

Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress of Yadanabon Myothit Project, Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin), MRD (Upper Myanmar)

Nation's health standard will get higher only if medicines are within reach of the people



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar).— MNA

Excerpts from Senior General Than Shwe's speech

- * Responsible persons are to assess potency and side effects of the pharmaceuticals and coordinate regularly for winning the reliance of the people.
- * The Pharmaceuticals Factory (PyinOoLwin) will launch its production line of 213 kinds of tablets, capsules, injection, intravenous fluids, syrup, lotions and powders.
- * There are two functions of medical research—to extensively produce medicines based on advanced medical science and to produce potent traditional medicines.
- * Myanmar is blessed with favourable climate, so a wide range of species of herbal plants are to be researched for production of new kinds of medicines.

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected construction of Yadanabon Myothit in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday morning and gave guidance on tasks of Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) and Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar).

Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and 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, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and PyinOoLwin Station and officials of the SPDC Office, Senior General Than Shwe inspected progress in construction of Yadanabon Myothit at 10 am.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported

(See page 16)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Pharmaceutical Factory in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 April, 2007

Strive for systematic power supply

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on 18 April inspected progress of Shweli (1) Hydropower Project being implemented on Shweli River, 17 miles southwest of Mantet Village in Namkham, Shan State (North) and gave guidance on the project.

The Shweli (1) Hydropower Project is to generate 600 megawatts. The main engineering work such as concrete embankment, diversion tunnel, pilot channel and power intake building and approach tunnel are under construction, and the project is now over 50 per cent completed.

To meet the power consumption needs of the State, work is under way to implement Shweli (2) Hydropower Project, Shweli (3) Hydropower Project, Tapein (1) Hydropower Project, Tapein (2) Hydropower Project and Upper Thanlwin Project.

As regards those projects, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had given guidance, stressing the need to implement Upper Thanlwin Project, Shweli Projects and Tapein Projects as soon as possible, to conduct survey for more resources in addition to water resources that have been surveyed, and to install the power grid on schedule in order to supply electricity from the project to the nation, while striving for generating more hydropower.

Arrangements have been made to implement the 460-megawatt Shweli (2) Hydropower Project on Shweli River downstream of Shweli (1) Hydropower Project in Momeik Township and the 360-megawatt Shweli (3) Hydropower Project on Shweli River about 30 miles downstream of Shweli (2) Hydropower Project.

On completion, all the projects on Shweli River will be able to generate 1,420 megawatts.

Therefore, efforts are to be made to install the power grid as soon as possible, while implementing the hydropower projects for systematic distribution of electricity from the projects to the nation. Only then, will they benefit the entire national people sooner.

Meditation camps opened

YANGON, 16 April — The 109th seven-day meditation camp completed at Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha Branch-77 of Tawya TatU Monastery in Aungmye, Insein Township, on 7 April.

A total of 1300 followers of Buddhism practised meditation at the seven-day camp. Altogether 2,250 Buddhists attended meditation at the 110th ten-day camp which will end on 13 to 22 April.

At the opening of the meditation camps, State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa of Ywama Pariyati Monastery formally opened the meditation camps and the Presiding Sayadaw of Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha Branch -77 delivered sermons to the devotees.— H

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

Issue of Citizenship Scrutiny Cards inspected in Mandalay, Yangon

YANGON, 20 April — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inspected issue of Citizenship Scrutiny Cards at Immigration and National Registration Department in Mahaangmye Township on 18 April.

Director-General U Maung Maung Than of INRD and Head of Mandalay Division INRD U Bo Shwe reported on issue of the cards and work to be done.

Next, the minister met chairmen of Township and Ward Peace and Development Councils and responsible persons of social organizations and explained issue of the scrutiny cards.

The minister inspected the record room and

the computer room of the department.

Yesterday, the minister arrived at PyinOoLwin Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Office where the Citizenship Scrutiny Cards were being issued to the people. Officials reported on issue of the cards in PyinOoLwin Township.

In the evening, the minister met departmental officials of the INRDs of Yangon Division at the division office. He praised officials for their efforts in carrying out the task to issue 16,480 Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to the people this year. The minister urged them to supervise the personnel not to lose the momentum of the task.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and wife being welcomed by British Ambassador Mr Mark Canning and wife at reception to mark the Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Yangon on 20 April 2007.

MNA



Health education talks given

YANGON, 20 April — Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized health education talks to mark 2007 World Health Day at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township, Yangon West District, this morning.

Chairperson of the Yangon Division Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech and accepted permanent membership applications from the chairperson of the District MCWSC.

She presented prizes to the prizewinners of the

World Health Day commemorative essay competition. Assistant Director

of the Health Education Division of the Department of Health U Aung

Kyaw Kyaw gave health education talks.

MNA



Daw Mar Mar Wai awards a winner of the essay contest to mark the World Health Day. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cutting salt quarters heart risk

LONDON, 19 April—Eating less salt can cut cardiovascular disease risk by a quarter and fatal heart disease by a fifth, work shows.

The ideal daily intake of salt is no more than six grams and ministers want everyone to achieve this by 2010.

Experts already know that too much salt can raise blood pressure and high blood pressure increases the risk of heart attack and

stroke.

The British Medical Journal study now gives the evidence behind this link and quantifies how much harm salt can do.

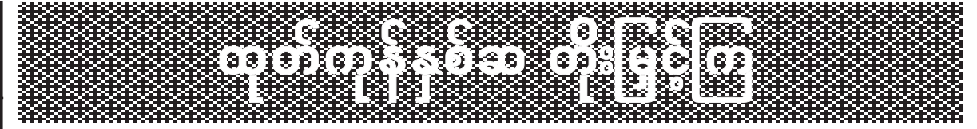
People who significantly cut back on the amount of salt in their diet reduced their chances of developing cardiovascular disease by 25% over the following 10 to 15 years.

And their risk of dying from cardiovascular disease went down by 20%.

All of the 3,126 people studied by the US team from Boston had had high-normal blood pressure, or “pre-hypertension”.

In the trials, participants reduced their salt (sodium) intake by about 25% - 35%, from about 10g to around 7g. And those who cut back tended to stick to a lower salt diet in the long term, the researchers from Brigham and Women’s Hospital found.

Internet



A big decorated boat cruises on the ancient canal in Yangzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 18 April, 2007. — XINHUA

Motorcycle blast in Moscow kills businessman

Moscow, 19 April — A Russian businessman was killed and four others were injured when an

explosive device fixed to a parked motorcycle went off in Moscow on Wednesday, the prosecutor general’s office said.

The explosion near the entrance to the office of a firm called Blagvest killed its director. Moscow prosecutors said in a statement they were treating the case as suspected murder but did not name the victim.

Blagvest declined to speak about the incident but a website on Russian companies listed the firm in the alcohol production and retailing section.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

US shootings provoke gun debate on campus

BLACKSBURG (Virginia), 19 April — Some of those affected by the Virginia Tech university shootings were quick to direct their anger and grief not just at the gunman who killed 32 people, but also at the two weapons he used.

As students, their parents, staff and local residents struggled on Wednesday to come to grips with the deadliest gun rampage in modern US history, some said they hoped it might help control America’s constitutionally protected love affair with the gun.

“I thought about it (gun control) when I saw the weapons, and how easy it is to buy those guns,” said Chris Keats, 58, of Salina, Kansas, who attended a memorial service in honour of the shooting victims with her daughter, Virginia Tech student Ashleigh Keats, 21, on Tuesday.

John, a retired US Air Force officer and Virginia Tech graduate from

Blacksburg, who declined to give his full name, lamented that Cho was able to legally purchase and use the easily concealed handguns.

He said would not resent the campus deaths serving to fuel a push for tighter controls on handguns. “I don’t mind the political ends, if they are good ends,” he said.

MNA/Reuters



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

Woman gives birth to seven babies

ALGIERS, 20 April—Algeria’s Health Ministry says a woman has given birth to seven babies at a public hospital in the capital, Algiers.

Ministry spokesman Slim Belkassam says the mother gave birth to a boy and six girls on Wednesday.

“The mother is in good

condition,” he said.

“This shows the competence of Algerian doctors and we are very happy about this event.”

According to the latest Guinness World Records, there have been three known cases of seven children surviving birth: two in the United States and one in Saudi Arabia.

The latest case was in December, 1998, when six girls and two boys were born, but the lightest, weighing 320 grams, died a week later.—*Internet*

Britney Spears has become addicted to buying wigs, it has been reported recently.

INTERNET



Kuwaiti TV presenter Halima Boland presents her new programme called “Taratata” for Dubai TV in Beirut on 18 April, 2007. — INTERNET





Iranian soldiers march during a military parade in Tehran, on 18 April, 2007. The military parade to commemorate National Army Day was held outside the mausoleum of the late founder of Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran. — XINHUA

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Malaysian think tank revises upward economy growth forecast

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 April — Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) has revised upwards its forecast of the growth of the national economy from 5.2 per cent to 5.6 per cent for this year, local Press reported Wednesday. Recent developments

would have a positive impact on Malaysia's economic growth later this year, MIER Executive Director Mohamed Ariff Abdul Kareem said at the launch of the think tank's economy outlook here. "We are revising our forecast slightly upwards due to positive factors —

relatively lower inflation rate, the increasing momentum in the implementation of the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) projects, the higher investment approvals and the recent policy initiatives to relax foreign exchange trading rules and scrap the real property gains tax," he was quoted as saying by the *New Straits Times*. The services and manufacturing sectors will be the main growth drivers, expected to grow by 6.3 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively, Mohamed Ariff said Tuesday. The growth estimate is still below the official target of 6 per cent, because MIER felt that the slowdown in the economy of the United States will have a relatively greater negative impact on Malaysia, said Mohamed Ariff.

Egyptian satellite launched from Kazakhstan

CAIRO, 19 April — An Egyptian satellite, *Egyptosat-1*, was successfully launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, the official news agency *MENA* reported.

Egyptosat-1 will be devoted to scientific research and photography to support development in the fields of construction, cultivation and fighting desertification, said *MENA*.

The Egyptian satellite is one of the 14 foreign satellites carried in one rocket launched by the Russian Federal Space Agency in the day, which also included a satellite from Saudi Arabia.

MNA/Xinhua



Residents gather at the scene of Wednesday's car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 19 April, 2007. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands evacuated as Colombian volcano erupts

BOGOTA, 19 April — Several thousand people were evacuated after a volcano erupted in southern Colombia, triggering an avalanche that swelled rivers and threatened local communities, authorities said on Wednesday.

Tumbling waters carrying trees, rocks and mud forced around 5,000 people to leave their homes for safer ground in the southern provinces of Huila and Cauca, local and emergency officials said.

"In the municipalities and departments where the avalanche passed we have no reports of any victims. We have some bridges down ... but people had time to evacuate," Civil Defence official Colonel Hector Riveros said.

The Nevado del Huila Volcano erupted at the start of the year after laying dormant for hundreds of

years. An eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz Volcano in 1985 triggered

mudslides killing 25,000 people in Colombia's worst natural disaster. MNA/Reuters



Celebrity couple Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez launched a chain of European libel actions on Tuesday against US magazine National Enquirer over drug scandal allegations. — INTERNET

Death toll from Russian mine blast settles at 110

MOSCOW, 19 April — Two miners missing after a gas blast at a Russian colliery last month have been found, bringing the final death toll to 110, rescuers and the Russian company that owns the mine said on Wednesday.

The explosion at the Ulyanovskaya Mine in the Kemerovo Region of Siberia on 19 March was Russia's worst coal mining

disaster since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

News agencies quoted the company, Yuzhkuzbassugol, and rescuers as saying the two miners would be buried on Thursday.

On Monday, the state safety watchdog said a system designed to prevent miners working in unsafe conditions was knowingly switched off

before the blast in order to show a lower methane concentration and prevent a power shutdown in the mine. The watchdog also exposed the plight of Russian miners who are paid a portion of their wages at a flat rate, with the greater part linked to output, and often face pressure to cut corners to meet production targets.

MNA/Reuters

Traffic war kills 14 in Rio de Janeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 April — Confrontation between gangs killed at least 14 drug dealers in a slum in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday.

The police confirmed that two other people, who did not take part in the confrontation, were hit in the shootouts, and had to be taken to a hospital downtown Rio. The bus in which Jorge Henrique

Cruz Santos travelled was passing by when the passenger was hit by a rifle bullet.

According to the police, drug lords from two other favelas, as Rio's slums are called, decided to invade the Morro da Mineira, in the northern zone of the city, in order to take over points of sale of drugs.

The Mineira is

currently ruled by the gang Amigos dos Amigos (Friends of the Friends), and the gang Comando Vermelho (Red Commando) is trying to regain control over the community.

Some gangsters ran away from the attacked slum and occupied a cemetery in the Catumbi neighbourhood.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

China, Pakistan to boost two-way trade, investment

BEIJING, 19 April — China and Pakistan had cooperated fruitfully in economic and trade fields, Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi told Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who is on an official visit to China.

During Chinese President Hu Jintao's trip to Pakistan in November last year, the two countries signed a free trade agreement (FTA), which is projected to triple their current bilateral trade to 15 billion US dollars within five years.

"Some of the agreed

projects had been implemented, and key projects, including construction of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Area and rebuilding of the Karakorum Highway, first built in the 1970s, were progressing smoothly,"

Wu said.

Both countries would push forward trade and investment, Wu said, voicing the hope that Pakistan could create a favourable environment for Chinese companies operating there.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to foster fruit, vegetable export

HANOI, 19 April — Vietnam will intensify investment in developing well-performing farms, markets and companies nationwide in a move to gain fruit and vegetable export revenues of 700

million US dollars in 2010 and 1 billion dollars in 2015, up from 263 million dollars in 2006.

State moneys will be poured into upgrading and building good farms, wholesales markets,

warehouses, and transport centres in southern Ho Chi Minh City, central highlands Lam Dong Province and northern Lao Cai Province, local newspaper *Saigon Liberation* on Wednesday quoted sources from the country's Trade Ministry as reporting.

State moneys will also be spent on assisting local enterprises in growing more specialty fruits, including mangosteen, dragon fruit, grapefruit, thick-skinned oranges, mango, starapples, pineapple, litchi and durian, in certain localities, and having more advanced freezing facilities, packing plants, special-use containers and cleaning equipment.

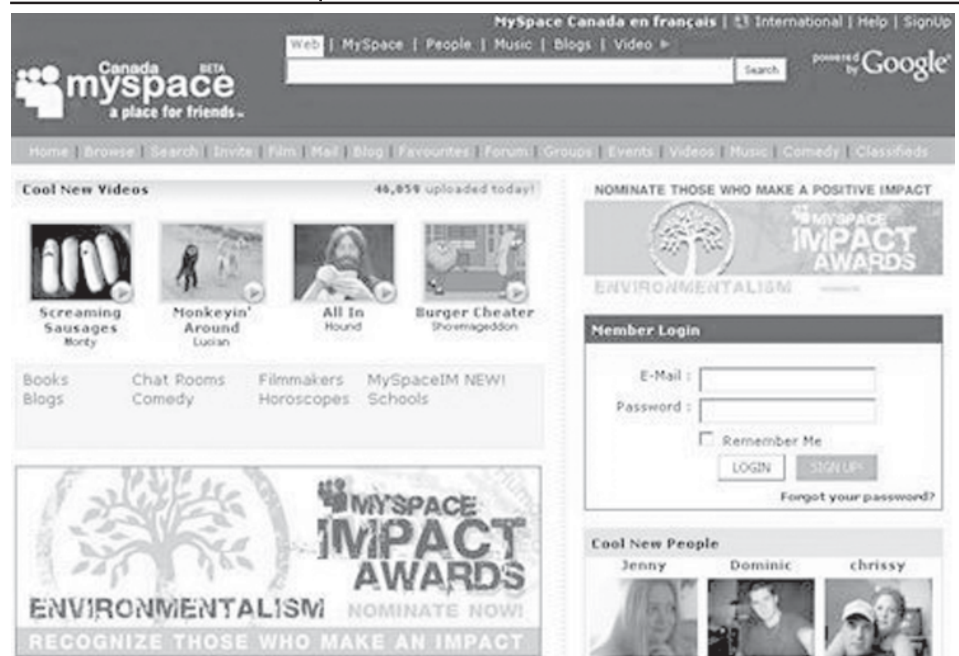
Vietnam exported 71 million dollars' worth of fruits and vegetables, mostly to China's Mainland, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore in the first quarter of this year, a year-on-year rise of 13.9 per cent.

Vietnam has eyed 550,000 hectares of vegetables, 750,000 hectares of orchards, and

10,000 hectares of flowers by 2010, which are estimated to annually turn out 9 million tons of fruits, 11 million tons of vegetables, and 3.5 billion of flower sprigs each year, according to the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

MNA/Xinhua

A Samsung Electronics laptop computer is displayed at a shop in Seoul on 14 July, 2006 file photo. Microsoft Corp and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd said on 19 April, 2007 they have agreed to a broad technology patent pact to develop future products.
INTERNET



Screengrab of www.myspace.com.. News Corp's MySpace social network plans to test a service on 19 April, 2007 that scours the Web for news stories and lets users rate them, aiming to attract more advertisers to the Rupert Murdoch-controlled company. — INTERNET

Angolan Private Oil company wins int'l bid in Brazil

LUANDA, 19 April — The Angolan Private Oil Society (SOMOIL) recently won an international tender to participate in the research, development and production of oil and gas in Brazil, it is reported here on Tuesday.

According to the report, SOMOIL holds 50 per cent of the concession at Block BT-REC-18 in the Recocavo Basin in the Brazilian state of Bahia, with the Brazilian Starfish Oil & Gas Society as operator, which has an equal share of participation.

To abide by the contract, SOMOIL has already disbursed 3 million US dollars to clear the debt from initial expences paid by the Brazilian partner.

MNA/Xinhua

The picture taken on 19 April, 2007 shows a view of the grand ceremony in memory of Huangdi, or Yellow Emperor, who is believed to be the ancestor of all Han Chinese people at Xinzheng, the hometown of Huangdi in central China's Henan Province. — XINHUA

Australian food prices will rise as rivers run dry

MELBOURNE, 20 April — Australian food prices will rise, feeding inflation, after a decision to stop irrigating crops in the nation's main farming region because of the worst drought in a century, Treasurer Peter Costello said today.

Water flows into the Murray-Darling river system, Australia's biggest inland waterway, are at a record low and the government said yesterday there's likely only to be enough water for household use.

"If there's no irrigation in the Murray-Darling Basin, the price of horticulture will go up," Costello said in an interview on Australian Broadcasting Corp radio in Melbourne. "The price of all of the crops that normally come out of the Murray-Darling Basin will go up."

The river system, which runs through five states and territories, supports half the cropping land in the world's third-largest wheat and dairy exporter and second-big-

gest beef shipper. Higher food prices will feed inflation, which the central bank has said is likely to be too high this year.

Prime Minister John Howard repeatedly said farmers won't be able to take irrigation water out of the river system without "significant" rainfall in the next eight weeks.

Australia's weather forecaster predicts only a 50 per cent chance of average rainfall over most of the country in the next three months.

Internet



Vitamin D for Everybody

Professor Dr Paing Soe

Vitamins are a group of substances that are essential for normal cell function, growth and development. Thirteen essential Vitamins are needed for the body to function and they are grouped into two categories. Four Vitamins comprising Vitamin A, D, F, K are fat-soluble and nine Vitamins consisting of Vitamin B1 (thiamine), Vitamin B2 (riboflavin), Vitamin B3 (niacin), Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine), Folate (folic acid), Pantothenic acid, Biotin, Vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin) and Vitamin C are water-soluble. While fat-soluble Vitamins are stored in the body's fatty tissue, water-soluble Vitamins must be used by the body right away. Any left over water-soluble Vitamins leave the body through the urine. Since each Vitamin has its own specific functions, health problems (deficiency diseases) can develop if there is insufficiency of a particular Vitamin.

Vitamin D is known as the "Sunshine Vitamin," since it is made by the body after being in the sun. This Vitamin promotes the body's absorption of calcium, which is essential for the normal development and maintenance of healthy teeth, bones and probably muscle activity. There are two types of Vitamin D. Vitamin D2 is found in plants and Vitamin D3; or cholecalciferol is found in animal foods. Vitamin D3 is the preferred Vitamin not only because it is easily attained from food and human skin, but also because it has a greater biologic activity and many biological benefits.

Sunlight and Vitamin D

Humans can manufacture Vitamin D from cholesterol by the action of sunlight on the skin and 10-15 minutes of sunshine three times per week is enough to produce the body's requirement of Vitamin D. Ultraviolet (UV) light, present in the sunlight, is divided into 3 bands, UV-C, UV-B and UV-A. UV-C is the most energetic and shortest of the UV bands, and can burn human skin rapidly even in extremely small exposures. Fortunately, it is completely absorbed by the ozone layer. However, UV-C is present in some lights and fluorescent, halogen and other specialty lights may contribute to skin cancer. UV-A, known as the "tanning ray," is primarily responsible for darkening the pigment in our skin. UV-A is less energetic, but due to its longer wavelength UV-A penetrates more deeply into the skin.

The ultraviolet wavelength that stimulates our bodies to produce Vitamin D is UV-B. It is also called the "burning ray" because it is the primary cause of sunburn (erythema). However, UV-B initiates beneficial responses, stimulating the production of Vitamin D that the body uses in many important processes. Although UV-D causes sunburn,

it also causes special skin cells called melanocytes to produce melanin, which is protective. UV-B also stimulates the production of Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone (MSH), an important hormone in weight loss and energy production.

The reason it is difficult to get adequate Vitamin D from sunlight is that UV-B is present only during midday hours, and only sunning between 10 am to 2 pm during summer months for 20-120 minutes will form adequate Vitamin D. It takes about 24 hours for UV-B stimulated Vitamin D to show up as maximum levels in the blood. Cholesterol-containing body oils are critical to this absorption process. **Because the body needs 30-60 minutes to absorb these Vitamin-D-containing oils, it is best to delay showering or bathing for one hour after exposure. The current suggested exposure of hands, face and arms for 10-20 minutes, three times a week, provides only 200-400 IU of Vitamin D each time.** Light skinned people need 10-20 minutes of exposure while dark skinned people need 90-120 minutes.

Vitamin D from food

As Vitamin D can be obtained from sunlight, food can also supply us with Vitamin D. Vitamin D-rich foods includes intestines, organ meats, skin and fat from pigs, cows, goats, sheep, shellfish (oysters), fish oil, milk and dairy products (fortified milk, cheese, cream, butter, margarine) and corn. Modern farm-raised fish like salmon are poor source of Vitamin D. Such fish must feed on phytoplankton and other fish in order to obtain and store significant Vitamin D in their fat, flesh, skin, and organs.

Best food sources for Vitamin D

No.	Food	Amount	D Content
1.	Cod liver oil	1 tablespoon	1,360 IU*
2.	Salmon, cooked	7 tickles	360 IU
3.	Tuna, canned in oil	5 tickles	200 IU
4.	Sardines, canned in oil, drained	5 tickles	250 IU
5.	Milk	1 cup	98 IU
6.	Egg	1 egg	24 IU
7.	Pork, chicken, lamb (liver/organs)	7 tickles	15-20 IU
8.	Pork (fat)	7 tickles	2,800 IU
9.	Squid	7 tickles	172 IU
10.	Butter	5 tickles	56 IU

Daily requirements

Age 5-50 years - 200 IU

Age 51-70 years - 400 IU

Age 71 and above - 600 IU

Modern diets usually do not provide adequate amounts of Vitamin D partly because of the trend to low fat foods and partly because we no longer eat Vitamin D-rich foods like naturally reared poultry and fatty fish such

as kippers and herring. Often we are advised to consume the egg white while Vitamin D is in the yolk or we eat the flesh of the fish avoiding the Vitamin D containing skin, organs and fat. **Sun avoidance combined with reduction in food sources contribute to escalating Vitamin D deficiencies.** Vegetarian and vegan diets are exceptionally poor or completely lacking in Vitamin D and using food as one's primary source of D is difficult to impossible.

Miracles of Vitamin D

Vitamin D and sunlight are critical to all life forms. The principal function of Vitamin D is to promote calcium absorption in the gut and calcium transfer across cell membranes, thus contributing to strong bones and a calm, contented nervous system. It aids in the absorption of magnesium, iron and zinc. Vitamin D controls the levels of calcium in the blood. Vitamin D also contributes to a healthy immune system, promotes muscle strength, regulates the maturation process and contributed to hormone production. **During the last ten years, exciting discoveries have been made about Vitamin D.**

In the body, proteins, carbohydrates, and fats combine with other substances to yield energy and build tissues and at the same time leads to the formation of harmful chemical compounds such as free radicals. Free radicals are not the cause of diseases, but they contribute to the tissue damages that cause cardiovascular diseases, cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, senility and cataract. **Vitamin D is found to be an even more effective antioxidant than Vitamin E** in reducing lipid peroxidation and increasing enzymes that protect against oxidation. **Through neutralizing free radicals, it protects us against these serious and chronic diseases, which affect a large number of people.**

Vitamin D and the right kinds of fats

The assimilation and utilization of Vitamin D is influenced by the kinds of fats we consume. Increasing levels of both polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fatty acids in the diet decrease Vitamin D while saturated fats, the kind found in butter, cream and coconut oil, have the opposite effect. Dramatic change from traditional diets with varying amounts of saturated fats to increase intake of polyunsaturated (vegetable oils) and monounsaturated oils (olive oil and canola oil) and decreased intake of saturated fats over the past 100 years had contributed to the current widespread Vitamin D deficiency.

Vitamin D and Calcium

The presence of plentiful amounts of fat-soluble Vitamin A and D in the diet, along with calcium, phosphorus and other minerals are important. If there is not enough calcium in the diet, it will be drawn from the bone. High levels of Vitamin D (from diet or from sunlight) will actually dematerialize the bones if sufficient calcium is not present. Vitamin D will also enhance uptake of toxic metals like lead, cadmium, aluminum and strontium if calcium, magnesium and phosphorus is not present in adequate amount. Therefore, **Vitamin D supplementation should never be suggested unless calcium intake is sufficient or supplemented at the same time.**

Vitamin D and health

Because of the effects mentioned above, **Vitamin D is critical for health** as well as for protection against diseases including various types of cancers,

(See page 7)

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Vitamin D for Everybody

(from page 6)

heart diseases, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes and diseases of the mouth, teeth and gums. Cancer of the breast, lungs, prostate, kidney, bladder, mouth, stomach and esophagus, cervix, ovary and uterus, gall bladder and pancreas, blood and large intestines has been found to be associated with deficiency of Vitamin D.

Research suggests that **low levels of Vitamin D may contribute to diabetes and heart disease.** Vitamin D is responsible for carrying calcium to the "right location" and protecting cells from damage by free calcium. Thus, **high dietary levels of calcium, with insufficient Vitamin D may contribute to calcification of the arteries, atherosclerosis, cardiovascular disease and sudden deaths from heart attack.**

Recent research indicates that **older people with a good regular supply of Vitamin D and calcium may be less likely to suffer fractures due to brittle or thinning bones.** Older people should therefore try to eat more foods rich in Vitamin D.

Vitamin D deficiency

Low Vitamin D is associated, not only with cancer, heart diseases and hypertension, but also with autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis

and rheumatoid arthritis. Research has shown that supplements of Vitamin D can lower levels of C-reactive protein responsible for heart diseases, and together with calcium, can reduce blood pressure. As a few minutes of UV-B exposure, three times a week for 6 weeks lowered the blood pressure, giving 1,600 IU of D and 800 mg of calcium for 8 weeks also lowered the blood pressure. In addition, giving Vitamin D 400 IU daily to 187,563 nurses showed a 40% lower risk of developing multiple sclerosis. Research also showed that giving Vitamin D for 11 years to approximately 30,000 women, aged 55-60 years, lowered the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis. Children who took 2,000 IU of Vitamin D daily showed an 80% lower risk of developing diabetes in the future years. It was also found that young adults with high levels of Vitamin D were 20% less likely to experience gum bleeding.

Excessive Vitamin D and toxicity

Under normal circumstances, once the skin absorbs enough UV-B rays from the sun to make Vitamin D, the conversion process stops automatically. However, **too much Vitamin D can cause weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and constipation.** Excessive Vitamin D can also dangerously elevate calcium levels causing **confusion and bizarre behavior.**

With the world becoming more civilized, more and more people are becoming ignorant of the natural wholesome foods and supplements derived from natural sources. **Modern diets usually do not provide adequate amounts of Vitamin D, partly because of the trend to low fat foods and partly because we no longer eat Vitamin D-rich foods like naturally reared poultry and fatty fish.** We are often advised to consume the egg white while the Vitamin D is in the yolk and we eat the flesh of the fish avoiding the Vitamin D containing skin, organs and fat. The modern farm-raised fishes, unless artificially supplemented, are poor sources of essential nutrients. **Modern-day living with air conditioning and sun avoidance combined with reduction in food sources contribute to escalating Vitamin D deficiencies.**

In conclusion, we should be aware that **the miracle Vitamin D not only protects us from life-threatening diseases like cancers, heart diseases, hypertension and diabetes but also allows our body and mind to thrive, even during periods of stress, providing health and longevity of life.** So let us take the first step towards redressing some of the ills of civilized life **by adding sunlight to our daily lives from childhood and through the golden years of old age.**

China, Japan launch charter flights

BEIJING, 20 April — All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan's second biggest airline, is to operate charter flights between Chinese and Japanese cities from August to November when the two countries mark a diplomatic milestone.

"Visiting groups of tourists and business people can order this service as this year could see more exchange activities between the two countries," said Ohashi Yoji, chairman of ANA.

To mark the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between China and Japan, China and Japan plan to hold cultural and sports exchange activities this year, including marathons in Beijing and Dalian, a coastal city in northeast China.

"The number of charter flights are

under governmental discussion," he said.

ANA figures show the number of people flying between China and Japan is increasing at an almost double-digit rate each year. The number last year totaled 4.5 million.

During Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Japan from 11 to 13 April, the two governments agreed to allow flights between Tokyo's Haneda Airport and Shanghai's Hongqiao Airport.

ANA, which began flying to China in 1,987, has 20 flights from Japan to 10 Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. The number of Chinese taking ANA flights reached 1.36 million in 2006, a 13-fold increase over 20 years.

MNA/Xinhua



The 35th Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva opens in Geneva, Switzerland, April 18, 2007. More than 700 inventors and exhibitors from 42 countries presented their latest products at the World's largest exhibition dedicated to innovation in the world. — INTERNET

Etihad Airways eyes narrow-body aircraft for short-flights

ABU DHABI, 20 April — Etihad Airways of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is reviewing single aisle narrow-body aircraft for its short-haul flights, local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported on Wednesday.

The Abu Dhabi-based carrier is reviewing the *Airbus A320* and the *Boeing 737* which are widely used around the world for short-haul flights of up to three hours, the report said.

"The expansion to narrow-body aircraft will

be beneficial on our regional network because they will enable us to offer greater frequencies and improved timing," Etihad's CEO James Hogan was quoted as saying.

"It will also enable Etihad to devote our wide body aircraft fleet to our long-haul services to Asia, Europe, North America and South Africa," he added.

More than half of Etihad's international flight network, which includes destinations in the Levant, Middle East, North Africa

and the Asian subcontinent, could be served by short-haul aircraft.

Currently all of Etihad's 25 aircraft, which includes 11 *Airbus A330-200s*, five *Boeing 777-300s* and four *Airbus A340-500s*, are wide-body.

Established in July 2003, Etihad launched its first flight on 6 November, 2003. It is capitalized at 500 million dirhams (136 million US dollars) and all its shares are owned by the government.

MNA/Xinhua

Canton fair offers free booths to African countries

GUANGZHOU, 20 April — Business representatives from the four African countries of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Mali have been given free booths at China's largest trade fair — the Canton Fair — in an attempt to promote China-Africa trade relations.

"Apart from inviting African business representatives to the fair, we will also launch promotional campaigns to help African products enter the Chinese market," said

Xu Bing, deputy secretary general of the fair.

It is the first time the 50-year-old Canton Fair, now formally known as the "China Import and Export Commodities Fair", has featured an import section.

In recent years, China's imports from African countries have increased dramatically due to a huge rise in oil imports. In late 2003, it also removed tariffs on 190 commodities imported from the 25 most undeveloped African

countries, such as Tanzania, Zambia and Mali.

At the China-Africa Cooperation Forum last year, China announced that 442 commodities from Africa would be exempt from tariffs, covering almost all the products exported to China.

Last year, China exported 26.7 billion US dollars worth of commodities to Africa and imported 28.8 billion US dollars worth of products.

MNA/Xinhua



Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Yadanabon Myothit. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 16)

Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise also presented reports on supply of electricity for ensuring sufficient power supply of Yadanabon Myothit.

Senior General Than Shwe heard reports on supply of drinking water and power, and construction of buildings. He gave guidance on systematic construction of the new town in line with the layout plan.

After greeting local and foreign IT technicians, the Senior General viewed the Yadanabon Myothit Project area. Next, they inspected the main building of Tele-Port, construction of Incubation Building and construction progress of a concrete road.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) of Myanma Pharmaceutical Enterprise under the

Ministry of Industry-1.

At the hall, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung briefed the Senior General on implementation of the factory project, installation of modern machinery, arrangements for manufacturing tablets, capsules, syrups, medicine powders, lotions, injection and vaccines, and implementation of the guidance of the Head of State during his inspection tour of the project site in December 2004.

Factory Manager Dr Myint Sein reported on items of pharmaceutical to be manufactured at the factory and their quality.

In response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance, underscoring quality control of the medicines. Responsible persons are to assess the effectiveness and side effects of the pharmaceuticals and coordinate regularly for winning the reli-

The Pharmaceuticals Factory (PyinOoLwin) has launched its production line since March 2005. The installation of machines in the factory will be completed in May 2007.



ance of the people.

He called for soonest production of potent medicines through own methods for common diseases—malaria, TB, diabetes, hypertension, dysentery and diarrhoea.

The Pharmaceuticals Factory (PyinOoLwin) has launched its production line since March 2005. The installation of machines in the factory will be completed in May 2007. Then it will launch its production line of 213 kinds of tablets, capsules, injection, intravenous fluids, syrup, lotions and powders.

In the afternoon, the Senior General visited the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar). Minister Dr Kyaw Myint reported on research work being carried out to put the guidance the Senior General

had given during his previous inspection tour of the department into action.

In his guidance, the Senior General said the three sectors—educative talks, prevention and treatment—are to be implemented harmoniously.

Medical research plays an important role in the health care, so the government has established another medical research department so that research is done effectively not only in Yangon but also in upper Myanmar, he said.

The work of medical research covers two functions. The first is to apply advanced medical science in conformity with the conditions of the nation

within the reach of the public. So, sustained efforts are to be made to achieve a higher level at which the entire people can afford the medicines.

It is perceived that the nations that can do research effectively are enjoying development.

Specialists and experts of the medical research departments are to work harder in doing research, he urged.

Director-General of the department Dr Thein Tun reported on the requirements of medical equipment necessary for

Medical research plays an important role in the health care, so the government has established another medical research department so that research is done effectively not only in Yangon but also in upper Myanmar.

The government has created opportunities for effective medical research. Therefore, offi-

research. Senior General Than Shwe fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Stakes driven for building power station in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended a stake-driving ceremony for construction of a main electric power station (230/33/11) KV 100MVA here on 19 April morning.

The project will be undertaken by the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise (Central).

The minister and officials drove the stakes at the designated places.

He instructed officials

to complete the project as schedule meeting the set standards. Director U Tin Aung of the Electric Power Supply Project (Central) U Tin Aung gave an account of the project. The minister gave instructions.

The minister also inspected the site chosen for building Shwemyo (230) KV main power station in Tatkon Township and gave instructions on land preparations.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects...

(from page 16)

to extension of summer paddy cultivation on 480 acres of farmlands in the villages of the township.

At No 36 Tractor Station, they viewed thriving physic nut nursery of Kawhmu Township.

Afterwards, they attended the ceremony to launch the tube-well sunk with the cash donation of Yangon Division PDC at Myothit Ward of Kawhmu Township. Lt-Ge Myint Swe, the commander and the mayor formally opened the tube-well.

On the occasion, the commander delivered an address. He said that as more than half of the population of the country live in the rural areas, priority is being given to public health care service. In addition, five rural development tasks are being undertaken in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It can be witnessed that the ministry concerned is carrying out water supply tasks in various parts of the nation in cooperation with local authorities and people.

In Kungyangon Township, local people enjoy fruits of water supply with their contribution K 250 million. The Division PDC thus provided more than K 20.3 million to the funds of the people in implementing the water supply plan in Kawhmu Township. In doing so, priority was given to sinking four tube-wells of the plan. Therefore, local people are to participate in carrying out the complete water supply task.

The commander handed over documents related to the water supply task to Deputy Director U Khin Maung Hsan of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed supply of water to the people free of charge at the tubewells.

These four tube-wells were sunk in Myothit, Pyidawtha, Taungpaing and Phayalan wards of Kawhmu, spending K 3,245,000.

At Kawhmu Township USDA Office, they viewed pumping of water from the 2-acre lake to the water tank of the USDA Office and then supply of water to the people.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party went to Htanmanaing Village in Kawhmu Township and attended a ceremony to hand over a new school building constructed with the contribution of Yangon Division USDA and to inaugurate four bridges in the township.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said as part of an effort to implement tasks of the



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects a new tube-well in Kawhmu Township. — MNA

social and economic objectives of the State, the new building and four bridges were constructed in the township. Local authorities, departments, social organizations and local people are working together for equitable development of the regions, prevalence of peace and tranquillity, economic development and improvement of the education standard in the regions. Meanwhile, the government has been implementing the five rural area development tasks to improve the transportation, the education standard, the providing of health care services and the socio-economic life of rural people. Better transportation plays a major role in implementing the development tasks. Roads linking villages, village-tracts and towns are also under construction and some are being upgraded in Yangon Division. The four bridges which are constructed at a cost of K 4 million are inaugurated today.

The new school building was constructed at a cost of K 20 million funded by Yangon Division USDA. Buildings, stationery, teaching aids and teachers are requirements to improve the education standard. Yangon Division Education Committee has constructed and renovated school buildings with the contribution of wellwishers. The ceremony to hand over the new school building and to inaugurate the four bridges bore witness to the achievement of the social organizations and residents. The construction of school buildings is a noble task which can result in improving the educa-

tion standard of new generation youths.

In his concluding remarks, Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged locals to maintain the bridges and school buildings and to put more efforts in the agriculture in the region so that they can enjoy a higher socio-economic standard.

Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin explained the purpose of construction of the new building.

After that, he handed over documents related to the new building to Director U Tin Hla of No 3 Basic Education Department.

Later, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council U Zaw Min briefed on construction of the four bridges.

Secretary of Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe handed over documents related to the four bridges to the deputy director of Yangon Division Development Committee.

Next, a townselder spoke words of thanks, and the ceremony came to an end.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into the new building that was built with the contributions of Yangon Division USDA.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party arrived at Mawun village in Kawhmu Township and attended the opening of the four bridges.

Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the bridges.

See page (10)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspect construction of an earth road near Hlinethaya-Twantay Road. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects...

(from page 9)

On arrival at Wabalaukthauk Village in Kawhmu Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party attended the opening of Wabalaukthauk Model Village.

USDA CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the model village by cutting a ribbon.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win unveiled the signboard of the model village.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to the Station Hospital in Wabalaukthauk Village where they were conducted round by Medical Superintendent Dr Maw Maw Aung.

After that, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party presented cash assistance for warded patients. After inspecting the hospital, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions to officials.

On arrival at Lawka Pyadin library of the village, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

At 2 pm, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party attended the ceremony to mark the opening of Wabalaukthauk Model Village. Chairman of Kawhmu Township PDC U Myint Swe explained the purpose of the opening of the model village.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech. He said that Wabalaukthauk Village in Kawhmu township was named the model village as it had possessed 15 characteristics of a model village. The commander said he appreciated the efforts of authorities concerned and local people to build the model village.

Wabalaukthauk Village has 680 houses, 708 households, and 4,120 people. There are a total of 2,477 acres of monsoon paddy and 17 acres of winter crops on 2,494 acres of farmland. He added the State has been encouraging the agricultural sector and providing more and more agricultural machinery and accessories for the local farmers in order to transform manual farming into mechanized farming. It is also necessary for the village to upgrade itself into a physic nut model village. By growing physic nut plants in all vacant land and in the compounds of the village houses, diesel can be substituted with



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects physic nut nursery plantation in Kawhmu Township.—MNA

bio-diesel derived from physic nut for the operation of farm machinery. Besides, farmers can earn more income, he noted.

The village that can produce enough physic nut oil for its local consumption will be named a physic nut model village. Moreover, every house is to engage in agricultural undertakings and livestock breeding on a manageable scale. Only then will they earn more income.

In conclusion, the commander said Wabalaukthauk Village should also be honoured for its improvement of economic, social, health and education sectors and all the local people are urged to make more efforts for sustainable development of their village.

After that, Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented books and publications for the library to the Chairman of the Village Peace and Development Council.

Later, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented K 1 million for the hospital and U Tin Aung K 340,000 donated by well-wishers to the medical superintendent.

Next, the director of Ahtit Farm Equipment Producing and Trading Co presented a computer set for Wabalaukthauk Basic Education High School.

Member of the Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Aye Myint accepted 150 membership applications while Secretary of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr U Hla Myint accepted 200 membership applications, and the ceremony ended.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party left there in the evening.

MNA

NLD's acts leading to confrontation ...

(from page 16)

village, U Po Ngo and U Nyein Maung of Khanaung village, U Hla Oo and U San Win of Kanigy village, U Thaw, U Hla Yi and U Kyaw Moe of Sein Haing village, U Tin Maung Win of Bogalay and U Hla Kyi and U Tat Toe of Thuza village resigned from the NLD party of their own accord on 22 March.

They had sent their resignation letters to the NLD headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In their letters sent to Bogalay Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said the NLD's acts leading to confrontation that will harm the State and the people. Therefore, they were disappointed by the acts of the party and distrusted the party and its leaders.

MNA

Around 100 Canadian seal hunting boats trapped in ice

OTTAWA, 20 April — Around 100 small boats carrying seal hunters were trapped by thick ice off Canada's Atlantic coast on Wednesday and at least one crew had to abandon ship, the Coast Guard said.

The boats were caught in the ice, and face damage or even sinking, as crews hunted the young seals off the

northeast coast of Newfoundland, where most of the annual hunt takes place.

Reduced ice conditions further to the south meant this year's total quota had been cut back to 270,000 seals from 335,000 in 2006.

The seals use the normally widespread ice floes in the Gulf of St Lawrence and in the Atlantic Ocean to give birth to their young.

"Conditions have deteriorated over the last few days as a result of the wind pressing the ice floes into the land," Canadian Coast Guard Captain Windross Banton told CBC television from an icebreaker trying to make its way to the stranded vessels, which included one from the Coast Guard.

MNA/Reuters

Fire prevention is compulsory
Prevent outbreaks of fire

Fire destroys 16 houses in Yangon, Sagaing, Magway Divs

YANGON, 20 April — A total of 6 people were rendered homeless and two injured in the outbreak of fire at Dana Theikhti street in Phawkan ward, Insein Township, Yangon Division on 15 April.

A fire that broke out in Kwatkwin village tract in Myinmu, Sagaing Division on 17 April destroyed eight houses.

Likewise, seven houses were gutted by the fire that broke out in Thawuthi village of Inma village-tract in Sinbaungwe Township, Magway Division on 18 April.

MNA

Chinese, Germany Defence Ministers hold talks in Beijing

BEIJING, 19 April — Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan held talks with his German counterpart Franz Josef Jung here on Wednesday, agreeing to further develop relations between the two Armed forces.

“The relationship has continuously deepened with the smooth development of relations between the two countries,” said Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councillor.

Cao said the two Armed Forces maintained high-level exchanges, and exchange and dialogue mechanisms are functioning well.

Jung said he thought it was important to develop relations between the two Armed Forces and Germany was willing to work with China to promote exchanges and cooperation.

Jung said Germany supported the one-China policy and hoped to see a peaceful settlement of the

Taiwan issue.

The two also touched on international issues, including the Six-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, the Iran nuclear issue and the Darfur issue, according to the Chinese Defence Ministry.

Jung met with Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong and Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Liang Guanglie before meeting Cao. — MNA/Xinhua



President Hu Jintao (R2) meets with outstanding Chinese modern drama practitioners in Beijing, on 18 April, 2007—XINHUA

Google Spreadsheet gets charts, finally

BEIJING, 19 April— Internet search giant Google rolls out a new version of Spreadsheets Thursday with charting and a few other worthwhile features after yesterday’s news about an upcoming Google presentation app, according to media reports.

The free Web-based app is still more of a Spreadsheet Jr than a full-bodied Excel rival, but it’s becoming more and more plausible as a real productivity tool, especially if collaboration is involved.

The charting features are pretty basic, but extremely easy to use which is a welcome change from Excel’s far richer equivalents, which (up until Excel 2007, at least) have been maddeningly user-hostile.

Here are the new



spreadsheet features touted by a Google software engineer:

Named ranges: you can define a name for a range of cells, and use this name in formulas to refer to cells, for example write sum-(expenses) instead of sum(c12:e17). This helps make calculation logic clearer to write and understand.

Cell comments: Attach comments to

individual cells, great for additional information or for collaboration on a single cell.

Bi-directional text: The ability to properly view and edit text in right-to-left languages like Hebrew.

A quick way to duplicate a sheet.

A new right-click option to search the web for the text in a cell.

Internet

Newspaper in Mexico drug war hotspot hit by grenade

MEXICO CITY, 19 April — An unknown assailant tossed a grenade into the offices of a northern Mexican newspaper a day after gunmen snatched a reporter from a nearby city, part of a campaign against the media by drug gangs.

The grenade exploded inside the offices of *Cambio* newspaper in the northern city of Hermosillo on Tuesday night, breaking windows and startling reporters.

Nobody was injured, newspaper director Roberto Gutierrez told

Reuters.

The attack came a day after gunmen in the city of Agua Prieta on the US border, which is in the same state of Sonora as Hermosillo, snatched a crime reporter investigating the country’s bloody war between rival drug cartels.

Gutierrez said *Cambio* had long stopped investigating drug trafficking to protect its staff but said the grenade attack was likely meant as a message to President Felipe Calderon, who is using

thousands of troops to wage an attack on the cartels.

“This is a response to the federal government’s decision to wage an all-out war against drug-traffickers,” he said.

Mexican journalists reporting on drug gangs are often targeted by traffickers, but attacks on the media appear to be mounting as Calderon cracks down on a bloody war between cartels that has killed more than 600 people this year.

MNA/Reuters

Marijuana lab explosion injures Miami man

MIAMI, 19 April—An explosion set fire to a Miami house being used to grow marijuana hydroponically on Wednesday and the force of the blast sent the occupant flying into the yard, police said.

The man, identified by police as Edel Mesa, 40, was badly burned on the chest, arms and legs and was in critical condition at a trauma hospital, investigators said.

“The house was pretty much destroyed,” said Miami-Dade Police Detective Carlos Maura.

Firefighters extinguished the flames and called police, who seized more than 40 marijuana plants from the home, police said.

Arson investigators were trying to determine the cause of the explosion,

but police said the man may have been using propane gas near the high-intensity lamps used to grow the plants indoors.

Police said Mesa was not immediately charged with a crime because of his injuries.

MNA/Reuters

Two Detroit men charged as Iraqi spies

DETROIT, 19 April — Two men from the Detroit area have been charged with spying for executed Iraq leader Saddam Hussein’s intelligence service, according to federal court documents.

Najib Shemami and Ghazi Al-Awadi were indicted for giving the former government information about its enemies in the United States, and were freed on 10,000-US-dollar bonds each after appearing in US District Court in Detroit on Tuesday.

The documents also said Al-Awadi told the Iraqi Intelligence Service in 1997 that he killed his son-in-law, who belonged to an anti-Hussein political party.

“Espionage is a federal crime that strikes at the heart of the nation’s security,” US Attorney Stephen Murphy said. “We are fortunate that, in this case, the hostile foreign government no longer exists, but the alleged crime — and the threat it represented — is nonetheless grave.” — MNA/Reuters



Cruise ship AIDAdiva arrives at Hamburg harbour, on 18 April, 2007.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

Two more teens arrested over schoolboy stabbing

LONDON, 19 April— Two more teenagers were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the murder of Paul Erhahon, the 14-year-old stabbed to death near his home in east London, police said.

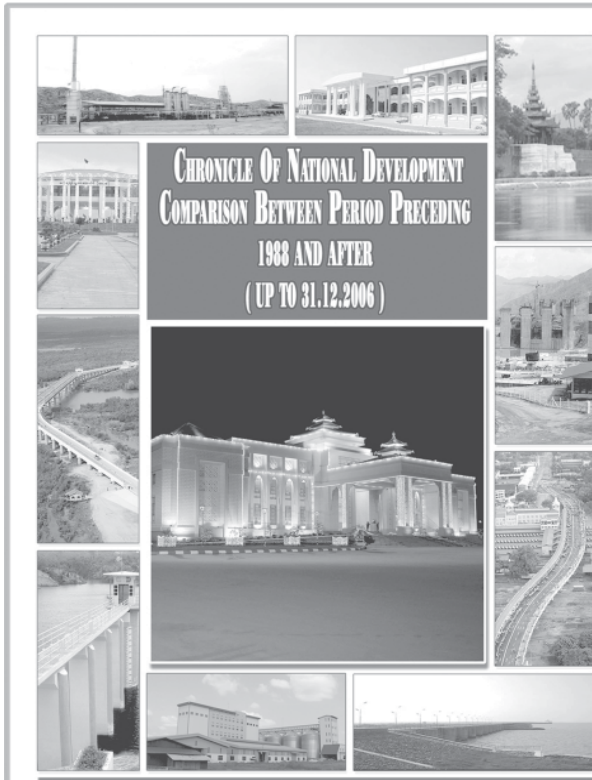
The pair, aged 15 and 18, are being questioned at an east London police station.

Erhahon was stabbed to death near a block of flats in Leytonstone on 6 April, the latest teenage victim in a series of shootings

and stabbings in London. His 15-year-old friend was seriously hurt in the attack.

Erhahon's murder came less than a month after the fatal stabbings of Adam Regis, 15, in east London and Kodjo Yenga in the west of the capital.

In February, three teenagers were shot dead in separate incidents in south London. Prime Minister Tony Blair said the murders were "tragic beyond belief".—MNA/Reuters



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Indonesia calls on ASEAN countries to complement each other

JAKARTA, 19 April— ASEAN's dream of bringing prosperity to its people can only come true if its 10 members can complement each other through mutual cooperation based on their respective strengths and capabilities, Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said here on Wednesday.

Speaking before opening the 4th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leadership Forum, Kalla said that looking at the different stages of development and comparative advantages of ASEAN members, countries could do more to complement each other.

"We have a dream that ASEAN will be a better community and bring welfare to its people by embarking on more

cooperation. However, we have different resources and capabilities, he told the forum participants, including ASEAN businesspeople, NGOs representatives and officials.

The forum was organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Kalla said it was the job of the region's leaders to

make complementary cooperation to benefit the people of ASEAN.

MNA/Xinhua

Serbia, China agree to boost agricultural cooperation

BELGRADE, 19 April— Serbia and China agreed on Wednesday to boost agricultural cooperation by signing an agreement in the area of agriculture and a protocol on phytosanitary conditions for wheat export.

The agreement on grain exports to the market of China is a great export opportunity for Serbia and

Serbian institutes are provided with the possibility to export seed grain to China as the most

populated country of the world, said Danilo Golubovic, state secretary with the Serbian Agriculture Ministry.

"The opening of any market to exports is a great success for our country," Golubovic said in a statement after the signing ceremony.

The Maize Institute of Zemun and the Institute of Plant and Vegetable Crops of Novi Sad could be the most successful exporters in the first stage, as they have proven quality genetic seed grain material, and they can easily conquer this market with what is for China a small quantity of products, Golubovic said.

The agreement and the protocol were signed in the presence of Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and China Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu, who arrived in Belgrade on Tuesday upon the invitation of the Serbian Government.

On Wednesday, Serbia and China also signed an agreement on human resources cooperation and a protocol on handover of computers and office equipment donated by China to Serbia.

MNA/Xinhua



Brown bear Mia walks with her cubs Molly, Mette and Maja through their enclosure at the animal park in Poing near Munich, on 19 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Massacre sparks foreign criticism of US gun culture

SYDNEY, 19 April— Foreign politicians and media attacked America's "gun culture" on Tuesday after a gunman killed 32 people in the country's worst shooting rampage.

Prime Minister John Howard said tough Australian legislation introduced after a mass shooting in Tasmania in 1996 had prevented the US gun culture emerging in his country.

The Australians subsequently imposed laws

banning almost all types of semi-automatic weapons.

"We showed a national resolve that the gun culture that is such a negative in the United States would never become a negative in our country," said Howard, extending sympathies to the families of the victims at Virginia Tech University.

The attacker killed himself in a classroom after opening fire on students and staff in an apparently premeditated massacre on Monday morning.

The gunman was an Asian male who was a student at the university and a dormitory resident, Virginia Tech President Charles Steger told CNN. His name was not released.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Angela Merkel also expressed their sympathies. Iran, at loggerheads with the United States over its nuclear programme, spoke out against the killings.

MNA/Reuters

Oil slips as US gasoline fears ease

LONDON, 19 April— Crude oil prices slipped on Wednesday after a US Government report showed oil refineries were boosting production to meet demand for gasoline ahead of the peak summer season.

Fears of a gasoline supply crunch in the world's biggest oil consumer had underpinned a sharp rally in oil prices in recent weeks, after heavy refinery repairs shaved more than 12 per cent off US inventories since early February.

London Brent crude was down 22 cents to 65.71 US dollars a barrel by 1700 GMT after a fall of 1.32 US dollars on Tuesday. Brent has lost around 5 per cent in three days, also dragged lower on news that Nigeria plans to restart some oilfields shut by attacks.

US crude was down 1 cent at 63.09 US dollars after losing 51 cents on Tuesday. Brent's faster drop has narrowed its premium over US crude, currently seen as a less reliable guide to world prices because of swollen stocks at its delivery hub.—MNA/Reuters

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File photo taken on 15 Sept, 2006 shows a CRH (China Railway High-Speed) bullet train in a test operation at the CSR Sifang Locomotive and Rolling Stock Co, Ltd in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. CRH bullet train named "Hexie", whose literal meaning in English is "harmony", at the speed of above 200 kilometres per hour will operate for the sixth round of Chinese railway "speed boost" starting from 18 April, which will greatly increase Chinese railway system's handling capacity. —XINHUA

Ecologists say tropical forest felled for biofuels

MADRID, 19 April — Tropical rain forest is being cut down and burned to make way for soy and palm plantations destined to provide plant-based diesel for Europe's fuel tanks, environmentalists said on Wednesday.

They cited cases of deforestation in Brazil, Indonesia and Malaysia to make way for energy crops, and urged governments there to act "In Brazil...one of the most affected areas is the state of Mato Grosso, where vast areas have disappeared to make room for soy crops destined for export," Ecologists in Action said in a report distributed at a summit on biofuels in Madrid.

Environmental organizations urged the European Union not to impose mandatory blending of biofuels in transport fuels, as part of its efforts to curb EU carbon dioxide emissions. "Biofuels made from unsustainably sourced palm oil are not green," Michelle Desilets, director of the UK-based Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation told the conference.

fight against global warming. They can replace fossil fuels in transport and the plants they are made from absorb carbon dioxide as they grow.

Although the EU has surplus grain, which could be used to make ethanol to blend with gasoline, it does not grow enough oilseed to supply the biodiesel it would need for diesel powered vehicles, which are the majority in the region.

Rapidly sprouting biodiesel plants will need to import thousands of tons of Brazilian soy beans and Indonesian and Malaysian palm oil if they are to meet the European Commission's target of 5.75 per cent biofuel use in transport by 2010.

The ecologists urged the EU not to impose these targets. — MNA/Reuters

"Spider-Man" stars, director mum on fourth film

TOKYO, 19 April — The stars and the director of "Spider-Man 3" gave no clear clues on Tuesday whether Sony's money-spinning superhero would return to the screen in a fourth adventure, but fans got a glimmer of hope from Kirsten Dunst.

Asked how her character — Peter Parker's love interest, Mary Jane Watson — had developed in the latest film, Dunst told a news conference: "I admire her bravery and she's always been a challenging character for me.

"I think this last film — not the last film, but the third film — has really been a culmination of that growth of family," she said, referring to the cast.

"It's really apparent on the screen because of all the hard work we've put into it," said Dunst, dressed in a black turtleneck and pleated knee-length skirt.

In a nod to the importance of the revenue-boosting international market, "Spider-Man 3" premiered in Tokyo on Monday. It will debut globally on 4 May.

Entertainment Weekly magazine on Monday cited Raimi as confirming a long-held Hollywood rumour he might direct a movie version of JRR Tolkien's "The Hobbit" if "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson is not eventually hired.

Dunst separately told the magazine that a "Spider-Man 4" without Raimi, herself and Maguire would

be "disrespectful to the whole team" and would be a big flop. Japanese private movie commentator Jun Ishiko said the series, which has grossed a collective 1.6 billion US dollars so far, was far from losing its lustre, with the story's continuity and the actors' popularity huge draws for fans.

"There's friendship over many years, a triangular connection between people, lots of human things," he said in an interview.

"When you get it under a microscope, it's actually made up of a million different things — it's the most

beautiful thing in the world, a grain of sand," he said. Maguire, asked how both he and Peter Parker (aka Spider-Man) had matured in the third movie, said his character now dealt with conflict and tragedy differently. — MNA/Reuters

Hundreds of dead seals found in Kazakhstan

ALMATY, 19 April — Hundreds of dead seals, most of them pups, have been found on the Caspian Sea coast of western Kazakhstan but the cause of their death was unclear, the Emergencies Ministry

said on Wednesday.

A ministry spokesman said about the bodies of 500 seals have been washed up on the coast of Kazakhstan's Mangystau Region since late March.

"About 50 of them are

grown-up seals but the rest are pups," the spokesman said. "It's too early to say what caused their deaths. A special commission is working there to establish the cause." — MNA/Reuters

Elephant dung helps ferment wood sugars

BEIJING, 19 April — A fungus in elephant dung is found to help them break down fibres and wood into

biofuel, according to a study in the Netherlands quoted by media reports Thursday.

Scientists working for Royal Nedalco, the Delft University of Technology and Bird Engineering have found a fungus in elephant dung that helped

them produce a yeast which could efficiently ferment wood sugars.

The discovery is a technical breakthrough, according to business development manager Mark Woldberg from Royal Nedalco, a Dutch alcohol maker.

Production based on the new method can start at the firm's plant in Sas van Gent in 2009, though it will take longer for most of the new feedstocks to become commercially viable, he said.

Internet



The baby elephant Thabo-Umasai (happy warrior) enjoys his birthday cake with his family at the zoo in Dresden, eastern Germany.



Crew members of America's Cup challenger Desafio Espanol 2007 of Spain hang their hands over the side of their yacht as they wait for the start of their Flight 7 race of the Louis Vuitton Cup in Valencia on 19 April, 2007. Racing has been postponed for three straight days due to lack of wind. — INTERNET

SPORTS



Russia's Oxana Slivenko lifts to win in the women's 69kg weightlifting class at the European Weightlifting Championships in Strasbourg on 19 April, 2007. — INTERNET

Romario still dreams of scoring 1000th goal at Maracana

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 April — Former Brazil striker Romario said on Thursday that he still dreamed of scoring his 1,000th goal at the Maracana Stadium, although he had received offers to play for clubs in Mexico and Europe.

The 41-year-old has been stuck on a career tally of 999 goals, according to his own records, for the last three games during which Vasco were knocked out of two competitions and coach Renato Portaluppi was fired.

Vasco are not due to play at the Maracana again until they face local rivals Fluminense in the Brazilian Championship on June 3.

However, they have two home matches before that at their own Sao Januario stadium and Romario said he would ask the club to switch the games to the Maracana.

"My dream is still to score the goal at the Maracana and I hope it happens as soon as possible," he told reporters at Rio de Janeiro airport after arriving from a week's holiday in Miami.

"I will ask the president of the club if we can play our home matches at the Maracana...I have faith in God that I will score the goal in the next game." Romario, who last year played for clubs in the United States and Australia, said it was unlikely he would move abroad again.

"There have been approaches from a club in Mexico and two in Europe but in principle I want to score the goal wearing the shirt of Vasco."

Last week, Mexican first division club Necaxa announced they wanted to sign Romario and use him as a reinforcement in the South American Libertadores Cup.

MNA/Reuters



Paul Casey of England tees off on the eighth hole during the Asian Open golf championship in Shanghai on 19 April, 2007. — INTERNET

Ajax beat RKC 3-1 to reach Dutch Cup final

AMSTERDAM, 19 April — RKC Waalwijk goalkeeper Erwin Lemmens missed key chances to save as Ajax Amsterdam earned a 3-1 home victory in their Dutch Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

Wesley Sneijder got past Lemmens with a 35-metre free kick in the 12th minute and midway through the second half the Belgian keeper failed to control another shot from Sneijder, giving Gabri the chance to score with the rebound.

In the 32nd minute,

Ajax defender John Heitinga scored an own goal in an attempt to clear a cross from Tarik Sektioui.

In the final minutes, another shot from Sneijder proved tricky for the keeper. Lemmens tipped the ball towards the feet of Nicolae Mitea, who scored from close range.

In the May 6 final in Rotterdam, cup holders Ajax will meet the winner of Thursday's semifinal between AZ Alkmaar and NAC Breda.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (C) challenges Middlesbrough's Fabio Rochemback (L) and Lee Cattermole (R) for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match in Liverpool, northern England, on 18 April, 2007. Steven Gerrard scored both goals in front of England manager Steve McClaren as Liverpool returned to the Premiership's top three with a 2-0 win over Middlesbrough at Anfield on Wednesday. — XINHUA

Stuttgart keep double hopes alive

BERLIN, 19 April — VfB Stuttgart kept alive their hopes of a Bundesliga and German Cup double by beating VfL Wolfsburg 1-0 in their semifinal on Wednesday.

Antonio da Silva scored for Stuttgart in the 16th minute with a well-placed free kick from 25 metres that just cleared the Wolfsburg wall.

Wolfsburg, sorely missing injured strikers Mike Hanke and Diego Klimowicz, thought they had equalized in the 52nd minute when Marcelinho collected a through ball and shot past Stuttgart keeper Timo Hildebrand.

But the goal was disallowed when the referee ruled Marcelinho offside even though TV replays appeared to show that was not the case.

"There's no way in the

world he was offside," Wolfsburg coach Klaus Augenthaler told German television. "The referee was actually good except he made mistakes in the decisive moment. They make these wrong decisions that cost us millions."

Stuttgart — still in the hunt for the Bundesliga crown in third place, four points behind leaders Schalke 04 — play Nuremberg in the German Cup final on May 26 in Berlin. Nuremberg crushed Eintracht Frankfurt 4-0 on Tuesday.

"It was our main goal for the season to reach the final and we've done it," said Stuttgart coach Armin Veh. "The cup is special. I've gone to watch the final in Berlin every year as a spectator so it's great to go now as a coach."

MNA/Reuters



China's 110m hurdles world record holder Liu Xiang is looking to continue his 100 percent winning streak in Osaka, the host city of this year's IAAF Grand Prix and World Championships. — XINHUA

Sevilla beat Depor 3-0 away to close on Cup final

LA EORUNA, 20 April — Sevilla's push for honours on three fronts remained on track when they beat Deportivo Coruna 3-0 away in their King's Cup semifinal first leg on Thursday.

The Andalucians ran Depor ragged early on, scoring twice in the opening 14 minutes through Frederic Kanoute and then Jesus Navas. Luis Fabiano scored a last minute penalty to all but secure a place in their first King's Cup final since 1962. Sevilla also lie second in the league and have a place in a UEFA Cup semifinal.

On Wednesday, Barcelona secured a 5-2 first leg lead from the other semi-final against Getafe in the Nou Camp. The return legs are scheduled for May 9.

Depor, the 2002 Cup winners, were penned in their own half from the start and it came as little

surprise when Sevilla opened the scoring after 12 minutes.

The tireless Alexander Kerzhakov played Mali striker Kanoute into the area and the Primera Liga's joint-top scorer was able to sidefoot the ball past the advancing Gustavo Munua.

Two minutes later, Daniel Alves broke down the right and fed winger Navas, who rounded Munua with ease to add the second.

The home side made a spirited attempt to get back into the game but rarely threatened and were always vulnerable to Sevilla's sweeping counter-attacks. Sergio and Adrian Lopez both went close for Depor in the second half and only a fingertip save from David Cobeno kept out Sebastian Taborda's powerful header near the end.

MNA/Reuters

Alkmaar demolish NAC 6.0 to reach Cup final

AMSTERDAM, 20 April — AZ Alkmaar thrashed NAC Breda 6-0 in their Dutch Cup semi-final on Thursday to reach their first final since 1982.

Alkmaar dominated from the start but had to wait until four minutes before the interval for their first goal.

Moussa Dembele set up Simon Cziommer in the area to open the scoring and four goals in the opening 18 minutes of the second half settled the match.

Shota Arveladze converted a penalty to double the lead before Cziommer scored his second and Maarten Martens added a brace.

Iceland's Gretar Steinsson completed the rout eight minutes before time.

Alkmaar will meet Ajax Amsterdam, 3-1 winners over RKC Waalwijk on Wednesday, in the final on 6 May in Rotterdam. — MNA/Reuters

Light plane crashes in Manila area, pilot killed

MANILA, 20 April — A small airplane on Thursday crashed in a residential area at Paranaque City of the Philippine capital region, killing the pilot, the air transport authority said.

The pilot identified as Captain Paulo de Castro was killed in the crash, local radio dzBB quoted Angel Atutubo, assistant general manager for security of the Manila International Airport Authority as saying.

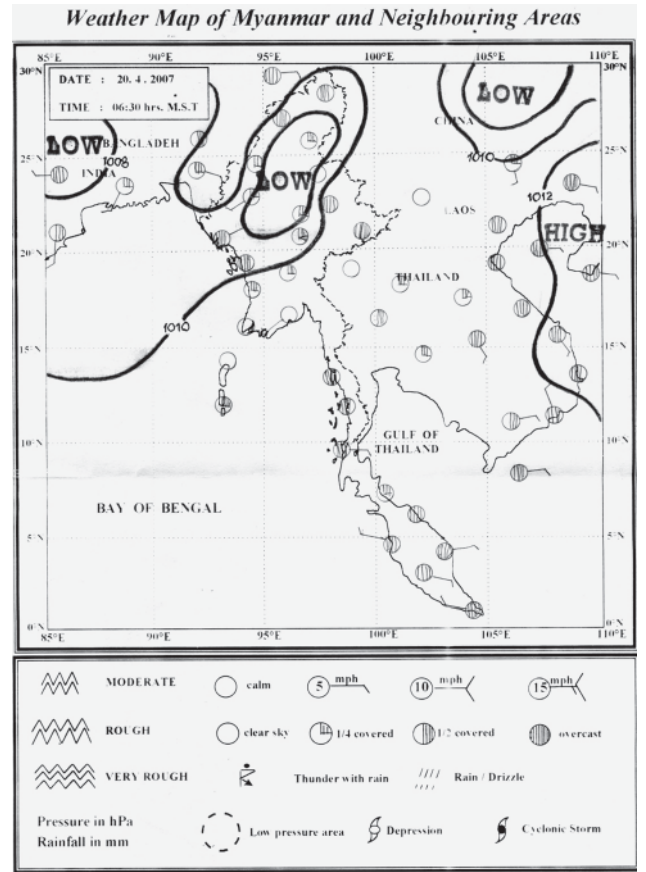
De Castro was the lone casualty in the accident, the report said. The Cessna 206 plane was smoking on its path before it touched the ground and hit a vacant lot of the South Admiral

Subdivision in Merville, it added. The plane burst into flames and turned into a "total wreck," Atutubo said. The official also said that the pilot was seemingly "skilled" and "able to

maneuver the plane away from the residents," otherwise the crash could have ended with more casualties.

The plane was on a Manila-Roxas-Palawan route, according to a report of the Air Transportation Office (ATO). Merville Subdivision sits near the international air terminals of Metro Manila. The authority is still investigating the cause of the crash.

MNA/Xinhua



The site of a Cessna plane crash that killed the pilot, in a residential area in Paranaque, south of Manila on 19 April, 2007. — INTERNET

WEATHER

Friday, 20 April, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State, isolated in Rakhine State and Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Eastern Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mon State and Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (43°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Magway and Aungmye (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Namhsan (0.28) inch, Mogoke (0.23) inch and Kyauktaw (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-4-2007 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 20-4-2007 was 78°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 20-4-2007 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 19-4-2007 was (9.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 20-4-2007 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 (15) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 19-4-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21-4-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagiang 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 isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-4-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 21-4-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 21-4-2007: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of April 2007: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:30 hours MST today)

A strong earthquake of intensity (6.1) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar about (1,960) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory, was recorded at (08) hrs (21) min (51)sec MST on 20-4-2007.



Saturday, 21 April

Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Love of my life ... Queen
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -My love ... Paula Mc Cartney & Wing
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Angel ... Jon Secada
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Just take my heart ... Mr Big
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Music at your request music: -I won't last a day without you...Carpenters -A long & lasting love ... Crystal Gayle
- 9:00pm ASEAN news exchange news from ASEAN member countries
- 9:20 pm Myanmar culture ... Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Saturday, 21 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. ရေလှောင်တစ်ရံနွယ်
- 8:15 am 7. Musical programme
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Grammar made easy
- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:15 am 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am 3. News
- 11:40 am 4. Games for children
- 12:05 pm

- 5. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:45 pm 6. လောကနီတိ(အပိုင်း-၃) "အမေ့သား" (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ ခြေတီဦး၊ စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ စန်းစန်းဝင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်စော်)
- 1:30 pm 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 1:40 pm 8. Dance of national races
- 2:05 pm 9. ပန်းလှိုင်တံတား
- 2:10 pm 10. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:20 pm 11. "သတိနဲ့ ယှဉ်အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၁) (ဝါးခယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလျှန် မြတ်ကောင်းအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်း၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနင်းဝေ၊ ဝိုင်းစုနိုင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လပြေဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 2:30 pm 12. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:40 pm 13. ချောင်းမငယ်ရေလှောင်တစ်
- 2:45 pm 14. International news
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. English for everyday use

- 4:40 pm 4. အစားသင့်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ အထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 4:55 pm 5. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 5:05 pm 6. အယူတော်မဂ်လာ စိန်မြင့်အောင်(မြင်းခြံ) ဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း
- 5:20 pm 7. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm 8. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm 9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 11. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူမိတ္တူဝယ်
- 7:00 pm 12. မြန်မာ့ပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းယွန်း)
- 7:10 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်"(အပိုင်း-၂၈)
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 8:00 pm 15. International news
- 8:00 pm 16. Weather report
- 8:00 pm 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ပန်းရှင်းဆီ" (အပိုင်း-၉)
- 8:00 pm 18. The next day's programme

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe inspects ...

(from page 1)

that committees have been formed systematically, and they are implementing

buildings of the Tele-Port and Incubation are systematically undertaken.

Next, the minister sub-

mitted reports on matters related to modern machinery to be installed at the Tele-Port Main Building,

progress of construction task and prospects for investment of IT companies at home and abroad at the project.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo also reported that Sitha Supporting Dam is under construction for supplying of water to the new town. Furthermore, ravines in the project area are being blocked to build dams. Arrangements are being made to extend wa-

ter storage capacity at Hsinlan Dam. In addition, tasks are being carried out to block creeks around Pyinsar Village near the project area for supply of water. He presented a report on feasibility studies that have been conducted to utilize water resources from Pwaykauk Waterfall and Dattawgyaint for ensuring sufficiency of drinking water at PyinOoLwin.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw submitted reports on water resources for PyinOoLwin and Yadanabon Myothit and climatic conditions. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report.

Director (Engineer) U Myint Oo of Development Affairs Department reported on arrangements for laying of water pipelines for the new town.

(See page 8)



Yadanabon Myothit Construction Project in PyinOoLwin Township. On inspection of the project site, the Head of State had given guidance to make efforts for supply of water and power for the new town, completion of the project tasks on schedule and growing of trees for greening the project area. Hence, tasks of the project are being carried out. The minister continued his reports that 24 feet wide concrete roads are being constructed in the project area, and construction tasks for

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to officials at Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar).

MNA



The government has created opportunities for effective medical research. Therefore, officials and experts of the medical research departments are to work harder in doing research.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects development tasks in Twantay, Kawhmu Townships

YANGON, 20 April — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, this morning inspected construction of Tamatakaw-Hteingon-Wayonseik Road in Yangon Division.

At Basic Education Primary School in Mangay

Village of Twantay Township, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on arrangements for construction of Tamatakaw concrete bridge and other tasks.

Chairman of Twantay Township PDC U Aung San Tha briefed them on completion of Tamatakaw-Hteingon-Wayonseik Road linking Hlinethaya-Twantay Road and digging the

drains from Settumyaung Bridge to Waingmyaung of Twantay Township. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on completion of the tasks in time and assistance to be provided for road construction.

T a m a t a k a w - Hteingon-Wayonseik Road is 19,871 feet long. Earth work of the road is being undertaken. YCDC

plans to complete Tamatakaw Concrete Bridge by the end of May.

They inspected construction of Tamatakaw Concrete Bridge and dredging of 9.5-mile Settumyaung drain. On completion, vehicles can travel from Hlinethaya-Twantay Road to Shwemayin region of Twantay Township, and the drains will contribute

(See page 9)

NLD's acts leading to confrontation that will harm State, people

22 of Bogalay Township NLD quit

YANGON, 20 April — A total of 22 members of Bogale Township National League for Democracy in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Division — U Po Htu Lay (a) U Tin Aung Win, U Kyaw, U Zaw Tun, Daw Khin Thein and Daw Than Yi of Kyeesukyonpha Village, U Htay Naing of Thabyaygon Village, U Thila of Ahtetmyittan Village, U Hla Myint and U Aung Kyaw Thu of Phayathonsu Village, U Hla Moe of Tamankwe Village, U Sein Myint of Aukmyinttan Village, U Than Win of Lintaing

(See page 10)