

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects progress of Kengtawng Hydropower Project

Hydropower projects that contribute towards regional and national development to be completed as soon as possible

NAY PYI TAW, 27 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 25 April morning inspected progress of Kengtawng Hydropower Project being implemented

by Construction-7 of Hydropower Projects Implementation Department of the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 on Namtein Creek, 30 miles northeast of Mongnai, Langkho District, Shan State.

Accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen

Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Maj-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaug Aye, ministers and officials of the SPDC Office, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the site of Kengtawng Hydropower Project at 8 am and inspected Namtein Creek (Kengtawng Waterfall) and the scale model of the project site.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min said that Kengtawng Hydropower Project is being implemented to generate 54 megawatts of electricity. The project covers 11 major tasks of which construction of diversion dam (1), diversion dam (2), power intake building, power intake canal,

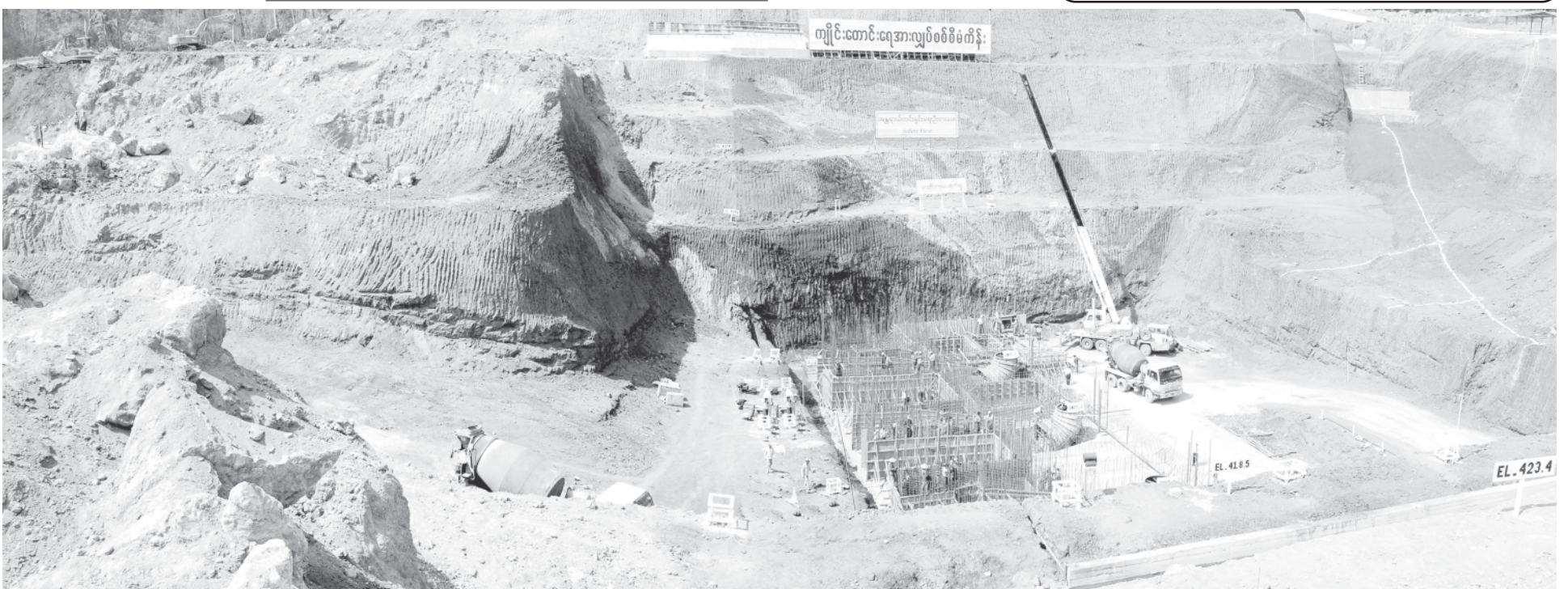
(See page 7)

Kengtawng Hydropower Project is being implemented for ensuring development of townships in Loilem and Langkho districts and uplift of the living standard of local people through supplying of electricity.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects construction site of Kengtawng Hydropower Project.

MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 April, 2007

Strive together with the people for success of the seven-point Road Map

The graduation parade of the 110th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officer Training School was held in the parade ground of the training school in Bahtoo Tatmyo on 26 April morning.

The Tatmadaw saved the nation and the people when the multi-colour insurgency broke out soon after the regaining of independence and foreign intrusion, when there emerged the split within the ruling party in 1958 which was so violent that the nation was about to face a bloodbath and when there occurred the danger of national fragmentation in 1962.

In the 1988 unrest during which anarchy reigned, the Tatmadaw took over the State duties to protect public lives and property and saved the nation from falling into an abyss.

Tatmadawmen who have made a vow to safeguard the nation and the people should be specially endowed with strong patriotism, good discipline, loyalty and daring spirit. In the meantime, they should have a wide range of historical knowledge of the nation and the people and strive for the flourishing of Union Spirit wherever place they are assigned to.

Nowadays, the Tatmadaw and the people are working together for the implementation of the seven-step Road Map in the process of transition to democracy in accordance with the wishes of the people, and the National Convention, the first step, is about to come to completion.

We firmly believe that the Tatmadaw will continue to serve the interest of the nation and the people, while striving for the successful realization of the seven-step Road Map.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

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

၂၀၀၇-ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလ အတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
(၂၉-၄-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၇-ခုနှစ် မေလ အတွက်

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Peoples 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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Adviser to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein received the visiting goodwill delegation led by Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the SPDC Office, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shakes hands with Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Adviser to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

MNA

der the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Bangladeshi delegation was accompanied by Bangladeshi Amba-

sador Mr M Khairuzzaman.

After the call, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Adviser Dr Iftekhar

Ahmed Chowdhury to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh posed for a documentary photo.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Adviser to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and party.—MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US officer accused of 'aiding enemy' in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 April — The American military has charged a top commander at its main detention centre here with nine violations of military law, including "aiding the enemy," a rare and serious accusation that could carry a death sentence.

According to a military statement released Thursday, the officer, Lt Col William H Steele, provided aid to the enemy between 1 Oct, 2005, and 31 Oct, 2006, "by providing an unmonitored cellular phone to detainees" at Camp Cropper, an expansive prison near Baghdad International Airport that

held Saddam Hussein before he was hanged.

Colonel Steele, who oversaw one of several compounds at Camp Cropper as commander of the 451st Military Police Detachment, was also charged with several counts of illegally storing and marking classified information; failure to obey an order; possession of pornographic videos; dereliction of duty regarding government funds; and conduct unbecoming of an officer — for fraternizing with the daughter of a detainee since 2005, and for maintaining "an inappro-

priate relationship" with an interpreter in 2005 and 2006. There were no further details given to explain the circumstances of the accusations.

Military officials said that Colonel Steele was detained last month and was now in Kuwait awaiting a military hearing to determine whether the case would proceed. They emphasized that he should be presumed innocent.

Internet

Quake jolts parts of southern Japan

TOKYO, 27 April — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 jolted several prefectures in southern Japan on Thursday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

No tsunami warning was issued as of the 9:03 am (0003 GMT) quake. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The epicenter of the quake was around 40 kilometres underground in Ehime Prefecture, it said, noting that Hiroshima, Okayama, Tokushima, Kagawa, Kochi and several other prefectures were also affected by the quake. — MNA/Xinhua

Fish growing faster as oceans warm

PERTH, 26 April — Researchers believe that some species of Australian fish are growing bigger, much faster, because ocean temperatures are warming up. A CSIRO study has found that increasing ocean temperatures are speeding up the growth rate of wild fish stocks by

up to 30 per cent.

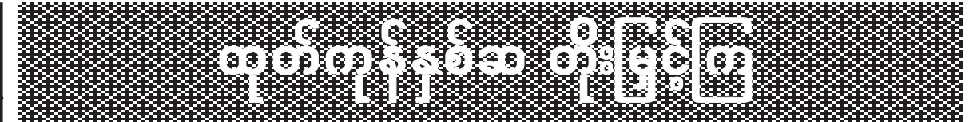
But while fish in shallow waters are growing rapidly, species in the cooler deeper ocean are growing at a much slower rate.

Lead author Dr Ron Thresher says this will have huge implications for the long-term sustaina-

bility of the marine ecosystem. "Some species are probably going to be able to track an environmental temperature by moving up and down the coast or moving up and down in the water column so they stay in their optimal temperature range," he said. — Internet



A new study says some fish are growing bigger and faster as ocean temperatures rise. — INTERNET



The unveiling ceremony is held on 26 April, 2007 in Beijing. Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay Plan and Torch Design are unveiled during the ceremony. — INTERNET

Research centre targets lung disease

PERTH, 26 April — A new centre at Perth's Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will research advances in early detection and treatment of lung disease.

Bruce Robinson from the school of medicine at UWA says Western Australia has one of the highest global rates of asthma and asbestos-related lung diseases, which cost the health system millions of dollars each year.

Professor Robinson says the centre will look at

new ways of detecting lung diseases through blood, breath and phlegm tests. "In the past we've had to wait until someone actually gets diseased and often when they get diseased be it scar tissue, asthma emphysema, cancer, it's often too late to do something about it so this centre's going to

use lots of sophisticated, modern technology to try to make early diagnoses," he said.

Professor Robinson says earlier detection could save the health system millions of dollars each year. "My colleague Professor Phil Thompson is developing ways of detecting these things in

for example a tiny bit of phlegm you might cough up for example that might be a sign that there's early damage," he said.

"If you can get diseases early then there's a chance you can stop them progressing, whereas if you get them late, often as I said it's too late."

Internet



People look at a collapsed section of Shunwai Road in Nanchang, capital of central China's Jiangxi Province on 25 April, 2007. — INTERNET

Three killed in oil tanker blast in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 April — Three people were killed when an oil tanker careered across the street, hit a roadside house, and exploded at Karang Anyar village in West Java early Wednesday morning.

An eyewitness who only gave his name as Marsis said the driver of the tanker and two other passengers were killed in the accident which

occurred at about 3.30 am local time on Wednesday.

"The bodies of the tanker's driver and two other passengers have been evacuated to Puskesmas clinic in Subang," the witness was quoted by local Antara news agency as saying.

Meanwhile, local police chief Adjunct Senior Commissioner Sugiono, who was

informed about the accident said, the tanker hit the house belonging to a resident identified as Tafakur and then exploded into flame which then licked through two other houses. The ill-fated tanker carrying crude oil was on its way to Balongan oil refinery in Indramayu, West Java.

MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar section of wartime Sino-Indian road rebuilt

KUNMING, 27 April— A ceremony to celebrate the rebuilding of the Myanmar section of the famous wartime Stilwell Road, also known as the Sino-Indian Road, has been held in Kambaiti on the Sino-Myanmar border.

The Myanmar section of Stilwell Road is part of the 176-kilometre section of road that links Myitkyina in Myanmar with Tengchong in Yunnan in southwest China.

Completion of the Myanmar section will reduce travel time from

Tengchong to Myitkyina from eight hours to three, according to Liu Ping, deputy governor of Yunnan, who was present at the ceremony.

According to Wang Caichun, chairman of the Tengchong County Association for China-Foreign Exchanges, the Chinese Government provided 1.23 billion yuan to finance reconstruction of the road, about two thirds of which was used for the Myanmar section.

The Stilwell Road, or Ledo Road, was built by

Chinese troops and Allied Forces in 1945 to transport supplies to the beleaguered Chinese Army after the Yunnan-Myanmar Road, a critical lifeline in China's war of resistance against Japan, was cut off by Japanese troops in 1942.

It was later renamed Stilwell Road after General Joseph Stilwell, the commander of the Allied Forces in Southeast Asia, who commanded US forces in the China-Myanmar-India theatre in World War II.

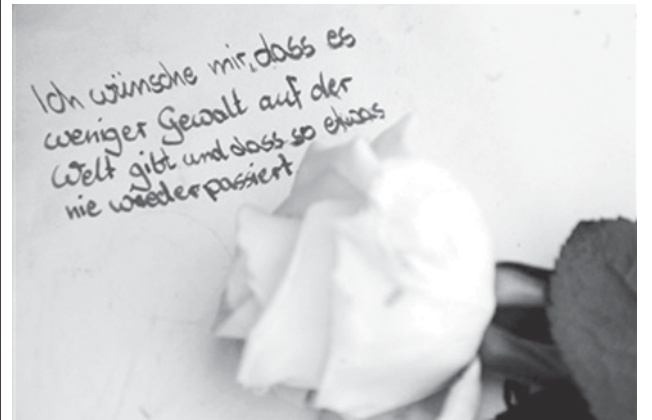
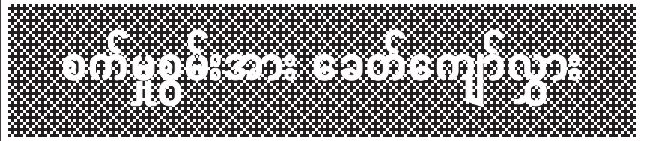
The road began in Ledo, a small town in northeast India, and rolled westward through Myitkyina in Myanmar to Kunming in Yunnan Province. In just 10 months, more than 50,000 tons of guns, bullets and food were carried by US trucks to China to support the fight against Japan. After the war ended, many sections of the road reverted to jungle footpaths due to a lack of maintenance.

But the segment in Yunnan Province was preserved and gradually became part of China's No. 320 national highway, a vital communication artery in southwest China.

Of the 679 kilometres of the Stilwell Road between China's Tengchong and Kunming cities, 460 kilometres are open to motor vehicles.

The 61-kilometre-section of the Stilwell Road in India is also operational. About two thirds of the 360-kilometre section between the Indian border and Myitkyina is open to traffic.

MNA/Xinhua



A white rose and memorial note which reads 'I wish that there is less violence in world and that something like this never happens again', lie in front of the Gutenberg high school in Erfurt on 26 April, 2007. Five years ago a 19-year-old student bent on revenge for being expelled, shot dead 12 teachers, two pupils, a secretary and a police officer at his former school before turning a gun on himself. — INTERNET



A bear performs pulling a car during a rehearsal for the upcoming week-long May Day holiday at a park in Jinan, capital of eastern China's Shandong Province on 26 April, 2007. —INTERNET

US marijuana grows stronger than before

WASHINGTON, 27 April—The marijuana being sold across the United States is stronger than ever, which could explain a growing number of medical emergencies that involve the drug, government drug experts said on Wednesday.

Analysis of seized samples of marijuana and hashish showed that more of the cannabis on the market is of the strongest grade, the White House and National Institute for Drug Abuse said.

They cited data from the University of Mississippi's Marijuana Potency Project showing the average levels of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, in the products rose from 7 per cent in 2003 to 8.5 per cent in 2006. — MNA/Reuters

Fifty Malaysian pupils down with food poisoning

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April—Some 50 Malaysian pupils were sent to hospital Wednesday for suspected food poisoning after drinking milk provided by their school in the northwestern state of Kedah.

Those pupils from a school in Sungai Petani area, aged between seven and 11, complained of vomiting and diarrhea several hours after drinking from the milk cartons supplied by the school.

Seven were warded while the rest received outpatient treatment, the national news agency Bernama reported.

Those students were first taken to a nearby clinic before transferring to the hospital.

The report said the expiry date suggested on the milk cartons is 27 December, 2007.

For the Sungai Petani area, this is the second suspected "milk poisoning" case in barely two

weeks that took place in a school. On 16 April, 18 pupils complained of similar symptoms after drinking milk provided under the school's food programme.

MNA/Xinhua

US Congressman introduces articles to impeach Cheney

WASHINGTON, 26 April—US Congressman Dennis Kucinich has introduced certain articles to impeach Vice-President Dick Cheney, basing his decision on Cheney's initial push to send the

United States into war with Iraq, CNN reported on Wednesday.

"The Vice-President is beating the same drums of war against Iran that he beat against Iraq under false pretenses, and he's doing it all over again, against Iran," Kucinich was quoted by the report as saying.

"And I say that it's time to stand up to that. Our country couldn't afford this last war. We can't afford to go into another one.

And somebody has to challenge the conduct of this Vice-President," he

said. Kucinich, a Democratic presidential candidate from Ohio, introduced three articles of impeachment before giving a Press conference on Capitol Hill later on Wednesday.

He said Cheney fabricated the threat of weapons of mass destruction to justify going to war with Iraq, made up a connection between the Iraqi government and al-Qaeda and that he is threatening war against Iran now, which he added violates the Constitution.

MNA/Xinhua



US and Iraqi soldiers secure the scene of a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on 26 April, 2007. A roadside bomb killed two people and wounded 10 near the Shorja market in central Baghdad, police said. — INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

ICBC's profits soar 52% in first quarter

BEIJING, 27 April—The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the country's biggest lender, said on Wednesday its after-tax profits in the first quarter rose 51.6 per cent year-on-year to 18.9 billion yuan (2.42 billion US dollars).

The bank's non-performing loans (NPL) ratio declined from last year's 3.79 per cent to the current 3.6 per cent, while its NPL provisional coverage ratio increased from 70.6 per cent to 74.5 per cent, substantially reducing risks.

"The high increase in earnings reflect the bank's enhanced profitability and great potential thanks to the bank's reforms and the listing of its shares," the bank said in a statement.

In the first quarter, the bank saw its outstanding loans increase by 167.3 billion yuan, or 4.6 per cent, as loans to individuals and small enterprises grew by 39.2 billion yuan and 27 billion yuan respectively.

Savings deposits expanded by 194.3 billion yuan, or 6.3 per cent, while a large capital flow from term deposits

into wealth management business led the bank's sales of individual wealth management products to surge 91 per cent to 186 billion yuan.

The bank's service fee and commission income rose 58.3 per cent to 6.5 billion yuan in the first quarter, 11.8 per cent of the period's operating income.

Chinese shares rose to another record high on Wednesday, with heavy-weight bank stocks leading the stock market. ICBC's share price was up 2.6 per cent, closing at 5.53 yuan.

MNA/Xinhua



GM's OnStar system is shown in this undated handout file photo. General Motors Corp on 25 April, 2007, announced a partnership with MapQuest.com that would allow OnStar customers to send their destinations from MapQuest's Web site to OnStar-equipped GM vehicles.— INTERNET

Venezuela, Laos sign trade, science, culture, politics deals

CARACAS, 26 April—The governments of Venezuela and Laos on Tuesday signed their first-ever bilateral agreements covering economics, politics, trade, social affairs, science and culture.

Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela's Foreign Mini-

ster, and his Laos counterpart Thongloun Sissoulith, signed the agreements at a public ceremony in the Foreign Ministry's Ambassadors Salon.

Under the deal, the two countries will set up a Joint Bilateral Cooperation Commission to carry out the agreements.

The two ministers also signed a memorandum of understanding covering world, regional and bilateral affairs.

Thongloun Sissoulith said the agreements would lay a sound foundation for improving political, social and economic links and strengthening friendship between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

A Panasonic representative takes a photo with a Lumix TZ3 digital camera during a preview for the Photo Marketing Association International (PMAI) convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, recently.
INTERNET

Maharajah's natural pearls sell for \$7.1m at Christie's

NEW YORK, 27 April—A natural pearl necklace that once belonged to a Maharajah sold at an auction at Christie's on Wednesday for nearly 7.1 million US dollars, more than double the world record price for any piece of natural pearl jewellery, the auctioneers said.

Christie's said the

buyer of the Baroda Pearls, which once belonged to the Maharajah Khande Rao of Baroda, was an Asian private collector, who bid by phone.

Bidding for the piece, which featured pearls as big as gumballs, lasted about 3 minutes in a packed auction room. The Baroda Pearls is a two-

strand necklace of natural pearls that was strung with 68 of the finest and largest pearls from a seven-row necklace.

"The pearls sold at about what we estimated them to make and more than double the last world record price for a natural pearl necklace," Rahul Kadakia, head of jewellery for Christie's America, said after the auction.

The previous record was set by Christie's in Geneva in November 2004 at 3.1 million US dollars, for a two-strand natural pearl necklace, it said.

The necklace was auctioned as part of Christie's "Magnificent Jewels" sale. The sale totalled 39.1 million US

dollars.

Also setting a world record was the 22 Kashmir sapphire sold on behalf of the Minnesota Historical Society which fetched 3.1 million US dollars, making it the most expensive sapphire in the world, according to Christie's.

MNA/Reuters



Kuwaiti Co wins 50% of oil field in Egypt

KUWIAT CITY, 26 April—Kuwait's World Oil and Environment Company has won 50 per cent of Egypt's Kom Ombo oil field exploration and production concession, the official KUNA news agency reported Tuesday.

Farouk al-Yahia, chairman of the Kuwaiti company, told a news

conference earlier in the day that his company has signed a transferring contract with Canada's Centurion Company, which owns the Egyptian oil field exploitation concession.

Covering 22,000 square kilometres, the oil field produces 6,000 barrels of crude oil per day at present, of which

3,000 barrels would go to the Kuwaiti company, said al-Yahia.

According to the contract, oil well digging processes are expected to kick off within a few weeks, al-Yahia said, noting that the company aims to boost production to 10,000 barrels per day in future.

According to KUNA, it is the Kuwaiti company's second project as it had entered into an earlier oil field project in Indonesia.

The Kuwaiti company is now considering several projects in Yemen, Mauritania, north Iraq and Libya, added al-Yahia.

MNA/Xinhua



The pair of pandas selected for Hong Kong play at the China Panda Protection and Research Center in Wolong, Sichuan Province recently. Both pandas were born there in August 2005. The male young panda presently identified as No 606 weighs 60 kilograms and the female, No 610, 61 kilograms.

XINHUA



Jordanian children from the Arabia British Council Ballet perform the Peaceful Dream dance during the Amman International Dance Festival at the Al Hussein Cultural Centre in Amman on 26 April, 2007. — INTERNET

Acer recalls 27,000 laptop batteries for overheating

BEIJING, 26 April — One of the world's largest computer maker Acer Inc announced a recall on Wednesday for 27,000 PC batteries which may overheat and cause a fire, despite it claimed its laptop PC users do not need to replace any batteries six months ago.

The recall is being made in cooperation with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The announcement



Acer laptop computer.

followed a number of high profile laptop PC battery recalls related to Sony-made cells. The recalls started with Dell Inc last August, and continued on to nearly every major PC vendor in the world, including Lenovo Group Ltd and Sony Corp itself.

Acer is the latest company to warn of faulty Sony-made lithium-ion batteries. Up to now, over 9.6 million laptop PC batteries have been recalled.

No users have reported problems with over-

heating batteries in Acer laptops, the company said, but it is still working with the consumer agency to conduct the voluntary recall. The company has provided a list of TravelMate and Aspire brand notebook PCs sold in the US between May 2004 through November 2006 that contain faulty batteries.

A Web site set up for the battery recall lists affected laptop models which contains the TravelMate series with 4-digit model numbers beginning with 242, 320, 321, 330, 422, 467, 561, C20, and the Aspire series beginning with model numbers 556, 560, 567, 930, 941, 980 and offers users instructions about how to replace the battery.

Internet

Mexico tornado death toll reaches ten

SAN ANTONIO, 26 April — A tornado killed 10 people and injured more than 80 when it slammed into towns on Texas-Mexico border overnight, officials said on Wednesday.

Seven people were killed when the tornado passed through the small town of Eagle Pass, Texas, and three people died in Piedras Negras, Mexico, just across the border.

Five of the Eagle Pass dead were in a single



A girl and her mother dig through the remains of their house after a tornado in Eagle Pass, Texas, on 25 April, 2007. — INTERNET

home, Foster said, and a neighbour said they were all members of the same family whose mobile

home was picked up and thrown down by the storm.

Texas emergency

management officials said about 250 people were in shelters after the storm, and state rescue officials in Mexico said the army was searching for survivors and victims.

"Hundreds of houses are damaged, 700 or 800 people are in shelters and we've begun looking for people that may be trapped in the rubble," spokesman Fernando Horta of Coahuila state Civil Protection said by telephone.

MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bombing kills seven Afghan soldiers

KABUL, 26 April — A roadside bombing killed seven Afghan soldiers in Waza Khwa District of the eastern Paktika province on Wednesday, provincial governor Akram Khapalwak told Xinhua.

A remote-controlled bomb attacked a vehicle carrying some Afghan soldiers at around 9:00 am (0430 GMT) in the district, Khapalwak said.

Seven soldiers were killed and one injured, he said, adding the vehicle was totally damaged.

No one has claimed responsibility, but Taliban militants have frequently carried out similar attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

Briton boy gets toilet seat stuck on his head

LONDON, 26 April — British firefighters said on Wednesday they had come to a boy's rescue after he got a toilet seat stuck on his head which he could not get off.

The toddler, aged two-and-a-half, and his mother walked into a fire station in Braintree, Essex, on

Tuesday saying the boy had put his head through a small trainer seat for the toilet and now could not remove it.

"His mum had tried to get it over his head but couldn't budge it so she walked him down here and asked us to have a look at it and we went to work and

we managed to get it off in no time," firefighter Chris Cox said. "We simply put some dish washing liquid on his head and ears and it slid off nice as pie." He said the boy had been "very brave" and "toddled away as happy as can be" after his ordeal ended.

MNA/Reuters

A model displays jewellery shop Ginza Tanaka's diamond tiara in Tokyo on 26 April, 2007. The tiara is priced about 300 million yen (\$2,515,220), according to a company official.

INTERNET

Two killed in bomb attacks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 April — Two people were killed and 14 others wounded in a roadside bomb and mortar attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb went off near a gas station in Baghdad's northeastern neighbourhood of Shaab, killing two people and wounding eight others, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast also damaged several civilian cars and

nearby buildings.

Meanwhile, mortar rounds landed on the residential area of Abu

Dshier in the morning, wounding six people, according to the source.

MNA/Xinhua

Bus falls into stream in Indian Kashmir, 22 killed

JAMMU (India), 26 April — At least 22 people were killed and 14 injured when a bus skidded off a mountain road and fell into a stream in Indian Kashmir on Wednesday, police said.

The driver lost control on a sharp turn and the vehicle plunged 300 feet (90 metres) near Poonch, 250 kilometres (155 miles) northwest of Kashmir's winter capital of Jammu, a police officer, who did not want to be identified, said.

MNA/Reuters





Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears report on Kengtawng Hydropower Project presented by Minister Col Zaw Min. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects progress of Kengtawng Hydropower Project

(from page 1)

silt lake and water channel has been completed by cent per cent. The water control lake, pre-stressed pipeline, power plant, sub-power station and outlet channel of the plant are under construction. The whole project has been completed by 73 per cent.

Next, the minister submitted a report on arrangements for implementation of Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project on Namtein Creek, 10 miles southwest of Kengtawng.

Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint briefed Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on installation of the power grid for supply of electricity to be generated from Kengtawng Hydropower Project.



Kengtawng Hydropower Project in Mongnai, Langkho District.

MNA

Kengtawng Hydropower Project but also to generate electricity. It is necessary to install power grid in time to supply electricity to be generated from these two projects to the region. He urged them to strive for implementation of the hydropower projects as soon as possible to contribute towards development of the region and the State.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented gifts to officials from Construction-7 of Hydropower Projects Implementation Department that is engaged in the project.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected progress of Kengtawng Bridges No 1 and No 2 of the project and conservation of forests in the project area. They also inspected laying of pre-stressed pipeline and construction tasks.

Afterwards, they looked into construction of the power plant. Next, they posed for the documentary photo near Kengtawng Waterfall.

On completion, Kengtawng Hydropower Project to be installed with three 18-megawatt generators will produce 54 megawatts.

According to the feasibility survey, Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project will generate 60 megawatts. After conducting the detailed surveys, Kengtawng and Upper Kengtawng Hydropower projects will emerge along Namtein Creek.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed the development of Kengtawng in a motorcade.

MNA



After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions saying that Kengtawng Hydropower Project is being implemented for ensuring development of townships in Loilem and

Langkho districts and uplift of the living standard of local people through supplying electricity. Furthermore, Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project will be implemented not only to supply water to the



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye ...

(from page 16)

officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

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

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye had the dinner together with the graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

After the dinner, Myawady Band and Myawady Anyeint troupe performed entertainment to them at the theatre. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents gifts to the officials of No-7 Construction.

MNA

Technological development gap can make...

(from page 16)

time, holding such seminars with the aim of ensuring the development of the education sector as well as national education promotion amounts to bringing about fundamental requirements for national development.

He said that Myanmar like other countries is trying its utmost to keep abreast of the global nations, while making all-out efforts for development of economic, education and health sectors of the nation that lagged behind in development for various reasons. At the same time, it has to build infrastructures for political, economic and social

sectors.

To ensure sustainable development of the Union of Myanmar, home to various national races, such matters as national solidarity, flourishing of Union Spirit and stability of the State are essential. This being the case, efforts are being made in all seriousness for nationalistic spirit, with which the people are desirous of safeguarding the Union from disintegration, to be alive and dynamic, he stressed.

Therefore, in implementing the national education promotion programme, efforts are being made for the emergence of an education system that contributes to national development, stability of the State and perpetuation of the Union, he noted.

It is required to achieve such aims as to ensure sustainable progress of science and technology that can help the nation to keep pace with other nations, to produce human resources in all sectors, to restore peace and stability, to create equal learning opportuni-

being taken inward, outward and in-depth.

In terms of volume, ten tasks of the 30-year education promotion programme are being implemented along with 30 projects and over 100 sub-projects at over 40,500 basic education schools and over 150 universities and colleges across the nation.

In the process, priority has been given to success of educational activities based on parallel education system and development of electronic infrastructures covering e-Learning Centre and Computer Network.

In implementing such huge and subtle tasks, systematic steps need to be taken in order that all the objectives can be materialized.

Upholding these attitudes and opinions, teachers are to draw school curriculums most effectively for students by applying their experiences, theories and practicality in their teaching. Educational seminars produce educational projects, plans and work programmes that are a combination of educational guide-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaking at opening ceremony of National Education Promotion Seminar for 2007.—MNA

The Head of State also gave guidance that the students are to be nurtured to possess patriotism and Union Spirit since their primary education level through education.

ties in different parts of the nation, to bring about harmonious development of all parts of the nation and to enhance national fervour, with which the people defend the motherland equipping themselves with the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit.

Now there have emerged educational infrastructures, and progress has been made in the education sector as work is well under way under the guidance of the Head of State.

The national education promotion programme is meeting with success in all spheres since measures are

lines of the Head of State, State educational policies, invaluable experiences of academia and innovations.

Today's education sector has seen a great deal of opportunities. Even far-flung and rural areas have got basic education schools. Likewise universities and colleges can be seen in the major cities of the states and divisions. Moreover, as subject-wise learning opportunities have been created at the high school level to higher education level, the students can choose various kinds of subjects meeting the international standards.

(See page 9)





Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views displays at opening ceremony of National Education Promotion Seminar for 2007.—MNA

guidance of the Head of State, extension of advanced research work, improvement of teaching-learning situation of basic education schools and plans for good image of the schools.

The Secretary-1 said in drawing international level school curriculums and syllabuses, teachers are to try to keep track of advancing arts and sciences and technologies of the world; to fulfil the needs of the changing world and Myanmar society; to provide the students with good educational opportunities and train them to be able to be competent, innovative and mature; to extensively use modern teaching methods and teaching aids; to teach the students to be able to be competent; to teach the students to be able to make use of their abilities later; to improve the assessment system; and to conduct advanced research work.

So rapid and delicate is today's science and technology improvement that it has a lot of influence over various sectors. Therefore technological development gap can make a nation and its people lag behind in development. At such a time progress of a nation and its people rests on technological development.

Since the primary level, students are to be nurtured to possess such moral principles as morality, good characters, honesty, observance of disciplines, and altruism.

In particular since young, students should be inculcated with a good habit of cherishing and upholding Myanmar traditions, culture, national prestige and integrity, national norms and social values.

And students should be trained since at the primary level in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State to uplift the dynamism of their spirit of cherishing motherland, patriotic spirit, Union Spirit and nationalistic fervour.

(See page 10)

Technological development gap can make...

(from page 8)

That was why the Head of State gave guidance that the main duty of the education sector was to try to enhance teaching and learning abilities. He also pointed out that in drawing international level school syllabuses and curriculums, accepting that the objective is 'education for the State, education for the nation' instead of 'education for the education's sake', an educational system that is beneficial for the

State must be adopted. He laid down work programmes — to improve teachers' teaching and learning abilities; to upgrade school curriculums and syllabuses to meet the international standards; to fully use effective teaching aids; and to work together to have the good image of schools.

The Head of State also gave guidance that the students are to be nurtured to be endowed with patriotism and Union Spirit starting from their primary education level through education. Today's educational seminar discussed national education promotion programmes as well as drawing and upgrading of international level school curriculums and syllabuses in accord with the

IPRD personnel urged to undertake durability of self-reliant village libraries

YANGON, 27 April — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met personnel of Information and Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Information, here, this afternoon, and instructed them to expedite tasks for maintenance and development of village self-reliant libraries of IPRD.

First, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan heard reports on progress in establishment of self-reliant libraries in states and divisions, tasks carried out for their durability, future tasks, speeding up of local people's reading capability and arrangements for organizing the local people to donate cash and books to the libraries presented by assistant directors of State/Division IPRDs.

Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD gave a supplementary report on

tasks to ensure durability of the libraries and future tasks.

In his speech, the minister said that at the meeting, officials of IPRD are to evaluate strong and weak points of tasks in setting up village self-reliant libraries in states and divisions and their durability. One of the 14-point functions of service personnel under the

Ministry of Information is to carry out information tasks using initiative. Hence, they are to discharge their duties with talents to achieve success by observing examples of tasks. As today is education age, IT age and ICT age, media plays a very important role and a powerful status. Information can be

disseminated to the people through media and IT. Therefore, media personnel of the Ministry of Information are to place emphasis on development of the nation. The personnel are to uplift the living standard of the people through media and protect them against the penetration of alien media. He added that IPRD plays

a role in providing information to the public. Therefore, efforts of staff of the department have benefitted the people. Especially, personnel are to strive for carrying out nine tasks of the department using initiative in addition to political, organizing, economic and administrative outlooks. In conclusion, the minister

urged all to undertake durability and development of the libraries and organize the local people to establish libraries in the villages.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaking at a meeting on sustainable development of self-reliant rural libraries.—MNA

Technological development gap can make...

(from page 9)

Necessary education plans are to be laid down so that the citizens can uphold and practise the spirit of loving the mother country and the people, the spirit of following rules and regulations, noble spirit, nationalistic spirit with which they feel very sensitive to the acts harming the nation and the people, the spirit of serving the interests of the nation and the people, and the spirit of national cohesion since they are in their youth till they have become intellectuals and intelligentsia. In addition, teachers are to train and educate their pupils at every opportunity.

They are indeed aimed at implementing wide and delicate education programmes in the education sector to achieve educational goals in next 30 years.

Now fruitful results have been achieved due to guidance on education occasionally given by the Head

of State and effective educational policies of the State. Moreover various education programmes have yielded fruits resulting from effective educational management, educational seminars, practical education plans and work programmes, and harmonious cooperation of the Ministry of Education and related ministries, social organizations and the people.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged responsible persons to lay down prudent education plans and work programmes through coordination to realize the guidance of the Head of State on education promotion, making curricula and syllabuses meet international level, enhancing teaching skills of teachers, and inculcating students since at primary level with patriotism, Union Spirit, and good habit of following rules and regulations.

The ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, members of MEC, the director-general of SPDC Office, departmental heads, directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials of various departments under the

Ministry of Education, rectors, pro-rectors, professors and heads of departments, principals of Education Colleges, education officers from states and divisions, representatives and guests attended the seminar.

After the opening ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the booths on development of basic and higher education sector, research on six common diseases, research works featured in international research journals, economic research, educational research, research on renewable energy sources, research on science and applied science, research on social science, researches on national linguistics and national prestigious and integrity, researches on nation-building endeavours and booths, laboratory apparatuses and materials used in conducting researches.

The preliminary discussions on basic education sector of National Education Promotion for 2007 are being held from 25 to 28 April and the seminar on higher education sector from 27 to 29 April.

MNA

Three roads inaugurated to mark UN Global Road Safety Week



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa cut the ribbon to open Thirimingala tarred road.—MNA

YANGON, 27 April—To mark the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week Movement, three roads were inaugurated in Yangon Division today.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung

Thein Lin and officials of YCDC attended the opening ceremonies held in Insein and Mingaladon townships.

Two roads in Insein and Mingaladon Township were commissioned into service by the mayor. All were constructed with the

contribution of YCDC and wellwishers.

Kha-10 Road in Insein Township is 750 ft long and 12 ft wide and Thirimingala Road in the township is 6,000 ft long and 22 ft wide. Thukha Road in Mingaladon Township is 540 ft long and 12 ft wide.—MNA

Three members quit Wetlet Township NLD

YANGON, 27 April—Three members U Tin Wai, U Maung Ko and U Kyaw Myint of Wetlet Township National League for Democracy of Sagaing Division resigned from the NLD on 7 March by sending resignation letters to the

NLD Headquarters and local authorities of their own volition.

In their resignation letters sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-Commission, they said that they had lost faith

and trust in NLD and party leaders and interest in tasks of the party; and they cannot accept the narrow-mindedness and ideas of the NLD. That is why, they quit from the party of their own accord.

MNA

Mayor Col Thein Nyunt hosts dinner in honour of Vietnamese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Mayor Col Thein Nyunt hosted a dinner in honour of Vice-President Mr Tran Trong Khanh and Vietnamese delegation

members at Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone yesterday evening and exchanged gifts.

Also present at the dinner were Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe, the secretary, the joint secretary and members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

In the morning, Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Tun Kyi welcomed the Vietnamese delegation at the City Hall and Joint Secretary U Than Shein explained construction tasks of Nay Pyi Taw. Next, they viewed progress of development in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Seminar on Thinking Technology held

YANGON, 27 April — A seminar on an Introduction to Thinking Technology was held at Yangon Division Peace and Development Council office today.

A total of 140 members of division/

district/township WAOs participated in the seminar which was organized by Administration Department of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization.

The seminar was opened with an address by Patron of Yangon

WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai and Chief Executive of MIEC PMC Group U Kyaw Thu gave talks on thinking technology.

After the seminar, Daw Mar Mar Wai presented gifts to U Kyaw Thu.

MNA

OIE official visits chick farm

YANGON, 27 April — Dr Gardner Murray, President of OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, accompanied by OIERCU

regional coordinator Dr Ronello Abila and Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

today made a field trip to the chicken farm in Mayangon Township where bird flu broke out in the last week of February, 2007.—MNA

Fires break out in four townships

YANGON, 27 April — Forty-eight houses were destroyed in a fire in Shwenyaung Village in Taunggyi Township in Shan State (South) on 25 April.

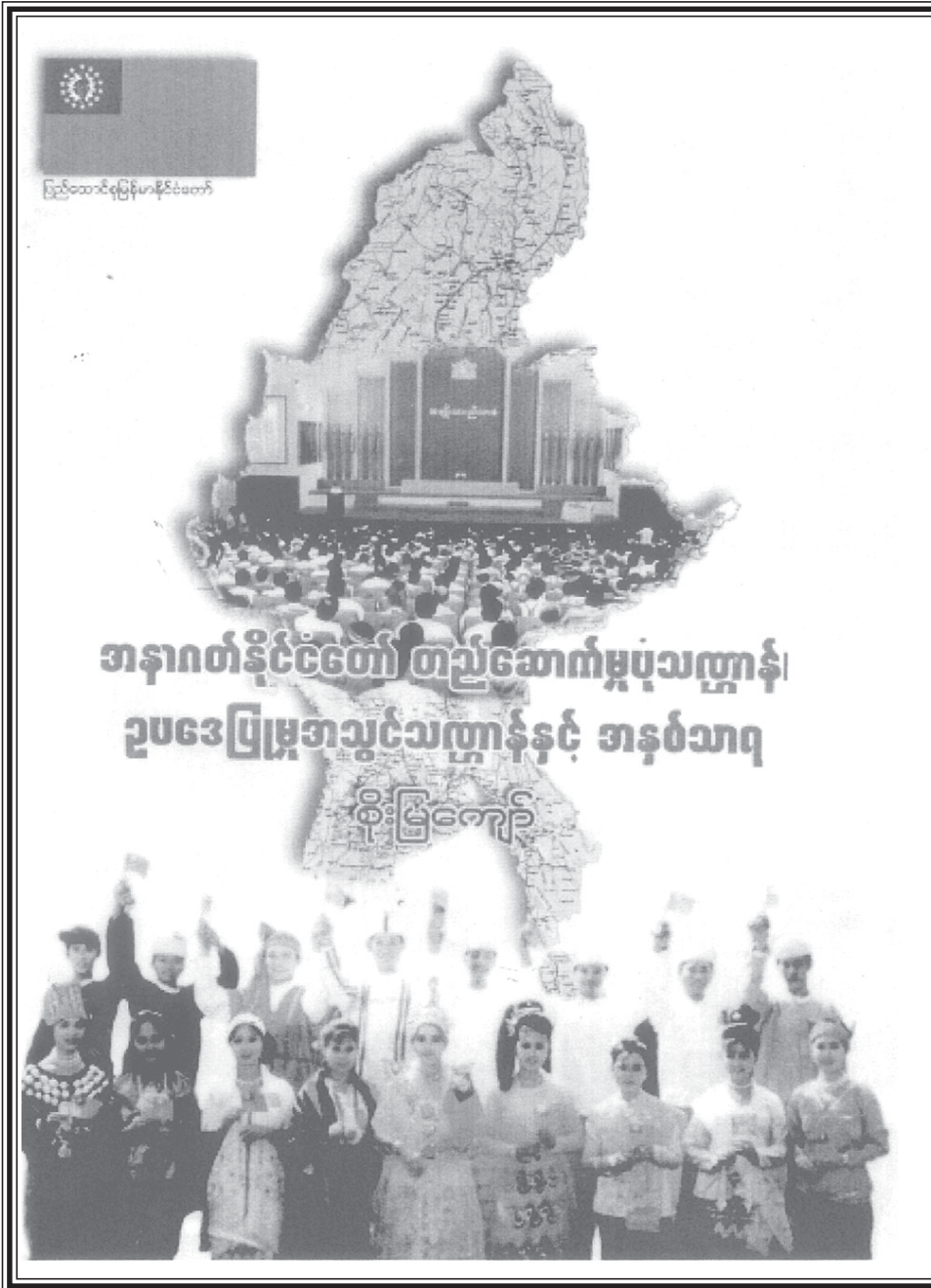
A fire also broke out in Pemakhan Village in

Nattalin Township, Thayawady District, on the same day and four houses were destroyed and left four households homeless.

A car was destroyed in a fire at Parami Bus Terminal in South

Okkalapa Township yesterday.

A primary school was destroyed in a fire in Kyatpha-ahmwe-zaung Village in Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday.—MNA



- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသတင်းများကို လေ့လာကြည့်သောအခါ အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ပုံဖော်မှန်းမျှော် ကြည့်ရှုရလာပြီ ဖြစ်သည်။
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S Africa seeks China's investment in infrastructure construction

BEIJING, 27 April — South African Ambassador to China Ndumiso Ndima Ntshinga said here Wednesday that South Africa hopes Chinese companies could invest in the country's infrastructure construction.

South Africa welcomes investment from Chinese companies and hopes to expand economic and trade ties with China, Ntshinga told reporters before a reception held to celebrate the 13th Freedom Day of South Africa.

In the past 13 years, Ntshinga said, great changes have taken place in South Africa and the infrastructure construction cannot meet the demand of its economic growth.

As South Africa will host the 2010 World Cup,

Ntshinga said the infrastructure including roads, airports and harbours need to be renovated and the two sides can have cooperation in these areas.

South Africa also seeks to promote bilateral

cooperation in culture and education and hopes to enhance people-to-people exchanges, the ambassador added.

South Africa held the first national election without racial-discrimination on 27 April, 1994, in which Nelson Mandela was elected president. 27 April was then set as the South African Freedom Day.

Ntshinga appreciated China's support, saying "we are very seriously committed in our pursuit for further expansion of our relations with China".

China and South Africa forged diplomatic ties on 1 January, 1998.

Alongside with the reception, the embassy also held an exhibition of South African enterprises in China to give publicity to their business.

MNA/Xinhua

Children with asthma have more emotional problems

NEW YORK, 27 April — Children with asthma may be at increased risk of certain behavioural, emotional and developmental problems, particularly if the asthma is severe, the results of a new study suggest.

Using data from a national health survey, researchers found that of more than 100,000 US children and teenagers, those with asthma were more likely to be diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, anxiety and learning disabilities.

More severe asthma increased the risk, as did living in a disadvantaged social or economic environment, according to the study, published in the *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*.

Compared with children whose parents described their asthma as mild, those with severe asthma were three to four

times more likely to have ADHD, depression or any behavioral or learning disorder.

It is not possible to tell from this study why asthma was linked to behavioural and emotional difficulties, according to lead author Dr. James A. Blackman of the University of Virginia Children's Hospital in Charlottesville.

But, he told *Reuters Health*, it is a reasonable guess to say the physical effects of the disease, or the medications used to treat it, could contribute to depression, difficulty concentrating or other problems.

On the other hand, Blackman noted, children with additional challenges, like ADHD or learning disabilities, may have a tougher time sticking with their asthma treatment plan — thereby worsening their asthma.

MNA/Reuters

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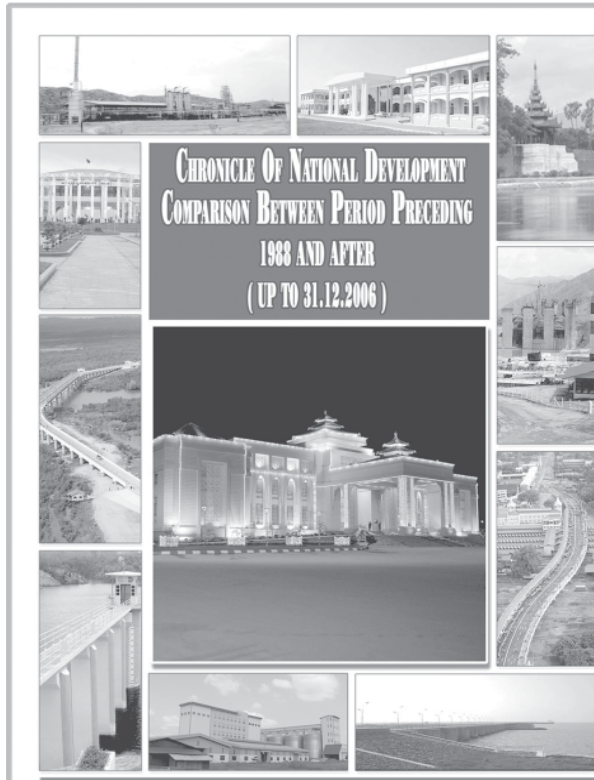
Suicide attack on Iraq police station kills nine

BAGHDAD, 26 April—Nine people were killed and 16 others were wounded in an attack by a suicide bomber inside a police station northeast of Baghdad on Wednesday, police said.

The bomber walked into the police station in Balad Ruz, 50 kilometres southeast of Baquba, the capital of volatile Diyala Province.

Diyala is a region with a mixed population of Sunni Arabs and Shiites where US forces are engaged in fierce fighting with entrenched insurgents and al-Qaeda militants.

MNA/Reuters



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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOYNO (708)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOYNO (708) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 28.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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British police arrest 21 in crack cocaine raids

LONDON, 26 April—Police said they arrested 21 people on Wednesday in a series of dawn raids across England against a multi-million pound crack cocaine network. More than 400 officers from six forces raided addresses in London, the West Midlands, North Yorkshire, County Durham, Northumbria, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool.

The raids followed a lengthy investigation against a largely Jamaican gang believed to be shipping crack cocaine. The arrests included 11 men and four women held in raids in the northeast. Six other people were arrested in east London. — MNA/Reuters

22 dead, six still missing in N China coal mine accidents

SHIJIAZHUANG, 26 April — Twenty-two miners have been confirmed dead and six others are missing after gas outburst accidents Thursday and Friday in north China's Hebei Province, rescuers said on Tuesday. Nine miners died in an accident Thursday in Dashucun coal mine. The other

accident occurred Friday noon in Tao'er coal mine, trapping 11 miners underground, said a spokesman with emergency rescue headquarters.

By 8:00 am Tuesday, the bodies of all 11 miners trapped in the Tao'er coal mine had been recovered.

Meanwhile, rescuers pulled another dead miner

from the Dashucun coal mine, pushing the death toll to 11. Rescuers said there is little hope for the six others.

Gas concentrations in both mines are still over safety limits, said rescuers. At Dashucun coal mine, about 1,200 tons of coal fragments were spewed out when the accident occurred.—MNA/Xinhua

Senior officials of China, ASEAN meet in east China

HEFEI, 26 April—Senior officials of China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Wednesday concluded their annual consultations in east China's Anhui Province.

Assistant Chinese Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai and senior officials of ASEAN countries attended the meeting. They focused their discussions on how to deepen future cooperation and exchanged views on issues of common concern.

They also discussed follow-up actions on Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. They adopted a document defining central concepts in China-ASEAN relations.

ASEAN was founded in 1967 and now groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. — MNA/Xinhua

Gun battle leaves nine dead including five militants in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 April—Gun battle between Afghan police and Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan's southern Ghazni Province left nine persons, including five insurgents dead, provincial police chief Ali Shah Ahmadzai said Wednesday.

The conflicts took

place in the wake of Taliban attack on a local Construction Company in Qarabagh District Tuesday evening during which four local employees were killed, he added. "In sharp retaliation police raided militants yesterday evening, killing five rebels and injuring five others," Ahmadzai told Xinhua.

Five more rebels were captured, he added.

However, he failed to identify the name of the construction company saying it was an Afghan company building roads and streets in the area.

Militancy and conflicts have claimed the lives of more than 900 people since beginning this year in Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်များတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



A Web site of Sony Corp's new video network media "eyeVio" is seen on a laptop screen at a news conference for its launch in Tokyo on 26 April, 2007. Sony Corp said on Thursday it will launch a video-sharing site in Japan on Friday, marking the electronics and entertainment firm's first step towards challenging Google Inc's YouTube service.— INTERNET

Wen says China must keep energy, emission "promises"

BEIJING, 26 April — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told officials to keep their "solemn promise" to the Chinese people to reduce industrial emissions and energy consumption, state media reported on Wednesday.

China aims to reduce emissions of major industrial pollutants by 10 per cent and cut the amount of energy used to

generate each dollar of national income by 20 per cent between 2006 and 2010.

But local officials and industries chasing growth have ignored the targets and last year sulphur dioxide emissions actually grew 1.8 per cent, while China's energy consumption only improved 1 per cent against an official target of 4 per cent.

"To reach our aims of energy savings and emission reductions, we are facing a very grave situation," state-run China Central Television quoted Wen Jiabao as saying at a State Council meeting on Wednesday.

"All regions and ministries must realize the importance and urgency of this task... This is the solemn promise our government made to the people and we must keep it," Wen said.

"The work of economic development must be based on (these) guidelines, and the government must play an important role in it," he said.

Three decades of breakneck industrial growth have fouled China's air, water and soil, and Wen has made reducing pollution and energy a pillar of government policy in 2007.

MNA/Reuters

Ecuador reduces fossil fuel use in Galapagos Islands

QUITO, 26 April — Ecuador's government launched Tuesday a plan to reduce the use of diesel and gasoline in the Galapagos archipelago, a world heritage site.

The Zero Fossil Fuels Programmes in the Galapagos Islands, 1,000 kilometres from the continent, encourages people to utilize wind and solar energy to generate electricity.

Ecuador also called for the use of bio-diesel in fishing boats and introduction of electric automobile to preserve the Islas Encantadas, one of the enchanted isles in the region.

Six years ago, an enormous oil spill in the Galapagos Marine Reserve, caused domestic and international concern.

Ecuador's Energy Minister Alberto Acosta said the program will require an investment of 32 million US dollars. Ecuador's government will finance 40 per cent of the programmes and international organizations 60 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



Children stand beside a house damaged by a landslide caused by rain in Heping county of Heyuan, in southern China's Guangdong Province on 26 April, 2007.— INTERNET

80% young Singaporeans support IP protection

SINGAPORE, 26 April — A survey issued on Wednesday, the eve of World Intellectual Property Day, found that eight in ten young Singaporeans support IP protection.

The online survey with 630 Singaporeans aged between 14 and 35 was the first such study commissioned by the

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS).

A majority of 82 per cent respondents said people deserve to have their ideas and creations protected.

But 42 per cent said that piracy and counterfeiting are acceptable, citing that it is fine if the price of the original product is beyond their means.

Only 22 per cent felt bothered by IP infringement and only 28 per cent of those surveyed thought about the legal consequences when downloading.— MNA/Xinhua

ICRC conference calls for law to expedite disaster response

PANAMA CITY, 26 April — The International Red Cross Conference on disaster response in the Americas ended here Tuesday with a list of recommendations for a possible law on international assistance for catastrophes.

The meeting was the third within the framework set up at the international conference of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Red Crescent Societies, in Geneva in 2003.

Representatives from some 32 nations attended the conference, calling for stronger laws, norms and

principles on international participation and for an appropriate and efficient international disaster response.

The proposals from the three conferences will be taken to a November meeting of the ICRC in Geneva.

Panama Red Cross National Rescue director, Jorge Aleman, told media that the conference had agreed that new laws were needed to expedite regional disaster response, because rescue efforts are held back by migration, Customs and excise procedures.

Red Cross rescuers had

frequently had to wait several days for visas, and clear paperwork, he said.

The draft proposals will also be discussed

in June at an ICRC meeting in the Ecuadorian city of Guayaquil.

MNA/Xinhua



An elephant is scrubbed by mahouts ahead of the "Pooram" festival in Trichoor, in the southern Indian state of Kerala, on 26 April, 2007. The festival is celebrated with a colourful procession of decorated elephants and drum concerts.— INTERNET

SPORTS

Wenger: Biggest challenge

LONDON, 27 April—Arsene Wenger has admitted that leading Arsenal back to glory is the biggest challenge of his career.

The Gunners have slipped into the shadows in the last couple of years, with Chelsea and Manchester United the dominant forces in the Premiership.

Wenger, though, has built a solid foundation for the future as Arsenal have a raft of young stars coming through the ranks.

The Frenchman has always maintained that the rising stars have the potential to go to the very top, but he is aware that it is up to him to lead them to glory.

"It is the biggest challenge of my career because I am desperate to bring them as far as they can go and I feel there is a lot of potential in there," said Wenger.

"I have to make them realise that a sports life passes quickly and that you have to quickly be mature. "The second thing is not to lose the belief, because this year of course we didn't win anything, and come back next season with the great belief that they can do well.

"To be a professional and a young player is to learn as well how to deal with disappointment. This year we had a massive disappointment, I feel overall, especially in going out of the Champions League the way we went out. "But it is part of a growing process as well to handle this kind of disappointment and to still not let your disappointment stop your progression." —Internet



Arsene Wenger

Fergie: Time to be great

LONDON, 27 April—Sir Alex Ferguson has urged his Manchester United players not to throw away all their good work in the last few weeks of the season. United have enjoyed a superb season and earned recognition at last Sunday's PFA awards, when eight players from the club were named in the Premiership Team of the Year and Cristiano Ronaldo won both the Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year awards.

But Ferguson believes the true test for his side will be how they play over the next month, as they compete for the Premiership, FA Cup and UEFA Champions League. "The PFA awards were a great night for Ronaldo and a great night for the club," he said in the Daily Star.

"But they were voted for in February and only tell you what's been happening up until then. "What we have to do now is be great in April and May. That's the time to be great."

Ferguson feels United deserve to claim some sil-



Sir Alex Ferguson

verware this term and is confident his players will hold their nerve.

"You have to win things to be regarded as great and, without wishing to tempt fate, I think we will end up with a trophy," he predicted. "I certainly hope so because the way the players are performing right now, I think they deserve to have something to show for the season.

"If the players don't smell the scent of something big in their lives now then they never will. It's a great opportunity for them.

"Every match feels like a cup final now, but I wouldn't have it any other way because this is what it's all about, big games on the last lap of the season." —Internet

Soldado gives Osasuna the edge against Sevilla

PAMPLONA (Spain), 27 April — Osasuna dented Sevilla's hopes of making a successful defence of their UEFA Cup crown when they beat the Andalucians 1-0 at home in the first leg of an all-Spanish semifinal on Thursday.

Striker Roberto Soldado scored the winner 10 minutes into the second half when he got in front of two defenders to send a header spinning past Sevilla keeper David Cobeno after midfielder David Lopez had clipped a free kick into the area.

It was a bitter-sweet game for Soldado, who is on loan from Real Madrid until the end of the season, as he will miss next week's second leg after picking up a booking moments before the goal.

Osasuna, who crushed Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 on aggregate in the last round, were unlucky not to come away with a more emphatic win as Lopez, Soldado and striker Savo Milosevic all went close to extending their side's lead soon after the goal.

The game was held up when Dutch referee Eric Braamhaar tore a muscle in his calf and it had to be restarted six minutes later with fourth official Pieter Vink in charge.

"It was great to score in a UEFA Cup semifinal," Soldado told Antena 3 television station. "But the victory came thanks to the efforts of the whole team who never dropped their guard for a minute." —MNA/Reuters

Espanyol thrash Werder 3-0 in one-sided semi

BARCELONA, 27 April — Espanyol took a giant step towards a UEFA Cup final place after securing a 3-0 first leg win over Werder Bremen in their semifinal on Thursday. Moises Hurtado headed Espanyol in front in the first half, and soon after the break Walter Pandiani added a second.

Werder were forced to play most of the second half with 10 men after goalkeeper Tim Wiese was sent off for a professional foul outside the area in the 58th minute, and Espanyol stole a third at the end through Ferran Corominas.

Werder, riding high in second place in the Bundesliga, were widely tipped as a favourites for the trophy, but had little answer to the pace of Espanyol's counter-attacks and threat from set pieces.

There was little to separate the sides before Espanyol took charge from a corner in the 20th minute.

Ivan de la Pena played the ball short to Francisco Rufete who swung in a cross which Hurtado headed into the top corner over a static defence.

Five minutes later, Hurtado picked up a yellow card which ruled him out of the return leg in Bremen on 3 May. —MNA/Reuters



Crew members of America's Cup challenger Victory Challenge of Sweden work on boat at the start of their Round Robin 1 Flight 9 match race against Desafio Espanol 2007 of Spain at the Louis Vuitton Cup in Valencia on 26 April, 2007. — INTERNET

Mourinho launches Ronaldo tirade



The two Portuguese men have entered a slanging match

LONDON, 27 April—Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has launched a furious tirade at Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo, 22, had claimed that Mourinho "does not know how to admit his own failures" after the Blues boss's controversial comments on penalties.

But Mourinho hit back: "If Ronaldo says it is a lie penalties were not given against United, then he is lying.

"He needs to see he cannot fight with facts. If he is a liar, he will never reach the level he wants to reach."

Last weekend Mourinho insisted that there was a new rule in football, where United could not concede a penalty and Chelsea could not win one.

He was referring to spot-kicks both Sheffield United and Middlesbrough felt they should have been given at Old Trafford and a penalty he thought Chelsea should have had at Newcastle.

"The whole world knows how he is," Ronaldo was reported to have told Portuguese television.

"Mourinho always has to say something when he is not happy." —Internet

O'Hair takes Byron Nelson lead

IRVING (Texas), 27 April — American Sean O'Hair fired a five-under-par 65 to take the first round lead at the 6.3-million-US-dollar Byron Nelson Championship on Thursday.

Defending champion Brett Wetterich and Denmark's Anders Hansen were a shot back in second place at four under. Luke Donald and Scott Verplank were in a group of five players a stroke further back.

O'Hair, who finished second in the event a single adrift of winner Ted Purdy in 2005, played the Cottonwood Valley course, one of two courses being used, at the Four Seasons Resort. "I felt really good with my ball striking today. I started the putts on my line and it was really just a good round of golf," O'Hair said.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese women sweep gold at Asian Weightlifting C'ship

TAI'AN (East China), 27 April — Mu Shuangshuang of China claimed the gold medal of women's over 75-kilo category here on Thursday, sealing Chinese female lifters' gold sweep at the Asian championships.

Mu, gold medallist in Doha Asiad, snatched 132kg and lifted 172kg in clean and jerk, winning the title with a total of 305kg.

Annipa Moontar of Thailand finished second with a total of 265kg, and Geeta Rnai of India took the bronze medal at 239kg in total.

The Chinese women weightlifting team swept 20 out of the totaling 21 gold medals at the Asian Championships. Moreover, the Chinese strongwomen smashed three world records of clean and jerk. — MNA/Xinhua

Two out of three Americans say country going wrong

WASHINGTON, 27 April — Two out of three Americans think the country is on the wrong track, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released on Wednesday.

Only 22 per cent of Americans think the country is moving in the right direction, while 66 per cent think it is on the wrong track, the poll of 1004 adults taken 20-23 April showed.

That compared with 58 per cent who saw the country heading down the wrong track and 25 per cent who saw it moving in the right direction in a NBC/WSJ poll taken in March.

NBC News said the poll numbers point to one compelling reason why that should be the case: the war in Iraq.

Asked if the situation in Iraq has improved, deteriorated or stayed the

same over the last three months, just 12 per cent said it had improved while 49 per cent said things were getting worse. Some 37 per cent saw no change in the situation.

Asked if the war could still be won, 55 per cent said it could not while 36 per cent said it could.

And some 56 per cent of those polled backed Democratic efforts to impose a deadline for withdrawal of US troops, while 37 per cent shared President George W Bush's view that no deadline should be set by politicians in Washington.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan seeks peace through strength in South Asia

ISLAMABAD, 27 April — Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz Thursday said Pakistan seeks peace through strength in South Asia and will never compromise on its nuclear programme or its minimum deterrence needs.

He was speaking at the handing-over ceremony of the final production batch of *Hatf-III Ghaznavi* missiles to Army Strategic Force Command in Rawalpindi, the state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

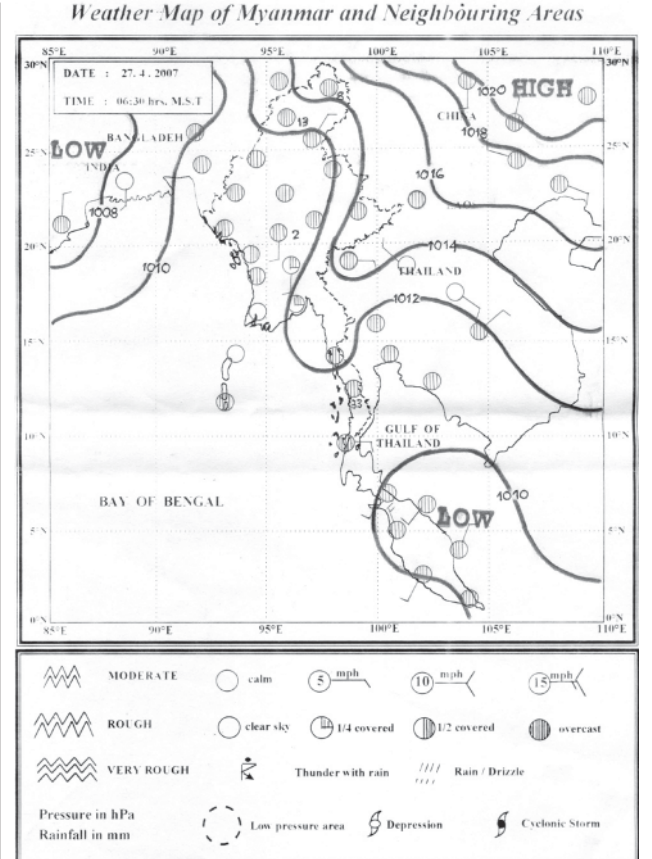
The *Ghaznavi* missile is a short-range ballistic missile with a range of 290 kilometres.

The Radio Pakistan report noted that the *Ghaznavi* ballistic missile system, successfully fired as part of a training exercise in December 2006, now forms an integral component of Pakistan's strategic land delivery system, which

also include the *Shaheen* series and the *Ghauri* intermediate range ballistic missiles.

"Pakistan is a declared and fully established nuclear power with its minimum deterrence needs successfully achieved and its capability operationalized through a variety of delivery means," Aziz was quoted as saying.

Ghaznavi missile, which was named after the 11th Century Muslim conqueror Mahmud of Ghazni, and powered by a single stage solid propellant engine, can deliver either a conventional or nuclear payload, according to the private *News Network International* news agency. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 27 April, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States, scattered in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin and Kayin States. Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Mon State and Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Thayawady (43°C), Pynmana, Chauk, Minbu and Magway (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mueik (1.30) inches, Hkamti (0.52) inch, Namsam (0.47) inch, Taunggyi (0.40) inch, Putao, Magway and Heho (0.32) inch each and Hakha (0.31) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-4-2007 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 27-4-2007 was 80°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 27-4-2007 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 26-4-2007 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 27-4-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 26-4-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-4-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 28-4-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 28-4-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 28-4-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of May 2007: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 28 April
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟာရဋ္ဌာန ဝုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
 5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
 6. တမာနှင့်မိုးနီရေလှောင်တံ
- 8:05 am
 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
 8. Musical programme
- 8:30 am
 9. International news
- 8:45 am
 10. Grammar made easy

- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:15 am
 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am
 3. News
- 11:40 am
 4. Games for children
- 12:05 pm
 5. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:55 pm
 6. "အရိပ်အကဲ" (ကိုကိုလင်းမောင်၊ မိုးမိုးမြင့်အောင်၊ အောင်နိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နှင်းမိုး)
- 1:30 pm
 7. မြေကမ္ဘာသာယာစေဖို့ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 1:45 pm
 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:00 pm
 9. မန်းချောင်းတံတား
- 2:05 pm
 10. Dance of national races
- 2:20 pm
 11. သက်တံ့ရောင်သံစဉ်
- 2:30 pm
 12. "သတိတစ်ချက် တစ်သက်အမှား" ကျော်မင်းနောင်၊ ကြည်လဲ့လဲ့ဦး၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)
- 2:45 pm
 13. International news
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

- 4:30 pm
 3. English for everyday use
- 4:40 pm
 4. အလေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 4:55 pm
 5. Musical programme
- 5:10 pm
 6. Games for children
- 5:30 pm
 7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm
 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 10. အလှူရှာမယ် လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 7:00 pm
 11. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (ကျယ်ပြန့်မှုကလော (ခေါ်) ဝီလောပီနီမုန့်)
- 7:10 pm
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 8:00 pm
 13. News
- 8:00 pm
 14. International news
- 8:00 pm
 15. Weather report
- 8:00 pm
 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ပန်းနှင်းဆီ" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 8:00 pm
 17. The next day's programme



Saturday, 28 April
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music:
 - I only want to be with you
 - ... Tracy Huang
 - ... Jambalaya
 - ... Carpenters
- 9:00pm ASEAN news
 - Exchange news from ASEAN member countries
- 9:20 pm Myanma Culture ... Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:30 pm Sovenirs
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends graduation dinner of 110th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets graduate officers of the 110th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — The graduation dinner of the 110th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School was held at the hall of the training school in Bahtoo Tatmyo, Yaksawk Township, Shan State, yesterday evening, attended by 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.

Also present at the dinner were members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Maj-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaug Aye, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Kalaw and Bahtoo Stations, (See page 8)

Technological development gap can make a nation and its people lag behind in development
Secretary-1 attends opening ceremony of National Education Promotion Seminar for 2007

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April —The opening ceremony of the National Education Promotion Seminar for 2007 was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education, here, this morning with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council

Lt-Gen Thein Sein. In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that at present each and every nation is vying for development of modern science and technology for prosperity of its own nation and people, adding that at such a (See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views displays at National Education Promotion Seminar for 2007.—MNA

Today's education sector has seen a great deal of educational opportunities. Even far-flung and rural areas have got basic education schools. Likewise universities and colleges can be seen in the major cities of the states and divisions.