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Sunday, 27 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.

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates South African President

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Thabo M Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa which falls on 27 April 2008. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends graduation dinner of 111th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended the graduation dinner of the 111th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School at the hall of the School in Bahtoo Tatmyo in Yaksawk Township, Shan State yesterday evening.

Present also were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen

Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaug Aye, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, senior mili-

tary officers of the Ministry of Defence and Kalaw Station and Bahtoo Station, departmental heads, graduate officers and parents and relatives.

First, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted the graduate officers individually.

Next, dinner was hosted to those present.

After the dinner, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party enjoyed the performance of Myawady Music Band and Myawady Anyeint troupe.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets graduate officers at the graduation dinner of the 111th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School.— MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 27 April, 2008

Tatmadaw members preserving Tatmadaw's fine traditions at the risk of life

The graduation parade of the 111th Intake of the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School took place at the parade ground of the School in Bahtoo Tatmyo the other day. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivered a speech.

In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said, "As Tatmadaw members have handed down the Tatmadaw's twelve fine traditions, the Tatmadaw has been able to stand tall with dignity. Therefore, you will have to uphold the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw such as being patriotic, being disciplined, being loyal, being united, being capable, etc. at risk to your lives".

In the course of the history, the Tatmadaw with fine traditions has been safeguarding the State's independence and sovereignty, risking life and limb. At the same time, it has been in service of the public interest, while shouldering defence duties for security of the people's lives and property.

The Tatmadaw has to defend the land, territorial waters and air space of the State. So, Tatmadaw members are to be endowed with five basic qualities namely morale, discipline, loyalty, unity and three capabilities. Therefore, the Tatmadaw has to constantly produce competent military junior officers who are able to skillfully take command.

Daring enough to sacrificing life in the interest of the nation and the people is a fine tradition of Tatmadaw members. So, all the Tatmadaw members born of the people including military junior officers will continue to serve the interest of the nation and the people brilliantly, while upholding the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw at risk to their life.

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein congratulates Bhutanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Jigmi Yoezer Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan on his assumption of the high office of the Prime Minister of Bhutan. — MNA

FM congratulates Bhutanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Ugyen Tshering, on his assumption of duties of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan.

MNA

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to South Africa

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2008.—MNA

Billboards set up in Yangon North District to hail Referendum

YANGON, 26 April — Hailing the Referendum to be held for the approval of the draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the ceremonies to set up the billboards were held at the designated places in the four townships of Yangon North District this morning.

Departmental personnel, townsenders, members of social organizations and local people erected the billboards saying "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" on Mingyi Road, the corner of Insein railway overpass and Insein park in Insein Township, "To approve the State Constitution is a national duty of the entire people today. Let us all cast "Yes" vote in the national interest" at the corner of Yangon-Pyi Road and Khayeb in junction Mingaladon Township, "Let's approve Constitution to shape our future by our-

selves." at the corner of No 4 Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road in Shwepyitha Township and "Democracy cannot be achieved by anarchism or violence, but by Constitution" at the corner of Yangon-Nyaungdon Road and Kyansittha Road in Hlinethaya Township.—MNA

Billboards erected in Loikaw to hail Referendum

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Hailing the Referendum to be held for the approval of the draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the ceremonies to set up the billboards were held at the designated places in Loikaw, Kayah State on 23 April.

Billboards saying "Let's approve Constitution to shape our future by ourselves; Democracy cannot be achieved by anarchism or violence, but by Constitution were set up by members of the social organizations, townsenders and local people in front of the Thiri Mingala market and Highway Bus Terminal.—MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။

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နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
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၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် မေလ အတွက်

(၁၁-၅-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၅-၅-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

Show of massive support



Bagalay

Expatriate

Clinton-Obama race in dead heat ahead of Indiana primary

WASHINGTON, 25 April — Senator Hillary Clinton of New York and Senator Barack Obama of Illinois are locked in a tight race ahead of the 6 May presidential primary in Indiana, according to a new poll released Friday.

The CNN poll shows the two Democrats are tied at 45 percent each, with 10 percent of respondents unsure.

The poll consists of three surveys: Research 2000 (23-24 April), ARG (23-24 April), and The Indianapolis Star (20-23 April).

All polls include interviews conducted after the 22 April Pennsylvania primary, which Clinton won Tuesday by about 55 percent to 45 percent.

The polls also show both candidates are strong with constituencies that

backed them in other states: Clinton easily wins among senior citizens and women, while Obama has the advantage with young voters.

With the campaign settled into a seemingly endless slugfest, roughly two-thirds of people in a separate survey done by the Pew Research Center said the race has gone on

“too long.”

Half of those polled said the campaign has become “too negative.”

With nine primaries left before 3 June, 6 May primaries in Indiana and North Carolina are the next front in the Democratic nomination fight where 187 delegates are at stake.

Internet



Students of the kungfu school perform renowned Shaolin kungfu (martial art) at the Shaolin Temple in Dengfeng, central China's Henan Province, on 23 April, 2008. The 1500-year-old Shaolin Temple is regarded as the birthplace of Chinese kungfu. Its rich history and culture and extraordinary kungfu performance attract numerous tourists from home and abroad every year.—XINHUA



Some 1,500 students Thursday make a wonderful scene in Belgium's Leuven, by making 1,500 bottles of cola spout simultaneity. The secret of making the cola "fountain" is quite simple: just put some mint candy into the cola, and the liquid will soon bubble and gush out of the bottle.

INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Another UN food relief truck driver killed in Darfur

KHARTOUM, 26 April — The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said on Thursday that one of its contracted truck drivers was killed when transporting food relief to the conflict-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur. Mohammed Makki El Rasheed, 58, was shot dead Monday on a main transport route between North and South Darfur, according to a statement issued by the WFP in Khartoum. Rasheed was the second contracted truck driver of the UN agency killed in Darfur in one month. Another driver named Mohammed Ali was killed on 24 March while transporting food in South Darfur.—MNA/Xinhua

Toronto police seize 8,000 pot plants in opium raids

OTTAWA, 25 April — Police in Canada's biggest city Toronto dismantled 18 indoor pot planting operations, seizing 8,000 pot plants worth more than eight million Canadian dollars (eight million US dollars) during raids in the past two years, authorities said Wednesday.

Three people are facing charges of relevant crimes, York Regional Police said. Police started a lengthy probe after receiving a tip in 2006 that alerted them to a number of pot houses operating in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The tip also mentioned a business that was allegedly selling equipment used for the indoor production of marijuana.—MNA/Reuters

Five dead, seven injured in US road accident

WASHINGTON, 26 April — Five people died and seven others injured Thursday when a tractor-trailer hit a van at an intersection in Washington County, Pennsylvania, authorities said.

Both vehicles crashed into a nearby building and the cause of the accident was a mistake by the van driver, the county's coroner S Timothy Warco told reporters. The van was carrying 11 adults, nine residents and two staff members, of a Mental Health Association group home.—MNA/Xinhua

US military deaths in Iraq at 4,052

WASHINGTON, 25 April — As of Friday, 25 April, 2008, at least 4,052 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press

count. The figure includes eight military civilians. At least 3,301 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is three more than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has

reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.—Internet

Palestinian kills two Israelis on West Bank border

JERUSALEM, 26 April — A Palestinian gunman killed two Israeli security guards at an industrial zone on the West Bank boundary on Friday, Israeli military officials said.

They said searches were under way for the assailant in an around the Netzanei Oz industrial zone, across the boundary from the Palestinian-ruled town of Tulkarm.

“A Palestinian shot dead two guards at the security-check area at the entrance to the industrial zone,” a military spokeswoman said.—MNA/Reuters



A bomb ripped through an overcrowded bus near Sri Lanka's capital on Friday, killing at least 24 passengers and wounding more than 50, in one of the worst civilian attacks in months.—INTERNET

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Pakistan lodges strong protest over NATO firing

ISLAMABAD, 25 April — Pakistan Thursday lodged strong protest with Afghanistan and NATO-led forces over firing, shelling and intrusion into a border post in northwestern Pakistan's tribal region, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The Pakistani military said one soldier was killed and another injured when Afghan forces fired at a checkpost in Pakistan's Bajaur tribal region.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has been told in clear terms that such incidents must not be repeated,

spokesman Muhammad Sadiq said at the weekly Press briefing.

"Pakistan has also protested the death of a security personnel as the result of firing from the other side," Sadiq said.

Sources said the ISAF and Afghan forces were operating against Taliban who are active in the area and attacked an Afghan border post. "Pakistan

emphasized that military action inside its territory is the exclusive responsibility of Pakistani forces," the spokesman said.

As to a question about the US concern over talks between the government and militants, the spokesman said Pakistan has a comprehensive, strategy to address militancy and terrorism.

Xinhua



A Detroit police sergeant arrests Ada Walker outside the American Axle and Manufacturing Holdings Inc, plant in Detroit, on 24 April, 2008 as the striking UAW members picketed outside the company's shareholders meeting. —XINHUA

China's first data relay satellite "Tianlian I" was launched on a Long March-3C carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 11:35 pm, on 25 April, 2008. — XINHUA



US sailor suspected of killing Japanese cabby indicted

TOKYO, 25 April — A Japan-based US Navy serviceman suspected of robbing and killing a cabby last month was indicted by Japanese prosecutors on Thursday.

Olatunboson Ugbogu, 22, a crew member of the US 7th Fleet's cruiser *Cowpens*, based at Yokosuka City of Kanagawa Prefecture south of Tokyo, was charged of robbery-murder of the taxi driver in the city.

Ugbogu, whose credit card was found in the taxi, admitted killing the cabby after being arrested by the US Navy on 22 March around central Tokyo's Gotanda train station.

Ugbogu had been out of his base without report since early March until being

arrested. The 61-year-old cabby was found dead from knife injury on the neck in his taxi on 19 March. He was an employee of a taxi company based in eastern Tokyo's Shinagawa Prefec-

ture. The US Army earlier agreed to transfer Ugbogu to Japanese police if a murder case was built according to a bilateral security agreement between Japan and the United States. — Xinhua



Black bear cubs play together in a zoo enclosure in Mudanjiang, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 25 April, 2008. XINHUA

Polish Embassy in Baghdad attacked by rocket

WARSAW, 25 April — Poland's Embassy in Baghdad came under rocket or mortar attack on Thursday, and one of its security guards was slightly injured, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said.

A rocket or mortar shell hit the quarters of the security guards of the embassy, injuring one of the five people inside it, the Polish news agency PAP quoted Sikorski as saying.

It has yet to be confirmed whether the embassy was deliberately targeted, Sikorski said, adding that the incident has been reported to Polish President Lech Kaczynski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Xinhua

Thirty one killed in western India accidents

JAIPUR (India), 25 April — At least 31 people were killed in two separate transport accidents in western India late on Wednesday, police said.

Officials said 24 people including nine women and five children were killed when a van carrying a marriage party collided with a truck in Rajasthan state shortly before midnight, Rajiv Dasof, a senior police officer said from Jodhpur District.

In Maharashtra state, seven bodies were fished out of a river after a boat carrying dozens of people overturned near Pune, police said.

Police said the toll could rise as many people were still missing. —Xinhua

Two US soldiers die in vehicle accident in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 April — Two American soldiers died in a non-combat related accident in northern Iraq, the US military said on Thursday.

According to a military statement, two soldiers assigned to Multi-National Division - North died on Wednesday when their vehicle rolled onto its side in Salahudin Province.

Another soldier and an interpreter were wounded in the accident and transported to a coalition force medical facility for treatment, the statement said.

Earlier, the military announced in a statement the killing of one of its soldiers by small arms fire in eastern Baghdad. — Xinhua

UAE, Indian officials discuss bilateral eco relations

ABU DHABI, 26 April — Senior officials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India met on Thursday in Dubai to discuss the strengthening of bilateral economic relations between the two countries, the official *Emirates News Agency* reported.

The meeting between delegations headed by UAEMinister of Economy Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansouri and Indian Minister of Commerce and

Industry Kamal Nath centred on further balancing the bilateral economic relations between the UAE and India, according to the report. The improvement of private sector relations, particularly the enhancement of industrial sectors, was one of the key issues at the meeting.

During the meeting, the Indian delegation expressed their hope for UAE companies to invest further in India in areas

such as food processing and storage and infrastructure development, while the UAE side affirmed the existence of various significant investment opportunities in India.

The two sides also discussed trade policies on food commodities and the setting of monthly supply requirements to ensure that the UAE acquires sufficient supplies of basic food items.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers sort artificially cultivated freshwater pearls at a pearl production factory in Zhuji, Zhejiang Province 23 April, 2008. Zhuji aims to become an international production and distribution hub for artificially cultivated freshwater pearls. Zhuji began cultivating pearl clams from the 1970s, and it now supplies 70% of the overall Chinese market with pearl products, local media reported. —INTERNET

Cambodia hopes to export 8m tons of rice by 2015

PHNOM PENH, 26 April — Cambodia expects to be able to export eight million tons of rice per year by 2015, Khmer-English language newspaper the *Mekong Times* on Friday quoted Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Chan Sarun as saying.

“We will encourage farmers to crop twice or three times a year and further strengthen irrigation systems in order to increase rice production,” the minister told an exhibition of natural agricultural products held on Thursday in Kampong Chhnang Province, stressing that the country has three million hectares of agricultural land.

Yang Saing Koma, executive director of the

Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture, agreed that the harvest could be boosted. “Cambodia has vast tracts of land and current rice output is still low.

We believe that

Cambodia can achieve the goal,” he said, adding that the government must invest more in the agricultural sector so that farmers have resources and techniques to increase rice yields. —MNA/Xinhua

Economic News

Gasoline prices hit new record in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 25 April — Gasoline prices hit a new record in Los Angeles for the fourth consecutive week on Friday, the Automobile Club of Southern California reported.

The average price of a gallon of self-serve

regular unleaded gasoline was 3.858 dollars in the Los Angeles area Friday morning, erasing the record of 3.806 dollars set last Friday.

Friday’s average price was 5.2 cents more than last week, 24 cents

NEW YORK, 25 April — Crude oil prices jumped Friday on news that a ship under contract to the US Defence Department fired warning shots at two boats in the Persian Gulf.

The news raised concerns that a conflict between U.S. and Iranian

forces could cut oil supplies from the region.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery was up 2.46 US dollars to 118.52 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after hitting 119.55 dollars.

Earlier this week, crude prices rose as high as 119.90 dollars as investors on weak dollar and news of a pipeline attack in Nigeria and a looming refinery strike in Scotland. —Internet

Susilo orders to prevent illegal rice exports

JAKARTA, 25 April — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has ordered government officials at central and regional levels to prevent rice from being exported illegally.

“No rice should be allowed to be smuggled overseas,” *Antara* news agency quoted the President as saying in Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan Province on Thursday at the launching of a rural poverty alleviation programme.

The President said he had instructed all Cabinet

ministers and provincial government officials to put off plans to export rice as there was a world food crisis and meeting domestic need was now a national priority.

He said in 2007 he had ordered all government officials concerned to increase domestic rice production to two million tons a year.

“Despite the occurrence of various natural disasters, rice production in 2007 reached a relatively good level,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Air Canada to charge fees for extra bags onboard

OTTAWA, 25 April — Air Canada will soon begin to charge 25 Canadian dollars (25 US dollars) for a second suitcase a traveler brings

onboard, the company announced on Friday.

The Montreal-based airline said passengers bringing two bags on flights within Canada and

to the United States with Tango and Tango Plus will be charged 25 Canadian dollars (25 US dollars) on flights after 15 July, 2008.

“This policy change is part of the on-going review of our activities that allow us to keep pace with current industry standards and economic realities, while remaining competitive with our main North American competitors,” said Duncan Dee, executive vice-president, in a release.

Internet

Tea packages designed by students are shown on the international tea fair held in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 24 April, 2008.

INTERNET



A photo taken on 23 April, 2008 shows a trolley car parking on the Qianmen Street, which is now under a renovation project. —INTERNET



A couple takes a tour in a classic car after their wedding in Havana, on 25 April, 2008.—INTERNET

“NY Times” assails Clinton for negative campaign

NEW YORK, 25 April — *The New York Times*, which endorsed Hillary Clinton for president, sharply criticized on Wednesday what it called her negative campaign against Barack Obama in the race for the Democratic nomination.

In editorial headlined “The Low Road to Victory,” the *Times* called the campaign ahead of Tuesday’s Pennsylvania primary “meaner, more

vacuous, more desperate, and more filled with pandering than the mean, vacuous, desperate, pander-filled contests that preceded it”.

It laid most of the blame on Clinton, endorsed in January as a knowledgeable and experienced candidate.

The editorial ran a day after Clinton scored a decisive victory over Obama in Pennsylvania, cutting into the Illinois

senator’s national lead in popular votes and delegates who will select the Democratic Party’s nominee in August.

“It is past time for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton to acknowledge that the negativity, for which she is mostly responsible, does nothing but harm to her, her opponent, her party and the 2008 election,” the *Times* said.

MNA/Reuters



Afghan National Police (ANP) officers gather around a bullet-riddled patrol truck that was ambushed by Taliban forces outside Seyyed Kheyl village in Khost Province on 25 April, 2008. Two Afghan National Police members were killed and two more were injured, ANP Wasi district Police Chief said.—INTERNET

Israel braces for fallout from US spy case

JERUSALEM, 25 April — Israel was tightlipped on Wednesday over the arrest in the United States of an 84-year-old American suspected of providing it with US military secrets in the 1980s, a new case that has opened old wounds.

“We received an

official update from the Americans. We are following the developments,” Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Arye Mekel said, a day after suspect Ben-Ami Kadish made an initial appearance in a federal court in New York.

The case, linked to the

Jonathan Pollard spy scandal that has been an irritant in the US-Israel alliance, raised fears in Israel it would cast a pall over President George W Bush’s visit next month to celebrate the Jewish state’s 60th birthday.

MNA/Reuters

Syrian Minister says Israel willing to give up Golan

DUBAI, 25 April — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has told Turkey that Israel was willing to give back Syria’s Golan Heights in return for peace with the Arab State, a Syrian Cabinet minister said on Wednesday.

“Olmert is ready for peace with Syria on the grounds of international conditions; on the grounds

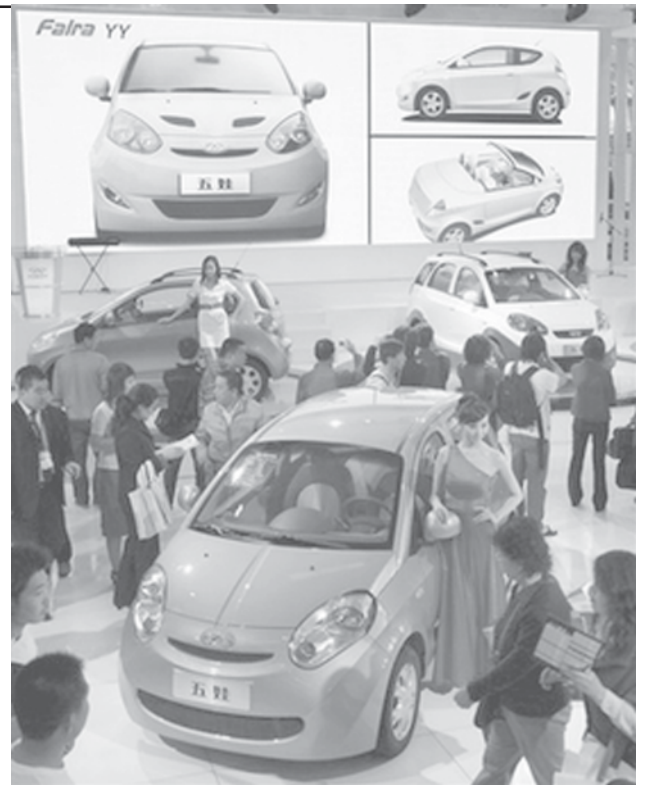
of the return of the Golan Heights in full to Syria,” Expatriates Minister Buthaina Shaaban told Al Jazeera television in a live interview. The Israeli position was relayed to President Bashar al-Assad by Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, who she said will visit Damascus on Saturday.

Damascus will seek details about the Israeli

message from Erdogan, said Shaaban, adding that her country had no intention of conducting secret talks with the Jewish state. “The Israelis talk a lot about peace,” she said. “The stance of Damascus is that Syria is always with peace that (guarantees) the return of full rights ... we have negotiated for 10 years for the return of the Golan.” — MNA/Reuters

Visitors look at China made Chery cars on display at the Beijing International Automotive Exhibition in Beijing, on 24 April, 2008. The exhibition opened to the public on Thursday, while auto sales in China are booming, with analysts and automakers forecasting growth at 15-20 percent this year.

INTERNET



World Vision cuts back aid due to high prices

OTTAWA, 25 April — The famous international aid organization World Vision is being forced to cut back on aid it provides for the world’s poor people as energy and food prices continue to rise, the group’s Canada branch said on Wednesday.

Out of the 7.5 million people it fed last year, the group said 1.5 million will not get any aid this year due to the shortage of funds.

Dave Toycen, president of World Vision Canada, said the rising price of oil has driven up the price of fertilizer, which affected crop output, raising food prices. Besides, the production of biofuels is using up wheat and corn that would normally be used to feed people.

Toycen said as a result of the cutback, hundreds of thousands of children under five will not get the nutrition they need, which may lead to impaired brain development and stunted physical growth.

This could have a devastating impact on economically challenged

nations that desperately need a strong, healthy and educated future workforce, he said.

He called on countries and private donors to provide help while those countries that have pledged support to make good on their promises.

MNA/Xinhua

Fire in Egyptian clothing factory injures 20

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 25 April — A fire broke out in a clothing factory in the Egyptian town of Ismailia on Thursday, causing damage estimated at about 20 million US dollars. Twenty workers were taken to hospital after inhaling smoke, medical sources said.

The fire department has sent four helicopters and more than 30 fire trucks to fight the fire in an industrial area of the town, 120 kilometres (75 miles) northeast of the capital Cairo.

The fire broke out in a fabric storage room and spread to the rest of the factory, security sources said. The cause of the fire is still unknown.—MNA/Reuters

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

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

True heart of the Union

A Reader

After the independence, Myanmar practiced two constitutions. The first was the 1947 constitution and the nation exercised the parliamentary democracy system. The other was the 1974 constitution and the nation exercised Socialism.

The one-party system did not work for Myanmar to practise genuine democracy, nor did the Socialist system. So, the draft of the State constitution (2008) has come into existence to help the country practise genuine multi-party democracy system in a systematic way.

The constitution was formulated, taking lessons from the defects and strong points of the previous constitutions. In the process, the constitutions of about 100 world countries were thoroughly observed and appropriate points were referred in holding discussions. Every observer may understand that the constitution guarantees more rights for the national races and ethnic minorities, and it was designed not to have any future arguments.

I think a public member will prefer the present constitution to the previous ones if he makes a comparative study. It is because every citizen is willing to serve the interests of the Union.

I would like to present the preambles of the three constitutions so that the readers can compare the previous two constitutions with the present one.

The preamble of the 1947 constitution approved by the Constituent Assembly on 24 September 1947 says:

'We, the people of Burma including the frontier areas and the Karenni States, determined

to establish in strength and unity a sovereign independent State, to maintain social order on the basis of the eternal principles of justice, liberty and equality and to guarantee and secure to all citizens justice social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action; equality of status, of opportunity and before the law, in our Constituent Assembly this Tenth day of Thadingyut Waxing, 1309 BE (Twenty-fourth day of September, 1947 AD), do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution.'

The preamble of the 1974 constitution approved on 3 January 1974 says:

'We, the working people, firmly resolved that we shall—faithfully follow the leadership of the Burma Socialist Programme Party, build a socialist economic system by the Burmese Way to Socialism, for the country to be peaceful and prosperous, opposing all pernicious systems characterized by exploitation of man by man, and of one national race by another, with a view to promoting justice and goodwill among the people, and to freeing them from apathy and callousness, ignorance, backwardness and want of opportunity, build a socialist democratic social order which will afford an opportunity to the people to shape their own destiny, by the Burmese Way to Socialism, live forever in harmony, unity and racial equality sharing joys and sorrows through weal and woe in the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, efficiently perform all duties and fulfil all obligations in the interest of the State and for the cause of Socialism while enjoying the democratic

rights and personal rights and freedom bestowed by this Constitution, constantly strive to promote international peace and friendly relations among the nations, do adopt this Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma by a nationwide referendum this 11th day of the waxing of Pyatho of the year 1335 B.E (the 3rd day of the month of January, 1974 A.D).

The preamble of the draft of the constitution (2008) of the Union of Myanmar to be approved through a referendum on 10 May 2008 says:

We, the national people, firmly resolved that we shall—constantly and steadfastly uphold the objectives of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty, work continuously for prosperous future of the people, while ensuring further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality, live in unity and harmony forever, strongly equipping ourselves with Union Spirit or genuine patriotism with racial equality in the State, constantly strive for observing the principles of peaceful coexistence for promoting international peace and friendly relations among the nations, do adopt this Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by a nationwide referendum this — day of the month...of Myanmar Era...(the ...day of the month of ...of the year ...).

The 1947 constitution focused on sovereignty and independence, and the 1974 constitution, on Socialism. The forthcoming constitution focuses on sovereignty and independence and put in the fore the affairs of the people and the Union.

The 1947 constitution vested the three sovereign powers in the party that won the majority of votes and the 1974 constitution, in the one-party. The upcoming constitution helps the legislative body (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw), executive body (Union Government), and judicial body (Union Supreme Court) exercise sovereign powers separately. It also delegates sovereign power to the subordinate bodies at different levels. It helps the bodies control reciprocally and fully bestows democratic rights.

So, realizing the strengths and weaknesses of the constitutions, the people have to cast 'yes' vote for the draft constitution.

Translation: MS

The upcoming constitution helps the legislative body (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw), executive body (Union Government), and judicial body (Union Supreme Court) exercise sovereign powers separately. It also delegates sovereign power to the subordinate bodies at different levels. It helps the bodies control reciprocally and fully bestows democratic rights.

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

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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye views cultivation of coffee, macademia, mango and physic nut in Yaksawk Township. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects agricultural ...

(from page 16)

perennial and season crops, the strength of staff and workers, supply of power and water and efforts being

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party looked into thriving plantations of Seintalone mango, Yinkwe mango and perennial crops and the mango and avocado nursery.

Later, they inspected Kyaukson perennial and seasonal crops plantation in a motorcade.

With the aim of bringing about regional devel-

such as maize, beans and pulses, groundnut, sunflower and niger were grown on the plantation.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed the cultivation of coffee, Macademia, mango and physic nut being undertaken by Shwe Than Lwin Co at Kyaukgu village-tract.

At the briefing hall, the General Manager of



Coffee, macademia, mango and physic nut plantations of Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd in Yaksawk Township.—MNA

exerted for income generation.

Next, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein gave a supplementary report on measures taken for success of the agricultural works and acquisition of agriculturalists.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended to the needs.

opment, of creating job opportunities and of widening the scope of agricultural knowledge of local people, Kyaukson perennial and seasonal crops plantation was implemented in May 2005 and work is well under way to reclaim 8000 acres of virgin and fallow land.

At present, Seintalone and Yinkwe mangoes and other perennial crops as well as seasonal crops

Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd reported on agricultural works being implemented since April 2005.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected thriving Macademia and mangoes.

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived at the perennial crops plantation *(See page 9)*



Thriving coffee and rubber plantation of Pwintkaung and Khin Nwe Yi Co Ltd in Yaksawk Township.—MNA

● **For flourishing of democracy
Ratify Constitution**

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San pay homage to members of the Sangha in Taunggyi



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer provisions to a Sayadaw at Theimtaung Pariyatti monastery in Taunggyi.
MNA

Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Theimtaung Pariyatti monastery State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Chandadhika. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon and members of the Sangha recited partitas. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered robes and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandadhika.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party donated offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party received a sermon delivered by Chairman of Shan State Sangha Nayaka Committee (Thudhama) Presiding Sayadaw of Ottayayon monastery Agga Maha Gandavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Pinnya Siri and shared the merits gained. —MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo donates offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-

Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, officials of the SPDC Office on 23 April arrived at Taunggyi in Shan State from Nay Pyi Taw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win

Myint and senior military officers and departmental officials.

Next, they went to Theimtaung Pariyatti monastery in Taunggyi and paid homage to State Ovadacariya Sayadaws from Pariyatti monasteries in Taunggyi and Nyaungshwe and Abbot training school in Ayethayar Myothit, Sayadaws of State Central Working Committee of Sangha and State/Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party received the Five



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects agricultural ...

(from page 8)

in Hsishon region, Yaksawk Township being undertaken by Htoo Trading Co Ltd where they heard a reported presented by the Chairman of Htoo Trading Co Ltd on cultivation of Seintalone mango, orange, Macademia, coffee, physic nut, avocado, jackfruit and other perennial crops in three different plantations.

Next, Planning Director U Khin Aung of Kanbawza Agricultural Group reported on agricultural works being implemented by the group to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye who fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, they looked into thriving perennial crops grown by Htoo Trading Co Ltd.

On arrival at the work site of Kanbawza Agricultural Group, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party heard reports presented by officials of the group on thriving Seintalone mangoes, Yinkwe mangoes and orange.

The group also grew coffee, rubber, avocado,

physic nut, sugarcane and other perennial crops at the plantation. On 25 April morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the agricultural works of Pwint Kaung and Khin Nwe Yi Co Ltd near TatU village, Yaksawk Township.

At the briefing hall, officials of the company on agricultural works being carried out by the company after reclaiming of land and future tasks to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed the samples of rubber, Paulowria and coffee, cultivation of coffee, rubber and mangoes.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected successful plantation of coffee in the rubber plantation. Pwint Kaung and Khin Nwe Yi Company is undertaking agricultural work in the farms in Yaksawk. Rubber, coffee, mango, lemon, corn and physic nut are grown in 2,211 acres of three farms.

On his inspection tour, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said priority has been given to the development of agriculture sector as Myanmar is an agro-based country. At the same time, the government

fulfilled the requirements for the development of agriculture and all round development of other sectors of the economy, he said.

He said efforts have been made for sufficiency of food especially rice, the staple crop in the regions in states and divisions. Now the country reached the level of surplus of rice rather than sufficiency of rice due to the guidance of the high-ranking officials, supervision of officials concerned and efforts of the farmers.

Like paddy, cultivation of oil crops and beans and pulses is extended. In general, basic foundation for food sufficiency has also been laid, he said.

He spoke of the need for private agricultural groups to participate to some extent in implementation of the correct policy of the government of sufficiency of food for posterity and export the surplus of food.

He said paddy, corn and groundnut are to be grown on commercial scale. He also said seasonal crops suitable for the region that earn income and perennial crops are to be cultivated and research work is also to be conducted for boosting production of the crops.

MNA

USDA Secretariat member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan performs regional development tasks in Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan went to the villages in Saw, Htilin and Gangaw Townships of Magway Division and performed regional development tasks from 20 to 25 April. The secretariat member met with local people totaling 2400 from 17 villages at Laungshae village Basic Education High School in Saw Township on 20 April.

After hearing reports on works being carried out and requirements presented by officials, the



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets members of Saw Township USDA.—MNA

secretariat member attended to the needs.

Next, the secretariat member presented K 200, 000 for Popakaing

village BEPS, K 200,000 for Magyisu village BEPS, K 500, 000 for hydro power station in Laungshae village, household goods for local people, stationery for the students and publications for village library to responsible persons.

At Hlawga village BEMS (branch) in Saw Township, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with local people totaling 2000 from five villages. The minister heard reports on regional development tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the secretariat member presented K 200, 000 for the construction

of school building for Hlawga village BEMS (branch), a TV set and books and journals for village library, K 200,000 and a computer set for Yinke village BEHS (Affiliated) and stationery for the students to officials.

Afterwards, the secretariat member cordially conversed with those present.

In the meetings, Secretariat member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that thanks to the united efforts made by locals tangible results can be seen in the region. He pointed out that in an endeavour for development of a region

or a country, the might of the three strengths namely the State, the people and the social organizations including USDA should be applied.

Now education, social, health, transport and agriculture sectors have developed markedly and the people are now enjoying fruits of development, he said. No one can deny the fact that these are the fruitful results came out from cooperation among the government, the people and the social organizations. As the government has steadfastly been carrying out the tasks to transform the nation into a peaceful,

modern and developed one with discipline flourishing democracy, people, on their part, are to actively participate in the future tasks of the State in order that there might not be instability in the nation and to see sustainable development and this is the national concern, he noted.

In the evening, the secretariat member met with executives and members and officials at the office of Saw Township USDA and delivered an address.

Next, he presented cash assistance to secretary U Htay Maung of the township USDA.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash, kind and publications to local residents in the villages of Saw Township.—MNA

Ministry of F&R holds coord meeting (second day)

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—The second day coordination meeting of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

First, the directors-general and the managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry reported on progress of works during fiscal year and works to be done to the minister.

After hearing reports presented by officials concerned, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein reported on banking service and monetary matters and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe made a supplementary report.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

MNA

13th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association held

YANGON, 26 April—The 13th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association was held at Sedona Hotel, here, at 9 am today.

At the meeting, founder and adviser of the association Retired Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint, advisers Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and Daw Wah Wah Tun acted as members of panel of Chairperson.

First, Chairperson of the association Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Recipient of excellent performance in social filed (First Class) Daw Khin

Myint Myint extended greetings. Secretary Daw Hlawady read out the CEC report of 2007-2008. Financial adviser Daw Khin Htay Yu reported on

financial statement of 2007-2008. Retired Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint made a closing remark.

The chairperson presented gifts to

members of the association who are 70 and above. Sales to mark the 13th AGM were held. Dinner was also held at the hotel at 6 pm.—MNA



Secretary Daw Hlawady submits reports of work executive committee in the 13th annual meeting of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association.—MWEA

Images of the Day



A craftsman shows a giant cup and saucer at a handicraft fair in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh on 21 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Villagers compete in a bullock cart race during a carnival at an adventure zone (Baz) in the central Indian city of Bhopal on 26 April, 2008.—INTERNET



A combination of two pictures shows a participant speeding down a street during the first German office chair racing championship in the village of Bad Koenig-Zell about 70km south-west from Frankfurt, on 26 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Boats sail during the Soling European Championship in Lake Balaton, near Balatonfured on 26 April, 2008.—INTERNET



An albino kangaroo named Milka is seen next to its mother at a zoo in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on 26 April, 2008. The cub was born 3 and a half months ago, but the zoologists have not examined it to determine its sex fearing they will harm the fragile kangaroo.—INTERNET



Labourers prepare garlands made of Indian rupee notes to be used in marriages at a road side shop in Jullundhur, India, on 26 April, 2008. The message painted on the counter reads: 'Sethi Garlands'.—INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAGAP VOYNO (TGA-377)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAGAP VOYNO (TGA-377) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.4.2008 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

Thief of NY mayor's car gets 15 years in prison

NEW YORK, 25 April — A New Jersey man who pleaded guilty to stealing a Lexus belonging to billionaire New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was sentenced to 15 years behind bars, court officials said on Wednesday.

Shawn Young, 36, attacked a 62-year-old Bloomberg assistant in the mayor's 2001 gray Lexus in Hackensack, New Jersey, in 2006, after he refused to give the man

money for bus fare, assistant Bergen County prosecutor Pia Perez said. The car was discovered abandoned two hours later by police, Perez said.

Bloomberg has been the victim of several crimes since taking office in 2001. In 2007, two New Jersey men were charged separately with stealing more than 400,000 from Bloomberg's personal bank account.

MNA/Reuters

Migrant boat sinks off Tunisia, three dead, more missing

TUNIS, 26 April — Tunisian Coast Guards recovered the corpses of three illegal migrants who were among a group of more than 20 people who went missing when the small boat carrying them to Europe capsized, witnesses and newspapers said.

The migrants set out late last week for the Italian island of Lampedusa, one of the main transit points for poor Africans hoping to start a new life in Europe,

said newspaper *Achourouk*, which has good contacts in Tunisia's security services.

Witnesses said the three bodies washed up on a beach in the eastern town of Chabba.

"I still don't know if my 18-year old son Aymen is dead or alive," local resident Tayeb ben Hussein told *Reuters* by phone. "What is sure is he was on that boat heading for Europe."

MNA/Reuters

Russian bombers patrol over Atlantic

MOSCOW, 26 April — Russian *Tu-95* strategic bombers and two *Ilyushin-78* tanker planes finished a routine patrol mission over the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday morning, new agencies reported. The patrol mission lasted over 15 hours.

"All flights by the Russian Air Force planes have been in strict compliance with the international rules of using air space over neutral waters, without any violations of other countries' borders," Colonel Alexander Drobyshevsky, the Russian Air Force spokesman, was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyat;

Tender No.	Description	Quantity
12(T)1/MR(ML) 2008-2009	Bolt, Nut, Washer, Rubber Hose V Belt, Pressure Gauge, Union Tee Elbow Cable Eye Socket, Circuit Breaker and etc: for purpose locomotive construction	(1) Lot

Closing Date/Time -13.6.2008 (Friday)(12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 28.4.2008 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 01-291982,291985 (201555Ext 601, 605).Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon.

Vietnam reports 28 acute diarrhoea patients in a day

HANOI, 26 April — As many as 28 new acute diarrhoea patients in Vietnam were hospitalized on Thursday, local newspaper *Youth* reported on Friday.

The new cases have raised the total number of acute diarrhoea patients in the country's 20 cities and provinces to over

2,500, including 397 cholera sufferers, since 5 March, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Health.

Most of acute diarrhoea sufferers were from the northern and central regions.

The acute diarrhoea outbreak is mainly due to polluted environ-

ment, loose food safety management, and poor public awareness on the disease, said the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

China's Internet users hit 221m, rank world's first

BEIJING, 25 April — The Internet population in China reached 221 million by the end of February, which outnumbered the figure in the United States to rank the first in the world, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information.

The number was 210 million by the end of last year, only five million fewer than the US Internet users then, according to the China Internet

Network Information Centre (CNNIC).

Despite rapidly increasing Internet population, the proportion of Internet users among the total population was still lower than the global average level, the ministry said, without giving specific figures.

The proportion was 16 per cent at the end of 2007, compared with 19.1 per cent of the world average, the CNNIC said.

MNA/Xinhua

US airstrike kills two in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 April — An overnight US air strike hit a neighbourhood in the northern part of the Iraqi capital, killing two people and wounding eight others, an Interior Ministry source said on Friday. "A US aircraft conducted an airstrike on the al-Husseiniyah neighbourhood late on Thursday, killing two people and injuring eight others," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

According to the source, another US airstrike was conducted Thursday night on Baghdad's eastern neighbourhood of Sadr City during fierce clashes

there, he said without elaborating.

There were no immediate reports about the conflicted sides and casualties as US and Iraqi troops cordoned off the area, preventing the Iraqi police from approaching the scene, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



A member of the Peranakan Society looks at a display of wedding procession clothes at the Peranakan Museum in Singapore on 25 April, 2008. The museum, which opens in the city-state on Saturday, is touted as having the world's biggest collection of Peranakan artifacts.—INTERNET

Dubai police seize 40,000 capsules of narcotics

ABU DHABI, 26 April — Police in Dubai seized 40,000 capsules of narcotics concealed in a cargo of apparel at Dubai International Airport, local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported on Friday.

The 40,000 capsules of Keptagon, a type of performance-improvement drug, were hidden in a consignment bound for Yemen from Syria through Dubai International Airport on Tuesday, according to the report.

Dubai police are now coordinating with the Yemeni security officials to arrest the likely recipient of the consignment in Yemen.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese archaeologists said on Friday their latest findings showed the country's ancient porcelain likely originated in Deqing, an east Zhejiang Province county.—INTERNET

Archaeologists say Chinese porcelain likely originates in Zhejiang

HANGZHOU, 25 April — Chinese archaeologists said on Friday their latest findings showed the country's ancient porcelain likely originated in Deqing, an east Zhejiang Province county.

The sites of more than 30 ancient porcelain kilns from the Shang, Western Zhou and Eastern Zhou dynasties (1600 BC to 256 BC) were found in Deqing, indicating the area as the birthplace and center of the country's ancient porcelain activities, archaeologists agreed in Deqing.

In the latest excavations from early 2007 to present, archaeologists found 10

porcelain kiln sites from the ancient periods in the Huoshaoshan and Tingziqiao areas.

A number of pieces of porcelain, such as bowls, plates and pots, were unearthed in the two areas. They were believed to be made for the then royal families and high-ranking nobles. The unearthed porcelain pieces covered all kinds of ancient porcelain works that archaeologist had found in recent years in the country's southern region, according to experts.

"Just as man should trace its roots and ancestors, this new and important discovery

ensures me that the celadon works popular in recent years in society, collected by the National Museum of China or individuals or even found in markets abroad, their headstream was in Deqing," said Geng Baochang, China Ancient Ceramic Institute chairman.

From the samples of unearthed porcelain pieces, "the porcelain should have been elaborate works in terms of the shaping crafts, quality and making technologies", said Wang Liying, the institute's vice chairwoman.

Internet

Man killed by shark off San Diego

LOS ANGELES, 25 April — A swimmer was attacked and killed by a shark on Friday in the ocean off San Diego, about 80 miles (102 kilometers) south of Los Angeles, authorities said.

The incident took place at 7 a.m. when the swimmer was training with a group of local triathletes in the ocean off the Solana Beach City, according to a statement on the city's Web site.

Authorities identified the victim as a man between 55 and 60 years old.

The man, whose identity was not immediately released, was taken to a lifeguard station for emergency treatment but was pronounced dead at the scene, the statement said.

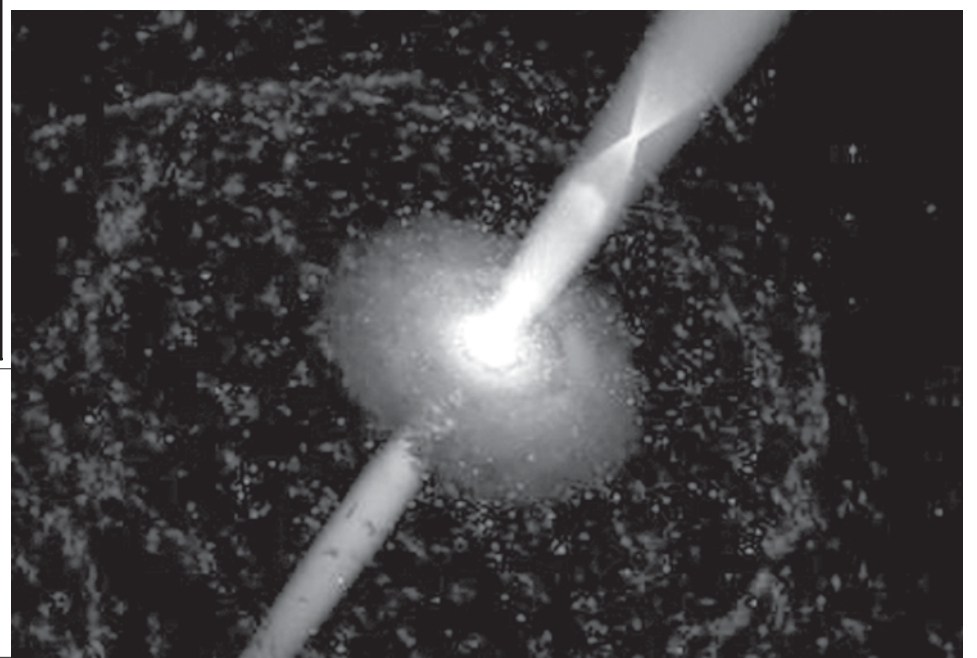
The attack took place about 150 yards offshore and several swimmers wearing

wetsuits were in a group when the shark attacked, Solana Beach lifeguard Craig Miller said.

The last fatal shark attack in California took place on 15 Aug. 2004, according to data from the state Department of Fish and Game.

Internet

An artist's conception of a region near a supermassive black hole where twisted magnetic fields propel and shape jet of particles. Using powerful radio telescopes, scientists have captured a supermassive black hole just as it was belching out a jet of supercharged particles, offering a first look at how these cosmic jets are formed, they said on Wednesday.—INTERNET



China says significant progress in lunar rover research

SHANGHAI, 25 April — Chinese scientists and engineers have built prototypes of the country's planned lunar rover module, the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality said on Wednesday.

The city's lunar rover research team had completed models of different types of lunar rover and conducted feasibility and technological trials.

The Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight

Technology had made significant progress in key technologies for the locomotion system, it said. China successfully launched its first lunar probe, *Chang'e-1*, in October.

MNA/Xinhua

UAE to develop free zone near airport

ABU DHABI, 26 April — A new free zone which covers four million square meters will be developed near the international airport of Abu Dhabi, capital of the oil-rich United Arab Emirates (UAE), local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Thursday.

The free zone project to be developed by the Abu Dhabi Airports Company is part of the company's

redevelopment plan worth 6.8 billion US dollars for the international airport, which will be equipped to serve 50 million passengers annually and large logistics operators handling air cargo when completed. "Planned to accommodate world-class

business facilities, Abu Dhabi Airport Free Zone will offer light industrial units, commercial offices and land for lease — each tailored to various business requirements," the company said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Churchill painting sells for \$420,000 at auction

NEW YORK, 25 April — An oil painting by Winston Churchill of a sunset over mountains in Morocco, a view he later took US President Franklin Roosevelt to see during World War II, was sold on Wednesday for 420,000 US dollars in New York.

The late British wartime leader's "Sunset over the Atlas Mountains" was sold to an anonymous phone buyer after a short bidding battle, said Staci Smith, a spokeswoman for Bonhams New York, which auctioned the painting. Bonhams had estimated the painting would fetch at least 400,000 US dollars to 600,000 US dollars.— MNA/Reuters



A young burrowing owl looks out for food in a park in Pembroke Pines, Fla, on 20 April, 2008. The greatest threat to the burrowing owl community is habitat destruction, caused primarily by land development.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Chelsea beats Manchester United to tie for league lead

LONDON, 26 April -- Chelsea is neck-and-neck with Manchester United in the Premier League title race. While Blues manager Avram Grant is smiling at last, United's Alex Ferguson is furious.

The Blues' 2-1 victory over leader United on Saturday makes sure the Premier League title race is going the distance with two games to go and the powerhouse clubs level on points.

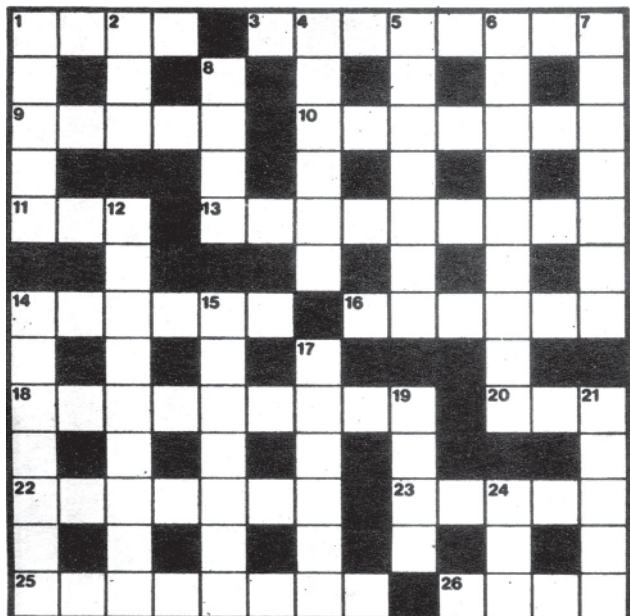
Grant smiled and flung his arms into the air while the Chelsea fans stood to applaud him and his players for beating United with both long overdue flair and passion.

A fuming Ferguson walked past him in silence to the dressing rooms. United still has the edge with a far superior goal difference of 53 to Chelsea's 37, and Ferguson's team has comparatively easier games against West Ham and Wigan. Chelsea has a visit to in-form Newcastle and a home game against Bolton.—*Internet*



Chelsea's Michael Ballack, center, scores the opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London on 26 April, 2008.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Jester
- 3 Scantily
- 9 Male voice
- 10 Gratify fully
- 11 Allow
- 13 Introduced
- 14 Abundance
- 16 Be present
- 18 Oil
- 20 Gratuity
- 22 Fence
- 23 Purvey food
- 25 Large prehistoric stone
- 26 Salver

DOWN

- 1 Disastrous
- 2 Possess
- 4 Bill
- 5 Draw back
- 6 Decree
- 7 Submitted
- 8 Excursion
- 12 Quivering
- 14 Visitor to sacred place
- 15 Trifling
- 17 Butt
- 19 Every
- 21 Social gathering
- 24 Sailor

Beijing Olympic flame arrives in Tokyo

TOKYO, 26 April — The chartered plane carrying the Beijing Olympic sacred flame landed at Tokyo's Haneda Airport 6:05 am local time on Friday morning from Canberra for its 16th leg of torch relay scheduled for Saturday in the central Japanese city of Nagano.

The flame was carried off the plane in a lantern at 6:10 am local time by Li Binghua, vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee of Olympic Games (BOCOG).

The Beijing Olympic Flame Delegation, headed by Li, received warm welcome on the parking apron by about 100 people. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Capello says Beckham could play at 2010 World Cup

MADRID, 26 April — David Beckham could play for England at the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa if he looks after himself, coach Fabio Capello has said.

"The door is open. He played the last game, and did well against France. I see him play for Los Angeles Galaxy every now and then," the Italian told sports daily Marca on Friday.

"It depends. There are players who are 33 or 34, who look after themselves very well. They understand that physically they aren't what they used to be and take more care. A lot depends on this."

However, the former Real Madrid boss refused to make any predictions before the start of England's World Cup qualification campaign in September.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal still only English club for Henry

LONDON, 26 April — Thierry Henry, who has had a difficult first season with Barcelona, says he is happy in Spain but if he did return to England he would only play for former club Arsenal.

Henry, 30, who has scored seven goals in 25 appearances for Barca in an injury-hit season, tells the BBC's Football Focus in an interview to be broadcast on Saturday that he did not regret leaving England.

"I'm happy — I don't regret leaving Arsenal," said the Frenchman. "But there's only one team in England for me. Everybody knows the love and affection I have for Arsenal. I was so into it, I became a fan."

His comments were carried on the BBC website (www.bbc.co.uk) on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

Capello to wait on captain England coach not rushing captaincy decision

LONDON, 26 April — England manager Fabio Capello has stated he will not name his permanent captain until the start of next season.

Rio Ferdinand was given the armband against France, although the Manchester United defender has not yet won the job permanently.

Many are tipping the former Leeds United man to keep the armband for the start of the World Cup qualifiers, however, Capello has not yet come to a decision.

Capello has now confirmed he will reveal his permanent captain before the start of the 2008/09 season.

"I will choose my permanent captain from the next season," Capello said through an interpreter on Sky Sports



Rio Ferdinand

News.

"As for what a captain needs to be, he must set an example on the pitch, be a leader, help the rest of the team but at the same time he needs to be a model off the pitch as well."

Chelsea defender John Terry and Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard are two of the other names in the frame to win the captain's armband.—*Internet*



Liverpool's Peter Crouch (2nd R) scores past Birmingham City's goalkeeper Maik Taylor (R) during their English Premier League soccer match at St Andrew's in Birmingham on 26 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Spain's Carla Suarez returns the ball to China's Peng Shuai during the Fed Cup World Group Semifinal in Beijing on 26 April, 2008. Suarez beat Peng 6-3, 7-6.—INTERNET

Gallas says British media will not bring him down

PARIS, 26 April — Arsenal captain William Gallas has hit back at criticism of his leadership by British media.

"They (the media) can say what they want...they will not bring me down, I'm stronger than that", the France defender told French sports daily *L'Equipe* on Friday.

Gallas was criticized for his behaviour in a 2-2 draw at Birmingham City in February, when he walked away from his team mates and stood in the other half of the pitch after the home side were awarded a stoppage-time penalty.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea let Lampard decide when to return

LONDON, 26 April — Chelsea manager Avram Grant will let midfielder Frank Lampard decide whether he wants to play in Saturday's important Premier League match against Manchester United, two days after the death of his mother. "Frank's situation is that he didn't train today and all our thoughts are with him," the Israeli manager told a news conference on Friday.

"I'm not sure whether he will play (on Saturday), you need to ask him. Football is important but there are obviously more important things.—*MNA/Reuters*

22 Latam countries sign environmental declaration

CARACAS, 26 April— Representatives from 22 Latin American countries and world ecologists gathered here Thursday to sign the Final Declaration on Planetary Emergency to demand urgent measures to preserve the environment.

They signed the accord after carrying out debates in the first Parliamentary International Summit on Global Warming and Climate Change held in Venezuela's capital of Caracas from 22-24 April. The accord calls on the international community to protect "natural spaces and the habitat of Indigenous communities and people, threatened by the illicit exploitation by large international enterprises".

Similar legal initiatives have been presented in Latin America during the

past years. For example, Agenda 21 was adopted by more than 178 governments at the UN conference on environment and development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

Venezuela has suffered environmental change, including climate change, pollution, heat waves and the thawing of glaciers located in Sierra Nevada in the northwestern state of Merida, in the Andes.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines expected to brace for 20 typhoons in 2008

MANILA, 26 April— The Philippines will brace for a typhoon-intensive year as around 20 tropical cyclones are expected to hit the archipelago in the coming rainy season, the national weather bureau has warned.

About 14 to 16 of this year's tropical cyclones will grow into typhoon intensity, with the most of which coming to the Philippines from July to September, the national newspaper *Philippine Star* reported Friday, citing figures from Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

"For the past so many years, we would have an active tropical cyclone season in a year and a lull the next year," PAGASA chief Prisco Nilo said, adding that the year 2007 was a lull year with only 13 tropical cyclones hitting the Philippines. — MNA/Xinhua

Spain calls for UN anti-piracy resolution

MADRID, 26 April — The Spanish Government urged a United Nations-backed resolution Wednesday to tackle piracy in the Indian Ocean, where a Spanish fishing boat was hijacked on Sunday.

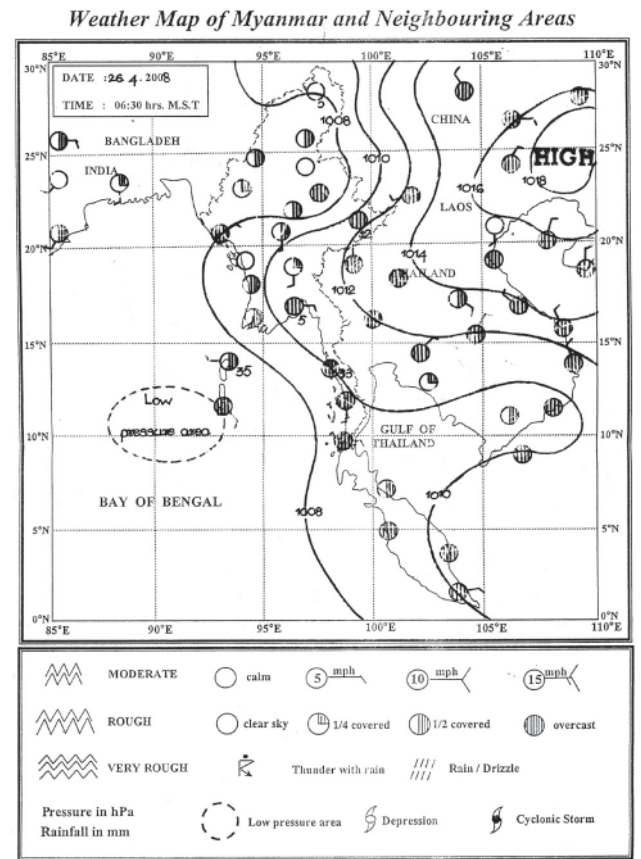
Spain's Presidency Ministry said there should be a powerful and effective collective security system in the Indian Ocean. It said

Spain is working with France and the United States, which are drafting a UN Security Council resolution authorizing countries to fight piracy off Somalia and elsewhere.

The system would have a vigilance and control mission in waters where hijacks occur. It would enable cooperation among countries to deter,

arrest, prosecute and even extradite people who carry out hijacking, the ministry said.

A Spanish fishing boat with 26 crew on board was hijacked while working off the coast of Somalia. Spain has sent a naval frigate and the Spanish Ambassador to Kenya is visiting Somalia to press for the release of the crew. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 26 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Yangon Division, scattered in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Shan, Kayin, Mon States and lower Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (4°C) to (5°C) above April average temperatures in Chin, Rakhine States and upper Sagaing and about April average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu and Magway (41°C) each, Nay Pyi Taw, Myingyan and Aungmye (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Theinzay (2.17) inches, Coco Island (1.38) inches, Dawei (1.30) inches, Bago (1.18) inches, Kengtung (0.47) inch, Thipaw (0.39) inch, Khayan (0.24) inch, Yangon (Mingaladon) (0.23) inch, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (0.20) inch and Thaton (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-4-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 26-4-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-4-2008 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 25-4-2008 was (5.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 26-4-2008 was (0.23) inch at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (2.36) inches at Mingaladon, (3.39) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.07) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (07:30) hours MST on 26-4-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southeast Bay still persists. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate to rough 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 27-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (70%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

A longboat, known as the Oseberg ship, is seen on display at the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo on 11 Sept, 2007. Tests of the bones of two Viking women found in a buried longboat have dispelled 100-year-old suspicions that one was a maid sacrificed to accompany her queen into the afterlife, experts said on Friday.

INTERNET



Sunday, 27 April
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် (မင်္ဂလာသုတ်)
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercises
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news

- 7:40 am
 4. Cute little dancer
- 8:00 am
 5. The land of Buddhism
- 8:45 am
 6. International news
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:15 am
 2. Round up of the week's International news
- 11:30 am
 3. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 12:00 pm
 4. Myanmar video topic "မိုးတိမ်တို့၏အနမ်း" (ပိုင်စေ့ထွန်းစိုင်း၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မျိုးထူး)

- 1:40 pm
 5. Song of National Races
- 2:00 pm
 6. ကြည့်နူးပျော်ရွှင်တိရစ္ဆာန်ဥယျာဉ် (နေပြည်တော်)
- 2:20 pm
 7. "DOTS"
- 2:45 pm
 8. International news
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
 2. Musical programme (The Myanmar modern music troupe)
- 4:25 pm
 3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:15 pm
 4. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm
 5. Evening news

- 6:30 pm
 6. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 7. "စက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတိုးပြည်အကျိုး" (မြို့ရွေးစိုက်ပျိုးရေး၊ သစ်တောရေးရာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ) (သုတေသီ)
- 7:00 pm
 8. One village one product
- 7:30 pm
 9. "စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှန်"
- 7:50 pm
 10. "အတည်ပြုကြံ့ခိုင်အခြေခံဥပဒေ"
- 8:00 pm
 11. Local news
 12. International news
 13. Weather report
 14. "သပြေကုန်းမှရွှေအမြီးများ"
 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မာယာထောင်ချောက်" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)

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: A vote from our heart

A vote from our heart
 A jewel for nation
 To build a prosperous golden land
 Let us cast "Yes" 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.**

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects agricultural works in Yaksawk Township



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects plantation of Kanbawza agricultural group in Yaksawk Township. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on 24 April morning inspected private agricultural works in Yaksawk Township, Shan State and gave necessary instructions.

Accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and members of the SPDC, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief

(Air) and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Minister for Commerce and officials, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at Kyaukson perennial and season crops plantation near Kyaukson village, Kyaukgu village-tract, Yaksawk Township at 8.30 am.

First, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party heard a report presented by U Zaw Min, in-charge of the plantation, on location and area of the plantation, land reclamation out of 8000 acres, cultivation of (See page 8)

True heart of the Union

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The State constitution (2008) has come into existence to help the country practise genuine multi-party democracy system in a systematic way.

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A READER