Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party view Export Processing Zone in Chittagong

YANGON, 8 April—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and party visited the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Management Office in Chittagong, Bangladesh, at 8 am local time on 6 April.

They were welcomed there by Executive Chairman Brig-Gen Md Zakir Hossain (Retd) of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones and officials.

At the briefing hall, Brig-Gen Md Zakir Hossain (Retd) extended greetings and explained industrial development tasks in the zones and generation of new job opportunities.

Next, Chittagong Export Processing Zone General Manager Mr A M M Shamsuddin Chowdhury explained the history of Chittagong Export Processing Zone, facts about the master plan of the zone, the aims, management matters, type of investments, supply of power, gas and water, fulfilling of basic needs such as roads and communications, means to increase investment, number of workers in the zone, export products, companies of various countries in the zone, type of products and service of the industrial zone committee.

Afterwards, officials of the zone and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt exchanged gifts. The Prime Minister signed in the visitors’ book.

On arrival at the sports gear factory of Youngone Group Corporation in the zone, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mr Kihak Sing and officials welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

First, Managing Director Mr Chang Sun Sohd reported on tasks being carried out by the corporation.

Officials of the corporation presented gifts to the Prime Minister. Next, the General signed in the visitors’ book.

Afterwards, the General and party viewed production process of sports footwear and tracksuit at the factory.

General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Zia Memorial Museum in Chittagong where they were welcomed by State Minister for Civil Aviation & Tourism Mr Mir Mohammed Nasir Uddin and officials.

At the museum, the General and party viewed documentary photos of late President Zia and his personal effects and the photos of the last journey of the president.

Next, the Prime Minister signed in the visitors’ book.

Then, they arrived back at Agrabad Hotel.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Chittagong International Airport at 1.30 pm local time to leave for Yangon. They were seen off at the airport by Bangladesh Ministry for Foreign Affairs Mr M Morshed Khan and officials, the Chittagong Mayor, local authorities, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Thein Myint, Military Attaché Col Han Tint and officials.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back Yangon in the evening.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, who accompanied the Prime Minister, together with Asia and Pacific Region Rural Development Department Director-General Dr Mya Maung, met with Bangladesh Ministry for Agriculture Mr M K Anwar at his office on 4 April evening.

At the call, they discussed cooperation in agriculture between the two countries.

Similarly, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone met with Adviser to Commerce Mr Md Barkat Ulah Buhl.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party visit Zia Memorial Museum in Chittagong — mna

**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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

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

Friday, 9 April, 2004

More roads and bridges for rural and urban development

The Myoma bridge and the Tein bridge on the Monywa-Kalewa road in Mingin Township, Sagaing Division, was inaugurated on 24 March and the opening ceremony was attended by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thaiba Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo. These two bridges were constructed within one year by the Directorate of Military Engineers under the Office of the Quartermaster-General. What is unusual about these bridges is that they were built with the use of iron beams of standard quality produced by the State-owned steelworks instead of the imported ones. The Myoma bridge is 540 feet long, with a 28-foot-wide motorway and a 4-foot-wide pedestrian lane on either side of it. The Tein bridge is 360 feet long, with a 28-foot-wide motorway and a 4-foot-wide pedestrian lane on either side of it.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the Monywa-Yargyi-Kalaywa road was constructed across the Chindwin river for the development of the region on the west bank of the river and for ensuring easy and smooth transport to the Kal region, the gateway to Chin State (North).

In the past, if we travelled from Monywa to Kale and Kalewa, we had to pass through the Mahamyaing forest, using the 160-mile-long Monywa-Yel-Taze-Thetkegin-Kalewa road. Now, as the newly-constructed Monywa-Yargyi-Kalaywa road is only 115 miles long, we can travel from Monywa to Kale, Kalewa and Tamu or from Monywa to Kale, Haka and Tiddim easily in a short time. The emergence of this new road contributes a lot to the transport between Sagaing Division and Chin State and the development of the villages in addition to Kani and Mingin towns. Before the construction of the bridges, it used to take about 12 hours to travel from Kale to Monywa by car but now it takes only about four hours. Thus, the transportation of passengers and goods has become smooth and easy.

The government is fulfilling all the requirements of social and economic infrastructures for the development of the entire Union. Therefore, we would like to call on all those responsible in respective towns to build more and more roads and bridges for rural and urban development.

Commander attends tree planting ceremony in Hmaubay Station

YANGON, 8 April—Under the arrangement of Yangon Command, the ceremony to grow saplings in Hmaubay Station was held at the hall of the station this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Hlay.

Also present on the occasion were No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Mingaladon Station Commander Col Win Naung, Hmaubay Station Commander Li-Col Tin Oo, departmental officials, Tatmadawmen and family members.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance to grow not only trees which contribute towards greening of the region but also those on commercial scale such as teak, tanakadaw, toddy palm, Thitiseen (Bellerica myrobalan), bamboo and pepper. At present, arrangements are being made for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, pulses and beans, edible oil crops, vegetables and cash crops on a commercial scale in vacant and virgin lands for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round. As regiments and units under the Yangon Command are located in the 30-mile radius of Yangon Airport, they are to systematically nurture saplings battalion-wise and to safeguard the trees so as to ensure greening of the area.

Hmaubay Station Commander Li-Col Tin Oo reported on nurturing of saplings in respective battalions of the station and arrangements for growing of the trees in the rainy season. Director U Thaung Tin of Yangon Division Forest Department reported on preparations for growing of saplings in coming rainy season. Next, the commander and wife and party sowed the seeds and viewed nurturing of saplings. They also viewed tissue culture of teak saplings of Yangon Division Forest Department.

Today’s ceremony in Hmaubay Station witnessed over 100,500 saplings were grown.—MNA

UMFCCI officials meet guests

YANGON, 8 April—UMFCCI President U Win Myint, CEC member U Tun Aung (Myanmar Nyunt), executives U Hla Maung and U Myo Thant and advertiser U Aung Myint welcomed attending India-Myanmar Joint Task Force meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the UMFCCI held in Calcutta, India, arrived back here by air yesterday afternoon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and officials. At the meeting, the two sides cordially discussed matters on organizational set-up and functions of the task force, promotion of trade and exporting value-added goods between north-west India and Myanmar, exchanging news on business and trade, more investing and promoting of tourism industry in Myanmar, establishment of an export processing zone, organizing “Made in Myanmar Exhibition” in India, holding the second meeting of India-Myanmar Joint Task Force in July in Myanmar, and forming COEs Forum made up of high-level businesspeople from the two nations.—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

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 8 April —The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name | Appointment | Ministry
--- | --- | ---
U Soe Hlaing | Factory Manager | Ministry of Industry-1
Shweidaung Advanced | Textile & Finishing Factory | Ministry of Industry
Kyaw Nyunt | Director | Ministry of Labour
Central Inland Freight | Handling Committee | Ministry of Labour

TV commercials invited on MRTV-3

YANGON, 8 April —Businessmen and companies can grasp the opportunity to put their advertisement on the MRTV-3 Channel covering some nations including Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and America continents. Advertising products and services on the MRTV-3, they can penetrate international markets and achieve greater success in a short time.

Hukaung Valley to become tiger reserve

YANGON, 8 April —The Hukaung Valley in Tanai region, Kachin State, has been designated as the wildlife reserve for the tigers by the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry. The department launched the activities as of April 2001. As the wildlife reserve was extended in March 2004, it has a total area of 8,452 square miles now. There are eight species of tiger in India including two species which are found in Myanmar. They those on inhabit in 14 countries. Among them, the species of Bangla tiger has inhabited in Hukaung Valley region in upper Myanmar.

To protect the species which is on the verge of extinction, the Forestry Department has carried out the research work and approved the region as the conservation area for the endangered species recently. Due to the efforts of the department and the favourable conditions in the region, the wildlife reserve is expected to become the world’s biggest natural reserve for the tigers.—MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Gun battles raging in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, 8 April—Gun battles raged in Fallujah in Iraq’s so-called Sunni Triangle Wednesday as US Marines sought guerrillas responsible for anti-US violence. Coalition Authority spokesman Gen Mark Kimmitt told reporters in Baghdad Wednesday US forces will continue the offensive against Fallujah until the killers of American civilians whose bodies were mutilated last week are brought to justice. He said coalition forces will also continue its campaign to destroy the al-Mehdi Army led by Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr. Sad’s rebels have been clashing with US troops for the past few days in several parts of Iraq, including Baghdad.UnionBank.

Dollar drifts lower on Iraq attacks, Alcoa profit waning

LONDON, 7 April—The dollar drifted lower on geopolitical uncertainties generated by rising unrest in Iraq, coupled with a weak opening on Wall Street following a profit waning by aluminium giant Alcoa.

Equities have started off on weaker footing and that has helped the euro move back above 1.21 dollar,” said Kamal Sharma, currency strategist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein. The euro had slumped below 1.20 for the first time in four months earlier this week on continued optimism surrounding the US economic recovery, which has stoked expectations the US Federal Reserve may raise interest rates from their current 46-year low of 1.0 percent earlier than had been expected. But analysts noted that dollar’s fate rests more on the performance of equities than any other major currency, given the relative importance of shares to the overall US economy, particularly in terms of wealth creation and driving investment decisions. Meanwhile, the Swiss franc attracted renewed safe-haven inflows after US air strikes killed dozens of people inside a mosque compound during heavy fighting in the Iraqi town of Fallujah.

Iraqi concerns are weighing on both the dollar and the stock markets and helping the Swiss franc be the best performer today,” said Nick Parsons, currency strategist at Commerzbank. Elsewhere, the yen reained firm after Moody’s Investors Services upgraded Japan’s foreign currency debt rating to “Aaa” from “Aa1” because of the country’s improving economic outlook and surging currency reserves. The pound also remained firm ahead of an interest rate decision from the Bank of England. Regardless of what the rate-setting monetary policy committee does, analysts said the pound was likely to remain buoyed against the euro, given interest-rate differentials between Britain and the eurozone. They have helped the pound surge to a two-year high against the single currency, with the euro trading on Wednesday as low as 0.6561 pounds.

Macao’s SME support measures accumulate effects

MACAO, 7 April — Three funding schemes to reduce operation risks of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) have accumulated notable effects after a year of examining and approving. The Economic Affairs Bureau said Tuesday that it has received a total of 762 applications for a combined funding support of 120 million patacas (15 million US dollars), since the “SME Aid Plan” was officially launched in May 2003 to help fend off negative effect of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) on local economy.

The bureau has dealt with 82 percent of the applications extending loans worth 60 million patacas (7.5 million US dollars). Another 51 applications have been handled in the “SME Credit Guarantee Plan” and the “Special Industry SME Credit Guarantee Plans”, which lent 34 million patacas (4.25 million US dollars) in loans in total.

Australia’s Qantas to set up budget airline in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 7 April—Australia’s carrier Qantas on Tuesday announced the establishment of a low cost airline, which will be based in Singapore and begin flying by the end of this year. Speaking at a Press conference on Tuesday, Qantas Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Geoff Dixon said that the budget airline will operate a fleet of single aisle aircraft and fly to a range of Asian cities within five hours of Singapore, which already has two no-frills carriers, the Tiger Airways and the ValuAir.

The Australian carrier, which also has a budget ferry service, will own 100 percent of the new airline, with the rest owned by the Singapore Government controlled investment corporation, the Temasek Holdings, and two Singapore businessmen. The owners have decied to invest a total of 100 million Singapore dollars (about 59.5 million US dollars) with the Australian airline contributing half of the sum.

The low cost carrier, which will begin flying with four aircraft, is expected to have more than 20 aircraft over the next three years.

Fallujah: ‘American graveyard’

BAGHDAD, 7 April—Looking on as a crowd of cheering Iraqis desecrated the bodies of four civilians killed by insurgents, 12-year-old Mohammad Nafiik said: “This is the fate of all Americans who come to Fallujah.”

The town has gained a reputation, particularly in recent weeks, as being one of the most violently opposed to the occupation. US troops have faced almost daily attacks there, and the recent killing and mutilation of four American civilian contractors - surrounded by a jubilant crowd - marked a new level of violence towards those who represent, or work for, the coalition.

Fallujah is in a region that has become known as the “Sunni triangle” - a predominantly Sunni Muslim area in a country with a Shia majority. The region also incorporates Saddam Hussein’s hometown, Tikrit. As well as being united by religion, there are also important tribal links, and it was from this region that Saddam Hussein (himself a Sunni Muslim - notionally at least) recruited his powerbase of support. That goes some way towards explaining the anti-coalition hostility in the region. After the invasion, the perks of being looked after by Saddam Hussein disappeared, and the confidence which came from being a powerful minority was replaced by the uncertainty of being simply a minority.

Fallujah itself is there a particularly deep-seated enmity towards the Americans. April 2003: US paratroopers shoot dead 13 demonstrators.

May 2003: attacks on US troops become a routine occurrence.


Feb 2004: 25 killed in attacks on police station and civil defence compound.

31 March 2004: Four US contractors killed.

Two weeks after the invasion was complete, angry crowds gathered outside a makeshift American barracks in Falluja and shots were fired.

The US troops fired on the crowd and at least 15 Iraqis were killed.

The incident served as a flashpoint, igniting a series of attacks against coalition forces across the region. Some of the attacks in Fallujah since - or at least the support for them - can be attributed to a desire to take revenge for a friend or relative killed by coalition forces.

The US troops who have been responsible for security in the region have had an unenviable task. The Army’s 82nd Airborne Division, which had responsibility for Fallujah until mid-March, had increasingly left responsibility for patrolling the town centre to Iraqi police, and made only occasional forays into Fallujah.

But US Marines have now taken over and adopted a much more high-profile approach to tackling the guerrillas.

They have conducted raids on various parts of the town looking for weapons, and had frequent running battles with guerrillas.

Armed Iraqi Shites, supporters of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr chant anti US slogans in Sadir City, Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood, Iraq, on 7 April, 2004. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 9 April, 2004
Kerry says June 30 Iraq handover date a ‘mistake’

CINCINNATI, 8 April — Democrat John Kerry said on Monday the United States made a mistake in setting an arbitrary date for handing over power in Iraq and suggested President George W Bush may have chosen June 30 for political reasons.

Bush has vowed to stick to the deadline for handing over to Iraqi sovereignty, even as a Shi’ite uprising against the US-led occupation stirred fears of a possible civil war. Calling the turn of events and the loss of American lives “deeply disturbing,” Kerry told reporters: “I have always said consistently that it is a mistake to set an arbitrary date and I hope that the date has nothing to do with the election here in the United States.”

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said the test should be Iraq’s stability and urged Bush to provide Americans with “a thorough understanding of exactly who we are turning the authority over to” and what that meant.

Kerry deflected a question about whether the Bush Administration should push the date back.

“I think they wanted to get the troops out and get the transfer out of the way as fast as possible without regard to the stability of Iraq,” he said. “The test ought to be the stability of Iraq and not an arbitrary date... it should not be related to the election.”

Kerry, branded a waffler by his Republican opponents, turned the tables at a rally earlier and accused Bush of “flips and flops” on the economy and national security.

Greeted by a small group of protesters shouting and clapping together rubber beach sandals called flip-flops, the Massachusetts senator rebuked them, saying, “Obvi-ously some young Republicans are proving that they’re very rude and they have no manners. They don’t want to hear the truth.”

He charged Bush and his Republican allies with misleading the country on the Iraq war, taxes and jobs. Kerry also said they had been dishonest about his record.

“You want to talk about flips and flops?” he asked hundreds of supporters at a rally in Cincinnati. “This President said one day Condoleezza Rice is not going to testify and the next day she is going to testify.”

He was referring to the White House national security adviser who will make a much-anticipated Thursday appearance before the commission investigating the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

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Bulgarian driver killed, three troops wounded in Iraq

SOFIA, 8 April — A Bulgarian civilian truck driver was killed and three Bulgarian soldiers were injured on Tuesday in separate attacks in Iraq.

Attackers fired on a column of six trucks on the road from Basra to Baghdad, some 25 miles south of Nassiriya, Bulgaria’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The truck column’s British guards beat back the attackers, allowing the other five trucks of the Bulgarian freight carrier SOFAT to continue to Nassiriya and Basra.

SOFAT, which started transport services to companies involved in the postwar reconstruction of Iraq last August, said it would cancel operations in Iraq until “peace resumes”.

“We are not soldiers and we cannot risk the lives of our people,” company trade manager Dimitar Nikolov told Reuters.

Three Bulgarian soldiers were injured in a separate incident when their convoy came under mortar and machine-gun fire in the southern Iraqi city of Kerbala, the Defence Ministry said.

The Balkan country, a staunch supporter of the US-led invasion of Iraq, sent a 450-strong light infantry battalion to Kerbala in August, where it is serving with Polish-led forces.

Bulgaria has vowed to keep its troops in Iraq despite the fact that five of its soldiers have been killed and 64 injured in a suicide bombing on 27 December.

Ukrainian soldier killed, five injured in Iraq

KIEV, 8 April — One Ukrainian soldier was killed and five other Ukrainian servicemen were wounded on Tuesday in clashes in southern Iraq, the Defence Ministry said.

The clashes took place near the town of Kut, the ministry said, adding that the soldier who was killed in an explosion.

“Six Ukrainian soldiers were injured by an explosion. One of them...died during his evacuation to the camp,” a statement said. Initially, the Defence Ministry said six servicemen had been injured.

“The situation remains tense but they (the Ukrainian soldiers) have the situation under control,” the statement said. The five wounded were in hospital and in a “stable” condition.

Ukraine sent 1,600 soldiers to Iraq last year in an attempt to repair ties with the United States strained over reports of illegal arms sales to Baghdad before the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. —MNA/Reuters

US Marines with the 2nd Battalion 1st Marine Regiment in military vehicles secure the area as one of their wounded colleague, not seen in the picture, is driven to their base. —Reuters

Singapore Airlines to fit aircraft with broadband access

SINGAPORE, 8 April — Singapore Airlines (SIA) will fit 40 of its aircraft with broadband Internet access capability as part of its efforts to consolidate its position as a leading world carrier, which is now facing a stronger competition from its regional and international rivals.

The service, which will be a pay-as-you-use option, will allow passengers such as businesswomen with laptops to enjoy high-speed Internet surfing, send e-mail and chat on-line, according to local Press reports on Tuesday. The Singaporean carrier, which will launch the service on long-haul flights, will start to outfit the planes with the capability in August and the first batch will be equipped by early next year. —MNA/Xinhua

US Marines with the 2nd Battalion 1st Marine Regiment in military vehicles leave their base to patrol in the outskirts of Fallujah, Iraq, on 7 April, 2004. —Reuters

Pacific island nations need to pull together

AUCKLAND, 8 April — Pacific Island nations need to pull together in support of each other quickly to respond to security crises if the region is to avoid being marginalized, a report said on Tuesday.

The report by an eminent persons group also said the secretary-general of the 16-nation Pacific Island Forum needs to be given more powers to quickly act in case of a regional crisis.

“The bottom line is that future inter-country relationships will need to be closer and more mutually supportive if the region is to avoid decline and international marginalization,” said the report compiled by a group led by Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan.

Australia has expressed concern that political and economic instability among its neighbours could create havens for drug traffickers, people smugglers, and financial bases for terror organizations.

The report, later endorsed by a meeting of forum members, said there was scope for enhanced economic cooperation and a more comprehensive regional approach to shared security interests.

Forum members met in Auckland to consider the report’s findings and gave their seal of approval before its next full meeting in Apia, Samoa, later this year.

“What this set of decisions does is actually charge the forum secretary-general with being proactive when he sees action developing,” Prime Minister Helen Clark told a news conference after the meeting.

The current secretary general is former Australian diplomat Greg Urwin. —MNA/Reuters

631 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 8 April — As of Wednesday, 7 April, 631 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 441 died as a result of hostile action and 190 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 493 US soldiers have died — 332 as a result of hostile action and 161 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by the military.
US, ALLIES FACE INTENSIFIED IRAQI RESISTANCE

Sunni guerillas guard the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, 65 kms west of Baghdad, on Wednesday, 7 April, 2004. US troops battled with guerillas in two central Iraqi towns on Wednesday, with at least 60 Iraqis killed and more than 120 wounded in overnight fighting in Fallujah, hospital officials said.

Iraqis look at the burned wreckage of a car after it was caught in a crossfire between Spanish troops and forces of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the city of Kufa, on 7 April, 2004.

Troops retrieve a US military helicopter that made an emergency landing in the city of Baqouba, Iraq, on Wednesday, 7 April, 2004.

Palestinian demonstrators burn the US flag as they hold up the Iraqi national flag, during a protest in support of Iraq in Gaza City on 7 April, 2004.

Iraqi men walk past the wreckage of a vehicle that burned following an explosion in the Shiree district of Sadr City, north Baghdad, Iraq, recently. Witnesses say two missiles fired from the air hit the neighbourhood, wounding three.

An Iraqi militiaman aligned with Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr wears a makeshift grenade on his belt on 7 April, 2004.
Iraqi Shiite militia battles Italian troops

NASSIRIYA (Iraq), 8 April — Radical Shiite militia men fought gun battles with Italian troops in the southern town of Nassiriyah on Tuesday and two civilians were killed, witnesses said.

The violence was part of a surge of unrest led by Moqtada al-Sadr, a cleric fiercely opposed to the US-led occupation.

The fighting in Nassiriyah erupted at about 4 am (0000 GMT) and continued into the morning. Four Italian vehicles had been burned in the clashes in the Zeitoun District, witnesses said.

Pro-Sadr fighters were still controlling the area, near the local headquarters of Iraq's Coalition Provisional Authority.

The witnesses said two civilians had been killed and four wounded in crossfire. Two members of Sadr's Mehdi Army militia were wounded. There was no word on Italian casualties.

Italian military officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

About 2,500 Italian troops serve in southern Iraq in a multinational force under British command.

A suicide bombing on the Italian headquarters in Nassiriyah killed 19 Italians in November.

Sadr has sent his Mehdi Army militia into the streets of Baghdad and cities across the mainly Shiite south in the last few days in protest at the detention of one of his aides and the closure of his newspaper by US-led authorities.

A US spokesman revealed on Monday that an Iraqi judge had issued an arrest warrant for Sadr several months ago in connection with the murder of a year ago of moderate Shiite cleric Abdul Majid al-Khoei in a Najaf mosque. Sadr's group has denied involvement in the killing.

Blix says Iraq worse off after war

COPENHAGEN, 8 April — The costs of the war in Iraq have outweighed the benefits of removing Saddam Hussein, former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix told a Danish newspaper.

"It's positive that Saddam and his bloody regime is gone, but when one weighs the costs, it's clearly the negative aspects that dominate," Blix told daily Jyllands-Posten in an interview.

The Swedish diplomat has criticized the United States and Britain for going to war without UN approval rather than allowing his team to continue its hunt for banned weapons.

In the interview, Blix said the war had contributed to a destabilization of the Middle East and a move away from democracy in the region, adding that even though Iraqis had been spared life under Saddam Hussein, it was at too high a cost.

"Bush declared war as a part of the US war on terror, but instead of limiting the effects of terror, the war has laid the foundation for even more terror," Blix said.

Blix, a lawyer and former Swedish foreign minister who at 75 now serves as chairman of Sweden's Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, retired from the United Nations last June.

China amends trade law to further gear to WTO rules

BEIJING, 8 April — China amended its 10-year-old trade law Tuesday to further gear to the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and promote trade growth.

The amended trade law, passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, met the needs for further progress in trade, the market economy, the implementation of its promise to the WTO and the acceleration of rule of law, said Yu Guangzhou, Vice-Minister of Commerce.

The new law modified some items to fit WTO rules and China's commitments upon accession, such as foreign trade rights for all companies and individuals.

It also highlighted China's rights as WTO member, such as investigating foreign trade partners and trade relief for enterprises, and the protection of intellectual property rights, including a whole chapter on the protection of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs).

The Ministry of Commerce will formulate follow-up regulations and rules to better implement the revised law and facilitate trade, Yu said.

With a booming economy, China's foreign trade witnessed remarkable growth in the past decade. Total foreign trade exceeded 850 billion US dollars last year, which makes China the fourth largest trade partner in the world, compared to the 11th largest 10 years ago.

The amended law will be effective as of July 1 this year.

UN suspends returns of Iraqi refugees from Iran

GENEVA, 8 April — The United Nations said on Tuesday it had temporarily suspended conveyos of Iraqi refugees returning from Iran due to insecurity in southern Iraq.

The decision came after 25 returnees were stranded in Basra overnight when drivers afraid of illegal checkpoints and hijackings refused to go beyond the southern city to take them to their final destination, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

UNHCR spokesman Peter Hyten told a news briefing that virtually all conveyos carrying more than 200 Iraqis, many exiled for two decades, had been due to return on Tuesday from Shiraz, Iran, but will stay at least temporarily at Shalamcheh just inside Iran, he added.

France says no NATO role in Iraq before UN in charge

BRUSSELS, 8 April — The United Nations must have responsibility for all operations in Iraq before a wider NATO role in stabilizing the country can be considered, French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said on Tuesday.

"Before considering anything at all, the United Nations must have responsibility for all operations. There must be a legitimate Iraqi Government — we want this to come as quickly as possible — and there must be a request from this government," she told a news conference in Brussels.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell urged NATO allies last week to consider a wider role for the alliance in stabilizing Iraq, but France and Germany — both strong opponents of the US-led invasion of the country — had refused. French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said then that NATO was “simply not the right place” for a decision on the situation in Iraq after July 1, when the United States will restore sovereignty to the people.

Saddr aide says Iraqis capture coalition soldiers

BEIRUT, 8 April — A top aide to the militant Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said on Wednesday that his supporters had captured a number of soldiers from the US-led coalition during clashes currently taking place across a large swath of Iraq.

"Some tribes have captured some occupation forces on the streets," Quays al-Kharzali told a news conference in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf.

He gave no further details. The news conference was broadcast by Lebanon's al-Manar television station, mouthpiece of the militant Shiite Hizbollah group.

There was no immediate comment on the report from the command of US-led forces in Baghdad.

France says no NATO role in Iraq before UN in charge

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Blix says Iraq worse off after war

COPENHAGEN, 8 April — The costs of the war in Iraq have outweighed the benefits of removing Saddam Hussein, former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix told a Danish newspaper.

"It's positive that Saddam and his bloody regime is gone, but when one weighs the costs, it's clearly the negative aspects that dominate," Blix told daily Jyllands-Posten in an interview.

The Swedish diplomat has criticized the United States and Britain for going to war without UN approval rather than allowing his team to continue its hunt for banned weapons.

In the interview, Blix said the war had contributed to a destabilization of the Middle East and a move away from democracy in the region, adding that even though Iraqis had been spared life under Saddam Hussein, it was at too high a cost.

"Bush declared war as a part of the US war on terror, but instead of limiting the effects of terror, the war has laid the foundation for even more terror," Blix said.

Blix, a lawyer and former Swedish foreign minister who at 75 now serves as chairman of Sweden's Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, retired from the United Nations last June.

China amends trade law to further gear to WTO rules

BEIJING, 8 April — China amended its 10-year-old trade law Tuesday to further gear to the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and promote trade growth.

The amended trade law, passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, met the needs for further progress in trade, the market economy, the implementation of its promise to the WTO and the acceleration of rule of law, said Yu Guangzhou, Vice-Minister of Commerce.

The new law modified some items to fit WTO rules and China's commitments upon accession, such as foreign trade rights for all companies and individuals.

It also highlighted China's rights as WTO member, such as investigating foreign trade partners and trade relief for enterprises, and the protection of intellectual property rights, including a whole chapter on the protection of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs).

The Ministry of Commerce will formulate follow-up regulations and rules to better implement the revised law and facilitate trade, Yu said.

With a booming economy, China's foreign trade witnessed remarkable growth in the past decade. Total foreign trade exceeded 850 billion US dollars last year, which makes China the fourth largest trade partner in the world, compared to the 11th largest 10 years ago.

The amended law will be effective as of July 1 this year.
Hydroelectric power projects on the golden rivers

U Zaw

With zeal and perseverance, the construction of the dam and the power plant of the Shwesayar Hydroelectric Power Project on Chindwin River near Shwesayar Village in Budaian Township, Sagaing Division, and Shweli Hydroelectric Power Project on Shweli River near Mone Creek in Mon State, Shan State, in February 2004. I was also a member of the Vice-Senior General’s entourage. Shwesayar Hydroelectric Power Project, with the generation capacity of 300 megawatts, and Shweli Hydroelectric Power Project, with the generation capacity of 120 megawatts, are important projects of the nation. Work is under way to start construction of the dam and the power plant of the Shwesayar Hydroelectric Power Project. The implementation of the Shweli Hydroelectric Power Project is pending. In addition to land resources, Myanmar is also rich in water resources. A large amount of hydel and thermal power can be tapped from the major rivers including the Ayeyarwady, the Chindwin, the Thanlwin, the Sittoung, the Mu and the Shweli flowing in this region. In this regard, the Ayeyarwady River Basin Project, the Chindwin River Basin Project, the Thanlwin River Basin Project and the Sittoung River Basin Project, covering a total area of 240,000 square kilometers, have been implemented in the nation. In the areas along the upper reaches of the Ayeyarwady are the five projects — the Myitsone Project, the Shweli Project, the Thaphanik Project, and the Mone Project. Of these five megawatt power stations, the construction of the dam and the power plant of Mone Creek hydro-electric power project has already been erected at the Thaphanik Project, and a part of the project, the Thapik Project, is under construction. The other three projects, the Myitsone Project, the Shweli Project and the Mone Project, are in construction stages. Further survey reports show that more hydel power dams can be built in the Ayeyarwady basin. As for us, the Ayeyarwady is a golden river, and only if we are able to build hydel power stations with large generation capacities will we be able to reach the golden age.

With Ayeyarwady as an example, we will have to add value to and harness other rivers with the use of human labor. As long as there exists inadequacy in electricity generation and distribution, the process of building a modern and developed nation in the golden age will face delays because of the limitations. Electricity serves as a precious capital in the drive to reach the golden age. It is also a valuable jewel for the nation. Rural areas as well as urban areas need electricity, while the demand in the urban areas is greater than in the rural areas. The turningpoint has brought changes and development to human society and living standard. As our country has entered the electronic era, the use of computers, televisions and VCD or DVD players are on the rise, while the small business community begins to require the use of this equipment. The small equipment serves needs best.

And so also the role of electricity has become greater in everyday life. The Government has been en- couraging to meet the rising demand of electric power needs rising due to changes and developments in people’s lifestyles. In the past, the 196-megawatt Lawpaw Power Station, with a total capacity of 1.15 million acre-feet, and the Ayeyarwady’s source of power to drive its turbines, was the main hydel power plants to secure large, medium and other hydroelectric power stations in this country. But at present, the sector of hy- droelectric power has been extended, with greater mo- mentum. Experts say that the annual volume of water flowing in all the rivers and creeks in the nation combined exceeds 876 million acre-feet. The annual current volume of the Ayeyarwady alone is over 250 million acre-feet, while that of the Thanlwin is about 209 million acre-feet, the Chindwin about 75 million acre-feet and the Sittoung about 34 million acre-feet. As the nation is rich in water re- sources, it will have to set up hydel power plants to meet the rising electricity demand.

According to the survey, the nation has 268 sites suitable for building hydel power plants. Of these, small hydel power stations with a total generation capacity of nearly 40,000 megawatts. The generation capacity of the existing stations is only about 390 megawatts or only one per cent of the calculated total potential capacity. Besides, the majority of the stations lie outside the national grid, and they are supplying power only for local consumption. More stations will have to be built for the national grid, as well as for local consump- tion. Concerning the issue, the State Peace and Develop- ment Council, led by Vice-Senior General Than Shwe has given some guidance to extend new sta- tions.

The Ayeyarwady has been given guidance to extend new sta- tions, with a total generation capacity of 2,000 mega- watts, based on the rich water resources, during the third five-year national eco- nomic plan from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006. A new body, the Hydroelectric Power De- partment has been set up under the Ministry of Electric Power. The recent formation of the Leading Committee for National Electricity De- velopment and the Working Committee for National Electricity Development has shown the Government’s actual efforts to give priori- ty to the power projects. The two bodies will play the leading and supervisory role in launching the electricity projects.

As it has been as- sumed by the State, the Min- istry of Electric Power will have to fulfil the nation’s rising electricity demands, with zeal, skill and all-out efforts as the foundation. Moreover, it will have to work in harmony with the Ministry of Agricultural and Irrigation, whose job also is to supply power to the projects, and to receive as- sistance from other minis- tries and local administrative bodies at different levels.

It is not easy to build a large reservoir with efforts of a single body. All collec- tive efforts are needed to reach the goal. Unity is strength. But we need much patience, skill, mutual understanding, comprehension and trust to win unity for strength. It is easier said than done. A host of difficulties were overcome by collective efforts in building the Zuungha Dam and its hydel power station on Bago River. The station is gener- ating hydroelectric power at 10-megawatt turbines, while the dam is preventing floods and irrigation in inundating the sur- rounding areas of Bago. The Bago River, with an annual flow of water of about 6.5 billion acre-feet, has been controlled and harnessed to a certain degree to serve the public interests. In other words, it is the victory of man to add value to a natu- ral resource.

Likewise, the Electric Power Ministry in coopera- tion with the A&I Ministry has built a series of hydel power dams on Zawgyi River in the interest of the people. Small and medium power stations — the 1.2-megawatt Tatkyi, the 18-megawatt Zawgyi-1 and the 12-mega- watt Zawgyi-2 — have been built along the Zawgyi River with an annual output of over 400,000 acre-feet. The dams are not only generating electricity, but also irrigating cropland in the areas. In addition to Bago and Zawgyi rivers, the 56-megawatt Kinda Hydel Power Station has been built on Panglaung River, with an annual output of about 1.1 billion acre-feet.

Likewise, the Thapainseik, Dam, hous- ing a power station, has been built on Mu River whose annual output ex- ceeds 3 million acre-feet. The power station is supply- ing electricity to the public.

The setting up of hydel power stations on Bago, Zawgyi, Panglaung and Mu rivers to supply electricity adds new vigour and strength to the nation in implementing new projects. Besides, the two ministries have gained much experi- ence from the projects.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

The construction site of Mone Creek hydro-electric power project seen on 2 April 2004.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays a goodwill visit to Bangladesh

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt ...

(from page 1)

at Hotel Sheraton in Dhaka on 4 April evening.

At the call, they discussed holding of the First Joint Trade Commission Meeting and trade promotion of the two countries.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing met with State Minister for Home Affairs Mr Lutfozzaman Babar of Bangladesh at his office on 4 April evening.

At the call, they discussed greater cooperation between two Ministries of Home Affairs, promotion of immigration tasks between the two countries and more bilateral cooperation in drug elimination and border security.

Similarly, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with Bangladeshi Minister for Information Mr Tarku Islam at his office on 4 April evening.

They also discussed cooperation in news and information between the two countries.

Likewise, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, met with Bangladeshi Minister for Communications Barrister Nazmul Huda at his office on 4 April evening. They discussed road construction tasks.
Water supply stations designated for Thingyan

YANGON, 8 April — For enabling the public to take part in the Myanmar Traditional Water Festival, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee will supply water to Tamway, Mingala Taungnyunt, Pazundaung, Botataung, Kyantkada, Pabedan, Latha, Lammadaw, Yangon General Hospital and emergency areas round the clock: Dagon, Ahlon, Kymyin.yml, Sangyoung, Bahan and Mayangone from 8 am to 11 am and 3 pm to 6 pm, twice a day.

Moreover, water will be supplied to Yankin, Kamayut, Hline, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun and Thakata townships as usual as of 17 April.

Zawana and Thimumgala tube-wells in Thingangyun, No 2 Sabei Street tube-well in Hsunwume Ward, North Okkalapa, tube-well at the corner of Ayeyawan and Shukhantha Streets, Gwazay tube-well in Sangyoung Township, tube-well in Fire Services Compound in Insein Township and Yegu water supply station in Mayangon will supply water from 8 am to 6 pm free of charge. During the water supply, anyone may contact Township Executive Officer’s Office and Engineering Department (Water and Sewage), Tel: 249655, 286898, 243550 and 296501 for emergency repair of water pipe. — MNA

Three perpetrators intrude into Myanmar Embassy compound in Kuala Lumpur

They set fire to the Chancery and Embassy vehicle

Myanmar condemns despicable act of the perpetrators

YANGON, 8 April— On 7 April 2004 at 10 am, three men armed with an axe, knives and iron rods intruded into the compound of the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur by climbing over walls and attacked the embassy. In the course of the attack, they set fire to the Chancery and an Embassy vehicle. The embassy immediately informed the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Malaysian Police and the Fire Department. Moreover, the embassy staff, together with other Myanmar nationals who were on the premises, fended off the attackers forcing the perpetrators to flee. Subsequently, they were apprehended by the Malaysian Police who had by then arrived on the scene. U Khin Maung Lynn, Minister-Counsellor of the embassy, sustained injuries as a result of the attack and is currently being treated at a hospital.

Likewise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon is also in contact with the local Malaysian Embassy. In the meantime, an enquiry team from Myanmar has been informed the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Malaysian Police and the Fire Department. Moreover, the embassy staff, together with other Myanmar nationals who were on the premises, fended off the attackers forcing the perpetrators to flee. Subsequently, they were apprehended by the Malaysian Police who had by then arrived on the scene. U Khin Maung Lynn, Minister-Counsellor of the embassy, sustained injuries as a result of the attack and is currently being treated at a hospital. Ambassador U Hla Maung and other officers and staff of the Embassy were not injured. Myanmar condemns the despicable act of the perpetrators who set fire to the Chancery and inflicted injuries on a diplomat and is doing what need to be done. It is cooperating closely with the Malaysian authorities on the matter. U Aung Bwa, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department, who is currently in Kuala Lumpur, held discussions in the afternoon of 7 April with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. Likewise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon is also in contact with the local Malaysian Embassy. In the meantime, an enquiry team from Myanmar has been dispatched to investigate the matter and work together with the Malaysian authorities. The Malaysian authorities have given assurances that necessary investigations would be made and firm action taken against the perpetrators with the full force of law. The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is now functioning normally. — MNA

Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin calls on Minister for Agriculture of Bangladesh Mr M K Anwar on 4-4-2004. — MNA

Adviser to Commerce Mr Md Barkat Ullah Bulu meets Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone on 4-4-2004. — MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing calls on State Minister for Home Affairs of Bangladesh Mr Lutfozzaman Babar on 4-4-2004. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan calls on Minister for Information of Bangladesh Mr Tariku Islam on 4-4-2004. — MNA

Minister for Commerce receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 8 April — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received Vice-President of People Political Consultant Committee of Guangxi Province Mr Wang Haomin and party at his office this afternoon. Also present at the call together with the minister were Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of the Border Trade Department U Nay Win, Managing Director of the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Min Hla Aung and officials. — MNA
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for a documentary photo together with specialists, surgeons and nurses at opening of Specialist Hospital (Kyaukse).—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party view the patient ward at Specialist Hospital (Kyaukse).—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint formally open Specialist Hospital (Kyaukse).—MNA.
Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 8 April — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 205,000. Hence, the Director-General (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) Tel: 01-288540 & 253640, the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-260118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagin Division Development Affairs Committee) Tel: 071-21012, the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) Tel: 063-236144 and the Director ( Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) Tel: 02-34607.

ASEAN expected to continue stronger economic growth in 2004

SINGAPORE, 8 April — Ten finance ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) concluded their one-day meeting here on Wednesday, expecting that ASEAN will continue its stronger economic growth momentum this year.

Speaking in a joint statement, the ASEAN finance ministers said that the prospects for growth in their economies are stronger this year, and they expect the region to continue its growth momentum this year with a projected gross domestic product (GDP) of 5.5 to 5.9 per cent.

"Growth is expected to be broad based, with both domestic and external demand providing the impetus for expansion," they said.

However, they recognized that downside risks exist because the current account and fiscal imbalances in some of the major industrial countries may cause misalignments and volatility in capital markets.

The ministers stressed the need for a gradual adjustment to these imbalances in order to avoid putting undue stress on the global and regional economic prospects.

They said that the ASEAN countries have adopted demand strengthening policies which will play a positive role in the global adjustment process.

They agreed to continue to give a high priority to efforts to explore ways to forge alliances and linkages within the ASEAN securities market, and also agreed to organize promotional efforts to profile ASEAN better.

The ministers voiced their satisfaction with the overall progress achieved towards regional integration, and commit to further strengthen their cooperation to expedite the implementation of significant initiatives such as the Roadmaps and Asian Markets Initiative.

They also stressed the importance of continuous efforts to further develop and strengthen their financial markets and to achieve the objectives of their regional cooperation towards financial stability and integration.

During the one-day meeting, the first of its kind in Singapore, the ministers discussed recent global economic developments, performance of ASEAN economies last year and outlook for this year.

The first ASEAN finance ministers meeting was held in Thailand in 1997 and the next one will take place in Laos next year.

Vietnam's biggest international trade fair opens

HANOI, 8 April — The 14th Vietnam International Trade Fair with the participation of 420 local businesses and 148 foreign ones from 20 countries and regions kicked off here on Wednesday.

The five-day fair, Vietnam Expo 2004, aims at helping local and foreign businesses seek partners, sign more contracts, and strengthen cooperation, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Mai Van Dau said at the fair's opening ceremony.

The annual fair houses seven national pavilions of China, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, India and Czech. It also has 560 local and 148 foreign exhibition booths, mainly exhibiting food, drinks, chemicals, fertilizers, industrial and agricultural machinery, equipment, transport means and their spare parts.

Seminars and bilateral meetings between Vietnamese businesses and foreign ones will be held during the fair.

At Vietnam Expo 2003, which attracted nearly 100,000 visitors, corporate participants signed contracts worth 253 million US dollars.

Cambodia posts record high rice harvest in 2003

Phnom Penh, 8 April — Cambodia harvested over 4.71 million tons of rice crops for the year 2003-2004, beating the record of 4.08 million tons set in 2002-2003, said an annual report by the Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday.

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Chan Sarum said it was the first time in history since 1900 that Cambodia has seen such a huge harvest.

The minister said that Cambodia has got 888,448 tons of rice more than the previous year and one million surplus rice can be exported.

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 8 April — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. Booklets and pamphlets on utilization of fertilizers are also available there.
**Mexico flood death rises to 34**

**Piedras Negras** (Mexico), 8 April — Rescue workers pulled three more bodies from roofs in northern Mexico on Tuesday, taking to 34 the death toll from flash floods that ripped through this normally dry and town near the US border.

As helicopters scour the devastated landscape for more than a dozen missing people, rescuers on the ground searched for three young children swept away by raging waters after a tree they were sheltering in collapsed.

"The current sweep them away," said their shaken fa-

ther, Antonio Hernandez, whose wife and daughter were also washed away but rescued some distance from the house.

"We were at home when the flooding started and we climbed a tree. But the tree fell down and the children with it."

Torment rain early on Monday caused the Escondido River to burst its banks and send a deluge of water into Piedras Negras, situated across the Rio Grande River from Texas.

**China, US will talk about Taiwan issue**

**Beijing**, 8 April — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said here Tuesday that China and the United States will exchange views on the Taiwan issue during US Vice-Presi-

dent Dick Cheney's upcoming visit.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Cheney will pay a working visit to China from April 13 to 15 at the invitation of Chinese Vice-Presi-
dent Yang. Kong said the Taiwan issue is the most sensitive and important issue in China-US relations and currently the situation across the Tai-

wan Strait is very sensitive and special.

"Under such a situation, we, as we always do, ask the United States to strictly abide by its commitments, to im-

plement the "one-China" policy and the principles en-

doed in the three China-US joint communiques, and to keep its promise," he said.

In addition, Kong said China strongly opposed the US sale of advanced weapons to Taiwan.

By selling advanced weapons to Taiwan, the US "not only violated its commitments it made, but also damaged peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," Kong said. "I believe the Chinese leaders will once again expound on this issue and stand on this issue to Cheney during his visit here."

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GEE HONG VOY NO (407)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (407) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-4-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws 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: MEAGLE CORPORATION**

Phone No: 2569857/738316/376797

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG 767/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG 767/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 12-4-2004 and will be berthing on about 13-4-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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**“Terror” groups cashing in on fake goods**

**Dublin, 8 April —** World governments must tackle trade in counterfeit goods more aggressively amid mounting evidence that “terrorists” are benefitting from the proceeds, the head of Interpol said on Tuesday.

Ronald Noble, secretary-general of the international police organization based in Lyon, France, told American and European legislators meeting in Dublin about the potential for the illicit trade in counterfeit car parts.

He gave as an example the theft, some time ago but now widely publicized, of counterfeit brake pads and shock absorbers valued at one million euros and purportedly from a German car producer.

“Subsequent enquiries revealed that profits from these consignments, had they not been intercepted, were destined for supporters of Lebanon’s guerrilla group Hizbollah,” he said.

“Linking the Hizbollah to counterfeit brake parts shows not only the link between terrorist financing and intellectual property but also how intellectual property crime preys on the largest, fastest-growing sectors of the global economy, reaping the profits of others’ talent, innovation and enterprise,” he said.

Industrial property goods ranging from designer clothing, CDs and toys to mobile phones and prescription drugs costs economies around the world billions of dollars each year.

The European Union is introducing a new law aimed at combating a potential deluge of fake goods arriving from the 10 countries that will join the EU on May 1. The law cleared a crucial vote last month and is expected to be in place in time for the expansion.

**WHO urges global crackdown over road deaths crisis**

**Geneva, 8 April —** Governments around the world must crack down to improve traffic safety and stop road deaths soaring even higher than current crisis levels, the World Health Organization said.

The WHO said at least 1.2 million people a year, injuring or disabling 50 million more, and said the casualty rate would increase by 65 percent in the next 20 years without preventative measures.

“Traffic violence is a neglected public health problem,” said WHO injuries expert Etienne Krug, unveiling a report calling for safety measures from drivers, road builders, car manufacturers, traffic engineers and even cyclists and pedestrians.

**Barcelona becomes first city to oppose bullfighting**

**Madrid, 8 April —** Barcelona has become the first city in Spain to declare its opposition to bullfighting in a move hailed by animal rights activists, but the vote in the city council on Tuesday will not mean it is banned.

SPANISH law states bullfighting is a spectacle of a matador taking on a bull with sword and cape but the practice provokes harsh criticism from many in the European Union.

“I’m delighted that we are the first city to take a stand against an outdated and difficult-to-defend subject,” Mayor Joan Clos said in comments broadcast by Cadena Ser radio.

The law cleared a crucial vote last month and is expected to be in place in time for the expansion.

**EU failing to halt illegal timber trade**

**Brussels, 8 April —** The European Union is failing to do enough in its own backyard to halt the billion dollar trade in illegal logging, environmentalists said on Tuesday.

While the 15-nation bloc is encouraging countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to fight illegal tree felling as part of its fight against deforestation and fuelling crime, it is silent on stamping out the activity at home and in new member states, WWF said.

“Governments are making it seem as if they are doing all they can to curb illegal logging and trade but the reality is different,” said WWF Forest Officer Jacob Andresen.

WWF ranked 12 out of the 15 EU states on their commitment to cleaning up the 150 billion US dollars global forest product trade. Britain came top of the list as it was the only country to have a partnership with a wood-producing country.

Britain has also made a commitment to buy wood destined for public service contracts such as school construction from legal and sustainable sources.

WWF wants the EU to ban imports of illegal wood, toughening up a draft law to fight illegal logging where European companies would only accept timber imports if they were certified as legal in the country of origin.

The green group also said illegal logging was a problem in the 10 mostly Eastern European states set to join the EU on May 1. The EU currently imports timber from the Baltic states and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where up to half this amount is illegal.

Environmental groups estimate that European imports of illegally-sourced timber are worth 1.2 billion euros a year.

The EU is an important market for both legal and illegally harvested timber entering international trade. It is the largest importer of plywood and sawnwood from Africa and the second largest from Asia.

**US “AIDS” patients face drug barriers**

**Washington, 8 April —** Tight state budgets and rising drug prices have forced nearly 800,000 US AIDS patients on to waiting lists for life-saving medicines and the number is likely to grow, activists said on Tuesday.

While the world’s attention has focused on bringing AIDS medicines to Africa and other parts of the globe, barriers to treatment are rising in the United States, they said.

“Patients covered by state AIDS Drug Assistance Programmes are running into restrictions, such as limits on the number of prescriptions they can fill each month, state officials and physicians said.

“We’re about to fall into a major crisis,” the trend continues, said Jose Zuniga, president and chief executive of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care.

The physicians group met Tuesday and sought advice on ways to address the pricing issues of the nation’s lawmakers’ underfunding of drug cover programmes.

European governments are reported to have been intercepting telephone calls to help track down the authors of “Terror” groups cashing in on fake goods.

**Mexico woman performs own Caesarean to save baby**

**London, 8 April —** A pregnant woman in Mexico gave birth to a healthy baby boy after performing a Caesarean section on herself with a kitchen knife, doctors said on Tuesday.

It is thought to be the first known case of self-inflicted Caesarean in which both the mother and baby survived.

She had lost a previous baby due to labour complications. “She took three small glasses of hard liquor and, using a kitchen knife, sliced her abdomen in three attempts...and delivered a male infant that breathed immediately and cried,” said Dr RF Valle.

**Who makes eating chocolate during pregnancy good for the baby?**

**London, 8 April —** Pregnant women rejoice. Eating chocolate is good for the baby, say Finnish researchers.

Scientists at the University of Helsinki, who asked 300 pregnant women to record their chocolate consumption and stress levels, found that daily consumption has good impact on baby development.

Concern among physicists and activists grew after Abbott Laboratories raised the price of a key AIDS drug. However, by 400 per cent last December, Zaniga and others said.

“This is not about blaming industry for the entirety of problems. Certainly pricing is a concern,” Zaniga said. “We need to look at a mixed basket of solutions.”

**Christie’s to auction Chinese ceramics, jade carvings**

**Hong Kong, 8 April —** Christie’s Hong Kong is planning to introduce autumn auctions on April 25 and 26 to sell Chinese ceramics and jade carvings.

At a press briefing on Tuesday, Christie’s Hong Kong introduced to the reporters parts of the items. Among the some 200 items are some hand-crafted white Yongle period (1403–1425) floral–tiled “dragon” bronzes and delicately incised porcelain.

Environmental rarity is among the highlights this season, estimated 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 Hong Kong dollars. For jade carvings, a magnificent imperial large white jade carved figure of Emperor Qianlong’s reign, expected to fetch 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 Hong Kong dollars, and a very rare imperial carved and painted spinach-green jade book of the same period, estimated 2,500,000 to 3,500,000, are the highlights of the auction.

Among the some 200 items are some hand-crafted white Yongle period (1403–1425) floral–tiled “dragon” bronzes and delicately incised porcelain.

**Chocolate during pregnancy has good impact on baby**

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“This is not about blaming industry for the entirety of problems. Certainly pricing is a concern,” Zaniga said. “We need to look at a mixed basket of solutions.”

**EU failing to halt illegal timber trade**

**Brussels, 8 April —** The European Union is failing to do enough in its own backyard to halt the billion dollar trade in illegal logging, environmentalists said on Tuesday.

While the 15-nation bloc is encouraging countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to fight illegal tree felling as part of its fight against deforestation and crime, it is silent on stamping out the activity at home and in new member states, WWF said.

“Governments are making it seem as if they are doing all they can to curb illegal logging and trade but the reality is different,” said WWF Forest Officer Jacob Andresen.

WWF ranked 12 out of the 15 EU states on their commitment to cleaning up the 150 billion US dollars global forest product trade. Britain came top of the list as it was the only country to have a partnership with a wood-producing country.

Britain has also made a commitment to buy wood destined for public service contracts such as school construction from legal and sustainable sources.

WWF wants the EU to ban imports of illegal wood, toughening up a draft law to fight illegal logging where European companies would only accept timber imports if they were certified as legal in the country of origin.

The green group also said illegal logging was a problem in the 10 mostly Eastern European states set to join the EU on May 1. The EU currently imports timber from the Baltic states and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where up to half this amount is illegal.

Environmental groups estimate that European imports of illegally-sourced timber are worth 1.2 billion euros a year.

The EU is an important market for both legal and illegally harvested timber entering international trade. It is the largest importer of plywood and sawnwood from Africa and the second largest from Asia.
Buffon signs new deal with Juve

**MILAN, 8 April** — Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has signed a two-year extension to his contract with the Italian champions. Buffon said on Tuesday that the Italy international keeper, whose current deal was due to end in 2006, had agreed to stay with the Turin club until at least 2008.

“This is a solid club and a winning team and that motivates me,” Buffon told the club’s web site.

“It really pleases me that they see me as a person who can be part of a cycle here,” he added.

Buffon is the latest Juve player to commit himself to the club following striker Alessandro Del Piero, defenders Ciro Ferrara and Gianluca Zambrotta and midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi who all agreed contract extensions this season.

The Italian news agency ANSA said Buffon had accepted a cut in his salary as part of the new contract.

*That is a choice made in line with what my team mates have done and is the right signal to send to Italian football, “ Buffon told ANSA.*

A number of leading Italian clubs are struggling with debts largely blamed on excessive wages. **— MNA/Reuters**

Monaco stun Real Madrid to reach semifinals

**MONACO, 8 April** — Monaco produced a remarkable comeback to knock nine-times winners Real Madrid out of the Champions League with a 3-1 victory in the second leg of their quarter-final on Tuesday.

**Monaco**

Inspirational captain Ludovic Giuly scored twice as the French League leaders recovered from a goal on the stroke of halftime to win the second leg of a cycle here,” he added. Buffon told the club’s web site.

“goal on the stroke of halftime to win the second leg of a cycle here,” he added. Buffon told the club’s web site.

On Friday, also hit the woodwork twice in the dying minutes and Real could have no complaints about their defeat.

Carlos Queiroz’s team, playing without suspended midfielder David Beckham, enjoyed most of the possession at the start and Ronaldo missed an 11th minute chance from a cross by fellow Brazilian Roberto Carlos.

Five minutes later Frenchman Zinedine Zidane’s chip was kept out only by a fine save from Monaco keeper Flavio Roma.

At the other end Giuly failed to convert a perfect cross from Jerome Rothen as the hosts, who abolished their usual defensive midfield formation, started to flex their muscles.

The Real rearguard was repeatedly outpaced by Didi Pro and Morientes, who scored Monaco’s vital second goal late on at the Bernabeu a fortnight ago against his employers, stung by past Caillais’s fingers with a fierce drive on the half hour.

Ten minutes before the interval, though, Real opened the scoring for Real when he picked his spot from 15 metres out after a neat dummy by Guti. Monaco grabbed a lifeline seconds before halftime when Guti volleyed home a low shot after Morientes had diverted a Patrice Evra cross into his own net.

Three minutes after the interval Spain striker Morientes gave real hope to the principality team when he rose superbly to head home a cross by Evra.

Real’s confidence deserted them and Monaco poured forward, dramatically turning the tie on its head after 66 minutes when Gueidaferlicked across by Hugo Ibarra past Casillas with his trailing leg. **MNA/Reuters**

Late Bridge goal sends Chelsea into semifinals

**LONDON, 8 April** — Chelsea stormed into the semifinals of the Champions League for the first time on Tuesday when they beat Arsenal 2-1 at Highbury with a dramatic late winner for a remarkable 3-2 aggregate triumph.

Second-half goals by Frank Lampard and Wayne Bridge, the winner coming three minutes from time, cancelled out José Antonio Reyes’s stoppage time goal at the end of the first half that Arsenal and gave Chelsea one of the greatest victories in their history.

Claude Raineri’s team, assembled at a cost of more than 110 million pounds by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich last summer, ended a run of 17 matches in which they had failed to beat their London rivals to set up a Champions League semifinal with the old Chelsea favourite Didier Deschamps.

At the same time they sent Arsenal, as recently as Saturday morning were chasing a treble of Champions League, English league and FA Cup, into despair.

Arsenal were knocked out of the FA Cup by Manchester United in the semi-finals on Saturday and after failing yet again to reach the last four of the Champions League, only now have the English title to aim for.

But with Chelsea fast closing to their heels in that competition, it could be Raineri’s men who end up with a glorious double.

Arsenal could be slipping away for Arsenal now; just as their stunned fans ping away for Arsenal now, Arsenal and gave Chelsea the decisive goal three minutes from the end to stun most of Highbury into silence. **MNA/Reuters**

Depor complete mission impossible to make semis

**LA CORUNA (Spain), 8 April** — Deportivo Coruna staged an incredible second-leg fight back to knock holders AC Milan out of the Champions League with a stunning 4-0 win at the Riazor on Wednesday.

The Spaniards, trailing 4-1 from the first leg of the quarter-final, rocked the Serie A side with a whirlwind first-half performance that saw them take a 3-0 lead at the break.

A smart strike from centre-forward Walter Pandiani, a header from Juan Carlos Valeron and a fierce drive from Albert Luque a minute from halftime allowed Deporti to take Milan’s first-leg advantage in the space of just 45 minutes and leave them on course to progress on the away goals rule.

But substitute and club captain Fran provided the icing on the cake when he smashed in a 14 minutes from time to give the Galicians a 5-4 aggregate victory. Depor now face Porto in their first Champions League semifinal appearance.

It was the first time a team has ever recovered from a three-goal first-leg defeat to win a Champions League knockout tie and was all the more impressive as it came against the hugely experienced Milan side who had not previously conceded a European away goal all season.

Depor got off to a dream start when they scored from their very first attack.

Pandiani, who scored Depor’s goal in the first leg and also knocked out Juventius in the previous round, received the ball with his back to goal on the edge of the area, turned sharply to leave Paolo Maldini trailing and drilled a left-foot shot low past Dida and inside the post.

Depor put the Serie A side on the back foot for the next 20 minutes, although Milan did threaten when midfielder Kaka raced clear on he break only to be denied by a sharp save from Molina.

The Galicians continued to have the better of the play and had a string of further chances go further in front in the next few minutes.

Valeron and Victor were both denied by Dida but the Brazilian goalkeeper was at fault for the second goal when he flapped at a superb cross from the left by Luque and left the unmarked Valeron to head in from five metres.

With Milan still reeling from the blow it was Luque who hit them again a third with the second break.

Latching on to the long clearance from Molina, he raced past Milan defenders Maldini and Cafu, sped into the area and unleashed an unstoppable drive into the roof of the net.

Depor, who did not manage to score against the Italians on the previous two occasions they had met at the Riazor — losing 4-0 in one of the games — were now ahead on the away goals rule.

Javier Irureta’s side played a brilliant possession football throughout the game to leave Milan chasing shadows in the midfield and living off scraps up front and completed a near perfect performance when Fran scored it 4-0.

The Depor winger converted a cross-field pass with his head, stepped over the area and then saw his left-foot shot take a deflection off Cafu and fly into the net to the joy of the delighted home fans.

Milan could have taken the tie into extra-time with a single goal but never looked capable of getting it as Depor, who have now won eight successive home games in Europe without conceding a goal, continued to combine a furious work rate with controlled passing to complete a wonderful victory. “It was almost impossible mission,” coach Irureta told Spanish television.

“Had I some hints of us making a comeback because I know we are the sort of the team that is capable of doing some great things as well as making some dreadful mistakes.”

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Italian TV, “It’s difficult to explain. We were up against a very good team, who played very well and there were some errors on our part but it really is hard to explain this defeat.” **— MNA/Reuters**
8:00 am | 8:15 am | 8:30 am | 8:45 am | 9:00 am
1. Recitation of Puritas by Missionary Sayadaw U Dhammatha
2. Sign Tune Greeting
3. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”
4. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
5. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
6. National News
7. Nipa Palm Forest
8. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sights”
9. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
10. National News
11. Song “The Outstanding Ones”
12. National News
13. Paintings decorated by art of goldsmith
14. Mahuya Dam
15. National News
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

9:45 am | 10:00 am
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

10:45 am | 11:00 am
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

11:45 am | 12:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

12:45 pm | 1:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

1:45 pm | 2:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

2:45 pm | 3:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

3:45 pm | 4:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

4:45 pm | 5:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

5:45 pm | 6:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

6:45 pm | 7:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

7:45 pm | 8:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”

8:45 pm | 9:00 pm
1. Rev. Aung Than
2. National News
3. Nipa Palm Forest
5. Sitwary with Magnificent Sights
6. Sing the “Towering Flowers”
7. National News
8. Nipa Palm Forest
9. Moho Lao
10. A Dance to the Harvest
11. Myanmar Spirulina
12. National News
13. Myanmar Spirulina
14. Let’s have fun watching Chinlone Games
15. Signature Tune Greeting
16. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Cone and See Myanmar”
Secretary-1 attends opening ceremony of Specialist Hospital (Kyaukse) in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 8 April — Specialist Hospital (Kyaukse) was opened in Mandalay Division this morning. Vice-Chairman of the National Health Committee State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the opening ceremony and unveiled the plaque of the hospital.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Technology U Thaung, Myanmar Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Commander of No 99 Light Infantry Division Col Tin Oo Lwin, departmental heads of the Ministry of Health, local authorities, Medical Superintendent of Specialist Hospital (Kyaukse) Dr Min Ko and specialists, surgeons, nurses, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and those of social organizations, townswelders, and entertainers.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the hospital. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

The opening ceremony took place at the hall of the hospital. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that with the cooperation of the people, the Government has been striving for the harmonious development of all the townships, districts, and states and divisions in the whole country, based on the significant conditions of the respective regions. The hospital will provide advanced health care services for the national races living in Kyaukse District and help contribute to the regional development. The Government has been developing all the sectors for the nation to stand tall among the world nations.

It is laying down and implementing special projects for progress of remote border areas that lagged behind in development for various reasons, while giving priority to building infrastructures including institutions of higher learning, hospitals, dams and bridges for the regions lying in the nation’s hub. It has set up 24 development zones, and carrying out the five rural development tasks.

In this regard, the whole nation is achieving progress. The emergence of industries, hospitals, bridges and water supply system in Kyaukse Township is the result of the endeavours for equitable development of all regions and narrowing the development gap between the regions.

In the health sector, the Government has been laying down and implementing plans with the objective of ensuring health and longevity of the entire people. Before 1988, there were only four institutions of higher learning under the Ministry of Health. Now there are 14 in Yangon and Mandalay. There are now 43 nurses and midwifery training schools in the nation, up from 26 in 1988.

The Government is also producing post-diploma certificate holders and trying to enhance the qualifications of doctors and nurses. In Mandalay Division, there were 66 hospitals and 155 rural health centres in 1988. But now, there are 84 hospitals and 165 rural health centres in the division.

Moreover, 14 hospitals have been upgraded. Advanced medicines and medical equipment and specialist physicians have been provided to the health facilities to promote health care services.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State the Mandalay General Hospital has been upgraded and provided with skilled health staff to meet the standard of Yangon General Hospital in offering health care services and to ensure harmonious health development between upper and lower Myanmar. In accord with the regional requirement, the 200-bed hospital equipped with modern health aids has been built in Kyaukse.

Thus, the physicians and health staff of hospital are urged to do their work with sincere goodwill and to value their profession. The local people will have to strive for the uplift of their health and fitness to make efforts for the progress and prosperity of the region.

Later, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint presented a report, saying that the Government has been steadfastly providing community health care services for the people in the entire nation including border areas.

The hospital was constructed at a cost of over K 1,000 million donated by the Olympic Company. After being upgraded, the 200-bed special hospital is made up of 235 health staff including 12 professors, 12 specialists, 22 assistant surgeons. And modern medical equipment has been installed to the hospital, he said.

Investing in the health sector is the most fundamental in building up all-round developed nation, so the Ministry of Health spends more and more funds year by year, he said.

With the basic foundation on health, now the number of hospitals has increased to 766 from 617 in 1988. A total of 140 hospitals and 300-bed ones have been upgraded to 50-bed, 100-bed, 200-bed and 300-bed ones.

There were 12,268 doctors in 1988 and now there are 16,570. And there were eight hospitals and six dispensaries in border areas in 1988, but in 2004, there are 54 hospitals, 81 dispensaries, 32 rural health care centres and 51 rural health care branches. In Mandalay Division, there were 66 hospitals and 155 rural health care centres and 14 hospitals have been upgraded now.

From 1999-2000 fiscal year to 2002-2003 fiscal year, altogether 21.7 million US$ was spent on upgrading the hospitals in Yangon, Mandalay, cities in States and Divisions and district level hospitals, he said.

The minister thanked those who contributed towards the completion of the hospital.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the X-ray room, operation theatre, intensive care unit and eye patients ward and gave instructions.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party posed for a documentary photo together with specialists, doctors, nurses and locals in front of the hospital.