

## Senior General Than Shwe sends Workers Day message Workers enjoying rights to participate in deliberations of National Convention as group of delegates to hold discussions, make decisions, give suggestions

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May — *The following is a translation of the full text of the Workers Day message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe:*

### Esteemed Workers,

On this Workers Day which falls on 1 May 2007, I through this message honour all Myanmar national workers playing their own role with energetic physical or intellectual ability for the national development and modernization, and wish you health and happiness and auspiciousness.

Today, the world nations are in the process of striving in their own way for their own development. The Union of Myanmar too has been making self-reliant efforts to become a peaceful, tranquil, developed and modern Union through the political, economic and social objectives under the correct leadership of the State Peace and Development Council.

Thanks to the correctness of the national policy, the harmonious efforts of the government and the people and the sector-wise endeavours of

workers and farmers to increase productivity, the nation has been clearly witnessing progress that is prevailing together with peace and stability.

As the national development is gaining momentum, workers are actually enjoying the fruits of progress which are the increasing number of job opportunities and the rise in the per capita income. In addition, workers are enjoying other benefits which are the greater degree of rights including occupational safety and a pleasant working environment.

The government and the national entrepreneurs are extending modern industries and industrial zones in the nation. The government has been encouraging and assisting private sector to set up advanced industries. Thus, workers are running modern production equipment and electronic apparatus to manufacture world-class finished goods. The government has been inviting foreign investments and permitting the

establishment of modern industries. So, workers are enjoying their deserving payments and rights depending on their skill.

As the government and the entire people including workers are harmoniously striving in amity, the Union of Myanmar has entered a golden era in which she is enjoying greater peace and prosperity and rapid development. At this glorious moment, I would like to urge the mass of workers to participate in the nation-building undertakings in harmony with the entire people, while standing firmly as a consolidated and united national force.

Neo-colonialists are disguising the members of destructive groups under their control as workers and forming organizations which exist only in name to interfere in the affairs of international organizations.

*(See page 8)*

## Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends consecration ceremony of Sitagu International Missionary Beikman in Dagon Myothit (North)

YANGON, 30 April — A ceremony to consecrate the Buddha image at the Sitagu International Missionary Beikman was held at the Beikman on Pinlon Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township early this morning.

State Ovadacariya Sasanabaing Waso Sayadaw, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw, Secretary Nyaungdon Sayadaw, State Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Nyaungdon Monastery of Bahan, Kyakhatwaing Monastery of Bago, Aungmyebonsan Monastery of Bahan, Myataung Monastery of Mandalay, Shwe-wawin Monastery, Mya-theintan of Pazundaung,

Maha Thubawdhayon of Sagaing Hill and members of the Sangha led by nine Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Sayadaws conse-

crated the Buddha image. Donations of K 4.5 million were presented for nine Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Sayadaws

who consecrated the Buddha image. A ceremony to share merits for donation of the Sitagu International Missionary Beikman was

held at 9 am.

Present were Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development

Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, wives of members *(See page 9)*



*Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, unveils the stone plaque of Sitagu International Missionary Beikman. — MNA*

### HONOURING THE WORKERS DAY



## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 1 May, 2007

### Manufacture quality industrial products

At present, the government is making all-out efforts for the development of the industrial sector. In this regard, the establishment of industrial zones, the extended building of new factories and mills and the introduction of import-substitute industries have been carried out.

Out of the industrial zones in different regions, modern foundry plants were built in Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi, Mandalay Industrial Zone and Monywa Industrial Zone with the assistance of the government. The emergence of such modern foundry plants leads to the development of private industries.

Nowadays, the modern foundry plant in Ayethaya Industrial Zone produces 112 quality parts. The industrial zone is also producing various kinds of foodstuff, fertilizers, light vehicles, ten-ton and above trucks and spare parts, machines for making bricks and generators.

Private industrialists in the respective industrial zones should take into consideration the requirements of customers and manufacture quality products for the latter's satisfaction.

Now, a large number of factories and mills capable of producing machines as well as foodstuff and personal goods have emerged in industrial regions and industrial zones. And those responsible are to strive for producing quality items and run those factories and mills at full capacity. Only then will they be able to contribute to development of the national economy and fulfil the requirements of the people.



U Khin Hlaing and Daw Khin Myint (MIC Rubber Factory) and family of Thingangyun Township donated cash to Hninzigon Home For the Aged recently. Member of the Board of Trustees of the Home U Chit Myaing accepts K 100,800 donated by wellwishers. — H

## People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

### Commander inspects development tasks in Pathein District

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April — A ceremony to nurture physic nut saplings was held at Thitseintgon village-tract in Kyaunggon Township on 26 April, attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung.

Representatives of social organizations and departmental personnel planted the saplings.

Kyaunggon Township has nurtured 1261.67 acres of physic nut saplings against the target of 4,400 acres.

The commander attended the opening ceremony of Kyaunggon Township Court. The court building is 72 feet long and 35 feet wide.

At the inauguration ceremony of the Strand Road, the commander heard a report on construction of the road presented by Township Executive Officer U Aung Kyaw Moe.

Next, they inspected progress in construction of Traditional Medicine Clinic on Yadanabon Road in Ward 2. The clinic is being built with the contributions of K 9 million by the State and the local people.

Afterwards, the commander viewed renovation of the maternal and child care centre of Kangyidaunt Township and decoration at the cave of Lawkahmanku Pagoda, and left necessary instructions. — MNA



Shwedagon Pagoda being packed with worshippers on 30 April 2007. — NLM

### Commander looks into reclamation of Myeik Port Area, dredging in Thamok River

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo together with officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Myeik Port Area on 25 April.

Upon arrival, the commander inspected progress in construction of the port area and land reclamation for the new town in Myeik. On board

Yamanya dredger, the commander inspected dredging of Thamok River.

Kalwin waterway was dredged from 15 to 23 April.

Next, the commander viewed tarmacking of Seikkan road being undertaken by Pho La Min Co, and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

### NLD central has no definite policy, NLD leaders are in disunity, the party fails to take part in regional development undertakings

#### Four quit NLD in Sagaing Township

YANGON, 30 April — Four members of Sagaing Township NLD resigned from the party on 15 March of own volition.

The four, U Phone Kyaw, U Hla Myint, U Thaug Htay and U Chan Maung of Insa village sent letters of resignation to NLD headquarters and the respective local administrative bodies.

In the letters they sent to Sagaing Division Multiparty Democracy General Election Subcommittee, the four said that the NLD central has no definite policy, that NLD leaders are in disunity, that the party fails to take part in regional development undertakings, that so selfish are the NLD leaders that their main goal is to grab power, that they lack political skill, and that they in reality are opportunists. Hence, the four said that they quit the party as they have no more interest in its functions. — MNA

### Special Sales of Ministry of Industry-1 opens

YANGON, 30 April — The Ministry of Industry-1 launched its Special Sales at highway bus terminal in Taungup on 28 April.

Col Win Naung of the Ministry of Industry-1 and Chairman of Thandwe Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Hsan cut the ribbon to open the Special Sales.

Different kinds of goods and materials are available at reasonable prices. The Special Sales continue up to 7 May.

MNA



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**MPs say halt of Saudi probe hurt Britain's image**

LONDON, 30 April — Britain's decision to drop a corruption investigation into a multi-billion pound defence deal with Saudi Arabia has been a blow to its image, a parliamentary committee said on Sunday.

British investigators dropped the probe last December after the government warned it could undermine national security. The reversal followed reports Saudi Arabia had threatened to cancel orders for 72 Eurofighter Typhoon jets

from BAE Systems

"The government's decision to halt the inquiry into the al Yamamah arms deal may have caused severe damage to the reputation of the United Kingdom in the fight against corruption," the House of Commons'

Foreign Affairs Committee said in its annual report on human rights.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has made combating corruption and promoting good governance a central plank of his plan to promote development in Africa and has come under fire over the decision to shelve the Saudi investigation.

Arms sales to Saudi Arabia represent the biggest export deals in British history and the risk to the latest, worth an estimated 10 billion pounds, threatened thousands of jobs.

Britain's Serious Fraud Office spent two years probing suspected accounting irregularities related to BAE in 2004, before abruptly dropping it.

The committee asked the government to explain what it had done since the decision to maintain momentum on international anti-corruption measures.

MNA/Reuters



People enjoy the sunshine near Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, on 28 April, 2007. The highest temperature in France in last week ranged between 25 to 28 degrees celsius, 10 degrees celsius higher compared with the last years. — XINHUA

**US Army deaths in Iraq at 3,346**

WASHINGTON, 29 April—As of Sunday, 29 April, 2007, at least 3,346 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 2,720 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The AP count is seven higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 146 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 20; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, six; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Romania, one death each.—Internet

**Blind pilot lands in Sydney**

SYDNEY, 29 April—The adventure pilot Miles Hilton-Barber has become the first blind man to fly from London to Sydney in a microlight plane.

An elated Mr Hilton-Barber touched down at Bankstown airport in south-west Sydney just before 8:00am AEST.

Mr Hilton-Barber began the flight on 7 March.

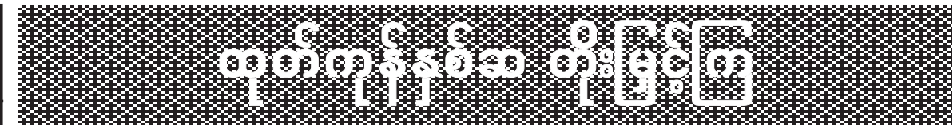


Miles Hilton-Barber has become the first blind man to fly from London to Sydney in a microlight plane.—INTERNET

He took off from the Biggen Hill airfield, relying on speech-output technology to access his flight instruments and navigate the microlight.

The 58-year-old was accompanied by his co-pilot, Storm Smith.

They flew over the English Channel, across France and Italy, over the Mediterranean, and



Drummers wearing traditional Chinese costumes beat drums in Xi'an, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 26 April, 2007. The ancient city of Xi'an has resumed a tradition of stroking bell in the morning and beating drum in the evening as a time reminder, which had disappeared for over 100 years. — XINHUA

**Four dead, several wounded in Kansas City shootings**

KANSAS CITY (Missouri), 30 April — Four people were shot and killed, including an assailant, and at least three others were wounded on Sunday in two incidents, including one at a crowded shopping mall in Kansas City, police said.

Kansas City police were uncertain if the same man was involved at the two locations and were

treating them as two separate incidents.

One person was killed in a house and two others were killed at the upscale Ward Parkway mall south of downtown Kansas City about 6 miles (10 kilometres) away, where police killed a gunman, according to Sergeant Tony Sanders of the Kansas City police.

One of the wounded was a police officer who had responded to calls of the first shooting. His injuries were not life-threatening, police said.

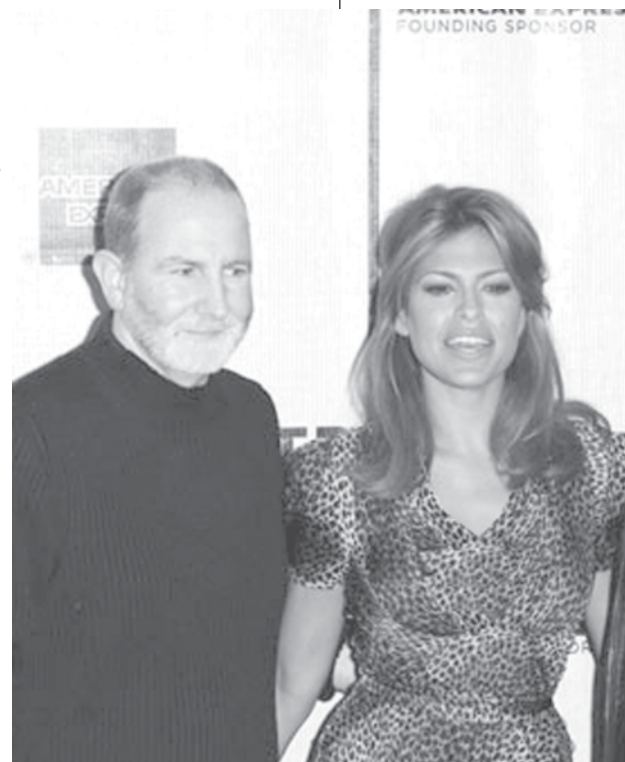
"It was just mass chaos, as you can imagine

on a Sunday in a crowded mall," Sanders said.

Police said the mall shooter used "a long gun" and would not clarify whether it was an assault rifle or shotgun.

MNA/Reuters

Director of the film "Live!," Bill Guttentag (L), arrives with actress Eva Mendez to attend the premiere of the film during the Tribeca Film Festival in New York on 28 April, 2007. XINHUA





# “NY Times” says US agency finds Iraq projects inoperative

NEW YORK, 29 April— Inspectors for a federal oversight agency have found that seven of eight reconstruction projects in Iraq that the United States had declared successes were no longer operating as designed, *The New York Times* reported in Sunday editions.

The causes are either due to plumbing and electrical failures, lack of proper maintenance, apparent looting or expensive equipment lying idle, the newspaper said.

The findings marked the first time inspectors have found projects ranging from a maternity hospital to Iraqi special forces barracks or an airport power station once

officially declared a success, to be no longer working properly as few as six months after the declaration, the *Times* said.

At the airport, for example, inspectors found that nearly 12 million US dollars had been spent on new generators, of which 8.6 million US dollars worth were no longer functioning.

In another case, a sophisticated system for distributing oxygen throughout an Erbil Hospital was ignored by medical staff members

who told inspectors that they distrusted the new equipment and were still using oxygen tanks, which were stored unsafely.

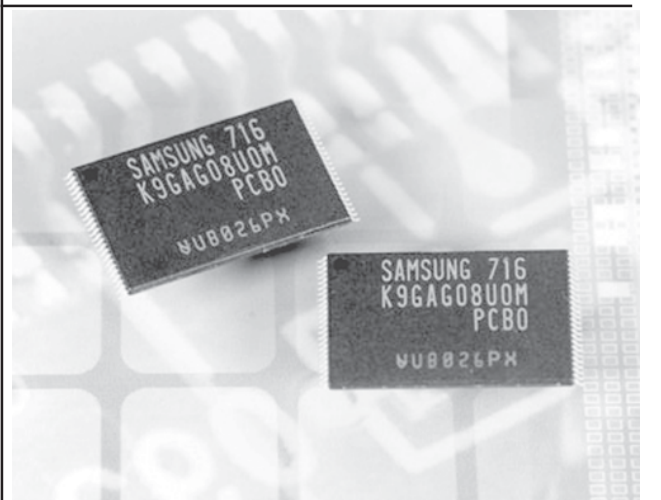
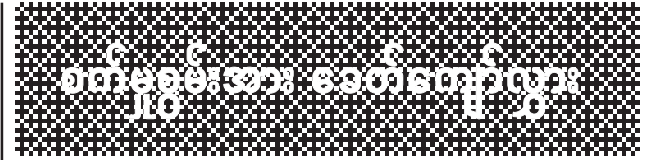
Officials at the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction said the sampled projects, which cost about 150 million US dollars, could not be viewed as a statistical measure of US rebuilding in Iraq, but did raise serious concerns about the effort.

“These first inspections indicate that the concerns that we and

others have had about the Iraqis sustaining our investments in these projects are valid,” Stuart Bowen Jr, who leads the office of the special inspector general, was quoted as saying.

The findings will be summarized in a quarterly report by Bowen’s office on Monday. Bowen also told the newspaper he had ordered inspectors to broaden their efforts to return to re-examine projects more than six months after their completion.

MNA/Reuters



**Samsung Electronics’ 16 gigabit (Gb) NAND flash memory chips are seen in this picture released by Samsung in Seoul on 29 April, 2007. Samsung Electronics, the world’s top memory chip maker, said on Sunday in a Press release that it began mass producing 16 gigabit (Gb) NAND flash, the highest capacity memory chip currently. — XINHUA**

**Israeli Bedouins take part in a camel race during a festival celebrating Bedouin culture in the southern Israeli town of Arad on 28 April, 2007.**

XINHUA



## NATO soldier found dead in Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 April— A soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was found dead in Afghanistan, an ISAF statement said Saturday.

The soldier was found dead in his barracks room around 4:00 pm (1130 GMT) on Friday.

“The name and nationality of the deceased are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin,” it

said.

The cause of death is under investigation by authorities, it added.

The brief statement did not say which province the soldier died in.

About 37,000 ISAF soldiers are being deployed in this country to fight militants and facilitate reconstruction. — MNA/Xinhua

## Earth tremor hits southeast England

FOLKESTONE (England), 29 April — An earth tremor hit southeast England on Saturday, police said, bringing down power lines and damaging some buildings in the Folkestone area of Kent.

Dr Roger Musson of the British Geological Survey said: “It is an earthquake of 4.1 in magnitude. It is similar to ones in 1950 and 1776.

“We’re quite fortunate that it’s as small as it is.”

The US Geological Survey, which measures seismic activity, said the tremor had a magnitude of 4.7.

A Kent police spokeswoman said. “Electricity is down in certain areas as are some telephone lines.”

Local residents called television stations to report feeling the ground shake, cracks in homes and chimneys brought down.

A spokesman for Eurotunnel, which runs cross-channel rail services to France from its terminal near Folkestone on the English coast, said everything was running normally.

“Services have not been affected,” he told *Reuters*. “We have felt the earth tremors but the system is running as per normal.”

MNA/Reuters



**Residents stand near the wreckage of a burnt vehicle at the site of a suicide car bomb attack in a crowded commercial area in Karbala, some 100 km south of Baghdad, on 28 April, 2007. — XINHUA**

## Suicide bomber kills 28 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), 29 April — A suicide bomber on Saturday killed at least 28 people and wounded scores of others, including Pakistan Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao who said he had been the target of the attack.

The blast occurred as people gathered around Sherpao at the end of a public meeting in Charsadda, a town 20 kilometres (12 miles) northeast of Peshawar, the capital of North-West

Frontier Province.

“It was a target killing, and I was the target. It was a suicide attack. I have suffered minor injuries,” Sherpao told Pakistan Television.

“It was not a big bang, it was a thud but the impact was massive. The attacker was apparently walking behind us,” he told *Reuters*. One of Sherpao’s aides and several of his security detail were killed, and police said they had found the head and torso of the bomber.

“We have got the severed head of the bomber, and it is identifiable. He appears to be between 30-35 years old,” Asif Iqbal Daudzai, Information Minister for the provincial government, told *Reuters*.

Doctors in Charsadda and Peshawar said scores of people had been wounded, and several were in a critical condition. Hundreds of anxious and grieving relatives thronged the hospitals.

MNA/Reuters



## ECONOMIC NEWS

## China reports jump in diamond imports

SHANGHAI, 29 April — China imported 77.91 million US dollars worth of diamonds in the first quarter of the year, a rise of 170 per cent over the same period last year.

Shanghai Diamond Exchange imported about 76 million US dollars worth of refined diamonds from January to March, accounting for 97.6 per cent of the total, for an increase of 188 per cent from comparable figure of a year ago, according to statistics provided by the Shanghai Joint Admini-

strative Office for Diamond Trading.

The country imported diamonds equivalent to 34.9 million US dollars in March alone, a rise of 257 per cent from the same month last year, according to the administrative office. The Shanghai Diamond Exchange is now the only channel by which commonly-traded dia-

monds can legally flow in and out of China.

On 1 July, 2006, China scrapped value added tax on imported uncut diamonds, and lowered the tax rate on imported refined diamonds from 17 per cent to 4 per cent in a move designed to cut "widespread smuggling" of the precious stone.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors slide on the Mingsha Sand Dunes during a visit to Crescent Moon Spring on the outskirts of Dunhuang, Gansu Province on 29 April, 2007. According to local sources, the Mingsha Sand Dunes stretches more than 40 km (25 miles) long and 20 km (12.4 miles) wide, reaching heights of 1,715 m (5,630 ft).— INTERNET

**Workers adjust facilities inside a car on Beijing's No 5 subway line recently. The lineruns through the heart of the city and isto start carrying passengers in September. — XINHUA**



## Flight shortage hampers Bangladesh manpower export to Malaysia

DHAKA, 29 April — Shortage of flights are greatly hampering manpower export to Malaysia forcing thousands of job seekers in Bangladesh to wait for indefinite periods, *The Daily Star* reported Saturday.

Around 14,000 workers in Bangladesh have completed all formalities for flying to Malaysia but their departure is being delayed for long just because the flights cannot carry more than 700 passengers to Malaysia daily, an official of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) of Bangladesh was quoted as saying.

A total of 43,478 workers left for Malaysia from October last year to April 24. And more than 60,000 have been granted calling visas, and fingerprints of about 80,000 have been sent to

that country for visa processing.

Presently Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur flights include once a day direct flight of Malaysian Airline with a carrying capacity of 350 passengers, twice a week flights of GMG Airlines capable of carrying 140 passengers each and three flights of

Bangladesh Biman a week with a capacity of carrying 300 passengers each.

There are also some indirect flights to Malaysia

but, in all, the airlines cannot carry more than 700 passengers daily, the BMET official said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ethiopia, China sign telecom expansion agreement

ADDIS ABABA, 29 April — The state-owned Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation

(ETC) and ZTE, a Chinese telecom company, on Saturday signed a 1.39 billion birr (158 million US

dollars) agreement on three telecom service expansion projects.

The agreement includes the first phase of fiber transmission back-bone, expansion of mobile phone service for the Ethiopian millennium as well as expansion of wireless telephone service.

According to the agreement, some 1.2 million mobile telephone lines will be provided to subscribers in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa and eight other towns in connection with the upcoming Ethiopian millennium celebration.—MNA/Xinhua



Himalayan Persian cats are displayed during the International Cat Show in Tel Aviv on 28 April, 2007.— XINHUA

## Indonesia to import 1.5 mln tons of LPG

JAKARTA, 30 April — Indonesia's state-owned oil and gas firm Pertamina will import some 1.5 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in 2009, according to a local media Saturday. Pertamina was also in talks with the Australian unit of BP and a Thai company to help meet Indonesia's LPG requirements, which are expected to amount to 3.9 million tons a year by 2010, English daily *The Jakarta Post* said.— MNA/Xinhua





Decorated elephants take part in the Trichur Pooram festival in Trichoor, in the southern Indian state of Kerala, on 27 April, 2007. The festival is celebrated with a colourful procession of decorated elephants and drum concerts. — XINHUA

## Nicaragua, Laos resume diplomatic ties

MANAGUA, 29 April — Nicaragua and Laos have resumed diplomatic relations, Nicaragua's Foreign Minister Samuel Santos said Friday.

A Laos delegation headed by Foreign Minister Thongloun Sissoulith was visiting Nicaragua and was warmly welcomed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Also on Friday the two sides signed two agreements, Santos said.

One of the accords was aimed at boosting exchanges between the foreign ministries of the two countries and mutual

support for each other, and the other one was designed to promote "work in the south-south concept and form a bilateral commission to negotiate the accords necessary to benefit both countries", Santos said.

Nicaragua and Laos established diplomatic relations in 1979. The diplomatic ties were broken in 1990 when Violeta Chamorro became Nicaraguan President.

"In reality these relations have been broken between the peoples of Nicaragua and Laos. They have passed through difficult times.

They have been firm," Ortega said.

Ortega said both Nicaragua and Laos have worked hard to achieve progress and enjoy real economic and social sovereignty by eradicating poverty.

MNA/Xinhua

## 14 Taliban militants killed in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 April — Afghan and NATO troops killed 14 Taliban insurgents in Khost Province of eastern Afghanistan early Saturday morning, provincial police chief Mohammad Ayub told Xinhua.

Afghan soldiers and policemen exchanged fire

with militants, who were attacking Alisher District, Ayub said.

Warplanes of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) also dropped bombs on the enemies, he added.

Meanwhile, an ISAF spokeswoman Angela

Billings confirmed with Xinhua that ISAF Air Force bombed the Taliban positions in Alisher and killed some militants. She failed to give the exact number, but said there were no ISAF and civilian casualties.

Khost Province has been a hotbed of Taliban militants, who clash with Afghan and foreign troops frequently.

Due to rising Taliban-linked insurgency, over 900 persons, mostly Taliban rebels, have been killed in Afghanistan this year. — MNA/Xinhua



Performers at the Aliwan festival take part in a parade in Manila on 28 April, 2007. The event is a showcase of different festivals across the Philippine archipelago. — XINHUA

## Conflicts kill five in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 April — Three militants and two policemen were killed in two separate incidents in Afghanistan's central Ghazni Province, provincial police chief said Saturday.

Three Taliban insurgents were killed when they engaged with police in Nawa District on Friday night, Ali Shah Ahmadzai told Xinhua.

In another incident, which occurred in Aband District on the same night, two policemen were killed and three others went missing, he said.

Meanwhile, Taliban's purported spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi that Taliban fighters in their attempt to overrun Aband District killed two policemen and took away three others. — MNA/Xinhua

## Army chopper crashes in central Philippines, eight dead

MANILA, 29 April — Eight people were killed and three wounded when a military helicopter on a training flight crashed into a crowded village outside an airbase in the central Philippines, an Air Force spokesman said on Saturday.

Lieutenant Colonel Epifanio Panzo said a UH-1H helicopter was returning to the base on

Mactan Island in the central Philippines when it crashed, hitting a motorbike and sidecar car-

rying seven people who were all killed.

"Seven people on the ground and a crew (member) of the chopper were killed," Panzon told reporters.

"The two pilots and a second crew (member) were wounded, but it took hours to get them out from the wreckage because they were pinned down."

The Philippine Air Force has sent technical experts to investigate the cause of the crash by the Vietnam War-era helicopter which occurred around 5:55 p m (0955 GMT).

The Philippines has about 60 UH-1H helicopters, including 20 units

with night-flying capability acquired from Singapore under a commercial deal in 2004.

In 2003, US President George W Bush promised to donate 20 of the helicopters during a visit to Manila, but not a single aircraft has been delivered after relations were soured by the pullout of Filipino troops from Iraq.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has allocated 10 billion pesos (211 million US dollars) to upgrade the capabilities of local armed forces to fight Communist rebels, Muslim separatists and a small al-Qaeda-linked Islamic militant group.

MNA/Reuters

Star Trek fans Joe Latrell (L) and T'Chris Gardner (R) look at an outdoor exhibit at the New Mexico Museum of Space History before the start of a memorial service to commemorate those whose ashes will be launched into space on board the Legacy Flight in Alamogordo, New Mexico, on 27 April, 2007. James Doohan's ashes, the actor who played "Scotty" on Star Trek, will be onboard the flight bound for space on Sunday. — XINHUA





## Merkel phones Putin to discuss US missile plan

**BERLIN, 30 April** — German Chancellor Angela Merkel phoned Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday to discuss the growing controversy over the US plan to install a missile shield in Eastern Europe.

According to government spokesman Ulrich Wilhelm, Merkel welcomed Thursday's talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and NATO foreign ministers in Oslo.

They also talked about Putin's warning that Russia would declare a suspension of its obligations under the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) if the United States insists on installing part of its missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The CFE treaty, signed in 1990 between NATO

member countries and those of the rival Warsaw Pact, regulates the deployment of conventional weapons in and around the European continent.

Germany, which holds the current presidency of the European Union, has urged that the issue be discussed within the framework of NATO.

Merkel also phoned Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, urging both Russia and Estonia to practise restraint on dispute over Estonia's removal of a Soviet war memorial in

Tallinn.

The Estonian Government ordered to remove early Friday the World War II memorial, the Bronze Soldier, from its location in Tallinn, capital of the former Soviet state following protests that left one dead and dozens injured.

Estonian nationalists regard the monument as a symbol of the Soviet occupation of their country, but others feel it honours the Soviet troops who gave their lives to fight fascism.

MNA/Xinhua



*Ethnic Miao girls in traditional Miao costumes greet guests with home-made rice wine during the opening ceremony of Huashan Festival of Miao ethnic group in the Xingwen county, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 28 April, 2007. The Huashan Festival is usually held during the traditional New Year period of Miao ethnic group, during which Miao people play lusheng, a kind of traditional Chinese reed-pipe wind instrument, and single young people find lovers by singing love lyrics. —INTERNET*



*Singer Norah Jones performs at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, Louisiana on 28 April, 2007. —INTERNET*

## Five employees of Red Crescent killed in Baghdad

**BAGHDAD, 30 April** — Five employees of Red Crescent were killed on Saturday morning in a neighbourhood in southern Baghdad, a well-informed police source said.

The employees of Red Crescent were travelling in a car in Baiyaa neighbourhood in southern Baghdad while they were attacked by unknown gunmen in two cars, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity, adding five employees were killed and another one was injured.

Also on Saturday, at least three residents were killed and up to ten others wounded when several mortar rounds landed on a residential area in southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

“Several mortar rounds landed on the Hay-al-Risalah neighbourhood at around midday, killing at least three inhabitants and injuring ten others, including women and children,” the source said.

Moreover, the source

said police patrols collected seven unidentified bullet-riddled bodies from different parts of the capital on Saturday, some of them were bound and blindfolded showing signs of torture.

Violence persists in Baghdad despite the presence of tens of thousands of US and Iraqi soldiers across the capital in a major security crackdown aimed at curbing insurgency and sectarian violence in the war-torn country.

MNA/Xinhua

## UN claims cyclones killed 150 in Madagascar

**ANTANANARIVO, 30 April** — Six cyclones that have battered northern Madagascar in recent months killed at least 150 people as river levels rose and swept away villages on the huge Indian Ocean island, a UN official said on Saturday.

Cyclone Indlala killed scores, destroyed 13,000 homes and ruined 40,000 hectares of crops last month on Madagascar, which was already struggling to deal with a severe drought.

Five other cyclones since mid-December have made it the country's worst storm season on record.

“I remember one village where 23 people died, including 17 from the same family,” UNICEF country representative Bruno Maes told *Reuters* in an interview.

He said three-quarters of crops — including vanilla, a lucrative export — were destroyed in the areas hit, and he expected malnutrition rates to rise among some 200,000 people still affected. Recovery would take months, Maes said.

Madagascar said last month it had received only one million US dollars of a 242-million-US-dollar appeal to cope with this year's disasters.

MNA/Reuters

## Acapulco police chief killed in Mexico drug feuding

**MEXICO CITY, 30 April** — Gunmen shot and killed a local police chief on Saturday in Acapulco, a Mexican beach resort that has been sucked into a bloody turf war between drug gangs in northern and western Mexico, local media reported.

Gunmen in two or three vehicles shot up to nine bullets into 45-year-old Jorge Arturo Lopez, a chief detective in Guerrero State, as he was getting into his car in the old town of Acapulco, according to reports in two Mexican dailies.

Local police and justice officials would not immediately confirm the killing, but relatives of the victim told Mexican radio

on Saturday that Lopez had received death threats.

MNA/Reuters



*A general view of the destroyed ancient citadel of Bam 1,250 km (776 miles) southeast of Teheran on 29 April, 2007. Much of the city of Bam was devastated by an earthquake in December 2003. —INTERNET*



## Senior General Than Shwe sends Workers Day...

(from page 1)

Those evil quarters are applying various means to hinder the development pace of the Union of Myanmar and undermine the national interest. Their perpetrations are tarnishing the virtues of the noble workers, triggering layoffs, destroying job opportunities and causing social and economic losses.

Moreover, they are trying to drive a wedge to break up the unity of the entire people including workers through slanders in accord with their scheme.

Myanmar workers have the fine traditions of consolidating the unity of the entire national races to regain independence while undergoing bitter experiences—oppressions, labour exploitation, sowing of discord and economic manipulation — during the time when the Union of Myanmar was under colonial occupation.

In accord with their fine historical traditions -- the tradition of taking part in the anti-Fascists and independence struggles and the tradition of reinforcing and safeguarding the unity of the workers, peasants and the people —workers should stand up to and

ward off alien schemes to interfere in Myanmar affairs and cause dissension.

I also urge workers to strengthen their anti-colonialism spirit, unyielding spirit, national spirit and Union Spirit that had been put to the test and honoured throughout the successive eras of history for many times and to stand firm as a reinforced national force. **Esteemed workers,**

At present, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the seven-step Road Map that will lay a durable foundation for the firm existence of workers rights and human rights, the emergence of a fair and just Myanmar society based on the wordly values — justice, freedom and equality— and to uphold the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — till the end of the world.

The convening of the National Convention — the first and the most important step of the Road Map has been in progress, and the workers have been enjoying the right to participate in it as a delegate group representing the mass of workers to hold discussions,

make decisions and give suggestions.

In this context, workers are required to take part in the national endeavour to smoothly implement the seven-step Road Map in unity with other national forces from the stage of the successful convening of the National Convention to the emergence of a new peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state — the national goal.

In this transitional period, I urge all blue colour and white colour workers in all seriousness to take part in the vital sector together with the entire national races in striving

- \* for the development of the industrial sector of the nation and for further improvement of the production and services enterprises for national economic growth;
- \* to ward off attempts of neo-colonialists and their stooges to drive a wedge; and
- \* for the success of the seven-point Road Map being implemented to build a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state.—MNA

## Archway of Sitagu International Missionary Beikmandaw opened

YANGON, 30 April—The archway of Sitagu International Missionary Beikmandaw was opened at a ceremony held at the Beikmandaw on Pinlon Road, Dagon Myothit (North) Township here this morning.

It was attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental officials, donors and guests.

First, Deputy Director U San Thin Hlaing of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana acted as master of ceremonies and explained the emergence of the Beikmandaw. At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally opened the archway.—MNA



**Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally open Sitagu International Missionary Beikmandaw.**

MNA



**Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win lights a lamp to celebrate the silver jubilee of All Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Dhamma Federation.**

MNA

## Commander attends dinner to mark silver jubilee of All Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Dhamma Federation

YANGON, 30 April — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended a dinner to mark the silver jubilee of All Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Dhamma Federation at the Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda

Road in Dagon Township yesterday evening.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials of the federation formally opened the anniversary. Next, the patron of the federation presented a gift to the commander.

The chairman of the federation also presented a gift to the deputy minister. The chairman and the deputy minister extended greetings.

Later, those present were entertained with varieties of cultural dances and they were served with dinner.

MNA

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.**





### Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends consecration...

(from page 1)  
Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence,

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

Win, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental officials and wellwishers.



Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, donates robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Daw Kyaing Kyaing formally unveiled the stone plaque of the Sitagu International Missionary Beikman. Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Shwekyin Nikaya Sasanabaing Waso Sayadaw and Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw tolled the bell nine times.

Daw Kyaing rang the bell nine times and planted Dekkhinasakha Bo sapling.

The Waso Sayadaw and Magway Sayadaw formally opened the stairways of the Sitagu International

Missionary Beikman. Next, Daw Kyaing and guests took the Nine Precepts from the Waso Sayadaw.

Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nanissara supplicated on the purpose of the construction of the Sitagu International Missionary Beikman.

Next, Magway Sayadaw delivered Ovakakatha. Daw Kyaing presented offertories to the Waso and

Magway Sayadaws. On behalf of the wellwishers, Daw Kyaing presented K 4.5 million to 15 members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaw through Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. Sitagu Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

The women led by Daw Kyaing Kyaing performed rituals of golden and silver showers. On the eve of Fullmoon Day of Kason nine Tipitaka title recipient Sayadaws recited Parittas. Disciples also presented K 2.7 million to the Sayadaws.—MNA

### Devotees pour water at Bo trees

YANGON, 30 April — The devotees from religious associations poured water at the Bo Tree in the compound of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image in Insein Township today.

Deputy Minister for

Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko also participated in the 6th ceremony of watering the Bo Tree to mark Buddha Day organized by the Board of Trustees of the Image.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura

Aung Ko and party went to Buddha's Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township and watered the Bo Tree near the pagoda along with members of religious association. Pilgrims to the pagoda also watered the Bo Tree today. — MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and wife pour water at Bo Tree on Mindhamma Hill.

MNA

### Cash, provisions for nunnery

YANGON, 30 April — Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee sponsored a ceremony to present provisions and cash assistance to a nunnery in Bahan Township yesterday.

Chairperson of the committee Daw Mar Mar Wai presented the provisions and K 1.5 million to Thakka Neinmitayon Nunnery in Bahan Township, Yangon West District.

Wellwishers then

presented K 1.45 million to the nunnery to set up a trust fund to buy provisions.

After the ceremony, Daw Mar Mar Wai and party inspected health care services for nuns at the nunnery. — MNA



Daw Mar Mar Wai donates cash to Thakka Neinmitayon Nunnery in Bahan Township.

MNA





Members of a religious association pour water at Bo Tree in the precinct of *Kyaikwaing Pagoda*. — MNA



Officials pour water at Bo Tree in the compound of *Moekaung Pagoda* in *Yankin Township*. — MNA

(from page 16)

First, the congregation led by members of the board received Five Precepts from a Sayadaw. Before pouring water at the holy tree, Members of the Sangha, the congregation and members of the board walked round the pagoda and recited religious versus.

At Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, a ceremony to water Bo Tree was also held today. First, Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda and Buddha Images at the pagoda. Next, Members of the Sangha and worshippers poured water to the holy tree in the compound of the pagoda.

Maha Dhamma Yanthi Pagoda Board of Trustees also organized a ceremony to water the Bo Tree in the compound of the pagoda. At the ceremony, Members of the Sangha recited Parittas and shared merits gained. Members of the Sangha and congregation

## Religious associations, worshippers pour water at Bo trees to mark Buddha Day

walked round the holy tree and watered it.

Members of the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda Board of Trustees also poured water at Bo Tree in the compound of the pagoda along with worshippers today.

Board of Trustees of Atula Dipiti Maha Muni Thakyakohtupgyi Pagoda, Kyaikwaing Pagoda, Ngahtupgyi Buddha Image, Chyauktupgyi Buddha Image and Maelamu Buddha Image also poured water to Bo Trees in the compound of the pagodas today. — MNA



Members of a religious association pour water at Bo Tree in the precinct of *Maha Wizaya Pagoda*. — MNA



Staff of Ministry of Religious Affairs pour water at Bo Tree on *Kaba Aye Hill*. — MNA



Worshippers pour water at Bo Tree in compound of *Shwephonepwint Pagoda* in *Pazundaung Township*. — MNA



Devotees pour water at Bo Tree in compound of *Botahtaung Kyaikdayup Pagoda*. — MNA



## Arab League blast US resolution on Sudan's Darfur

CAIRO, 30 April — The Arab League (AL) on Sunday criticized the US House of Representatives for its resolution which asked the AL to declare a genocide in western Sudanese region of Darfur.

“What is weird is that no international or regional institution has referred to human rights violations in Darfur as a genocide,” the AL said in a statement carried by Egypt’s official MENA news agency.

On Thursday, the US House of Representatives passed a bill, which called on member states of the AL

to help end what it called “a genocide in Darfur.”

The Cairo-based Arab League criticized the US House of Representatives for accusing the AL of blocking the deployment of UN forces in Darfur, MENA quoted the AL statement as saying.

The statement noted that the AL considered the

under-discussion security arrangements, including the deployment of a hybrid UN-AU force, a key step on the road of implementing the Darfur peace agreement signed in May of 2006.

These arrangements should run in tandem with effective political efforts to address the Darfur crisis and these kinds of efforts

have been exerted by the AL member states in coordination with the UN and AU, the statement said.

The UN, the AU and the Sudanese Government agreed in November last year on a three-phase support plan, also known as the Annan plan as it was put forward by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

With the first phase of the plan, also known as a light support package, already underway, the three parties reached an agreement in principle in Addis Ababa on 9 April to inaugurate the second phase of a UN support plan for the AU mission in Darfur, known as “the heavy support phase.”

The second phase involves the deployment of 3,000 UN troops and six attack helicopters in Darfur to support the 7,800-strong African force, as well as preparation for the next phase, in which a much larger UN force would be sent to the region.

MNA/Xinhua



File photo showing text messaging on a mobile phone. Iran's Telecommunications Ministry will start filtering "immoral" video and audio messages sent via mobile phones, state television reported on Saturday, 28 April, 2007. — INTERNET



An anti-submarine missile blasts off from the Russian warship "Marshal Shaposhnikov" during a Russian-Indian military drill in the Sea of Japan, off the coast of Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok, on 26 April, 2007. Five Indian warships, two Russian submarine chasers and other smaller Russian vessels took part in the "Indira 2007" exercise. — INTERNET

## German lawyer to file Rumsfeld abuse suit in Spain

BERLIN, 30 April — A German lawyer is planning to join forces with Spanish counterparts to file a lawsuit in Spain against former US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld over the alleged abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo prisons, a German magazine reported on Saturday.

The move by Berlin lawyer Wolfgang Kaleck comes after German prosecutors said on Friday they had decided against launching an investigation into Rumsfeld over the abuse claims.

“There is no safe haven for Rumsfeld,” weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* quoted Kaleck’s associate, Michael Ratner, as saying.

“If the Germans aren’t bold enough then we’ll try in Spain,” he added.

Kaleck could not be reached for comment on Saturday.

Civil rights groups filed a suit with Germany’s Federal Prosecutors Office in Karlsruhe in November seeking war crimes charges, arguing Germany

could prosecute foreign violations of international law under its 2002 universal jurisdiction law.

The Centre for Constitutional Rights (CCR) said 11 Iraqi citizens held at Abu Ghraib in Iraq and one Saudi detainee at the US Guantanamo Bay base on Cuba were victims of beatings, sleep and food deprivation and sexual abuse.

However, the German prosecutors office said it could not open an investigation as the individuals in question were not present in the country.

In addition to Rumsfeld, the suit named 13 other US officials, including Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, former CIA director

George Tenet and high-ranking military officers.

The 13 others will also be named in the Spanish suit, *Der Spiegel* said.

MNA/Reuters

## Protest in Afghan east after civilian deaths

KABUL, 30 April— Thousands of Afghans, some shouting "Death to America" and carrying shrouded bodies, protested in the east on Sunday after up to six

people were killed during a raid by US-led coalition forces.

They felled trees to block a road and vowed not to bury the bloodstained bodies until

those responsible were punished and villagers detained after the incident were freed.

Nangahar Province police spokesman Abdul Ghafur said the six dead were civilians, including three women, but the US military said four of those killed were Taliban fighters and a woman and a teenage girl died in crossfire.

Neighbours in the protest said five people died, including two women, with only a young girl surviving from the family.

The Sunday morning raid had targeted a car bomb-making cell near the provincial capital, Jalalabad.

MNA/Reuters



A masked reveller dances in the street during the opening of the so-called 128th annual 'Baumbluetenfest' (Blossom of a tree festival) in the eastern German village of Werder, some 50 kilometres south of Berlin, on 28 April, 2007. Around 500,000 visitors are expected to visit the festival that runs till 6 May. —INTERNET



**ADVERTISEMENT**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (145)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (145) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER  
LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Chavez says Venezuela plans to set up air-defence system**

CARACAS, 29 April—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Friday that Venezuela was planning to establish an air-defence system to protect it from attacks.

In a televised speech, the leader said Venezuela was going to have a powerful air-defence system, which would protect the country from any external threats and aggression.

Dismissing suggestions that Venezuela was pursuing an arms buildup, Chavez said the move was only aimed at modernizing the country's military sector and it was a necessary investment.

Chavez, who has often traded verbal attacks with the US counterpart George W Bush, also unveiled plans to invest over 561 million US dollars in arms factories, training facilities and fighter jet maintenance facilities.

In February, Chavez confirmed plans to buy Russian air defence missiles as part of a weapons upgrade programme to guard strategic sites in the country such as oil refineries and hydroelectric dams.

According to Venezuelan reports, Russia has signed military deals worth some three billion dollars with Venezuela.

In 2006, Venezuela bought from Russia 24 Sukhor 30 fighter jets, 53 MI-24 military helicopters and 100,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles. — MNA/Xinhua

**Seven dead, one seriously injured in S-W China bus accident**

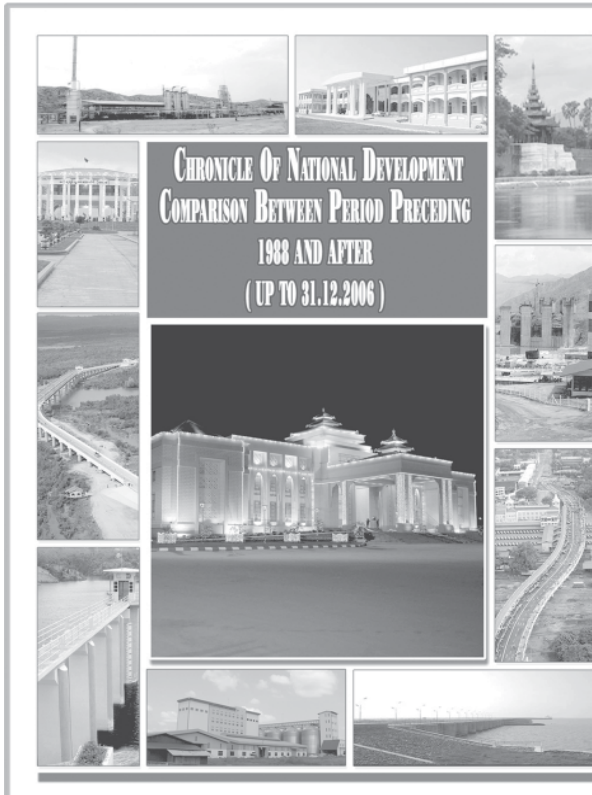
GUIYANG, 29 April—Seven people were dead and another was seriously injured after a minibus collided with a truck in southwest China's Guizhou Province on Saturday morning, local police said.

The accident occurred at about 10:00 am in Duyun City in the Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Qiannan when a minibus carrying eight people crashed head-on into a heavily-laden truck licensed in neighbouring Sichuan Province.

The collision killed six people in the minibus on the spot and another died later in hospital. The injured passenger in the minibus was in a critical condition, said rescuers.

Police found that the truck, with a cargo capacity of 4.95 tons, was carrying 16 tons of goods when the accident took place. — MNA/Xinhua

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင် လေသန့်စင်၍ ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း  
စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။



**CHRONICLE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**COMPARISON BETWEEN PERIOD PRECEDING 1988 AND AFTER (UP TO 31 - 12 - 2006)**

- \* This book features firm evidences, correct data and figures and documentary photos.
- \* This book reflects the success in building the infrastructure according to the political, economic and social objectives for the brighter future of the State.
- \* Illustrated with charts and colourful photos.
- \* Published by the Ministry of Information.

Now On Sale USD 3.00

**Available at**

- 📖 Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon ☎ 01-381448, 249031
- 📖 Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, No-55, Thabyaygon Market, Nay Pyi Taw
- 📖 News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, 212, Theinbyu Street, Yangon ☎ 294306
- 📖 Hotels, Supermarkets and Shopping Malls in Yangon.

**18 Chinese fishermen missing after being robbed at sea**

HAIKOU, 29 April—Chinese police are searching for 18 missing fishermen from China's southernmost province of Hainan after learning their fishing boat had been robbed on Thursday in South China Sea.

The captain of *Qionghai 08099* called his family on Thursday morning, saying the boat

was robbed by an armed gang after it had broken down in waters near Nanshan Islands, an official with the provincial public security department told *Xinhua* on Saturday.

The official, who declined to give his name, said the local marine public security office had dispatched a Coast Guard vessel and mobilized local

fishermen in search for fishermen and their boat.

Captain Xu Demin called his wife at 6:10 am on Thursday, saying a group of men of unidentified nationality were robbing his boat and asking his wife to inform the police, said Wang Weihao, a police officer.

Twenty minutes later, Xu phoned his cousin, Xu

Defu, saying that the robbers had left with his catch of fish, but that another unidentified vessel was approaching the *Qionghai 08099* and it too might be thieves, said Wang.

Xu's family has had no further contact with him since the second call, said Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

**20 injured in bus crash in Hong Kong**

HONG KONG, 29 April—A bus crashed into a wall in Stanley in the south of Hong Kong Island on Saturday afternoon, leaving more than 20 passengers injured.

The accident, involving a New World First Bus, happened at around 4 pm local time. The bus was making a right turn into Chung Hom Kok Road when it mounted the pavement and crashed into a wall.

Several of the injured in serious condition were taken to the nearby Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital while some others were treated at the scene by paramedics.

The police said the driver passed a breathalyzer test. The cause of the accident was still under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

**PM says population growth declines to 1.8% in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD, 29 April—Pakistan's Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said here Friday that the country's population growth rate declined from 3.5 per cent in the 1980s to 1.8 per cent this year and the government was committed to further reducing it to 1.3 per cent per annum by 2020.

Talking to United Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA) Executive Director Dr Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Aziz said that unplanned growth of population adversely impacted development targets and had several negative consequences on the economy, policy making, human rights situation and the long-term prosperity and progress of the country.

In view of the dynamics of demographic variables, he said, the Pakistani Government is keeping a vigilant eye on the trend of population growth.

Aziz said that the government was trying to attain a balance between resources and population and address various dimensions of the population issue within laws and development priorities while remaining within the social and cultural norms.

MNA/Xinhua



*The French aid worker identified only as Celine cries as she speaks to the media in the French Embassy in Kabul on 28 April, 2007. The Taliban freed the French aid worker on Saturday.*  
XINHUA



ပညာရေးဖြင့် ဆက်စပ်ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

## Flying kite causes Philippine military helicopter crash

MANILA, 30 April — A flying kite may have caused the crash of a Philippine military helicopter on Saturday that killed nine people and injured four others in the central city of Lapu-Lapu, a TV report said on Sunday.

The Philippine Air Force helicopter on its way back to base from a training mission encountered a flying kite before its engine lost the power which led to the crash, the local ABS-CBNTV reported, quoting initial findings of an investigating team from Manila to the accident site.

The Huey helicopter crashed on a road in Lapu-Lapu City, Metro Cebu at 5:55 pm Saturday and killed nine persons, according to a report on early Sunday by the Philippine Air Force.

The crash reportedly missed senatorial candidates Panfilo Lacson and Zosimo Paredes, who were in a van that was en route to the house of the acting mayor of Lapu-Lapu City, when the helicopter crashed 30 metres behind their convoy.

The helicopter crashed onto two tricycles on the

road, killing their seven passengers.

On the other hand, two of the Huey's crew members died. Four of the injured, including two Air Force personnel and two civilians, were brought to the hospital for treatment.

The incident was the first fatal military aircraft accident this year, said an Air Force spokesman, who added that all their helicopters are "well maintained" although they are old.

The Air Force has ensured compensations for the victims.

MNA/Xinhua

## Monster hog to revive in horror movie

BEIJING, 29 April — A legendary monster hog named "Hogzilla" will hit the big screen as an independent filmmaker is producing a horror movie about it, US media reported on Saturday.

The movie, called "The Legend of Hogzilla," has even enlisted the beast's killer, guide Chris Griffin, on the set as an adviser.

"He's our hog expert," producer Rick Trimm said of Griffin.

The super swine had roamed south Georgia, US, and was shot dead in 2004 at a hunting preserve.

Photos of the porker hanging from a backhoe



Chris Griffin, 31, poses beside the half-ton wild hog he shot near Alapaha, in 17 June, 2004 file photo. INTERNET

were sent around the world, and the town of Alapaha 180 miles (290 kilometres) south of Atlanta quickly adopted Hogzilla as its own, even launching a parade in the pig's honour.

The pig's existence was confirmed in 2005 by A National Geographic team after exhumed the

behemoth's remains.

The team estimated it weighed around 800 pounds (363 kilograms) and was probably about 8 (2.44 metre) feet long.

Local hunters said earlier the pig was 12 feet (3.66 metre) long and weighed 1,000 (454 kilograms) pounds.

Internet

## Scientists develop new anti-cancer medicine

PRAGUE, 28 April — Czech scientists have developed a new medicine against lymph node cancer which has had very good effects in tests so far, the daily *Mlada fronta Dnes* reported on Saturday.

According to the paper, malignant tumors on tested dogs' throats and stomachs disappeared after six days of treatment by use of the medicine.

The new medicine is unique as it affects only cancer-hit cells without destroying healthy tissue, the paper said.



Its application is thus not as drastic as, for example, chemotherapy, which destroys the whole immunity system, it added.

The US company Gilead has started to test the substance, developed in Prague's Institute for Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry and de-

signed to treat lymph node cancer on several thousands of patients in the US, the paper said.

The researchers are now trying to detect possible side effects of the medicine that could be put on sale in about six years.

The new medicine is effective in the case of lymph node cancer that makes up one-fourth of all cancerous diseases. It affects tumors in abdomen, chest, thymus and spleen, the paper wrote.

Internet

## Clash kills four policemen, six militants in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 April — Four Afghan policemen and six Taliban militants were killed in a clash in the southern Uruzgan Province, provincial police chief Mohammad Qasim said Friday.

Some Taliban rebels raided a police checkpoint in Chora District on Thursday night and the police fought back, Qasim told *Xinhua*, adding six enemies and four policemen were killed.

The government has said Afghan forces are surrounding 200 militants including a major Taliban commander, Mullah Dadullah, in a village of Chora District. Due to rising Taliban-linked insurgency, over 900 persons, mostly Taliban rebels, have been killed in Afghanistan this year. — MNA/Xinhua



Lisa (L) and Jessica Origliasso of *The Veronicas* pose as they arrive for the MTV Australia Video Music Awards in Sydney on 29 April, 2007.

INTERNET

## California warns against eating poisoned seafood

LOS ANGELES, 30 April — The California Department of Health Services on Friday issued a warning against eating some seafood poisoned by nerve toxin domoic acid. They listed the seafood as sport-harvested shellfish, sardines anchovies and sport-harvested or commercially caught lobster and crab from the California coast.

An unusually high level of the nerve toxin domoic acid found in naturally occurring red tide was

identified as the culprit that is killing sea birds and marine mammals along the California coast, according to health officials.

Lisa Birkle, director of the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Centre, said samples from among the 75 dead birds collected since Monday from Dana Point to Seal Beach on the coast were sent to the University of Southern California (USC) for testing.

Astrid Schnitzer, research assistant professor in the Department

of Biological Science at Caron Labs at USC, said the domoic acid level "was so high," that she was able to see traces "with the naked eye".

Birkle said the toxin in the ocean "is in such concentrated form that it is bringing these animals down faster than I have ever seen".

The deaths of hundreds of marine mammals and birds in the past recent weeks were linked with the toxin off the California coast. — MNA/Xinhua



## SPORTS

## Keane: Hard work starts now



Roy Keane

LONDON, 30 April—Roy Keane feels the hard work starts now following Sunderland's promotion to the Premiership.

Derby County's defeat at Crystal Palace on Sunday ensured The Black Cats, and Birmingham City, were promoted with a game to spare.

The achievement comes in Keane's first season as a manager and he is now determined to make his mark in the top flight.

"Going up means this is where the real hard work will start," said Keane in the Daily Mirror.

"But we don't just want to struggle along.

"We want to make our mark. You only have to

look at what the likes of Reading and Wigan have done over the last few years in their first season."

Meanwhile, Jonny Evans admits it is 'unbelievable' how his loan move to The Stadium of Light has worked out.

The defender, along with Manchester United team-mate Danny Simpson, linked up with Sunderland in January and he is delighted to be part of a promotion-winning side.

Evans told the club's official website: "It's brilliant. I'm still shaking with the adrenalin. I watched the second half of the [Derby] game in a bar in Durham and it was weird when it got close to the final whistle.

"Coming to Sunderland has been unbelievable for me, the way things have turned out. "Me and Danny Simpson were just talking about how brilliant the fans are here, they have really appreciated us and I'm so pleased for them."—Internet

## Bordeaux go second by beating Lens with 10 men

PARIS, 30 April — Girondins Bordeaux extended their strong Ligue 1 run by beating Racing Lens 1-0 on Sunday to move into second place despite playing most of the match with 10 men.

Brazilian forward Jussie, who joined Bordeaux from Lens during the winter break, scored the winner from close range on 13 minutes.

Bordeaux then had Tunisia defender David Jemmali sent off for a dangerous tackle on Ivory Coast striker Aruna Dindane seven minutes from the break.

MNA/Reuters



Igor Kunitsyn of Russia hits a return against Pedro Sousa of Portugal during their match at the Estoril Open tennis tournament in Lisbon on 29 April, 2007.—INTERNET

## Jose hits back at Ronaldo



Cristiano Ronaldo

LONDON, 30 April — Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has continued his war of words with Cristiano Ronaldo by saying he is immature and lacks respect.

The Portuguese tactician started the row by complaining that Manchester United had the rub

of the green when it came to penalty decisions.

Ronaldo, not one to take the criticism, replied in kind by stating Mourinho 'does not know how to admit his own' failures. However, Mourinho has hit back at the skilful winger and believes a lack of education maybe behind his outspoken nature.

The Chelsea manager maintains though that he has no quarrel with Sir Alex Ferguson, or Ronaldo.

"It's a game where a kid had some statements not very...not showing maturity and respect, maybe difficult childhood, no education, maybe the consequence of that," he said in the Daily Mail.

"Sir Alex felt he had to protect this boy. But normal things...I have no problems with him (Ferguson). I have no problem with the boy."—Internet

## Roma tighten grip on second

ROME, 30 April — AS Roma closed in on Serie A's second automatic Champions League qualifying place after they drew 0-0 with city rivals Lazio on Sunday.

The result left Roma needing three points from their remaining four matches to be sure of finishing runners-up in the division behind champions Inter Milan, who host Empoli in a later match (kickoff 1930 GMT).

Lazio are fourth on 58 points, one point behind AC Milan, who beat Torino 1-0 on Saturday.

Elsewhere, Palermo's new coach Renzo Gobbi began his tenure with a 2-1 win over Livorno, ending the Sicilian side's run of 11 matches without a win and lifting it to fifth on 52 points, while Parma beat Cagliari 2-1 to move three points clear of the relegation zone.

MNA/Reuters

## Rafa: Pressure on Blues

LONDON, 30 April—Liverpool boss Rafa Benitez believes the pressure is firmly on Chelsea when the sides clash in the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday.

Despite The Blues holding a 1-0 advantage from their first leg tie at Stamford Bridge, they fell five points behind Manchester United in the title race at the weekend.

Benitez knows Jose Mourinho must land silverware regularly and believes the pressure is firmly on the ex-Porto man at Anfield.

Liverpool's Spanish boss is happy his side only have a one goal deficit to make up and is looking forward to dumping Chelsea out of Europe.

"I don't want to analyse what Chelsea say or do,"



Rafa Benitez

Benitez said in the Daily Express. "All I know is that they have spent millions and millions and they need to win trophies."

"If you spend this amount of money, it is to win trophies." "That means if they cannot win the league now, they will be under real pressure."

"The positive thing for me is that we played badly, but conceded one at Stamford Bridge."

Internet



Richard McCaw (R) of The Crusaders and George Gregan (L) of The Brumbies talk after their Super 14 rugby match in Canberra on 28 April, 2007.—INTERNET

## Late flurry gives Arsenal 3-1 win over Fulham

LONDON, 30 April—Arsenal scored twice in the last six minutes to secure a 3-1 home victory over Fulham that left their London rivals deep in relegation danger on Sunday.

Saturday's results had already guaranteed Arsenal a top-four finish and a place in the Champions League qualifiers but they are now only a point behind Liverpool in the battle for third — which brings only pride and some extra income.

Fulham remain fifth-bottom on 36 points, one point above both Wigan Athletic and West Ham United. Their last two games are at home to Liverpool and away to Middlesbrough.

Arsenal produced a performance that encapsulated their season - total domination marred by over-indulgent passing and a chronic failure to turn chances into goals.

It looked good after four minutes when Julio Baptista headed home a cross by Emmanuel Adebayor but though it remained one-way traffic they rarely threatened a second.

Fulham had plenty of the ball but did not manage an effort on goal until 12 minutes from time — when they scored.

Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann, perhaps bored by his lack of involvement, tried to claim a cross at the edge of his box but his poor punch went only to Simon Davies, who coolly lobbed it straight back in for the equalizer.—MNA/Reuters

## Sevilla go top with 3-1 win over Espanyol

MADRID, 30 April — Sevilla shrugged off any doubts that they may be struggling to compete on three fronts with a convincing 3-1 home win over Espanyol to go top of the Primera Liga on Sunday.

Juande Ramos' side are in the semifinals of the UEFA Cup and the King's Cup but were all over Espanyol, another side in the final four of the UEFA Cup. Antonio Puerta, Ernesto Chevanton and Jose Luis Marti all scored after the break to move their side on to 61 points with six games left.

Barcelona (59) can return to the top with a win at home to Levante later on Sunday, when third-placed Real Madrid (57) visit Athletic Bilbao.

Valencia are fourth with 56 points after a Joaquin double gave them a 2-0 home win over Recreativo Huelva on Saturday. Sergio Garcia's last minute header earned fifth-placed Real Zaragoza a late 2-2 draw away to Osasuna to put them on 54 points, three ahead of Atletico Madrid.

Celta Vigo's 3-0 home defeat to Real Mallorca saw them slip into the bottom three along with Real Sociedad and Gimnastic.—MNA/Reuters



# US House panel invites former CIA chief to testify

WASHINGTON, 30 April — The chairman of a US House of Representatives investigative committee on Friday invited former CIA director George Tenet to testify about prewar claims that Iraq sought weapons of mass destruction.

Representative Henry Waxman, a California Democrat, who heads the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, invited George Tenet, whose new book criticizes the Bush Administration, to testify at a hearing before the panel on 10 May.

“The purpose of the hearing is to learn your views about one of the claims used to justify the

war in Iraq—the assertion that Iraq sought to import uranium from Niger — and related issues,” Waxman said in a letter addressed to the care of Tenet’s lawyer, Robert Barnett.

The committee this week subpoenaed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to testify about the now refuted Iraq-Niger uranium claim. The

administration said it might fight the subpoena.

The claim about Niger was one of the administration’s main justifications for the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. Critics later said the White House twisted intelligence to build support for the war, which the administration denies.

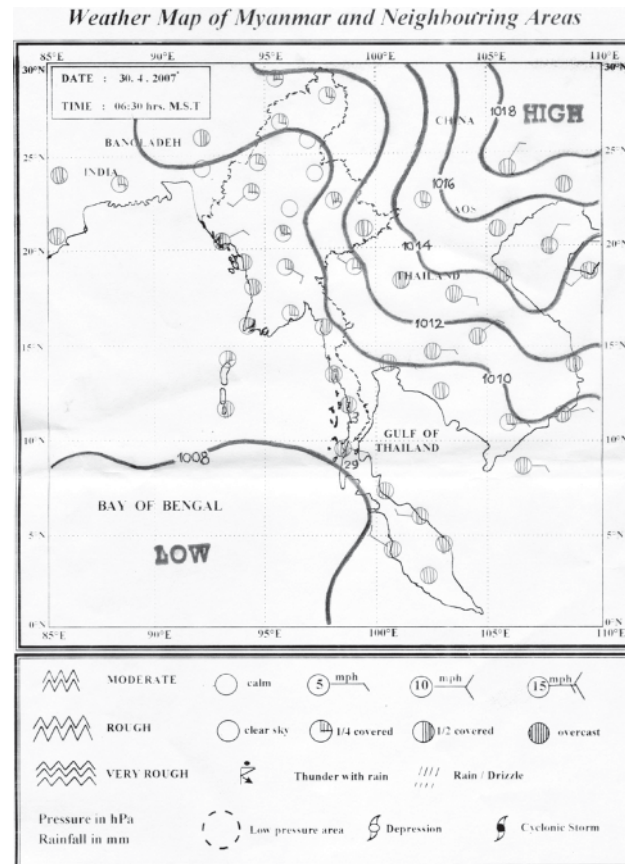
Shortly after the invasion, the CIA concluded that the Iraq-

Niger uranium report was based on forged documents and was therefore no longer credible.

Tenet, who resigned from the Central Intelligence Agency in July 2004, has done a series of interviews this week to promote his book *At the Centre of the Storm*, which is due to be released next week.

In the book, Tenet is reported to have written that President George W Bush took the country to war without “a serious debate that I know of within the administration about the imminence of the Iraqi threat”.

MNA/Reuters



Spain’s Infanta Cristina (R) presents the trophy to Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal after he won the Barcelona Open tennis tournament in Spain on 29 April, 2007. Nadal defeated Guillermo Canas of Argentina. — INTERNET

## WEATHER

Monday, 30 April, 2007

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Shan and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (43°C), Minbu, Shwegyin and Thayawady (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthoung (1.14) inches, Kyauktaw (0.39) inch and Pyapon (0.20) inch.

Maximum temperature on 29-4-2007 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 30-4-2007 was 79°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 30-4-2007 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 29-4-2007 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 30-4-2007 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South at (18:30) hours MST on 29-4-2007.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 1-5-2007:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of likelihood of thundery conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 1-5-2007:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 1-5-2007:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 1-5-2007:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Tuesday, 1 May  
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:  
-Love so high ... Cher
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:  
-No one at all ... Firehouse
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:  
-Walkin' on the sun ... Smash Mouth
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:  
-Closing time ... Semisonic
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music  
-Somewhere, someday ... Jennifer Paige  
-Straight from the heart ... Bryan Adams  
-Deeper and deeper ... Pauline Wilson
- 9:00pm English Speaking Course Level (II) Unit (29)
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20pm Weekly sport reel
- 9:30pm Music at your listening pleasure  
-Addicted ... Enrique Iglesias  
-Here in my heart ... Tiffany
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 1 May  
View on today

- 7:00 am  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am  
2. တီပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာ ဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သောဥပပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am  
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am  
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am  
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am  
6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
- 8:05 am  
7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am  
8. Song of yesteryears
- 8:25 am  
9. လှပခန့်ညား ဖျာပုံတံတား
- 8:30 am  
10. International news
- 8:45 am  
11. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm  
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm  
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm  
4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (တတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (တတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm  
5. Dance of national races
- 5:15 pm  
6. “သူငယ်ချင်းမရှိတဲ့ဥပဒေ” (မင်းဝေ၊ ခင်စာခြည်ကျော်၊ ဧကရီကျော်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ယဉ်ကျော်)
- 5:25 pm  
7. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:00 pm  
8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm  
9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm  
10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:50 pm  
11. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 7:05 pm  
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သစ္စာ ဘဝပင်ခြားသော်လည်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
- 8:00 pm  
13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရေသူ မလေးဒုတိယချစ်ပုံပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 17. The next day's programme

\*R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 297028



**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

# Religious associations, worshippers pour water at Bo trees to mark Buddha Day

YANGON, 30 April — Religious associations gathered at different pagodas here today to mark the day that Lord Buddha was born, attained the Enlightenment and attained Parinibbana (passed away).

They poured water at sacred Bo Trees of the pagodas to mark the day which falls on the Fullmoon of the second month of the Myanmar Calendar, Kason.

The ceremonies took place at Shwedagon Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Botahtaung Kyaikdayup Pagoda, Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda, Maha Dhamma Yanthi Eindawya Pagoda, Kaba Aye Pagoda, Bo Tree on Kaba Aye Hill, Atula Dipiti Maha Muni Thakya Kohtupgyi Pagoda, Kyaikwaing Pagoda and others here today.

The generous Buddhist people from all walks of life also participated in the ceremonies held at the pagodas and poured water at Bo trees. Lord Buddha attained the Enlightenment under the sacred Bodhi Tree in India.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees organized the 24th ceremony to pour water at Bo Trees in the precinct of the pagoda today. First, the congregation took the Nine Precepts from the Presiding Sayadaw of Theingi Oo Monastery and members of the Sangha consecrated Buddha Images at sacred Bo Trees and poured water at the holy trees. While pouring waters at the trees, the congregation recited the religious verses.

Shwedagon Pagoda was teeming with devotees today and they also poured waters to the sacred trees.



*Shwedagon Pagoda being packed with devotees on Fullmoon Day of Kason. — MNA*

The 21st ceremony to pour water at the Bo Tree at Maha Wizaya Pagoda was held at the pagoda today. Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees watered the Bo Tree along with religious associations.

The Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees organized

the ceremony to pour water at Bo Tree in the precinct of the pagoda today.

Members of the board, religious associations, social organizations and worshippers attended the ceremony. First, members of the Sangha led by the Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti Monastery recited religious verses and poured water at the Bo tree. And members of the board and wellwishers presented offertories to members of the Sangha and shared merits gained.

Similarly, the Botahtaung Kyaikdayup Pagoda Board of Trustees also organized an auspicious ceremony to pour water at the sacred Bo Tree in the precinct of the pagoda today.

*(See page 10)*



*Members of a religious association pour water at a Bo Tree in precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA*

**SIGNIFICANT DAY TEMPERATURES**

**30-4-2007**

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| NAY PYI TAW | 104°F |
| YANGON      | 104°F |
| MANDALAY    | 100°F |
| CHAUK       | 109°F |
| MINBU       | 106°F |
| SHWE GYIN   | 106°F |
| THAYAWADY   | 106°F |