State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe sends congratulations to Algerian President

YANGON, 30 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, on his re-election as the President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Prime Minister attends inauguration ceremony of Saddan Yadana Bridge, Thirizeya small bridges, Pyilon Chantha Road and Garden in Neikban Village, Kawa Township

YANGON, 29 April — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by Tatmadaw helicopter this morning and arrived in Neikban Village, Kawa Township, Bago Division, at 8.15 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials.

Next, the Prime Minister attended the ceremony to put into use Saddan Yadana Bridge, Thirizeya small bridges, Pyilon Chantha Road and the Garden held near Saddan Yadana Bridge in Neikhan Village.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Shwekyin Nukaya Upa Ukkatha Maha Nayaka Jotika Agga Maha Saddhamma Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Maha Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotipala and members of the Sangha, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, social organizations, teachers, students and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min formally unveiled Saddan Yadana Bridge, Thirizeya small bridges, Pyilon Chantha Road and the Garden. The Prime Minister administered the Five Precepts. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party offered donations to the members of the Sangha.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers provisions to a Sayadaw at Kawa Township. — MNA

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

Friday, 30 April, 2004

Make earnest efforts for regional development

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on the development of rural areas where majority of the nation’s population live. In accordance with his guidance, the five rural development tasks — ensuring good transport in rural areas, ensuring sufficient supply of safe drinking water, raising educational standard of rural areas, improving health standard of rural areas and development of agriculture and livestock farming — are being implemented.

In his meeting with district- and township-level departmental officials and members of social organizations in Kyayitkyo District, Mon State, on 17 April, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt stressed that the private sector must be organized and necessary assistance must be rendered so that Mon State can become the biggest rubber-growing region in the nation and that it is important to strive for the realization of the five rural development tasks.

It is also required for the township-level officials to distribute high-yield quality strains to local farmers and to provide necessary assistance including agricultural technology to them so that the targets set by the State for ensuring region-wise self-sufficiency and a good harvest of specific crops can be realized.

As township-level officials are mainly responsible for rural development, they are required to make field trips to villages in their respective township and attend to the needs of rural people. Only then will they be able to win the trust of people and organize and educate them for the improvement of their socio-economic life.

To be able to carry out all development work effectively, it is also necessary to enlist the cooperation of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar War Veterans Organization.

The people, on their part, are exerting energetic efforts to boost production of agriculture and livestock breeding in view of raising their respective living standards and increasing income.

Hence, departmental personnel concerned are to make earnest efforts for ensuring respective regional development through making collective endeavours.

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2004 from 19 to 23 May

Yangon, 29 April — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2004 will be held from 19 to 23 May 2004 at the Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road here.

Various kinds of textiles, consumer goods, plastic wares, foodstuffs, electric and electronic devices, stationery, computer and related accessories, perfumes, water pumps, car polish, lawn mowers, ghos, engines, aluminium staircases, power generators, testers, etc. will be put on display at the Trade Fair.

There will also be entertainment programmes.

TV retransmission station launched in Nayai

Yangon, 29 April — The TV retransmission station project situated in Nayai, Shan State (South), was completed on 23 April 2004.

Starting from that day, the station commenced to retransmit the programmes of Myanmar TV.

DONATION FOR HOME FOR THE AGED: Maritime officers and their families of Neptune Co of Singapore donated K 800,000 to the Hunzigon Home for the Aged.

U Maung Maung Gyi accepts the cash donation. — MNA

People’s Desire

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views.

Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation.

Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State.

Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy.

Myanmar Gazette

Yangon, 29 April — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Names

(b) U Saw Kyaw Min Rector
Institute of Medicine (Magway)
Medical Science Department
Ministry of Health

(c) U Soe Tint Managing Director
Inland Water Transport
Ministry of Transport

To participate in a goodwill concert organized by the Myanmar-Korean Goodwill Association, famous Myanmar stars.

— MNA

Myanmar secures 18 gold in XXII SEA Games instead of 16

Yangon, 29 April — According to the information dated 31 March 2004 sent to presidents of National Olympic Committees issued by the XXII South-East Asian Games Organizing Committee, the first prizes awarded was third place winner of Vietnam in 500-m C-1 Canoe Men’s event and 1000-m C-1 Canoe event used the prohibited drugs and thus, necessary action was taken against him under the rules and regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

Therefore, Aung Lin of Myanmar who won second prizes in the two events secured the first prizes. As such, it was approved that Myanmar bagged 18 gold in total in the XXII SEA Games instead of 16. — MNA
Annan says violence feeds resistance in Iraq

United Nations, 29 April — Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday warned that military action in Iraq is feeding the ranks of the resistance and urged US authorities to do everything possible to seek a peaceful solution in Fallujah and Najaf.

As explosions and gunfire rocked Fallujah and US troops began expanding operations out of their base in the holy city of Najaf, Annan called for negotiations on the ground and a concerted international effort to stabilize Iraq.

"Violent military action by an occupying power against inhabitants of an occupied country will only make matters worse," he said. "It's definitely time, time now for those who prefer restraint and dialogue to make their voices heard."

Annan held a news conference a day after his top envoy for Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi, told the Security Council that many obstacles remain but he was confident power could be handed over to an Iraqi caretaker government by 30 June as planned despite escalating violence.

The secretary-general said he wanted to add his voice to Brahimi’s “in appealing to all parties in Iraq to refrain from violence, to respect international humanitarian law, and to give this process of political transition a chance.”

The assault against Fallujah, 35 miles west of Baghdad, began Tuesday after American troops killed 64 gunmen near the southern city of Najaf.

Annan said he had relayed an appeal from the community in Fallujah for the United Nations to intervene — which he said was impossible because of the lack of security — and had spoken to US authorities about "the need for caution, the need to do all that is possible to avoid a violent confrontation."

"The reason why I asked for caution is the more the occupation is seen as taking steps that harm the civilians in the population, the greater the ranks of the resistance grows," Annan said.

"I think everybody has said the struggle really should have been to win the hearts and minds of the people, and so it has to be an effort in that direction as well," he said. "It’s a difficult situation. I’m not pretending it’s very easy to do it, but I think one has to be very careful not to get it much worse."

More US troops killed in April than in “major combat” in Iraq

Washington, 29 April — More US troops have been killed in action in Iraq in April than during the six weeks of “major combat” after US-led invasion, casualty figures showed.

When President George W Bush declared the end of major combat operations in Iraq on 1 May, 2003, the US death toll stood at 109. Combat deaths reported by military officials in Baghdad during April climbed to at least 114 on Wednesday.

The Pentagon’s official tally has not caught up yet because at least 13 deaths of servicemen reported in April have not been officially categorized as either “killed in action” or “non hostile.” Pentagon figures, however, show that at least 124 service members have died so far this month, all but a handful of them in combat.

At least 105 have been classified as killed in action and six as unrelated to combat, a defense official said. — Internet

Last group of Spanish soldiers go home

Madrid, 29 April — The last group of Spanish soldiers who took part in the US-led occupation of Iraq returned home Wednesday from Kuwait, the Defence Ministry said.

The 260 soldiers were part of the Spanish-led contingent stationed in the southern cities of Najaf and Dhi Qar.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero announced Wednesday in Parliament that the entire 1,300-member contingent had left Iraq, leaving another group of 700-800 troops working on logistics related to the withdrawal — not trying to maintain peace in postwar Iraq.

Eleven Spaniards have died in Iraq since August.

On Thursday, Zapatero and Defence Minister Jose Bono will attend a ceremony marking the end of the Spanish mission. It will be held at Bota Air base in Talavera la Real in southwest Spain, Zapatero’s office said.

The pullout was completed so quickly because the troop rotations in recent weeks brought in logistics specialists rather than new troops for the coalition effort. Thus, the 1,300-member brigade was deployed gradually until the final 260 were left.

"The plan is that by 27 May there will be no Spanish personnel on Iraqi territory," Zapatero told Spanish lawmakers during a debate on his decision to withdraw the troops.

Relatives of the soldiers and the commander of the Spanish forces, Gen Fulgencio Coll, attended the homecoming ceremony at the military base in Talavera la Real outside Badajoz in southwestern Spain, said Defence Ministry spokesman Gonzalez Cerdas.

Zapatero announced the pullout April 18, a day after being sworn in as prime minister. His Socialist party won general elections March 14, defeating the conservative Popular Party of then-Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. — Internet

India signs accord on Asian Highway Network

BEIJING, 29 April — India Tuesday signed an international agreement for completing a 14,000 kilometre-long Asian Highway Network which will significantly promote regional integration and cooperation.

Apart from India, countries like Pakistan, China, Iran, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Turkey and Vietnam signed the inter-governmental agreement at the ministerial segment of the 60th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which is currently meeting in Shanghai.

The highway will connect capitals, major ports, commercial centres and tourist sites of Asian nations. After its completion by 2010, vehicles from Tokyo can travel directly to Istanbul.

Even island countries like Japan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, will be linked through ferries to mainland countries.

"The signing of agreement on Asian highways is a landmark event," India’s Commerce Secretary Dipak Chatterjee, who is leading the Indian delegation to the ESCAP session, said.

The highway will further facilitate border-crossing for people, vehicles and goods, and benefit to landlocked countries. The Bangkok-based ESCAP has been negotiating routes and road specifications for the network since 1992.

The new accord is the ESCAP’s first inter-governmental agreement since its inception 57 years ago.

The highway network is a significant step in promoting regional integration and cooperation, officials said.

"It means that many landlocked 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," chief of the Transport and Tourism Division of the ESCAP, Barry Cable said. — MNA/PTI

Australia and China to fast track free trade study

Canberra, 29 April — Australia and China will accelerate a study into a possible free trade deal so it can be completed before the original deadline of October 2005, Trade Minister Mark Vaile said on Wednesday.

But Vaile and his Chinese counterpart, Bo Xilai, did not put a new timeframe on when the study, which was agreed when Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Australia last October, would be finished.

"China has also asked that Australia move to recognize its market economy status, and we have agreed to further discussions on this issue," Vaile said in a statement following a meeting with Bo in Beijing on Tuesday.

The Trade and Economic Framework signed in October agreed that negotiations on a free trade agreement could begin once Australia recognized China as a full market economy. — MNA/Reuters

50 drug suspects rounded up in Manila

Manila, 29 April — The Philippine police rounded up 50 suspects members of a drug syndicate in a pre-dawn raid Wednesday in Quezon, Metro Manila.

Operatives of the Anti Illegal Drugs Operation Task Force of the Central Police District said the suspects, including three women and a rogue policeman, were members of a notorious drug gang.

They said three of the suspects were arrested on the strength of warrants issued by a Quezon regional trial court, while the 47 others were taken in for questioning.

Illegal drugs, ammonium nitrate and explosives reportedly were seized from the suspects.

Officials said they had received information from the syndicate also has links with the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group, reportedly providing the Abu members with a hideout, food and fire arms. — MNA/Xinhua
### 722 US soldiers killed since the beginning of war in Iraq

**Baghdad, 29 April** — 722 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 521 died as a result of hostile action and 201 did not die of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers.

- **Deaths:** 15, Italy; 17, Spain; eight, Bulgaria; six, Ukraine; four, Thailand; two, Denmark; El Salvador; Estonia and Poland have reported one each.
- Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 582 US soldiers have died — 410

**US Army soldiers man a checkpoint in the center of Baghdad, Iraq on 28 April, 2004.**

### Arab says anti-US attacks in Iraq

**Beirut, 29 April** — Syrian President Bashar Assad described armed attacks against US-led troops in neighbouring Iraq as legitimate “resistance” against foreign occupation.

His remarks, aired Wednesday on the Qatar-based pan-Arab Al-Jazeera satellite station, are likely to strain already tense US-Syrian relations.

Assad, whose country strongly opposed the US-led war on Iraq, said anti-American resistance was widespread in Iraq, where most people opposed the US occupation.

“The public reaction (in Iraq to the US occupation)... gives legitimacy to the resistance,” Assad said, adding that Iraqi opposition stems from the illegal invasion of Iraq by American-led soldiers.

Al-Jazeera did not say when the interview was conducted, but it was apparently before Tuesday’s terrorist attack in Damascus, Syria, since Assad was not asked about it. Four gunmen detonated a bomb placed near a car before firing bullets and grenades at Syrian security forces, an Interior Ministry official told the state-controlled SANA news agency.

The government said two attackers, a policeman and a civilian were killed. Assad also compared militant Palestinian factions fighting Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands to the Iraq guerrillas seeking to end the US-led occupation of Iraq.

It is logical that all these hundreds of thousands and millions of people who are resisting occupations in different forms ... are all-Quida ... or all supporters of the Saddam Hussein regime, as they (US forces) say?” Assad asked in the interview, monitored by The Associated Press in Lebanon.

### EU weapon sales embargo to China is “out of time”

**Brussels, 29 April** — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told reporters here Tuesday that the European Union (EU) weapon sales embargo to China is “out of time”.

Kong said at the ministry’s regular Press briefing that the weapon embargo is a product of Cold War mentality and should be abolished at an early date.

He said China-EU relations have developed very fast in recent years and the two sides have decided to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership, which means that China and EU will improve political trust and economic cooperation and enhance coordination and cooperation in international affairs as well as in all other aspects.

Under such circumstances, the Chinese side thinks it is not appropriate and out of time to retain such an embargo, Kong said.

“For the sake of further promoting China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, we think it’s better to abolish the embargo at an early date,” he said.

### Blairs faces tough questions on support for US tactics in Iraq

**London, 29 April** — British Prime Minister Tony Blair was put on the spot Wednesday in Parliament by opposition parties questioning his support for US tactics in Iraq.

- **Hours before, the US military launched new airstrikes on some positions in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, a stronghold of Iraqi guerrillas.**
- **The US attack amounted to the ”murder or mutilation of hundreds of women and children”, the opposition Conservative Party member of Parliament Peter Tapsell asserted during a Prime Minister question and answer session at the House of Commons.**
- **“Does the Prime Minister support the murder or mutilation of hundreds of women and children in Fallujah as an appropriate response to the savage murder of four American contractors?”** Tapsell questioned.
- **Blair defended the US tactics saying US troops had every right to take action against former regime loyalists and terrorists in the city.**

- **“There is a situation in Fallujah where we have a large number of very well-armed former regime elements, and probably some outside terrorists as well ... and it is right that the American forces try to make sure that order is restored to that city,” Blair told the lawmakers.**
- **Charles Kennedy, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats, also pressed Blair on the issue, asking why the Prime Minister failed to use his influence on the US to find alternatives to the policy of ”overwhelming” use of force to deal with violence in Iraq.**
- **Blair reiterated his support for the US Middle East policy. In a letter jointly signed by the diplomats, including ambassadors, high commissioners and governors, Blair was urged on Monday to start influencing America’s “doomed” policy in the Middle East or stop backing it.**

The diplomats expressed their concern over the loss of lives during the US-led war against Iraq.

- **They also attacked US President George W. Bush for endorsing Israel’s plan to retain control of West Bank and Gaza.**
- **Kong said at the ministry’s regular Press briefing that the weapon embargo is a product of Cold War mentality and should be abolished at an early date.**

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Under such circumstances, the Chinese side thinks it is not appropriate and out of time to retain such an embargo, Kong said.

“For the sake of further promoting China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, we think it’s better to abolish the embargo at an early date,” he said.
Zapatero says Berlin, Madrid, Paris and Washington in talks on Iraq resolution

BERLIN, 29 April—France, Germany, Spain and the United States are in “intense negotiations” on a new UN resolution on Iraq, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said in Berlin.

The new Spanish leader was speaking at a press conference following talks with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

“We are in intense negotiations with Germany, France and the United States” on a new UN resolution on Iraq, he said.

But he said the initiative is not limited to the four countries, and that other states can also join in.

Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos said in Berlin earlier Wednesday that the negotiations were in “early stages”.

Schroeder said that Germany, Spain and France have shown “great cooperation” during the talks, adding that it is “important now” to support the UN envoy to Iraq Lakhdar Brahimi.

Brahimi said Tuesday that Iraqs should choose the members of a new government by the end of May in order to take over power from the US-led occupation in June.

Zapatero is to travel to Paris on Thursday for talks with French President Jacques Chirac who will include Iraq.

Spain had been at loggerheads with the US over whether taking military action in Iraq was the right thing to do, the CBS News—New York Times poll found.

Less than half, 47 percent, said taking military action in Iraq was the right thing to do.

India, Britain set joint defence sub group induction of “Hawk115Y”

NEW DELHI, 29 April — To expedite and monitor the induction of British Aerospace Hawk 115Y trainers for the Indian Air Force, India and Britain on Wednesday announced setting up of a joint defence sub group.

“The sub group would also monitor the sale, production under licence at the Bangalore-based Hindustan Aeronautics and the training programme of the pilots,” an official spokesman said here on Wednesday at the conclusion of the eighth meeting of the Indo-British defence consultative group.

India recently signed the 70 billion rupees deal for purchase of 66 Hawk trainers, which are to be delivered in four years’ time. While, 24 Hawks are to be brought in fly away conditions, the rest 32 can be manufactured under licence in India.

The meeting, which was chaired on the British side by Kevin Tebbitt, Undersecretary for Defence, and Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Prasad, also agreed to set up three more sub-groups on military exchanges, to expand joint collaboration in manufacture of futuristic weapon systems and on defence research and technology. “Britain has shown interest in backroom IT management in defence from the Indian side and also expressed a desire to raise the level of interaction to cover areas like strategic and global security issues”, the spokesman said.

The seminar is part of a series of events organized by Indonesia’s Russian mission to celebrate its 50th anniversary, The Jakarta Post newspaper reported.

Energy experts and officials are to discuss the future of the two countries’ oil and gas industry at the seminar.

In most Chinese cities, sewage is now discharged without treatment. The current sewage recycling technology is able to prevent limited water resources from being wasted and ease the water dearth in urban areas, industry experts say. The Shandong Hengli Environmental Protection Technology Co., Ltd. will support the water reclamation project with a 40,000 cubic metre per day treatment agent facility. Meanwhile, Zibo City will invite specialists from Qinghua University in Beijing to appraise the water recycling technology to be used in the city.
More Bulgarian troops requesting to leave Iraq

SOFIA, 29 April — Some 20 to 25 Bulgarian troops serving in Iraq have asked to go home after repeated attacks on their 450-strong light infantry battalion in the southern holy city of Kerbela, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

Ten to 15 more soldiers have requested to be relieved from the unit, which is based in the centre of the tense city, than at the beginning of April, said ministry spokesman woman Rumenma Strugarova.

She would not give exact figures, saying some of the requests were not yet official. But she added the estimates did not include eight soldiers suffering from combat stress who returned to Sofia on Monday.

“Eight have already returned. Now we have more requests. There are around 20,” she said.

The battalion has sustained repeated machine-gun, rocket-propelled grenade and mortar attacks from Shi'ite militants since radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr launched a revolt against the US-led occupation in Iraq earlier this month.

The unit’s death toll rose to six last week when a soldier was shot and killed in an ambush, adding fuel to an already intense debate in the Balkan state over the battalion’s safety. — MNA/Reuters

Iranian court orders US to pay $600m

TEHERAN, 29 April — An Iranian court has ruled the United States should pay 600 million US dollars in compensation for supplying ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein with chemical weapons, the official IRNA news agency said on Wednesday.

IRNA said the money in the case, brought by Iraqi Kurds in the 1980-90s in the case, brought by Iraqi Kurds in the 1980-90s, had been held by the Americans at the US Embassy in Teheran for 444 days after the Islamic Revolution.

“The court has ordered the American Government to pay the money for furnishing Saddam with chemical weapons to attack Iran,” IRNA reported.

The United States and Iran have been at odds since 1979 when more than 50 Americans were held hostage by Iraqi student militants at the US Embassy in Teheran for 444 days after the Islamic Revolution.

“The verdict was submitted to the Swiss Embassy which has covered US interests in Iran since Wash-ington cut ties with Teheran in 1980.” — MNA/Reuters

OPEC provides Zambia with $6m loan to construct cancer clinic

LUSAKA, 29 April — The Oil Producing and Exporting-Countries (OPEC) has provided Zambia a loan of six million US dollars for the construction of a Cancer Treatment Clinic at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka, Zambia News Agency reported here.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Head for Dosimetry and Medical Radiation Physics Section Ren Shott said in an interview here that the six-million-US-dollar loan was meant for the construction and equipment purchase of the centre. Shott disclosed that the IAEA has provided extra funds to train Zambian doctors and other staff in specific fields of cancer treatment.

Four medical doctors from Zambia are already training in South Africa.

And UTH Managing Director, Tackson Lambart said the construction of the cancer treatment clinic would save the Zambian Government from spending huge sums of money to send cancer patients to South Africa and Zimbabwe for specialized cancer treatment. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO calls for updated regulations to fight disease

MAMA, 29 April — The World Health Organization (WHO) needs more powerful tools to fight the threat of emerging diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza, WHO official said Wednesday.

Most of the powers at WHO’s disposal have become increasingly outdated, he said, leaving the global community at threat from pandemics and other health crises. Shigeru Omi, WHO’s Regional Director for the Western Pacific, said in a statement.

“The International Health Regulations (IHR) comprise the only internationally binding legislation on the reporting of epidemic diseases, but the need for updated regulations has been recognized for many years,” Omi said, addressing a consultation at WHO’s regional headquarters in Manila on proposed amendments to the IHR. The IHR are the legal framework that governs WHO’s work on the international spread of disease.

Omi stressed the need to empower WHO to face the health challenges of the 21st Century, noting that the present regulations are more than 30 years old.

“These regulations relate to an era when infectious diseases were on the decline,” he said. Since then, the level of risk has risen significantly, driven by the “thriving” of organism, host and environmental factors. SARS and avian influenza are the most recent results of this process.

Representatives from ministries of health and other sectors in the Western Pacific Region are meeting here on April 28-30 in the first of a series of regional consultations designed to redraft the IHR. — MNA/Xinhua

Study finds HIV loses proteins during transmission

NEW DELHI, 29 April — In a finding that may help in developing an effective vaccine against the killer virus, a study has said the dreaded HIV appears to lose proteins during transmission from one person to another, becoming more vulnerable to attack of antibodies.

Scientists analysed HIV after it was transmitted from one partner to the other in eight couples and found that in six cases, transmitted viruses had distinctive surface proteins as compared to others, a report in the journal Science said.

The study was conducted by a team of scientists from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, among over 100 couples in Zambia.

Each person infected with HIV harbours a swarm of slightly different versions of the virus. But when HIV passes from a mother to child or between sexual partners, only one of those strains in transmitted, the report said. — MNA/PTI

Italian hostages in Iraq in good condition

VATICAN CITY, 29 April — Three Italians being held hostage in Iraq are in good condition, the country’s top Catholic leader was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Emanuele III Dally, the patriarch of the Catholic Church’s Chaldean rite in Iraq, told SIR, the news agency of the Italian Bishops Conference, that the Iraqi Church was involved in efforts to win freedom for the three men.

“They are well and in the end, I think they will be freed,” he said by telephone from Baghdad. Salvatore Stefio, Umberto Cupertino and Maurizio Agliana were captured two weeks ago outside Baghdad, where they were working for a private US security firm. — Internet

Macedonian PM wins presidential race

TIRANA, 29 April — Macedonian Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski won the presidential elections Wednesday, the central electoral commission said early Thursday.

As the candidate of the Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia, Crvenkovski gained 62 per cent of the 99 per cent votes counted in the second round of the presidential elections. His opposition rival Saso Kedev, the VMRO-DPMNE party’s candidate, received 37 per cent.

The turnout was 53 per cent. It met the requirement of the Macedonian Constitution that only when more than 50 per cent of the registered voters cast their ballots will the second round election be valid.

The presidential elections were organized after former President Boris Trajkovski died tragically in a plane crash on February 26. It is the third one since Macedonia’s independence from the former Yugoslavia. — MNA/Xinhua

Don’t smoke

Iraqi doctors hold up a poster advertising a purported reward of US $15 million for the heads of US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, right, coalition forces commander Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, center, and military spokesman Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt in Fallujah, Iraq, 37 miles, 60 kilometers west of Baghdad, on 28 April, 2004. — AP/INTERNET

US soldiers stand guard at the entrance of Fallujah on the highway linking Amman to Baghdad on 28 April, 2004. The road reopened after 20 days of closure due to battles between US troops and insurgents in the restive city of Fallujah. — Internet

Macedonian Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski won the presidential elections Wednesday, the central electoral commission said early Thursday.
Honouring the MMCWA Conference

The 14th Annual Conference of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was successfully held on a grand scale in Yangon from 24 to 26 April.

During the conference, attended by over 600 members of padak flower (yellow colour), the MMCWA members are helping the nation to reach the golden age. They are always active, with bright ideas for the nation.

In his opening address delivered at the conference, Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, “As the MMCWA has been energetically striving to raise the health standard of the people, and progress of the social standards of women and children, the Government has been supporting the association to continuously run its activities with speed and efficiency.

In the task of caring, protecting and promoting women and children, the majority of the nation’s population, plays a vital role in the national development drive, and in addition, it is the most basic social development undertaking. The task also amounts to laying down a firm future for the nation and the race, and in other words, it is a noble public care undertaking full of loving kindness, sympathy and goodwill.

“As it is when the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation is playing a leading role, I believe that all the members of the Maternal and Child Welfare Associations at different levels will work in harmony and union under the banner of the MWA.”

The MMCWA has been carrying out a wide array of tasks in various parts of the nation.

In the health sector, it is receiving technical assistance of the Health Ministry, running delivery rooms for safety of mothers and babies, child nutri-care services, leprosy and tuberculosis elimination campaigns, malaria control and treatment project, reproductive health care educational project, older persons care project, pre-primary schools, three R courses, savings and credit businesses and family income generation project and preventing mental retardation resulting from iodine deficiency, providing stipends to children of the poor, and conducting surgical operation on cleft lips and palate cases free of charge. The MMCWA is also running a diagnostic center.

It is carrying out numerous projects to render assistance for the timely and well rounded national development project. It is providing stipends to over one million school children.

After the opening ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party viewed the documentary photos, video tapes and magazines recording the operations of the association.

President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe formally opened a market festival hailing the conference by cutting the ribbon. The participants and guests asplauded as the hydrogen-filled balloons rose up high into the sky.

Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committees of states and divisions opened booths at the festival. Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan girls in the traditional costumes looked so beautiful and elegant.

At the dinner honouring the delegates to the conference, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe said: “As the MMCWA is a social organization not all its members are intellectuals and intelligentia. The association has accepted necessary technical and technological assistance from the respective ministries. Its functions are mostly related to those of the Health Ministry, Education Ministry, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry and Information Ministry.

“In accord with the guidance of the Head of State the Maternal and Child Welfare Associations at different levels are implementing the five rural development tasks in cooperation with the ministry concerned. It is occasionally cooperating with NGOs in the nation and those from abroad. The partner associations are rendering assistance in the sectors they are interested in, and for many years, the MMCWA has been receiving assistance provided with goodwill from them.

Prizes will be presented to state/division associations outstanding in their functions and compiling papers to enhance the qualification of the MMCWA.”

She also extended New Year’s greetings to all the people of Myanmar.

After the opening ceremony, discussions of the delegates continued for three days, and the conference successfully concluded on 26 April. The MMCWA will have to work for the successful implementation of the seven-point future political programme.

In his concluding address, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe said: “The association members should not be complacent with the present achievements, and I would like to urge them to continue to strive in harmony to achieve greater success in the future.”

Hailing the conference, I write this article, urging all the members of state/division MMCWAs to always energetically carry out the public welfare services with heart and soul with public cooperation.

(Translation: TMT)

Efficient use of electricity

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a few watts from fluorescent lamps can save household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased

All this needs to be known

United Nations, 29 April — A UN peacekeeping mission is likely to remain in Cyprus despite the defeat of a UN plan to reunify the island before its May 1 entry into the European Union, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday.

While a final decision on keeping the force alive was up to the UN Security Council, “I do expect the UN presence to continue in some form,” Annan told a news conference.

In twin referendums held last Saturday, the Mediterranean island’s Turkish Cypriot north voted in favour of the UN plan, but the Greek Cypriot south rejected it, killing the initiative.

That means only the internationally recognized Cyprus Government in the south will enter the European Union on May 1, leaving behind the north, which is recognized only by Turkey.

A UN force has been in Cyprus since 1964 and monitors a ceasefire between the two sectors. It currently numbers 1,348 soldiers, 47 civilian police and about 150 staff, and has had few incidents of violence to cope with in recent years. Greece and Cyprus together pay for nearly half the cost of the mission, which this year is about 46 million US dollars.

But the “no” vote in the south has prompted some diplomats to question why the mission should continue.

Annan had said he remained convinced the unification plan he helped draft was “the only realistic basis for reunifying the island” and he hoped the Greek Cypriots would have another chance to “judge it on its true merits.”

The Turkish Cypriots have for their constitutional vote in favour of the proposals. We must all do our best to see that they are not penalized for the way the vote went in the other part of the island,” he added.

MNA/Reuters
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party receive Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala at the Sayadaw’s birthday ceremony.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveils stone inscriptions of Saddan Yadana Bridge in Neikban Village, Kawa Township.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially meets with local people at opening ceremony of Saddan Yadana Bridge in Neikban Village.— MNA

Saddan Yadana Bridge seen at the opening ceremony in Neikban Village, Kawa Township.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially meets with local people at opening ceremony of Saddan Yadana Bridge in Neikban Village.— MNA

Prime Minister attends inauguration...

(from page 1)

After the Sayadaw had delivered a sermon, the Prime Minister and party and wellwishers shared merits gained.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a set of TV, VCR and exercise books for Neikban Village Basic Education Middle and Primary Schools to School head U Than Shwe.

Later, the Prime Minister cordially convened on agricultural education and health conditions of the region with local authorities, departmental officials and local people.

After attending to the education, health, agriculture and transport needs of Neikban Village and surrounding villages, the Prime Minister gave instructions saying that as the Government has laid down five rural development tasks for ensuring development of the rural areas and uplift of living standard of rural people and is fulfilling their requirements, local people and township officials are to strive in unison with diligence for development of the region.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed ancient Uttara Maha Wihara Monastery built in 1200 Myanmar Era.

The monastery is 120 feet long and 100 feet wide with four main staircases and one 120 feet long corridor. In addition, the monastery consists of 133 pillars and it is 76 years old.

Neikban Village, where a white elephant emerged, stood as a historic and magnificent one with pagoda, public resthouse, ordination hall, monastery, prayer hall and lake in the period of King Bodaw who built Amarapura Palace.

In response to the request of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala who was born in Neikban Village, Saddan Yadana Bridge, Thirizeya small bridges, Pylon Chantha Road and Tharizeya small bridges were opened by the people in cooperation with the Government.

The Saddan Yadana Bridge is of concrete piles at the lower structure and of iron frame at the upper structure.

The Bridge is 200 feet long and has a 12-foot-wide motor way on it.

The Pylon Chantha Road is four miles long linking Neikban Village and Bago-Thanatpin-Kayan-Thongwa Road and Tharizeya small bridges are located on the road.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back here later in the morning.— MNA

L&F Minister receives guest

YANGON, 29 April —Minister for Livestock & Fisheries Brig.Gen Maung Maung Thein received Honorary Myanmar Consul-General to Busan of the Republic of Korea Mr Won Bae Dahn at his office at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, the head of Office of the Ministry and officials.— MNA

157 fires broke out in March

YANGON, 29 April —A total of 157 fires broke out in the entire nation in March, with a total loss of property valued at some K 94.72 million.

Now, the hot season has set in all over the country and the weather is getting hotter, and so it may result in more outbreaks of fires. Respective heads of State and Division and Township Fire Services Departments are thus reminded to take fire preventive measures.— MNA
54 persons exchange arms for peace in February, March

_**YANGON**, 29 April — The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, is striving for national reconciliation and making concerted efforts for equitable development of all the regions of the country. Therefore, armed groups realizing correct endeavours and genuine goodwill of the Government and understanding their destructive acts exchanged arms for peace at the embrace of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people individually and in groups in February and March, 2004.

Pvt Aik Kwai and Pvt Aik Kham of SURA armed group bringing together with them one M-22, one carbine, two magazines and 15 rounds of ammunition and Pvt Aik Kam with one M-21 and five rounds of ammunition exchanged arms for peace in Triangle Region Command area; Cpl Aik Swan of No 241 Battalion of No 759 Brigade of SURA armed group with one M-22, one magazine and 28 rounds of ammunition in Eastern Command area; Ko Nsaiing (a) Nadi of ALP armed group with one AK-47, two magazines and 35 rounds of ammunition in Western Command area; Pvt Tun, sister Ma Nu Yi and nephew Ma Aye Aye, local villager U Than Win and wife Ma Nu Aye, son Maung Maung and Saw Le Sar of No 10 Battalion of No 10 Brigade of SURA armed group of South-West Command area; Pvt Aung Khaiing and Aung Myint of split Mon armed group with two AK-47s, one revolver, two magazines and 40 rounds of ammunition, Platoon Commander Ha Le with one revolver, one round of ammunition, one grenade and one walkie-talkie in South-East Command area; Pvt Saw Mar Tin and wife Ma Aye Cho of Organizing Company of KNU armed group with one M-16, five magazines, 90 rounds of ammunition and three mines, Pvt Myo Lwin of Administrative group with one grenade, Pvt Saw Baw Win, Saw Satar Dae, Saw Darbar, Saw Aw Moo, Saw Kar Tha and U Tar Pun of Infantry Company of No 4 Brigade, Capt Dae Dae, 2nd-Lt Saw Htoo Htoo and Saw Khwa Khwa, Sgt Kei Lin and Saw Lin Chi, Pvt Nyun Tin, Saw Dah and Kyaw Win of No 4 Brigade Headquarters with one M-16, one AK-47, two magazines and 42 rounds of ammunition, Pvt Than Win, Saw Aye and Saw Aye Myint with one AK-47, one magazine and 14 rounds of ammunition, WOII Saw Ka The and Saw Ka Paw and Sgt Char Khwee, Pvt Maung Maung and Saw Le Sar of No 10 Battalion of No 4 Brigade with three M-16s, one MA-3, one AK-47, 13 magazines, 140 rounds of ammunition and eight mines, Pvt Soe Hlaik and wife Ma Thuza Aye, daughter Ma Cho Lwin Htoo, Pvt Myit Lay Aung and wife Ma Win Kyi, son Soe Naiing Win and mother Daw Hla of NDA armed group, local villager U Than Win and wife Ma Nu Aye, son Maung Tun, sister Ma Nu Yi and nephew Ma Aye Aye, local villager U Tun Aung with one M-1, 10 rounds of ammunition and two grenades in Coastal Region Command area. Officials of respective military camps welcomed more than 54 persons who exchanged arms for peace and fulfilled the requirements.

Basic and advanced maritime course for new generation youths opened

_**YANGON**, 29 April — Jointly-organized by Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) and Office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the new generation youth for basic and advanced maritime course No 1/2004 (Mawlamyine camp) was opened at Yamanya hall of Mon State Peace and Development Council on 26 April afternoon, attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of Mawlamyine Naval Region Command Commodore Maung Win, Secretary of Mon State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung and departmental personnel, social organizations, guests and trainees.

Under the programme, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Commodore Maung Win made speeches on the occasion and the ceremony came to a close. Altogether 70 trainees are attending the five-week basic and advanced maritime course. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
UAE, US to enter crucial round of free trade talks

ABU DHABI, 29 April — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States will soon enter a crucial round of negotiations to finalize a landmark free trade deal, The English daily Gulf News reported Wednesday.

The sides reached agreement to resume talks on the deal at a meeting in Washington on Tuesday between a high-level UAE delegation and US commerce officials as part of the first meeting of the newly-created UAE-US Business Council.

“The talks we have just held with the US officials were very encouraging, this will promote us to head for negotiations on the planned free trade zone,” said Mohammed Khalifan bin Kharbash, Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs, who is heading the UAE team.

A statement by the Ministry of Finance and Industry quoted US officials as saying the talks were fruitful and the outcome would accelerate the free trade negotiations.

It gave no date for those negotiations but ministry sources said they expected them to begin in 2004 at senior official levels before they enter ministerial levels.

The statement said such a free trade agreement became possible after the two sides signed the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) on March 15 to promote trade and investment, and create a business council to work for its implementation.

Philippine GDP growth foreshed at 5% in next two years

MANILA, 29 April — The gross domestic product (GDP) growth of the Philippines would improve slightly from last year’s 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent in 2004 and 2005 due mainly to continued strong consumer spending, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said here Wednesday.

Brisk growth in the rest of Asia, particularly China, and an improved global demand for electronics, which account for about 70 per cent of the Philippines’ total exports, will also contribute to the expected GDP growth in the next two years, the Manila-based ADB said in its flagship annual report, Asian Development Outlook 2004.

However, the key variable to monitor during 2004-2005 is the fiscal situation in the country, where the budget deficit has increased fourfold since 1998 while the deficit-to-GDP ratio has risen from 1.9 per cent to 4.6 per cent, the report warned.

It remains “very difficult” for the government to keep the budget deficit equivalent to 4.2 per cent of GDP this year given election spending and a low tax revenue target for the year, it said.

Last year’s economic growth was primarily driven by private consumption, which rose by 5.1 per cent, the fastest rate since 1990, and contributed four percentage points to overall GDP growth, the report said.

Spurring the private consumption growth is the continued rapid expansion in remittances from the country’s seven million overseas workers. Remittances increased by 8.3 per cent to 7.6 billion US dollars in 2003, accounting for 7.5 per cent of GDP.

The report forecasts a 5.5 per cent expansion in private consumption for 2004.

For the economy to move to a more rapid growth, it said, the government will have to address problems of poor investment climate, lack of capacity of the economy to generate jobs, and a high rate of population growth, as well as the chronic budget deficit and consequent debt burden.

The country’s unemployment stood at 11.4 per cent in 2003 while the population growth rate at 2.3 per cent per year, is among the highest in Asia.

Indian space scientist says Theme-oriented satellites needed

NEW DELHI, 29 April — India should work in the direction of building theme-oriented satellites, each of them designed to meet particular requirements such as education and health, noted space scientist and former chairman of Indian Space Research Organization Dr K. Kasturirangan said.

"India has already introduced this concept through the missions of Educast — specifically designed to cater to educational needs, Cartousat — designed to serve the cartographic needs and so on," Kasturirangan said.

"India’s next steps in this area would be to launch several more missions in the education, health and remote sensing sectors,“ he said.

"China is an example where such a strategy has been successfully implemented," he said.

Detailed studies need to be mounted for defining future thematic mission satellites which would serve specific application areas such as water, agriculture, forest fire and disaster management, he said.

Another aspect would be to look at automatic ground data acquisition based on the needs of the diagnostic service to be provided, Kasturirangan said.

He said use of satellites in health care is likely to result in "any-time-health (ATH)" service through "healthikosas."

UMFCCI officials leave for Malaysia

YANGON, 29 April — A 57-member delegation of Myanmar businessmen led by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (UMFCCI) General Secretary U Soe Win Hlaing left here by air on 27 April morning for Malaysia.

UMFCCI President U Win Myint and party saw the delegation off at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA

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MNA/PTI
Scientists say glaciers feeding Indian rivers may be wiped out

New Delhi, 29 April — Glaciers that feed the Yamuna, Indus and the Brahmaputra rivers may be wiped out in 40 years, impacting the economic, cultural and spiritual life of India, scientists have warned.

The warning bells were sounded in the first report on melting glaciers and their impact by Sagarmatha—the Snow and Glacier Aspects of Water Resources Management in the Himalaya—in New Delhi on late Tuesday, according to an Indo-Asian News Service report on Wednesday.

Scientists have warned that the effect of global warming will result in the shortfall of the precious resource by 2050

According to the study, the upper Indus over the last few decades will have plus 14-per cent to plus 90 per cent increase, after which there will be a drastic fall to as low as 30-90 per cent below the baseline level by a decade.

The Kaligandaki Basin in the central part of the country is also an early frontier; sustained warming in the region is expected to reduce the basin area by 20 per cent and the run-off by 50 per cent.

For the Ganga, near its headwaters in Uttarakhal, the flow is predicted to peak at plus 25 to plus 33 per cent of baseline level within the first two decades and then recede to as low as minus 50 per cent of the baseline by the sixth decade.

For the spring-fed Ganges, which drains into the Bay of Bengal, warming is expected to lead to a 20 per cent reduction in the Brahmaputra; this will have an impact on the deltaic areas, especially the Sundarbans.

MNA/Xinhua

Angola hosts meeting on exploiting hydric resources

Luanda, 29 April — Experts from Angola, Botswana and Namibia began to gather in Luanda, capital of Angola, since Tuesday to discuss matters of common interest on hydrology of the Okavango Basin.

For three days, the experts attending the 9th Meeting of the Tripartite Permanent Commission will assess the phase of the tri-national project about the studies on the Okavango Basin and the extent of implementation of the guidelines which came out of the previous meeting.

The commission, coordinated by the governments of Angola, Botswana and Namibia, on September 15, 1994, in Windhoek, aims to establish agreements on the way these states should share the hydric resources in the Okavango Basin.

The basin has rivers which start in Angola (Kuito and Cubango) and end up in Botswana (passing through Namibia). Angola, in charge of the Coordination Unit for the studies on the basin, has the pleasure to host the first meeting in times of peace, stressing that everything is ready for the setting up of the unit which will be headquartered in Menongue in southern Kuando Kuabango Province, according to the spokesman of the meeting, Gomes da Silva.

He explained that for many years, Angola did not do much about matters connected with international basins due to the war which swept the country, and their geographical location difficult to get to, which is why Angola would only give technical and juridical support to the tripartite agreement.

The meeting is attended by representatives from non-governmental organizations, the United Nations Agency for International Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

—MNA/Xinhua

EU urges MERCOSUR to improve proposal on free trade accord

BRUSSELS, 29 April — The Agriculture Commissioner of the European Union (EU) Franz Fischler on Tuesday branded the offers of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) for the free trade negotiations between the two blocs as "very poor" and urged this South American association to improve its proposal.

"It was really a very poor proposal, with no new element in the areas of biggest interest to us, like services and governmental purchases," Fischler told Brazilian Press.

Representatives of the EU and MERCOSUR met last week in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires to evaluate the offers that will be presented in the next round of free trade negotiations, scheduled for May 3 to 7 in Brussels.

Fischler also denied that the EU tabled during the Buenos Aires meeting a "generic" proposal, as MERCOSUR claimed, and added the European offer was "the most ambitious in its history."

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“We must show our

Over 43,000 people killed in US highway accidents in 2003

WASHINGTON, 29 April — A total of 43,220 people were killed in highway accidents in the United States in 2003, a slight rise of 0.9 per cent from 42,815 in the previous year, preliminary estimates released on Wednesday showed.

Deaths involving motorcycles rose by 11 per cent to 3,592, while passenger car fatalities declined by 7.8 per cent, according to figures released by the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

However, the number of SUV (sports utility vehicle) fatalities increased by 456, 55 per cent of which were rollover crashes, the traffic safety agency said. It blamed the increase partially on increases in SUV sales.

Pedestrian deaths declined 2.8 per cent from 4,808 in 2002 to 4,672 in 2003, and fatalities from large truck crashes increased slightly from 4,897 in 2002 to 4,942 in 2003.

MNA/Reuters

Iranian road accidents claim 70 lives a day

TEHRAN, 29 April — Some 100,000 Iranians died in road accidents in the last five years with the rate of road deaths rising to 70 a day in the last year, the official IRNA news agency reported late on Tuesday.

Citing figures compiled by the national Coroner’s Office, IRNA said road accidents were now responsible for nearly 40 per cent of all deaths in the country of 66 million people.

Blame was placed on poorly maintained vehicles, poor roads and erratic and dangerous driving techniques, the report said.

The Coroner’s Office said 99,863 people died on Iran’s roads in the five years to March 2003.

MNA/Reuters
Actor Robert Downey Jr ends 12-year marriage

Los Angeles, 29 April — Actor Robert Downey Jr and his estranged wife, actress-model Deborah Falconer, have officially ended their 12-year marriage, his spokesman said on Tuesday.

The couple, who have been separated for eight years, filed divorce papers this week in Los Angeles County Superior Court, publicist Alan Nierob said. “This is more or less just a formality,” he told Reuters.

Downey, 39, and Falconer were wed in 1992 after a 42-day courtship. Their 10-year-old son, Indio, will continue to live with his mother, but Downey “remains very involved in the upbringing of his son,” Nierob said. Downey, who earned an Oscar nomination for his role in the 1992 film “Chaplin,” recently became engaged to film producer Susan Levin. The two met while working together on last year’s psychological thriller “Gosha” — MVA/Reuters

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 3rd May (Monday) Full Moon of Kason 2004, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act

Central Bank of Myanmar

US announces $350m for hydrogen fuel technology

WASHINGTON, 29 April — The Energy Department of the United States announced Tuesday 350 million US dollars in grants to over 130 research institutions and companies to develop hydrogen-fuelled cars.

The Big Three automakers — General Motors, Ford and Daimler Chrysler — and Shell Oil Products and foreign automakers were chosen for the research projects, according to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham.

The projects, which are worth 575 million US dollars with private funding, are aimed at removing some of the obstacles to bringing the cleaner-burning technology from the laboratory to the road.

Abraham said that the projects will address problems such as how to store hydrogen and how to make hydrogen fuel cells that are durable and affordable.

Hydrogen does not create any pollution or greenhouse gases. But unlike oil or coal, hydrogen must be produced, as there are no natural stores of it waiting to be pumped or dug out of the ground.

The grants represent nearly one-third of the 1.2 billion US dollars that President George W. Bush has pledged for hydrogen research. Most of the money will be distributed over five years. — MNA/Xinhua

SMBs in N America to see largest growth in “IT” spending

LOS ANGELES, 29 April — Small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) in North America plan to increase their IT spending for 2004 by 6.6 percent over 2003, compared with a 1.7 percent increase among larger companies, according to a study released Tuesday.

The study, by US high-tech market research firm Forrester Research, found that overall, SMBs are more optimistic about the future than their enterprise counterparts, with 81 percent describing their current business climate as at least moderately strong and 78 percent expecting more improvement by the end of the year. — MNA/Xinhua

TRACTIVE

ACTOS

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HICEE

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MAGESTO

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NEVRAMIN

Reg. No. 1687/2004

NICHLON

Reg. No. 1688/2004

PANVITAN

Reg. No. 1689/2004

PREVACID

Reg. No. 1690/2004

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Reg. No. 1691/2004

in respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations for human use”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.


P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 30 April, 2004
Britain to review pre-Web era cybercrime law

LONDON, 29 April — Britain is to update its lone cybercrime law, a 1990 pre-Web relic widely regarded as inadequate to deal with growing computer criminality.

Organized gangs around the world are honing their hacking, spamming and virus-writing skills while thinly stretched police resources are struggling to cope.

The legal update will be closely watched by other countries, many of whose own laws against cybercrime are considered insufficient to fight what has become one of the fastest growing global crime waves.

A group of parliamentarians will hold a public debate on Thursday to explore ways to bring the Computer Misuse Act, or CMA, into the Internet era.

Working with the Brit- ish Home Office, the aim is to have a new cybercrime bill introduced in the next six months, MP Brian White told Reuters.

“Organized crime is getting into this area of criminality in a really big way, and they are way ahead of government,” White said.

“We need to address this in Internet time.”

Police say cybercrime costs Britain industry hun-

Russia says “Soyuz” gas leak no danger for landing

MOSCOW, 29 April — A minor gas leak detected on the Russian Soyuz craft, which is docked on the International Space Station, does not endanger the return to Earth on Friday of three astronauts, Russian space officials said on Wednesday.

A mission control spokesman said the leak of helium, used to pump pressurized fuel into the engine of the rocket, had been discovered several hours ago.

“This is not an unusual thing to happen, and has not affected successful landings in the past,” Valery Lyndin said.

The Soyuz, which has been in orbit for six months acting as an emergency escape vessel, is to carry US astronaut Michael Foale, Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, and Dutchman Andre Kuipers back to Earth.

“There is no danger. This will not affect preparations for their return. We will not need to make any repairs,” Lyndin, said.

The three-seat Soyuz craft remains the only means of delivering crew to and from the ISS after US shuttle Columbia broke up on re-entry in February 2003. — MNA/Reuters

Total lunar eclipse over Asia on 4 May

NEW DELHI, 29 April — A total lunar eclipse lasting for 76 minutes will occur shortly after midnight of Tuesday, 4 May, according to astronomers.

This will be a sky show reserved primarily for those living in the Eastern Hemisphere. North America will miss out on the entire show, as the moon will be below the horizon during midday and afternoon.

This will be the third such event within a span of less than a year, the two previous lunar eclipses having occurred during 2003 on 15-16 May and 8 November.

The eclipse will begin at 23:05 (Indian Time) Tuesday and end at 04:40 hours Wednesday. The total eclipse, during which the moon will be totally invisible, will last for 76 minutes beginning 01:22 hours, Wednesday.

The very best region for viewing this eclipse will be across western Asia, much of the Indian Ocean and the eastern two-thirds of Africa. The entire eclipse will be visible from this region, astronomers say.

The opening stages of this eclipse will be visible at, just before moonset, from much of central and eastern Asia (except northeast Siberia), most of Indonesia and Australia. Across the eastern third of Australia (where the calendar will read 5 May) the moon will set while still in total eclipse.

The next total lunar eclipse will occur on the night of 28-29 October and will favor most of the Americas, as well as western portions of Europe and Africa — MNA/PIT

Step-brother of Princess Diana dies in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 29 April — The step-brother of Britain’s late Princess Diana has died after an apparent overdose of sleeping pills in Cambod- dia, where he has been since early this month, police said on Wednesday.

Adam Shand Kydd, 49, arrived in the impoverished Southeast Asian nation as a tourist on April 2 and was paying a 1,300 US dollars per month rent for a luxury home in the capital, Phnom Penh.

He was found dead on Monday evening after his maid contacted the police.

“We think he could have died from overdose of sleep- ing pills,” Prak Nhat, an au- topsy police official, told Reuters. “Noone killedhim.” Shand Kydd had been complaining about head- aches for days and had told his maid he was having problems sleeping, police said.

His body was handed over to the British Embassy in Phnom Penh on Tuesday. — MNA/Phnom Penh

Mars rovers complete missions, head for extra credit

LOS ANGELES, 29 April — Two robot-geologists have successfully completed the assignment they were sent to do on Mars and are now being sent exploring for extra credit, scientists at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory said on Wednesday.

The twin rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, are in good con- dition after enduring more than three months of extreme temperature swings and dust storms on the red planet, mission manager Matt Wallace said.

Scientists at the Pasadena, California, laboratory were surprised to find that the vehicles’ solar-powered batter- ies were degrading faster than expected due to use and dust accumulation, he said.

The rovers were designed for 90-day mis- sions but the JPL team expects them to operate twice as long.

The gold-carved rovers captured the world’s attention with their dramatic landings in January on opposite sides of Mars, and with their discov- ery of geologic evidence that salt water once covered parts of the barren planet.

Opportunity completed its 90th martian day, or sol, on

Monday — a landmark achieved by Spirit on 5 April. NASA has approved fund- ing to extend the missions through September.

During the primary mis- sion, Opportunity drove more than a half-mile, snapped nearly 12,500 im- ages with its onboard cam- eras and used its instrument arm to drill into five rocks.

The rover, now roaming on a flat gray expanse near Mars’ equator known as Meridiani Planum, spent most of its primary mission study- ing a rocky outcrop in the small crater where it landed.

Opportunity has since climbed out of the crater and is headed for another small crat- er nicknamed Endurance about 246 feet away where scientists have spotted some “antilithic” rocks, science team member Scott McClemen said.

MNA/Reuters

Cholera hits parts of Uganda

KAMPALA, 29 April — Cholera has broken out in eight of the 56 districts in Uganda.

The districts, including Kampala, capital of the country, have continued to report significant number of cholera cases since the begin- ning of this year, the Ugandan Health Ministry said here Tuesday.

“As the rains increase, there is a likelihood of an upsurge of diarrhoeal dis- eases such as cholera in sev- eral parts of the country,” it said. So far seven people are sick while two have been reported dead, said the min- istry in a statement.

It called for strict per- sonal and community hy- giene and urged people to wash hands with soap be- fore preparing, serving and eating food. — MNA/Kampala

Cholera's 9-year-old merger writer is photographed before he has his fence short at the Golden Gate Lodge in Cromwell, New Zealand, on 28 April, 2004. Shrek's fence is believed to be 6 years old at the annual was found on the Bendigo Station hilltops during a muster on 15 April. — Internet
France coach Santini expresses interest in Spurs job

LONDON, 29 April — French national coach Jacques Santini said on Tuesday he was interested in managing English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur.

Santini, who has a perfect record steering holders France to the European championship finals in Portugal starting on June 12, said he would be open to discussion if approached by Spurs.

"If Tottenham contact me and they want to talk then I will listen," Santini was quoted as saying in the London Evening Standard.

"I have always thought that one day I might manage abroad and the Tottenham job would interest me if they wanted me to go there.

Spurs have been without a manager since they sacked former midfielder favourite Glenn Hoddle in September. Director of football David Pleat has been acting manager since then but the club have said they will unveil a new manager before the start of next season.

Santini, who steered Olympique Lyon to their first French league title in the 2001-02 season, took charge of France later in 2002 after their World Cup failure under Roger Lemerre.

Singh wins weather-hit Houston Open

HOUSTON (Texas), 29 April — World number two Vijay Singh earned his second PGA Tour title of the season on Monday by winning the Houston Open by two strokes.

The Fijian, who also won the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in February, shot a four-under-par 68 in the weather-delayed final round to finish on 11-under 277.

Scott Hoch took second place with a final-round 67 that left him on 279.

John Huston, who had been tied with Singh for the lead after the completion of the third round on Monday morning, carded a 71 and placed third on 280.

Stephen Ames of Trinidad and Tobago and Dudley Hart shared fourth place on 282. Australia’s Geoff Ogilvy took 10th place on 284, his best showing on tour this season.

After three days of persistent rain, the sun finally broke through at Redstone Golf Club on Monday.

Singh, who had completed 12 holes in third round on Sunday before play was stopped, parred his way in to complete 54 holes on seven-under 209.

The Fijian got off to a great start in the final round with birdies on the first and third holes and then added another at the 11th.

As Singh continued his steady play, the challengers drifted away, leaving Hoch to mount the biggest challenge, pulling within one shot when he birdied the par-5 15th hole.

Then Singh, playing two groups behind Hoch, also birdied the 15th after hitting his drive in the rough.

Hoch failed to gain further ground when he found the rough with his drive on the par-

Trapattoni leaves Euro 2004 door open for Baggio

GROSSO (Italy), 29 April — Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni refused on Tuesday to rule out the possibility that former world player of the year Roberto Baggio could yet make the Italian squad for Euro 2004 in June.

Trapattoni told a news conference on Tuesday that Baggio’s call-up, a month before he is due to retire from the game, was an "act of recognition" for his achievements.

"However, when pressed about Baggio’s future, the Italian coach said: “The future is in the hands of God. Roberto knows this is a big story that has been going on for two and a half to three years,” said Trapattoni.

"I have always left the door open and today he is here which is significant in itself.”

The Italy coach did, however, remind his audience that there was a squad of players who had led Italy to qualification for the finals which start in Portugal on June 12.

"In life you can never say never,” said Trapattoni. “But (the decision) won’t be on the basis of the media because if I listened to the media there would be 30 players in the squad and 10 million different formations.”

Baggio, who has scored 27 goals in 55 Italy appearances, said he was proud to return to the Italy side at such a late stage in his career and he was clearly pleased at Trapattoni’s words. “I am very happy and I want to thank the boss and the Federation for giving me this chance,” he said. “It is a great moment. If there is something else, well... but I want to enjoy this moment.”

"Never say never means a lot to me even if I know I mustn’t kid myself,” said the former Juventus forward. — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea appeal against Desailly ban

LONDON, 29 April — Chelsea have appealed against captain Marcel Desailly’s three-match ban for elbowing Monaco’s Fernando Morientes during their Champions League semi-final last Tuesday.

The 35-year-old France captain’s ban was confirmed on Monday by the European Football Association’s Club Congress.

Champions Besiktas, playing at home, lost 1-1 to Fenerbahce, virtually ending their chances of retaining the league title and leaving them with only a slim chance of reaching the Champions League next season.

Bilgili told a news conference on Monday he had decided to call an extraordinary general meeting within a month and would not put his name forward as a candidate for the chairmanship.

Bilgili said the abuse at Sunflower came from parts of the stands where club congress members were sitting.

The appeal will be heard by European soccer’s governing body UEFA on Friday and the result known before Chelsea’s home leg with Monaco on May 5, the club said on their web site.

The decision after 10 days in intensive care with a swollen heart and breathing difficulties.

Doctors later said he also had pneumonia.

"Maradona is back among the living," said his personal assistant Jorge Imaglio.

Morniats said he has suffered a series of injuries this season that have limited him to just three goals in 14 league appearances. Milan’s doctors said they expect his recovery to take about 20 days.

Santini was quoted as saying in the London Evening Standard.

If Huth is found guilty any suspension to be served in domestic games only, the club said.

"The situation in the stands at the match hurt me inside. We are divided among one another," he said.

"I sit in the Besiktas chair-man’s seat and will not allow insults directed towards that seat... Hence I decided to call an extraordinary general meeting within a month.

"I will be a candidate. My decision is final,” he said.

With three games left Besiktas are third in the league, eight points behind Fenerbahce and six points behind Trabzonspor. The top two are guaranteed Champions League places.

Before the winter break in December, Besiktas were nine points clear at the top.

Maradona says thanks, wishes Argentina luck in friendly

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina), 29 April— Diego Maradona, in his first public statement after 10 days in intensive care with heart and breathing problems, on Tuesday thanked fans for their support and wished Argentina luck in their friendly against Morocco.

In a letter read out to journalists and fans who have held a constant vigil outside the Buenos Aires hospital, Maradona gave his "thanks for the constant support and affection" of his fans.

The former World Cup winner added a "good luck" to Argentina, who play Morocco in Casablanca on Wednesday.

The 43-year-old, who can tolerate liquids and some foods, is now breathing without the aid of an artificial respirator and continues to be stable, the Suizo-Argentina clinic in Buenos Aires said in a statement.

La Nacion newspaper reported that Maradona managed to crack some jokes, telling his youngest daughter he planned to eat out at night.

However, he remains in intensive care and still requires another drip for a lung infection.

Maradona, who has put on so much weight he is scarcely recognisable from his playing days, was taken to hospital on April 18 with a swollen heart and breathing difficulties.

Doctors later said he also had pneumonia.

Hundreds of fans have kept a vigil outside the hospital, some carrying pictures of their hero with get well messages and others praying.

Besiktas chairman to quit next month

ISTANBUL, 29 April— Besiktas chairman Serdar Bilgili will quit next month after being accused by fans at a derby match with Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce on Sunday.

Bilgili told a news conference on Monday he had decided to call an extraordinary general meeting within a month and would not put his name forward as a candidate for the chairmanship.

Bilgili said the abuse at Sunflower came from parts of the stands where club congress members were sitting.

"I'm very disappointed," he said. "I will be a candidate. My decision is final,” he said.

With three games left Besiktas are third in the league, eight points behind Fenerbahce and six points behind Trabzonspor. The top two are guaranteed Champions League places.

Before the winter break in December, Besiktas were nine points clear at the top.

Besiktas won the league title last season under Romanian coach Mirecei Lucescu.

"The situation in the stands at the match hurt me inside. We are divided among one another," he said.

"I sit in the Besiktas chair-man’s seat and will not allow insults directed towards that seat... Hence I decided to call an extraordinary general meeting within a month.

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8:30 am  9. International news  
8:45 am  10. English for Everyday Use  
9:00 am  1. Martial song  
  
3:15 am  2. Song to uphold National Spirit  
4:30 am  3. Practice in Reading  
4:45 am  4. Musical programme  
5:00 am  5. Bgay (Myanmar)  
5:15 am  6. Songs of national races  
5:30 am  7. ‘Vak Nhat’-care  
5:40 am  8. Musical programme  
8:00 am  9. buses & Trains  
8:10 am  10. the Mirror images of the musical oldies  
8:20 am  11. Pressure gauge  
23:55 Song of ‘Thit-Ha-Pa’  
23:58 Let’s meet at the café!  
24:00 National News  24:05 Progressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State  
00:10 National News  00:15 Myanmar Tigers  
00:20 Song of ‘Miss You NgaPyi’  
00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights ‘Come and See Myanmar’  
15:30 Signature Tune  
16:05 Myanmar Tigers  

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WEATHER

Thursday, 29 April, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in Shan, Kayah States, Mandala and Tanintharyi divisions, isolated in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kayah State, upper Sagar division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in eastern Shan State and Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperature was (41°C) in Magway. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (2.64) inches in Hinzada. Maximum temperature on 28-4-2004 was 38.0°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 29-4-2004 was 22.0°C (72°F). Relative humidity by 9:30 hrs MST on 29-4-2004 was 69%. Total sunshines on 28-4-2004 was 7.01 hours approx. Rainfall on 29-4-2004 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 32 mph from East at (13.50) hours MST on 26-4-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at 06:30 hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed in the Southeast Bay at about an angle to Andaman Sea. Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-4-2004: Isolated thunderstorms are likely in Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagar State, Magway, 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 moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain or thunderstorms are likely in lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 30-4-2004: Isolated cases of isolated rain or thunderstorms in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 30-4-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%).

New Rainfall Record

The amount of rainfall of 6.7 mm (2.64 inches) observed at 09:30 hrs MST today at Hinzada is the new maximum (24) hours rainfall record of the station for the month of April during the last 73 years.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Friday, 30 April, 2004

15

Friday, April 30

View today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Paritta by Missionary Sayadaw U. Oornamtha

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး (ဓာတ်ပုံ)

8:00 am

6. ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး (လိုပ်ပါး)

8:10 am

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:20 am

8. ပုံစံပုံ (ပုံဖြစ်)

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development measures in Kachin State

YANGON, 29 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence met with local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 26 April. Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe explained the development undertakings of Kachin State. Secretary of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Myoeh and officials presented requirements.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs, saying that the Government, on its part, is implementing major projects. In addition to designating Bhamo and Mohnyin as development zones, it has built the Bala Min Hnin Bridge and other infrastructures in Kachin State. It is building an industrialized nation based on agriculture. Kachin State should grow monsoon paddy as well as summer paddy for food sufficiency, and also winter crops, edible crops, perennial crops and crops that grow well in the region.

As regional development requires transport development, Myitkyina-Putao Road, Myitkyina-Mogaung-Mohnyin-Shwebo Road, Phakant-Mogaung Road, and Myitkyina-Bhamo-NgaO-Mandalay Road have been built and upgraded with greater momentum.

The Government is also carrying out the border area development tasks. Development zones have been set up in the required regions in the states and divisions. Moreover, it is implementing the five rural development tasks.

As the departmental personnel are practically implementing the development projects, they should cooperate with the people and do their job with goodwill.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint left Myitkyina by car to inspect the road and the bridges in Waingmaw-Myothit section of Bhamo-Myitkyina Road. At the Jutmin Bridge Project near Thagara Ward in Waingmaw, he inspected the progress in implementing it.

In Waingmaw, he heard a report on progress in upgrading the Bhamo-Myitkyina Road presented by officials of Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions, speaking of the need to upgrade the road till cutting the travelling time between two destinations, Mandalay and Myitkyina, to 12 hours.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the Aungmye-I bridge construction project, where they inspected the construction works.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint also looked into the construction of the bridge No 3 between the mileposts 454 and 455. He also inspected the maintenance work being carried at Maliyan Bridge, which was constructed on 1 February 1999, completed on 14 May and commissioned into service on 15 August the same year, and gave instructions on efforts to ensure the durability of the bridge.

At Kandawyn village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversaw the construction of gravel road and gave instructions. On arrival at Lajayaw village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party were welcomed (See page 9).

Upgrading tasks of archery, football grounds inspected

YANGON, 29 April — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint arrived archery ground of Myanmar Archery Federation on 29 April. He heard reports on upgrading tasks of the ground and practising of archers.

He also inspected the main rooms, meeting hall, office room, lecture hall, common room and store room of sports gears.

Next, the minister looked into reception room, office room of the federation, meeting hall, hostel, mess, kitchen room, lecture hall, common room and store room of sports gears.

After he had heard reports presented by officials concerned, he attended to the requirements.

After inspecting practice session of archers, the minister met them and encouraged them to do their best with strong determination, discipline and training to uplift prestige of the State.

Afterwards, the minister inspected building of new football ground and heard reports on tasks being carried out presented by officials concerned and gave instructions on timely completion of the football ground meeting the set standards.

Government building industrialized nation based on agriculture

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development measures in Kachin State

YANGON, 29 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha was welcomed back at the airport — MNA.

NPED Minister and party arrive back

YANGON, 29 April — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 50th Annual Meeting of the United Nations Asia and Pacific Economic and Social Commission (ESCAP) held in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tin, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Resident Co-ordinator of UN agencies and UNDP Resident Representative Mr Charles James Petrie and Charge d’Affaires ai of the Chinese Embassy Mr Yu Boren.

Members of the delegation Director-General U Nyunt Aye of Directorate of Trade, Director Daw Myo Nwe of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Director U Hlaing Tin of Central Statistical Organization and Director Daw Le Le Thein of Planning Department also arrived back on the same flight.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint meets with archers at Kyaukkasan Grounds. — MNA.