

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

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein on his return from Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May – Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein who arrived back here by special flight after paying a goodwill visit to Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport this evening.

Also at the airport together with Senior General Than Shwe were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of De-



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

fence, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence

and Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-

Gen Wai Lwin, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, senior military officers, Director-

General of SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and departmental heads, Charge d' Affaires ai of

Thai Embassy Mr Prasas Prasasvinitchai and officials.

(See page 9)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 2 May, 2008

Mass of workers to participate in drive for approval of the constitution

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sent a Workers Day message on 1 May 2008. The message says, 'I would like to urge the mass of the workers to take part in the tasks whatever role they are in for approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar written in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention attended by delegates of the workers'.

Today, the government is implementing the seven-step Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. So far, the constitution has been drafted. And the draft constitution will be approved through a referendum due to be held soon.

Now, with the establishment of a growing number of modern factories, workshops, industrial zones and industrial regions, new production methods, and more job opportunities are available for the people. The government has been making arrangements for the blue and white collar workers to provide welfare and worksite safety and to enjoy deservedly their opportunities and rights as there are a lot of jobs opportunities.

The government places emphasis on better living conditions of the people. So, it is now constructing infrastructures the length and breadth of the nation including border areas for smooth transport and development.

Economic plans are being laid down and implemented for modernizing and developing the nation. Thanks to the harmonious and active participation of the entire people, the nation has enjoyed development in the political, economic, education, health and social sectors. So, the entire people are enjoying the fruitful results of peace and stability.

At a time when the nation is making progress in various sectors, the entire workers have to play an active role in harness with the entire people to approve the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, while working hard for boosting production and improving services.



Press Conference of Parkroyal Yangon Youth Art Award 2008 in progress. — MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Information Minister hosts dinner in honour of artistes and technicians who participated in entertainment programmes to raise public awareness about the referendum

YANGON, 1 May—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan hosted dinner in honour of artistes and technicians who

Myanmar Music Asiayon, artistes and technicians who had participated in the entertainment programmes and guests.



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents certificate of honour to Actress Nandar Hlaing. — MNA

had participated in the entertainment programmes to raise public awareness about the referendum at Karaweik Hotel yesterday evening.

It was attended by Managing Directors of the Enterprises and officials concerned of the Ministry of Information, chairmen and members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon,

At the dinner, the minister made a speech, saying that he thanked artistes and technicians for their active participation in the entertainment programmes to raise public awareness about the referendum for the approval of the Draft Constitution. Regarding the State Constitution that is necessary for a country, the artistes and technicians made concerted efforts for enabling the people to be aware of the

Constitution and to be poised to cast Yes vote for ratification of the Constitution that will shape brighter future of the people and therefore the dinner was hosted in honour of them. Artistes, technicians and producers including literati made the entire people stimulate their patriotic spirit in the referendum to be held soon. Five film directors, five script writers and 98 artistes produced six films to raise public awareness about the referendum. Thirty-eight composers and 62 vocalists created songs to raise public awareness. The people accepted and were satisfied with their performance in the tasks of raising the public awareness. In reality, the constitution to be held soon is not just for any particular person and organization. It is national politics that concerns the whole nation and entire people. They were on record in their history by participating in the referendum. Literati and

artistes stood for the national interests since the successive eras. It is encouraging to note that they have given priority to the national interests and have been dutiful from the period of struggling for independence to that of building the nation. He urged them to continue to stand for the national interests in the future.

Next, the minister presented certificates of honour to movie star academy Nandar Hlaing, vocalist Kaing Zar, video actress Khine Hnin Wai, movie and video actor Pyay TiOo, movie and video actor Myint Myat, movie and video actress Khin Moh Moh Aye, movie and video academy Soe Myat Nandar and TV personality vocalist Nan Su Yati Soe.

Movie director academy Maung Tin Oo and vocalist Kaing Zar spoke words of thanks. Afterwards, the dinner was hosted to artistes and technicians. —MNA

Vocalist

Kaing

Zar.

MNA



Press conference on 'Parkroyal Yangon Youth Art Award 2008' held

YANGON, 30 April – A press conference on 'Parkroyal Yangon Youth Art Award 2008' was held at Parkroyal Hotel, here, on 25 April.

Parkroyal Yangon Youth Art Award 2008, which was organized by Parkroyal Yangon and U Maung Maung Thein (Sunflower Art Gallery) with the aim of nurturing the skill of young Myanmar artists will give a chance to Myanmar young artistes to show off their ability.

The contest will be divided into two groups according to the age. One group is between age 15 to 20 and another is between age 12 to 14. For the first group, the first prize is FEC 800, the second prize, FEC 500, the third prize FEC 300 and consolation prize FEC 100. For the second group, the first prize is FEC 400, the second prize FEC 250, the third prize FEC 150 and the consolation prize FEC 50.

Competitors aged 15-20 are to draw picture on canvas

with acrylic or on paper with water colour. The picture must be 20 by 30 inches or 24 by 36 inches. Competitors aged 12-14 are to draw picture on paper with water colour. The picture must be 20 by 30 inches. Competitors must describe Myanmar social life and culture in picture which must be their own work.

Name, date of birth (Year, Month and Day), NRC Number address and contact phone number of competitors must be written

down on the back of the picture. Pictures are to be sent to Parkroyal Yangon at No 33, Alanpya Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, not later than 31 May.

There will be two steps in choosing the pictures. In the first step, only 12 persons will be chosen from each contest in the first week of June. For the last step, they have to come to Parkroyal Yangon to draw the picture in the second week.

For further information, contact Ph 250388. —MNA



Damaged property is seen at the parking lot of the Customs authority in Sanaa on 30 April, 2008. Unidentified attackers fired two shells at the government office near the Italian Embassy in the Yemeni capital Sanaa early Wednesday, but there were no casualties, a security source said.—XINHUA

Lebanon’s ruling majority voices its stance

BEIRUT, 1 May—Lebanon’s 14 March forces of the ruling majority have said they would accept dialogue with the opposition, if unconditional election of a president takes place on 13 May, *An-Nahar* daily reported on Tuesday.

The ruling parliamentary majority voiced the stance in a statement after its meeting on Monday night,

which assigned majority leader Saad Hariri to discuss with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri “means to ensure electing a president on 13 May”.

“The election of a president should not be linked to any condition or prior agreement,” the statement was quoted as saying.

“Electing a president is a priority in accordance with

Lebanese Constitution and Arab initiative,” and is the way to solve the Lebanese crisis, the statement stressed.

Lebanese opposition demands a prior agreement on the shape of the new government and on the election law before electing Army Commander General Michel Suleiman as president.

MNA/Xinhua



A body is removed from a house on Chicago’s southwest side on 30 April, 2008 after police discovered the bodies of three shooting victims at the home. The city has been plagued by dozens of fatal shootings in recent weeks, including one that left five people dead.—INTERNET

WWII bomb found in Vienna

VIENNA, 1 May—An Austrian found an aerial bomb from the period of WWII at a construction field near a city train in Vienna on Tuesday, according to the *Austrian Press Agency* (APA).

Austrian police who was in charge of this event said this dangerous bomb weighs 250 kilogrammes and is still equipped with bomb noses.

Specialists have been sent to the spot and the bomb has been successfully defused. During the handling, people around the spot have been evacuated. The city train has also been blocked.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan forces kill at least five militants

KABUL, 1 May—Afghan security forces surrounded a hideout of suspected militants attempting to launch attacks in Kabul early Wednesday morning and the ensuing fighting left five militants dead, witnesses and officials said.

Firing erupted around 1 am local time near a house located on the mountain near a traditional garden in western part of the capital, local residents said. A *Xinhua* reporter on the spot saw ambulances rushed to the area for carrying casualties.—MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill two intelligence agents in S-W Pakistan

QUETTA (Pakistan), 1 May—Gunmen killed two Pakistani intelligence agents in a drive-by shooting in the southwestern town of Khuzdar on Tuesday, police said. The pair, who worked for the Military Intelligence (MI), were on their way home from their office when they were sprayed with bullets in a bazaar by attackers riding on a motorbike.

Khuzdar is located in Baluchistan, the country’s largest but poorest province, where tribal militants have been waging a low-level insurgency for provincial autonomy.—MNA/Reuters

No Arab reservation to reopen embassies in Iraq

CAIRO, 1 May— The Cairo-based Arab League (AL) stressed on Tuesday that Arab countries have no reservations to restore diplomatic ties with Iraq, Egypt’s official *MENA* news agency reported.

Hisham Youssef, head of the AL chief’s office made the remarks in response to alleged reports that the Arab countries moves to reopen their embassies in Iraq come at

a US request to face up to the Iranian leverage in that country, according to *MENA*. Snubbing the alleged reports, Youssef stressed that the Arab countries are keen to set up best ties with Iraq, which is a pivotal state in the Arab world.

He, however, recognized that there are circumstantial reasons which prevent some Arab countries from re-opening

their embassies in Iraq at the current stage.

The AL official further explained that Saudi Arabia and Egypt have expressed their readiness to reopen their embassies in Baghdad though some preparations are still needed at this step, hailing the substantial co-operation between Iraq and other Arab states despite the issue of embassies.

MNA/Xinhua



A Basque policeman faces a demonstrator holding a Basque flag during a protest called by Basque separatists groups in March 2008. Three explosions, two attributed to ETA, shook the Basque country in the north of Spain early Thursday, causing no casualties but material damage, the Basque autonomous police told.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Palestinian factions fire rockets into Israel

GAZA, 1 May—Palestinian militants fired tens of home-made rockets and mortar shells into Israeli targets around Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

The armed factions said the rocket attacks were in response to the killing of seven Palestinians, including a woman and her four children, during an

Israeli Army operation in northern Gaza Strip on Monday.

The armed wing of Islamic Hamas movement, which ruled Gaza Strip, claimed responsibility for launching nine *Qassam* rockets into Sderot City in Western Negev.

Israeli radio reported that 10 rockets and six

mortars hit the Western Negev, causing damage to a house in Sderot and a clinic at an Israeli community. A number of people were treated for shock. The Israeli reports also said that an explosive device was detonated near a tank on northern Gaza Strip fence, causing no injuries.—MNA/Xinhua



File photo shows oil wells in Nefteyugansk, Russia. Oil producers outside the OPEC cartel are unable to pump enough oil to reduce crude prices, hampered by robust domestic demand, weak investment and exhausted oil fields.—INTERNET

Israel’s DM says not right time for truce with Hamas

JERUSALEM, 30 April — Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak on Tuesday said it is not the right time now for a ceasefire with Hamas, local daily *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

Israel is “in a confrontation” with the Palestinian militant movement, and not in a situation to talk about calm, Barak was quoted as saying during a tour to the security barrier.

He, meanwhile, reiterated that the Gaza-ruling group was to blame for the deaths of a Palestinian mother and her four children in an IDF strike in northern Gaza Strip on Monday morning. —MNA/Xinhua

Olmert voices regret over death of Gaza family

JERUSALEM, 30 April — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert expressed regret on Tuesday over the killing of a Palestinian woman and four of her children in an Israeli raid in the Gaza Strip and said an Army investigation was under way.

“The state of Israel and the government of Israel are deeply sorry when any civilian or non-combatant is hurt, particularly with regard to the mother and four of her children, who were killed,” Olmert told his Cabinet at its weekly meeting. “We still don’t know the exact circumstances. They will be investigated by the Army and it will publish the exact findings of this incident,” he said. —MNA/Reuters



File photo shows visitors at a tourism booth at the Pacific Asia Travel Association Mart in Bangkok. Asian airlines and tourist firms are too complacent about the urgent need to address global warming, industry leaders warned at a conference on climate change.—INTERNET



Iraqis carry a woman injured in clashes as they arrive to Baghdad’s Sadr City hospital. At least 1,073 Iraqis were killed across the country in April.—INTERNET

Russia shows off upgraded nuclear bomber

MOSCOW, 30 April — Russia showed off on Tuesday the first modernized *Tupolev Tu-160* strategic bomber, which a senior Air Force official said would help Moscow match the nuclear capability of a potential enemy.

Russian television showed the giant, white-painted airplane releasing parachutes to slow down the speed as it landed at Engels airbase in the Volga Region of Saratov after being upgraded at the

Kazan Aviation Association. The supersonic jet with variable-sweep wings is the heaviest combat aircraft ever built. Along with the *Tu-95* turbo-prop, it resumed round-the-clock patrols across the world last year on the order of President Vladimir Putin after a break of 15 years.

These patrols along the borders of US allies have brought back memories of

Cold War-era muscle-flexing.

The upgraded aircraft has modern avionics with more advanced targeting and navigation systems.

“Including this plane we received today, now there are 16 *Tu-160* strategic nuclear cruisers in active service,” said Igor Khvorov, Air Forces chief of staff, quoted by local media.

MNA/Reuters

UN sets up task force to tackle food crisis

BERNE, 30 April — UN agencies and the World Bank will set up a task force on food to deal with the unprecedented rise in global food prices, the United Nations said on

Tuesday.

“We consider that the dramatic escalation in food prices worldwide has evolved into an unprecedented challenge of global proportions that has become a crisis for the world’s most vulnerable, including the urban poor,” the UN said.

“The challenge is having multiple effects with its most serious impact unfolding as a crisis for the most vulnerable,” it said in a statement after a meeting of UN agency heads in the Swiss capital, Berne, to chart a solution to food price rises that have caused hunger, riots and hoarding in poor countries.

MNA/Reuters

US forces kill 34 militants in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 April — US forces said they killed 34 militiamen in a Baghdad stronghold of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Tuesday in a series of clashes including one street battle that raged for four hours.

Doctors at the two hospitals in the Iraqi cleric’s bastion of Sadr City said they had received the bodies of 21 people killed and 62 wounded. Women and children were among the casualties, they said.

Reuters Television footage showed firemen pulling the body of a young boy, covered in dust, from the rubble of a house that had been destroyed. It was unclear what had hit the

building. The body of another child was seen being brought to a hospital.

Six US soldiers were wounded overall, the military said. Security

forces have been fighting militiamen loyal to the anti-American cleric for weeks in the Sadr City slum but the latest battles mark an escalation of the conflict. —MNA/Reuters

Colombia arrests 15 soldiers for peasant killings

BOGOTA, 30 April — Fifteen Colombian soldiers were arrested on suspicion of killing two farmers in 2005 and passing their bodies off as leftist guerillas killed in battle, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

The arrests were announced as Colombia tries to convince the US Congress to pass a free trade deal and continue military aid despite accusations of illegal executions and other human rights abuses by state security forces.

Another 14 soldiers are wanted in the case of Frank Martinez and Claudio Olmero, who the attorney general says were falsely identified by the Army as insurgents killed in action in the northern province of Cesar.

MNA/Reuters

China to become world's leading gold producer

SHANGHAI, 30 April—China will become the world's leading gold producer in 2008, with output reaching 300 tons, according to an estimate made by the China Gold Association on Tuesday.

“Recent years have seen a continuous drop in gold output in South Africa and the United States, traditionally big gold producers, while China

maintains an annual growth rate of 5 per cent,” said Hou Huimin, vice president of the association, who believed that China was bound to take the No1 position of South Africa this year.

Latest statistics by the China Gold Association show that the gold output of South Africa, which has led gold output since 1905, was 272 tons in 2007,

while that of China was about 270.5 tons, 1.5 tons less than the former.

China has proven gold reserve of more than 650 tons in 2006, while another five gold deposits were discovered since the beginning of 2007, said Hou.

“With the improvement of exploration level and technology in processing ores, the output of gold will continue to increase,” he said.—MNA/Xinhua



A clerk bags a copy of the computer action game *Grand Theft Auto IV* at a Circuit City store in Los Angeles on 29 April, 2008. The long-awaited title from developer Rockstar Games was released on Wednesday.—INTERNET



A model holds the ‘Satlada’ necklace as it is auctioned during a jewellery sale by Christie’s in Dubai, on 29 April, 2008. The nine-pearl strand necklace was given to Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum by the late ruler of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and was sold for the final price of \$1,385,000.—XINHUA

Vale to supply 480m tons of iron ore to ArcelorMittal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 April—The Brazilian mining giant Companhia Vale do Rio Doce said Monday that it will supply 480 million tons of iron ore to ArcelorMittal over the next 10 years.

In a statement, Vale do Rio Doce said it has signed 10-year agreements with

ArcelorMittal to supply 480 million tons of iron ore and pellets, adding that the supplies will be destined for the company's plants in Europe, Africa and America.

Vale do Rio Doce, headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, is the largest global producer and

exporter of iron ore and pellets. ArcelorMittal is the world's largest steel company with 320,000 employees in more than 60 countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian domestic sales expected to rise

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 April—Brazil's industrial entrepreneurs expect a rise in domestic sales and a slight fall in exports, according to a study released Monday by the National Confederation of Industry.

The index that measures entrepreneurs' expectations regarding a rise in sales within the country reached 62.1 points in April, up from 59.4 registered in the previous study in January. Domestic sales growth expectations for large companies as well as for small and medium enterprises exceeded 60 points in April, said the study.—MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnam's seafood export up in first 4 months

HANOI, 30 April—Vietnam is estimated to reap nearly 1.1 billion US dollars from exporting seafood in the first four months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 8.4 per cent.

In April alone, the country is set to earn 300 million dollars from selling overseas the products, including frozen shrimp and catfish, according to the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers on Tuesday.

Vietnam is boosting seafood export to traditional markets such as China, the United States, the European Union, Japan and South Korea, and some new ones like the Middle East, East Europe, Africa and South America.

MNA/Xinhua

Qatar's Gulf Petroleum project approved in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 April —Malaysia has approved a five-billion-US-dollar integrated oil and gas complex project which will be carried out by Gulf Petroleum Ltd (GPL), a company backed by the Qatar royal family, local media reported on Tuesday.

The project's approval will open doors to more economic cooperation and investment activities from the Gulf countries to Malaysia, GPL director Nor Azmi Abdullah said in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. “If everything goes according to plan, Malaysia may receive more good news on this project from us after this, particularly when we announce our consortium members from time to time,” the *New Straits Times* quoted him as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

More Nepali workers leaving for overseas jobs

KATHMANDU, 30 April—The total number of Nepali workers leaving for overseas jobs rose by 22.65 per cent during the first nine months of fiscal year 2007/08 ending in mid-July compared to the same period last year, *The Kathmandu Post* reported on Tuesday.

According to the data

compiled by the Department of Labour and Employment Promotion, there were 167,785 departures during the period, up from 136,805 previously.

Qatar was the most popular destination for Nepali fortune seekers with 62,045 of them making their way there.

This is a 77-per-cent rise from the same period last year.

Malaysia, which is No 2 in the Nepali list of the greatest places to work, witnessed a decline in arrivals of more than one-third during the period under review.

The number of migrant jobseekers departing for the United Arab Emirates shot up a whopping 104 per cent to reach 32,453 persons during the period.

Saudi Arabia, the fourth most popular labor destination, took in 27,215 Nepali workers to register, a modest rise of 5 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



A cyclist rides past a sign advertising the price of gasoline in San Francisco, California on 28 April, 2008.

INTERNET

Indonesia, Timor-Leste to promote bilateral ties

JAKARTA, 30 April — Indonesia and Timor-Leste will promote their cooperation in the fields of defence, trade and law enforcement, top officials of the two countries said here on Tuesday.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and visiting Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao told a joint Press conference that

they would like to settle the problems with the spirit of friendship and to put a priority on the future relation of the two countries. "We discussed bilateral issues with the spirit of increasing relationships of the two countries," President Susilo said at the Press conference, adding "we are waiting to see the final result of the Truth and

Friendship Commission and agreed to put a priority on the future relation".

Both sides have agreed to establish the commission in a bid to solve disputes between the two countries in the past.

On defence sector, Susilo said that the two countries agreed to step up cooperation on borders, education and exchange visits of officials. —Xinhua



People dance in a local park on the first day of the International Labour Day or May Day in Fuzhou, capital of east China's Fujian Province, on 1 May, 2008. The May Day holiday in China lasts three days, from 1-3 May. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China's sci-tech human resources top 42m

BEIJING, 30 April — China has a human resources reservoir of 42 million in science and technology, said a report issued on Tuesday.

The report, compiled by the China Association for Science and Technology, said 65.7 per cent of the sci-tech human resources were below 40 years old, and the ratio of male

to female was 2:1.

The sci-tech human resources formed an important foundation for a nation's renovation capacity, and after half a century's efforts, China now stood at the forefront of the world in terms of the quantity of sci-tech human resources, the report said.

In 2005, China's sci-tech human resources stood at 35 million,

according to then Minister of Science and Technology Xu Guanhua.

According to the report, most of such resources were now in the secondary and tertiary industries, and in terms of sector, education had the most of such resources, followed by manufacturing, building, public administration and social organization.

Xinhua



Pedestrians walk as they wait for public transportation outside a subway station in Caracas, on 29 April, 2008. A power outage left at least 40 percent of Venezuela without electricity including much of the capital. —XINHUA

ESCAP annual session focuses on energy security

BANGKOK, 30 April — The ministerial meeting of the 64th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) opened at ESCAP's Bangkok headquarters Monday with a theme on "energy security and sustainable development".

A ministerial round table on energy security and sustainable development was held on Monday as part of the annual ESCAP session, to discuss challenges facing the region as revealed in an ESCAP study on Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific on and policy approaches in the context of global oil price hikes and energy vulnerability.

The ESCAP study, released on Monday, has pointed out that energy consumption in Asia and the Pacific grew by 70 per cent

between 1992 and 2005. At the current rate of growth, the region will account for half of the total global demand by 2030. Yet 1.7 billion people still relying on traditional biomass fuels and one billion people have no access to electricity.

Xinhua

Shark kills US surfer near Mexican beach resort

MEXICO CITY, 1 May — A shark attacked and killed an American tourist surfing off a beach on Mexico's Pacific coast, police said on Tuesday.

A gray shark bit 24-year-old San Francisco resident Adrian Ruiz in the leg on Monday,

opening a 14-inch (38-centimetre) wound from his hip to his knee and exposing his femur, the Public Security Ministry in the state of Guerrero said in a statement.

Ruiz, who was surfing near the beach town of Troncones, about 22 miles (35 kilometres) north of the Ixtapa holiday resort, was pulled to the beach by a friend and taken to a hospital where he died of blood loss.

Fatal shark attacks in Mexico are uncommon.

Xinhua

Greece, Bulgaria sign cross-border agreements

ATHENS, 1 May — Greece and Bulgaria signed two agreements on Tuesday which focus on the creation of a joint "Contact Centre" and the exchange of information as well as making joint cross-border inspections from joint installations on Greek territory, according to a report by Athens news agency.

The new Bulgarian Interior Minister Mikhail Mikov stated that the agreements will strengthen cooperation between Greek and Bulgarian police.

Greek Deputy Interior Minister Panagiotis Hinofotis who is paying a visit to Bulgaria, said in a Press conference that the signing of the two agreements "contributes to the fullest not only to the security of the borders but also of the broader region". He further stressed that what prevails in the agreements "are the exchange of information, cooperation for the combating of organized crime and other forms of crime, the confrontation of human trafficking and illegal immigration". —Xinhua

All Chinese hostages in Indonesia set free

JAKARTA, 30 April — All five Chinese nationals taken hostages by a group of gunmen in Indonesia's Aceh Province were released on Tuesday after being held since Saturday. The Jakarta-based Metro TV reported the five Chinese were evacuated to a local government office in Pining sub-district, Aceh Province, on the northern tip of Sumatra Island.

They were released at about 11:00 am (0400 GMT) and evacuated to Benteng Village in Pining sub-district where they got police escort. Their conditions were not immediately known and local officials were not available for comments. A group of gunmen abducted seven Chinese workers and an Indonesian citizen in Gayo Luwes District, Aceh Province, late on Saturday.

Two Chinese hostages were released on Sunday night.

Xinhua



Acrobatic performers from Sichuan Province will stun Beijing audiences with their amazing skills. —XINHUA

● **For flourishing of democracy
Ratify Constitution**

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

The most opportune time to take off

A Pensioner

Today, Myanmar is in its transitional period, and the Myanmar's politics is poised to take off.

Those who will have to cast vote in order to trigger the take-off are the people. On 10 May 2008, the State constitution, which will guarantee a prosperous future of the nation, will be approved through a referendum in which the entire people will take part.

In fact, Myanmar's political affairs is like the flight schedule of an aeroplane that has been used since the Second World War. On 4 January 1948, Myanmar regained independence. Then, it flew to the goal of democracy. The first pilot was the AFPFL government. The agreement between the passengers (the people) and the pilot was the 1947 constitution.

I would like to quote the experience the nation faced for 10 years in the parliamentary democracy period. That is stated in an article like this.

On 5 April 1960, the then Prime Minister U Nu delivered an address to the parliament as follows:—

“Now, we have laid successfully the first cornerstone of the new executive system that can lift the entire people from going through hard times for many years and enable them to stand tall as an independent race in the world. We have been able to lay the first foundation, but we have been unable to complete the reconstruction of the nation. We have not been able to make sure that the new system is in force throughout the nation and to make the system win the trust and acceptance of the entire people of the Union.

“Even leaders of the country are not able to exercise the worldly values manifested in the new executive system, let alone the citizens.

“To make matters worse, multi-coloured armed groups are rebelling against the nation. The multi-coloured rebels are rising against the

government, while the State leaders are arrogant, greedy and power-craving. In consequence, the nation is on the verge of abyss, and the democracy foundation of the Union is on the edge of collapse.

“During the last 10 years, I noticed two points that were not democratic in ruling the nation. The first is that in laying down the government's work programmes or executive works, mostly only two or three leaders and sometimes only one leader who were responsible for the issue assessed it and made decisions. The entire cabinet approved the issue and made a decision to implement it without evaluating it. That method is not democratic at all. So, we have to review that method.

“The second point is that like the situation 10 years ago, the relationship between the ruling party and the government mechanism was not recognized as much as it should be. In consequence, democracy could not be exercised properly. While we were in power 10 years ago, as in political issues, most of our economic decisions and performances were not democratic.

“We misused the government's economic policy in order that our party remained strong, and the followers of our party, the followers of the party leaders, and the sycophants could lead an easy life”.

Apparently, Myanmar's political trend that was stated above was in disorder, and the people had to withstand the stresses and strains of the evil consequences. In response to the request of the ruling AFPFL government, the Tatmadaw served as the Caretaker Government in 1958 and addressed the deteriorating situations.

Nevertheless, the ruling party in which the people placed trust failed to serve as a good pilot. It committed misconduct. In consequence, the national goal was

nearly lost. Some tried to secede from the aircraft of the nation. So, the Tatmadaw that was in the airplane to safeguard the people had to steer the aircraft. Then, measures were taken to change the flight schedule. A pledge was reached through the 1974 constitution. The Tatmadaw engaged in the defence duties, underwent training and carried out public welfare services in accordance with the constitution.

Again, the flight schedule did not make any progress due to the political unrest. The nation was completely in disorder due to the anarchism and riots. At that time, the aircraft was without a pilot and the airplane was about to crash. So, the Tatmadaw that had a lot of experience about the programmes steered the aircraft and landed it in a rough field and repaired it.

In recent years, it fulfilled the requirements and made some repairs for the aircraft to be able to take off. It attended to the needs as far as it could to ensure a safe flight along the route, as aspired by the people. Now, the State constitution that is like the pledge of the flight schedule has been drafted according to the discussions and suggestions of the people's representatives. The people took part in the process of straightening the runway.

Now, the aircraft of Myanmar politics is ready in various sectors. What it needs to fly at high speed is just to take off. The Tatmadaw has no intention to act irresponsibly as far as the aircraft is concerned. In order that the aircraft will not be hijacked, the Tatmadaw, like in the past, has solemnly pledged not only to safeguard the people but also to serve as a co-pilot. That is the purpose of the appointment of the Tatmadaw member representatives that constitute 25 per cent of the total representatives.

The constitution carries separation of powers and reciprocal control to avert the incidents that took place in the parliamentary democracy period and the one-party Socialist period. All have yet to elect the one who will really represent the people as the pilot.

The approval of the State constitution is the choosing and approving of the policies and rules, not persons. So, it is required to choose the most appropriate policies, and then the representatives who are capable of implementing the policies. Representatives cannot be elected without any policies. The aircraft of Myanmar politics is gathering speed to take off.

Translation: MS

The approval of the State constitution is the choosing and approving of the policies and rules, not persons. So, it is required to choose the most appropriate policies, and then the representatives who are capable of implementing the policies. Representatives cannot be elected without any policies.

●

Towards the new nation

Will ratify Constitution.

*

We remain ever united whoever tries

to divide us

And will cast “Yes” vote



Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by his counterpart Mr Samak Sundaravej. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein pays a courtesy call on King Bhumibol Adulyadej. (News on page 16)—MNA

Myanmar and Thailand discuss cooperation in hydropower, energy, mining, agriculture and industrial sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, together with the Thai Prime Minister proceeded to the Thai Koo Fah Building, after attending the welcoming ceremony of the Thai Prime Minister.

The Thai Prime Minister introduced Thai ministers to Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

The Director-General of the protocol Department of Thailand introduced heads of missions in Thailand to Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

At Ivory Room of the

Thai State Guest House, Prime Minister General Thein Sein signed in the visitors' book.

The Thai Prime Minister cordially greeted the General and they posed for documentary photo.

At 9.40 am, the Myanmar and Thai meeting was held at Green Room of the State Guest House, attended by Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister

for Labour U Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Ye Win, Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department and departmental heads.

The Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Mingkwan Sangsuwan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Noppadon Pattama,

Minister of Home Affairs Pol Capt Chalerm Ubumrung, Minister of Justice Mr Sompong Amornwiwat, Minister of Tourism and Sports Mr Weerasak Kowsurat, Minister of Labour Mr Uraiwan Thienthong, Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunng and senior officials.

First, Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej extended greetings.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Thein Sein

expressed thanks to the Thai Prime Minister for his invitation to Thailand, warm welcome and hospitality. He conveyed the message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye for physical and mental well-being of the Thai Prime Minister. The General thanked the Thai Prime Minister for his explanation on the Union of Myanmar with positive attitude in Thailand after conclusion of visit in Myanmar.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein briefed the Thai Prime Minister on progress of implementing the multi-party democracy system and all-round development of the country.

Afterwards, the General discussed promotion of friendly relations and mutual cooperation, cooperation in narcotic drug eradication for ensuring peace and stability of border areas, bilateral cooperation in hydropower, energy, mining, agriculture and industrial sectors,

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej attend the meeting between Myanmar and Thailand. — MNA

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

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends welcoming ceremony held in his honour by Thai counterpart

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back...

(from page 1)

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin and departmental heads also arrived back on the same flight. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej take the salute of the guard of honour. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein and members of the delegation left Plaza Athenee Hotel in a motorcade for Thai Government House to attend the welcoming ceremony held in his honour by Thai

Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej on 30 April.

First, Prime Minister General Thein Sein was warmly welcomed by his Thai counterpart Mr Samak Sundaravej.

The two Prime Ministers then posed for documentary

photos in front of Thai Koo Fah Building.

The welcoming ceremony was held on the lawns at Thai Koo Fah Building in the Thai Government House. The two Prime Ministers took salute of the guard of honour of

Royal Thai Army on the dais. Meanwhile, the State Band played anthems of the two nations.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein together with the Thai Prime Minister inspected the guard of honour.

The Thai Prime Minister

introduced the Myanmar Prime Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Chief Secretary of the Prime Minister, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chiefs of Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and

the Police Director-General of Thailand.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein introduced the Thai Prime Minister to members of Myanmar delegation.

MNA

Prime Minister arrives at Bangkok of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May — At the invitation of Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej, a Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Labour

U Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin and departmental heads and Myanmar entrepreneurs, left here for Thailand in a special flight at 12 noon on 29 April and arrived at Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters in Bangkok,

Thailand, at 2 pm Thai Standard Time.

Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Ye Win and Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Somsakdi Suriyawongse welcomed the Prime Minister on board the aircraft.

Then, Mr Mingkwan Sangsuwan, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce,

welcomed the Prime Minister and presented an honour of garland.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce Mr Mingkwan Sangsuwan introduced the welcoming party members Minister of Tourism and Sports Mr Weerasak Kowsurat, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bonsarn Bunnag, Thai Director-General Mr Somsakdi Suriyawongse of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commander-in-Chief

of Royal Thai Air Force and the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army to Prime Minister General Thein Sein. The Prime Minister also introduced members of the Myanmar delegation to them.

He visited the Terminal of Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters. The Guard of Honour welcomed him.

A Myanmar girl presented a bouquet to the Prime Minister.

He was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador U

Ye Win and wife Daw Ei Ei Khaing, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Khin Maung Soe and wife Daw Kyi Kyi San and embassy family members.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Commerce met cordially at the hall of Royal Thai Army Headquarters.

The Myanmar delegation led by the Prime Minister left for Plaza Athenee Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

MNA

Myanmar and Thailand discuss cooperation...

(from page 8)

construction of modern deep sea port in Dawei, upgrading of the transport sector by constructing the road to Mawlamyine through Myawady-Thinganninaung, the railroad and motor road linking Kanchanaburi and Dawei and the India-Myanmar-Thai express road.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that preparations are being made to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, and he also said he will closely work with his

counterpart to maintain the good relations between the two countries. He also thanked Thailand for its support for Myanmar in regional and global arena.

Afterwards, the prime minister of Thailand thanked Prime Minister General Thein Sein for his clarification about the development in Myanmar. Regional peace and stability, economic development and unity of all national races are required for transition to a democratic system and those countries that have no internal crisis could not realise that situation. He also expressed thanks for

Myanmar's good neighbourly relations.

Afterwards, they cordially discussed matters related to cooperation on construction of Thinganninaung-Myawady-Mawlamyine Road, Kanchanaburi-Dawei railroad and motor road and on energy, hydel power, mining and trade sectors. They also exchanged views on bilateral cooperation on fighting against the narcotic drug and construction of a road passing many countries, and prospects for boosting rice production in the region.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Mingkwan Sangsuwan. — MNA

Secretariat Member meets local people in Gangaw Township

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May —Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to meet with local residents at Sasana Beikman in Gangaw Township on 25 April.

A total of 4000 residents from 24 villages in the township attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the officials concerned reported to the secretariat member on the regional development tasks.

Next, the secretariat member donated K 300,000 to the extension of the school building in Lapo village, K 200,000 each to construction of lakes for purifying drinking water in Shonyi, Zipya villages, K 200,000 to extension of the school building in Pya village, K 200,000 to the office of Gangaw District Union Solidarity and Development Association. The secretariat member presented household and personal goods for residents, exercise books for the students and books and publications for the library through officials concerned.



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with local people and members of social organizations in Gangaw. — MNA

The secretariat member went to Phetphuyoung library in Khaungton village and presented publications for the library and K 200,000 for the village Education Primary School. Next, the secretariat member attended a meeting with residents at Basic Education High School (branch) in Kyaw Town. It was attended by residents from 16 villages totaling over 2200.

On behalf of the residents, the officials concerned briefed the secretariat member on the development of the villages. After hearing the reports, the secretariat member fulfilled the requirements.

The secretariat member donated K 300,000 to Kyetyoe village Basic Education

Middle School, K 100,000 to Kwekie Village Basic Education Primary School, K 200,000 to Kanthat Village BEPS, K 100,000 to repair a bridge in Zanhmw Village, K 100,000 to supply purifying drinking water to Kye Village and K 100,000 for five preventive measures to Ywange Village. The secretariat member presented household and personal goods for the students and book, magazines and journals for the library through the officials concerned.

At the meetings, the secretariat member said that the government is making efforts for all-round development of the country while implementing the Seven-step Road Map to build a

discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The referendum, the forth step of the Road Map, is going to be held to approve the draft constitution. The very first necessity to build a democratic nation is a constitution. The constitution which will be approved by the people was drawn based on the genuine situations in the country. It guarantees the stability and security in the country. It also guarantees rights of workers, peasants, industrialists, entrepreneurs and people from all walks of life as well as privatization and currency. Therefore, citizens are to grasp the opportunity to shape the future of the country by ratifying the constitution, the minister said.

After the meeting, the

secretariat member cordially greeted the local people. During his tour, the secretariat member met residents from 227 villages totaling 50,000 in Saw, Htilin, Gangaw

townships, Gangaw District, from 20 to 25 April and donated cash, exercises books, household and personal goods to local people.

MNA

Cash and medical equipment for Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital

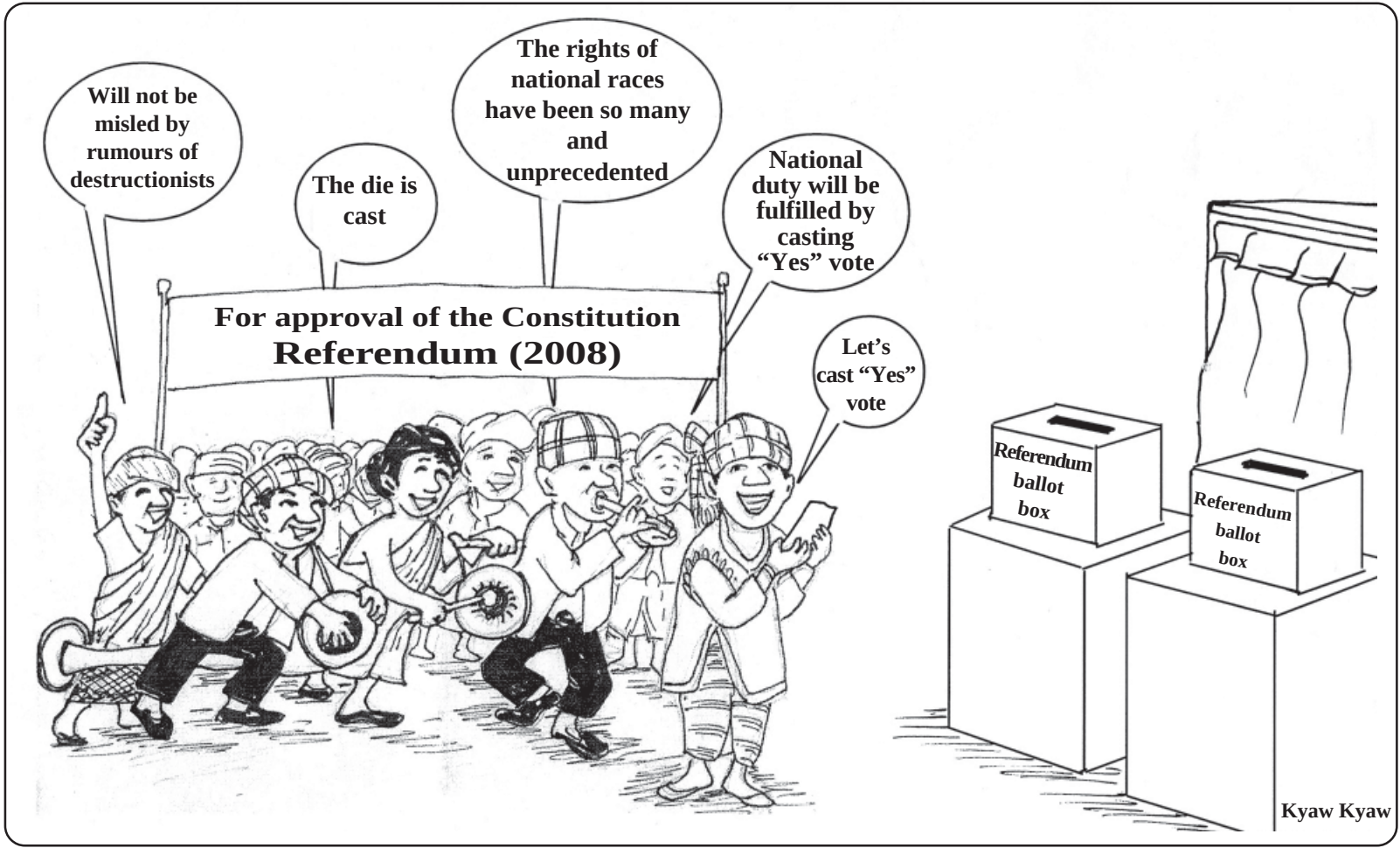
NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—A ceremony to donate cash to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) was held at the hall of the hospital here this morning.

First, Managing Director U Aung Moe Kyaw of IBTC Co explained the purpose of donation.

Next, Deputy Director-General Dr Win Myint of Health Department accepted Cardiac Monitor and K 6 million for Electrosurgical Unit (Diathermy) presented by Director U Tint Oo of IBTC and presented certificate of honour him.

Afterwards, Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Thin spoke words of thanks.

MNA



Extempore contest slated on 22 June

YANGON, 30 April —Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association will organize an extempore contest on anti-narcotics (English/Myanmar) for the first time at the Aung Kyaw Hall of Botahtaung Township Basic Education High School No 6, here, on 22 June, 2008 commemorating the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June. Everyone may take part in aged 17-25 division and aged 14-16 division.

MNA



Trastevere in Rome. Hundreds of people turned up to join the massive pillow fight on 27 April, 2008.—INTERNET



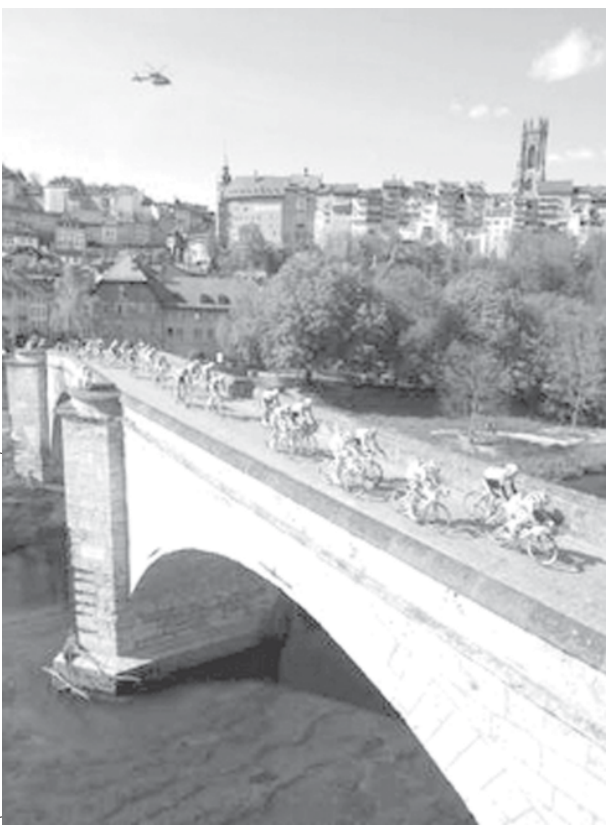
Hampus Olsson, an analysis engineer, checks a test dummy before a crash at the Volvo Safety Centre in Gothenburg recently. The destruction of the orange sedan with its slapdash paintwork may have been intentional but it was far from wanton. It was all part of Volvo's bid to create an injury-proof car by 2020.—INTERNET



A mother breastfeeding her baby in a breastfeeding room in Manila, the Philippines. Breastfeeding a baby can reduce the risk of cot death by a third, a new study released by a British charity has found.—INTERNET

**Images
of the
Day**

The packs of riders passes on a bridge during the second stage of the Tour de Romandie cycling race in Fribourg , Switzerland on 1 May, 2008.—INTERNET



A believer holds of snakes during the St. Domenico's procession in Cocullo, central Italy, on 1 May, 2008. Every year on the first Thursday of May, snakes are placed onto the statue of St Domenico and then the statue is carried in a procession through the town. St Domenico is believed to be the patron saint for people who have been bitten by snakes.—INTERNET



International Respect for Chickens Day, 4 May , celebrates the devotion of hens to their chicks and deplores the suffering of motherless chickens on factory farms. In this photo, Ruby fosters Ivy, a chick rescued from a factory farm in North Carolina to live in a safe and loving home.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

Extension of Tender Closing Date & Time
Tender Closing Date & Time, 9.5.2008 (Friday) (12:00 Noon), of Tender No. 1/MR/INDIA(ML) 2008-2009 for the Supply of Spare Parts for Locomotives YDM-4 (India) which was advertised in the New Light of Myanmar (on 4.4.2008 and 5.4.2008), the Mirror (on 5.4.2008 and 6.4.2008), Myanma Alin (on 7.4.2008 and 8.4.2008), is extended to 30.5.2008 Friday (12:00 Noon). For further enquires, Please call 95-1-291982, 95-1-291985, 95-1-291988.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (185)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (185) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.5.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Poorer farmers not benefiting from food price rise

BERNE, 30 April—Crops are fetching far higher prices in markets worldwide, but farmers in poor countries have not seen their incomes rise as a result, international officials said on Tuesday.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick said that increases in fertilizer and fuel costs had kept many poorer producers from meeting the huge demand for food staples that has driven up prices and caused shortages, hoarding, hunger and riots.

“The data we have so far suggests that it has had little effect,” the former US trade chief told a news conference in Berne, where United Nations leaders met this week to chart a way out of the current food crisis.

“Even in some areas where people know that prices are higher, they are not planting more because they are fearful that they face very high input costs,” Zoellick said.

Many farmers committed to selling their harvests at rates fixed before the recent dramatic increase in wheat, corn, rice, dairy, and oils prices, which economists have linked to a myriad of factors including drought, the use of crops for biofuels, and speculation by commodity traders and hedge funds.

MNA/Reuters

Drive with care

Suicide bomber kills Iraqi soldier in northern Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 30 April—A suicide bomber struck an Iraqi Army patrol in the city of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh Province on Tuesday, killing an Iraqi soldier and wounding five others, a provincial security source said. The attack took place in the afternoon when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into an Army patrol and blew it up in the Yarmouk neighbourhood in western Mosul, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast destroyed two of the patrol's vehicles, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

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French groups conclude deal on British power plant

PARIS, 30 April—The French gas utility groups, Gaz de France and Suez, have announced the conclusion of the acquisition deal concerning the British Teesside Power Limited. The two groups, through the subsidiary Electrabel, each owns 50 per cent of the company, according to reports.

The two French groups said Monday the acquisition of the plant, located in northeast England at Wilton industrial site, had already obtained the permission from the European Competition Authorities, adding they have concluded the deal of acquiring 50 per cent capital of the UK's only private nuclear generator which is 35 per cent owned by the British Government.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for **LION CORPORATION**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 2 May 2008

UK police hold three in Tamil Tigers investigation

LONDON, 30 April—British police arrested three men on Tuesday as part of an anti-terrorism investigation into the Sri Lankan rebel group the Tamil Tigers.

Police said two men, aged 39 and 46, were arrested at separate

Vietnam to face coal shortage in 2015

HANOI, 30 April—Vietnam's coal production is predicted to meet 63.8 per cent of the local demand in 2015, and only 25.9 per cent in 2025, Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

Specifically, the country is expected to produce 60 million tons of coal in 2015, while its demand for the product is estimated at 94 million tons. The respective estimated figures are 80 million tons and 308 million tons in 2025, the agency quoted

the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade as reporting.

In 2010, Vietnam is expected to produce 47 million tons of coal and consume 37 million tons of the product, said the ministry.

Vietnam has recently raised its export tax on coal to 15 per cent from 10 per cent previously, in a move to ensure sufficient supplies for local energy-thirsty industries, like electricity and cement.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia to examine Iran's nuclear ideas

TEHERAN, 30 April—Russia was quoted as saying on Tuesday it was ready to examine Iranian proposals to end a deadlock over Teheran's disputed nuclear programme. Iranian media said Valentin Sobolev, acting secretary of Russia's National Security Council, made the comments at talks with top Iranian nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili. On Monday Jalili said Iran had drawn up “serious” ideas to end the atomic row.

The United States and European states accuse the Islamic Republic of mastering technology to make nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian programme. Iran says its goal is peaceful.

Iran's official IRNA news agency, citing Sobolev, said that “Russia was ready to examine Iran's proposed package and to find a way out of this existing deadlock”.

MNA/Reuters

Four killed in aircraft crash in Venezuela

CARACAS, 30 April—A small aircraft crashed on Monday on top of a house killing at least four people and injuring eight in the coastal locality of Catia La Mar, in northern Venezuela. All the deceased — the aircraft's copilot and three people in the house — were burned to ashes, said officials.

The injured, including the pilot and two minors,

were transferred to diverse hospitals in Catia La Mar, state of Vargas close to Caracas, Venezuela's capital. The three-storey house caught fire after the aircraft crashed at about 10:00 local time (14:30 GMT). Firemen put off the fire in the house and evacuated a nearby school and people from nearby houses.

Civil protection

London police station for questioning.

“The arrests are part of a long-term investigation into the alleged funding and procurement activity in support of terrorism overseas,” it said. The statement, which did not give the men's nationalities, added that searches were being carried out at several addresses in Wales and London.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is a rebel group fighting for an independent state in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Fighting between Sri Lankan Government forces and the LTTE has intensified since the Colombo government pulled out of a six-year-old ceasefire pact in January.

MNA/Reuters

Blood substitutes raise risk of heart death

WASHINGTON, 30 April — Certain experimental blood substitutes can significantly raise the risk of heart attack and sudden death and regulators should stop their use in new experiments until safety issues have been cleared up, researchers said on Monday.

Health advocates who teamed up in an unusual joint study with federal government researchers said their study of blood substitutes showed Food and Drug Administration's confidential oversight of corporate research was

putting patients at risk.

They called not only for a halt to trials of the blood replacement products, but an overhaul of the FDA's requirements to keep corporate secrets.

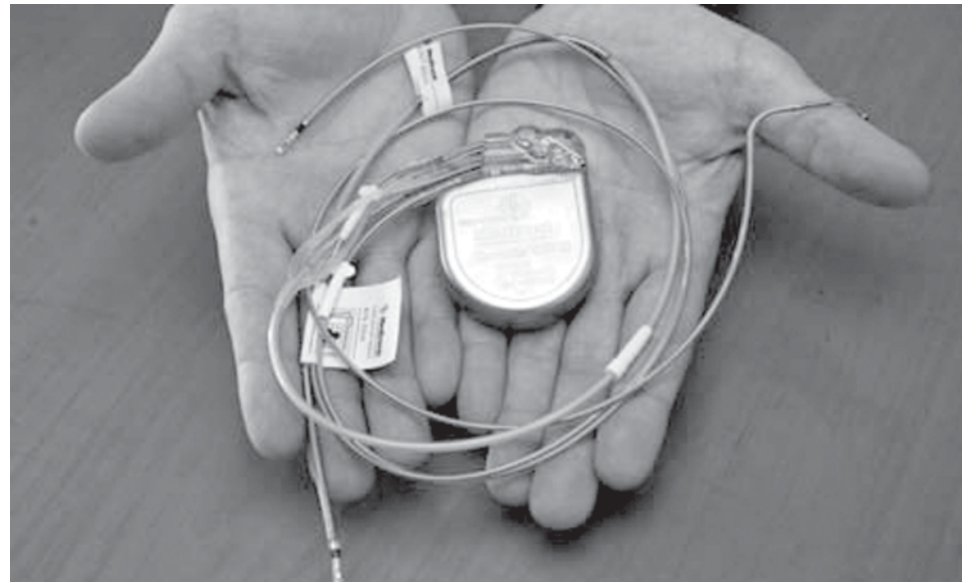
The study of various trials of five blood substitutes showed a 30-per-cent increased risk of death and a 2.7 times higher risk of heart attack, they reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

All of the products in question use hemoglobin, the molecule that transports

oxygen in red blood cells. The researchers also plan to present their findings at an FDA public workshop on the safety of the products this week.

"The case study detailed here underscores both the scientific inefficiency and the real risks to patients of the current failure to report data promptly," wrote Dr Charles Natanson of the National Institutes of Health and colleagues there and at Public Citizen.

MNA/Reuters



A doctor holds a mock-up of the world's first cardiac re-synchronisation therapy defibrillator device "Consulta CRT-D", made by Medtronic Inc, implanted to German patient Monique Pachalek at the German Heart Institute Berlin (DHZB) in Berlin, on 29 April 2008.— XINHUA

Philippines to ban kidney selling to foreigners

MANILA, 30 April — The Philippine Government is expected to announce a total ban on commercial kidney transplants for foreign recipients in a move to stem rampant organ trade in black markets, local media reported Monday.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III confirmed the announcement but refused to give other details, Philippine TV network GMA News said.

The new rule, according to sources with the health department, will only allow kidney transplants done in cases where the donor has a blood relation with the foreign recipients.

The ban on organ transplant, extending a temporary ban which is in place for a month, is much anticipated amid reports exposing the plight of Filipino poor who sell their kidneys 100,000-200,000 pesos (2,380 - 4,761 US dollars) each for quick money.

MNA/Xinhua

UAE to launch JV remote-sensing satellite with GCC nations

ABU DHABI, 30 April — A senior official of the Defence Ministry of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said that the ministry plans to launch a joint remote-sensing satellite with other member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Tuesday.

The plan was revealed

by Brigadier Khalifa Mohammad Al Rumaithi, Chief of Military Works of the UAE Armed Forces, at the Defence Geospatial Intelligence Middle East opened on Monday in Dubai.

But the official did not elaborate on the plan, saying the project of the joint remote-sensing satellite has come a long way.

In addition to the joint remote-sensing satellite, Rumaithi said that the UAE's first satellite *Dubai-Sat-1* will be launched by the end of 2008 for peaceful purposes and civil applications.

MNA/Xinhua

More HIV cases detected in Singapore last year

SINGAPORE, 30 April — Latest figures from Singapore's Ministry of Health showed that 422 new cases of HIV infection were reported in 2007, 65 more than in 2006 and bringing the total number to 3,482.

The ministry said on its website on Tuesday that 93 per cent of the new cases were males.

Among the total 3,482 infected Singaporeans, 1,534 are asymptomatic carriers, 804 had AIDS-related illnesses and 1,144 have died. The number of cases infected via intravenous drug use had halved to just seven.

More than half of the

new cases were aged between 30 to 49 years of age and had late-stage HIV infection when they were diagnosed.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman takes care of a child suffering from the lethal Enterovirus 71 (EV 71) in a hospital in Fuyang City, east China's Anhui Province, on 30 April 2008. The outbreak of the EV 71 that started in March in Fuyang City has been fallen 1,884 children and killed 20 by Wednesday noon, according to the provincial health department. —XINHUA

Death caused by lung cancer soars in China

BEIJING, 30 April — The number of deaths due to lung cancer in China has risen by 465 per cent in the past 30 years, an official announced here on Tuesday.

Lung cancer has replaced liver cancer to become the top killer among malignant tumours in China, Qi Xiaoqiu, an official with the Ministry of Health said at a Press conference on the third national survey on causes of death in China. In the past three decades, death rates of lung, liver, intestine, breast and bladder cancers have jumped and these cancers are closely linked to environment and life style, he said.

Among them, death rates of lung cancer and breast cancer registered the highest increase of 465 per cent and 96 per cent in the past 30 years, Qi said.

In the meantime, death rates of gullet, stomach, cervical cancers dropped steadily and cervical cancers had the

largest decrease rate, he said.

The death rate of both urban and rural Chinese from cancers are higher than the world level, he said.

Currently, the death rate of malignant tumours has increased by 83.1 per cent over the mid-1970s and by 22.5 per cent over the early 1990s, ministry statistics showed.

The death rate of malignant tumours in China's urban areas is higher than rural areas. Malignant tumour is the top killer for urban people and the second biggest killer for rural people, he said.

In urban areas, death rates of lung, intestine, pancreas and breast cancers are higher, while in rural areas, liver, stomach, gullet and cervical cancers are higher. Qi said China will further its efforts to publicize knowledge of cancer prevention, healthy life style and balanced diet. — MNA/Xinhua

A model waits backstage before the start of the Dorian Ho show at the Australian Fashion Week in Sydney on 30 April, 2008. The Australian Fashion Week runs until 2 May.—XINHUA



SPORTS



San Jose Sharks Patrick Marleau (L) celebrates his shorthanded goal as Dallas Stars Sergei Zubov looks on during Game 4 of their NHL Western Conference semi-final game in Dallas, Texas, on 30 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Manchester United most valuable soccer club

CHICAGO, 1 May — England's Manchester United is the world's most valuable soccer club for the fourth consecutive year, with a value of 1.8 billion US dollars, topping Spain's Real Madrid, according to *Forbes* magazine. United's estimated operating income was 111 million US dollars, one million US dollars behind Real Madrid, which was valued at 1.285 billion US dollars, according to *Forbes*, which values the top clubs annually.

By comparison, the most valuable US professional sports team is the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys, which *Forbes* valued at 1.5 billion US dollars last September. — *MNA/Reuters*

Russia reassures English fans over Champions League visas

LONDON, 1 May — Russia will ensure fans travelling to next month's all-English Champions League final in Moscow get visas but said the process would have been easier if diplomatic ties with Britain were better. Manchester United, who will face Chelsea in the 21 May final, said on Wednesday fans would be able to get visas more easily than usual if they followed club guidelines.

"Supporters travelling with charter flights approved by the club will benefit from an unprecedented facilitated visa procedure that will be detailed in the days to come," United said in a statement on their website (www.manutd.com). — *MNA/Reuters*



Kentucky Derby hopeful Colonel John gallops with exercise rider Karine Lhuiller during early morning workouts at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, on 30 April, 2008.—INTERNET

HK holds ceremony to welcome 2008 Olympic flame

HONG KONG, 1 May — Hong Kong held a ceremony Wednesday to welcome the sacred flame of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, which arrived here this afternoon.

Speaking at the ceremony, Executive Vice President of the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee Yang Shu'an said that after some 30 days of relay, the sacred flame of 2008 Beijing Olympic Games eventually arrived in Hong Kong, back to the motherland. Everyone is expecting successful relay of the Olympic torch in the city with great excitement and anticipation.

Yang said that the relay of Olympic torch is an important part of Beijing Olympic Games and he hoped this will bring peace, friendship and advancement of Olympic spirit to Hong Kong, sharing the joy and glory of the Olympic Games with members of the public in the city. — *MNA/Xinhua*



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, the statue of the Olympic torch 'Xiangyun' or lucky clouds is unveiled during the welcoming ceremony for the Olympic flame in Hong Kong on 30 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Emotions run high as Chelsea reach final

LONDON, 1 May — Chelsea reached the Champions League final for the first time on Wednesday, beating Liverpool 3-2 after extra time at rain-lashed Stamford Bridge to set up a meeting with Manchester United in Moscow next month.



Frank Lampard scores against Liverpool during their Champions League semi-final, second-leg soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 30 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Two goals from Didier Drogba and a penalty from a grieving Frank Lampard gave them a 4-3 aggregate victory in a dramatic semi-final against the side that had knocked them out twice at this stage in the last three seasons.

Liverpool's goals came from Fernando Torres and Ryan Babel, whose speculative 40-metre shot three minutes from the end of extra time somehow bamboozled Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech and revived Liverpool's hopes for the last few minutes.

But Chelsea held on in an absorbing match that was in the balance until the final kick to repay billionaire Russian owner Roman Abramovich for the millions of pounds he has invested in the west London club since taking over in 2003. They can now look forward to facing Manchester United in the first all-English Champions League final on 21 May.

"It has not sunk in properly," said Chelsea captain John Terry. "We will enjoy tonight but it will take 24 hours to sink in. I think everyone is looking forward to an all-English final. It will be a very tough game in three weeks' time." — *MNA/Reuters*

CSKA Sofia clinch Bulgarian league title

PLOVDIV (Bulgaria), 1 May — CSKA Sofia clinched their 31st Bulgarian league title behind closed doors on Wednesday after a 3-1 win at mid-table Botev Plovdiv with three matches remaining.

No spectators watched the match as Botev were serving a two-match ban for crowd violence.

Victory secured the title as CSKA now have a 13-point lead over second-placed Levski Sofia, who have four games left.

"It's a pity that we won the title in the absence of the fans," said CSKA coach Stoycho Mladenov told reporters.

"Football is a game for the fans and I think that the Bulgarian Football Union should reconsider its policy.

No one likes to play in such silence." CSKA's Brazilian striker Nei was on target twice in the first half, netting his third consecutive league double.

He opened the scoring with a close-range effort from Romanian midfielder Florentin Petre's right wing cross after 25 minutes. — *MNA/Reuters*

Linesman hit by object at Boca match

BUENOS AIRES, 1 May — Defending champions Boca Juniors' Libertadores Cup match at home to Cruzeiro finished one minute early on Wednesday after a linesman was hit by an object thrown from the crowd.

Television pictures showed the Uruguayan official being treated for a

cut on his forehead after the incident in the second minute of stoppage-time at the Bombonera stadium.

Referee Jorge Larrión, who had signalled three minutes of added time, immediately finished the game.

The injured official had been running the line in front of the stand where the most expensive seats and the VIP boxes, including the one used by former Argentina captain Diego Maradona, are located.

Boca were winning 2-1. On previous occasions where matches have been suspended in similar circumstances, the South American Football Confederation has allowed results to stand.

MNA/Reuters



Brazil's Myke Carvalho (L) celebrates after beating Argentina's Gumersindo Carrasco during their Olympic boxing qualifier match in Guatemala City on 30 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Greece, Russia stress closer cooperation

ATHENS, 1 May—The mutual desire for closer cooperation between Greece and Russia in the electric power sector was strengthened during the enlarged talks held between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the visiting Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis in Moscow on Tuesday.

According to Athens News Agency, Greek Development Minister Christos Folias said that “all the energy issues are open” and that “on a short-term basis, we are also interested in the transportation of electric power from Russia to Greece and on a medium and long-term basis whatever other sector”.

The Greek minister said the issue of cooperation in the electric power sector had been entered in the agenda of talks last December, during the Greek Prime Minister’s previous visit to Moscow, and it was raised again during his talks on Tuesday.— MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian ceasefire efforts to be completed next week

GAZA, 1 May — Hamas on Tuesday expected the Egyptian efforts to broker a ceasefire will be completed next week when Egyptian intelligence chief visits Israel.

If Israel accepts Hamas’ proposals, which are being communicated through the Egyptians, the intelligence chief Omar Suliman will declare “the zero hour for the lull,” said Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas leader in Gaza at a seminar of the Islamic University here.

Zahar also warned that Israel will pay “a high price if it decides to reject” the ceasefire offers, adding that Hamas will no longer go back to Cairo for more discussions as it has already handed over its vision to the Egyptian mediators. — MNA/Xinhua

Peace protesters deflate NZ spy base dome

WELLINGTON, 1 May — Peace activists attacked and deflated a large inflatable globe housing a satellite dish at a top secret New Zealand spy base on Wednesday in protest at United States military actions.

The group, calling itself ANZAC Ploughshares, said it cut through fences and razor wire and avoided electronic sensors to slash one of two 30-metre (98-foot) white globes with a sickle at the Waihopai base near Blenheim at the top of the South Island.

The base is described as a satellite communications monitoring facility, but peace campaigners have said it is part of a global signals interception network called Echelon. —MNA/Reuters

DNA frees Texas man imprisoned for 27 years

DALLAS, 1 May — A man walked out of a Dallas court on Tuesday after DNA testing overturned his conviction over 27 years ago for the murder and rape of his girlfriend, local media reported.

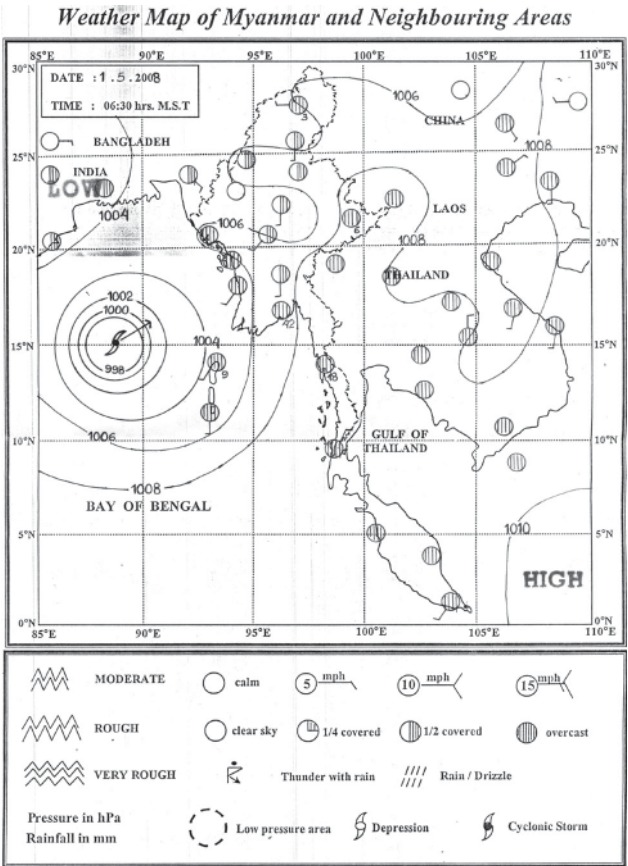
James Woodward, 55, spent more time in prison than any other wrongfully convicted inmate in US history who was subsequently freed by DNA testing, local media reported. He was also the eighteenth person freed in Dallas County based on a post-conviction DNA analysis, according to the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal centre that specializes in righting grave miscarriages of justice. — MNA/Reuters

“Storm News”

(Issued at 19:00 hours MST on 1-5-2008)

According to the observations at (18:00) hrs MST today, the severe cyclonic storm (NARGIS) over the Bay of Bengal is centred at about (310) miles Southwest of Gwa. During the past (12) hrs, it is intensified and moved Eastnortheast wards. It is forecast to cross the Coast between the Southern Rakhine State and Northern Ayeyawady Division during the next (36) hrs commencing noon today.

Under the influence of this storm, Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin, Shan and Kayah States, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated to scattered in Chin and Kachin States, Mandalay Division. Frequent squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50) mph.



WEATHER

Thursday, 1 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread Shan State, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions, scattered in Kachin State, isolated in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Kayin and Mon States. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Mandalay Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, (8°C) to (12°C) below May average temperatures in Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Chauk (43°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (9.29) inches, Kawkaik (9.21) inches, Kyaikkami (7.95) inches, Mudon (7.44) inches, Thaton (6.03) inches, Hpa-an (5.35) inches and Ye (4.92) inches.

Maximum temperature on 30-4-2008 was 80°F. Minimum temperature on 1-5-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-5-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 30-4-2008 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 1-5-2008 was (2.21) inches at Mingaladon, (1.65) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.44) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (8.31) inches at Mingaladon, (9.76) inches at Kaba-Aye and (8.78) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 30-4-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the severe cyclonic storm (NARGIS) over the Bay of Bengal is centred at about (410) miles Southwest of Gwa. During the past (12) hours, it is intensified and moved Eastnortheast wards. It is forecast to cross the Coast between the Southern Rakhine State and Northern Ayeyawady Division during the next (36) hours commencing noon today. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin, Shan and Kayah States, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated to scattered in Chin and Kachin States, Mandalay Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) to (50) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-5-2008: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Asleep in Jesus Rachel Daniels @ Daw Mya Mya UNICEF (Rtd) Age 85

Daughter of (Mr Money) at No 38, 109 Street Mingalar Taung Nyunt, wife of (Mr John Daniels), Mother of Angela+U Ne Win, Robina (UNICEF), Elizabeth Khin Hnin Hlaing (Alliance in Myanmar)+Victor Myint Thein (World Vision in Myanmar), (Maung Lay Naing @ Gerard), Velma+David (USA), Catherine+Mike (USA), grandmother of Maung Than Hlaing Thein (John), Ma Hnin Ei Thein (Veronica), Ma Su Hlaing Thein (Christine) and Monique (USA), peacefully passed away at No 70 Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road; St Grabial Church Compound on 1 May 2008 at 7:00 am. The remains was cremated the same day.

Bereaved Family



Friday, 2 May View on today

7:00 am

- 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- 2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- 3. Morning news

7:40 am

- 4. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am

- 5. Nice and sweet song

8:05 am

- 6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:30 am

- 7. International news

4:00 pm

- 1. Martial song

4:10 pm

- 2. “နိုင်ငံကို အမှန်တကယ်ချစ်သူတိုင်း အမှန်ကိုခြစ်ကြပါစို့.”

4:45 pm

- 3. Dance of national races

5:10 pm

- 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ- ပထမနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ သင်္ချာအထူးပြုများ) (ရူပဗေဒ)

5:30 pm

- 5. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

6:00 pm

- 6. Evening news

6:30 pm

- 7. Weather report

6:35 pm

- 8. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညာဏ်ရှင်

7:00 pm

- 9. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၂၆) ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း

7:30 pm

- 10. “စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှန်”

8:00 pm

- 11. News
- 12. International news
- 13. Weather report
- 14. “သပြေကုန်းမှ ရွှေအပြုံးများ”
- 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၉) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

Let us all

- * who are equipped with ardent patriotism,
- * who cherish genuine independence,
- * who aspire perpetuation of sovereignty,
- * who loathe foreign interference and manipulation, and
- * who oppose puppet government with strings of colonialists,

VOTE “YES” for ratification of the Constitution.

POEM:

Let's vote in favour

Written is the State constitution
In the interest of entire nation
Not of any particular person
Never to fall again under subjugation
Let's vote in favour

Hlaing (Trans.)

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

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein pays courtesy call on King Bhumibol Adulyadej

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May — Prime Minister General Thein Sein paid a courtesy call on Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Chitralada Palace in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

Together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Ye Win, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office were present on the occasion.

Together with the Thai King were Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej, the Minister of Tourism and Sports and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bonsarn Bunnag.

First, the Thai King said that the goodwill visit of the Myanmar Prime Minister would bring about the improvement of mutual trust between the two nations. He thanked Myanmar for warmly welcoming Thai Princess Sirindhorn, who visited Myanmar three times.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein said Head of State Senior General Than Shwe recalled his two visits to Thailand. He had conveyed the message of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe for the health and prosperity of the Thai King. He continued to explain the development of Myanmar and collaboration on cementing friendship between Myanmar and Thailand.

Concerning democratization process, the Thai King said the examples of some western powers stood

witness to the fact that too much democracy was not good. So much talk and less work was not either. The western big nations accused Thailand of being weak in exercising democracy. The democracy being practised by Thailand was better than the one they were practising.

He added that Myanmar was rich in natural resources and close cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand would contribute to the benefits of the two nations.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein calls on King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Chitralada Palace in Bangkok. — MNA