

Ariyasaccana dassanam, to discern the noble-truths; this is the way to auspiciousness

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

Prime Minister congratulates Italian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Silvio Berlusconi, on his election as Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy. — MNA

Billboards set up in Yangon East District to hail Referendum

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April — Hailing the Referendum to be held for the approval of the draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the ceremonies to set up the billboards were held at the designated places in seven townships of Yangon East District this morning.

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’s approve Constitution to shape our future by ourselves; 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 colonialist, vote “Yes” for ratification of the Constitution” were set up at North Okkalapa Roundabout in North Okkalapa Township, at the top of Bailey Bridge

at the corner of Parami and Thanthuma roads in South Okkalapa Township, in front of Yuzana Plaza in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, near Pazundaung park at the corner of Lower Pazundaung and Botahtaung Pagoda roads in Pazundaung Township, at the corner of Theinbyu and Anawrahta roads in Botahtaung Township, in front of the office of township Development Affairs Committee on Min Nandar street in Dawbon Township and at the corner of Ayeyawun and Min Nandar streets in Thakayta Township.

MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

To build the nation with knowledge

INSIDE

The constitution is intended to ensure equitable development of all regions through the participation with high education of local national races in the tasks for all-round development of the region concerned.

KYAW MIN AYE

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Ceremony to erect a billboard to hail the Referendum in South Okkalapa Township in progress.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 April, 2008

People to participate in processes for approval of the constitution

Myanmar is blessed with expressive geographical features and possesses good foundations. The government is now building a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, as aspired by the people.

Every citizen is desirous of leading a stable and peaceful life in the framework of law and improving the economic life and social life and ensuring development of their motherland and region, keeping abreast of global changes.

The government puts emphasis on security of the people's socioeconomic life. It is working hard to enable the nation and the people to stand tall in the global community and keep pace with other global countries in the political, economic and social sectors. At the same time, it is pursuing national goals for perpetual existence of the Union and for ensuring that the nation will not become a minion of a foreign country.

The State constitution (2008), which can guarantee that the national goals are safeguarded and promoted from one generation to the next, will be approved by the people soon. The draft constitution states all necessary principles for the delegation of the sovereign powers of the Union of Myanmar, perpetuation of the Union, and ensuring that the people enjoy the rights and fundamental rights equally.

To approve the State constitution is the bounden duty of the entire national people and the national duty to be carried out by the entire people. So, the citizens who are strongly imbued with patriotic spirit, who value independence and sovereignty, who oppose interference of the colonialists and who hate to become lackeys of the colonialists will have to participate in the processes for successful holding of the referendum for approval of the state constitution.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

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

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလ အတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
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(၁၁-၅-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့
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USDA Secretariat member meets members of social organizations in NyaungU

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met with executives of Mandalay Division USDA, secretaries of NyaungU District and Kyaukpadaung Township USDAs, executives, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, members of War Veteran Organizations, nurses, teachers and members of Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people at Wayzayandar Dhamma Beikman in NyaungU on 21 April.

Secretariat member Minister U Aung Thaung made a speech on the occasion. In his speech, he said that members of township USDAs and

social organizations are to take part in the drive for five rural development tasks in cooperation with the local people. The draft constitution fully guarantees for brighter future of the country and its people, and fundamental rights for every citizen, he pointed out.—MNA



Yangon Mayor inspects upgrading of roads in Thingangyun Tsp

YANGON, 23 April — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-charge) Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected laying of concrete on Ingyin and Gamone roads, which are 1400 feet long and 12 feet wide each, in (Ka) ward, Thingangyun Township, today.

The mayor next looked into proper flow of water of drainage at Hninzigon road and its connection roads in the ward.

He also inspected three roads that are going to be upgraded into gravel roads —1150 foot long and 12 foot wide Mingalar road in (Kha) ward, 1010 foot long and 15 foot wide Pyidaungsu Road and 697 foot long and 12 foot wide Pantra Road in (Nga/Kha) ward.

The mayor viewed laying of concrete at Zarweiyar, 1440 feet long and 14 feet wide, in (Nga/Ka) ward and placing of marble on Pyitawaye road, 350 feet long and 14 feet wide, in Laydaungkan Ward in the township.

He then met with townselders and social organization members, and called for casting of approval vote to the draft constitution. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of U Yan Naing Oo as Director-General of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai present cash to aged men at a ceremony to pay respects to the aged on 18 April. — MNA

Agreement signed on Constanta-Trieste oil pipeline

BUCHAREST, 24 April—Romania, Croatia and Serbia signed here on Tuesday an agreement on the setting up of a company to develop the Pan European Oil Pipeline (PEOP) linking the Romanian Black Sea port of Constanta to Trieste, Italy.

“The project company will be registered in 45 days in London, where it will have its social headquarters,” State Secretary at the Romanian Economy Ministry Viorel Palasca said.

The company will have 2,100 shares carrying a par value of 100 pounds sterling. Romania will hold one third of the company's share capital, via the two companies

appointed to represent Bucharest in the PEOP project, namely Conpet and Oil Terminal, which are to participate 35,000 pounds each.

Serbia is represented by Transnafta company and Croatia by Janaf company, which are also to hold each a third of the shares.

“We await the involvement in this company of Slovenia and Italy, which are yet to appoint the companies to represent them in this project. Italy, most likely, will give us an answer after the new government is made up, so that we have positive signals from them,” Palasca said.

MNA/Xinhua

India rejects US advice on Iranian issue

NEW DELHI, 24 April—India has rejected the United States’ advice on Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s brief visit to India slated on 29 April, saying India could do without any guidance in the matter, according to the local newspaper *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Reacting strongly to State Department Deputy Spokesman Tom Casey’s observations in Washington on Tuesday, a spokesman of the India’s Ministry of External Affairs said

“both nations are perfectly capable of managing all aspects of their relationship with the appropriate degree of care and attention. The situation in the region has always drawn the attention of both the nations and it can be seen perfectly well that these have been managed through continuous dialogue and exchange of delegations at various levels”.

“Neither country needs any guidance on the future conduct of bilateral

relations as both countries believed that engagement and dialogue alone lead to peace,” the spokesman said.

Refuting the official American presumption to advise New Delhi, the spokesman said “it is important that the genius of each nation living in a particular region is respected and allowed to flower to meet the expectations of enriching relations with neighbours”.

MNA/Xinhua



Hamassupporters protest against Israel’s ‘siege’ of the Gaza Strip on 19 April. Palestinian foreign minister Riyad al-Malki has said that the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip is close to declaring a ceasefire with Israel under a deal proposed by Egyptian mediators. —XINHUA

Somali troops storm Dubai ship arrest 7 pirates

BOSASSO (SOMALIA), 24 April—Somali troops stormed a Dubai-flagged ship on Tuesday that had been hijacked off the Horn of Africa nation, releasing its crew and arresting seven pirates, authorities said.

They pledged to do the same to rescue a Spanish ship held by pirates since the weekend.

“Our troops stormed on to the Al-Khaleej and engaged the pirates. There was brief fighting before they defeated them,” Abdirizak Hared, the mayor of Bosasso port, told *Reuters*.

The Al-Khaleej had been carrying food and new cars for sale in Somalia when it was raided by pirates seven kilometres (four miles) off Bosasso, in the Gulf of Aden on the northeast

coast, on Monday.

It was the second rescue mission against pirates operating from the lawless country this

month after French commandos swooped to arrest six pirates in the same area.

MNA/Reuters

Undated handout photo of the Spanish registered tuna fishing vessel, the Playa de Bakio that was seized by pirates off the Somali coast on 20 April. Pirates who seized a Spanish fishing trawler and 26 crew off the Somali coast have not yet made any formal demands for their release, Spain’s foreign minister said on 23 April 2008.—INTERNET



Palestinian mounted members of the security forces of the Islamic group Hamas stand guard on a street in Gaza City, on 23 April, 2008.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

McCain content to let Democrats keep fighting

TOLEDO (Ohio), 24 April—Republican John McCain’s presidential campaign is content to let Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton fight on. The prospect for an even longer Democratic battle resulted from Clinton’s defeat of Obama in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, meaning the contest is likely to last at least another two weeks until 6 May, when North Carolina and Indiana vote.

As top McCain adviser Mark Salter said, Democrats should “take their time — don’t rush”.

Republican strategists believe McCain has benefited from having won his party’s nomination in March, giving him time to raise much-needed cash and lay the

groundwork for his general election campaign, even though the Democratic battle has dominated US headlines.

The Clinton-Obama battle has meant the Democrats have not yet trained all their fire on McCain, a 71-year-old Arizona Senator who is seeking to keep the White House in Republican

control for a third straight term, a task made even more difficult with the US economy ailing.

“During this period the Democrat interest groups have not been able to focus on McCain,” said Republican strategist Scott Reed. “They’re still focused on struggling with their internal fight.”

MNA/Reuters

Suicide blast in Afghan bazaar kills three

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 24 April —A suicide bomber blew himself up in a bazaar in an Afghan town close to the Pakistan border on Wednesday, killing three civilians and wounding at least 14 more, Afghan officials said.

The bomber blew himself up after being identified and chased by Afghan security forces in Spin Boldak in the southern province of Kandahar, senior border police officer Saifullah said. Three civilians were killed and at least 14 wounded in the blast, a doctor at a hospital in the town and the provincial governor’s office said.—MNA/Reuters

French consul dies in road accident in Egypt

CAIRO, 24 April—The French consul in Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh died in a road accident in the city on Tuesday, the Egyptian *MENA* news agency reported.

The French Embassy in Cairo regretted the accident and offered condolences to Pierre Banoub’s family, the report quoted a statement from the embassy as saying, without giving more details about the accident.

Since 2002, Banoub, 46-year-old, had held his post as French consul in Sharm el-Sheikh, some 500 kilometres southeast of Cairo.—MNA/Xinhua

UN official ends Iran nuclear talks, no details

TEHERAN, 23 April — The UN atomic watchdog’s top investigator ended two days of talks with Iranian officials on Tuesday that sought explanations of Western intelligence that suggested Iran secretly studied how to design nuclear bombs. But Iran’s ISNA news agency did not give details about any results from the

meetings in Teheran between Olli Heinonen of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Iranians. Iranian officials had said Heinonen’s visit was intended to advance co-operation between Iran and the IAEA, the UN body investigating Iran’s disputed nuclear ambitions.

Iran says its nuclear programme is a peaceful drive to produce electricity so that the world’s fourth-largest crude exporter can sell more of its oil and gas abroad. But it has failed to convince the West, which believes Teheran is seeking technology so it can build atomic weapons. *MNA/Reuters*

Pakistan frees cleric who fought US in Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), 23 April — Pakistan’s new government on Monday released the founder of an outlawed pro-Taliban militant group which has been involved in insurgency in

both Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan, an official said. Sufi Mohammad, a cleric and leader of the Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat Mohammadi (Movement for Implementation of

Mohammad’s Sharia Law), sent thousands of followers to fight US-led forces in Afghanistan, who ousted the Taliban after the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States. —*MNA/Reuters*

Indonesia raises alert for two volcanoes

JAKARTA, 23 April — Indonesia has raised the alert level for two volcanoes in the Sunda Strait and Moluccas island chain to the second highest following increased volcanic activities, a volcanology official said on Tuesday. The alert status for Anak Krakatau, a volcano formed in the Sunda Strait after the legendary explosion of Mount Krakatau in 1883, and Ibu volcano on Halmahera Island in the Moluccas was raised on Monday after rumbling to life about a week ago. —*MNA/Reuters*



Azerbaijan stops Russian cargo for Iran atomic plant

MOSCOW, 23 April — Azeri Customs and border officials have halted a cargo of Russian heat insulators destined for

Iran’s Bushehr nuclear plant, Russian officials said on Monday. The cargo was detained at Astara, on the



Indian soldiers inspect the damage to a house after a firefight in Baramullah, some 58kms north-west of Srinagar.—INTERNET

Young people gather and perform action arts in front of the Wangfujing bookstore in Beijing, China, on 23 April, 3008. Wednesday is the 13th World Book Day. —XINHUA

Mexican Army arrests six policemen for kidnapping

MEXICO CITY, 23 April — A state police commander and five other policemen were captured by the Mexican Army for kidnapping a woman and demanding a ransom of 5,000 US dollars. Those arrested are Jose Angel Meza, commander of the Preventive Police of Mexican’s northwest state of Baja California, and five of his subordinates, General German Azuara said Tuesday. They were arrested while off duty, Azuara said, adding that they were carrying six handguns and seven rifles, and two vans, drugs and a patrol car were also seized. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Israeli Army kills three militants in northern Gaza

GAZA, 23 April — Three Palestinian Fatah movement’s militants were killed overnight by Israeli soldiers in an exchange of fire near an Israeli Army post in northern Gaza Strip, Palestinian and Israeli sources said Tuesday. Abu Khaled, a spokesman for al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Fatah movement’s armed wing told reporters on Tuesday that three of the brigades’ militants were killed when they stormed an Israeli occupation Army post north of Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia. He said that the militants began the attack on the post, near the former settlement of Dogit in northern Gaza Strip, by mortar shells and heavy gunfire, adding that the battle lasted until predawn Tuesday. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese engineer killed by robbers in central Kenya

NAIROBI, 23 April — The Chinese Embassy in Nairobi confirmed Tuesday that one Chinese engineer was killed in an armed robbery in central Kenya Monday evening. The victim, whose name was not disclosed, and his two Chinese colleagues were ambushed Monday evening when they were on the way back to their camp in Isiolo District, about 300 kilometres northwest of Nairobi, the Chinese Embassy said in a statement. Their car was surrounded by eight armed bandits and one of the three Chinese engineers with a construction company was shot dead. The other two were released later unharmed after all their belongings were robbed, the statement said. *MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqi boys appear behind shrapnel-riddled glass as they look at the damage caused by a mortar attack in Baghdad’s Sadr City.—INTERNET

China, S Africa celebrate 10th anniversary of dip ties

BEIJING, 23 April—A reception was held here Monday evening to celebrate the 10th anniversary of forging diplomatic ties between China and South Africa.

Addressing the ceremony, South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said the past 10 years had witnessed “an incredible

growth in the extent and depth of bilateral relations”.

Hailing the mutual cooperation in economic, financial, social and cultural fields, Dlamini-Zuma said the two sides are “not just celebrating 10 years of diplomatic ties”, but celebrating “a truly strategic partnership”.

Zhang Yesui, Vice Foreign Minister of China, also addressed the reception, reviewing the decade-long “most dynamic bilateral relations” in various sectors.

Official statistics show that in 2007, bilateral trade value reached 14 billion US dollars, up 40 per cent over the previous year.

Xinhua



Citizens view cloth bags made by them in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 22 April, 2008. An activity of making environment-friendly cloth bags was carried out in a local community in the city on the Earth Day.

XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency



A ticketing staff displays sample tickets for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing on 23 April, 2008. The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) unveiled the sample tickets at a news conference on Wednesday. The tickets, with the “lucky cloud” and the Bird's Nest designs will go on sale for the third round starting from 5 May. [BOCOG]—XINHUA

Chinese fishermen rescued after sheltering in sea beacon

HAIKOU, 23 April—Eighteen Chinese fishermen seeking shelter from strong gales brought by Typhoon Neoguri in a sea beacon for nearly 30 hours without any food have been rescued, rescuers said.

The 18 people were among the 26 rescued Chinese fishermen who returned to Sanya, a southern city of China's Hainan Province on Monday.

Deng Dafang, captain

of fishing boat Qinghai 01030 from Hainan, still remembered clearly their ordeal.

At 3 am Friday, gales of up to about 120 kilometres per hour swept on the sea near the Xisha Archipelago, about 180 nautical miles southeast of the Hainan Island.

Deng's boat with 16 aboard, was seeking shelter at sea rocks north of the archipelago with two other fishing boats from Hainan.

They had to leave the boat as it was in danger of being sunken by the gales.

Deng and other crew managed to come in rafts to a column-shaped beacon built on reefs. They entered the beacon which was empty inside. Altogether 18 managed to seek shelter in the beacon.

Deng and others waited nearly 30 hours in the beacon before they were rescued by a South China Sea Rescue Bureau vessel at 8:30 am Saturday.

They did not eat anything in the 30 hours.

Xinhua

Ecuador says no nationalization of mines

QUITO, 23 April—Ecuador's Oil Minister Galo Chiriboga on Monday denied reports of any government plans to nationalize the country's mines.

Ecuador's Congress passed a decree last Friday announcing the revoking of 80 per cent of unexploited mining franchises. As the decree did not mention any compensation, it aroused suspicions that Ecuador was going to implement nationalization of mines.

However, Chiriboga asserted that the Ecuadorean Government has no plans of nationalizing its mining assets. Mining companies whose licenses are revoked will still have

some assets left, but Ecuador is ready to deal with any ensuing legal disputes, he added.

Xinhua

WTO chief highlights progress in striking trade deal

ACCRA, 23 April—WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said here Monday that the parties to the Doha trade talks have moved closer than ever to a deal. “Intensive technical work in the

negotiating on agriculture and industrial goods trade has yielded progress which could hopefully pave the way to the establishment of modalities around late May,” Lamy said at the high-level segment of the 12th session of the UN

Conference on Trade and Development.

The Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations was launched in December 2001 in the capital of Qatar to boost the world economy and help developing countries export more. —Xinhua

Woman suicide bomber kills three fighters in N-E Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 April—A woman suicide bomber blew herself up near an office of the Awakening Council group in the city of Baquba, the capital of Diyala Province, on Monday, killing three of the group members, a provincial police source said.

A woman detonated an explosive vest, she was wearing under her clothes, in the area of Mafraq in western the city of Baquba, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Five people were wounded by the blast, they were two women, a child and two of the group members, the source said.

The Awakening Councils are armed groups of local neighbourhoods, including some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups, who fight the al-Qaeda network after the latter exercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities.—Xinhua



A student of a Chinese martial arts school practises “walking on the wall” in Dengfeng, central China's Henan Province, on 20 April, 2008.

XINHUA



Tara, the eight-meter-tall marionette, walks down a street in Shanghai on 22 April, 2008. Reportedly the tallest of its kind in the world, the puppet was shipped from South Korea to the city to help promote a textile and apparel show. She has been equipped with joints in her legs and arms and a pair of movable eyeballs. But it takes 10 people pulling ropes and a 10-meter high forklift to make her walk. She will perform at ShanghaiMart at Yan'an Road W for three days.—XINHUA

ECONOMIC NEWS

Luxury liner tests popularity on Chinese Mainland

XIAMEN, 24 April—Superstar Virgo, the first luxury liner to take tourists from China's Mainland directly to international waters, has received over 700 bookings for its planned maiden cruise via east China's Xiamen City on 8 May.

Until now Mainland tourists have had to go to luxury cruise terminals in Hong Kong or Singapore to take ocean-going cruises.

The ship's Malaysia-based operator Star Cruises did not comment on the booking for the maiden trip. But Wu Mingfa, a marketing manager of Star Cruises, said that Xiamen is an ideal port for international luxury liners to tap the huge market potential across China's Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions as well as Taiwan.

The luxury ship made the first call at Xiamen on the eastern coast of Fujian Province on 11 April, bringing over 1,600 overseas tourists from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Singapore and Australia.

Starting from this maiden cruise through October, Superstar Virgo will, in total, make 25 regular calls at Xiamen at 1:00 pm on every Thursday and return to Hong Kong at 10:00 pm on the same day, said the manager.—MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh eco may slow down due to soaring food bill

DHAKA, 23 April — Bangladesh economy would slow down to 5.0-5.5 per cent this fiscal (July 2007-June 2008) as a huge food import bill coupled with slide in export saw the country facing the “biggest” impact on its balance of payment, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday.

An IMF estimate was quoted by leading English newspaper *The Financial Express* as saying on Wednesday, the twin

disasters of floods and cyclone last year has eroded some 3.7 per cent of the country's GDP, exacerbating already slowing growth and increasing food prices.

The IMF estimated that “without additional balance of payments supports, international reserves would be depleted below three months of import coverage by end June 2008”.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia drops Singapore bullet train project

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 April — Malaysia has shelved plans for a bullet train linking its capital to neighbouring Singapore because of the cost, a top planning official said on Tuesday.

The eight-billion-ringgit (2.5-billion-US-dollar) project, proposed by Malaysian infrastructure and utilities group YTL Corp in 2006,

EU steelmakers see sustainable growth of demand

BRUSSELS, 23 April — European Union (EU) steelmakers saw sustainable growth of demand for 2008 and 2009 despite economic slowdown, according to a report released on Monday.

“Following the 2006/07 period of exceptional end-use strength, real steel consumption growth will slow down to a more sustainable rate in 2008 and 2009,” the European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries (Eurofer) said

in its latest analysis of the European steel market. The report said although the EU economy is slowing down, it has been able to keep its strength in the first months of 2008. Meanwhile, the business situation in the key steel using sectors in the EU remained healthy while most companies report strong order books, relatively high capacity utilization rates and difficulties in finding qualified personnel.

MNA/Xinhua

ArcelorMittal buys stake in Coal of Africa

LONDON, 23 April — The world's largest steelmaker ArcelorMittal on Monday secured part of its global coal needs with the purchase of a stake in Coal of Africa.

Analysts said the deal could lead to a further acquisition.

ArcelorMittal's deal chimes with a global trend for steel producers to secure raw materials in a tight supply market and for smaller miners to obtain funding amid dislocated capital markets.

ArcelorMittal agreed to buy the 16 per cent stake at 111 pence a share, a 20- per-cent discount to Coal's Friday closing price, Coal said in a statement earlier on Monday. The discount is “insignificant” given the roughly 750 million US dollars in revenues Coal will get under the off-take agreement with Arcelor-Mittal, Seymour Pierce analyst Charles Kernot said.

MNA/Reuters

German economic growth could hit 2% this year

BERLIN, 23 April — Germany's economic growth could hit 2 per cent this year, Juergen Thumann, president of Germany's powerful federation of industry (BDI) said on Monday in Hanover.

Thumann expressed his optimism over the economic prospect of Europe's biggest economy at the annual Hanover Fair, the world's principal annual exhibition for makers of industrial machinery. “We continue to see robust and positive sentiment in (German) industry,” said Thumann, noting that the German economy had enjoyed a good start in 2008.

“The BDI believes that a growth rate of up to 2-per-cent is still achievable in 2008,” said Thumann. The business leader's prediction of 2-per-cent economic growth rate is

more than other economic estimates released earlier in recent weeks.

Some economists in the country said Germany will be lucky to grow by 1.4 per cent this year due to slumping global growth and a strong euro and rising inflation.

The German economy grew by 2.5 per cent last year after emerging in 2006 from a protracted period of stagnation to post a 2.9-per-cent expansion rate.— MNA/Xinhua

Ecuador, Argentina to jointly build hydro-power station

QUITO, 23 April — Ecuador and Argentina on Monday signed an accord here to jointly build a hydroelectric power station in Ecuador, local media reported. Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa and visiting Argentine President Cristina Fernandez attended the signing ceremony.

The Coca-Codo Sinclair hydroelectric project will start construction in late October this year and is expected to be completed in five years.

The project is estimated to require an investment of 1.6 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

A child collects water from an unprotected spring in Ajago village of Oyam district, northern Uganda, on 22 April, 2008. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) are facing challenges of unclean water sources in northern Uganda.—XINHUA



* **For flourishing of democracy
Ratify Constitution**

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

To build the nation with knowledge

Kyaw Min Aye

It is said that according to the world historic events, essential for transforming a nation into a democratic one are three factors: stability, peace and the rule of law; developing social economic life; and human resources.

Today, some developed democracies are transforming their economic enterprises into knowledge-based economic ones. In other words, measures for the political, economic and social sectors are taken on the basis of knowledge.

Of the three factors: human resources is the most fundamental. With a growing number of human resources, a nation will become more stable and peaceful, and almost all the people will abide by the laws. In return, the law protects all the citizens equally.

Stability, peace and the rule of law safeguard the fundamental rights of the citizens of the nation. As a result, almost all the citizens can innovate in proportion to their physical strength and mental strength. They become able to produce personal goods with better quality. They can improve their personality and intellectual power through healthy competition.

Therefore, customers have greater opportunity to make better choices. So, it is fair to say they can choose things at will to buy for consumption. Greater opportunity to choose quality goods makes a significant contribution towards political elections. Effective advertising and propaganda alone are not enough to draw the attention of the people. The

people come to elect those who are qualified enough with ardent desire to serve public interests as their representatives. And under the right of recall, electorates have been able to recall the politicians and political parties that do not keep their promises, and that focus on their self-interests. In that way, democracy or people's administration has become firm.

The draft constitution of Myanmar is compiled on the basis of the said world democracy process and is designed to reflect the situations of the nation. A study shows that the constitution is also designed to ensure development of the education foundation and human resources of the nation.

Now in Myanmar, the 30-year education plan is in the process of being implemented through the motto 'Build a modern and developed nation through education'. Now, there has been a basic education school in every 2.5-square-mile area across the nation for free basic education for all. And 24 special development regions have been designated in various states and divisions throughout the nation, and each region has an arts and science university, a technological university, and a university for computer studies.

The major purpose of the opening of the universities is to enable local new generation intellectuals and intelligentsia to take part in the functions of respective hluttaws, governments and courts due to be established in seven regions and seven states in accordance with the forthcoming constitution.

In other words, politics is the concern of every citizen. Every citizen shall have the right to participate

in politics through their knowledge and education. The constitution is intended to ensure equitable development of all regions through the participation with high education of local national races in the tasks for all-round development of the region concerned.

Regarding the education, the draft constitution that will be approved through a referendum to be held on 10 May 2008 prescribes the following principles.

- * The State shall help promote the interests of the intellectuals and intelligentsia.
- * The State shall earnestly strive to improve education and health of the people, enact necessary law to enable the national people to participate in matters of education and health of the people, implement free compulsory education system, implement a modern education system that will promote all-round correct thoughts and good morals and contribute towards building of the nation.
- * The State shall strive to imbue youths with strong and dynamic patriotic spirit, correct way of thinking and the five noble strengths.

In addition, the constitution carries some basic principles on improvement of the culture of the nation, language, literature, arts and culture of national races, and technological improvement.

These provisions are designed to encourage various regions to work for their development on the basis of the good foundations on education, health, culture and literature, and arts the government is undertaking the length and breadth of the nation.

In their travelogues, many foreigners who visited the nation in olden days praised the education, culture, literature, architecture, arts and fine arts of Myanmar people. Nicolo Manucci of Venice in Italy who visited Myanmar in AD 1700 in his travelogue named Myanmar as a kingdom governed by the pen.

Now, the constitution has been drafted for establishing a democratic nation to be governed by the pen. Surely, Myanmar will become an educated country in the future.

Therefore, I would like to urge the people to cast 'yes' vote for the approval of the constitution to build the nation with knowledge.

Translation: MS

The major purpose of the opening of the universities is to enable local new generation intellectuals and intelligentsia to take part in the functions of respective hluttaws, governments and courts due to be established in seven regions and seven states in accordance with the forthcoming constitution.

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

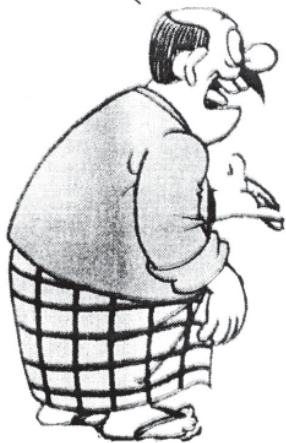
● **For ratification of Constitution
Let's go to polling booth to cast "Yes" vote.**

*A ceremony to
erect a
billboard to
hail the
referendum
in Thakayta
Township,
Yangon
East
District in
progress.
(News on page 1)*
MNA



Regarding the fundamental
rights and duties of the
citizens, 1947 constitution
had 23 articles and 1974
constitution had 26...

The new Constitution has as
many as 50. This shows the
emphasis placed on welfare
of the citizens...



Kaung Htet

USDA Secretary-General meets social organizations in Thazi, Pyawbwe Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April
— U Htay Oo, Secretary-
General of the Union
Solidarity and Deve-
lopment Association, met
with USDA members,
local residents and
members of social
organizations from Hsu-
poukkan, Thuhtaykon,
Hmonmason, Kineyo,
Kwetutson and Pha-
rangasu villages in Thazi
Township, residents from
seven villages in Thazi
township and residents
from 12 villages in
Pyawbwe township on 14
April.

At the meetings, he
urged them to cooperate
in holding the referendum
as it is the national

concern.

Before his visit to the
villages, the Secretary-
General inspected the
construction site of the
retaining wall in Pawkham
Dhadpaungsu pagoda
platform near the village of
Hsupoukkan and Thettaw
Dam in Thazi Township,
Mandalay Division.

The Secretary-
General inspected the

embankment of
Minthargyi Lake and
construction of Basic
Education Post Primary
School in Kyi village-tract
in Pyawbwe Township and
construction of the earth
road and bridge linking two
villages. During his
inspection tour, U Htay Oo
fulfilled the requirements
of the construction of
works. — MNA

Respects paying at Danyingon Market

YANGON, 24 April—A ceremony to pay respects
to the aged persons organized by Markets Department
of Yangon City Development Committee was held at
the vegetable and fruit market at Danyingon in Insein
Township on 17 April.

At the ceremony, Sayadaw Dhammacariya
Bhaddanta Tiloka and members of the Sangha recited
parittas.

Next, Chairman of the committee for holding
the ceremony U Aung Myint Thaung and shopkeepers
paid respects and presented gifts to the aged persons.
MNA

Uppa Gutta Statue thieves arrested

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—U Oak Soe living in
Thaungngoatto village of Dalla Township opened a
file at Pyawbwegyi Police Station because he found
that Uppa Gutta Statue of village's lake was missing.

Pyawbwegyi Police Station arrested Kyaw Soe
of 11 Ward, Dalla Township, Kyaw Min Tun of 9/
Nanpat Ward of Dalla Township and Zaw Tun of 9/
Nanpat Ward of Dalla and investigated them. Action
was taken against them under Sections 380/295/114 of
criminal law by Pyawbwegyi Police Station.—MNA

Minister supervises development work in Ingapu

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April
—CEC member of the
Union Solidarity and
Development Association
Minister for Forestry Brig-
Gen Thein Aung attended
the ceremony to pay
respects to the aged
organized by USDA at
Htoogyi Village hall in
Ingapu Township on 22
April.

He briefed on the
purpose of holding the
ceremony and presented
gifts to the old. Later, he

looked into running of
Nankathu Factory of No
31 Saw Mill in the
township and sawn woods.

On 21 April, the
minister inspected
construction of a new
building at Zipinkwin
Basic Education Primary
School in Ingapu
Township. The new
extended building is 60 feet
by 30 feet.

Then, he met with
residents and gave
accounts on political and

economic conditions and
development tasks carried
out by the government. The
minister made cash
donation for building of
the new school building.

He also made a speech
at the ceremony to open a
new school building at
Pyogon Basic Education
Primary School in the
township. The new
building is 90 feet by 30
feet.

The CEC member
went over construction of

new school buildings at
BEPs in Ingapu
Township. Afterwards, he
held a meeting with
townselders and residents
and saw to the needs.

The minister met with
local people and folks at
Ingauk BEMS (Branch)
and Nyaungkyo BEHS in
the township and explained
the accounts of political
and economic situations
and regional development
tasks being undertaken by
the government. — MNA

Commander opens video board building

YANGON, 24 April—Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win unveiled the two-storey building for Video Board in Mawlamyine on 5 April.

Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon U Myint Thein Pe and Joint Secretary U Win Kyi and President of the board U Chan Tun cut the ribbon.

The two-storey building worth over K 4 million was built in Pabedan ward on strand road in Mawlamyine.—MNA

EPS Enterprise holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April —Electric Power Supply Enterprise held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Electric Power No 2, here, on 9 April with an address by Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.

States and Division Electrical Engineers and officials reported on receiving and distribution of electric power to the minister and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental heads made supplementary reports.

After hearing reports, the minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Nibbana is the highest happiness

Health is the best gain; contentment is the best wealth; a trusted friend is the best kinsman; and Nibbana is the highest happiness.

Dhammapada-204



The 9th noviation and ordination ceremony of Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in progress on 8 April, 2008. — MNA



CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min presents USDA CEC's championship trophy to Kalai Village Team in Thanatpin, Bago Division (East), on 7 April, 2008. — RAIL TRANSPORTATION

USDA Joint Secretary-General performs regional development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April —Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Zaw Min on 21 April met with executives and members of USDA, social organization members, townsenders from six villages of Kan Gyi village-tract and local people at Kan Gyi village Basic Education Middle School (Affiliated) in Yenangyoung Township, Magway Division and held discussions on development of villages.

Next, the Joint Secretary-General paid respects to Kan Gyi monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita and donated cash. He also met with departmental personnel, USDA executives and members, members of social organizations, townsenders from eight villages in Phayagon village-tract and four villages in Kama village-tract local people at Phayagon BEMS (branch) in Pinnwa

village and BEPS (39) in Kama village separately. He discussed matters on rural development tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

On 22 April, the Joint Secretary-General met with entrepreneurs, workers and their families and USDA members at Ngwe Setkyar factory in Yenangyoung Industrial Zone and gave instructions on boosting production matters.

MNA

Educative talk on road safety held

YANGON, 21 April—An educative talks on road safety was held at the University of Technology in Hlinethaya Township today.

Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Corp Police Lt-Col Myint Aung gave talks on awareness of road safety and traffic rules for drivers and conductors of school buses of the university.—MNA

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun poses for a group photo along with other finance ministers from ASEAN nations at the 12th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting in Da Nang City, Vietnam, on 4 April, 2008. — MNA



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

Russia investigates off-course space landing

Moscow, 24 April — Russia has launched an investigation into why a manned space capsule returned to earth hundreds of kilometres (miles) off course, a space industry official said on Wednesday.

Russian space officials denied a newspaper report the three crew returning from the *International Space Station* came close to

death during Saturday's re-entry.

The Soyuz-TMA capsule with South Korea's first astronaut Yi So-yeon, US commander Peggy Whitson and Russian flight engineer Yuri Malenchenko made a much steeper than usual "ballistic" landing.

It subjected them to twice the gravitational forces experienced in a normal landing and took

them nearly 300 miles (480 kilometres) off course. They were unhurt when rescue and recovery teams reached them.

"An investigation has been ordered into what really happened," a Russian space industry official, who did not want to be identified, told *Reuters*. "If there was a ballistic landing, something must have happened."

MNA/Reuters



A ground crew member checks radiation levels near the Soyuz capsule after it landed in northern Kazakhstan on 19 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Wealth gap between countries narrower, yet large

ACCRA, 24 April — Rapid economic growth in developing and transition countries since 2002 has slightly closed the chasm in wealth between the developed and developing worlds, but the gap remains large, according to UN statistics released here on Tuesday.

The ratio of per capita gross domestic product (GDP) between developed and developing countries fell from 20 to one in 1990 to 16 to one in 2006, according to the Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2008, compiled by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which is holding a quadrennial meeting here from 20 to 25 April.

With only 16 per cent

of the world's population, developed nations generated 73 per cent of world's nominal GDP in 2006, although that proportion was down from 80 per cent in 1992, said the report, the second in the UNCTAD Facts and

Figures series.

Annual per capita GDP expansion between 2003 and 2007 was 6.2 per cent in Asia, 3.7 per cent in Latin American and the Caribbean, and 3 per cent in Africa.

MNA/Xinhua



Israeli soldiers escort blindfolded and detained Palestinian men as they leave the Gaza Strip on the Israel-Gaza border, on 24 April, 2008. Israeli forces arrested a small group of Palestinians during the operation in the northern Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.—INTERNET

Chavez says food prices "massacre" of world's poor

CARACAS, 24 April — Soaring food prices are a "massacre" of the world's poor and are creating a global nutritional crisis, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Tuesday, calling it a sign that capitalism is in decline.

His comments came only hours after the United Nations' World Food Programme called more expensive food a "silent tsunami" that threatens to plunge more than 100 million people on every continent into hunger.

"It is a true massacre what is happening in the world," Chavez said in a televised speech, citing UN statistics about deaths caused by hunger and malnourishment.

"The problem is not the production of food ... it is the economic, social and political model of the world. The capitalist model

is in crisis."

The self-styled revolutionary and Cuba ally has won popular support by subsidizing food for the OPEC nation's

poor majority, although his administration struggled last year to keep products such as milk and sugar on store shelves.

MNA/Reuters



A woman poses for photographers with a new audio wall-guide for tourists in the German capital Berlin, on 24 April, 2008. The GPS device automatically gives information on the course, surrounding and sites of the former Berlin Wall depending on where the tourist is standing.—INTERNET

Chile vows to fight against global warming

SANTIAGO, 24 April — The Chilean Government said on Tuesday that a climate change and agriculture council has been set up to seek answers to the effects of global warming.

Agriculture Minister Marigen Hornkohl made the announcement at the opening session of a seminar themed "The Social and Economic Impact of Drought".

The seminar is

expected to focus on causes and characteristics of climate change, its socioeconomic impacts on agriculture and measures to mitigate its effects, Hornkohl said.

Meanwhile, Hornkohl said Chile will intensify research on vulnerability of different fields to climate conditions and introduction of species and varieties more resistant to drought.—MNA/Xinhua

FDA approves new drug to treat Crohn's disease

WASHINGTON, 24 April — A new drug has been approved to help sufferers of Crohn's disease, the US Food and Drug Administration announced on Tuesday.

The drug Cimzia, which is manufactured by a US company, received approval for adults with moderate to severe Crohn's disease who have not responded to conventional therapies, said FDA in a statement.

Crohn's disease is a chronic, inflammatory bowel disease that affects more than one million men and women worldwide. It has no cure and its cause is unknown. Crohn's can cause diarrhoea, fever, rectal bleeding, narrowing of the intestinal tract, obstructions, abdominal pain, etc. It also can lead to abnormal connections (fistulas) leading from the intestine to the skin or internal organs.

Cimzia works to reduce the signs and symptoms of Crohn's, but it also carries risks that will require patients on it to be closely monitored by their physicians or other health care professionals, FDA warned.

MNA/Xinhua

Images of the Day



A six-year-old male river otter named 'Darrah,' left, and five-year-old female river otter 'Chelsea,' sun themselves after a swim at Stone Zoo, in Stoneham, Mass, on 22 April, 2008. Above average temperatures reached the 70s in many areas around New England.—INTERNET



An Internet cafe in China's northwestern Qinghai Province. China has surpassed the United States to become the world's largest Internet-using population, reaching 221 million by the end of February, state media said on Thursday.—INTERNET



*Palestinian schoolgirls dance at an annual Open Day for families at a school in the West Bank village of Salim near Nablus on 23 April, 2008.
INTERNET*



A girl is reflected in a mirror as she practices ballet at an Iraqi government-sponsored ballet and music school in Baghdad on 24 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Former world champion Andreas Goldberger of Austria jumps over the road leading over Austria's highest mountain Grossglockner during the 'Glockner Jump' event, on 24 April, 2008, near Heiligenblut in the Austrian province of Carinthia.—INTERNET



Children walk around a makeshift globe in a fountain on Earth Day in Zagreb on 22 April, 2008.—INTERNET

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
MYINT.Advocate@nptmail.net.mm
Ph: 371 990 25.April.2008

Jakartans urged to not link Olympics to political issues

JAKARTA, 23 April—A senior Indonesian legislator said he hoped Jakartans will welcome the Olympic Torch relay and asked all parties not to link matters concerning the Tibet riots with the August Beijing Olympics. "While everywhere we heard news about demonstrators and such unruly activities during the Olympic Torch relay, which in some places even developed into violence, all these should not occur in Jakarta," said Theo L Sambuaga, Chairman of the foreign affairs commission of Indonesia's House of Representatives.

"As a fellow Asian country, Indonesia needs to support China, as up until now only three Asian countries had the chance of holding the Olympics," Antara news agency quoted the legislator as saying on Tuesday.

"The Beijing Olympics should be something we Asians be proud of," said Theo Sambuaga, adding that "as far as Indonesia is concerned, we have always recognized the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China over Tibet, which is an integral part of Chinese territory". —MNA/Xinhua

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED (TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER IFB NO. SSHLSL-08 (Supply of 500 metric tonnes of Diluent, either SHELLSOL 2046 (or) EQUIVALENT). Price should be valid until the 15th June 2008.

CLOSING DATE & TIME:

30th April 2008 at 12:00 noon

Tender documents are available at the following address and queries can be made between 10 am and 4pm at MICCL Yangon office before the tender closing date.

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited

70(I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township

Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1-514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm)

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for DAIMLERCHRYSLER
SOUTH EAST ASIA PTE LTD.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 25 April 2008

Notice

Managing Director of Zin9 Company Aung Zaw @ Terence Chan @ Albert Chan has failed to settle his debts, to submit a statement of the funds he had taken, and to contribute shares. He committed some acts to harm the company, and established a rival company. He destroyed the company's important documents. And he monopolized Zin9 Company's Website by hijacking it. So, we hereby announce that according to the general consensus among the attendees at the meeting of the board of directors held on 7 April 2008 Aung Zaw @ Terence Chan @ Albert Chan has been removed as managing director, member of the board of directors, and shareholder.

Indonesia, Timor-Leste to establish defence cooperation

JAKARTA, 23 April — Indonesian Defence Forces (TNI) chief General Djoko Santoso said TNI and Timor-Leste Armed Forces will establish a defence cooperation to improve security in the two countries' border region, Antara news agency reported on Tuesday.

"We will hold talks on the substance of whether it will cover education, contacts or securing the border regions," Djoko said after opening a joint

military exercise in the military airbase of Halim Perdanakusumah here Monday.

He said that the military policy on Timor-Leste in patrolling the two countries' border regions would have a bearing on the government's political policy.

"What is being done and what will be done is based on political powers, while foreign policy covers civilian authority," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Take Fire
Preventive
Measures**

**Beware of
Fire**

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 25 April 2008

OFID loans Morocco \$30.2m to build motorway

RABAT, 23 April—OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) has loaned Morocco about 30.2 million US dollars to fund the construction of its motorways, the official MAP news agency reported on Monday.

The loan will be earmarked for the construction of a segment of a 328-kilometre motorway linking the northern city of Fez to Oujda in east Morocco. The construction is part of a plan to build 1,500 kilometres of motorways by 2010 at a cost of 4.3 billion dollars, 80 per cent of which is borrowed from international funds.

The pace of motorway construction in Morocco has sped up in recent years to reach 160 kilometres per year.

The government wishes the Fez-Oujda part would contribute to the economic development and boost tourism in the city of Oujda, as well as in the eastern region, which borders Algeria.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran hangs four drug traffickers

TEHERAN, 23 April—Iran has hanged four people convicted of drug trafficking in the country's southeast, a news agency said on Monday, a week after Amnesty International listed the Islamic state as the world's second most prolific executioner in 2007.

The semi-official Fars news agency said they were put to death in a prison in the city of Kerman, in a region known as a transit route for drugs smuggled from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Western markets. It did not make clear when it happened. Murder, adultery, rape, armed robbery, apostasy and drug trafficking are all punishable by death under Iran's sharia law, practised since the 1979 Islamic revolution. In a report published last Tuesday, Amnesty said Iran had executed at least 317 people last year. China, the world's leading executioner, carried out at least 470 death sentences in 2007, the rights group said.— MNA/Reuters

Badawi calls for more European students to study in Asia

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 April— Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said that the European nations should send more students to study in Asia in a bid to help promote cultural understanding and international cooperation, local media reported on Wednesday.

It is the norm for Asia to send its young people to study in Europe, but not the other way around, he said.

“In the East, we have been sending students to

Europe but we seldom see Europeans coming to study here,” he said in his opening speech at the third ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting (CMM) here on Tuesday.

The ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting), established in 1996, is an inter-regional forum that promotes respect for cultural diversity while targeting inter-regional co-operation and community building. Cultural exchange programmes should include all layers of society, but it was his

personal opinion that emphasis should be given to the youth, who possess “idealism, enthusiasm and are very creative as well”, the *New Straits Times* quoted Badawi as saying.

He told the delegates from over 30 countries, at the meeting themed “Cultural Diversity: Realizing the Action Plan”, that it was up to them to take the lead in their respective countries to establish a higher degree of understanding and trust amongst themselves. —MNA/Xinhua



Children view a traditional Jiangzhou woodcut new-year picture featuring ancient Chinese sports in Xinjiang county of north China's Shanxi Province, on 22 April, 2008. The 11-metre-long woodcut new-year picture created by a local farmer named Guo Quansheng depicted diversified physical activities in ancient Chinese history including jueji (wrestling), cuju (football), polo and so forth. —XINHUA

NY/NJ Port Authority to offer greenhouse offsets

NEW YORK, 23 April — The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will soon become the country's first toll agency to offer car and plane travellers a way to offset carbon emissions blamed for global warming.

Later this year, travellers in and around the country's largest city will be able to offset gases emitted by their car and plane trips by voluntarily paying fees through a website operated on behalf of the Port Authority, the agency said on Monday.

The Port Authority operates the airports, sea ports, toll bridges and tunnels in the New York/New Jersey area.

Travel offsets allow people who feel guilty about their contribution to global warming to negate

their impact by paying a fee for each tonne of carbon dioxide they emit. In voluntary US emissions markets, offsets go for anywhere from four US dollars to about 20 US dollars for a metric tonne.

The money helps finance clean energy projects like wind farms or the planting of trees, which absorb the main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide.

MNA/Reuters



Visitors to the National Aquarium in Baltimore pass by a display of fish eyes. XINHUA

Canadian cancer survivors obese and inactive

WASHINGTON, 23 April — Cancer survivors in Canada are more likely to be obese and less likely to exercise than the rest of the population — putting themselves at risk of having their cancers come back, researchers said on Monday. The trends,

likely to be seen in cancer survivors around the world, suggest patients need help and support in staying active and keeping the weight off, said Kerry Courneya of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, who led the study. “It's a challenge for all of us to eat properly and exercise, and it may be especially challenging for cancer survivors who

have been through difficult treatments and may have lingering health issues,” Courneya said in a statement.

“But eating well and exercising are two of the best things we can do for our mental and physical health, even in trying times. Rest is rarely the best medicine for any health condition.”

MNA/Reuters

Bird flu resurfaces in N-E India

GUWAHATI (India), 23 April— Authorities in a remote northeastern state of India prepared to cull thousands of chickens after a fresh outbreak of bird flu in poultry was detected on Tuesday, officials said.

More than 25,000 chickens and ducks have already been slaughtered in Tripura State this month after eight villages were hit by the H5N1 strain.

On Tuesday, officials said bird flu had spread to a new area.

“Bird flu has been confirmed for the second time in Tripura,” Kartick Debbarma, a senior animal resources official said in Agartala, Tripura's capital. “It is the H5N1 strain.” —MNA/Reuters

China turns out nearly 20m colour TV sets in Q1

BEIJING, 23 April — China's colour TV production sector grew steadily with exports expanding rapidly and production cost increasing in the first quarter of this year, a source with China Video Industry Association said on Wednesday.

Between January and March, 19.57 million colour TV sets were produced nationwide, a growth of 0.1 per cent on

the same period of last year. Of the total, 45 per cent, or 8.8 million sets, were exported, up 18.3 per cent. The source said industrial restructuring was under way in the TV sector, with the share of traditional CRT (cathode ray tube) TV sets in the total output declining to 56.2 per cent and that of flat panel TV sets increasing to 43.8 per cent.

According to Sun

Xinguo, head of the research and consulting department of the video industry association, the colour TV sector's production cost has increased, due largely to expedited appreciation of Renminbi, enforcement of the new labour law, end of tax holidays for foreign-funded enterprises and readjustment of tax rebates for export.

MNA/Xinhua



People walk against heavy snow in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, on 23 April, 2008. Heavy snow fell in the city on Wednesday morning. —XINHUA

SPORTS



Al-Kuwait club player Mulenessa Norberto(R) fights for the ball with Emirates Al-Wasl club player W Ismail during their AFC Champions League football match in Kuwait City, on 23 April, 2008. Al-Kuwait won the match 2-1. —INTERNET

Scholes makes 100th Champions League appearance

BARCELONA, 24 April — Paul Scholes joined the Champions League century club on Wednesday when he made his 100th appearance in the competition for Manchester United in the semifinal, first leg against Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

His century, which does not include matches in the qualifying round, comes 14 years after his first appearance also against Barcelona, in a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford in October 1994. Scholes, 33, becomes only the ninth player to make 100 appearances in the competition proper, according to official figures issued by UEFA, European soccer's governing body.

He has scored 20 goals. Scholes's United midfield partner Ryan Giggs made his 100th Champions League appearance against Olympique Lyon last month and made his 102nd appearance when he came on as a substitute against Barca. United club captain Gary Neville has made 99 appearances for United in the competition proper. —MNA/Reuters

UEFA agree to relax Euro 2008 media restrictions

BERNE (Switzerland), 24 April — European soccer's governing body UEFA said on Wednesday it had reached agreement with the European Newspaper Publishers' Association (ENPA) concerning media access at Euro 2008. UEFA said it had been in talks with ENPA since last year over issues including proposed restrictions on the use of online photography and the amount of access given

to non-rights holders beyond the match stadiums. "The accreditation terms and conditions... give media more freedom to publish digital photos than originally proposed," said a joint statement issued by the two bodies. "There will be no restrictions in reporting from non-match venues, such as training grounds or camps." Restrictions on general media access to sporting events has led to a number of recent media boycotts. Reuters was one of several international news agencies to withdraw from coverage of India's new Premier League cricket tournament last week after organizers imposed rules on which clients could receive digital photographs. —MNA/Reuters



Defending champion Masazumi Soejima of Japan crosses the finish line to take third place in the men's wheelchair division of the 112th Boston Marathon in Boston, Massachusetts on 23 April, 2008. —INTERNET

Ferguson praises Ronaldo despite penalty miss

BARCELONA, 24 April — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson praised Cristiano Ronaldo's performance in the 0-0 draw with Barcelona in the Champions League semifinal first leg on Wednesday despite his failure to convert an early penalty.

"Cristiano Ronaldo was a bit unlucky with the penalty," said the Scot. "Maybe it came too early in the first minute of the match. He leant back a little bit ... disappointing. Nevertheless, he was fantastic tonight."

The Portugal winger sent his spot kick high and wide at the Nou Camp after which Barca dominated without managing to take advantage. Ferguson said United have a strong chance of winning the return on Tuesday to reach next month's final.

"With our record at Old Trafford, with the crowd behind us then I think we have a good chance of going through," he told a news conference.

"I think it was professional. We sealed off the areas teams don't normally do against Barcelona.

"They didn't make a lot of chances, although they had a lot of play on the edge of our box. Our defending was very good. In that respect it was a professional performance.

"But we should have done better with our possession. We gave the ball away too easily I felt," added

Ferguson. "But in the context of a first leg semi-final, going to Old Trafford, it gives us a marvellous chance.

"We want to impose ourselves much better... next week, I think we'll do that. They had a lot of possession with an extra man in midfield. Tonight I think we had the answers to that." —MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (R) controls the ball beside Manchester United's Park Ji-sung during their Champions League semi-final first leg soccer match at Camp Nou stadium on 23 April, 2008. —INTERNET

Lampard says mum's illness was hardest of his life

LONDON, 24 April — Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard described the last week as the hardest of his life after his mother was rushed to hospital with a serious illness.

Lampard returned to action for the first time since the news against Liverpool in the Champions League semifinal first leg on Tuesday when Chelsea snatched a 1-1

draw at Anfield.

The England international said any thoughts of a Champions League final had been put firmly to the back of his mind while his mother Pat battled with pneumonia.

"This time last week was very bleak," Lampard, who missed the Premier League games against Wigan Athletic and Everton, told the Chelsea website (www.chelseafc.com) on Wednesday.

—MNA/Reuters

FIFA ask Peru striker Pizarro to drop lawsuit

LIMA, 24 April — Peru striker Claudio Pizarro, banned by his country for 18 months for indiscipline, has been asked by FIFA to withdraw a lawsuit he has taken out against the Peruvian federation over his suspension. Pizarro's agent Carlos Delgado said in a radio interview that soccer's governing body wanted the Chelsea player to keep his case to the sporting tribunals. "We asked the player Pizarro to immediately withdraw his case from the civil courts and use the sporting tribunals," said the letter, according to Delgado.

"We remind all the parties involved that if one of them is not satisfied with the final decision, they have the option of turning to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)." Pizarro was banned along with Jefferson Farfan, Andres Mendoza and Santiago Acasiete for the alleged incidents at the team hotel following a World Cup qualifier with Brazil in November.

—MNA/Reuters



Atlanta Hawks forward Josh Smith (C) passes the ball back to Hawks center Al Horford (15) between the defense of Boston Celtics center Kendrick Perkins (43) and Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (R) in the first quarter of Game 2 of their NBA basketball playoff series in Boston, Massachusetts on 23 April, 2008. —INTERNET

Federer survives Spanish scare in Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO, 24 April — Roger Federer was two points from an embarrassing exit from the Monte Carlo Masters on Wednesday before rallying to beat Spanish qualifier Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 to reach the third round.

The world number one, who failed to retain his Australian Open crown earlier this year, was 5-4 and 30-15 down in the third set before his opponent, ranked 137th by the ATP, crumbled under the pressure.

Federer had already recovered from being 5-1 down after a string of unforced errors brought him to the brink of defeat.

He eventually won the tiebreak 7-1, wrapping it up after two hours and three minutes on his first match point when Ramirez Hidalgo sent a forehand wide.

Second-seeded claycourt king Rafael Nadal, bidding for a fourth consecutive title in the principality, never let Mario Ancic into their match, powering to a 6-0, 6-3 win over the Croatian in 75 minutes.

—MNA/Reuters

Asleep in Jesus
Sayamagyi Daw Mya Kyi (Mrs.T.O. Brown)
Aged (95) years

Daw Mya Kyi eldest daughter of Reverend U Tun Pe and Daw Shwe Nu, beloved wife of Mr.T.O. Brown (No.8 Kabaung lane, Hline Township), beloved mother of U Than Htut Director (Engg) MOGE-Daw Than Kywe, U Aye Cho, Managing Director of MTG motors Co and First Automotive Co- Daw Mi Mi Thwin, U Htin Kyaw- Daw Aye Kywe, General Secretary, National YWCA, loving grandmother of Ko Tun Pyi and Ma Aye Thetta, fell asleep in Jesus, on Thursday (24-4-2008) at 5:15 am, at her residence. The funeral service will be held at U Naw Memorial Baptist Church (No.115 corner of Anawrahta and Sin Oh Dan Road, Latha Township) at 10:00 am, Saturday (26-4-08) following which the funeral cortege will be taken to Yay Way Cemetary for entombment.

Bereaved family

Latam called on to establish mutual defence policy

SANTIAGO, 24 April — Chilean President Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday called on Latin American countries to establish a mutual security and defence policy.

Bachelet made the remarks during a meeting with Army generals from member and partner countries of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) in the Presidential Palace.

She said the Army plays a very important role in Latin America's development and called on

“Latin American governments and troops to consider setting up a mutual security and defense policy”.

Latin American countries should prove to the world that “their troops can exist as a force to keep peace and bring prosperity to the people”, the President added.

The 10th meeting of commissions of Army generals from MERCOSUR member and partner countries is being held on 22-24 April in Chile. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Passenger plane crash-lands in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, 24 April — A passenger plane of Romanian airliner Carpatair on Tuesday evening ran off the landing strip on the Henri Coanda International Airport in Bucharest, because of the unfavourable weather conditions.

According to Catalin Radu, director of Civil Aviation Department with Transport Ministry, the BAE-146 plane coming from western city of Timisoara had some 60 passengers on board, and no passenger was injured.

“While attempting to land, because of the strong wind and the wet runway, the plane overrun the track, but the none of the passengers was hurt,” Catalin Radu said, adding that all passengers left the plane safely. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Mobile subscribers in Egypt exceed 32 million

CAIRO, 24 April — The number of mobile subscribers in Egypt has exceeded 32 million, the official *MENA* news agency reported on Tuesday.

The mobile phone business in Egypt is on the rise along with the number of subscribers in the three mobile operators in Egypt, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Tarek Kamel was quoted as saying.

The Egyptian Company For Mobile Services, or MobiNil; Vodafone Egypt, a unit of UK's Vodafone Group; the Emirates Telecommunications, or Etisalat are the three companies providing mobile service in Egypt.

Kamel also mentioned the rapid development of Generation 3G mobile service in Egypt.

MNA/Xinhua

Ontario to ban sale, use of garden pesticides

OTTAWA, 24 April — Ontario said on Tuesday that it will ban the sale and general use of pesticides in what the province said would be among the toughest such environmental laws in North America.

Canada's most populous province said the new legislation — expected to take effect next

spring — would outlaw homeowners' use of lawn and garden pesticides for such things as killing dandelions. Exceptions would be made for golf courses, farms and forests.

In Canada, only the province of Quebec has a similar ban, and according to the pesticide industry no US state has a ban in place. — *MNA/Reuters*

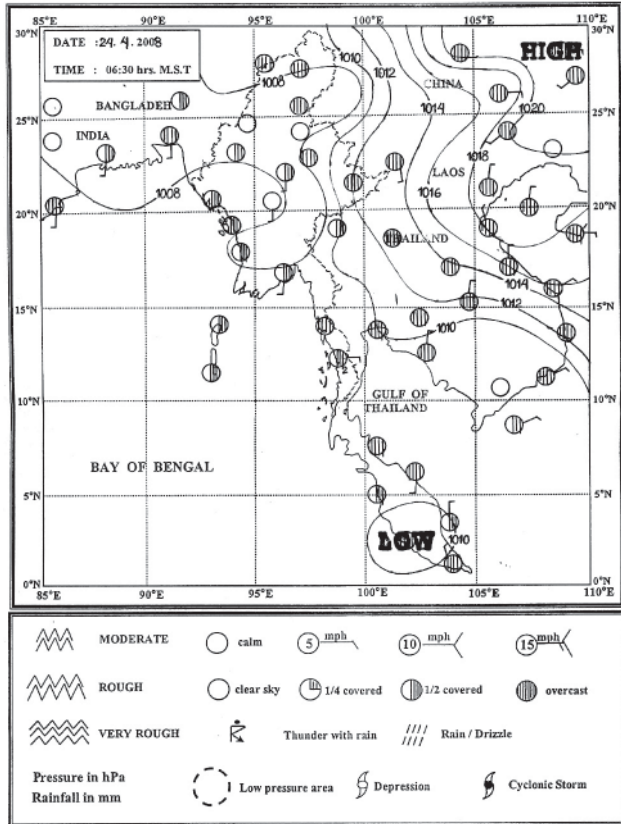
Vietnam to limit pig sales to China due to disease

HANOI, 24 April — Vietnam will limit pig exports to China from this week as it seeks to prevent a disease from spreading among its swine stock or to its neighbours, the Agriculture Ministry said.

Pigs to be sold to China from Saturday should not come from or be transported via provinces now battling “blue ear” disease, Deputy Agriculture Minister Bui Ba Bong said in a directive seen by *Reuters* on Wednesday.

The move may trigger price rises in China, which faced a record pork prices last year due to shortages following infection by the disease in almost half of China in 2006, leading to the slaughter of about one million pigs. — *MNA/Reuters*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 24 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 State, isolated in Kayin and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above April average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States, Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in upper Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below April average temperatures in Shan State and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (43°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Myingyan, Chauk, Magway and Aungmye (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Loilein (1.06) inches, Patheingyi (0.91) inch and Mandalay (0.43) inch.

Maximum temperature on 23-4-2008 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 24-4-2008 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 24-4-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 23-4-2008 was (5.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-4-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (1.69) inches at Mingaladon, (1.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.83) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (15:40) hours MST on 23-4-2008.

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 25-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and 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 continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Friday, 25 April
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်၊ ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရား၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

2. Morning news

7:45 am

3. Songs of National Races

8:00 am

4. ရွှေလောင်တံတား

8:15 am

5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

6. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial songs

4:15 pm

2. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

4:30 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ- တတိယနှစ်(မြန်မာစာအထူးပြု) (မြန်မာစာ)

5:00 pm

4. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:30 pm

5. “နောက်မကျရအောင်” (မင်းသူ၊ ကျော်ထူး၊ ခိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ဒေါ်အေးအေးမြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)

6:00 pm

6. Evening news

6:30 pm

7. Weather report

6:35 pm

8. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညက်ရှင်

7:00 pm

9. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၂၄)

7:50 pm

10. “စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှန်”

8:00 pm

11. Local news

12. International news

13. Weather report

14. “သပြေကုန်းမှရွှေအပြွေများ”

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း”

(အပိုင်း-၁၇)

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: “Yes” vote as witness

Whatever disturbances internal traitors do
Never afraid are we the people
With resolve to cast “Yes” vote
Keeping in mind Myanmar’s interest
With “yes” vote as witness
Will prove their loyalty
All Myanmar citizenry

(Thiha Maung)

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

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

Weather Forecast for 25-4-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Yangon and neighbouring area:

Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Kyunsu Tsp clinches title in Taninthayi Division PDC Chairman’s Cup U 15 Football Tournament

YANGON, 23 April — Kyunsu Township clinched Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Cup after defeating Bokpyin Township 1-0 in Inter Township U-15 Football Tournament for 2008 at Myoma Sports Ground in Myeik on 10 April.

Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presented the championship cup and cash awards to winner Kyunsu Township.

Officials presented prize and cash award to runner-up Bokpyin Township, best striker, midfielder, defender, goalkeeper awards and the best player award in the tournament to the respective players.—MNA

Significant day temperatures

Minbu	(43°C)
Nay Pyi Taw	(42°C)
Myingyan	(42°C)
Chauk	(42°C)
Magway and Aunglan	(42°C)



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presents championship cup and cash awards to Kyunsu Township Team.—MNA

Let’s get democracy by voting at polling booth