Strenuous efforts being made for human resources development all over the nation

Medals for outstanding performance in science, technology to be presented

Senior General Than Shwe addresses graduation parade of 6th Intake of DSTA

Excerpts from Senior General Than Shwe’s address

- Being Tatmadaw members, you are to uphold the 12 fine traditions of Tatmadaw, even at the risk to your own lives.
- To be able to continue upholding the fine traditions of Tatmadaw, you are to be morally good, to observe discipline, to be loyal to the State, to be united, and to possess the three capabilities. These are the five basic qualities every unit and soldier should have.
- Good morale contributes much to leadership. Good leadership must be endowed with the spirit of a good commander, of patriotism, of serving the interest of the unit, perseverance, industry and diligence, a heart of gold, team spirit, courage and determination, and desire to work for the welfare of others.
- A member of the Tatmadaw with good morale will be able to establish himself into a good leader if he strives for acquiring the three capabilities and supervision.
- It is incumbent upon you to build not only a modern Tatmadaw but also a new modern and developed nation. Hence, you need to have a sense of initiative and innovation.

Being Tatmadaw members, you are to uphold the 12 fine traditions of Tatmadaw, even at the risk to your own lives. To be able to continue upholding the fine traditions of Tatmadaw, you are to be morally good, to observe discipline, to be loyal to the State, to be united, and to possess the three capabilities. These are the five basic qualities every unit and soldier should have:
- Good morale will be able to establish himself into a good leader if he strives for acquiring the three capabilities and supervision.
- Our country lagged behind in science and technology. Therefore, strenuous efforts are being made for human resources development. Thus, you should strive to arm yourselves with the education you have acquired and you should strive to arm yourselves with the technology new to you all.

Emancipation of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards industrial development

Industrial development plays a key role in building the Union of Myanmar to become a modern and developed nation. With this in view, the Government is endeavouring for industrial development.

New factories and workshops have been built and industrial zones established wherever possible in the country. Out of the established industrial zones, all are going smoothly in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi Aye Thaya and Monywa Industrial Zones.

Various types of vehicles, farm equipment, spare parts for vehicles, paper and plastic ware and foodstuff are successfully produced in these industrial zones.

The Sea Fisheries Industrial Zone was opened near Shwepyitha Bridge in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division, on 7 April, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister gave a speech saying that basic requirements were fulfilled in Silver Sea Fisheries Industrial Zone, and that as the zone would surely contribute much towards effective utilisation of marine resources of Myanmar, officials were to strive for the industrial zone to turn it into a comprehensive one that possesses the characteristics of a modern industrial zone.

Being built on 213.43 acres of land, the Sea Fisheries Industrial Zone is situated on the bank of the Hline River near Shwepyitha Bridge in Hlinethaya Township.

The zone is the first ever of its kind in Myanmar. One-stop service including cold storage, food processing and banking services are being provided for the customers at the zone.

Ships can easily berth and dock at the zone and it is a good place for dealing in marine products.

At a time when the Government is encouraging export promotion and boosting production of import-substitute items, the emergence of a fisheries industrial zone will surely contribute much towards industrial development. We would like to urge officials concerned to lend themselves to efforts to establish the Silver Sea Fisheries Industrial Zone as a modern one, utilizing the marine resources of the nation.

Cash and kind donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 9 April — Wellwishers at home and from abroad donated cash and provisions to the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at a ceremony held at the meeting hall of the association in South Okkalapa Township here this morning. MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted the donations and expressed her thanks to wellwishers.

Donations made today were: snacks worth of K500,000 by Mr Shio Bara of Japan; medicines and medical equipment worth K300,000 by Daw Thanda Khin, wife of the Myanmar ambassador to Malaysia, on behalf of Myanmar nationals in Malaysia; 108 dozens of Rain-hail exercise books by U Thim Naing, U Myo Win and U Hla Naing of Tri Star General Trading Co Ltd; 50 dozens of exercise books by U Kyaw Soe, managing director of Eastern Star Trading Co Ltd; 27 dozens of exercise books by U Thein Zaw, director of Lucky Men Co; 16 dozens of exercise books by U Shwe Wa, managing director of Shweawarin Co; and 16 dozens of exercise books by Myanmar 21st Century Group.

After accepting the donation, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. The donation ceremony was also attended by members of the central executive committee of MMCWA.

Steel bridge frame factory inspected

YANGON, 9 April — Chairman of Yangon Command Min Myint Swe, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the steel bridge frame factory of the Civil Engineering Department under the Myanma Railways in Mahlawgon, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister U Pe Than reported on production of reinforced concrete bore piles, steel frames and parts of bridges and main-tenance work to the constructed bridges.

Regarding the report, the commander and the minister gave instructions on work site safety and meeting the set standards and attended to the needs.

Heroin, marijuana seized in Tamu, Hlinethaya

YANGON, 9 April — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Tamu Special Anti-Drug Squads searched the bus with number plates 5Kha/5785 bound to Khampat from Tamu at the bus terminal of Tamu on 25 February 2004 and seized 506 grams of otherness heroin kept in 37 soap boxes inside a basket on the roof of the bus.

The team seized Ma Neim Kho Tin who came to fetch the basket at Sawbwa Bus Terminal near Tamu Myoma Market.

Action was taken against Ma Neim Kho Tin, daughter of U Zam Ngin of Ward 3, Khampat Mya, under Section 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Similarly, a team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, Yangon Special Anti-Drug Squad and Thangyinpyo Police Station, acting on information, searched Aung Ko Latt on Thakhin Po Hla Gyi Road in Ward 18, Hlinethaya Township, on 21 February 2004 and nabbed 653 grams of mari-juana in his steel food carrier.

Action was taken against Aung Ko Latt, son of U Shwe Ngwe of Yamanya 2nd Street, Ward 133, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, under Section 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Tailoring and knitting courses end

YANGON, 9 April — The Tailoring course No 32/2004 and the Knitting course No 2/2004, conducted by the vocational training school of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was held in conjunction with the opening of Tailoring course No 33/2004, at the meeting hall of Multipurpose Building of the Association in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, CEC members, patrons of supervisory committees, President of the Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division MMCWA Daw Khin Thet Hua, course instructors and trainees.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivered an address on the occasion. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, together with CEC member Daw Khin Swe Nyunt, also presented course completion certificates to trainees of the tailoring course.

The team presented certificates to trainees of the knitting course. The trainees of both courses presented a souvenir to the school through Patron of the Supervisory Committee Daw San San Myint.

As the regular courses conducted by the MMCWA will be reopened on 27 April, those interested in the courses may attend them after enrolling.

Don't smoke

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

People’s Desire

• Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stogees, 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

MNA

Sangyoung BEHS No 1 to hold respect-paying ceremony on 2 May

YANGON, 9 April — The 10th ceremony to pay re- spect to teachers who taught the pupils from 1965 to 1980 will be held at the hall of Sangyoung Basic Education High School No 1 at 9 am on 2 May.

Those wishing to donate something may contact Saya U Thein Myint, Tel: 243748; U Nyunt Than, Tel: 501949; U Hla Aung Shwe (Shwe Family) Tel: 502681, 502682 and 503716; U Theo Ou, Tel: 250142; U Maung Maung Huy, Tel: 526362; and U Soe Naing (Aye Myint Car Parts Shop, South Okkalapa), Tel: 565885. — MNA

MNA
 Alleged tape by Zarqawi vows more Iraq attacks

DUBAI, 9 April — Senior al-Qaeda operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, sentenced to death in absentia in Jordan on Tuesday, urged Islamist militants to step up attacks on US forces and what he called their Shiite collaborators.

“God has privileged you and humiliated at your hands the mightiest power in history,” he said, according to an audio tape aired on an Islamic website.

“Sharpen your swords and burn the ground under the invaders’ feet. Fight the Americans, fight the rejectionists (Shiites) and the agents and hypocrites,” the tape said.

“We will not let you off, you snakes of evil, until you lift your hands off our mosques and stop shedding the blood of Sunnis and helping the enemies — the crusaders and Jews against Muslims,” the voice on the tape added.

Hany el-Seha’ee, director of the London-based Maqrizi Centre for Historical Studies, said he believed the tape was the voice of Zarqawi. “I have other previous tapes by him. I compared these tapes. It is the same style and moreover I know his voice,” he told Reuters by telephone.

In the tape, believed to have been recorded in Iraq, Zarqawi claimed responsibility for a wave of attacks that have targeted US and other coalition forces since US troops captured Baghdad last April.

“We have chopped their heads off and torn their bodies... at the United Nations in Baghdad, coalition forces in Kerbala, the Italians in Nassiriya, the American forces on the Khalidiya Bridge, US intelligence at Chahine Hotel, the Presidential Palace in Baghdad, the CIA at Al Rashid Hotel and the Polish forces in the town of Hilla,” it said.

He said the most recent attack targeted the Israelis Mossad intelligence services in the Mount Lebanon Hotel in Iraq.

ACLU sues US government over “no-fly” list

WASHINGTON, 9 April — Seven Americans filed a class-action lawsuit on Tuesday to challenge the US Government’s “no-fly” list that stops suspected terrorists from boarding planes.

All seven claim they have been wrongly placed on the US Transportation Security Administration’s “no-fly” list because their names are similar or identical to names on the list. The lawsuit demands that the government remove their names so they can travel on planes without being interrogated and searched.

MNA/Reuters

Ukrainian soldiers take shelter behind military vehicles after Iraqi demonstrators started throwing grenades towards them in the southern city of Kut.

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

BAGHDAD, 9 April — As of Thursday, 8 April, 642 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 448 died as a result of hostile action and 194 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Ukraine, four; others two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia and Poland have reported one each.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 504 US soldiers have died — 339 as a result of hostile action and 165 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

Wednesday: 1st Armed Division soldier died in a rocket attack in Taij, Iraq; a 1st Infantry Division soldier died in fighting near Samarra; a Marine died in fighting in Anbar province.

Thursday: A Marine died in fighting in Anbar province; a 1st Infantry Division soldier died in an attack near the town of Khan Bani Sa’ad; a soldier died of injuries from Sunday attack in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military and family members:

Army Spc. Scott Q. Larson Jr., 22, Houston, died Monday in Baghdad when his convoy was ambushed; assigned to 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Ray Barracks, Friedberg, Germany.

Army Spc. Tyanna S. Felder, 22, Bridgeport, Conn., died Wednesday in Balad of injuries from an attack on her convoy Sunday in Mosul; assigned to 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Army Staff Sgt. George S. Rentschler, 31, Louisville, Ky., died Wednesday in Baghdad in an attack on his vehicle; assigned to 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany. Killed Tuesday in fighting in Anbar province; all assigned to 2nd Battalion; 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Marine Pfc. Benjamin R. Carman, 20, Jefferson, Iowa, died Wednesday in Balad of injuries from an attack on her convoy Sunday in Mosul; assigned to 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Marine Pfc. Scott Q. Larson Jr., 22, Houston, died Monday in Baghdad when his convoy was ambushed; assigned to 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Ray Barracks, Friedberg, Germany.

About 20 journalists have targeted US and other coalition forces since US troops captured Baghdad last April.

11 foreign hostages reported seized in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 April — Seven South Koreans, three Japanese and a Briton were reported on Thursday to have been seized in Iraq and militants threatened to burn the Japanese alive unless their country withdrew its troops.

Gunmen frequently stage hold-ups on Iraq’s lawless roads but the taking of hostages would mark a sharp escalation of the growing conflict between US-led forces and Iraqis and foreign militants opposed to the occupation.

No demands were issued in relation to the South Koreans, who were members of a church group, or the Briton, identified as a contractor. The Japanese were reported to be a female aid worker, a researcher and a freelance cameraman.

Arab television Al Jazeera showed the three Japanese, kneeling with their eyes bound with white cloth and surrounded by masked men holding rifles and also sitting on the floor without their bindings and talking to their captors.

The walls of the room were riddled with bullets.

It said they had been taken hostage by a hitherto unknown Iraqi group called Saraya al-Mujahedin (Mujahedin Brigades). “We tell you that three of your children have fallen prisoner in our hands and we give you two options — they will burn them alive and feed them to the fighters,” the group said.

“You have three days from the date of this tape’s airing,” it said in a statement, Japan of betraying Iraq by supporting the US-led occupation.

A Japanese Government spokesman demanded their immediate release and said the country had no plans to pull out of Iraq.

Nudged by the United States, Tokyo has sent 550 troops to Samawah on a non-combat mission to help rebuild Iraq in its riskiest military deployment since World War II. Another US-allied, South Korea has 600 military engineers and medics in Iraq and plans to send 3,000 more for reconstruction.

South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said seven South Korean members of a church group had been taken hostage by armed men.

MNA/Reuters

Young artists share dreams of Mekong

PANYIN, 9 April — Five talented youngsters from the Lower Mekong River Basin have been named regional winners of an art competition organized by the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

MRC Officer-in-Charge Dr Dao Trong Tu announced the winners of the “Our Mekong, Our Future” art competition at a special function held here on Wednesday.

Nearly 2,000 youngsters from the four Lower Mekong River Basin countries of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam took part in the contest, which was launched late last year.

The contest was open to children aged between nine and 15 of the growing conflict between US-led forces and Iraqis and foreign militants opposed to the occupation.

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South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said seven South Korean members of a church group had been taken hostage by armed men. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese young prize-winners take journalism scene

TOKYO, 9 April — In an age when mobile phones, the Internet and numerous multimedia dominate the lives of modern youth, the world has been seeing a decline in news headlines and readership.

But the awarding of the first Developing Asia Journalism Awards to four young Chinese news writers has lit up the journalism scene, especially among the young giving China and the world of serious news an aura of the cool and hip.

The winners — Ma Guihua, Lin Gu, Wang Ya and Hu Yifan — received their awards Wednesday from the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan in Tokyo.

About 20 journalists from a dozen of countries across Asia, who have covered various development issues and their impact on countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, gathered at the ceremony and shared the prizes in six categories.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis taking part in a convoy of food and medical supplies to be delivered to Fallujah wave as they drive past the site of an attack on US tankers near Abu Ghraib, Iraq, a western suburb of Baghdad, on 8 April, 2004. — INTEXNEWS
Iraq: Eight killed in Fallujah attacks

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 9 April — At least 25 Iraqis were killed in an attack that destroyed a house in Fallujah, witnesses and doctors said on Wednesday, and locals blamed US forces who have launched a major crackdown in the Sunni Muslim town.

Witnesses said the house in the town, 32 miles west of Baghdad, was hit by rockets fired by a US helicopter on Tuesday night. A US military spokeswoman in Baghdad said she had no information on the incident.

The house was reduced to rubble in the attack. Locals said four families had been sheltering there and that some victims were still buried in the debris.

Hospital officials said at least 30 Iraqis had been killed in Fallujah on Tuesday, including those in the destroyed house.

US Marines who took charge of the tense Sunni cities of Fallujah and Ramadi last month have begun an operation aimed at hunting down guerrillas in the area.


Syria: Tourism cooperation agreement

A LEADER in the MENA region, one of the key areas of the telecom sector, is to be held in Dubai from May 30 to June 2.

How to expand the potential market of the telecom sector in the MENA region is one of the issues that will be discussed at CONNECT, the international telecoms summit, to be held in Dubai from May 30 to June 2.

With the theme of "Maximising Profitability in Competitive Telecoms Markets", the summit will feature case studies, presentations, and two full-day workshops, conducted by 19 leading international and regional telecoms operators, who will be addressing the summit.

The summit will also highlight the lucrative growth opportunities in the Gulf region’s booming telecoms sector, local Press reported here Wednesday.

CONNECT is supported by Eissadat, a telecommunication company of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and endorsed by UMTS Forum, the Global Billing Association and the Telecommunications Brit- ain Fraud Forum, with an objective to build a visible forum for knowledge sharing between regional and international experts and other players in the increasingly competitive telecoms industry in the Middle East.


Turkey: Anti-drug police seize large amounts of drugs

ERUSALEM, 9 April — The anti-drug police seized a total of over two tons of narcotic drugs during the past two weeks, the local MNA news agency reported.

During operations in Yadav Province in southern Iran, police confiscated some 1,300 kilos of narcotic drugs, four criminal gangs were cracked and 20 smugglers arrested.


Iraq: Eight killed in Fallujah attacks

Eight Iraqis were killed when US troops and demonstrators voicing support for Sunni resistance to US-led occupation on Wednesday, police said.

Police said demonstrators in Hawija, 50 kilometres south west of Kirkuk, were showing solidarity with guerrillas battling US forces west of Baghdad. Around ten people were wounded.

It was unclear what started the clashes in the mostly Sunni town, which lasted about an hour. US troops sealed off the town shortly afterwards.

Guerrillas west of the capital have been fighting fierce running battles with US Marines in the past few days. At least 45 Iraqis have been killed and 18 Marines.

US-led coalition forces are also facing a major insurgency from Shiite opponents in the south and centre of Iraq.


Syria: Tourism cooperation agreement

The two countries also agreed on a series of actions to improve their relations in the tourist sector.

Lillikas and Alkaala praised the prospects of enhancing the two countries' relations in the tourist sector.

Alkaala said that the cooperation agreement that will open for the benefits of both countries.

According to industrial experts, the mobile phone market in the Middle East is growing at a rapid pace, outnumbering fixed lines in most countries of the region.

Market studies indicate that up to three billion US dollars worth would be invested in mobile network infrastructure in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in 2003 and 2004.


Turkey: Anti-drug police seize large amounts of drugs

Since the beginning of the year, 137 Israelis have been killed in road accidents, more than 10 per cent above last year’s figure, Israel Ra- dio reported Wednesday.

It has placed Israel in the world top bracket of countries having the cost of the Israeli economy on traffic accidents, which is about three bil- lion US dollars annually.

Since 1948, 21,600 Is- raelis have died in wars and security-related incidents, while 22,700 have died on roads.


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US, ALLIES FACE INTENSIFIED IRAQI RESISTANCE

British troops patrol Iraq on 8 April. A British man was feared kidnapped in Iraq after the Foreign Office in London confirmed that he had gone missing for several days from the southern city of Nasiriyah.—INTERNET

A US Marine guards a road to Fallujah, Iraq, on Thursday, 8 April, 2004, as a vehicle carrying medical supply drives past. —INTERNET

An unidentified injured US soldier is carried on a stretcher on the US Airbase of Ramstein, southern Germany, on Thursday, 8 April, 2004. Eight US soldiers injured in combat in Iraq were flown on a C17 out of Iraq to get medical treatment in the nearby US hospital in Landstuhl.—INTERNET

A US soldier pulls an injured comrade away from a burning tank in Falluja, Iraq, on 8 April, 2004. US troops fought Sunni and Shi’ite guerrillas in Falluja and Kerbala on Thursday as hospital officials reported hundreds of casualties in the heaviest fighting since Saddam Hussein fall a year ago.—INTERNET

US Marines control one of the main entrance of the city of Fallujah, Iraq, on Thursday, 8 April, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraqi youths pelt a British Army Warrior armoured vehicle with stones in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, on 8 April, 2004. US-led troops fought fierce battles with Sunni and Shi’ite guerrillas on Thursday and a spate of kidnappings hit foreigners.—INTERNET

A US soldier pulls an injured comrade away from a burning tank in Falluja, Iraq, on 8 April, 2004. US troops fought Sunni and Shi’ite guerrillas in Falluja and Kerbala on Thursday as hospital officials reported hundreds of casualties in the heaviest fighting since Saddam Hussein fall a year ago.—INTERNET
Iraq violence tests US allies’ resolve

BRUSSELS, 9 April — Iraq’s fresh eruption of violence pitting US-led forces against Sunni guerrillas and now Shiite insurgents risks breaking the resolve of allies with troops on the ground, analysts said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, whose support for Bush ahead of the Iraq war last year went against the grain of popular opinion, Poland, whose troops in Iraq lead an international force in a Shiite-dominated stabilization zone and are outnumbered only by American and British and Italian forces, was sucked into the battles with Sadr militia this week. Bulgaria’s opposition Socialists have asked the government to push for a UN resolution that might encourage other nations to join the stabilization effort and change Spain’s mind. MNA/Reuters

US senators argue over Iraq as next Vietnam

WASHINGTON, 9 April — US senators argued on Wednesday over whether the conflict in Iraq was becoming another Vietnam and some Republican supporters of President George W Bush suggested he consider extending a June 30 deadline for the handover of power there.

“I think we would be wise to re-evaluate the June 30 deadline. There are so many unanswered questions, not the least of which is to whom will we be turning over power,” said Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine.

Her comments echoed those recently made by one of the Senate’s most powerful Republicans, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar of Indiana.

With spiralling violence, Collins said it “suggests strongly to me that this is not the moment holding firm despite political and popular pressure to pull their forces back from Iraq.”

But the risks have mounted considerably this week following the outbreak of gun battles with followers of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, which have claimed the lives of one Ukrainian and one Salvadoran soldier.

Bulgaria has asked the United States to send troops to reinforce its 450-strong battalion in the southern city of Kerbala, and Ukrainian troops have pulled out of the town of Kut after coming under fierce attack.

Kazakhstan said on Wednesday it would pull out its roughly 30-strong contingent in May. South Korea, with 600 military engineers and medics in Iraq, has ordered its personnel to suspend activities outside military camps.

Spain, which with about 1,300 troops has the sixth-largest contingent in Iraq, looks likely to withdraw its forces unless the United Nations takes charge there by the end of the June. The spiralling violence has ramped up domestic pressure on leaders in some of these countries to quit.

Among them is Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, whose support for Bush ahead of the Iraq war last year went against the grain of popular opinion.

Poland, whose troops in Iraq lead an international force in a Shiite-dominated stabilization zone and are outnumbered only by American and British and Italian forces, was sucked into the battles with Sadr militia this week. Bulgaria’s opposition Socialists have asked the government to push for a UN resolution that might encourage other nations to join the stabilization effort and change Spain’s mind.

In the last three days, 35 American and allied soldiers and at least 200 Iraqis have been killed in the heaviest fighting since the fall of Saddam Hussein nearly a year ago.

US-led forces battled Sunni Muslim guerrillas and a spreading Shiite uprising, as Iraqi anger was inflamed by a US bombing of a mosque compound that witnesses said killed 25 people. Arizona Republican Senator John McCain called comparisons between Iraq and Vietnam “totally false”. But he said more troops were needed “because we haven’t got sufficient troops to pacify the divisive elements in Iraq”. But Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts said, “I’m kind of hoping for an end to the occupation.”

Some also left because they felt US President George W Bush had sidelined his counterterrorism experts and paid almost exclusive heed to the Vieira threat, the Defence Secretary and other Cabinet members in planning the “war on terror”, former counterterrorism officials said.

“I’m kind of hoping for regime change,” one official who quit told Reuters.

The Administration’s handling of the battle against terrorism is a key issue for the presidency, and could be key to Bush’s re-election effort.

Similar charges were made by Bush’s former counterterrorism czar, Richard Clarke, who told the independent commission investigating the September 11, 2001, attacks that the Administration ignored the Qaeda threat beforehand and was fixated on Iraq afterward.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice testifies before the 9/11 panel on Tuesday.

US terrorism policy spawns steady staff exodus

WASHINGTON, 9 April — Since the September 11 attacks, the Bush Administration has faced a steady exodus of counterterrorism officials, many disappointed by a preoccupation with Iraq they said undermined the US fight against terrorism.

Former counterterrorism officials said at least half a dozen have left the White House Office for Combating Terrorism or related agencies in frustration in the 2-1/2 years since the attacks.

US military confirms 12 Marines killed in Ramadi

BAGHDAD, 9 April — The US military confirmed on Wednesday that 12 Marines were killed in a seven-hour battle in the Sunni Muslim town of Fallujah in western Iraq.

The deaths bring to 441 the number of US troops killed in action in Iraq since the invasion last year to oust Saddam Hussein.

The US military has suffered 31 combat deaths in Iraq since Sunday.

“Eleven Marines died while engaged with the anti-Iraqi forces for more than seven hours; one died from wounds suffered during the firefight,” the US military said in a statement.

Marines began a major operation this week to crack down on guerrillas in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, in Iraq’s Sunni heartland where most of the unrest against occupying troops has been concentrated.

Explosions heard near Japanese troops’ Iraq camp

TOKYO, 9 April — Explosions were heard at or near a camp in southern Iraq where Japanese troops are based, but there were no reports of injuries among Japanese military personnel, a Defence Ministry spokesman in Tokyo said on Thursday.

He said checks were being made into the explosions, which occurred during Wednesday night, but no further information was available.

“Ministry officials do know that there were no injuries among any of the personnel at the camp,” he added.

Kyodo news agency reported that several mortar shells had been found just outside the camp grounds, but the spokesman said he could not confirm this.

Polish troops kill top Sadr aide in Kerbala

KERBALA, Iraq, 9 April — Polish troops killed the head of militant Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s office in Kerbala during overnight clashes in the holy Shiite city which killed at least seven people, Iraqi police said on Wednesday.

Iraqui police spokesman Rahim Masahw told Reuters Murtada al-Musawi, who ran Sadr’s Kerbala office, was killed in fighting with Polish troops in the centre of town.

A spokesman for the Polish forces, who head a multinational division in the area, said he could not confirm the report but was checking.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Strzelecki said the overnight clashes with Sadr’s militias had ended at around 7 am (0300 GMT). He said seven Iraqis were killed and five Iraqi security officials wounded. There were no Polish casualties, he said.

Sadr’s militia have been battling occupying forces across south and central Iraq since Sunday. Sadr has rallied supporters with calls for an end to the occupation.

The US Army said on Wednesday it would destroy his militia — MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi Shiite Muslim boy cries as he looks at his destroyed house in Baghdad’s Shiite neighbourhood of Sadir City. —INTERNET

Protesters stand outside the US embassy in Madrid, on 8 April 2004 on the anniversary of the death of Spanish journalist Jose Couso at a Baghdad hotel during the war in Iraq. —INTERNET

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Marines began a major operation this week to crack down on guerrillas in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, in Iraq’s Sunni heartland where most of the unrest against occupying troops has been concentrated. —MNA/Reuters
Man of letters U Kyawh of Taungdwingyi once composed a poem fea-
turing many wonders and beauty of the golden Padauk
flower that blossoms only once a year during or around the Thingyan Festival in
many parts of Myanmar. He named the poem “The Golden Padauk”.

Myanmar traditions and culture have three sig-
nificant days — the day on
which the Buddhist lent
starts, the day on which the
Buddhist lent ends, and the
New Year Day. On all those
days, we Myanmars, since
three days, we Myanmars,
have never failed to pay re-
spects to our elders as a tra-
dition. And the tradition is
a true heritage we always
cherish and value, espe-
cially, the New Year Day is
full of auspiciousness for us
all.

As present year’s
Thingyan Festival falls on
week days, all government
employees are going to en-
joy nine consecutive holi-
days. Thus, travel agencies
are competing one another
to make advertisements for
the pleasure tours and des-
tinations.

All the civilized peo-
ple of the world value their
New Year Day. They hold
festivals in accord with their
traditions to happily usher
into the New Year. All will
have to preserve their tradi-
tions. Every year, we, the
Myanmar people, observe
the New Year Day on a
grand scale, and we call it
‘Thingyan Festival’.

The Concise Myan-
mar Dictionary explains the
meaning of the word
‘Thingyan’ as follows: “Of the
12 calendar months of the Myanmar
year, Thingyan that falls in
Myanmar month of Tagu or
Kason marks the beginning
of the New Year or in other
words, it is a time people
welcome the New Year by
pouring cool and clear wa-
ter on each other with the
belief that it would clean all
the misdeeds of the past
year. This year, Thingyan
Akko or the eve of Thingyan (the first day
of the festival) falls on the 8th
wanning of Hmaung Taga
1366 Myanmar Era (Mon-
day, the 12th of April 2004).

Scholars define the
word ‘Thingyan’ in many
ways, and one of the defini-
tions is that it is a time of
entering a new era. Some
scholars say that it is a time
to clean all the past mis-
deeds.

In olden days, Myanmars held the festival
in a gentle way. They
doused scented water on one
another. Young men poured
water on the maidens only
after asking permission
from their parents.

Thingyan has its
own fine traditions. During
the festival, people hold
charities and do meritorious
deeds such as serving food
free of charge, presenting
‘soon’ and offerings to Bud-
dhist monks, pouring
scented water on and
cleansing Buddha images,
taking Sabbath, seeking ad-
vise from monks, cleaning
the premises and environs
of pagodas, monasteries and
other religious buildings,
paying respects to grandpar-
ents, parents and teachers,
tending aged persons, recit-
ing religious verses, and
freeing fish, birds and other
animals.

On the New Year
Day, Buddhist monks all
over the country recite
prayers in wards of every
township to make sure that
people are free from all
danger.

With purity in
mind and body, the entire
people of Myanmar do
meritorious deeds during
the festival, and their mind
and body are thus refreshed
with new vigor.

Now is the time
when all-out efforts are be-
ing made for the emergence
of a peaceful, modern and
developed nation. In this re-
gard, I would like to urge
all the people of Myanmar
to strive with new vigor in
the respective sectors for the
success of the National
Convention, that will be
reconvened soon, while
welcoming the New Year.

(Translation: TMT)
Strenuous efforts being made for human resources …

(From page 1)

Senior General Than Shwe takes salute of cadet companies at graduation parade of 6th Intake of DSTA. — MNA

Minister back from …

(From page 16)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects cadet companies at the graduation parade of 6th Intake of DSTA. — MNA

MNA
Regional development tasks inspected in Shan State (North)

Yangon, 9 April — Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing inspected the groundwork for building a pagoda to be named “Yan Taing Aung” at the gateway to Lashio on 6 April morning.

After giving instructions and fulfilling the requirements, the commander looked into tasks for greening of the pagoda precinct’s environs and the axis for construction of a road leading to the pagoda and left necessary instructions.

Next, the commander inspected Hsinshweli hybrid summer paddy field and macadamia nursery in Kwe village, Ohmmakha village-tract, Nawngkhio Township, and attended to the needs. On arrival at Kangyi village Basic Education Middle School in Nawngkhio Township, the commander chose the site for construction of Kangyi village BEHS building and attended to the requirements.

He visited Taungkham village monastery and offered provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijana. The commander also chose sites for construction of a BEHS building and a station hospital in Taungshei village. MNA

Commander inspects development tasks in Putao

Yangon, 9 April — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, accompanied by departmental officials, attended the opening ceremony of Namhton Hydroelectric Power Station in Tonlitu Village, Putao Township, on 2 April afternoon.

Local Tactical Operations Commander Col Khang Soe and officials reported on construction of the power station. The commander formally opened the plant and launched the power line. Next, the commander and party inspected the plant and gave necessary instructions.

On 3 April afternoon, the commander inspected the site for construction of Shwehlay Tagun Hotel in Mulashedi Village, Putao Township. The engineer-in-charge reported on arrangements for building the hotel. Afterwards, the commander inspected Putao Township Hospital and Putao Basic Education High School and fulfilled the requirements. Similarly, the commander saw the site for construction of Putao Hotel in Kaungkhaung Ward, Putao Township, Matpan paddy field of Myanmar Agriculture Service, milling of paddy with the use of hydel power and generating of paddy husk-fired power plant in Hokho Ward.

On 4 April, the commander went to Putao Hydroelectric Power Plant and inspected supply of electricity and the lake in Duttan Village. The commander attended to the requirements of officials. In the afternoon, the commander met local people and departmental officials at Khakaborazi Hall in Putao. He heard reports on development of Putao District and attended to the needs.

On 5 April, the commander attended the third novitiation ceremony of Kachin State Peace and Development Council and Northern Command at Kaungthelun Pagoda in the town. MNA
China sets first “AIDS” legal research centre

Beijing, April 9 — China’s first legal research centre on AIDS-related issues has been established in east China’s Shanghai City, indicating that the country is making more efforts to curb rocketing spread of AIDS virus within its territory.

Comprising eight consultants, the centre is supposed to carry out AIDS-related activities like academic research, legal aid and writing legislative proposal.

“AIDS is accelerating its spread in China at a horrible speed of 30-40 per cent every year.

It is not only a medical issue but a serious social one,” said director Yan Shaogang, also an experienced lawyer who works as a councillor of the Shanghai Municipal Government. Yang said laws should be updated according to the country’s current situation instead of lagging behind.

China now has more than 300 laws and regulations on AIDS prevention and control, which were framed by both central government and local government at all levels, with some even taking AIDS as a veneer disease and imposing some unreasonable duties on the AIDS patients, which infringed AIDS patients’ residence rights, employment rights, education rights, and marriage rights as well as privacy and caused great panic in society.

Experts from various fields consider the centre of great importance since it starts the first of its kind to explore legal protection of HIV/AIDS patients in China.

The recent amendment draft to China’s 15-year-old law on contagious disease prevention and control has cancelled forcible isolation of HIV/AIDS patients, an important legal step to eliminate bias against HIV/AIDS patients.

It also dropped the AIDS prevention and control management standard from the highest level to the medium level, canceling requiring forcible isolation of HIV/AIDS patients any more.

“Our practices in the past is that every HIV/AIDS patient must be isolated, even by use of police force. You know, forcible isolation is not always necessary,” said Yang.

As another major effort to curb AIDS, China’s Ministry of Public Health announced on April 5 a list of 51 pilot zones in 11 provinces, in a bid to work out an effective AIDS preventive and treatment mechanism through pilot programmes.

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

Yangon, 9 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 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaya Division Development Affairs Committees) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committees) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54667) — MNA

Thailand, Japan cooperate in steel industry

BANGKOK, 9 April — Thailand and Japan have agreed to join hands to boost their competitive edge in upstream industries such as steel, Chutapon Lamphasara, Director-General of the Office of Industrial Economics of Thailand disclosed Wednesday.

The agreement was made during the first Japan-Thailand Steel Dialogue meeting, aimed at cooperation in the development of the two countries’ steel industries, Chutapon Lamphasara was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying.

The agreement will focus on the exchange and linkage of information, as well as collaborative attempts to determine trade standards, she added.

The meeting resulted in a joint plan to develop Thailand’s steel industry, as well as approaches to solve the problem of raw materials shortages and the rising price of steel, she said.

The government hopes that the plan will help reduce Thailand’s reliance on imported steel, said the director-general.

Last year, Thailand produced steel worth a total of over 70 billion baht (1.784 billion US dollars), the agency reported.

Among Thailand’s major export markets, China imported Thai steel worth over 8.1 billion baht (207 million US dollars), with an impressive growth rate of 99.95 per cent.

Other important export markets were Japan, Malaysia, the United States and Hong Kong.

This was offset by imports of iron and steel worth 157 billion baht (4.025 billion US dollars).

Major sources of imports last year were Japan, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and South Korea.

China to set up system to regulate, control unemployment

BANGKOK, 9 April — The Chinese Government announced Tuesday that it will set up a system to regulate and control unemployment in the next two to three years.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security said that it will concentrate on exploring possible methods for the regulation and control of unemployment to avoid over-concentration in a certain period.

China’s registered unemployed rate stood at 4.3 per cent by the end of 2003, and has set a goal to keep it within 4.4 per cent this year.

“With the goal to control unemployment, we will regulate the unemployment situation through legal, economic and administrative means, and keep its influence within people’s resilience,” said Zhang Xiaojian, Vice-Minister.

Through unemployment regulation, China aims to control over-unemployment, shorten the cycle of unemployment, avoid over-concentration of laid-off workers in a certain period and ensure the jobless could sustain a living.

Statistics showed that 103.73 million people have been covered by unemployment insurance system by the end of 2003, 24 million more in 1998. And 4.5 million laid-off workers currently claim unemployment compensation, seven times more than in 1998.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s agreement to top the list

China has agreed to top the list of the world’s top five steel producers, Mr. Chutapon told reporters.

China has announced that its steel production will exceed 250 million tonnes this year, the director-general said.

Other countries to top the list are Japan (115 million tonnes), the United States (80 million tonnes), Brazil (75 million tonnes) and South Korea (65 million tonnes).

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Hydroelectric power projects on the golden rivers

Yeywa Hydropower project, the largest in Myanmar.

(Continued from yesterday)

Based on the experiences, Yeywa Hydroelectric Power Project has emerged to tap the Dokhtawadi or Myitnging river flowing over 12 million acre-feet of water annually. A dam will be built on the river at the place where Mandalay, PyinOoLwin and Kyaukse townships meet. The waters of the river will run the four turbines that will have a combined generation capacity of 780 megawatts. The largest hydroelectric power project of the nation up to now has been implemented with might and main.

Four 100-megawatt turbines will be installed at the hydel power project that is being implemented on Shweli River that rises in the People’s Republic of China and empties into the Ayeyawady. It is a large-scale project that will supply power to the national grid. Its generation capacity is larger than that of the Lawpaw Station and the Paunglaung Station. More electricity will be harnessed from the golden rivers of Myanmar.

Hydel Power Projects of the upper Ayeyawady Basin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River</th>
<th>Annual flow (acre-feet in millions)</th>
<th>Capacity (megawatts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Zawgyi</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>31.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Panyaung</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>56.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mu</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Myitnging</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>790.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Shweli</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>400.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the rivers there are also big streams like Mone and Mann that flow into the Ayeyawady in its upper basin area. But the Mone, with its annual torrent of about 3.5 million acre-feet, is as large as a small river. A 75-megawatt project has been almost completed on the Mone. The Kyin-Kywa project on the creek has been started, and another project the Bwaya is in planning stage. Thus, there will be three hydroelectric power stations on the Mone.

The Sittoung River Basin Project covers Paunglaung Project, Shwegyin Project, Thaikyekchat Project, Bawgha Project, Khaboung Project, Kuon Project, Pyu Project, Yenwe Project and Pahy Project. A 280-megawatt project on Paunglaung River will be completed this year. And other projects will be completed in three or four years. The projects will add value to the golden Sittoung River.

Hydel power projects in Sittoung Basin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Capacity (megawatts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Paunglaung</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bawgha</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Myitnging</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Shwegyin</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Kun</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Pyu</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Khaboung</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Yenwe</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Pahy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As present, the Thawlin River Basin Project covers Kengtawng Hydroelectric Power Project, which is under construction, and Tarshin Hydroelectric Power Project, which is under feasibility study. The former is a 54-megawatt capacity project and the latter, a huge project with a calculated generation capacity of 7,110 megawatts. The Thawlin River, with strong current, has been tapped to generate electricity. It is also a golden river for Myanmar.

Plans are under way to implement Hmamathi, Holmalin, Mawlaik and Shwesayay hydroelectric power projects on Chindwin River that originates in the Hukaung Valley. The Hmamathi is a largest-scale project with about 1,200-megawatt generation capacity.

Shwesayay Project located 20 miles north of Monywa is a high prospects. Its generation capacity can exceed 600 megawatts. The experts are taking into account the silting rate of the river and geographical, geological and climatic conditions of its surrounding areas. The Chindwin can be termed a large river as its annual current volume is 115 million acre-feet or 16.5 per cent of the nation’s fresh water resources. By now, we are able to control and harness well the natural watercourses with an annual current from three to six million acre-feet. But Myitnging’s torrent exceeds that mark by a large margin at 12 million acre-feet. The huge Shwesayay Project on the river is challenging the ability of Myanmar engineers and technicians. If we can build a number of dams on the river to control its flow, we can generate a large amount of electricity from the watercourse. Moreover, the dams can also irrigate crops and help enhance the qualification of the Myanmar engineers and technicians.

Hydel power projects in Chindwin Basin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Capacity (megawatts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hmamathi</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shwesayay</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mawlaik</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Holmalin</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We already have experiences in controlling and harnessing small rivers such as the Bago, the Zawgyi, the Mu, the Myitnging, the Shweli, the Pinlaung, and the Paunglaung. So, we are sure that we will be able to control and harness large rivers like the Chindwin also. Human ability and labour are improving with the passage of time. Thus, we believe that we can build dams one after another on the Chindwin to raise its value.

On the other hand, we will have to be aware of the fact that hydroelectric power projects consume much capital and time. The Government spent over K 4,300 million including foreign exchange to build Zaungta Project, which took about six years to complete, alone. Thus, we will have to strive to strengthen the nation’s economy and increase its wealth to implement further hydel power projects.

Anyhow, it is true that all the large and small rivers of the nation can be tapped to generate electricity. In this regard, I would like to urge all Myanmars to strive with the power of perseverance, unity, technology and confidence, while applying cost-effective means, to build power projects one after another till entering the golden age.

(Concluded)

(Translation: TMT)

Myanmar Alin: 8-4-2004

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 9 April — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Maw Kyader 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. MNA
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HIBISCUS VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HIBISCUS Voy No (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-4-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM
Phone No: 2569803/78316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MAGWAY VOY NO (4)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAGWAY Voy No (4) arrived on 10-4-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo 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 byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Claims Day.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone: 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295656

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (350)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (350) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-4-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION
Phone No: 2569803/78316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (503)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (503) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-4-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2569803/78316/376797

Over 300 critically rare species unprotected

London, 9 April — More than 300 of the world’s rarest and most exotic creatures, including golden foxes in the Comoros Islands and yellow-eared parrots in the Colombi- an Andes, are completely unprotected, scientists said on Wednesday.

All could disappear in future decades because global efforts to protect them are inadequate, the scientists believe. Although 11.5 per cent of Earth’s surface is a protected zone, conservationists have discovered huge gaps in coverage that could lead to the extinction of unique species of mammals, birds, amphibians, turtle and tortoises.— MNA/Reuters

Ancient fish species discovered in South China Sea

Guangzhou, 9 April — A large number of lancelets, a marine creature of the same age as dinosaurs, were discovered in the sea area off Maoming City, South China’s Guangdong Province.

Bordering the South China Sea, the Maoming City boasts a coastline of over 360 kilometres. The first group of about 30 lancelets were discovered in April 2002 when the local marine and piscatorial staff were making an investigation at the sea area off the Fangji Island. In August 2003, led by Zhanjiang University of Oceanology, an investigation team began to set up observation spots in the sea area and discovered that the largest distribution density of the lancelets is 573 heads per square metre.

Later observation results at the end of last year further prove that there are abundant lancelets resources in the sea area of over 150 square kilometres. Named as “living fossils”, the lancelets are of great significance to the research on the evolution of animals and human beings. MNA/Xinhua

Rich geothermal reserves found in E China

Jinan, 9 April — Prospectors have discovered abundant geothermal reserves in the east of Shandong Province and successfully drilled a well on Tuesday. The new geothermal reserves, probably the largest of its kind in China, was discovered 1,180 to 1,400 metres below the surface in the Shandong oilfield, according to the Provincial Geological Reserves of Shandong.

The ground water obtained on Tuesday measures some 20 degrees Celsius and geologists estimate that the total reserves of hot water in Shandong will hit 4.8 billion cubic metres and two billion is available for exploitation. MNA/Xinhua

US environment policy slashed in Cuba

Havana, 9 April — The US environment policy came under severe criticism Wednesday by experts attending the Tropic 2004 Convention in Cuba.

Experts from America, Europe and Africa accused Washington of being responsible for environmental pollution. Ecuadorian expert Carlos Erazo cautioned the US and other developed countries to consider their companies’ profits along with environmental protection. MNA/Xinhua

Chinese engineer gets top for environmental science

Center for Environment Science of China Academy of Sciences has received the 2004 Environment Award of the French National Academy of Sciences.

The award was given to Center Director Ma Yimin for his achievements in the past 15 years in environment science. MNA/Xinhua

Carlos Erazo cautions US

Ecuadorean expert Carlos Erazo cautioned the US and other developed countries to consider their companies’ profits along with environmental protection when doing business in the international market. MNA/Reuters

Carlos Erazo cautioned the US and other developed countries to consider their companies’ profits along with environmental protection when doing business in the international market. — MNA/Reuters

Russian DM expresses concerns over NATO expansion

Washington, 9 April — Russia was concerned about the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) but willing to cooperate with the alliance to ensure global stability, the Russian Defence Minister said in an article published Wednesday in The New York Times.

Sergei Ivanov said that through expansion “the alliance is gaining greater ability to control and monitor Russian territory” and Russia cannot turn a blind eye as NATO’s air and military bases get much closer to cities and defence complexes in European Russia”. The minister, who was on a working visit to Washington, also expressed Russia’s concern over the US plan to rearrange the military abroad, including in Europe. — MNA/Reuters

Over 300 critically rare species unprotected

London, 9 April — More than 300 of the world’s rarest and most exotic creatures, including golden foxes in the Comoros Islands and yellow-eared parrots in the Colombiam Andes, are completely unprotected, scientists said on Wednesday.

All could disappear in future decades because global efforts to protect them are inadequate, the scientists believe. Although 11.5 per cent of Earth’s surface is a protected zone, conservationists have discovered huge gaps in coverage that could lead to the extinction of unique species of mammals, birds, amphibians, turtle and tortoises. — MNA/Reuters

Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge.

AIDS is a national concern.
Oil pipeline shooter to pay $17m

ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 9 April — A man convicted of shooting at the trans-Alaska oil pipeline in October of 2001 and causing $285,000,000 of crude oil to spill over 7 miles of pipeline in restitution for the act, state officials said on Wednesday.

It is highly unlikely that Daniel Lewis, now in jail after receiving a 16-year sentence last June, will be able to come up with such compensation, officials acknowledged. Lewis, who shot the 800-mile oil line near its midpoint, has little employment history and only sparse sources of income, they said.

But at a restitution hearing in state Superior Court on Tuesday, Judge Jane Kauvar determined that Lewis would be able to pay something for the damage he caused once he leaves jail, said Assistant Alaska Attorney General Kevin Burke, who prosecuted the case.

“What the judge found was he should be able to pay, while he’s on probation, to pay 1,000 US dollars (a year),”, Burke said.—MNA/Reuters

Yahoo’s profit up sharply in first quarter

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — Yahoo said Wednesday that its profit for the first-quarter reached 101 million US dollars, or 14 cents per share, up from 47 million dollars, or eight cents a share, in the year-earlier period.

Beating Wall Street estimates, Yahoo also said that strong advertising helped it increase first-quarter sales to 778 million dollars from 283 million dollars in the same quarter last year. “Yahoo’s performance surpassed even our high expectations, delivering the most successful quarter in the company’s history,” said Terry Semel, chairman and chief executive officer of Yahoo.

The Commission focused on another infringement — essentially upholding an earlier WTO ruling — that allows the EU to continue to offer preferential access to the EU market according to their particular situation.

“Today’s decision makes it clear that we can continue to give trade preferences to developing countries that are not, and need not be, perfect. This is under the GSP and Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for poor states.

The Commission focused on another part of the ruling, which said trade benefits to developing countries could be phased out if a country violated EU laws.

Trade analysts said the EU would likely adjust the programme, in force since 2001, leaving open the possibility of a new case if India was not satisfied.

The EU has already had to change the programme in other cases. For instance, India must change its pharmacological policy, which the EU says is not transparent and non-discriminatory.

The Commission said that the EU anti-drugs programme was also a violation of the general rules on trade in illegal drugs.

The EU programme, known as the “War on Drugs Programme”, which offers low import tariffs to Pakistan and 11 Latin American countries to encourage them to produce goods other than drugs.

All 12 are seen as leading producers of narcotics, including opium and coca, that are sold legally on European streets.

The EU said the programme helped poorer countries to focus on legal crops and thus helped their economi-

While he’s on probation, to pay 1,000 US dollars (a year),” said the judge. “This study supports our hypothesis that men with long-term elevated PSA levels are at a much higher risk of developing colorectal cancer in their lifetimes,” Ma said in a statement.

Patients with high levels may be able to eat better and exercise more to prevent cancer—though no study has shown this will work.

Ma and her colleagues looked at the medical records of nearly 500 men who followed for 13 years as part of a larger, long-term study called the Physicians’ Health Study. They compared PSA levels among 176 men who were diagnosed with colorectal cancer to 294 men who were cancer-free.

“China’s Progress”, said. “This study shows the importance of preventive health care and the need to address the economic and social determinants of cancer,” the state-run China Daily said.

Now that the prices of the pills are more reasonable, it is hoped the treatment can cover more patients, it said.

In April 2003, the Chinese Government launched a project under which AIDS patients in poverty-stricken provinces could receive free drugs, but the population reached 20 per cent of the regions.

A recent report by the United Nations cautioned States alone this year and is the second leading cause of cancer death and lung cancer.

In the prostate cancer study, Dr Anthony D’Amico and colleagues found that the pattern of prostate specific antigen after treatment for prostate cancer correlated to who was more likely to die. They found men whose PSA levels rose quickly and fell slowly after getting hormone-based therapy were 13 times more likely to die than men whose PSA levels rose slowly and then fell sharply.—MNA/Reuters

Report shows Italy Mafia big in anti-environment business

ROSA, 9 April — The Mafia’s environmentally dangerous businesses—including hazardous waste disposal, illegal constructions and animal trafficking—engaged a boom year in 2003, a new report said on Tuesday.

The number of crimes committed by what the Italian media has dubbed the “eco-Mafia” soared 33 per cent last year and the value of business rose from 2.7 billion euros, leading environmental group Legambiente said in its annual study of the racket.

“Today, the direct role that Mafia organizations have in the looting of natural and cultural heritage of our country, especially in the south, is a fact,” the group’s president Roberto Della Seta said.

Italian Mafia whiskey is often of toxic materials, has involved, up by 11 from 2002.

Naples-based Camorra and the increasingly powerful ‘Ndrangheta from Calabria in the south are all players in this. The Mafia, which has generated 123 million euros over the last decade, Legambiente said. The group has counted a total number of 169 Mafia clans involved in the racket.

Illegal waste disposal—often of toxic materials, has become a big business in southern Italy, with estimates that 11 million tons of garbage disappear each year.

Trade in illegal waste was up 10 per cent last year, the group said, and has been grabbing headlines recently after a garbage crisis blamed on the Mafia forced schools near Naples to close and sparked mass protests.

“China is about the captivatingly spreading HIV/AIDS disease in the country. “HIV/AIDS is only now beginning to come under control and the government has taken action to contain the disease. Only if efforts intensify, however, will China stand a chance of reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015,” the report, “Millennium Development Goals, China’s Progress”, said.

Intel introduces four mobile chips

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — Intel, the world’s largest chip maker, introduced on Wednesday four mobile chips for portable computers, including two ultra low voltage chips for thin and light notebooks.

Intel’s new offerings include the new Pentium M processor at 1.30 GHz, the ultra-low voltage Pentium M processor at 1.20 GHz, the 1.10 GHz Celeron M processor and the ultra low voltage Intel Celeron M processor at 900 MHz.

“Intel is on track to deliver new practical mobile computing choices based on the company’s 0.13-micron manufacturing technology,” the company said.

The ultra-low voltage chips have relatively low clock speeds, but they use much lower power than higher-speed chips that the company also makes chips for notebooks operate at about 1.36 volts and typically consume around 25 watts.

Some of Intel’s desktop computers can consume 100 watts or more.

Intel priced its 1.10 GHz Celeron M is at 262 US dollars each, and the new 900MHz ultra-low voltage Celeron M for 134 dollars.

The company sells the 1.13 GHz low-voltage Pentium M for 284 dollars and the 1.40 GHz Celeron M for 134 dollars.

China starts producing cheaper drugs to fight “AIDS”

BEIJING, 9 April — China has started producing five drugs that can be used in four different cocktails to treat AIDS patients, whose numbers are rising alarmingly.

The State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) said if the patients use domestic medicines, their expenditure on treatment of AIDS will be around 362 US dollars annually, or one-tenth the cost of using imported medicines.

“China’s Progress”, said. “This study shows the importance of preventive health care and the need to address the economic and social determinants of cancer,” the state-run China Daily said.

Now that the prices of the pills are more reasonable, it is hoped the treatment can cover more patients, it said.

In April 2003, the Chinese Government launched a project under which AIDS patients in poverty-stricken provinces could receive free drugs, but the population reached 20 per cent of the regions.

A recent report by the United Nations cautioned...
Aramovich says Chelsea win showed 'Russian character'

**S O R T S**

Moscow, 8 April — Chelsea's dramatic Champions League quarter-final victory over rival Arsenal showed "Russian character," said Roman Abramovich on Wednesday, in a rare public comment on the club he bought last summer.

Chelsea came from behind in the quarter-final against their London rivals to win 3-2 on aggregate on Tuesday, thanks to a late goal from England defender Wayne Bridge which earned them a 2-1 away win on the night.

"Chelsea played great and I think the team showed the Russian character to hold, to fight, to win," said the Russian oil tycoon in comments relayed through his spokesman.

In fact, there were no Russians in the Chelsea line-up on Tuesday night and both their goals were scored by Englishmen.

"This is a great result. We are now waiting for Moscow," he said.

He made no comment about the future of coach Claudio Ranieri whose position had been thought by the British media to be under threat all season but is now regarded by some writers as unsackable in the near future. — MNA/Reuters

**Maniche double eases Porto into semifinals**

**LYON** (France), 8 April — Maniche Ribeiro scored twice to ease Porto into the Champions League semifinals with a 2-2 draw at Olympique Lyon on Wednesday.

The UEFA Cup holders completed a 4-2 aggregate success and set up a semis against Deportivo Coruna, who upset holders AC Milan in Wednesday's other quarter-final return.

Maniche fired high into the net after only six minutes from Deco Souza's clever pass to open the scoring.

French international Peguy Luyindula equalized for Lyon eight minutes later but Maniche's volleyed finish from another Deco pass two minutes after the break killed the game.

Lyon had Brazilian defender Edmilson sent off 16 minutes from time before his compatriot Giovane Elber scored a late consolation equalizer.

The result means Porto, who won the European Cup in 1987 and reached the Champions League semifinals 10 years ago, have now not lost to Lyon in four matches after winning their first three encounters.

"Lyon took risks and were dangerous in the first half when they were breaking down the wings. We had problems dealing with it," Porto coach Jose Mourinho told reporters.

"In the second half it was much easier," he added.

The hosts had to attack in a bid to overhaul Porto's 2-0 first-leg lead and Luyindula found the net in the fourth minute but his effort was harshly ruled out for offside.

A minute later, Luyindula's low strike was blocked by Porto keeper Vitor Baia as Lyon piled on the pressure.

However, it was Porto who opened the scoring with their first chance when Maniche, set up by Deco, blasted the ball into the top right-hand corner of Gregory Coupet's goal.

"When I went back to (former club) Barcelona, it was a big, big mistake," Porto coach Jose Mourinho told reporters.

"It is the players, though, that I would like to criticize referees, opposing coaches or my own bosses.

"Can you still sack him now Roman?" trumpeted Wednesday's Daily Mirror, while Matt Dickinson in The Times asked: "What odds the sack for Ranieri this morning?" Longer one suspects than his chances of reaching the European Cup final in Gelsenkirchen on May 26.

A semifinal against Monaco stands in Ranieri's path to Germany.

It is the players, though, whose solidarity with their boss, has been most marked.

"All the players want him to stay because he is good for us," wing back Wayne Bridge who scored the 97th minute winner against Lyon, said. "All the pressure that is on himself. He tells us not to worry because it is worse in Italy."

— MNA/Reuters

**Chelsea bosses may regret eagerness to cast him aside**

**LONDON,** 8 April — As Claudio Ranieri wiped away tears of joy following Chelsea's accomplished 2-1 Champions League victory over Arsenal his boardroom masters may have been regretting their apparent eagerness to cast him aside.

The amiable Italian coach, whose job has been the subject of intense speculation since Russian oil tycoon Roman Abramovich bought Chelsea last July, took the side into the semifinals of the world's most prestigious club competition for the first time on Tuesday.

Chelsea are also just four points adrift of a shocked and dispirited Arsenal in the Premier League and with confidence brimming the players believe they can overtake their London rivals in the final run-in.

Only last month chief executive Peter Kenyon, poached from Manchester United to raise Chelsea's worldwide profile, had talks with England coach Sven Goran Eriksson about taking Ranieri's job.

The Swede turned Chelsea down but the episode, after weeks of speculation about other possible candidates, left a sour taste at Stamford Bridge and increased sympathy for Ranieri.

During the home 1-1 first-leg against Arsenal a fortnight ago, fans chanted the Italian's name and waved banners demanding he be left alone.

"All the players want him to stay because he is good for us," wing back Wayne Bridge who scored the 97th minute winner against Lyon, said. "All the pressure that is on himself. He tells us not to worry because it is worse in Italy."

— MNA/Reuters

**Florbet Malounda of Lyon, center challenges for the ball with Costinha, left and Ricardo Carvalho of Porto during their Champions League quarterfinals second leg soccer match, Wednesday, April 7, 2004, in Lyon stadium, central France.**

**Robson relishing return to PSV**

Newcastle (England), 8 April — Newcastle United manager Bobby Robson will rekindle fond memories when he returns to former club PSV Eindhoven in the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup on Thursday.

Robson's extensive managerial career included two spells with the Dutch side during the 1990s, winning the league title in his first two seasons in the Netherlands.

"When I went back to (former club) Barcelona and the Nou Camp in the Champions League with Newcastle last season it was a real occasion for me," Robson told reporters.

"It will be just the same when we go to PSV Eindhoven. In fact, I spent longer at PSV than I did with Barcelona because I was in charge for three seasons over two spells."

Robson joined PSV in 1990, shortly after Riccardo Manzione and Porto's defender Luiz Boaventura signed a new contract with Porto."

"I was pleased to be going back. I have nothing but good memories of my time in Holland, but I will be going there to try to knock them out."

While PSV overcame Auxerre in the UEFA Cup fourth round, the Premier League side secured their last-eight berth with an emphatic 7-1 aggregate victory over Real Mallorca.

— MNA/Reuters

**Paraguay's Arnaldo Vera, right, of Libertad, fights for the ball against Argentina's Nelson Cuevas of River Plate during their Libertadores Cup match in "Defensores del Chaco Stadium" in Asuncion, Paraguay on Wednesday, April 7, 2004.**

**Goran Eriksson about taking with England coach Sven—INTERNET**

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— MNA/Reuters
16:45 National News
17:20 Circulating Artist, A Century Ago
17:40 Traditional Medical Training School
17:45 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
18:00 National News
18:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights ‘Come and See Myanmar”
19:32 Song of Myanmar
20:05 Hsinbyushin Temple, Ayeyawady Division, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, wide-spread in Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Bago, upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (1.34) inches in Shweyagon.

Maximum temperature on 4-2004 was 37°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 4-2004 was 20°C (68°F). Relative humidity, at 8:30 Hrs, 04-2004 was 77%. Total sunshine on 8-4-2004 was for (7) hours. Rainfall on 4-2004 was 2.03 (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport, nil at Kabaigyi and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-4-2004 was 0.03 (10.21 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabaigyi) was 12 mph from the NORTHWEST at 15:20 hours MST on 4-2004. Rainfall: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast: Showers and thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Shan and Rakhine States, Bago, upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Decrease in temperature is (60%). State of affairs is likely to be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent days: Continuation of scattered to isolated thunderstorms are likely in upper Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbourhood area for 10-4-2004: Likelikelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers is very low. Decrease in temperature is (60%).

Weather outlook for second weekend of April 2004: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thunderstorms are likely in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends congratulations to Sri Lankan PM

YANGON, 9 April—General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Mahinda Rajapakse, on his assumption of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Cooperatives Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 8 April—Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun at the former’s office on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning.

The cordial discussions focused on enhancing bilateral friendship, invitation of cooperative societies to the forthcoming western international fair to be held in the People’s Republic of China, and bilateral cooperation in small and medium industries. Also present at the call were Director-General of the Cooperatives Department Col Soe Win, Director-General of the Cottage Industries Department U Sein Than, Acting Managing Director of the Co-operative Export and Import Enterprise U Myo Than and officials of the Ministers’ Office. MNA

Minister back from ASEAN meetings in S’pore

YANGON, 9 April—The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun arrived back here by air this afternoon after attending the ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Informal Meeting (Retreat) on 6 April and the Eighth Meeting of ASEAN Finance Ministers in Singapore. The minister and party were welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, departmental heads and families of the delegation members.

On 6 April afternoon, the ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Informal Meeting (Retreat) was held at Sentosa Resort and Spa where they discussed development of regional investment market and preparations for holding the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Annual Meetings to be held in Singapore in 2006.

On 7 April morning, the opening ceremony of the Eighth Meeting of ASEAN Finance Ministers was held at Shangri-la Singapore Hotel. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore gave an opening speech. Next, the ASEAN Finance Ministers posed for documentary photos.

Afterwards, the meeting was held. Singaporean Prime Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister of Finance-2 Lim Heng Kiang presided over the meeting. Asian Development Bank President Mr Takeo Nakao explained potentials of ASEAN economic condition. The ministers exchanged their views on the report. Afterwards, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yang reported on overview on economy of ASEAN countries and policies. The ministers explained economic affairs, changes and policies of their respective countries.

Similarly, the ministers discussed regional economic cooperation, financial cooperation of ASEAN Cooperation Roadmap approved by the leaders of ASEAN countries, implementation of Chiangmai Plan and others.

(See page 8)

Dailies in alternative circulation

YANGON, 9 April—Dailies of the News and Periodicals Enterprise will be published in turn during Thingyan holidays.

Kyemon Daily and The New Light of Myanmar Daily will not appear on 12, 13 and 14 April (Thingyan Akyat, Akya and Akyat days) while Myanma Alin Daily will take holidays on 15, 16 and 17 April (Thingyan Akyat & Akyet days and Myanmar New Year Day). Regular delivery of all dailies will resume on 18 April.—MNA

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