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

Garavo ca, reverence; this is the way to auspiciousness.
Towards speedy completion of projects that would fulfil immediate needs of the State and people

In its drive for national economic development and the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation, the government has given top priority to the construction of all the necessary infrastructures. As a result, new roads and bridges, dams and embankments and hydroelectric power stations and river-water pumping stations have appeared all over the nation.

Due to the cooperation between the government and service personnel, almost all the fundamental requirements have been fulfilled during the period of 15 years and the people are enjoying the benefits. Now, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, efforts are being made for transforming conventional farming to mechanized farming and development of the transport sector in border regions and the electric power sector.

Of all the sectors to be implemented in the year 2004-2005, the government has given first priority to the electric power sector and is trying to fulfill electricity needs of the nation by investing in enormous hydroelectric power projects.

In its meeting with responsible personnel of the Shwegyin hydel power project in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win said that now was the time when electric power was in greatly needed and the more electricity needs can be fulfilled, the faster the development of the nation will be.

It is very important to complete the hydel power projects ahead of schedule so that the State and the people can enjoy the benefits as early as possible. As our country has entered the electronic era, the use of computers and televisions is on the rise.

The government has been endeavouring to satisfy the rising demand of electricity due to the changes and developments in people’s lifestyle. Before 1988, hydro-powered, gas-fired and steam-powered turbines produced 580 megawatts of electricity. After 1988, 28 hydel power plants and gas-powered power stations generate 560 megawatts of electricity.

With economic development and higher living standard, the demand for electricity has been increasing by 15 per cent every year.

On completion of the Shwegyin hydel power project in Shwegyin Township, the Yewe multi-purpose dam project in Kyaukda township, the Kunchaung hydel power project and the Pyu multi-purpose dam project in Pyu Township and the Khaubang multi-purpose dam project in Ottwin Township, the capacity of power supply will be increased by 230 megawatts.

We would like to urge all those responsible and service personnel to put their energies into hydel power projects to complete them ahead of schedule.
Iraq violence kills nine US troops: Suicide attacks hit gulf oil facilities

BAGHDAD, 26 April — Suicide attackers detonated explosive-laden boats near oil facilities in the Persian Gulf on Saturday, killing two US sailors in a new tactic against Iraq’s vital oil industry.

Elsewhere, violence across Iraq on Saturday killed seven American soldiers and at least 33 Iraqis.

In the worst of the attacks on US troops, five soldiers were killed and six wounded in a rocket attack on the sprawling military base in Taji, about 10 miles beyond the northwestern outskirts of Baghdad and a 30-minute drive from Fallujah. It has been used as a base for some of the US military operations in Fallujah.

In Kut, a predominantly Shiite city 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, the police chief said two more US troops had been killed when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at a convoy 25 miles south of the city.

In addition, an Army reservist originally from Vallejo who was missing in Iraq since his convoy was attacked on 9 April was confirmed dead Saturday.

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

He was assigned to the Army Reserve’s 724th Transportation Company, of Bartonville, Ill.

Tanzania faces stiff shortage of doctors

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 26 April — A Tanzanian official has said that the country is faced with a stiff shortage of doctors, local newspaper The Guardian said Friday.

This was revealed by Deputy Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education Zabein Mhita at a Parliament session held in the central city of Dodoma Thursday.

“The ratio of medical experts against the number of people in Tanzania is not good compared to other countries in the south of the Sahara,” she said.

Tanzania has a ratio of 1:23,000, which means that each doctor serves about 23,000 people, but the World Health Organization recommends a ratio of 1:10,000, she added.

The Deputy Minister cited examples from Tanzania’s neighbours, Kenya and Uganda, which she said have 1:7,000 and 1:9,000.

Access to malaria treatment in Africa threatened by drug shortages

NAIROBI, 26 April — A leading international medical humanitarian organization warned Friday that access to effective malaria treatment in Africa is threatened by potential drug shortages.

“Artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) is really a cause for hope in Africa — more and more countries with extremely high rates of resistance to old malaria treatments are starting to use it with excellent results,” said Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF or Doctors Without Borders) in a Press release from the organization’s Nairobi office.

“But donors and producers need to take action to avert a major supply crisis of ACT. Since the key ingredient of the combination is extracted from plants, only.

UK uses atomic technology to fight malaria mosquito

SEMANSMORE (Austria), 26 April — The United Nations is harnessing nuclear technology to try to eradicate the mosquitoes whose bite transmits malaria, a deadly disease devastating Sub-Saharan Africa. The disease kills millions of Africans every year on a world-wide scale, 90 per cent of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan launched a worldwide campaign against malaria and other diseases at the beginning of the year.

The mosquito that transmits malaria parasite is the Anopheles mosquito, with a wingspan of about one centimetre. The female lays her eggs on the water surface. The eggs hatch into microfilariae, which migrate into the bloodstream and are transmitted to the next host. The growth of the larvae in the mosquito is dependent on the presence of a host.

The female mosquito, carrying microfilariae in her body, bites a host, the microfilariae are sucked in and moult into infective larvae. The larvae migrate into the mosquito’s salivary glands. The next host is bitten, the infective larvae are injected into the bloodstream, and the larvae grow into adult mosquitoes.

The spread of malaria is therefore dependent on the presence of a human or animal host, and the supply of blood suitable for feeding.

It is estimated that 500 million people suffer from malaria every year and 10% of those die. In Africa alone, an estimated 1.5 million people die every year from malaria.

Spanish soldiers should have never gone to Iraq

MADRID, 26 April — Spain will soon withdraw its troops from Iraq and the soldiers should have never gone there, said Spanish Defence Minister Jose Bono on Saturday.

The Spanish forces deployed in Iraq will return home soon and the prime minister will clarify his position on the issue in the congress next week, Bono said.

Spanish troops work for peace but will do so in accordance with International Law, he noted.

US Marine dies of combat wounds in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 April — A US Marine has died from 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 14 April while fighting anti-US forces in the Al Anbar Province. Al Anbar includes the restive towns of Fallujah and Ramadi.

As the American soldiers approached a ammunition dump near Fallujah, a US Marine was killed in action.

Spanish troops work for peace but will do so in accordance with International Law, he noted.

Britain to be issued with ID cards in anti-terror plan

LONDON, 26 April — Thousands of Britons will be issued with identity cards next week for the first time since the 1950s, in a trial that is central to the government’s strategy against terror attacks.

The pilot scheme will record thousands of fingerprints, face and eye scans, as part of a 12-week trial starting from Monday, said a Home Office spokesman.

“There will be a large scale hi-tech biometric trial as part of preparing Britain for a national identity card scheme,” he told Reuters. “Numbers will definitely be in the thousands.”

The BBC earlier reported that the trial might involve up to 10,000 volunteers.

The government sees ID cards as key to protecting against the threat posed by groups like Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda. The proposal also comes amid mounting pressure for a clampdown on illegal immigration.

As the American soldiers approached a ammunition dump near Fallujah, a US Marine was killed in action.

US Army soldiers secure the area after rockets hit two hotels, a hospital and a police vehicle maintenance department in the northern city of Mosul, Iraq, on 25 April, 2004.

The attack killed four Iraqis and wounded 16, police said — Internet

Death toll of US troops in Iraq rises to 719

BAGHDAD, 26 April — The explosion of a roadside bomb in Baghdad has killed a US soldier and sparked a gunbattle.

Military authorities say troops evacuated the dead soldier, then returned to the bomb site. But when they came back, several children were looting their vehicles.

As the American soldiers approached, gunmen on neighboring rooftops opened fire and a battle ensued.

Witnesses reported Iraqi casualties in the fight. It’s not known whether any children were among them.

With the soldier’s death today, 110 US troops have been killed since the beginning of April — the deadliest period yet for Americans in Iraq. At least 719 servicemen have died in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion — Internet

Spanish soldiers should have never gone to Iraq

MADRID, 26 April — Spain will soon withdraw its troops from Iraq and the soldiers should have never gone there, said Spanish Defence Minister Jose Bono on Saturday.

The Spanish forces deployed in Iraq will return home soon and the prime minister will clarify his position on the issue in the congress next week, Bono said.

Spanish troops work for peace but will do so in accord-
Iraq blast kills US soldier, wounds three others

BAGHDAD, 26 April—A roadside bomb has killed a US soldier and wounded three others in the Iraqi capital.

A US military spokesman said the bombing triggered a shootout with gunmen and that Iraqi children were caught in the crossfire. There were no immediate reports of civilian casualties.

Earlier Sunday, US military officials extended a cease-fire in the city of Fallujah, where they say Iraqi police and US Marines will begin joint patrols Tuesday.

The extension comes one day after President Bush conferred with top national security and military advisors on the three-week stand-off between US Marines and insurgents holed up in the city.

Elsewhere, two rocket attacks on Mousil killed four Iraqis and wounded at least 10 others early today.

In a separate development, a third US sailor has died from wounds sustained in a seaborne raid on a Persian Gulf oil facility.

Another US servicemember dies from suicide attack on oil terminal

BAGHDAD, 26 April—A third American has died as a result of a suicide attack on Iraqi oil facilities.

A Coast Guard operator died today and two others were killed yesterday in the boat attack off the Iraqi coast. The Coast Guard officer was part of a team sent to intercept a boat near an oil terminal. When the team approached, the boat exploded.

With the latest death, 111 US troops have been killed in Iraq since the beginning of April. Iraq's biggest oil terminal remains closed a day after the attack but is expected to reopen tomorrow. The country's oil minister says the country is losing nearly a million barrels a day in exports as a result. —Internet

Gulf countries urged to tap huge gas resources

“The rapid growth in global consumption of natural gas as a cleaner source of energy should prompt the UAE and other regional countries to exploit their gas wealth,” said Obeid bin Saif Al Nasiri, UAE's Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources.

In a monthly magazine, which was published here Friday by UAE's Ministry of Oil and Industry, Nasiri said world gas demand is projected to grow by around 2.4 per cent in the next 30 years while oil consumption is forecast to rise by 1.6 per cent and coal by 1.4 per cent.

The share of gas currently stood at around 24 per cent of the total world energy demand while oil accounts for 40 per cent and coal for 26 per cent. By 2010, natural gas will be in the second place as it is projected to surpass coal because it is a cleaner source of energy, he pointed out.

The Middle East is set to play a key role in gas supplies in the future, the region controls around 72 trillion cubic metres of natural gas, accounting for nearly 40 per cent of the world's total proven gas reserves but current production does not exceed 245 billion cubic metres a year, or around 10 per cent of the global gas output. This means that production falls short of the size of reserves.

Nasiri referred to massive projects being carried out in the region to tap gas resources, mainly in Qatar, but noted huge investments are needed to exploit available reserves.

The coming projects should cover gas liquefaction and petrochemicals as part of the region's programmes to diversify their economies, larger gas quantities are also needed to feed power plants and aluminium smelters, he said.

“But we should note that the utilization process in the region’s gas sector is still very low, this has created an imbalance between production levels and the size of the region’s recoverable gas reserves. This requires further investments in this sector not only to meet domestic needs but to face global demand and diversify exports.”

Nasiri's figures for gas reserves covered that in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as well as that in Iraq and Iran, which also control at least 60 per cent of the world's oil.

Yemeni President calls for “immediate” US pullout from Iraq

SANAA, 26 April—Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh called for the “immediate” pullout of US-led coalition troops from Iraq and warned Washington it was earning the Muslims’ hatred by backing Israel in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

“A year has passed without the realization of the slogans raised by the occupation forces, (who promised) security, stability, justice, freedom and democracy,” he said, referring to the main reason invoked by the United States and Britain to invade Iraq and overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein.

We want an immediate withdrawal of occupation forces. We do not want to see blood being shed” in Iraq, Saleh said of the escalating violence in the country.

The three-day conference is attended by representatives of 27 countries and organizations affiliated to the association of upper houses and shura (consultative) councils in Arab and African states. —Internet

Up to one-fourth of US reconstruction money for Iraq is going for security

WASHINGTON, 26 April—Money that should be used for rebuilding Iraq instead is going to protect workers and insure their projects.

American officials monitoring their work say US-financed contractors are spending as much as a quarter of their money on security because of the surging violence in Iraq.

Officials say the siphoning of resources is slowing At least two killed in US factory explosions

WASHINGTON, 26 April—At least two workers were killed and some others were injured in a series of explosions at a plastics plant in central Illinois Friday night, reports said Saturday.

Two bodies were discovered early Saturday and two people remained missing, local authorities said. The dead and injured were among the 18 workers who were on duty at the plant.

About 1,000 people living in areas close to the plant were evacuated after the explosions, but most of them were allowed to return home Saturday morning. —MNA/Xinhua

Canada opposition leader says he would not send troops to Iraq

TORONTO, 26 April—Canadian opposition leader Stephen Harper said Sunday that he would not send troops to Iraq if he is elected prime minister.

“I think that’s not feasible, given our limited military capacity and the extent to which our people are already over-committed across the world,” the Conservative leader said on CTV’s “Question Period” show.

Last April, Harper said on the Fox News Channel that a "silent majority" of Canadians endorsed the war, but acknowledged Sunday that public sentiment had turned against the war over the past year.

"Public opinion’s clearly different now, but I would continue to emphasize that it’s in all of our interests that the coalition be successful in Iraq and not fail,” he said.

Canada, which has troops serving in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Haiti, opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq and said again last month it would not send troops to the country.

The United States, facing an eroding military coalition in Iraq, is working on a new UN resolution that President Bush said could “help other nations to decide to participate.”

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, battling low polling numbers amid a government spending scandal, is expected to call an election in the next few months.

WANG, 26 April—At least two workers were killed and some others were injured in a series of explosions at a plastics plant in central Illinois Friday night, reports said Saturday.

Two bodies were discovered early Saturday and two people remained missing, local authorities said. The dead and injured were among the 18 workers who were on duty at the plant.

About 1,000 people living in areas close to the plant were evacuated after the explosions, but most of them were allowed to return home Saturday morning. —MNA/Xinhua
Four children killed by gunfire after Baghdad attack

Baghdad, 26 April—Four schoolchildren were killed by gunfire in Baghdad on Sunday, shortly after a roadside bomb ripped through a US military vehicle, witnesses said. Some witnesses said the children, all aged around 12, were shot dead by US troops who had opened fire randomly after the blast on Canal Street in eastern Baghdad. At least five other people were wounded.

The children had left their nearby school to look at the burning Humvee, the witnesses said. Children and some passersby were "celebrating" the attack near the vehicle when the deadly shots were fired.

The US military had no immediate word on the incident. "I saw a child lying on the street with a bullet hole in his neck and another in his side," said a driver who witnessed the incident. "He had his schoolbag on his back. Some 15 minutes later his relatives came and took his body away."

A nearby hospital confirmed receiving the bodies of four children with gunshot wounds.

The targeted Humvee was part of a military convoy driving through the street. Two soldiers in the Humvee were evacuated from the scene by military medics, they said.—MNA/Reuters

China to issue early warnings on geological disasters

Beijing, 26 April—The Chinese Government plans to set up an early warning system and an emergency headquarters for dealing with geological disasters, said Lu Xinshe, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Land Resources Sunday.

Lu, who spoke at a working conference on the issue of e-government of the ministry, said China is joining hands with its neighbouring countries to warn about geological disasters that could bring heavy losses in the region.

"As a major method to monitor the disasters and information in the field, which is expected to increase the country’s capabilities in controlling geological disasters and reducing losses brought about by the disasters. In 2003, a total of 13,832 geological disasters were reported in the country, leaving 743 deaths, 125 missing, and 564 injured, as well as a direct financial loss of 4.87 billion yuan (about 588 million US dollars)," said Lu.

China plays active role in Asia-Pacific financial cooperation

Shanghai, 26 April—China is joining hands with its neighbouring countries to develop the bond market in Asia, an official with China’s central bank said here Sunday.

The People’s Bank of China, the central bank of China, has actively initiated and participated in the regional financial cooperation, said He Jianxiong, deputy director general of the International Department of the People’s Bank of China, at the ongoing Asia-Pacific Business Forum, a side event of the 60th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

As a major method to develop the Asian bond market, the Asian Bond Fund (ABF) was launched in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in June, 2003 by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and China, Japan and South Korea (10+3).

The second phase of the ABF has been approved to pave the way for investments in local currency-denominated Asian bonds after the successful launch of the first phase one-billion-US dollar ABF. Financial experts have said the establishment of the Asian bond market indicates that the regional financial cooperation has entered into the phase of preventing monetary crises from the headstream.—MNA/Xinhua

Rockets kill four, wound 13 in northern Iraq city

Mosul, Iraq, 26 April—Katyusha rockets hit a hospital, a hotel and a police facility in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, killing two hospital workers and wounding 13 people, police said.

They said a rocket slammed into the Salam (Peace) Hospital in the town, 240 miles north of Baghdad, killing two women staff and wounding 10 other people.

Less than an hour later, a second rocket hit Ashour Hotel in the city centre, causing extensive damage and wounding three people. Two of the wounded, both hotel workers, died shortly afterwards in hospital.

A third rocket struck a police vehicle maintenance department next to police headquarters in southern Mosul’s Wadi Hajjar District, wounding two policemen.—MNA/Reuters

Survey shows Dubai among top digital cities in the world

Dubai, 26 April—Dubai has outranked several digitally advanced cities in the world in terms of privacy and security on its official portal, the official WAM news agency quoted a new global survey as reporting Sunday.

The survey of 100 major cities, conducted by Rutgers University of the United States, ranked Dubai in the 9th position, along with Tokyo, according to the findings.

According to the findings, only 17 cities showed that they identified the organizations collecting data on their websites and only 14 cities identified the kind of data being collected.

Dubai was one of the 12 cities whose privacy policy identified both. In service delivery, Dubai was ranked 11th worldwide, with a score of 8.25 against the world average of 4.77.

The report also cited Dubai as one of only 10 cities that have web sites allowing citizens to pay fees online. Service delivery is one area in which Dubai eGovernment has been making rapid strides.—MNA/Xinhua

El Salvador undecided on Iraq troop presence past June

San Salvador (El Salvador), 26 April—El Salvador has yet to decide whether to keep its small troop contingent in Iraq after June as sought by the United States, President Francisco Flores said in comments published on Sunday.

"El Salvador is going to carry out the duty of maintaining troops in Iraq until June 30 and any continuation will be a subject of analysis," Salvadoran dailies quoted Flores as saying.

El Salvador has a force of 380 troops in Iraq which have been under Spanish command but Spain is pulling its forces out, possibly at the end of May.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Friday he hoped several nations such as Norway, the Netherlands and El Salvador who have a total of almost 2,000 troops in Iraq, would stay after an interim Iraqi Government takes power June 30.

Flores’ term in office finishes on June 1 and his successor Tony Saca, a fellow member of the rightist Arena Party, has not said how long he wants the troops to stay for.

The initial Salvadoran plan was to post forces in Iraq until the beginning of August but many countries in the US-led coalition, like Norway, are looking to withdraw at the end of June.—MNA/Reuters

Italian govt urged to withdraw troops from Iraq

Rome, 26 April—Thousands of Italians took to streets across the country on Sunday, celebrating the Liberation Day and urging the government to withdraw Italian forces from Iraq.

In Rome, people gathered at the Campidoglio Square where the municipal government is located, holding banners saying "Italy keeps distance from wars" and "Immediate withdrawal of Italian forces from Iraq."

Several leaders of the Green Party and other political parties also attended the demonstration in the capital.

Demonstrators also gathered in the country’s Northern city of Milan, asking the end of the foreign forces’ occupation in Iraq and the transfer of power to the Iraqi people.

Italy’s Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has stood firmly with US President George W. Bush in the Iraq war. The country has deployed nearly 3,000 soldiers in Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua

An Iraqi man is checked for weapons while passing through an American military checkpoint entering Fallujah, Iraq on Sunday, 25, April 2004.—AFP
Images of Iraq

An Iraqi woman soothes her 12-year-old wounded daughter Hajar Ayid in a Baghdad hospital on 24 April, 2004. Ayid was injured overnight in an incident involving US troops and forces of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City. Three sisters were burned when their house, which was in the area of a firefight, caught fire.

A picture of Iraqi woman Isra Cesuer, 28, mother of three children, is seen through a hole after a rocket slammed into her bedroom in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City, Iraq, on Saturday, 24 April 2004. Isra was killed instantly.

Iraqi child Isra Jawad, 9, screams in pain as she is comforted by her mother in the hospital in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City, Iraq, Saturday, on 24 April, 2004. Isara and two of her sisters suffered severe burns during an explosion when al-Mahdai army, supporters of the Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and US troops clashed late Friday.

A car burns at the entrance of one of the police stations hit by an explosion in Basra. Three Iraqis were arrested in connection with suicide bomb attacks that killed 74 people in southern Iraq, and 3.5 tonnes of explosives were found in their truck, a police official said in Basra.

An Iraqi man, wounded by a bomb which hit a bus, is helped by a friend while lying in a hospital bed in the town of Iskandariya, 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of the capital Baghdad, on 24 April, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

The newly opened runway of Pathein Airport in Ayeyawady Division.

Mongteik-Kaunghtau section of Shweyaung-Namhsan Rail Road in Shan State (South) was inaugurated on 20-3-2004.

Aerial view of Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant in Kyaukse.
Work coordination...

(from page 1)

National Convention were undertaken. The delegates to the National Convention have been invited and the date of the National Convention to be reconvened is approaching fast.

In order to successfully undertake the tasks for the National Convention and for the delegates to attend the National Convention under the protection of mind, the National Convention Compound were constructed after formation of various committees comprising the ministers, the deputy ministers and heads of departments, he said. He said various committees— decoration committee, greening committee, lamp-post decoration committee, construction material stockpiling committee, renovation committee, sports committee, welfare committee, communication committee and entertainment committee—implemented the works systematically.

He said the delegates include various national races and age groups.

For health care services, a hospital equipped with modern disease diagnostic and treatment centres, medical equipment and specialists and physicians was constructed and opened in the compound where the National Convention is going to be held for ensuring full health care services as there are those who are in good health, those who need medical attention and those who need regular medical check-up, he noted.

In addition, arrangements have been made by the respective sub-committees enabling the delegates who are going to attend the National Convention to enjoy wholesome foods at fair prices and good health, he stressed.

He said that as arrangements have already been made for convening the National Convention, he met with members of the National Convention Convening Commission and officials of the construction committees to fulfil the requirements. Therefore, the National Convention Convening Commission is to present its requirements if any, he disclosed.

Next, Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein reported on arrangements made by the NCCC for successful holding of the National Convention, followed by a general round of discussions.

After that, ministers, the Yangon Mayor and deputy ministers from the construction committees reported on renovation of the meeting halls including the Pyidaungsu Hall, arrangements for power supply, greening tasks, decoration of lamp-posts, extension of buildings, sports and welfare facilities for the delegates, work being carried out for communication and entertainment.

Those present gave supplementary reports.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Prime Minister.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected decoration of the Pyidaungsu Hall, recreation hall for the delegates, hostels, mess halls, welfare shops, photo studio, beauty parlour, optical shop, communication centre, gymnasium, discussion rooms and hospital and left the Nyaungnapinkwin in the evening.

MNA

Courses opened at central training school of PBANRDA Ministry

YANGON, 26 April — The advanced training course No 6, the basic engineering course No 6, the management course No 18, and the clerical courses Nos 31 and 32 were opened at the central training school of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Ward 51, Dagon Myothit (North) Township here this morning.

Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for PBANRDA, delivered an address on the occasion. It was attended by directors-general of departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, directors and officials. After the opening ceremony, the deputy minister inspected the hostels, mess halls, lecture halls and classrooms at the school and measures taken for keeping the school pleasant and attended to the requirements.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects preparations for convening of National Convention. MNA

Basic Printing Course opened

YANGON, 26 April — The Basic Printing Course No 1, 2004, conducted by Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, was opened today at the training hall of GTC Printing House in Insein Township here this morning, with an address delivered by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Lay, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi, Advisor to the ministry U Than Maung, and officials.

A total of 26 trainees are attending the course, which will last till 31 May. After the opening ceremony, the minister inspected the conditions of machines at the printing house and heard reports. He later attended to the requirements. — MNA

Myanmar Wushu team leaves for China

Six-storey Myanmar…
(from page 16)
The minister and party inspected the office of case officer, notice boards. Passports are issued quickly to those who apply them in accord with the rules and regulations and procedures. It is necessary for those who apply for passports to ask about the matter in person. Legal action is being taken against those who applied for the passports in improper way through the brokers in accord with the existing law.

**Health Minister attends 7th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting**

**Yangon, 26 April** — The 7th ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting and the first ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting was opened with addresses by Malaysian Minister for Health Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek and Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak on 22 April at Penang, Malaysia.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint on 21 April arrived at Penang, Malaysia. The meeting chairman together with Dr Kyaw Myint and the Malaysian health minister presided over the meeting. On behalf of the health ministers of the ASEAN countries, China, Japan and South Korea, Dr Chua Soi Lek and the Chinese deputy minister for health made addresses at the meeting. The meeting expressed a commitment to enhance cooperation in health sectors among ASEAN+3 countries promoting health care using traditional medicines and to lay the plans to fight infectious diseases. Later, it was agreed to hold the 8th ASEAN+3 Health Ministers’ Meeting in Myanmar in 2006.

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and Secretary of Myanmar Passport Board Commander of SID Police Brig-Gen Thet Hla formally open extension building of the Six-storey Myanmar Passport Board Office. — MNA

**Myanmar-Korea economic cooperation discussed**

**Yangon, 26 April** — Entrepreneurs from local companies in Myanmar and businessmen from Kyungsan Trade Mission of the Republic of Korea held a meeting on economic cooperation between the two countries at the Traders’ Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning. Organized by the KOFTRA of Korean Embassy in Myanmar, the meeting was also attended by Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung-Woo, Commercial Attaché Choi Yong-Tae and officials of the Korean embassy, and businessmen from 50 local companies in Myanmar and Kyungsan Trade Mission of Korea.

The Korean ambassador and the Korean commercial attaché cordially met with businessmen from both countries, followed by a general round of discussions by specific business groups for mutual cooperation in economy. Han Jong Tae of Expomal (Yangon Co, Ltd Mr Anant Srisertsit), Managing Director of MWEA and invited entrepreneurs.

Wooshin Industrial, Tae Yoon Textile Co Ltd, Sung Hwa Textile and Genworks from Kyungsan Trade Mission of Korea put into discussions matters related to selling in Myanmar their products ranging from stone-grinding machines to stationery, ginseng medicines, digital cameras and clothing.

Present on the occasion were Officers of Ministry of Cooperatives, Vice-President of the UMFCCI U Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Energy, invited guests of the Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Industry, 2. Myanmar delegates to the meeting, representatives from ASEAN countries and Institute of Energy Economics of Japan at the meeting.

The meeting concluded agreed to hold the second meeting of ASEAN Energy Policies and Management Network in Myanmar-Korea Economic Cooperation held in Yangon, 26 April—MNA

**Second Meeting of ASEAN Energy Policies and Management Network held**

**Yangon, 26 April** — The second meeting of ASEAN Energy Policies and Management Network was hosted in Myanmar at Traders’ Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Energy, invited guests of the Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Industry.

The meeting concluded agreed to hold the second meeting of ASEAN Energy Policies and Management Network in Myanmar, 26 April—MNA

**Malaysia International Food & Beverages’2004 demonstrated**

**Yangon, 26 April** — Jointly-organized by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Malaysia International Food & Beverages’2004 to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15 to 17 July, was clarified at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alapnya Pagoda Road this morning. Present on the occasion were officials of Ministry of Cooperatives, Vice-President of the UMFCICU Zaw Min Win, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, officials of MWEA and invited entrepreneurs. U Sein Win Hlaing and managing director of TTF (Yangon Co, Ltd Mr Anant Srisertsit) made speeches and managing director Mr L S Chan of Exponential Network Sdn Bhd explained matters related to the exhibition. Representatives from countries are attending the exhibition. — MNA

Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung-Woo greets entrepreneurs from the two countries at Myanmar-Korea Economics Cooperation Meeting. — MNA

Malaysia International Food & Beverages’2004 being clarified at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Tuesday, 27 April, 2004
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects…
(form page 16)

Union Road. At the briefing hall, he heard reports on construction of the road. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye also gave a supplementary report. After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party gave instructions on matters relating to Bawdhi Tahtaung Road.

They arrived in Mandalay in the evening. Also in the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with officers and other ranks and their families at Zeyathiri Hall of North-West Command and urged them to extend agri-cultural and livestock breeding tasks and to lend themselves to regional development activities.

He also cordially greeted them on the occasion. — MNA

Bangladeshi goodwill delegation on tour of downtown Yangon

YANGON, 26 April—The visiting Bangladeshi goodwill delegation led by Major-General A/M Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc visited downtown Yangon this morning.

On arrival at Memorial to Fallen Heroes, the goodwill delegation led by Maj Kyaw Kyaw Myint of Directorate of Defence Services Records Office Briga-Gen Myo Myint and party gave instructions on matters relating to Bawdhi Tahtaung Road along the road. On arrival at the junction of Monywa-Mandalay Road and Monywa-Bawdhi Tahtaung Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party gave instructions on matters relating to Bawdhi Tahtaung Road.

Afterward, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left there by car and inspected construction of Bawdhi Tahtaung Road along the road. On arrival at the junction of Monywa-Mandalay Road and Monywa-Bawdhi Tahtaung Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party gave instructions on matters relating to Bawdhi Tahtaung Road.

They arrived in Mandalay in the evening. Also in the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with officers and other ranks and their families at Zeyathiri Hall of North-West Command and urged them to extend agri-cultural and livestock breeding tasks and to lend themselves to regional development activities.

He also cordially greeted them on the occasion. — MNA

Chinese president in South China’s island province

HAIKOU, 26 April—Chinese President Hu Jintao inspected Qionghai and Haikou cities in south China’s Hainan Province after attending the opening session of the Boao Forum for Asia 2004 Annual Conference. The forum ended Sunday afternoon. Hu also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Saturday went to Hainan Island, where he inspected cropland improvement projects and inquired about grain production in the area. He talked cordially with farmers working in the fields and asked them whether they had learned of the central government’s policy to encourage them to increase grain production.

WASHINGTON, 26 April—Though India’s recent growth rate has been universally admired, without more international assistance and for longer periods, the country will be unable to reach most Millennium Development Goals, India’s Finance Secretary D C Gupta said Sunday. “The South Asia region, and particularly the countries in our constituency (the Indian Executive Director also represents Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan) are on track to meet the goal of income poverty,” Gupta told the Development Committee of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

“Yet in various social indicators, like universal primary education, infant and maternal mortality, and gender gap, will require a step-up in efforts.”

It was attended by MWA Chairman U Hla Myaung (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairman U Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Tswantay), Joint-Secretary U Khan Swe (Shwe Sunnyo), Fund-raising Work Committee Secretary U Soe Shein (Maung Soe Huak-Thonse) and wellwishers. Donations included 650 books on Thutara worth K 150,000 by Kuang Thant Sarpay, K 30,000 by Police Lt-Col Win Myint (Ye Gaung Win-Kyaikkaw) of Yangon Division, K 20,000 by writer Ni Ni; K 15,000 by Magway Township WJA; K 10,000 by Mingala Taung Nyunt Township WJA; K 7,000 by writer Aung Lan-Soe Pay; and K 3,000 by writer U Nyein Aung. Officials accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Those wishing to donate cash or kind may contact No 529, the second floor, Sarpay Beikman, corner of Merchant Street and 17th Street (Ph 254173, 252417). — MNA
Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve, a tiger habitat

Aung Din (Forestry)

According to the scientific research, there are eight species of tiger in the world, the largest cat species native to Asia. But, now there remain only five species of tiger — Amur tiger, Siberian tiger, Chinese tiger, Bengal tiger and Sumatran tiger, Indo-China tiger and Bengal tiger. The species of Bali tiger, Caspian tiger and Javan tiger are no longer in existence.

According to the announcement issued by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on 16 March 2004, the Bali tiger species was extinct in the 1940s; Caspian tiger species on the verge of extinction and Javan tiger species, in the 1980s.

The number of South China species is estimated to be between 20 and 30; Siberian species (a) Amur species, 368 and 406; Sumatran species, 400 and 500; Indo-Chinese species, 176 to 456, totalling between 5,184 and 7,277 in the world. The number of tigers is decreasing.

Among the five tiger species, Indo-China and Bengal species are found in Myanmar. Tigers inhabit naturally in 14 nations — Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia, Korea, Russia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar. According to the previous surveys, except India, Myanmar is a place where tigers inhabit most in Asia. Conservationists had predicted that there were some 3,000 tigers around 1980 and 600 to 1,000 around 1996 in Asia. Based on the survey, the forest rangers announced the estimated numbers of tigers at 178 to 495 at Tigers’ Year Conference held in 1998. According to the forest rangers, those who took forest animal census, hunters and researchers, tigers are found in 72 locations in Myanmar except the nation’s northwestern very high mountain.

In the past, a large number of tigers could be seen in the forests and jungles. But, the number has decreased to a certain degree, and now tigers have gone hiding only in the places which is safe and far away from people. Some of the reasons are that the areas to serve as habitual for tigers is dwindling and animals for their food become rare, owing to increasing utilization of land for growing population of people. Another cause is that the rate of killing tigers exceeds that of tiger births. And another one is that there is still ineffectiveness in enforcing ban on hunting tigers. And yet another fact is that the hunting of tigers on a commercial scale to satisfy the growing demand for tiger products to be used as ingredients for some Asian nations’ traditional medicines.

The Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry, in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), took a tiger census from December 1998 until April 2002, as part of the initial plan to protect tiger species which are on the brink of extinction. Under the plan, experts and service personnel of the Forest Department carried out a survey of tiger population in 18 regions — Alan Gyi-Maung-Kra, Khaung Maung, Pyay, Taunggyi-Paughaung waters, Nyaung-U, Pyin-U, Kalaw, Monywa, Nyaung-U, Taungbello, Taunggyi, Lashio, Mawlamyine, Mawlamyine, Palaung, Pan-U, Myitkyina, Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago. The purpose of the survey was to implement the National Tiger Action Plan. In an effort for one-and-six-month survey, the Forest Department is making the surveys, but the officials still get information and data about the number of tigers and conditions on the tigers’ prey with the use of camera traps. In the survey, the officials used the data collected during the survey to evaluate the national tiger population. Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$5.5 million in a year.

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China's civil servants urged to study admin licensing law

HANGZHOU, 26 April — More than 220,000 civil servants, including 1,000 officials at provincial and city levels, in east China's Zhejiang Province attended an examination Saturday on the Law of Administrative Licensing.

Implementation of the law and the administrative licensing will have great impact on the work of government and systematic study on the law by civil servants in the province will lay a solid foundation for building a government by law, said Chen Juayan, vice-governor of Zhejiang who took part in the examination.

In accordance with the requirements of the State Council, China's top governing body, all civil servants across the country must be trained at special training courses on the law before the end of June this year.

Thus far, all provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and central government departments have worked out concrete plans for the study of the law. Southwest China's Yunnan Province has trained 15,000 civil servants and east China's Anhui Province has held lectures on the law, attracting over 1,000 civil servants.

Over the next 40 years, he appeared in 60 novels and short stories, solving dozens of baffling crimes.

The request read: “The Curse of Conan Doyle.”

Since his death in 1930, several people with links to his work have died suddenly.

Carbon dioxide kills 4 miners in Guangdong Province

GUANGZHOU, 26 April — Power cut stopped the running of the ventilation system of a coal mine in south China’s Guangdong Province Saturday, leaving four miners choked to death due to the mass of carbon dioxide.

According to the source with the municipal administration of coal mine safety supervision of Shaoguan City, the power supply system of Dongnian colliery, located in Rehna county, was hit by thunderstorm at 5:45 am Saturday, leading to a power cut in the coal mine.

This immediately broke down the ventilation system of the colliery, where seven miners were working at that time, and the continuously massed carbon dioxide poisoned four to death, said the source.

Leading officials of the local government rushed to the colliery and organized working teams, investigating the cause of the accident and dealing with the arising problems.

Though the breaking down of ventilation system by thunderstorm was the direct cause of the tragedy, the four miners were killed also because their lack of work safety awareness, said the source.

Meanwhile, there were problems with the safety supervision measures of the colliery. There was neither supervision system over the coal mine nor standby power supply, said the source.

Further investigation was under way.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
China calls for more financial aid to poor countries

WASHINGTON, April — Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Li Yong said on Sunday that developing countries’ efforts in deepening the reforms in key areas could not be sustained unless there is adequate financial support.

In a written statement to the 69th Development Committee Meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held in Washington, he noted that the global economy has been recovering at a rapid pace since the conclusion of the IMF meeting and the developing countries have been further deepening their structural adjustments. These developments have created a favourable condition for global agenda of poverty reduction.

However, he said that the structural reforms by developing countries should be supported by adequate aid from developed nations. This is key to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations at the beginning of the new century.

Therefore, sufficient aid should be provided for the countries which have committed to implement necessary reforms and are capable to use aid effectively, Li said.

He also said that China appreciated the progress of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) in conducting necessary structural reforms and welcomed the efforts by the international community to reduce the debt burden of HIPCs.

Meanwhile, he stressed that there is still a long way to go before the debt burden of the least developed countries could be completely reduced.

The Chinese vice-minister said that development in the poor countries required increased investment in infrastructure and continued external financial support.

WTO head positive on Doha round trade talks

WASHINGTON, April — The head of the World Trade Organization, Supachai Panitchpakdi, said on Saturday he saw positive signs on the restart of the Doha Round of world trade talks.

“I do see some good elements but some of the住宿 that have been made have yet to be translated into substance,” Supachai said.

He did not expect those developments to result in a new deal to renew the 75th concession that was due to expire at the end of 2012.

Newlyweds pose for photos on the 600-year-old city wall in Xian, the capital of Shaanxi Province, on April 24, 2004. A total of 30 couples attended the mass wedding ceremony on the Xian city wall which is the largest and best preserved city wall from the Ming Dynasty in China.

Oman in talks with Shell, Total to renew oil concession

An agreement has been reached in principle to sign a new deal to renew the 75th concession to conduct operations in Oman and which expires in 2012, pending the completion of the recent years,” the industry newsletter says, quoting authoritative sources.

“The two sides are also keen to renew the concession ahead of the 2012 expiry date,” it adds. The concession was signed in 1973.

PDO, which produces almost 90 per cent of Oman’s total crude output, has reported its output fell to 703,000 bpd in 2003 from 771,000 bpd in 2002 and blamed ageing oilfields. Further per cent drop is expected in 2004.

Oman, a non-OPEC crude producer with current output of around 710,000 barrels per day (BPD), has been battling to halt a drop in daily output. Oman also has proven gas reserves of around 0.626 trillion cubic meters, with potential reserves more than doubling that figure.

Indonesian landslide kills 44, more still trapped

PASARMU, April — At least 44 people were killed and five others were trapped after a landslide enveloped a bus and nearly swept it off a cliff in Indonesia’s Sumatra Island, a police officer said on Saturday.

The landslide occurred in Pasaman regency West Sumatra, about 625 kilometers from Jakarta, as the bus was heading to Medan, the capital of North Sumatra.

At least 11 people were killed and four others were trapped after a landslide occurred near a heavy clayey soil. The bus was carrying 44 people. Another 13 survivors and are being treated in hospitals and five were trapped,” said M. Zaini, Pasaman police chief.

He did not expect those trapped to survive.

The landslide was triggered by heavy rainfall in an area that had been cleared of forest, a major problem in Sumatra where deforestation has been blamed for many deadly landslides.

The police chief said the landslide crashed down on the bus on a 15-degree section of road with a cliff on one side. He said the bus was nearly swept over the side, making rescue efforts dangerous. About 330 meters of road had been covered by the debris and heavy machinery had arrived to help the rescue effort, he added.

Thailand imposes stringent measures for clean markets

BANGKOK, April — The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand requires fresh markets and over the country to maintain food safety during the hot summer months to prevent infectious diseases like cholera.

Speaking after inspecting the Chakapha 4 market on Saturday, Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said the market would be closed for three to four months after it improves market cleanliness and hygiene in some places to meet the requirement of the ministry, the Thai News Agency (TNA) reported Saturday.

Sudarat said the ministry enforces stringent measures to reduce any risk of food contamination and protect people from illnesses coming with the hot summer.

She added that the regulations ban the use of hazardous chemicals substances like Borax, Formalin, Sodium Hypochlorite, Beta-Agonist, and pesticides. Offenders will face 20,000-baht (513-US-dollar) fine and two months in prison.

The ministry also requires fresh markets cleaning once a week during summer and once a month at other seasons.

Bangkok suffers drought grips country

BANGKOK, April — Thailand’s capital city is fast falling prey to the devastating drought that is sweeping across the country, with residents of its suburbs already complaining of severe water shortages.

Siriwattana Chuenwin, assistant director of Mumbin District on the outskirts of Bangkok, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying Sunday that the district has seen a barrage of complaints relating to water shortages for the past year.

Vehicles are now plying the streets of the district offering free water, with residents queuing outside their houses with re- ceptacles to store it in.

Siriwattana said that the district’s farmers are also suffering from the drought conditions, with water levels in local canals at record lows.
Lyon crush Rennes to move clear of beaten Monaco

PARIS, 26 April — Olympique Lyon moved four points clear at the top of Ligue 1 on Saturday as they crushed 10-man Stade Rennes 3-0 while Monaco slumped to a 1-0 defeat to Nantes.

Lyon now have 69 points from 33 matches with five games left while Champions League semifinalists Monaco could be overtaken in second place by Paris St. Germain who play on Sunday.

Lyon struggled until the dismissal of defender Gregory Boulion after 42 minutes gave them the upper hand after the break.

Brazil's Juninho Pernambucano, Ghana's Michael Essien and French international Peguy Luyindula all scored for Lyon.

A swift counter-attack by Marana Vahirua sank Monaco who looked tired and uninspired after their emphatic 3-1 victory against Chelsea in the Champions League on Tuesday.

“We were far from our best physically but it's not an excuse,” said coach Didier Deschamps. “It's always tricky to play after a Champions League match, especially as Nantes were well organized,” he added.

Monaco have struggled at home in recent weeks and Deschamps made it clear they were in a tricky situation. “We have let points go to our direct opponents who took advantage of it,” he said.

The principality team have been first or second since the start of the season but could slump to third if Paris St. Germain beat Olympique Marseille in their home game on Sunday.

“We have shown against Real Madrid or Chelsea that we could fight to the bitter end. That's what we have to do in Ligue 1 too,” said defender Sebastien Squillaci.

Lyon seemed somewhat restrained in the first half but were more enthusiastic once Rennes found themselves a man down.

Juninho's penalty in the 57th minute was just reward for Rennes' Cyril Jeunechamp who handled the ball inside the box.

Essien's goal six minutes later was a relief for the defending champions, who also won the title in 2002, as they had hit the woodwork three times just before his strike.

“Luyindula sealed victory in the 71st with his 15th goal of the season, although he is a long way behind A1 Auxerre’s Djibril Cisse in the goalscoring charts.

Cisse scored the winner with a close range header as Auxerre beat Sochaux 2-1 to move on to 22 league goals this season.

In the relegation clash between the two bottom in Ligue 1 Montpellier lost 3-0 at home to basement club Le Mans, who are now a point behind them and five points from the safety zone.

Deportivo stay fourth after 1-1 draw at Malaga

MADRID, 26 April — Champions League semifinalists Deportivo Coruna remained the only team in La Primera Liga after they were held to a 1-1 draw at Malaga on Saturday.

Depor looked in control after midfielder Victor put them ahead with a well-struck shot midway through the first half but they eased up too quickly and Malaga equalized before the break when substitute Manuel Canabali stabbed in from close range.

The result left Deportivo a point behind Barcelona, who play arch-rivals Real Madrid at the Bernabeu on Sunday. Valencia are level with Real on 70 points, but lead the table with a better head-to-head record. Barca follow on 63 and Depor have 62.

Relegation-threatened Espanyol got out of the drop zone with a priceless 3-1 win at home to Atletico Madrid thanks to a late double from substitute striker Claudiu Raducanu.

The victory left the Catalans a point above Real Mallorca, although the islanders could reclaim their position if they beat fellow strugglers Valladolid on Sunday.

Porto crowned Portuguese champions for 19th time

LISBON, 26 April — Porto crowned Portuguese champions for the 19th time without kicking a ball on Saturday after second-placed Sporting’s 1-0 defeat at Uniao Leiria who ended their title challenge with two games left.

Champions League semifinalists Porto have an unassailable six-point lead since they have a better head-to-head record over Sporting and Benfica who can only now equal them on points.

Porto fans chanted “champions, champions” gathered at the hotel where the players were resting ahead of Sunday’s match to rejoice after a second successive title. Porto host Alverca at the Estadio do Dragao where the celebrations will continue.

Middle of the table Uniao Leiria ended Sporting’s title hopes when they scored the winning goal after 49 minutes through midfielder Joaquim Albandra after a goalmouth scramble.

Third-placed Benfica beat relegated bottom club Estreia Amapal 3-1 as striker Nuno Gomes opened the scoring with a penalty after 13 minutes.

Croatian striker Tomislav Sokota was left unmarked inside the box and fired Benfica into a 2-0 halftime lead.

David Dias scored a consolation goal for Estreia after 86 minutes before defender Miguel Monteiro completed the rout for Benfica four minutes later.

Struggling Espanyol gain priceless 3-1 win over Atletico

MADRID, 26 April — Relegation-threatened Espanyol claimed a priceless 3-1 win at home to Atletico Madrid to move out of the Primera Liga relegation zone on Saturday.

The victory left the Catalans a point above Real Mallorca, although the islanders could reclaim their position if they beat fellow strugglers Valladolid on Sunday.

Brazilian midfielder Fredson broke the deadlock in what had been an even match by outjumping the Atletico defender to power in a header from Ivan de la Peña’s perfectly struck corner in the 64th minute.

Guillermo Coria of Argentina returns the ball to Marat Safin of Russia during their semi final match of the Monte Carlo Masters tennis open in Monaco on 24 April, 2004. Coria defeated Safin 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. — INTERNET

Victory kept Liverpool on course for fourth with 53 points although Newcas- tle, three points behind, have a game in hand in addition to Sunday’s clash with Chelsea at St. James Park.

Tea mansion Villa also stayed in the hunt for a qualifying spot in the money-spinning Champions League by rallying to win 2-1 at Middlesbrough. Peter Crouch scored a late winner after a 57th-minute redcard for Villa’s Portuguese midfielder Nolberto Solano.

MNA/Reuters
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Tuesday, 27 April, 2004

WEATHER

Monday, 26 April, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in northern Shan State and Tanintharyi Division. Weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Daytime temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin State, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and eastern Shan States, Sagain, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (4°C) in each at Yantelim, Minbu and Mayagway.

Maximum temperature on 25-4-2004 was 40.0°C (104°F). Minimum temperature on 26-4-2004 was 22.7°C (73°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 26-4-2004 was 59%. Total sunshine hours on 25-4-2004 was (10.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-4-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 5 mm (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport and 12 mm (0.47 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 3 mm (0.12 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from South at (14:30) hours MST on 25-4-2004.

Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the South and Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-4-2004: Isolated thunder showers or thunder showery may occur in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slightly to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subquent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighboring area for 27-4-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighboring area for 27-4-2004: Partly cloudy.

OBITUARY
U Hla
B.S. (Hons.), M.S. (Electrical Power), Leeds University, U.S.A. Supervising Engineer, MEPE

Aged 71 Years
U Hla, beloved husband of Daw Ohn Kyi, 142, Anawratha Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, father of Mog Nyan Soe Hla (Final Part I, IM 1), brother of DrShwe Htoo-Anne Htoo (New York, U.S.A), (U Pyin Nyeinda), Dr Saw J Tha-Dr May Pin Tin (Singapore), Daw Tin Tin Aye (New York, U.S.A), (Dr Mya Aung Maung Aung)."Aged 71 Years
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Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Israeli President

YANGON, 27 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Moshe Katsav, President of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel which falls on 27 April 2004. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects road and bridge construction tasks in Sagaing

YANGON, 26 April — The Basic Aviation Course No 1/2004 and Advanced Aviation Course No 1/2004 were inspected for new generations youth aviation sponsored by the Union Solidarity and Development Association (central) and Commander-in-Chief (Air)’s Office were opened at the training hall of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association at the corner of Saya San Street and West Race Course Road in Bahan Township here this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Col Tin Maung Tun and senior military officers, Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tin Htun, Secretary of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aye Myint and executives, course instructors, trainees and others.

First, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint Swe made a speech.

Next, Deputy Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Col Tin Htun spoke and the opening ceremony came to a close.

The five-week Basic Aviation Course No 1/2004 is being attended by 50 trainees whereas five-week Advanced Aviation Course is being attended by 25 trainees.

At the hall of the factory, assistant manager reported on construction works being carried out for the project and future tasks to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, who then gave necessary instructions to him.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the construction progress of the main factory building and arrangements for installation of machines. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into the new road linking Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road, Monywa-Pale-Gangaw Road and Pakokku-Monywa Road. At the briefing hall at Aung Chantha Village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on construction of Yama Creek Bridge and attend to the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the construction site of Kason 1366 ME Tuesday, 27 April, 2004. — MNA

Six-storey Office of Myanmar Passport Issuing Board opens

YANGON, 26 April — The six-storey Myanmar Passport Board Office built by Special Investigation Department of Myanmar Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs was opened on Pansodan Street in Kyauktada Township this morning.

Present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi, heads of departments of the Ministry of Home Affairs, members of Myanmar Passport Board, senior officers of MPF and members of SID. Minister Col Tin Hlaing and Secretary of Myanmar Passport Board commander of SID Police Brig-Gen Thet Htut formally opened the office.

Next, Minister Col Tin Hlaing formally unveiled the inscription of the office and sprinkled scented water on it.

The minister and party inspected photo studio on the ground floor, passport issue branch on the first floor, the head of branch office on the second floor and application branch on the third floor.

Next, Police Brig-Gen Thet Htut and deputy commander of SID Police Col Khin Maung Latt reported that construction of five-storey record office of SID 9 feet long, 35 feet wide and 55 feet high, started on 21 December 2001 and completed on 22 December 2002. It cost K 41.5 million.

The Myanmar Passport Board, 60 feet long, 39 feet wide and 74 feet high was built at a cost of over K 80 million. The construction began on 10 June 2003 and completed on 9 April 2004.

With the opening of the new office, those who apply for passport can easily submit applications and draw the passport book and personal data of the applicants can be stored systematically.

The minister gave instructions on working for the applicants with goodwill and dealing with the people in a polite manner.

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