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Thursday, 19 April, 2007

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

Information Minister inspects maintenance of presses during Myanmar New Year holidays

Technicians urged to take innovative measures to produce import-substitute spare parts

YANGON, 18 April — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected the major maintenance of Myanma Alin Daily press of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information on 16 April (Atet Day).

During the New Year holidays, newspapers were published in turn, and each daily got a five-day holiday. However, workers of the newspapers carried out press maintenance work during the holidays.



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with chief editors, deputy chief editors, managers and staff of dailies at New Light of Myanmar Daily. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects maintenance of printing machine at Myanma Alin Daily. — MNA

In the afternoon, the minister arrived at Myanma Alin Daily at No 53 on 1st Natmuk Lane in Bahan Township. Departmental heads and officials of the ministry, chief editors of Myanma Alin Daily and Myanma News Agency (Internal), editors and managers of the

dailies welcomed the minister.

The minister visited the editorial, proof reading and computer sections and cordially conversed with the personnel. At the press room, Manager U Zaw Win and officials reported on

(See page 8)

The technicians of the departments and enterprises under the ministry have to cooperate in seeking means to produce spare parts of the machines locally.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 April, 2007

Environment conservation for future generations

Living things depend greatly on their physical surroundings for their survival. Environment provides important conditions for human beings to survive. In order to give priority to environmental activities, the National Commission for Environmental Affairs was formed. The World Environment Programme was formulated in 1992 for continued development on environment. Myanmar signed the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in 1997.

Dry regions in the country have become lush and green as the government has been implementing the 13-district greening project in the arid zone, dam projects and water supply projects in rural areas.

Programmes for the National Environment Week jointly organized by NCEA and Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation were launched. The MAAF has formed environment conservation groups for women to actively take part in environmental conservation work.

The NCEA organizes talks and workshops and conducts courses with the aim of disseminating environmental knowledge among the people. Moreover, as a mass movement, educative talks are held in factories and sanitation works are also carried out there.

Conservation of environment is vital for the existence of living things. All the people in cooperation with the government are to protect natural resources and conserve the environment for future generations.

Fire prevention is compulsory

Prevent outbreaks of fire

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

Commander participates in Thingyan Festival in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut enjoyed Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival at the station in Lashio on 14 April.

Artistes performed dances and songs at the pandal of the command headquarters and spattered water on the commander and wife and audience at the festival.

Afterwards, the commander and wife viewed celebrations at pandals on Pyidaungsu Road in Lashio and participated in the festival.

MNA

Commander enjoys Thingyan dances

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife Daw Sao Non Khun Sam and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint on 14 April morning enjoyed Thingyan dances and songs presented by the regiments and units of the station at the central pandal of the command headquarters.

The commander and wife presented cash awards to the dance troupes.

The commander also visited the Maha Thingyan pandal of Toungoo Airbase (HQ) on 15 April and presented cash awards to the dance troupes.

In the afternoon, he visited the Maha Thingyan pandal of Ottwin Station and enjoyed himself in the water festival.

MNA

MRPPEA Chairman inspects hybrid paddy plantations

YANGON, 18 April — General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Chairman of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Processors and Exporters Association U Sein Win Hlaing, executives and member entrepreneurs inspected thriving hybrid paddy plantations of KAMA Industry Co Ltd in Kyeekanthike Village, Hlegu Township on 10 April.

Sale Manager Mr Wang of the company extended greetings and conducted them round the plantations.



Chairman and members of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Processors and Exporters Association visit hybrid paddy plantation in Kyeekanthike Village. — MRPPEA

Next, the chairman and party viewed the harvest in a model plot. HS-995 paddy strain can yield 200 baskets per acre. HS-814 paddy strain can produce over 200 baskets per acre and it can be harvested within 130 days. — MNA

People enjoy Thingyan Festival upholding rules

YANGON, 18 April — Six persons were killed and 71 injured during the four-day-long New Year Festival of Myanmar.

Two were killed and 42 were injured in cases of quarrelling among revellers, one was killed and 29 were injured in a car accident and three drowned during the period.

Thingyan Festival, the New Year Festival, was held from 13 to 16 April with Myanmar cultural traditions across the country.

Authorities warned the public ahead of the festival through the media to observe the regulations of

the festival to prevent undesirable accidents during the water festival, and local authorities also supervised the celebrations in the respective regions.

People gathered in public en masse and took part in the festival in civilised manner throughout the country.

As some revellers did not comply with the regulations, the undesirable accidents occurred during the festive period.

Authorities urged the people to observe the prescribed regulations during the next year's festival to avoid accidents. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bombings in Baghdad kill 157

BAGHDAD, Iraq, 18 April — Guerrilla bombers launched a series of attacks across Baghdad on Wednesday and killed at least 157 people and wounded scores — a particularly violent day in a bloody capital city enduring sectarian warfare and an aggressive government crackdown against insurgents.

Farther south, British forces transferred security control to Iraqi troops in Maysan province, a sign that Iraq is taking another step toward “self-reliance.” However, the spate of Baghdad blasts reflects the stiff challenges posed by what has been a resilient insurgency.

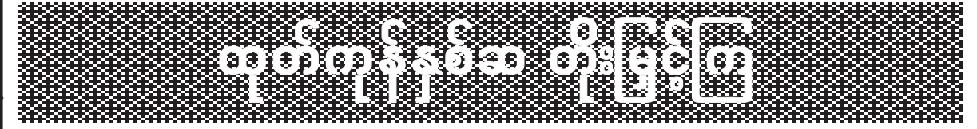
The Interior Ministry issued this update as 112 dead, 94 wounded in Sadriya market in central Baghdad; 28 dead, 44 wounded in an attack

near an Iraqi Army checkpoint at one of the entrances to Sadr City, the official said; 11 civilians were killed and 13 others wounded when a parked car bomb detonated in central Baghdad’s Karrada district; 4 police officers were killed and 6 civilians wounded shortly when a suicide car bomber exploded at an Iraqi police checkpoint in southern Baghdad and 2 civilians were killed and 9 others wounded when a roadside bomb

detonated at a busy intersection in central Baghdad.

Internet

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao shakes hands with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Tuesday in Beijing.—INTERNET



US University gunman left violent writings

WASHINGTON, 18 April — The South Korean-born gunman responsible for the massacre at Virginia Tech University

kept a low profile but left a trail of violent writings before killing 32 people and then committing suicide.

he was not surprised when he learned the gunman's identity.

“Looking back, he fit the exact stereotype of what one would typically think of as a ‘school shooter’ — a loner, obsessed with violence, and serious personal problems,” MacFarlane wrote.

The Chicago Tribune interviewed a neighbour who described 23-year-old student Cho Seung-Hui as a loner. A former classmate, writing on an AOL news blog, said Cho was obsessed with violence.

An AOL spokesman Andrew Weinstein confirmed MacFarlane's identity as a former classmate to *Reuters*. The blog included links to two plays MacFarlane said were written by Cho, an English literature student.

Cho left a note lashing out at “rich kids”, “debauchery” and “deceitful charlatans” on campus, the *Tribune* said on Tuesday. A citizen of South Korea, Cho spent the last 14 years in the United States.

The plays were profanity-laced dramas that cast authority figures in an unflattering light.

Ian MacFarlane, who shared a writing class with Cho at the university and now works at Time Warner Inc's AOL news division, wrote in the blog

Characters talk of paedophilia and attack each other with chainsaws.

MNA/Reuters

The winner of the Miss Ukraine 2007 beauty contest, Lika Roman, reacts after receiving the winner's crown in Kiev on 14 April, 2007. INTERNET



Death toll from tsunami rises to 52 in Solomon Islands

CANBERRA, 17 April — The official death toll from a tsunami triggered by a magnitude 8.1 earthquake that hit the Solomon Islands a fortnight ago has risen to 52.

The Solomons National Disaster Council Management Office said Gizo Island, capital of the Western Province and the hardest hit area by the tsunami, accounts for 33 of the deaths, Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Monday.

Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said he will be talking to the country's aid donors about a long-term relief programme for the thousands left homeless.

He said a group from the Asian Development Bank has arrived in the country to study the impact the natural disaster will have on the national economy.

Meanwhile, a US tsunami expert has said the chance of another earthquake and tsunami in Western and Choiseul Provinces had now diminished.

MNA/Xinhua

Songkran water festival concludes in Thailand, 361 people killed, 4,805 wounded in accidents during 11-17 April

BANGKOK, 18 April — The Songkran festival was held in Thailand from 13 to 17 April.

A total of 361 people were killed and 4,805 injured in road accidents throughout the seven-day Songkran holiday, Thailand's traditional new year which began last Wednesday, the Interior Ministry announced Wednesday.

The past seven days saw 4,214 road accidents according to statistics. On Tuesday alone, thirteen people got killed and 512 road accidents caused mostly by drunk-driving. The government set week-long dangerous days and urged holiday-makers to be cautious while driving in a bid to lower the number of road accidents. The death toll this year was 14 lower than those of last year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Tasmanian crackdown in littering

HOBART, 18 April — The Tasmanian Government has tabled legislation that will allow the public to do-in people who litter to telephone and internet hotlines.

The government says the new laws would impose fines on people caught littering and make it an offence to distribute unwanted junk mail.

The Environment Minister, Paula Wriedt, says a large percentage of litter is thrown out of cars.

The changes will allow the public to be part of the solution. “They can either immediately get on their mobile phone and report the number of the car they are following, or they can jot it down and later on ring it up or get on the internet

and report it,” Ms Wriedt says.—*Internet*

Donate Blood



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez (L) and his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva attend a ceremony of a signing of an agreement between the companies Braskem and Pequiven at the petrochemical complex of Jose in the eastern city of Barcelona on 16 April, 2007. —INTERNET

Buses overturn in central Thailand, killing three

BANGKOK, 17 April — Two passenger shuttles overturn on Monday respectively in Thailand's central provinces of Ayutthaya and Nakhon Pathom, killing at least three and injuring some 50 passengers.

The first accident happened in Ayutthaya's Bang Sai District at 5:30 am (2230GMT) when the shuttle bus was heading to

central province of Samut Sakhon from northeastern Ubon Ratchathani.

Police said the bus had something wrong with its brake and lost control before it overturned. A total of 36 injured passengers have been sent to

nearby hospital. At about 5:50 am (2250GMT), a Nakhon Phanom-Chiang Rai bounding air-conditioned bus overturned on the High-way No 22 in Nakhon Phanom Province since its brake failed. —MNA/Xinhua

Acid truck bomb attack foiled in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 April— A truck laden with nitric acid and explosives overturned before the driver could attack a joint security station operated by US and Iraqi troops north of Baghdad, the US military said on tuesday.

The use of nitric acid in bomb attacks could mark another shift in tactics by insurgents, who in recent months have rigged nearly a dozen truck bombs with chlorine gas, mainly in western Anbar Province.

In a statement, the US military said a security patrol went to assist the driver of the truck after it overturned and found it loaded with eight containers of nitric acid and explosives.

MNA/Reuters



Visitors look at Matsushita's Panasonic plasma televisions in Tokyo recently. INTERNET

Eating bacon and hot dogs linked to higher risk of lung disease

NEW YORK, 17 April—A US study has linked eating cured meat like bacon and hot dogs with increased risk of lung disease.

The study is published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and examines the link between frequent consumption of cured meats and impaired lung function in terms of the increased odds

of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), of which emphysema and chronic bronchitis are the most common form (and often co-exist), is characterized by swelling of the airways.

According to the American Lung Association, COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the US and more

women now die from it than men.

In 2003 it claimed 122,283 American lives.

Other studies, mostly on animals, have shown a link between nitrite consumption and reduced lung function.

Nitrites are added to cured meat such as bacon, hot dogs and cured ham as preservative, colour or as anti-bacterial agents.

Internet

တစ်နေ့မှာ အစားအသောက်

Biologist surfaces from watery world

WASHINGTON, 18 April —A marine biologist who has been living underwater for nearly two weeks in Albury Wodonga's wetlands, on the New South Wales/Victorian border, will emerge today.

Lloyd Godson submerged himself in an underwater cell to live his dream of being an "aquanaut". He grew some of his own food, rode a bike to generate electricity and used algae to produce

oxygen. The 29-year-old received worldwide media exposure and has been invited to work with US space agency NASA to further his research on water habitation.

Internet

Gunmen kill 13 Iraqi soldiers in northern Iraq

MOSUL, 17 April — Gunmen stormed an Iraqi Army checkpoint near northern city of Mosul City on Monday, killing 13 soldiers, local police source said.

"Gunmen attacked checkpoint manned by Iraqi soldiers outside the Addaiyah Village, 80 kilometres south of Mosul around midday, killing 13 soldiers and

wounding four others," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attackers then planted explosive charges in the checkpoint building and blew it up, the source added.

Meanwhile, gunmen shot dead a professor teaching in the college of Arts in Mosul University near his house in northern the city, a source from the city police operation department told Xinhua by telephone.

Earlier in the month, the Iraqi Government kicked off a security plan dubbed Operation Imposing Law in the city as a continuation of the security plan launched on 14 February in Baghdad.

The plan included setting up checkpoints in and outside Mosul, raiding gunmen's hideouts and gaining security for the city's hot spots, according to Duraid Kashmoulah, the governor of the city.

MNA/Xinhua



Spanish model Laura Ponte sails aboard America's Cup challenger BMW Oracle Racing as they wait for the start of their Flight 3 race on the second day of the Louis Vuitton Cup in Valencia on 17 April, 2007. — INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

India, Russia agree to jointly produce titanium dioxide

Moscow, 17 April — In what has been dubbed as a “breakthrough deal,” India and Russia have agreed to set up a joint venture to produce titanium dioxide, a key component for the strategic metal used in aerospace industry.

“Russian Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Storchak and his Indian counterparts signed a breakthrough deal in Washington to invest the rupee portion of India’s debt to the Soviet Union into a titanium dioxide production,” *Kommersant* daily reported.

Under the agreement,

rupee debt equivalent of 126 million US dollars would be invested to build a plant in India with the annual capacity of 40,000 tons of titanium dioxide within the next three years in which Russia is to hold 55 per cent equity.

Back in March 2006, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov suggested using the debt money for investment projects, an idea that President Vladimir Putin supported during his visit to India this January.

During Putin’s India visit, Russian Vnesheconombank, Technochim-

Holding and Indian Saraf Agencies had inked the titanium JV deal to be financed through debt rupees.

Storchak told *Kommersant* that the project will finally transform the system of the return of the Indian debt that India estimates at one billion US dollars while Russia deems it to be three times as much.

The parties, however, agree on the one-billion-US-dollar rupee portion of the debt that Russia is going to spend on investment projects in India.

MNA/Xinhua

PetroChina records steady growth in oil, gas production

BEIJING, 17 April — PetroChina, one of the two leading onshore oil producers in China, reported oil and gas production of 277 million tons of oil equivalent in the first quarter of the year, a growth of 3.7 per cent, a company statement said on Monday.

Between January and March, the Hong Kong and New York-listed company pumped out 209 million barrels of crude oil, up 1.5 million barrels on the previous year, and 410.6 billion cubic feet of natural gas, up 50.4 billion cubic feet.—MNA/Xinhua



A visitor looks at Sony Corp’s organic light-emitting diode (OLED) 11-inch TV at Display 2007 in Tokyo recently. —INTERNET

Iran to issue tenders for two new nuclear power plants

TEHERAN, 17 April — A senior Iranian nuclear official said on Sunday that Iran would issue tenders for the construction of two new nuclear power plants in the southern city of Bushehr.

“The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran will issue international tenders for the construction of two nuclear power plants in Bushehr,” the agency’s deputy chief Ahmad Fayyaz-Bakhsh told a news conference.

The tenders will be issued in the next few days for the two nuclear power plants with the capacity of 1,000 to 1,600 megawatts of electricity each, he said.

Russian and some European companies have expressed willingness to take part in the tenders, the Iranian official added.

Located in southwestern Iran, Bushehr is the location of Iran’s first nuclear power plant which is being built by a Russian contractor.

MNA/Xinhua



A model presents sun-glasses from the Sover collection during Bucharest Fashion Week in Bucharest on 17 April, 2007. —INTERNET

Vietnam eyes bigger software production, export

HANOI, 17 April — Vietnam has targeted annual growth of 35-40 per cent in its software industry in the 2007-2010 period under a software development programme recently approved by the government, according to local newspaper *Saigon Liberation* on Monday.

Under the programme, the sector’s total revenues will, in 2010, stand at

more than 800 million US dollars, at least 40 per cent of which are to come from software export. By the year, the sector will employ 55,000-60,000 people, each of whom is expected to annually create 15,000 dollars in product value.

By 2010, Vietnam will have over 10 software companies each employing more than 1,000

people, and 200 others having over 100 staff each.

The industry made revenues of 300 million dollars, including 90 million from exports, in 2006, up 30 per cent against 2005, according to the Vietnam Software Association (Vinasa), which represents 110 software developers in the country. —MNA/Xinhua

High oil prices fuel 6.3% growth in Mideast, North Africa

ABU DHABI, 17 April — The latest report of World Bank indicated that high oil prices fuelled a growth of 6.3 per cent in gross domestic product (GDP) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in 2006, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported Monday.

According to the

report, the GDP growth reached 6.3 per cent for the MENA region in 2006, up from an average of 3.6 per cent a year during the 1990s, the paper said.

This is the fourth year in a row of robust growth performance, driven by high oil prices, economic recovery in Europe and

reforms that are broadly going in the right direction, it added.

“The MENA region is undergoing a remarkable period of high economic growth.

In parallel with that growth, job creation has increased and unemployment has declined,” the report said.

In the MENA region, the private sector is becoming the main source of new jobs as the share of domestic and foreign private investment increases.

Daniela Gressani, Vice-president for MENA of the World Bank, was quoted as saying “Countries in the MENA region need to remove the remaining barriers that hinder the business environment for the private sector in order to maintain growth, increase private investment and generate more jobs.”

MNA/Xinhua



Dancers of the ‘Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo’ group, perform for the media in Berlin on 17 April, 2007. The ballet will be staged from 17 April till 29 in the German capital. —INTERNET

Dubai launches campaign to reduce water consumption

ABU DHABI, 17 April — A campaign to reduce water consumption in certain high consumption areas is under way in Dubai, the second largest emirate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Monday.

Worker accommodations are some of the highest consumers of water in Dubai with almost 400 litres used per person per day in unregulated consumption areas, the report said.

The Dubai municipality has already brought down daily consumption per person to an average 270 litres, an official with the Sewerage Reduction Campaign at the municipi-

pality was quoted as saying. In addition, Al Awir sewerage treatment plant in Dubai will be expanded and a new plant will be ready by 2009, the official added.

The UAE Minister of Environment and Water Mohammed Saeed Al Kindi warned on Sunday that the country's environment and water resources have become under

pressure due to the rapid population increase.

It is reported that the oil-rich UAE consumes more than 3.2 billion cubic metres of water every year.

The latest census conducted in 2005 showed that the country's population reached more than 4.1 millions, or 74.8 per cent increase compared to over 2.41 millions in 1995.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman is seen through the walls of an artistic creation at the Triennale in Milan, on 17 April 2007. The design exhibition week will start tomorrow—XINHUA

India to speed up duty cuts to complete FTA

NEW DELHI, 17 April — India has decided to put the process of bringing down duties on edible oil on the fast track to reach an early agreement with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

“Earlier India had offered to start reducing tariffs on edible oil from 2012 but now it has agreed to begin this process immediately after the FTA enters into force,” Joint Secretary in Department of Commerce P K Dash said.

He said every year the duties will be brought down by 2-3 per cent. This will see duties on crude palm oil coming down to 50 per cent from 80 per cent and refined palm oil to 60 per cent from 90 per cent. The reduction will now be achieved by 2018 instead of 2022 as was originally proposed.

India had earlier wanted to put palm oil in negative list but as this commodity accounts for bulk of exports by Malaysia and Indonesia,

there was resistance.

On tea and coffee, the duties will be reduced to 50 per cent from 100 per cent. On pepper too they will come down to 50 per cent from 70 per cent during the period. These items are of special interest to Vietnam.

To conclude the FTA, which has missed many deadlines, by July India has reduced number of items

in the negative list to 489. The original negative list proposed by India had more than 1400 items.

Apart from negative list on which duties will not be reduced, India also has a sensitive list for which tariff reduction will be slow. Delhi will also reduce the sensitive list to 550 from 709.

MNA/PTI.

Pakistan conducts missile firing exercise

ISLAMABAD, 17 April — Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Monday completed a three-day “Live Missile Firing” exercise at Somniani Range of southern Pakistan, the PAF said.

“In the live missile firing exercise, all types of fighter aircraft and surface-to-air missile units of Pakistan Air Force actively participated,” a PAF statement said.

Various types of air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles on the inventory of PAF were successfully employed at Somniani Range by the combat pilots and controllers during the exercise, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



British actor Hugh Grant poses during a photo call of his new film “Tu la letra y yo la musica” (Music and Lyrics) in Barcelona, on 16 April, 2007.—XINHUA

Suicide bombing kills four in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 April — A suicide bombing killed four Afghan personnel of a US security company in Kandahar Province on Sunday, a local police officer Mohammad Asaf

told *Xinhua*. A bomber driving a motorbike blew himself up on a highway in Spin Boldak District when a vehicle of the US Protection and Investigations (USPI) was passing, Asaf said. Three guards and one driver of the USPI, which is a private US security company, were killed in the blast, he added.

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

The USPI has been attacked by militants in this country from time to time. A suicide bombing killed two American and five Afghan USPI staff at the gate of its office in Kandahar City, capital of Kandahar Province, on 6 December, 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Eight killed in car accidents in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, 17 April — Eight people were killed and five others injured in two separate traffic accidents in the Dominican Republic, emergency workers said Monday.

The first accident, a crash between a passenger bus and a motorcycle, led to the deaths of five people on the Barahona-Azua highway in southern Santo Domingo, said Jesmin Simon, a spokeswoman for the Emergency Operations Centre.

Another three were killed in a three-car pile-up on the Duarte highway, which links the capital to the north of the nation. Two people injured in the accident are still remaining in hospitals for treatment.

MNA/Xinhua



The photo taken on 16 April, 2007 shows a tiger cub, the only one left among the triplets, in a zoo in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province. As the other two tiger cubs were probably eaten by their mother, zoo workers are looking for a dog mother to nurse the last cub. —XINHUA

EU not to join US in WTO case against China

BRUSSELS, 18 April — The European Union will not join the United States in its WTO action against China over piracy, the EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said on Monday, saying dialogue was preferred.

"At the moment, I have decided that the European Union should be an observer of the case rather than a party to it," Mandelson said at a luncheon party hosted by Guan Chengyuan, Chinese Ambassador to the EU.

The US Government announced its decision last week to file two cases with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against China over the issues concerning intel-

lectual property rights (IPR) and accession to China's publication market, a move criticized by China as contrary to the mutual understanding about properly solving trade disputes.

"I, as you know, favour dialogue over WTO cases. Dialogue is my preference," Mandelson told *Xinhua*.

The EU trade chief cited the negotiated solution to the Sino-EU trade row over textiles in 2005 as a

success model. Mandelson himself led the talks with China, which helped to avert a looming trade war between the two trading partners with a mutually beneficial compromise.

While acknowledging that the Chinese Government has made efforts to better protect IPR and combat piracy, Mandelson urged China to do more in law enforcement and implementation of bilateral agreements in order to relieve the concern of EU investors.

"I have come under some pressure to join the United States in this case ... it is possible that the events may force me to rethink this decision," Mandelson warned.

Chinese Ambassador Guan Chengyuan agreed with Mandelson that dialogue, instead of legal complaints, is the best solution to trade disputes, pointing out that China's efforts should be recognized.

"It is our consistent approach to solve problems through dialogue and consultation, which is beneficial to the promotion of bilateral economic and trade relations," Guan said.

MNA/Xinhua



Two Sumatran tiger cubs, aged two weeks, are displayed to the public for the first time at Dreamworld in Queensland's Gold Coast on 18 April, 2007. Weighing in at about 2.5kg each, the cubs have both doubled in size since they were born, each drinking more than 250ml of special milk formula each day. — INTERNET

Romanian UN police blamed for Kosovo deaths

PRISTINA (Serbia), 18 April — Rubber bullets that killed two Kosovo Albanian demonstrators in February were fired by Romanian UN police officers who could be prosecuted for murder, a UN report said on Tuesday.

Romania recalled its entire 75-strong contingent last month despite a request by UN authorities in the breakaway Serbian province for 11 of them to stay on for the investigation.

The deaths of the two men shocked Kosovo and fuelled Western fears of widespread unrest if the UN Security Council does not decide soon on a plan for its independence from Serbia.

UN Special Prosecutor Robert Dean told a news conference the deaths

of the two men were "unnecessary and avoidable".

The victims were not a threat to anyone at the time either was shot, he said in a report.

The report added that evidence so far suggested that the shots "were fired from one or two of the Romanian ... gunners".

"Although it could be argued that these deaths were accidental, that would not detract from the reasonable suspicion that such shooting was cri-

minal," it said.

The report listed the possible charges as murder, negligent murder, attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm. The investigation had not identified which of the officers fired the fatal shots, so criminal proceedings could not yet be initiated.

One of the victims was shot behind the ear as he ran through the lobby of a hotel, away from the scene of the protest.

MNA/Reuters



Museum visitors examine a statue of "Young Hercules" during a preview of the new Greek and Roman Galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on 16 April, 2007. INTERNET

Sorrow grips Virginia Tech following shooting rampage

BLACKSBURG (United States), 18 April — Hundreds of students gathered in front of the Norris Hall of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), in the eastern US state of Virginia, on Monday night to mourn the deaths of more than 30 people who became victims of a shooting rampage in the morning.

Not far away, two huge, red letters — "VT" — were erected under a tree, and students were seen signing their names on the letters as a way to express their sorrow.

A total of 33 people, including a gunman, were killed in two shooting incidents at Virginia Tech on Monday morning, the deadliest campus shooting in US history.

Speaking at a Press conference on Monday evening, Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said police received a 911 call at 7:15 am local time, and found two victims in a dormitory room at West Ambler Johnston Residence Hall, in the south of the campus.

MNA/Xinhua



A statue of a fairy lady riding on a pig is seen on a street in downtown Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 13 April, 2007. As the Khmer New Year falls on 14 April, pig-featured mascot becomes more and more popular. — INTERNET

Hayfever medicine may affect driving ability

LONDON, 18 April — As summer approaches and pollen counts rise, hayfever sufferers who take medication and drive may pose a real threat to road safety, according to a survey.

One in seven drivers is a victim of hayfever or other allergies and nearly half (45 per cent) of these use medication and drive under their influence, the Privilege Insurance Survey said, adding that 18 per cent have noticed the negative impact on their driving.

Anti-allergenic drugs have side effects ranging from drowsiness and blurred vision to nausea and heart palpitations.

Even medication for complaints as common as flu, depression, arthritis and

insomnia can be dangerous, the survey said.

"Certain types of drugs or even herbal supplements can affect a person's ability to drive safely and if they are combining several over-the-counter drugs for the treatment of the same ailment, they could be very dangerous on the road," said Dr James Lawrie, who was quoted in the survey.

The YouGov poll of 4,973 people was conducted on behalf of Privilege Insurance last Summer. — MNA/Reuters

Information Minister inspects maintenance of presses...

(from page 1)

major maintenance tasks and sanitation carried out at the press. Next, the minister met press workers, who were maintaining the press during the holidays.

At the meeting hall, the minister met departmental officials and service personnel. Manager U Tun Tun Latt of the New Light of Myanmar Daily reported on servicing of the press during the Maha Thingyan period and purchase of machine parts, Chief Editor U Ye Myint Pe of Myanma Alin Daily on major maintenance of four-unit Web Offset of Goss Community SSC 798 Press, electrical servicing, general maintenance of the press, fire preventive measures and efforts for improvement of the form and content of the newspaper.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions to officials and left there at

3.30 pm.

This afternoon, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visited the press where Kyemon newspaper is being printed and published and the New Light of Myanmar Daily, and inspected major maintenance of the presses.

At 1 pm, the minister and party arrived at the press where Kyemon newspaper is being printed and published, on Koemin Koechin Road in Bahan Township. Chief Editor U Myint Swe of Kyemon Daily, the Deputy Chief Editor, the manager and officials welcomed the minister.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially conversed with the press workers. Next, he inspected major maintenance of Goss Community SC 1230 Press. Manager Daw Khin Nyo Win reported on major servicing of the press and Foreman U Myint Kyaw on

substitution of local-made machine parts for the old ones. The minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

On arrival at the New Light of Myanmar Daily on Strand Road in Botahtaung Township, Chief Editor U Maung Maung Aye, the Deputy Chief Editor, the manager and officials welcomed the minister.

The minister inspected the warehouse of paper rolls and maintenance of Bandhu Pacer-36 four-unit press. Manager U Tun Tun Latt conducted the minister round the press. After giving necessary instructions, the minister cordially conversed with the press workers.

The minister later met the chief editors, deputy chief editors, managers, officials and service personnel of the newspapers at the training hall of the New Light of Myanmar Daily.

In his instructions, the minister said the purpose of his visit was to honour the staff who had forgone



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash awards to staff of the New Light of Myanmar daily through an official. — MNA

part of the 10-day vacation; that unlike other services, newspaper work was to be carried on all-day round to complete production processes timely; that now newspapers had made progress in form and essence thanks to harmonious efforts of the service personnel; and that the lifespan of presses had been extended by carrying out daily, weekly and yearly maintenance and repairs.

He said that present presses are many years old

but are still in good condition due to proper maintenance and repairs by the technicians. He urged the technicians to take innovative measures to be able to produce import-substitute spare parts of the machines in order to save foreign exchange.

The technicians of the departments and enterprises under the ministry have to cooperate in seeking means to produce spare parts of machines locally, he said, calling for contin-

ued efforts in discharging duties in the interests of the nation and the people.

Witnessing major repairs to the presses have yielded the benefits of higher quality of the newspapers in form, he honoured the staff.

The minister presented K 250,000 each to the newspaper dailies through officials for the staff who have undergone holidays for continuous circulation of newspapers during the vacation.—MNA

People of Mandalay City ...

(from page 16)

Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife Daw Moe Thida, the joint secretary, members and officials attended the Parittas recitation ceremony at the room-1 of the City Hall. The mayor and wife presented robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife,

Brig-Gen Hla Win and senior military officers together with departmental officials participated in the fish releasing ceremony at Mingala Gate of the moat. They freed 102,610 fingerlings into the moat.

MCDC organized a similar ceremony in front of the City Hall on 26th Street, southern corner of the moat, and the mayor and wife released birds and those present freed 100,000 fingerlings into the water.

The Mandalay mayor and party poured Paritta water into the water tank of No 4 Water Pumping Station and Malun Water Pumping Station for ensuring the local people to be free from dangers.

From the afternoon to the evening, the Paritta recitation ceremonies were held at wards in addition to regiments and units and Central Command Headquarters.

MNA

CEC member attends ceremony to pay respects to elder persons in Dalla

YANGON, 18 April — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa yesterday attended the second ceremony to pay respects to elder persons at Thiri Zeya Nawrahta Hall in Dalla Township.

The CEC members and locals paid respects to 46 elder persons from 23 wards and gave gifts and cash to them.

On behalf of the elder persons, 77-year-old U Shwe Win spoke words of thanks.

The vice-mayor also attended the rice offering ceremony at Myetshindaw Hsutaungpyae Maha

Thingyan Pagoda. The wellwishers offered alms and rice to 29 members of the Sangha from 29 monasteries in the township. At the ceremony, local people from 23 wards and departments concerned donated rice and provisions worth K 1.13 million to members of the Sangha.

MNA



Members of Union Solidarity and Development Association manicure and shampoo aged people in Mandalay on Myanmar New Year Day. — MNA

Australian PM slams US 'Gun Culture' in wake of Virginia Tech Shooting

WASHINGTON, 18 April— A gunman identified as a South Korean student killed 32 people at Virginia Tech on 16 April.

Cho Seung-hui, 23, was a final year student majoring in English at the university and was described as a loner.

Police said it was believed that he also killed two people before killing

the 32 people and then killed himself.

US President Bush said "This is a day of mourning for the Virginia Tech community and it is a day of sadness for our entire nation."

Australia's prime minister on Tuesday said the Virginia Tech shootings showed that America's "gun culture" was a negative force in society and it was a lesson for his country.—Internet

Women initiated into nunhood in Myitkyina



Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and wife donate cash and alms to nuns. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Jointly organized by Kachin State Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, a ceremony to collectively initiate women into nunhood was held at Thameikdawdaya nunnery in Myitkyina on 12 April.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Abhidhaja Maha Rattha

Guru Wuntho Monastery presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa and members of the Sangha, nuns, Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and wife Daw Nu Nu Swe, the chairpersons of Kachin State WAO and MCWSC, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations,

donors and guests.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Wuntho Monastery presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa. Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas, and the commander and party donated alms to them.

Chairman U Nyunt Shwe of the Township Religious Affairs Committee accepted the cash donations of K 8.65 million and presented certificates of honour to the donors. — MNA

Robes donated to border areas and hilly regions

YANGON, 18 April — Sayadaw of Myatheintan Monastery in Pazundaung Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Sobhana donated 70 sets of robes to monks from border areas and hilly regions at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (branch) on Kaba Aye Pagoda

Road, here, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, Pro-Rector (Admin) of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Myint Kyi,

Deputy Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Tun Mra Aung and officials.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana explained the purpose of the donation. On behalf of the Sayadaw, U Saw Hlaing of Hla Kabar Furniture Mart presented the robes to the minister. — MNA

Uruguayan police HQ hit by firebombs

MONTEVIDEO, 18 April — Two Molotov cocktails exploded on Monday morning at the Montevideo Circuit Police Headquarters, but caused no casualties, said police spokesman Ernesto Carrera.

One firebomb blew up outside the headquarters building and the other one was denoted inside, shattering the windows of an office and causing a fire that burned some facilities around the office, the spokesman said

in a statement.

"It is a surprising attack," said Carrera, adding that the Uruguayan police did not receive any warnings beforehand.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. — MNA/Xinhua

Yangon Division MCWSC holds respect-paying ceremony

YANGON, 18 April — Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized a respect-paying ceremony at No 1 Basic Education High School in Tamway Township, here, this morning.

Chairperson of the

committee Daw Mar Mar Wai attended the ceremony and donated cash and kind to the aged.

First, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai extended greetings on the occasion. Next, the Chairperson and party paid respects to the aged

and donated cash and kind to them.

Afterwards, the Chairperson and party viewed feeding nutritious foods and providing health care to the aged at the school. Medicines were also provided for the elder persons.

MNA



Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai donates cash and kind to elder persons. — MNA

Collective planting of physic nut grafts held in Taunggyi District

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April — A ceremony to collectively plant physic nut grafts was held at the junction of Kalaw-Taunggyi Road and Aungban-Pinlaung Road in Kalaw Township, Taunggyi District on 11 April, attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye and wife, senior military officers, departmental

officials, social organizations and local people. The commander gave an opening speech.

Next, the commander and those present planted physic nut grafts. The commander and wife inspected the planting of physic grafts. A total of 210,000 physic nut grafts were grown.

The commander paid homage to Nagahlainggu Kalewa Monastery Sayadaw Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha

Nayaka Committee Dvipitakadhara Dvipitaka Kovida Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and Hman-kyauing Sayadaw of Mandalay Bhaddanta Jagara at Aungthabye Swedaw Monastery in Taunggyi Township.

He presented cash donations for final rites of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pandiccasara. — MNA

Brazilian police dismantle illegal foreign exchange market

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 April — Brazil's Federal Police on Tuesday arrested 22 people in an operation to battle money laundering and other financial crimes committed by illegal monetary exchange firms.

The operation was carried out in four

Brazilian states, including Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia and Amazonas.

Federal agents confiscated laptops, hard disks, dozens of fancy wristwatches and 24 luxury cars such as Porsches, Mercedes, Audis and Toyotas.

The police also

collected documents on the suspected firms' banking records, which listed money transfers, properties and monetary exchange activities.

According to the authorities, the firms negotiated about 30 million US dollars per month. — MNA/Xinhua

Blair's likely successor under attack over British economy

LONDON, 18 April — Finance Minister Gordon Brown, the frontrunner to be Britain's next prime minister, suffered a double embarrassment on Tuesday when opponents attacked his handling of pensions on the same day that inflation surged.

Brown, who is expected to take over from Prime Minister Tony Blair in the next few months, was forced to appear in Parliament to explain a decision he took 10 years ago which opponents allege has badly weakened Britain's pension system.

In a further blow to Brown's hopes of winning and staying in power, a newspaper poll published on Tuesday showed Brown's Labour Party sinking to its lowest rating in 13 years -- 29 per cent to the opposition Conservatives' 37 per cent.

"(Brown)'s boast of economic competence is unravelling before our eyes," the Conservatives' economic spokesman George Osborne told Parliament.

The silver lining for Brown was that Environment Secretary David Miliband, who some Labour members are pushing to challenge Brown for the leadership once Blair goes, said he was not a candidate.

The Conservatives put forward a "no confidence" motion in Brown's handling of

pensions during a heated parliamentary debate.

The motion was sure to be defeated because the Labour Party has a comfortable majority, but it was unfortunate timing for Brown on the day that inflation burst through 3 per cent for the first time since 1997, the year Labour came to power.

The inflation surge emboldened the Conservatives who seek to undermine Brown's reputation for solid handling of

the economy -- a key element in Blair's successive general election wins and one of Brown's main credentials to be prime minister.

The Conservatives are hoping to play on doubts in the country, including some in Labour, over whether Brown, 56, has the charisma to beat Conservative leader David Cameron, 40, in the next general election, expected in 2009.

MNA/Reuters



The "Geo-Cosmos", covered with one million LEDs (light emitting diodes), displays a simulation of future global warming at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) in Tokyo on 5 April, 2007.

INTERNET

Breastfeeding may protect against breast cancer

LOS ANGELES, 18 April — Breastfeeding may offer broad protection against breast cancer that extends to women who delay having children, according to a study released on Monday.

Previous studies have shown that giving birth before age 25 and having many children protects against certain types of breast cancers, while delayed childbirth is associated with a higher risk of breast cancer.

The most important finding of the new study is that breastfeeding seems to lower the risk of developing breast cancer that comes from having

children later in life, said Dr Giske Ursin, associate professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California medical school and the study's lead author.

Results of the study were announced at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Los Angeles.

"As more women may choose to delay

pregnancy until after 25, it is important to note that breastfeeding provides protection against both estrogen and progesterone receptor positive and negative tumours," Ursin said.

The study was funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and by the National Cancer Institute.

MNA/Reuters

Warrants issued in Paraguay-Japan kidnapping

ASUNCION, 18 April — Paraguayan prosecutors on Tuesday ordered the arrest of seven people suspected of links to the 1 April kidnapping of a Japanese businessman and two Paraguayans, police and the prosecutors' office said.

At the same time, a lawmaker said negotiations with the kidnapers may be close to bringing about the freedom of Hirokazu Ota, police officer Rafael Ramos and teacher Nancy Gimenez.

"The negotiations are very advanced," Enrique Gonzalez Quintana, president of Congress, told Reuters after meeting with government negotiators. He declined to provide any details.

The seven suspects named by the prosecutors' office are all Paraguayan. It was not clear what their role is suspected of being.

A Japanese woman, Ota's assistant, was freed last week after a total of four people were grabbed on a highway in Caaguazu department, some 115 miles (185 kilometers) east of Asuncion. — MNA/Reuters

Rare spring storm batters US northeast for 2nd day

BOSTON, 18 April — Gale-force winds and record rainfall battered the US Northeast for a second day on Monday as a rare spring northeaster storm blanketed areas in snow, downed power lines, flooded coastal areas and delayed travel.

"This storm ranks up there in terms of severity and it comes unusually late in the season," said Glenn Field, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts.

In New Jersey, Acting Governor Richard Codey declared a state of emergency after many roads were closed by flooding. "Residents

should not travel unless necessary," Codey's office said in a statement. "The public can expect significant delays."

Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell issued a similar warning to motorists in her state, where as much as 8 inches (20 centimetres) of rain fell, flooding at least one heavily travelled rail line, her office said.

MNA/Reuters



An egg exuviator makes exuviation more convenient for you, especially when the egg is hot. — INTERNET

Two Secret Service officers injured at White House

WASHINGTON, 18 April — Two Secret Service officers were injured on Tuesday after a gun held by another Secret Service officer accidentally fired inside the White House gate, according to a spokesman, Darrin Blackford.

Their injuries are non-life threatening, the spokesman said.

One officer suffered a shrapnel wound to the face, and the other was wounded in the leg.

They were taken to George Washington Hospital. At the time, President George W Bush was on a trip to Blacksburg, Virginia, to attend a ceremony at Virginia Tech University following Monday's shooting rampage.

"It appears that at approximately 2:10 pm (1810 GMT) there was an accidental discharge of a service issued weapon, which occurred inside the Southwest Gate at a security post near the White House," Blackford said.

Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, Lafayette Park across the street from the White House and other nearby walkways were all shut down to pedestrian traffic due to the incident. Many police vehicles were in the area.

MNA/Reuters



- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
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စိုးမြဲကျော် ၏

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ထွက်ပြီ

- စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
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China says US complaint will not solve piracy

BEIJING, 18 April — A US complaint to the World Trade Organization over Chinese counterfeiting and commercial piracy will not help intellectual property cooperation between the two trade powers, a Chinese official said on Tuesday.

Earlier this month the Bush Administration announced separate cases against China at the WTO over pirated copies of music and movies, and for placing market access barriers to US companies offering legitimate products.

A spokesman for China's National Copyright Administration, Wang Ziqiang, said Washington's complaint was groundless and would not help solve the problem.

"The US Government's accusation that China's market access restrictions on films, books and audiovisual products are leading to rampant piracy does not stand up," Wang told a news conference in Beijing.

China regularly defends its record on fighting piracy, saying it is a developing country and needs time. But pirated movies and music discs are openly sold in shops and on street corners in Chinese cities for as little as eight yuan (about one US dollars) a copy.

While China controlled the number of US films entering every year, there were large numbers of other audiovisual products and books allowed in, Wang said.

"The US Government's complaint to the WTO over China's intellectual property rights problems will not help bilateral cooperation over intellectual property," he added.

China's market does

suffer from piracy, but the problem is a global one that includes countries such as Canada, that do not face threats of WTO action, Wang said.

MNA/Reuters

Blast in Afghanistan kills 5 in UN car

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 18 April — A roadside bomb killed five people in a UN vehicle in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar on Tuesday, the provincial police chief said.

Four of those killed in the blast were from Nepal, Esmatullah Alizai told Reuters near the scene of the attack.

"Four Nepalese and one Afghan have been killed," he said.

The blast happened on a main road near Kandahar City, where Taleban attacks have become increasingly common.

"There has been an incident in Kandahar in

which a UN convoy was involved," said UN spokesman Adrian Edwards. "We're checking, trying to confirm details."

In a separate incident, a blast in a school compound killed two students in the western city of Herat, officials and witnesses said.

MNA/Reuters



A man secures fans made from palm tree leaves as he prepares to transport the goods to a local market in Dhaka on 17 April, 2007. — INTERNET

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင်
လေသန့်စင်၍
ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း
စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏

ADVERTISEMENT

Vietnam to focus on four categories of exports

HANOI, 17 April — Vietnam is boosting four categories of exports to China between 2007 and 2015, aiming to post export revenues of seven billion US dollars in 2015, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Monday.

Vietnam has planned to earn about 2.4 billion dollars in 2010 from exporting products in the first group, including footwear, electric cables, computers, electronic components, woodworks, coal and crude oil.

To this end, the country is encouraging local enterprises to set up joint ventures with Chinese partners to create goods distribution channels in China.

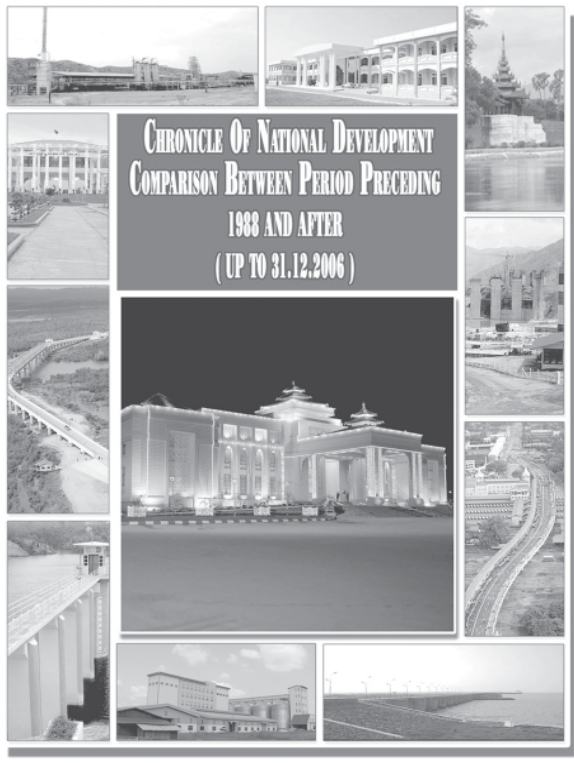
Vietnam is estimated to reap export revenues of about two billion dollars in 2010, from selling to China products in the second group, which includes latex, rice, cashew nuts, seafood, fruits and vegetables, tea, vegetable oil, and cassava.

Local firms would be required to build crop specialized areas and apply high-tech equipment to have better post-harvest processing and preservation, according to the Vietnamese Trade Ministry.

Vietnam has planned to export several new items in the third group, including bauxite, fruit juices, coffee, cosmetics, detergent, bonsai and lacquered products, to China in the coming years.

The country would earn 1.2-1.5 billion dollars in 2010 from shipping to China products in the fourth group, which are manufactured in Vietnam by foreign companies and then exported to China, including rubber-based goods, plastic, aluminum, high-grade paper, glass, synthesized fibers, and pharmaceuticals.

MNA/Xinhua



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Chinese, Cuban FMs agree to promote cooperation

BEIJING, 17 April — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Cuban counterpart Felipe Perez Roque held talks here Monday, with a cooperation agreement signed between them.

Li told Perez China attaches great importance to its relations with Cuba and is ready to work with Cuban to deepen the friendship, promote mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and enhance the

continuous in-depth growth of bilateral ties. Perez said it is of strategic significance to strengthen Cuban-China relations and Cuba is ready to further exchanges and dialogues and expand cooperation in various fields.

The two also exchanged views on some

international and regional issues of shared concern and signed a cooperation agreement, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. But no details of the agreement were given.

Perez, who arrived Sunday night for a four-day official visit, will meet with Vice President Zeng

Qinghong later Monday and State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan Tuesday.

Perez is also expected to meet with some other Chinese officials, including those from the Ministry of Commerce, before concluding his China trip on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua

US forces kill three Iraqi police in friendly fire

BAGHDAD, 17 April — US forces killed three Iraqi policemen in a case of friendly fire during a raid against suspected al-Qaeda militants in the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi on Monday, the US military said.

The military said in a statement that US troops had come under small arms fire during a raid in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, and returned fire. Three men killed in the

confrontation were later identified as Iraqi police. The military said its troops had “coordinated their operation and no Iraqi police were known to be in the area”. The incident is

under investigation. Seven suspected insurgents were also arrested in the raid.

In a second possible case of accidental shooting on Monday, a man who claimed to be an airport highway security guard was shot dead during a raid in Baghdad, the US military said.

The US military said in a statement that soldiers who had just secured a building encountered four armed men emerging from a palm grove. The raid was conducted in search of militants suspected of having ties to al-Qaeda.

The statement said coalition forces were trying to verify claims by local Iraqis at the scene that the man who was killed was a security worker and whether he had ties with other suspects.

MNA/Reuters

Costa Rican police seize 190 kilos of cocaine

SAN JOSE, 17 April — Costa Rica’s Drug Control Police (PCD) on Monday seized 190 kilos of cocaine hidden in a truck’s gasoline tanks, the Security Ministry said.

The ministry said the seizure took place in Penas Blancas, which borders Nicaragua, during a routine inspection carried out by PCD officials.

The truck driver, a Costa Rican who planned to drive to Honduras, was arrested for international drug trafficking.

The detainee is held by the public prosecutor’s office in Liberia, Guanacaste Province, some 220 kilometres northwest of San Jose.

In Costa Rica, international drug traffickers will be sentenced to up to 20 years of imprisonment.

MNA/Xinhua

Five US soldiers killed in attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 April — Insurgents killed five American soldiers in Iraq

on Monday, including three in Baghdad, the US military said.

Around 60 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq this month, putting April on course to be one of the deadliest for US forces in many months.

The US military said three soldiers were killed in three separate attacks in Baghdad. Two others were killed in western Anbar Province.

One of the soldiers in Baghdad was killed when a roadside bomb known as an explosively formed projectile (EFP) exploded near his patrol, the military said. The US military says gunmen in Iraq are getting components to make EFPs from Iran.

Around 3,300 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003 toppled Saddam Hussein.—MNA/Reuters

18 pupils down with suspected food poisoning in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 April — Eighteen primary school pupils on Monday were rushed to a local hospital for suspected food poisoning in Kedah State in northwestern Malaysia.

The six boys and 12 girls, fortunately, received only outpatient treatment as their situations were not serious, local media reports said.

Those pupils from the Sungai Petani area complained of stomach cramp, vomiting and diarrhoea after consuming packet milk provided under the school’s food programme around noon.

“The packet milk arrived at the school yesterday and

as usual we distributed it to the pupils at about 12:30 pm (0430 GMT). Not long after consuming the milk, three pupils vomited, followed by the others,” a teacher from the school told the *Bernama* news agency.

Following those symptoms, the teachers sent the pupils immediately to the hospital, about 18 kilometres away from the school.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆေးဝါးများ တိုးတက်လာ နိုင်စေရန် ကြိုးပမ်း ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်

Indian herbal remedy cancer hope

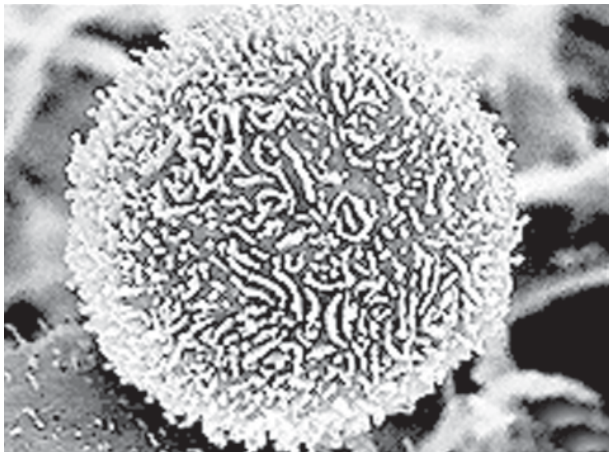
LONDON, 18 April—An Indian herbal remedy could one day be used to help fight pancreatic cancer, scientists hope.

A team at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute found extracts of triphala slowed the growth of human pancreatic tumours grafted onto mice.

The findings, presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, offer hope that one day a treatment might be developed.

But experts have warned the research is still at a very early stage. Triphala is a herbal preparation used in the traditional Indian medicine system Ayurveda. It contains the dried and powdered fruits of three plants, and it is said to ease intestinal-related disorders, promoting good digestion.

Previous studies have



Pancreatic cancer is currently very difficult to treat.—INTERNET

shown triphala to have an anti-cancer activity in cell cultures, and the new research found this effect also worked in mice fed the herb preparation, without damaging normal pancreatic cells.

The team fed mice grafted with human pancreatic tumours a triphala solution five days per week.

After four weeks they compared the tumour size and proteins contents of the tumours with those of a control group of mice

that had not received the triphala.

They found that the tumours in triphala-treated mice were half the size of those in the untreated mice.

The also found the treated mice tumour cells had higher levels of proteins associated with apoptosis - the process by which the body normally disposes of damaged, old or unneeded cells.

In cancer cells this process is often faulty,

allowing the tumours to divide rapidly without any cells dying.

Professor Srivastava said: "Triphala triggered the cancerous cells to die off and significantly reduced the size of the tumours without causing any toxic side effects."

Further testing revealed that triphala had also activated tumour-suppressor genes, but did not negatively affect normal pancreatic cells.

Professor Srivastava said: "Our results demonstrate that triphala has strong anti-cancer properties given its ability to induce apoptosis in pancreatic cancer cells without damaging normal pancreatic cells."

"With follow-up studies, we hope to demonstrate its potential use as a novel agent for the prevention and treatment of pancreatic cancer."

Internet

'Smart dust' to explore planets

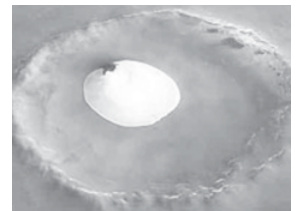
LONDON, 18 April—Tiny "smart" devices that can be borne on the wind like dust particles could be carried in space probes to explore other planets, UK engineers say.

The devices would consist of a computer chip covered by a plastic sheath that can change shape when a voltage is applied, enabling it to be steered.

Dr John Barker, from the University of Glasgow, said the particles could use wireless networking to form swarms.

The idea of using millimetre-sized devices to explore far-flung locations is nothing new, but Dr Barker and his colleagues are starting to look in detail at how it might be achieved.

The professor at Glasgow's Nanoelectronics Research Centre said computer chips of the size and sophistication



Sand grain-sized particles could ride on Martian winds.

INTERNET

required to meet the challenge already exist.

Smart dust could be packed into the nose cones of planetary probes and then released into the atmospheres of planets, where they would be carried on the wind. For a planet like Mars, smart dust particles would each have to be the size of a grain of sand.

By applying a voltage to alter the shape of the polymer sheath surrounding the chip, dust particle could be steered towards a target, even in high winds.—Internet

Bollywood's hottest couple plan quiet wedding



Bollywood beauty Aishwarya Rai and her actor boyfriend Abhishek Bachchan are expected to tie the knot in a quiet series of ceremonies this week.

INTERNET

BEIJING, 18 April—Following the storm over Elizabeth Hurley's opulent marriage, Bollywood beauty Aishwarya Rai and her actor boyfriend Abhishek Bachchan are expected to tie the knot in a quiet series of ceremonies this week.

Security will be tight at the Bachchan residence in

Mumbai, where the wedding begins tomorrow.

Fire extinguishers will be on hand in case crazed fans of Rai and Bachchan set themselves alight in disappointment or try to perform Hindu fire ceremonies to break the marriage, the Mumbai Mirror reported.

Four-page wedding invitations - with the couple's initials "AA" embossed on the cover and signed by the Bachchan family have been sent out to select friends.

Abhishek, 31, is the son of actress Jaya Bachchan and screen legend Amitabh Bachchan. The pair - dubbed "Abhiash" by local media in a melding of their two names after the fashion of "Brangelina" for Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie - were engaged in January,

capping months of media speculation about their relationship.

They have scored two hits in recent months, with their latest film "Guru" collecting 850 million rupees (19.7 million US dollars) at the box office in January.

That followed their appearance in last year's Dhoom 2 (Have a Blast II), the year's highest grossing film in India.

Internet

Study finds blood DNA early predictor for liver cancer

LOS ANGELES, 17 April—Blood DNA can be an early predictor for liver cancer, according to a study published in the 15 April issue of Clinical Cancer Research.

Using DNA isolated from serum samples as a baseline biomarker, researchers at Coloibia University's Mailman

School of Public Health have discovered a means for early detection of liver cancer, according to the study.

The scientists examined changes in certain tumour suppressor genes that have been associated with the development of liver carcinomas.

The researchers stu-

died the blood of patient enrolled in a cancer screening programme in Taiwan, who provided repeated blood samples prior to diagnosis.

A total of 12,000 males and over 11,900 females recruited during 1991-1992 are being followed.

MNA/Xinhua

Cast members Topher Grace, James Franco, director Sam Raimi, Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and Thomas Haden Church (L-R) pose at a photo session before a news conference in Tokyo on 17 April, 2007 to promote the movie "Spider-Man 3".—INTERNET



SPORTS

Angel completes move to New York Red Bulls

LONDON, 18 April — Aston Villa striker Juan Pablo Angel has joined Major League Soccer side New York Red Bulls, the Premier League club confirmed on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Colombian, who joined Villa from Argentine side River Plate in 2001 for 9.5 million pounds (18.9 million US dollars), scored 62 goals in 205 appearances for the club but had recently lost his place in the first team. Red Bulls sporting director and head coach Bruce Arena said Angel had been his prime target as he looked for a striker.

"I am thrilled about acquiring Juan Pablo for the New York Red Bulls," he told the Red Bulls website (www.redbull.newyork.mlsnet.com). "It is no secret that we have been searching for a striker since the end of the 2006 season, and Juan Pablo has been at the top of my list since day one."

The terms of the deal were undisclosed.

Angel said he was looking forward to a "new exciting challenge" at the Giants Stadium.

"I believe Major League Soccer is growing fast and I am very keen to be part of this." —MNA/Reuters

Back injury forces Murray out of Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO, 18 April — Briton Andy Murray pulled out of the Monte Carlo Masters on Tuesday.

The eighth seed was due to play Frenchman Marc Gicquel in a second round match, but failed to recover from the back problem that forced him to retire during a doubles game on Monday.

"The pain was getting worse and worse by the end of the (first set) tiebreak. I could barely stand up," the Scottish world number 10 told a news conference.

"It's better today than it was yesterday, but I still find it hard to walk. It's a little bit frustrating."

Murray will return home on Wednesday for a scan. —MNA/Reuters

Ferrer strolls into Monte Carlo second round

MONTE CARLO, 18 April — Spaniard David Ferrer strolled into the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Frenchman Gilles Simon on Tuesday. The 12th seed had too much claycourt

experience for Simon and wrapped up the easy win on his first match point in 68 minutes.

The world number 16 now meets another Frenchman, Julien Benneteau, who reached the French Open quarter-

finals last year.

Ferrer, who won the Auckland Open in January, took the opening set in 41 minutes after converting two of his seven break opportunities. The second set was a relative walkover for the Spaniard, who charged into a 4-0 advantage and was never troubled thereafter.

"I felt really good from the start, which explains why the win was wrapped up quickly," Ferrer said in a courtside interview. German Benjamin Becker also booked his place for the second round with a 7-6, 6-2 win over Swede Thomas Johansson to set up a meeting with either Spaniard Nicolas Almagro or Czech 14th seed Tomas Berdych, who play later on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

Man United beat Sheffield United 2-0

LONDON, 18 April — Manchester United moved six points clear of title-chasing Chelsea after a comfortable 2-0 win over Sheffield United at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

United were keeping the pressure on second-placed Chelsea as they are on 81 points from 33 games. But the Blues still have one game in hand -- to face West Ham United on Wednesday.

Arsenal climbed to third with a 3-1 home victory over Manchester City in the night's other game. They are one point ahead of Liverpool, who will play Middlesbrough on Wednesday.

Goals at the start of each half from Michael Carrick and Wayne Rooney were enough to secure the three points, but Sir Alex Ferguson's men were fully tested by the Blades.

Michael Carrick opened scoring for United after four minutes, lifting Cristiano Ronaldo's pass over Paddy Kenny as the keeper raced out.

Rooney cut a frustrated figure in the first half and a fine tackle from Chris Morgan thwarted him 60 seconds after the restart. The forward erupted with an emphatic finish after 50 minutes.

He controlled a pass of rare vision from Ryan Giggs in an instant before lashing an unstoppable right-foot finish across Kenny.

Michael Tonge came closest for the Blades, hitting the bar with a curling 20-yard drive two minutes from time.

At the Emirates Stadium, Czech midfielder Tomas



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo, right, sends Chris Armstrong the wrong way during his team's 2-0 win over Sheffield United during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on Tuesday, 17 April, 2007. — INTERNET

Rosicky fired the Gunners into a 12th-minute lead when he slotted home Emmanuel Eboue's right wing cross.

But City hit back when DaMarcus Beasley finished well just before the break.

The visitors looked the better side early in the second half but were undone when Cesc Fabregas and Julio Baptista netted with two fine strikes in the 73rd and 80th minute respectively. — MNA/Xinhua



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (R) makes a save against Atlanta Thrashers winger Keith Tkachuk (L) during the second period of Game 3 of their NHL Eastern Conference playoff series hockey game in New York on 17 April, 2007. —INTERNET

Spanish referee receives death threats

MADRID, 18 April — The referee who presided over Real Madrid's 2-1 Primera Liga defeat away to Racing Santander on Saturday said he has received death threats.

Javier Turienzo Alvarez awarded two disputed penalties to Racing and sent off two Real players in the final 17 minutes, which deprived the nine-times European champions of a provisional place at the top of the table.

Raul had given Real a first-half lead.

"I have received more

than 50 phone calls at my house with death threats against me and my family," Turienzo Alvarez said in an interview with Punto Radio.

"I have a daughter of six years old who returned from the park yesterday crying. She said: 'the children tell me you ruined things for Real'... and it hurts me to the core."

Turienzo Alvarez said media coverage of the game had contributed to the hostile atmosphere towards him.

"I don't want to apportion blame but a newspaper front page on Sunday was hurtful with a picture of me in a target and a message 'go for him.' I don't think this is fair," he continued.

"When I left the hotel on Sunday some 30 or 40 people crowded round the car threateningly with the newspaper in their hands saying bad things. One day something will happen and then everyone will be sorry."

The referee also defended his profession from accusations of partiality.

MNA/Reuters

Opera singer Cortes to lift West Ham

LONDON, 18 April — West Ham United are turning to Icelandic opera singer Gardar Thor Cortes for inspiration before the relegation battlers face champions Chelsea on Wednesday.

Cortes, a compatriot of West Ham's Icelandic chairman Eggert Magnusson, will sing Hammers anthem "I'm forever blowing bubbles" and "Nessun Dorma" — an aria from Giacomo Puccini's opera Turandot — before kickoff at Upton Park. The aria made its mark in English football when Luciano Pavarotti's rendition was used by the BBC as the theme tune for their coverage of the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Cortes will be making his first foray into warming up a football crowd.

MNA/Reuters



America's Cup challenger Desafio Espanol 2007's bowman Jaime Arbones works on the bow before races were called off during the Valencia Louis Vuitton Cup Round Robin 1 Day 1 in Valencia on 16 April, 2007. —INTERNET

UN unveils \$ 120m roadmap to combat rising urban poverty

NAIROBI, 18 April — The United Nations housing agency, UN-HABITAT, on Monday unveiled a new initiative aimed at tackling rising urban poverty, asking housing and urban planning ministers to approve a 120-million-US-dollar roadmap to address the menace.

Speaking during the opening of the 21st Session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council un-

derway in Nairobi, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka urged African countries to

support the strengthening of the UN housing body in its efforts to popularize urban planning policies. The session brings together 100 ministers in charge of housing and urban planning from across the world to discuss emerging issues related to urban poverty.

“The Plan includes reinforcing partnerships with international and domestic financial institutions so that capacity building and policy advisory efforts are followed up by investments and by tangible results on the ground,” she said. The UN housing agency is seeking 105 million dollars for its institutional strengthening over the next six years to enhance its ability to combat urban poverty and pollution.

Tibaijuka said the strengthening of the housing and urban planning agency, envisages the development of plans to combat social, economic and environ-

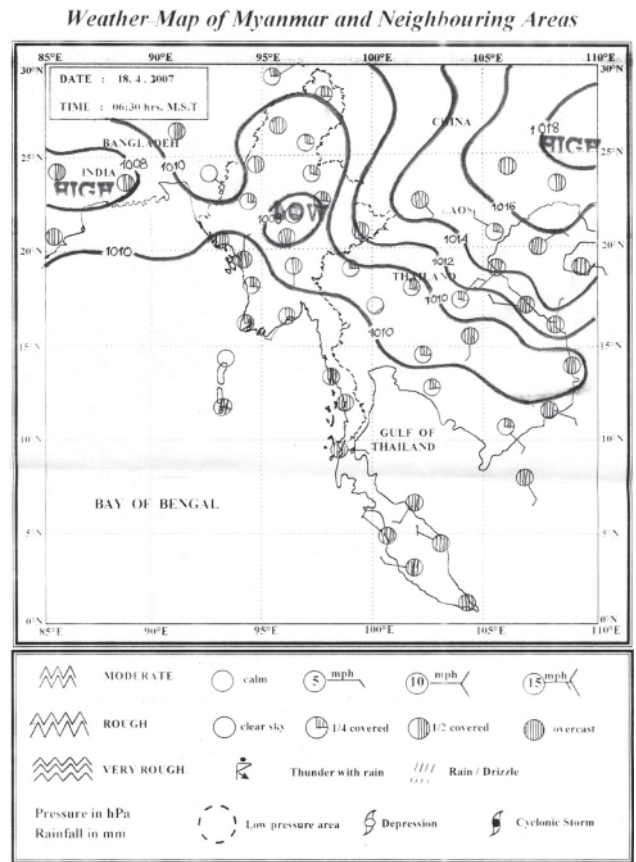
mental challenges to sustainable urbanization. “The plan recognizes that sustainable urbanization requires a stakeholder-supported roadmap. From the outset, UN-HABITAT has understood that for it to be a true catalyst, the process must be participatory,” she said.

She said the efforts to fight growing social and economic crises caused by the rural-urban migration must be all-inclusive both at local, regional and international levels to stand chances for success.

MNA/Xinhua



A tearful Brandon Bernstein pauses at the top end after winning the Top Fuel division during the Summit Racing com NHRA Nationals at The Strip in Las Vegas, Nevada on 15 April, 2007. Bernstein lost a close friend, Eric Medlen, who drove a Funny Car for John Force Racing, who died three weeks ago as a result of an accident during testing. — INTERNET



WEATHER

Wednesday, 18 April, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in State Chin and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, (9°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Nay Pyi Taw (43°C), Minbu and Magway (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Taunggyi and Mawlaik (0.08) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 17-4-2007 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 18-4-2007 was 78°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-4-2007 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 17-4-2007 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 18-4-2007 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 (18:15) hours MST on 17-4-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-4-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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 Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 19-4-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-4-2007: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-4-2007: Partly cloudy.



Thursday, 19 April Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Sweet kisses ... Lomboyah
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Ring a liny ... Jiggy
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Sweet love ... Lionel Richie
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Viva La Radio ... Lolly
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -The one you love ... Glenn Fery
- One heart ... Celine Dion
- 9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Pourri
- 9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Thursday, 19 April View on today

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara 7:25 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To be healthy exercise 7:30 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Morning news 7:40 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Nice and sweet song 7:50 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Dance of national races 8:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ 8:10 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Dance variety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:20 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. စိုက္ခဲရဲထိုက်နံ့တံခါး 8:30 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. International news 8:45 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Let's Go 4:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martial song 4:15 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Song to uphold National Spirit 4:30 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. English for Everyday Use 4:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Musical programme 5:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. အလေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (မြန်မာစာအထူးပြု) (မြန်မာစာ) 5:15 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Cute little dancers 5:25 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. “မူးလျှင်မမောင်းနဲ့၊ မောင်းလျှင်မမူးနဲ့.” (လူမင်း၊ သူသူဟံသာ၊ အိမ်အိမ်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Musical programme 5:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ 6:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Evening news 6:30 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Weather report 6:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ် 6:50 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Discovery 7:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. မြန်မာမှုပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းပွတ်) 7:10 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သစ်ရွက်ကလေး၏ ရင်ခုန်သံ” (အပိုင်း-၁၄) 8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16. News 8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17. International news 8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Weather report 8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အကြင်နာနေဦး” (အပိုင်း-၂၇) 8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20. The next day's programme |
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Parittas recited at Ministry of Rail Transportation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April — A ceremony to recite parittas marking Myanmar New Year was held at the Ministry of Rail Transportation, here, yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Pyinmana Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Thanlan Monastery presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanavamsa and members of the Sangha, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife, Deputy Ministers, the managing director, directors-general and staff families.



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife share merits gained together with officials of Rail Transportation Ministry. — MR

First, the congregation led by the minister took the Nine Precepts from Thanlan Monastery presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanavamsa. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas and Kammava. Afterwards, the minister and officials concerned donated provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha, and the congregation shared merits gained.

MNA

People of Mandalay City perform meritorious deeds on Myanmar New Year Day

YANGON, 18 April — People in Mandalay performed meritorious deeds at religious buildings, famous pagodas and stupas and monasteries on Myanmar New Year Day yesterday. In addition, they held the Paritta recitation ceremonies at the respective areas.

Yaydaw Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Paññavamsa and party offered gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image. Local people also donated gold foils and lights to the Buddha image and fed and released fish and birds.

The Sub-printing House of News and Periodicals Enterprise held the 'soon' offering ceremony and Parittas recitation ceremony in front of the sub-printing house.

Deputy Chief Editor U Nyunt Zaw and wife offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association from seven townships of Mandalay District paid respects to 57 elder persons at the Home for the Aged, west of Mandalay Hill. It was attended by Joint Secretaries U Sein Myint and U Thein Tun of Mandalay Division USDA and executives. They donated pharmaceuticals to the elder persons and set up the fund with K 65,000. The USDA members also held the ceremony to release fish into the moat near Laythein Gate in Aungmyethazan Township.

(See page 8)



Family members of Central Command Headquarters release fish into the moat in Mandalay on Myanmar New Year Day. — MNA

INSIDE

Living things depend greatly on their physical surroundings for their survival. Environment provides important conditions for human beings to survive. In order to give priority to environmental activities, the National Commission for Environmental Affairs was formed. The World Environment Programme was formulated in 1992 for continued development on environment. Myanmar signed the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in 1997.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

WEATHER

Forecast for (19-4-2007)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Yangon and neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.