Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends ceremony to enshrine religious objects into Maha Saddhammaramsi Shwe Ceti

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hoists Htidaw atop the pagoda

YANGON, 25 April — A ceremony to enshrine religious objects into Maha Saddhammaramsi Shwe Ceti, hoist Shwehtidaw and consecrate the pagoda was held at the pagoda in Kontalabaung Model Village, Mingaladon Township, at 7.30 am today.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Than Shwe, conveyed tiers of the Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda. Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thayet Saydaw Bhaddanta Kesara and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, district and township level authorities, social organizations, wellwishers and local people.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassu. Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party received the Nine Precepts from Vice-Chairman Saydaw Bhaddanta Kesara. Afterwards, Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered religious objects and Seinbudaw to the Vice-Chairman Saydaw. The Prime Minister also offered religious objects, Hgetmyatnadaw, small bells and provisions to the Vice-Chairman Saydaw.

The commander, the ministers and wellwishers also donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

On behalf of engineers, Staff Officer (Grade-I) Lt-Col Khin Maung Zaw of the Directorate of Military Engineers read out the paper on handing over the pagoda to the wellwishers. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted K 90.75 million donated by wellwishers including K 11 million by Kya- in Pawdawmu Monastery Presiding Nayaka Saydaw Bhaddanta Ashin Nan- dasara of Hpa-an Township, Kayin State; K 857,343 by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt-Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and family; K 44.6 million by Dr Ung Thwin Kyaw-Daw Hlay Hlay Win and family; K 11.3 million by Daw Khaing Khaiang Win and party of Naga Group; K 2.5 million by Hninethaya Industrial Zone; K 2 million by U Myint Oo-Daw Ma Ma Lay and family; K 2 million by U Tin Maung (Sands Traditional Medicine); K 1.625 million by U Tun Lin-Daw Swe Mar Lwin and family; K 1 million by U Aung Kyee Myint of Kyan Sit Min Construction; K 1 million by Daw Aye Myat Nwe of Bagan Hotel; K 750,000 by senior officers of DSA 17th Intake; K 700,000 by Daw Mya Thi and family; K 600,000 by U Boe Shi-Daw Myint Myint Sein and family; K 600,000 by NatU Myint Hnin Lwin and family; K 500,000 by U Thein Maung-Daw Pa Pa; K 500,000 each by U Myint Zaw and family, U Aung Mo Kyaw-Daw Saw Shin of Managing Director U Aung Win of TWIS Co Ltd; and others. Next, Joint-Secretary Saydaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Mandalay Wizitayon Saydaw Bhaddanta Vijarindahirmaswa delivered a sermon, and Daw Kyaing Kyaing, General Khin Nyunt and party shared merits gained.

Next, Head of Yangon Division Religious Affairs Department supplicated on offering of religious objects, the Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw to the pagoda. Then the ceremony to hoist the Shwehtidaw atop the Maha Saddhammaramsi Shwe Ceti was held.

The Prime Minister and party and wellwishers walked round the pagoda clockwise conveying the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw and other religious objects.

Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party and wellwishers conveyed the Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw to the pandal of the decorated carriage. Laily also conveyed (See page 8).

Htidaw hoisting ceremony of Maha Saddhammaramsi Shwe Ceti in progress in Mingaladon Township. — mna

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

---

**TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE TASKS**

The development of the nation and its people depends mainly on efforts of its national forces. Efforts of social organizations that are striving for national development play a vital role for national development.

The caring of mothers and children, the majority of the nation's population, is very important in making efforts for development of the nation and it plays the most indispensable and fundamental role in promoting the social sector.

Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended and addressed the 14th Annual Conference of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, which was held at the association's headquarters on 24 April. In his speech, the Prime Minister said that caring of mothers and children, the most fundamental ones in Myanmar society, yields benefits at present and means the shaping of the bright future of the nation, the people and posterity and that it can be said that it is full of national essence.

The government, after enacting a specific law, established the MMCWA, a social organization, which is carrying out its tasks with loving kindness, compassion and goodwill in social sector including health care services for women and children.

It is heartening to see that the MMCWA has stood as an integrated social organization for more than 13 years, effectively carrying out social welfare tasks including health, education, social and economic sectors of mothers and children across the nation.

The MMCWA is discharging community welfare services with a large membership of over 3.7 million —61 members of central council, 15 CEC members, 324 township associations, 14,400 branches, over 864,000 permanent members and over 2.9 million ordinary members. In the early days, the MMCWA placed emphasis on welfare of mothers and children only. But, now it has extended the scope of its tasks with national essence, upholding the motto “From womb to tomb”.

As the Government has acknowledged the important role of the social organizations, all the officials concerned are urged to give their hands with successful implementation of social welfare tasks.

---

**MMCWA CONTINUES ITS 14TH CONFERENCE**

**YANGON, 25 April—** The 14th Annual Conference of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, continued for the second day at the hall of MMCWA in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present were President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, patrons of State/Division Supervisory Committees for MCWA and officials.

In the morning-session, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presided over the conference and gave a speech. Next, chairmen of State/Division Supervisory Committees for MCWA submitted the papers to the conference. In the afternoon session, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presided over the conference. Later, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave necessary instructions related to the papers. The conference will continue tomorrow...— MNA

---

**SYMPOSIUM ON DIABETES & CARDIOLOGY**

**YANGON, 25 April —** Symposium on diabetes and cardiology, organized by USV Limited, was staged at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here this morning.

Present at the symposium were professor doctors of Yangon General Hospital, diabetes and cardiologists, officials of USV Limited, doctors and guests.

Prof Dr Daw Khin Yi Myint of the Medical Department of YGH chaired the first session of symposium and made a speech. Dr Shashank Joshi, Associate Professor of Grant Medical College in Mumbai, India, and Dr Nay Win, Associate Prof of the Medical Department of YGH presented their papers. Prof Daw Khin May San of the Cardiology Unit of YGH chaired the second session of symposium and delivered a speech. Cardiologist Dr Tin Latt, adviser to the Cardiology Unit of YGH and Dr Upendra Kaul, Director of Interventional Cardiology & Cardiac Electrophysiology Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre submitted their papers. — MNA

---

**SPECIAL LUCKY DRAW**

Special lucky draw to mark the tenth anniversary of Apple Cosmetics of the Apple International Co Ltd and the tenth anniversary of the Vilas Beauty Salon took place at the Lapuwasan Plaza on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Yangon on 25-4-2004.

Photo shows Managing Director of the company U Khin Nyunt presents a prize to a prize-winning sales agent. — MNA
Two US sailors killed in Iraq boat attack

Baghdad, 25 April — Suicide attackers detonated explosive-laden boats near oil facilities in the Persian Gulf on Saturday, killing two US Navy sailors in a new tactic against Iraq’s vital oil industry. Elsewhere, violence across Iraq killed at least 33 Iraqis and four American soldiers.

It was the first such maritime attack against oil facilities since US troops invaded Iraq more than a year ago. The blasts resembled attacks in 2000 and 2002 — blamed on al-Qaida — against the USS Cole and a French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen that killed 17 American sailors and a tanker crewman.

Meanwhile, President Bush held a conference call Saturday with his senior national security and military advisers to discuss the situation in Iraq — particularly restive Fallujah, a senior defence official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the purpose of the teleconference was mainly for Gen John Abizaid, the top US commander for the Middle East, to give Bush and others an update on the situation inside the city and the US Marines’ readiness to resume offensive operations against thousands of guerrillas holed up there.

In the Gulf attack, three bowships, or small boats, drew close to two major oil terminals in Gulf waters about 100 miles from Iraq’s main port, Umm Qasr, and exploded when coalition craft tried to intercept them. The US Navy craft was flipped by the blast, killing the American sailors and injuring five others, the US military said.

Initial reports said there was no damage to the terminals, the military said, and Iraq’s main southern oil outlet, Umm Qasr, remained open, a British spokesman said.—Internet

Don’t ask about Iraq security–it’s too risky

Baghdad, 25 April — US-led authorities are telling anyone who wants information about risks in the violence-torn country to seek it elsewhere.

“For security reasons, there are no security reports,” says the weekly reports section of the Coalition Provisional Authority website.

The website includes reports on electricity production and reconstruction projects, but not on security, the top concern of foreign investors and local businesses.

ASEAN+3 countries to enhance cooperation

in health sector

Kuala Lumpur, 25 April — The first ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting Friday expressed a commitment to enhance cooperation in health sector and to give priority to urgent concerns for emerging infectious diseases.

The meeting has identified initial areas of focus to develop future joint activities, including health promotion, primary health care concerns, provision of life-saving drugs, advocacy and special care programmes for vulnerable groups, according to a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting held in Indonesia’s northern town of Penang.

Other related fields are capacity building for health professionals, health care financing and health care systems development, the statement said.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), now grouping 10 countries in the region, was set up in 1967 to promote regional cooperation.

The ASEAN+3 mechanism was established in 1997 when leaders of the 13 countries held their first summit in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

“We (ASEAN) look forward to joining hands with our partners from China, Japan and Korea in our continued efforts to ensure health for our people, regardless of gender, race, religion, language or social and cultural backgrounds,” it said.

To address the health challenges and opportunities in a rapidly globalizing region where the countries are more interconnected and interdependent than ever, efforts would be made to fight the transboundary spread of diseases to surmount the challenges to health posed by globalization.

The meeting’s chairman Dr Chua Soi Lek meanwhile said the group was also satisfied with the progress made in establishing collaborative partnerships in ASEAN+3 countries to effectively respond to emerging infectious diseases. — MNA/Xinhua

France rules out sending troops to Iraq

Paris, 25 April — France will not send troops to Iraq but is ready to help train the country’s Army and police force after power is handed to a national government, France’s Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie told a French newspaper.

Le Parisien also quoted Alliot-Marie on Saturday as saying a handover from occupying US-led troops to an interim local government was a top priority and that the United Nations should play a key role in the transition, planned for June 30.

“In the current context, political conditions mean we cannot envisage sending any French soldiers to Iraq,” she said when asked if France would be willing to send troops after the June deadline.

“That said, we have said from the start that we would be ready, when certain conditions are met, to participate in the reconstruction of Iraq. In the area of defence, that would be helping, with notably our German partners, to train the Iraqi Army and police.”

That could take place in Jordan, Qatar or the United Arab Emirates, she added.

France opposed last year’s invasion of Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein. Paris has called for UN resolutions to help ensure a smooth transition of power.

Alliot-Marie was speaking on board a French frigate on an anti-terrorism exercise near Oman as part of France’s military involvement in Afghanistan, Le Parisien said.

She was quoted as saying an Iraqi government must take over as quickly as possible, even though managing this by June 30 would be tough.

“The most urgent thing is to transfer sovereignty to the Iraqis,” she said. “It is essential that the United Nations play a real and determining role. We need to respect this sovereignty and wait for the requests of the Iraqi government.”

MNA/Reuters

Bomb kills US soldier north of Baghdad

Baghdad, 25 April — A roadside bomb killed a US soldier north of Baghdad on Friday, the US military said.

It said in a statement that the 1st Infantry Division soldier was killed when the explosive device hit a US convoy near the town of Samarria, 62 miles north of Baghdad.

The attack brought to 510 the number of US soldiers killed in combat since US-led forces invaded Iraq in March last year.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore’s annual CPI up 1.3% in March

SINGAPORE, 25 April — Singapore’s consumer price index (CPI) grew 1.3 per cent in March as compared with the same period last year, according to the figures released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS) on Friday.

The SDS attributed the slight rise in CPI to the increase of prices in food, health care and education and stationery. They rose 2.0 per cent, 6.2 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively.

The costs of housing fell 0.4 per cent from a year ago but remained unchanged as compared to the previous month.

The costs of transport and communication were down 0.2 per cent from a year ago due to lower prices of cars and mobile phones.

MNA/Reuters
More than 40 people killed in bloody day for Iraq

In one of the worst incidents of the day, at least 13 Iraqis were killed and 30 were wounded when rockets or mortar bombs struck a busy market in the Shi’ite Muslim area of Sadr City in Baghdad, witnesses and hospital sources said.

“There was blood and bodies everywhere,” said Bassam Abdul Rahim, an assistant to Sadr City mayor.

US forces say are allowing time for Iraqi medics to respond to the standoff.

Fourteen Iraqis were killed when a bus, traveling to Baghdad just ahead of a convoy of six US military vehicles, was hit by a roadside bomb.

The five US soldiers were killed in a guerilla rocket attack on a US base just north of Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

Six other soldiers were wounded.

US helicopter gunships destroyed the truck from which the rockets were launched, but there was no word of casualties among the guerrillas.

US military said the attack was a response to a booby-trapped car attack in the city of Kerbala, south of Baghdad, that wounded four police officers.

Foreign Minister Jan Petersen, who has been in Afghanistan for the last two weeks and has a determination to follow up, said that NATO does not fail in Afghanistan.

Petersen said that Norway’s forces were spread thinly between important missions. He denied that Oslo was scared off by mounting violence in Iraq.

Washington, 25 April—An Israeli Arab taken hostage in Iraq two weeks ago and accused of spying for Israel was released by his captors on Thursday.

Raquz, who was working for the North Carolina-based company doing local governance work in Iraq, was taken hostage on April 8.

Johnson did not have details about the release or how Raquz was treated but said he appeared to be in good condition.

US Marine dies of combat wounds in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 April — A US Marine died of wounds suffered in hostile action west of Baghdad 10 days ago, the US military said on Saturday.

The military said the Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died on Thursday of wounds received on April 14 while fighting anti-US forces in the Al Anbar Province. Al Anbar includes the restive towns of Fallujah and Ramadi.

It was not clear if his death or that of a soldier killed by a roadside bomb on Friday had been told to a Pentagon toll issued the same day.

The toll showed 509 US troops had been killed in action since the start of the Iraq war in March last year.

US firm RTI claims hostage released in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 25 April—An Israeli Arab taken hostage in Iraq two weeks ago and accused of spying for Israel was released by his captors on Thursday.

Raquz, 40, was assigned to the Army Reserve’s 724th Transportation Company, Infantry, III.

A California native, he previously served in the US Navy and relocated to Greensboro four or five years ago, friends have said.

Raquz was divorced from his wife and has a 9-year-old son.

Armed with a .45-caliber automatic pistol, he appeared to be in good condition.

He was taken hostage on April 8.

Johnson did not have details about the release or how Raquz was treated but said he appeared to be in good condition.

Missing army reservist in Iraq is dead

RALEIGH, 25 April—An Army reservist who had been missing in Iraq since a convoy attack on 9 April has been confirmed dead, the military said Saturday. Another soldier and a contract worker abducted in the same attack remain unaccounted for.

The remains of Sgt Elmer Krause were found Friday, according to a statement from the Department of Defense.

“He went over there and he didn’t express any regrets,” Krause’s brother, Jim, told reporters at the entrance to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif.

Jim Krause said Saturday his brother said he hoped to provide leadership to younger soldiers.

His birthday would have been tomorrow. He was more than 40 years old and going over to fight,” he said.

“He is difficult for us, but his determination strengthens us,” Sgtn Krause was part of a convoy that was attacked outside Baghdad.

Thomas Hamill, a Halliburton employee from Macon, Miss., was seen on video after the attack, but there has been no word from him since.

Pfc Keith M Maspin, seen on separate video footage, also has not been found.

Krause, 40, was assigned to the Army Reserve’s 724th Transportation Company, Infantry, III.

A California native, he previously served in the US Navy and relocated to Greensboro four or five years ago, friends have said.

Raquz was divorced from his wife and has a 9-year-old son.

Armed with a .45-caliber automatic pistol, he appeared to be in good condition.

He was taken hostage on April 8.

Johnson did not have details about the release or how Raquz was treated but said he appeared to be in good condition.

MNA/Reuters

A demonstrator holds a bloodied axe with an anti-war slogan, during a protest in front of Downing Street in London, on 11 April 2004.

INTERNET

Protestors file down a street near the World Bank and IMF headquarters in downtown Washington, Saturday, on 24 April, 2004, during the 2004 annual spring meetings. The crowd rallied against trade deals, Third World debt and war, the US occupation of Iraq, and the policies of President Bush.

INTERNET

Norway rejects US plea to stay on in Iraq

OSLO, 25 April—Oslo rejected an appeal by the United States on Friday to keep Norwegian troops in Iraq after a planned pullout in June when Norway aims to focus on helping stabilize Afghanistan.

NATO-member Norway, which did not support the US-led war in Iraq last year, sent a company of about 180 troops to help stabilize the south of Iraq after the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein.

“Standing until the summer,” Norway’s foreign minister said.

Foreign Minister Jan Petersen told NRK television after US Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed hopes that Oslo might reconsider its plan to pull out in June.

“We must contribute so that NATO does not fail in Afghanistan,” Petersen said, adding that Norway’s forces were spread thinly between important missions. He denied that Oslo was scared off by mounting violence in Iraq.

Washington plans to hand over responsibility for the North Carolina-based company doing local governance work in Iraq, was taken hostage on April 8.

Johnson did not have details about the release or how Raquz was treated but said he appeared to be in good condition.

MNA/Reuters

Seven US soldiers, 18 Iraqis killed in Iraq attacks

BLOOMBERG, 25 April—Seven US soldiers and 18 Iraqis were killed in attacks in the north and south of Iraq. April has been the deadliest month for coalition troops since the US-led invasion in March last year.

In the city of Taji, north of Baghdad, five US soldiers were killed and six wounded when a rocket was fired at their base at dawn. Another two US soldiers died and another was wounded when a rocket propelled grenade was launched at a convoy near the southern city of Kut, police said, according to AFP.

Separately, four Iraqi policemen were killed and 12 more wounded when a booby-trapped car exploded near a US military base in the northern city of Tikrit.

In Sadr City, three separate explosions killed at least eight people and wounded 33 more.

Coalition forces killed five people preparing an ambush near Karbala and another Iraqi civilian in Najaf, AFP said.

Research, 25 April, at least 103 US soldiers and Marines were killed in Iraq this month, Defense Department figures show. At the United Nations yesterday, Secre-tary-General Kofi Annan said renewed violence would limit any role the UN plays in Iraq’s political tran-sition and reconstruction.

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
Chalabi compares US policy on Baathists with Nazis

BAGHDAD, 25 April — A US policy shift that may allow former Baathists to join a new Iraqi government was akin to putting back Nazis in charge of Germany, Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi said on Friday.

“This policy will create major problems in the transition to democracy, endanger any government put together by UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and cause it to fall after June 30,” Chalabi told Reuters.

He spoke after the White House announced an overhaul of the “de-Baathification” policy, which may let some former members join an interim government being put together by the United Nations ahead of a planned June 30 transfer of power.

“This policy allowing Nazis into the German Government immediately after transfer of power,” added Chalabi, who heads a council committee specifically dedicated to keeping the upper ranks of Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party out of office.

Chalabi said US Governor Paul Bremer discussed with the council on Thursday how to reinstate junior public workers, such as teachers, who were nominally Baath members, but did not mention Baathists taking part in a new government.

The former Iraqi opposition, violently crushed by the Baath, supports helping junior party members return to work if they did not commit crimes, but is aghast at the prospect of Baathists returning to assume senior government positions.

“We refuse this US direction. Like the Nazis in the Third Reich, the Baath was a chauvinist and racist organization,” said Adnan al-Assadi, an official of the Dawab Party which is represented on the council.

“It will help security deteriorate further, disgrace Iraqis who have trusted the coalition to manage the political process and lead to civil war,” he added.

The Bulgarian Defence Ministry later said a Bulgarian soldier shot in the head in the ambush died of his wounds.

The Mehdi Army militia is loyal to firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, whom US forces want to arrest for alleged involvement in the killing of another Shiite cleric.

Russia, EU closer to sensitive issues over European expansion

MOSCOW, 25 April — Russia and the European Union (EU) got closer to disagreements over the upcoming EU enlargement after the visit of an EU delegation here on Thursday.

The European Commission President Romano Prodi, head of the delegation, confirmed after talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin that a joint statement on Russia-EU partnership and cooperation will be signed late this month, just ahead of the bloc’s expansion to the Eastern Europe on 1 May to accept 10 mostly ex-Soviet nations.

Russia has been concerned that the enlargement would hurt its economic and trade interests and the rights of its citizens. Putin said after the meeting that the main disputes over the transit of goods between Russia and its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad, which will be encircled by EU countries after the enlargement, has been removed but “some details still need to be examined”, according to Interfax news agency.

Earlier a Russian economic minister said that an agreement on the issue had been reached. Prodi pledged that the EU is ready to launch negotiations with Russia to simplify visa rules in an effort to create a visa-free regime.

He also called for joint efforts in resolving disputes blocking Russia’s accession into the World Trade Organization, which would “impede Russian-EU relations and the establishment of a single economic area between the two sides.

Russia has been the largest world economy outside the body, partly because of its subsidy to its energy and agricultural sectors.

China, Vietnam call for dialogue in solving WMD proliferation issues

UNITED NATIONS, 25 April — Issues relating to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) should be solved through dialogues and international cooperation, said Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Wang Guangya on Thursday.

Speaking at a Security Council open debate, Wang said the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery “has everything to do with international and regional security environment”.

“To pursue the universal improvement of international relations and to accelerate fair and rational settlement of the security issues of regions concerned will help realize the goal of non-proliferation,” he said.

“The role of the existing international non-proliferation mechanism should be brought into full play, and proliferation issues should be solved through dialogues and international cooperation,” he added.

To effectively push forward non-proliferation efforts, he stressed, it is necessary to guarantee the legitimate rights of all countries, especially the developing countries, to utilize and share dual-use scientific and technological achievements and products for peaceful purposes.

Wang said China favours adopting a resolution to strengthen international cooperation in cracking down on illicit trafficking of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials by non-state actors, such as individuals and non-governmental organizations.

He urged the 15-nation Council to further improve the draft measure, presented by the United States and Britain last month, on the basis of opinions expressed at the debate.

Meningitis kills over 60 in north Nigeria

LAGOS, 25 April — Cerebrospinal meningitis has claimed more than 60 lives in Nigeria’s northern state of Kaduna recently, the News Agency of Nigeria reported here.

Kaduna State Commissioner of Health Mary Dzegina was quoted as saying that the outbreak of the infectious disease in the northern state had also left many other victims who are now being hospitalized.

The state health commission was still awaiting reports from the outbreak of the epidemic from other affected areas, she said.

The epidemic was reported in the area of Birnin Gwari, Lere, Ikara, Zaria, Kaura, Soba, Giwa and Jema across the state.

Among those who lost their lives in Jema’a were five people under 12 years old and 61 adults, while in Kaduna its northern town of Garin, 14 other victims died.

Those who lost their lives in Jema’a also included a 12-year-old girl and a man in his 60s who were hospitalised.

The disease is transmitted by contact with infected victims or splashes from their nose and throat, she said.

“About 92% of the disease victims have been taken to hospital for treatment while those who died were from the rural areas,” the commissioner said.

The state health commissioner was quoted as saying that “the disease remains uncontrolled and it is not yet under control”.

China’s non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are under pressure to consolidate their administrative structures and open their doors to technical assistance from international NGOs.

Wong Wai-ling, the coordinator of the NGO Forum, said the changes to NGO administration had sped up efforts to set up NGO networks to promote cooperation among NGOs.

Wong said the pressure to consolidate had come from a number of countries, including the United Nations, the European Union and the United States.

The pressure was due to a lack of local expertise in the field of NGO administration, he added.

He said the USAID had already approved funding for the NGO Forum, which will be used to improve NGO administration and consolidate their structures.

Wong said China was not a member of the NGO Forum, which was dominated by Western countries.

However, he added, the NGO Forum had included representatives from a number of Asian countries, including India, Indonesia and Turkey, and would soon include the Philippines.

He said the NGO Forum, which had 30 members, had been effective in promoting cooperation among NGOs.

Wong also said the NGO Forum had worked with governments to improve NGO policies and had helped with the much-needed administrative changes.

“Many governments in Asia have implemented NGO policies that are consistent with their own policies,” he said.

The NGO Forum had also helped to promote cooperation among NGOs, he said, and had helped to improve NGO skills.

He said the NGO Forum had been successful in promoting cooperation among NGOs, but said that NGOs had to be more proactive in order to promote cooperation.

He said that “the NGO Forum is not a public relations tool”.

He added that the NGO Forum had been used to raise the profile of NGOs, but that it had not been used to promote cooperation among NGOs.

He said that the NGO Forum had been successful in promoting cooperation among NGOs, but that it had not been used to promote cooperation among NGOs.

He said that the NGO Forum had been successful in promoting cooperation among NGOs, but that it had not been used to promote cooperation among NGOs.

He said that the NGO Forum had been successful in promoting cooperation among NGOs, but that it had not been used to promote cooperation among NGOs.

He said that the NGO Forum had been successful in promoting cooperation among NGOs, but that it had not been used to promote cooperation among NGOs.
Roadside bomb kills 14 Iraqis

KUWAIT (Iraq), 25 April—A roadside bomb killed 14 Iraqis travelling by bus to Baghdad on Saturday and 12 others were wounded, a doctor at a nearby hospital said.

Abbas al-Shamari, a doctor at the hospital in the town of Iskandariya, 31 miles south of Baghdad, said the bus was taking people to the capital but he had no immediate further details.

Witnesses said the bus was driving just ahead of a convoy of six US military vehicles when the roadside bomb

At least 13 Iraqis killed in Baghdad market blasts

BAGHDAD, 25 April — At least 13 Iraqis were killed and 30 wounded on Saturday when rockets or mortar bombs slammed into a busy market in a Shiite suburb of Baghdad, witnesses and hospital sources said.

Witnesses said at least two projectiles hit the chicken market in the Ourfali neighbourhood of Saf-dar City, powerbase of Moqtada al-Sadr, a fiery Shiite Muslim cleric who is wanted by the US occupation forces.

"We were standing talking when two rockets landed," Bassam Abdul Rahim, told Reuters. "The second hit a gas canister and the explosion was huge. There was blood and bodies everywhere."

Deformation in Iraq increases by war, pollution

BAGHDAD, 25 April — Many cases of deformation were recorded in Iraq after the US-led war on Iraq, where various weapons with radiating materials were used. local newspaper "Saturday Azzaman" reported.

"The hospital for children in the city recorded 20 deformed newborns in the past two months," said Dr. Qassim Abbas Wissan al-Shamari, a doctor at the hospital in the town of Iskandariya, 31 miles south of Baghdad, said the bus was driving just ahead of a convoy of six US military vehicles when the roadside bomb exploded.

"This Bush, we don't want him," one woman cried. "It wasn't like this under Saddam Hussein."

Inside the wards, the wounded lay in pain. One man lost half his jaw, his face held together by an acrude bandage.

"Today we received 30 injured people," hospital director Abdul-Jabbar al-Zubeidi said in English. "All of them were shell injuries to different parts of bodies — head, chest, abdomen, extremities. Fifteen of them were severely injured.

"They are of different ages, all of them civilians. In addition we received 11 dead. They arrived dead. This is the situation in the hospital until 11.30 a.m."

Witnesses said bodies of at least two other victims were taken straight to their homes for a quick burial.

Volkswagen intends to sell stake to UAE firm

ARUBA, 25 April — German motor giant Volkswagen AG (VW) may sell a 10-per cent stake worth 1.6 billion euros (1.9 billion US dollars) to a government-owned United Arab Emirates (UAE) investment company in Abu Dhabi, local newspaper Gulf News reported Friday.

The deal would allow VW to finance an expansion and gain a shareholder ally as the European Union presses Berlin to scrap a favourite guerilla weapon against the occupying forces.

A convoy of six US military vehicles when the roadside bomb exploded.

Local people rushed to the scene from a nearby village to help the injured and dead to hospital, the witnesses said.

They said US troops sealed off the area.

Kuwait calls for purchasing more national products

KUWAIT CITY, 25 April — The Kuwait Industry Union (KIU) on Saturday called for raising the preferential purchase ratio for national products from 10 to 20 per cent to enable local industry to grow in light of competition with foreign goods, Kuwait News Agency reported.

The relevant Cabinet department, Kuwait Industry and Finance Committee, has approved the increase of the preferential purchase ratio of national products through it is still waiting for final Cabinet approval. KIU director Hassan Al-Khorafi was quoted as saying.

He urged that the percentage must be raised to 20 per cent, which is a factor to the fact that national products suffer from unjust dumping of foreign products, which results in a difference in pricing to the benefit of the importer.

Another reason is that the production capacity of national factories amounts to only 50 per cent of the actual production volume, and this causes an increase in sale prices, Al-Khorafi added.

He complained that some countries, where Kuwaiti industries have not been well-equipped, have placed obstacles to Kuwaiti goods to protect their own national industries.

The KIU director also asked Kuwaiti administration to give priority to national products in government purchases.

World Bank calls for harder work to reduce poverty

WASHINGTON, 25 April — The World Bank called on Friday for harder work to eradicate extreme poverty and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals set at the beginning of the 21st Century.

"It is too early to conclude that the world as a whole is on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and what is clear is that goals remain a great challenge and that hard work lies ahead," the World Bank said in launching its annual publication "The World Development Indicators 2004."

It said that continued progress in poverty reduction depends on economic growth and the distribution of income. If projected economic growth remain on track through 2015, global poverty rates measured at less than one US dollar a day will fall to 12.7 per cent, less than half of 1990 level of 28 per cent and 363 million fewer people will live in extreme poverty than at the beginning of the 21st Century.

The World Bank stressed that the substantial reduction of poverty must be achieved through reducing hunger and malnutrition, achieving universal primary education, promot ing equality, combating HIV/AIDS and other measures.

Thousands stranded by Bangladesh floods

DHAKA, 25 April — Floods in northeastern Bangladesh have driven about 100,000 people from their homes, disrupted communications and damaged houses and wide swaths of crops over the past week, officials said on Friday.

There have been no reports yet of deaths in the floods, which followed storms that killed nearly 90 people and injured more than 2,000 across the country.

"About 100,000 people have left their homes seeking shelter elsewhere, including government buildings and schools," a disaster official said.

About 15 million people in seven districts have been hit as the rain-fed Surma and Kushiara rivers — flowing from India’s northeastern state of Assam — breached embankments and flooded villages.

About 500,000 acres of rice crops almost ready for harvest have been damaged in the floods, agriculture officials in the affected districts said, but were unable to give any estimate of losses immediately.

A flood forecasting official said the Surma was still flowing above its danger level and the situation might deteriorate if rain continued.

Weathermen forecast more rains across Bangladesh over the next one or two weeks.

The floods have been raging for over a week, but a missed national focus as the authorities and the media were more engaged with the ongoing political disturbances,” a senior disaster official said. — MNA/Reuters
To understand the truth
Ketu Nila

(Continued from yesterday)

In his discussion, Dr Robert H Taylor said that the military government has changed much since 1988 when it assumed the State duties; that it has gained much experience in the political field; that it had been able to address problems and was able to make marked changes in the administrative sector overcoming difficulties; that it had been able to deal with internal and international affairs and make truce with insurgents.

Mr Morten Petersen said that as the military government was getting stronger and stronger, it could not be removed from power with sanctions; and that the strength of the political parties was still weak to introduce a democratic system.

Dr John H Badgley concluded that all the scholars agreed that soon Myanmar would hold the National Convention and an election was on the horizon.

Now, I would like to present the opinion of the book ‘Reconciliation in Myanmar’. The US-Myanmar relations’ edited by Dr Badgley, and published by the NBAR, a research bureau on Asia, in early March 2004. Dr Badgley visited Myanmar together with his wife in 1957. After touring various parts of Myanmar in 1957-58, he compiled his doctorate thesis on Myanmar and presented it to Barclays University in the US. His daughter was born in Yangon. After presenting his doctorate thesis, he learned Myanmar language at Cornell University. Afterwards, he came back to Myanmar, lived in Magway, Pakokku and Monywa for about a year, interviewed over 120 Myanmars from all walks of life, and compiled and published a book on the politics among Myanmar.

In the book ‘Reconciliation in Myanmar’. The US-Myanmar relations’ it is stated that the US sanctions against Myanmar neither supported the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar, nor the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar and it is stated that the US sanctions against Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar, and it is stated that the US policy on Myanmar would have to show more tolerance, study the basic situation of Myanmar. The scholars including the one who was in touch with Myanmar for 30 to 40 years have reviewed the situation of Myanmar from the constructive point of view, as they understand the nation’s objective conditions. Their view on Myanmar has come out from their humanitarian spirit and sympathy. They have no self-interest in expressing that view and stand on Myanmar. Moreover, these scholars have no economic interest in Myanmar. They do not expect political and economic gains in doing so. They have presented their views with the wish to see Myanmar people enjoying socio-economic progress. At the same time, with humanitarian nature and violating moral ethics, the internal and external destructive elements including Myanmar expatriates and the so-called politicians from inside the nation are expressing their view, saying that sanctions will ensure democracy for the nation. They are making slanders against the nation with the desire to grab power.

In conclusion, I wish the powers of the west bloc, including the US know whose view is right and whose view is wrong.

Concluded
(Translation: TMT)
Myanmar Alin, Kyemon: 24-4-2004

Dry day inspection teams check vehicles
YANGON, 25 April—Vice-Chairman of the Dry Day Supervisory Committee Min Aung Naing, Office Maj-Gen Aung Naing in two groups and Lt-Col Tin Maung Tun, Commandant of No 1 Provost Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by members of Supervisory Committee Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office accompanied by members of the Supervisory Committee Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by members of the committee Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htat, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Col Tin Shwe of the Office of Quartermaster-General, Directors-General U Khin Maung and Lt-Col Tin Maung Tun, Commandant of No 1 Provost Company Maj Win Myint Tun, Directors U Baw Htin and U Tint Aung, Secretary Deputy Director-General of the Government’s Office U Sein Hla and Joint-Secretary Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing in two groups supervised dry day inspection teams who were discharging duties to check Tannahaw and departmental vehicles this morning and this afternoon.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver’s licence and wheel tax, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules. — MNA
Irrigation facilities inspected in Salingyi, Budalin, Ayadaw Townships in Sagaing Division

YANGON—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, together with Director-General U Kyaw San Win of Irrigation Department and Director-General U Win Shwe of Water Resource Utilization Department, arrived at the site of Salingyi Dam Project in Salingyi Township on 24 April morning.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin gave instructions on construction of the main dam, storage capacity of water, connection of the farmland irrigated by the dam with that of river water pumping projects in the township and feasibility study on flow of water in Phaungkahta Creek to be conducted.

Next, the minister inspected construction of the main dam, the spillway and conduit with the use of heavy machinery.

On arrival at Myothit Dam Project site three miles far from Monywa-YeU Road in Budalin Township, the minister heard reports on works and gave instructions on completion of tasks earlier than schedule. They saw over building of the main dam, conduit and spillway.

In the afternoon, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin looked into irrigation facilities in Ayadaw Township and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the minister and party went to Magyeezauk River Water Pumping Project in Ayadaw and inspected the water pumping station and feeder canal.—MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends ceremony to enshrine religious objects...

(from page 1)

Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends ceremony to enshrine religious objects...

the religious objects there.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister and party enshrined the religious objects in the reliquaries of the pagoda. Then followed the Shwehtidaw-hoisting ceremony.

Afterwards, Daw Kyaw Kyaw sprinkled scented water on the tiers, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw and conveyed onto the pagoda through the decorated carriage. Meanwhile, Myanmar Thabin Assayon Chairman U Sein Aung Min, Pata Thaw Eain Tan, Maung Nan Win and others sang religious songs. Next, lay persons conveyed the tiers atop the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fixed the Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them. Then, the Prime Minister offered a Sasana pennant and Shweky Thingan to the pagoda.

Daw Kyaw Kyaw and the Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers to hail the success of the ceremony.

Next, Sayadaws and members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda, and the ceremony came to a close with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasana Ciram Tirathau.

Later, Daw Kyaw Kyaw, the Prime Minister and party offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. —MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fixes Seinbudaw atop Maha Saddhammaramsi Shwe Ceti. —MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers religious objects to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party receiving Nine Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara at Htidaw hoisting ceremony of Maha Saddhammaramsi Shwe Ceti. —MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers religious objects to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt keeps religious objects into middle reliquary of Maha Saddhammaramsi Shwe Ceti. —MNA
Prime Minister pays obeisance to Agga Maha Pandita KanU Zaytawun Sayadaw

YANGON, 25 April—A ceremony to pay homage to Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandasamibhivamsa of KanU Zaytawun Monastery in Mayangon Township was held at the monastery this afternoon, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The Sayadaw was born of U Hla Maung and Daw NandaSamii. At the age of 13, he was novitiated under the name of Ashin NandaSami. At the age of 20 on 15th Waxing of Waxon 1325 ME, he was ordained by Obo Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sucarita with the sponsorship of U Kyin Maung and Daw Tin Nu.

He studied the Buddhist literature under noted lecturer Sayadaws. And he passed Sasana Dhaja Dhammacarita examination and Cetiyangana Pariyatti examination. Then, he taught Buddhist literature to novices and monks at Thayettawtaik Sasanawda Monastery in Yangon. He established KanU Zaytawun Sarthintaik in 1333 ME. Under his teaching, a total of 505 members of the Sangha passed Pahtamange exam, 414, Pahtamalat exam, 265, Pahtamagi exam and 61, Dhammacariya exam. KanU Zaytawun Sarthintaik was first launched with only two student members of the Sangha. But, now the monastery has been upgraded to a facility completed with three one-storey buildings, three two-storey buildings, one three-storey building and one four-storey building along with 160 student members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaw compiled by Maung Khine Ti. Afterwards, Vocalist Shweyamin Oo extolled the attributes of the Sayadaw. Thinza Tun sang a song on brief biography of the Sayadaw. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party presented offertories to members of the Sangha. For the homage paying ceremony, four Mingun Tipitaka Sayadaws donated K 200,000, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt-Wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and family K 100,000; U Kyaw Myint-Daw Tin Tin Aye and family K 100,000; disciples of the Sayadaw K 500,000; Daw Aye Myat Nwe (Bagan Hotel) K 100,000, and Captain Myint Aung Kyaw and family offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.

Next, Lecturer Bhaddanta Kesaya invested the congregation with the Nine requisites provided by disciples. The government conferred Agga Maha Pandita title on Bhaddanta Nandasamibhivamsa on 4 January 2004 for his excellent performance in promotion of Pariyatti Sasana. This ceremony was held to honour the Sayadaw again by his disciples.

Prime Minister attends dinner to mark 14th Annual Conference of MMCWA

YANGON, 25 April—Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner to mark the 14th Annual Conference of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the ceremony to present prizes at the Multi-purpose Building of MMCWA at the corner of Parami and Thainthuma Roads in South Okkalapa Township at 6.30 pm today.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Chairmen of NHC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, honorary patrons of MMCWA, President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, patrons and chairmen of State/Division Supervisory Committees for MMCWA and guests.

First, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented gifts to mark the conference to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. The Prime Minister gave away the first prize for outstanding activity at state level to Kachin State, the joint-second prize to Rakhine State and Shan State (North), the joint-third prize to Mon State and Shan State (East); and the first prize at division level to Yangon Division, the second prize to Mandalay Division and the third prize to Ayeyawady Division. The patrons of the respective State/Division Supervisory Committees accepted prizes and certificates of honour.

Next, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented the first prize in the paper reading sessions to Rakhine State, the second to Yangon Division, the third to Shan State (North) and consola- tion prizes to Shan State (South) and Taungthi Division.
Lt-Gen Aung Htwe hosts dinner in honour of Bangladeshi goodwill delegation

**Yangon, 25 April —** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence received visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc at Zeyathiri Beikman, Komminthna this evening.

Present at the call were Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw, Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung, Senior Military Officers of the Ministry of Defence and Defence Attaché of Bangladesh Embassy to Myanmar Brigadier-General Helal Uddin Ahmed, psc together with the visiting Bangladesh delegation.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence hosted dinner in honour of the visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel. Present at the dinner were Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw, Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung, Senior Military Officers of the Ministry of Defence and Defence Attaché of Bangladesh Embassy to Myanmar Brigadier-General Helal Uddin Ahmed, psc exchanged souvenirs and artworks of the Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel entertained those present with Myanma traditional cultural songs and dances. — MNA

**Bangladeshi delegation arrives**

**Yangon, 25 April —** Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc arrived here this afternoon by air.

The delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung and senior military officers. Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr A B Manjoor Rahim, Defence Attaché Brig-Gen Helal Uddin Ahmed, psc and officials. — MNA

China calls for further cooperation among SCO members

**Moscow, 25 April —** Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Friday that “to broaden and deepen the cooperation in all fields would be the priorities of further activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)*.

Li made the remark at the SCO foreign ministers’ meeting here. Li called on member countries to boost security cooperation during campaigns against terrorism, religious extremism and separatism and to protect the common interests of the member countries.

He also called for implement of the Multilateral Economic Cooperation Programme among the SCO members, which was signed in September 2003, to strengthen economic and trade cooperation. The SCO, formally established in 2001, is an anti-terror and trade group, comprising Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The six-member nations should “concentrate on... constantly improving the level of regional cooperation”, said the Foreign Minister.

He believed that the upcoming summit, which will be held in June in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, would gain plentiful and substantial fruits in outlining direction of the six-nation organization’s development, promoting concrete cooperation and expanding its influence.

Li arrived in Moscow on Wednesday for a three-day visit. — MNA/Xinhua

Sanitation tasks carried out in Yangon City

**Yangon, 25 April —** Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this afternoon by air.

The commander and the mayor saw over sanitation tasks and dredging of drains along U Wisara Road in Dagon Township and wards in Sangyoung and Hline Townships.

The commander and the mayor gave necessary instructions and attended to their needs.

They also looked into carrying out of sanitation tasks in Thingangyun, South Okkalapa, Yankin, Ahlon, Kyimyindine, Mayangon, Bahan, Pabedan and Lannadow townships. — MNA

**Nursery Market Festival continues**

**Yangon, 25 April —** The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padertha 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 and prawn breeding technologies are also exhibited there. Educational books are also available there. — MNA

*The Bangladeshi goodwill delegation seen on arrival at the airport. — MNA*
Mbeki reelected South African President

CAPE TOWN, 25 April — Thabo Mbeki was reelected South African President by the new National Assembly here Friday. He was elected unanimously to a second term in office at the first session of the Parliament after 400 members of the Parliament were sworn in.

The 62-year-old incumbent President was the only candidate nominated to the post of head of state by the National Assembly meeting for the first time since the April 14 elections in which the African National Congress (ANC) won a sweeping victory. "Taciturnly declare Thabo Mbeki duly elected as the President of South Africa," said Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson. Mbeki said earlier that his party would continue pursuing the goals of reconstruction and development.

All opposition parties, including the Democratic Alliance, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the United Democratic Movement, congratulated Mbeki for his success in reelection. Opposition leaders expressed hope that they will work together with the ruling ANC, saying that they are rivals but not enemies. The ANC led by Mbeki got 279 seats in the country’s new Parliament, more than two-thirds of the total, according to the final results released at close midnight evening by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). — MNA/Xinhua

OPCW calls for chemical weapons free zone in Africa

ARABIA, 25 April — The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) urged Friday African states to make every effort to achieve the goal of making the continent a chemical weapons free zone.

In a resolution following a three-day regional conference, the OPCW said all states should take required measures in line with the recommendation of the Khartoum meeting and the spirit of the Maputo summit decision.

The resolution also called on the permanent representatives to the African Union (AU) based in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, to set additional opportunities to inscribe the OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on the relevant agenda of the AU, the Pan-African Parliament and other concerned bodies.

Indonesia, Malaysia to launch joint action on terrorism

JAKARTA, 25 April — Indonesian and Malaysian police will soon launch a joint operation to tackle international crimes and establish a terrorism crisis centre in Indonesia.

National Police Operations Bureau chief Brigadier General Rubani Pranoto said on Friday that the operation, called Aman Malino (Safe Malaysia-Indonesia), aimed at stamping out international crimes rampant on the borders of the two countries, such as smuggling, drug dealing and child or women trafficking.

"It’s also targeted at securing the Straits of Malacca, which the United States believes to be a safe haven for terrorists," Rubani was quoted Saturday by The Jakarta Post as saying, after a closed-door meeting with Malaysian police here on Friday.

High-ranking Malaysian police officer, Dato Mohamad Nor Otman, said that the operation would focus on areas considered the most prone to crimes, such as East and West Kalimantan adjacent to Malaysia’s province of Sarawak.

"Besides those areas, we’ll also stay alert on the areas along Johor all the way to Pahang Pinang (in Malaysia) and the Straits of Malacca, which is prone to crimes like piracy on the sea," he said.

Rubani said Indonesia would deploy around 1,500 police officers in addition to 300 to 600 officers on the ground.

"All of our officers will work together with those from Malaysia and try to secure other many areas in the vicinity, such as North Sumatra and Riau," he said.

Otman said Indonesia and Malaysia would dispatch at least 100 boats to observe the areas bordering the two countries and the Straits of Malacca.

He also affirmed that the Malaysian police would provide adequate security for Malaysians residing near the borders by conducting a regular operation involving the country’s water police. — MNA/Xinhua

Nepal becomes full WTO member

KATHMANDU, 25 April — Nepal has become a full member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) from Friday, making the Himalayan kingdom the first least developed country to join the multilateral trade forum.

By joining the WTO, Nepal can now fully enjoy the rights that all members have under the WTO agreement such as non-discrimination by other members and the ability to use the WTO’s dispute settlement procedure.

In return for these rights, like all WTO members, Nepal has accepted some obligations and made commitments in 11 service sectors and 70 sub-sectors out of the total 170 classified by the WTO.

Nepal accepts an agreed floor binding at 42 percent in agricultural products and around 24 percent in industrial goods. The majority of import items fall in the Customs duty range of 10-20 percent.

The maximum tariff rate of 80 percent applied to automobiles, liquors and tobacco products will be reduced as specified in the goods schedule. A minimum tariff rate of up to 5 percent has been applied to items of daily consumption.

Among the commitment on legislation related to trade regime, Nepal has agreed to amend or enact 38 acts and regulations to become compatible with the WTO requirements.

On August 15 last year, the WTO Accession Working Party in Nepal had finalized and forwarded several hundred pages of legal text for formal acceptance.

The fifth WTO meeting of the conference held in Cancun, Mexico last September welcomed Nepal along with Cambodia into its fold, taking its member strength to 148.

Canadian doctors warn of risks of pesticides

OTTAWA, 25 April — Canadians should limit their exposure to pesticides because of their “consistent” link with serious illnesses, Canadian doctors warned Friday.

Doctors at Ottawa College of Family Physicians released a comprehensive review of pesticide research links and found links between exposure to pesticides and illness and disease.

The doctors reviewed over 250 studies from countries around the world connecting pesticides, both occupational and home-and-garden, to serious illnesses such as cancer, reproductive problems, and neurological diseases.

French, Jordanian ministers meet on Iraq, Mideast

PARIS, 25 April — French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier held talks here Friday with his Jordanian counterpart Marwan Moasher on Iraq and Middle East issues, announced Herve Ladous, spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry.

"Jordan is a great actor in the Middle East where it is playing an appreciated moderating role. Our analysis on the regional situation is very close," the spokesman said.

France favours a political solution in Iraq and hoped that the time limit for the handover of sovereignty to Iraqis on June 30 will be a radical change.

Concerning the Middle East, Jordan called on the European Union (EU) to make the peace plan

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
G-7 sees global growth, but warns on oil, forex

WASHINGTON, 25 April — Group of Seven finance ministers said on Saturday prospects for global growth were far brighter but warnings are a risk, and repeated a warning against excess volatility in foreign exchange rates.

“The G-7 dropped buoyant language on low inflation, firming confidence and job growth that had been in a draft of the communique obtained by Reuters, but said the global recovery had strengthened since the group last met in Boca Raton, Florida, in February.

“Prospects are favourable, and although risks remain, such as energy prices, overall the balance of risks to the outlook has improved,” the ministers and central bankers from the United States, Italy, Germany, the UK, France, Canada and Japan said a communiqué issued after a meeting in Washington.

“Additional pro-growth reforms are essential to deliver stronger and more balanced global growth, boost employment, and raise incomes,” it added.

The G-7 statement reaffirmed that exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals, and urged more currency flexibil-

ity in nations that did not have flexible systems.

It said the G-7 would continue to monitor
trade markets closely and cooperate as appropriate, and excess volatility and dis-

 orderly movements in exchange rates are undesirable for economic growth.

The G-7 stated its commitment to sound fiscal poli-
cy and said the ministers had reviewed ways to reduce fiscal deficits.

The group noted fundamentals had improved in many emerging market coun-

tries. It noted financially troubled Argentina had made progress to get its economy back on track, but said the country had more work to do.

“Sustained and sound policies (in emerg-
ing markets) are essential to support lasting growth and reduce external vulnerabilities. In the case of Argentina, progress has been made, but further progress in required,” it said. — MNA/Reuters

Seoul police stage anti-terrorist attack manoeuvre

SEOUL, 25 April — Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency (SMPA) on Friday staged anti-terrorism training in southern Seoul, demonstrating its various capabilities against possible terrorist attacks.

The manoeuvre was conducted by the Special Weapons And Tactics of the SMPA.

The special forces showed their martial arts, conducted anti-terrorist exercises, rescued hostage from a building and did target practice.

Decline in breastfeeding rates undermines children’s development

GENEVA, 25 April — The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said Friday that the recent milk powder infant deaths in China appear to confirm trends of decreasing breastfeeding patterns in China, which may have significant long-term impacts on the physical and intellectual development of children.

UNICEF expressed its sincerest condolences to the families of the 13 infants who died from the consumption of tainted powdered milk and warned that the problem is believed to be more serious and widespread with some 45 milk producing companies being included in a warning list by the Food and Drugs Administration of China.

“While there is extensive scientific evidence that breast milk is the best food for infants, especially during the first months of life, exclusive breastfeeding rates during the first four months of life in China have been declining from around 76 per cent in 1998 to 64 per cent at the present time, the UN agency said.

“The reasons for the decline, it said, are commercial companies’ aggressive marketing of powdered milk, the lack of baby friendly workplaces, widespread failure to effectively monitor and enforce the International Code of Marketing endorsed by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international agencies.”

— MNA/Xinhua

Drunk Mexican man run over by train, live

MEXICO CITY, 25 April— A Mexican man who got drunk, fell asleep on railroad tracks and was run over by a train slept through the entire episode and escaped unharmed, local officials said.

Jorge Lozano Lopez, a 32-year-old electrician, did not regain consciousness until after paramedics arrived on the scene late on Wednesday night.

“He must have been very drunk to have slept through all that,” said Jose Alfredo de la Rosa, a health official in the northern town of San Nicolas de los Garza. “It’s a miracle he wasn’t hurt.”

The train’s driver spotted Lozano Lopez on the tracks and frantically blew the whistle but was unable to rouse him or stop the train in time.

Undercarriage passed within just a few inches of his body but did not touch him.

“I counted only six beers,” a bewilderized Lozano Lopez told local newspaper El Norte. “But who knows how many more there might have been. I don’t remember.” — MNA/Reuters

Spanish police arrest Moroccan man in bombs probe

MADRID, 25 April — Spanish police have arrested a Moroccan man on suspicion of a role in the 11 March Madrid bombings and released two Indian men who were arrested two days after the attacks, a court official said on Friday.

The Moroccan, Abdelrahim Chedadi, is the brother of Mohamed Chedadi who is under arrest as part of the investigation into the attacks that killed 191 people.

The two Indian men released had sold mobile phone SIM cards to suspected bombers who planted explosives in commuter trains, wounding close to 2,000 people. Mobile phone alarm were used to detonate the bombers.

A state prosecutor has requested six new arrest warrants in the probe, the court official also said. There are now 17 people under arrest in the investigation. Another seven suspects blew themselves up when cornered by police on 3 April.— MNA/Reuters

Hoyalofty

Reg. No. 1468/1994

in respect of “eyeglass lenses, eyeglass frames, eyeglasses, contact lenses, cases for eyeglasses, cases for contact lenses, ultrasonic wave cleaners for eyeglasses, lens meters for eyeglasses, computers, video cameras, still videos, video printers, monitoring apparatus.”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of said trade mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., I.G.P., D.B.I. for HOYA CORPORATION

P.O. Box 80, Yangon

Siamese-twin to be operated in Bangladesh for separation

DHAKA, 25 April — A Siamese-twin born a week ago in Bangladesh’s western region will be separated through a operation in a Dhaka hospital, hospital sources said Friday.

The conjoined-twin was born on April 14 in a poor family at a hospital in Pabna Town through Cesarean operation. The Islami Bank Hospital in capital Dhaka, which separated a conjoined-twin twins about four months ago, expressed confidence that they would work for this Siamese-twin.

Dr Rahul Amin, a paediatric surgeon of the Islami Bank Hospital told Xinhua by phone Friday that he would operate upon the twin in a few days. Without giving any definite date of operation, Amin, who also operated on the twin boys a few months ago, expressed confidence of successfully separating Halima and Maria, the conjoined babies of Pabna.

Papia Khanon Shefaly, wife of Shabed Ali of Baluathar Group, Dhaka district gave birth to the Siamese babies on April 14. The babies were brought to the Islami Bank Hospital four days after their birth. The babies are going well. After the earlier operation, one of the twins died a few days later, but the other is still living.

Articles

The Netherlands seeks to stub out “cannabis tourism”

AMSTERDAM, 25 April — It is last orders for foreigners please at Dutch coffee shops as the government on Friday decided to curb “drugs tourism” and sharpen cannabis policies amid European pressure.

A trial will start soon in the southern town of Maastricht, just across the border with both Germany and Belgium, where the sale of soft drugs to foreigners will be banned.

“We want to end all aspects of drugs tourism, the fact that people come to the Netherlands to use soft drugs or to take them home,” said Justice Minister spokesman Wim Kok. The liberal Dutch laws on soft drugs, whose use is allowed but is not confined in a tacit acknowledgment that there are insufficient police to arrest all offenders, have been a thorn in the side to more law-and-order-oriented European countries.

In the Netherlands, can- nabis smokers can openly buy and smoke the drug in hundreds of government-regulated “coffee shops”. The centre-right government wants to call an end to the hordes of for- eigners, mainly tourists, on the streets of cities like Amsterdam prowling for a joint. Countries like France abhor the return of hazy-eyed nationals by train.

The Interior Ministry will work with towns and cities on ways to better enforce existing laws against the use of cannabis, including minimum distances between soft-drug coffee shops and schools.

The Justice Ministry will attack drugs tourism with international police cooperation and target large-scale hemp growing as well as the “criminal involve- ment” of so-called “grow- shops” where people can buy seeds to grow their own pot.

The Health Ministry, for its part, will study the possible health conse- quences of soft drugs with a high content of Tetrahydro- cannabinol (THC), an ac- tive compound in cannabis. This study could lead to a reclassification of the high- THC content cannabis as a “hard drug”, spokesman Bart Kuik said.

Dutch Prince weds, picks love over throne

DELT (Netherlands), 25 April — Dutch Prince Johan Friso married his scandal-touched fiancee Mabel Wisse Smit without the permission of the government on Saturday and in doing so gave up his right to succeed to the throne.

Johan Friso, second son of Queen Beatrix, chose to marry Miss Smit despite failing to win government approval after the couple acknowledged she had a more involved relationship with a murdered mobster than she had originally said.

Shortly after their engage- ment a year ago, Wisse Smit issued a statement saying she had known Dutch mobster Klaas Bronsma for several years when she was a university student, but had broken with him when she learned of “the practices he engaged in”.

But his relationship with Bronsma, who was shot dead in a gangland killing in 1991, was back under the spotlight in October when one of his former bodyguards said the pair had been lovers.

The human rights activist conceded later to Prime Min- ister Jan Peter Balkenende she had had a closer relation- ship with Bronsma and main- tained contact with him for at least another 18 months. But she denied any business or romantic involvement.

Few of Europe’s royal houses sent representatives to the wedding celebrations last weekend. Only the PMs of the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark, plus of course the one-time fiancé of Wisse Smit forced Johan Friso to choose between love or the throne.

Rich countries should bear responsibility for global recovery

WASHINGTON, 25 April — The major industrial na- tions should bear the major responsibility for global economic recovery and ad- justment and be mindful of the potential effects of their macroeconomic policy ad- justment on the world economy, Deputy Governor of People’s Bank of China Li Rongguo said on Fri- day.

Addressing the 71st Meeting of the Group 24 Ministers which is held be- fore the Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Li said that the global economy has shown obvi- ous momentum of strong re-

Study finds signs of life in ancient lava

WASHINGTON, 25 April — Tiny, bacteria-like organisms made their home in hardened lava some 3.5 billion years ago, scientists reported on Friday in a finding that pushes the limits of when life is known to have started on Earth.

The microbes, known as archaia, dug into volcanic rock to form long tubes. A team from the United States, Norway, Canada, and South Africa found evidence of the lava-burrowing archaia in 3.5-bil- lion-year-old rock in South Africa. It is evidence among the oldest evidence for life found so far,” said Hubert Staudigel, a research geophysicist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego.

Writing in Friday’s issue of the journal Science, Staudigel and colleagues said they found tell-tale tubes in “pillow lava” in South Africa’s Barberton Greenstone Belt, which was formed underwater in the ocean- crust but is now above ground.

“Archaea still exist. They make up many of the extreme environments of the Earth,” Staudigel said. “So to make tubes that may represent organic material left behind by microbes.

At the time, there were no plants or animals to eat,” Staudigel said. “To make a living these microbes adapted to eating volcanic rock. That’s all there was.”

Archaea still exist. They make up many of the extreme environments of the Earth. "There, food is steadily a living these microbes adapted to eating volcanic rock. That’s all there was.”

Archaea still exist. They make up many of the extreme environments of the Earth. "There, food is steadily
Dutch call up Kluiver

**SPORTS**

Amsterdam, 24 April — Barcelona striker Patrick Kluiver, struggling since late January with a knee injury, has been called up for the Dutch squad to play Greece in a friendly in Eindhoven next Wednesday. Coach Dick Advocaat also named Jaap Stam, Clarence Seedorf, Frank de Boer and Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

All four missed the 0-0 draw against France in March due to injuries. But there was no room for Chelsea’s Mario Melchiot or Manchester City’s Paul Bosvelt.

Kluiver’s last international match was the 6-0 win over Scotland in the second leg Euro 2004 playoff match last November when he started on the bench. Advocaat is not underestimating Greece, saying: “When you finish above Spain in the (Euro 2004) qualifying group it proves a lot.”

Wenger warns “complacency” main enemy of Arsenal

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Monday, 26 April, 2004

LONDON (England), 25 April — Complacency, not Tottenham Hotspur, will be Arsenal’s main enemy when they seek to secure the Premier League title at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Arsene Wenger’s unbeaten side, who hold a nine-point lead over Chelsea, will seal their second title in three years if they beat their struggling north London rivals and Chelsea fail to defeat Newcastle United earlier on Sunday.

“The problem we face at the moment is to realize that it is not won and that it is always difficult to win it, to finish the job that is in front of us,” Wenger told reporters on Friday at Arsenal’s training ground.

“We are in an environment that can make you switch off because everyone thinks that it is done but it is not.”

“I will remind them (of that). I think that the players are intelligent enough to realize that it is not won, but subconsciously, when the whole environment makes you feel that way, you can completely lose your concentration.”

Tottenham have two extra incentives to inflict Arsenal’s first defeat of the season in the Premier League. They still need a victory to stave off the outside chance that they may yet be relegated and their fans will also be desperate to avoid a repeat of 1971, when Arsenal clinched the league title at the home of their bitter rivals.

Wenger, who was playing as a centre back for French Third Division club Mutzig in 1971 while studying for an economics de- gree, is acutely aware of the danger Spurs pose.

“It is hard to win in life and we face a derby that is always special in our season,” he said. “There is something at stake for both teams. Tottenham are not completely safe although they are 90 per cent. But in their mind, they don’t feel safe.”

“It is difficult to predict. Whenever I have been to White Hart Lane it has never been a stroll. They always raise their game really well at White Hart Lane.”

Wenger, who will make a late decision on the fitness of Swedish midfielder Freddie Ljungberg, has promised that his players will not risk provoking the Spurs fans with excessi ve celebrations should results go their way.

“The quicker (we win it) the better, not for any specific humiliating reason just because we want to achieve it as quickly as possible,” said the Frenchman, adding that he was proud of his team’s improved discipline this season.

Arsenal wait on Ljungberg fitness for Spurs showdown

LONDON, 25 April — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger will make a late decision on the fitness of Swedish midfielder Freddie Ljungberg for Sunday’s Premier League showdown with neighbours Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane.

Ljungberg is still not fully fit following hand surgery and Wenger told reporters at Arsenal’s training ground on Friday: “I have to make a decision (on Ljungberg). He is not pain-free yet.”

Unbeaten Arsenal will seal the Premier League title if they beat Spurs and second-placed Chelsea, who trail them by nine points, fail to win at Newcastle United earlier on Sunday.

Left back Ashley Cole is fit following his ankle problem and should replace youngsters Gael Clichy in defence.

“The quicker (we win it) the better, not for any specific humiliating reason just because we want to achieve it as quickly as possible,” said the Frenchman, adding that he was proud of his team’s improved discipline this season.

Frenchman Cevaer edges ahead in Spanish Open

**OLNEY** 25 April — Frenchman Christian Cevaer, 34, included a chip-in among five birdies, his player’s score was quickly equalled by Gregory Havret of France, 25 April— Jose Maria Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s Ryder Cup hopes are being put on the back burner as he tries to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.

Olazabal’s five-over-par 75 left him six-over-par 146, 16 strokes behind leader David Park of Britain.

It was the putter that betrayed the double US Masters champion most, ending his bid to win his home Open title at the 18th attempt. Olazabal has missed the cut in the Spanish Open before but this failure could prove to be his costliest yet. He was trying to lift himself from a slump to 138th in the world rankings, 79th on the European money-list and 34th world ranking.
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for light rain or thundershowers that has isolated in Tanintharyi Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin, Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each at Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Hmawbi and Hnendas. The maximum temperature for 24-4-2004 was 40.7°C (105°F). Minimum temperature on 25-4-2004 was 21.7°C (77°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-4-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 24-4-2004 was 9.6 hours approx. Rainfall on 25-4-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since last measurement was 0.20 inch (5.1 mm) at Kaba-Aye and 0.12 inch (3 mm) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon airport was 15 mph from South at (14:30) hours.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South and partly cloudy else where in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 26-4-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kayin, Chin, Mon and North Rakhine States, upper Sagain and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 70%.

State of the sea: Seals will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in southern Myanmar waters. 

Prime Minister attends meeting to coordinate Htidaw-hoisting of Thabbyinnyu Stupa

YANGON, 25 April — The coordination meeting to hoist Seinbudaw, Hnegemyatnadaw and Htidaw atop Thabbyinnyu Stupa in Mayangon Township was held on the ground floor of the stupa at 4 pm today, with an address by Patron of the Committee for Construction of Thabbyinnyu Stupa Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the chairman of the Committee for Construction of Thabbyinnyu Stupa and members, sub-committee chairmen and members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials, local authorities and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that construction of Thabbyinnyu Stupa is a heavy task. However, the project has reached the stage at which the Htidaw can be hoisted atop the stupa owing to systematic formation of the supporting committees. Steps have been taken for successful realization of the project. As the stupa is considerably high, the respective committees are to present the arrangements for successful holding of the Htidaw.

Next, Chairman of the Construction Committee Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on progress in formation the nine sub-committees for hoisting Seinbudaw, Hnegemyatnadaw and Shwemhtaw atop the stupa, arrangements made by the sub-committees, representation programme and financial matters.

Next, officials of the sub-committees reported on their respective tasks. Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung reported on the plan to hold the ceremony.

Lastly, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister paid homage to Sithaopan Buddha Image being kept on the third floor of the Stupa. He offered flowers, water, lights and incense sticks to the image and gold foils to the image.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister paid obeisance to ancient Buddha images and the site for the decorated carriage and left there at 5.45 pm.

Prime Minister inspects construction of water treatment plant in Botataung Township

YANGON, 25 April — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office at 2.30 pm today arrived at the Water Treatment Plant construction project site of Yangon City Development Committee in Botataung Township where they were welcomed by Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials.

First, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on work being carried out for construction of the plant and requirements.

Next, Environmental Conservation Department of YCDC Dr Tun Thaung Tun reported on progress in construction of sludge digester tank, sludge thicker tank, secondary sedimentation tank, aeration tanks, pump sump, primary sedimentation tank, chlorination tank, dewatering house, RC road, main manhole, culvert, transformer, power station and underground cable under the project, stockpiling of materials and future tasks to the Prime Minister who attended to the needs.

After that, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction of the plant.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to road upgrading project site in Botataung.

After inspecting road renovation projects in Botataung Township, the Prime Minister left the project site in the evening.

MTF President’s Trophy Tennis Tournament opened

YANGON, 25 April — The Myanmar Tennis Federation President’s Trophy Tennis Tournament was opened at Thinyaa Tennis Plaza this morning, attended by Patron of the federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present were Director-General of the Federation Mr U Thaung Zaw and officials and fans.

First, Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win extended greetings. Next, Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and President U Zaw Zaw formally opened the tournament.

Next, at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on maintaining work to the Prime Minister who gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

After inspecting road renovation tasks in Botataung Township, the Prime Minister left the project site in the evening.

Prime Minister General Kyaw Myint arrived back here this evening after attending the 7th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting and the first ASEAN Plus China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3) Health Ministers’ Meeting held in Penang, Malaysia on 22 and 23 April.

Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Huy Oo, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato’ Cheah Sam Kip, directors-general and officials of the departments under the Ministry of Health and their families.

Those returning home together with Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint were Director-General of Health Planning Department Dr Kyi Soe, Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department Dr Thein Swe, Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Soe Aung, Director of Traditional Medicine Department Dr Sein Win, Director of Foreign Relations Division of the Ministry of Health Dr Pe Thet Tun.

Next, Minister for Transport U Pe Than reported on construction of car parking, paving of platforms and installation of railings as the first phase and renovation of port embankment, construction of new port embankment, establishment of high mast, construction of reinforced concrete benches, growing of coconut plants, extension of main drain, tarring of roads and renovation of drains as the second phase.