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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Rakhine State has seen better transport with emergence of more roads and bridges Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance on implementation of hydel power projects in Thandwe region

YANGON, 17 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe heard reports on hydel power projects to be implemented in Thandwe region, Rakhine State presented by the Minister for Electric Power and officials, at the hall of Annawa Yeiktha in Thandwe, yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were Members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe

Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

First, Director-

General U Win Kyaw of Hydro-electric Power Department reported on construction tasks, land, hydrological and geological survey and basic design tasks for Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project and An Creek Hydel Power Project to be implemented in Thandwe and An regions, facts about the projects and prospects of project-wise power production.

Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin

Senior General Than Shwe to attend Asian-African Summit 2005

YANGON, 18 April— At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe will attend the Asian-African Summit 2005 and the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asia-Africa Conference to be held in Indonesia.—MNA

Arrangements are to be made for implementation of Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project, An Creek Hydel Power Project and Kyeintali Hydel Power Project for Thandwe, Taungup and Gwa townships, southern part of Rakhine State.

Htut, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave supplementary reports on assistance to be provided by the respective ministries.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported to the Senior General Than Shwe on arrangements to be made for implementing the hydel power projects throughout the country.

After hearing the

reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the government has been striving for sectoral development of the entire nation for over 10 years. As Rakhine State lagged behind in development in all aspects, it is necessary to manage sector-wise development of the state.

Rakhine State has seen better transport with the emergence of more roads and bridges which are indispensable for devel-

opment.

As such, the plan for the whole Rakhine State is to be laid down for supply of electricity that is one of the factors for its development.

Therefore, arrangements are to be made for implementation of Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project, An Creek Hydel Power Project and Kyeintali Hydel Power Project for Thandwe, Taungup and Gwa townships, southern part of Rakhine State.

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on implementation of hydel power projects throughout the country presented by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 18 April, 2005

Strive for prevalence of peace and tranquillity and national development

The State, the people and the Tatmadaw have been making concerted efforts for prevalence of peace and tranquillity and development across the Union. As a result, marked progress has been made in numerous sectors.

In an effort to bring about equitable development in all parts of the nation, systematic steps are being taken for improvement of all the sectors such as transport, economy, education and health in combination with the implementation of project for development of border areas and national races, the five rural development tasks and the 24 special development zone project.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 15 April met officers and other ranks and their families at Bandoola Hall of Sittway Station in Rakhine State and gave guidance.

He said that there are three main forces—the State, the people and the Tatmadaw—capable of bringing about the national development, adding that only when the trio make relentless efforts, will any difficulties be surmounted and the nation develop. It is incumbent upon the entire national people to strive in unity for national development under the leadership of the government.

Peace, tranquillity and national development and building of a strong and modern Tatmadaw are interrelated. Only when there is a strong and capable Tatmadaw in the nation will the independence and sovereignty be safeguarded. As the Tatmadaw has been born of the people it is actively and enthusiastically engaged in nation-building endeavours.

Under the leadership of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are to make efforts in all seriousness for all-round development. Appreciable success can be achieved as much as service personnel and local people can exert efforts in earnest. As the nation is rich in natural resources there will be progress if the service personnel and local people make strenuous efforts based on initiative and innovation.

Since the government has created all the necessary infrastructures for national development, a modern and developed nation will soon emerge if the entire national people play their respective roles with the nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

This being so, the people and the Tatmadaw, in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, are to strive in unity under the leadership of the government for national development.

ကျေးဇူးတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ

ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၁၂)ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးဇူး ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၅၆၀၈)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးဇူးကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသစာအုပ်များကို

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံး များသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်

ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

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

Donation made for Hninzigon Home for the Aged

YANGON, 17 April— Under the aegis of Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and wife Daw Myint Myint Aye, a donation ceremony of the family members of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries was held at Hninzigon Home for the Aged this morning.

First, staff and family members shampooed and manicured over 200 aged persons.

Next, members of the Sangha vested the congregation with the Nine Precepts. After explaining the purpose of the donation by Director-General U Kyaw Lwin, the Directors-General of the ministry offered provisions to members of the Sangha. U Maung Tin, Chairman of the Administration Board of the Home for the Aged, spoke words of thanks.

Next, members of the Sangha delivered sermons. Family members donated K 3,584,000 for the home through the Board of Trustees and offered 'soon' to the monks.

In the evening, the family members released fish into Kaba Aye Dagon Thiri Maha Lake.

MNA

POEM

May happiness for others' success be enhanced

- * In Thingyan period, there is merriment
In Myanmar custom, we visit monasteries and pagodas
Increase merit, most becoming
Brimming with urge to give
Everyone wearing smiles, two way they are
All these, we are
Myanmar traditions are lovable.
- * Myanmar waterfest, lovable occasion
Celebrated together, with Mekong residents
Our loving friends
Enjoying the merriment, no different
From the Myanmar, just as lovable.
- * O, in the Land of Myanmar
Because there is peace, inside Myanmar
During this waterfest, there is joy
And just as it is, in the region
Close friends, ever together
They can find happiness, that's correct
- * As it is today, showing to the world
What is in Myanmar, the exact position
The waterfest
If correctly seen, by the world around
Feeling happy for others, brims over
Your inner feelings, are vividly clear
May you all find happiness.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)

NPB holds 'soon' offering ceremony



Managing Director Col Soe Win and congregation receiving the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobana at a 'soon's offering ceremony of News and Periodicals Enterprise. — MNA

YANGON, 17 April— A ceremony to offer 'soon' to members of the Sangha on New Year Day was held at the head office of News and Periodicals Enterprise on Theinbyu Street this morning. The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha led by State Ovada Cariya Presiding Sayadaw of Pazundaung Township Myatheindan Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobana.

Also present were Managing Director of NPE Col Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Aye, Adviser U Tin Kha and officials.

First, Myatheindan Monastery Sayadaw vested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas and Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobana delivered a sermon. The congregation shared the merits gained.

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

Similarly 'soon' was offered to members of the Sangha and Parittas recited at Myanma Alin,

Kyemon and the New Light of Myanmar Dailies and sub-printing houses in Mandalay, Magway, Kalay, Sittway, Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Myitkyina.

MNA



Schoolhead U Maung Maung Myint Sunday presents a prize to Ma Thinza Soe, who passed the matriculation with 5 distinctions. — H

China, Nigeria agree to expand economic cooperation

BEIJING, 16 April — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Friday that China wants to expand economic cooperation with Nigeria to achieve common development.

During a meeting with Obasanjo, Wen suggested that the two countries improve cooperation in energy resources exploration, infrastructure construction and equipment manufacturing.

China and Nigeria set up full diplomatic ties in 1971. The trade volume between the two countries reached 2.18 billion US dollars in 2004. Nigeria is now China's second largest export market and fourth largest trade partner in Africa.

On Thursday, China and Nigeria signed five economic agreements covering investment, telecommunications

service, technological support and other areas.

Wen said China cherishes its traditional friendship with African countries. He highlighted the role of the China-African Cooperation Forum, saying it has become an effective mechanism to promote dialogue and cooperation between China and African countries.

He went on to say that China supports the development of the African Union and the implementation of the New Partnership for African Development.

Obasanjo, who is in China for a four-day state

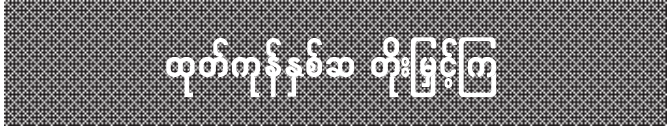
visit, said he was pleased with the strong growth of China-Nigeria economic cooperation.

He said he hoped that China would actively take part in the construction of Africa's infrastructure and support Africa within the framework of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum.

Obasanjo arrived in Beijing on Thursday morning as guest of Chinese President Hu Jintao. On Thursday Hu met with Obasanjo for several hours, agreeing to build a "strategic partnership" between the two countries.

This is Obasanjo's third visit to China since assuming the presidency in February 1999. He is now visiting China in the dual capacity of Nigerian President and rotating president of the African Union. After leaving Beijing, he will visit central China's Hubei Province and Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua



Malaysia Airlines jets seen on 15 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Malaysia to avoid military conflict with other countries

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 April — Malaysia has disputes with other countries but they do not have to end in military conflict, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak has said.

"There is no reason why a dispute should cause tension in a particular area. All countries should uphold the principles of negotiation and diplomacy, and (use) accepted means of settling disputes," Najib told reporters after opening an Armed Forces career exhibition in

Kuching, east Malaysia, on Friday.

Najib, who is also the Defence Minister, said any action which could cause a dispute or military conflict between any countries in this region must be avoided.

In this context, he said, orders had been issued to all Malaysian

security forces personnel to always respect the "rules of engagement" so as to prevent incidents such as a collision or shooting between two sides.

Last Friday, the Malaysian Navy's patrol vessel *KD Renchong* and Indonesian warship *Tedung Naga* "brushed" against each other in a disputed part of the Sulawesi Sea, leading to an exchange of protest notes between the two governments.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Thursday the Indonesian note called on Malaysia to withdraw from the area where national oil corporation Petronas has awarded two blocks for oil and gas exploration to international oil major Shell.

MNA/Xinhua

China supports Germany to play greater role in UN

BEIJING, 16 April — China supports Germany to play a greater role in the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang here on Thursday.

When asked to make comments on Germany's candidacy for a permanent seat at the Security Council, Qin said China is willing to maintain contact and consultations with Germany on the United Nations reforms. Germany is an important member of the European Union, and with adherence to peaceful development, Germany plays an active role in international affairs, which is acknowledged by the international community,

Qin said.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report on reforming the United Nations has been under discussion at the General Assembly. Qin said the UN reforms cover various fields and levels, and China supports reforms of the UN Security Council.

Qin said China believes that the priority of the Security Council reforms should be given to increasing the representation of developing countries. Views from all concerned parties should be taken into account in the discussion on the matter, and the reforms should be decided through consultation and with consensus, Qin said.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia's fish catch drops in 2004

PHNOM PENH, 16 April — Cambodia's fish catch plunged more than 10 per cent in 2004 because of low water levels in the Mekong River and illegal fishing, local media reported on Friday.

Last year's freshwater catch was 250,000 tons, over 26,000 tons less than that in 2003, according to the figures from an Agriculture Ministry report released earlier this week.

The report stated that fisheries officials intervened in about 2,500 cases of illegal freshwater fishing and 662 cases of illegal saltwater fishing.

More than 6,000 electric batteries, used to electrocute fish, and hundreds of thousands of metres of illegal fishing nets were seized and destroyed in the operation, the report said.

"Fish catches declined because of little water," *The Cambodia Daily* quoted Nao Thuok, director of the Agriculture Ministry's Fisheries Department, as saying.

Last year, the Mekong River dropped to its lowest level in Cambodia in a decade, according to scientific observers here. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Two Filipino workers wounded in mortar attack in Iraq

MANILA, 17 April — Two Filipino workers were wounded on Saturday in a mortar attack by suspected guerillas in Iraq while travelling on a road near Baghdad's airport, a government official said.

The workers, a male and a female, sustained minor injuries when their vehicle came under attack and both have been discharged from a hospital where they treated, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose Brillantes said.

"This is exactly what we have feared," Brillantes told ABS-CBN television. "That road is a favorite of rebels and

armed groups. There have been innumerable ambushes and suicide bombings there."

The government banned the deployment of workers to Iraq following a flare-up of violence there last year, but hundreds defied the ban and entered the country in search of jobs. There are currently about 6,000 Filipinos working in US military camps in Iraq,

mostly as maintenance workers and cooks.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the early withdrawal of a token Filipino peacekeeping contingent there, despite strong opposition from Washington, to secure the release of Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz, who was threatened with beheading by armed groups. — *Internet*



Nepalis take part in a rickshaw rally to mark the New Year in the Nepali capital Kathmandu on 14 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Obasanjo gets honorary doctorate from Beijing University

BEIJING, 17 April — Visiting Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Friday was awarded an honorary doctorate by China's prestigious Beijing University.

President of Beijing University Xu Zhihong said the doctor degree was awarded for Obasanjo thanks to his contribution to peace keeping and democracy.

China and Nigeria

have enjoyed long-term friendly relations, Xu said, hoping that Obasanjo's visit will further promote understanding and friendship between the two sides.

Obasanjo said he is

very glad to see great achievements made by Beijing University in research on Africa, hoping that Nigeria will also increase research on China.

He proposed to set up distant education between Nigeria and China, so that Nigerian students would learn Chinese language and culture in their country.

"China is a leading nation in the 21st Century," Obasanjo said. He said he hoped other African countries would also strengthen relations with China.

Obasanjo presented a copy of his book *This Animal Called Man* to Beijing University.

Obasanjo arrived in Beijing on Thursday morning for a four-day state visit to China as guest of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

This is Obasanjo's third visit to China since assuming the presidency in 1999.

He is now visiting China in the capacity of Nigerian President and rotating president of the African Union.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists seen walking past a Merlion statue in downtown Singapore recently.—INTERNET

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

HK spring electronics show attracts more exhibitors

HONG KONG, 16 April — More than 1,900 international exhibitors are showcasing new ideas, new technology, new designs and new products at the Hong Kong Electronics Fair — Spring Edition.

Opening on Thursday and running until 17 April at the Convention & Exhibition Centre, the event aims to reinforce Hong Kong's position as a regional electronics hub.

The fair was introduced in April last year as a complementary edition to the Trade Development Council's

(TDC) October electronics show. The show this year returns even bigger with 30 per cent more exhibitors.

Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce, Industry & Technology John Tsang, Chairman of council's Electronics & Electrical Appliances Advisory Committee

Allan Wong attended the opening ceremony.

The Chinese Mainland, Taiwan and South Korea — three world's electronics giants — have formed group pavilions to showcase their products and expertise.

Buyers can visit various new sections of the fair including digital imaging, healthcare electronics and electronic manufacturing services. There is also a display of audio and visual products, electronic accessories, personal electronics and home appliances.

Sixty buying missions from 38 countries and regions, representing 1,818 companies, will visit the fair, according to the TDC.

Hong Kong's exports of electronics rose 24 per cent in 2004 to 116.3 billion US dollars over 2003. While sales to the US edged up by 11 per cent, exports to the EU and Japan surged 28 per cent and 23 per cent. Sales to the Chinese Mainland, consisting mainly of parts and components, also rose 28 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepal hosts China Trade Fair

KATHMANDU, 16 April — China Trade Fair 2005, the first major trade fair of Chinese products in Nepal, kicked off here Friday to introduce quality products from China and the fast pace of China's development to the Nepali people.

The four-day trade fair on 15-18 April is co-organized by the Chinese Embassy to Nepal and Nepal-China Executives Council, a non-governmental and non-profit organization aimed at promoting trade, investment and exchanges between the two countries.

Leading products from a broad range of categories, including automobiles,

motorcycles, furniture, home appliances, electro-nic products, mobile phones and machinery, are showcased at the fair. Chinese investors interested in investing in hydro-electric projects and factories in Nepal are attending the fair, which also includes fashion show and food festival. The trade fair is being organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and China.—MNA/Xinhua

Manmohan Singh calls for peace, unity in South Asia

NEW DELHI, 17 April— Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called for a step-by-step approach to peace between India and Pakistan on Saturday night and said that the people of South Asia do not need further divisions but greater unity.

"The journey of peace must be based on a step-by-step approach, but the road must be travelled. As an ancient saying goes, a road is made by walking," the Prime Minister said in a speech at a banquet he hosted in honour of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who arrived here Saturday evening on a three-day visit.

"Mr President, let us travel together on this path to realize our shared vision of what the future holds for all of us," Manmohan Singh told Musharraf.

"Our people and our common destiny urge us to make an earnest attempt to find a lasting solution to all issues. In a globalizing and increasingly integrated world, borders have lost meaning for much of the world,"

the Prime Minister said.

"We cannot rewrite the past, but we can build a more secure future," he said. "The time has come

to find an enduring solution to all the problems between the two countries.

The people of our

countries need a positive outcome and must not remain trapped in a zero-sum situation."

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill three Iraq security force members in northern city

BAGHDAD, 17 April — Gunmen killed three members of Iraq's security forces on Saturday by firing from speeding vehicles at army soldiers and policemen in the northern city of Kirkuk, officials said.

The gunmen killed one policeman and two soldiers as they headed to work in two separate drive-by shootings, police Brig Sarhat Qadir said.

Further to the north, in Mosul, a car bomb damaged one vehicle in a US military convoy, but there were no reports of casualties, said Sgt John H Franzen. Mosul is 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

A Filipino contract

worker, Francisco Luz, was shot and injured Saturday in Baghdad, police and hospital officials said.

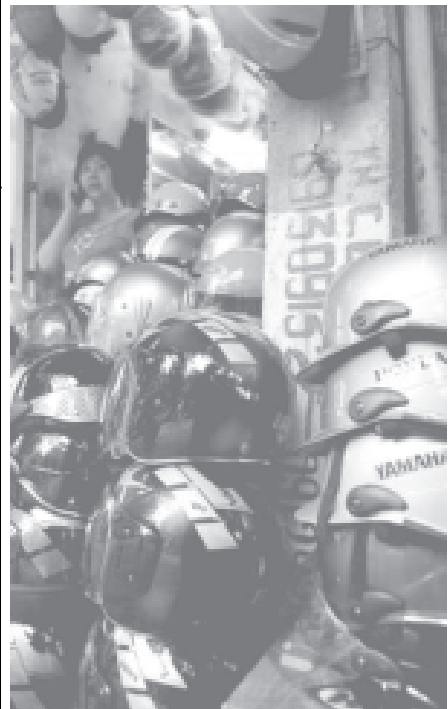
It was unclear if Luz was targeted or whether he was caught in crossfire.

The shootings came a day after an important Sunni cleric urged Iraq's new president to disregard US pressure and free thousands of suspected rebels, a sign the religious group most often

associated with the Iraqi insurgency might be willing to work with the new government.

If President Jalal Talabani "wants to begin a new page, he must first release those in jail. Secondly, there must be a full pardon," Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al-Samarrai, a cleric in the influential Sunni Association of Muslim Scholars, said during Friday prayers.

Internet



Vietnamese helmet seller displays helmets at her shop in Hanoi recently.—INTERNET

Japanese, Chinese lawmakers commit to bettering ties

Tokyo, 16 April — The Japanese and Chinese legislature leaders agreed on Thursday on the importance of bilateral relationship and hoped to make a headway in this regard.

At a time when the relationship was confronted with difficulties, it was significant for the legislative bodies to conduct direct dialogue and communication to enhance mutual understanding and respect and help improve ties, House of Representatives Speaker Yohei Kono said in talks with Lu Yongxiang, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress.

Kono said he hoped that the visit would be fruitful through construc-

tive dialogues.

Lu said the Chinese Government and people regard Japan as a crucial neighbour and attach great importance to the bilateral friendly relationship.

If both sides commit to addressing the mutual concerns in a strategic perspective, the current rift would be overcome and the ties move forward, Lu said.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of China's victory over the Japanese militarist aggression. To further develop

the ties, the two sides were supposed to sincerely review the history and face up to challenges in the spirit of taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future, Lu noted. Lu is heading a lawmaker delegation on an eight-day visit here to initiate an exchange mechanism between the legislative bodies.

MNA/Xinhua

Tourists splash water to local Thai youngsters as they celebrate the Songkran, a Thai New Year festival, in downtown Hat Yai, southern Thailand, on 13 April, 2005. INTERNET



Musharraf urges India, Pakistan to seize opportunity for peace

NEW DELHI, 17 April — Visiting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf urged India and Pakistan to seize the "unique opportunity" to address all bilateral issues, including Kashmir, Saturday night.

"We need to seize this unique opportunity to address all our bilateral issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," Musharraf said in a statement on his arrival here.

The Pakistani President started his three-day visit by praying for peace between the two

countries at the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti in Ajmer in India's west state of Rajasthan.

"I hope that my meetings with the Indian leadership over the next two days would help both countries strengthen and invigorate the

peace process to fulfil our historic responsibility to settle disputes and build a better future for the coming generations," the statement said.

"The composite dialogue as well as the peo-

ple to people contacts in the last 15 months have created a huge constituency of goodwill in both countries and led to an improved political environment," it said.

MNA/Xinhua

China hopes Obasanjo's visit to advance Sino-Nigerian ties

BEIJING, 16 April — Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang said here on Thursday that China hopes Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo's current visit to China can further advance Sino-Nigerian relations.

Qin briefed Obasanjo's ongoing visit at a routine news conference. Invited by Chinese President Hu Jintao, President Obasanjo arrived here Thursday morning for a four-day state visit to China.

Obasanjo is visiting China in the capacity of both the Nigerian President and rotating president of the African Union, said Qin. During his visit, Obasanjo will confer with Chinese leaders on bilateral relations, Sino-African cooperation and international and regional issues of common concern, and the two sides will also sign some cooperation documents.

Besides Beijing, Obasanjo will also travel to central Hubei Province

and Shanghai metropolis in east China. Commenting on Sino-African relations, Qin said it has made great achievements in recent years. China and African countries kept frequent high-level visits and their trade and economic cooperation has been expanded.

The establishment of China-Africa Cooperation Forum in the Year 2000 has actively promoted mutual understanding and bilateral win-win cooperation, Qin acknowledged.

"China will, as always, expand its friendly cooperative relations with African nations on the basis of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence," the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing's population nears 15 million

BEIJING, 16 April — Beijing's population reached 14.93 million last year, 3.6 times that in 1949 when New China was founded, according to Beijing Municipal Statistics Bureau. The city's population has increased by 195,000 annually over the past 55 years.

The bureau said that Beijing saw slow growth of its population in the 1960s. During the period, the city's population rose

by only 45,000 annually. The city saw steady population growth in the period from 1979 and 1990. Its population reached 10.86 million in 1990, 2.1 million more than that in 1978. Beijing's population grew by 290,000 year on year in the 14-year period from 1991 to 2004. Migrant populations, or non-Beijing natives, accounted for 63 per cent of population growth in this period. — MNA/Xinhua

RNAC to change route in int'l flights

KATHMANDU, 16 April — The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) has permitted the Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) to change its route in international flights and sectors, the authority said on Thursday.

According to the authority, following the CAAN approval, the RNAC aircraft on a Kathmandu-Singapore/Kuala Lumpur flight will travel over Biratnagar and Dhaka instead of Janakpur and Kolkata.

Likewise, in its return flight from Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Bangkok to Kathmandu, the RNAC airplane will fly over Yangon and Dhaka instead of Kolkata.

The new route will shorten the route by nine nautical miles, allow the airplane to take greater height after entering the India airspace and provide it a longer travel time in the Nepali airspace, and this will enhance security with effective air control, it said. — MNA/Xinhua

Zambian Govt to subsidize fuel price

LUSAKA, 17 April — The Zambian Government has decided to set up a fuel stabilization fund and to build up strategic oil reserves in a bid to cushion the effect of rising oil prices on national economy.

Energy and Water Development Minister George Mpombo was quoted by Saturday's *Zambia Daily Mail* as saying that the proposed fund will absorb price increases to reduce the burden on the Zambian economy.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet last Monday, he said. The same meeting also

agreed to immediately begin process to build Zambia's strategic oil reserves.

He said the Zambian Government agrees with the International Monetary Fund that escalating oil prices are stifling developing economies, particularly African economies like Zambia.

Rising oil prices on the international market has forced the Energy Regulation Board of Zambia to raise domestic oil retail prices time and again over the past 12 months.

By the latest price hike, announced Thursday, petrol is now sold at 5,364 kwacha (about 1.14 US dol-

lars) per litre, diesel at 4,717 kwacha (about one dollar) per litre.

The Zambian Government started negotiations with Iran last year trying to secure a government agreement that would guarantee a reliable and cheaper oil supply to the southern African inland country, but the talks collapsed, Mpombo said.

Zambia then approached Libya which has given some developing countries a 3-per-cent price reduction, but the talks again collapsed due to objection of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Uighur tight-rope walker Aisikaier performs on wires in Xuanwuhu Park in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 16 April, 2005. Aisikaier plans to live on the wire for 37 days. He will spend nights in a makeshift shelter attached to the thick wire. — INTERNET

Rich nations urged to shoulder more duty in global eco growth

WASHINGTON, 17 April—The major industrial countries should assume the responsibility for global economic adjustment commensurate with their economic positions, Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China Li Ruogu said on Saturday.

In a statement made at the 11th meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Li Ruogu said that there are various risks that might affect stable global economic growth although the global economic growth has remained strong since last fall.

"In the near term, we need to pay close attention to three risks: disorderly adjustment to the US dollar exchange rate, sudden rise in long-term interest rates and further increases in oil prices," he said. He also said that the world economy continues to face challenges in medium term — poor fiscal conditions, slow progress on structural reforms for many countries and unbalanced economic growth across regions.

"These factors not only affect macroeconomic stability in the medium term but also create tremendous pressures for short-term economic trends," Li said.

The Chinese official called on all countries to strengthen their capacities for cooperation and dialogue and to join in striving to bring about global economic stability and prosperity.

The major industrial countries in particular should assume the responsibility in assuring the world economic growth, he said.

"They should avoid resorting to trade protections and sanctions, which will subvert, and possibly even ruin, the global production and trade systems just now taking shape after many difficulties," Li said.

To improve the sustainability of their domestic economies and the soundness of their economic policies, the main industrial countries should begin with fiscal consolidation, increase domestic savings and speed up structural reforms, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Indonesia's Mount Semeru volcano spews smoke in southeast of Surabaya, the capital of East Java, on 16 April, 2005. Indonesian scientist are monitoring nine volcanoes after a string of moderate earthquake caused rumbles on Java Island. Indonesia is a vast archipelago of some 17,000 islands that lies along the geologically active 'Pacific Ring of Fire' and has more than 100 active volcanoes. —INTERNET

Pakistan desires peaceful ties with India

ISLAMABAD, 17 April—Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, on Friday said Pakistan desires peaceful relations with India.

"An improvement in bilateral relations with India will not only be conducive to peace and stability but will also usher in an era of economic stability in the region," Bakhtyar was quoted as saying by the *News Network International* on the eve of President Musharraf's visit to India.

Pakistan enjoys extremely friendly and cordial relations with all countries in South Asia, he added.—MNA/Xinhua

Tanzanian President meets Chinese Defence Minister

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 17 April—Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa on Friday spoke highly of the friendly cooperation between Tanzania and China and between the military circles of the two countries.

Mkapa made the remark while meeting with visiting Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan.

The Tanzanian President also expressed his gratitude for the assistance and support China has offered to Tanzania for the past four decades.

He said that Tanzania supports China's newly-passed Anti-Secession Law and will as always support the "one China" principle and is in the hope of an early materialization of China's reunification.

Cao Gangchuan thanked President Mkapa for his contribution toward the friendly cooperation

between China and Tanzania and between the two armies.

The Chinese visitor said that the Sino-Tanzanian friendship has a profound basis and thanks to the attention given by the state leaders of the two countries, Sino-Tanzanian cooperation has been developing without a hitch and has registered a great deal of achievements.

Cao added that China attaches great importance to Sino-Tanzanian friendship and cooperation and that China will cooperate with Tanzania to further the bilateral relations.

MNA/Xinhua

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Japanese, Chinese lawmakers exchange opinions on relations

TOKYO, 17 April—Japanese and Chinese legislators have agreed over two days of talks held on Thursday and Friday in Tokyo on regular exchange of opinions on relations between the two countries.

At a time when Sino-Japanese relations are confronted with difficulties, it is significant that the legislative bodies of the two countries are conducting direct dialogue and communication to enhance mutual understanding and respect and help improve ties, the legislators agreed at the inaugural meeting of the Japan-China parliamentary exchange committee.

During the meeting, Japanese chief delegate Jiro Kawasaki, a House of Representatives member in charge of parliamentary operation, and

Chinese chief delegate Lu Yongxiang, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), also confirmed their common hope of continuing a strengthening of bilateral economic relations, promoting cooperation in energy and environment protection and increasing exchanges in culture, sports and youth activities.

The participants from Japan's House of Representatives and China's National People's Congress also shared the view

that they should play a part in reinforcing bilateral relations and mutual understanding.

They noted that if both sides commit to addressing the mutual concerns in a strategic perspective, the current rift would be overcome and the ties move forward.

To further develop the ties, the two sides are supposed to sincerely review the history and face up to challenges in the spirit of taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future.

The Japan-China parliamentary exchange committee is to meet once

Rhino census concludes in Nepal's National Park

BHARATPUR (Nepal), 17 April—The counting of one-horn rhinos, which was initiated last month in the Royal Chitwan National Park in mid-southern Nepal, concluded here on Friday.

"Results of the latest count, however, will be made public within a week," Shiv Raj Bhatta, chief conservation officer of the national park, told Xinhua.

A total of 125 persons and five elephants were mobilized to carry out the rhino census, which was assisted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation of Nepal, Bhatta said.

In Nepal, census of the rare beast is carried out every five years beginning

from 1990, he explained, adding, "In 1996, the number of one-horn rhinos in Nepal stood at 544, which increased to 612 in 2000."

The one-horn rhino, an endangered species, is also found in northern India and Bhutan.

Thanks to its rich adornment of nature, Royal Chitwan National Park, about 150 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, was declared UNESCO Natural Heritage Site in 1979.

MNA/Xinhua

to meet once a year in reciprocal visits based on an agreement last September in Beijing between Japan's House of Representatives Speaker Yohei Kono and Chairman of China's NPC Standing Committee Wu Bangguo on the need to hold regular exchanges between legislators of their countries.

Lu is heading a lawmaker delegation on an eight-day visit to Japan for the parliamentary talks and other exchange activities.

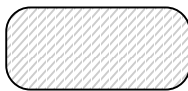
The Japanese team is represented by 11 Lower House members from five parties, including the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese villagers go to work at sunrise on a seaweed breeding base in Laobagang town, east of China's Jiangsu Province on 12 April, 2005.

INTERNET



Ugandan manufacturers reject hike in power tariffs

KAMPALA, 17 April — The Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) has slammed the new power tariffs, saying the increase would double the costs of production and also throw them out of business.

UMA chief Abid Alam made the remarks on Friday following a 24-per-cent increase in power tariffs which took effect this month.

According to the new rates, domestic consumers will pay 212.5 shillings (12.4 US cents) per kilowatt-hour, up from 171.4 shillings (10 cents) while commercial establishments will pay 204.4 shillings (11.9 cents) per kilowatt-hour up from 164 shillings (9.6 cents).

Alam said on Friday that they would reject the new power tariffs.

He appealed to the government to intervene,

saying that the increase would lead to a decline in exports and sales locally.

"The so-called providers made a haphazard decision before they even consulted us and we are their major customers.

This will have adverse effects on the manufacturing processes in costs of production.

This means that the prices of almost everything will go up because power is a primary inputs in the process," Alam was quoted by a local report as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria supports China's Anti-Secession Law

BEIJING, 17 April— China and Nigeria issued a joint communique Friday saying that "Nigeria supports China's efforts to reunify the nation, including the formulation of the Anti-Secession Law".

The communique was issued after Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in Beijing, who is paying a four-day state visit to China.

The communique says the two countries pledged to support each other on issues relating to sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Nigeria reaffirms that "there is only one China in the world".

The Chinese Government is "the only legitimate government representing the whole China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory", the communique says.

It also says China "expresses its appreciation" for Nigeria's position.

In the communique, the two countries expressed satisfaction with the achievements in their close cooperation in various fields since the establishment of diplomatic relations and indicated their readiness to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship through high-

level exchange of visits and people-to-people contacts.

Economic cooperation is also emphasized in the communique.

Both countries shared the view that China and Nigeria, highly complementary in economy, enjoy immense potential and broad prospects of cooperation.

They expressed readiness to cement cooperation in areas including trade, technology transfer, investment, Energy, railway, communications and manufacturing so as to achieve mutually beneficial and "win-win" results and common development.

The two sides have decided to set up an investment cooperation working group within the framework of their Joint Economic and trade Commission to facilitate both enterprises.

Obasanjo is now paying a state visit to China in the dual-capacity of Nigerian President and rotating president of the African Union.

MNA/Xinhua

S Africa, Mozambique signs a visa waiver agreement

JOHANNESBURG, 17 April — South Africa and Mozambique signed a visa waiver agreement in Pretoria on Friday, under which passport holders will from Monday be able to travel between the countries without visas.

South African President Thabo Mbeki and his Mozambican counterpart Armando Guebuza witnessed the signing of the agreement.

Guebuza's visit to South Africa is the first since his election as Mozambique's president. He succeeded Joaquim Chissano.

South African Home Affairs Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula said "the visa waiver pact is meant to encourage legal entry and to keep a proper record of people who come into our country".

She cosigned the agreement with her Mozambican counterpart Jose Pacheco, who believed the agreement would enhance relations between the two countries.

The agreement provides for Mozambicans and South Africans to

stay in either country for a period of up to 30 days without a visa. Passports are still required to gain entry to the countries.

South Africa currently has similar visa waiver agreements with Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius and Swaziland and has a 90-day stay agreement with Botswana.

Mapisa-Nqakula said although there were no agreements yet with other Southern African Development Community countries such as Angola and Zimbabwe, it was important to establish them as residents of countries in the region relied on South Africa for trade.

Mozambique is South Africa's second largest export market in Africa, with trade having increased dramatically over the last few years.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA launches robotic spacecraft

WASHINGTON, 17 April— NASA on Friday launched a robotic spacecraft to test technology that will pave the way for automated rendezvous and docking systems of spaceships in orbit.

The 363-kilo DART (Demonstration of Autonomous Rendezvous Technology) craft and its booster rocket Pegasus were carried by a Star-gazer L-1011 aircraft over the Pacific Ocean to an altitude of about 9,100 metres before being released at 1:26 pm. EDT (1726 GMT).

The aircraft took off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

NASA plans to learn from the programme and prepare technology for future space missions involving automated spacecraft docking, robotic repair or unmanned cargo delivery.

Russia has used automated docking technology for years.

DART, which is equipped with navigational computers and sensors, is expected to catch up with a retired experi-

mental communications satellite owned by the US military. The mission costs about 110 million US dollars.

The military satellite, called MUBLCOM, is flying 760 kilometres above the earth. It was launched in 1999 and carries special reflectors for use in guidance systems similar to the one aboard DART.

DART is expected to close in on the target satellite and move away. It will attempt rendezvous manoeuvres, including moving around the satellite and descending from above.

DART is managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama.

The robotic test craft will burn itself away during re-entry after completing its 24-hour mission.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese doctors operate on a panda named Kangkang in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 14 April, 2005. The panda from the Changqing National Nature Reserve Center suffered a fracture in his chest vertebra and became paralyzed in its lower limbs. Doctors successfully removed the bone that pressed the nerve. —INTERNET

Woman shares \$21m- award in Swiss bank lawsuit

LOS ANGELES, 17 April — An elderly Los Angeles woman and her relatives have been awarded by a tribunal 21 million US dollars from a fund established to compensate Holocaust survivors whose assets were illegally seized during the Nazi era, it was reported recently.

The tribunal in New York denounced Swiss banks Wednesday for their "widespread betrayal of Jewish clients", awarding Maria V. Altmann, 89, and a dozen of her relatives the huge amount from the compensation fund, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

It was the largest award to date by the Claims Resolution Tribunal, formed in 1998 in the settlement of class-action lawsuits brought against Swiss banks in the Brooklyn, New York federal court.

The suits charged that the banks collaborated with the Nazis and withheld from Holocaust survivors and their heirs vast sums of money deposited for safekeeping before World War II.

To settle the case, a consortium of Swiss financial institutions agreed to pay 1.25 billion dollars to Holocaust victims. Altmann fled her native Austria after the Nazi takeover in 1938 and eventually made her way to Los Angeles and opened a dress shop.

The elderly woman said she did not know the banks had passed her family fortune to the Nazis until her lawyer persuaded her to file a claim with the tribunal. "It's like a beautiful fairy tale," Altmann said after learning of the award. — MNA/Xinhua

Greece postpones sale of Athens Int'l Airport stake

ATHENS, 17 April — The Greek Government announced on Friday that it will postpone selling its stake in Athens International Airport from 2005 to next year.

It was announced by Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis after a meeting with German construction giant Hochtief aimed at reviewing the contract.

"The privatization will not take place this year, it will happen next year," said.

"Athens airport's services are too expensive and need to be cheaper and more competitive," Transport Minister Michael Liapis said. Hochtief owns a 26.5-per-cent share in the airport's stock and has a majority on the company's board after transferring one third of its stake in the airport to Hochtief AirPort Capital GmbH in early March as part of a new investment partnership.— MNA/Xinhua

Rakhine State has seen better transport...

(from page 1)

The Senior General said our ultimate goal is to make the nation modern and developed. So, efforts are being made to enable Rakhine State to become part of the development projects of the State. To supply the state with adequate electricity, power supply projects are to be implemented systematically. The Senior General added that as soon as Ayeyawady River Defile hydro-electric power project in Kachin State, Mawlaik and Manipura hydro-electric power projects in Sagaing Division, Kengtawng and Namlway hydro-electric power projects in Shan State, Mayyon hydro-electric power project and other regional power projects have been implemented, the whole country will be able to enjoy electricity supply. The aim of the implementa-



Industry-1 Minister U Aung Thuang inspects Thandwe Oil Palm Plantation of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries in Thandwe.—MNA

tion of Thahtay Creek hydro-electric power project is to distribute electricity to the regions of Rakhine State (South) outside the grid, to connect the grid and to prevent the region from floods. The project will be implemented on Thande Creek or Thahtay Creek, about 15 miles from north-east of Thandwe. The dam is of zone type with central earth core. It will be 1300 feet in length and 250 feet in height. The water

storage capacity of the dam is 340,000 acre feet, and if hydro-electric power project is completed, the station can generate 100 mega-watts. Annual power supply will be 318 million KWH.

The project will give priority to development of hotel services on Ngapali Beach.

An Creek Hydel Power Project is situated on An Creek, 3.5 miles from An. The embankment will be 1,600 feet

long and 140 feet high and the dam will store 399,400 acre-feet of water at capacity. For the first phase, the project will generate 5 megawatts and the second phase, 10 megawatts.

Annual production of electricity will be 33 million kwh for the first phase and 53 million kwh for the second phase.

On 16 April morning, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, who accompanied the Senior General, went to

Thandwe Oil Palm Plantation of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries in Thandwe and inspected growing of oil palm. He instructed officials to pick fruit bunches of oil palm.

Accompanied by Managing Director U Aye Mauk of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries and officials, the minister oversaw rubber plantations on either side of Thandwe-Ngapali Road. At Ngapali Rubber Farm, Farm Manager U

Min Swan Yi reported on the location of the farm, planting of rubber and production of rubber latex in 2004-2005. The minister gave instructions on boosting production of rubber, emphasis to be placed on export quality rubber plates and growing of quality strains.

Next, the minister viewed round the rubber nursery, rubber rolling machine, warehouse and the place for construction of the Yeiktha. —MNA

Scented water poured on Yadana white elephants

YANGON, 17 April — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung arrived at Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township this evening and cleansed the face of the Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.

Next, the ceremony to sprinkle scented water on white elephants named Raza Gaha Thiri Pyitsaya Gaza Raza, Theingi Marlar and Rati Marlar was held in conjunction with the ceremony to present cash for their feedstuff at the sheds of the white elephants on Mindhamma Road at 4 pm. It was attended by Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, the advisor, directors-general, officials and wellwishers.

The minister sprinkled scented water on the elephants and fed them.

Next, U Aung Zaw Myint-Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Zaw Min Zin-Daw Tin Thida, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Bo Gyi-Thiri Thudhama Theingi Daw Than Than, Thiri



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung pours scented water on Raza Gaha Thiri Pyitsaya Gaza Raza White Elephant.—MNA

Thudhamma Manijotadhara Dr Moe Tin-Dr Daw Ei Ei Tin, U Tin Sein (Chairman of Myanmar Universal Bank)-Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Nan Kham Tip, Traditional Medicine Practitioner U Hla Htay (Hman Cho Traditional Medicine House)-Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Sayama Daw Tin Nwe Oo presented the cash for the feedstuff of the elephants to In-charge of the committee

for taking care of the white elephants Director U Myint Swe of the Forest Department.

The minister presented gifts to members of the committee for taking care of the white elephant and security members.

After the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.—MNA

MoT pays respects to elders

YANGON, 17 April— Family members of the Ministry of Transport paid respects to elders at the sixth respecting ceremony of the ministry held at the Dhammayon in the precinct of Maha Vijaya Pagoda this morning. Present were Ministry for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and wife Daw Mya Theingi, Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin and wife, department heads and their

wives, elders and officials.

First, Deputy Minister U Pe Than explained the purpose of paying respects to elders. Next, the congregation paid respect to elders and the minister, deputy ministers and department heads presented gifts to them.

Afterwards, one of the elders expressed thanks and made a speech.

At the ceremony, gifts worth K 1,979,800 were presented to the elders.

MNA



Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung presents gifts to elders.—MNA

Dance troupe of neighbouring countries take part in Thingyan festival in Mandalay

YANGON, 17 April— With the aim of promoting tourism industry in Myanmar, Myanmar Holteliers and Tour operators Association organized Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival at the pandal in front of Inwa Hotel at the corner of 66th and 24th Streets in Mandalay on 16 April. On the Atet

day of Thingyan, revellers joyfully took part in the festival. In the evening, the pandal closed with traditional dances of neighbouring countries and damsels of Mandalay Fine Arts Departments. Film stars and musicians also entertained the audience with dances and music. —MNA

New Year Day marked with ...

(from page 16)
Township General Administration Department's Combined Office this afternoon.

The 56th ceremony to pay respects to aged persons, organized by Zaygyi, Talaingpaing, Ngagyawpho and Ohbo Wards of Kyimyindine Township, was held at Maha Ponnyawpakara Dhammayon on Kyaunggyi Road this

morning. Branches of Yangon Division All Bus-line Control Committee conveyed members of the Sangha by car in respective bus lines. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Local people and departments concerned set birds and fish free at lakes of pagodas, Kandawgyi Lake, Inya Lake, Laydauntkan Lake, Thadu Lake, Hlawga Lake and Gyobu Lake and

their environs. At Hninzigon Home for the Aged, departmental staff, social organization members, students and people served the aged with bathing, shampooing and manicuring. In the afternoon, the aged freed over 4,000 fish into the lake on Kaba Aye Hill.

In the evening, members of the Sangha recited Parittas in all parts of Yangon City. — MNA

Parittas recited at Information Ministry on New Year Day



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan offers provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

YANGON, 17 April — A ceremony to recite Parittas to be free from danger was held at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street at 4 pm today, Myanmar New Year Day, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win. Also present were Lecturer Sayadaw of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery Bhaddanta Marmaka and

members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister U Thein Sein, Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanma Radio and Television, Managing Director Col Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, Acting Managing Director Daw Mya Mya of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and officials. First,

the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Marmaka. Next, Members of the Sangha delivered sermons. The minister donated provisions to the Sayadaw.

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

MNA

Ceremony to recite Parittas and pour Paritta water into reservoirs held

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

The ceremony was graced by the presence of 27 members of Sangha led by Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Raththa Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa.

Also present on the oc-

casation were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, the Secretary, the Joint-Secretary, the committee members, heads of departments and their wives, guests and others. The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Next, the congregation received the Eight Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa. After that, members of Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor and

wellwishers presented offerings to members of the Sangha. Later, Joint-Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Candasiri delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

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

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



Scene of Shwedagon Pagoda with devotees and people on New Year Day, 17-4-2005. — NLM

'Soon' offered to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image

YANGON, 17 April — A ceremony to offer 'soon' (dawn meal) to the Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image kept on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township took place this morning in conjunction with the fourth water-offering ceremony for cleansing the face of the Buddha Image at the precinct of the image.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for

Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, departmental officials, Chairman of the board of trustees of Mindhamma Hill Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja U Shein Aung Bo and members, Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara Dhara U Aung Zeya, son of the Buddha Image donor U Taw Taw, Wut Associations and pilgrims.

At 5 am, U Shein Aung

Bo and member of the board of trustees and members of the Wut Associations offered 'soon' to the Buddha Image. Next, the deputy minister and party also offered 'soon' to the image. The deputy minister next offered water for cleansing the face of the Buddha image. Then the ceremony ended with three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu*. — MNA

Staff of SPDC Office, Central Offices perform meritorious deeds

YANGON, 17 April — Staff families of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Central Offices released fish, donated blood and offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha today.

First the family members went to Hlawga Reservoir and released 2,000 fish into it. They also set 300 sparrows free.

At the Military Hospital in Mingaladon, 76 family members donated blood. Col Myo Nyunt of the hospital

spoke words of thanks and gave certificate of honour to Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department.

Next, they offered 'soon' to 15 members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Aletawya Sanpya Monastery in Bahan Township Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Gandhamalabhivamsa on the first floor of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay

Road. The Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office and directors-general of central offices and staff attended the ceremony. Sayadaws administered the Five Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Next, provisions were donated to the Sayadaws followed by sharing of merits gained and the ceremony came to a close with the three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu*. — MNA



Departmental heads of Central Offices donate alms to Sayadaws. — MNA

Thandaung Hill Resort

Maung Ba Pe (Oktha)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects development of Thandaung Hill Station on 11 March.

Kalaw in our country. And they are in Mandalay region. Only those living in upper Myanmar can reach there in a short time. It takes time for lower Myanmar people to reach there since they need to travel by trains, planes, cars. Now, Thandaung Hill resort is only 28 miles from Toungoo. It will take only 6 hours to get here from Yangon. Service personnel can come here on Saturday and go back on Sunday. See, how convenient!

Saw Mar Tin: Actually, Thandaung was the first hill resort in Myanmar. Pyin Oo Lwin and Kalaw were the late comers. The weather is also very nice here. However hot it may be in Yangon and Toungoo, once you come up to Thandaung, it's gradually getting cool. You even need to wear warm clothes at night time. Actually, it's one of the most suitable places for lower Myanmar people, who want to avoid hot weather.

Author: Well, you all said you came to me because you wanted to discuss with me and

Author: Hello Ko Kyaw Soe, Nan Min Tint. Hello Saw Mar Tin. How are you? Come on in.

Kyaw Soe: We are fine. Thank you. Saw Mar Tin came to us and said he wanted to see you. That's why we are here. Hope we don't disturb you.

Saw Mar Tin: I was in Mandalay when you all came to Thandaung. I watched it in the TV news about the visit by the Head of State. It's been a long time we haven't seen one another. And I also have something to discuss with you. That's why I asked Ko Kyaw Soe and Nan Min Tint to take me to you.

Nan Min Tint: That's right. See, he is the same as usual when we were in Mawlamyine College. He never hesitates to trouble us. Well, we are, now your guests, how are you going to treat us?

Author: Yes, I will try to be a good host. Take the tea and snacks for the moment. You mustn't go back without having a meal. Well my friend, Mar Tin, what can I do for you?

Saw Mar Tin: There are a few things I wanted to know. You know I am a Thandaung native. We must be very thankful to the Government establishing Thandaung as hill resort town. It's now totally different with that of the situation when we were young. A small hilly village now becomes a beautiful hilly town within a short time. With the tar roads, water supply systems, electricity supply, telecommunication systems, it's getting developed making no difference with big towns.

Author: Is that all?

Saw Mar Tin: No. More to come. Super One has now opened a shopping mall and children's playground. Similarly, other entrepreneurs have constructed resorts, hotels, bungalows, and many things. The reason I came here is for that purpose, too.

Author: OK, please go ahead.

Kyaw Soe: Let me interrupt you. Since even non-natives are now establishing resorts, hotels and things like that, being a Thandaung native, he wanted to do some business jointly with us. As we are doing tourism business, I can see the potentials here. That's why we wanted to discuss with you in detail because you are involved in implementation process.

Author: Oh, I am getting more interested. What potentials do you see? Please explain to me from your tourism point of view. Then you



can ask me anything.
Kyaw Soe: You know, in our country, all resorts and recreation centers are mostly in beaches. Ngapali, Ngwe-saung, Chaungtha, Set-se, Maungmagan are all beaches. The feeling of taking relax in a hill resort is quite different with that in the beaches.

Nan Min Tint: That's right. I've been to Chaungtha quite often. For me, I don't feel nothing strange after dipping in the sea water for two or three times. But, it's something strange in a hilly town. Mar Tin took us here last month. We visited the Four Stars hotel. While we were taking a downside view of the hilly town, layers of cloud passed by, and we felt so chilled. The feeling of having to notice lanes and houses appearing and disappearing is also something strange. How should I say, I felt all my stresses and anxieties disappear momentarily.

Saw Mar Tin: That's only a taste. You can see the lights of Taungoo from here. You can also see Yangon-Mandalay express trains passing by. In the twilight, the Taungoo view at the back of Pathee Dam is so harmonizing with the falling sun.

Kyaw Soe: That's what I always said. It's human nature to get bored if he has to do something repeatedly. People who used to visit beaches tend to visit hill resorts for a change. We only have hill resorts only in Pyin Oo Lwin and

wanted to know something from me. Now you kept talking one after another. Anything left I can do for you. Any question?

Saw Mar Tin: Let me explain. In such a promising hill resort project like this, Ko Kyaw Soe and myself would like to jointly open a hotel here. Since I am not capable of running a hotel on my own, I wanted to do it with Ko Kyaw Soe as he is well experienced and capable of investment. And, we wanted to ask you a few things in detail. We need your help.

Author: Rest assured, my friends. Everyone must be satisfied when they come to this project. I will do my best to help you in any possible way I can.

Kyaw Soe: We feel encouraged now. But, allow us to ask you some questions. We wanted to know if there are required infrastructures since it's important for tourism business.

Author: We have enough infrastructures. I will first tell you about the road. The Thandaung-gyi up-way road is no longer narrow and uneven like it was used to be when you were young. Saw Mar Tin. Starting from Thandaung new town, the Government has constructed two-way tar road, one for up traffic and one for down traffic. It's only about an hour drive for small vehicles. A circular road heading towards 5th ward has also been constructed
(See page 11)

The Sun sheds light on Buddha Image in reverence

YANGON, 17 April—It is only on this day in this particular month of the year that the Sun with one thousand rays of light performs an act of worship for the Buddha Image of the Maha Wizaya Pagoda. Today, Myanmar New Year

Day, it paid homage with its light two times to the Nagasivara Patapatima Buddha Image kept on the Aparazita Throne in the chamber of the pagoda on Dhammarakkhita Hill on Shwedagon Pagoda Road at 8.35 am and at 3.36 pm.—MNA



Pilgrims pay homage to the Shwephone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township on Myanmar New Year Day.

MNA

Thandaung Hill Resort...



Communication Station of Thandaung Hill Station.

(from page 10)

as gravel road and maintenance are being done annually. The road to two hotel zones have been constructed as tar one. Some retaining walls are constructed on the way where necessary. All the roads are now smooth and secured.

Saw Mar Tin: That's true. Roads are very convenient now. If we look at the water supply situation, I saw that water is being pumped up to 1500 feet high hillocks in hotel zones from the northern Thu-htoo creek. We no longer need to worry about water in summer. We just have to go out to the concrete tank in front of our houses to fetch water. By the way, is the water supply only for communities, aren't hotels included?

Author: It's included. The 100,000-gallon tank has been constructed calculating the population for the next ten years and also the possible number of visitors to the hotels. The 20,000-gallon concrete tanks have been constructed at the hillocks in Hotel zones 1 and 2, and water is being distributed to both the community and hotels.

Nan Min Tint: It's all right for road and water. But, what about for electricity and communication?

Author: Electricity is now available in hotels other than town streets and houses. A telephone exchange with a capacity 100 lines has now been installed, and about 60 are in use now.

Saw Mar Tin: Yes, it's true. In Four Stars hotel, satellite TV, telephone, and water condition-

ers are all available. You can even say it's a four-star hotel.

Kyaw Soe: If so, we can start our business now. By the way, is there any other attraction for tourists as well as for local guests?

Saw Mar Tin: The main attraction is the beauty of the hilly side, the cool weather and the fresh air. In addition, there are hot springs in Taungpyargyi and Maungwegyi, which are near Thandaungyi. It's about two to three hours walk. For those who wanted to take a walk for their health, who wanted to ride horses, who wanted to take a bath in hot springs, these are the attractions.

Author: Hey, you should also talk about the Taungpyargyi banana that used to be the world famous one.

Nan Min Tint: I am so glad to hear all these things. I am always interested in the affairs of Kayin State being a Kawkareik native. Is security good enough in Thandaung to do tourism business? What I used to hear at my young age was not very safe here.

Saw Mar Tin: It used to be not very safe when we were young, as you said, But now, it's stable and secured. That's why we can focus on development works.

Kyaw Soe: OK. I have now made up my mind, I will do business here together with Saw Mar Tin. We will construct a resort here. I will expand my tourism business in Yangon. I wanted to start business here as soon as possible. You must help us find a suitable plot.

Author: Don't worry, my friends. There are so many good plots still left for you. Please also invite other entrepreneurs, too. I will do all my best for your satisfaction and convenience. Well, you all must be quite hungry now. Meal is also ready. Why don't we enjoy Myo Myint Lay's "Thandaung Hill Resort" song, while we are having our meal.

"Up through the zigzag lane, drive to Thandaung quickly. At entrance, rock garden is welcoming you warmly..."

Myanma Alin+Kyemom:
2.4.2005

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China to build modern logistics industry by 2010

BEIJING, 16 April — Vice-Premier Wu Yi said Friday that China expects to build a modern logistics industry on an initial stage by 2010. She called for recognizing the importance of logistics for a socialist market economy and making efforts in developing a modern logistics industry.

Wu made the remarks at a national conference on logistics business held here April 14-15. It was the first national logistics meeting in the country since China launched its reform and opening drive in the late 1970s.

"Over the past decades of reforms, China has witnessed profound changes in the logistics sector as market mechanism has taken shape and played its due role," said Wu, who is member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. "You can know nothing about a socialist market economy if you don't know about modern logistics," the official said.

She called for fighting localism and monopolism of different industries, making full use of technology and management of modern logistics, quickening the pace of developing chain stores, logistic distribution, and e-business, making efforts in developing rural markets and community-based businesses in cities, increasing supervision on market movements and setting up and improving mechanisms to prevent accidents and market fluctuations.—MNA/Xinhua

Sezer hails S Korean President's visit to Turkey

ANKARA, 16 April — Turkish President Ahmed Necdet Sezer on Friday welcomed the visit of his South Korean counterpart Roh Moo-hyun, the first of this kind in about half a century.

The visit was not only for the interests of the two countries but also contributed to regional and international peace, stability and prosperity, Sezer said at a joint Press conference after talks with Roh.

Sezer said they discussed bilateral relations, regional and international issues and exchanged views on how to enhance cooperation.

Noting that South Korea is among the biggest 20 economies in the world together with Turkey, Sezer expressed belief that South Korean investors will show more interest in Turkey after Roh's visit.

Sezer also underlined the importance of boosting cultural activities and tourism between the two countries.

Roh, for his part, was upbeat about the close relations.

"Turkey is a very dynamic country. Turkish people is a nation which trusts itself very much and the future of Turkey is promising," Roh said.

MNA/Xinhua

Art exhibition presents British views of China

BEIJING, 16 April — What is China like in Westerners' eyes? A British art exhibition on China that opened on Thursday in Beijing offers seven different answers.

Seven members with the British Royal Academy of Arts, one of the world's most well-known arts organizations, displayed works inspired by a month-long tour in China in 2003 and 2004, at the National Art Gallery of China, said the Chinese Artists Association, one of the exhibition sponsors.

The artists — John Bellamy, Paul Huxley, Allen Jones, David Mach, Ian McKeever, Brendan Neiland and Chris Orr — are painters, sculptors and print-makers, said Nicolette Kwok, chairwoman of the Red Mansion Foundation, a British

non-profitable organization, which invited them to China.

"Each artist was chosen for his approach to making art and for his ability to communicate and absorb elements of another culture into his art," said Kwok.

"Royal Academicians in China" shows nearly 50 paintings, collages and sculptures, depicting China's current social transition. Subjects include a Beijing park, the skyscrapers and neon lights of Shanghai, a taxi driver in a small alley and the friendly smile of a Chinese farmer.

"The West has long looked at China with a mixture of fascination and incomprehension. I hope this exhibition will plant a small seed of understanding and respect between East and West, which is crucial as China becomes an ever more important player in the international arena," Kwok said.

The exhibition also provides Chinese audiences with a rare occasion to experience the diversity and dynamics of contemporary British art and offers the artists the opportunity to advance their understanding of the exciting and challenging

Chinese culture, said Pan Gongkai, president of China's Central Academy of Fine Art.

The artists will also be invited to give lectures at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and exchange views on China's arts market with their Chinese counterparts.

Royal Academicians, limited in number to no more than 80 at any one time, are selected independently by the Royal Academy to represent outstanding achievement in British painting, sculpture and architecture, according to the Red Mansion Foundation.—MNA/Xinhua

G-24 calls for more assistance to developing countries

WASHINGTON, 16 April — Ministers from Group of Twenty-four (G-24) on Friday called on the World Bank and other institutions to further increase their assistance to African countries to support their efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations.

In a communique released after the 73rd ministerial meeting of G-24, which was held before the joint spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, G-24 ministers said that 2005 is a critical year for assessing progress toward the MDGs and achieving them remains an enormous challenge for the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where little progress has been achieved so far.

The ministers said that developing countries are pressing ahead with policy and governance reforms in order to improve domestic revenue mobilization and public expenditure management as well as to strengthen the environment for private sector-led investment and growth.

It is critical that the industrial countries supplement these efforts with substantially higher levels of official development assistance and further debt relief as well as improved market access, the communique said.

The G-24 also called the IMF and the World Bank to step up efforts to help mobilize additional

resources to help attain the MDGs in the poor countries.

G-24 ministers reaffirmed the importance of successfully concluding the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations which will help to promote global economic growth and thus contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign schools show growing interest in educational market in China

SHANGHAI, 16 April — A growing number of foreign schools are showing interest in developing the educational market in China, said sources from a recent international forum of famous high school headmasters held here.

At the forum, Carolyn Shaw, headmistress of Roedean School, and Elizabeth Diggory, High Mistress of St. Paul's Girls School, both from Britain, expressed the wish of starting schools in China and enrolling Chinese students.

"While encouraging exchanges between Chinese and foreign middle schools, we should also welcome famous foreign schools to start up new school branches in China,

and carry out cooperation in aspects such as exchange of students and training of teachers," said Hu Ruiwen, head of Shanghai Educational Science Institute.

Opening up China's educational market conforms with China's commitments made when it joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), said Hu.

With its huge source of students, China has great potential as a place to begin a new school.

"It will be an efficient choice to improve international cooperation by introducing foreign advanced teaching methods and courses," said Hu, who suggested an educational model for students 'exchange programme featuring two years' study in China and one more year overseas.

Graham Able, vice-president of International Boys' Schools Coalition, admitted Chinese students could do better than their counterparts of same age groups in Western countries in mathematics and language skills. But they need to learn more from their Western counterparts in such aspects as flexibility and abilities requiring the use of hands.

MNA/Xinhua



A street vendor sells fruit in Vietnam on 13 April, 2005.

INTERNET

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Researchers find fat may affect electrical impulses in brain, heart

LOS ANGELES, 17 April — Fat molecules may modulate the electrical characteristics of nerve and heart cells by regulating the properties of key cell pores, US researchers said recently.

The findings suggest a novel mechanism in which dietary fat can attach directly to proteins that regulate bioelectricity. This can affect the performance of nerve and heart cells, with potentially broad-ranging health impacts.

The researchers reported in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that the proteins in specific electrically responsive cell pores, the voltage-sensing potassium channels, can bind to molecules of palmitate. Palmitate is a saturated fatty acid previously linked to "hardening" of the arteries and obesity and is a common fat in unhealthy diets.

The attachment of

palmitate makes these potassium channels, called Kv1.1 channels, open more easily, and this can influence the transmission of electrical impulses along nerve cells and the contraction of heart muscle cells, according to Richard Gross, professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis who led the research.

Potassium channels are among the most important cell channels used for propagating electrical signals in nerve and heart muscle. Their protein units form pores that permeate the outer wall or membrane of the cell and selectively allow the passage of potassium ions, which are essential components

of cell signalling systems. Like a meter that measures charge in a battery, a Kv1.1 channel senses the amount of voltage between the interior and exterior of cells and can open and close in response to voltage changes. Because they are embedded in the cell membrane, Kv1.1 channels are tightly surrounded by the fatty molecules of the membrane, which line up next to each other to create a stable structure.

The researchers think the attached palmitate molecule causes a defect in the close, regular packing of the membrane's fatty molecules around the Kv1.1 channel, because the palmitate has a different shape. This shape loos-

ens the membrane packing, changes the movement of the channel protein and alters the voltage needed for it to open or close.

They identified the specific site or amino acid in the Kv1.1 protein units that palmitate most often links to.

They discovered that a short sequence of amino acids on either side of the attachment site is found in several other proteins as well, arguing for an evolutionarily conserved function for this amino acid sequence.

Most strikingly, five of six amino acids adjacent to the attachment site matched a site where palmitate is known to attach to CD36, an abundant protein vital for moving fatty molecules into cells.

MNA/Xinhua

Magnetic waves may help Alzheimer's patients

OTTAWA, 17 April — Canadian researchers have discovered that patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease may be able to recover some of their memory if they are treated in the early stages of the disease with magnetic waves, it is reported here on Saturday.

The Canadian researchers at Montreal Jewish General Hospital are presenting their findings to brain specialists and scientists in Miami in the United States at the America Academy of Neurology meeting this week.

The researchers discovered that when transcranial magnetic stimulation, or TMS electrical signals, was applied to the heads of Alzheimer's patients, the signals helped to increase the brain's functioning. Subjects could recall words 30 per cent more often than subjects who did not receive the stimulation.

"We are excited because this is proof of concept, showing that perhaps

this approach may be beneficial," says team member Dr Howard Chertkow of the Montreal Jewish General Hospital.

The boost to patient's memories lasts only for four minutes, but Chertkow hopes the benefits will increase in the near future. "One could envisage in the future that some sort of stimulation would be given daily or several times a day if we can make the effects last a few hours," says Chertkow.

Researchers also found that the TMS electrical signals may help to kick start brain tissue around damaged areas to start to perform the functions lost to Alzheimer's.

MNA/Xinhua



World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight challenger Hozumi Hasegawa (R) of Japan lands a punch to the face of champion Veerapol Nakornluang-Promotion of Thailand during their 12-round title bout, in Tokyo on 16 April, 2005. Hasegawa defeated Nakornluang-Promotion by unanimous decision.

INTERNET

Elephant population increases by 1,000 in Uganda's park

KAMPALA, 17 April — The elephant population in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park has shot up by 1,000 in the last three years, local Press reported on Saturday.

Charles Tumwesigye, member of the Uganda Wildlife Authority team, said the elephant population in the western national park was estimated at 2,400, up from 1,300 in 2002.

The team has conducted the census in the

national park.

Tumwesigye contributed the increase to an influx of elephants from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"We have had an increase in the resident herds of elephants

through reproduction within the park, but most of them crossed from the DRC," he explained.

He said the migration was caused by re-occurring conflicts in the eastern part of the DRC.

MNA/Xinhua

Survey says older people neglected in Darfur

NAIROBI, 17 April — Older people are neglected and forgotten in Sudan's Darfur camps, because they are frequently not included in international humanitarian food and health programmes, warns a survey released here Friday.

The Kenya-based HelpAge International, a global network which provides care for the aged, conducted a survey in five camps in west Darfur which reveals that older people felt isolated and lonely because of food insecurity. On average, people over the age of 50 comprise 10 per cent of a camp's population in Darfur.

The HelpAge International has called on all international humanitarian

organizations working in Darfur to mainstream aging issues into their ongoing programmes and improve aid provision for older people.

"Although older people, along with children, are classed as a vulnerable group, many interviewed, were not being directly targeted by aid agencies," the survey says.

It notes that over 20 per cent of older people were not accessing World Food Programme food ra-

tions. The survey shows that 45 per cent of older people claimed not to have proper shelter while 61 per cent claimed to have a chronic disease that needed specialized treatment or drugs, which were not available to them.

"Around 29 per cent were caring for orphaned children, but still not targeted by humanitarian organizations for supplementary food aid," it says.

MNA/Xinhua

Report says one in four Italian youngsters overweight

ROME, 17 April — Almost one in four Italian youngsters is seriously overweight, according to a report released on Friday in Milan.

The alarming figures, to be presented to a European conference on obesity this weekend in Verbania, a city of northern Italy, said 24 per cent of children and teenagers in Italy had major weight problems while 4 per cent were "seriously obese".

The report concluded that for the first time in modern history, the next generations faced a poorer quality of life and significantly lower life expectancy than preceding generations.

Alessandro Sartorio, an expert in the science of human growth, said that "child obesity in industrialized countries is steadily rising and constitutes a worrying threat to public health".

He underscored the health prob-

lems that obese children were likely to encounter later in life, from diabetes to heart disease.

Recent studies show that obese children are more likely to have high blood pressure as adults, or suffer from a stroke.

Research has also shown that the average life expectancy of obese male kids is 13 years shorter than their slim peers, with the figure dropping to eight for obese girls.

Experts emphasize the potential psychological damage or suffering caused by obesity, pointing out that overweight children tend to be picked on or teased and are at risk of developing low self-esteem and depression.

MNA/Xinhua

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Argentine soccer player Desabato released

BRASILIA, 16 April— The Argentine player, Leandro Desabato, detained after the game between Quilmes and Sao Paulo at the capital city of Sao Paulo because of racists expressions against the Brazilian player, Grafite, was released after paying bail.

Desabato was subjected to routine tests at the Medical Legal Institute, and after his release he went to the forum of Barra Funda, where he will have an encounter with Justice officials.

The car that took the player from the police station was beaten by fans of the Sao Paulo team, but no one was hurt.

Desabato will face a process for the crime of "slander, with aggravating circumstance of racial discrimination", after insulting the player Grafite at a game played on Wednesday.

This is the first time a soccer player is arrested in Brazil for the charge of racism in the stadium after a game. The punishment is from one to three years in prison. —MNA/Xinhua

Crystal Palace draw 3-3 with Norwich City

LONDON, 17 April— Crystal Palace and Norwich City are still locked in the relegation zone after a 3-3 draw on Saturday at Selhurst Park, while Bolton Wanderers leapfrogged Liverpool in the Premiership table.

Bolton's 2-1 success at Charlton Athletic lifted Sam Allardyce's side into fifth spot as Liverpool were held 2-2 at home to Tottenham Hotspur. Fulham inched a step closer towards safety after a 1-1 draw against Manchester City at Craven Cottage but Southampton are deep in trouble after throwing away a two-goal lead at home to Aston Villa.

Palace took the lead after five minutes at Selhurst Park when Michael Hughes picked out Joonas Kolkka unmarked and he rifled home. Dean Ashton equalized with a tap-in midway through the first half before he scored a fine solo goal just after the break to put Norwich ahead.

Leon McKenzie extended the visitors' lead on 55 minutes with a close-range finish but Hughes headed Palace's second goal from Andy Johnson's cross.

Inside the last 10 minutes, Palace drew level after Johnson was felled by Jason Shackell in the box and he smashed home the resulting penalty.

A stunning 40-yard

strike from Erik Edman put Spurs ahead at Liverpool, who levelled just before half time through a curling effort from Luis Garcia. Robbie Keane's deflected header put Spurs back in the ascendancy before Steven Gerrard wildly blasted a penalty wide after he had been

fouled by Michael Carrick.

Sami Hyypia volleyed in from the edge of the box to make it 2-2 but, despite Gerrard hitting the post and Fernando Morientes blazing over from close range, The Reds were unable to find a winner. —MNA/Xinhua



Andy Johnson's controversially won penalty secured a 3-3 Premier League draw for Crystal Palace against bottom-of-the-table Norwich.—INTERENT

Giggs set to begin contract talks

LONDON, 16 April— Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs is set to begin contract talks with the club next week. The 31-year-old is believed to want a two-year extension to his current deal, which expires at the end of the season.

But the club have so far refused to break their policy of offering one-year deals to players over 30 years old.

Giggs' adviser Harry Swales said: "We will talk again next week and hopefully common sense will prevail. Ryan doesn't want to leave United." Giggs, who is a major doubt for Sunday's FA Cup semifinal with Newcastle because of a hamstring injury, has spent all his career at Old Trafford. —MNA/Xinhua

Arsenal beat Blackburn 3-0 to make FA Cup final

LONDON, 17 April— Robert Pires scored once and Robin van Persie added two when Arsenal beat Blackburn Rovers 3-0 to reach the FA Cup final on Saturday.

It is a poor semifinal which saw more bookings than goalscoring chances in front of a disappointing below-capacity crowd.

Blackburn's defence, which once held the Gunners at bay, was finally cracked three minutes before half-time when Patrick Vieira's chipped pass found Kolo Toure at the back post and he outwitted Ryan Nelson before looking up and picking out Pires to tap in.

The Gunners started the game as firm favourites, even without injured striker Thierry Henry and key defender Sol Campbell still not ready to return.

It is the fifth successive season they had made the last four of the FA Cup — equalling the competition record — and they have now made the final four years out of five.

Blackburn had threatened to spoil the party early on, with their five-man midfield harrying Arsenal's players and contesting every pass.

The gameplan worked a treat for more than half an hour, with Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger showing his frustrations on the sidelines at his side's inability to threaten Blackburn's goal and Rovers' heavy-handed efforts.

At the other end Blackburn threatened with Morten Gamst Pedersen firing a free-kick over the bar and Steven Reid testing Jens Lehmann with a low-driven effort.

Just before the half-hour mark Arse-



Garry Flitcroft (top) of Blackburn Rovers comes in to win the ball as Arsenal's Patrick Vieira (C) takes cover during the FA Cup semi-final match at The Millenium Stadium in Cardiff on 16 April, 2005. Arsenal won the game 3-0.—INTERNET

nal got their first sight on goal, but Jose Antonio Reyes failed to get hold of his left-foot shot and Friedel saved easily.

With Blackburn having to come forward the second half was a more open affair, even if goalscoring chances were not exactly forth coming.

Arsenal could have had a second when Fabrice Fabregas and Lauren conspired to set up Gilberto Silva for a shot on goal that Friedel again reacted well to beat it out. —MNA/Xinhua

Uganda rejects FIFA proposal on re-organizing FUFU

KAMPALA, 16 April— The Ugandan Government has rejected world soccer's governing body FIFA's proposal to re-organize the Federation of Uganda Football Association (FUFA).

The rejection was made at a meeting attended by minister and three deputy ministers of the Ministry of Education and Sports on Thursday.

"We don't accept the way forward as proposed by FIFA," an official from the ministry was quoted by Friday's local Press as saying.

The official said that the FIFA's normalization process in Uganda will only proceed with the input of all stakeholders including government, adding that Uganda's position was accordingly presented to the FIFA.

Last week, FIFA proposed to set up a committee charged with bring back sta-

bility to Ugandan football in a fax to FUFA. FIFA also recommended that Patrick Isiagi, the former FUFA treasurer, be appointed secretary of the interim committee.

According to local media reports, the appointment of former FUFA officials has been rejected by Ugandan Government.

The Ugandan Government in February suspended former FUFA president Denis Obua and his executive, accusing them of mismanaging football. Obua was sent to Luzira Prison last week after he appeared in court following an arrest warrant issued by a local court.

MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

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B	E	L	L	O	W	S	T	A	R	E	S
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Blatter launches construction of Burundi soccer building

CAIRO, 16 April— FIFA president Sepp Blatter, on his five-nation African tour, launched the construction of an office and a training centre for the Football Federation of Burundi on Thursday in Bujumbura.

Blatter has one day remaining on his tour and flew to Rwanda later Thursday to inaugurate a soccer academy.

The projects in Burundi are part of the FIFA-sponsored Goal Programme, which is aimed at strengthening impoverished national governing bodies.

The new office is expected to save the Burundian federation about 1,200 US dollars in monthly rent, federation president Lydia Nsekera said.

The Burundi programme also includes salaries for coaches and professionals to run the federation's secretariat.

MNA/Xinhua

Peruvian media praises tie of Sporting Cristal

LIMA, 16 April— The sports media of Peru praised on Friday the 2-2 score accomplished by the local team, Sporting Cristal, as a visitor to the Ecuador's Deportivo Cuenca, in the tournament of the Libertadores Cup. "Cristal showed bravery in Ecuador," "It could have been a triumph". "It showed courage and strength" and "Ready to go to next round", were some of the headlines of some papers.

Sports journalists regretted two shots that clashed against the post and the crossbar, which made the Sporting Cristal to miss the victory 10 minutes before the end of the game after reaching the tie, because on the first half it was losing by 2-0.

Although they underlined the draw, experts considered that the performance of the Sporting Cristal was depressing, because the team from Ecuador dominated the game.—MNA/Xinhua

WFP expands emergency food operation in Eritrea

UNITED NATIONS, 17 April — The World Food Programme (WFP) said Friday it has expanded its emergency operation in Eritrea, hit by years of drought, to cover nearly a quarter of a million more people.

The 75 million US dollars, five-month operation launched this month was designed to assist 840,000 drought-affected people, 240,000 more than the original nine-month project, which ended last month, WFP said in a statement.

Eritreans were selling livestock, producing and selling charcoal and skipping meals, while the government was unable to pay for food imports because of the damage to the economy from the

1998-2000 war with neighbouring Ethiopia and five years of drought, it said.

Eritrea's three most fertile regions — Anseba, Debub and Gash Barka — are at their driest since 1998. About half the country's children under five are underweight, as well as 42 per cent of pregnant and nursing mothers, one of the highest rates in Africa, WFP said, citing figures from the Eritrean Government.

MNA/Xinhua

Unmarked petroleum products threaten Tanzanian market

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 17 April — Unmarked petrol, diesel and kerosene are threatening not only to damage the motor vehicles in Tanzania but also to the country's economy as a whole.

The warning was issued by Vaughan Gibson, chairman of the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies, while commenting on the expiry of the SGS Tanzania Limited and Tanzania Revenue Authority fuel marketing contract that expired on Thursday after a free-of-charge extension of two weeks.

"It is very sad that there is no mechanism in place to check the quality of petroleum products in the market as well as their categories (export-oriented, tax payment or transit-oriented)," said Gibson who went on to warn that opening the flood gates to unmarked fuel would cause a lot of damage to the economy.

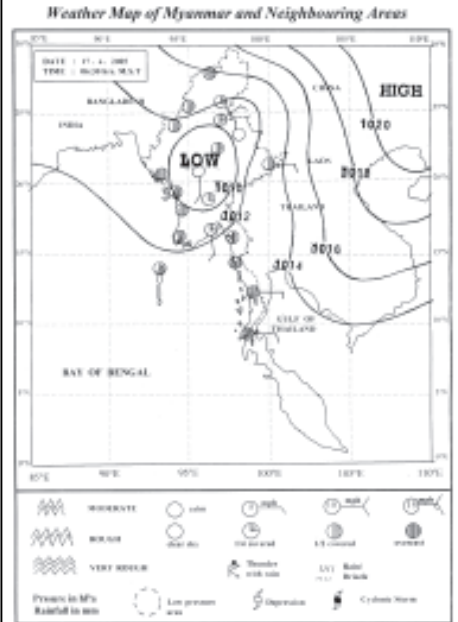
Some oil marketing companies operating in

Tanzania have been adulterating fuel to maximize profit while others cheat on the quantities of their import for the purpose of evading tax, according to Gibson.

Apart from tax losses on the part of the government, over 20,000 motor vehicles a year are facing damage by bad fuel sold out by franchised and non-franchised oil marketing companies.

Fuel marking has helped Tanzania in reducing the number of filling stations that sell bad fuel. Illegal sites that sell bad fuel were reduced from 60 per cent in 2001 to 19 per cent in 2004, according to figures released by Gibson.

The new fuel marking regulations have been submitted to the Tanzanian attorney-general's office last week, waiting for approval before becoming nationwide directions. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 17 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Chin State, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were in Magway (43°C), Mandalay, Myingyan and Monywa (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 16-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 17-4-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-4-2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 16-4-2005 was (10.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 17-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.63 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.69 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Northwest at (15:15) hours MST on 16-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-4-2005: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of light rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-4-2005: Fair weather.

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်ဆက် မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

Belgium hosts international flower show

BRUSSELS, 17 April — The 33rd International Florales officially opened to public in the Belgian city of Ghent on Friday, attracting companies from 19 countries including Belgium and China.

The 10 day-long flower show, a five-yearly event having been held since 1839, was organized by the Royal Society for Agriculture and Botany in Ghent. Belgian King Albert II and Queen Paola inaugurated the exhibition Thursday following a visit to the show by more than 230 jury members from 30 countries.

25,448 square metres in the six exposition halls in the city. The participating countries are present either with an artistic stand or by participating in one of the numerous competitions, in group or as an individual. This event is the 206th floral and plant exhibition organized by the Royal Society for Agriculture and Botany in Ghent, which was founded in 1808. — MNA/Xinhua

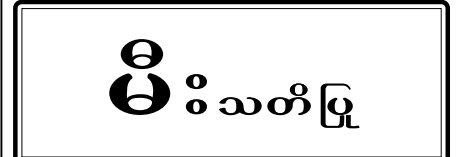


Monday, 18 April

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Any man of mine
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -Women in me
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: -May be, baby
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -Feel good
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch Time Music: -Saving all my love for you -Experience -The one you love -Say you say me
- 9.00 pm Spotlight on the Star "Wings" -Reception -Again & Again & Again -To you -So glad to see you here
- 9.10 pm Article
- 9.35 pm Golden Land's Melody -Ngapali
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

<p>Monday, 18 April</p> <p>View on today:</p> <p>7:00 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာ နာသကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌာရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာ အိမ်သစ် ပရိတ်တရားတော် <p>7:25 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To be Healthy Exercise <p>7:30 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Morning news <p>7:40 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Nice and sweet songs <p>7:50 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Song of National Races <p>8:00 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Cute little dancers <p>8:10 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. အဆိုပွဲပွဲ 	<p>8:20 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. ရွှေလိင်တား <p>8:30 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. International news <p>8:45 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Grammar made easy <p>4:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martial song <p>4:15 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Song to uphold National Spirit <p>4:30 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Practice in Reading (Lesson-25) <p>4:45 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Musical programme <p>5:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. အစားသင့်တရားရှိစေမည့်စရာ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (ရတုစေးအထူးပြု) (ရတုစေး) <p>5:15 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Dance Variety <p>5:30 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား <p>5:45 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Song and dance of National Races 	<p>7:55 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Musical programme <p>6:05 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Discovery <p>6:10 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတွန်းဆော်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာဂါမင်းရုဇနန်း" (အပိုင်း-၈၅) <p>6:30 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Evening news <p>7:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Weather report <p>7:05 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Musical programme <p>7:20 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Industrial Achievement <p>7:35 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Musical programme <p>8:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. News <p>8:18 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. International news <p>8:19 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Weather report <p>8:20 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. နိုင်ငံခြားဆော်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာဂါမင်းရုဇနန်း" (အပိုင်း-၈၅) <p>8:21 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. The next day's programme
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New Year Day marked with meritorious deeds throughout Yangon

YANGON, 17 April — Today is New Year Day of Myanmar. All the Buddhist Myanmar happily and heartily welcome Myanmar New Year Day by performing meritorious deeds at their residences and religious buildings such as pagodas, monasteries, meditation centres, Dhammayons and others.

In the morning of the New Year Day today, the 12th ceremony to release fish and birds and the ceremony to pay respects to the aged were organized by staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs at Kaba Aye Hill, here, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials, staff and trainees of the Buddhist Culture Course.

Kaba Aye Pagoda Board of Trustees observed the New Year Day Ceremony at the prayer hall of the pagoda in the afternoon.

Devotees and people thronged Sule Pagoda in Pabedan Township. Theindawgyi Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara administered the Five Precepts. People offered lights, flowers, water and fruits to Buddha images in the prayer hall.

Similarly, Shwe-phonewint Pagoda was packed with devotees and public who took the Nine Precepts from Shwephonewint Shwebontha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vayama. In the afternoon, members of the pagoda



Devotees and people throng Shwedagon Pagoda on Myanmar New Year Day, 1367 ME.—MNA

board of trustees freed fish into the lake and birds near Tooth Relic Pagoda.

Likewise, those wishing to do meritorious deeds visited Botahtaung Pagoda.

Mon Literature and Culture Committee (Yangon) organized the 32nd ceremony to pay re-

spects to the aged in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students at Mon Dhammayon on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

The Parittas recitation ceremony was held at the compound of Insein (See page 9)

Paritta water poured on Yangon City

YANGON, 17 April — Nine member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa flew over Yangon City and its suburban areas by helicopter this morning to recite Parittas and dispense Metta Bhavana with a view to ensuring perpetual prevalence of peace among Myanmar citizens on New Year Day, 1367 ME. The Sayadaws poured Paritta water on the city. — MNA

New Year Mingala Akhadaw Day observed

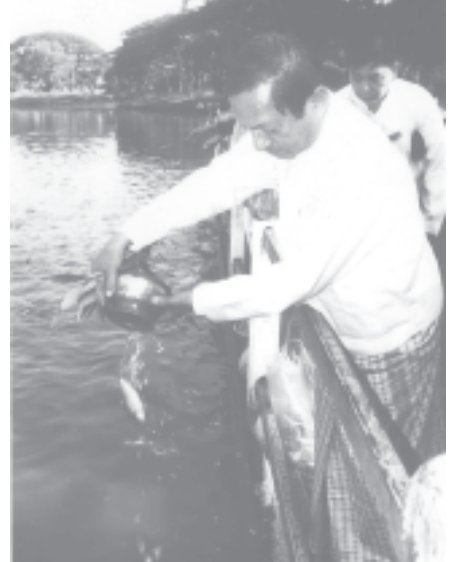
YANGON, 17 April — The trainees led by instructor Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasami (Magadi-Thazi) of Basic Buddhist Culture Course organized the New Year Mingala Akhadaw Day at Maha Ordination Hall on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill this morning, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, departmental heads and officials.

The trainees offered water, flowers and lights to the Buddha Image.

The trainees participated in the observance of the New Year Mingala Akhadaw Day.

Later, they shared merits gained and recited Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu three times.

Afterwards, the trainees together with staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs freed fish, doves and sparrows at Dagon Thiri Lake and its environs.



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung frees fish into the lake at 12th Jivitadana Ceremony of staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.— MNA

INSIDE

Since the government has created all the necessary infrastructures for national development, a modern and developed nation will soon emerge if the entire national people play their respective roles with the nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

(Page 2)

PERSPECTIVES

Roads in Thandaung are very convenient now. If we look at the water supply situation, I saw that water is being pumped up to 1500 feet high hillocks in hotel zones from the northern Thuhoo creek.

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MAUNG BA PE (OKTHA)



Aged persons of Hninzigon Home for the Aged being served with shampooing and manicuring on 17 April, Myanmar New Year Day.— NLM