

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 19 April, 2009

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

Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, on 15 April, inspected Shweli Hydropower Project being implemented near Mantet village, about 17 miles southwest of Namkhan in Shan State (North).

MNA



Villages along Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road benefiting from new transport facilities

Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon); Photo: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

On our tour along Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road for which the project was launched on 1 June 2000, I noticed remarkable development of the villages of Yinmabin, Kani and Mingin Townships. The road was coping with a constant flow of vehicles, especially

motorcycles and motorized trailers that are common in the region.

Of the road, the 40-mile section from Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) is a fine one and is serviceable all-year round. However, just after leaving mile post No

(45/0), we had to pass an over-1500-foot mountain range. The responsible persons who accompanied us explained that the 13-mile section went upwards and downwards steeply in many sites and so, it needed constant maintenance. *(See page 7)*



Pahtolone Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road near Larport Village.

INSIDE

Not very demanding if peace talk is desired

Actually, KNU came into existence earlier than any other armed group in the course of the internal armed insurgency history of Myanmar, but it has been unable to make peace cent per cent despite several unique opportunities to do so due to the disruptive influence of certain elements.

PAGE 10

SAW HLA AUNG

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 19 April, 2009

Boost production and improve quality of products

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe went on inspection tour of Kyaukse Industrial Region in Mandalay Division on 16 April and gave guidance.

So far, a cement plant, vest factory, candy factory, shoe factory, sewing machine factory, bicycle factory, fire-proof brick factory and plastic factory have begun their manufacturing lines, and a glass factory is under construction in the industrial region.

State-owned factories need to focus on boosting production and improving the quality of goods.

The region has started manufacturing plastic lanterns made with the use of waste and old dry cells, that can light LED bulbs. Kyaukse Industrial Region produces limestone, quality fire-proof bricks, cement, cement bags and natural raw materials for glass factories on a large scale.

The government is attending to the needs of private-owned factories apart from the State-owned ones.

All the factories across the nation therefore have to try to boost production of goods and improve their quality in response to the government's rendering assistance to them.

All this needs to be known

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



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 into lakes in Yangon

YANGON, 18 April— Yangon City Development Committee organized a ceremony to hear Parittas (religious verses) and pour Paritta blessed-water into the lakes at Yangon City Hall yesterday afternoon.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Zawtikayon Monastery in Pyay, Bago Division, Abhidhaja Maha Ratta Guru Bhaddanta Kundalajoti invested the congregation including Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Chairman Col Maung Pa with the Five Precepts. The monks recited Metta sutta and Parittas.

The mayor and the vice-mayor and the attendees offered alms to the monks.



Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin pours Paritta water into a drinking water tank in Yeku waterworks in Mayangon Township.

YCDC

Joint-Secretary of SSMNC Abbot of Ywama Pariyatti Monastery in Insein Township, Yangon, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared the merits gained.

Then, the mayor, the vice-mayor and officials poured the blessed water into the lake in the compound of Yeku waterworks in Mayangon Township, into which the water from the lakes: Gyobyu, Hlawgar, Ngamoeyeik and Phugyi is pumped for supply to

local people, with the aim of getting rid of possible dangers and harms to Yangonites.

In like manner, officials concerned poured blessed water into the tanks in water supply camps (1) and (2) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

UMFCCI meets Bangladeshi delegation

YANGON, 18 April — Vice-Presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and

Industry U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, Director-General U Khin Maung Lay of Directorate of Trade, General Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint Secretary-3 U Tin Maung

Win, Joint Secretary-4 Dr Myo Thet and Joint Secretary-5 Dr Pwint San of the federation met the 11-member Bangladeshi delegation led by Secretary Mr. Feroz Ahmed of the Ministry of Commerce of Bangladesh at the office of the federation on 6 April.


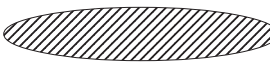
They held comprehensive discussions on boosting bilateral trade, direct exports, arrangements for banking services and border trade.

MNA

Hlinethaya celebrates water festival

YANGON, 18 April — Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Division was being packed with the revellers happily throwing water to each others at the pavilions on Maha Thingyan Atat Day, 16 April.

Chairman U Khin Thein Maung and officials of Township Peace and Development Council visited the pavilions. At 6 p.m., the pandals in wards were closed with the song "Myananda".—MNA


**Myanmar-
Bangladesh
trade meeting in
progress.**
 MNA




Two Afghanistan men are seen on the ruins in eastern province of Nangarhar, Afghanistan, 17 April, 2009. An earthquake measured 5.5 magnitude and an aftershock 5.1 magnitude shook eastern Afghanistan early Friday, killing at least 25 people and wounding 30.—INTERNET

At least four die as mortar rounds hit Baghdad suburb

BAGHDAD, 18 April — Mortar rounds hit a Shiite enclave south of Baghdad on Friday, killing at least four people in the latest sign of violence returning to areas that US and Iraqi forces have considered largely stable.

The attack in the Jisr Diyala district — although small compared with recent bombings — reinforced worries that security forces may need to shift attention back to areas that have been relatively quiet in recent months even as they battle to control the last insurgent strongholds north of Baghdad in Diyala and Mosul.

It also raised concerns about Iraq's ability to maintain security in Baghdad and other key areas after the US military withdraws from major cities by the end of June.

Police and hospital officials said the mortar attack in Jisr Diyala killed at least four people and wounded about 10 others. The district in southeastern Baghdad is primarily Shiite, but is surrounded by heavily Sunni areas.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to release the information.

Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,274

WASHINGTON, 18 April — As of Friday, 17 April, 2009, at least 4,274 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,433 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 606

WASHINGTON, 18 April — As of Friday, 15 April, 2009, at least 606 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Wednesday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 446 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.—INTERNET

US military say one Marine dies in noncombat incident

BAGHDAD, 18 April — The US military says an American Marine has died as a result of a noncombat related incident in Iraq's western Anbar Province.

A military statement says the Multi National Force - West Marine died Thursday. The statement says the Marine's name is being withheld pending notification of family and that the incident is under investigation.—INTERNET

Suicide bombing kills three, wounds three in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 April—A suicide bomber blew himself up in Nimroz Province west of Afghanistan on Friday, killing three persons and injuring three others, all of them civilians, provincial governor Ghulam Dastgir Azad said.

“Two terrorists tied explosive device in their bodies wanted to target minister for Refugees Affairs in provincial capital Zaranj but police shot one of them dead while other blew himself up, killing three civilians,” Azad told *Xinhua*.

Three more civilians were injured, he added.

The minister for Refugees Affairs who is touring Nimroz is safe and there were no casualties on police, he further said.

This is the second suicide attack in Afghanistan in a single day on Friday. The previous suicide car bomb attack in the northern Balkh Province wounded two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Taliban militants have vowed to intensify their activities mostly in the shape of suicide attacks and roadside bombing this year in Afghanistan.—INTERNET



Afghan paramedics treat a wounded Afghan boy in a hospital after he was wounded in a roadside bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Saturday, 18 April, 2009. A roadside bomb targeting a police vehicle in Kandahar city killed a woman and wounded five other people including three civilians, said Abdullah Khan, the provincial deputy police chief.—INTERNET

Attorney: man killed in G-20 riots by hemorrhage

LONDON, 18 April — An attorney representing the family of a man who died during the riots before Group of 20 summit said Friday he suffered from an abdominal hemorrhage — not a heart attack, as was first thought.

Jules Carey said a second autopsy was conducted on Ian Tomlinson after videotape emerged appearing to show the newspaper vendor being shoved to the ground by police. The first autopsy had said he died as the result of a heart attack. Carey said Friday that the findings increase the possibility that the officer implicated in the incident could face charges.

Britain's Independent Police Complaints Commission said that the officer, who has been suspended from duty amid an inquiry, was questioned Friday on suspicion of manslaughter. The commission is investigating the death of Tomlinson, 47, who collapsed minutes after his encounter with police. He was attempting to travel home when he was caught in protests close to the Bank of England, in central London.

“First we were told that there had been no contact with the police, then we were told that he died of a heart attack. Now we know that he was violently assaulted by a police officer and died from internal bleeding,” Tomlinson's son Paul King said. “As time goes on, we hope that the full truth about how Ian died will be made known.”—INTERNET

Afghans look at the wreckage of a vehicle which was destroyed during a blast, in the outskirts of Mazar-e-Sharif north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 17 April, 2009. A Norwegian intelligence officer serving with the Nordic nation's peace-keeping force was killed by a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan on Friday, the military said.

INTERNET



Argentina urges end of US embargo against Cuba

PORT OF SPAIN (Trinidad and Tobago), 18 April — Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner on Friday urged the United States to lift its 47-year-old embargo against Cuba. “It is now to look at the embargo and ... request that it be lifted,” Fernandez de Kirchner told the opening ceremony of the 5th Summit of the Americas.

“We recognize President Obama and appreciate what you have done in reestablishing relations by

reversing some of the absurd regulations introduced by the Bush administration in 2004,” she told 34 heads of state of the Organization of American States (OAS) at the summit.

“When listening to Cuba stating its full openness and willingness to talk with the US about all matters, such as human rights, political prisoners and so on, we think in the Americas we are now given a second opportunity to build a new

relationship,” she said.

“We shouldn’t miss it,” she added. Cuban President Raul Castro told a regional summit in Venezuela on Thursday that his country was open for talks with Washington about “everything.”

“We have sent word to the US government in private and in public that we are willing to discuss everything — human rights, freedom of the press, political prisoners, everything,” Castro said.—*Internet*



A woman tidies up bed and toys in the sleeping room of a flat inside the Beijing SOS Children’s Village, in Daxing district, Beijing, on 17 April, 2009. The Village, the 10th in China, co-sponsored by the Beijing government and SOS Kinderdorf International (SOS KDI) and set to open in July, will house up to 120 orphans aged 4 to 12 chosen by local civil affairs bureaus in Beijing and other parts of the country. XINHUA

Spring snowstorm shuts down Colo, Wyo roads

DENVER, 18 April—More than a foot of wet, heavy snow closed highways and canceled flights in parts of Colorado and Wyoming on Friday, snarling traffic and forcing school closures and flight cancellations.

The American Red Cross was looking for more space Friday night after the shelter it opened for stranded travelers in Idaho Springs filled to capacity with more than 200 people.

One person died in a two-vehicle accident on slick roads in Weld County, Trooper Gilbert Mares of the Colorado State Patrol said.

Power lines weighed down by snow tripped system circuit breakers and knocked out electricity for more than 16,000 customers in Colorado.

Up to 3 feet of snow was expected by Saturday night in the mountains above 6,000 feet, forecasters said. Nearly 3 feet already had fallen in Rocky Mountain National Park about 60 miles northwest of Denver. The chilly weather forced a return to heavy coats and snow boots for some who already had packed away their winter clothes.—*Internet*



Tim Berube, right, helps friend Sabina Agtawa to the grocery store in Louisville, Colo and where a spring snowstorm deposited heavy, wet snow along with rain throughout Colorado’s front range on 17 April, 2009.—INTERNET

Indonesian telecommunication firm gets financing assistance from China counterpart

JAKARTA, 18 April— Indonesia publicly-listed company PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom) obtained a 100 million US dollars financial assistance from Huawei, a Chinese telecommunication company, a Telkom official said.

The financing assistance agreement has been signed, *Bisnis Indonesia* daily Saturday quoted Telkom’s Financial Director SudiroAsno as saying.

It would be the initial disbursement of Huawei’s total financing assistance commitment for Telkom that worth one billion US dollars, he said.—*Internet*

Italy says US-Russia START talks in Rome “important”

ROME, 18 April —US-Russian nuclear talks in Rome next week are important because the issue is one of the priorities of Italy’s Group of Eight presidency, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said on Friday.

The minister told reporters he was happy that experts from the United States and Russia had chosen Rome as the venue for the 24 April talks on renewing the START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) treaty on cutting arsenals.

START was originally signed between leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union in the Cold War era, focusing on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.

Internet

California unemployment rate hit record 11.2%

LOS ANGELES, 18 April — California’s unemployment rate increased to 11.2 percent last month, the highest level since the government began keeping systematic records in 1976, the US Department of Labour reported Friday.

The state, which accounts for the largest share in the US economy, lost more than 62,100 jobs in March, the 12th consecutive month of increases in the jobless number.

The rate was up from 10.8 percent in February, and 6.2 percent in March 2008, when California began losing jobs as the economic recession took hold.

The latest unemployment rate was well above the national unemployment rate of 8.5 percent in March, up from 8.1 percent in February and 5.1 percent in March 2008, according to the Department of Labour.

Internet



A cyclone packing winds of up to 90 kilometres (56 miles) an hour lashed Bangladesh’s southeastern coastal area, damaging houses and uprooting trees, officials said Saturday. INTERNET

Homes damaged as cyclone lashes Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG, 18 April —A cyclone packing winds of up to 90 kilometres (56 miles) an hour lashed Bangladesh’s southeastern coastal area, damaging houses and uprooting trees, officials said on Saturday.

Cox’s Bazar police chief Motiur Rahman told AFP few casualties were reported after Cyclone

Bijli weakened before making landfall late on Friday.

“The cyclone was not very strong.

We took precautionary measures and all people living in low-lying areas went to shelters,” he said, adding that those evacuated were allowed to return home on Saturday morning.

“Dozens of thatched houses were destroyed in the cyclone and some trees were uprooted.”

Three people had died, including a 50-year-old man and a month-old baby, both of whom had medical conditions that deteriorated while being moved to the shelters.

Internet

Nationwide Chinese E-govt system has been built

BEIJING, 18 April—As of the end of 2008, the country's government administrations at central, provincial and municipal levels have all set up official Web sites, said Yang Xueshan, vice minister of Industry and Information Technology Ministry at the China E-government Forum opened on Thursday.

More than 90 percent of county-level governments and even many towns and villages have established portal Web sites, Yang added.

He said the Decree of Government Information Openness, which went into practice formally on 1 May last year, had greatly promoted China's government information sharing process.

"With this across-nation e-government system being built, it can be a good channel between government and the public," said Wei Liqun, senior official at China National School of Administration.

These Web sites post government news, notices and documents. Some even has started an online application and approval service for licenses, to better help the people. —Xinhua



Police investigate the scene of a train crash in Karow, north of Berlin on 17 April, 2009. A German passenger train collided with a freight train late on Thursday, injuring 24 people, police said. "Nine people were taken to hospital but no-one suffered life-threatening injuries," said a police spokesman, adding no liquid gas had escaped from the freight train, which was made up of 24 tankers. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency



A firefighter surveys the remains of the house split in two after a small plane crashed minutes after take-off in a suburb of Oakland Park, Fla, on 17 April, 2009.—INTERNET

Pilot killed as US small plane crashes into house

WASHINGTON, 18 April—A small plane crashed in a home in Florida after taking off from an airport on Friday, killing the pilot, according to a local TV report. The report by the WPLG TV said that the pilot, who was tentatively identified as 80-year-old Cecil Alexander Murray, died when the twin-engine Cessna 421-B he was flying crashed into a house in the morning east of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

A local county sheriff Al Lamberti told the TV that the plane took off from the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport en route to Fernandina Beach, where the pilot would try to sell it.

Before the crash, the pilot radioed the

air traffic control tower and said that he had to return due to mechanical difficulties and engine problems, he said.

However, the plane lost altitude on its way back to the airport, and hit a power line and a tree before it crashed into the house, which burst into flames immediately, he added. According to the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), the Cessna, which can hold up to eight people, was registered to an air charter company in Tamarac, a Fort Lauderdale suburb.

According to local fire rescue officials, houses around the crash site were briefly evacuated and most of the fire was extinguished by about noon.

Xinhua

Japan lifts restrictions on Chilean pork export

SANTIAGO, 18 April—Chilean pork has been allowed to be exported to Japan without restrictions starting Friday, the Agriculture Ministry said.

"This measure reveals the professionalism reached by the services of this ministry, and it is about to reach Chile's goal of becoming a food power," Agriculture Minister Marigen Hornkohl said. Japan imposed a ban on the import of pork from 18 places in Chile after detecting dioxin in the pork last year. Thanks to the measures taken by the Agriculture Live Stock Service, it is verified that these places are not polluted anymore.

The Association of Pork Producers of Chile has proposed to improve the image of Chilean pork in Japan through the trade mark "ChilePork" as part of its international exporting strategy. —Xinhua

Two killed in shootings in Chicago

CHICAGO, 18 April—At least two people were killed and three others wounded in two separate shootings within minutes across the city of Chicago Friday afternoon.

Police said details on the shootings, which all occurred in a 15-minute span after 3 pm (2000 GMT), are still unknown. Two 18-year-olds were wounded in what police described as a drive-by shooting about 3:15 pm (2215 GMT) outside a public library.

One of the victims, shot in the neck, was taken to hospital and pronounced dead about an hour later, according to hospital sources. The other victim was shot in the face and was reported in serious condition, according to police. —Xinhua

Five people stabbed in northwestern Chicago

CHICAGO, 18 April—A father, his daughter and a grandmother were slain in a stabbing Friday morning at their home in Hoffman Estates, about 50 kilometres northwest of Chicago. Local police received a call from a "distracted female" about 6:44 am claiming someone had been stabbed inside a residence in the 1000 block of North Bluebonnet Lane, according to police sources.

When officers arrived, they found five people stabbed — including two dead on the scene — after an apparent fight. All five knew each other and range in age from 18 up, Russo said.

Xinhua

Cuba receives wheat aid from Russia

HAVANA, 18 April—The Cuban government received on Friday around 23,000 tons of wheat donated by Russia for the victims of the hurricanes that whipped the island in 2008.

Russian Ambassador to Cuba Mikhail Kamynin delivered the humanitarian aid, saying this was the first part of the 150,000 tons of wheat that Russia will give to Cuba.

"We expect the vessels to arrive in the coming months, in a gesture of solidarity and friendship which is characteristic of the ties between both countries," Kamynin said.

Cuban Exterior Commerce and Foreign Investment Vice Minister Orlando Hernandez expressed thanks to Russia, saying that "Cubans, since the triumph of the Revolution on 1 Jan, 1959, have had many opportunities to know the friendship showed by Russian people." —Xinhua



Orlando Hernandez (2nd L), Cuban vice-minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, receives some wheat given by Russian Ambassador to Cuba Mikhail Kamynin (2nd R) in a wheat-presenting ceremony in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 17 April, 2009. Russia donated 22,000 tons of wheat to Cuba for the hurricane-stricken people on Friday. Last year, Cuba was whipped by three hurricanes that caused loss of up to 10 billion US dollars.—XINHUA

Uncertainty surrounds death in French piracy raid

RENNES, 18 April—Three Somali pirates who survived a French commando assault to free a sailboat were charged Friday with hijacking the vessel and holding five passengers hostage, one of whom died in the raid, the prosecutor's office said.

An autopsy could not determine who shot and killed the French skipper during the raid to free the *Tanit* from the grip of the pirates off Somalia, the prosecutor said Friday. However, for the investigating judges the death of one of the passengers weighs heavily on the pirates.

The three men, aged 23, 25 and 27, were placed in three separate prisons which officials did not identify. That brings to 15 the number of Somali pirates jailed in France, which has taken a tough line against piracy endangering crucial shipping lanes in the Gulf of Aden and in the northern Indian Ocean.—*Internet*



Peru says only one missing in mudslide, 13 escaped

LIMA, 18 April—Peruvian officials say 13 farmers escaped unharmed from a mudslide in rural Peru, leaving just one person unaccounted for.

Local health official Richar Benavides revised initial reports that as many as 30 people were missing after mud and stones crushed dozens of homes Thursday.

Internet

In this undated photo released by the French Defence Ministry on 11 April, 2009, armed pirates and their hostages are seen aboard the French yacht 'Tanit', off the coast of Somalia. French navy commandos stormed a French sailboat held by pirates off the Somali coast on 10 April, 2009, in an assault triggered by threats the passengers would be executed.

INTERNET

Early stress may increase cocaine effect

NEW ORLEANS, 18 April—Initial drug use can be motivated by curiosity or peer pressure, but in some animals it can result from a stressful event, researchers in Puerto Rico said.

Natasha Lugo-Escobar, Nicole Carreras and Annabell C Segarra of University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, said drugs act on the reward centers of the brain.

These areas are normally involved in mediating pleasure, and also regulate the psychostimulant effects of drugs such as cocaine.

Stress is known to enhance drug seeking behavior, as well as the psychostimulant effects of cocaine.

For the study, rats were stressed as fetuses by housing the pregnant mother alone; as neonates by isolating newborn rats

for one hour daily during the first nine days of life; or as adolescents by housing each rat separately during days 21-35.

One group was isolated as fetuses, neonates and adolescents and one group acted as a control.

The researchers found that the rats isolated during all three developmental periods showed a higher locomotor response to cocaine than control rats.—*Internet*

Two more banks fail, lifting this year's tally to 25

NEW YORK, 18 April—Regulators on Friday shut down two more banks, boosting the number of failures this year to as many as in all of last year.

The tally of 25 bank failures this year all but guarantees the number that fall into the arms of regulators will surpass what was seen in 2008.

Two of the nation's largest savings and loans failed in 2008: Washington Mutual Inc and IndyMac Bank.

Last year's total was more than in the previous

five years combined and up from only three failures in 2007.

The latest banks seized were American Sterling Bank in Missouri and Great Basin Bank of Nevada.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp will continue to insure deposits. Regular deposit accounts are insured up to \$250,000.

Customers of both banks can still write checks and use ATM or debit cards.

The federal Office of

Thrift Supervision took over American Sterling, while the Nevada Financial Institutions Division took control of Great Basin Bank of Nevada. The FDIC was appointed receiver of both banks.

The Missouri offices of American Sterling will reopen Saturday. Those in California and Arizona will open Monday. All will open as branches of Metcalf Bank. Depositors of American Sterling will automatically become depositors of Metcalf.

Internet

NEWS ALBUM

Laughter is the best medicine

Mirthful laughter was linked to lower cholesterol and less risk of cardiovascular disease in a study of high-risk diabetic patients, US researchers said.

Lee Berk, a psychoneuroimmunologist, of Loma Linda University, and Dr Stanley Tan, an endocrinologist and diabetes specialist at Oak Crest Health Research Institute in Loma Linda, examined the effects of mirthful laughter on 20 high-risk diabetic patients with hypertension and hyperlipidemia — an elevation of lipids in the bloodstream.

Both groups were started on standard medications for diabetes — glipizide, TZD, metformin, ACE inhibitors and statins. The researchers tracked both groups for 12 months, testing their blood for the stress hormones epinephrine and norepinephrine; HDL cholesterol; inflammatory cytokines, which contribute to the acceleration of atherosclerosis and C-reactive proteins, a marker of inflammation and cardiovascular disease. One group viewed self-selected humor for 30 minutes in addition to the standard drug therapies.



An employee of Japanese electronics giant Sony introduces an energy-efficient television to a visitor during the 5th International Flat Panel Display (FPD) Expo in Tokyo, capital of Japan. The expo is held here from 15 to 17 April.

Man holds 100 Guinness records

A New York man has become the first person to simultaneously hold 100 titles in the Guinness Book of World Records following a mass poetry reading.

Ashrita Furman, 54, obtained his 100th simultaneous record Tuesday by organizing a group that read a poem,

Iranian scientists claim they have cloned a goat

Iranian scientists have cloned a goat and plan future experiments they hope will lead to a treatment for stroke patients, the leader of the research said Wednesday. The female goat, named Hana, was born early Wednesday in the city of Isfahan in central Iran, said Dr Mohammed Hossein Nasr e Isfahani, head of the Royan Research Institute.

"With the birth of Hana, Iran is among five countries in the world cloning a baby goat," said Isfahani, an embryologist. In 2006 Iran became the first country in the Middle East to announce it had cloned a sheep. Two and a half years later, that animal is healthy, the institute said.

The effort is part of Iran's quest to become a regional powerhouse in advanced science and technology by 2025. In particular, Iran is striving for achievements in medicine and in aerospace and nuclear

technology. Iran's nuclear work has led to an international showdown over Western claims that it wants to develop atomic weapons. Iran says its nuclear activity is aimed at generating electricity, not the bomb.



Iran's first cloned goat at the Royan Research Institute in the central city of Isfahan, Iran. Dr Mohammed Hossein Nasr e Isfahani, head of the Royan Research Institute in Isfahan, Iran, said the female kid, named Hana, was born.



A dolphin plays with a basketball underwater at the Nuremberg zoo.

Villages along Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road benefiting from new transport facilities

Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon); Photo: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

(from page 1)

The section goes through thick forests and has many bends.

Previously, the region called Hse-ywa-gyaung between the east bank and west bank of the Pahtolone Creek had poor transport due to geographical barriers. In contrast, the region now has occupied a strategic position, standing in the middle part of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road.

Regarding the



U Aung Kyaw Htwe, Chairman of Larport Village-tract PDC.

pathway at that time. We could get across the Pahtolone Creek easily only in summer, and if

wishing to go to Kalaywa from Monywa had to take a bus for 165 miles along Monywa-YeU-Thetkeikyin-Kalaywa Road; that to take that trip was a challenge in the rainy season; that the 115-mile Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road Project was launched on 1 June 2000 and completed in 2003-2004 fiscal year; that the project comprised six above-180-foot bridges, 20 medium and small bridges, and 322 culvert boxes; that on average



U Myint Naing, a driver, tells Kyemon Daily.

in a day, the road dealt with seven cargo trucks, 10 air-conditioned buses, and over 20 small buses between Monywa

and Kalaywa, and 18 trucks, 26 buses and 16 small buses between the villages on the road and urban areas.

The 450-foot-long Pahtolone Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road near Larport Village is of reinforced concrete type with steel girders. The construction of the bridge began on 1 December 2003 and finished on 3 January 2004.

Chairman of Larport Village-tract Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Htwe said that till 2000, by boat and by bullock-cart were main modes of transport for local people to travel to Mingin and Kanni and they had to take vessels to transport their goods

to urban areas of Monywa; that they were undercharged for their goods by brokers due to poor transport; and that then they could transport their goods directly to Monywa.

Due to Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road, Larport Village-tract is now on the verge of transforming itself into a town with the row of shops, restaurants, a rural health care centre, and an affiliated basic education high school.

Ko Myint Naing, a driver from Wingon-Monywa bus line said that due to the bridge, he could make a round-trip between Larport and Monywa in a day, load goods onto the trucks right at the village, and drive to Kalaywa directly.

We believe that other villages along the road will enjoy rapid development like Hse-ywa-gyaung region and Larport Village-tract.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 13-4-2009



A bus on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road section.

transport of the region around 1998, a local of Monywa told the Kyemon Daily, "After I was promoted to the post of a junior assistant teacher, I was posted to the school of Larport Village. I had to travel by car then by bullock-cart to Yagyi at the foot of the mountain range, and spent the night there.

And I had to make my way to the village with a sword and a meal package passing through the forest and over the mountain range. The road was just a

the creek was a raging torrent in the rainy season, we had to wait till the current of the creek subsided."

It was not an exaggeration. Local people were in no position to enjoy economic and social development before they could overcome the natural barriers. Now, transport facilities have been constructed and regional development tasks are all under way.

The person in charge of the road project in Larport Village said that previously a local



Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road at entrance to Yagyi Village.



Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein demonstrates use of Bio Battery in Kyunsu Township.

MNA

Industry-2 Minister meets local people of Kyunsu Township

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April— Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspected construction of the island ring road in Kyunsu of Taninthayi Division on 12 April.

He met with local people of Yegantaung, Kyetchanug, Kaleinbe, Mawyut and Panlonaw villages in Kyunsu Township on 13 April, the people of six villages on 14 April, those

of 10 villages on 15 April and those of four villages on 16 April.

In the meetings, the minister explained use of bio-battery and donated 20 sets of bio-battery, 500 lanterns installed with 60 LED bulbs, ten 5KW hydropower generators and 550 bags of cement for renovation of the schools to the region.

MNA

Mandalay Mayor Central Pandal's prize-presentation ceremony takes place



Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han presents prize to a winner.

MNA

YANGON, 18 April — A prize presentation ceremony of Mandalay Mayor Central Pandal took place at the pandal on Maha Thingyan Atet Day of 1370 Myanmar Era, 16 April.

Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone

Zaw Han presented prizes to U Myo Thant Tun (Unique) (CDD Group), Academy Sein Mutta and Academy U Thaw Zin (Lawunein Music) in the pandal design contest.

The officials presented prizes to the winners in the colour photo contest. Then, the Mayor and officials gave

away prizes to the winners in the decorated float contest.

Next, the dance troupe entertained the guests with dance and songs. In the evening, the closing ceremony of the pandal was held with the speech of welcome to the New Year by the Mandalay Mayor.—MNA

Summer paddy plantations, integrated farms inspected in Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe on 9 April looked into progress of 2.39 acres of integrated farm in Kywete Village of Minbu Township, livestock breeding and agriculture tasks of the integrated farm in Lekaing Village of Pwintbyu Township and cultivation of 15-acre summer paddy with the use of water from Taungmon main canal of Mezali Diversion Weir in Phaya Village on 9 April.

After hearing the reports of the local officials, Col Phone Maw Shwe attended to the needs.

At Pwintbyu Township PDC Office, he met with local authorities and departmental officials.

Col Phone Maw Shwe inspected growing of Hsinyadana-4 strain sesame test plot of Pwintbyu Farm of Myanma Agriculture Service, progress of the integrated farm of Tawseint Village in Salin Township, functions of water supply at Tanyaung river water pumping project in Salin Township

and cultivation of summer paddy.

At Aukseik river water pumping project in Seikbyu Township, he heard reports on growing of 100-acre summer paddy by officials. Afterwards, the Division PDC Chairman looked into cultivation of summer paddy on 136 acres of land with the use of irrigation facility from Umin Koepauk river water pumping project in Yathit Village of Chauk Township.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife present gifts to older persons at the tenth ceremony to pay respects to the aged held on 17 April.—TRANSPORT

Green cyclone Bijli lifts danger warning

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April— The Meteorology and Hydrology Department released an announcement today that according to the 5 a.m. MST observatory, Cyclone Bijli, which had centered at the northeast of the Bay of Bengal, crossed between the coastal areas of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong of Bangladesh at last mid-night.

After passing the inland area, the remnants of Bijli is moving with clouds to Myanmar's eastern part through northern regions of the country.

Impacted by the remnants of the cyclone, rain is likely to be widespread in Kachin, Chin, northern Shan and northern Rakhine States, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy fall in some regions within 24 hours starting this morning. In addition to the rain, likelihood of surface wind speed will be 30 to 40 mph temporarily.

Due to isolated heavy rain, the suddenly overflows and landslides are likely to be occurred at creeks and small rivers on the highland regions. Therefore, those living near the creeks and small rivers have to be in alert of the dangers of suddenly overflows and landslides.

The force of Bijli was degraded as the green colour lifted the warning for danger of the cyclone.

The department forecast that the weather will be fine after 24-hour period starting this morning.—MNA

Ahlon Gas Power Plant inspected

YANGON, 18 April—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint heard reports on supply of natural gas, use of natural gas in generating of power with the use of diesel by Deputy Chief Engineer U Win Aung at Ahlon Gas Power Plant of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise on Strand Road in Ahlon Township on 16 April.

After giving necessary instructions, the deputy minister inspected the control room of the plant.—MNA

Bawni Dam, an essential irrigation facility in Bago Division

Article & Photos: Peinzalok Thein Nyunt

(from page 16)
Assistant Supervisor U Saw Win, we left the office of DaikU Township Irrigation Department for Bawni Dam by motorcycle along the rough road.

Along the way to the dam, we saw a large area of thriving summer paddy plantations in P y i n m a l w i n , Kadokywama and Kadok Phayagyi villages. The result has been largely due to utmost efforts of the local farmers.

On arrival at Kadokywama, we were welcomed by local authorities and local people. First, Township Manager of MAS U Ngwe Hlaing explained, "DaikU Township has so far grown 32,206 acres of summer paddy against the target of 32,000 acres. Under the supervision of the local authorities, a total of 89,748 acres of land has been put under green bean, green gram and cow pea, 59,717 acres under groundnut, cold season sesame, summer sesame, sunflower, niger and other edible oil crops, 18,664 acres under physic nut, rubber, sugarcane, tapioca and toddy palm and 679 acres under chilli and pepper. With the use of water

from Bawni Dam, Kankalay Village-tract cultivated 399 acres of summer paddy, Kokkine Village-tract 350 acres, Bawni Village-tract 1650 acres, Byaingchei Village-tract 1036 acres, Maudan Village-tract 309 acres,

by water ponds of the integrated farms and 18,500 acres by other irrigation facilities, totalling 32,206 acres.

Accompanied by officials, the news crew visited thriving summer paddy plantations near

paddy. The news team members can witness thriving 3,000 acres of summer paddy of 504 farmers in the area of Kadok Phayagyi Village-tract."

On arrival at Bawni Dam, Staff Officer



Officials explain thriving summer paddy plantation with the help of irrigation facility of Bawni Dam.



Ripening paddy plantation seen in farmlands of farmer U Kyaw Zaw near Kadok Phayagyi Village of DaikU Township.

government had constructed and opened Pyinbon, Kawliya, Baingda and Yenwe Dams. Likewise, Bawni Dam was inaugurated in 1998-1999. Thanks to construction of the dam, about 4,000 acres of monsoon paddy and 6,000 acres of summer paddy are being irrigated successfully."

water surface area is 1,400 acres. The dam is installed with a 286 feet long RC conduit and a 150 feet wide spillway.

We gazed the vast water surface of the dam. Actually, Bawni Dam is important for undertaking the tasks of agriculture sector of DaikU Township and Bago Division, the sec-

Tamangyi Village-tract 1170 acres, Kadokywama 401 acres, Kadok Phayagyi Village-tract 232 acres and Pyinmalwin Village-tract 464 acres, totalling 6,012 acres. In DaikU Township, 6,012 acres of summer paddy plantation is being irrigated by Bawni Dam, 6,680 acres by Baingda Dam, 400 acres by Pyinhson Dam, 20 acres

Kadok Phayagyi Village. Assistant Supervisor U Saw Win of the village said, "Bawni Dam is supplying water to the farmlands of Kadok Phayagyi, U-Daungsu, Amara and Ponnaing villages through Tabinshwehti Sluice Gate. Local farmers used H s i n t h w e y i n , Theehtetyin, Yadana Aung and Manawthukha paddy strains as summer



Photo shows supply of water from Bawni Dam through a canal in DaikU Township.



Water being supplied from Bawni Dam to Tabinshwehti Sluice Gate in Kadokywama Village.

U Kyaw Win (Civil) of the Irrigation Department explained, "The government built Bawni Dam with the aims of supplying water to contribute to double cropping in DaikU Township and preventing the overflows and flooding at the farmlands due to silting of Bawni Creek. In implementing Sittoung River Valley Project, the

Bawni Dam is of earthen type and its embankment is 815 feet long and 85 feet high. The catchment area of the dam is 25 square miles, and a total of 46,372 acre feet of water flows into the dam yearly. The dam can store 39,500 acre feet of water at the highest level and 2,500 acre feet at the lowest level. The

ond granary of the country. In DaikU Township, the water source of the dam is playing a key role in growing monsoon and summer paddy. Moreover, Bawni Dam is an essential irrigation facility for Bago Division.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
10-4-2009

Not very demanding if peace talk is desired

Saw Hla Aung

I was very pleased to hear the news that a group led by Captain Saw Nay Soe Mya, son of late Chairman of KNU Saw Bo Mya joined KNU/KNLA peace council on 30 March 2009. Simultaneously, I was in fear of possible consequences that may be associated with their returning to the legal fold.

I am a mixed-race person born of Bamar father and Kayin mother, so I felt really encouraged by the news that amounts to an increase in the number of peace groups of Kayin State. If my mother were still alive, her wish would be fulfilled that she was desirous of paying a visit to her native village at the top of the Donthami Creek when peace and stability were maintained.

Why I was in fear was that achieving peace sometimes may attract disruptive activities.

Actually, **KNU came into existence earlier than any other armed group in the course of the internal armed insurgency history of Myanmar, but it has been unable to make peace cent per cent despite several unique opportunities to do so due to the disruptive influence of certain elements.**

I still remember the words of an elderly Kayin woman serving as an alternate head of Naunggadok Village to me while I was in military service in Shwekyi and Naunggadok in Thaton and Bilin of KNU Brigade (1) in the early 1990s.

She said to me, "Po Khwar (son), you are not able to eliminate Ngapwes (KNU troops), and Ngapwes are not able to defeat you. It doesn't matter, but who fall victim to the conflicts are none other than the villagers of us. I wish we would be free from such intolerable troubles in life."

I said to her, "No sweat, Amoe. Ngapwes are all Kayin nationals. So, tell them stop fighting and make peace. Our troops have to be stationed here because of them. If there were no rebels here, we don't need to be here, then. It would be better if teachers and medical staff come here in place of us and teach the youth and give health care. Our troops no longer need to engage in military operations in Shan State because peace has been made there, so we have been posted here. Now, Shan State no longer faces armed conflicts, and local people are free from evil consequences." Then, she stared at me in doubt. Now, her region has been under the influence of DKBA that has recently made peace, so I think she would have believed my words by now.

Maybe some of the remnant KNU members still find it difficult to place trust in the benevolent

attitude of the government that is eager to quit waging military operations and make peace.

They have failed for long to make peace, but not because they do not want peace. **Starting 1949, Kayin revolution has persisted for more than 60 years, but that has not brought any benefits to Kayin nationals. What results from the armed strife is that many people have lost lives and limbs. Many local people have abandoned their farms and houses and have to stay in a state of panic. And what have KNU subordinates, who engage in the combats at risk to life, benefited from the revolution? If necessary they have to sacrifice their lives first, but they do not get any care even if they are wounded in a battle. They are not provided with any rations and salaries. They have to apply their own ways to earn their living. The number of KNU troops is decreasing, and now the remnant members have to stay in refugee camps in the neighbouring country and have boiled rice as the staple meal. They are now in a real fix there. Every KNU member who can correctly judge their living conditions and that of Kayin nationals favour peace.**

But, they are still casting doubts on the attitude of the Tatmadaw government against which they have fought for many years. Some elements in KNU leadership who make good use of that point made their doubts grow into outrage. They scared their subordinates, saying, "Don't make peace with the government. Indeed, the government is mollifying with sweet talks. If you do so and get there, you will be detained and then killed." Some artless KNU members active in the forests and some members with their eyes and ears closed are deceived by those leaders, and dare not make peace in spite of their desire to do so.

Doubt is by nature very harmful. Due to doubt, two friends may turn unfriendly to each other, two brothers may fight each other, national races may get disunited, and countries engage in a war against each other.

The distrust between Bamar and Kayin national races was sowed in the colonial days. The colonialists cleverly used Kayin levy armed troops that they formed for special purposes to suppress the anti-colonialist movements and independence struggles Bamar national people were engaged in, thus provoking massive anger between the two national races. They had a clandestine scheme to use Kayin national people as forces that will defend their empire.

By misfortune, the Kayin-Bamar race riot that took place in some regions in the time of Japanese severely hurt the long-lasting amicable relations between the two.

Later, the suspicion grew and led to the split of Kayin nationals into two factions: one that wanted to secede from the Union, and the other that wanted to be loyal to the Union, in the post-independence period. Then, the first faction launched an armed revolt. At that time there were, many Kayin nationals who showed loyalty serving as high-ranking officials in the armed forces and civil departments.

The government tried to ward off the problem when it was in its bud by conducting a meeting of an eight-member committee formed with high-ranking civil and military officials and KNU leaders, but in vain. While Insein battle was raging in 1949, the two sides called a ceasefire and KNU leader Saw Ba Oo Gyi and government officials held peace talks.

In the period of armistice, members of the two sides visited each other's places and held talks. They were locked in the fierce combat against each other, but many members of the two sides used to be trainees of same batches and comrades in the Anti-Fascist Resistance, and to have meals in the same mess. They were different in race such as Kayin, Bamar, Chin and Kayin, but they were the same, servicemen wearing same military uniforms in the armed forces. It was a painful memory of the nation's history that comrades fought each other at the instigation of some Kayin leaders who had been caught in the snare of doubt.

In the early 1950s, the ruling AFPFL government collapsed, the nation was in complete disorder. Some of the armed groups in the jungle were in favour of right-wing policy, placing excessive reliance on the West Bloc and some, in favour of left-wing policy, placing too much reliance on the East Bloc. So, there was no hope for peace.

After taking over State duties in 1962, the Revolutionary Council issued a general amnesty in April 1963, persuaded the armed groups to attend peace talks to be held on 11 June the same year. The representatives of some armed groups such as BCP, Red Flag, Ma-Da-Nya-Ta and KRC attended the peace talks and held discussions. Of them, Kayin Revolution Council (KRC) led by Muhso Kawkasar Saw Hunter Thar Hmwe was the only group the government could sign an agreement with for peace.

Chairman of KRC Saw Hunter Thar Hmwe was the one who signed the letter of KNDO that nullified the agreement reached for peace with the government in April 1949. He decided to break away from KNU because he was not happy with the point that KNU came to transform itself into KNU Front with the left-wing policy.

Warlord Lin Htin who went aboveground together with KRC then violated the law many times, so his Brigade (5) of KNU came to engage in conflicts with the Tatmadaw. In an armed conflict, Lin Htin was captured dead. Then, KNU Brigade (5) went underground with his 63rd wife Naw Louisa Benson. Therefore, the peace that had been achieved before long through many hard talks went away in the end.

(To be continued)
Translation: MS

It was a painful memory of the nation's history that comrades fought each other at the instigation of some Kayin leaders who had been caught in the snare of doubt.



An Audi assembly plant in Ingolstadt, Germany. The Spanish government has made 100.7 million euros (131 million dollars) available to SEAT in a bid to persuade Volkswagen to build a new Audi model in Spain.—INTERNET

Spain in 100-million-euro offer to VW: reports

MADRID, 18 April — The Spanish government has made 100.7 million euros (131 million dollars) available to SEAT in a bid to persuade parent company Volkswagen to build a new Audi model in Spain, reports said Saturday.

The aid is part of an 800-million-euro package put together by the industry ministry in a bid to improve the competitiveness of the Spanish automobile sector which has been hard hit by the economic crisis.

Business daily El

Economista said Industry Minister Miguel Sebastien had gone Wednesday to Volkswagen's headquarters in Germany to plead the case for having the new medium-sized 4x4 Audi Q3 made at SEAT's factory at Martorell in Catalonia.

But VW management demanded the 100-million-euro aid earmarked for SEAT be released merely to ensure that Martorell was not ruled out the running as an assembler of the Q3, the report added.

Madrid acted two

days after Sebastien's mission, El Economista and its rival Cinco Dias said. The 800-million-euro package for the industry is considered inadequate by Spanish car firms, which are largely subsidiaries of the main world manufacturers.

The sector accounts for six percent of the country's gross national product and employs 350,000 people directly or indirectly. But many have been laid off and most of SEAT's 11,000 workers recently agreed to a pay freeze in a bid to keep their jobs.—INTERNET

New fund promises low-cost malaria treatment

OSLO, 18 April— A \$225 million fund to provide low-price anti-malaria medicine around the world was launched in the Norwegian capital Friday to fight a disease that kills 2,000 children a day.

Malaria kills more than 880,000 people a year, at least 85 percent of them are children and most victims are in Africa, said Norway's Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere.

New drug combinations have been developed to treat strains of malaria that have become resistant to the old remedies, but they cost 10 to 40 times more and are available to only

20 percent of those with the disease, according to a statement from the new body, the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria.

he program will cut the cost from \$6 to \$10 per treatment to between 20 and 50 cents by negotiating price cuts with pharmaceutical companies and through subsidies from international donors.

The age when the world had effective drugs against infectious diseases but let millions die ... because they couldn't afford them is over," said Stoere.

The program will start in 11 countries — Benin, Cambodia,

Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda — and later be expanded worldwide.

INTERNET

China's only naval museum to undergo extension

QINGDAO, 18 April — The Naval Museum in Qingdao, Shandong Province, east China, will undergo an extension project within 2009, the year the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy is marking its 60th founding anniversary.

The project will cost 500 million yuan (73 million U.S. dollars) and take two years to complete, said curator Xue Kuilong in an interview with Xinhua Saturday.

The existing museum was opened to the public

in 1989, with over 3,000 pictures and objects ranging from large vessels such as warships and small things like whistle and compass.

On display in the museum are the records of China's naval history since Zheng He (1371-1433) led Chinese fleets to cross oceans and reach as far as east Africa, as well as materials like uniforms that were collected from surface warships, submarines, navy's aerial corps, marine corps, and land-based defense troops.

It is among a few comprehensive theme naval museums in the world, while the majority of naval museums in other countries are simply a display of some surface vessels and submarines, according to the curator.

He expressed his hopes that the new naval museum will be able to do a better job in creating public awareness about the oceanic knowledge and other things concerned, so as to let the public show interest in the country's seas and the Navy.

The Chinese Navy was founded on April 23, 1949, based on a fleet of the Kuomintang regime's navy that defected to the Communist Party of China (CPC)-led PLA.

INTERNET



A worker prepares a booth at the Hanover industrial fair in Hanover, Germany, Saturday, 18 April, 2009. Some 6,150 exhibitors from over 61 different nations will participate in the world's largest fair for industrial technology from 20 -24 April, 2009. This year's partner country is Korea.

INTERNET

Roadside bomb kills 2 Afghan soldiers, wounds 5 in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 April — Two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and five others were wounded as their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's eastern province of Paktiaon Saturday, an official said.

"A roadside bomb planted by enemy struck the vehicle of ANA at around 3:00 pm (1030GMT) in Zurmat district, killing two and wounding five ANA soldiers," provincial deputy governor Abdul Rahman told Xinhua.—INTERNET



The site of a bombing in Baqouba, Iraq, Thursday, 16 April, 2009. Police said one person was killed and two injured when a bomb attached to a car detonated Thursday.

INTERNET

Taliban commander killed in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 April— A Taleban commander was killed after he led a raid on police in the northern Afghan province of Kunduz on Saturday and police returned fire, a local official said.

"Mullah Silab who commanded Taleban insurgents in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz province stormed a police checkpoint with his followers early this morning and police returned fire killing the rebel commander," Juma Khan, the governor of Imam Sahib district, told Xinhua. During the firefight, he said that there were other militants killed and injured but did not give exact figures.

Meantime, Taleban purported spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed from an unknown location that a Taleban fighter was killed but did not say if he was a local commander.

INTERNET



Actor Pierce Brosnan (left) and Desmond Llewelyn, who has played 'Q' in several James Bond films. Britain's domestic intelligence agency, MI5, is seeking to recruit a chief scientific adviser "to lead and co-ordinate the scientific work of the Security Service so that the service continues to be supported by excellent science and technology advice".—INTERNET

MI5 seeking real 'Q'

LONDON, 18 April—James Bond always went to Q to keep one step ahead of the enemy with the latest smart gadgets, and now the real-life spies of MI5 are to get their own technology mastermind.

MI5 is seeking a chief scientific adviser "to lead and co-ordinate the scientific work of the Security Service so that the service continues to be supported by excellent science and technology advice", its website said. Applicants must have "world-class scientific expertise and credibility in relevant scientific and technology

disciplines", their advertisement read.

"I think it's unlikely that the person will be required to develop a weapons system for the latest Aston Martin," Professor John Beddington, the government's chief scientific adviser, told the BBC. However, the successful candidate will help protect Britain against threats to national security by keeping on top of the latest moves in science and technology.

"It will involve a sort of future-gazing to see

where technology will be taking us in a year or so," Beddington said. "There is a really important role in providing scientific and technological advice on addressing problems agents in the field will face."

MI5's chief science adviser would help "to frustrate terrorism, to prevent espionage hurting the UK, protect our critical national infrastructure and to frustrate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." There's an enormous amount of scientific content in this role.—Internet

Melatonin may help autistic children sleep

SACRAMENTO, 18 April—US researchers suggest melatonin may help children with autism or Fragile X syndrome sleep. The study, published in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*, linked melatonin treatment to lengthening mean sleep duration by a mean of 21 minutes, decreasing sleep-onset latency — the length of time it takes to fall asleep — by 28 minutes and shortening sleep onset by 42 minutes.

Study senior author Beth Goodlin-Jones of the MIND Institute at the University of California

Davis Health System in Sacramento suggests treatment with over-the-counter melatonin supplements might help alleviate some of the stress that parents of special-needs children experience. Sleep problems, she says, are reported in up to 89 percent of children with autism and 77 percent of children with Fragile X syndrome — the most common form of inherited mental impairment ranging from learning problems to mental retardation.

"Sleep onset problems at the beginning of the night are very trouble-

some for children and their families," Goodlin-Jones says in a statement. "Sometimes children may take one to two hours to fall asleep and often they disrupt the household during this time." The study included information from 12 children who met diagnostic criteria for autism or Fragile X syndrome or both between the ages of 2- 15. Sleep quality and quantity were measured both objectively and subjectively. Participants were given two weeks' supply of either melatonin or a placebo.—Internet



Photo taken on 16 April, 2009 shows two dredgers lie on the beach after being badly damaged during a gale off north China's Tianjin Municipality.

Three crew members were confirmed dead and six others were missing during the accident.

XINHUA



Toyota driver Jarno Trulli of Italy prepares for the first free practice session of the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix at the Shanghai International circuit, on 17 April. At the third and final practice session on Saturday, Trulli finished second, 0.139secs behind Germany's Williams driver Nico Rosberg.—INTERNET

Learning and motivation can be taught

COLUMBUS, 18 April — An Ohio State University course on learning and motivation increases the odds that struggling first-year students will graduate, a researcher says.

"We are taking the students who are least likely to succeed in college and teaching them the skills they need to stay in school and graduate," Bruce Tuckman, the creator of the course, said the statement. "Just taking this one class has made a big difference in how well below-average students do at Ohio State."

Tuckman and Gary Kennedy, a graduate student in education, compared 351 students who took the class their first quarter at Ohio State with 351 matched controls who didn't take the class. The students were matched on gender, age, ethnicity, high school class rank and ACT scores to make sure those who took the class were compared to students of similar ability and background.

Students were tracked for seven years. The study found that those who took the course had the higher retention and graduation rates and averaged significantly higher grade point averages for each of the first four quarters.

Internet

Insulin, not genes, may be key to obesity

WEST LAFAYETTE, 18 April—US researchers suggest factors other than genes could cause obesity, causing genetically identical cells to store differing amounts of fat. Ji-Xin Cheng of Purdue University's Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering and Department of Chemistry said the study findings indicate the faster a cell processes insulin, the more fat it stores.

Other researchers have suggested that certain "fat genes" might be associated with excessive fat storage in cells. However, the Purdue researchers confirmed that these fat genes were expressed, or activated, in all of the cells, yet those cells varied drastically — from nearly zero in some cases to pervasive in others — in how much fat they stored.

"This work supports an emerging viewpoint that not all biological information in cells is encoded in the genetic blueprint," said Thuc T Le, a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow at Purdue who is working with Cheng. "We found that the variability in fat storage is dependent on how 3T3-L1 cells process insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas after meals to trigger the uptake of glucose from the blood into the liver, muscle or fat cells." The study is published online in the journal *PLoS One*. —Internet



Divers unfurl a poster that reads "Earth Day" in Jakarta's Sea World on 18 April, 2009 ahead of Earth Day which falls on 22 April.—INTERNET

Kansas group prepares for snake count

EMPORIA, 18 April — The Kansas Herpetological Society is looking for volunteers willing to spend hours searching for animals they might normally avoid — say, for instance, snakes.

The society's planned animal count will cover turtles, lizards, salamanders, frogs and toads as well as snakes, *The Emporia (Kansas) Gazette*

reported. The event is scheduled for 26 April and 27 April in Chase County in eastern Kansas.

"Lest the actual seeking out these animals sound daunting, consider this: these folks are the 'herpetofauna' of Kansas and they're willing to guide and educate curious but cautious fellow citizens in the appreciation of this much-maligned

group of wildlife," the group said. Dan Fogell, a veteran member of the society, said the annual count has two purposes — keeping tabs on the health of reptile and amphibian populations, and educating the public about them. He said volunteers will also learn which ones they might want to keep at a healthy distance.—*Internet*

A secret to night vision found in DNA

MUNICH, 18 April — German-led scientists say they have discovered an important element of DNA that creates good night vision in nocturnal mammals.

Ludwig-Maximilians University researchers in Munich said they discovered the DNA within the photoreceptor rod cells responsible for low light vision turns the rod cell nuclei themselves into tiny light-collecting lenses, with millions of them in every nocturnal eye.

"The conventional architecture seen in almost all nuclei is invariably present in the rod cells of diurnal mammals, including primates, pigs and squirrels," said researcher Boris Joffe. "On the other hand, the unique inverted architecture is universally present in nocturnal mammals."

That architecture has important ramifications for the optical properties of those cells, said Jochen Guck of the University of Cambridge. "Diurnal nuclei are basically scattering obstacles," he said. "In nocturnal animals, they are little lenses. In one case, light is scattered in all directions and in the other it is focused in the forward direction," meaning that even at night, what little light there is can travel deeper into the eye where it can be perceived.—*Internet*



A small Japanese town with a falling birthrate plans to auction off four primary schools on the Internet, according to a local official. Niikappu, on the northern island of Hokkaido, plans to start the auction next month on the Yahoo! Japan online auction site, said Hidenori Tsutsumi, who is in charge of the auction.—INTERNET

Hypoxic response can result in longer life

SEATTLE, 18 April — US pathologists say they've found a biochemical pathway that protects cells in low oxygen can also create a longer life with fewer degenerative diseases.

University of Washington Assistant Professor Matt Kaeberlein and colleagues found nematode worms live longer if their genetic makeup permits their cells to turn on a protective reaction to a drop in oxygen — a reaction called the hypoxic response — even under normal oxygen conditions.

Not only do the worms live longer, the researchers noted, but their cells are relatively free from toxic proteins that accumulate and clump together as animals age.—*Internet*

Egypt opens Rafah crossing with Gaza

GAZA, 18 April — Egypt opened its border with the Gaza Strip on Saturday before limited numbers of humanitarian cases, a Hamas spokesman said.

The spokesman, Adel Zourob, added that Rafah crossing point will be open for two days before patients, students and Palestinians, who are the holders of residency permits in other countries.

The names of the travelers who would be allowed to leave Gaza appeared on the website of Hamas' interior ministry. However, the spokesman slammed Egypt's procedures on the crossing, saying that "the policy of long-waiting and piling up the travelers on the crossing would increase the suffering of 1.5 million Palestinians." Israel and Egypt closed their border with the Gaza Strip in 2007 after the Islamic Hamas movement took over the territory by force. Since then, Egypt periodically allowed the departure and return of humanitarian cases.—*Internet*

Earthworms may help dealing with trash

BEIJING, 18 April— Two families from the Dianshanhu Lake Area in Qingpu District at Shanghai will raise earthworms as part of a pilot project launched by a local environmental protection organization.

Under the right conditions, 1 kilogram of earthworms can eat up to 1 kilogram of kitchen garbage every day and pro-

duce about half a kilogram of earthworm waste, which can be used as fertilizer. The pilot program aims to promote worm farms as an effective way to cut down kitchen waste in the city.

Similar trials in Beijing are under way. The local scheme is being promoted by the Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Com-

munication Center and the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

The staff of the Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Communication Center have kept earthworms in their office for more than a year. They raise the earthworms in large plastic storage cases and feed them fruit skins and food leftovers.—*Internet*

The reserved land for the main stadium of the 2016 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games is seen from a helicopter during a press tour organized by the Tokyo 2016 Bid Committee in Tokyo on 18 April, 2009.

INTERNET



Sulfur in rocks tells early oxygen story

STATE COLLEGE, 18 April — US researchers say a study of sedimentary rocks created more than 2.4 billion years ago suggests the Earth had an early, oxygen-rich atmosphere.

Pennsylvania State University researcher Yumiko Watanabe said rocks sometimes have an unusual sulfur isotope composition thought to be caused by the action of ultra violet light on volcanically produced sulfur dioxide in an oxygen poor atmosphere. But the team of geochemists said they can show an alternative origin for that isotopic composition that might point to an early, oxygen-rich atmosphere.—*Internet*

SPORTS

Premier League trio set for action

LONDON, 18 April—With Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal in FA Cup semi-final action at Wembley this weekend, the focus in the Premier League turns to the increasingly desperate fight to avoid relegation.

While club chairmen fret over the financial implications of losing their seat on football's richest

gravy train, the annual scrap for survival is developing into a matter of pride rather than pound notes. Three of the bottom four places are currently occupied by teams from the north-east of England, making the prospect of relegation for Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough particularly painful.

As if going down wouldn't be devastating enough, there is every possibility that one of their most hated rivals will push them through the trap door. Middlesbrough are second bottom on 30 points, level with Newcastle, who are also two points behind Sunderland, the team sitting one place above the drop zone.

Internet



Manchester United's Portuguese player Cristiano Ronaldo

Arsenal 1-2 Chelsea



LONDON, 18 April—Didier Drogha scored seven minutes from time to earn Chelsea a place in the FA Cup final at the expense of Arsenal.

Arsenal took the lead when Theo Walcott turned inside Ashley Cole in the box and his shot deflected past Petr Cech.

But Chelsea levelled 15 minutes later when Florent Malouda fired past keeper Lukasz Fabianski at his near post.

And a keenly-fought match looked to be heading to extra-time until Frank Lampard set up Drogha to clip past the stranded Fabianski from 18 yards.—Internet

Real hope for Getafe favour as Barca keep busy

MADRUD, 18 April—After reaching the Champions League semi-finals for the second successive season Barcelona are back in league action on Saturday when they travel to Getafe, who have proved a difficult customer for the Catalans in recent seasons. Barca have a six-point lead over Real Madrid at the top of the table but have failed to beat Getafe in their last three league meetings, while Getafe famously thrashed Barca 4-0 to reach the 2007 King's Cup final.

Real will hope their city neighbours, just four points above the drop zone, can do them a favour in the title race, while Real can fulfil their end of the bargain by



beating third-bottom Recreativo Huelva. On Wednesday Barcelona overcame Bayern Munich to reach the last four of the Champions League — where they will face Chelsea — and midfielder Xavi admits they have a tough six weeks in store as they go in search of an historic treble.—Internet

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

(18-4-2009)

Aston Villa	1 - 1	West Ham Utd
Middlesbrough	0 - 0	Fulham
Portsmouth	1 - 0	Bolton
Stoke City	1 - 0	Blackburn
Sunderland	1 - 0	Hull City



West Ham United's James Collins (L) tackles Aston Villa's Emile Heskey during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 18 April, 2009.

INTERNET

Top seed Dementieva into Charleston semi-final



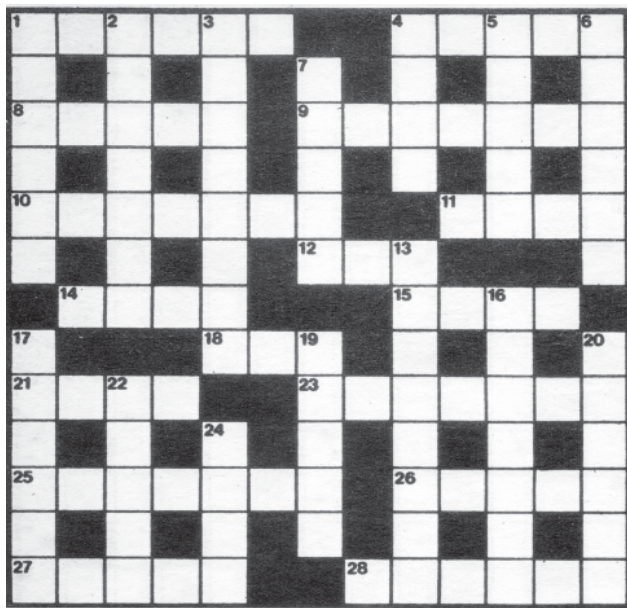
Elena Dementieva reacts while playing a match against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during day eight of the Sony Ericsson Open at the Crandon Park Tennis Center in March 2009 in Key Biscayne, Florida.—INTERNET

CHARLESTON, 18 April—Russian top seed Elena Dementieva made the Charleston WTA claycourt semi-finals on Friday when Slovakian opponent Dominika Cibulkova had

to quit their last-eight match through injury. Dementieva was 6-4, 1-0 ahead when the seventh seeded Cibulkova retired with a left leg injury.

The Russian will next face Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki, the fifth seed, who eased past France's Virginie Razzano, the 13th seed, 6-2, 6-0." She came with the tape on her leg and I didn't know if it was bad or not, so I just feel sorry she couldn't finish the match," said Dementieva. Wozniacki, fresh from her Ponte Vedre Beach claycourt title in Florida last weekend, said: "I need to stay aggressive (against Dementieva). My legs have to be there, too. I need to keep running because she's a great player, a great fighter."—Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Entirely
- 4 Author of "Brides-head Revisited"
- 8 Turn inside out
- 9 Museum chief
- 10 Leaving a will
- 11 Veritable
- 12 Armed conflict
- 14 Fairy
- 15 Stop
- 18 Nocturnal bird
- 21 Tiny arachnid
- 23 Tiring
- 24 Uncultured
- 26 Backbone
- 27 Praise
- 28 Fondle

DOWN

- 1 Flower eirelet
- 2 Supervise
- 3 Womaniser
- 4 Excrescence
- 5 Speak
- 6 Large wasp
- 7 Propeller
- 13 Former Zimbabwe
- 16 Lion-like
- 17 Safe from infection
- 19 Turning machine
- 20 Possessions
- 22 Unspoken
- 24 Humber port



Mark Viduka could remain at Newcastle beyond the end of the season, manager Alan Shearer has revealed.

INTERNET

Injury-hit Viduka handed Newcastle lifeline

NEWCASTLE, 18 April—Mark Viduka could remain at Newcastle beyond the end of the season, manager Alan Shearer has revealed. Australian international Viduka is set to be involved for the first time in seven weeks when Newcastle travel to Tottenham on Sunday in search of crucial points to boost their Premier League survival bid.

A string of injuries this season have restricted Viduka to just one start and five substitute appearances, well short of the number of games the 33-year-old requires to trigger a 12-month contract extension when his current deal expires in the summer. It has been widely expected the former Melbourne Knights striker will see out the remainder of his career by returning to Australia in a bid to earn a place in the national squad for next year's World Cup finals in South Africa.—Internet



People take part in a yoga class on a capsule of the Singapore Flyer observation wheel in Singapore on 18 April, 2009. The "Yoga In the Sky" session was held as part of Yogamania 2009, which includes a host of yoga-related activities and runs until on Sunday.—INTERNET

Hitler-signed watercolors to be auctioned

BERLIN, 18 April—A pair of watercolor paintings depicting farm scenes and signed "Adolf Hitler" are up for auction in the German city of Nuremberg this month. The Weidler Auction House said Friday that paintings titled "Farmstead" and "Farm Buildings on the River" and listed in its online catalog are attributed to the Nazi dictator.

Auction house owner Herbert Weidler described the paintings as "average" quality and said they were being offered by a Polish owner, whom he declined to identify. The watercolors are listed in the catalog as "signed and dated 1914," with bidding to start at euro3,500 (\$4,618) at the auction, which runs 23-25 April.

As a young man, Hitler sought to earn his living as an artist. He is believed to have painted hundreds of works, several of which have come up for sale over the years.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (19.4.2009) (Sunday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

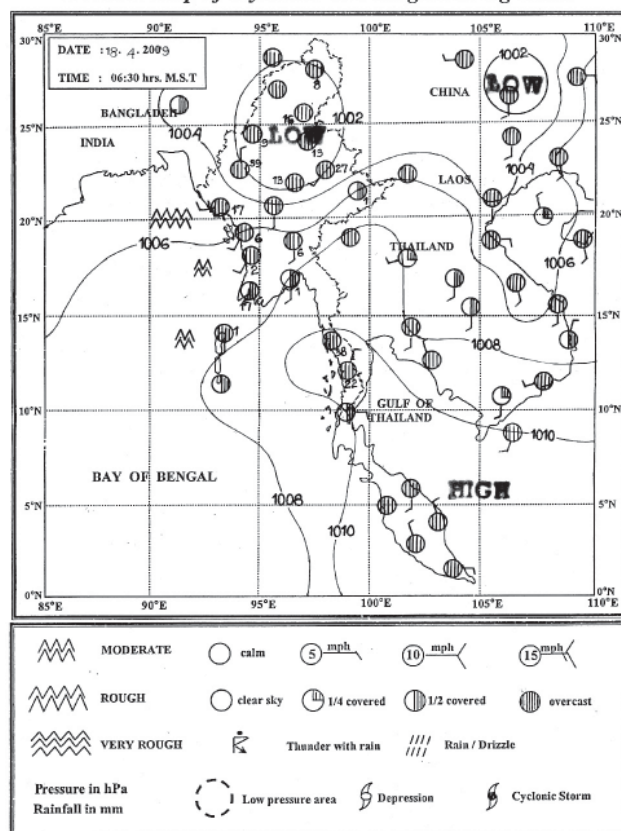
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyauktalone)
- * A Journey to the Zalon Mountain
- * Myanmar Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part-V)
- * Shopping with Torchlight
- * Road Network Speed Up Commodity Flow
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Myanmar Arts and Sculptures
- * Colourful Flowers you can find in Myanmar
- * Teachers Matter
- * Thiri Zeya Buhmi Golden Palace and Museum of King Anawrahta
- * Preservation and Reproduction of Sea Turtle
- * Valuable Myanmar Native Orchids
- * Myanmar Movies Impact
- * Mee Hsu Khan Folk Songs
- * Myanma Traditional Snacks
- * Myanmar Arts & Sculptures
- * Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyauktalone)
- * A Journey to the Zalon Mountain
- * Myanmar Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part-V)
- * Shopping with Torchlight
- * Road Network Speed Up Commodity Flow
- * Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- * Myanmar Footware and Bags
- * A Salient Myin Ma Hti
- * Everyone has a life
- * Preserve and Safeguard Cultural Heritage
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 18 April, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kayin State and Mandalay Division, isolated in Kayah State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in lower Sagaing Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below April average temperatures in Kayin State, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Mawlaik, Myingyan and Minbu (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Shweku (2.87) inches, Kanbalu (2.84) inches, Katha (2.68) inches, Mohnyi (2.28) inches, Moegok (2.09) inches, Bhamo (2.05) inches, Ann (1.97) inches, Kalay (1.92) inches, Hakha (1.77) inches, Minkin (1.73) inches, Gwa (1.61) inches, Kalaywa (1.54) inches and Dawei (1.53) inches.

Maximum temperature on 17-4-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 18-4-2009 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-4-2009 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 17-4-2009 was (4.3) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 18-4-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.55) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (1.06) inches at Mingaladon, (1.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.64) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South at (18:30) hours MST on 17-4-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (05:00) hrs MST today, the cyclonic storm Bijli over the Northwest Bay has crossed Bangladesh Coast between Chittagong and Cox's Bazaar last night. Weather is cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19th April 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19-4-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-4-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-4-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Sunday, 19 April
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုရေးတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 7:55 am 5. Nice and sweet song
- 8:05 am 6. တိရစ္ဆာန်ဥယျာဉ်နေပြည်တော် သွားလိုက်ကြည့်တူပျော်ပျော် (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:15 am 7. Musical programme

- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. "လှကားသုံးထစ်ဆင်းတဲ့အခါ" (အပိုင်း၊ မင်းသူ၊ အေးသီတာ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်(ဖိုးနစ်)]
- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am 2. Musical programme
- 11:20 am 3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:30 am 4. Golf Magazine (TV)
- 11:50 am 5. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် "လွမ်းအောင်ရယ်တတ်သူ" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ရူပ၊ ပြေစင်၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ဝဏ္ဏ)
- 2:00 pm 6. Dance of national races
- 2:15 pm 7. ရုပ်ရှင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ
- 2:30 pm 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 2:45 pm 9. International news
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm 2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm 3. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ
- 4:35 pm 4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်ရှင်သင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (စီးပွားရေးပညာ အထူးပြု) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ)
- 4:50 pm 5. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 5:00 pm 6. Musical programme
- 5:10 pm 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:20 pm 8. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm 9. Evening News

- 6:30 pm 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 11. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "Pocket Dragon Adventure"
- 6:50 pm 12. "လှပခြင်း၏အဓိပ္ပာယ်" (အကယ်ဒမီဇင်ပိုင်၊ နိုင်းနိုင်း၊ နိုင်းနိုင်း၊ စုချစ်ဇော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးခင်ဇော်)
- 7:30 pm 13. သူရွှေသီရိတေးကဏ္ဍ
- 7:45 pm 14. အကြော်ခံဆီအန္တရာယ်
- 8:00 pm 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် "ချစ်ခြင်းပွဲမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဒွေး၊ မင်းသူ၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်ဇော်၊ တင့်တင့်ထွန်း၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်ဇော်၊ မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်မောင်ဦး၊ ဖိုးသိမ်းထွင်)

Myanmar New Year Maha Thingyan Festival concludes successfully Casualty declines due to civilized manner of people

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—The Myanmar New Year Maha Thingyan Festival for 2009 was held on a grand scale with national characters, culture and tradition across the nation from 13 to 16 April.

The authorities concerned released warnings through televisions and newspapers before the Maha Thingyan Festival with a view to avoiding undesirable incidents in the water festival. Moreover, officials supervised the festival in order to make it systematic.

The entire na-

tional people participated in the festival in discipline to be in line with the Myanmar tradition and custom. However, because of some people who were negligent and under the influence, there occurred 14 traffic accidents and 37 brawls, one case of being drunk and disorderly, five cases of disturbing the duties, two cases of molestation, one case of death, totalling 60. Such cases left four people dead and 103 others injured. Three people dead were those killed in the traffic accidents and

43 people injured. A total of 58 persons were injured in the brawls and two in the cases of disturbing the duties while one person was killed in the case of death.

The casualty during the festival significantly decreased as the people from States and Divisions strictly abided by the rules and notifications and celebrated the water festival in a civilized and systematic manner in accord with Myanmar culture and tradition taking lessons from the previous years.—MNA

Cyclone Bijli hits Bangladeshi coast Storm warnings issued in time No damage in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April — According to the observation recorded at 5 a.m. this morning, Cyclone Bijli, which centred at the northeast of the Bay of Bengal, passed the coast of Bangladesh between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. Remnants of Cyclone Bijli passed northern regions of Myanmar and are moving towards the east. Due to the remnants of the cyclone, there will be heavy rains in some regions in states and divisions and sometimes there may be strong wind at a wind speed of 30 or 40 miles per hour. The storm was over and its level was graded as the green one. It is forecast that there will be fine weather within the next 24 hours, according to the report of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Regarding the storm, the warning of the DMH was reported on the programmes of Myanma Radio and Television and Mandalay and Sittway FM stations beginning the evening of 14 April and in the 15 April issue of the newspapers.

Similarly, the warnings issued on 15, 16 and 17 April were reported daily on television and radio and in the newspapers as soon as they were received. The statements of DMH were also sent for safety of trawlers, powered boats and ferries in Myanmar waters and villages along the Rakhine coast in order to avoid tidal surges.

DMH issued storm warnings in time and there was no damage due to the storm.—MNA

Bawni Dam, an essential irrigation facility in Bago Division

Article & Photos: Peinzalok Thein Nyunt

The Union of Myanmar is an agro-based country. The government is striving for development of the agriculture sector by adopting the objective "Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well" included in the four economic objectives. Indeed, the agriculture sector plays a key role in the growth of national economy. If production of agricultural produce increases, the country will achieve food sufficiency and export the surplus to the foreign market.

In all States and Divisions, a large number of

dams and reservoirs have been built for ensuring adequate supply of water and prevention against flooding at farmlands. It is known to all that Bago Division is the second granary of the country in the agriculture sector.

DaikU Township is a fertile region in all the three seasons. In addition to cultivation of monsoon paddy in the rainy season, groundnut, green bean, pigeon pea, cow pea, sesame and sunflower are grown in the cold season. The local people are earning higher incomes by growing tapioca, sugarcane, rubber, corn and chilli.

Under the arrangements of Chairman of DaikU Township Peace and Development Council U Tun Tun Win and Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Htay Aung, the news team had the opportunity to visit Bawni Dam recently. The dam is located near new Bawni Village in DaikU Township, nine miles west of mile post 76/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Together with Staff Officer (Civil) U Kyaw Win of Irrigation Department, Township Manager U Ngwe Hlaing of Myanma Agriculture Service and
(See page 9)



Bawni Dam supplying water in DaikU Township for agricultural purpose.