

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Syrian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic which falls on 17 April 2007. — MNA

As the government is dutiful, the respective departments and staff are to discharge their duties well.

Senior General Than Shwe meets hospital staff in PyinOoLwin

PyinOoLwin hospital upgraded, modernized for visitors to receive medical treatment during vacation

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe visited 300-bed People's Hospital in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, this morning and met with officials and hospital staff.

Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Senior General Than Shwe arrived at the hospital.

First, Senior General Than Shwe inquired about the situation of health care services and treatment of patients at the hospital. Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Khin Saw Win explained the treatment of out-patients and in-patients, common diseases, health



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects 300-bed hospital in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

care services and extension of buildings at the hospital.

Specialist physicians of general treatment department, obstetrics and gynecology department, cardiac department, eye department and ear, nose and throat department reported to Senior General Than Shwe on occurrence of diseases and modern equipment at the hospital and the sectors where extra modern equipment are required. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe gave supplementary reports.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw explained the condition of staff quarters of the hospital.

In giving guidance, the Senior General said that the government will provide all medical equipment required by the modern 300-bed hospital.

(See page 8)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 17 April, 2007

New Year with new vigour and dedication

Today, Myanmar New Year 1369 ME (17 April 2007) begins after four days of joyous Thingyan revelry. Thingyan with all its din and clatter on the urban scene and peace and quiet on the rural scene ushered out 1368.

During the Thingyan festival, the entire people enjoyed themselves, showing affection and forgiveness. Cleansing all the misdeeds of the past with Thingyan water, they are to continue marching to a new, modern and developed nation with new vigour and dedication.

On Myanmar New Year Day, the Myanmar people invite members of the Sangha to recite parittas at their residences as well as wards and streets in order to be free from all forms of danger with expectations for a better future for all.

Moreover, on this auspicious day, the young pay respects to elderly. They shampoo and manicure the aged in line with Myanmar traditions. Religious associations and individuals set free fish and other animals to mark the New Year with deeds of merit while most people go to pagodas and monasteries where they keep Sabbath.

The entire national people have been able to enjoy the water festival and perform meritorious deeds with peace of mind. This can be attributed to the prevalence of peace and tranquillity across the nation.

Realizing the genuine goodwill of the government, the entire national people are to be loyal to the State and to engage fully in nation-building endeavours in the Myanmar New Year.

This being so, the entire national people are to make determined and dedicated efforts with new vigour and fervour for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in the Myanmar New Year, making better use of the already-achieved infrastructures.

Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales in July

YANGON, 16 April — Jade, gems and pearl special sales is scheduled to be held here in July.

Ministry of Mines and the Central Committee for Organizing Jade, Gems and Pearl Emporium will organize the sales.

The central committee called on gem entrepreneurs to sell quality gems, jade and pearls at the special sales as gem merchants at home and abroad will purchase the gems, jade and pearls through the competitive bidding system.

The central committee will also take measures for entrepreneurs to swiftly acquire their earnings as export earnings and export of gems and jade and others related to the sales.

Registration and evaluation of the jade, gems and pearls will be carried out from 23 April to 15 June and entrepreneurs at home are urged to contact the central committee.

MNA

Peoples' 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

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo arrives back from Greater Mekong Sub-Region Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo arrived back on 14 April at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport after attending the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting of member countries of Greater Mekong Sub-Region held from 10 to 11 April in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

The delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chief Justice U Aung Toe and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The meeting in Beijing was attended by Agriculture Ministers from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and representatives from Asian Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FAO, ESCAP and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Officials of ADB explained the framework on agricultural cooperation in Greater Mekong Sub-region and the main programmes for agriculture to

be implemented. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo explained Myanmar's programmes for the framework.



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and agriculture ministers from Mekong regional countries pose for documentary photos at meeting of agriculture ministers from Greater Mekong Sub-Region countries. — MNA

Next, the meeting approved the framework on agricultural cooperation in Greater Mekong Sub-region and the main programmes for agriculture. The ministers launched the website for agricultural information on Greater Mekong Sub-region. This was followed by a joint communiqué of the meeting.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo met Minister of Agriculture of the PRC Mr Sun Zhengcai and discussed

bilateral technical cooperation on agriculture, sending of trainees to the PRC, bio-technological development and bilateral cooperation on production of tapioca and other substitute bio-fuel crops.

On 10 and 11 April, the Minister met officials of some corporations and companies in China. On 12 April, the minister also met Deputy Minister Mr Liu Hongcai of International Department of Communist Party Central

Committee of the PRC. They discussed promotion of friendship among Myanmar and Chinese youth organizations and technical cooperation on production of bio-gas and hydro-electric power development. — MNA

Valiant Pandal celebrates Water Festival

YANGON, 16 April — Valiant Pandal in Latha Township was opened on 13 April to celebrate the Water Festival.

Snacks were offered to revellers from 13 to 16 April and artists from Dream Melody Troupe entertained the audience during the festival which ended today.

The pandal was opened by Commandant of No 4 Military Region Command Col Soe Win and Patron of Myanmar Towards Co Ltd Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Ni. — MNA



Opening ceremony of Valiant Pandal in Latha Township on 13 April. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Brazil promises to share information on bio-fuels with India

NEW DELHI, 15 April — Brazil, which has mastered the use of bio-fuels, on Friday promised to share information with India in this field and the two countries decided to set up an international market for it.

The two countries also agreed that their petroleum companies will explore, produce and trade oil and gas in Brazil, India and third countries.

Brazil made a commitment to "intensify the exchange of information" with India on its Bio-Fuel Programme, a joint communiqué issued after talks between visiting Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and Minister of State for External Affairs

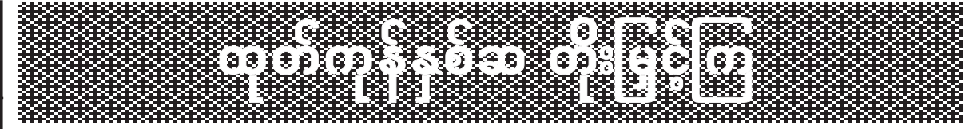
Anand Sharma here.

Both countries expressed their interest to further cooperation under the work programme created by the Memorandum of Understanding on Technological Cooperation in the area of mixing ethanol with gasoline signed in 2002.

The two sides attached importance to the launching of the International Forum on

Bio-Fuels in New York in March and pledged that they would work jointly to set up an international market for ethanol fuel so as to cut international dependence on fossil fuels and to favour use of clean energies, the communiqué said.

MNA/PTI



A girl collects water from a river during the annual Songkran Festival in Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 15 April, 2007. Songkran is a festival among the Dai ethnic group during which people drench each other and passersby with water, which is thought to be able to wash away bad luck. — XINHUA

Russia launches new generation nuclear sub

Moscow, 16 April — Russia on Sunday launched the first of eight planned Borei-class strategic nuclear submarines. "This is a holiday for Russia... We have now

not only what to protect, but with what to protect," First Vice Premier Sergei Ivanov told the launch ceremony at the Yuri Dolgoruky submarine in the Sevmash shipyard in northwestern Russia, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The Yuri Dolgoruky submarine, named after a hero of Moscow and the first nuclear submarine

Russia ever built in 17 years, will start trials later this year.

The submarine is expected to come into service in 2008 and cost Russia 23 billion roubles (884.6 million US dollars).

"Under the armaments programme, seven Project Borei nuclear missile submarines are to be built by 2015 and another by

2017," Interfax news agency quoted Deputy Defence Minister and armaments chief Alexei Moskovsky as saying.

Two similar submarines, the Alexander Nevsky and Vladimir Monomakh, were laid on the shipyard in 2004 and 2006. They could be completed in 2009 and 2011, according to Interfax.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai people play with soap bubbles during the first day of the Songkran festival on famous Khaosan Road in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 13 April, 2007. — XINHUA



Thai casualties climb to 273 in five days

BANGKOK, April 16 — The number of road casualties during Songkran, the Thai traditional New Year, in its first five days rose to 273 dead and 3,832 persons injured, Deputy Interior Minister Banyat Chansena said Monday.

Driving while intoxicated, speeding and otherwise reckless driving were given as the major causes for the 3,406 road accidents registered during

the period, Mr Banyat said.

The government has launched a week-long driving safety campaign during the annual Songkran festival, according to Mr

Banyat, so that the number of people killed in road accidents during the period this year is 38 persons less than in the corresponding period of 2006.

Many holiday-makers are expected to return to Bangkok today as government and most private offices reopen on Wednesday. The Transport Ministry has increased the number of buses in order to cope with higher demand, while stringent security measures have been imposed at bus stations.

The Meteorological Department has forecast that rain is expected throughout the country, especially in southern provinces, and the public is urged to be on the lookout for flash floods. Motorists must take extra precautions while driving because of slippery roads and poor visibility. — Internet



A national competition for the role of Lin Daiyu, the heroine in pop TV series adaptation of Chinese classical novel "The Dream of Red Mansion" is held recently. Altogether 25 competitors battled it out on the stage, with 16 of them winning the first round and 9 eliminated. — INTERNET

Two die in British helicopter crash in Iraq

LONDON, 16 April — Two British service personnel were killed and one seriously injured early Sunday morning in a helicopter crash in Iraq.

British Defence Secretary Des Browne said initial reports suggested the crash in north of Baghdad was an accident and not caused by an insurgent attack, Sky news reported. "Two personnel have died and one is very seriously injured.

All of them were UK personnel," he said in a statement.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said the two British military helicopters were both Pumas, which are normally flown by the Royal Air Force.

But he did not confirm

which service or regiment the dead personnel belonged to. "I can't talk about the particular mission they were involved in, but we do have units operating as part of the coalition across Iraq," the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin says Russia highly values time-tested ties with India

Moscow, 16 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that bilateral ties between Russia and India have stood the test of time when a new system of international relations is emerging in the world.

In his message to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the 60th anniversary of Indo-Russian diplomatic ties Friday, Putin said: "Russia highly values its friendly relations with India, relations that have stood the

test of time and have shown exceptional stability and continuity.

"At a time when a new system of international relations is being formed, Russia and India have succeeded through their joint efforts in putting in

place a solid legal base and effective mechanisms to continue strengthening their bilateral ties," he said.

He noted that in last 60 years, India and Russia have acquired great experience in mutually beneficial cooperation at

various levels. This has made it possible to take the multifaceted bilateral cooperation to the level of a strategic partnership in the long-term national interests of both the countries and in the interests of stability and security in Asia and the world, he noted.

In a separate message to President APJ Abdul Kalam, Putin said: "Throughout the centuries, the peoples of Russia and India have always felt sincere friendship for each other, genuine interest in each other's rich cultural and creative heritage and the desire for mutually beneficial and diverse cooperation."

He expressed confidence that the Year of Russia in India and the Year of India in Russia in 2008 and 2009 respectively would further enrich bilateral ties. — MNA/PTI

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Hong Kong actor Lau Ching Wan holds the trophy after winning the Best Actor Award for the movie "My Name Is Fame" during the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony in Hong Kong on 15 April, 2007. — INTERNET



Girls wearing traditional costumes attend a hair-pinning ceremony in Xi'an, north-western China's Shaanxi Province, on Sunday, 15 April, 2007. — INTERNET

Chavez threatens to cut Venezuelan oil supply to US

CARACAS, 15 April — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Friday reiterated the possibility of cutting his country's oil supply to the United States if it attacks Venezuela.

"If there is a new aggression against our government, there will not be one more drop of oil for the United States," Chavez told a Press conference, adding that "We are prepared for it."

Chavez said he will not differentiate between the origin of the aggression, whether it is from the United States directly or from anti-Venezuelan forces commanded by Washington.

Venezuela delivers 1.3 million barrels of oil to the United States daily.

The President believes the US' aggressive attitude comes from big companies rather than his counterpart George W Bush. "President Bush is not the boss over there, he is just a small-figure," he said. "The big corporations make the decisions, those unscrupulous ones that start wars to sell and win billions of dollars." — MNA/Xinhua

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 15 April — A British soldier was killed and two others wounded during a routine patrol in southern Afghanistan on Friday, the British Ministry of Defence said.

The soldiers, from the 1st Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment, were returning from a routine security reassurance patrol in an area of northwest Helmand Province, when they spotted a five-man Taliban team attempting to set-up an ambush.

They opened fire and were then engaged by a larger Taliban force armed with small rockets, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns, the Ministry said.

It was during this firefight that one of the patrol received serious gunshot wounds and a Chinook helicopter from the Incident Response Team (IRT) rushed to the scene.

The IRT team collected the casualty and evacuated him to medical facilities at the main British base at Camp Bastion. Despite the best efforts of the medics onboard, he was pronounced

dead on arrival, the Ministry said in a statement. The death takes the number of British troops killed in combat operations in Afghanistan since 2001 to 52. Later, the same patrol was engaged in another firefight with a different Taliban force for more than two hours, during which two more soldiers were also wounded.

MNA/Xinhua

Moderate quake jolts central, western Japan

TOKYO, 16 April — A moderate earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.3 jolted central and western Japan on Sunday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage and no tsunami warning was issued after the quake, which occurred at 12:19 pm (0319 GMT).

The focus of the tremor was 10 kilometres (six miles) below the

surface of the earth, in Mie Prefecture, about 300 kilometres (190 miles) west of Tokyo, the agency said.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas. The country accounts

for about 20 per cent of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

An earthquake that hit the coastal region of central Japan last month killed one and left hundreds of homeless.

MNA/Reuters



Xia Aifeng, 36, combs her super long hair standing on a bench at home in Shangrao, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 11 April, 2007. The 1.6-metre-tall woman is keeping the long hair measuring 2.42 metres. — XINHUA

ECONOMIC NEWS

World largest industrial fair opens in Hanover

HANOVER (Germany), 16 April — The world largest industrial fair opened here Sunday evening which will showcase the latest trends in key sectors of industry.

The Hanover Fair, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, was opened Sunday evening by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose country

plays the partner country at this year's show.

From 16 to 20 April, the Hanover Fair will host 13 trade shows covering industrial sectors such as industrial automation, power transmission and control, energy technologies, industrial subcontracting and services, and the emerging technologies of tomorrow as well as R&D. More than 6,400 exhibitors from 62 countries will present technical innovations, current trends and the latest know-how on a total display area of 204,000 square metres at the Hanover fairground, which is the largest in the world.

After Germany, countries with the largest contingents of exhibitors this year include Italy, China and Turkey.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman (C) dressed in "Oiran" costume, accompanied by kimono-clad attendants, walks in high platform clogs during a parade in Tokyo's Asakusa district 14 April, 2007. "Oiran", also known as "Tayuu", were high-class courtesans predominant in the Edo period. —XINHUA

UAE Govt rejects demand to raise medicines prices

ABU DHABI, 15 April — The Ministry of Health of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has rejected a demand by drug agents to increase profit margins on some medicines by 14 per cent, local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported on Saturday.

No further hikes in prices of medicines will be introduced, Humaid Mohammed Al Shamsi, Assistant Under-Secretary for Pharmacy Supplies of the ministry, was quoted as saying.

"Prices of medicines will remain as they are. No changes will be introduced as yet. Pegged against (US) dollar and euro, our current prices are reasonable and in line with international drug prices," Al Shamsi said.

Some drug agents in the country have earlier asked the Ministry of Health to increase the 4.3 dirhams (1.17 US dollars) import exchange rate of medicines for euros fixed by the ministry to 4.9 dirhams,

which is the market rate, arguing that existing prices do not cover costs and expenses of pharmacies.

Al Shamsi said the ministry will conduct a comprehensive study in cooperation with Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry to evaluate the status of pharmacies in the country, focusing on profit margin, costs, purchase and sale of drugs.

"No decision will be

taken in this respect unless we evaluate inflation rate and the drug prices in comparison to GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) markets," he added.

UAE Ministry of Health cut down prices of drugs by 15 per cent in 2004, and further slashed prices by about 20 per cent in 2005 on profit margins of both distributors and pharmacies. (1 US dollar=3.67 dirhams).

MNA/Xinhua



A unit of the Chinese Navy held an annihilation exercise on the Yellow Sea recently. The exercise includes practicing a cooperative attack at sea, a concealed approach in formation and anti-submarine manoeuvres. —INTERNET

Venezuelan-Iranian joint-venture dairy plant opens

CARACAS, 16 April — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced the opening of a Venezuelan-Iranian joint-venture dairy plant, during his television and radio programme "Alo Presidente" on Sunday.

The plant, located in the western Venezuelan province of Zulia, produces cheese, yogurt and cream. With an investment of seven billion-bolivar (32.5 million US dollars), the plant will have a daily production capacity of 36,000 litres, accounting for 5 per cent of Venezuela's total consumption.

Bolivian President Evo Morales and Iran's ambassador to Venezuela Ahmad Sobhani also participated in the pro-

gramme.

The dairy plant is part of the economic cooperation between Venezuela and Iran, which includes other agreements on building 10 maize processing plants, three plastic plants and six milk companies.

These programmes mirror Venezuela's efforts to diversify its economy and reduce the country's dependence on oil exports.

MNA/Xinhua

A woman holds an order form for the 2008 Olympic Games. The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad announces today that tickets for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games are now open for ordering in Beijing, as from 15 April, 2007.

INTERNET

Jet Airways to inaugurate its European hub at Brussels Airport

LONDON, 16 April — India's largest private airline company Jet Airways will inaugurate its European hub at Brussels' Airport on 2 May.

Naresh Goyal, chairman of Jet Airways, will be present at the contract signing ceremony with Brussels Airlines and Brussels Airport, while Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt will be the chief guest.

India's ambassador to Belgium and the EU, Dipak Chatterjee will grace the occasion, the Jet Airways said Saturday.

New additions to the Jet Airway's fleet, a Boeing 777, straight from the factory in Seattle, and

a brand new Airbus 330, will make a stop at Brussels Airport for the event.

Jet Airways is expected to begin its daily flight to Newark in the US with a stopover in Brussels in early August. It is also expected to launch a daily flight to Toronto with a stopover in Brussels around the end of this year.

The service will provide the first direct air link between Belgium and India.

MNA/PTI



Revellers enjoy at Europ Continents Myanmar Pandal in Hline Township on Thingyan Atet Day on 16 April. — NLM

People joyfully take part in Maha Thingyan Festival

Looking ahead

Min Kyaw Min

As we strode past the last days of the month of Hnaung Tagu in the year 1368 Myanmar Era and enter 1369, we took a glance over our shoulders at the events of the past year and years in retrospect to see how well we had done, what gains we had made and what more needs to be done as a people and a nation.

As a nation of patriots, we are to be happy that we can count the years that have passed as full of achievements in the health, education, welfare, social and other sectors to the extent that we have been able to apply ourselves diligently.

At the same time, we have made healthy inroads in the industrial and economic zones on our own and with the collaboration of friendly neighbours through mutual and reciprocal cooperation.

We are to be satisfied that while there are a few who cannot bear to see us prosper we have many friends and neighbours who are ready, willing and able to work together in concert to make sure that mutual values are held high and that there are tangible achievement.

Day in and day out, we hear of destruction, death and turmoil fanned by those so-called big powers pessimistically scheming and acting to destroy the optimistic endeavours of countries striving on their own for a better future. No day passes without such adverse reports. Nations allied to the cause of prosperity

must apply their all in order to bring about greater achievements.

As we look back over the shoulders, we vividly see the comparison between the events preceding 1988 and after are carefully recorded in the Chronicle of National Development recently published, and which speaks eloquently for the achievements of the years past.

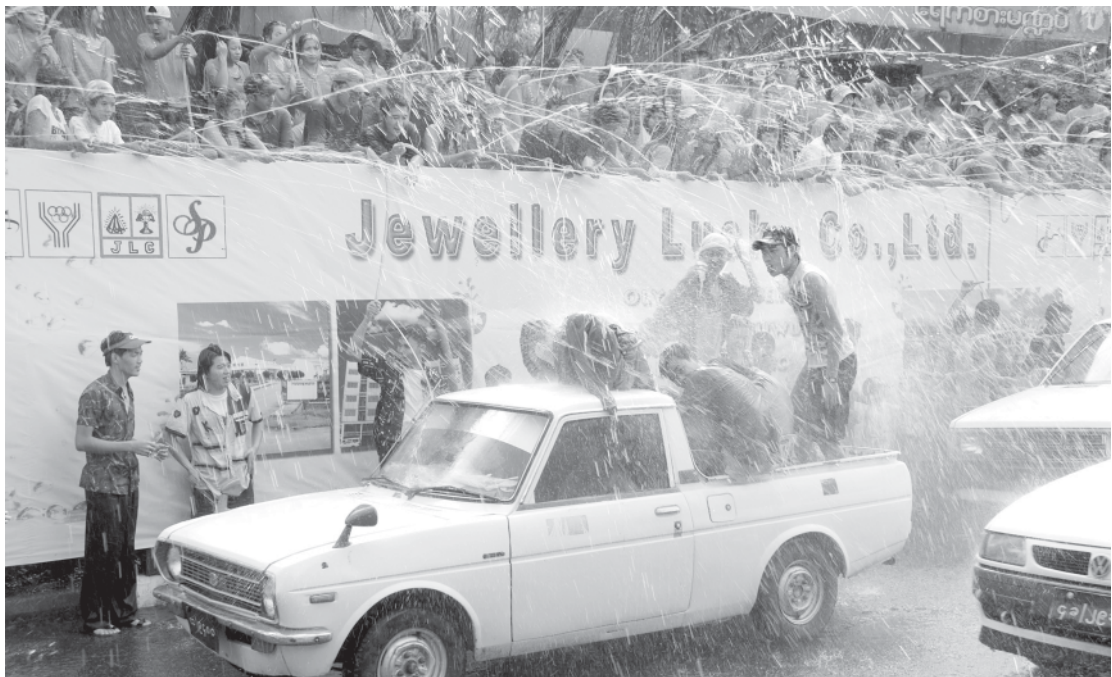
Today, new plans are being chalked up with the leadership of the State Peace and Development Council, plans that will see fruition as the Tatmadaw, the Government and the people apply their sinews to the task.

There are challenges ahead – the kind of challenges that will take up much of our energy and togetherness. But for our nation and people, together with the Tatmadaw, nothing is insurmountable as we have proved many times. We are well ahead in the writing of a new constitution which will result in the emergence of a peaceful, discipline-flourishing new democratic nation.

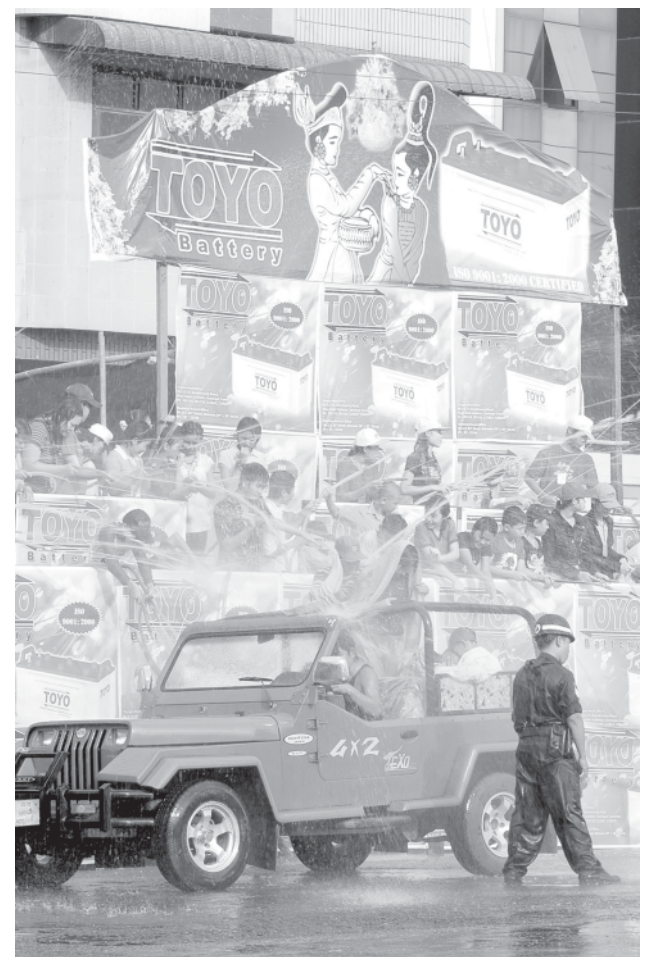
As we look ahead, we see a bright future for the people, the nation and the region where we seek prosperity in peace for the assurance of tranquillity and prevalence of law and order.

Let us live up to these resolutions which we all desire and deserve.

Scenes of Maha Thingyan Water Festival



Revellers enjoy at Jewellery Luck Co Ltd Pandal in Dagon Township on Thingyan Atet Day on 16 April. NLM



Revellers taking part in Thingyan Festival at Toyo Battery Pandal in Kamayut Township on 16 April. — NLM

Thingyan of Union nationals

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

**Living as families ∞ all over Myanmar
Are the national races
Residing in regions ∞ that are like mini-
Unions
Bonding with each other ye brethren
Having the significant characteristics
Wishing Myanmar, A Happy New Year
Border area national races
They love the Union the way they love their
dear life.**

I was listening to and crooning the song "May the Union be blessed with peace". The song was composed by Hinthada Myint Ngwe for our Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. I was listening to the song because Maung Tanji, a Kachin and a staff of National Races Village of our ministry asked for advice from me.

He requested me to choose a suitable Thingyan song for him. He was going to take part in the "Let's sing and enjoy programme" of TV Myanmar. It was a Thingyan festival special programme in which winners of the previous programmes would participate. Tanji had already won two times in the previous programmes. So, I chose a suitable song with full of Union essence for him. On the stage, he would sing to the accompaniment of an eight-member yein dance troupe participated by a

Kachin, a Kayah, a Kayin, a Chin, a Bamar, a Mon, a Rakhine and a Shan totalling eight national race girls.

In this programme, winning or losing didn't matter, what mattered was the result which would be invaluable if it reflected Union Spirit.

Not long ago, I visited the photo studio of Shwe Intha Khin Maung Win, who is a friend of mine, on the 34th Street in downtown Yangon. Ko Sai Ohn Maung was already there when I arrived. He is a Palaung, a native of Namhsan. We were recounting our days in Namhsan and Mantong regions, talking about the regional peace process I had taken part in 1991, Namhsan, a town magnificently lying on a mountain, Taungyoe Pagoda festival, regional economy and so on and so forth.

I have already written in one of my articles that there are two towns — Namhsan and Namsang — in Shan State, whose names are slightly different from each other. Namhsan is in northern Shan State and Namsang is in southern Shan State. Namhsan means a place where a stream flows with strong current, where as Namsang stands for an important region.

I have been to both towns as a serviceman, but on different missions. I was in Namsang as a member of a military operation in 1984. Seven years later, I was in Namhsan on a peace mission. Namhsan is included in a place where I enjoyed an unforgettable Thingyan festival.

Maybe it was the beauty of Palaung women that made the festival memorable.

Another Thingyan festival that is hard to forget is the one I enjoyed in Homein. Our multi-departmental group arrived in Homein in January 1996. We built a Thingyan pavilion by the famous Nonglon Lake where the natives of Homein took part in the water festival. Thingyan festivals in Namhsan and Homein in which we took part together with members of the national races peace groups are always in my memory as the peace Thingyan.

There are other memorable Thingyan festivals. They are the Thingyan festivals of the Union nationals. Those Thingyan festivals are the venues from where national races of border areas return home with enhanced Union Spirit they are trying to foster at their own regions after meeting their counterparts of other areas and exchanging knowledge about their traditions and culture with them.

Thingyan songs written by various composers reflect and help strengthen and vitalize Union Spirit, support and strengthen national unity and peace and boost border area development. Names of some of the Thingyan songs are "May the Union be blessed with peace"; "May peace prevail in Union forever"; "Thingyan water for kinship"; "The Union and Thingyan"; "Thingyan of Union nationals" are full of essence.

Water doused at peace Thingyan festivals with trust, reliance, sympathy, understanding, tolerance and forgiveness reflects amity and unity. Thingyan festivals in which national races take part help to foster Union Spirit and reinforce its foundation and also enhance our love for our traditions and culture.

Hence, I value and love peace at Thingyan festivals, and hope that Union will always be tranquil because of the Thingyan water doused by national races with sincerity and goodwill.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 12-4-2007

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A road in Mandalay is packed with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day on 15 April. — MNA

Mandalay Thingyan crowded with revellers on Akyat Day

YANGON, 16 April—Pandals around the Royal Moat in Mandalay were crowded with revellers this morning, being the Akyat Day.

Vocalists, artistes and Thingyan yein troupes entertained the revellers with songs and dances to the accompaniment of popular music bands.

Among the revellers at the pandals were tourists and those from various parts of the nation, who came and enjoyed themselves in the water festival there.

Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, committee members and members of MCDC Thingyan Family this morning visited the Nanmyothu Pandal and the MCDC Pandal where they enjoyed entertainment and took part in the water

festival.

In the afternoon, those who were taking part in the water festival took rest and recreation at the Zoological Gardens in the north of the Royal Moat, the Mandalay Kandawgyi Gardens, the Taungthaman Lake and the U Pein Bridge in Amarapura.

In the meantime, elder persons including service personnel kept Sabbath and practised meditation at pagodas and monasteries such as Maha Lawka Marazein Pagoda and Mandalay Hill.

In the evening, movie stars, artistes and vocalists presented entertainment at the pandals around the Royal Moat.

Members of Panel of Judges scrutinized the decorated floats which took part in the MCDC Maha Thingyan Decorated Floats Competition.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe meets hospital...

(from page 1)

As PyinOoLwin is a hill station, the government has been providing facilities phase by phase for the people to enjoy a peaceful and happy vacation. Now, the town has reached the level of a hill station of the nation.

The hospital has been upgraded and modernized for the visitors to receive medical treatment during their vacation.

All will have to make concerted efforts for PyinOoLwin to become a town where people can receive medical treatment, while enjoying peace and serenity as well as a hill station.

Education, health and culture are of vital importance for the nation's social sector. The government has been laying down and implementing short-term and long-term projects to develop the education sector.

Likewise, the government has been developing the health sector. As the loss of culture will lead to extinction of the race, the government has been giving encouragement to preserving traditions and culture and cultural heritage.

At the same time, it has been laying down and implementing projects stage by stage

for raising public health standard. PyinOoLwin Hospital is included in the said projects to promote national health standard.

Modern medical equipment as well as experts (human resources) who can skillfully handle and use modern equipment are required to raise the standard of a hospital. The government on its part will provide all necessary medical equipment, while the ministry concerned will take the responsibility for bringing out human resources skilled enough to handle the advanced medical equipment well.



Senior General Than Shwe donates cash to 300-bed hospital in PyinOoLwin through the medical superintendent.

MNA

As the government is dutiful, the respective departments and staff are to discharge their duties well.

All officials should harmoniously strive for the PyinOoLwin Hospital to become a reliable health facility for the public.

The Senior General presented cash assistance for the trust fund of the hospital. He then cordially greeted specialist physicians, doctors and nurses.

MNA

Excerpts from Senior General's Guidance

- * As PyinOoLwin is a hill station, the government has been providing facilities phase by phase for the people to enjoy a peaceful and happy vacation.
- * All will have to make concerted efforts for PyinOoLwin to become a town where people can receive medical treatment while enjoying peace and serenity as well as a hill station.
- * Education, health and culture are of vital importance for the nation's social sector.
- * Modern medical equipment as well as experts (human resources) who can skillfully handle and use modern equipment are required to raise the standard of a hospital.
- * All officials should harmoniously strive for the PyinOoLwin Hospital to become a reliable health facility for the public.



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance at 300-bed hospital in PyinOoLwin.

MNA

- * **The government has been developing the health sector. As the loss of culture will lead to extinction of the race, the government has been giving encouragement to preserving traditions and culture and cultural heritage.**
- * **At the same time, it has been laying down and implementing projects stage by stage for raising public health standard. PyinOoLwin Hospital is included in the said projects to promote national health standard.**





Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, attends opening of Thingyan Pandal of Central Command in Mandalay. — MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends...

(from page 16)
of India in Mandalay, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, senior military officers of Central Command, officials, yein troupes, families of Tatmadaw members and local people.

Nanmyothu Maha

Thingyan Pandal of Central Command was opened at 26th Street near Mangala Bridge in Aungmyethasan Township.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw formally opened the Nanmyothu Maha Thingyan Pandal.

Yein troupes of the command, regiments and

units and artistes of No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit performed Thingyan dances. Film artistes and vocalists also entertained the guests with the accompaniment of Shells Band.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party went to Mandalay Mayor's Maha

Thingyan Pandal and attended the opening ceremony.

Drama branch of Fine Arts Department in Mandalay played the drum. Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han wished all the people health and happiness in Myanmar New Year.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Man-

dalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han formally opened the Mayor's pandal. Next, Daw Khin Pyone Win, wife of the command and Daw Moe Thida, wife of the Mandalay Mayor, spattered water on Daw Kyaing Kyaing and guests.

Yein troupes from MCDC and basic education schools in Mandalay

performed Thingyan dances.

Myoma Ngwengan decorated float and other decorated floats from Mandalay, NyaungU, Meiktila, PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, Yamethin and Myingyan districts also participated in Mandalay Maha Thingyan festival.

MNA



Daw Khin Pyone Win, wife of the Commander of Central Command, spatters water on Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe. — MNA

Yangon Div reverberated with Thingyan songs



People taking part in Thingyan Festival at a pandal on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon on 16 April. — MNA

YANGON, 16 April — In downtown Yangon and suburban areas, the air was filled with Thingyan songs, and Thingyan dances were staged here and there on Atet Day today.

From morning to evening, merry-makers and revellers enjoyed the

Maha Thingyan Festival 1368 ME at the water-throwing pandals in townships of Yangon Division.

Meanwhile, scenes of shampooing, manicuring, and giving refreshments to older persons were not a miss at monasteries, homes for the aged and pandals in

the division.

Moreover, pagodas and religious buildings were packed with visitors and Buddhist devotees.

Local authorities together with members of the social organizations supervised the revellers to ensure order and discipline. — MNA

Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal closes

YANGON, 16 April — A ceremony to close the Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was held at the venue in front of the City Hall, here, this evening.

Chairman of the Working Committee for Organizing the Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Festival Joint-Secretary U Aung Than Win announced the conclusion of the water

festival. Next, those present sang a song entitled "Mann Taung Yeik Kho."

Prizes were presented to winners who participated in yein, ozi and dobat contests. — MNA

Party members have no more interest in NLD functions 24 members resign from Sagaing Township NLD

YANGON, 16 April — Twenty four members of Sagaing Township National League for Democracy, including Township organizer U Ohn Thin of Mignon village tract, Ward and village organizer U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, U Than Htay, U Nyo Seint, U Kauk, U Win, U Soe Tint, Daw Than Ya and U Kyaw Than, resigned from the party of their own volition on 23 March and sent the letters of resignation to the NLD (Headquarters) and the authorities concerned.

In their letters of resignation to the Sagaing Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission, they said that they have found that the NLD (Central) has no pragmatic policy till now, and that they have no more interest in the NLD functions due to the disunity of NLD leaders, the NLD leaders' failure to assist regional development undertakings, their craze for power, excessive selfishness, lack of qualification in politics and political opportunism. Hence, they quit the NLD, they said. — MNA



Members of yein troupes perform at closing of Yangon Mayor's Pandal on 16 April. — MNA

HAPPY THINGYAN



Employees of Mandalay City Development Committee and school girls perform a dance at opening of Mandalay Mayor's Pandal in Mandalay.— MNA



Dancers perform at opening of Yangon Mayor's Pandal in Yangon. MNA



Nanmyothu Pandal being thronged with revellers in Mandalay on 14 April.— MNA



Inya Road being crowded with revellers in Yangon on 13 April.— MNA

**PEOPLE
MERRILY
TAKING PART
IN THINGYAN
FESTIVAL**



Artistes of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon perform at Valiant Pandal in Latha Township. MNA



Revellers throng Myanmar Brewery Ltd's Pandal in Bahan Township.— MNA

Chavez says Castro informally back to much of governing role

CARACAS, 15 April — Cuban leader Fidel Castro has almost entirely recovered from surgery last year and has informally taken back a “good part” of duties governing the country,

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Friday.

“By now, Fidel has resumed a good part of his duties, though not formally,” said Chavez, who is Castro's closest

ally in the region and has frequently commented on Castro's recovery.

Castro has “recovered almost completely,” Chavez told a news conference.

Castro has not been seen in public since he underwent emergency intestinal surgery that forced him to hand over power temporarily to his brother, Raul Castro, on 31 July.

MNA/Reuters



Blind British aviator Hilton-Barber, raising funds for blind people in developing countries, is attempting to fly from London to Sydney in a microlight aircraft recently.—XINHUA



"Hexie" train. China will raise the speed limit for rail traffic for the sixth time on 18 April. A train named "Hexie", one of the China Railway High-speed (CRH) series, will be the focus of the speed increase. The train can run at over 200 kilometres per hour. Each carriage is self-driven and equipped with modern facilities.—XINHUA

E coli cases on the rise in US

LOS ANGELES, 16 April — The United States has seen a steady rise in E coli cases in the past two years, according to a new government report.

“As recent outbreaks have shown, too many people in the United States are getting sick each year from food-borne illnesses,” Julie Gerberding, director of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said in a statement published Friday.

The rise was attributed to the contamination of fresh produce, with the most

notable outbreak in 2006 when spinach grown in Californian fields caused the deaths of three people and left 205 others ill, said Gerberding, citing the latest report which compared data of 1996-1998 with data of 2006.

“We need ongoing work to reduce the exposure of our produce to E coli and attention from the farm to the table of the handling and processing of those food items,” Gerberding said.

In addition to the E coli infections, the number of Vibrio infections, which are caused by eating raw shellfish, increased by 78 per cent from 1998 to 2006, mainly because more people eat raw shellfish, Gerberding added. The current rate of Vibrio infections is 0.34 per 100,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua

Two more charged with schoolboy's murder in London

LONDON, 15 April — Two more teenage boys have been charged with the murder of Paul Erhahon, 14, who was stabbed to death near his London home, police said.

The pair, aged 15 and 17, who cannot be named, will appear at Waltham Forest Youth Court on Friday.

They are also accused of attempting to murder, and inflicting grievous bodily harm on, Erhahon's 15-year-old friend, who was stabbed in the same attack a week ago and remains in a stable condition.

London police are investigating a spate of murders of teenagers in recent months that have intensified fears about

gang violence in the capital. The latest charges take to four the number of

teenagers accused of Erhahon's murder.

MNA/Reuters



A Compass navigation satellite is successfully launched from Xichang, Sichuan Province on 14 April, 2007. China on early Saturday morning launched a navigation satellite, part of the country's "Compass" navigational system, which is expected to provide services to customers all over China and neighbouring countries by 2008.—XINHUA

Man falls from New York's Empire State Building

NEW YORK, 15 April — A man fell to his death from the Empire State Building on Friday, police said, shutting down a bustling midtown Manhattan street just before afternoon rush hour.

The man, in his 30s, dropped from New York's highest skyscraper about 3 pm on a gray, windy afternoon. “We had an individual come from the building. One part came down on Fifth Avenue and another part came down on 33rd,” said a New York police spokesman who refused to give his name.

Breaking News Network, a local media group that monitors police news, said a body had been located near the 30th floor of the building, with other parts of the dead man on the street, shutting down 33rd Street traffic.— MNA/Reuters

At least 21 killed in Mexican bus crash

MEXICO CITY, 16 April — At least 21 people died on Saturday when a bus and a truck crashed and then burst into flames in the Mexican state of Chihuahua close to the US border, police said.

A police official said most of the victims were passengers on the bus, which slammed into the truck before both vehicles were engulfed by flames.

The accident happened close to Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. The official, who asked not to be named, said the crash may have been caused by excess speed. — MNA/Reuters

Five confirmed dead in 52-vehicle pile-up in S-W China

CHONGQING, 16 April — The death toll in the 52-vehicle pile-up on a southwest China expressway on Friday has risen to five with 36 injured, according to police in Chongqing Municipality.

Foggy weather, speeding and overloading were all to blame for the accident which occurred at 8:00 am on the Yongchuan section of the Chengdu-Chongqing expressway. Many of the vehicles were too overloaded or travelling too fast for the drivers to be able to brake safely in the fog, said a police officer. All 46 trucks involved in the accident were overloaded, and they were carrying almost 1,000 tons between them. The road was reopened at 11:30 am, and investigation into the accident is continuing.—MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOYNO (707)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOYNO (707) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 13.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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MV GATI ZIPP VOYNO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI ZIPP VOYNO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 15.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: GATI COAST TO COAST &
DIVISION OF GATI LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOYNO.(7023)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOYNO (7023) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 16.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

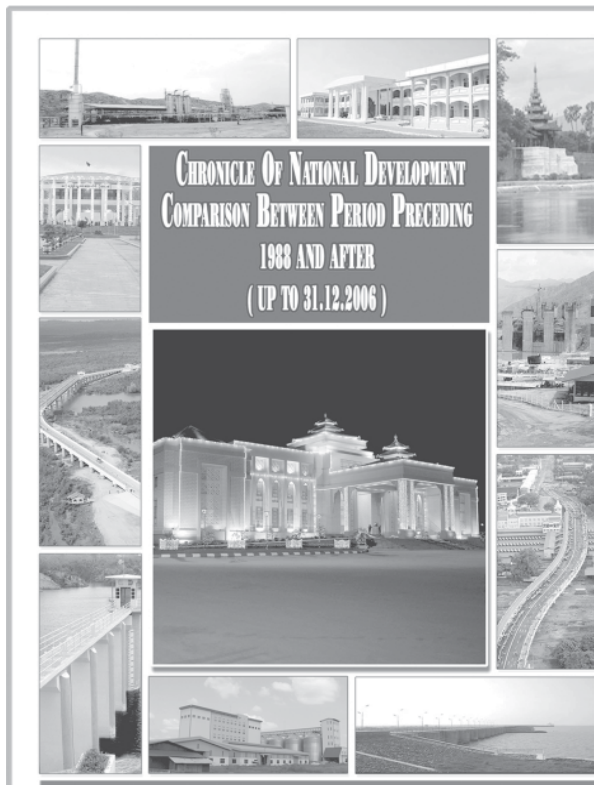
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Over 20 killed in traffic
accident in central Turkey**

ANKARA, 15 April — More than 20 people were killed and 27 others injured in a serious traffic accident in central Turkey on Saturday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

A bus collided with a truck near Bozcamahmut Village in Eskil Town of Aksaray Province in central Turkey on the way to Kapadocia, a tourist place, in Nevsehir Province on Saturday morning, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua



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**MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED
(TENDER NOTICE)**

TENDER NO (IFB No. CCS-02-07)

Sale of an estimated (2,700 metric tonnes) of copper cathode from MICCL S&K Mine site in Monywa, Myanmar.

CLOSING DATE

10th May 2007

Tender documents are available at the following address or can be accessed at www.miccl.com.mm. Any queries can be done between 10 am to 4pm at MICCL Yangon office before the tender closing date.

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited

70 (I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township
Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (124)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (124) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 13.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: PREMIER SPECTRUM SDN BHD**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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MV VASCO DA GAMA VOYNO (042)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOYNO (042) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 14.4.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

INVITATION FOR TENDER

(TENDER NO. 2(T) MPE/ HSD (1)/ 2007-2008)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel Oil (24,000 ± 10%) Metric Tons (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
2. Tender Closing Date: (24-4-2007) at (12:00) hrs noon.
3. Tender Opening Date: (24-4-2007) at (13:00) hrs pm.
4. Delivery Time: Within May, June 2007.
5. Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing (17-4-2007) on payment of One Hundred (100) FEC per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director,
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Bombs kill 58 in Kerbala, Baghdad bridge

KERBALA (Iraq) 15, April — A suicide car bomber killed up to 50 people and wounded 224 at a crowded bus station in the Iraqi holy city of Kerbala on Saturday, police said.

In Baghdad, police said a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle before a checkpoint at the southern Jadriyah bridge, killing eight people and burning several cars in the second major attack on a bridge in the capital in the last two days.

Television footage showed the twisted, blackened wreck of what was thought to have been the car used to deliver the bomb as ambulance and rescue services worked to save the wounded.

Saturday's violence came a day after leaders from across Iraq's sectarian divide pleaded for unity at a special session of Parliament, gathering under high security to condemn a suicide bombing that tore through the building on Thursday. — MNA/Xinhua

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Foreign students get more time in Britain

LONDON, 16 April — International students, including those from India, who want to work in the United Kingdom (UK) after their graduation will from next month be able to get their visas extended for a year. From 1 May, any overseas student who has completed a bachelor's degree or a postgraduate qualification at any

recognized UK institution can apply for the extension, regardless of the course or degree result. It is the government's way of giving something back to those who have forked out a lot of money to study at UK universities for three or four years. Bill Rammell, the Higher Education

Minister said, "It will provide them with valuable work experience to augment the knowledge and skills they have acquired at our universities and colleges". The new scheme replaces one already running for science and engineering graduates on specific courses. MNA/PTI



The picture dated on 15 April, 2007 shows Liuwu overpass, the first modern overpass in Tibet. The overpass, 1,660 metres in length and 29 metres in width, will open to traffic on 1 May. —XINHUA

More American cancer victims keep careers healthy

LOS ANGELES, April 16 — More American cancer sufferers continue working thanks to medical advances, supportive laws and greater workplace acceptance, it was reported Saturday.

Some victims keep their careers healthy almost immediately after major surgery, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. "Although some stay on the job to qualify for company-provided health insurance, many do it for the emotional support and mental respite from their diseases," said the paper. "And cancer's stigma is fading for patients and co-workers." About 40 per cent of the more than one million Americans diagnosed with some form of cancer each year are working-age adults, according to the American Cancer Society. The vast majority return to work after treatment, often within a

year, said Tenbroeck Smith, who directs research on survivorship at the Cancer Society's Behavioral Research Centre in Atlanta. Millions of people with early-stage or localized tumours, such as some forms of breast or prostate cancer, have long been able to return to their jobs in the wake of their treatment. Such "metastatic" cancers were once tantamount to an immediate death sentence. Now, it is becoming a chronic but treatable condition for many patients, akin to heart disease or AIDS, said the paper. —MNA/Xinhua

Sea lion attacks teen surfer girl



Sea lion .—INTERNET

PERTH, Australia, 16 April — A sea lion leaped out of the sea and attacked a 13-year-old girl as she surfed behind a speedboat off Australia's west coast, a newspaper reported Sunday. A marine scientist said the attack by the sea lion, which can grow to more than 880 pounds in weight but usually stay away from humans, was bizarre and that the sea lion may have been trying to play with the girl. Ella Murphy had her jaw broken and lost three teeth after the sea lion attacked her on

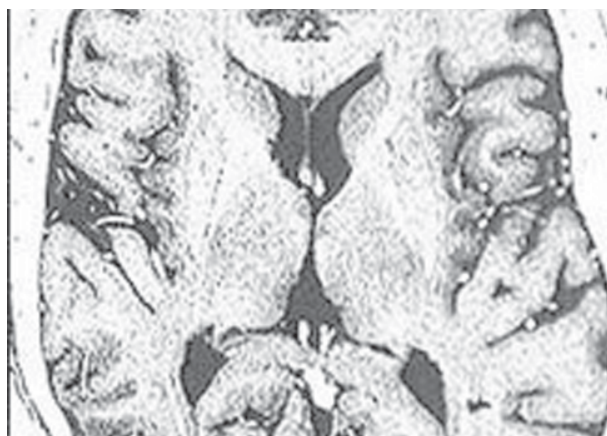
Friday as she was being towed on a surfboard behind a speedboat at Lancelin, a town 80 miles north of the Western Australia state capital of Perth, The Sunday Times newspaper reported. "This thing just exploded in a full-on, frontal attack," family friend Chris Thomas told the newspaper. "It jumped out of the water at her and hit her head on." Sydney Aquarium marine scientist Grant Willis said he had never heard of such an attack before. "To be out in the water and be attacked like this is just bizarre," he said. Sea lions can be very territorial, but usually only attack humans when provoked. "It might have been like a rag doll toy ... it could have been ... play for them, just wanting to shake it around," Willis said of the attack. Murphy was in a stable condition in hospital after having surgery, the newspaper reported. —Internet

Human error blamed in failure of NASA Mars craft

WASHINGTON, 15 April — Human error caused NASA's *Mars Global Surveyor* to fail in November after the spacecraft spent nearly a decade mapping the Martian surface from orbit, the US space agency said on Friday. Faulty changes made last June to its computer memory and a 2 November command helped cause battery failure in the craft, which had far exceeded its

original two-year mission, an internal NASA review board said in a preliminary report. "The loss of the spacecraft was the result of a series of events linked to a computer error made five months before the likely battery failure," Dolly Perkins of NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, said in a statement. MNA/Reuters

Blood pressure 'is in the brain'



JAM-1 is located in the walls of blood vessels in the brain.—INTERNET

LONDON, 15 April—The cause of high blood pressure may lie within the brain, rather than with problems relating to the heart, kidneys or blood vessels, research suggests. Scientists at Bristol University say the findings could lead to new ways of treating the condition, which affects about one in five Britons. The scientists isolated a protein, JAM-1, which

appeared to trap white blood cells, obstructing blood flow. This can cause inflammation and result in poor oxygen supply to the brain. **Brain blood pressure** Professor Julian Paton and colleagues believe these, in turn, trigger events that raise blood pressure, the journal *Hypertension* reports. Their studies in rats show JAM-1 is linked to raised blood pressure, but the exact mechanisms behind this are still unclear. They are now looking at the human brain to understand more. The future challenge will be to understand the type of inflammation within the vessels in the brain, so that we know what drug to use, and how to target them. "JAM-1 could provide us with new clues as to how to deal with this disease. "We are looking at the possibility of treating those patients that fail to respond to conventional therapy for hypertension with drugs that reduce blood vessel inflammation and increase blood flow within the brain." —Internet

SPORTS



The Rovers defence work hard to keep Didier Drogha quiet at Old Trafford on 15 April, 2007 and the match goes into extra time. —INTERNET

Chelsea into final after extra-time win

MANCHESTER(England), 16 April — Chelsea set up a dream FA Cup final against Manchester United at the New Wembley on Sunday but needed an extra-time goal by Michael Ballack to beat a spirited Blackburn Rovers 2-1 in a pulsating Old Trafford semifinal.

Chelsea took a deserved first-half lead through Frank Lampard but Blackburn stormed back after the break to level through Jason Roberts before Germany midfielder Ballack drove in the winner in the 19th minute of extra time.

Chelsea were the last team to win the FA Cup at the old Wembley in 2000 and manager Jose Mourinho heads to the new stadium aiming for his first victory in the competition and still on course for an unprecedented quadruple.

"It's a big, big final, between first and second in Premier League, between two semifinalists in the Champions League," Mourinho told Sky Sports.

Chelsea, who had already beaten Blackburn three times this season in the League and League Cup, settled quickly and took the lead in the 16th minute when Ballack sent Lampard through to clinically clip an angled effort past Brad Friedel.

Andriy Shevchenko wasted a chance to put the game out of Blackburn's reach at the start of the second half by comically missing his kick when Drogha presented him with an empty net.—MNA/Reuters



Everton 2-1 Charlton: In the Premiership, Everton defender Joleon Lescott breaks the deadlock after 81 minutes. —INTERNET

Barca scramble 1-0 win thanks to late own goal

MADRID, 16 April — An own goal from their former player Fernando Navarro earned a stale-looking Barcelona a lucky 1-0 win at home to Real Mallorca that ensured they would remain top of the Primera Liga on Sunday.

Navarro inadvertently clipped the ball into his own net a minute from time when a Javier Saviola shot hit him after it had rebounded off the post.

The win put the defending champions four points clear of Sevilla at the top of the table, but the Andalucians can narrow the gap if they win Sunday's late match at Valencia.

Without Ronaldinho who is following an individual training programme following a recent illness, Barca gave a ponderous display for much of the game at the Nou Camp as they struggled to break down a well organized Mallorca.

The islanders tactic of sitting back and playing on the break looked like working to perfection when they were awarded a penalty after Jonas Gutierrez was brought down by keeper Victor Valdes as he raced into the area after half an hour.

But Valdes atoned for his error when he saved the Argentine midfielder's poorly taken spot kick.

Barca looked increasingly disjointed as the game wore on and it was only when substitutes Saviola and Xavi came on that they came alive, although they needed a stroke of good fortune to come away with the points. Fourth-placed Real Zaragoza failed to take advantage of Real Madrid's 2-1 defeat at Racing Santander on Saturday when they slipped to their first defeat in eight games with a 1-0 loss at basement side Gimnastic Tarragona.

They are joined on 50 points by Atletico Madrid who beat relegation-threatened Levante 1-0 at home thanks to a classy strike from Fernando Torres.

MNA/Reuters

PSV back on top after 2-0 win over Twente

AMSTERDAM, 16 April — Jefferson Farfan displayed his brilliance twice in 60 seconds to earn PSV Eindhoven a 2-0 home win over Twente Enschede on Saturday and the lead in the Dutch League.

After 18 minutes captain Phillip Cocu supplied the Peruvian striker to open the scoring with a fine volley and he doubled the lead almost from Twente's kick-off.

Edison Mendes broke through on the right and his cross was missed by Arouna Kone before Farfan notched in his 19th this season.

The victory ended a four-game winless streak for PSV who, with two matches remaining, are back on top with 71 points, two more than Ajax Amsterdam, who beat NAC Breda 2-0 on Friday.

AZ Alkmaar, hosting

Vitesse Arnhem on Sunday, are third with 66 points, while Twente (62) remain fourth.

Davy de Fauw and Marcel Meeuwis struck early in the second half to inspire Roda JC Kerkrade to a 2-0 win at bottom side ADO Den Haag, who are now relegated.

Tim Janssen scored a second-half hat-trick to seal a 3-0 away win for RKC Waalwijk, their first of this season, against Excelsior Rotterdam.

Excelsior (27) are 15th, one point above Heracles Almelo, in action on Sunday against Feyenoord, and RKC Waalwijk.

MNA/Reuters

N Korean Women's soccer team beat HK 14-0 in Olympic qualifier

HONG KONG, 16 April — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

proved too good for host Hong Kong SAR as they trounced the Hong Kong

14-0 in a qualifier of the Beijing Women's Olympic Soccer Tournament on Sunday.

Backed by Kim Kyong-Hwa's four goals, DPR Korea attacked throughout the match, while Ri Un-Suk and Ri Kum-Suk each added three goals for DPR Korea. Hong Kong did not take a shot in a 90-minute game.

Kim Pong-II, head coach of DPR Korea, said he was satisfied with the result.

"It is a good game, this is the second round and every game is important for us," said Kim, "It is a good experience for my team to play with Hong Kong."—MNA/Xinhua

Pacquiao knocks out Solis to retain WBC title

SAN ANTONIO, 16 April — WBC super featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao built on his growing reputation as best pound-for-pound boxer in the world with an eighth round knockout of the previously undefeated Mexican Jorge Solis on Saturday.

The Filipino improved his record to 44-3-2 with 34 knockouts when he sent Solis to the canvas 40 seconds into the eighth round of a scheduled 12 found bout at the Alamodome.

A groggy Solis barely got back onto his feet, only to have "Pacman" floor him again with a devastating series of power punches that left the challenger unable to beat the count 1:16 into the

round. Pacquiao was spurred into action when a Solis head butt opened a cut over his left eye in the sixth round.

"That gave me determination," Pacquiao told reporters.

"I decided to quit fooling around and go finish the fight."

Solis was the clear crowd favorite among the 14,793 spectators at a venue less than 150 miles (240 km) from the Mexican border.

Mexican flags filled the arena, but after Pacquiao's decisive victory, he was mobbed with hugs and congratulations from the small but enthusiastic contingent of supporters from The Philippines.

MNA/Reuters

Frenchman Tsonga wins tennis challenger cup

MEXICO CITY, 16 April — French tennis player Jo Wilfried Tsonga on Sunday crushed Mexico's Bruno Echagaray 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 to win the Casablanca Challenger Tennis Cup on the artificial turf of Mexico City's Casablanca Tennis Club.

Tsonga took one hour and 46 minutes to beat Echagaray as Echagaray suffered from unforced errors. It was the second time a Mexican lost in the final of this event: in 2003, Santiago Gonzalez fell to Chile's Adrian Garcia. Tsonga won 3,600 US dollars and Echagaray got 2,120 dollars.

In the doubles final, Mexico's Miguel Gallardo and Carlos Palencia defeated Americans Brendan Evans and Bryan Wilson in straight sets of 6-3, 6-3 in 48 minutes to win 1,150 dollars. —MNA/Xinhua



Man Utd 4-1 Watford: Wayne Rooney fires United ahead just seven minutes into the FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park on 14 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Thai flash floods death toll rises to 37

BANGKOK, Thailand, 16 April — The death toll from flash floods in southern Thailand that swept away holidaymakers at two mountainside waterfalls has risen to 37, officials said.

More than 300 rescue workers from government agencies and private foundations continued to search for bodies near the Sairung and Praisawan waterfalls in the Yantakao district of Trang Province,

680 kilometres (420 miles) south of Bangkok.

San Chantarawong, chief of the provincial disaster prevention centre, said on Sunday that 37 bodies have been recovered from Satur-

day's tragedy, with four people still missing.

His deputy, Soralak Thiepwu, said 28 bodies were retrieved on Saturday before the recovery teams suspended work overnight due to darkness.

Hundreds of people were at both sites when the floods struck Saturday afternoon, said officials.

The areas at the bases of the waterfalls' cascades serve as recreational parks, popular with low-cost vacationers who can splash in the normally shallow, rocky streams in the cooling shade of the forests.

Such sites were more crowded than usual this weekend because Thailand is celebrating its traditional New Year, a holiday that extends over about a week and sees many people go to the countryside.

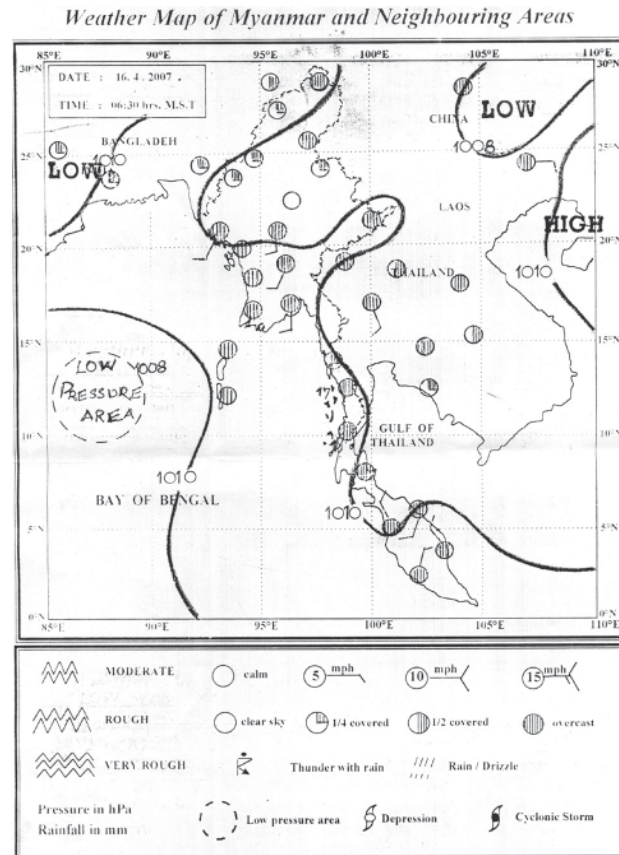
The disaster prevention centre said the flood was triggered by three consecutive days of rain that raced down the steep Bantad mountain range.

The Meteorological Department on Sunday issued a warning that more flash floods were possible in the mountainous areas of the south due to continuing rain.

Internet



Relatives of victims of the flash floods comfort each other at Sairung waterfall in Trang Province, Thailand.—INTERNET



WEATHER

Monday, 16 April, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, (3°C) below normal in Kayah and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Monywa (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (0.67) inch, Heho (0.59) inch and Ye (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-4-2007 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 16-4-2007 was 79°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-4-2007 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 15-4-2007 was (0.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-4-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (16:40) hours MST on 15-4-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over the Southwest Bay stay persist, weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-4-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Mon State, Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-4-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-4-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-4-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Tuesday, 17 April
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
-Bring me to life ... Evane Scence
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
-Miracle ... Jon bon Jou
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
-Watch your back ... MLTR
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
-Take control ... Weezer
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music:
-So beautiful ... Jennifer Brown
-In the air tonight ... Phil Collins
-Mandy... Barry Manilow
- 9:00pm Thingyan Feature Talks
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Weekly sport reel
- 9:30 pm Music at your listening pleasure:
- Don't think of me ... Dido
- Until I find you again ... Richard Marx
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 17 April
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. နှစ်သစ်မင်္ဂလာတရားတော်
- 8:05 am
 5. Nice and sweet song
- 8:20 am
 6. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ
- 8:30 am
 7. International news
- 8:45 am
 8. ဘဒ္ဒန္တကုမာရ (အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု) အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ ဥက္ကဋ္ဌဆရာတော် နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့မဟာဝိသုတာ ရာမတိုက်သစ်မကျေးမြို့ထဲမှ နဝင်္ဂဥပေါသထသီလံ ယူဆောက်တည်ခြင်း
- 4:00 pm
 1. သံဃာတော်အပါး (၅၀၀၀)က ချီးမြှင့်သောပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 4:10 pm
 2. ဓမ္မပူဇော်တေး
- 4:30 pm
 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)
- 4:45 pm
 4. Dance of national races
- 4:55 pm
 5. "တန်ဖိုး" (ညီညီနေနိုင်၊ လှိုင်ဖြူဖြူထွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)
- 5:00 pm
 6. မြန်မာမှုပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းပု)
- 5:10 pm
 7. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲရင့်စွာ
- 6:50 pm
 11. မဟာနံသွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 7:05 pm
 12. ရုဗွယ်ရုံညီ မြန်မာပြည် (အပိုင်း-၅)
- 7:25 pm
 13. ရွှေတောင်မြို့ ကျီးသဲလေးထပ် ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပကိဏ္ဍကနုမက္ကာရ အစိန္တယျ ဘုရားရှိခိုးကြီး (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးသုခ၊ မောင်နှင်းမိုး)
- 8:00 pm
 14. News
 15. International news
 16. Weather report
 17. ဇေယျတုသဗ္ဗမင်္ဂလံ (ဆရာကြီးဦးသုခ)
 18. The next day's programme

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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

Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends opening ceremonies of Nanmyothu, Mayor's Maha Thingyan pandals in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April — The opening ceremonies of Nanmyothu Maha Thingyan Pandal of Central Command and Man-

dalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal were held in Mandalay on 14 April, attended by Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present were

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Com-

mand Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, Chairman of Mandalay

City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, Consuls-General of the People's Republic of China and the Republic (See page 9)

New Year Wish

- * The New Year period Is time for all peoples Of the world to rejoice With smiles variegated For all wishes to be granted For happiness in life May all health and happiness attend.
- * With countenance for the good of own nation May love extend for own people May there be extended endeavours.
- * Justices for oneself, for others May there be feeling of goodness, Alert and prosperous.
- * May there be reciprocal feeling of goodness Kindness pervade from the heart May there be good regard and reciprocity
- * May there be nurtured noble thoughts In humanity's environs May there be pure peace, strife-free May peace attend all.

Chaint Naing (Trs)



Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, views a decorated float driving past Mandalay Mayor's Pandal in Mandalay. — MNA



INSIDE

We are to be satisfied that while there are a few who cannot bear to see us prosper we have many friends and neighbours who are ready, willing and able to work together in concert to make sure that mutual values are held high and that there are tangible achievements.

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