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Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San on departure for Russian Federation on official visit

NAYPYIDAW, 2 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San left Naypyidaw Airport in Naypyidaw City by special aircraft at 8.20 am today to pay an official visit to the Russian Federation at the invitation of Mr Mikhail Fradkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation.

The delegation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife were seen off at the airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the ministers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office.
(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe shakes hands with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye before departure for the Russian Federation at Naypyidaw Airport.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San at Naypyidaw Airport.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 3 April, 2006

Towards success of farming works

The State Peace and Development Council is building economic infrastructures, a prerequisite for development of national economy, the length and breadth of the nation. As Myanmar is rich in natural resources coupled with favourable weather condition, it has prospects for development of agriculture.

There are about 50 million acres of cultivable land in Myanmar. Of them, over 26 million acres are being put under various kinds of crops.

Therefore, efforts are to be made to reclaim virgin and fallow lands region-wise and put them fully under crops. At the same time, extended cultivation of paddy and other crops are to be carried out wherever available so that the national economy can make progress all the more.

At present, the government is taking necessary measures for full supply of irrigated water, boosting the per-acre yield of paddy and extensive use of modern agricultural techniques.

In this regard, a large number of irrigation facilities such as dams and reservoirs, sluice gates, and river water pumping stations are being built and underground water tapping works are being carried out nationwide. Now, there are 184 dams and reservoirs and 293 river water pumping stations in the nation, benefiting additional 2.4 million acres of farmland.

Thanks to those irrigation facilities, Ayeyawady Division was able to cultivate 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and over 1.2 million acres of summer paddy in 2005-2006. The sown acreage of monsoon and summer paddy in Ayeyawady Division is one third of that of the State.

In addition to poultry farming, fish and prawn breeding is being carried out in Ayeyawady Division. As a result, there are over 100,000 acres of fish breeding ponds and over 40,000 acres of prawn breeding ponds in the division.

In the meantime, work is well under way for cultivation of physic nut plants across the division. And battalions and units, companies, government departments and local people are making integrated efforts for cultivation of 500,000 acres of physic nut plants in Ayeyawady Division in three years.

Hence, at a time when efforts are being exerted for the development of agricultural sector, local authorities and farmers, taking full advantage of favourable conditions, are to try hard for success of farming works.



Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board accepts K 100,000 donated by Daw Chin Phon Kwe of Mya Khwa Nyo Housing Estate in Thakayta Township, recently. — H

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

Basic accountancy course No 2 concludes

YANGON, 2 April — The basic accountancy course No 2 jointly organized by Finance Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Auditor-General's Office concluded at the training school of Auditor-General's Office in Ahlon Township this morning.

Head of Finance Department of MWAFF Daw Aye Aye explained the objectives of the MWAFF and interest of the women and their important role.

Deputy Director-General at AG's Office Daw Than Than Aye spoke on the occasion.

Next, Daw Aye Aye presented certificates to



Head of Finance Department of MWAFF Daw Aye Aye speaking at closing ceremony of basic accountancy course No 2. — MNA

the trainees and gifts to the instructors.

The three-month course was attended by 133 trainees.

MNA

Sithu Win gives Home Affairs one goal into quarterfinal



Players of Home Affairs and Sunye in action. — NLM

YANGON, 2 April — The Myanmar League Closing Cup Knockout Football Tournament for 2005-06 football season continued at Aung San Stadium, here, this afternoon.

From the start of the match, Home Affairs and Sunye penetrated end to end with series of attacks. Both teams showed football skills in equal status. At the 80th minute, Home Affairs' Sithu Win scored a winning goal into the net of Sunye. At the final whistle, Home Affairs beat Sunye with a 1-0 result. Hence, Home Affairs cruised into the quarterfinal.

Transport and Defence will meet in the first quarterfinal match tomorrow afternoon. — NLM

မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုမဟာသင်္ကြန် ဆင်နွဲ့သူများ လိုက်နာရန် တိုက်တွန်းနှိုးဆော်ချက်

(က) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုလေ့ထုံးစံနှင့် ဖိလာဆန်ကျင်ပြီး မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏အမြင်တွင် မတင်တယ်သည့် ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု၊ ပြုမူပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

(ခ) ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆုံးအမနှင့် ဖိလာဆန်ကျင်သည့်အပြုအမူ၊ ပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

(ဂ) အချင်းချင်း ဒဏ်ရာအနာတရဖြစ်စေပြီး အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေသည့် ကြမ်းတမ်းသည့် ရေကစားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

(ဃ) တိုင်းရင်းသား စည်းလုံးညီညွတ်မှုကို ပျက်ပြားစေပြီး ဆူပူမှုကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်သည့် လှုံ့ဆော်ဖန်တီးမှု၊ ပြောဆိုကြီးပမ်းမှုများကို မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ



Chairman of Union of Myanmar Travel Association U Khin Zaw speaking at annual general meeting of UMTA at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake on 2-4-2006. — NLM

Russia urges Iran to heed UNSC advice

Moscow, 1 April — Russia called on Iran on Thursday to carefully study the statement released by the UN Security Council on its nuclear issue and cooperate with the UN's nuclear watchdog.

"We urge the Iranian authorities to carefully listen to the unanimous opinion of UN Security Council members and seek cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on all remaining issues," the

Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement on Wednesday calling on Iran to resume suspension of all uranium enrichment-related activi-

ties within 30 days.

The statement was passed after the five permanent Council members — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — reached agreement on the text earlier in the day,

ending three weeks of haggling over its contents.

The statement "reflects the unanimous opinion of the Council: Iran's cooperation with the IAEA is required in order to clear the uncertainties linked to its programme", the ministry said.

"We would like to see the Iranian nuclear programme move into a predictable track in the near future ... through Iran's constructive cooperation with the IAEA," it said.

Iran resumed nuclear fuel research in January, prompting the decision of the IAEA last month to report it to the UN Security Council. Teheran denies the US charge of developing nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian nuclear programme, insisting on its right to peaceful nuclear technology.

MNA/Xinhua



Actress Zhang Ziyi attends Giorgio Armani's fashion show in Shanghai on 1 April, 2006. Armani, a fashion baron and famous designer, who owns more than 30 stores in Chinese Mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong, said he saw potential in China for further expansion in the brand's fashion and home furnishings. — INTERNET



Mexican firemen and members of Red Cross work at the site of a bus accident on the Pachuca highway, 20 km (12.4 miles) from Mexico City on 1 April, 2006. At least six people were killed and 22 were injured, police said.

INTERNET

2,327 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 1 April — As of Friday, 31 March, 2006, at least 2,327 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,824 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count matches the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EST.

The British military has reported 103 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, Denmark three; El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.—Internet

Philippines hit by 26 fires daily in past five years

MANILA, 1 April — An average of 26 fires hit the Philippines everyday in the past five years, records at the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) revealed on Friday.

The BFP said in a report that a total of 46,719 fires were recorded nationwide from 2001 to 2005. The number of fires increased during the period while the number of firefighters decreased.

From 7,213 fires recorded in 2001, the number of reported incidents increased to 10,728 last year. On the other hand, the number of firemen went down from 9,541 in 2001 to 9,246 last year. Records, however, showed that the estimated amount of damages decreased from 6.1 billion

pesos (119.3 million US dollars) in 2001 to 3.3 billion pesos (64.5 million dollars) in 2005.

The National Capital Region topped the list with the most number of fire occurrences at 20,558 for the five-year period, according to the records.

MNA/Xinhua

Kansas bracing for first killer bees

WICHITA (Kan), 2 April — Kansas officials are bracing for the first swarms of so-called "killer bees" to cross into the state as early as this year, the Kansas Department of Agriculture said on Thursday.

Federal and state agriculture officials have been setting up traps along the state's southern counties to detect their arrival and have notified emergency first responders. They also have prepared an informational pamphlet for the public.

"Anytime you have something that potentially can have a negative impact on what you are doing every day, you need to become aware of what you should do to keep yourself and your family safe when you are in that environment," said Tom Sanders, coordinator of the Kansas Agriculture Department's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey.

The highly aggressive Africanized honeybees already have been found in Oklahoma just two counties south of the Kansas state line. They typically move northward about 100 miles to 300 miles a year. Africanized

honeybees also have spread to Mexico, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Arkansas and Florida.

Commonly known as killer bees because their behaviour is aggressive, Africanized honeybees are

easily provoked. A single sting is no more dangerous or painful than a sting from any other honeybee, but Africanized bees attack in far greater numbers than more docile domestic bees.

A person walking within 50 feet of a colony can trigger an attack, as can someone operating power tools or lawn equipment as far away as 100 feet from a hive, according to the Agriculture Department.

If the bees colonize in Kansas, the Agriculture Department plans to provide educational support and help the public identify them, Sanders said. A database would also be maintained so public to pinpoint areas of infestation.—Internet



Glenn Salsbury, of the Department of Agriculture, hangs a bee trap in a tree in the hopes of catching 'killer bees' on 30 March, 2006.—INTERNET



A Persian cat participates in an international feline beauty contest in Bucharest on 1 April, 2006. Cats of many different breeds from Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Ukraine and Romania participated in the exhibition.

INTERNET

Pharaonic hall discovered in southern Egypt

CAIRO, 1 April — A hall in a pharaonic tomb has been discovered by an Egyptian-Spanish team in southern Egypt, the English-language daily Egyptian Gazette reported on Friday.

Zahi Hawas, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities announced that the pharaonic hall was found in Luxor, an ancient city of some 670 kilometres south of Cairo.

Archaeologists had discovered the hall at Zira Abu al-Naga on the west bank of the Nile, as the team was excavating a tomb site, which could give important information on how ancient Egyptians dug their tombs, said the antiquities chief. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese President Hu Jintao (2nd L) and other Chinese leaders plant trees in the Olympic Forest Park in Beijing, joining hands with nearly two million people in the city to mark the 22nd Voluntary Tree-Planting Day, on 1 April, 2006. —INTERNET

စက်မှုဦးအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

China, France discuss energy, sustainable development in Tianjin

TIANJIN, 1 April— Chinese and French officials and entrepreneurs discussed on Thursday cooperation in energy exploitation and sustainable development in a forum held in north China's Tianjin City.

The 12th China-France Economic Forum, with the theme of "energy and sustainable development", attracted about 400 government officials and company representatives from both China and France.

"China and France have great potential for cooperation in energy and

sustainable development," said Wan Jifei, president of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

The forum provides a platform for bilateral exchanges and cooperation, as China boasts rich energy resources and France is experienced in resources exploration and use, Wan said at the forum.

Giscard d'Estaing, former president of France, said China and France have a wide range of areas for cooperation, such as aviation and energy.

China and France have cooperated in nuclear power for more than 20 years," he said, hoping for deeper cooperation in the construction of nuclear power plants.

MNA/Xinhua

US helicopter down near Baghdad, no word on crew

BAGHDAD, 1 April— A US military helicopter went down southwest of Baghdad on Saturday and it was unclear if there were casualties, the military said.

A militant group said it shot down a helicopter in the same area and residents said they heard gunfire.

"A ... helicopter went down southwest of Baghdad at approximately 5:30 pm (1330 GMT)" the

military said. "The status of the crew is unknown."

A spokesman declined to say how many were on board or the type of helicopter involved.

"The aircraft was conducting a combat air patrol," the statement said.

Combat patrols are typically flown by two-seater reconnaissance or attack helicopters.

In an Internet posting, a group calling itself the Rashedeen Army said it had shot down a US helicopter near the town

of Yusufiya, an area that sees considerable Sunni guerrillas activity just southwest of the capital.

The little known group said in a statement posted on a Web site often used by militants that the Rashedeen Army succeeded in downing a helicopter that belongs to the US occupation forces in the Yusufiya district.

The posting came some time before the military statement.

A local government official in Yusufiya said an Apache helicopter, which carry a crew of two, was shot at and came down between Yusufiya and Falluja.

Residents in Yusufiya said they heard shooting in the area at the time, shortly before dusk. Others said they saw smoke coming from the wreckage and no sign of survivors.—Internet



A US Marine patrols near the Abu Ghraib prison, west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Singapore to host Arts Festival

SINGAPORE, 1 April— More than 1,700 artists from 26 countries and regions around the world will gather at the annual Singapore Arts Festival, Channel NewsAsia reported on Friday.

The event, themed "One Season, Many Faces", will be held from 1 to 25 June and put on 24 main productions including dance, music and theatre.

Jin Xing Dance Theatre from China will present a contemporary dance

entitled Shanghai Beauty while Camerata Salzburg, a chamber orchestra from Mozart's hometown in Austria, will perform a special programme to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the great composer's birth.

MNA/Xinhua



Young Assyrians in traditional clothes, dance during the celebration of the 6765 Assyrian New Year on the outskirts of Ainkawa, a Chaldo-Assyrian enclave in Irbil, 350 km north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Stray humpback whale found in Baltic

GDANSK (Poland), 31 March— A 10-metre (33-foot) humpback has been spotted off the Polish coast of the Baltic Sea and scientists said it was the first appearance of a whale there in nearly three decades.

"I saw it! This is probably the first whale that swam into our bay in 27 years," Krzysztof Skora, the head of the Marine Centre on the coast of Gdansk bay, told Reuters.

Humpback whales, which have black backs, a white belly and very long flippers, rarely appear in the Baltic Sea due to a lack of large fish they usually feed on and the low saltiness of the

sea water, he said. "For now there's plenty of sprats in the bay but the

problem will be when the fish get dispersed. And it will really feel lonely if it

decides to stay here," Skora said.

Internet



A humpback whale is seen in this 9 July, 2004 file photo. A 10-metre (33-foot) humpback has been spotted off the Polish coast of the Baltic Sea and scientists said it was the first appearance of a whale there in nearly three decades.

INTERNET

Belgian wins near record sum in lottery

BRUSSELS, 1 April— A lucky Belgian won the jackpot of 75,753,123 euros (53 million pounds) in the European lottery EuroMillions on Friday, Belgian *La Derniere Heure* tabloid said on Saturday.

The jackpot accumulated over six weeks, as nobody scored, and is close to the EuroMillion's highest jackpot of more than 80 million euros, the papers said. The winning numbers were 03, 20, 31, 45, 50, and the accompanying Lucky Star numbers were 6 and 7.—Internet

Toyota to introduce hybrid lineup

TOKYO, 1 April— Toyota plans to introduce energy-efficient hybrid technology across its entire lineup and target global sales of 1 million hybrid vehicles by 2012, a news report said on Saturday. Toyota Motor Corp, global leader in the new market for energy-efficient hybrid cars, initially developed its hybrid system for the Prius compact car. It has said its new luxury-class Lexus GS450h, due out later this

year, will also be powered by an electric motor and gasoline engine.

The Japanese automaker now plans to introduce hybrid technology in all classes of vehicles, from luxury cars to compacts, and aims to top annual global sales of 1 million hybrid cars by 2012, according to the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*.

Toyota will concentrate on lowering production costs so the technology can be used in

cheaper models, and aims to keep the retail price differential between hybrid and conventional cars to under 300,000 yen (US\$2,550; euro 2,106), according to the report.

Toyota has said it is targeting global sales of 5,700 hybrid vehicles this year — 2,000 vehicles in North America, another 2,000 in Europe, 1,500 in Japan and 200 elsewhere.

Calls to Toyota went unanswered Saturday.

Internet



A truck passes through a system that scans cargo for nuclear materials at a Hong Kong container terminal on 1 April, 2006. —INTERNET



A man looks at the GS450h on display at a Toyota Motor showroom in Tokyo on 16 March, 2006. Toyota began selling the first hybrid sedan in Japan under its high-end Lexus marque, saying the domestic launch on Thursday would be followed by a roll-out overseas starting next month. —INTERNET

Cambodia's GDP grows nearly 10% in 2005

PHNOM PENH, 1 April— Cambodia had good economic performance with a growth in GDP (gross domestic product) of nearly 10 per cent for 2005, higher than the predicted 7-per-cent growth, local media reported on Friday.

Preliminary estimates from the government indicate that Cambodia's GDP grew at a strong 9.8 per cent in 2005, up from a recent 7-per-cent estimate and dire predications of 2-per-cent growth made in 2004.

While the final 2005 GDP growth rate will be released in about one month, World Bank representatives, government officials and the Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC) said Thursday that the high figure is most likely

correct, making 2005 the best year for the Cambodian economy since 1999, *The Cambodia Daily* reported.

The apparent growth was driven by the country's growing agricultural, garment and tourism sectors.

The country's tourism rose by 35 per cent, and its garment sector by 10.6 per cent to 2.2 billion US dollars in 2005, which was forecast to be a "dangerous year" for the Cambodian garment industry due to the end of the global quotas.

MNA/Xinhua



Melha Nechiche, a Kabylean jewel craftsperson, uses a blowtorch at her workshop in the Benienni district of Tiziouzou, 150 km (93 miles) east of Algiers on 31 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Judge says move sexy billboards away from road

KANSAS CITY, 1 April— A federal judge agrees: Sexy signs just have no place near the highway.

The case came before the court when John Haltom, who owns 10 stores that sell lingerie, sex toys and adult videos in six states, filed a lawsuit last year against the attorney general's office.

He took issue with a law that prohibits most signs for sexually oriented businesses from being posted within a mile of the highway. Any business that devotes more than 10 percent of their display space to sexually oriented merchandise faced the restrictions.

Haltom said the billboard law is too broad and curtails his right to commercial speech. He also said

that while his businesses between 10 percent and 25 percent of its display space to sexually oriented items, the law was too broad to consider his locations as adult businesses.

But Fenner, who has upheld the law in past challenges, disagreed.

He also said that the law bans advertising for a store's sexually oriented business, not the store itself. It could still post billboards advertising its non-adult items, if it chose.

State Sen Matt Bartle, who spearheaded the legislation, said he was confident the law would survive, but predicted more challenges. —Internet

Somali pirates hijack fuel tanker

MOGADISHU, 1 April — Somali pirates have hijacked a fuel tanker 150 kilometres north of the capital Mogadishu, port officials said on Thursday.

The ship had just offloaded a cargo of fuel and had left El Ade Port — a site seized by Islamist militia in fighting with an alliance of warlords last week that killed at least 70 people — when gunmen stormed it on Wednesday.

"The ship was hijacked yesterday near Adale, 150 kilometres (90 miles) north of El Ade, after it dispensed oil," Fuad Ali,

who works with El Ade's Port authorities, said.

"We have yet to find out details of the hijacking."

Somalia's lawless Indian Ocean waters are among the world's most dangerous. The country fell into anarchy after Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted in 1991. Craft plying the waters are routinely attacked by gunmen in heavily-armed speedboats who demand ransom for the return of the ship or cargo — which often ends up being stolen. The piracy epidemic has often

stopped food aid getting into the poor country. Sailors have been held for as long as 100 days and a cruise ship with more than 300 on board was attacked with rockets and machine guns last year.

Somalia has no Coast Guard to protect vessels, but the US Navy earlier this month returned fire on a suspected pirate ship, killing one and wounding five while on patrol.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi policeman pick through the rubble after a mortar attack hit a house on 1 April, 2006 in central Baghdad, Iraq.

INTERNET

three more people had been affected in Unguja.

Unguja and Pemba are the two main islands of the archipelago.

The monitoring group has attributed the outbreak of the disease to polluted water and lack of sanitation. Cholera, an epidemic disease usually outbreaks during the rainy season in tropical regions, is a water-born disease whose symptoms include vomiting and diarrhoea that can cause death if not properly treated immediately.

Zanzibar experienced two severe eruptions of cholera in 1978 and 1999 when hundreds of people died of the epidemic.

MNA/Xinhua

Immigrants rally for rights in US marches

NEW YORK, 2 April — Thousands of immigrants and their supporters chanted, blew whistles and waved flags from dozens of Latin American countries on Saturday as they marched across the Brooklyn Bridge in support of immigrant rights.

A festive crowd of more than 10,000 people shouted "We are all Americans," and carried banners in Spanish and English saying "We are not criminals" and "Immigrant rights are human rights" in their trek from Brooklyn across the East River to Manhattan.

"We are workers not terrorists," said Augustin Rangel, 40, who came from

Mexico four years ago and has two jobs as a painter and bar worker. "We work hard for this country and for our families. We want the same rights as everyone else."

The New York protest was the largest of several held across the country in the Los Angeles area and other cities. The rally point in New York was the square outside the

Federal Plaza building in Manhattan where immigrants line up on weekdays to have federal officials process their visas. On Saturday, it was a colourful sea of flags and resembled a street festival with children, parents, and senior citizens.

Camella Pinkney-Price of the Hispanic Evangelical Churches said the march was held to

protest an immigration bill that would criminalize anyone who helped any of the nation's estimated 11 million undocumented workers. "We want to say that we deserve to be legal," she said. "

Why are people called illegal immigrants when they have shed blood, sweat and tears to work in this country?"

The flashpoint for protests in the past several weeks has been debate in Congress on an overhaul of immigration laws that could toughen enforcement and tighten border security.

MNA/Reuters



A veterinarian performs acupuncture, a traditional form of Chinese therapy, on a dog in a pet hospital in Suzhou, in east China's Jiangsu Province on 1 April, 2006.

INTERNET



Thousands of people gather to walk across the Brooklyn Bridge as part of 'The Great Walk In Solidarity With Immigrants' in New York, on 1 April, 2006. — INTERNET

US official says deal elusive in Airbus-Boeing spat

WASHINGTON, 1 April — The United States and the European Union have made little progress toward settling a dispute over subsidies for aircraft rivals Boeing and Airbus, US trade officials told reporters on Friday.

The dispute is potentially the biggest ever to go before the World Trade Organization. Each side accuses the other of showering billions of dollars on their aerospace giant.

While Washington remains open to a negotiated settlement, "we haven't made the progress we've been looking for, which is why we've been

pushing forward with the WTO case", a US trade official said during a telephone briefing on the US Trade Representative's annual foreign trade barriers report.

Jim Mendenhall, general counsel in the US Trade Representative's office, started the phone call with a set of on-the-record remarks. But several other US trade

officials who spoke during the briefing did so on the condition they not be individually identified.

MNA/Reuters

US proposes "Harpoon" missile sale to S Korea

WASHINGTON, 1 April — The Bush Administration told Congress on Friday it was tentatively planning to sell South Korea 42 air-launched Harpoon anti-ship missiles and related gear in a deal worth up to 130 million US dollars.

Along with other equipment sought by Seoul, the AGM-84L missiles, built by Boeing Co., would not affect the region's "basic military balance", the Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in its notice.

As part of the package, South Korea also requested 16 submarine-launched UGM-84L Harpoon missiles plus technical support, personnel training, data and publications, the notice said. Seoul plans to install

patrol boats plus F-16 fighter and P-3C patrol aircraft, the security agency said.

MNA/Reuters

Auto Workers warned it would be "impossible to avoid a long strike" if Delphi eventually imposes wage and benefit cuts. Strikes could quickly shutter Delphi's US operations and hobble GM at a time when the world's largest automaker is hoarding cash and releasing key new models. "It definitely ratchets up the pressure on everyone involved ... and provides a sense of urgency," Morningstar analyst John Novak said.

MNA/Reuters

Delphi seeks to void labour contracts, cut jobs

CHICAGO, 1 April — Auto parts maker Delphi Corp moved on Friday to void its US labour contracts, cut up to 8,500 salaried workers and close or sell a third of its plants globally as it attempts to slash costs and restructure in order to exit bankruptcy.

Delphi also said it would seek to end or renegotiate unprofitable deals with its former parent company, General Motors Corp, which remains its largest customer. The sweeping cuts are key to Delphi's plan to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the first half of 2007, and Delphi's chief executive

said the company has made recent progress in its talks with union leaders and GM. Delphi, which plans to eliminate up to 40 per cent of its corporate officers, expects to cut about 27,000 of its 33,100 US hourly workers by the end of 2010 through retirements, flowbacks to GM or layoffs, it said in court papers. The United

Swift action needed to protect biodiversity

CURITIBA (Brazil), 1 April — Dozens of countries tried to hammer out agreements on Friday on the last day of a UN conference to protect biodiversity but fell short, leaving critics to complain more action is needed to prevent widespread loss of plant and animal species.

Countries at the 8th United Nations Conference on the Convention on Biodiversity in Brazil attempted to define steps they will take to fulfil a promise made four years ago to slow the pace of biodiversity loss by 2010. Extinctions are more numerous now than at any time in recent history, experts say. Scientists have identified only a fraction of the estimated 10 million to 100 million species and fear many more will be lost before others are discovered. Progress toward meeting the 2010 goal has been slow. —MNA/Reuters



An aerial view shows flooded houses by the river Elbe in the eastern German town of Koenigstein on 31 March, 2006. Some 1,000 people in the east German city of Dresden were expected to be forced to leave their homes over the weekend due to flooding caused by melting snow and heavy rain, a city spokesman said on Friday. —INTERNET

Kaungkinthit Pagoda in Panglong

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

The Maha Ratthabhi Samaggi Pagoda is located on Wikathini Hill in the compound of the Pyidaungsu Monument in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State (South). One can reach Panglong from Taunggyi, Shan State, in more than two hours if one takes a drive along the Union Highway through the towns of Hopang, Mongpon and Loilem. In other words, one can take a round-trip between Taunggyi and Panglong in a day.

In the past, passengers had to spend more than half a day to make the trip. Moreover, armed insurgency reigned along the route at that time.

In order to reap such a sweet fruit, the Tatmadaw Government had to persuade national race armed groups to return to the legal fold first and then is putting its all-out efforts into the border areas development project, the 24 special development regions project and the five rural development tasks.

Now in the region, local youths have enjoyed fruitful results of pursuing education in Panglong University, Government Computer College and Government Technological College. And the 200-bed hospital provides health care for local people. People can travel to any regions in Shan State thanks to the upgrading of old roads and the building of bridges, large and small. The region has also been facilitated with a digital auto exchange alongside Wanpon Dam (Namsang), Langkho River Water Pumping Station. When the hydropower plant project (Kengtawng) is completed, all the villages in Loilem and Langkho districts will get sufficient electricity. The stability

and peace and development of the entire Shan State are a witness to the Tatmadaw Government's goodwill to the people. Now, there has emerged the Maha Ratthabhi Samaggi Pagoda in Panglong where independence was birthed.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on building a pagoda to recognize the brilliant performance of the national patriots who sacrificed their lives throughout the period of independence struggles in the interests of the nation and the people, to enable national people of the Union to perform meritorious deeds, to indicate Union Spirit for new generations, and to represent a religious monument for the people, and all beings from celestial abodes and higher celestial abodes.

Adhering to the guidance, the central committee for building a pagoda with the chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command as chairman and subcommittees were formed. And the pagoda was built with the sponsorship of Asia World Company and technology of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the middle reliquary, to fix pivot and to enshrine religious objects into the upper reliquary of the pagoda was held on the morning of 5 February 2006.

The occasion was graced by the presence of members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha from Shan State, members of Shan State Sangha Nayaka Committee and township Sangha

Nayaka Committees.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint enshrined religious objects into the middle reliquary and the upper reliquary and fixed the pivot atop the pagoda.

The religious objects enshrining ceremony was successfully completed due to the significant contributions made by members of the Sangha led by Shwe Thu Wun Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Saddhiya (M.A), and active participation of Tatmadaw members led by Brig-Gen Thaug Aye of Mongnaung Station, Col Tin Htay of Loilem Station, and the committees led by Chairman of Loilem PDC Lt-Col Win Tint, Commander of Loilem District Police Force Lt-Col Thuta Pe, and local people.

To mark the successful completion of the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint closed the entrance of the reliquary and sprinkled scented water on it.

The Maha Ratthabhi Samaggi Pagoda resembles the Shwedagon Pagoda if it is viewed from afar, and like the Kaungkinthit Pagoda if it is viewed from the octagon-shaped Gantakutitaik because its cave was built with the use of high technology for the first time in Myanmar.

Therefore, Myanmar where the Kaungkinthit Pagoda is kept will never collapse with prospects for further progress.

Translation: MS

(Myanma Alin: 1-4-2006)



Tomas Enge of the Czech Republic drives his car during a qualification session for the A1 race in Shanghai on 1 April, 2006. Malaysia's Alex Yoong finished the qualification session with the best time and will be the first to start Sunday's race. Enge finished on the 8th place. — INTERNET

Indonesian man tests positive for bird flu

JAKARTA, April 2 — An Indonesian man has tested positive for the bird flu virus, one day after the government confirmed the country's 23rd human death from the disease, a health official said on Saturday.

The H5N1 avian influenza virus has spread in birds at an alarming rate in recent months, sweeping through parts of Europe, into Africa, and flaring anew in Asia. It has killed at least 105 people since it reemerged in late 2003. — MNA/Reuters

Quake jolts eastern Indonesia, no casualties seen

JAKARTA, 2 April — An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale struck off the eastern Indonesian island of Talaud early on Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, an Indonesian official said. The quake's epicen-

tre was in the sea 42 kilometres (26 miles) west of Talaud and at a depth of 33 kilometres, staff official Lukito of the Jakarta earthquake centre told Reuters. Talaud is between Sulawesi, one of Indonesia's major islands, and Mindanao in the Philip-

ines, and lies around 2,250 kilometres north-east of Jakarta. An official at the earthquake office in Sulawesi's Manado, the nearest major city, also said there were no reports of victims or damage so far. MNA/Reuters

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊

ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၆-ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ (၃၁)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၅၂,၇၆၂)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေ ပြည်သူအများ ဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, ...

(from page 1)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife are accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and

Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister for National

Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thuang, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and departmental heads. — MNA

Agricultural and development tasks in Hlaingbwe, ...

(from page 16)

They viewed running of Leyar-16 power-tiller and generators with the use of physic nut oil.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing proceeded to Htilon region of Hlaingbwe Township. At the rubber and physic nut farm, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on growing of rubber and physic nut plants by officials and urged local farmers to utilize their allotted lands for agricultural purpose.

In Htilon region, 8,630 acres of land have been allotted to 107 farmers to grow mixed-cropping rubber and physic nut plant.

On arrival at the combined office of Paingkyon Township General Administration Department, they inspected the office and

staff.

At the construction site of Paingkyon Creek Bridge, Assistant Senior Engineer U Tin Aung of Public Works reported on progress in construction of the bridge. Lt-Gen Maung Bo oversaw construction of the approach road and the bridge.

Paingkyon Creek Bridge will be a Bailey wooden one. The bridge will be 1,200 feet long and it will have 12 feet and 4 inches motor way. The bridge can withstand 13-ton loads.

They also inspected the site for building MyoU Pagoda, construction of 2,640 feet long urban road, erecting of lamp posts, Paingkyon Hospital (16-bed) and Hlaingbwe Township Hospital (50-bed).

At Hlaingbwe Station, they met with offic-

ers, other ranks and family members of the local battalion.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party oversaw progress of building Kawkareik Hospital (100-bed) and attended to the needs. The main building of the hospital will be 178 feet long, 68 feet wide and 28 feet high. The operation theatre and the delivery room will be 88 feet long and 66 feet wide. While in Kawkareik, they met Tatmadawmen and families at the hall of the local battalion.

At Gyaing river water pumping station in Hpa-an Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on effort to be made for exceeding the target of summer paddy cultivation. The commander and Col Khin Kyu gave supplementary reports.

Gyaing river water



Lt-Gen Maung Bo hands physic nut seeds and grafts over to a local. — MNA

pumping station is located in Gyaing Village of Hpa-an Township. Its main channel is 10,000 feet long together with a 7,500 feet long branch channel. The station benefits 1,000 acres of farmland.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed thriving summer paddy with the irrigation facilities of the water pumping station.

MNA

Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam in ...

(from page 16)

preparation and other tasks. The reinforced concrete spillway is 980 feet long and 106 feet wide. The earth main dam is 920 feet long and 200 feet high.

The director of construction-5 reported on construction of diversion tunnel, earth dam, spill-

way and diversion weir with audio-visual aids.

The minister called for completion of the project in time. He inspected construction of embankment which is 300 feet long and 20 feet high, the entrance and the end of the diversion weir.

MNA

USDA delegation leaves for China

YANGON, 2 April — At the invitation of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) of the People's Republic of China, a Union Solidarity and Development Association delegation led by member of the Central Executive Committee of USDA U Nyan Tun Aung left here by air for China this evening.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by USDA CEC member U Maung Pa, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu, officials of the USDA Headquarters and families.

MNA



CEC member of USDA U Nyan Tun Aung seen at the airport prior to his departure for China. — MNA

Armed Forces Day Exhibition 2006 continues

YANGON, 2 April — The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition 2006 continued for the eighth day at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here from 9 am to 5 pm today.

The public including monks and students visited the exhibition. They enthusiastically observed the various kinds of booths — booth of Twelve objectives of the

State, booths of Yangon City Development Committee and Mandalay City Development Committee, booths of the Ministry of Defence and Commands, booth of nation-building endeavours and booths of Tatmadaw (Air) and (Navy).

Therefore, computer quiz kept taking place at the exhibition and the winners were presented prizes. The exhibition opens till 4 April. — MNA

Basic tailoring course concludes in Pale

YANGON, 2 April — The basic tailoring course No 1, conducted by the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, concluded at Women's Vocational Training School in Pale on 31 March.

It was attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Patron of Sagaing Division Women's Affairs Organization wife of the commander Daw Wai Wai Khaing, Director-General U Than Win of Education and Training Department, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Associa-

tion, other social organizations and local people.

First, the commander gave a speech. Next, Daw Wai Wai Khaing presented prizes to three outstanding trainees. The Director-General of ETD gave certificates to the trainees and handed over sewing machines

sold in installment by the PBANRDA Ministry to the trainees. Afterwards, the commander and party viewed works of the trainees.

Altogether 50 trainees — 20 from urban area and 30 from rural area — attended the course that lasted 14 weeks. — MNA

တန်ဖိုးရှိလှ လူငယ်ဘဝ
ပူးယစ်ကင်းစင် ကျန်းမာမှု

သတိ

၁။ လေပေါင်(၁၀၀)မှ(၁၅၀)အထိ အတင်အချ ပြုလုပ်၍ ရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပက်ကစားခြင်းကြောင့် ရေကူးအား ပြင်းလွန်း၍ ရေပက်ခံသူတွင် အသားအရေများ ပွန်းပဲ့ထုတ်ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိ၊ နားများအားထိခိုက်ကာ မျက်လုံး၊ နား ကန်းနိုင်ခြင်း၊ အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်နိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေကစားမညာပုံ များ၊ ရေပက်ခံကားများတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များအသုံးပြု၍ ရေပက်ခြင်းမပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်္ကြန်ရေပက်ကစားခြင်းအား သင်္ကြန်ရက်များအတွင်း နေ့စဉ်နံနက်(၀၇:၀၀)နာရီမှ(၁၈:၀၀)နာရီအတွင်းသာ ရေပက် ကစားကြရန်နှင့် (၁၈:၀၀)နာရီနောက်ပိုင်း ရေပက်ကစားခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

၃။ တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခံရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

Commander, Industry-1 Minister inspect Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi

YANGON, 2 April — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspected sales of Win Thuza shop of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Taunggyi yesterday morning.

In Ayethaya Industrial Zone, the commander and the minister inspected functions of Tomato Product Factory of Myanmar-Inlay Foodstuff Industries. They viewed thriving 550,000 physic nut saplings at the two nurseries.

The commander and Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister U Aung Thuang met with members of the industrial zone supervisory committee, the chairman of Ayethaya Industries Co and entrepreneurs.

Officials reported on matters related to the industrial zone. The minister instructed them to manufacture various items of quality import substitute machine parts. The commander and the minister viewed functions of Foundry Shop, Machine Shop and the physic nut oil mill.

In Heho, they met with officials of Herbal Plantation of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries. Officials reported on nurturing of herbal plantations, and breeding of horses. The minister gave instructions on extended cultivation of herbal plants, and growing of physic nut plants.

The minister proceeded to Kalaw. He presented clothes and exercise books to the family members of



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang view physic nut nursery at Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi. — MNA

the local station.

Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister U Aung Thuang arrived at Soap Factory in Thazi. At the hall, he met with secretaries of Meiktila District and Thazi Township USDAs, executives and organizers.

Minister U Aung Thuang went to Taungtha. He

met departmental personnel and merchants from Myingyan and Taungtha Townships at the office of Taungtha Township USDA Office. He explained smooth and speedy flow of commodities and construction of the roads and bridges for better transport. After hearing the reports of those present, the minister attended to the needs. — MNA

Ceremony to hand over the flag of victory for mountaineering expedition held



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw speaking at the ceremony to hand over flag to mountaineering team. — CPT

YANGON, 2 April — A ceremony to hand over the flag of victory for a mountaineering expedition to Phonkan Yazhi Snow-capped Mountain in Kachin State took place at Mandalay Division USDA office on 31 March, attended by Patron of Mandalay Division USDA Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, departmental heads, social or-

ganizations, War Veterans Organization members, members of USDA and members of mountaineering team.

First, the commander and the minister made speeches and Secretary of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineers Federation Dr Khin Maung explained the facts about the mountaineering trip and accepted the flag. Next, the commander and minister posed for documentary photo with members of the mountaineering team. Altogether 65 USDA members from MHMF take part

in the mountaineering expedition.

Yesterday morning, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected the hotels of private entrepreneurs in Mandalay including Emerald Land Inn, Mandalay City Hotel and Sein Sein Hotel. Later, the minister proceeded to the worksite of Hotel Mandalay and inspected the progress of the tasks and gave instructions on timely completion. On arrival at Great Wall Hotel, the minister left instructions on efforts for the

success of hotel services through the unity of hoteliers. — MNA

Royal Gold soap produced by Excel Co introduced

YANGON, 2 April—Royal Gold soap produced by Excel Co was introduced at a ceremony in conjunction with a lucky draw worth over K 12 million at the Excel Shopping Mall near Shwegondine Traffic Light on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township here at 3 pm today.

At the ceremony, the advantages of the soap were explained to those present.

After the ceremony, actress Thet Mon Myint and comedians King Kong and Kutho played game together with Talent & Models group and presented souvenirs to those present.

The sale promotion of Royal Gold soap will be held from 12 am to 5 pm on 23 April along with the entertainment of The Three Band. And souvenirs will be presented to those present at the ceremony. — MNA



Ceremony to introduce Royal Gold Soap and ceremony to open lucky draw programme of Excel Shopping Mall in progress. — MNA

Coord meeting for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon City held



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win addressing coordination meeting of Management and Supervisory Committee for Greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon City. — MNA

YANGON, 2 April — The Management and Supervisory Committee for Greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon City held coordination meeting at Yangon Command yesterday afternoon, with an address by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

It was also attended by Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, the management committee members, departmental heads, the Secretary of Yangon Division PDC and district and township PDC chairmen. Those present reported to the commander on the progress of tasks for greening the 30-mile radius of

Yangon City, the arrangement for providing the assistance of the respective departments in greening tasks.

Regarding the reports, the commander attended to the needs and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander.

MNA

Rail Transportation Minister inspects Sittaung (Sathwagon)-Myitkyo-DaikU rail-road project

YANGON, 2 April — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than arrived at Sathwagon station construction site of Sittaung (Sathwagon)-Myitkyo-DaikU rail-road project yesterday.

Project Engineer U Myo Zaw Tu reported on earth work for construction of the rail-road and work done for building bridges to the minister, who fulfilled the requirements.

The minister and party inspected completion of

earth work for Sittaung (Sathwagon)-Myitkyo-DaikU rail-road, the site for building a 230-foot Nago Pauk creek bridge and a 250-foot bridge across Sittaung Canal.

On arrival at Waw Township, the minister also attended the opening ceremonies of Management Course (Multiplier) for executives of Union Solidarity and Development Association and Summer Courses.

MNA

Hospice (Cancer) Foundation Chairman U Hla Tun donates cash to social organizations

YANGON, 2 April — Chairman of U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Foundation U Hla Tun presented cash donations to social organizations, at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Sayadaw Dhammaduta Ashin Chekinda of Chekindarama Monastery of Zaytawun Tawya in Hmawby Township gave an Ovakakatha.

Wellwisher U Hla Tun offered FEC 1,500 to the fund of the monastery to the Sayadaw.

Wellwisher U Hla Tun explained the purpose of the donation in memory of late parents U Hla Pe-Daw Saw, wife Daw Mya Mya and daughter Daw Mya Sanda Tun.

Next, U Hla Tun presented US\$ 10,000 to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association; FEC 1,000 to National Health Commit-

tee; FEC 500 each to Union Solidarity and Development Association, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (Water Project), Defence Services General Hospital (Mingaladon), No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed), Yangon General Hospital (Cancer Unit),

Leprosy Hospital (Yenatha) of Mandalay Division, Leprosy Hospital (Taungwaing) of Mawlamyine, Mary Chapman School for the Deaf, Khawegyan School for the Blind, National Rehabilitation Hospital, Thanmyanthu Syndicate Committee, Home for the Aged

(Kandawlay), and Sports Fund of Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank; FEC 18,000 to staff of Auditing Firm and Financial Consultant Office; FEC 500 each to U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundations (Yangon) and (Mandalay); and K 1 million to MICPA.

MNA



U Hla Tun donates cash to social organizations.—MNA

Chinese archaeologists probe origin of domestic horses

BELING, 2 April — Chinese archaeologists are studying the DNA samples extracted from the bones of horses unearthed from ancient sites to probe the origin of domestic horses in China.

It is still a mystery to archaeologists when and where horses were first tamed in China, said Cai Dawei, a researcher with the centre of archaeological research for China's border area under the Jilin University in Northwest China.

The DNA research will offer valuable clues on the study of migration, spread and domestication of horses, Cai said.

A large number of remains of domestic horses and carriages have been found in the relic sites dating back to the late Shang Dynasty (1600 BC-1100 BC) in China.

Many bones of horses who were sacrificed were discovered in the sites of the late Shang Dynasty, such as the Yin Ruins in Central China's Henan Province, the Laoniupo site in Xi'an, capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi Province and the Qianzhongda site in East China's Shandong Province.

"However, horses earlier than the late Shang Dynasty were seldom found in China. And it's difficult for archaeologists to determine whether the few remains of horses earlier than the Shang Dynasty belong to domestic horses or wild ones," Cai said.

MNA/Xinhua



Maria Sharapova of Russia eyes the ball before hitting a shot to compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova during their final tennis match at the Nasdaq-100 Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida, on 1 April, 2006.

INTERNET



Bird flu brought under control in Shwebo, KhinU Townships and Mandalay District
Press release on measures undertaken in central Myanmar



Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries issued a press release on death of chicken in central Myanmar.

1. Death of chicken: The LBVD carried out restriction and control measures on prevention and control of disease regarding the death of chicken and quails in Shwebo District, Sagaing Division from the first week of February 2006 to 26-3-2006 and Mandalay District, Mandalay Division from 8-3-2006 to 26-3-2006.

(A) Death of chicken/those destroyed

Out of 60,929 fowls at 93 poultry farms 6,731 died in Shwebo District (Shwebo, KhinU, Kanbalu and YeU) from the time of chicken death to 26-3-2006, altogether 24,836 fowls were culled and buried. In Mandalay District (Pyigyidagun, Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye and Aungmyethazan) 2,060 fowls died at 99 poultry farms where 111,919 were kept and 96,159 were destroyed. Therefore, 8,791 fowls died and 120,995 fowls and 560 eggs were destroyed and buried in those districts.

(B) Death of quails and those destroyed

Altogether 1,941 quails at two quail farms in Shwebo District and 115,650 quails in 44 quail farms in Mandalay District and 50,515 eggs were killed/destroyed. Therefore, 117,591 quails and 50,515 quail eggs were killed/destroyed and buried.

(C) Finding of bird flu virus

After the initial outbreaks in the cull zone in Kanbalu, KhinU, YeU, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye and Aungmyethazan Townships, investigation was made at 47 poultry farms. A total of 433 samples (blood, inner organs of the chicken and trachea) were collected and examined through rapid test and HA, HI and PCR processes. The H5N1 virus was detected in 26 samples of 35 chicken farms.

2. Control of disease: Under the supervision of local authorities the LBVD is taking measures on disease control in the cull zones in cooperation with Health Department, Development Affairs Departments, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation and breeders and with the assistance of disease control experts from international organizations. All the fowls in the farms from one kilometre radius of the farm where the virus was found were culled for

risk prevention. The destruction included 120,995, fowls, 112,414 quails, 50,515 quail eggs and 560 eggs.

The farms and other materials were sprayed with pesticides. The ban on sale and transport of animals and their products was imposed after the control and restricted and control areas were designated between 3 kilometres and 7 kilometres from the infected farm. It was found that there was no evidence of human and other animal infections from the H5N1. The situation is now under control in affected townships of Mandalay Division.

3. The latest condition up to 26-3-2006: The disease has been brought under control in Shwebo, KhinU except in Kaboe Village in Kanbalu Township and Mandalay District; control measures continue at Kaboe Village.

4. Cooperation with international organizations: Regional Coordinator of FAO Dr K Watanabe and Regional Coordinator of USAID of the United States Dr John MacArthur in cooperation with the LBVD made a field trip to the affected areas in Mandalay and Shwebo Districts and took emergency measures on control of the disease. Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein received the FAO and WHO resident representatives to Myanmar and discussed bird flu control programmes. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and a regional laboratory in Australia provided educative posters and laboratory equipment. Myanmar received protective gear, testing kits and others worth about US \$ 100,000 provided by FAO, JICA and the regional laboratory in Australia. Three experts from FAO, JICA and DLD of Thailand together with Dr K Watanabe will conduct disease control in Mandalay and Shwebo for two weeks beginning 28-3-2006.

5. Rehabilitation: Under the programme of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Myanmar Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Development Bank and the Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation will jointly take measures for rehabilitation of the affected chicken runs.

6. Regions that have not been infected: To ensure normal rate of consumption and trade of domestic chickens and chicken products in such regions, State/Division Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Departments will hold coordination meetings and issue animal health certificates to livestock breeders and traders to distribute products with the permission of respective local authorities.

**Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
 Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries**

ပြည်တွင်းတုံ့ထိုးဆောင်ခြင်းပြုစေရေး ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်အချက်များ
INSTRUCTION FOR THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

ကျင့်သင့်သည့် အချက်များ Do as follows :-
 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့် (Biosecurity measures)
 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့်
 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့်
 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့်
 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့်

ကျင့်သင့်သည့် အချက်များ Don't do as follows :-
 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့်
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ပြည်တွင်းတုံ့ထိုးဆောင်ခြင်းဖြင့်
Prevention of Avian Influenza to Humans in suspected case

ကျင့်သင့်သည့် အချက်များ Do as follows :-
 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့်
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ကျင့်သင့်သည့် အချက်များ Don't do as follows :-
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 - အိမ်များကို သန့်ရှင်းစေခြင်းဖြင့်

Public awareness poster for the village level

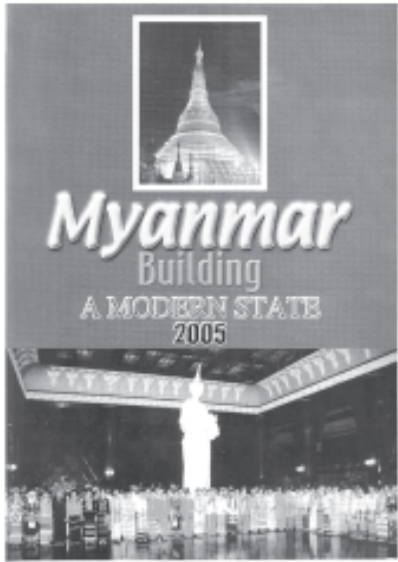
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 ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၆ခုနှစ် မတ်လ ၂၃ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာအော်ယူခြင်း
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 (ခ) ကျောက်ခွဲစက် (60 tons/hr (1) Set
 ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ (၁၉-၄-၂၀၀၆)နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်း တင်သွင်းလွှာတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/ (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်- ၃၈၈၇၂၃ သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
 ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့



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Earthquake hits Jilin Province

CHANGCHUN, 1 April — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale jolted China's northeastern Jilin Province on Friday and no casualties have been confirmed so far.

The quake struck at 8:23 pm on Friday with the epicentre in Laoyingtai Village located across Qian'an and Qian'guo counties in Songyuan City, about 200 kilometres north of the provincial capital of Changchun, according to Zhang Yaqin, deputy head of the seismological bureau of Changchun City.

The quake, followed by two aftershocks, has a strong destructive force, said officials with the bureau.

Cracks can be seen on the walls of a number of houses in the village and some warehouses have collapsed.

Rescuers are working at the site and

seismological experts are rushing to the epicentre area.

The quake has been felt by residents of most parts of Jilin and some regions in the neighbouring provinces of Liaoning and Heilongjiang, and the northern Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 10,000 Chinese worship 5,000-year-old ancestor in Henan

ZHENGZHOU, 1 April — More than 10,000 Chinese attended a grand worshipping ceremony on Friday to mark the nation's legendary ancestor Huangdi, on 3 March on the Chinese lunar calendar which was believed to be the birthday of the saint.

The ceremony was held in Xinzheng, central China's Henan Province, where the capital of Huangdi's Huaxia empire was located after he united all the other tribes in China 5,000 years ago.

Senior officials including He Luli, vice-

chairwoman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress, Zhang Siqing and Luo Haocai, vice chairpersons of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Chen

Yunlin, director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, presented flowers to Huangdi's statue.

After that all the worshippers, including 3,000 overseas Chinese, bowed to the statue.

MNA/Xinhua

US seeks to join SAARC

DHAKA, 1 April — The United States wants to join the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as an observer, Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said on Thursday.

The request was formally made by the visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Gastright who arrived Dhaka on Thursday on a two-day visit.

"We support the US request to become an observer of SAARC and hope all other members of the forum also welcome it," Khan told reporters after a meeting with Gastright.

Earlier South Korea also made a similar request for SAARC observer status, Foreign Ministry officials said.

SAARC was formed in 1985, but its aim of bringing regional prosperity through cooperation has failed to get off the ground.

It has taken few multilateral initiatives and many of its summits have been postponed, sometimes for years, because of strife within nations or between them.

Bangladesh, the current chair of the grouping, will host a meeting of the SAARC Standing Committee, made up of the foreign secretaries of the member states, to finalize the terms and conditions for the observers, the officials said — MNA/Reuters

Another ex-delay aide pleads guilty in US scandal

WASHINGTON, 1 April — A former top aide to Texas Republican Representative Tom DeLay pleaded guilty in the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal on Friday, the second ex-aide to the powerful congressman to admit wrongdoing and agree to cooperate.

Tony Rudy, DeLay's former deputy chief of staff, entered the guilty plea to one count of conspiracy in federal court as part of a deal with US Justice Department prosecutors in which he has agreed to tell all he knows.

Abramoff, the lobbyist at the heart of a corruption scandal that has rattled top Republicans, has been cooperating in the investigation into whether Washington politicians gave his clients favourable treatment in exchange for campaign contributions, Super Bowl tickets and other illegal gifts.

Rudy worked for DeLay from 1995 through 2000, while DeLay was a Republican leader in the US House of Representatives. Rudy then joined Abramoff as a lobbyist. They conspired together to influence members of Congress, prosecutors said.

Beginning in 1997 and continuing while he worked for DeLay, Rudy accepted numerous items of value from Abramoff and others while he repeatedly took official action on their behalf, prosecutors said.

MNA/Reuters



An Iranian man walks through the ruins of a quake-devastated home in Khalegh Ali village, 400 km (248 miles) south west of Teheran on 1 April, 2006. A strong earthquake hit Iran on Friday, killing at least 70 people and devastating villages, a provincial official said. — INTERNET

Drive safely

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

3-D “Superman Returns” to fly into Imax theatres

LOS ANGELES, 1 April — Superman leaps tall buildings in a single bound, flies faster than a speeding bullet and this summer, will land in audience laps in a 3-D version of “Superman Returns”, set for Imax movie theatres.

Imax and Warner Bros filmstudio on Wednesday said they plan to feature 20 minutes of the big-budget Hollywood movie in three dimensions when it hits theatres in late June, marking the first live-action, 3-D movie on giant Imax screens.

The plan highlights an ongoing trend by some major Hollywood studios toward placing more 3-D movies in theatres to generate excitement and lure fans in the face of a recent decline in movie theatre attendance.

Total admissions

declined 8.7 per cent in the United States in 2005 to 1.4 billion. In contrast, Imax enjoyed a strong year in part by creating must-see “events”, showing big-budget Hollywood films on screens that can rise up to eight stories.

Imax and Warner Bros teamed up for a 3-D version of the animated movie “The Polar Express” in 2004, and so far the film has grossed more than 60 million US dollars in two seasons at Imax.—MNA/Reuters



Pesticides experts from Japan, Hideto Sambuchi (L) and Ken Hantano (C) pluck infected tea leaves at Tirupati tea garden estate, about 40 km (25 miles) from the northeastern Indian city of Siliguri, on 1 April, 2006. They were here to examine the extent of infection. Every year about 2000 tonnes of leaves are damaged by bacteria and insects, a government official said on Saturday.—INTERNET

Iran test-fires new missile successfully

TEHERAN, 1 April— Iran on Friday successfully test-fired a missile with radar-dodging and multi-targeting capabilities in a naval manoeuvre, state television quoted a senior officer as reporting.

“Today, we have successfully test-fired a new missile which can attack several different targets with great accuracy and avoid the detection of radar,” Hossein Salami, Air Force Commander of Iran’s elite Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), was quoted as saying. Salami described the successful test-firing as “a prominent achievement of the country’s defense capability”.

The test-firing was an important part of a military manoeuvre in the Persian Gulf starting earlier in the day. Over 17,000 soldiers and 1,500 naval vessels of various types would be present in the operations of the one-week war game, during which the Iranian military’s readiness to defend the country would be displayed, the IRGC announced Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers transfer a giant panda at the Wolong Giant Panda Protection and Research Centre in Shanghai on 1 April, 2006. Three giant pandas arrived in Shanghai on Saturday. The giant panda is one of the world’s most endangered species and is found only in China. —INTERNET

Pakistan’s first forensic laboratory starts function

ISLAMABAD, 1 April — Pakistan’s first forensic science laboratory, with DNA test capability, started work in Islamabad on Friday to help in investigation of crimes.

The laboratory has been established with the

help of China and most of the equipment has been gifted by the Chinese Government.

The Laboratory, set up by the National Police Bureau in Islamabad, would help in investigations against the terrorism and serious crimes, Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao said while inaugurating the laboratory.

“It is a step forward to equip the police with the modern-age demands,” he said, adding that it would help the police to investigate the crimes.

He said that the DNA technology was playing a key role in tracing crimes. He added that criminals were being carried out with sophisticated way

and there was a need of latest technology to trace crimes.

Federal Interior Secretary Kamal Shah said that it had been difficult to identify those accused of sex offences who used to be aliens for the targeted women and children.

The government has also set up a data base of criminals, he said, adding that the chances of the arrest of innocent people would also decrease with the setup of the lab.

Sherpao said two major projects, Automated Finger Prints Identification System and Police Record Office Management and Information System, of the police would be launched this year.—MNA/Xinhua

Singapore unveils first biometric passport

SINGAPORE, 1 April — Singapore unveiled the design and security features of its first biometric passport (BioPass) Friday, hoping that the new technology will help curb the mobility of terrorists and transnational criminals and enhance its border security.

The key component of the BioPass is a contactless integrated-circuit chip embedded in the polycarbonate data page, which will incorporate the passport holder’s facial and fingerprint information as biometric identifiers, according to the Immigration and Check-points Authority (ICA) of Singapore.

In accordance with the standards set by the International Civil

Aviation Organization (ICAO), data stored in the chip can be recognized by electronic readers.

Other security features incorporated on the data page include using optical variable ink for the words of “Republic of Singapore”, having two multiple laser images, as well as partially covering the holder’s photograph and personal particulars with a kinegram.

MNA/Xinhua

China to build 200 key silkworm breeding bases in inland region

NANNING, 1 April — China plans to develop more silkworm breeding bases in its central and western regions, aiming to help raise the incomes of inland farmers and expand the country’s silk cocoon exports, according to a senior Chinese official of commerce.

Under a programme launched recently by the Ministry of Commerce, China will build 200 hi-tech, market-oriented silkworm breeding bases each covering about 670 hectares, said Huang Hai, Assistant Minister of Commerce.

Huang, who is also director of the National Cocoon and Silk Coordination Office, said nine export-oriented silkworm breeding zones will take shape in the west, southwest, central and northeast China over the next five years.

Silkworming breeding originated in China’s temperate east of Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces. With a history of more than 5,000 years, it nurtured China’s earliest silk spinning and weaving industry which in turn lead to ancient China’s Silk Road.

Recent report shows China has taken more than 70 per cent of global shares in cocoon and silk production and trade. The export of silk products helped the country earn nearly four billion US dollars in foreign exchange every year. —MNA/Xinhua



A model presents a creation by Indian designer Azeem Khan at the Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai, India, on 1 April, 2006.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Inter Milan midfielder Santiago Solari, of Argentina, celebrates after scoring during the Italian first division soccer match between Inter Milan and Messina at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 1 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Milan lose, Juve held before European tests

MILAN, 2 April— Italian Champions League quarterfinalists Juventus and AC Milan failed to beat the bottom two clubs in Serie A on Saturday, with Milan suffering a humiliating defeat.

Milan fell 1-0 to a 54th-minute Cedric Konan goal at Lecce while leaders Juventus were held to a 0-0 draw at bottom club Treviso, who have not won in their last 16 games.

Despite the disappointing result and performance from Juventus, Fabio Capello's side extended their lead over Milan to nine points with just six games remaining.

Juventus face Arsenal in the second leg of their Champions League quarterfinal tie on Wednesday after falling to a 2-0 defeat in London last week. Milan are at home to Lyon on Tuesday with their tie goalless after the first leg in France.

The third Italian team in the last eight in Europe, Inter Milan, were due to face Messina at the San Siro later on Saturday.

Milan, who rested several of their top players including Ukrainian striker

Andriy Shevchenko and Brazilian Kaka, dominated the opening 45 minutes at Lecce but home keeper Vincenzo Sicignano was in inspired form.

Sicignano was out quickly to foil Alberto Gilardino in the fourth minute and 15 minutes later produced an excellent save to keep out a strike from the Milan striker who had been well-served by Rui Costa.

MNA/Reuters

Aberdeen beat Inverness 1-0 to move into top 6

GLASGOW, 2 April— A late goal from Steve Lovell gave Aberdeen a 1-0 win at Inverness Caledonian Thistle on Saturday and moved them up to sixth in the Scottish Premier League.

Aberdeen have 45 points from 31 games, one ahead of Motherwell, who beat basement club Livingston 2-1 even though Richie Foran missed a first-half penalty.

Leaders Celtic have 79 points, Hearts are second on 62 while third-placed Rangers have 56.

Foran's 13th minute spot kick was well saved by keeper Rod McKenzie after Livingston defender Greg Strong had brought down Scott McDonald.

Motherwell striker Jim Hamilton headed into the net from close range following a cross by Martyn Corrigan six minutes before the interval.

Livingston substitute Noel Whelan flicked in an equalizer before Brian McLean netted a late winner with a right-foot shot.

MNA/Reuters

English Premier League reports

LONDON, 2 April— Brief reports from English Premier League games played on Saturday:

Arsenal 5 Aston Villa 0

Arsenal, buoyed by their midweek Champions League win over Juventus, crushed hapless Villa at Highbury to increase the pressure on manager David O'Leary. Villa have not beaten Arsenal since 1998 and never threatened to once Togo's Emmanuel Adebayor headed in a 19th-minute opener.

Thierry Henry exquisitely took down a Jose Antonio Reyes pass to lob Thomas Sorensen six minutes later and the French striker got his second and



Thierry Henry of Arsenal attempts a bicycle kick in front of Ulises De La Cruz of Aston Villa during a Premiership match at Highbury in north London on 1 April, 2006. Arsenal completed a memorable week and added to the pressure on former Highbury hero David O'Leary with a 5-0 thrashing of Aston Villa.—INTERNET

Arsenal's third a minute after the break. Substitutes Robin van Persie and Abou Diaby added further goals to bury Villa.

Bolton Wanderers 1 Manchester United 2

United's victory, courtesy of Ruud van Nistelrooy's 150th goal for the club, gave Alex Ferguson's side renewed hope of reeling in leaders Chelsea with six games to play.

Dutch striker van Nistelrooy, starting from the bench again, slotted in from Louis Saha's cross after 79 minutes. Frenchman Saha, with his 14th goal of the season, had equalized 12 minutes before halftime with a fine curling effort.

Bolton, losing at home for the first time in 22 games in all competitions, had led through Kevin Davies.

Everton 2 Sunderland 2

Rory Delap's late equalizer for the bottom side denied Everton a seventh straight league win at home.

The game was a notable one for Sunderland's England Under-21 striker Jonathan Stead, who scored his first goal for the club at the 32nd attempt, his goal cancelling out Leon Osman's early opener. Scot James McFadden quickly restored Everton's advantage but Delap's header on 80 minutes gave Sunderland reward for another battling display.

Fulham 1 Portsmouth 3

Seemingly staring relegation in the face, Portsmouth have conjured three successive wins to lift spirits at Fratton Park. In a frenetic encounter, Harry Redknapp's side scored with their first attack when Gary O'Neil's scuffed shot bounced over keeper Mark Crossley.

The lead lasted nine minutes before French midfielder Steed Malbranque thumped in from 25 metres.

Lomana Lua Lua shook off Zat Knight's close attentions to send Pompey in 2-1 up at the break. O'Neil's deflected effort just past the hour gave Portsmouth breathing space and they held on comfortably after Fulham midfielder Michael Brown was sent off for a lunge at Sean Davis.

MNA/Reuters



Portsmouth's midfielder Gary O'Neil kicks over-head above Fulham's forward Luis Boa Morte, left, during their English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage, London, on 1 April, 2006.

INTERNET



Marseille's forward Mamadou Niang, right, controls the ball ahead of Nantes's defender David Leray and Mauro Cetto during their French League One soccer match, on 1 April, 2006, in Nantes, western France.—INTERNET

Villarreal sneak 1-0 win at Zaragoza

MADRID, 2 April— Villarreal secured their first Primera Liga win in five outings with a 1-0 victory at Real Zaragoza on Saturday.

The Mediterranean side appeared to have their minds on next week's Champions League quarterfinal tie against Inter Milan as they rarely created any danger against a dominant Zaragoza.

Midfielder Roger gave the visitors a barely deserved victory when he caught out Zaragoza keeper Cesar with a dipping free kick from 20 metres out on the stroke of halftime.—MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

F	E	L	O	N	I	E	S		C	B	
R	E	O	R	P	H	A	S	E			
E	V	A	P	O	R	A	T	E	B	G	
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Chelsea held by struggling Birmingham

LONDON, 2 April— Leaders Chelsea were frustrated by relegation-threatened Birmingham City on Saturday, the below-par champions held to a 0-0 draw at St Andrews in a lunchtime kickoff.

Jose Mourinho's side extended their advantage to 10 points over Manchester United, who make the short trip to the Reebok Stadium to face Bolton Wanderers later on Saturday.

Mourinho was unhappy with another unconvincing display away from home and Chelsea have won just one from their last five on their travels. "I am concerned, I want to win every game, I'm not happy with the performance and result," he told Sky Sports.

"We did not deserve to win the

game, Birmingham deserved a point... they showed great spirit. I have to praise the way they fought.

"It's (the title) in our hands. The important thing is we keep winning our matches at home and we will be champions again."

Birmingham, third from bottom and reeling from shipping 10 goals in their last two games in league and Cup, defended competently and produced the game's best moment when Olivier Tebily forced Petr Cech into a fingertip save from long range.—MNA/Reuters



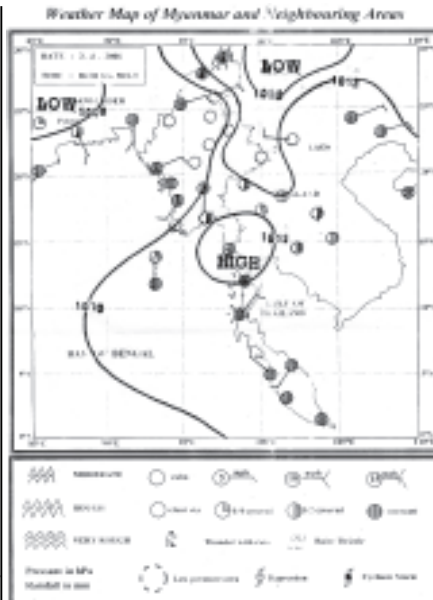
Firefighters and volunteers build a barrier against the river Elbe floods in the suburb Wildberg in Dresden, Germany, on 1 April, 2006. The highest level of the Elbe floodwaters is expected on Sunday morning in Dresden. —INTERNET

Czech Republic announces 5th case of bird flu

PRAGUE, 2 April — The Czech Veterinary Office announced that the National Veterinary Laboratories detected the country's fifth case of bird flu on a newly found dead swan on Saturday.

The latest swan was found in the province of Jihocesky Kraj, the same region where the previous four dead swans were found, and the H5 strain of the virus was detected in all of the five swans.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 2 April, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin and Mon States, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Magway (38°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded was Putao (0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 1-4-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 2-4-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 1-4-2006 was (89%). Total sunshine (9.1) hours approx on 1-4-2006.

Rainfalls on 2-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch in central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 1-4-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3-4-2006: Possibility isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring areas for 3-4-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 3-4-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40)%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 3-4-2006: Generally fair weather.

Meningitis outbreak kills 784 in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU, 2 April — A meningitis outbreak in Burkina Faso this year has killed nearly twice as many people as died of the disease in the same period in 2005 but experts said effective treatment helped keep the overall mortality rate low.

The Health Ministry said 784 people died of meningitis in 2006, compared with 432 deaths in 2005.

This year there were significantly more infections during a roughly 12-week period — 8,186 — but the mortality rate was just 9.6 per cent. Last year, the rate was 22.1 per cent, as there were only 1,951 people infected.

Health experts hailed effective treatment for halving the mortality rate of people infected with the disease — an inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

"We have managed this year to keep the mortality rate below 10 per cent by systematically treating any suspected case of meningitis," the

ministry's director-general of health, Sosthene Zombre, told a news conference late on Friday.


Twelve of Burkina Faso's 55 health districts have been placed on alert because of the deadly outbreak.

The bacteria and viruses which cause meningitis are often transmitted by coughing or sneezing and people with reduced

immunity to disease or malnutrition are more at risk.

Burkina Faso lies in Africa's impoverished "meningitis belt", which stretches from Senegal and Gambia in the west to Ethiopia in the east, with a total population of around 300 million. Several vaccines exist to prevent the disease.

MNA/Reuters



Monday, 3 April
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပရိယာယ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအရမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓာတ်တံ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိပိဋ္ဌသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercises

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- Song of national races

8:05 am

- အတီးဖြူပွဲ

8:10 am

- ရည်စူးတန်းတံတား

8:20 am

- ဝါသကြိမ်အဆိုအကများ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

- Marital song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- Musical programme

4:45 pm

- အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညွှန်ရန် ရုပ်ပြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)

5:00 pm

- Song and dance of national races

5:05 pm

- ပြန်မာစာ ပြန်မာစာတေး

5:15 pm

- Industrial achievement

5:25 pm

- Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music

5:35 pm

- Troupe)

9:00 am

- သတိတော်ချက်တစ်သက်အနား" (ကျော်မင်းမောင်၊ ကြည့်လို့လဲဦး၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်၊ သကြိမ်အောင်၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အေးစန္ဒာလှိုင်)

5:45 pm

- ဝါသကြိမ်အဆိုအကများ

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရယ် ရယ် ဆော့ ပြေး ပုဂ္ဂလိက ဆီတီးလေး" (အပိုင်း-၇၇)

6:50 pm

- လူ့အဖွဲ့အစည်း သဘောအကျိုးအဆိုးဆေး (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာရုနု" (အပိုင်း-၁)

8:00 pm

- News

8:00 pm

- International news

8:00 pm

- Weather report

8:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အိပ်မက်ကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၃)

8:00 pm

- The next day's programme



Monday, 3 April
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -Toy boy

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -looking for heaven

8:50 am National News & Slogan

9:00 am Music: -kissy

9:05 am International news

9:20 am Music: -Good time

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Lunchtime music -A little peace & Nicole

9:00 pm Spotlight on the star Tracy Huang

9:15 pm Article

9:25 pm Radio Magazine / Drugs Elimination Women's Affairs

9:30 pm Local Gems/ Golden Land's Melody Kanthaye

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

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

Agricultural and development tasks in Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik Townships inspected

YANGON, 2 April — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, inspected participation of Tatmadawmen and families in growing physic nut plants in Hpa-an Station on 30 March.

In Hpa-an Station, 87.3 acres have been put under physic nut plants against the target of 1,100 acres. Furthermore, 934,200 saplings are being nurtured.

They also attended the physic nut plants growing ceremony of Hpa-an District. At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu sowed physic nut seeds together with departmental personnel, social organization members and locals.

Kayin State has put 572 acres under physic nut plants against the target of 100,000 acres in 2006, and has sown 5,121,229 saplings.

(see page 8)



Lt-Gen Maung Bo sows physic nut seeds.—MNA

Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam in Oktwin Township in the offing

YANGON, 2 April — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected construction of diversion weir of Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam project in Oktwin Township, Bago Division yesterday.

Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam project is part of Sittaung River Development Project and it can supply water for crop cultivation and for generation of hydel electric power.

Director U Myo Myint and Assistant Director U Aung Bo of Irrigation Department reported on tasks to be undertaken, construction of diversion weir, irrigation system and construction of canals.

The minister inspected the construction of the main dam and the spillway. Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported on land

(See page 8)



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam project in Oktwin Township.—MNA

Weather Forecast for 3-4-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather