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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend ceremony to enshrine relics, hoist Shwehtidaw and consecrate Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda in Myeik

YANGON, 3 April — The religious ceremony to enshrine relics, to hoist Shwehtidaw of Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda, to offer Mya-thabeik and Shwekyar Thingan together with the consecration ceremony was held at the pagoda on Sandawady Hill in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, this morning.

Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hoisted Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda.

Altogether 108 members of the Sangha led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Maha Withutayama Monastery in Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara graced the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were members of

the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat

Hein, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Develop-

ment Council Office, departmental heads, senior military officers of Myeik Station, departmental officials, members of the pagoda construction committee and wellwishers, social organization members and local people.

At 6.45 am, the

Senior General and wife and party offered Shwekyar Thingan to Gottama Buddha Image at the eastern part of the cave at the pagoda and donated fruits in the emerald bowl to the Buddha image.

General Thura Shwe Mann and Com-

mander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein offered Shwekyar Thingan and fruits to Kakusandha Buddha image.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye donated Shwekyar Thingan and fruits to Konagamana Buddha image.



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party convey Shwehtidaw atop Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda.— MNA



Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein presented Shwekyar Thingan and fruits to Kassapa Buddha image. At 7 am, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Vocalist U Tun Shwe sang the religious song.

Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dawei Gawthitayama Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arçinnabhivamsa invested the Nine Precepts at Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 4 April, 2005

Make integrated efforts for emergence of a modern and developed nation

Since its assumption of the State responsibilities, the State Peace and Development Council has laid down and is implementing projects for national development. As a result, notable progress has been made in the nation year after year.

To bring about development in all the sectors, the government has laid down a 30-year long-term plan and work is well under way to implement it phase by phase each lasting five years. With the accomplishment of the project, the government will be able to fulfil all necessary requirements for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win during his tour of Mon State on 1 April met departmental officials at the meeting hall of Ye Township Peace and Development Council and gave instructions.

He said that the strength of the nation lies within. So, relentless efforts are to be made for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on good foundations that emerged owing to concerted and integrated efforts of the government, the people and social organizations.

Better transport and national solidarity has contributed to enhancing the socio-economic life of the people. All the regions have witnessed rapid changes and developments due to prevalence of peace and tranquillity which enables the local people to do business with peace of mind.

The creation of golden opportunities with own resources in the nation amounts to taking systematic steps for successful realization of the seven-point Road Map which is indispensable for the emergence of a democratic system with fully institutionalized discipline.

Only when peace and tranquillity prevails in the nation, will a discipline-flourishing democratic nation emerge. This being the case, emphasis has to be placed on national solidarity. The entire national people are to keep this in mind.

At a time when the government and the people are striving for the national development, those who are to serve the interests of the people are to try their utmost to make the people know the goodwill of the government towards the people and to become the ones who win the respects and trust of the people.

All in all, the entire national people are to make integrated efforts under the leadership of the government for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on the good foundations created by the State.

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

Foreign Minister leaves for Pakistan

YANGON, 3 April — At the invitation of Mr Khurshid M Kasuri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs, left Yangon by air this morning to attend the Fourth Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 5 to 7 April 2005.



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win seen at the airport before his departure for Pakistan.— MNA

The minister was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Ministers

for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Directors-general and officials of the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Muhammad Nawaz

Chaudhry and officials of the Pakistan Embassy in Yangon.

MNA

42nd Myanma Gems Emporium continues

YANGON, 3 April — Patron of Central Committee for Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint arrived at 42nd Myanma

Gems Emporium-2005 being held at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this evening, who was welcomed by chairman of the Central Committee for

Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Acting Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and

members.

After the minister had inspected lots of jade displayed at the gems mart, he viewed sales of lots of jade through competitive system, cordially greeted gems marchants and left there.

At the gems mart, 428 lots of jade were sold through tender system yesterday and 480 lots of jade, through tender and competitive systems today.

A total of 1,326 gem merchants— 873 of 306 companies from abroad and 453 of 251 local companies— bought competitively. Myanma Gems Emporium continues tomorrow. — MNA



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspects jade lots at 42nd Myanma Gems Emporium.— MNA

Exhibitions to mark Armed Forces Day continue

YANGON, 3 April —The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition continued at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road today.

In the exhibition on nation-building endeavours, a computer quiz is being held from noon to 2 pm and prizes are presented to the winners. People and foreigners visited the exhibition and it will continue tomorrow. Similarly, Literary & Arts Competitions honouring the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued for the ninth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 9 am to 5 pm today, and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students, monks and people visited the competitions.

Literary & Arts Competitions and 3Q contest are is also being held and cash prizes are awarded to the winners. The competitions continue tomorrow.

MNA

Rain in Shan, upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions

YANGON, 4 April — The Hydrology and Meteorology Department announced that during the past 24 hours light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Magway, and Taninthayi Divisions, and partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

It is cloudy in the South-west Bay and partly cloudy in the remaining areas of the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid on 4 April evening, isolated thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Outlooks for subsequent two days are possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the regions of the Lower Myanmar. — MNA

သတိ

- ၁။ လေပေါင် (၁၀၀) မှ (၁၅၀) အထိ အတင်အချ ပြုလုပ်၍ ရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်အာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်း၊ ကြောင့် ရေစူးအား ပြင်းလွန်း၍ ရေပတ်ခရသူတွင် အသားအရေများ ပွန်ပဲ့ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိ၊ နားများ အား ထိမိပါက မျက်လုံး၊ နားကန့်နိုင်ခြင်း အန္တရာယ် ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေကစားမညာပေးရန်၊ ရေပတ်ခကား များတွင် ကွန်ပရက်အာပန်များ အသုံးပြု၍ ရေပတ်ခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၂။ သင်္ကြန်ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းအား သင်္ကြန်ရက်များအတွင်း နေ့စဉ် နံနက် (၀၇:၀၀) နာရီမှ (၁၈:၀၀) နာရီအတွင်း သာ ရေပတ်ကစားကြရန်နှင့် (၁၈:၀၀) နာရီ နောက်ပိုင်း ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၃။ တာမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မစ်



South Korean construction workers at a site in downtown Seoul on 3 April, 2005. — INTERNET



ASEAN vows to strengthen cooperation against corruption

MANILA, 2 April — Parliamentarians from countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Friday adopted an anti-corruption declaration to strengthen regional and international cooperation in fighting corruption.

Calling for the immediate ratification of the United Nations Convention against corruption, the lawmakers also said that the "culture of corruption" rampant in the region must be reversed.

In a programme of action included in the "Manila Declaration" signed by 23 parliamentarians of ASEAN countries, the lawmakers decided to permanently establish the South East Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) as a mechanism for regional anti-corruption cooperation.

They also agreed upon the need to "thoroughly review our respective state of laws, standards, system and strategies to determine their adequacy and consistency with our international commitments against corruption."

In his opening speech to SEAPAC on Thursday, Philippine Senate Presi-

dent Franklin M. Drilon challenged ASEAN lawmakers to take concrete actions against the "scourge of corruption".

He said corruption was standing in the way of achieving the UN-endorsed Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the number of extremely poor people in the next 10 years.

The ASEAN lawmakers said in the declaration that corruption "debilitates economies and undermines political and social institutions" while it also "wastes scarce resources, deprives people of needed infrastructure and basic services, and engenders inequality and injustice".

"Corruption distorts the distribution of the fruits of growth, and consequently deepens the divide between the privileged and the impoverished masses," they said. — MNA/Xinhua

Colombian President to visit China, Japan

BOGOTA, 2 April — Colombian President Alvaro Uribe will start an official visit to China and Japan on 6 April to seek financing for major infrastructure works and open new markets for his country, a senior official said on Friday.

Foreign Minister Carolina Barco said Colombia is lagging behind in its relations with nations of the Pacific Rim.

He said because of Colombia's geographic situation, the country could become a "joining point" between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

Barco said Asia is of "an enormous economic and political dynamics." He admitted that to Asia "Colombia is an enigma, and, we all know that our image is difficult to un-

derstand". Under the schedule of Uribe, he will hold talks with Chinese and Japanese leaders during his trip to the two countries.

The President also has plans to meet businessmen of China and visit industrial complexes and historical sites.

In Tokyo, the President is expected to sign an agreement of understanding for an eventual Japanese financing for the construction of a tunnel which links the middle of the country to the coffee-pro-

ducing area in the west.

There will also be negotiations to involve the Japanese in projects for environment through the mechanisms offered by the Kyoto Protocol.

MNA/Xinhua

China abolishes export tax rebate policies

BEIJING, 2 April — China abolished the export tax rebate policies that encouraged enterprises to export billet and steel ingot here on Friday. Experts said this measure aims to restrict the export of iron ore, whose price increases 71.5 per cent from April.

As China's economy develops, China needs more and more steel. However, China has little storage of iron ore, raw material to make steel. So China has imported large amounts of iron ore.

In recent years, China's steel production has been on a sharp rise and the country has begun to rely on iron ore imports. In 2003, China replaced Japan as the world largest iron ore importer. Last year, the country's steel production reached 272 million tons and imported iron ore was 208 million

tons, up 40.5 per cent over the previous year. More than 50 per cent of iron ore used in China come from imports.

Experts predict in 2005 the imports of iron ore will continue to rise. The BaoSteel, China's largest steel company, announced 28 February on behalf of China's steel companies to accept the price rise on the supply contract signed by a Japanese steel company and Brazilian iron ore supplier CVRD.

As China relies heavily on imports, the price

soar of imported iron ore would bring heavy pressure to steel companies.

According to a report released by the State Information Centre, the cost of China's whole steel industry in 2005 will increase by 20 to 30 billion yuan (2.4-3.6 billion US dollars), accounting for 20 to 30 per cent of the industry's profits in 2004.

Liu Xiaobing, an analyst with the custeel.com, a network that serves for China's 12 major steel companies, said the measure will properly change

the doings that exports low value-added steel ingot which is made from expensive imported iron ore.

As China exports less steel ingot, it will need less iron ore, he said.

He said this also shows that the government wants to encourage industrial enterprises to adjust and change their growth pattern from energy and resource consuming to energy-saving.

However, he said the measure will pose a great impact on steel ingot companies. — MNA/Xinhua

Insurers ready to compensate east China chlorine spill victims

NANJING, 2 April — Insurance companies in Huai'an City, east China's Jiangsu Province, say they are ready to compensate victims of Tuesday's liquefied chlorine leakage that has killed 28 and hospitalized 350 so far.

A brief investigation by the city's insurance association shows 36,141 residents in the leakage affected area are covered by accident and medical insurance schemes, most of whom are students and farmers.

But local insurers say it is difficult for them to work out a detailed compensation scheme right now because they have been denied visits to hospitals where emergency treatment is going on. — MNA/Xinhua

Italian PM announces plan to withdraw troops from Iraq

ROME, 2 April — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi announced on Thursday that Italy plans to withdraw the first 300 soldiers out of its 3,000 troops from Iraq in September.

"There is already a plan for the withdrawal of 300 of our soldiers without weakening our presence (in Iraq) at the end of September," he said in an interview with the state television RAI.

However, he added that he still needed approval of both the US-led coalition forces in Iraq and the Iraqi Government to carry out the plan.

The Prime Minister said that Italy mapped out the plan because Iraqi security forces will finish training by the end of August and therefore be capable of maintaining the country's stability and

security. As a result, it will be redundant then to have foreign troops in Iraq, said.

Berlusconi's announcement is widely seen as an apparent gesture aimed at wooing voters in the regional elections scheduled for 3-4 April.

The elections are considered as a rehearsal for the parliamentary vote next year in which Berlusconi will face a center-left challenge headed by former European Commission president Romano Prodi.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army troops from the 10th Mountain Division patrol a market in the Abu Ghraib district in western Baghdad on 29 March, 2005. — INTERNET

Vietnam reports unidentified disease in central highlands region

HANOI, 2 April — Vietnam is probing into an unidentified disease reported to have killed two and affected 120 other residents of a commune in the central highlands of Gia Lai.

"Our health officials and workers have this morning set off to get to the commune of Lo Bang to get to know an unidentified disease there. It makes sufferers' legs and arms numb," a staff of the Gia Lai's health department told *Xinhua* on Friday.

The staff, who

identified herself as Ha, did not elaborate on the disease and infections, saying: "We have to wait for the visit's outcome."

According to local newspaper Pioneer on Friday, the unidentified disease has recently hit some 120 residents of the commune in Mang Yang District, of whom two died on 29 March.

On 31 March alone, 23 residents were hospitalized.

The patients have symptoms similar to poisoning such as feeling numb in their legs and arms, having stomachache and wanting to vomit, but they last for a long time, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

HK top earner pays \$2.3m in salaries tax

HONG KONG, 2 April — Hong Kong's top earner in 2004-05 paid 18 million Hong Kong dollars (2.3 million US dollars) in salaries tax, the Inland Revenue Department said on Friday, adding the top earner for profits tax paid 1.54 billion HK dollars (197.4 million US dollars).

According to the department's figures, the amount of tax paid by the top 10 salaries taxpayers ranged from 11 million HK dollars to 18 million HK dollars while the amount of tax paid by the top 10 profits taxpayers range from 420 million HK dollars to 1.54 billion HK dollars.

The department said the amounts of tax paid by a few taxpayers were particularly high, probably because they were in receipt of income other than salaries. Bonuses, commissions, allowances and share option gains also form part of a taxpayer's assessable income.

Up to 28 February in the financial year 2004-05, the total salaries tax assessed was 35.9 billion HK dollars, up 23 per cent over the total of 29.1 billion HK dollars for the

corresponding period in 2003-04.

The total profits tax assessed for the same 11-month period was 57.7 billion HK dollars, up 19 per cent over the total of 48.3 billion HK dollars in the previous year.

Despite the adverse impact of the SARS

outbreak in early 2003-04, business profits for the year recorded a handsome growth. The actual salaries tax and profits tax collections for the whole year 2004-05 will be announced when the year-end accounts are finalized later this month.

MNA/Xinhua

Visitor arrivals to HK reach 1.74 million in February

HONG KONG, 2 April — Hong Kong's tourism industry enjoyed further healthy growth in February 2005 with over 1.74 million visitor arrivals, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) said on Friday.

This is comfortably the best February result on record, surpassing the 1.45 million arrivals in February 2004 by over 290,000, or 20 per cent.

HKTB Executive Director Clara Chong said Lunar New Year has become a more and more popular time to visit Hong Kong for leisure, as evidenced by double-digit growth in key markets including the Philippines,

Britain, Singapore and some other countries.

She believed that this is due to the growing reputation of the International Lunar New Year Parade and determined efforts of the HKTB and its trade partners to package the festival activities attractively to family travellers worldwide.

The Hong Kong Special 2005-2006

ခက်ခဲစွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်ပွား



China's research ship Ocean No 1 leaves Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province for research in the Pacific, Atlantic and the Indian Ocean on 2 April, 2005. — INTERNET

200 fish species in Thailand face extinction

BANGKOK, 2 April — More than 200 species of fish in Thailand have been on the edge of extinction, said the kingdom's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONREPP).

Fish were on the front line of a list produced by the office, which included extincting species of Thailand.

"Fish are in a more worrying condition than

some big animals, as they are easily spotted and are hunted in various ways by people," newspaper Nation on Friday quoted Chavalit Vidtayanont, head of the World

Wildlife Fund's Thailand Marine and Freshwater Unit, as saying.

The extincting fish include sawfish, whale sharks, Napoleons, the commonsilverbarbandthe Mekong giant catfish etc.

In Thailand, 90 per cent of the locations studied, home to 269 species of fish (133 sea fish and 136 freshwater fish), were under threat, according to Chavalit. Fish most at risk were those with high economic value, particularly sawfish, giant catfish and stingrays, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria to pull all troops out from Iraq before year-end

SOFIA, 2 April — Bulgaria's Government has decided to cut the number of soldiers in Iraq ahead of summer elections and withdraw completely from the country by the end of the year, Bulgarian daily *Trud* reported on Friday.

"The government proposes Parliament allow the Bulgarian light infantry battalion to fulfill, until 31 December, its mandate for maintaining security and stability in Iraq," government spokesman Dimitar Tsonev told reporters on Thursday.

With the approach of general elections this summer, Bulgarian public opposition to the Iraq War has raised pressure on the government to bring home its some 500 soldiers stationed there.

According to the newspaper report, the government decided to reduce Bulgaria's troops in Iraq to 400 just before the general elections on 25 June and then withdraw completely before year-end.

The pullout decision neither means pullout from anti-terrorism alliance nor changing the policy of anti-terrorism, but anticipating the war on terrorism by a different way, Bulgarian Defence Ministry and Foreign Ministry were quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

US military plane crashes in Albania

TIRANA, 2 April — A US military plane crashed in the Albanian town of Gramsh late Thursday, and nine people onboard were believed to have died, Albania's News24 TV reported.

The plane took off from Tirana's Teresa Airport for joint training missions with the Albanian military, and crashed into the Drize Mountain of Gramsh, some 80 kilometres southeast of the capital. The nine people on the plane are all Americans.

MNA/Xinhua



A health worker sprays to help prevent Cholera in Dakar on 2 April, 2005.

INTERNET

Chinese universities hold education exhibition in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 3 April — The two-day China Education Exhibition 2005 kicked off here on Saturday in a bid to provide information for the Nepali students willing to study in China.

As many as 23 universities from various parts of China, including the world-famous Beijing University, Fudan University, Tongji University, are participating in the exhibition, the third of its kind in the Himalayan kingdom.

The exhibition is jointly organized by the China Scholarship Council under the Chinese Education Ministry, the Chinese Embassy to Nepal and the Arniko Society of Nepal, a Sino-Nepali friendship organization.

The major objective of the exhibition is to impart first-hand knowledge and information to prospective Nepali students and families about the Chinese education system, individual universities and courses they offer.

At the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Nepali Minister of Education and Sports Radha Krishna Mainali said: "Nepal and China maintain friendly relationships in various fields, which can be further

strengthened through this exhibition."

China's education system is at the international level, and it is suitable for Nepali students, Mainali noted.

For his part, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Sun Heping said that the Chinese Government pays great attention to the accepting and cultivating foreign students studying in China, and regards it as a main part of foreign exchanges.

China has given top priority to education, which is regarded as its basic state policy. Therefore China has absorbed more and more foreign students to come to study, he added.

About 2,200 Nepali students are currently studying different subjects such as medicine, engineering, tourism and business administration in China. The Chinese Government has made available scholarship to nearly 800 Nepali students during the last four decades.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman looks at the world's largest 102 inches plasma television by South Korean electronic maker Samsung as the world's largest computer fair CeBIT in Hanover, recently. — INTERNET

Drivers in Shenzhen pledge posthumous organ donation

SHENZHEN, 3 April — Twenty-seven drivers in the southern city of Shenzhen pledged on Friday to donate their organs posthumously in case they were killed in traffic accidents.

"Should any one of us die from an accident, we are ready to donate all useful organs to those in need and will be delighted to help sustain others' lives," reads the Shenzhen drivers' declaration on posthumous donation of organs, signed by the 27 citizens who drive to and from work every day.

Eight of the volunteers had their donation applications notarized on the same day. "We hope the move will encourage more citizens to donate their organs posthumously," said Peng Jincheng, a private car owner and one of the first to put forth the idea.

Shenzhen, a forerunner of China's reforms, issued in August 2003

China's first regional law on the donation of human organs. But the city reported only 16 cornea donations and three body donations in 2004.

"Traffic accidents are reported occasionally in Shenzhen, a city with 700,000 drivers," said Mr Xu, an employee with a Shenzhen-based state firm who helped mastermind the voluntary programme.

"We drivers do not always become victims of road mishaps, but if it happened, I'd be happy to donate all my useful organs and to see my own life continue in a sense," Dr Yao Xiaoming with Shenzhen Ophthalmological Hospital also helped mastermind the programme.

He said about 500,000 patients need kid-

ney transplants in China each year, but only 4,000 kidneys are available.

"Likewise, China's eye bank has only 700 corneas for the four million patients who need a transplant to restore eyesight; four million leukaemia patients are waiting for bone marrow transplants but the national bone marrow bank has only 30,000 samples," said Dr Yao.

At Yao's hospital, only 30 per cent of all the patients in need actually get cornea transplants — and the source corneas almost always come from family members or relatives. "Very few patients get corneas from voluntary donors," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh plans to import CNG-run engines

DHAKA, 3 April — The Bangladeshi Government plans to allow tax-free import of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven engines and vehicles to ensure proper utilization of environment-friendly natural gas from domestic supply.

According to the daily *Independent* on Saturday, a proposal raised by the Power, Energy and Mineral Ministry in this regard is now under active consideration of the Finance Ministry.

Sources from the Energy Ministry said tax-free import of the CNG-driven engines and vehicles if allowed will save huge foreign currency, for it will alleviate the country's dependence on imported petroleum with soaring prices. The tax exemption of CNG-run transport facilities can also help relieve the financial loss brought by diesel imports and check smuggling of diesel.

The government imports diesel worth some 450 million US dollars annually, with over half of it is used for plying vehicles. The government moreover, spends some 1.18 billion dollars every

year for subsidizing diesel supply as it imports per litre of diesel at a cost of 28 taka (about 0.46 dollars) but sells the same at 23 taka (0.38 dollars) in domestic market.

Local black marketers are sending huge amount of imported diesel into India as the market price of diesel is higher there with 34 taka (0.56 dollars) per litre.

In a letter to the Finance Ministry, the Energy Ministry pointed out many countries in the world are now manufacturing CNG engines with gearbox supports, which are compatible with diesel engines. If the import of CNG engines are exempted from duty, bus and truck owners of Bangladesh will get an opportunity to convert their vehicles from diesel engines into CNG-run ones, as the domestic CNG fuel costs them less.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier to visit S Asia countries next week

BEIJING, 3 April — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will tour South Asian countries starting next week, which a senior diplomat viewed on Friday as a major move to build partnerships and friendships with its neighbours.

"South Asia holds an important position for China's diplomacy in the region, and China attaches great importance to developing neighbourly friendship with all countries in South Asia," said Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei at a news briefing on Premier Wen's upcoming visit.

Wen will pay an official visit to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India from 5 to 12 April. This will be his first visit to the four South Asian nations since he was elected Chinese Premier in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



A medical evacuation team moves a wounded soldier to the emergency room at the Air Force theatre hospital in Balad Air Base, north of Baghdad on 3 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Opening of Hpa-an Technological College the establishment of basic structure for youths in Hpa-an to learn higher education easily PM Lt-Gen Soe Win attends opening of three-storey main building of Hpa-an GTC



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils the bronze plaque of the main building of Hpa-an GTC.— MNA

YANGON, 3 April — An opening ceremony of a three-storey main building of Government Technological College (Hpa-an) was held at the college this morning, where Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveiled the stone plaque of the building and delivered an address on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, Deputy Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Myo Hla, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin

party planted a Gantgaw tree as a token of opening the new building. Afterwards, the Prime Minister formally unveiled the bronze plaque and sprinkled scented water on it.

At the meeting hall of the main building, the Prime Minister heard reports on progress in constructing the main building, conducting courses and learning of students presented by principal of the college Daw Than Than Htay.

After that, the Prime Minister delivered an

address on the occasion. He said opening of Hpa-an Technological College is the establishment of basic structure for youths in Hpa-an to learn higher education easily at a low cost and for turning out of highly-qualified educated persons such as intellectuals and intelligentsia in the region.

Making necessary reforms in all sectors, the government has been carrying out construction tasks for emergence of a modern developed nation with greater momentum, he said.

In efforts to make reforms and fulfill necessary foundations for smooth transformation of old system to a new one, the government always placed emphasis on lofty aims of narrowing the gap between one region and another, equal development of all states and divisions and national people.

He quoted the guidance of the Head of State as saying that all national people living in 14 states and divisions are relatives and brethren and the government is making efforts for their well-being and prosperity. Like parents, the government is providing assistance for the betterment of their offspring and it is the government's genuine goodwill towards its national people that it does not discriminate one national race from another.

(See page 7)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo with faculty members and students in front of GTC (Hpa-an).— MNA

Kyuu, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of State, District and Township PDCs, social organizations, faculty members, local people and guests.

During the ceremony, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyuu and Manager of Yuzana Co Ltd Dr Myat Hlaing formally opened the new building.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win plants a Gantgaw tree at the opening ceremony of three-storey building of Hpa-an GTC.— MNA

In efforts to make reforms and fulfil necessary foundations for smooth transformation of old system to a new one, the government always places emphasis on lofty aims of narrowing the gap between one region and another, equal development of all states and divisions and national people.



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses opening ceremony of Government Technological College (Hpa-an).—MNA

Although Kayin State is not far from Yangon, it lagged behind development for a long time due to various social evils including armed insurgency. Only when there is rapid progress in the region can Kayin State catch up with other states and divisions. As it borders a neighbouring country, it is necessary for the state to develop in all sectors. Therefore, national dignity will be brightened and national force will be consolidated, he added.

That is why, he said, the government opened Hpa-an University, Hpa-

Union, he said.

In health sector, there are now a general hospital, other hospitals and dispensaries in Kayin State and health care services in the regions become wider and wider.

The government built Thanlwin (Hpa-an), Gyaing (Zathabyin), Gyaing (Kawkareik), Daw Lan and Don thami Bridges and Hpa-an-Indu-Zathabyin-Mawlamyine motor road and repaired old roads for ensuring smooth transport. Now people can travel from Hpa-an to Yangon and Mawlamyine easily and

today is quite different from the past, he said.

If armed insurgency ends and there is peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, Kayin State will become 100 per cent stable indeed and develops. People in the region should have escaped from living in fear.

It can clearly be seen that some regions have enjoyed more progress because of their capability to build peace and stability, and understanding and mutual trust between the national brethren.

With the prevalence

been opening educational institutions. As a result, there have been 156 universities and colleges in the country and the number of college students has increased up to over 900,000, said the Prime Minister. Although students had to pursue their college education only in Yangon and Mandalay in the past, they can now learn it in their respective regions.

With the advancement in IT today, all the fields such as politics, economy, education and health are gaining great momentum in all human societies, he noted. That



Ministers and departmental officials attending the opening ceremony of Government Technological College (Hpa-an).—MNA

Opening of Hpa-an Technological College the establishment of...

(from page 6)

With this concept, the government paid attention to full development of the Union formed with seven states and seven divisions. The government is also im-

plementing the tasks for progress of Kayin State where Kayin, Bamar, Mon, Shan, Pa-O, Kachin, Kayah and Rakhine nationals collectively live, the Prime Minister said.

an technological college, computer college and education college to produce educated persons. Graduates from those institutions are to make efforts for long-term development of Kayin State, stability and uplift of national dignity and they are to serve the interests of regions and the

smoothly. As there are better foundations in education, health and transport sectors, Kayin State

of peace and stability in the country, the government has paid emphasis on building development

is why all the global nations are adapting and improving their education systems to catch up with

With the advancement in IT today, all the fields such as politics, economy, education and health are gaining great momentum in all human societies. That is why all the global nations are adapting and improving their education systems to catch up with this momentum. It is necessary to produce human resources which must be a society of constant learning. The future of the nation can be shaped through education.



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win views classrooms of Government Technological College (Hpa-an).—MNA



Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu and Manager Dr Myat Hlaing of Yuzana Co Ltd formally open three-storey main building of GTC (Hpa-an).—MNA

infrastructures in all states and divisions. The Prime Minister pointed out that at present, we need to try so hard for the development of the country that lagged behind others in the past despite its valuable natural resources and its race with full possession of faculty. And we need to pass on an atmosphere of peace and development to the next generation.

The State established 24 development regions in the whole nation including Hpa-an, and has

this momentum. It is necessary to produce human resources which must be a society of constant learning. The future of the nation can be shaped through education, the Prime Minister said.

We should not be content with the education goal in which everyone must have knowledge of basic education ranging from primary to high school levels, he said. And all are to continue to pursue higher education.

(See page 15)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend ceremony to enshrine relics, hoist Shwehtidaw and consecrate Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda in Myeik...

(from page 1)

Next, the Senior General and wife offered Yadana Seinbudaw, eight requisites and alms to the Chairman Sayadaw.

General Thura Shwe Mann donated Hngetmyatnadaw, eight requisites and provisions to the Sayadaw. The commander presented documents related to the pagoda to the Sayadaw.

Similarly, members of the State Peace

military officers, the deputy ministers, officials and wellwishers donated eight requisites and offertories to the Sayadaws.

The Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

The Senior General and wife conveyed the Seinbudaw; General Thura Shwe Mann, the Hngetmyatnadaw; members of the SPDC, the

ers conveyed small bells, gold zedi and Buddha images, silver Buddha images, jade Buddha images and religious objects to the pandal from the cave of the pagoda. Meanwhile, vocalists sang the religious songs.

At 8.30 am, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing sprinkled scented water on the Hngetmyatnadaw and conveyed it atop the pagoda by Myalayyin



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing convey Seinbudaw atop Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda.—MNA

Tin Aung Myint Oo and Maj-Gen Ohn Myint kept religious objects into the upper reliquaries respectively. They closed the reliquaries

Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann and party fixed tiers of Shwehtidaw atop the pagoda. At the same time, the ministers hoisted Htidaws atop eight encircling zedis.

Next, the Senior General and wife sprinkled the Seinbudaw with scented water and conveyed it atop the pagoda. Similarly, they conveyed Sasana Flag atop the pagoda.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party fixed the Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda and offered Shwekyar Thingan. At the same time, the ministers hoisted Hngetmyatnadaws and Seinbudaws atop eight encircling zedis. After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing put jewellery into the pit and planted Maha Bo sapling in it.

Next, Senior Gen-

eral Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party performed the rituals of golden and silver showers.

The consecration ceremony followed at the cave of the pagoda.

First, the commander presented gifts to architects and technicians through Superintending Engineer U Ba Wan. Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

Next, the Senior General and wife, party and wellwishers offered alms to members of the Sangha.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party donated 'soon' to the Chairman Sayadaw.

108-foot Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda which is the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, was built on Sandawady Hill, about six miles north-east from Myeik.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Seinbudaw for Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda to a Sayadaw.—MNA

and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the ministers, senior

Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the commander, the ministers and senior military offic-

decorated carriage.

At the same time, General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura

after sprinkling scented water on them. Members of the Sangha recited Jayanto Bodhiyamule Gatha.



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Botama Buddha image at Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda in Myeik.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party share merits at consecration ceremony of Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe offers 'soon' to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Daw Kyaing Kyaing presents offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party plant a Bo tree. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offer 'soon' to Sayadaws.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, on 2 April morning, left here by special aircraft and arrived at Myeik Airport at 11 am.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hon Ngai, Commodore Win Shein (Navy), Brig-Gen Zin Yaw (Air) and senior military officers of Myeik Station, departmental officials and families.

The Senior General and party inspected development of Myeik, beautifying of Strand Road, Myeik Industrial Zone, roads and bridges.

In the evening, Senior General Than Shwe and party paid homage to Laygyun Hsimee Pagoda and offered flowers, lights and joss sticks.

The Senior General signed in the visitors' book and presented cash donations to the members of the pagoda board of trustees. From the platform of the pagoda, the Senior General and party enjoyed night scenes of Myeik and visited round the pagoda.

At Thamok Ordination Hall on the platform, they paid obeisance to Buddha images.

On 2 April afternoon, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, who accompanied the Senior General, inspected Myeik General Hospital (200-bed). He met with Taninthayi Division Health Department Head

Dr Swe Win, Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Maung Thwin and health staff. Similarly, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min on 2 April afternoon met with school heads and teachers of BEPSs, BEMs and BEHSs in Myeik at Pinyin Beikman Hall at Myeik BEHS No 1 and explained education matters.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe being welcomed by departmental officials at Myeik Airport. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing convey Yadana Seimbudaw round Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda in Myeik.— MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann offers Hngetmyatnadaw to a Sayadaw.
MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann conveys Hngetmyatnadaw round Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda in Myeik.— MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann donates alms to a Sayadaw at rice offering ceremony.—MNA

Senior Lieutenant-General...

(from page 16)

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Charge d' Affaires ai of the Vietnamese Embassy Mr Pham Van Cu, Vietnamese Military Attaché Sr Col Nguyen Van Thanh and officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Senior Lt-Gen Phung Quang Thanh took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it.

Next, the Vietnamese guests left for No 1 Tatmadaw Guest House. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party waved to the guests.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chief of General Staff of Vietnam Senior Lt-Gen Phung Quang Thanh inspect Guard of Honour at the airport.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chief of General Staff of Vietnam Senior Lt-Gen Phung Quang Thanh take the salute of Guard of Honour at the airport.— MNA

Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh and party of Vietnam arrive to pay goodwill visit

Progress of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) project inspected

YANGON, 3 April— Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command met with officials at the construction site of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) Project on Thuwunna bank in Thingangyun Township this afternoon. He said that on completion, four-lane Ngamoeyeik Bridge

(Kamakyi) linking Thakayta Township and Thuwunna will contribute to better transport of the local people who relied on two-lane Thuwunna Bridge in the past. Therefore, tasks are to be carried out for timely completion meeting the set standard.

The bridge crossing Ngamoeyeik Creek links Kamakyi Road in Thuwunna and

Shukhintha Road in Thakayta Township. It is being built of RC beams and floor. On completion, the bridge will be 970 feet long and it will have 48 feet wide motor road and six feet wide pedestrian way on either side. Its clearance will be 65 feet wide and 11 feet high. The bridge will withstand 60-ton loads. So far, the bridge has been completed by 22.3 per cent.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Chief of General Staff Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh.—MNA

National entrepreneurs may produce and export teak

*Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw
(Forestry Research)*

In the world are only four nations — India, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand where teak grows naturally. Of them, Myanmar's total area of teak plantations is larger than any other nation and she has still extracted teak to date. If compared to other species of hardwood, teak is light and long-lasting with a good appearance and colour. So, since the time of King Alaung Mintayargyi in 1752, teak has been designated as the royal hardwood and extracted systematically in the nation. In the successive eras, the government concerned alone has to take responsibilities for planting, conservation, nurturing, extraction and trade of teak under the forest law which says a standing teak tree wherever situated in the State is owned by the State.

The present government is taking measures to introduce the market-oriented economic system in the nation for national development. In the process, in order to contribute towards the development of the private sector as well as the perpetual existence and sustainable development of timber extraction, the Ministry of Forestry is making efforts for enabling the national entrepreneurs to run teak farming by their own.

Now, many tropical nations in the world are establishing teak plantations as they can achieve commercial success on a large scale through teak industry. Out of the world's total area of 14 million acres of teak plantations, 92 per cent is in the tropical regions of Asia, five per cent in Africa and three per cent in southern and central parts of America.

India is establishing around 120,000 more acres of teak plantations every year with the participation of private companies. Java Island of Indonesia has about 250,000 acres of teak plantations and 20-year-old teak trees are extracted there. In Thailand, out of over 1.9 million acres to teak plantations, about 500,000 acres are private-run plantations, and the number of acres of private-owned teak plantations is on the increase. Nowadays, log cabins built of medium size stems of teak trees are popular, and teak trees aged 15

to 20 years are harvested. In Costa Rica are private-owned teak plantations, and 15 years after planting teak saplings, an acre of teak trees fetches about US\$ 93,840.

Myanmar has founded teak plantations since the year 1700 and launched teak plantations through high-land planting methods in Bago Yoma mountain ranges in 1856. The Forest Department has expanded the scope of afforestation of teak plantations with speed since 1980. Including the special teak plantations founded in 1998, the number of teak plantation acres has reached more than 830,000 up to 2004.

Teak thrives in the regions at an altitude of less than 3,000 feet. It grows naturally in the southern part of Kachin State, watershed areas of Chindwin and Ayeyawady Rivers, Shan State, Magway Division, Bago Yoma, Mon State, Kayin State, Taninthayi Division and upper Ayeyawady Division. It can grow in the

Those wishing to make investments in the private teak industry can earn foreign currency by getting permission and agricultural methods from the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry and they may contact the department for further details.

regions with an average annual rainfall of 26 to 120 inches, and especially it thrives in the plains, mountain ranges that rise or fall gradually, and slopes of mountains with an average annual rainfall of 50 to 70 inches. It grows well in sandy and alluvial soil consisting highly of calcium. Teak is found mostly in evergreen forests and deciduous forests, and also found in some indaing forests.

In forming private-owned teak plantations, such crops as paddy, groundnut, green gram and tomato

should be grown on the space among the teak trees. That contributes earning extra money and the growth of teak trees. And it can create job opportunities for local people.

In a bid to conserve natural teak forests, form teak plantations and ensure systematic timber extraction, the Ministry of Forestry will grant permission to national entrepreneurs to establish teak plantations and export teak in accord with rules and regulations of the forestry policy issued in 1995 so as to maximise production of forest products without inflicting any effect on the existence of teak forests.

With the funds of the 17 companies that have operated timber extraction in cooperation with the Myanma Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Forestry since 2004-2005, a total of 3,050 acres of teak plantations have been established in Bago, Magway and Sagaing Divisions and Shan State (North). In Myanmar, the cost of forming an acre teak plantation is K 50,000, and after 25 years, it is expected to earn more than US\$ 50,000.

Those granted permission to run teak industry have to pay K 1,000 per acre for insurance premium, and K 500 per acre for rent a year, and 25 per cent of the produce or turnover to the ministry. And they are to form and nurture teak plantations and extract teak trees in line with the regulations. After paying taxes to the ministry, the entrepreneurs can export extracted teak. Out of those who have applied for the industry, priority, will be given to local people. And those granted permission may enjoy the right to hand down the teak plantations to their posterity during the granted period.

Those wishing to make investments in the private teak industry can earn foreign currency by getting permission and agricultural methods from the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry and they may contact the department for further details.

Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 3-4-2005
Translation: MS

ADVERTISEMENTS

INVITATION TO TENDER

(Tender No. 1(T)MPE/HSD(1)/2005-2006)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of (9,000±10%) Metric Tons H.S.D (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
2. Tender closing Date (19-4-2005) at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (4-4-2005) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.
4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

**Managing Director,
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise**

Chirac to meet with Iranian, Algerian President

PARIS, 2 April — French President Jacques Chirac is to meet next Tuesday with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika at an international conference at the Headquarters of UNESCO, local media reported on Friday.

According to media reports, Chirac's talks with Khatami over nuclear issue are expected to be held on Tuesday afternoon at the French presidential Elysee Palace.

France, Germany and Great Britain have opened negotiations with Iran in order to obtain Teheran's commitment to stop its uranium enrichment activities in exchange for cooperation in trade, technology and security. The United States suspects Teheran of developing atomic weapons.

President Khatami affirmed Wednesday that Iran was always intending to resume uranium enrichment that is suspended today and it is ready to accept only a temporary limitation of this activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Belgian Prime Minister leaves hospital after heart operation

BRUSSELS, 2 April — Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt left hospital on Friday after undergoing a heart operation, the *Belgian* news agency reported.

He left the university hospital in Ghent in western Belgium Friday morning after doctors there advised him to stop smoking, the report said.

"I was only an occasional smoker," the Prime Minister told reporters before adding that he would now give up tobacco altogether.

Verhofstadt is expected to return to work next week and has been told that he can begin cycling again in around two weeks. On Wednesday, doctors used a "stent" to unblock one of Verhofstadt's arteries. He cut short his holiday in Italy earlier this week after suffering from chest pains. — *MNA/Xinhua*

KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines inaugurates flight to Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, 3 April — Ethiopia said on Friday the launching of a scheduled flight by KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines to Addis Ababa will create conducive situation for the growing trade relations between Ethiopia and Holland.

"As more investment-oriented businesses are booming in Ethiopia, KLM's arrival here is just on time," said Haile Assegedie, State Minister of Infrastructure, while inaugurating a flight of KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines.

He said businessmen from all parts of the world with vested interest in Ethiopia or those using Addis Ababa as a connection point, will benefit from the new flight.

For carriers like the KLM, a scheduled flight to Addis Ababa has very many advantages, he said.

The Ethiopian Airlines has been flying to Amsterdam since the signing of bilateral air service agreement between the two countries in 2001.

Rob Vermaas, Ambassador of Holland to Ethiopia, on his part, said the scheduled flight was significant to strengthen floriculture export trade in Ethiopia.

The bilateral relations have tremendously increased particularly after the involvement of Dutch investors in horticulture development activities in Ethiopia, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Ma Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for PHARMACIA
ITALIA S.p.A.,
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 4 April 2005

Russia offers aid to quake-hit Indonesia

MOSCOW, 2 April — Russia will soon join international relief efforts in the earthquake-hit Sumatra Island of Indonesia by sending rescuers and providing a field hospital there, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday. "The Russian Embassy in Jakarta is taking necessary measures to organize this humanitarian operation," spokesman Alexander Yakovenko was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

"Russian diplomats were sent to the city of Medan where aircraft of the Ministry of Emergency Situations will arrive," Yakovenko said. "They (the aircraft) will help immediately transport the rescuers to the disaster region." Indonesia has provided full support and assistance in preparations for assembling the field hospital, Yakovenko said.

MNA/Xinhua



Chirac calls for int'l aid for water programme in Africa

PARIS, 2 April — French President Jacques Chirac on Friday called on international community to mobilize to help a water programme of 14 billion dollars in Africa.

In his message to the international forum on water, read by former IMF head Michel Camdessus, personal representative of the French President for Africa, Chirac said the forum in Paris marked the first mobilization.

This mobilization should allow the coordination of the donor countries and African countries to improve aid efficiency and finance the water programme in Africa, he said.

The African Development Bank (ADB) launched in March 2004 an initiative to help 300 million African people to have access to water and sanitation from now to 2015. The cost of the programme was estimated at 14 billion dollars in ten years.

According to Chirac, the inaction is not only a moral scandal, but also an economic absurdity. The cost of the nowadays situation in the fields of health,

education and food is as high as 22 billion dollars per year.

Africa is rich in water resources, but their utility remains extremely low. Agriculture, household and industry use only represent 3 per cent of the continent's resources, according to ADB. Only 47 per cent of African people have access to potable water, against the average of 71 per cent in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Canada grants Kenya \$12m to bolster good governance, education

NAIROBI, 2 April — The Canadian Government on Thursday granted Kenya 821 million shillings (about 12 million US dollars) to support universal education and strengthen governance.

The funding which will be spread over the next four years is aimed at improving democratic governance by enhancing capacity, transparency and accountability of the East African nation, said Canadian envoy Jim Wall.

Speaking during the signing of the memorandum of understanding with Kenyan Finance Minister David Mwiraria in Nairobi, Wall said his country was committed to the Millennium Development Goals which aim to ensure all children access

to free and compulsory primary education of good quality by 2015.

"Today Canada is pledging continued, carefully targeted support for projects that will build the foundation of promised reform and help to alleviate the devastating poverty that blocks the future Kenya deserves," the envoy said.

Mwiraria said the fund for the free primary education will be utilized to procure instructional materials to primary schools and in printing of

teachers' handbooks for the revised curriculum.

He said the support to Kenya's democratic governance will form additional funding to the ongoing Justice, Law and Order Sector Reform Programme.

"The government has taken very concrete measures to put into place the necessary legal and institutional framework to effectively fight against corruption and to create a culture of good governance and ethics," the Finance Minister said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Russia says not to interfere in Kyrgyzstan's internal affairs

MOSCOW, 2 April — Russia made it clear on Thursday that it will not interfere in Kyrgyzstan's internal affairs but will offer aid to the Central Asian country.

Russia "does not interfere in Kyrgyzstan's internal political affairs", Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Alexander Yakovenko was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

"Moscow wants political processes in that country to be legitimate," Yakovenko told a Press briefing. "We are in constant touch with people who participate in the political process in Kyrgyzstan."

Meanwhile, in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, Russian Deputy Emergency Situations Minister Yury Brazhnikov, who flew

in to assess Kyrgyzstan's needs for aid, said Russia is ready to chip in with aid, particularly with the spring sowing season and the clean-up of natural disasters, the Interfax news agency reported.

"We have assessed your needs and our capacities and will report to our administration, which will decide on the amount of assistance to Kyrgyzstan," he told his hosts in Bishkek.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria cracks down on banditry

ABUJA, 2 April — Nigeria's police have made marked achievements in combating banditry in the past two months, a high-ranking police officer said here Thursday.

In a statement issued in the capital Abuja, Nigeria's Acting Inspector-General of Police Sunday Ehindero said the success "are due to the actualization of the new management's 10-points programme of action".

He said the emphasis of the programme was "effective crime prevention and control through intelligence-led police" and "combating violent and economic crimes". — *MNA/Xinhua*

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US researchers develop more efficient fuel cell

LOS ANGELES, 2 April — A new high temperature fuel cell may increase "well-to-wheel" fuel cell efficiency, US researchers reported in a new study in 1 April issue of journal Science.

Although only demonstrated on a small scale, the cells could lead to cost-effective, clean and efficient electrical-power sources for applications ranging from aircraft to homes, scientists projected confidently. This modified fuel cell allows excess fuel cell heat to drive the hydrocarbon-to-hydrogen reaction necessary to generate the hydrogen used to make electricity.

In the past, carbon build up or "coking" on nickel anodes within fuel cells prevented scientists from taking advantage of the energy efficient practice of using fuel cell heat to "reform" hydrocarbons into

hydrogen.

But in the new fuel cell, a Ruthenium and Cerium "reformer layer" covering the anode converts hydrocarbons to hydrogen without depositing carbon on the anode, said Scott Barnett, professor at Northwestern University who led the research.

When placed over the anode, the new reforming layer produced hydrogen from a high purity hydrocarbon fuel similar to gasoline called "iso-octane." The fuel cells achieve power densities of 0.3 to 0.6 watts per square centimeter.

"A hydrogen economy is not a perfectly clean system," said Barnett in a Press

release. "You have to process fossil fuels at a plant to produce hydrogen fuel as well as develop an infrastructure to get that fuel into vehicles.

We have bypassed these technological hurdles by basically bringing the hydrogen plant inside and pairing it with a high-temperature fuel cell in one compact unit that has a fuel efficiency of up to 50 per cent."

Higher fuel efficiencies mean less precious fuel is consumed and less carbon dioxide, a greenhouse-effect gas related to global warming, is produced, the researchers said.

MNA/Xinhua



A disease control and prevention worker sprays disinfectant in a field in Huai'an, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 2 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Estonian President names Andrus Ansip as new PM

RIGA, 2 April — Estonian President Arnold Fyodorovich Ruutel on Thursday named Reform Party leader Andrus Ansip as the next prime minister, said news reports from Tallinn, capital of the former Soviet republic.

Ansip is expected to come up with plans for a coalition government which would also include the People's Union Party and the Centre Party.

Such a coalition will have 52 seats in the 101-seat Parliament. Earlier Thursday, the Reform Party said the three parties would garner a majority in the Parliament.

If the Parliament rejects Ansip's Cabinet, then it will appoint a new prime minister to form a government.

The government led by Juhan Parts resigned on March 24 after a no-confidence vote of the Parliament against his Justice Minister Ken-marti Vaher who proposed an

anti-corruption programme.

Ansip, 48, was economic and communications minister of the previous government.

MNA/Xinhua

Briton sentenced in jail for threatening to taint baby food in US

LOS ANGELES, 2 April — A British national who threatened to put tainted baby food in the stores of a California supermarket chain was sentenced on Friday to five years behind bars.

David Dickinson, living in Los Angeles, tried to extort 180,000 US dollars from Ralphs Grocery Co. by threatening to put tempered baby food in its stores in 2004.

US District Judge Dean Pregerson, calling it a "villainous act", ordered Dickinson to serve two more years in federal prison than prosecutors had recommended in a plea bargain.

"I think it's a villainous act, a close cousin to terrorism," the judge told the 43-year-old defendant, a onetime smog check sta-

tion employee who was living in a Los Angeles apartment at the time of his arrest last year.

"You acted to threaten the food supply of many, many people, and you created, I am sure, a level of genuine panic among the people at Ralphs," he said.

The judge described the plan — in which a box of contaminated food was mailed to the Ralphs Grocery Co corporate office, followed by a letter demanding 180,000 US dollars — as sophisticated.

Dickinson admitted sending the contaminated

items — a jar of Gerber carrots that contained glass splinters, a can of baby orange juice that was 50 percent hydraulic fluid, and a can of Similac infant formula and a jar of horseradish, both containing boric acid — to Ralphs' corporate office in Compton in February 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

France promises aid for African water programme

PARIS, 2 April — France is to give another 40 million euros (52 million US dollars) for the

African Development Bank (ADB)'s water and sanitation initiative in Africa, French Finances Minister Thierry Breton said on Friday at an international forum of water in Paris.

The initiative, which costs 14 billion US dollars and was launched in July 2004, aims at giving access to potable water and sanitation to 80 percent of African people by 2015. At the same time, France promised to provide with its expertise in water service to African countries, including technology transfer and aid to local people in the main sectors of sanitation, access for underprivileged people and resources management, Breton said. — MNA/Xinhua

Pope John Paul II passes away

ROME, 3 April — Pope John Paul II died on Saturday at the age of 84, the Vatican announced.

The pope, hospitalized twice in February for flu-induced breathing difficulties, laryngitis and other complications, died in Vatican City after suffering heart and kidney failure.

John Paul was born on 18 May, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. He was educated at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland, and at the Angelicum in Rome.

He was ordained priest in 1946, became titular bishop in 1958, and later served as vicar-general, vicar and archbishop of the Archdiocese of Cracow.

He was created cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1967. In October 1978, he was elected Pope, the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

In the last days of the pope's life, the Catholic Patriotic Association of China and the Chinese Catholic Bishops College extended good wishes for his health. — MNA/Xinhua

Fire leaves 800 homeless in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 2 April — A fire on Friday destroyed 300 makeshift houses in which 800 poor people lived in the northeastern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon.

The incident erupted in a garbage dump near the town of Santa Catarina and was spread by wind. So far there have been no victims reported.

The director of Municipal Civil Protection, Jorge Vargas, said it took the firemen more than three hours to put out the fire.

The victims have been lodged in a gymnasium where they were supplied with blankets and food, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



A monarch butterfly lands on a yellow daisy in Pt Loma near San Diego, Calif on 31 March, 2005. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Kenyan runners win Prague half-marathon

PRAGUE, 3 April—Silas Kirui of Kenya won the Prague half-marathon on Saturday, setting a new track record of 1:01:07 hour.

His countrymen Stanley Kipkosgei Salil and last year's winner Joseph Kiprotich Ngeny ended second and third.

Two of the three medals in the women's category also went to Kenya. Gold medal was won by Susan Kirui and silver medal went to Jennifer Chesinon Lungakwiang (both Kenya). Bronze went to Czech runner Jana Klimesova.

Czech President Vaclav Klaus started the 21.97-kilometre run in Prague centre on Saturday noon. The track started on Charles Bridge and traditionally ended on Kampa island.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to host AFC President Cup

KATHMANDU, 3 April—The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has decided to hold its President Cup tournament on May 4-14 in Nepal's capital Kathmandu, a sport official said here on Saturday.

"The AFC sent two member inspection team to assess the security situation of Kathmandu, and the AFC gave the 'go ahead' after reviewing the team's report," Ganesh Thapa, president of All Nepal Football Association (ANFA), told reporters.

The league champions of the 'C' category countries and regions of Asia, including Nepal, Bhutan, Taibei, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Pakistan, will take part in the tournament.

"The winner will get 50,000 US dollars, while the runners-up will get 25,000 dollars," Thapa added.

Previously, the AFC had decided to hold the tournament in December last year in Kathmandu, but it was postponed due to security reasons.—MNA/Xinhua

Over 1,000 athletes to run 16th Santiago Int'l Marathon

SANTIAGO, 3 April—Over 1,000 athletes from all over the world will take part in the 16th Santiago International Marathon, to be held on 10 April along the main streets of this capital.

Among the participants is the winner of the 2004 race, Eugenio Galaz, as well as Leonidas Rivadeneira, Erwin Valdebenito and Marlene Flores.

There will also be athletes from Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, England, Finland, France, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland, Spain and the United States.

The race will start at O'Higgins Park at eight and the finish line is in the same park.

The competition includes three categories, the principal one being the Santiago International Marathon (42.195 kilometers). Then come the 21-kilometre and 11-kilometre races.—MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

S	S	P	B	B	U	Y	E	R
T	A	P	E	S	T	R	Y	P
A	A	A	O	F	R	A	I	L
I	N	S	O	L	E	N	T	I
N	M	M	Z	A	S	K	E	W
M	S	D	E	E	I	N		
K	I	P	P	E	R	L	U	N
N	U	Y	A	M	G	E		
F	I	E	R	Y	N	M	T	H
M	I	A	S	P	E	R	I	T
M	I	N	O	R	W	R	M	E
S	U	D	E	R	I	S	I	O
M	E	S	S	Y	R	T	D	A

Chelsea beat Southampton 3-1 to move within three wins of title

LONDON, 3 April—Chelsea continued their seemingly relentless march with a comfortable 3-1 win at Southampton, closing to within three victories of their first title for 50 years.



Eidur Gudjohnsen (L) of Chelsea shoots past Claus Lundekvam (R) of Southampton during their Premiership match at St Mary's in Southampton. Gudjohnsen scored two goals in the game which Chelsea won 3-1.—INTERNET

Meanwhile the second-ranked Manchester United was held by Blackburn to a goalless Old Trafford draw which leaves the champions-elect Chelsea with a 13-point lead at the Premiership summit, and requiring only nine more points from their remaining seven games to clinch the title.

The Blues went two goals up thanks to a deflected Frank Lampard free-kick and a close range Eidur Gudjohnsen shot after Glen Johnson drove through the Saints defence.

Although Southampton pulled one back through substitute Kevin Phillips it was left to Gudjohnsen to grab his second and move Chelsea a step closer to claiming the league trophy.

Blackburn picked up a precious point at Old Trafford to all but end United's faint hopes of catching Chelsea

at the top of the table. United wasted several chances and Blackburn were indebted to Brad Friedel for making a number of top class saves.

More bad news for United is that Ryan Giggs pulled a hamstring and will probably miss the FA Cup semi-final against Newcastle in two weeks.

Thierry Henry marked his return to action for Arsenal with a brilliant hat-trick in the 4-1 win over Norwich to move The Gunners into second spot above Manchester United.

The Frenchman struck twice in three first half minutes to put Arsenal in firm control.

Darren Huckerby pulled a goal back on the half hour mark with a fine individual effort, but Freddie Ljungberg restored the two-goal cushion five minutes after the break and Henry completed his hat trick on 66 minutes to compound another miserable day for struggling Norwich.

Newcastle endured a bad day as they were beaten 3-0 by Aston Villa as St James' Park and ended the game with just eight men with Lee Bowyer and Kieron Dyer getting marching orders for fighting each other in bizarre circumstances.

Juan Pablo Angel broke the deadlock on five minutes, capitalizing on some poor defending from the home side.

Newcastle were reduced to ten men on 73 minutes when Steven Taylor was sent off for deliberate handball and from the resulting penalty Gareth Barry fired past Shay Given.

Villa made the game safe three minutes later when Barry scored his second penalty of the day.

Matters got worse for Newcastle minutes later when Bowyer and Dyer became involved in a scuffle with each other and were sent off.—MNA/Xinhua

Clijsters wins title in Miami from remarkable return

WASHINGTON, 3 April—Belgium's Kim Clijsters beat Maria Sharapova 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the Nasdaq-100 Open at Key Biscayne in Miami, earning her another title in her remarkable return from a career-threatening wrist injury.

The tournament was just the third in Clijsters' latest comeback from the injury, which required surgery and forced her to miss much of last year. But she has won 14 consecutive matches, including the Indian Wells title two weeks ago, and beat six top-10 players in her last nine matches.

The former world number one earned her first Key Biscayne title and became the first unseeded woman to win the tournament.

Sharapova will remain at number three, behind world number one Lindsay Davenport of the US and France's Amelie Mauresmo.

The Belgian was helped in the final by two rain delays, the first coming after just three games and lasting 54 minutes and the second disrupting play briefly at the start of the second set.—MNA/Xinhua

Alonso wins provisional pole for Bahrain F1 Grand Prix

MANAMA, 3 April—Championship leader Fernando Alonso of Spain won the provisional pole position for the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix here on Saturday.

The Spaniard, who will chase Renault's third pole, third win in three races this season, completed the Sakhir circuit in one minute 29.848 seconds.

Toyota's Jarno Trulli placed second, ahead of seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher of Ferrari.

The decisive final session is on Sunday, with grid positions decided by aggregate times.

"It has been a good weekend again, I had no problems in the car at all," said Alonso, who won the last race in Malaysia and has 16 points to Schumacher's two. Winning 15 of last year's 18 grands prix, Ferrari has rushed its new F2005 into action two races ahead of schedule to try and limit Renault's early advantage.—MNA/Xinhua

Italy halts sports out of respect for dying Pope

ROME, 3 April—All sports competitions in Italy, including Serie A soccer, have been suspended out of respect for Pope John Paul, who is on the brink of death, the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) said on Saturday.

"In light of the latest health bulletins which indicate that the Holy Father's death is inevitable and imminent, and to respect the feelings of athletes, coaches, managers and fans... I have invited all sports federations to immediately suspend activities," said CONI head Giovanni Petrucci.

Planned Serie A fixtures on Saturday were Fiorentina versus Juventus, Lazio versus Livorno, Bologna versus Inter Milan and AC Milan versus Brescia.

On Sunday, matches planned were Atalanta versus Chievo Verona, Cagliari versus Sampdoria, Lecce versus Siena, Palermo versus Messina, Reggina versus Parma and Udinese versus AS Roma.—MNA/Xinhua

Maradona arrives in Argentina to take part in two parties

BUENOS AIRES, 3 April—The biggest idol of Argentine soccer, Diego Maradona, arrived on Saturday at the capital of his country, Buenos Aires, to celebrate the centennial of his beloved team Boca Juniors and the 18th birthday of his daughter Dalma.

Maradona, who retired from soccer eight years ago, in 1997, Saturday will be the protagonist in the "Dinner of the Centennial" with the task of putting out the 100 little candles that will decorate the cake of the celebration, although he will receive help from other guests.

The former soccer star, 43, will also participate in the celebration of the 18th birthday of Dalma at Buenos Aires, according to press reports.—MNA/Xinhua

Opening of Hpa-an Technological College the establishment of...

(from page 7)

So, more universities and colleges have been opened across the country. Only when knowledge of national citizens improves, can they distinguish between right and wrong, and they can build their own way of life that is compatible with genuine democracy, the Prime Minister added. In addition, they can implement the democratic transition programme laid down by the government from the good point of view. All in all, those responsible are to make the fully accredited Hpa-an Technological College in



Ma Su Myat Aung a second year B-Tech student of Government Technological College (Hpa-an) expresses thanks. —MNA

order to produce highly-qualified human resources essential for building a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.



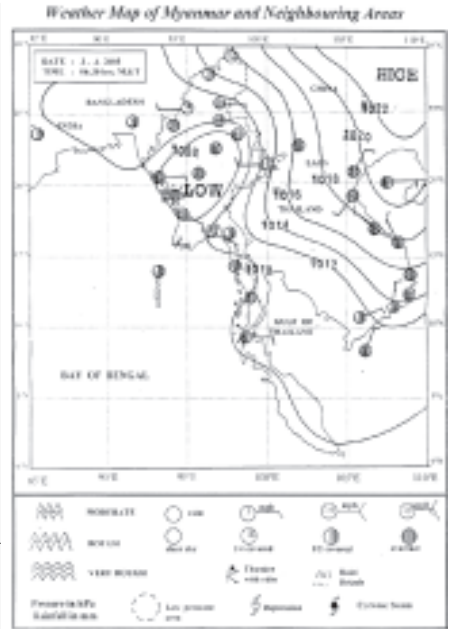
The 19th respect-paying ceremony, prize-distribution and annual general meeting of Chauk Township Association (Yangon) took place on 3-4-2005 at the Dhammayon of the Supreme Court on Shwedagon Gyatawya Road. Patron of the Association Daw Khin Than Myint presents a prize to Ma Phyu Phyu Khin who passed matriculation exam with flying colours.— MNA

mentary photo in front of the building. Next, they viewed learning of students with teaching aids in computer room, e-library and language lab. The GTC (Hpa-an) with one lecture hall, one three-storey

building and one four-storey lecture building was built on an area of 35.19 acres near Yetha village of Hpa-an Township, which includes 49 rooms and it has produced 738 graduate students till now. MNA



New three-storey building of Hpa-an Technological College. — MNA



WEATHER

Sunday, 3 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (6°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division and (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, Magway, Shwegyin and Tharrawady (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 2-4-2005 was 104°F. Minimum temperature on 3-4-2005 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-4-2005 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 2-4-2005 was (8.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 3-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.54 inches) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 2-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-4-2005: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon 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 slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 01:00 hours MST on Today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about (200) miles East of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (23) hrs (53) min (34) sec MST on 2nd April 2005.



Monday, 4 April
View on today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းထွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မေယျာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မေယျာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓာတ်ကတိပိဋကဓရ၊ မေဃာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- Song of yesteryears

8:00 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

- ကချင်ပြည်နယ်နီးကောင်းတံတား

8:20 am

- ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- Practice in reading

4:45 pm

- Musical programme

5:00 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ညှာရေး ဖုန်မြိုင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

5:15 pm

- လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတလေး

5:25 pm

- International news

5:35 pm

- Song and Dance of national races

5:45 pm

- Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar

Modern Music Troupe)

5:55 pm

- ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

6:10 pm

- Discovery

6:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဗျောက်ဗင်ဂူရုန်း" (အပိုင်း-၈)

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- စည်းကမ်းထိန်းပါ မြန်မာ့နီးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုမဟာသင်္ကြန်ပြတော်မူ

7:25 pm

- Musical programme

7:35 pm

- Industrial Achievement

7:45 pm

- Musical programme

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

21. Weather report

- နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဟောမာန်ဆောင်း၏ချစ်သံစဉ်" (အပိုင်း-၅)

23. The next day's programme

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

Senior General Than Shwe inspects development of Myeik



Senior General Than Shwe paying homage to Buddha image at Laygyun Hsimee Pagoda.

MNA

YANGON, 3 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, (See page 9)

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win to pay official visits to LPDR, SRV & Cambodia

YANGON, 4 April — At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Bounhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win will pay official visits to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia in the near future.—MNA

Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh and party of Vietnam arrive to pay goodwill visit

YANGON, 3 April — At the invitation of 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, Chief of General Staff Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh and party

of the Vietnamese People's Army of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam arrived here by air at 5.45

pm today to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar. They were welcomed at the airport by Vice-Chair-

man of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Serv-

ices Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye. Also present on the

occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council (See page 10)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Chief of General Staff of Vietnamese Army Senior Lieutenant-General Phung Quang Thanh at the airport.— MNA

INSIDE

In forming private-owned teak plantations, such crops as paddy, groundnut, green gram and tomato should be grown on the space among the teak trees. That contributes to earning extra money and the growth of teak trees. And it can create job opportunities for local people.

DR NYI NYI KYAW
(FORESTRY RESEARCH)
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