

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

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—The meeting No 7/2008 of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the meeting hall of the commission here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Commission for Holding the Referendum Chief Justice U Aung Toe, the secretary, the joint-secretary and commission members.

Chairman of the Commission for Holding the Referendum Chief Justice U Aung Toe presided over the meeting and Secretary U Win Ko acted as

master of ceremonies.

First, U Aung Toe made an opening speech. Those present discussed matters on tasks carried out during the field trips made to provide necessary assistance and supervision made for successfully holding the referendum.

The meeting also focused on matters related to holding referendum for approval of the draft constitution and decisions were made.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by U Aung Toe.

MNA

Commission Chairman U Aung Toe addresses meeting 7/2008 of Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
MNA



New State constitution guaranteeing equal rights of all national races

The draft constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar safeguards Our Three Main National Causes and guarantees equal democratic rights to the entire people irrespective of wealth and status. Therefore, it is believed that the entire people will be able to build the future democratic nation by casting ‘yes’ vote in the referendum to be held on 10 May 2008.

KAYTU NILAR

PAGE 7

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 24 April, 2008

Raise the momentum of rural region development

Nowadays the government is giving priority to the development to rural areas nationwide. It is also building a great deal of infrastructures for education, health and economic development of rural people.

Moreover, the government is constructing new village-to-village roads that are important for ensuring smooth transport. Local people can now travel easily to other regions as more and more rural and urban roads, bridges across rivers and creeks are being built region-wise.

The three-mile Tonpalun-Thayetgon-Anangon rural gravel road was opened in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Division recently. The people from Tonpalun and Thayetgon village tracts can go to Pathein any time through Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road. Similarly, a gravel road linking Shanzulay and Zeegon Villages in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township, a new tarred road and a wooden bridge in Wakema Township, Myathiri tarred road in Maubin Township, a new U Pyone Cho tarred road in Kyaiklatt Township, a new tarred road in Myeik and a new Kandawminkyauung tarred road were opened one after another.

Safe drinking water supply project for rural areas has been launched since 2000-2001. Now safe drinking water is available in over 30 townships in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions.

The government is building new basic education schools and rural dispensaries and is undertaking power supply projects and officials concerned made field trips to rural areas and provided text books, exercise books, medicines and uniforms.

The majority of the population of the country live in rural areas. The government and the wellwishers are to raise the momentum for progress of the regions so that urban and rural regions can develop rapidly.

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

A Sayadaw and lay persons fix Seinbudaw (a diamond bud) atop Hna-kyeik-shit-su Pagoda in Hlawgar Road in Hmawby Township on 20 April, 2008. —H (News Reported)



MOC Chairman's Cup basketball tournament on 25 April

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April – Jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Basketball Federation, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup Basketball Tournament will be held at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) on 25 April.

Above 40, open, U-20, U-16 men's and women's events will be included in the tournament. First prize will be K 1 million, second prize, K 600, 000 and third prize, K 300, 000 in all events. Admission fee for participating teams is K 10000. All participating teams will be presented K 100, 000 as consolation prize. Arrangements will be made for the accommodation of teams from states and divisions.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may dial Ph: 556952, 558208, 541421 and 095159594.

MNA

Minister meets local people, social organizations in Myingyan District

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April – Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met with local residents from 36 villages and members of social organizations in Taungtha Township, Myingyan District, on 19 April.

At the meeting at Tameiktha Village in Taungtha Township, the minister fulfilled the requirements of local residents.

During the visit to the village of Zagyan in Taungtha Township, he paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image at Min Monastery and donated robes to 30 members of the Sangha. Afterwards, the USDA Secretariat Member met with social organizations and local people from 27 villages and urged them to participate in regional development tasks.

After the meeting, Minister U Aung Thaung went to Hsinthay Village and met with local people and members of social organizations. Before the meeting, the minister paid obeisance to members of the Sangha at the monastery of the village and donated offertories to them. —MNA

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Malaria—a disease without borders

Three injured in separate mine blasts in Kyaukkyi

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April – Three villagers were injured in separate mine blasts in Kuaukkyi Township in eastern Bago Division on 17 and 18 April.

Chan Myay Aung, 20, son of U Myint Oo, of Hteinpin Village, Kyaukkyi Township, stepped on a mine while he was working in the irrigated field in the village on 17 April and lost his left leg in the mine blast.

Similarly, Zaw Min Htaik, 13, son of U Ohn Maung, of Hteinpin Village, lost his left foot on the same day as he stepped on a mine planted

in the irrigated field in the village while he was tending a herd in the field.

Nyi Nyi Aung, 24, son of Tawkyauungpauk Village, stepped on a mine in the irrigated field on 18 April and lost his left foot in the blast.

The victims were rushed to the People's Hospital in Kyaukkyi Township where they were receiving treatment. Local people and responsible personnel are in hot pursuit of the insurgents.

MNA

One died in mine blast in Shwekyin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April –A villager in Shwekyin Township on 21 April died from injuries at his right heel sustained in a mine blast.

Tun Min Latt, 26, of Kunhpe Village in Shwekyin Township stepped on the mine planted by insurgents on his way to the jungle near the village to collect fire woods on 19 April. He sustained a serious injury at his right heel in the blast.

MNA

Clinton declared winner in Pennsylvania primary



US Democratic presidential candidate Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) addresses the crowd at a rally in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 21 April, 2008.—XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 23 April—Senator Hillary Clinton of New York was declared by US media winner of the Democratic Presidential primary in

Pennsylvania Tuesday. CNN reported that with 12 per cent of precincts reporting results, Clinton led rival Senator Barack Obama of Illinois 54 per

cent to 46 per cent. Fox News, NBC and other media networks also declared Clinton winner based on exit polls. With 158 delegates at stake, a Pennsylvania newspaper said that the state is “poised to become decisive in the Democratic presidential nomination”. This is the first time since 1976 that Pennsylvania will play a major role in a presidential nomination. Latest pre-election polls of Pennsylvanians showed Clinton maintained a lead, but the margin has shrank to single digits since April. Some facts of the primary appear to be favourable to Clinton. *MNA/Xinhua*

Obama seeks to show he can “stand the heat”

PHILADELPHIA, 23 April—Hammered by Hillary Clinton’s claim he is not tough enough for the US presidency, Barack Obama worked to show that he could “stand the heat” as he faced a possible defeat in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. As Pennsylvanians cast ballots in the state’s closely watched Democratic primary, Obama took in a game of basketball, something he does often on voting days to work off stress. Then he parried questions on subjects from the White House race to the Middle East at a Pittsburgh diner before flying to Philadelphia to indulge in the city’s famous cheesesteak sandwich and court voters in a neighbourhood barbershop. Pennsylvania marks the first showdown in six weeks between Obama and Clinton who are battling for the Democratic presidential nomination and the right to face presumptive Republican John McCain in the November election. *MNA/Reuters*



A man removes belongings from his house that was destroyed during clashes in Baghdad’s Sadr City on 22 April, 2008. The US military said on Tuesday they had killed five militants overnight in the east Baghdad slum of Sadr City, where fighting has raged for weeks between Shi’ite militiamen and security forces.—INTERNET

Suicide bomber hits police checkpoint, wounds 30 in W Iraq

RAMADI (Iraq), 23 April—A suicide car bomb targeting a police checkpoint outside Ramadi City, capital of the western Anbar Province, wounded 30 people, including policemen, a provincial police source said Tuesday. The suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car while crashing it into a police checkpoint in the Soufiyah area, east of Ramadi at about 8:00 am (0500 GMT), the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. *MNA/Xinhua*

Five Sadr City fighters killed overnight

BAGHDAD, 23 April— The US military said on Tuesday they had killed five militants overnight in the east Baghdad slum of Sadr City, where fighting has raged for weeks between Shiite militiamen and security forces. Lieutenant-Colonel Steven Stover said US soldiers in an M1 Abrams tank and Bradley fighting vehicle had shot and killed three militants late on Monday after a US route clearance vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. *MNA/Reuters*

Two US soldiers killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 April— Two American soldiers were killed and two others injured in a roadside bomb attack in Salahudin Province, north of Baghdad, the US military said on Tuesday. According to a military statement, the attack occurred on Monday when the soldiers’ unit was conducting operations in the province. The blast also wounded two members of a local Awakening council group and a civilian interpreter. *MNA/Xinhua*



Military planes are seen during a rehearsal for the Victory Day military parade outside Moscow, on 22 April, 2008. For the first time since the Soviet collapse, the 9 May Victory Day parade on Red Square will feature ballistic missiles, tanks, jets and other weapons in what will be a symbolic show of Russia’s resurgent military might. INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

East Timor President wants emergency state lifted

DILI, 23 April—East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta on Tuesday asked Parliament to lift a state of emergency imposed following an attack on him in February. But he said the state of siege would be extended for another month in a district where army rebels involved in the assassination attempt are believed to be hiding. “Today I will send a letter to Parliament requesting it to extend the state of emergency for another month in Ermera District and lift the state of emergency in all other districts,” Ramos-Horta told reporters. The 58-year-old Nobel laureate nearly lost his life when he was shot twice, after gunmen loyal to rebel leader Alfredo Reinado launched early-morning attacks on the President and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao in Dili in February.—*MNA/Reuters*

Lebanon Parliament fails to elect president again

BEIRUT, 23 April—Lebanon’s Parliament failed to hold a session to elect a president on Tuesday — the 18th time the chamber has been unable to hold a vote derailed by the worst political crisis since the 1975-90 civil war. Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri did not set a new election date and instead called on rival leaders to hold roundtable talks. “In one, two or three days at most if I don’t find a (positive) response for the dialogue, I will set a new session,” Berri, also an opposition leader, told reporters after Parliament failed to hold the vote due to lack of two-thirds quorum. The political crisis has paralyzed much of government, left the presidency vacant since November and led to bouts of lethal street violence in a country still rebuilding from its 15-year civil war. *MNA/Reuters*

Pentagon chief scolds Air Force for war performance

WASHINGTON, 23 April — US Defence Secretary Robert Gates criticized the Air Force’s performance in Iraq and Afghanistan on Monday, saying the service needs to do more.

In a speech at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, he said asking for extra support from the Air Force for war efforts had been “like pulling teeth” and accused some Air Force leaders of being “stuck in old ways of doing business”.

The Pentagon chief said he wants

the Air Force to deploy more reconnaissance aircraft that provides real-time surveillance footage in war zones, but the Air Force did not respond well.

“I’ve been wrestling for months to get more intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets into the theater,” Gates said.

“Because people were stuck in old ways of doing business, it’s been like pulling teeth,” he said. —Xinhua



A tourist takes photos of tulips in Wujiaqu City, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 22 April, 2008. As temperature goes high, some 600,000 tulips in the scenic spot will be in full blossom soon. —XINHUA

Abbas says referendum before any agreement with Israel

TUNIS, 22 April — Visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas promised here Sunday a referendum before any peace agreement with Israel. Abbas made the promise in a Press conference during his visit to Tunisia from where he travels to Washington on Tuesday.

Any peace agreement to be reached between the Palestinian and Israeli

negotiating teams will be referred to the people in a referendum, Abbas told the reporters.

Abbas, meanwhile, welcomed current efforts exerted by former US President Jimmy Carter and other sides, like Yemen, to end the inter-Palestinian differences.

The Palestinian leader noted that he will hold talks with US President George W Bush and

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on the development of the peace negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel, hoping a deal with Israel can be reached by the end of the year. —Xinhua

Elementary school pupils in Guangan, Sichuan Province, cheer for books donated by the city administration of taxation. —XINHUA

Vietnam arrests Finnish murderer

HANOI, 23 April — Vietnamese police arrested and then handed over to Finnish police a 44-year-old Finnish man, who killed his wife last month and fled away, local newspaper *Young People* reported Tuesday.

The murderer, Paul Nicklos Bernhard Gagneur, was arrested in Vietnam’s southern Ho Chi Minh City on 21 April.

He killed his wife in their private house in Finland’s Helsinki on 14 March, took all their assets, and left home on 15 March, according to information provided to Vietnamese police by their Finnish counterparts.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor sits in front of artworks on show in Moscow, Russia, on 23 April, 2008, with Andy Warhol’s *Ladies and Gentlemen* and Richard Prince’s *Untitled*, left, at a pre-sale viewing of modern art works that will be auctioned at Sotheby’s in New York. —INTERNET

Zawahiri rewarns on Western nations involved in Iraq

CAIRO, 23 April — Al-Qaeda’s No 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahiri warned Tuesday in his latest audiotape that the terror group still plans to target Western countries involved in the Iraq War.

The tape, which appeared on an Islamic website, could not be immediately confirmed as authentic, but the voice sounded like past

audiotapes from al-Zawahiri.

When asked if the group still plans to attack Western countries that participated in the Iraq War, al-Zawahiri said, “My answer is Yes! We think that any country joined aggression on Muslims must be deterred.”

This was the second time that al-Zawahiri

answered questions submitted on Islamic militant websites by al-Qaeda followers, critics and journalists last winter.

Al-Qaeda announced in December that al-Zawahiri would answer questions from the public. Queries were submitted on the main Islamist website until the deadline of 16 January.

MNA/Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Philippines seeks justice for its raped victim in Japan

MANILA, 22 April — The Philippine Government is hiring a female Japanese lawyer to represent the 21-year-old Filipina rape victim in Okinawa of Japan, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Monday.

“We will get the

services of a lady lawyer.

Once a case is filed, we will seek her legal advice on how to proceed,” DFA Undersecretary Esteban Conejos told a Press briefing. In Japan, a public prosecutor handles the case at the first stage of the hearing.

Conejos did not men-

tion the name of the lawyer, saying he will disclose it at a proper time.

Meanwhile, he said he was assured by the Japanese Embassy in Manila that their authorities in Okinawa are closely looking into the case of the Filipina, who was sexually molested by an American soldier in February. “I met with the Japanese Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission to seek an expeditious resolution of the case and the official said authorities are still investigating it and that it is continuing at this time,” Conejos said.

The victim, who is currently in the protective custody of the Okinawa prefectural police, said she was raped in a hotel.

Xinhua



Chinese refiners to get Govt subsidies for losses

BEIJING, 22 April—China Petroleum and Chemical Corp (Sinopec) and PetroChina Co, the country's two leading oil refiners, will receive "appropriate" monthly subsidies for losses retroactive to 1 April, the companies said in separate statements.

Neither statement provided further details. Chinese oil refiners have been running losses as world crude oil prices surge but domestic refined product prices remain relatively low. Refiners in China can not pass on the additional raw material costs to consumers.

Also, the government will refund the value-added tax (VAT) levied on some of PetroChina and Sinopec's imported oil products in the second quarter, said the Ministry of Commerce.

Sinopec, the country's largest oil refiner, has said that its net profit probably fell more than 50-per-cent year-on-year in the first quarter because of increasing costs.

MNA/Xinhua

A Nissan worker at the company's Kyushu Plant in Southern Japan in November 2007. Japan's trade surplus shrank 30.2 percent in March with exports growing at the weakest pace in almost three years.—INTERNET



ECONOMIC NEWS

Cambodia confident to achieve 9% eco growth in 2008

PHNOM PENH, 23 April—Despite recent UN predictions that Cambodia's economic growth will decline to 7 per cent this year, government officials are still optimistic they will achieve a growth of about 9 per cent, local media reported Tuesday.

Hang Chuon Narun, secretary general of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, told the *Mekong Times* that the ministry hopes Cambodia will achieve 9-per-cent growth because the garment, agriculture and tourism sectors will spur the economy.

"Usually growth is predicted low, but in practice we have achieved high growth rates, such as last year's 9.6 per cent," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Europe bans Kenya's beef exports

NAIROBI, 23 April—Europe has banned Kenya's beef export quota over the East African nation's failure to control animal diseases, local media reported on Tuesday. Livestock Development Minister Mohammed Kuti said the ban has been prompted by the failure to check diseases like Rift Valley Fever and foot and mouth.

The *Daily Nation* said the task of reclaiming the quota proved even more difficult after the government sounded an alert over peste des petits (PPR) ruminants threat, a viral disease that has killed thousands of sheep and goats. —MNA/Xinhua

Britain to issue \$100b bonds for mortgage debts

LONDON, 22 April—The Bank of England has announced details of a plan to issue 50 billion pounds (about 100 billion US dollars) worth of government bonds into the markets in an effort to "increase confidence in financial markets", the BBC reported on Monday.

Banks could swap their "potentially risky" but "high quality" mortgage debts for government securities, the British Broadcasting Corporation said.

The governor of Britain's central bank, Mervyn King, said the scheme was aimed at improving liquidity in the banking system.

MNA/Xinhua



The newly launched Audi Q5 is displayed at the Auto China 2008 auto show in Beijing on 22 April, 2008. The Q5 had its world premiere in Beijing on Saturday. Auto sales in China are booming, with analysts and automakers forecasting growth at 15-20 percent this year.

INTERNET

In this photo released by Motorola Korea Inc, South Korean models unveil the company's third-generation(3G) phone models with the launch of Z8m in Seoul, South Korea, on 22 April, 2008.

INTERNET



French tourism head pleads for immigrant workers

PARIS, 22 April—France's hoteliers and restaurant owners warned the government on Monday the tourism industry faced disaster unless it agreed to give work permits to hundreds of illegal immigrants who operate in the sector.

Up to 500 immigrants working across a range of industries launched a strike last week to demand that the government relaxes tough laws preventing them from

getting residency in France despite the fact that they have regular jobs.

It is believed to be the first strike of its type in France and some unions have backed their cause, saying around 150 trades need immigrant workers to make up for a shortfall in domestic manpower.

The tourism industry

says it is particularly reliant on foreigners to do lowly paid jobs like dishwashing and cleaning.

"If these people are not regularised then we will have to sack them and that will lead to total chaos in Paris restaurants," said Andre Daguin, head of the French hotel industry association.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam raises automobile tariffs

HANOI, 23 April—Vietnam is to increase its import tax on new automobiles from previous 70 per cent to 83 per cent on 22 April to narrow trade deficit, and help curb inflation and traffic congestion, according to local newspaper *Labour* on Tuesday. Also under the Finance Ministry's decision on 21 April, tariffs on automobile components and parts imported for assembly in Vietnam are

to rise by 3-5 percentage points on 22 April. Vietnam spent 614 million US dollars importing automobiles, components and spare parts in the first quarter of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 324.6 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

Between January and March, the country imported 15,000 completely-built automobiles worth 293 million dollars, seeing respective surges of 605.2 per cent and 497 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

Two staff of US security firm missing in Afghanistan

HERAT (Afghanistan), 23 April—Two employees of a US security company have gone missing in Afghanistan’s western province of Herat, a company official said on Tuesday.

The Indian and Nepali workers were travelling in a rented taxi when they went missing in Adraskan District on Monday evening, the official said, adding the driver had also disappeared, but the car was

abandoned.

Adraskan lies on a main highway where suspected Taleban insurgents and criminals are usually active.

The two employees worked for the US security company EOD Technology Inc, which has been involved in helping a newly formed Afghan police force in Herat.

“They have gone missing. We do not know what has happened to

them,” Sayed Ibrar Hashimi, head of EOD Technology in Herat told reporters.

Abdul Rashid Popal, district chief of Adraskan, said the pair were kidnapped, but he could not say by who or give a motive.

“They have been abducted and we are trying to solve the issue through the involvement of tribal elders,” he told reporters.

MNA/Reuters



Israelis watch as lights and images are projected on a section of the walls of Jerusalem’s Old City as part of projection for the Jewish holiday of Passover near Jaffa Gate, on 22 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Ethnic Miao girls march with Sisters’ Meal during a parade to celebrate the traditional Sisters’ Day in Taijiang county of southwest China’s Guizhou Province on 19 April, 2008. The festival, a Miao ethnic version of Valentines Day, an occasion for young people to express their passion to each other, was opened on Saturday. —XINHUA

Missile hits headquarters of Iraq Shiite party

BAGHDAD, 22 April—A missile struck the central Baghdad headquarters of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council on Monday, said an official for the party, which is the main rival of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr for control of Shiite areas.

The official, whose party is the biggest Shiite group in the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, later said that no-one was reported hurt. Sadr’s Mehdi Army fighters have launched missile and mortar strikes across Baghdad since Maliki ordered a crack-down on them a month ago. Many of those missiles and mortar bombs have struck the Green Zone fortified government and diplomatic compound on the west bank of the Tigris River.—MNA/Reuters

Australia expands continental shelf under UN agreement

CANBERRA, 22 April —Australia has extended its continental shelf under an agreement with the United Nations. “I am pleased to announce that Australia, the largest island in the world, has just been dramatically increased in size,” Resources Minister Martin Ferguson told reporters in Canberra Monday.

Ferguson said Australia had explored its entitlements to extend the continental shelf.

The UN had found that Australia’s territory should be extended by 2.5 million square kilometres, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Security, governance biggest Afghan problems

KABUL, 22 April—Poor security and the lack of good governance are the biggest challenges facing Afghanistan, European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Monday.

More than six years after US-led and Afghan forces overthrew the Taleban, violence has surged in Afghanistan and Western politicians and think-tanks have this year warned the country risks becoming a failed state and sliding into anarchy.

A major donors’ conference on Afghanistan planned in France for June will focus on the issues of security and governance,

Solana said. He said he discussed the two issues with President Hamid Karzai, who has led Afghanistan since the Taleban’s 2001 ouster and relies on Western funds for 90 per cent of his budget.

“When we talk about

challenges, we have to talk about difficulties that prevent everything that is done ... one is security and that is important ... for the development of the country,” Solana told a joint news conference with Karzai.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt police shoot two Africans at Israel border

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 22 April—Egyptian police shot and wounded two migrants from Mali and Kenya who tried to slip over Egypt’s desert frontier into Israel on Sunday, security sources said.

Escalating police violence at the Egypt-Israel border has left 11 migrants dead since the start of the year, while scores of others, mostly from Africa, have been detained. Police killed an Eritrean migrant at the border on Thursday.

“The Egyptian police were obliged to fire on two Africans while they were attempting to sneak into Israel via a border point south of Rafah after they refused orders to stop and tried to flee toward Israel,” one Egyptian security source said.—MNA/Reuters

Sri Lanka kills 47 rebels, destroys boats

COLOMBO, 22 April—Sri Lankan Government planes bombed three Tamil Tiger boats off the northern coast on Monday, the military said, after fighting since the weekend left 47 rebels dead.

The fighting and the air raids were the latest in near daily land, sea and air battles that have left thousands dead in recent months.

Tamil Tiger rebels did not comment on the air attack on the boats or on battlefield casualties, but said air raids killed one civilian and injured eight others in the north.

“We saw two boats coming and we engaged them on the beach, destroying them. One more we pursued in the sea and it exploded when we hit it,” said air force spokesman Andrew Wijesuriya about the latest raid off the Mullaithivu coast.—MNA/Reuters

Four boys read in the rubble in front of their destroyed school in Iraq.

XINHUA



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

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

New State constitution guaranteeing equal rights of all national races

Kaytu Nilar

The draft State constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar reflects the prevailing situations in the political, economic, social and cultural sectors and traditions and is based on the historic events of the nation. In other words, it is written, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution.

The draft State constitution (2008) is formulated on the basis of the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted at the National Convention attended by the representatives of various national races and political parties, representatives-elect, and the representatives of the people from all walks of life. So, the convention is like the constituent assembly of the whole nation and the people, and those who are instigating the people to cast 'no' vote for the draft constitution and criticizing it are, indeed, those who are against the entire nation and the people.

The essence of the draft State constitution (2008) is to safeguard the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

In order to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, Section (8) of the draft State constitution (2008) states, "The State is constituted by Pyidaungsu (Union) system". Section (10) states, "No part of the territory of the Union, namely regions, states and self-administered areas, etc. shall ever secede from

the Union".

With the aim of ensuring non-disintegration of national solidarity, Section (56) states the formation of five self-administered zones, namely Naga self-administered zone, Danu self-administered zone, Pa-O self-administered zone, Palaung self-administered zone, and Kokang self-administered zone and one self-administered division: Wa self-administered division, in addition to existing seven states and seven regions. The purpose of the formation of the self-administered division and the self-administered zones is to enable the national races that have not got a region or state to enjoy democracy all the more. Section (56) helps strengthen the democratic rights of national races in form of the State structure, and deepen the democratic rights of national races in essence.

The draft constitution prescribes three hluttaws—the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, and the Amyotha Hluttaw. Each of the Regions and States will have to send 12 representatives to the Amyotha Hluttaw. In this regard, each of the self-administered division and self-administered zones in respective regions and states has to send a representative. The self-administered division and self-administered zones will also have the right to represent at the Amyotha Hluttaw. Region or State Hluttaw shall be formed with one elected from each national race having population which constitutes more than 0.1 per cent of the population of the State, of the remaining national races other than those who have

already got the representative Region or a self-administered area in that region. The representative will be appointed as the minister representing the state or division concerned in the State / Region government. So, he will have the right to make law and to administer. These rights are unprecedented for ethnic groups.

In like manner, the representatives elected from the townships in self-administered division and self-administered zones to the Region or State Hluttaw will automatically become members of the self-administered division or zone leading body concerned. They will also have the right to make laws and administer in the division or zone concerned as well as the rights to make laws in the Region or State Hluttaw concerned. Similarly, each national race that has not got self-administered division or self-administered zone and has a population of more than 10,000 will have the right to elect a representative from among its population to the self-administered division or self-administered zone leading body, and he will have the right to make law and administer. The number of members of the self-administered division or self-administered zone leading body to represent the national race people in the self-administered division/zone is designated 10 in minimum. However, the maximum number of representatives is not designated. The intention is to increase the number of the leading body concerned, if necessary. The chairman of self-administered division or self-administered zone leading body will have the right to practise administrative affairs, serving as a minister of respective Region or State government.

Similarly, in order to ensure perpetuation of independence and sovereignty, Section (42)(b) states, 'No foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union'.

The draft constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar safeguards Our Three Main National Causes and guarantees equal democratic rights to the entire people irrespective of wealth and status. Therefore, it is believed that the entire people will be able to build the future democratic nation by casting 'yes' vote in the referendum to be held on 10 May 2008.

Translation: MS

The draft State constitution (2008) is formulated on the basis of the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted at the National Convention attended by the representatives of various national races and political parties, representatives-elect, and the representatives of the people from all walks of life. So, the convention is like the constituent assembly of the whole nation and the people, and those who are instigating the people to cast 'no' vote for the draft constitution and criticizing it are, indeed, those who are against the entire nation and the people.

*** For flourishing of democracy
Ratify Constitution**

Billboards set up in Yangon...

(from page 16)
were set up in front of New General Hospital at the corner of Pyay and Bogyoke Aung San roads in Lanmadaw Township, on Mawtin street in Seikkan Township, at the corner of Maha Bandoola and Latha roads in Latha

Township, in front of Bogyoke Aung San Market in Pabedan Township, in front of the City Hall in Kyauktada Township and at the corner of Shwedagon Pagoda and U Wisaya roads in Dagon Township.—MNA

A ceremony to erect a billboard to hail the referendum in progress in Dagon Township.

MNA

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



Pyapon Tsp gets new tarred roads

YANGON, 23 April — CEC members of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the ceremonies to open No 5 and Malarmyaing tarred

roads in Pyapon, constructed by Pyapon Township Development Affairs Committee, on 21 April.

No 5 road is 4140 feet long and 12 feet wide and runs parallel to the First and the Second main roads of Pyapon.

Malarmyaing road is 2020 feet long and 12

feet wide linking the main roads of the town.

He later met with members of the township USDA, members of social organizations and townselders at Thiri Annawa hall in Pyapon and at Basic Education High School in Dedaye.

MNA

Billboards to hail Referendum set up in Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 23 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 in Taunggyi, Shan State (South).

The billboards saying "To approve the State Constitution is a national duty of the entire

people today; Let's cast "Yes" vote in the interest of the nation; 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; Democracy cannot be achieved by anarchism or violence, but by Constitution; Let's approve Constitution to shape our future by ourselves" were set up at the entrance to Taunggyi, at the corner of Bogyoke and Merchant roads in Taunggyi, at the tollgate and near lake of Taunggyi University.—MNA

USDA Secretary-General meets members in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April — Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association met with departmental officials, townselders and executives of township USDA at Meiktila USDA

office in Mandalay Division on 13 April.

In his discussions, the Secretary-General said the national goal of all citizens is the emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic

nation.

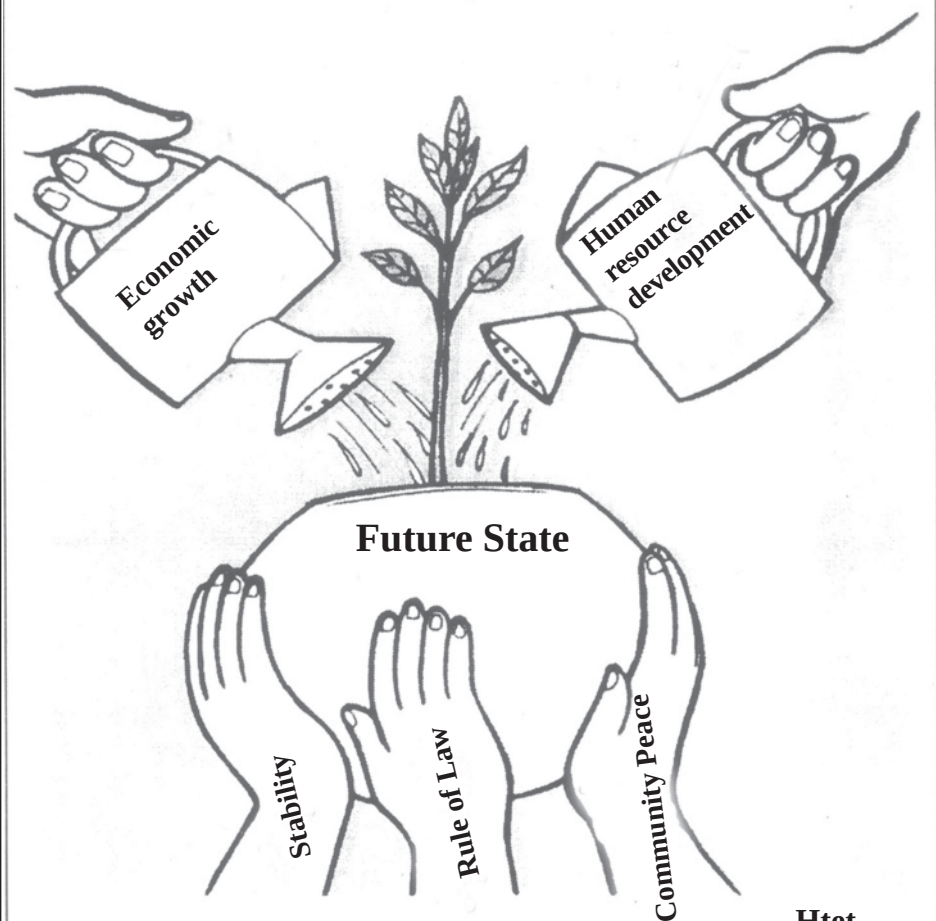
He urged the executives to safeguard peace and progress in the nation and to actively participate in the referendum to be held on 10 May.

MNA



U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) and family donate K 540,000 for a gold foil through members of Board of Trustees of Botahtaung Pagoda on 17 April.

Genuine multi-party democracy



Second Myanmar Horticultural Show slated 4 to 7 May

YANGON, 23 April — The Second Myanmar Horticultural Show, jointly organized by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Myanmar Fruit and Vegetables Producers and Exporters Association will be held in Myaypedathakyun, Bahan Township from 4 to 7 May.

Booths on fruit, vegetables, crops and taste powder, booths on flowers and orchids, booths on farm implements, booths on strains, fertilizer, pesticides and saplings, educative booths on germs and diseases, demonstration booths, educative books on horticulture, booths of department and association and booths of private companies will be on display at the show.

Horticulturists, experienced entrepreneurs, FAO's experts and experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Science and Technology will read papers on experience of foreign markets, prospects of exports, value-added products and sales in the market.

For further detailed information, contact the office of Myanmar Fruit and Vegetables Producers and Exporters Association at Dagon Centre, Block (A), 6th Floor Myaynigon in Sangyoung Township (Tel-514226, 09-5035667, 09-5134273). Any one can make observations at the show free of charge.

MNA

Commander inspects 500-acre corn plantation in Hlegu Township

YANGON, 23 April—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials inspected 500-acre corn plantation, being undertaken by Amyotha Kyipwa Toetetyay Company, in old Okpo village near Lagonpyin Dam in Hlegu Township, today.

At the temporary briefing hall, the Chairman and officials of the company reported on the related matters of work, sample seeds of

ground-nut, Pesinngon, Pedisein, corn of Yezins hybrid-3 and CP888 corn.

The commander urged them to extend oil crop plantation and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the commander and party viewed measures taken for plantation of Yezin hybrid-3 and corn.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects 10-acre corn plantation in Hlegu Township.—MNA



USDA CEC member inspects regional development tasks in Ingapu Township



USDA CEC member Brig-Gen Thein Aung meeting with local people and personnel in Ingapu Township.—MNA

YANGON, 23 April — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung met departmental personnel and townselders at Kwinkauk Basic Education High School in Ingapu on 19 April.

The CEC member attended to the needs and gave accounts of tasks implemented by the State.

Next, the CEC member paid homage to Nandala pagoda in Kwinkauk village and inspected construction of new school building for Watkon village

BEPS and made cash donation.

In the evening, the CEC member attended the opening of course on first aid organized by USDA at Kwinkauk Station Hospital and presented cash assistance for the course and the hospital and comforted the patients.

At Htanbinkon BEHS (branch), the CEC member met with local people and personnel and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the CEC member paid respects to Chairman Sayadaw of township Sangha Nayaka

Committee Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Javatadhamma of Zeya Thukha monastery in Ingapu and offered provisions to the sayadaw.

The CEC member also attended the ceremony to pay respects to the aged and met with local people, townselders and personnel at the hall of Htoogyi village and attended to the needs.

Next, the CEC member offered day meal to the members of the Sangha at Zaytawun monastery in the village and met with local people and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

With noble mind

- In serving public interest
- Do not deviate from own way
- Because of slanders
- Just carry it on

(Venerable Shwe Hinthay Sayadaw)

STI Education introduces new education programme

YANGON, 23 April — The officials of STI Education introduced a new education programme at the school of STI Education in Pabedan Township today.

Adviser of STI Education Head of Management Department Daw Hla Kyu briefed on the courses.

The education centre has been conducting English Language Course, Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages, Diploma in Business Management and Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management since 2006. It has also conducted Diploma in Logistics Management and Diploma in Supply Chain Management in early 2007.

Next, Director Dr Daw Myo Myo Naing explained Singapore Institute of Materials Management (SIMM) based in Singapore and the subjects taught at SIMM. Those who completed

the Diploma in Logistics Management Course and Diploma in Supply Chain Management Course, can attend SIMM's advanced diploma course and then can pursue a degree conferred by Curtin University of Technology in Australia.

Diploma in Logistic Management Course has become the one which can create opportunities for those who passed the matriculation examination as courses of SIMM have opportunities to get good jobs.

The responsible persons of SIMM, London Teacher Training College (UK) and Queensfield Business School (Singapore) will give talks at a seminar on SIT education at Park Royal Hotel in Dagon Township on 4 May. Those interested may participate in the seminar and there is no entrance fee to the seminar. More information is available at the education centre, ph-507046, 507048, 507151, 507152, 250056.

MNA



STI Education holds a ceremony to introduce new education programme.—MNA

Let's get democracy by voting at polling booth

Iraqi officials say US air strike kills ten in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 April—A US air strike Tuesday killed 10 people in Baghdad, Iraqi officials said, as the American military announced the deaths of five troops and a female suicide bomber slaughtered six Iraqis north of the capital.

The US military

initially denied there had been an air strike but later reported an “air weapons team engagement” in Sadr City, an east Baghdad Shiite bastion where militiamen are fighting street battles with Iraqi and US forces.

Iraqi security officials said 10 people were

killed and 17 hurt in the air strike, which they said took place around 7.00 pm (1600 GMT) in the embattled district’s Al-Nasr neighbourhood.

US military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Steven Stover confirmed the air strike.

Internet



Iraqi kids look at remains of a damaged house in the Shiite enclave of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 April, 2008. Parents are afraid to send their children to school. Markets are empty as residents fear being caught in a gunbattle or airstrike. Sadr City is the Baghdad stronghold of Iraq’s biggest Shiite militia, but it’s also home to nearly half the city’s population who are caught up in a violent struggle for power.—INTERNET

Israeli army arrests 20 Palestinians in West Bank

RAMALLAH, 23 April — Israeli forces arrested 20 Palestinians in the West Bank early Tuesday, Palestinian security sources and Israeli media said.

An Israeli radio said the Army arrested 20 Palestinians in northern and central West Bank,

who were wanted for conducting activities against Israel.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources said a 28-year-old policeman named Sami al-Houh was among the detainees, who was taken from his house in Nablus City.

MNA/Xinhua

Death-toll in Somalia battles rises to 85

MOGADISHU, 23 April — The death-toll from battles between Islamist-led insurgents and allied Ethiopian-Somali troops rose to 85 on Monday, leaving corpses on the streets and deepening the Horn of Africa nation’s humanitarian crisis.

After mortars and machine-gun fire rocked Mogadishu over the weekend in the worst fighting for months, Islamist fighters seized the southern coastal town of Guda, killing four Somali soldiers and wounding at least seven more, locals said.

“The town is under their control at the moment,” politician Omar Abdullahi Farole told *Reuters* from the area.—MNA/Reuters

Democrat Clinton seeks money after Pennsylvania win

PHILADELPHIA, 23 April — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton thanked Pennsylvania voters for giving her a must-win victory in Tuesday’s primary and immediately asked for money to help keep her White House bid alive.

US media projected Clinton the winner over rival Illinois Senator Barack Obama in the hard-

fought Pennsylvania race, extending their battle to determine who will face Republican John McCain in November’s presidential election.

Addressing cheering supporters at a victory rally in Philadelphia, Clinton said the win belongs to them and appealed for more help so that she could remain in the race.

“Your support has

meant the difference between winning and losing,” she said. “Now, we can only keep winning if we can keep competing with an opponent who outspends us so massively, so I hope you’ll go to HillaryClinton.com and show your support tonight, because the future of this campaign is in your hands.”

MNA/Reuters

British soldier killed in blast in Afghan south

KABUL, 23 April — A British soldier was killed in the southern Afghan province of Helmand when his vehicle was hit by a suspected mine strike, the British Ministry of Defence said late on Monday.

After the traditional winter lull, violence has surged in recent weeks in

Afghanistan, where the Taliban regularly use roadside bombs as part of their campaign to topple the government and drive out the foreign forces who back it.

In a separate incident, four Taliban fighters and three Afghan policemen were killed in a clash in

Marouf District of neighbouring Kandahar on Monday night, provincial police officer Mohammad Anwar told a *Reuters* reporter.

The fighting erupted after Taliban attacked a police checkpoint, the officer said.

The British soldier was killed on Monday while his vehicle was providing security to a resupply convoy traveling from the district of Gereshk to Camp Bastion, the main British base in Helmand, the British ministry said.

MNA/Reuters

US military deaths toll in Iraq rises to 4,044

WASHINGTON, 22 April—As of Tuesday, 22 April, 2008, at least 4,044 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 3,299 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count matches the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Tuesday 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.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 29,829 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s weekly tally.—Internet

Ugandan rebels kidnap 350 people

KAMPALA, 23 April — Congo, Sudan and Central African Republic must join forces to free more than 350 people kidnapped in recent weeks by Ugandan rebels, an international human rights group said on Tuesday.

Peace talks between Uganda’s Government and Joseph Kony, the fugitive leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army, collapsed earlier this month after Kony failed to appear at a planned meeting.

Kony is wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Its chief prosecutor said the

reported abductions in south Sudan, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and CAR underlined the urgent need to bring him to justice.

Amnesty International said the kidnappings were typical of the LRA’s brutal tactics during its 22-year insurgency.

MNA/Reuters

In this photo provided by the San Diego Zoo, three of the 13 Australian red-bellied short-necked turtles hatched this past week at the San Diego Zoo are shown on 22 April, 2008. The hatchlings are about the size of a quarter. This aquatic species is native to tropical regions of Australia and New Guinea. INTERNET





A man flies a kite on the shore of the Hanjiang river in Xiangfan, central China's Hubei Province, on 22 April, 2008. Members of the Xiangfan Environmental Protection Association flied kites to call for environmental protection on the Earth Day. —XINHUA

Images of the Day



A statue of Mickey Mouse seen in Tokyo, on 23 April, 2008. The statue, which is made of pure gold, weighs 1 kg (35oz) and measures 12 cm (4.7 inches) in height.

XINHUA



A general view of Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi, on 21 April, 2008. Sochi will host the Winter Olympic games in February 2014.—INTERNET



Artificial jellyfish with motors, called "AquaJelly," swimming in an aquarium were part of the show at the Hanover industrial fair in Germany, on 20 April. Over 5,000 industrial exhibitors from 60 countries present their products at the fair, which runs 21-25 April. This year's partner country is Japan.—INTERNET



An Apple customer scans iTunes on an iPhone at an Apple Store in Palo Alto, Calif, on 21 April, 2008. Apple Inc is expected to release quarterly earnings after the closing bell Wednesday.—INTERNET



A performer demonstrates his skills during the acrobatic pizza event, part of the World Pizza Championships, in Salsomaggiore Terme, northern Italy, on 23 April, 2008. Every year the northern spa town gathers the world's best pizza makers for a championship which includes an acrobatic event with the pizza dough.—INTERNET

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 24 April 2008

Twenty found dead off coast of Bahamas

ATLANTA, 23 April—Rescue crews recovered 20 bodies and three survivors off the coast of the Bahamas, the US Coast Guard said on Monday,

Malaysia to withdraw peacekeepers from Philippines

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 April —Malaysia will withdraw its peacekeepers from the southern Philippine region of Mindanao in September, the government said on Monday, dealing a blow to multinational efforts to secure peace in the troubled region.

Unarmed Malaysian soldiers have been in Mindanao since 2004 as part of an effort to end nearly 40 years of conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people and displaced two million. Libya and Brunei also have small contingents in the monitoring team.

Malaysia's mandate for

the so-called International Monitoring Team (IMT) will not be extended after it expires in September, Foreign Minister Rais Yatim said. "The thing is, we have to get cooperation from both sides," the official Bernama news agency quoted him as saying. "But if one party is not making the effort, we will have to end the mission."

A ceasefire between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has held for almost five years, but there are rumblings within MILF ranks that peace talks are not headed anywhere.

MNA/Reuters

China destroys 47 mln illegal publications

BEIJING, 22 April — Chinese authorities destroyed 47.18 million pornographic and illegal publications on Sunday as part of an ongoing campaign to strengthen intellectual property rights (IPR) protection.

The campaign, organized by the national anti-pornography and anti-piracy office, was carried

out in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, marked an unprecedented number of publications destroyed in a single day.

More than 17 provinces eliminated more than one million pieces each, with Guangdong topping the list, destroying 12 million, or a quarter of the total.

China has attached great importance to IPR protection, which has been considered as a national strategy to help build an innovative country, said Liu Binjie, director of the National Copyright Administration.

According to official statistics, China has in the past 20 years closed down 238 pirate disc production lines, solved more than 400,000 cases of IPR infringement and confiscated more than 1.3 billion illegal publications.— MNA/Xinhua

Take
Fire
Preventive
Measures

Some 2 mln Vietnamese have diabetes

HANOI, 23 April—About two million Vietnamese people currently suffer from diabetes, according to local newspaper Youth on Tuesday.

The infection rate, standing at 4.4 per cent in urban areas, is tending to increase in the coming time due to the latest disease detection.

To reduce the rates, Vietnam, with a population of some 87 million, is centering on raising public awareness about the danger of diabetes and ways of preventing it such as using appropriate diet, increasing physical activities and reducing weight consequently, and improving diabetes diagnosis and treatment systems nationwide. According to the World Health Organization, the number of people suffering from diabetes worldwide will surge to 333 million in 2025 from over 194 million in 2003, mainly due to a combination of population aging, unhealthy diets, obesity and a sedentary lifestyle. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam reports additional pig disease hit provinces

HANOI, 23 April—Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), known as "blue ear" disease, has recently stricken two more Vietnamese provinces, raising the total number of affected localities to 10, local newspaper Pioneer reported Tuesday.

Specimens from ill pigs in Yen Mo of northern province of Ninh Binh and Y Yen of Nam Dinh Province were tested positive to PRRS virus, the paper quoted the country's Department of Animal Health as reporting.

Now, PRRS is hitting the provinces of Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh, Thai Nguyen, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh in the northern region, and Ha Tinh, Quang Nam, Nghe An, Lam Dong and Thua Thien Hue in the central region, said the department. PRRS was first recognized in the United States in the mid-1980s and is now present in most pig producing countries. The symptoms include reproductive failure, pneumonia and increased susceptibility to secondary bacterial infection.

MNA/Xinhua



Russia's former world chess champion, Anatoli Karpov, right, pauses while considering his next move during a simultaneous chess match at the University of Sciences during the 'TV Cuban Sport Olympiads' in Havana, Monday, April 21, 2008.—INTERNET

Only 35% of Afghan schoolchildren are girls

KABUL, 22 April—Only 35 per cent of Afghan schoolchildren are girls and while the number of children going to school is going up, the proportion of girls in education has remained the same, an aid group said on Monday.

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

There are now more Afghan children in school than ever before.

“Great achievements have been made in the education sector in Afghanistan. However, more must be done to

ensure that girls are not excluded from education,” CARE International said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Energy producers in driving seat at Rome talks

ROME, 22 April — Consumer countries and international oil firms keen to gain greater access to the world's energy resources are likely to walk away empty-handed from talks with producer nations in Rome.

Record high oil, which struck 117 US dollars a barrel on Friday, has helped to drive up the

profits of oil majors, but it has also increased the spending power of national oil companies and made them ever more reluctant to grant access to their resources. “The relative positions of international energy companies and national energy companies are changing — and not in our favour,” Paolo

Scaroni, chief executive of Italian oil and gas company Eni said in a speech at the opening of the International Energy Forum (IEF).

OPEC member Venezuela, under President Hugo Chavez, has spearheaded a global trend towards resource-holders seeking to maximize their returns from their energy wealth.—MNA/Reuters

A bear cools itself in water at a zoo in Patna, India, Tuesday, April 22, 2008. The maximum temperature is expected to rise and heat wave conditions likely to develop in parts of northern India during next 2-3 days, according to news reports.—INTERNET



Typhoon Neoguri kills 3 in south China province

GUANGZHOU, 22 April — Three people were confirmed dead in mud flows and strong winds caused by Typhoon Neoguri in south China's Guangdong Province, said the provincial flood-control headquarters on Sunday.

The typhoon claimed two lives in Shenzhen City, when a mud flow inundated a section of road under construction. One person was hit and killed by an aluminum sheet blown off a stadium roof by strong gales in Zhuhai City, according to a headquarters official.

The headquarters did not identify the victims. Neoguri hit south China

on Saturday with heavy rains and strong winds.

The headquarters received reports of damage from the cities of Yangjiang, Jiangmen, Zhuhai and Shenzhen.

In Yangjiang City, the typhoon's landing point, 274,000 people were affected and 7,000 hectares of farmland were inundated.

MNA/Xinhua

US report confirms ozone pollution can kill some people

WASHINGTON, 23 April — Even breathing in a little ozone at levels found in many areas is likely to kill some people prematurely, the National Research Council reported on Tuesday.

The report recommends that the US Environmental Protection Agency consider ozone-related mortality in any future ozone standards, and said local health authorities should keep this in mind when advising people to stay indoors on polluted days.

“What impressed me was the consistency of the findings that ozone clearly ... does have an effect,” Dr Evelyn Talbott of the

University of Pittsburgh, who worked on the study, said in a telephone interview.

“It's small, but when you talk about a small effect over 300 million people, it's a lot.” The

report looks at ground-level ozone, a component of smog, as opposed to the ozone found in the high atmosphere, which protects the Earth from ultraviolet rays.

MNA/Reuters



This is a handout image released by the auction house Christie's in London Tuesday, April 22, 2008 of the oil painting 'A Boy, in Profile, Singing, in a Feigned Oval' by Pieter de Grebber dates from the late 1620s. The 17th-century Dutch painting whose Jewish owner was killed during World War II is to be auctioned this week after Poland helped broker an agreement between his descendants and the current owner, an official said Tuesday. —INTERNET

Bomb attacks wound three Iraqi Cabinet employees

BAGHDAD, 23 April—A security officer and two other employees working in the Iraqi Cabinet offices wounded by separate bomb attacks in Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The security officer Lieutenant-Colonel Mansoor al-Lami was critically injured when a bomb planted in his car detonated at about 8:00 am (0500 GMT) in Baghdad's southern district of Doura, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate attack, a bomb went off inside the

car of Zuheir Tariq Abdul-Razzaq, who is also an employee of the Cabinet offices, in Mansour District in western Baghdad, said the source, adding that the blast wounded Razzaq and damaged his car.

In a third attack, a female employee was wounded when a bomb blew up on Monday morning inside her car near an intersection in the Alawi area of central Baghdad, the source said, without identifying the victim's name.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

French coach Neveu pens 2-year deal with Congo

KINSHASA, 23 April — Frenchman Patrice Neveu has signed a two-year contract to coach Democratic Republic of Congo in their bid to qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Neveu, whose past experience in Africa includes stints at the helm of Guinea and Niger, secured a monthly salary of 20,000 euros (31,680 US dollars) as part of the deal, Congo officials said.

"For me it's a great honour to be able to lead Congo. The objectives are great, but the potential is evident," Neveu told Reuters on Tuesday after signing the contract late on Monday.

Cash-strapped Congo have slipped to 85th in FIFA's world rankings.

FIFA have also warned that the team may be forced to play home World Cup qualifiers outside Kinshasa if rapid improvements are not made to its dilapidated Martyrs' Stadium.

"We had lots of offers. (Neveu) possessed all the qualifications we were looking for. I think he'll bring the firmness and discipline needed to develop our talent," Constant Omari, head of Congo's football association, told Reuters.

Though Neveu's contract is for two years, it includes an option to continue if they reach the 2010 World Cup finals.

MNA/Reuters

Outgoing PSG chairman slams players

PARIS, 23 April — Outgoing Paris St-Germain chairman Alain Cayzac blamed his players on Tuesday for a crisis which threatens the Ligue 1 club with relegation for the first time.

"If we have reached that point, it's perhaps because of the chairman, it's perhaps because of the coach, it's a lot because of the players," he told a news conference a day after announcing his resignation.

"I'm angry with the players because they played the first part of the season gripped by fear.

"It's hard to play in Paris because of the pressure but when you play in Paris you are not allowed to be

scared," he added.

"I told them so on Monday. I also told them that nobody is asking them to love each other but that I ask them to present a united front because today the destiny of the club is at their feet."

Cayzac said he had made several proposals to save the club, including appointing Jose Mourinho or Gerard Houllier as general manager.

But the main shareholder, property investment company Colony Capital, had decided to restructure the management after a 3-0 defeat at Caen on Saturday.

"The Caen thrashing prevented us from finding



Liverpool's Argentinian midfielder Javier Mascherano (L) closes in on Chelsea's French midfielder Florent Malouda during their UEFA Champions League semi-final football match at Anfield in Liverpool. The game finished 1-1.—INTERNET

Bayern fail to persuade Lahm to sign new deal

BERLIN, 23 April — Bayern Munich have withdrawn the offer of a new contract to Philipp Lahm after failing to reach agreement with the 24-year-old Germany defender, who said separately on Tuesday he was eager to move abroad.

Lahm's current deal runs out at the end of next

season and Bayern announced in a statement on Tuesday that talks on a contract extension had not been successful.

Bayern will now have to decide whether to sell him at the end of the season or risk losing him to a free transfer in 2009.

Lahm, who scored the first goal of the 2006 World Cup and is a regular for Germany, has been linked with Barcelona in local media reports.

"My plan is to leave Bayern before I'm past my peak," Lahm said in an interview with Stern magazine.

MNA/Reuters

Ding Junhui (front) from Chinese mainland and Marco Fu from Hong Kong react during the first round of the Snooker World Championships in Sheffield of England on 22 April, 2008. Ding eliminated Fu in the deciding frame of the best-of-nineteen game.—XINHUA



Grant eyes Moscow final as Benitez bemoans bad luck

LIVERPOOL (England), 23 April — John Arne Riise's late own goal at Anfield on Tuesday has helped Chelsea take a major step towards the Champions League final, coach Avram Grant said.

The Liverpool substitute's intervention, coming in the fifth minute of injury time, earned Chelsea a 1-1 draw and handed the London side a slight advantage ahead of next Wednesday's second leg at Stamford Bridge.

Until then Liverpool had looked set to finish the Anfield encounter with a slender advantage through Dirk Kuyt's 43rd-minute opener.

"We want to be in the final. We took a big step today," Grant told reporters.

"Drawing 1-1 away from home is always a good advantage. It will be tough in the second game though. It was a good goal for us. It gave us an advantage for the second game because it is at our home.

"I hope it's a goal that at the end of the day will be an important goal."

Both goals came as a result of errors with Frank Lampard caught in possession in the build-up to Kuyt's goal and Riise heading a dipping Salomon Kalou cross into his own net. —MNA/Reuters



Jiang Xiaoyu (L), executive vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG), Chinese ambassador Zhang Junsai pose with the lantern which holds the Olympic flame at the airport in Canberra, the capital of Australia, on 23 April, 2008. Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, Sports Minister Kate Ellis, President of the Australian Olympic Committee John Coates and Chinese ambassador Zhang Junsai were at the airport to meet the sacred flame.—XINHUA

Solid Murray reaches Monte Carlo second round

MONTE CARLO, 22 April — Briton Andy Murray reached the Monte Carlo Masters second round with a comfortable 7-6, 6-4 victory over Spaniard Feliciano Lopez on Monday.

The 14th seed next meets Italy's Filippo Volandri, who defeated Frenchman Nicolas Mahut 6-2, 6-3, and faces a possible third-round encounter with world number three Novak Djokovic.

Murray, who won the Doha and Marseille tournaments earlier this year, played solid tennis throughout to outclass Lopez, whom he had already beaten in Washington two years ago on a hard surface.

"I did not make too many mistakes. I could have returned a bit better, could have moved forward a bit better," Murray told reporters.

"On clay, you've got to play more patiently, find the balance between when to go for your shots and when to move back.

"So I tried to keep the ball high and deep. I played solid that's all I had to do." —MNA/Reuters



Competitors of the Glacier Patrol race on their way to La Barma, during the 13th edition of the Glacier Patrol race, in Verbier, south-western Switzerland, Saturday, April 19, 2008.

INTERNET

Traditional dress tied to girls’ mental well-being

NEW YORK, 23 April — Teenage girls who dress in their culture’s traditional clothing may fare better mentally and emotionally than their peers who try to assimilate, a study suggests.

The study, which followed Bangladeshi and White students in 28 London schools, found that Bangladeshi girls who dressed in traditional garb scored better on a measure of mental well-being than those who preferred a more “integrated” clothing style.

The findings, published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and*

Community Health, suggest that staying connected to one’s cultural identity—at least as reflected through dress — may be good for some young people’s mental health.

It’s possible that sticking with tradition helps shield adolescents from the stress of trying to acculturate, explained lead researcher Professor Kamaldeep Bhui,

of the Centre for Psychiatry at Bart’s and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

The situation is not black-and-white, however. Bhui’s team found that for Bangladeshi boys, dressing in a more assimilated manner was related to better mental health. — *MNA/Reuters*

Chocolate bar shown effective to lower cholesterol

WASHINGTON, 23 April —The results of a University of Illinois study have demonstrated an effective way to lower cholesterol levels — by eating chocolate bars.

“Eating two dark chocolate bars a day not only lowered cholesterol, it had the unexpected effect of also lowering systolic blood pressure,” said John Erdman, a UI professor of food science and human nutrition, in a prepared statement released Monday by the university.

Erdman attributes the drop in cholesterol numbers (total cholesterol by 2 per cent and LDL or “bad” cholesterol by 5.3 per cent) to the plant sterols that have been added to the bar and the drop in blood pressure to the flavanols found in dark chocolate. — *MNA/Xinhua*

“Untimely Rainfall Warning” Issued at (12:00) hours MST on 23rd April 2008

According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, due to the influence of the low pressure area isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions within next (48) hours commencing noon today.

Britain has first two patients treated with bionic eyes

LONDON, 23 April — A team at London’s Moorfields Eye Hospital have carried out the treatment on the country’s first two patients with bionic eyes as part of a clinical study into the therapy, BBC reported Monday.

The bionic eye, known as Argus II, has been developed by Second Sight, a firm in the United States, and works via a camera which transmits a wireless signal to an ultra-thin electronic receiver and electrode panel that are implanted in the eye and attached to the retina, according to the report.

The electrodes stimulate the remaining retinal nerves allowing a signal to be passed along the optic nerve to the brain.

“The devices were implanted successfully in both patients and they are recovering well from the operations,” Eye surgeon Lyndon da Cruz, who carried out the operations last week on two patients in their fifties, was quoted as saying.

Experts believe the bionic eye may hold the key to returning sight to people left blind by a hereditary disease.” — *MNA/Xinhua*

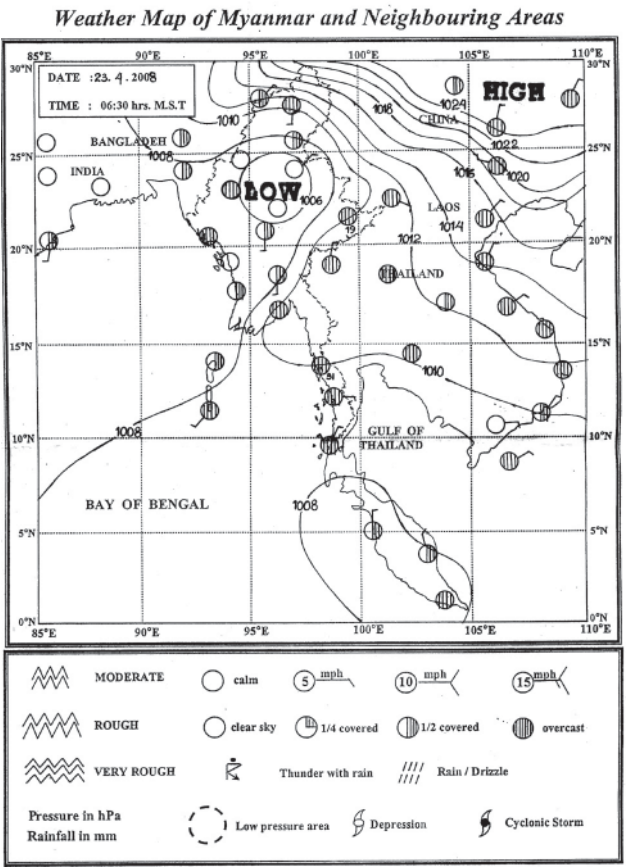
Dogs “rescue” girl abandoned by Indian mother

PATNA (India), 23 April — Hundreds of villagers have flocked to a remote Indian village to see a baby girl who was saved by stray dogs after she was abandoned in a mound of mud by her mother, officials said on Tuesday.

Villagers in the eastern state of Bihar saved the newborn on the weekend after they saw three dogs barking near a baby covered with mud.

“The dogs removed the soil around and began to bark and the baby started crying which drew attention of the local villagers,” Ram Narayan Sahani, a senior government official, said on Tuesday from Bihar’s Samastipur District.

— *MNA/Reuters*



WEATHER

Wednesday, 23 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Shan and Kayin States, isolated in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy falls in Kayin State. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above April average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (44°C), Minbu (43°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Shwebo, Monywa, Mandalay, Myingyan, Nyaung U and Magway (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawkaik (3.50) inches, Dawei (1.22) inches, Taunggyi (0.98) inch, Kengtung and Monghsat (0.74) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 22-4-2008 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 23-4-2008 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-4-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 22-4-2008 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-4-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (1.69) inches at Mingaladon, (1.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.83) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 21-4-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady 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 Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Thursday, 24 April

View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်၊ ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရား၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercises

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ(စောင်း)

7:55 am

5. ပေါက်တံတား(ရေပြာ) နှင့် ပေါက်တံတား(အုန်းတော)

8:10 am

6. “ကြို့ဆိုလျှက်ပါ” မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊နေထူးနိုင်၊ နေယံမိုးယံစွန်နန်းဆုရတီမိုး၊ စင်စင်စော်မြင့် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်))

8:30 am

7. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial songs

4:10 pm

2. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး (ဘင်ဂျီ)

4:25 pm

3. “ညောင်မယ်ချို” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ဝမ်းပုံ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

4:35 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ- ဒုတိယနှစ်(ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

5. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

6. Dance of National Races

5:25 pm

7. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:40 pm

10. ကြည်နူးရွှင်ပျော်တိရစ္ဆာန်ဥယျာဉ် (နေပြည်တော်)

6:50 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၂၃)

7:35 pm

12. “စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှန်”

8:00 pm

13. Local news

14. International news

15. Weather report

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

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:

The Heart of People

Joyful are you boys
Yes are we
Joyful are you girls
Yes are we
Serve will it people's interest
Wins it public interest
The heart of people
Will it be approved

(Myat Thu Maung)

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

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

Billboards set up in Yangon West District to hail Referendum

YANGON, 23 April— Hailing the Referendum to be held on 10 May, 2008 for the approval of the draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the ceremonies to set up the billboards in the townships of Yangon West District were held at the designated places on a grand scale this morning.

The billboards saying “Let's approve Constitution to shape our future by ourselves; To approve the State Constitution is a national duty of the entire people today; Let's cast “Yes” vote in the national interest; Democracy cannot be achieved by anarchism or violence, but by Constitution; 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”

(See page 8)

Responsible persons participate in a ceremony to erect a billboard to hail the referendum in Kyauktada Township.

MNA



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