Like driving force electricity plays key role for national development
Senior General Than Shwe addresses National Electric Power Development coordination meeting

Excerpts from Senior General’s address

Senior General Than Shwe said that like a driving force electricity plays a key role for national development. There is connection between the electric power development and the socioeconomic progress of the nation. Step-by-step implementation of the power development projects must be based on the national resources and other conditions of the nation. There are two sectors – the projects covered by the national grid and the projects for regional use. The Government is striving to implement the projects, although the nation is not fully enjoying sufficiency in all sectors. At the end of 2004 domestic power demand of the country will commensurately be fulfilled. Efforts are to be made for early completion of the new electric power projects. There are eleven major electric power projects being implemented for power grid.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Make coordinated efforts for success of National Convention

It was on 30 August, 2003, that Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt publicly declared the seven-point future policy programme of the State. Now preparations are being systematically made for the convening of the National Convention, the first stage in the implementation of the policy programme.

Soon after the announcement of the policy programme, the National Convention Convening Committee was formed with Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein as its head and the National Convention Work Committee and Management Committee reconstituted. Now the National Convention is just round the corner and the delegates to the National Convention have been invited.

Various committees comprising ministers, deputy ministers and heads of department are increasing the momentum of implementing their respective work to ensure complete success of the tasks for the National Convention and for the delegates to be able to attend it with peace of mind and body.

The work coordination meeting on preparations for convening of the National Convention was held at the Anawrahta Yeiktha in Nyauhnnapinkwin in Hma-wy Township and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt the other day. The Prime Minister said at the meeting that the government had spent large sums of money on the construction of the meeting halls for the delegates, hotels, sports grounds and gymnasia, welfare and entertainment facilities and the splendid National Convention Hall.

The delegates include various national races and are of different age groups. Among the delegates, there can be healthy persons as well as those who need regular medical check-up and attention. Therefore, to provide full health care services to the delegates, a hospital full of physicians and specialists and modern medical equipment has been built and opened in the compound where the National Convention is going to be held.

We believe that all those responsible will make coordinated efforts so that the National Convention will run smoothly.
**Baghdad blast kills two US soldiers**

Baghdad, 27 April — Two US soldiers were killed in a massive explosion Monday in northeastern Baghdad during a raid in which they were looking for a shop-owner suspected of producing “chemical munitions,” a military spokesman said.

US Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said coalition forces suspected the owner and his associates of producing chemicals to “terrorists, criminals and insurgents.”

Kimmitt said intelligence suggests these individuals were involved in the production of chemical munitions, but the term could refer “to any number of chemical munitions.”

“That could be smoke. That could be anything,” he said.

He would not disclose whether the Iraq Survey Group, the US-led team searching for Iraq’s suspected arsenal of chemical and biological weapons, was involved in the raid.

Five other troops were wounded, as were eight Iraqis in the area, he said. Some Iraqis celebrated after the blast, standing on top of damaged American Humvees and cheering.

Meanwhile, west of Baghdad in the city of Fallujah, a three-hour firefight Monday night killed two US Marines and insurgents left a coalition soldier and eight Iraqi fighters dead.

**Bangladeshi Siamese twins separated**

Dhaka, 27 April — Surgeons at the Islamic Bank Hospital here Sunday successfully separated a pair of Siamese twins from Pabna.

The female twins, Halima and Maria, are the third to be separated in Bangladesh, according to The Daily Star Monday.

Born to Shahed Ali and Pappi Khatun Sheikh in April 14 at a private clinic in the northwestern district town of Pabna, the twins were shifted to the Islamic Bank Hospital on April 18.

The babies were separated successfully, but the condition of Maria is critical, Dr Ruhul Amin who led a team of surgeons during the six-hour-long surgery, was quoted as saying.

After separation, Maria’s circulation became very weak and she remains connected to a ventilator, Amin who performed a similar operation in June last year.

Maria has a 50-per-cent chance of survival while doctors are very hopeful about Halima who continues to do well without any life support.

Father of the babies, Shahed Ali, was present outside the operating theatre Sunday while the mother was at her village home in Pabna.

Run by the Islamic Bank Foundation, the hospital bore all costs of the operation including pre-and postoperative expenses of up to one million taka (around 17,000 US dollars).

The first such separation was performed in 2001 at Dhaka Shishu Hospital, but the twins, both males, died 17 hours after the separation. The second operation on a pair of male twins performed in June last year and one of them survived.

**Mandela urges S Africans to do more for better future**

Johannesburg, 27 April — South Africa’s former president Nelson Mandela recently called on the government and the people in the country to do more for a better future despite achievements in the past decade.

“Much has still to be done before we can claim that a better life for all has been achieved in our country,” South Africa’s first Black president said on the eve of nationwide celebrations for the tenth anniversary of freedom since the end of the apartheid in 1994.

In his letter published in local paper Sunday Times, the symbol of the fight against the apartheid said that unemployment, poverty and disease, particularly the frightening threat of HIV/AIDS, remain “as daily reminders of the depth of the challenges ahead as we enter our second decade of democracy.”

South Africa now registers nearly 40 per cent of unemployment rate while the majority of the people still live in poverty and about five million South Africans, or about one in every nine people, have contracted HIV/AIDS.

“It is not to minimize those challenges or the sufferings of people that we can state, though, that as a nation we face the future with our dignity restored and intact,” said Mandela. “As a people, we South Africans know this decade of living together in peace, in the acknowledgment of our common humanity, in the democratic accommodation of our differences within our national unity.”

“Not only did we avert such a tragic conflagration, we created among ourselves one of the most exemplary and progressive non-racial and non-sexist democratic orders in the contemporary world,” the veteran politician said.

Mandela, who retired from the presidency in 1999, also gave praise to his successor Thabo Mbeki for his capable leadership.

“No prime minister or president in the history of this country can claim to have done more to live the lives of our people than President Mbeki,” he said. “Mbeki has not only won the second term of presidency and will be sworn in next Tuesday in Pretoria, capital of the country.”

**Bomb sets US vehicle on fire in Baghdad**

Baghdad, 27 April — An explosion ripped through a US military vehicle in central Baghdad on Monday, setting it on fire and inflicting American casualties, witnesses said.

They said a bomb exploded as a US military convoy was driving through a street in Bab Al-Muazzam neighbourhood. The blast was heard in many areas of the capital and a large cloud of black smoke belloved over the area.

US forces evacuated some casualties from the bombarded vehicle, the witnesses said — MNA/Reuters

**Iraq capsaters threaten to kill three Italians**

Fallujah, 27 April — The kidnappers holding three Italian civilians in Iraq said they will kill them in five days unless people in Italy protest the use of Italian forces in the US-led coalition, Reuters said, citing a tape broadcast today by al-Arabiya television in Dubai.

“A group calling itself the Green Brigade said it would release them if demonstrations are organized in Italy to protest against the government’s policy in Iraq,” the station said, citing a message it received from the captors, according to Reuters.

“The group gave Italians five days to protest the hostages or it will kill the hostages.”

The security guards were kidnapped earlier this month along with a fourth Italian guard who was later shot dead by a group calling itself the Green Brigade. Members of the US-led coalition said they wouldn’t negotiate with kidnappers after more than 40 foreigners were seized in Iraq this month.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has said that the seizures won’t influence his decision to keep Italy’s 3,000 soldiers and military police in Iraq as part of the US-led occupation force. Berlusconi, after UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, is the closest ally of US President George W. Bush in the coalition. Increased violence in Iraq prompted Spain to plan the withdrawal of its 1,300 soldiers.

**Clashes shatter faltering Fallujah truce**

Fallujah, 27 April — At least one American soldier and eight resistance fighters have been killed during the fiercest clashes in Fallujah since a truce was declared more than two weeks ago.

Eight soldiers were also wounded in Monday’s fighting while a mosque was damaged after US tanks and aircraft targeted fighters believed to be inside, said the occupation force’s deputy operations director, Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt.

A CNN journalist embedded with US troops in Fallujah reported that at least 10 marines had been injured. Many of the American casualties reportedly came after more than 100 Iraqi fighters attacked a US patrol, Al Jazeera’s correspondent in the besieged Iraqi city, Abd Al-Azim Muhammad, witnessed a US Humvee attack on Fallujah’s Golan district. Muhammad said two residents were taken to hospital moments after the first attack. US occupation soldiers pounded two districts with heavy machine gun fire, local residents said.

Kimmitt said coalition forces organized in Italy to protest against the occupation, with the US claiming a small group of foreign fighters is stoking clashes with troops.

Despairing at a largely ignored peace pact, town elders have written to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan asking him to mediate between resistance fighters and occupation forces.— Internet

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A video grab image from a tape broadcast by Al Arabiya TV on 26 April, 2004 shows three Italian hostages in Iraq. A group holding three Italians hostage in Iraq said they will kill them in five days unless people in Italy protest the use of Italian forces in the US-led coalition, Reuters said, citing a tape broadcast today by al-Arabiya television in Dubai. The station said, citing a message it received from the captors, according to Reuters, the group gave Italians five days to protest the hostages or it will kill the hostages. A group calling itself the Green Brigade said it would release them if demonstrations are organized in Italy to protest against the government’s policy in Iraq, the station said, citing a message it received from the captors, according to Reuters. The group gave Italians five days to protest the hostages or it will kill the hostages. A group calling itself the Green Brigade said it would release them if demonstrations are organized in Italy to protest against the government’s policy in Iraq, the station said, citing a message it received from the captors, according to Reuters. The group gave Italians five days to protest the hostages or it will kill the hostages.
US, British actions in Iraq described ‘disgraceful and naive’

LONDON, 27 April—Tony Blair’s strategy on Iraq came under an astonishing attack last night from some of Britain’s most senior ex-diplomats.

In an unprecedented letter to the PM, 52 former Foreign Office mandarins said Britain is following a US Middle East policy which is “doomed to failure.”

They described the US and British actions in Iraq as disgraceful and naive.

And they said they were “dismayed at our all too frequent silence and the brazen/peace plan which will leave Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The letter enraged Downing Street who launched into a furious defence of their policies.

But it will be a massive blow to Blair’s claims to be bringing peace and democracy to one of the most troubled regions of the world.

The letter, a roll-call of Britain’s senior, former diplomats, focused on Blair’s support for US President George Bush. The signatories included the former ambassador to Iraq, Sir Terence Clark.

They said: We have watched with deepening concern the policies which you have followed on the Arab-Israel problem and Iraq in close co-operation with the United States.’

On Iraq, they claimed the idea that the US-led coalition could create a democracy was ‘naïve’. And they said they wanted Britain to ‘eschew real influence as a loyal ally on the USA. Sir Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, urged Blair to heed the advice. He said: ‘The Prime Minister would be well advised to take account of their criticisms.’—Interview

Bulgarian President’s convoy attacked in Iraq

SOFIA, 27 April — Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov’s convoy came under attack by gunmen late on Sunday during a surprise visit to the country’s forces stationed in Iraq, the Defence Ministry said.

His convoy was shot at as it travelled between the camps of Bulgarian and Polish troops in Kerbala, where Shire militants have stepped up attacks against US-led forces in recent weeks. spokeswoman Rumiana Strugarova said.

No one was hurt in the attack, a statement returned to Bulgaria in the early hours of Monday morning, she said.

RBI asks developed nations to shed protectionism

WASHINGTO, 27 April— India’s central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Friday asked industrialized nations to shed protectionism and end the outcry over Business Process Outsourcing.

“The protectionist postures by industrialized countries need to be shed, particularly in agricultural and textile sectors, especially when developing countries have started, at last, to get out of their protectionist mindsets,” RBI governor Y V Reddy said, addressing the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the policy-setting body of IMF.

“Developing countries are increasingly realizing that trade is, after all, not a zero sum game but a win-win proposition for both the trading partners,” he said.

He also urged reorganization of the IMF and World Bank Boards to give a greater say to developing and emerging economies in keeping with their new weight in the international economy, and to calculate the relative weight of countries by purchasing power parity.

Favouring “swift” revival of international trade talks, Reddy said: “In this context, as presented eloquently by most eminent policy-makers in industrialized countries, the most protectionist measures by some countries against business process outsourcing misses out not only the efficiency gains from such outsourcing but also the employment gains from resources saved in the process and deployed in other employment generating sectors.”

Reddy also referred to the issue of India’s fiscal deficit and agreed that “the main challenge of macroeconomic management today continues to be fiscal consolidation.”

Both the IMF and World Bank have called for the reduction of India’s 10 per cent fiscal deficit — taking into account central, State and State-owned corporation deficits.

India is moving too slowly to reduce it, they have said. Reddy, the leader of the Indian delegation, said there are “definitive signs” of progress towards deficit reduction.

The fiscal deficit of the Federal Government as a proportion of GDP has also declined considerably. Revenues are buoyant, the disinvestment programme has picked up speed, and expenditure control and management measures are firmly in place. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts, operating at the federation and several states, can be expected to deliver solid progress on the fiscal consolidation from.”—MNA/PTI

Crude oil futures rise on concern about Iraq

BAKU, 27 April—Crude oil rose yesterday on concern about possible Iraqi oil supply disruptions following an attack on the Basra crude terminal in the south of the country over the weekend.

Iraq fully resumed oil exports from Basra on Sunday, the day after suicide attacks halted operations.

IPE Brent for June delivery had risen 49 cents to $33.58 a barrel at the close of London trading, reversing the 33 cents fall on Friday.

June Nymex WTI had gained 51 cents to $36.99 a barrel towards the end of the New York session, more than recouping the 25 cents slide on Friday.

US gasoline futures were also firmer, with the May Nymex gasoline contract up 1.7 cents at $1.815 a gallon in early trading, little more than a cent below its record high reached last week.

United States and the Middle East are placed ahead of other regions in terms of business deals. Manufactured goods, textiles and garments, foodstuffs and medicines were showcased at the first stage of the fair, which ran from April 15-20.

Business deals worth 14.89 billion US dollars were struck at the first phase of the 95th China Export Commodity Fair that opened on April 15 and lasted six days.

Second phase of 95th China export commodity fair opens

GUANGZHOU, 27 April — The second phase of the 95th China export commodity fair opened in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on Sunday after a break of four days.

Xu Bing, a fair spokesman, said 70,000 business people are expected to visit the second phase of the fair from April 25 to 30, where souvenirs and gifts, and commodities for daily use will be exhibited.

Xu predicted the number of business people visiting the whole fair would reach last week.

MNA/Xinhua

Disability Polish teenager conquers North Pole

WARSAW, 27 April — A 15-year-old Pole has become the youngest disabled person to walk to the North Pole. Mala, private channel TVN24 said on Sunday. Jan Mela, who was fitted with artificial limbs after losing an arm and leg in a 2002 accident, was accompanied by veteran polar explorer Marek Kamiński and two other men, the television said.

The trekkers received no outside assistance and relied on the gear and supplies they were able to pull on sleds.

“On Friday, the weather got so bad I didn’t think we would make it,” Mela said.

Disabled

Internet

Don’t smoke
Qian sets common goals for APR development

SHANGHAI, 27 April — Former Chinese Vice-Premier Qian Qichen called here Monday for a better Asia-Pacific Region at the ongoing 60th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The goals of maintenance of peace and stability, mutual respect and trust, full development of all the people, elimination of poverty and inequality, coexistence of different cultures in harmony and abandoning of discriminating and prejudiced should be realized in the Asia-Pacific Region, he said.

In addressing a high-level visionary panel meeting for Asia and the Pacific 2020 of the session, Qian advocated collective actions, equality and mutual benefit, maintenance of cultural diversity and balanced and sustainable development, suggesting multilateral cooperation mechanisms with the United Nations as the core should be enhanced.

International disputes in the Asia-Pacific Region should be peacefully solved through dialogues, negotiations and mediations in accordance with the UN Charter, he said.

Poverty and under-development are important factors, so the solution of the development issue is the most urgent task for the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as the sharpest weapon to deal with threats and challenges, he said.

A powerful China is not a threat to neighbouring countries, but a partner, since China has a tradition of “building a good neighbourly relationship”, he said.

US troops clash with guerillas in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, 27 April — US Marines and Iraqi guerillas exchanged heavy fire in two districts of the besieged town of Fallujah on Monday, local residents said.

Clashes in the Golan and Shuahada districts broke out around 11:20 am (0720 GMT) and were continuing. Guerillas fired rocket-propelled grenades. The troops used heavy machine-guns mounted on vehicles.

Marines have been encircling the Sunni Muslim town, 30 miles west of Baghdad, for three weeks and are demanding that guerillas lay down their heavy weapons. A ceasefire deal has been punctuated by frequent clashes.

The US-led coalition has extended until Tuesday an offer to let fighters hand over arms but the authorities have steered clear of imposing a clear ultimatum under which they would threaten to launch a new offensive if a deadline was passed.

The crackdown on the city, which had been loyal to deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, was launched after the public murder and mutilation of four American security guards. Local doctors say some 600 people have been killed in fighting and many more have fled the city, which is home to 300,000 people.

Zimbabwe calls for imports of better breeds from China

HARARE, 27 April — Zimbabwe was considering importing high-producing pig breeds from China and other countries, according to Zimbabwean newspaper New Ziana on Sunday.

Pig Industry Board (PIB) director Paul Ndwienie was quoted as saying that consultations were currently taking place with the Chinese Embassy in Harare on importing pig breeds from the Asian country.

He said the move was intended to help replenish the country’s pig population, which dwindled in recent years due to drought and high cost of feeds.

He said the programme would most likely involve importation of semen from high-producing pig breeds from China and other countries.

Ndwienie said current stock levels, mainly consisting of maize, were expensive and beyond the reach of most farmers, a factor which was contributing to the decline of the industry.

Another pig expert, James Sikaping in West Sumatra said last week it was ready to keep its 2,500 pigs in Iraq until Baghdad holds free general elections, which should be organized by the end of January 2005.

Singapore’s industrial output up 2% in March

SINGAPORE, 27 April — Singapore’s manufacturing output grew by 2 per cent in March as compared with the same period of last year, according to the figures released by Singapore’s Economic Development Board (EDB) on Monday.

The EDB said that all major sectors reported growth in March except the biomedical cluster, which nose-dived 34.7 per cent after high growths in the first two months of the year.

Besides the biomedical sector, the pharmaceuticals segment shrank by 46.3 per cent in March.

For the first three months of 2004, cumulative total manufacturing output rose by 12.2 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2003.

The electronics sector rose by 13.8 per cent in March due to higher output spread across most sub-clusters.

The chemicals sector grew moderately by 5.1 per cent in March while the precision engineering section registered a growth of 10.7 per cent.

The transport engineering sector jumped 26 per cent in March, and it recorded a strong growth of 12.8 per cent in the first three months of this year compared to the corresponding period of last year.

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US faces tough sell on Iraq resolution

WASHINGTON, 27 April—The US Administration may face a tough sell on proposals for a new United Nations resolution to endorse the power transfer plan for Iraq, the Washington Post reported Monday.

The scope of powers scheduled to be handed over to an Iraqi provisional government by June 30 could also trigger contentious debate, the newspaper quoted US and UN officials as saying. A number of key UN members remain unconvinced that the United States will actually release its stranglehold on the country after the handover.

According to the newspaper, resolution proposals being considered by the Bush Administration will guarantee legal protection for foreign troops in Iraq after the transfer of power and will give Washington the final say on Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction programmes. It says the administration seems prepared to hand over only “limited sovereignty” to the Iraqis at the end of June.

The general goal of the proposed new resolution is to rally international support behind the new provisional government which is still being negotiated by US and UN officials. With serious deliberations on a draft resolution now underway within the administration, some US officials are optimistic about rallying enough UN Security Council support.

“We are working on such a resolution, and I’m confident we’ll be able to obtain such a resolution,” Secretary of State Colin Powell said in an interview with a Dutch television station last week.

Yet some US officials have already dubbed the “mega-resolution” may be in trouble even before a draft is finalized. “This could be the last big diplomatic battle over US Iraq policy,” said a senior US official.

UN Security Council envoys are concerned that the new resolution will convey only partial sovereignty to Iraq leaving the new government with little effective power and limited power in the hands of the United States and its military allies, the Washington Post reported.

Other Security Council members insist that the transfer of power will mark a real end to US control and that the United Nations will be given wide powers. —MNA/Xinhua

Wildlife smugglers eye EU from new member states

GENEVA, 27 April — Wildlife traders in countries poised to join the European Union have stocked up illegal or endangered species hoping to sell them in the West on entry into the bloc on May 1, the World Wildlife Fund warned.

Dealers in animals such as tortoises, parrots, snakes and lizards may exploit trade differences between existing European Union countries and the new members to smuggle protected species into western Europe, the WWF warned.

“Changes in border controls could pave the way for increased illegal trade of the world’s most endangered species,” said Cliona O’Brien, WWF wildlife trade officer, in a report by wildlife group Traffic, which monitors illegal wildlife trading.

“EU members already face many challenges in controlling illegal trade, and it’s likely that new members will also struggle as they become gatekeepers to the EU,” O’Brien said.

According to the report, more than a thousand endangered Kleinmann’s Tortoises were smuggled into Poland and Malta between 2000 and 2002, many in preparation for sale to the EU.

Twenty-three Asian countries sign Asian highway agreement

SHANGHAI, 27 April—A total of 23 countries signed a historic agreement here Monday to connect their highways into a cross-Asia network.

China, Japan, Mongolia, a network by the year 2010, vehicles from China can travel directly to Istanbul. Even island countries like Japan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, will be linked through ferries to mainland countries.

“It means that many land-locked countries like Mongolia and Kazakhstan can have access to the sea by joining the Asian Highway network, and more sub-regions can be connected together,” said Barry Cable, chief of the Transport and Tourism Division of the ESCAP.

Indisputable benefits of the Asian Highway Network is 140,000 kilometres, connecting capitals, major ports, commercial and industrial centres and tourist sites of the signatory nations.

This agreement is the ESCAP’s first intergovernmental agreement since the organization was founded 57 years ago. It is regarded as a significant step for promoting regional integration and cooperation.

After completion of the highway network, major ports, commercial and industrial centres and tourist sites of the signatory nations.

Three US soldiers wounded in Afghan ambush

KANDAHAR, 27 April—Three US Marines have been wounded, one seriously, in an ambush in Afghanistan’s southern province of Kandahar, the US military said Monday, the latest sign of growing violence in the insurgency-gripped south.

A bomb exploded next to their convoy on Saturday in Kandahar, a former bastion of the ousted Taliban militia which US-led forces drove from power in 2001, a US military spokesman said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker Manager described the attack as an ambush but would not release further details about the bomb or whether the incident involved Taliban guerrillas, whose insurgency in the province has picked up in recent weeks.

Key Democrats question Bush on Sept 11 funds

WASHINGTON, 27 April — Two congressional Democrats on Monday demanded a full accounting of how the Bush Administration used emergency money intended to respond to the September 11 attacks, after a book alleged some funds were diverted to prepare for the Iraq war.

Senator Robert Byrd and Representative David Obey, senior Democrats on the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees, said in a letter to President George W Bush they had “numerous concerns about the administration’s stewardship” of the 40 million US dollar emergency package Congress approved right after the September 11 attacks.

Their letter came after journalist and author Bob Woodward charged in his book Plan of Attack that Bush began preparing for war with Iraq within weeks of the September 11 attacks in 2001, and funded the war preparations with 700 million US dollars from the emergency appropriation without consulting Congress.

A spokesman for the White House Budget Office said the letter was under review.

“The President asked for and Congress provided unprecedented flexibility for funds to wage the War on Terror in the wake of 9/11. Since then, the administration has fully informed us of obligations from the Emergency Response Fund,” spokesman Chad Kolton said.

The administration last week denied any wrongdoing and said no money was used for war preparations until after Congress passed a resolution on October 11, 2002, authorizing the use of force in Iraq.

The Pentagon confirmed 178 million US dollars was used from the emergency funds for “supporting the global war on terrorism” in Kuwait, Qatar and other countries in the Gulf months before Congress passed the Iraq resolution, the lawmakers’ letter said.

Indian Air Force commanders conference begins

NEW DELHI, 27 April—Top Indian Air Force Commanders on Monday began their crucial biannual conference here beginning with “mega-resolution” may be in trouble even before a draft is finalized. “This could be the last big diplomatic battle over US Iraq policy,” said a senior US official.

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“The President asked for and Congress provided unprecedented flexibility for funds to wage the War on Terror in the wake of 9/11. Since then, the administration has fully informed us of obligations from the Emergency Response Fund,” spokesman Chad Kolton said.

The administration last week denied any wrongdoing and said no money was used for war preparations until after Congress passed a resolution on October 11, 2002, authorizing the use of force in Iraq.

The Pentagon confirmed 178 million US dollars was used from the emergency funds for “supporting the global war on terrorism” in Kuwait, Qatar and other countries in the Gulf months before Congress passed the Iraq resolution, the lawmakers’ letter said.
Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve, a tiger habitat

(Continued from yesterday)

Survey works are under way by issuing an announcement claiming that an area of 2,494 square miles in Hukaung Valley has been designated as Hukaung Valley Wildlife Reserve. Another 5,958 square miles have been added to the reserve by issuing an announcement. Therefore, the reserve area for wildlife now has reached 8,452 square miles in total.

To set up a tiger reserve, it is necessary to take into consideration such points as the type of forest spacious enough for tigers to inhabit, an area where the prey animals on which tigers live, and an area where there are no human settlements.

Complete with such necessities is Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve. As shown by the statistics, there have been established 11 tiger reserves in India. Despite its vast area, the total acreage stand at 5,115 square miles. With the total acreage of 8,452 square miles, the tiger reserve in Myanmar is the largest.

Forest rangers from the Forest Department made a field trip to the Hukaung Tiger Reserve in December 2003 and with surveillance cameras could take 10 pictures of plump tigers — an evidence that shows there tigers inhabit.

The establishment of the tiger reserve in each Tiger State has not yet come into reality. However, Myanmar, as a country where tigers inhabit in the wild, will be able to take pride in its success achieved from the establishment of Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve, where the species of tigers will be preserved in a systematic way.

In particular, the tiger reserve is part of the Northern Forest Complex. Far from deteriorating, the forest complex is the major watershed area, where Ayeyawady River, the lifeblood of Myanmar, and Chindwin River rise.

In Myanmar, protection is given to tigers under the Protection of Wildlife and Natural Trees and Preservation of Natural Areas Act (1994). Whosoever breaks the rule is liable to either a fine of K 50,000 or a seven-year prison term or both. In the appendix-I of the CITES, in which Myanmar is a member, a ban is placed on the trade of tigers and their products as well as of medicines prepared with such materials. In some countries, tigers are bred by registering at the office of the CITES. To monitor the illegal sale of tigers and their products, the CITES formed a tiger enforcement task force. Myanmar joined the India-based Global Tiger Forum (GTF) in 1994 and has been cooperating with the world nations in the task. Not only does Myanmar take part actively in international seminars on tiger preservation but it also sends trainees to foreign countries to attend the courses relevant to tiger preservation.

As State’s heritage, the Hukaung Tiger Valley Reserve will be preserved to enable the tigers to inhabit in it, alongside the natural environment conservation tasks. So important is the perpetuation of that tiger reserve from which Ayeyawady River, the artery of the cultural, social, and economic sectors in Myanmar. This being the case, it is incumbent upon the entire national people from all walks of life to preserve the Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve as it is the pride of Myanmar.

(Translation: KTY)

(Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 25-4-2004)
Like driving force electricity...

(from page 1)

All should understand every situation of the nation including the projects, and the key departments will have to make earnest efforts in implementing the projects and the relative department will have to give effective support for them. Only then will the nation be able to implement the projects within a period of four or five years and achieve sustainable development.

Secretary of the committee Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported to the meeting on the present and future major projects covered by the grid, the present and future regional projects, the grid and sub-power stations, and gas-fired power stations.

Members of the committee Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and Brig-Gen Lun Thii gave supplementary reports.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said some electric power projects are to be completed soon. At the end of 2004 domestic power demand of the country will continue to increase and the demand in future years will also increase.

A number of electric power projects are being implemented for power grid. They are developing at different rates and their completion will be decided in the meeting this afternoon.

They are: 75-megawatts Taninthayi project in Kayin State, 600-megawatt Shwegyin hydro-electric power power project in Pyinu Township, 160-megawatt Kawthaung hydro-electric power project in Phyu Township, 75-megawatts Khaungkuang hydro-electric power project in Sittwe Township, 1,200-megawatts Htamanthi project in Homalin Township, 60-megawatts Paunglaung hydro-electric power project in Pinlaung Township in Shan State, 25-megawatts Yenwo Creek hydro-electric power project in Kyakalda Township, Bago Division, 400-megawatts Shweli hydro-electric power project in Namkham Township, Shan State, 34-megawatts Kengkwang hydro-electric power project in Monal Township, 40-megawatts Phyu Creek hydro-electric power project in Phyu Township, Bago Division, 30-megawatts Khaungkuang hydro-electric power project in Toungoo Township, Bago Division, 60-megawatts Kon Creek hydro-electric power project in Phyu Township, Bago Division, 75-megawatts Shwegyin hydro-electric power project in Sittwe Township, 90-megawatts Kyaryaw aide of hydro-electric power project in Kayah State, 135-megawatts Bago Division.

Of the projects, Mone Creek and Paunglaung hydro-electric power projects and Takyi coal-fired power station project will be opened soon. The three projects can generate 475 megawatts.

Other major electric power projects are 1,200-megawatts Huamantung project in Homelin Township, Sagaing Division, 360-megawatts San Mawkwe Township, Sagaing Division, 660-megawatts Shwesaraye project in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division, 84 megawatts upper Paunglaung project in Pyinnwama Township, Mandalay Division, 48 megawatts Nanpo project in Pyinnwama Township, Mandalay Division, 360-megawatts lower Paunglaung hydro-electric power project in Pyinwama Township, Mandalay Division.

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State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents cash donations for construction of a three-storey nunnery. — MNA

Heroin seized in Kyuukhok (Panhsai)

Local officials arrested an illicit drug possessor carrying 10.14 kilograms of heroin at Kyuukhok (Panhsai) on 16 April 2004.

Acting on information, a team made up of members of local intelligence and special anti-narcotic squad stopped and searched Kyuukh, Yin, son of U Kyuuk Si, of Shawkaw village in Kutkai Township and seized the narcotic drugs kept in two knapsacks on the circular road, in the west of Myana-4 Ward market, Kyuukhok (Panhsai).

In connection with the seizure, the respective police station is taking action against Kyuuk Yin under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Minister U Win Aung speaks at the meeting on implementation of agreement on Myanmar-China economic cooperation. (News on page 16) — MNA

Quarterly meetings of MPE and MOGE held

YANGON, 27 April—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the first quarterly meeting (2004-2005) of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE), the Ministry of Energy, held at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday morning and delivered a speech.

At the meeting, production of fertilizers during the previous fourth quarter was reviewed and matters related to full supply of natural gas and electric power for the running of fertilizer factories for the second quarter were discussed. Next, targets to produce fertilizers were set for respective factories. Then, the meeting concluded with the remarks by the minister giving instructions on production of more fertilizers, minimizing loss and wastage and wiping out of corruption.

Similarly, the first quarterly meeting (2004-2005) of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise was held at the same venue in the afternoon, with an address by Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thu. At the meeting, the reviews on respective oilfields’ production of oil and natural gas in the fourth quarter were discussed and work programmes were laid down for production of oil and gas for the second quarter. Later, the minister urged officials to make efforts for boosting production.

In the meetings were attended by the deputy ministers, directors-generals, managing directors, directors, factory managers, oilfield general managers and officials.

MNA

First Meeting of Southeast Asia Regional Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery held

YANGON, 27 April—The First Meeting of Southeast Asia Regional Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery sponsored by the Ministry of Health was held at Myanmar Ballroom-2 of the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning with an address by Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, the directors-general and the rectors of departments and universities under the Ministry of Health, the WHO acting resident representative, officials of UN agencies, the General Secretary of International Nursing Council, nurse and midwife representatives from Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, East Timor, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar and Nepal, officials of social organizations and the general public.

First, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech. He said that this meeting was the “First Meeting of South-East Asia Region (SEAR) Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery” which has been recently and newly formed by the WHO South-East Asia Region Office (SEARO) to advise SEAR countries to address effective priority issues in Nursing and Midwifery.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar also makes great attempts through self-reliant efforts to build a modern and developed nation for the progress and prosperity of its people and stand shoulder and shoulder with other nations.

For this reason, The Government has been working very hard to raise the health standard of the nation for health and fitness of the entire people so that they are able to take part in the development of the nation with full strength and enjoin the prosperities in peace of mind.

With the changing trends and chasing health needs, health care is provided through promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services through the primary health care approach.

The nurses, midwife and lady health visitors are assigned to work at the cities and towns as well as the rural areas and playing a key role in the health care services of the Government for the entire nation. Indeed, nurses, including midwives and lady health visitors, are taking and providing the most basic duties of the health care sector as they are closely working hand in hand with doctors, and practically conducting the activities of promotion, restoration and rehabilitation of health as well as prevention of illness and injury of individuals, families and communities as a care giver, health educator, counselor, coordinator, administrator or manager, role model, and a researcher.

So, the role of nurses and their contributions become very important to meet the needs of our nation’s health development and to keep abreast with the current health care standard of the world.

Knowing that nurses, midwives and lady health visitors are the most basic workforces of the health care sector, the Government has been making plan to increase and produce more nurses, midwives and lady health visitors, upgrade their knowledge and skills, provide them with opportunities to pursue further studies and assign them at the higher levels.

Nowadays, there are two Universities of Nursing and 43 Nursing and Nursing related training schools all over the country under the Ministry of Health, Myanmar.

Training Schools offer Nursing Diploma courses, and the Universities offer Bachelor of Nursing Science (B.N.Sc) Degree course and Master of Nursing Science (M.N.Sc) degree course.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and the supervision of its respective department, the Division of Nursing, the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council, the Myanmar Nurses’ Association and the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) have long been working with the WHO for many projects in order to strengthen the nursing services and education with great hope that the quality of nursing care will be improve and health and fitness of the entire people living either in the urban or rural areas will be uplifted.

In conclusion, the minister hoped that Institute of Nursing (Yangon) will successfully carry out the regional, cooperative and collaborative procedures at the First Meeting of SEAR advisory group on Nursing and Midwifery Yangon under the guidance of Ministry of Health, and the close supervision of Department of Medical Science.

Next, WHO Acting Resident Representative Dr Stephen P Jost read the message of WHO Director for Southeast Asia Dr Sample Plantabangchang.

Afterwards, WHO Adviser for Nurses and Midwives Ms Jane Salvage and General Secretary of International Nursing Council Ms Judith Oulton explained matters related to nurses and midwives and the ceremony ended.

After the ceremony, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo had a documentary photo session together with nurse and midwife representatives of Southeast Asia.

The meeting continues up to 30 April and the representatives attending the meeting will observe health care services of nurses and midwives in Thanlyin and Kyauktaung Townships, Yangon Division on 29 April.
Arahat statues unearthed in Khawalan.

Arahat statues unearthed in Shwedagon

YANGON, 27 April — Altogether 80 Arahat statues were unearthed during the excavation of the brick walls of the ancient ordination hall near Photheindan village, Shwedagon Township, Bago Division (West), in April to renovate the ordination hall under the patronage of Shwenantaung Sayadaw U Khemacara. Twenty Arahat statues each were excavated under the four walls. Each statue is 2 feet and three inches high and they are made of brick. One statue is in Bhumiphasa Mudra posture and the rest in Jhana Mudra posture.

The ordination hall is 32 feet and six inches long, 26 feet wide and 12 feet and six inches high. The entire ordination hall had collapsed into a mound. Its rectangular shape brick fence was 115 feet long and 108 feet wide.

The ancient ordination hall was built by Shwedagon Duke U Hmone during the reign of King Bagan in Konebuang Era. The four pagodas in the four corners of the ordination hall had also collapsed.

The ordination hall and the fence will be reconstructed in accordance with its original style under the supervision of the Archaeology Department with the donations of the Sayadaw and his lay disciples. — MNA

Undertakings of Ministry of Industry-2 inspected

YANGON, 27 April — Ministry for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw San Win, accompanied by officials concerned arrived Mandalay on 25 April and inspected chosen sites to build lecture hall, laboratory and training workshops of the Technical Training School (Mandalay) of the ministry and gave instructions on construction of buildings as fast as possible, cooperation with departments concerned for timely arrival of teaching aids.

On 26 April, the minister arrived Myanma Industrial Development Bank, in Chamayetharan Township of Mandalay and looked into financial matters and book keeping and banking operations. Assistant General Manager U Sai Tun Oo of MDIP (Mandalay) presented reports on financial matters, banking operations and Director of MDIP U Hla Myn took supplementary reports on profits gained during the fiscal 2003-2004. Next, the minister gave instructions on collection of arrears and paying serious attention to fire prevention. — MNA

Irrigation and Water Resources Department

New Zealand Astronomers discover most distant planet

WELLINGTON, 27 April — New Zealand astronomers have discovered the planet 150 light years away in the middle of the Milky Way, New Zealand TV One reported Monday. It was spotted from Canterbury’s Mount John Observatory by a group of scientists from Canterbury, Auckland and Victoria universities, and Nagoya University in Japan.

Victoria University astrophysicist Denis Sullivan said the search used the gravity of a nearby star as a lens to bend and magnify light from the star which the planet orbits. Sullivan said the planet was the size of Jupiter but the goal is to find Earth-type planets. Sullivan said the success prompted Japan to provide a new seven-million-New Zealand-dollar telescope and asked New Zealand to contribute 10 per cent of that amount. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq resumes Basra oil exports after suicide attack

BAGHDAD, 27 April — Iraq has resumed oil exports from the Basra terminal just a day after suicide attacks forced operations to halt, Oil Minister Mohammad Bahr al-Uloom said on Monday.

Suicide bombers in three boats blew themselves up on Saturday in and around the Basra terminal zone, one of the most heavily guarded facilities of its kind in the world.

“Iraqi teams restored operations at 1700 GMT on Sunday. The damage was limited and exports are flowing back at the same rates,” Uloom said. Living quarters, several electrical generators and minor installations were damaged.

“Luckily there were no Iraqi casualties and the attackers did not manage to hit vital installations,” Uloom told Reuters. The attacks, involving as many as four boats including one coordinating the operation, killed three US Navy sailors and were the boldest yet against Iraq’s infrastructure since guerrillas bent on disrupting US plans for postwar Iraq started targeting oil installations nearly a year ago. One tanker berth was slightly damaged but oil officials said things could have been far worse if any of the attacking boats had detonated close to a tanker during loading.

New security measures have been put in place to prevent similar attacks. Barricades and heavy US Navy patrols already protect the terminal, which is in the British occupation zone.

Shippers expected war insurance rates to rise sharply after the attack, but officials said that improved security would prove that the attack was a one-off.

“Force protection has been beefed up. Obviously we cannot reveal details,” one Western official said.

The Basra terminal, accounts for around 85 per cent of Iraq’s 19.1 million barrels per day of exports. — MNA/Reuters

US forces enter Najaf to cover Spain’s withdrawal

NAJAF (Iraq), 27 April — US forces entered Najaf on Monday to protect Spanish troops set to withdraw from the Shiite holy city, where rebel Muslim cleric Moqaddad al-Sadre is holed up with his militia.

“This is not an offensive operation,” Colonel Pat White, commander of the 2nd battalion 37th armoured regiment, told reporters.

He said about 200 US troops entered the southern city to take over a compound occupied by the Spanish troops, who had been guarding the headquarters of the US-led governing authority in the city, 100 miles south of Baghdad.

“We are moving in so that the compound is not left empty and to help the Spanish safely move out,” White said, adding that Spanish troops were expected to leave Najaf within days.

It was the first time US forces had entered Najaf since they surrounded the city earlier this month threatening to move against Sadr followers. Iraq’s leading Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani had warned the United States against entering the city.

US forces have vowed to kill or capture Sadr, who has spearheaded an uprising against the US-led occupation by his Mehdi Army militia and supporters. Sadr is wanted in connection with the murder of a moderate Iraqi cleric.

New Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said this month Madrid would withdraw its 1,400 troops from Iraq as soon as possible, fulfilling a pledge he made before his election last month.

Spain was one of the strongest advocates of the US-led war to oust Saddam Hussein. Honduras and the Dominican Republic have also said they would withdraw their troops from Iraq. — MNA/Reuters
Jackie Chan appointed UNICEF goodwill ambassador

PHnom Penh, 27 April — Hong Kong action movie star Jackie Chan has been appointed Monday goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UN AIDS agency UNAIDS during his three-day visit to Cambodia.

“UNICEF is delighted that Jackie Chan has designed up to be a Goodwill Ambassador,” said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy.

“It will be calling upon many people to help us fight against HIV/AIDS and to put an end to the senseless discrimination aimed at those who suffer from it,” Chen said.

Chen joins more than 20 other global celebrities as goodwill ambassadors.

MNA/Xinhua

Explosions rock outskirts of Iraqi holy city

BAZAR, 27 April — Loud explosions in the outskirts of Najaf shook the centre of the Iraqi holy city on Monday night, witnesses said, hours after the United States issued an ultimatum to Sadr to withdraw his Mehdi Army militia and its weapons from mosques and power plants immediately.

“The Coalition certainly will not tolerate this situation,” the restoration of these holy places to calm places of worship must begin immediately,” Brussels said in his written statement.

MNA/Reuters

China promotes employment of women, youth, disabled people

BEIJING, 27 April — China has always been highly concerned about and placed great importance on the employment of women, youth and disabled people, providing a legal guarantee for equal employment for men and women, and actively adopting preferential policies for protecting employment of the disabled, says a white paper issued by the Information Office of its government.

The State Council, here Monday, praised this continuously grown, and the fields of employment for them have kept expanding.

The female population in employment in China’s urban and rural areas increased from 291 million in 1990 to 337 million in 2003. Now, there are 41.56 million women employees in urban units, accounting for 38 percent of the total employees in urban units.

The Chinese Government has adopted active measures to support the reemployment of laid-off women, the paper says. From 1998 to 2003, of a total of 11.36 million laid-off and unemployed women, 9.72 million started their own businesses or found new jobs.

MNA/Xinhua

German presidential nominee slams US “arrogance”

BRUSSELS, 27 April — Hoet Koehler, the leading candidate to become Germany’s next president, Monday, accused the United States of arrogance in its foreign policy and of pursuing a failed strategy in Iraq, media reported on Monday.

At a meeting with regional lawmakers in the western city of Dusseldorf, Koehler said last week Washington had committed “serious mistakes” by not developing a strategy for postwar Iraq, several people at the meeting were quoted as saying.

“Their power went to the Americans’ heads,” the conservative nominee for the largely ceremonial post of president was quoted as saying by newspapers, adding that he strongly supported German-American friendship and there was no reason for gloating.

Koehler’s spokesman, Arne Delfs, declined comment, saying the meeting had not been opened to the public. But a source close to Koehler said: “What Mr. Koehler says at every such meeting is that the Americans made mistakes, as did the Germans and Europeans, and that we should be on the side of the Americans now.”

The comments clashed, however, with the pro-US stance of the conservative opposition Christian Democrats at a time when Social Democracy’s Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder’s resistance to last year’s Iraq war caused a rift with Washington.

Koehler resigned as International Monetary Fund chief in March to return home to stand for the presidency. He is almost certain to win as his backers have a majority in a special parliamentary assembly that will elect the president on May 23.

MNA/Reuters

Landslide in Kyrgyzstan kills at least 33

BRUSSELS, 27 April — A landslide in southern Kyrgyzstan killed at least 33 people on Monday, burying several houses, emergency services said.

“The landslide buried six houses and destroyed a further six,” said Emil Akmatalov, a spokesman for the Technology and Emergency Situations Ministry.

“According to our initial information 33 people were killed,” he said.

A number of injured residents of the disaster-stricken village of Budulak had been taken to a local hospital in the southern Osh region bordering Uzbekistan. The village is in a steep valley and has about 200 houses.

Rescue workers were at the scene, trying to ascertain how many people were trapped inside the buried houses.

We may yet recover more bodies,” Akmatalov said.

Landslides frequently hit the mountainous country, especially during heavy rain and the spring thaw. A landslide a year ago killed 38 people when it buried 13 homes in another village in the Osh region.

MNA/Reuters
WHO says world is better prepared to deal with SARS

MELBOURNE, 24 April — The World Health Organization (WHO) believes the world is better prepared to deal with a possible outbreak of SARS this year, the head of the agency said on Monday.

WHO Director-General Lee Jong Wook was speaking in Australia just days after China reported the first death apparently due to a recurrence of the potentially deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome since mid-April, when the epidemic of the last year。

He said there was no need to impose a quarantine or issue a travel advisory for any countries at this stage.

"I think we’re better prepared," Lee told reporters in Melbourne ahead of a world health promotion conference.

"Now we know what’s causing this... We know a great deal. Many countries spent a great deal of resources to prepare for SARS this year," he said.

The head of the Geneva-based watchdog said that all countries had the machinery in place to combat the virus and that the global surveillance network has been alerted on this issue," Lee said.

The latest death was the first suspected of being tied to SARS since last year’s outbreak that killed more than 800 people, spread the cases reported in 36 countries and hit economies across Asia as tourism and investment slumped.

"We’re not going to issue any travel guideline to any country at this point of time. Of course we will be watching and we will make adjustments later. But as of today, there’s no need to issue any travel guideline," Lee said — MNA/Reuters

Zambian women urged to have self-esteem

LUSAKA, 27 April — Zambian First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa has called on women in the country to change their attitudes about themselves if they are to develop and empower themselves.

The First Lady was quoted by local newspaper Daily Mail on Monday saying over the weekend that women should stop looking at themselves negatively because they were an asset to the country.

"My opinion is that unless a woman deals with that internal aspect of herself and sorts a straight and positive path for herself, it will be difficult to attain anything worthwhile in life," she said.

She noted that women were strong so long as they knew the value and therefore should take the chance of formulating big goals.

The First Lady said self-analysis would trigger self-confidence which was scat-ter-lit for high expectations.

"If your expectations and feelings are negative, the world will respond to you based on what you expect of yourself," she said — MNA/Xinhua

Study says US Coast Guard modernization falling short

WASHINGTON, 24 April — An ongoing overhaul of the US Coast Guard provides only half of the ships and two-thirds of the aircraft it needs to protect the 95,000 miles of US shoreline, a study said on Monday.

To meet the security chal- lenges in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the United States should double spending for Coast Guard purchases and cut the number of "Deepwater" modernisation programmes started in 2002, the study by the RAND think tank said.

"The assets slated to be acquired through "Deepwater" will be inadequate to meet the USCG's (US Coast Guard's) traditional missions and emerging re- sponsibilities, regardless of the schedule the USCG uses," said the study, which was commissioned by the Coast Guard.

It suggested increasing spending by 8.5 billion US dollars to 16.2 billion US dollars and halving the revamp by five to 10 years.

"In order to fix the Coast Guard, you’d need to double the acquisition funding. But it is not enough to see, whether the system is in place, and it is not a lot of money," lead author John Birkler told Reuters.

"The Coast Guard needs the capability of twice the number of cutters and a third more air vehicles" than

World Bank calls for freedom to outsource

WASHINGTON, 27 April — The World Bank has strongly favoured outsourcing of jobs and free movement of temporary workers in the mutual interest of high-income countries like United States and developing countries like India and China.

In a paper titled Global Monitoring Report assessing the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Bank said countries, like India, Philippines, China, South Africa have vast capabilities in Information Technology.

Stressing that a successful, pro-development out- come of the Doha Round of trade talks is critical, the pa- per said agreement on some local points or targets for trade policy reform would give it an impetus.

Such focal points could include commitments to en- sure free cross-border trade in services delivered via telecommunication networks, com-plemented by actions to liberalize the temporary movement of service providers.

It also mooted “complete elimination by high-income countries of tariffs on manufactured products by a target date; removal of agricultural export subsidies and complex de-coupling of all domestic agricultural subsidy- dies from production; and reduction of agricultural tariffs.”

The Bank said services sector is the fastest growing component of worldwide trade.

"Deepwater" foresees, he said.

Experts say the Coast Guard has been understaffed and underfunded for years and cannot meet the security demands of a country fighting a “war on terror”.

Since the attacks on the United States, analysts, poli- ticians and officials say they fear a seaborne attack or strike against US harbours.

They say militants may try to smuggle chemical or bioli- gical and international society after the reap- pearance of SARS, the WHO, "Omi said.

"The Chinese Government has taken se- rious measures to address it (SARS) this time such as identifying passengers who took the same train (with the virus carrier) and share the information with public and the WHO," Omi said.

Shigeru Omi, director of the WHO’s Western Pacific Regional Office based here, told Xinhua in a seminar with foreign Press that the organization is satisfied with the Chinese Government’s quick response and information sharing with the domestic pub- lic and international society after the reap- pearance of SARS, the study said.

"The Chinese authorities were acting very open in discussing this issue. We know a lot from China," he said.

"The Chinese has taken serious measures to address it (SARS) this time such as identifying passengers who took the same train (with the virus carrier) and share the information with public and the WHO," Omi said.

He said that he believes China would overcome the SARS revival as soon and successful as possible since the linkage or the origin of the virus has been established.

"The Chinese government has been acting very open in discussing this issue from the first day," he said.

The Chinese has taken serious measures to address it (SARS) this time such as identifying passengers who took the same train (with the virus carrier) and share the information with public and the WHO," Omi said.

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WHO appreciates China’s quick response to SARS reappearance

MANILA, 27 April — A senior official of the World Health Organization (WHO) Monday appreciated China’s quick and serious response to SARS after reappearance of SARS cases in Anhui Province and Beijing since April 22.

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S P O R T S

Mallorca out of relegation zone with win over Valladolid

MADRID, 27 April — A late double from Uruguayan striker Fernando Correa helped real Mallorca a 3-1 win over fellow strugglers Valladolid that lifted them out of the Primera Liga relegation zone on Sunday.

Valladolid had cancelled out Andrija Delibasic's early strike with a spectacular volley from midfielder Chema in the second, but Correa restored the lead when he caught keeper Albano Bizzarri off his line with a gentle angled shot in the 70th minute.

The former Atletico Madrid player made sure of the win with a brilliantly struck 25-metre free kick five minutes from time.

The win lifted the islanders into 14th place, two points above the crowded drop zone and meant that Espanyol dropped back into the relegation places despite their 3-1 win over Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Already relegated Murcia prop up the table on 20 points, Celta Vigo, who won 1-0 at home to Osasuna, are on 36 and Espanyol have 37. Six other teams are within three points of the relegation zone. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal seal title glory with draw at Spurs

LONDON, 27 April — Arsenal drew 2-2 with local rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday to clinch the Premier League title, first-half goals from Frenchman Patrick Vieira and Robert Pires securing the championship with four games to spare.

It was Arsenal's 13th league title, third in the Premier League under manager Arsene Wenger since 1998 and second in three seasons.

'I'm very proud to achieve it,' Wenger told reporters. 'In the last three years we've won two titles and two FA Cups so I think we have improved every year.'

Arsenal are still on course to go throughout the season unbeaten, a feat not achieved for more than a century.

'That is something fantastic and we are so close to it,' the Frenchman added.

The match at White Hart Lane ended in controversy, however, when John Carew appeared to have completed a comeback from two goals down with an injury-time penalty equalizer by Robbie Keane after Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann had pushed the Spurs striker at a corner.

Arsenal, who needed only a draw to clinch the title after second-placed Chelsea lost 2-1 at Newcastle United earlier in the day, raced ahead inside three minutes when they broke downfield from a Spurs corner.

Midfielder Gilberto cleared and Thierry Henry ran 50 metres unchallenged before feeding Dennis Bergkamp on the left. The Dutchman crossed low into the middle where Vieira drifted through unmarked to turn the ball into the net.

Pires put them two up shortly after the half hour in a typical Arsenal passing move that he started by feeding Bergkamp and

Bayern keep title hopes alive with derby win

BURLIN, 27 April — Bayern Munich kept alive their slim hopes of retaining the Bundesliga title with a 1-0 win over city rivals TSV 1860 Munich on Sunday.

With four matches left, the champions are six points behind leaders Werder Bremen, who wasted many chances in a 0-0 draw at VfL Bochum in Sunday's other game.

Paraguayan striker Roque Santa Cruz hit the winner from 13 metres in the 50th minute for Bayern in a city derby that left strugglers 1860 third from bottom.

Werder, chasing a fourth title and first record since 1993, have won just one of their last five games. — MNA/Reuters

Coria thrahs Schuettler to lift Monte Carlo title

MONACO, 27 April — Argentine clay specialist Guillermo Coria thrahsed Germany's Rainer Schuettler 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 in the Monte Carlo Masters final on Sunday.

The third seed, runner-up last year, claimed his second Masters Series crown with a devastating display of baseline expertise to spoil Schuettler's 28th birthday.

Coria tore apart his German opponent's game in a two-hour demonstration, extending his winning run on clay to 26 matches and establishing himself as one of the leading contenders to win next month's French Open.

Schuettler, seeded four, had beaten three former world number ones en route to the final but the 2003 Australian Open runner-up never looked secure in his first Masters Series title.

Monaco's Patrice Evra (R) fights for the control of the ball with Nantes's Youvel Moldeuran (L) during their French first division soccer match between Monaco and Nantes in Monte Carlo on 24 April, 2004. — INTERNET

Henry wins second PFA Player of Year award

LONDON, 27 April — Striker Thierry Henry capped a perfect day for champions Arsenal when he was named the English Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year for the second consecutive season on Sunday.

Arsenal clinched their 13th English championship — Henry's second since joining the London club in 1999 — when they drew 2-2 at Tottenham Hotspur after second placed Chelsea lost 2-1 at Newcastle United.

Henry didn't score on this occasion but the 26-year-old is sure to finish the season as the league's top scorer with 29 goals so far, out of a total of 37 in all competitions.

His prowess in front of the net has also set him on course to win Europe's Golden Shoe Award. Seven of his goals came during two scintillating performances earlier this month, when he scored a hat-trick against Liverpool with an injury-time penalty equalizer by Robbie Keane after Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann had pushed the Spurs striker at a corner.

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Roma close gap as leaders Milan held at Udinese

UZONE (Italy), 27 April — AC Milan's lead at the top of Serie A was cut to six points on Sunday when they were held to a goalless draw at Udinese while their rivals AS Roma beat Empoli 3-0.

Milan have 76 points and Roma 70 with three games remaining including next week's clash between the two sides at the San Siro, but Roma have little trouble in dealing with lowly Empoli after Totti put them ahead with a header just before the break.

Carew doubled Roma's lead in the 65th minute taking advantage of a slip by Empoli defender Stefano Lucchinini to turn and shoot into the roof of the net moments after coming on as a sub. — MNA/Reuters

Totti wrapped up the win with his 20th goal of the season and one of his best, a brilliant lob, after he had latched on to a ball from Marco Delvecchio.

Juve are out of the title race and they are now almost certain to have to enter the qualifying round of the Champions League after their defeat. — MNA/Reuters

Can still wrap up the title next week. Roma will go to the San Siro in the knowledge that a win for either side would give them back to three points ahead of the final two matches.

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Werder, chasing a fourth title and first record since 1993, have won just one of their last five games. — MNA/Reuters

Venus Williams of US returns a backhand against Slovenian Tina Pinsic during their FED Cup match in Portoroz. Twice Wimbeldon champion Venus Williams of the United States and Belgium's world number two Kim Clijsters helped their countries into the quarter-finals of the Fed Cup this weekend. — INTERNET

World number two Kim Clijsters returns after a five-week absence to spearhead Belgium's first round Fed Cup tie against Croatia — INTERNET
WEATHER

Tuesday, 27 April, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours
MST; During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (7°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (6°C) below normal in Kayin State, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (44°C) each in Minbu and Magway, (43°C) each in Yamenhin and Mandalay. Maximum temperature on 26-4-2004 was 18°C (107°F). Minimum temperature on 27-4-2004 was 22.5°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-4-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 25-4-2004 was (10.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-4-2004 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 15 mph from South at (17:30) MST on 26-4-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 28-4-2004: Isolated rain or thunder-showers are likely in Mon State, Tanintharyi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, upper Sagaing, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and partly cloudy elsewhere in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in many Yangon waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thunder-showers in the southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-4-2004: Partly cloudy in Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-4-2004: Partly cloudy.

OBITUARY

U Hla
B.S. (Hons.), M.S. (Electrical Power), Lehigh University, USA, SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MEFE (Retd.)
Aged 71 years

U Hla, beloved husband of Daw Ohn Kyi, 142, Anawratha Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, father of Mr Naw Kyaw Hla and Mr Dr Tin, passed away on 26 April, 2004, Monday, at 15.45 pm at Kan Thar Yar Lake View Hospital. His remains will be cremated at Yay Way Cemetery on Wednesday, 28 April, 2004 at 1.30 pm.

The bereaved family
**Coordination meeting on implementation of agreements on economic cooperation between Myanmar-China held**

**Yangon, 27 April**—The coordination meeting on implementation of agreements on economic cooperation between Myanmar-China was held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here at 4 pm today with an address by Chairman of Leading Committee for implementation of agreements on economic cooperation between Myanmar-China Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Leading Committee members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials.

In his address, Chairman of Leading Committee for implementation of agreements on economic cooperation between Myanmar-China Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that 7 MoUs between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the PRC and 14 agreement totalling 21 were signed during the good-will visit of Vice-Premier of the State Council of the PRC Madame Wu Yi.

Agreement reached for further strengthening cooperation in such sectors as culture, energy, hydel power, Myanma Railways, mining, mechanical, agriculture, communication, economic, trade and investment.

For speedy implementation of the agreement, tasks on Myanmar side are needed to be carried out as soon as possible. Economic cooperation between the two countries is with success and the two countries also held discussions on matters related to enterprises on common interest.

During her visit to Myanmar, Vice Premier of the State Council Madame Wu Yi also made discussions on further creating economic opportunities in Myanmar.

Therefore, the respective ministries are to present and discuss measures taken ministry-wise for speedy implementation of the agreements.

Next, Secretary of the Leading Committee Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on discussions between Prime Minister of Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Madame Wu Yi during her tour of Myanmar.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win, the ministers, the deputy ministers and committee members reported on work being carried out under the programme of implementation of agreements on economic cooperation between Myanmar-China and future tasks.

Next, Chairman of Leading Committee for implementation of agreements on economic cooperation between Myanmar-China Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt took part in the discussions and the meeting ended.

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint tours Mandalay Division and Kachin State**

**Yangon, 27 April**—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officials, arrived at Mandalay People’s Hospital on 26 April morning.

At the hospital, Lt-Gen Ye Myint paid obeisance to Sayadaw of Mandalay Naya Monastery, State Ovadacariya, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddharmmajotika Bhadanta Medhiyabhatthasmi, who was receiving medical treatment. Lt-Gen Ye Myint asked after the health condition of the Sayadaw and offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Myawady Nunnery in Pyigyitagun Township in Mandalay and donated K 300,000 for construction of a three-storey building at the nunnery. Later, he inspected progress of construction work and gave instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also went to the Myitnge bridge construction project and inspected progress of work there. At the briefing hall, engineers concerned presented progress reports on construction of the bridge.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left Mandalay for Pyin Oo Lwin to inspect the activities of the Leading Committee members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials.

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**Pathein opens maritime courses**

**Yangon, 27 April**—Basic and advanced maritime courses for new generation youths sponsored by Union Solidarity and Development Association and Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) were opened in Pathein on 26 April. Present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Swe, among others. Fifty-two trainees are attending the basic courses, and 25 attending the advanced courses. Both are 5-month courses. — MNA

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**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the coordination meeting on implementation of agreement on economic cooperation between Myanmar and China. — MNA**

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspects Myitnge Bridge Project site. — MNA**

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**Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung being welcomed by Israeli Ambassador Mr Yaacov Atrashamy at the reception to mark Independence Day of Israel on 26-4-2004. — MNA**