option of going vegetarian off their lists of top ways to curtail global warming," he said.

A 2006 United Nations report found that cattle-rearing generated more greenhouse gases than transportation.

MNA/Reuters

Colombia destroys 124 narcotics labs this year

BOGOTA, 22 April—The Colombian military troops have destroyed 124 rural labs allegedly used to process cocaine so far this year, Colombia's Navy said Sunday.

Some 212,126 kilos of solid products and 117,281 gallons of liquid products were found and destroyed, the Navy said, adding that 57 of the 124 labs were in Colombia's Pacific coast region.

The latest operation was carried out in the rural area of Buenaventura, Colombia's main Pacific port where some 1,100 kilos of coca leaves, 5,100 kilos of solid products, 950 gallons of liquid coca base and an electricity plant were among those destroyed, the Navy added.

MNA/Xinhua



Germany's Harald Breitenfeldt (L) and his 2 year-old grandson Leon prepare their beards for the international German beard championships in the eastern Bavarian village of Eging am See on 19 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Vietnam tests bird flu vaccines among humans

HANOI, 22 April—Vietnam has conducted its first large-scale trial of a locally-produced H5N1 vaccine on 30 volunteers, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported Monday.

The trial starting last weekend was implemented on healthy volunteers aged 18-45, who are students and staff from the Hanoi capital-based Military Medical Institute.

The vaccine developed from monkey kidney cells was produced by the Vaccine and Biotechnology Products Company No.1 under the National Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute. The vaccine research and development started four years ago.

If the trial is successful, Vietnam will conduct the second test on 240 other students and staff of the institute in June. If everything goes as scheduled, the H5N1 vaccine will be produced in Vietnam in 2009 at a price of two US dollars per dose.

An earlier human trial on 10 local researchers directly involved in H5N1 vaccine production project has proved successful, the paper said. All of the volunteers are now healthy. —MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka vows to crackdown on rice hoarders

COLOMBO, 21 April—The Sri Lankan Government here on Saturday vowed to crack down on traders who defy a Government order to control the retail price of rice, the staple diet in the island.

"We will implement the Consumer Protection Act to the letter and take action against anyone who would contravene the law," Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardena told reporters.

The government on mid-night of 16 April imposed price control of rice through a special gazette notification.

The government stipulated that the retail price of rice must not exceed 70 rupees (about 0.65 US dollar).

The government action came after a kilo of rice in some varieties exceeded 100 rupees (about 0.93 US dollar) which they blamed on the unscrupulous trade.

The Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) nabbed a few wholesalers who had sold the rice higher than the stipulated prices both on Thursday and Friday.

The government found that the wholesale traders in the Central Colombo's

Pettah market had shut stores and were not willing to cooperate with the order.

In one such shop, some 150 bags of rice were seized by the CAA officials on Friday.

At least a section of the wholesalers claim that they would be suffering losses if they were to comply with the government stipulated retail price.

"No one can challenge the government authority, legal action will be taken against the hoarders," Trade Minister Gunawardena said.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Olympiakos finish top but must wait for championship

ATHENS, 22 April — Olympiakos Piraeus finished top of the Greek championship on Sunday but will have to wait for a court ruling before they are confirmed as champions for the 11th time in 12 years.

Olympiakos beat Iraklis 3-1 in their final game to remain two points clear of AEK Athens yet could still lose the title if the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) rules against them.

CAS is due to rule next week on a match player between Olympiakos and Apollon Kalamaria on 3 February, which Olympiakos lost 1-0. They were still awarded three points by the Greek Football Federation (EPO) because Apollon's Roman Wallner, signed in January, had already played for the Scottish clubs Falkirk and Hamilton.

FIFA rules state that a player can only play for two clubs in a season but Apollon argued that the EPO had sanctioned the transfer. — MNA/Reuters

Dynamo Kiev risk points deduction after fan violence

KIEV, 22 April — Ukrainian championship leaders Dynamo Kiev could be deducted points after crowd violence marred their 3-0 victory at struggling Naftovyk, a league official said on Monday.

Fans ripped out seats and hurled flares and smoke bombs on to the field in a match halted three times on Sunday.

"Penalties could be assessed against both clubs, including a deduction of points," Ukrainian Professional Football League (PFL) director Anatoly Popov said in a statement.

"A thorough investiga-

tion will be launched to determine who were the instigators. Only after this will a final decision be handed down by the PFL." — MNA/Reuters

Serod Batochir of Mongolia holds his trophy in the award ceremony during the "Good Luck Beijing" Olympic Games Men's Marathon in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 April, 2008. Serod Batochir won the gold of the event with a time of 2 hours 14 minutes 15 seconds. — XINHUA

Ajax finalise terms on Heitinga sale to Atletico Madrid

ROTTERDAM, 22 April — Ajax Amsterdam have agreed terms with Atletico Madrid for the transfer of their Netherlands defender John Heitinga, the Dutch club said on Sunday.

"Ajax and Atletico Madrid have reached agreement about the transfer of John Heitinga to the Spanish club," Ajax said on their Website (www.ajax.nl).

The 24-year-old, who has 33 caps, said in March he had agreed a five-year deal with the Primera Liga team but the clubs had yet to discuss payment terms for the transfer fee.

Heitinga, who came through the youth ranks, had a contract with Ajax through to 1 July, 2011 that included a clause stating a maximum transfer fee of 10 million euros (15.83 million US dollars).

MNA/Reuters



The Cuba's women's basketball team competes with the New Zealand's team on Saturday afternoon, on 19 April, 2008, at the Beijing Olympic Basketball Gymnasium. — INTERNET



Real Madrid players celebrate a goal against Racing Santander during their Spanish league match in Santander on Sunday. Real won 2-0. — INTERNET

Milan, Barca fail to agree Ronaldinho fee

MILAN, 22 April — AC Milan have failed to agree a transfer fee with Barcelona for Ronaldinho after a preliminary discussion, the Serie A club's chief executive said on Sunday.

"Yesterday we had a conference call. The figures haven't fallen into place," Adriano Galliani told Sky after Milan's 5-1 win over Reggina. "Maybe Ronaldinho won't come and a main striker arrives."

Ronaldinho's brother and agent Robert De Assis has agreed personal terms with Milan but Inter Milan and Manchester City are also interested in the Brazil playmaker.

Milan want a frontman since Brazilian striker Ronaldo is out for a lengthy spell with a knee injury and Filippo Inzaghi is now 34 years old. They have consistently said they would welcome back former striker Andriy Shevchenko from Chelsea.

Milan are fifth in Serie A and could miss out on next season's Champions League, which the Rossoneri won last term.

Asked if a deal for Ronaldinho might stall because of this, Galliani added: "Ronaldinho went to Barcelona when they were in the UEFA Cup. It happens to all the great European clubs, I hope it doesn't happen to Milan. — MNA/Reuters

Relegation haunted PSG's chairman to step down

PARIS, 22 April — The chairman of struggling Paris St Germain, Alain Cayzac, has decided to resign, the Ligue 1 club said on Monday.

"Alain Cayzac has decided to hand his resignation to the board of directors, who will meet in the next few weeks," the club said in a statement.

"Paul Le Guen, whose motivation and energy are intact, has been confirmed in his duties," it said of the coach.

The main shareholders, who met on Sunday, also decided to appoint a "sports adviser" whose task will be "to give a new impetus to the club until the end of the season". A 3-0 defeat at Caen on Saturday left PSG in danger of relegation. — MNA/Reuters

Eriksson dismisses talk of losing his job

LONDON, 22 April — Sven-Goran Eriksson has played down talk of losing his job and said he expected to still be Manchester City's manager next season.

Eriksson was talking after his team beat Portsmouth 3-1 in the English Premier League on Sunday and before a meeting with the club's billionaire owner Thaksin Shinawatra next week.

Eriksson's future had been questioned after the

ousted former Thai prime minister last week said he was disappointed with City's form in the second half of the season and would review the Swede's position. But Eriksson told reporters after Sunday's win: "I have been round too long to be worried about things like that. Am I worried that I still have a job? No, I'm not worried at all, absolutely not."

"I think I will be sitting here in this chair next sea-

son. "He (Thaksin) said something, if he means it or not I don't know. I will see him next week."

Eriksson added he was delighted with the victory which keeps alive their slim chances of a European place for next season.

"This was important for the team, the club, the fans and with three games to play, we still have a small possibility to play in Europe so that's good," he said. — MNA/Reuters



Washington Wizards DeShawn Stevenson (L) and Cleveland Cavaliers LeBron James tussle for the ball during the first quarter of Game 1 of their NBA basketball playoff series in Cleveland, Ohio, on 21 April, 2008. — XINHUA

MNA/Reuters

Somali pirates seize new ship, Spain sends Navy

BOSASSO (Somalia), 22 April — Somali pirates hijacked a ship en route from Dubai on Monday and Spain said it had sent a naval frigate after the seizure of a Spanish tuna fishing boat with 26 people aboard off Somalia.

A surge in hijackings for ransom off lawless Somalia have made it one of the world's most dangerous shipping zones.

The Dubai-flagged *Al-Khaleej* was carrying food for sale in Somalia when it was held up seven kilometres (four miles) off the northeastern Somali port of Bosasso, authorities there said.

"If these pirates have now gone ahead to hijack vessels bringing us food, this will badly affect activities

at our port. We need to do something about them," said Abdisamad Yusuf Abwaan, Commerce and Industry Minister for the semi-autonomous northeast Puntland Region.

Suspected Somali pirates also fired on a Japanese-flagged chemical carrier off Yemen on Monday.

And Madrid said it had sent a naval frigate to help rescue the Spanish tuna fishing boat, which was attacked on Sunday. —MNA/Reuters

Army says seven killed in Burundi fighting

BUJUMBURA, 22 April — Six rebels and a soldier died on Monday in further fighting between Burundi's Government and rebels that is undermining the central African nation's peace process, the military said.

The clash, about 12 miles (20 kilometres) outside the capital Bujumbura, took the death toll from fighting between government troops and the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) to at least 33 in the last five days.

"We surprised FNL fighters stealing from the civil population and they opened fire on our troops. Our troops fired back," said military spokesman Colonel Adolphe Manirakiza. Burundi, a coffee-growing country of eight million, is emerging from more than a decade of ethnic conflict in which 300,000 people were killed.

MNA/Reuters

Australia state bans laser pointers after attacks

SYDNEY, 22 April — A major Australian state has banned laser pointers after a spate of incidents in which aircraft pilots have been temporarily blinded, the government said on Monday.

High-powered hand lasers, including so-called "star pointers" used by astronomers, would be listed as prohibited weapons in New South Wales state with jail terms

of up to 14 years for anyone carrying them without a permit.

"It is a gutless and cowardly act that could result in an horrific outcome. It only takes a

fraction of a second for a pilot to become temporarily blinded and that could have catastrophic consequences," said state Premier Morris Iemma.

Several pilots have recently reported high-intensity lasers being shone into their cockpits during take-offs and landings, and police recently enlisted intelligence agencies to help combat what papers called "laser lunatics".

The latest incident occurred over Sydney's south at the weekend when an ambulance helicopter was hit by a green beam.

The ban will build on planned national importation controls announced by the federal government earlier this month, treating laser pointers like firearms.

"It's destructive, dangerous behaviour which needs a coordinated response across Australia," said Home Affairs Minister Bob Debus.

MNA/Reuters

Abducted Pakistani UN workers released

JAMRUD (Pakistan), 22 April — Gunmen in a lawless Pakistani region near the Afghan border released two UN workers on Monday after security forces attacked the kidnap gang, officials said.

The two workers for the UN World Food Programme and a guard were abducted earlier on Monday as they were travelling through the Khyber region, towards the Afghan border, where Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan was kidnapped in February.

He is still being held. "The abducted men have been recovered," said a UN official who declined to be identified. "They're said to be fine, there's been no harm to them."

The two UN workers were Pakistani. A guard

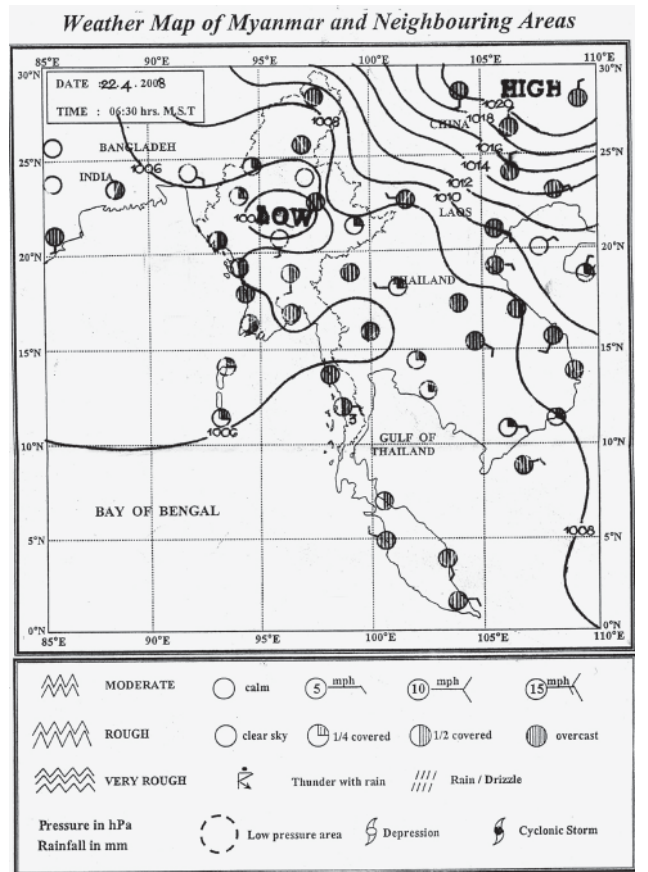
travelling with them was also seized.

A government official in the region said the kidnappers had freed the three because of an assault by the security forces in which a paramilitary soldier was killed and three were wounded.

It's because troops mounted pressure on the miscreants by quick action," said the official.

It was not clear who the kidnappers were but security forces were hunting for them, the official said.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Tuesday, 22 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon 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 Kayin States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above April average temperatures in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Monywa, Chauk Minbu and Aunglan (43°C) each, Nay Pyi Taw, Myingyan, Magway and Pakokku (42°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 21-4-2008 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 22-4-2008 was 77°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-4-2008 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 21-4-2008 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-4-2008 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 (7) mph from west at (23:30) hours MST on 21-4-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Northern Shan States and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-4-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-4-2008: Generally fair weather.



Wednesday, 23 April
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရား ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:45 am

- Songs of yesteryears

8:00 am

- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

8:20 am

- ဘော်ဘင်ရေလှောင်တံခံ

8:30 am

- International news

4:00 pm

- Martial songs

4:10 pm

- Songs of national races

4:25 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ်(သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

- ရှုဖွယ်ရုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:20 pm

- ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

7:00 pm

- ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:30 pm

- "စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှန်"

8:00 pm

- Local news
- International news
- Weather report
- "ခက်အောင်လုပ်နေသူများ"
- မြန်မာ့ဒီမိုကရေစီလမ်း "စတုတ္ထမြောက်ရင်ခုန်သံ" (လူမင်းမျိုးစန္ဒီကျော်၊ ဆုရွန်းလဲ့၊ မေထွဋ်ခေါင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မျိုးထူး)

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.

POEM:

Let's cast "Yes" vote

* From the bottom of our heart
Will cast "Yes" vote
* O my dear
Let's go to polling booth
* Never be deceived
For it's the cause of Union
* Dear, be together
With pure vision
Let us vote

(Tha Htet Maung)

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

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



Minister U Aung Thaung meeting with residents from villages in Taungtha Township. — INDUSTRY-1

USDA Secretariat Member meets residents in Taungtha, Kyaukpadaung

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April — Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for

Industry-1 U Aung Thaung visited Taungtha and Kyaukpadaung townships on 20 April and met with local people. During his tour, he first visited ShweUMin Monastery in Taungtha Township and inspected construction of the wooden bridge at Yondaw Village in Taungtha Township.

The minister met with residents including members of social organizations from six villages at Yondaw Village in Taungtha Town-

ship and residents from 50 villages in Popa area in Kyaukpadaung Township at Kyauktaga Village. At the meeting, the minister clarified the national duty of the citizens for the emergence of the State Constitution.

During the tour, USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung also met with local people from 20 villages, departmental officials and members of social organizations and gave instructions to them.

MNA

Minister inspects construction of Bwetgyi Bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected construction of roads and bridges along Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Taungdwingyi road section on 20 April.

At the briefing hall at the construction site of

the Bwetgyi Bridge on Yangon-Pyay-Yenangyoung-Magway-Mandalay road, Deputy Superintendenting Engineer UTint Lwin reported to the minister on the construction works of the bridge linking Pyay and Aunglan. Next, the minister in-

spected the finishing works of the bridge.

The main portion of Bwetgyi Bridge is 1,700 feet long and its approach structure on Pyay side is 650 feet long and on Aunglan side is 520 feet long. The motor road on the bridge is 28 feet wide

and it is flanked by three-foot wide walkways. Upon completion, the bridge can withstand 60 tons of load. The approach road of the bridge is 1,889 feet long in Pyay and 1,442 feet long in Aunglan.

MNA

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