

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend ceremony to donate alms to Sarthintaiks in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended a ceremony to donate rice, edible oil and provisions to Sarthintaiks in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, held at Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Buddha Image in PyinOoLwin this morning.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Shwekyin Sasanabaing Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Withotdayon Taikthit Wasokyaung in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Agghiya, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chair-

man Masoeyein Taikthit Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejosayabhivamsa, member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, member Sayadaws of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Buddha Image Board of Trustees, Chairmen of Township Sangha Nayaka Committees, members of the Sangha from 24 monasteries in Pyin OoLwin and nuns, Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay

Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, ministers, senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station, officials of SPDC Office, departmental heads at division level, officials in PyinOoLwin district and townships, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association of PyinOoLwin and members of social organizations.

At the outset, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered meals, fruits, light and water to the Buddha Image of Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Buddha Image. Next, a ceremony to donate rice, edible oil and provisions to Sarthintaiks in PyinOoLwin followed with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon', fruits and water to Maha Arnt Htoo Kantha Buddha Image in PyinOoLwin.

MNA



INSIDE

People want changes for the nation to get abreast of others. They have already witnessed the benefits of constructive acts. The people know that lies aired by some foreign radio stations do not bring any good to the nation; that those radio stations lack goodwill; and that their plots are so wicked. The people have already faced bitter experiences.

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CHIT NAING (PSYCHOLOGY)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 April, 2007

To provide better public health care

During his inspection tour of the 300-bed people's hospital in PyinOoLwin on 16 April, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to the hospital staff on health care service.

Now the government is improving the public health care to uplift the health and fitness standard of the entire nation.

In addition, it is taking necessary steps for upgrading the present hospitals across the country based on the population and transport sector of the region concerned. PyinOoLwin 300-bed people's hospital, for example, is one of them.

In his guidance, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said, "The hospital has been upgraded and modernized for the visitors to receive medical treatment during their vacation. So, 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.

In this regard, the government has been attending to the requirements for upgrading PyinOoLwin to a hill station where people can visit in peace for rest and recreation.

In a bid to upgrade PyinOoLwin People's Hospital, the government is taking measures in the organization set-up and medical science of the hospital, producing nurses, physicians and specialists and providing modern medical equipment.

The onus is, therefore, put on the health staff and officials to make collaborative efforts to upgrade the hospitals throughout the country including PyinOoLwin 300-bed people's hospital so that the medical facilities will become ones providing better health care to the people.

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

Trade delegation arrives back from Turkey

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein arrived back here on 12 April after attending the opening of Turkey-Pacific foreign trade fair in Istanbul Turkey, from 7 to 8 April.

They were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Livestock and Fishery Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and officials concerned.

Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Myo Oo, Deputy Director-General of U Thein Tun of the Central Statistic Organization under Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, and Vice -President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA



Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein being welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

New Year Festival celebrated in Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Celebration of Myanmar Traditional Thingyan New Year Festival was launched in Taunggyi, Shan State (South), on 13 April.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye formally opened pandals in Taunggyi to celebrate the water festival.

First, the commander attended the opening of the central pandal in Taunggyi and formally opened it. Artistes and dancers performed at the central pandal after the opening ceremony.

Similarly, Commander Brig-Gen Thaung Aye inaugurated other pandals in Taunggyi on 13 April and doused water on dancers and artists to launch the new year festival. — MNA

Minister receives KPT General Manager

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Mr VP Hircmani, General Manager of Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd, Republic of India, at the minister's office here on 10 April. At the meeting, they discussed cooperation in electric sector and construction of power grid.

Also present at the meeting were Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Electric Power Department, Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise and officials concerned. — MNA



DONATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: Mrs Anne Rogers of The Totary Club of Essendon (Australia) donated medical equipment to Yangon Children's Hospital in Yangon on 11 April 2007. Director of Health Department Dr U Kyaw Lin accepts the medical equipment worth US \$ 35,500. — NLM

Fire prevention is compulsory

Prevent outbreaks of fire



Revellers enjoy at Great Wall Pandal in Lanmadaw Township on 16 April 2007.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Gunman killed himself in worst US shooting rampage

BLACKSBURG (Va), 17 April — A gunman killed 32 people at a Virginia university on Monday, calmly gunning down students attending class and then killing himself in the deadliest shooting rampage in US history.

Most of those killed were students attending classes at a hall at Virginia Tech, where the gunman apparently used chains to lock the doors and prevent the victims from escaping, university and police officials said.

Fifteen people were wounded, including those shot and students hurt while jumping from windows in a desperate attempt to escape the gunfire, officials said.

One student told CBS News the killer was about 6 feet (1.8 metres) tall, who walked into his German class and shot a

student and professor before systematically shooting nearly all of the other students in the room.

"I hid under the desk and he proceeded to shoot everybody else in the class, practically," said Derek O'Dell, who suffered a gunshot wound in his arm. "There were probably 15 to 20 people in the class and he shot 10 to 15 of them."

He said the gunman, who was wearing a black leather coat and maroon hat, fired several shots from a handgun, reloaded and resumed shooting. The man left the room,

but returned and fired into the door before leaving again, O'Dell said.

By the time police reached the second floor of the building, the firing had stopped and they later found the gunman lying dead in a classroom.

The rampage began two hours earlier at a dormitory a half-mile (0.8 kilometres) away where a male and a female student were shot dead.

Police said they had thought it was an isolated incident and believed the gunman had left the campus.

MNA/Reuters

Some 300 flights cancelled as New York hit by storm

NEW YORK, 16 April — About 300 flights were cancelled at New York area's three major airports Sunday as a hard-blowing northeaster gathered strength along the US East Coast.

Heavy rain and gusts extended from Florida up the coast to southern New England on Sunday morning.

The National Weather Service posted storm warnings and watches all along the East Coast, with tornado warnings in South

Carolina and flood warnings extending from Virginia north to the New York area.

Most airlines were affected by the storm, said Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, adding

more cancellations were expected throughout the day.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Saturday the police and fire departments were ready for any problems caused by the storm, including flooding due to heavy rain, high spring tides and gusting winds.

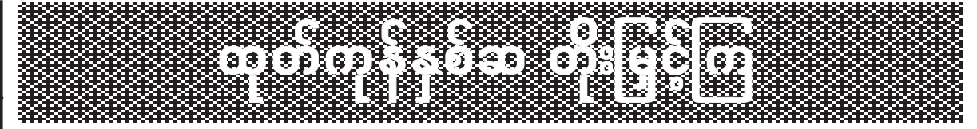
City workers cleaned out catch basins Saturday to help flush away water more quickly.

Extra teams from the Parks Department would be ready to remove any trees downed by the storm, the mayor said.

MNA/Xinhua

Georgina Harwood (Low), a South African woman of 92 years old, skydives in tandem with instructor Andre du Preez near Koeberg in the Western Cape Province, South Africa, on 15 April, 2007. She is possibly the oldest South African who had performed skydiving.

INTERNET



Spain's King Juan Carlos (L) talks with Luxembourg's Grand Duke Henri before Gala Dinner in Luxembourg on 16 April, 2007. Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia are on a three-day state visit to Luxembourg.—INTERNET

Algeria criticizes US attack warning

ALGIERS, 16 April — Algeria's Interior Minister on Sunday criticized a US Embassy warning of possible imminent attacks in the capital Algiers saying it caused panic in a city already on edge after three suicide bombings.

"They take us for idiots," Interior Minister Noureddine Yazid Zerhouni told reporters when asked about the warning that attackers might be planning to strike in Algiers on Saturday.

"Who has an interest in causing panic? It is clear that there is a scheming. You do not need an official statement to understand that."

Suicide bomb attacks killed 33 people and wounded 222 in the capital on Wednesday, the first

large bomb attacks in the centre of the Mediterranean port city in more than a decade and believed to be the country's first suicide bomb attacks.

The explosions raised fears that the north African country might return to the intense political violence that gripped the country in the 1990s.

A warden notice issued to US expatriates in the

early hours of Saturday, citing "unconfirmed information", said there might be attacks planned for that day in areas that might include the Algiers Central Post Office and Algerian State Television Headquarters (ENTV).

The day passed off peacefully, but the city of three million was gripped by rumours of dozens of bomb sightings.—*MNA/Reuters*

Record 709 people killed during Thai New Year festival

BANGKOK, 17 April—The Thai government is considering cutting short the country's main holiday to reduce the number of traffic accidents and discourage Thais from going abroad.

A record 709 people were killed during this year's five-day Thai New Year festival - more than four deaths every hour. Government officials said the death toll was mainly due to drunken driving, particularly by motorcyclists.—*Internet*



Three-month-old twin pandas Aihin and Meihin play at Adventure World in Shirahama town, central Japan, on 14 April, 2007. —XINHUA



Chen Xingang from a Jiefangjun team (L) fights during the men's 78kg taekwondo at National Taekwondo Championship and Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Taekwondo qualifier held in Jin Cheng, north China's Shanxi Province.—XINHUA

Baghdad bombs kill 34, British helicopters crash

BAGHDAD, 16 April — Up to 34 people were killed and 100 wounded by bombs in mainly Shi'ite districts of Baghdad on Sunday, police said, and two British military personnel died when two helicopters crashed north of the city.

Four more people were injured when the *Puma* transport helicopters crashed near a US air base in Taji, 20 kilometres (nine miles) from Baghdad,

British officials said. The helicopters may have collided in mid-air, the US military said.

Two car bombs earlier on Sunday killed 15 people and wounded 50 more in the al-Shurta al-Rabeia neighbourhood in southwest Baghdad.

The first was detonated in a market, followed seconds later by another at a nearby intersection, police said. In Karrada in central Baghdad, two

roadside bombs at nightfall killed eight people and wounded 23, including three police-men, police said. — MNA/Reuters

Turkish helicopter crashes in northern Turkey

ANKARA, 17 April— A Turkish helicopter carrying French tourists crashed in a plateau in northern Turkey on Sunday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The helicopter, carrying seven French tourists to visit the place, crashed in Sekersu Plateau of Uzungol area in Trabzon Province, Trabzon Governor Nuri Okutan was quoted as saying.

However, Okutan did not disclose whether the tourists were killed or not in the crash, said the report.

A Turkish military helicopter took off from Erzican Province to the scenic spot, added the report.

MNA/Xinhua



A very rare Fabergé miniature chair is seen at Sotheby's auction house, in New York, recently prior to going on public display tomorrow. The chair is being sold along with Russian paintings, sculpture, silver and porcelain at auction on 16 and 17 April and is expected to bring between \$1-1.5m. —XINHUA

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BA flight delayed as pilot refuses to fly due to lack of sleep

NEW DELHI, 16 April— In a midnight ordeal lasting more than 12 hours for 225 passengers en route to London, a British Airways (BA) flight failed to take off from here when its pilot expressed his inability to fly complaining he did not have proper sleep.

Flight British Airways 143 was scheduled to leave Delhi at 2.30 am this morning but did not take off after the pilot, Captain William, said he would not fly as he had

not had enough sleep, airport sources said.

The pilot said he could not sleep as there was some disturbance in his hotel, the sources said.

All the passengers, who had boarded the flight, were offloaded, leaving many of them fuming.

The airline could not make alternative arrangements for the passengers and the flight was delayed till 3.20 pm Sunday when it took off for London.

British Airways spokesperson Radhika Raichy said "the crew hadn't had enough rest.

The safety regulations of British Airways doesn't allow them to operate in such conditions.

"The entire crew had a disturbed night," she said.

British Airways apologized for the inconvenience caused to passengers, saying their safety was "paramount" and could not be "compromised".—MNA/PTI



A bullet train speeds past during a test operation on the Nanchang-Hangzhou route of the Zhejiang-Jiangxi railway in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi Province on 16 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Nepali police search for illegal arms

KATHMANDU, 17 April — With the seven-day deadline set by the government to surrender illegal arms ending on 8 April, the Nepali capital Kathmandu Metropolitan Police (KMP) raided the offices of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)-affiliated Young Communist League (YCL) in all three districts in the Kathmandu Valley on the suspicion of possession of illegal arms, Sunday afternoon.

According to eKantipur.com website Monday's report, three separate teams of KMP had reached the respective offices of YCL in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts Sunday afternoon.

Police officials, however, said they could not recover any illegal weapon from the offices during the surprise search.

The newly formed YCL has allegedly been active in abducting and beating businesspersons in Kathmandu Valley for the last few months. Police officials said the move was taken amidst allegations that YCL cadres continue to retain unauthorized arms and are threatening ordinary people, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Ambush kills 13 Iraqi servicemen

BAGHDAD, 16 April— At least 13 Iraqi soldiers have been killed in an ambush in the northern city of Mosul, police say.

Gunmen opened fire at a checkpoint in the Abdaiyah area of Mosul, also wounding four soldiers, police said.

In other violence, US forces killed three Iraqi policemen in a "friendly fire" incident in a raid on suspected insurgents in Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

The military said US forces had come under small arms fire and returned fire. Seven insurgents were arrested.

Army Major Qassim Abdullah in Mosul told the AFP news agency: "A large group of terrorists drove up in five cars and opened fire immediately on the al-Hadhar checkpoint, before making off."

Also in Mosul, gunmen reportedly killed a university professor near his house.

In another town north of Baghdad, Hawija, gunmen reportedly killed the imam of a Sunni mosque and three bodies were found near the town of people shot and tortured.

Millions of Iraqis have fled the instability that is gripping the country, and Monday's violence came as a human rights group appealed for urgent international action to help refugees.

Internet

ECONOMIC NEWS

Venezuelan President backs Iranian nuclear programme

CARACAS, 16 April — Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez on Sunday restated his support for Iran's nuclear programme for peaceful purposes, warning the United States not to attack the Middle Eastern country.

Speaking on his

Sunday radio and television programme "Alo Presidente," Chavez said that the United States had been harassing Iran since 1979 and triggered the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

"Iranians were able to overcome all these threats

and that is why the United States continues to harass them," Chavez said.

He called for Washington to "respect international laws and also all the people of this planet and their sovereignty".

Chavez said if the United States were to make the mistake of invading Iran, it would "accelerate the process of its destruction".

MNA/Xinhua



Madonna reacts while holding a maize cob at Gumulira village in Mchinji outside Lilongwe, Malawi, on 16 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Mountaineer urges Everest clean-up

KATHMANDU, 16 April— Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mount Everest, urged people on Sunday to keep the mountain clean.

Nearly 1,800 people have conquered the world's highest peak at 8,850 metres (29,035 feet) since Hillary and his Nepali climbing mate Tenzing Norgay Sherpa made their historic ascent in 1953.

MNA/Reuters

Nepal's handicraft exports decline by 5.4%

KATHMANDU, 16 April — Nepal's handicraft exports fell by 5.4 per cent in the first eight months of the current fiscal year, triggered by a sharp decline in exports of pashmina products, metal craft and handmade paper products, a local handicraft association said on Sunday.

The Federation of Handicraft Association Nepal (FHAN) stated in

its report that the country exported 1.81 billion Nepali rupees (25.85 million US dollars) worth of handicraft goods in the first eight months of 2006/07 ending in mid-July, as against 1.91 billion rupees (27.28 million dollars) of the similar period last fiscal year.

Exports had come down in the review period due mainly to the fall in

demand of major foreign currency earning goods such as pashmina, metal and handmade paper products, the FHAN report said.

According to the report, export of pashmina products came down by around 19 per cent to 362 million rupees (5.17 million dollars) during the eight month period.

MNA/Xinhua



A hostess holds the Nokia E90 at the 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona, recently. Nokia said on Friday that Qualcomm Inc is the largest user in the world of its technology and patents, firing the latest volley in an increasingly bitter public quarrel over patent royalties.—INTERNET

Yangtze pollution 'irreversible'

BEIJING, 16 April— Large parts of China's longest river, the Yangtze, have been irreversibly polluted, state media quotes a report as saying.

Around one-tenth of the 6,200km-long river is in a "critical condition" and nearly 30% of major tributaries are seriously polluted, the report found.

Even a huge reservoir created by the Three Gorges Dam has become heavily polluted.

China's environment has suffered as a result of the country's economic boom.

The government has pledged to clean up the Yangtze, which supplies water to almost 200 cities along its banks and accounts for 35% of the country's total fresh water resources.

But correspondents say attempts to clean up China's polluted lakes and



Billions of tons of waste end up in China's waterways each year.—INTERNET

waterways have been thwarted by lax enforcement standards.

The first comprehensive study into the health of the Yangtze found that 600km of the river were in a critical condition.

Around 14bn tons of

waste are believed to be dumped into the river each year.

The river's aquatic life had been seriously affected, with the annual harvest of aquatic products falling from 427,000 tons in the 1950s to 100,000 tons in the 1990s, the

report found.

A huge reservoir created by the Three Gorges Dam — the world's largest hydro-power project — had also been seriously polluted with pesticides, fertilizers and sewage from passenger boats.

"The impact of human activities on the Yangtze water ecology is largely irreversible," Yang Guishan, of the Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, which helped compile the report, said. "It's a pressing job to regulate such activities in all the Yangtze drainage areas and promote harmonious development of man and nature."

The report said a comprehensive management system needed to be put in place to stop further parts of the river from becoming critically polluted.—Internet



A model presents a shoe by Fashion House Veronesse during Bucharest Fashion Week in Bucharest on 16 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Only if there is discipline

Chit Naing (Psychology)

Once, I was watching a Myanmar music opera. The main actor was dancing with perfect skill to the accompaniment of the Myanmar orchestra. Then a person (might be a drunkard) shouted at the actor to dance without music. His friends were supporting him. But the dancer in a very polite and eloquent way told the group that every dance number should be performed in accord with the correct timing or in other words in accord with the rule. As he explained it taking time, the spectators came to realize that the persons of the group were just trouble-makers, and sent them out of the audience. It was about sixty years ago, and the nation was not free from internal insurgency then. What the dancer said then was true. We must act according to the rules and observe discipline to achieve progress.

Thanks to the public observance of discipline, our nation is gradually developing. It is true that we will witness progress in all aspects to the degree of our realization and understanding of discipline as highly civilized citizens.

However, there are some other persons (saboteurs) who do not wish to see any national development. The people know that development comes with greater momentum only if there is community peace and the rule of law. So, those

saboteurs dare not show their faces in public as they have no supporters at all.

Saboteurs blow up bombs in market places. So, people abhor them. They plant mines in rural areas. So, people hate them. They try to incite unrest. That is why, the people oppose and ostracize them. People loathe saboteurs as they do not want any violence or unrest. They only want peace and security.

People cannot be frightened by their perpetration in various forms. Some foreign missions are shamelessly encouraging the destructive acts in violation of the diplomatic ethics. As the people of Myanmar are highly civilized citizens, they tolerate the misdeeds of those missions. Some diplomats of those missions are even working as spies and committing destructive acts inside the country. The Myanmar government forgives them in accord with its policy "Enhance amity, diminish enmity".

The people know the conspiracy of those diplomats and traitors inside the nation. Those diplomats ran a confrontation course under the guise of a language course. They tried to mislead the people. Authorities who have the duty to safeguard the interests of the nation and the people are constantly watching their plots.

Some foreign radio stations are airing slanders

to instigate the people, with religion as a tool. As the people have already realized the evil consequences of disunity, they are tired of hearing the voices of those radio stations. The people know that unity is strength.

Those elements are using human rights, women's rights, democracy and religious freedom as sugar-coated poison. Their real intention is to oppress, discredit, isolate, attack and destroy our nation and people. They cannot hide their conspiracies any more. They have committed the said conspiracies for 19 years. People are against the destructive acts.

People want changes for the nation to get abreast of others. They have already witnessed the benefits of constructive acts. The people know that lies aired by some foreign radio stations do not bring any good to the nation; that those radio stations lack goodwill; and that their plots are so wicked. The people have already faced bitter experiences.

Man's observance of discipline is his value. All nations will develop only if they have discipline. Destructive elements from outside the nation cannot hide their ugly face any more.

As we can distinguish between good and evil, we can witness the international changes and developments, the advancement of communication technology and the global transparency. Right and wrong, constructive and destructive and sincere goodwill and evil, all are totally different from each other. It is now in the age of transparency.

Whoever is imposing whatever sanctions on our nation, we are now on the right track towards achieving greater progress and prosperity through unity and discipline. We must honour the perseverance and vision of the people. The strength of the people is great.

(Translation: TMT)
Kyemon: 11-4-2007

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People participate in Thingyan New Year Festival at Valiant Pandal in Latha Township on 16 April. —H

Gong Li wins best actress for HK Film Awards

HONGKONG, 17 April — Gong Li claimed the best actress crown at the 26th Hong Kong Film Awards Sunday night, which is the third consecutive year that a Chinese Mainland actress has won the title.

The previous winners for the title were Zhang Ziyi and Zhou Xun.

Nine-year-old Gouw Ian Iskandar, who starred in "After This Our Exile", brought home two awards - best supporting actor and

best new performer. He has already won the best supporting actor award at the 43rd Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival for the same role. The film was also the best film and best screenplay winners of this year. Its director Patrick Tam, trumped rivals - Jonnie To, Zhang Yimou and Jacob Cheung, for the best director title.

"After This Our Exile", Tam's first film in 17 years, is an art film about the relationship between a

single and abusive father who turns to gamble and his son. Lau Ching Wan starring "My Name Is Fame" unexpectedly claimed the best actor crown by beating Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Chow Yun Fat and Jet Li. Thirteen nominations garner, Zhang Yimou's "Curse of The Golden Flower", finally won four awards - best actress, best original song, best costume design and best art.

MNA/Xinhua

City Clinic provides free medical services



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence unveils the signboard of City Clinic. — MNA

YANGON, 17 April — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening of a clinic in Mayangon Township today.

The “City Clinic” was established by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, YCDC, social organizations and well-wishers to provide free medical care to the people.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla

Htay Win and CEC Member of USDA Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the clinic and Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of it.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Thet Htay, Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, wife of Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin,

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials of YCDC, the secretary and members of Yangon Division USDA, officials of social organizations and well-wishers.

After the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected the clinic and comforted the patients at the clinic.

Well-wishers donated cash amounted to over K 18 million, a water purifier and an X-ray machine to the clinic through Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

The clinic will be kept from 8 am to noon and from open from Monday to Friday 2 pm to 4 pm. — MNA



City Clinic in Mayangon Township. MNA

Commander opens CNG filling station

YANGON, 17 April — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win formally opened the CNG filling station No 022 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy in Thakayta Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, heads of departments and guests. First, the Deputy Minister formally opened the filling station. Afterwards, the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the filling station.

Next, General Manager U Thein Htay

conducted the commander and the deputy minister round the filling station. Afterwards, the commander and the deputy minister inspected CNG

filling to vehicles. A total of 22 filling stations including two old ones have already opened in Yangon municipal area. Machines and parts have been ordered

in order to rapidly open filling stations to fulfill the requirement of the CNG-run vehicles. All CNG filling stations keeps open round the clock. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay inspect a gas refilling station. — ENERGY

Paritta water poured into reservoirs

YANGON, 17 April— Members of the Sangha recited parittas and poured paritta water into Hlawga Reservoir in Mingaladon Township today.

The congregation led by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe took the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya.

Next, the members of Sangha recited parittas. The mayor and wife Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe donated provisions to the Sayadaw and members of Sangha.

After the ceremony, members of Sangha, the mayor and committee members poured paritta water into Hlawga Reservoir. They also poured parittas water into Gyobyu, Phugyi and Ngamoeyeik reservoirs.

YCDC

Donate Blood

(from page 1)

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and the congregation received the *Nine Precepts* from State Ovadacariya Shwekyin Sasanabaing Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Withodayon Taikthit Wasokyaung in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Agghiya. Afterwards, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered rice, edible oil and provisions to Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Agghiya and so did General Thura Shwe Mann.



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present offertories to a Sayadaw at ceremony to donate provisions to monasteries in PyinOoLwin. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend ceremony to donate alms to Sarthintaiks in PyinOoLwin

A congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing receives *Nine Precepts* from a Sayadaw.

MNA

Afterwards, members of the SPDC, the commander, ministers, senior military officers and departmental officials donated provisions to members of the Sangha.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donated alms to nuns.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nakaya Committee Mya-taungtaik Shwewahwin monastery presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

(See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing set fish free into Kandawgyi Lake in PyinOoLwin.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing ...

(from page 8)

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offered meals to members of the Sangha and nuns. Next, they proceeded to National Kandawgyi Gardens and viewed upgrading tasks of the gardens and set fish free into the lake. Afterwards, departmental officials, members of PyinOoLwin district and township Women's Affairs Organizations and Maternal and Child Welfare Associations collectively set fish free into the lake.

The National Kandawgyi Gardens is packed with visitors as today is Myanmar New Year day.

MNA



Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, donates provision and robes to nuns in PyinOoLwin. — MNA



People visit National Kandawgyi Gardens on Myanmar New Year Day.

MNA



Photo shows upgraded National Kandawgyi Gardens. — MNA

Maha Thingyan Festival in Mawlamyine ends with prize-distribution ceremony

YANGON, 17 April— A ceremony to close the Maha Thingyan Festival for 1368 ME in Mawlamyine was held in conjunction with the prize-distribution ceremony at the central pandal of the Mawlamyine Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival Organizing Committee in Mawlamyine yesterday evening, attended by Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, Secretary of Mon State Peace and Development Council U Aung Win and members, departmental officials, Thingyan competitors and guests.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win presented the first prize, second prize, third prize and consolation prizes to the respective pandals that took part in entertainment and pandal competitions.

Next, Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the commander, presented the first prize, second prize, third prize and consolation prizes to yein troupes which participated in dance competitions. After that, the commander and

wife and party viewed the presentation of the yein troupe that stood first in dance competitions.

The Maha Thingyan Festival for 1368 ME came to an end with the singing of "Myananda" song by yein troupes and guests.—MNA



Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han presents the best pandal award to a winner. MNA

Commander attends closing of Rakhine State traditional Thingyan festival

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Maung Shein together with Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and officials enjoyed the entertainment of families of Sittway Station on 15 April, presented cash awards to

dance troupes and took part in the water festival.

Next, the commander enjoyed the entertainment and took part in the water festival at the pandals of Padaleik, Ye Chanpyin stations, departments and private organizations.

The following day, the commander attended a closing ceremony in conjunction with the prize

presentation at the central pandal of U Ottama Park in Sittway.

Next, the commander presented prizes to winners in 'yein' dance.

Afterwards, 'yein' dance troupes closed the ceremony of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Thingyan festival by singing Myananda song.

MNA

Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal closes successfully

YANGON, 17 April — Mandalay Thingyan Festival was alive with revellers the whole Atet day — the last of the Myanmar Water Festival, and echoes of Thingyan songs and performances of Thingyan dances were here and there.

In marquees and pandals, visitors were

served with Myanmar traditional snacks.

In the evening, a closing ceremony of the Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was held at Mandalay Mayor's Pandal in front of the Mandalay City Development Committee. Chairman of the committee Mayor Brig-

Gen Phone Zaw Han attended the ceremony and presented prizes to those winners in yein, ozi and dobat contests.

Artistes entertained the audiences with songs and dances.

The ceremony ended by singing the song entitled "Mann Taung Yeik Kho".—MNA

Tiered and ornamented finial hoisted atop Maha Jeya Siddhi Aung Phone Pwint Hmyawdawaung Pagoda in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 17 April—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay this morning attended a ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw (golden umbrella) atop Maha Jeya Siddhi Aung Phone Pwint Hmyawdawaung Pagoda in No 2 War Veteran Village (The-phyu), Yintaikpin Village-tract, Hmawby Township and hoisted tiers of Shwehtidaw (golden umbrella), Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) and Seinbudaw (diamond orb) atop the pagoda.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Yankin Dhammikarama Kyaikpi

Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunesana. Also present were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers, head of Myanmar War Veterans Organization (HQ) and members, social organizations, guests and well-wishers.

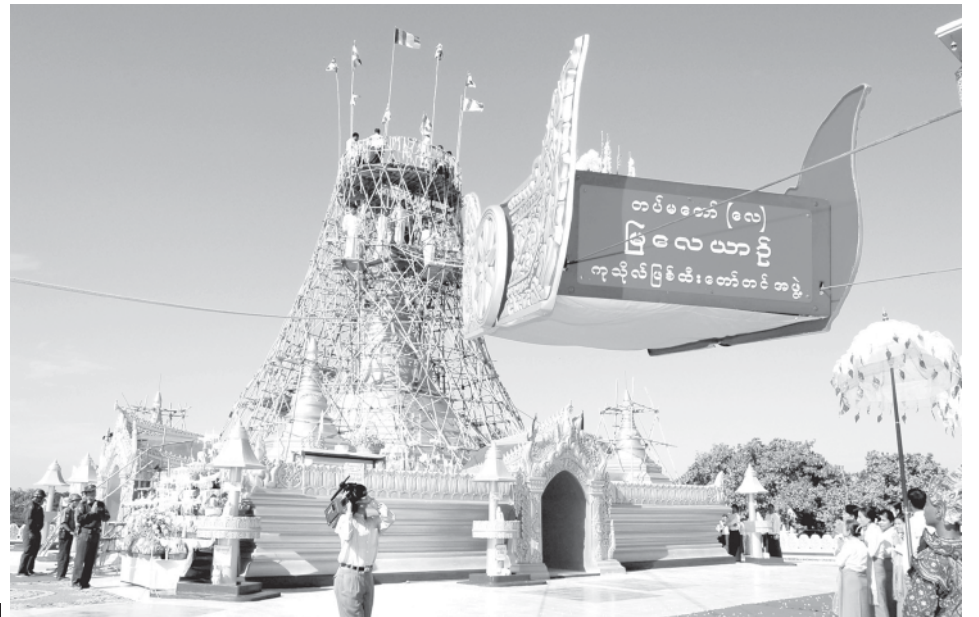
The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tassa three times.

Next, the congregation led by Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunesana, and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

After that, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife presented Seinbudaw (diamond bud) and Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunesana.

Later, the deputy minister, the vice-mayor and senior military officers presented offertories to members of the Sangha. That was followed by the cash-donation ceremony.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted the donations—K 18 million by U Aung Mon-Daw Hla Hla Maw and family, K 9 million by U Ye Aung-Daw Le Le Win and family, K 5 million by Dr Khin Shwe, K 4 million by U Aung Zaw Myint-Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family, K 3.8 million by U Naung Naung-Daw Ohnmar Sein and U Myo



Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw being hoisted atop Maha Jeya Siddhi Aung Phone Pwint Hmyawdawaung Pagoda. — MNA

Kyaw-Daw Wa Wa Thein, K 3.25 million by U Win Maung (Taunggyi), K 2 million each by Dr Ko Ko Gyi, U Zaw Win, U Yon Mu, Cheryoo family and U Maung Maung—and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

The deputy minister accepted the donations—K 1 million each by Lt-Col Win Maung (Retd) and wife and family, and YCDC, K 700,000 by Mr Wanja Ywi and Daw Khine Khine Win, K 500,000 each by U Than Tun Oo, U Than Aung

family, U Tun Myint-Daw San San Oo and Yangon Division War Veterans Supervisory Committee—and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe conveyed Seinbudaw, Daw Khin Thet Htay Hnget-myatnadaw, the deputy minister, the vice-mayor and senior military officers tiered finial round the pagoda clock-wise and then to the Mingala Pandal.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe hoisted the tiered and ornamented finial atop the

pagoda with the use of a decorated carriage. The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu three times.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and members performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

After that, members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife and party offered alms food to members of the Sangha.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay offer religious objects to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Sayadaw delivers New Year sermon to children

YANGON, 17 April — Sayadaw Ashin Chekinda, Lecturer of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, delivered a special sermon to children in Sangyoung Township today.

Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization organized the ceremony at No 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township. Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai donated offertories to the Sayadaw and the congregation shared merits gained.

MNA



Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai presents offertories to Sayadaw Ashin Chekinda. — MNA

Yangonites perform meritorious...

(from page 16)

Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this morning. Seventy-two Mon elderly persons attended the ceremony. Young women and men spattered scented water onto them. Gifts were presented to the prizewinners of

summer Mon literature courses (basic) and (senior) conducted in 2006 and 2007 and those who passed matriculation exam (2005-2006) with distinctions.

Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint and service personnel of the Myanmar

Motion Picture Enterprise at 28, Kokkaing Avenue in Bahan Township listened to the parittas recited by members of the Sangha at the head office this afternoon. This afternoon, the townships, wards and streets in Yangon Division were resonated with the voices of reciting parittas.—MNA



Board of Trustees of Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda organizes a ceremony to welcome New Year Day. — MNA

Afghanistan starts to build ‘national information highway’

KABUL, 16 April — As another symbol of development in volatile Afghanistan, the Afghan national optical fibre cable network, also called by many as “the national information highway,” broke ground on Sunday.

The 3131-kilometre network costs 64 million US dollars and would be built by a leading Chinese communications company ZTE, said Chinese engineer Zeng Guangming from the ZTE.

The network would connect most Afghan

provinces as well as Afghanistan’s four neighbouring countries including Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, he said.

At an opening ceremony on the outskirts of Afghan capital Kabul, First Vice-President of

Afghanistan Ahmad Zia Massoud said the network would provide cheap, good communication and Internet service, benefiting both the Afghan people and government.

“The project would help boost the Afghan

economy and facilitate Afghans’ daily lives.

The Chinese Government would continue to support Chinese companies in actively joining this country’s reconstruction,” said Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Yang Houlan.

The network would be built with 70 transfer sites, and could provide audio, video and data transfer service.

The network, to be built in 26 months, would boast the biggest information transfer capacity in this country after completion, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



An undated publicity photo provided by the Walt Disney Company shows a model displaying the Ariel gown by designer Kirstie Kelly for Disney Fairy Tale Weddings.—INTERNET

Armed group says abducted 20 Iraqi security staff

BAGHDAD, 16 April — The Islamic State of Iraq armed group said in a statement posted on the Internet on Saturday that it has kidnapped 20 Iraqi soldiers and policemen and threatens to kill them in 48 hours if its demands are not met.

The statement said the security staff were abducted in eastern Baghdad, but did not mention at what time.

Images could be seen on the Internet with the purported captives dressed in brown and blue uniforms, blindfolded and handcuffed.

The Islamic State of Iraq demanded the release of “Muslim Sunni sisters who are in the prisons of the Interior Ministry.”

The statement “gives the government of (Prime Minister Nuri) al-Maliki 48 hours to meet its demands or it will execute the rule of God on them”.

On 22 February, the Islamic State of Iraq issued another Internet statement, protesting against three Iraqi policemen’s sexual assault of a Sunni woman and called on the group’s members to step up attacks on US and Iraqi Government forces.

MNA/Xinhua

1,300 of world’s elite to attend Boao Forum for Asia

HAIKOU, 16 April — More than 1,300 people from around the world, include the richest man in the world, have confirmed

they will attend the annual Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), to be held from 20 April to 22 April, a government official in the host province said Sunday.

“This far outnumbers last year’s 850 participants,” said Liu Jin, a foreign affairs official in China’s southern-most island province of Hainan.

He said more than 200 senior government officials from around the world, including at least 40 ministerial-level officials, have confirmed they’ll participate in this year’s forum at Boao, a tropical seaside town in Hainan, which is the permanent home of the conference.

This year’s event will also draw more than 600 business elites including the wealthiest, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, said Liu.

The reputation of the Boao Forum has been favourably compared to the Davos Forum, named after a Swiss town, where the World Economic Forum originated.

MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bombing kills eight in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 April — A suicide bombing killed eight persons, including seven policemen, and injured seven others outside a police base in Khost Province of eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, a local police officer told Xinhua.

The blast occurred at a main gate of a major border police base near Khost City, the provincial capital, at around 12:00 pm (0730 GMT), deputy provincial border police chief Shir Ahamad Kuchi said.

“Seven border policemen and one civilian were killed in the explosion,” Kuchi said, adding the civilian was going to the base to visit his brother.

Six policemen and one pro-government tribal militia were injured,

he said.

Another local police officer Slahudin said the suicide bomber, who was trying to enter the building, blew himself up when he was stopped by policemen at the gate.

Mohammadi, head of a local major hospital, said that eight dead bodies and six injured persons had been carried to his hospital.

No one has claimed responsibility, but Taliban militants have frequently carried out similar attacks.

Meanwhile, two separate explosions killed three anti-government militants and two policemen in Ghazni Province of central Afghanistan, provincial police chief Alishah Ahmadzai told Xinhua on Saturday. — MNA/Xinhua



A model of Spider-Man is displayed at an exhibition ahead of the ‘Spider-Man 3’ world premiere in Tokyo on 16 April, 2007.—INTERNET



Spanish bullfighter Manuel Escribano prepares to drive banderillas into a bull during a bullfight in the Maestranza bullring in Seville on 16 April, 2007. — INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

Beijing's overseas capital contributes little to real estate firms

BEIJING, 16 April — Overseas funds contributed 5.6 per cent to the total capital inflow in the 344 overseas-funded real estate companies in Beijing in 2006, according to a report from the Beijing Bureau of Statistics.

These firms, 204 of which were registered in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, saw an overall influx of 68.75 billion yuan (8.8 billion US dollars) last year, including overseas capital of 3.13 billion yuan.

The primary capital source was deposits for earnest-paid orders and bank loans, which accounted for 42.3 per cent and 19.9 per cent respectively of last year's total capital inflow.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Japan hold first ministerial meeting on energy

TOKYO, 16 April — China and Japan held its first ministerial dialogue on energy policies here on Thursday, agreeing to reinforce energy cooperation.

Ma Kai, head of China's State Development and Reform Commission, and Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Akira Amari had in-depth discussions on a wide range of energy-related issues, including energy-saving, nuclear power, coal industry and multi-national cooperation.

They agreed that the cooperation in energy-saving, environmental protection, new energy and oil replacements are the key contents in the bilateral strategic, mutually-beneficial relations and the crucial driving force for the development Chinese-Japanese economic relations.—MNA/Xinhua

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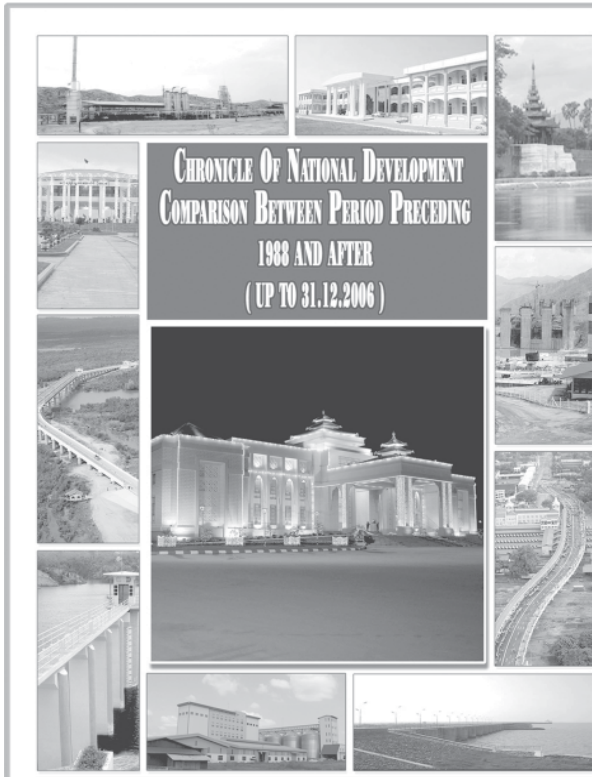
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Lee Kyung-eun (popularly known as Harisu), a male to female transgender singer, is to get married in May. She and the would-to-be groom took pictures before their wedding.—INTERNET



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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MARINA STAR-2 VOY NO (705)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARINA STAR-2 VOY NO (705) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.4.2007 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.

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Iran's nuclear progress likely to result in nuclear race

WASHINGTON, 16 April — Now that Iran has a nuclear programme, other Middle East countries want nuclear power, something that will probably result in a nuclear race in the region, the *New York Times* reported on Sunday. "Two years ago, the leaders of Saudi Arabia told international atomic regulators that they could foresee no need for the kingdom to develop nuclear power. Today, they

are scrambling to hire atomic contractors, buy nuclear hardware and build support for a regional system of reactors," the newspaper said.

"Turkey is preparing for its first atomic plant and Egypt has announced plans to build one on its Mediterranean coast. In all, roughly a dozen states in the region have recently turned to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna for help in starting their own nuclear programme," the newspaper said.

"The rules have changed. Everybody's going for nuclear programmes," King Abdullah II of Jordan was quoted as saying recently to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*.

The Mideast countries say they only want atomic power. But US Government and private analysts say they believe that the rush of activity is also intended to counter the threat of a nuclear Iran.—MNA/Xinhua



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Boston Marathon run in space station



Lidiya Grigoryeva of Russia celebrates after winning the women's division of the 111th Boston Marathon in Boston, Massachusetts on 16 April 2007.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 17 April — An American astronaut Sunita Williams ran the Boston Marathon on a treadmill onboard the International Space Station Monday while thousands of other participants ran the streets leading to Boston in pouring rain.

The 41-year-old astronaut took four hours 23 minutes 46 seconds to complete

the about 46-kilometre race. "I'm done! Woo hoo!" Williams told Mission Control after that. Already travelling at 17,500 mph, Williams started the race on time at 10 am EDT with race No 14,000 taped to the front of the treadmill as the space station passed over the Pacific Ocean. She finished, unofficially, 4 hours, 23 minutes and 46 seconds later as the station travelled over Russia.

Outgoing ISS commander Michael Lopez-Alegria helped Williams set up for her race, but the rest of the station crew was sleeping since it was occurring during their normal night shift. Race officials were not able to calculate her finishing spot immediately, but based on last year's results, she would be ranked at about 6,300th place among about 7,600 women runners.

Two laptop computers were on either side so she could watch past Boston Marathons on a DVD and keep track of where the space station was flying. Periodically, she asked Mission Control for an update on the times of friends, including NASA astronaut Karen Nyberg, and her sister, Dina Pandya, who were running the marathon on the ground. Williams has been in orbit since December and has trained on a specially modified treadmill.—*Internet*

Chondroitin not effective killer of arthritis pain

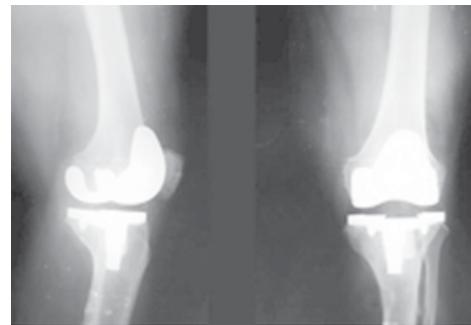
BEIJING, 17 April — Although it is widely used as a dietary supplement, chondroitin may not help kill arthritis pain, according to an analysis of 20 studies published in Tuesday's issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Swiss researchers combined results from recent large-scale studies on chondroitin's effectiveness. They found that people taking chondroitin had no better improvement in joint health or pain relief than those taking the placebo. "The longer you look and the more rigorously you look, the less effect you see," said Dr Peter Jüni, an epidemiologist at Switzerland's University of Bern and an author of the new study. "We shouldn't expect that this is a magic bullet - it isn't."

This review came after another recent study that looked at chondroitin in conjunction with different supplement, glucosamine. The two are frequently sold in combination.

The study found neither chondroitin nor glucosamine alone, nor the two in combination were better than a placebo for arthritis pain.

As to why many patients swear



by chondroitin as a treatment, Jüni suggested that osteoarthritis — the degenerative joint disease seen especially in older people — is a condition that does not progress invariably toward more severe symptoms.

Chondroitin, a cartilage extract, is sold across America in health food stores, pharmacies and online. It is often combined with glucosamine, an amino sugar. Experts estimate that US sales of chondroitin-glucosamine supplements now top 1 billion US dollars per year.

Internet

Indian scientists to decide on number of "Agni-III" tests

BANGALORE, 16 April — Asserting that India's missile tests are meant to create adequate deterrence and not aimed against any country, Defence Minister AK Antony Saturday said scientists would decide how many more launches of the *Agni-III* were needed to make the missile operational.

"These kind of tests will continue," Antony told reporters after visiting

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited here when asked if India had the political will to proceed to the next level of missile tests.

"We will continue with these (*Agni* missile) tests," he emphatically said, adding they were not directed against any country but meant to create "enough deterrence".

The successful test Thursday of the nuclear-capable *Agni-III*, which has the ability to hit targets 3,000 kilometres away, showed that Indian scientists had "matured enough and whenever necessity arises, we can have missiles of whatever capacity needed for the country", he said.

Asked how many more tests of the *Agni-III* were required before its deployment, he said this would be decided by scientists.

India always had the political will for the tests, he said. "We do not want to exhibit it. It is already

there." Antony said the induction of *Agni-I* and *Agni-II* missiles into the armed forces would be done in a "reasonable time" and there would not be any "unnecessary delay".

The failed maiden test of *Agni-III* nine months ago had not deterred scientists. "The scientists have produced results. It is excellent...up to the point," he said.

Responding to a question on India's "threat perceptions" in the region, particularly from China, Antony said the "border situation is much better" when compared to the past. Relations with neighbouring countries were better and dialogue will continue to find solutions to existing problems, he said.

While India is trying to improve relations with its immediate and distant neighbours and other nations, it could not ignore "developments around us", he said.— *MNA/PTI*

US Marines killed many Afghan civilians after March bombing

WASHINGTON, 16 April — A preliminary investigation by the military says US Marines killed or wounded more than 40 Afghan civilians after a suicide attack on a convoy last month, the *Washington Post* reported on Sunday.

The newspaper said work by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service would decide whether to call courts martial for the troops involved. A spokesman at the Defence Department's Central Command headquarters was not immediately available for comment.

Although Marines said they saw people with weapons, the investigation found no evidence of small arms fire, the newspaper quoted Major-General Frank Kearney, head of

Special Operations Command Central, as saying. The Marines shot at vehicles and other suspected threats for miles after the site of the March 4 incident in a village near Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least 10 people and

wounding 33, Kearney told the newspaper.

"My investigating officer believes those folks were innocent... We were unable to find evidence that those were fighters," the newspaper quoted Kearney as saying.

MNA/Reuters



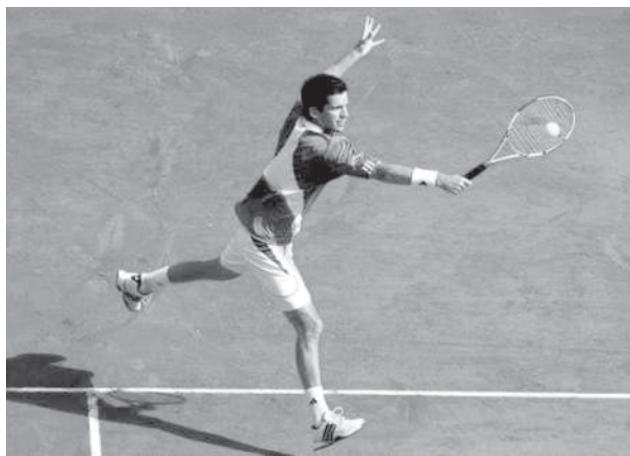
Actor and Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker receives a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California on 16 April, 2007. INTERNET

SPORTS

Man United announce 2007 Asian tour

LONDON, 17 April — Manchester United have finalized a pre-season tour in July that will take them to Japan, South Korea, China and Malaysia.

The Premier League leaders will start the journey in Tokyo's suburbs, playing against Urawa Red Diamonds on July 17 at Saitama Stadium. They will then travel to the South Korean capital to face FC Seoul three days later before moving to China for a Shenzhen clash at Macao Stadium on July 23. The tour will end in Kuala Lumpur on July 27 with United against a Malaysian XI at the Bukit Jalil Stadium.—MNA/Xinhua



Tim Henman of Britain returns the ball to Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain in the Monte Carlo Masters Series tennis tournament in Monaco on 16 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Egypt reaps 9 golds in African region boxing championship

CAIRO, 17 April — Egypt on Saturday grabbed nine gold medals in Africa's fifth region boxing championship, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported.

During the region championship held in Cairo on 11-14 April, Egypt has won nine golds in flyweight, bantamweight, featherweight, light welterweight, welterweight, middleweight, light heavyweight, heavyweight and super heavyweight, taking two bronze medals in light flyweight and lightweight classes, the report said. As for the other three countries which took part in the championship, Uganda won a gold medal, nine silvers and two bronzes, while Ethiopia grabbed a gold medal, two silvers and four bronzes and Sudan won a silver and a bronze.—MNA/Xinhua

Ronaldo, Drogba nominated for Player of the Year



Manchester United's winger Cristiano Ronaldo and Chelsea's striker Didier Drogba have been nominated for Player of the Year organized by the Professional Football Association.—INTERNET

LONDON, 17 April — Manchester United's winger Cristiano Ronaldo and Chelsea's striker Didier Drogba have been nominated for Player of the Year organized by the Professional Football Association (PFA).

Manchester United dominated the six-man shortlist with Paul

Scholes and Ryan Giggs also among nominations. But they still face competition from Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard and Arsenal's midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

Ronaldo and Fabregas are also in line for the Young Player of the Year award. The other nominees for the junior award include Reading striker Kevin Doyle, Tottenham winger Aaron Lennon, Manchester City defender Micah Richards and the winner of the award for the last two years, Wayne Rooney.

Thierry Henry collected the senior title in both 2003 and 2004 while Chelsea's defensive star John Terry was the 2005 recipient. And last year the accolade belonged to Liverpool talisman Gerrard. With voting among the players themselves now finished, the winner in each category will be revealed at the end of a gala dinner in London on Sunday night.—MNA/Xinhua

Real's Raul happy to be back as a forward

MADRID, 17 April — Real Madrid captain Raul Gonzalez told a Press conference on Monday that switching positions in recent matches had prejudiced his career, and he was happy to be a forward again.

"I played my best in the last two matches. The position is where I enjoy myself most and give better performance. During the years of top level soccer, it is where Raul has scored most goals," he said.

Raul played his last two games as a forward and scored goals at both.

MNA/Xinhua



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds grounds out in the top of the first inning against the Colorado Rockies in their MLB baseball game in Denver, Colorado on 16 April, 2007.—INTERNET

FIFA to discuss enforcing stronger match-fixing sanctions

KOLKATA (India), 17 April — FIFA is to discuss enforcing stronger measures to curb match-fixing which could include the suspension of national associations as well as clubs, president Sepp Blatter said on Sunday.

Last year, a match-fixing scandal in Italian football ended with Juventus being stripped of their last two Serie A titles and relegated to Serie B. Other clubs were also sanctioned.

Blatter told Reuters: "There is a strong disciplinary code and our aim is to enforce the code more strongly. In short more enforcement of the law."

On a four-day visit to India, Blatter said FIFA would be discussing match-fixing at its next Congress in May with measures set for "widespread implementation around the world". Violence at stadiums is also on the agenda after police clashes with fans at recent European competition matches in Rome and Seville.

"Football is not a wonderful world now, but we can all make it into a better world by working together," Blatter said. He added: "I don't want a situation where there are more policemen than spectators (at stadiums)." —MNA/Reuters

Uganda wins 1 gold, 8 silvers at African boxing

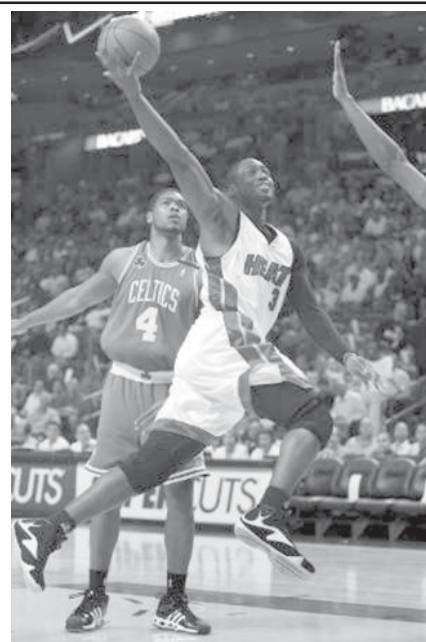
KAMPALA, 17 April — Ugandan boxers have won one gold medal and eight silver medals at the just-concluded Africa Zone V Boxing Championships held on 11 to 15 April in Cairo, Egypt.

Sharif Bogere, who had won gold both in the Zone V Championships and Kings Cup in 2005, was the only Ugandan boxer who struck gold for the East African country in

the finals on Sunday.

The Kololo High School student was a marvel to watch as he dismantled Ethiopia's Daniel Tadele on an evening otherwise marred by controversies. Bogere's strong weapon was the left jab, which he used it to disorganize Tadele, sending a cross-section of Ugandans in Cairo into endless applause in the last round.

MNA/Reuters



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots over Boston Celtics forward Ryan Gomes (4) during their NBA basketball game in Miami, Florida, on 16 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Federer hits out at ATP and ITF

MONTE CARLO, 17 April — World number one Roger Federer, backed by several top players, has hit out at the ATP's plans to downgrade the Monte Carlo claycourt tournament in 2009.

The Swiss, who is top seed this week in the principality, slammed the lack of communication of the men's governing body and

also criticized the International Tennis Federation (ITF) over Davis Cup dates.

"The ATP is moving really fast at the moment. (The players), we've had a letter signed several times about the ATP and the ITF about certain issues," Federer told reporters on Monday.

"I mean, issues like

here in Monaco, with the 2009 calendar, and then obviously also things with the ITF, the weeks of Davis Cup. They don't seem to understand that we have a say, so we would like to address this issue through the media for a change," he added. "It's just a little scream for help. We're just not happy with the last few

months. The players' meeting in Miami was a big disappointment for all of us.

"We had many issues on the table and we couldn't really discuss them at all, and decisions are being taken very soon for 2009, and we would just like to have a little say as well."

MNA/Reuters



Ivo Karlovic of Croatia returns the ball to Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina in the final match of the US men's clay court tennis championships in Houston on 15 April, 2007.—INTERNET

No Chinese students found among victims in US campus shootings

BLACKSBURG (United States), 17 April – No Chinese students have been found among the dozens of victims in Monday's shooting rampage on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), in the eastern US state of Virginia.

Ray Wang, a board member of the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars (ACSS) at Virginia Tech, told *Xinhua* that he was not at the scene of the shootings, but he had contacted quite a number of Chinese students and had so far got no word that Chinese students were injured or killed in the incident.

A total of 33 people, including the gunman, were killed in the shooting incident in Virginia Tech on Monday morning.

A man first opened fire at a dormitory room, killing two persons — a male and a female and injuring several others. About two hours later, a

gunman shot at an academic building some 800 metres away from the dormitory, killing 32 people before shooting himself to death, university officials said.

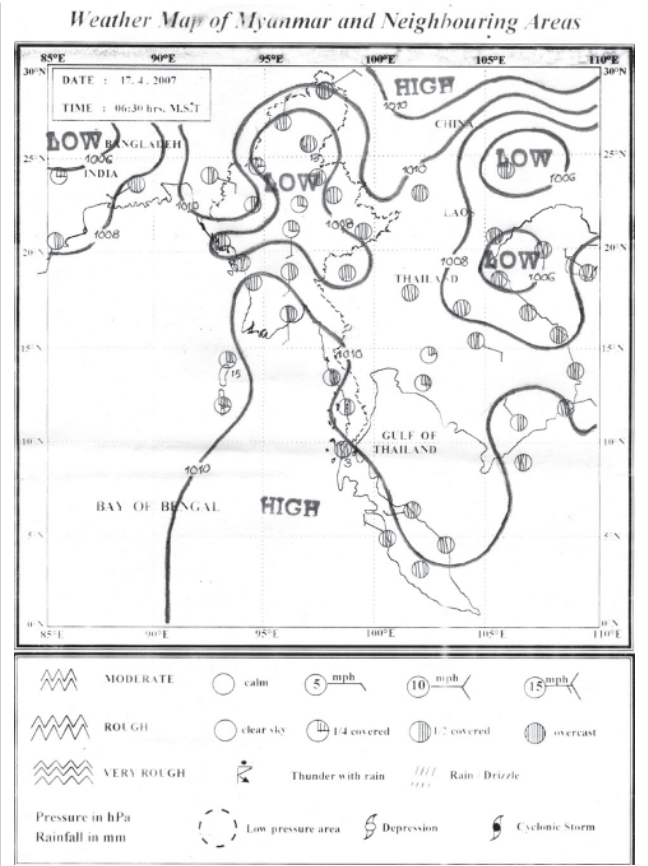
University police chief Wendell Flinchum refused to disclose the identity of the suspected gunman and the victims, and said that police were

still trying to determine whether the two shooting incidents were linked.

The first shooting incident seemed to be domestic, officials said.

The rampage at Virginia Tech was the deadliest in campus shootings in US history.

MNA/Xinhua



Women draw water from a river during the annual Songkran Festival in Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 15 April, 2007.

INTERNET



Wednesday, 18 April Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
-There you'll be ... Booshida
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
-Juanita ... Shania Twain
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
-Do your thing ... N'Sync
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
-Obsession ... Animation
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music:
-Oh baby ... Eternal
-All out of love ... Ott
-Other side of love ... Bardot
- 9:00pm Variations on a tune "Will you still love me tomorrow"
-Debie Gibson
-Laura Branigan, Dave Mason, Halen Shapiro
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Music at your request
-Sweet dreams ... Alex Butcher
-Best friend ... Joybox
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

WEATHER

Tuesday, 17 April, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) above normal in Rakhine and Mon States, (4°C) below normal in Kayin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Nay Pyi Taw, Pynmana, Minbu, Magway and Thayawady (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Co Co Island (0.59) inch, Myitkyina (0.51) inch, Hpa-an (0.24) inch, Pyapon and Kawthoung (0.12) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 16-4-2007 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 17-4-2007 was 78°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-4-2007 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 16-4-2007 was (1.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-4-2007 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 (4) mph from West at (13:30) hours MST on 16-4-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over the Southwest Bay has become unimportant. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and the Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-4-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 18-4-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-4-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-4-2007: Partly cloudy.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 06:30 hours MST today)
 An earthquake of slight intensity (4.5) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside of Myanmar about (220) miles North of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory, was recorded at (23) hrs (30) min (48) sec MST on 16-4-2007.

Wednesday, 18 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. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
6. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:15 am
7. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am
8. တံငါတံတား

- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm
4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm
5. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm
6. Classical song
- 5:30 pm
7. ရုပ္ပယ်နံလင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:40 pm
8. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm
9. Evening news

- 6:30 pm
10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
11. Discovery
- 6:50 pm
12. “ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ် ဒီအိုတီအက်စ်” (လွင် မိုး၊ တွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ အိမြောကျော်စင်၊ ခင်သန်းနွယ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စိုးကျော်ဆန်း)
- 7:10 pm
13. နိုင်ငံ့စီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (ပန်းတနော်မှသင်းဖြူးဖြူး)
- 7:20 pm
14. မြန်မာမှုပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းတနော်)
- 7:30 pm
15. အာဆီယံနိုင်ငံများ အချင်းချင်းပေါင်းစပ် ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
- 8:00 pm
16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. Myanmar movie: “မွေးလွန်းသည့်ပန်း” (ကောလိပ်ဂျင်နေဝင်း၊ ကြည်စိုး၊ ခင်ယုမေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ - မောင်မောင်သောင်း)
- 20. The next day's programme

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Sayadaws fly over Nay Pyi Taw, recite parittas

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Sate Ovadacariya Sayadaws and Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee recited parittas on a helicopter and poured paritta water from the sky above Nay Pyi Taw today.

Nine Sayadaws including Sayadaw of Myatheintan Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Sobhana and Joint Secretary Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Kalaywa Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa left Paunglaung heliport this morning and recited parittas on a helicopter of Defence Services (Air).

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Col Thein Nyunt also poured parittas water from the helicopter.— MNA

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

Yangonites perform meritorious deeds on Myanmar New Year Day

YANGON, 17 April— Today, the Myanmar New Year Day, religious edifices in Yangon were packed with visitors performing meritorious deeds.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees marked the New Year Day by holding a ceremony at the ancient Buddha Images prayer hall on the platform. It was graced by the

presence of Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the board. Members of the Sangha recited parittas. The congregation offered alms to members of the Sangha and released aquatic creatures into Shin Upagutta Lake.

The Botahtaung Pagoda was also teeming with visitors offering flowers, water and lights to

the pagoda and 12 satellite pagodas and Buddha Images in the precinct.

The pagoda board of trustees organized a ceremony to clean the Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township at 6.30 am. Board members offered alms food to the image, and

cleansed the face of the image and offered scented water to it.

Similarly, the Sule Pagoda was also packed with visitors performing good deeds such as offering flowers, lights and scented water to and cleaning the Buddha Images.

The pagoda board of trustees of the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda conducted a ceremony to welcome New Year Day at the pagoda at 1 pm. Members of wut associations recited Mangala Sutta together, prayed for well-being of others and shared the merits gained.

A ceremony to free animals and pay respects to elderly persons organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs took place at Vijaya Mingalar Dhamma Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in

Mayangon Township, here, this morning. The congregation set free birds in front of the hall and fish into Dagon Thiri Lake near Maha Ordination Hall.

Families of the staff gave shampoo and manicure and applied fragrances to the elderly persons.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya administered the congregation with the Nine Precepts. Officials offered alms to members of the

Sangha. Next, the attendees offered alms and then respects to the elderly persons.

At the 58th ceremony to pay respects to elderly persons in Ohbo Ward, Kyimyindine Township, ward dwellers paid respects to 295 female and 167 male elderly persons at the age of 70 and above.

Mon Literature and Culture Committee (Yangon) organized the 34th ceremony to pay respects to elderly persons and present gifts to outstanding students at the Mon Dhammayon on (See page 10)



The congregation receives Nine Precepts from a Sayadaw at New Year Day Ceremony of Board of Trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA