

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Four political objectives

- \* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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 offers water to cleanse face of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image

YANGON, 17 April — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offered water to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township here at 6.30 am today, the Myanmar New Year Day.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the pagoda board of trustees and pilgrims.

First, the Prime Minister offered 'soon', flowers and water to the Buddha Image. Next, the ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*, and Chairman of the board of trustees U Shein Aung Bo recited the Gatha 'Sabba Jeya Mangala'.

To offer water for the cleansing of the face of the Image, the Prime Minister and party went round the Image clockwise and took their positions at the designated places.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister offered water to the Image and shared the merits gained. Then, the ceremony ended with three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu*.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected all-round construction tasks on Mindhamma Hill. — MNA

*Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cleanses the face of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image. — MNA*



## Nayikan Bridge on Yangon-Sittway Road inaugurated in Sittway Township

YANGON, 17 April — Nayikan Bridge was inaugurated near Nayikan Village in Sittway Township this morning.

The bridge is on Yangon-Sittway Road and it was built by construction group-10 of Public Works.

The opening ceremony was attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chair-

man of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, Secretary of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Than, local authorities, members of Rakhine State Organization for Women's Affairs, Mater-

nal and Child Welfare Association, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross and Fire Brigades and local people totalling about 10,000.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address. He said the government laid down plans and built a lot of infrastructures in economic, transport, education, health and social sec-

tors with greater momentum for equitable development of the regions in states and divisions including Rakhine State and socio-economic life of the national people.

He said transport is the most important and basic requirement for development of a region. With the progress of transport, production, trade and economic, education, health and social conditions of the

region will improve in harmony, he said.

He said relationship among the national races will become closer and they can exchange views. The closer relationship will strengthen goodwill, understanding, solidarity and Union Spirit. This is why the government is laying emphasis on better transport in all regions of the states and divisions, he added.

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## Circulation

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Newly opened Nayikan Bridge seen in Sittway Township, Rakhine State. — MNA

## PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 April, 2004

### Strive for timely completion of hydel power projects

The State Peace and Development Council has been making all-out efforts for enabling the nation to keep pace with others. Energy sector including electric power plays a major role in building a new modern and developed nation. To be able to lay down and implement electric power projects systematically, the leading committee for development of electric power led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and the work committee for development of electric power were formed.

With improvement of the living standard of the people and economic development, the power consumption has increased by about 15 per cent annually. Hence, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance calling for generation of 2,000 megawatt more during the period of the present third five-year plan based on rich water resources in the nation. Therefore, priority is being given to establishing of hydel power projects.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected Shwesayay Hydel Power Project in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division on 10 April and gave guidance to officials concerned. In his instructions, Senior General Than Shwe said that there are many hydel power projects along the Chindwin Valley, adding that the hydel power project to be implemented in the environs of Shwesayay Village will contribute much towards development of regions on the west bank of Monywa and Pakokku District. With water supply from the project, farmers there will be able to engage in double and triple croppings and their living standard will improve and the regions will become greener.

Shwesayay Hydel Power Project is one of the hydel power projects to be implemented along Chindwin River. According to the experts, there are 268 water resources in which hydel power can be generated and it is expected that the water resources will be able to generate about 40,000 megawatt. Currently, hydel power projects in the nation have been able to generate some 390 megawatt and there are still much to be implemented.

On completion, Shwesayay Hydel Power Project will be able to supply electricity to factories, mills and mining projects in Monywa region and to other regions through the grid system. Therefore, all responsible officials are to make relentless efforts for timely completion of the hydel power projects being implemented by the State.

### Staff of SPDC Office, Central Offices perform meritorious deeds

YANGON, 17 April—Staff families of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Central Offices donated dawn 'soon' to members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Aletawya Sanpya Monastery in Bahan Township Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Gandhamalabhivamsa on the first floor of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, here, this morning. Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and directors-general of central offices and staff attended the ceremony. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhamalabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Next, Lt-Col Pe Nyein and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, they went to Hlawga Reservoir and released 2,500 fish into the reservoir and set 300 sparrows and one parrot free. They proceeded to Defence Services General Hospital. Director U Aung Thein of SPDC Office explained the purpose of the blood donation. Col Myo Nyunt of the hospital spoke words of thanks and Maj Daw Thin Thin Nwe explained facts about donating the blood. Altogether 71 staff families donated blood for Tatmadawmen patients. —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

### Paritta water poured on Yangon City

YANGON, 17 April — State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Yankin Township Maha Bawdi Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa and members of the Sangha flew over Yangon City by helicopter reciting Parittas for perpetual prevalence of peace among Myanmar citizens as well as global people on New Year Day morning, 1366 ME. The Sayadaws then poured Paritta water on the city.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win and party pay homage to Sayadaws. MNA

### Parittas recited at Information Minister's Office on New Year Day

YANGON, 17 April—The ceremony to recite Parittas to be free from danger was held at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street at 9 am today, Myanmar New Year Day (17 April) attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win. Also present were Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunananda and members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials.

First, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunananda and members of the Sangha consecrated Buddha images. Next, the minister and wife and party received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw. The minister and wife donated provisions to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, the Sayadaws recited Mangala Sutta and the Parittas and the minister and wife and party shared merits gained.

Similarly, the ceremony to recite Parittas was held

at the head office of News and Periodicals Enterprise on Theinbyu Street this morning. Present were Managing Director Col Soe Win of NPE and wife Daw Than Than Aye, Adviser U Tin Kha, directors, chief editors and officials.

Chairman of Pazundaung Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Myatheindan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara administered the Nine Precepts. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The managing director and wife offered 'soon' and provisions to the Sayadaws.

At the Sub-printing House of Myanmar Alin and Kyemon Dailies in Mandalay, Editor Captain Nyunt Zaw and staff received the Five Precepts from members of the Sangha. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Later, Captain Nyunt Zaw and officials offered donations to the Sayadaws and shared merits gained.

MNA



NPE Managing Director Col Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Aye and party pay homage to Sayadaws. MNA

### Ceremony to recite parittas and pour paritta water into reservoirs held

YANGON, 17 April—With a view to enabling the city dwellers to be free from all dangers, the ceremony to recite Parittas and Pour Parittas water into reservoirs was held at Phugyi Reservoir in Hmawby Township at 9.30 am today (the new year day).

The ceremony was graced by the presence of 27 members of Sangha led by Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and wife, the Secretary, the Joint-Secretary, the committee members, heads of departments and their wives, guests and others.

The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Next, the congregation received the Eight Precepts from Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya. After that, members of Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, the Mayor and wife, the Vice-Mayor and wife, committee members and wellwishers presented offerings to members of the Sangha. Later, Bhaddanta Tejaniya delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of mer-

its gained.

The ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu*.

After the ceremony, the congregation led by members of the Sangha poured Parittas water into Phugyi Reservoir.

Next, 'soon' was offered to members of the Sangha.

Accompanied by officials, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected Hlawga Reservoir in Mingaladon Township, renovation of embankment along Pyay Road, Kaba Aye Pagoda and laying of embankment near Inya Lake and gave instructions to officials.—MNA



Paritta water being poured into Phugyi Reservoir. —YCDC



# US soldier captured in Iraq, four foreigners freed

BAGHDAD, 17 April—Three Czechs and a Canadian taken hostage in Iraq were freed Friday, but in a fresh show of defiance guerrillas paraded a captive US soldier on a video tape and offered to exchange him for Iraqis held.

On the same day President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair vowed they would not retreat from Iraq. Al Jazeera broadcast a tape that showed US Private Keith Matthew Maupin held by masked and heavily armed guerrillas.

"A group of mujahideen (holy fighters) has succeeded in taking an Ameri-

can soldier prisoner...and he will be treated in the Islamic tradition of treating prisoners and he is in good health," one guerrilla read from a statement.

The poor-quality tape screened by the Arabic television station showed Maupin dressed in military fatigues sitting on the floor.

Later in the tape Maupin

— one of two US soldiers missing amid a spate of kidnappings this month that has snared foreign civilians from more than a dozen countries — identified himself in a soft voice.

"We are willing to exchange him for Iraqis held by the American enemy... This is the fate of all American soldiers in Iraq," the

guerrilla with the statement said.

A spokesman for Maupin's parents in the United States said the soldier on the tape was their son, known as Matt, and they were praying for his safe return.

"On behalf of his mother...and the rest of his family, we'd like to say, 'Matt, we love you and we can't wait until we get to hug you again'," Carl Cottrell told reporters outside the Maupin home in Willowville, Ohio.

The latest civilians on the hostage list were a Danish businessman, said to have been seized north of Baghdad, and a Jordanian-born businessman on a United Arab Emirates passport abducted in the southern city of Basra.

More than 40 foreigners have been taken hostage in Iraq. Most have been released, but earlier this week an Italian was killed by captors who threatened to kill another three Italians they were holding if Italy did not withdraw troops from Iraq.

Internet



A video image shows what appears to be a uniformed American soldier being held captive by guerrillas in Iraq on 16 April, 2004. The Al Jazeera network broadcast the tape, which showed a white man dressed in military fatigues sitting on the floor surrounded by masked gunmen. — INTERNET

## Portugal may withdraw troops from Iraq if situation worsens

LISBON, 17 April—Portugal may withdraw its national guard contingent from Iraq if the security situation in the country continues to deteriorate, Interior Minister Antonio Figueiredo Lopes said.

"If the conflict were to deteriorate and the GNR (national guard) did not have what it required to carry out its mission, the only solution would be to withdraw," he told Antena

1 public radio.

Portugal's centre-right Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso in November dispatched 128 national guards to southern Iraq to back the US-led coalition in

the war-torn country, where they operate under British command.

Figueiredo Lopes had said on Wednesday that Lisbon would stand by its pledge to keep its contingent in Iraq despite growing unrest in the country and calls to bring them home.

"We will not abandon this nation which has been so martyred," he had told parliament.

He had also repeated Lisbon's willingness to extend its presence in Iraq even after June 30, when Washing-

ton is to hand over sovereignty of the country, if asked to do so by the Iraqi governing authority which will take over.

Left-wing parties argue the nature of their mission has changed to one of engagement in warfare because of the mounting attacks on foreign forces in Iraq and are demanding the national guards be recalled.

Nearly three in four Portuguese, or 71 percent, want the national guards to be withdrawn, a poll published last month found. — Internet

## Poles urge US against Najaf assault

WARSAW, 17 April — Polish military officials responsible for security in part of southern Iraq are arguing hard against taking Shiite leader Moqtada al-Sadr by force in Najaf, a leading Polish newspaper said late on Thursday.

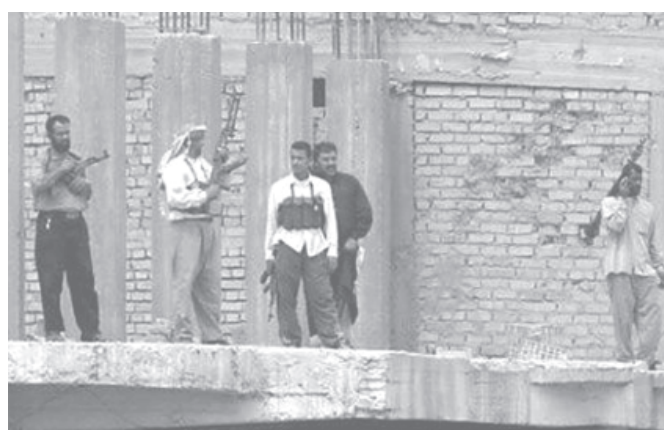
US troops are now poised around Najaf, where Sadr's militia started an uprising earlier this month against the US-led occupying forces, but America's top general said talks were under way to avoid a bloodbath in the city.

"Going into Najaf will be a disaster, it will make the main Shiite leaders turn away from us," Poland's *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper quoted a senior diplomatic source as saying. "If Sadr gives up on violence, we should be talking with him. We want to talk with anyone in Iraq who doesn't shoot at us."

Poland has 2,400 troops in Iraq and leads a multinational force based in Kerbala in the Shiite-dominated south-central zone of the country. On Thursday Polish forces in Iraq said they were blindsided by the violence with Sadr's followers because US officials did not warn them of actions that triggered the bloodshed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Strzelecki, a spokesman for the Poles, said the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority did not inform the multinational division in advance of a decision to shut down a newspaper associated with Sadr or about the detention of a key lieutenant to the Shiite cleric.

Asked if there was a difference of opinion with Washington over Najaf, Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski told the newspaper: "Our currency is dialogue and understanding. We do not need new troops in Iraq, just (new) political initiatives." — MNA/Reuters



Members of the Mehdi Army militia of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr occupy a building site in the town of Kufa on 16 April, 2004. Sadr's core supporters vowed there would be all-out war if US forces stormed Najaf, saying Iraq's Shiites would not let another of their leaders be killed with impunity. — INTERNET

## Iraqi group denies existence of foreign fighters in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 17 April — The Muslim clerics body in Iraq denied on Thursday that there were foreign fighters in Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad.

"We made some contacts with the residents of Fallujah, and we asked them about the news that there are foreigners fighting alongside the residents against the occupying forces," said Muhammed Fadhy, the official spokesman of the group.

"The residents emphasized that there are only some Egyptians and Sudanese workers who have been working in the industrial area since the 1980s," said the spokesman.

Meanwhile, Fadhy pointed out that his group had no relation with those who took hostages of foreigners.

"We called upon the kidnappers to release all the foreigners that do not have anything to do with the events, because kidnapping has nothing to do with the Islamic teachings, and most people responded to that call and released their hostages," said the spokesman.

Yet General Mark Kemmitt, deputy general commander of the American forces in Baghdad, said 25 per cent of those who fight the American forces in Fallujah are foreign fighters. — MNA/Xinhua

## Polish forces criticize US over Iraq Sadr violence

HILLA (Iraq), 17 April — Polish forces in Iraq said on Thursday they were blindsided by the violence caused by cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's followers because US officials did not warn them of actions that triggered the bloodshed.

US Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, travelled to Hilla, 62 miles south of Baghdad, on the second day of his visit to Iraq to confer with Major-General Mieczyslaw Biniek, who heads a multinational division operating in key Shi'ite Muslim areas of south-central Iraq.

Lieutenant-General Robert Strzelecki, a spokesman for the Poles, said the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority did not inform the multinational division in advance of shutting down a newspaper associated with Sadr or about the apprehension of a key lieutenant to the Shi'ite cleric.

Those two actions led to violence by Sadr's militia that rocked the relatively calm Shi'ite parts of Iraq and

opened a second front in the challenge to the US-led occupation. The cleric's followers seized control of several towns. A US defence official said Myers, the top US general, discussed the Polish-led division's relationship with the CPA, but did not offer details.

Strzelecki said the Polish-led division, responsible for the Shiite holy city of Najaf where al-Sadr is based and other key Shiite cities, was "very surprised" by this month's violence and had no chance to prepare for the consequences of the newspaper closure and the arrest. Strzelecki said he contacted CPA officials for an explanation, but was not given one. — MNA/Reuters

## Azerbaijan stresses upper Karabakh part of its territory

ANKARA, 17 April — Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev stressed here Thursday that Upper Karabakh is part of its territory.

"Upper Karabakh is a land of Azerbaijan. All lands under occupation, including Upper Karabakh, is an indispensable part of Azerbaijan," said Aliyev who was paying three-day official visit to Turkey.

"But the Upper Karabakh dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan is a threat for the region. Unfavourable to be given independence or considered a separate state or united with Armenia, which Azerbaijan rejects, he said. — MNA/Xinhua.

## US facing largely unknown enemy in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 April — US forces in Iraq are now confronted by multiple and still largely unknown enemies who are becoming more and more coordinated in their attacks.

The main source of concern for the United States is the Sunni Triangle northwest of Baghdad, a stronghold of the minority Sunni Muslim community that held power under former president Saddam Hussein.

More than 80 US soldiers and some 700 Iraqis, according to the US military, have been killed in fighting in Iraq over the past 12

days, much of it around Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

US-led coalition forces have also faced fierce fighting from some Shiite Muslims in the south, where the situation has stabilized in recent days, according to US military officials.

The Mehdi Army militia of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr, who has been branded an outlaw by

the coalition, is now only a limited threat, military officials said.

The coalition wants to disband his militia of 3,000-6,000 poorly equipped and trained fighters. Washington wants to isolate Sadr within the majority Shiite population, that hopes to benefit from the handover of power to Iraqis on 30 June.

"Sadr continues to marginalize himself from the rest of the Shiites," General John Sattler, Central Command's chief of operations, told reporters in Washington from the command's regional headquarters in Doha.

"I think we can say he has had his day in the sun," Sattler said. Sattler acknowledged more coordination has been seen among the fighters, with the Marines reporting an increasingly sophisticated resistance in Fallujah.

"I can't identify their numbers or who they are, but the enemy we are fighting is tough," he said. "We have noticed a little more coordination than in the past, but that's to be expected over time."

General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned that future military operations will have to take place in Fallujah and its surrounding area, where foreign fighters have mixed with members of Saddam's deposed regime.

Internet



A US soldier from the 25th Infantry Division keeps guard at a traffic checkpoint on the outskirts of Najaf, Iraq, on 16 April, 2004. — INTERNET

## World leading retailers to establish presence in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 17 April — Three transnational chain-store gurus have clinched deals in mega supermarket projects with local partners at the ongoing Third China Henan International Investment and Trade Fair in this capital city of central China's Henan Province.

The three world leading retailers were Carrefour of France, Wal-Mart of the United States and Chia Tai from Thailand. According to the accords, each of the three will build a large supermarket in Zhengzhou.

The project between Carrefour and the Jiangsu Yueda Southern Holding Co, Ltd based in east China's Jiangsu Province will be a 20-million-US-dollar supermarket, and the joint venture between a subsidiary of Wal-Mart in Shenzhen City, south China's Guangdong Province, and a Chinese real estate company from Shenzhen will be a

huge shopping mall with an estimated cost of 65 million US dollars.

Construction of the Wal-Mart mall, which will be the first Wal-Mart chain store in Zhengzhou, will start in June.

The Carrefour project is expected to come into being this year. The French retail giant plans to build three chain stores in Zhengzhou in three years, according to company sources.

Meanwhile, the Thailand-based Chia Tai will build another supermarket in Zhengzhou with an estimated investment of 15 million US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

## Pottery dating back 2,500 years discovered in N-W China

URUMQI, 17 April — Archaeologists say that they have discovered pottery handles that are 2,500 years old, during the excavation of the Yanghai Tombs in Shanshan County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Two pieces were found, one with a wild sheep head shaped handle while the other was a handle shaped like a ram's head, said Zhang Yuzhong, deputy director of the local archaeological institute.

"This is the first sheep head shapes pottery handle ever discovered in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region," said Zhang.

"Both are made with fine handicraft, exhibiting the great creativity and abundant

imagination of the ancient people 2,500 years ago," said Zhang.

Moreover, archaeologists also discovered that design on the pottery pots unearthed at the site is quite similar to the rock pictures discovered in Turpan Prefecture, providing evidence for the study of those rock pictures, said Zhang.

As the grandest tombs ever discovered in the Turpan Basin and nearby regions, the Yanghai tombs date back 3,000 years.

MNA/Xinhua

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## Clashes near Kufa, Iraqi cleric defiant

KUFA, 17 April — Blasts shook Iraq's holy Shiite town of Kufa on Friday after militiamen loyal to anti-US cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said they ambushed a convoy of vehicles from an American force that is building up nearby.

"I saw at least two Humvees on fire and we also attacked armored personnel carriers," said one fighter in the town adjacent to Najaf, home to the holiest Shiite shrines and where Sadr has been hiding from US forces ordered to kill or capture him.

"We attacked them again, but then they started mortaring our position so we had to retreat," said the man, clad in the black uniform of Sadr's Mehdi Army militia, as columns of smoke rose above the town and militiamen tried to evacuate at least two wounded colleagues across a bridge.

Defiant at Friday prayers in Kufa, Sadr said he would not disband his militia under any circumstances "because I did not create it on my own but with the cooperation of the Iraqi people." Hospital sources said at least five people were killed and 20 wounded, most of them seriously, in the fighting.

There was no immediate comment from US forces which have reinforced Spanish and Polish soldiers in the area around Najaf, prepared to root out Sadr and his militia, which took control of the city center earlier this month, if peace talks fail.

Sadr's militia launched an uprising against occupying troops this month and has fought skirmishes in several cities.

U.S. troops also fought Sunni insurgents in Fallujah overnight and a hospital official in the city west of Baghdad said 15 people were killed and 20 wounded, just hours after America's top general said truce talks could not go on for ever and more military action might be necessary. — Internet

## Rumsfeld says US deaths in Iraq higher than expected

WASHINGTON, 17 April — Midway through a bloody April for US forces in Iraq, Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he did not expect so many recent American casualties.

At least 88 US soldiers, several more civilians and hundreds of Iraqis have died this month, as insurgent fighters battled the American-led occupation. Most casualties have come since April 4.

"I certainly would not have estimated that we would have had the number of individuals lost that we have had lost in the last week," Rumsfeld said in answer to questions at the Pentagon on Thursday.

Rumsfeld announced that about 20,000 troops will stay in Iraq longer than they

had been told to help quell the violence.

An uprising by followers of militant Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in southern Iraq, coupled with heavy fighting between Marines and Sunni fighters in the restive Fallujah region west of Baghdad, has led to concerns of wider resistance to the US occupation in advance of the scheduled June 30 transfer of power to an Iraqi government.

"It's a tough road. And it's a bumpy road. And I'll be honest, it's an uncertain road," Rumsfeld told reporters.

Internet



US soldiers take positions near Kufa on 16 April, 2004. Shiite guerillas clashed with US troops near Kufa as their leader, cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, defied demands that he disband his militia to spare Iraq cities from bloodshed. — INTERNET

## Chirac ends visit to Algeria

ALGIERS, 17 April — French President Jacques Chirac ended his one-day visit to Algeria later on Thursday and left for Paris.

He came to Algiers to congratulate his Algerian counterpart Abdelaziz Bouteflika on his reelection just a week ago. The two presidents discussed bilateral and international issues of common concern over a working lunch at a state residence about 30 kilometres west of Algiers.

Chirac's congratulatory message was the first among world leaders to reach the

reelected president. His prompt visit came as a surprise among the Algerian media, which questioned his motives. Algeria had been a French colony for 132 years before its independence in 1962 after a guerilla war that lasted nearly eight years and claimed over 100,000 French and one million Algerian lives.

The two countries now maintain close ties. About

five million among the Muslim population residing in France come from Algeria.

Chirac's spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said Wednesday. "This trip shows the new path of Franco-Algerian relations since 2003, relations that both countries want to be close, trusting and smooth." Chirac last visited Algeria in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



## Book says Bush sought secret Iraq war plan

WASHINGTON, 17 April—George W Bush ordered up a secret plan to invade Iraq in late 2001, reinforcing the perception that the US President was itching for a showdown with Saddam Hussein soon after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

The White House has confirmed an account in a forthcoming book by journalist Bob Woodward that says the President told Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to draft invasion plans in November, 2001, while US troops were busy toppling the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Mr Bush said yesterday he “couldn’t remember dates that far back” and insisted his focus in the period after September 11 was mainly on Afghanistan.

“I do know that it was Afghanistan that was on my mind and I really didn’t start focusing on Iraq till later on,” Mr Bush told reporters after a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair — the latest in a series of meetings with world leaders focusing on the troubles in Iraq.

But White House spokesman Scott McClellan confirmed that Mr Bush asked Mr Rumsfeld on 21 Nov, 2001, to draw up a blueprint for dealing with Iraq — even though there was no evidence it had anything to do with the September 11 terrorism strikes.

Mr McClellan said that as the war was winding down in Afghanistan, Mr Bush “did

talk to Secretary Rumsfeld about planning related to Iraq.”

Planning didn’t imply an “actual decision” to invade, he added.

In his book *Plan of Attack*, to be published on Monday, Mr Woodward says the plot to go after Iraq was kept secret even from some of Mr Bush’s national security officials because the President didn’t want to be seen as a warmonger.

“I knew what would happen if people thought we were developing a potential war plan for Iraq,” Mr Bush is quoted as telling Mr. Woodward, according to an advance copy of the book obtained by The Associated Press.

“It was such a high-stakes moment and ..... it would look like I was anxious to go to war. And I’m not anxious to go to war.”

Mr Woodward, a veteran reporter and editor at *The Washington Post*, is best known for his investigative work with Carl Bernstein into the Watergate scandal.

Plan of Attack is his second book on the Bush presidency, based in part on extensive interviews with the President.

Internet

## World leading watch fair opens in Basel

GENEVA, 17 April—BASELWORLD, the world’s leading show for watches and jewellery, opened Thursday in Basel, Switzerland, aiming to provide the industry with positive momentum for the expected economic upturn.

With more than 2,000 exhibitors from 44 countries, most of the international watch industry is present at the show which will be held until April 22.

Around 80,000 visitors are expected to attend the fair to view products ranging from luxury watches such as Patek Philippe, which cost thousands of US dollars apiece, to the more modest offerings from Hong Kong producers whose digital watches sell for just one dollar apiece.

MNA/Xinhua

## Imperial Chinese porcelain show to be held in Paris

PARIS, 17 April—The exhibition “Magnificence of Fire” of masterpieces of imperial Chinese porcelain will be held from May 11 to July 31, 2004 in the Cultural Institute of China in Paris (CICP), the CICP announced here on Thursday.

The three-month exhibition of Jingdezhen Town’s imperial manufactory will present for the first time in a western country some 60 precious porcelain pieces over six centuries (the 12th to 18th centuries) through three golden ages of the imperial Chinese porcelain of the Yuan, the Ming and the Qing dynasties.

Some of these pieces have no equivalent in the great European or North American collections of Chinese ceramic and were never shown before in a Western country.

The porcelain is the most emblematic material of Chinese art and civilization for the Western people. Its first massive distribution outside China dates back to the 14th

Century, under the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

Jingdezhen (in Jiangxi Province in south China), formerly spelt Ching Teh Chen and known as the “Ceramics Metropolis” of China, is a synonym for Chinese porcelain. As part of the Chinese Year cultural exchange programme in France, and in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between China and France and the Millennium of the foundation of Jingdezhen, the exhibition will show how Jingdezhen develops bit-by-bit its superiority on all the other manufacturers of China and became the world leading capital of porcelain.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့စွေတာ၊ ဆန်းပါးလေလွန်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

## Falluja clashes, Najaf standoff fuel Iraq tension

FALLUJA, 17 April—US troops fought Sunni guerillas in Falluja on Friday and stood ready to strike at the cleric in Najaf, one of Iraq’s holiest Shiite cities.

A hospital official said 15 people were killed and 20 wounded in overnight clashes that erupted in Falluja just hours after America’s top general said truce talks could not go on for ever and more military action might be necessary.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers said Iraq’s US administrator Paul Bremer was using “multiple channels” in talks to pacify Falluja and avoid fighting in Najaf, where militia-men loyal to anti-US Shi’ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr control the city centre.

Polish officers commanding international troops in the Najaf region were unhappy at the prospect of an

assault on the holy city by 2,500 U.S. troops poised outside, Polish media said.

Sadr, who is in Najaf, said Iraqis would hit back with unimaginable “force and severity” if US forces carried out their threat to kill or capture him.

“Their threats to kill or detain me are a result of their weakness and collapse in the face of what has happened, and is happening, in Iraq,” he told Lebanon’s *as-Safir* newspaper.

American warplanes attacked targets in Falluja and a US armoured vehicle was destroyed in the fighting, witnesses said.

US Marines launched their assault on the city west

of Baghdad on 5 April after the killing and mutilation of four US private security guards there the previous week. Doctors say more than 600 Iraqis have died in fighting in Falluja since.

A week ago, the US military said it had suspended offensive operations in Falluja but would hit back if attacked. Talks to stabilize a shaky truce have led to relative calm interspersed with intense bouts of fighting and air strikes.

In the holy city of Kerbala, where Sadr’s followers have also taken control, three Iraqi policeman were killed in clashes with Shi’ite militia-men on Friday, witnesses said. — Internet



A US marine (L) monitoring a road on the outskirts of Fallujah. Young US marines forge bonds, cope with death in war while in Iraq. — INTERNET

## Russian Ministry backs Kyoto Protocol as Duma says no

MOSCOW, 17 April — Russia’s Government and Parliament looked to be headed for a collision on Thursday, with key Duma committees rejecting the Kyoto Protocol while a major ministry spoke out in favour of the environmental treaty.

Although the State Duma Lower House must formally ratify the pact, any decision on the protocol cutting greenhouse gas emissions clearly rests with President Vladimir Putin. In October, he ordered state bodies to report on Kyoto before the Kremlin rules on the issue by May 20.

Some economic ministries have already backed the pact and the addition on Thursday of the influential Ministry of Industry and Energy to their number appeared to be a move towards forming a single government position.

The fate of the treaty has rested with Moscow since top polluter Washington pulled out in 2001, meaning its terms cannot be fulfilled without approval by Russia — the second biggest polluter among industrialized nations.

But the Duma committees said ratifying was pointless, since there would no longer be a US market for pollution quotas that Russia, much of its Soviet-era industry stopped, is now entitled to sell. And the

treaty’s impact would be limited because non-industrialized countries do not have to cut gas emissions.

“Ratification is inexpedient given the US pullout and the non-participation of many countries with high levels of man-made impact on climatic processes,” the committees for ecology, the economy and international affairs said in a joint announcement.

Kremlin aide Andrei Illarionov, one of Russia’s most respected liberal economists and a prominent player on Kyoto, said the pact risked strangling the recovering economy. But the Ministry of Industry and Energy has prepared a report for Putin backing the treaty.

“The Kyoto Protocol poses no threat to the Russian economy,” Oleg Pluzhnikov, deputy head of the ministry’s ecology department, quoted the report as saying.

He said the report was compiled by the two top economic ministries in conjunction with noted scientists and energy specialists.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment of the First Infantry Division search a house near Kufa, Iraq on 16, April 2004. — INTERNET

## Iraq devoid of sovereignty under foreign occupation

### Images to be viewed from true perspective



*An Iraqi couple looks at the damage caused by US shelling on their house and car, on the outskirts of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad on 15 April, 2004. Three Iraqis were killed and two others wounded in a US bombardment near Baquba, hospital sources said.*



*Iraqis are lined up and checked at a traffic checkpoint on the outskirts of Najaf, Iraq, Friday, on 16 April, 2004.*



*US soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment of the First Infantry Division search a house near Kufa, Iraq, on 16 April, 2004.*



*A US soldier checks the bags of Iraqi school children during a weapons search operation in the Talbiyah district in Baghdad, Iraq on 15 April, 2004.*



*Iraqi youths look at the damage to a house caused by a helicopter gunship strike on the restive town of Falluja April 6, 2004. Heavy fighting was reported in the towns of Falluja and Ramadi, west of Baghdad, as US Marines mounted a major operation to root out guerrillas.*



*A wounded man is carried after crowds of protesters marched on a Spanish garrison near Kufa April 4, 2004.*



# *May Myanmar be peaceful in the New Year May all the citizens be able to partake of merits*



The 17th April 2004 is the Myanmar New Year Day. As it was ushering into 1366 Myanmar Era, the people performed meritorious deeds. Pagodas, monasteries and religious buildings were packed with devotees keeping sabbath and donating food and snacks to all. Photo shows the famous Shwedagon Pagoda thronged with Buddhist devotees on the Myanmar New Year Day.

PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN (KYEMON)

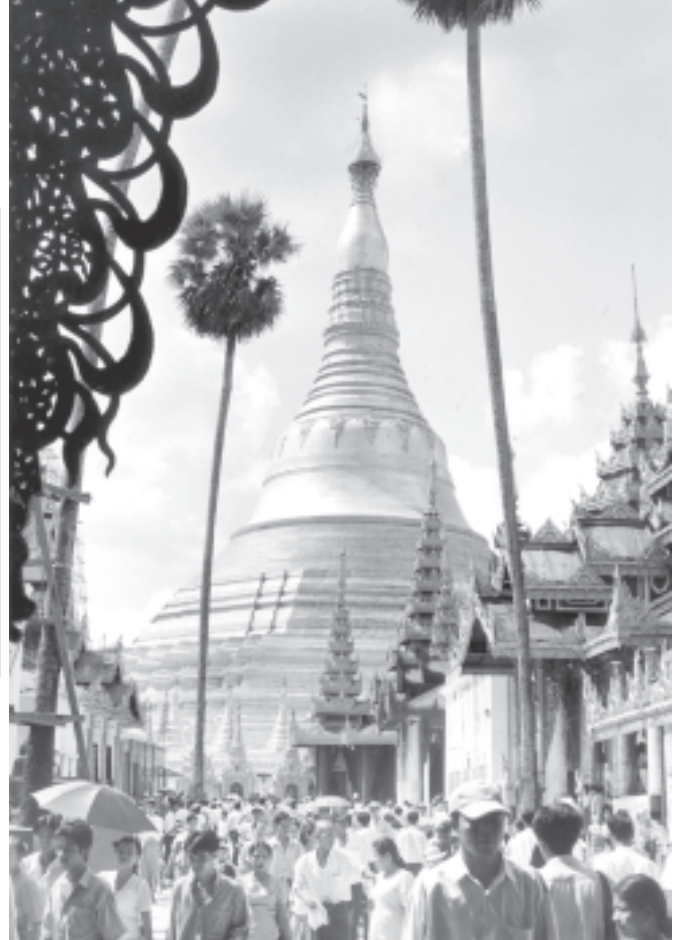


Photo shows the famous Shwedagon Pagoda thronged with Buddhist devotees on the Myanmar New Year Day.

PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN (KYEMON)



Photo shows the Botahtaung Kyaik-day-ut Pagoda being crowded with devotees on the Myanmar New Year Day.

PHOTO: THANT ZIN TUN (KYEMON)



Girls manicuring the aged persons on New Year Day.

PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN (KYEMON)

## *Meritorious deeds performed on Myanmar New Year Day*



Photo shows staff of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Central Offices realeasing fish into Hlawga reservoir as jivitadhana on the Myanmar New Year Day.

PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

# National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin

*Tekkatho Tin Kha*



*Head of State Senior General Than Shwe inspects the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin. — MNA*

Mr Maurice Collis, a worldwide famous writer as well as a former deputy commissioner of Myanmar, wrote a book entitled "The Journey Outward" over 80 years ago, which features the conditions of PyinOoLwin being upgraded to a hill station at that time. His presentation was very interesting. In the book, he said that he was very busy with future plans for upgrading Maymyo. And he was also trying to introduce a by-law with regard to allotting plots in the whole Maymyo, he said. Only then, could Maymyo be turned into a grand city consisting of magnificent private residences with large compounds, he expressed his idea.

Now, his dream has come true. The PyinOoLwin Biological Gardens established in 1917 had been upgraded and it was opened on 8 April 2001 under the name of the National Kandawgyi Gardens.

The opening ceremony of the National Kandawgyi Gardens was held at the gardens in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Division, on 8 April 2001. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe graced the ceremony and by attending it formally unveiled the stone inscriptions of the gardens.

The PyinOoLwin Biological Gardens formerly known as the Government Biological Gardens came into existence in 1917 and so it is over 80 years old.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, there has been nurtured a wide range of biological diversity including rare species of local and foreign trees, bamboo, orchid and *codiaeum variegatum* in the upgraded gardens. Also in existence in the gardens are rare species of animals such as takin, golden deer, star tortoise, green peacock and white peacock. Measures have been taken for greening the gardens and its environs.

The magnificent Nanmyint Tower has been constructed recently and thus visitors can enjoy natural beauties form the tower.

The Head of State inspected the Nannmyint Tower in the gardens on the morning of 18 December 2003 and gave guidance to the officials. In response to the reports of officials concerned, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that various kinds of local trees and bamboo and flowery plants are to be collected and shown at the National Kandawgyi Gardens to enable the enthusiasts to study them at a single place, adding that replicas of natural landmarks in the states and divisions are to be shown there. He urged officials concerned to make earnest efforts to gradually turn the gardens into a famous Landmark Gardens of Myanmar.

Accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and

Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Senior General again made an inspection tour of the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin on 13 April 2004 morning.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported to the Senior General and party on upgrading the gardens in accord with the guidance, collection and planting of various kinds of wood, bamboo, orchids and other flowers in the gardens, arrangements for establishment of the National Landmark Gardens that depict significant landmarks of the states and divisions, arrival of visitors to the Nanmyint Tower, arrivals of tourists and local visitors to the garden and increase of income.

Regarding the report, the Senior General said that the garden was upgraded to the National Kandawgyi Gardens with added momentum. He spoke of the need to renovate the garden to be beautiful and pleasant forever. He said that his guidance given during his inspection tour was to be implemented fully. He said arrangements are to be made to publicize the pleasant, recreative and informative nature of the garden among the people. He said income will increase through the visits by local people and tourists year after year.

Implementation of the tasks for upgrading of the National Kandawgyi Gardens has gained greater momentum year by year. So far, a total of 482 species of hard wood, 67 species of foreign wood, a couple of Zarmani bird and 16 species of foreign birds are kept in the gardens. Now, the four takins have fully grown.

Therefore, the dream of world famous writer Mr Maurice Collis has come into reality. All in all, I think the State's National Kandawgyi Gardens will become one of the famous landmark gardens of a biological diversity in the world soon.

(Translation: MS)

**ပျားရည်နှင့်အစွမ်းသတ္တိ**

ပျားရည်သည်အင်အားဖြည့်တင်းပေးရာတွင် အသန့်စင်ဆုံးအာဟာရ  
တစ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တုဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်း နှင့် အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြား ပါဝင်ပါသည်။

ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော  
သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယားပိုးမွှားသန့်စင်ပါသည်။  
ပျားရည်တွင် ပဋိဇီဝစွမ်းရည်သတ္တိပါရှိသဖြင့် အနာဒါဏ်ရာများ

အနာကျက်မြန်စေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။

ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက်လာစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း  
တစ်တောဝင်တစ်တောင်တက်  
မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

## 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 four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

## Efficient use of fuel

- \* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- \* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- \* The amount, US\$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeawady River

## All this needs to be known

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

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာနန်းမိတ်အတွင်း ခရီးသည် တင်ယာဉ်(ကတ်စံကား)များအား ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူဆောင်ရွက် ခဲ့သဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု၊ ယာဉ်တိမ်းမှောက်မှုများ လျော့နည်း ကျဆင်းသွားသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ယခုအခါတွင် ဌာနဆိုင်ရာ ယာဉ်များနှင့် ကုမ္ပဏီယာဉ်များမှ ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းများကို ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ လျော့နည်း ကျဆင်းလာသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ကိုယ့်ပိုင်ဆိုင်မှုယာဉ် များမှာမူ ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု လျော့နည်းကျဆင်းလာမှု မရှိသေးကြောင်း တွေ့ရှိရပါသဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုမဖြစ်အောင် ထိန်းသိမ်း မောင်းနှင်ကြရန်နှင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြစ်ဒဏ်သတ် မဟုတ်ချက်များအား မည်သည့်နည်းနှင့်မျှ ကင်းလွတ်ခွင့်ပြုမည် မဟုတ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ





Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays homage to Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda.— MNA

## Only when combined efforts are made...

(from page 16)

On arrival at Kyaikto Hotel, the Prime Minister and party heard reports on matters related to the hotel by U Than Han of Onyx International Co Ltd. The Prime Minister gave instructions on decoration of the hotel to become a modern building and offer good services and inspected the hotel.

Onyx International Co Ltd is running the hotel of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services. Nowadays, there are 90 rooms including 28 rooms of superior type, 24 rooms of standard type, three rooms of family type, 25 of bamboo house and 10 of economy type. At present, arrangements are being made for construction of 50 apartments building.

At the Dhammayon of the pagoda, the Prime Minister met with local authorities, officials of departments concerned and social organizations. First, Chairman of Kyaikto Township Peace and Development Council U Hla Win reported on matters related to the township. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and

for ensuring local food security and boosting per acre yield, he said.

Necessary assistance is to be provided to the private sector in a bid to turn Mon State into the one which produces rubber most in the nation. Emphasis is to be placed on accomplishment of the five rural de-

and coordination, he said.

Only when measures are taken to make the administrative machinery more effective and combined efforts are made unitedly, will significant success be achieved, he said.

He said in implementation of the tasks electric power, fuel and money are

income and uplift of living standard. Departmental officials are also to organize and lead the people and fulfill the requirements, he urged.

For successful implementation of the objectives of the State, departmental officials are to make endeavours for greater



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gave supplementary reports.

In response to the reports, the General fulfilled the requirements, saying that responsible officials are to be equipped with goodwill and diligence in carrying out tasks for development of the regions where they are assigned duties. And they are also to distribute high-yield strains of crops, disseminate agricultural methods and render assistance to local farmers

development tasks especially on upgrading of rural roads, he said.

Those in charge of respective townships are to make field trips down to the grassroots level for attending to the needs of local people, and only then, will they win the trust of local residents and will their living standard rise, he said.

All township level departmental officials are to strive for development of respective regions in all sectors through cooperation

to be spent effectively and beneficially practising thrift. He spoke of the need to enlist the participation of social organizations such as the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Maternal and Child welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar War Veterans Organization.

He said the people on their part are to make efforts for progress of agriculture, livestock breeding, production and increase of

progress of the region and the township in combination with diligence and goodwill whatever role they are in.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present. He inspected renovation of religious structures on the pagoda platform and greening of the Kyaikhtiyo hill and its environs.

The Prime Minister paid homage to the pagoda and had a chat with pilgrims.

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opens Shwenankyin Beikman at the platform of Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda.— MNA

## Myanmar New Year Day ceremonies held in Yangon City

YANGON, 17 April — Today is an auspicious Myanmar New Year Day of 1366 Myanmar Era. Under the teachings of the Lord Buddha, Myanmar Buddhists performed meritorious deeds on such New Year Day, avoiding misdeeds.

On that day, ceremonies to pay respects to the aged, serve refreshment and foods to all the persons who came from various regions and set animals free were held in wards and villages in town-

ships of Yangon City. In addition, devotees and pilgrims paid homage to members of the Sangha and pagodas, practised meditation and did sundry tasks in religious areas and buildings.

At Shwedagon Pagoda, devotees and pilgrims carried out sanitation tasks on the platform. At dawn, wellwishers offered 'soon' to the pagoda and members of the Sangha. Similarly, Botahtaung, Sule, Koedatgyi, Chaukhtatgyi, Ngadatgyi, Meilamu,

Kyaikkasan, Moegaung and Tooth Relic Pagodas were crowded with devotees and people.

At Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township, the pagoda board of trustees organized the ceremony to offer 'soon' to the Buddha Image, set fish free into Mingala Lake and donate provisions to members of the Sangha.

On the Kaba Aye Hill, the ceremony to mark the

New Year Day was held at the prayer hall this afternoon. Religious organizations recited Mangala Sutta and religious verses.

Similarly, the trainees led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañnasami (Magadi-Thazi) of Basic Buddhist Cultural Course held the ceremony to mark the Myanmar New Year Day and next they set fish free into Mingala Lake.

The 37th donation ceremony was held at Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha in Bahan

Township this morning. Hiteshi Group donated offerings worth K 2,050,000 to over 3,300 members of the Sangha and lay persons.

Organized by Mon Literature and Cultural Committee (Yangon), the 31st ceremony to pay respects to

Mon elder persons who are 75 years and above was held at Mon Dhammayon on Shwedagon Pagoda Road this morning.

Similarly, the respects-paying ceremonies were held in townships in capital.— MNA

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာ သစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာ တောတန်း  
တစ်တောင် တစ်တောင်တက်  
မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pays homage to Lawka Nanda Pagoda and Pylonchantha Pagoda in Sittway

YANGON, 17 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence yesterday arrived at Lawka Nanda Pagoda where he was welcomed by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, departmental heads and Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Nyo Tha Tun and members.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than paid homage and offered flowers, lights and incense sticks to Kasapa and Bumiphasa Buddha images. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party

heard reports on renovation of the pagoda and fulfilled the needs. After signing in the visitors' book, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party made cash donations towards the funds of the pagoda. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than paid obeisance to Sakkyia Muni Buddha Image kept in Aung Sakkyia Muni Ordination Hall in the compound of the pagoda and offered flowers, lights and incense sticks to it.

Afterwards, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited Ahtula Marazein Pylonchantha Pagoda. Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U San Aung and officials wel-

comed them. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than paid homage to the pagoda and offered flowers, lights and incense sticks to it. Members of the pagoda board of trustees reported on all-round renovation of the pagoda to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, who then attended to the needs, made cash donations and signed in the visitors' book.

Ahtula Marazein Pylonchantha Pagoda is about 14 feet high and the throne about nine feet high. Five kinds of jewellery are enshrined in the face of the Buddha Image. It is the largest 5426-viss bronze Buddha Image in Rakhine State. — MNA

### Nayikan Bridge inaugurated near...

(from page 1)

In the past, Rakhine State relied only on air and waterway. The government spent a large sum of money on construction of roads and bridges in the state, he said.

Though there are three gateways to Rakhine State from other states and divisions — An-Minbu Road, Taungup-Padaung Road and Gwa-Ngathaingchaung Road, there is no motor roads in Rakhine State. As a result, people in the region faced transport difficulty, he said. Firstly, Yangon-Sittway Union Highway was built in 2000, he added.

Now national people in Rakhine State can go to any part of the country through Sittway-MraukU-An Road.

an address, saying that the government has been striving for ensuring secure and smooth transport which plays an important role in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In the process, the government places emphasis on equitable development of all parts of the nation, he said.

So, the 24 special development regions project and the five rural development tasks are being implemented in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, he said.

After 1988, the Ministry of Construction has built tarred roads, gravel roads, macadam roads and earth roads in Rakhine State stretching 449 miles. And from 1988 to now, Rakhine State has been facilitated with 29 bridges which are with 180 feet or above in length. Moreover,



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than addresses opening ceremony of Nayikan Bridge in Sittway Township.— MNA



Kyaukphyu-Maei-Taungup Road and Maei-An Road are under construction. Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road is being built. On completion of the road, it will be Rakhine coastal highway linking the north and south of Rakhine State.

The reinforced-concrete two-lane Nayikan Bridge is 300 feet long and 30 feet wide and it is the 183th one built after 1988, the 170th one for Public Works and the 29th for Rakhine State. Completion of the bridge promotes the flow of commodity and ensuring secure transport, he said.

He spoke at length on developments of education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding and rural development.

He said Rakhine State is rich in marine and land resources. Now natural gas deposits have been found. He assured that the Rakhine State will become a reliable state economically in the near future with the combination of the government's arrangements and assistance and utilization of the existing resources.

He called for working with diligence for progress of the region and maintenance of the bridge for its durability.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made

five more bridges are being constructed and two to be constructed in the state.

When the Yangon-Sittway Highway was put into service, this bridge was the one with one-way-traffic system, but owing to growing number of vehicles passing through the bridge, it had to be upgraded to a reinforced concrete bridge with two-way-traffic system, he said.

In conclusion, the minister expressed his thanks to those who contributed towards the construction of the bridge and called for durability of the facility.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivered a speech. A local also spoke words of thanks for the construction of the facility. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and the minister formally opened the bridge. They posed for a documentary photo together with those present.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pressed the button to unveil the stone inscription of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander, the minister and departmental officials together with local people took a walk along the bridge.

MNA

### Animals released and respects paid to the aged on New Year Day

YANGON, 17 April— The Ministry of Religious Affairs held the 11th ceremony to release animals and pay respects to the aged for 1366 Myanma Era, at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Yankin Kyaikpi Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunesana

and member Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Religious Affairs Department, officials and staff. Before the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental heads and staff released 108 birds to mark the New Year Day.

Next, the minister and officials set 500 fish free at the lake near Maha Ordination Hall. In the compound of the Dhamma Thabin, staff hair-shampooed and manicured the aged. At the ceremony to pay respects to the older persons, Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunesana administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. The minister and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaws. Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Viçarindabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Afterwards, the minister, the adviser and officials paid respects with offertories to 94 older persons.

U San Thein (writer Thiha Swe), aged 86, spoke words of thanks.

MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveils stone inscription of Nayikan Bridge in Sittway Township.— MNA





# UN forecasts 3.7% growth of world economy in 2004

UNITED NATIONS, 17 April — The global economy will grow 3.7 per cent in 2004 on the basis of its strong recovery in the second half of last year, but the pace of expansion could slow during the second half of this year, a United Nations report said on Thursday.

The report, issued by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said conditions favourable to good growth — low interest rates, low inflation, rising stock markets, expanding trade and cross-border investment — “are almost ubiquitous”.

The report, prepared by 100 economists from 60 countries, said that while the risk of global inflation is rising, but it is not seen as “a major threat in the baseline forecast”.

The US economy is predicted to grow 4.7 per cent this year, much higher than last year’s rate of 3.1 per cent.

But the report warned that the US economy might not sustain growth momentum due to its surging budget deficits and swelling trade imbalance.

Continued US expansion is “crucially dependent on the willingness of the rest of the world to continue to lend to the United States by accumulating US assets, mostly United States Treasury Bonds,” it said.

“Such a cycle of interdependency between the United States and the rest of the world is unlikely to prove sustainable,” it added.

The report predicted that Japan’s economy will expand 3.1 per cent in 2004 and slow to 2 per cent next year.

European economies are seen to grow 1.9 per cent this year.

Developing economies are expected to obtain a 5.1-per-cent growth this year, while transitional economies will expand a hefty 6 per cent.

The forecast said Chinese economic growth will hit 8.5 per cent this year before dipping to 8.2 per cent next year.

MNA/Xinhua

# UNSG urges systematic approach dealing with business, conflicts

UNITED NATIONS, 17 April — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Thursday for a “more systematic approach” across the United Nations to ensure that businesses can conduct their operations in countries either facing or emerging from conflicts but at the same time do not behave in a way that exploits or exacerbates the strife.

In remarks to a Security Council debate about the role of business in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, Annan announced he has set up an inter-agency group within the United Nations to study the political economy of armed conflict and recommend ways in which the UN system and member states can respond effectively.

Annan said that while there have been many attempts to tackle the issues surrounding business and countries in or emerging from conflict, they have generally been ad hoc and lacking coordination. He said “a more systematic approach” is necessary.

“It would give us the tools with which to better understand, and more actively influence, the economy incentives and disincentives that drive the dynamics of armed conflict,” he said.

Transparency is essential, Annan said, noting he has recently established an independent probe into allegations of fraud, corruption and mismanagement with the UN-run Iraqi oil-for-food programme.

Pointing out that the private sector can be both a good and a bad influence on areas of armed conflict, he said that by investing or operating in those areas, many companies have the potential to help a community “turn its back on conflict, or exacerbate the tensions that fuelled conflict in the first place”.

He called on the Security Council and all UN member states to do more to make sure that the private sector acts responsibly in countries beset by conflict. —MNA/Xinhua

# Indonesia to build power interconnection line to Malaysia

JAKARTA, 17 April — Indonesia’s state-owned electricity company PLN will build some 60 kilometres of interconnection electricity line to Malaysia in 2009, a top official of the company said here on Thursday.

With a capacity of 300 to 400 megawatt, the line would pass through the sea from Riau Province, in western Indonesia, to Malaysian Peninsula, said the president director of the PLN Edie Widiono.

According to the ASEAN Interconnection Master Plan (AIMS), which was agreed at the ASEAN Energy Ministerial Forum in Malaysia last year, the interconnection project will benefit Indonesia by providing energy to Sumatra, Java and Bali islands, and the energy can also be exported to Malaysia through the interconnection line.

The director said the project will be run by both the PLN and the Malaysian Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

MNA/Xinhua

# Thailand to cut down road accidents

BANGKOK, 17 April — Traffic check points around Thailand would be enhanced to cut down road accidents at the weekend when revellers celebrating the Thai New Year would start heading back home, the Thai authorities on Friday were quoted by local Press as saying.

Check points nationwide would be manned with some 100,000 people to improve crackdown on drunk driving and speeding motorists, the Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisaeng was quoted by Bangkok Post as saying.

“The more check points that are in place, the less road accidents there will be,” said Chaturon, who is also the director of the road safety centre established to cut down road accidents during the week-long Thai New Year, or Songkran, Festival. Road safety has become the authorities’ top concern during festival seasons, with some 569 people killed and 40,000 wounded in last year’s 5-day long Songkran revelry and 857 killed and 42,179 injured in last year’s 8-day New Year holiday by road accidents. — MNA/Xinhua

## “သတ်ပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုတွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရောင်းအညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ဝေထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီမံများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်း တောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီမံများကို ညပိုင်းတွင် ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနိပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။  
(၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံလူ့အခွင့်အရေး ဝန်ကြီးရုံး (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉၉)  
(၂) ကြိုမီကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ဖုန်း ၂၅၁၂၀၇/၂၅၁၂၀၈)  
(၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်း ပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ (ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၇/၅၄၁၉၀၈)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

## အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့်ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကဲစွာသုံးစွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သောရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —  
၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗလများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများစွာကုန်သုံးပုံစံရှိသောသလိခစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် လူမရှိတဲ့ နားထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinations)။

၃။ အတက်ကြီးရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits) (ဝက်ရုပြန်ရောဂါကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက် ရခြင်း ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏နီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများ ဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှုကျူးလွန်သည်အထိ ဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆို ကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက် သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်းအပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေး ဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

## Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 17 April — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Modern and scientific poultry farming as well as fish and prawn breeding are also exhibited at the Nursery Market Festival.

Pamphlets and booklets on scientific cultivation of crops, mechanized farming, utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers are also available there.

The Nursery Market Festival is drawing more and more visitors and attracting people to get interested in agriculture and livestock breeding works.

MNA

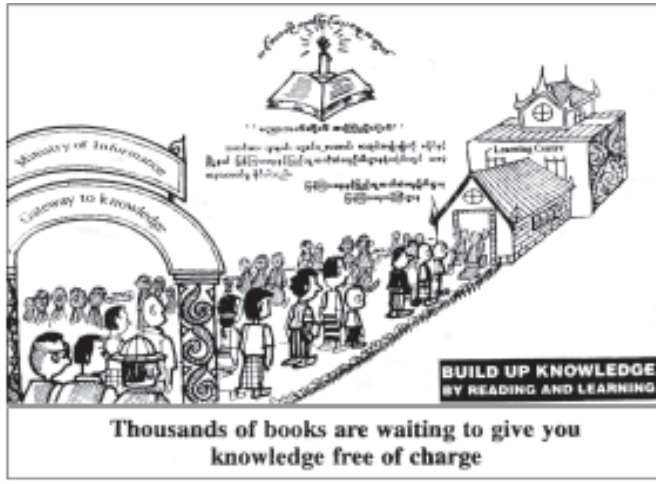
ရှောင်လေဝေးဝေး

မူးယစ်ဆေး

## တီဘီရောဂါကာကွယ်နိုင်နည်းရေး

- (က) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားကူးစက်ပုံ  
ဤရောဂါသည်တီဘီရောဂါဖြစ်သော ကူးစက်ရောဂါဖြစ်သည်။ ဝေဒနာရှင် ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချေခြင်း၊ သလိပ်တော့မှ တစ်ဆင့် ရောဂါပိုးများ လေထဲတွင်ပျံ့နှံ့၍ ကူးစက်သည်။  
- အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး လူတိုင်းတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည်။  
- အဆုတ်တွင်အများဆုံးဖြစ်ပွားပြီး ကိုယ်ခန္ဓာအနှံ့အပြားတွင်လည်း ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။  
- ဆီးချိုရောဂါ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုကူးစက်ရောဂါနှင့် အာဟာရ ချို့တဲ့မှုရှိသူများတွင် အဖြစ်များသည်။
- (ခ) ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ  
- ရက်ရှည်ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း (ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၃) ပတ်နှင့်အထက်)။  
- ချောင်းဆိုးသွေးပါခြင်း။  
- သလိပ်တွင်သွေးပါခြင်း။  
- အများစုမှာရှည်ခြင်း။  
- ခံတွင်းပျက်ခြင်း၊ မောပန်းလွယ်ခြင်း။  
- ကိုယ်အလေးချိန်လျော့နည်းပိန်ချိုခြင်း။  
- ကျောရင်အောင်ခြင်း။
- (ဂ) ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ခြင်း  
- ရင်သွေးငယ်များအား ကာကွယ်ဆေး(ဘီစီဂျီ)ကို မပျက်မကွက်တိုးပေးပါ။  
- အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။  
- သင့်တင့်လျောက်ပတ်သောကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုပြုလုပ်ပါ။  
- ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချေလျှင် လက်ကိုင်းဝါကို အသုံးပြုပါ။  
- သလိပ်နှင့်တော့ကိုစည်းကမ်းမဲ့ထွေးခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။  
- ဆေးလိပ်သောက်ခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (ဃ) ကုသမှုယူခြင်း  
- တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှုအချိန်တိုနှင့်တူနည်းဖြင့် ရောဂါကင်းသည်အထိ ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။  
- ကုသမှုခံယူခြင်းသည် အခြားသူများသို့ကူးစက်စေခြင်းမှ အကောင်းဆုံးကာကွယ်ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။  
တီဘီရောဂါသံသယရှိလျှင် နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် စစ်ဆေး၍ တီဘီရောဂါရှိပါက အရွမ်းထက်သောတီဘီဆေးဝါးများဖြင့် အခမဲ့ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



## NEWS OF THE WORLD

### Philippines striving to be "good No 2" in call centre business

MANILA, 17 April— The Philippines is striving to build itself a "good No 2" in the call centre business, which is expected to sharply grow this year, next to global leader India, a local newspaper reported Thursday.

Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima was quoted by *Philippine Daily Inquirer* as saying that an additional revenue of about 600 million US dollars is expected this year from new investments in call centres.

Purisima said that about 40,000 new call centre seats are expected to start operating this year, double the number of existing ones, and more foreign companies had informed the department of their plans to set up call centre businesses in the country.

"Each seat employs 1.4 people generating 15,000 US dollars in average revenue, so this means 600 million US dollars in new receipts for the Philippines this year," he said. He said the country had made a strategy to develop more contact centres and business process outsourcing (BPO) sector so as to build itself a "Good No. 2" in the business

next to global leader India.

He was referring India's Bangalore City in the Karnataka state, which is known as the "Silicon Valley" of Asia. Adjacent cities, like Mysore, are also being groomed as satellite IT programming and backroom servicing centres for the global market.

Each call centre seat, as Purisima estimated, would bring in about 3,000 to 6,000 US dollars in fresh investments to the Philippines. He said the entry of more foreign companies into the call centre and BPO sector "not only highlights the quality of our local human resources, but demonstrates the continued viability of the Philippines as a place for doing business".

However, the secretary noted the business requires not only training human resources but also investments in infrastructure. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### Nepal's Nat'l airlines announces flight cuts, reschedules

KATHMANDU, 17 April— The Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation has announced flight cuts and readjusted its schedules for a week after it failed to bring in a replacement craft for one of its Boeings, which is leaving for a check on Thursday.

As a result, the national flag carrier has decided to cut one flight each from four international sectors, *The Kathmandu Post* newspaper on Thursday quoted Raju KC, marketing director of the corporation, as saying. "We have to reschedule the entire

international flights and cut one each flight to Osaka, New Delhi, Bangalore and Kuala Lumpur for a week," KC said.

The corporation, which operates two *Boeing 757s*, currently flies to 10 destinations in seven countries.

Despite two-and-a-half month long effort, the corporation failed to finalize a deal to acquire a replacement plane for its *Boeing 9-NACB*, which is leaving for a C-check and will be out of service for at least two months. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### HK, Shenzhen customs to step up anti-smuggling efforts

HONG KONG, 17 April— The Customs authorities of Hong Kong and Shenzhen on Wednesday agreed to continue strengthening their exchanges of intelligence, and conduct more joint operation to clamp down on cross-border smuggling activities.

In a reception to welcome Shenzhen Customs officials, who are here for a meeting to explore ways reinforcing measures against cross-boundary smuggling activities, Hong Kong Customs chief Timothy Tong stressed the importance for both sides to maintain a close relationship.

Passenger and cargo traffic between the two cities is voluminous. There is an average of some 160,000 passengers per day coming to Hong Kong through various checkpoints at Shenzhen, and an average of 56,400 metric tons of incoming cargo from Shenzhen every day.

Tong said Hong Kong Customs "accords paramount priority" to law enforcement as well as trade facilitation.

Citing the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) as an example, Tong said the implementation of the pact has been smooth thanks to the close cooperation between the two Customs administrations. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကြိုအားပေးပါ

### Romanian Senate delegation pledges one-China policy

BEIJING, 17 April — Romania will continue to firmly support the stance of China on the issues of Taiwan and Tibet, a senior member of the Romanian Senate said here Wednesday.

Ghiorgi Prisacaru, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Romanian Senate, made the remarks during a meeting with Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a top advisory body of China.

The One-China policy is a "principle" of Romania, and all political parties in Romania have a consensus to develop relations with China as a "strategic choice", Prisacaru said.

China and Romania established diplomatic relations 55 years ago. Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Romanian counterpart Ion Iliescu signed a joint statement last year, agreeing to further improve exchanges and cooperation in politics, economy, trade, culture, education, tourism and science and technology.

During the President's visit last year, Chinese telecom equipment manufacturer China ZTE Corporation signed a 94-mil-

lion-US-dollar contract with Romania's POSTelecom, to help Romania build a nationwide telecom network.

The Romanian senator praised China for its "huge progress" in politics, economy, science and technology and social matters over the past decades.

The Romania senate delegation arrived in China Tuesday, and it is the first Romanian delegation to visit China after it joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) early this month.

Also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Jia Qinglin said China attaches great importance to its relations with Romania and hopes to cultivate the friendly relationship.

On the same day, Gu Xiulian, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met with the Romanian delegation. Gu visited Romania last month. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### Chinese, Norwegian defence ministers hold talks

BEIJING, 17 April — Chinese Minister of National Defence Cao Gangchuan held talks here Wednesday with Minister of Defence of Norway Kristin Krohn Devold.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and a state councillor, said the Armed Forces of China values the relationship with their Norwegian counterpart. He said, friendly exchanges between the Armed Forces of the two sides are

frequent in recent years, hoping they can learn from each other for further development of their friendly relations.

Devold is the first minister of defence of Norway to visit China and her visit to China is bound to promote friendly exchanges between the two

countries and Armed Forces, Cao said. He also briefed Devold on China's stance on the Taiwan issue.

Devold said Norway appreciated China's rapid economic development and its active role in international affairs. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### Ground sinks in S China village

ZHUHAI, 17 April — The sinking of ground Tuesday morning in Nanping Town of Zhuhai City, south China's Guangdong Province, caused five four-storey buildings to plunge one to two metres into the ground.

The sinking occurred along Qianshan River in Guangchang Village, leaving the five buildings damaged and distorted to various extents. The area was blocked off by police and residents inside were transferred to safe places with no casualties reported.

An owner of a shop in one sunk building said she was woken from a deep sleep by the violent trembling of her bed and the sounds made

by goods falling from the shop shelves.

"I got up and tried to open the door, but failed. I yelled for help and my neighbours came and helped me out," said the woman, who declined to give her name.

About ten people were inside the buildings when the accident occurred at 1:00 a.m. Tuesday. One building is still under construction and the others are hired out, said Yao Xinmin, an official of

Nanping Town.

The buildings are all illegally built without standard foundations, which might have caused the sinking, Yao said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

### India busts antique smuggling gang

NEW DELHI, 17 April — Delhi police claimed on Wednesday to have busted a gang involved in smuggling antique items, gold coins and stolen idols.

The police recovered valuables worth over 666,000 US dollars and arrested four persons, three of them apprehended on Tuesday near Shahjahan Road in New Delhi area, where they had gathered to sell antique items, the *Press Trust of India* quoted local police as saying.

Two 500-year-old idols weighing over 12 kilos, a Tibetan figurine weighing 210 grammes, 17 brass-coloured coins of Kushan era, 10 brass-coloured coins of Gujarat sultan era, 31 coins from the time of Ferozeshah Tughlaq and 50 coins of Mughal period were recovered from them.

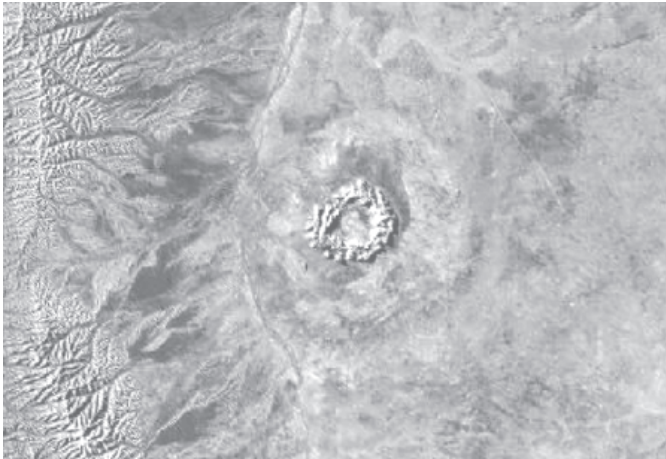
— *MNA/Xinhua*



A dog sniffs its food in a restaurant called 'Tampopo' in the center of Kiev, on 15 April, 2004. Tampopo is the first restaurant for visitors with their pets in the capital of the ex-Soviet Ukraine. — INTERNET



# ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Astronomers scanning the universe for giant asteroids that could collide with Earth have switched their search to the southern skies where they say they may find the biggest space rocks yet. Here an impact crater in Australia's Northern Territory. —INTERNET

## UN presses for global action on road safety

UNITED NATIONS, 17 April — World governments struggling to alleviate poverty and bring peace to the Middle East and Africa turned on Wednesday to a less contentious topic — a global campaign to improve road safety.

A two-day UN meeting that opened on Wednesday is expected to culminate in a resolution urging the world body's 191 nations to cooperate more closely on road safety and naming the World Health Organization to coordinate the campaign.

Nearly 1.2 million people die and another 20 million to 50 million are injured every year in road crashes, and 518 billion US dollars is spent annually to care for the injured, the WHO reported in a study issued earlier this month.

The developing world's

share of the cost of caring for the injured is about 100 billion US dollars — a sum that far exceeds the amount spent worldwide on development aid, the UN health agency said.

"People hold a fatalistic view of road crashes, often encouraged by the word 'accident' instead of 'crash' or 'collision'. Yet many of the risks involved are entirely within our control," UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette told the meeting's opening session.

"Many crashes can be prevented, while the effects

of many others can be reduced. We have a lot to do to raise awareness. We must ensure that hard-earned gains in public health and development are not undermined by these preventable deaths and injuries," she said.

Concerted global action could include a wider dissemination of safety devices, better-designed roads and vehicles and firmer action against people who drive too fast or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, she said.

Oman played a central role in organizing the conference. —MNA/Reuters

## China to show "art of urban life" in World Expo 2005

BELING, 17 April — A dozen Chinese cities including Beijing and Shanghai will host a pavilion showing "art of urban life" at the World Expo to be held in Aichi, Japan, said Gao Yan, chairwoman of the Organizing Committee of China Pavilion, here Thursday.

At present, offices have been set up in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Xiamen, Dalian, Qingdao and Hangzhou, as well as in Hunan and Hainan provinces and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to make preparations for related activities.

The World Expo 2005 will be held from 25 March to 25 September, 2005 in Aichi, Japan.

The theme of this World Expo is "wisdom of nature." With the theme of "nature, city and harmony the art of life", the China Pavilion will endeavour to demonstrate the Chinese people's understanding of harmonious development of nature and city, and their new lifestyle built up since China's reforms and opening-up in 1978.

The blueprint of the China Pavilion was selected from some 17 submitted from both at home and abroad, said Gao, also commissioner-general of China to the World Expo 2005 and vice-chairwoman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

The CCPIT, on behalf of the Chinese Government, will

organize the China Pavilion.

Gao said this is the first time for China to organizing its major cities as a whole to attract global attention and said it will be helpful for these cities' development.

The China Pavilion, according to Gao, mixed Chinese traditions with advanced technologies and tries to show the peaceful co-existence and harmonious integrity of nature and city.

The China Pavilion, with an area of 1,620 square metres, is one of the largest pavilions among Asian pavilions.

With 125 countries and eight international organizations as official participants, the World Expo 2005 is expected to receive 15 million visitors.

During the World Expo 2005, CCPIT will organize activities such as the China Pavilion Day, which is on 19 May, the City Promotion Day, the city PromotionWeek, the 21st Century City Development Forum, and hold Chinese local theatrical performances.

MAN/Xinhua

## Tanzania applies for UNSC seat

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 17 April — The Tanzanian Government has submitted an application for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, local newspaper *Daily News* reported Thursday.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Jakaya Kikwete made the remark at a Press conference here on Wednesday after returning from his Asia tour.

"The government of Tanzania has decided to apply for a non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for the 2005-2006 rotation," Kikwete said.

"If our request is successful, we will use our position on the Council to push for peace in the Great Lakes Re-

gion," he added.

The seat to be left by Angola has also aroused interests from other African countries such as Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

"We have consulted a number of countries from all continents and agreed it is time Tanzania returns to the UN Security Council, said the Foreign Minister.

Tanzania enjoyed a non-permanent seat on the Council during the 1975-1976 rotation and played a key role in the African liberation struggle. —MAN/Xinhua

## French retirement homes not equipped for heatwave

PARIS, 17 April — Most retirement homes in France have failed to carry out pledges to install air-conditioned rooms that could help save lives if another heatwave occurs this year, a government official said here.

Hubert Falco, junior Minister for Pensioners, urged retirement homes to respect promises made after last

year's heatwave that killed 15,000 mainly elderly people, when temperatures passed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

"The target is far from being met but it can be met," he told Europe 1 radio in an interview. "There is no guarantee that the summer of 2004 will be any cooler than the summer of 2003."

MNA/Reuters

## Russia supports Israel's Gaza Strip pull-out plan

Moscow, 17 April — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Thursday conditionally welcomed Israel's initiative to withdraw Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip, but made no mention of a controversial plan to keep them in the West Bank.

US President George W Bush's support for the initiative outlined by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon fuelled outrage among Palestinian leaders, who accused Washington of giving legitimacy to the Israeli occupation.

Lavrov told reporters an Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip was generally in line with the "roadmap" plan for a Middle East settlement — supported by the "Quartet" of the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia.

"In that sense, such a step may be supported if it does not remain isolated and leads to other actions to implement existing UN Security Council resolutions," Lavrov said when asked about Sharon's initiative. He did not elaborate.

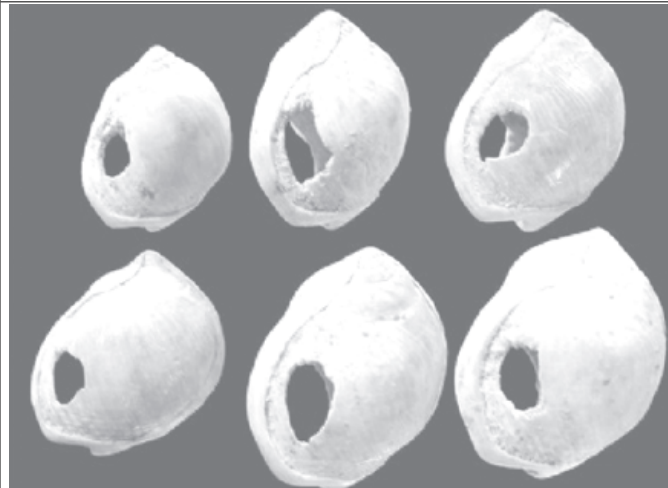
MNA/Reuters

## Zanzibar President thanks Cuba for health help

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 17 April — Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume on Thursday expressed his gratitude to the Cuban Government for sending a team of doctors to the isles.

Karume said the coming of the Cuban doctors was an example of the two sides' cooperation in health field while meeting with Cuban Ambassador to Tanzania Fellip Ruiz O'Farril and the doctors at the State House in Zanzibar.

He asked the Cuban doctors to make Zanzibar their own home as they provide medical services to local people. The doctors, who deal with surgery, pediatrics, orthopedics, gynecology, will work in Unguja and Pemba, two sister islands of Zanzibar. One of their major tasks is to help fight malaria. For his part, O'Farril said that the Cuban Government would continue increasing its help to Tanzania in health area. —MNA/Xinhua



This image, courtesy of the journal 'Science,' shows perforated tick shell beads (Nassarius kraussianus). A collar made of shell beads estimated to be 75,000 years old and found in a cave in South Africa is believed to be the oldest known jewellery, appearing 30,000 years before what had previously been considered the first signs of civilization, researchers said. —INTERNET

## Madagascar rescues 11 babies from traffickers

ANTANANARIVO, 17 April — Police in the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar have rescued 11 babies from traffickers who were trying to sell them for adoption in foreign countries.

A senior police official said late on Wednesday that police found the infants, all aged below one year, when they raided a house on the outskirts of the island's capital.

Eight suspected traffickers were arrested and charged with abduction and illegal confinement of the children.

"After receiving information from trusted informers, the police burst into a house in the periphery of the city to find 11 babies already prepared for adoption overseas," Albert Rakotondravo, director of the judicial police, told a news conference.

Rakotondravo said the investigation into the missing children began on 6 April after parents started reporting the disappearance of their infants.

MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS

## Real's plans for seclusion come unstuck

MADRID, 16 April—Real Madrid's plan to seek three days of peace and seclusion at the luxury resort of La Manga appears to have come unstuck after some 1,200 fans attended their first "closed-door" training session on Thursday.

A handful of police were unable to prevent the crowds of adoring fans from pouring into the resort and watching the players from behind the fences that surround the training pitch.

Real had decided to head off to the resort in an attempt to isolate the team from prying eyes following their recent string of humiliating defeats.

Fans had jeered the players at training in Madrid on Tuesday and held up offensive signs after the team relinquished the leadership of Spain's Primera Liga following a 3-0 home thrashing by Osasuna at the weekend.

In recent weeks, the team has also tumbled out of the Champions League at the hands of unfancied Monaco and lost the final of Spain's King's Cup to underdogs Real Zaragoza.

Some 300 fans normally attend the club's open-door sessions in their training grounds in a suburb to the north of Madrid.

MNA/Reuters



Newcastle's French Olivier Bernard(L) challenges PSV Eindhoven's Mateja Kezman during UEFA Cup clash in Newcastle.—INTERNET

## Leeds aim to ease relegation fears at Arsenal again

LEEDS (England,) 16 April— Leeds manager Eddie Gray said his side can beat Arsenal at Highbury, and ease his club's relegation fears, for the second season running on Friday.

Leeds were the last team

to defeat Arsenal in the league when they ended their title bid last season with a 3-2 win on May 4.

This season, Arsene Wenger's side have gone on a record 32 match undefeated league run and lead the English Premier League

by seven points.

Just like last season, Leeds need maximum points to help them avoid relegation and can move to 15th place if they win though Saturday's fixtures may change that situation again.

"We won't be going there frightened, we will just go there and show them respect," Gray told reporters on Thursday.

"They will look at how we are playing and show us respect as well. They will look at this fixture and probably think it is the toughest game they have left."

Gray said there was a new-found confidence amongst the squad that survival was achievable after collecting seven points from their last three games.

"We are in with a chance of staying up. We are still in a difficult position, but we are in with a chance," he added.

"The lads believe they can do it and while it will be hard, we will try and pick the three points up."

Gray will field on-loan winger Jermaine Pennant against Arsenal—the team who loaned him to Leeds.

"It will be great for him to go back to his club. He is still their player although it would be nice for him to put one over on his team."

MNA/Reuters

## Liverpool's Kirkland out for rest of season

LONDON, 16 April—Liverpool goalkeeper Chris Kirkland has been ruled out for the rest of the season due to his broken wrist and will almost certainly miss Euro 2004, Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier said on Thursday.

Kirkland broke his left wrist in training on March 13 and had originally hoped to recover in six weeks.

However, Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier said on his club's official web site: "Chris won't play again this season. He won't be ready in time."

"I don't think he will be fit for the European Championship. He is very unlucky because I am sure he would have gone with the England squad."

The 22-year-old, whose career has been blighted by injury, was a strong contender for a place in England's squad for Euro 2004 which starts in Portugal on June 12.

Kirkland was called up by coach Sven-Goran Eriksson for the February friendly against Portugal.

In his absence Pole Jerzy Dudek has been keeping goal for Liverpool who are trying to secure fourth place and qualification for the Champions League next season with five games of the season to go. —MNA/Reuters

## Fluminense held despite Romario double

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 April—Veteran striker Romario scored twice in five minutes but Fluminense were still held to a 2-2 draw at home by Gremio in a Copa Brasil tie.

The 38-year-old, 1994 World Cup winner latched onto a pass by Ramon to open the scoring in the 22nd minute of the third round, first-leg match on Wednesday night. Five minutes later, he ran onto another pass by the same player and scored at the second attempt after his first shot was blocked by Gremio's Paraguayan goalkeeper Ricardo Tavarélli.

Gremio hit back in the second half after Fluminense appeared to relax, with defender Claudimiro heading home from a corner in the 64th minute before striker Christian equalized with a breakaway goal four minutes later.

The game was marred by a brawl following Gremio's first goal that appeared to start when Gremio defender Felipe Baloy provoked his opponents during the celebrations. The burly Panamanian international was sent off along with Ramon.

Five of the other seven ties also ended in draws. Corinthians, who have lurched from crisis to crisis since coach Carlos Alberto Parreira left at the start of last year to take charge of Brazil, were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Second Division Fortaleza. —MNA/Reuters

## Evans holds out hope of first win after 13 years

SEVILLE (Spain), 16 April—Britain's Gary Evans finished only two strokes off the inaugural Seville Open first round lead and once more held out hope of chalking up his first European Tour title after 13 years of failure.

Evans, once touted as Britain's next Nick Faldo, admitted to being an under-achiever and said he had taken on a special fitness coach for a month to try to end his invidious record.

After shooting a four-under-par 68 to lie two strokes behind early front-runner Gregory Havret of France, Evans said: "After 13 years plodding along it gets a bit boring trying your guts out but getting nowhere and the silver lining around the cloud is not quite as bright as it used to be."

"I'm giving it four weeks of running and working out before I play and we'll see what it brings."

Despite a glittering amateur career, 35-year-old Evans has always flattered to deceive and still has only one second place, in the 1992 Turespana Masters, to his credit on tour.

A debilitating wrist injury early in his career did not help and recently he has suffered such wear and tear on his shoulder he has needed cortisone injections to be able to play.

Evans is determined not to finish his career as a journeyman but is now desperate for success.

His tied fifth place at Muirfield in the British Open in 2002 brought him to the public's attention and Evans feels he needs the 'big stage'

to compete, which may not bode well for him breaking through in Seville.

"If I could only approach the smaller tournaments the way I do the bigger ones, then maybe I would do much better," he said.

"I couldn't watch the (US),

Masters because I find it frustrating watching players I know I can beat, but I can't get into the Masters."

Evans lies 122nd on the European money-list, with 24th his best finish this campaign.

MNA/Reuters

## Celta's Vagner fined, given suspended prison sentence

MADRID, 16 April—Celta Vigo midfielder Vagner has been given a seven-month suspended prison sentence by a Spanish court and fined 3,470 euros (4,275 US dollars) for resisting arrest and for an offence against public order.

Sports daily Marca reported on Thursday that the 31-year-old Brazilian-born player had been convicted over an incident outside the club's stadium before a match against Valencia in October 2001.

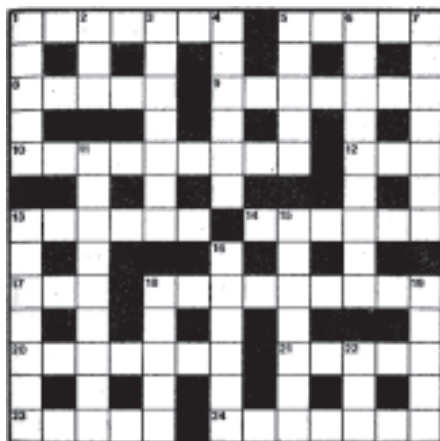
The player, who had not been selected to play in the game, was stopped by two police officers as he drove towards the VIP parking area because he was talking on his mobile phone.

After a heated argument he became involved in a scuffle with one of the officers when he tried to force his way into the stadium. The officer was off work for 46 days as a result of injuries he sustained.

Vagner was cleared by the court in Vigo of a more serious charge of assault.

MNA/Reuters

## Crossword Puzzle



- 1 Go to the bottom
- 5 Imperfection
- 8 Clothe
- 9 Wet slightly
- 10 Worn out
- 12 Attack and rob
- 13 Long heavy wave
- 14 Set of seven
- 17 Purchase
- 18 Plan of events
- 20 Thrift
- 21 Pamphlet
- 23 Enslaved
- 24 Buffoon

- 1 Soft sweetmeat
- 2 Yorkshire river
- 3 Call in question
- 4 Distant
- 5 Cooked in fat
- 6 Final terms
- 7 After this evening
- 11 Garden flower
- 13 Violent personal theft
- 15 Printed error
- 16 Immediately? No! (3,3)
- 18 Arrogant
- 19 Praise
- 22 Fuss



Davide Sanguinetti, of Italy, returns the ball to James Blake during US Men's Clay Court Championships play on 15 April, 2004, at Westside Tennis Club in Houston. Blake defeated Sanguinetti, 7-5, 6-3, to advance to the quarterfinals.—INTERNET



15:30	Signature Tune Greeting
15:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36	A Journey to Research Taron Race
<b>15:40</b>	<b>Headline News</b>
15:42	Lumber Buffaloes
<b>15:45</b>	<b>National News</b>
15:50	Decoration of Myanmar Lacquerware
15:55	Kayin Dance (We Buy (or) Paddy Winning Dance)
<b>16:00</b>	<b>National News</b>
16:05	Hot Springs in Lashio and Nam-Kham
16:10	Song "Summertime"
<b>16:15</b>	<b>National News</b>

7:00 am  
 ၁. ကော့ဇူးရင်မီးကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရား  
 ငါးရပ်တော်ယံယမဟာနာယက  
 အဓိပတိကွန်းဆာသင်္ဃာဇ္ဈိလ် အဘိဓမ္မာဟော  
 ရမ္မဂ္ဂုရု အဘိဓမ္မာရမ္မဟာသဉ္စယ  
 ဓမ္မာတိက ဝိပဿနာဓရ ဓမ္မာသက္ကာ  
 ဂါကိက၊ ဆရာတော် သုန္ဒရီမိတ္တ  
 သာရာဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am  
 2. To be Healthy Exercises

7:30 am  
 3. Morning News

7:40 am  
 4. Nice and sweet Song

7:55 am  
 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလွန်း(ခ)ခြာစက်လာ

8:05 am  
 6. အတိပြုလိမ့်

8:15 am  
 7. စလင်းရေတောင်တစ်

8:30 am  
 8. International news

8:45 am  
 9. Say it in English

11:00 am  
 1. Martial Song

19:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting

19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"

19:36 Melodious Myanmar  
Harp (Auspicious  
Blessing)

**19:40** **Headline News**

19:42 Meditation Centre

**19:45** **National News**

19:50 Hninzigone, Home For  
the Aged

19:55 Auspicious Glory

**20:00** **National News**

20:05 Four Greatest Places  
Lord Buddha

20:10 Song "Peace Be With  
You"

**20:15** **National News**

20:20 Myanma Traditional  
Tayaw Kinbun Sham-  
poo

20:25 Song "Invitations from  
Manaw Land"

**20:30** **National News**

20:35 Fabulous Shwe Gu  
Dage Daw Gyi

20:40 Arts of Myanmar Tra-  
ditional Tapestry

**20:45** **National News**

20:50 Glimpses At Myanmar  
Movies

**18-4-2004 (Sunday) &  
19-4-2004 (Monday)  
Evening & Morning  
Transmission  
(23:30 - 1:30)**

:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting

:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"

:36 A Journey to Research  
Taron Race

:40 **Headline News**

03:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
03:32	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36	Melodious Myanmar
	Harp (Auspicious
	Blessing)
<b>03:40</b>	<b>Headline News</b>
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<b>04:00</b>	<b>National News</b>
04:05	Four Greatest Places
	Lord Buddha
04:10	Song "Peace Be With
	You"
<b>04:15</b>	<b>National News</b>

04:20	Myanmar Traditional Tayaw Kinbun Sham- poo
04:25	Song "Invitations from Manaw Land"
<b>04:30</b>	<b>National News</b>
04:35	Fabulous Shwe Gu Dage Daw Gyi
04:40	Arts of Myanmar Tra- ditional Tapestry
<b>04:45</b>	<b>National News</b>
04:50	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies
<b>05:00</b>	<b>National News</b>
05:05	Fossilized Wood Gar- den
05:10	Song "Rice Flowing Like a Canal"
<b>05:15</b>	<b>National News</b>
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06:20	Fantastic Scenic Sunsets of Myanmar
06:25	Song "What Love is"
<b>06:30</b>	<b>National News</b>
06:35	The Thrones of Myanmar Sovereigns
06:40	Myanmar Traditional Folk Song
<b>06:45</b>	<b>National News</b>
06:50	Myanma Seafood
06:55	Pakhanthar Myin Nyo Shin
<b>07:00</b>	<b>National News</b>
07:05	Gold Honey, Honey Gold
07:10	Song "To a Silvery Seagull"
<b>07:15</b>	<b>National News</b>
07:20	Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges
07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"



**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay Division, isolated in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah, Mon States, Lower Sagaing, Bago Divisions and weather have been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (7°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division (4°C) below normal in Chin State, (6°C) to (8°C) below normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperatures were (40°C) each in Minbu, Aunglan, Zaungtu and Patheingyi. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hkamti (1.93) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-4-2004 was 38.0°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 16-4-2004 was 22.0°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-4-2004 was 51%. Total sunshine hours on 16-4-2004 was (10.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-4-2004 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 Southwest at (14:20) hours MST on 16-4-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 18-4-2004:** Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in upper Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-4-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (40%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-4-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 17th April, 2004)  
The amount of rainfall 49 mm (1.93 inches) observed at (09:30) hrs MST today at Hkamti is the new maximum (24)hours rainfall record of the station for the Month of April during the last (14) years.

(ရုစေးအထူးပြု) (ရုစေး)  
**5:05 pm**  
 6. Song of National Races  
**5:15 pm**  
 7. စွယ်စုံစေတီတော်စွယ်စုံတော်တင်  
 ယ်ကံအဆုံးအနား (8-၄-၁၉၉၉)  
**5:45 pm**  
 8. Sing and Enjoy  
**6:30 pm**  
 9. Evening news  
**7:00 pm**  
 10. Weather report  
**7:05 pm**  
 11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းကွဲ  
 “နုပင့်” (အပိုင်း-၄)  
**7:30 pm**  
 12. Agricultural Source  
 Country's Development  
**7:40 pm**  
 13. Musical Programme  
**8:00 pm**  
 14. News  
 15. International news  
 16. Weather report  
 17. Myanmar Movie  
 “နုပင့်သားလျှိုပြန်ခန်း”  
 ကျော်ဟန်း၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊  
 အိန္ဒြာဘေတင်  
 (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်ဖြူမင်း)  
 18. မင်းလွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး  
 ဦးစီးဌာနကတီးသစ်၊ အရပ်  
 ဦးမုန့်ကဗျာဌာနကတီးသစ်၊ ပွားများ  
 ဖြန့်ဝေထားတော်  
 19. The next day's  
 programme

**Radio Myanmar**

**Sunday, April 18**  
**Tune in today:**

**8.30 am** Brief news  
**8.35 am** Music: The best thing  
(Savage Garden)  
**8.40 am** Perspectives  
**8.45 am** Music: Black coffee  
(All Saints)  
**8.55 am** National news/  
Slogan  
**9.05 am** Music: wear it again  
(Westlife)  
**9.10 am** International news  
**9.15 am** Music: I believe in  
you (Toybox)  
**1.30 pm** News/Slogan  
**1.40 pm** Story for children  
"A friend in need  
is a friend in deed"  
**1.50 pm** Songs for children  
Hi to you  
**9.00 pm** Weekly news review  
**9.10 pm** Music  
**9.15 pm** Article  
**9.25 pm** Latest Hits/Adapted  
originals  
Nothing fails  
(Madonna)/  
Weekend (Loris) /  
Love denine (Sea)  
Too lost in you  
(Sugababes)  
**9.45 pm** News/Slogan  
**10.00 pm** PEI

## Significant success can be achieved through sharp and effective administrative machinery Prime Minister attends Htidaw hoisting ceremony at Moksotaung Pagoda, meets departmental officials in Kyaikto

YANGON, 17 April— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by Tatmadaw helicopter this morning and arrived on Moksotaung of Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State at 9 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, senior military officers, local authorities and local people.

At 9.15 am, the Prime Minister hoisted Htidaw atop Moksotaung Pagoda there. Also present on the occasion were State Oavadaçariya Presiding Nayaka of Kyaikto Manaung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotikalankara and Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññadipa and members of the Sangha, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the chief of staff (Navy), officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, local authorities, traditional cultural troupes and local people.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotikalankara administered 'Ovada Katha' and Administrator Sayadaw of Kyaikhtisaung Monastery Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naginda administered the Nine Precepts. Member of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, the Prime Minister offered Seinbudaw and provisions to the Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw. Lt-Gen Maung Bo also offered Hngetmyatnadaw and provisions to the Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw. Similarly, the commander and



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers gold foils to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda.— MNA

the ministers presented tiers of the Htidaw and donations to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister supplicated on religious affairs, saying that as Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw of Moksotaung Pagoda had fallen into decay with the passage of time, disciples led by the Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw together with the government made an arrangement for hoisting new Htidaw,

Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda.

On the same day, the ceremony to unveil Shwenankyin Beikman and hoist Htidaw atop the archway will be held. There is one concept that if good deeds are performed on Myanmar New Year Day, those who are engaged in the tasks can gain merits. He said that he wished the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful and developed nation for ever. Next, the Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Afterwards, the Prime Minister hoisted the Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda and sprinkled them with scented water.

Next, the ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw and Shwehtidaw atop the banner post was held. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hoisted them atop the banner post.

On arrival at Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda, the Prime Minister offered gold foils to the pagoda and cleansed the pagoda with scented water. He also offered flowers and water to Buddha Image at the prayer hall. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party donated 'soon' to members of the Sangha.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko formally opened the archway of Shwenankyin Beikman on the platform of the pagoda. The Prime Minister sprinkled scented water on the Htidaw for the Beikman. He formally opened the Shwenankyin Beikman. In the Beikman, the Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw and the Prime Minister cleansed three replicas of Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda with scented water. The Prime Minister unveiled the plaques of the Beikman.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fixes Seinbudaw atop Moksotaung Pagoda.— MNA

## Energy Minister inspects test-running of LNG Plant in Nyaungdon

YANGON, 17 April— Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected test-running of Liquefied Natural Gas Plant in Nyaungdon Township this morning.

At the briefing hall, the managing director and the plant manager reported on production process, use of LNG, power supply and products.

The minister gave instructions on fire prevention and worksite safety, supervision for the test-running.

Next, the minister presented the fruit basket to the Chinese technicians and inspected the plant.

The plant now produces Nephtha petroleum, propane and butane gases.

On completion, the plant will produce LNG on commercial scale.

Next, the minister went to the site for laying the new 14" diameter Nyaungdon-Yangon natural gas pipeline and inspected arrival of pipes from abroad and laying of the pipeline.

Later, the minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects laying of new 14" diameter Nyaungdon-Yangon natural gas pipeline.— ENERGY