**Four political objectives**

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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

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**Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, on 15 April, inspected Shweli Hydropower Project being implemented near Mantet village, about 17 miles southwest of Namkhan in Shan State (North).**

NNA

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**Villages along Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road benefiting from new transport facilities**

On our tour along Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road for which the project was launched on 1 June 2000, I noticed remarkable development of the villages of Yinmabin, Kani and Mingin Townships. The road was coping with a constant flow of vehicles, especially motorcycles and motorized trailers that are common in the region.

Of the road, the 40-mile section from Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) is a fine one and is serviceable all-year round. However, just after leaving mile post No. 45 (50), we had to pass an over-1500-foot mountain range. The responsible persons who accompanied us explained that the 13-mile section went upwards and downwards steeply in many sites and so, it needed constant maintenance.

(See page 7)

**Pahtolone Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road near Larport Village.**

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**Not very demanding if peace talk is desired**

Actually, KNU came into existence earlier than any other armed group in the course of the internal armed insurgency history of Myanmar, but it has been unable to make peace cent per cent despite several unique opportunities to do so due to the disruptive influence of certain elements.

**PAGE 10**

Saw Hla Aung
Boost production and improve quality of products

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe went on inspection tour of Kyaukse Industrial Region in Mandalay Division on 16 April and gave guidance.

So far, a cement plant, vest factory, candy factory, shoe factory, sewing machine factory, bicycle factory, fire-proof brick factory and plastic factory have begun their manufacturing lines, and a glass factory is under construction in the industrial region.

State-owned factories need to focus on boosting production and improving the quality of goods.

The region has started manufacturing plastic lanterns made with the use of waste plastic, cement bags and natural raw materials for limestone, quality fire-proof bricks, cement, cement bags and natural raw materials for glass factories on a large scale.

The government is attending to the needs of private-owned factories apart from the State-owned ones.

All the factories across the nation therefore have to try to boost production of goods and improve their quality in response to the government’s rendering assistance to them.

Paritta water poured into lakes in Yangon

YANGON, 18 April—

Yangon City Development Committee organized a ceremony to hear Parittas (religious verses) and pour Paritta blessed-water into the lakes at Yangon City Hall yesterday afternoon.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Zawtikayon Monastery in Pyay, Bago Division, Abhidhaja Maha Ratta Guru Bhaddanta Kandalajoti invested the congregation including Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Chairman Col Maung Pa with the Five Precepts. The monks recited Metta sutta and Parittas.

The mayor and the vice-mayor and the attendees offered alms to the monks.

Then, the mayor, the vice-mayor and officials poured the blessed water into the lake in the compound of YCDC. The water from the lakes: Gyobyu, Hlawgar, Ngamoeyeik and Phugyi is pumped for supply to local people, with the aim of getting rid of possible dangers and harms to Yangonites.

In like manner, officials concerned poured blessed water into the tanks in water supply camps (1) and (2) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

UMFCCI meets Bangladeshi delegation

YANGON, 18 April — Vice-Presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, Director-General U Khin Maung Lay of Directorate of Trade, General Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint Secretary-3 U Tin Maung Win, Joint Secretary-4 Dr Myo Thet and Joint Secretary-5 Dr Pwint San of the federation met the 11-member Bangladeshi delegation led by Secretary Mr. Feroz Ahmed of the Ministry of Commerce of Bangladesh at the office of the federation on 6 April.

They held comprehensive discussions on boosting bilateral trade, direct exports, arrangements for banking services and border trade.

Hlinethaya celebrates water festival

YANGON, 18 April — Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Division was being packed with the revellers happily throwing water to each other at the pavilions on Maha Thingyan Atat Day, 16 April.

Chairman U Khin Maung and officials of Township Peace and Development Council visited the pavilions. At 6 p.m., the pandals in wards were closed with the song “Myananda”—MNA
Afghanistan, 17 April, 2009. An earthquake measured 5.5 magnitude and an aftershock 5.1 magnitude shook eastern Afghanistan early Friday, killing at least 25 people and wounding 30.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,274
WASHINGTON, 18 April — As of Thursday, 17 April, 2009, at least 4,274 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,433 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action.

The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

WASHINGTON, 18 April — As of Friday, 15 April, 2009, at least 606 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Wednesday at 10 am EDT. Of those, the military reports 446 were killed by hostile action.

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Afghans look at the wreckage of a vehicle which was destroyed during a blast, in the outskirts of Mazara-sharif north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 17 April, 2009. A Norwegian intelligence officer serving with the Nordic nation’s peacekeeping force was killed by a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan on Friday, the military said.—INTERNET

At least four die as mortar rounds hit Baghdad suburb
BAGHDAD, 18 April — Mortar rounds hit a Shiite enclave south of Baghdad on Friday, killing at least four people in the latest sign of violence returning to areas that US and Iraqi forces have considered largely stable.

The attack in the Jisr Diyala district — although small compared with recent bombings — reinforced worries that security forces may need to shift attention back to areas that have been relatively quiet in recent months even as they battle to control the last insurgent strongholds north of Baghdad in Diyala and Mosul.

It also raised concerns about Iraq’s ability to maintain security in Baghdad and other key areas after the US military withdraws from major cities by the end of June.

Police and hospital officials said the mortar attack in Jir Diyala killed at least four people and wounded about 10 others. The district in southeastern Baghdad is primarily Shiite, but is surrounded by heavily Sunni areas.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to release the information.—INTERNET

Suicide bombing kills three, wounds three in W Afghanistan
KABUL, 18 April — A suicide bomber blew himself up in Nimroz Province west of Afghanistan on Friday, killing three persons and injuring three others, all of them civilians, provincial governor Gulham Dastgir Azad said.

Two terrorists tied explosive device in their bodies wanted to target minister for Refugees Affairs in provincial capital Zaranj but police shot one of them dead while other blew himself up, killing three civilians,” Azad told Xinhua.

Three more civilians were injured, he added.

The minister for Refugees Affairs who is touring Nimroz is safe and there were no casualties on police, he further said.

This is the second suicide attack in Afghanistan in one single day on Friday. The previous suicide car bomb attack in the northern Balkh Province wounded two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Taliban militants have vowed to intensify their attacks as they battle to control the last insurgent strongholds north of Baghdad in Diyala and Mosul. The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

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A military statement says the Multi National Force - West Marine died Thursday. The statement says the Marine’s name is being withheld pending notification of family and that the incident is under investigation.—INTERNET

Afghan paramedics treat a wounded Afghan boy in a hospital after he was wounded in a roadside bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Saturday, 18 April, 2009. A roadside bomb targeting a police vehicle in Kandahar city killed a woman and wounded five other people including three civilians, said Abdullah Khan, the provincial deputy police chief.—INTERNET

Attorney: man killed in G-20 riots by hemorrhage
LONDON, 18 April — An attorney representing the family of a man who died during the riots before Group of 20 summit said Friday he suffered from an abdominal hemorrhage — not a heart attack, as was first thought.

Jules Carey said a second autopsy was conducted on Ian Tomlinson after videotape emerged appearing to show the newspaper vendor being shoved to the ground by police. The first autopsy had said he died as the result of a heart attack. Carey said Friday that the findings increase the possibility that the officer implicated in the incident could face charges.

Britain’s Independent Police Complaints Commission said that the officer, who has been suspended from duty amid an inquiry, was questioned Friday on suspicion of manslaughter. The commission is investigating the death of Tomlinson, 47, who collapsed minutes after his encounter with police. He was attempting to travel home when he was caught in protests close to the Bank of England, in central London.

“First we were told that there had been no contact with the police, then we were told that he died of a heart attack. Now we know that he was violently assaulted by a police officer and died from internal bleeding,” Tomlinson’s son Paul King said. “As time goes on, we hope that the full truth about how Ian died will be made known.”—INTERNET

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Argentina urges end of US embargo against Cuba

Puerto de Suero (Trinidad and Tobago), 18 April — Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner on Friday urged the United States to lift its 47-year-old embargo against Cuba. “It is now to look at the embargo and request that it be lifted,” Fernandez de Kirchner told the opening ceremony of the 5th Summit of the Americas.

“We recognize President Obama and appreciate what you have done in reestablishing relations by reversing some of the absurd regulations introduced by the Bush administration in 2004,” she told 34 heads of state of the Organization of American States (OAS) at the summit.

“When listening to Cuba stating its full openness and willingness to talk with the US about all matters, such as human rights, political prisoners and so on, we think in the Americas we are now given a second opportunity to build a new relationship,” she said. “We shouldn’t miss it,” she added. Cuban President Raul Castro told a regional summit in Venezuela on Thursday that his country was open for talks with Washington about “everything.”

“We have sent word to the US government in private and in public that we are willing to discuss everything — human rights, freedom of the press, political prisoners, everything,” Castro said.— Internet

Spring snowstorm shuts down Colo, Wyo roads

DENVER, 18 April—More than a foot of wet, heavy snow closed highways and canceled flights in parts of Colorado and Wyoming on Friday, snarling traffic and forcing school closures and flight cancellations.

The American Red Cross was looking for more space Friday night after the shelter it opened for people staying in Colorado and Wyoming on Friday, snarling traffic and forcing school closures and flight cancellations. Power lines weighed down by snow tripped system circuit breakers and knocked out electricity for more than 16,000 customers in Colorado.

Up to 3 feet of snow was expected by Saturday night in the mountains above 6,000 feet, forecasters said. Nearly 3 feet already had fallen in Rocky Mountain National Park about 60 miles northwest of Denver. The chilly weather forced a return to heavy coats and snow boots for some who already had packed away their winter clothes.—Internet

Indonesian telecommunication firm gets financing assistance from China counterpart

JAKARTA, 18 April—Indonesia publicly-listed company PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom) obtained a 100 million US dollars financial assistance from Huawei, a Chinese telecommunication company, a Telkom’s official said.

The financing assistance agreement has been signed, Bisnis Indonesia daily Saturday quoted Telkom’s Financial Director SudiroAsno as saying.

It would be the initial disbursement of Huawei’s total financing assistance commitment for Telkom that worth one billion US dollars, he said.—Internet

Homes damaged as cyclone lashes Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG, 18 April —A cyclone packing winds of up to 90 kilometres (56 miles) on hour lashed Bangladesh’s southeastern coastal area, damaging houses and uprooting trees, officials said Saturday.

A woman tidies up bed and toys in the sleeping room of a flat inside the Beijing SOS Children’s Village, in Daxing district, Beijing, on 17 April, 2009. The Village, the 10th in China, co-sponsored by the Beijing government and SOS Kinderdorf International (SOS KDI) and set to open in July, will house up to 120 orphans aged 4 to 12 chosen by local civil affairs bureaus in Beijing and other parts of the country.

California unemployment rate hit record 11.2%

LOS ANGELES, 18 April —California’s unemployment rate increased to 11.2 percent last month, the highest level since the government began keeping systematic records in 1976, the US Department of Labour reported Friday.

The state, which accounts for the largest share in the US economy, lost more than 62,100 jobs in March, the 12th consecutive month of increases in the jobless number.

The rate was up from 10.8 percent in February, and 6.2 percent in March 2008, when California began losing jobs as the economic recession took hold.

The latest unemployment rate was well above the national unemployment rate of 8.5 percent in March, up from 8.1 percent in February and 5.1 percent in March 2008, according to the Department of Labour.

California

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California unemployment rate hit record 11.2%
Nationwide Chinese E-govt system has been built

BEIJING, 18 April—As of the end of 2008, the country’s government administration at central, provincial and municipal levels have all set up official Web sites, said Yang Xueshan, vice minister of Industry and Information Technology Ministry at the China E-government Forum opened on Thursday.

More than 90 percent of county-level governments and even many towns and villages have established portal Web sites, Yang added.

He said the Decree of Government Information Openness, which went into practice formally on 1 May last year, had greatly promoted China’s government information sharing process.

“The across nation e-government system being built, can it be a good channel between government and the public,” said WeiLiqun, senior official at China National School of Administration.

These Web sites post government news, notices and documents. Some even has started an online application and approval service for licenses, to better help the people. —Xinhua

Pilot killed as US small plane crashes into house

WASHINGTON, 18 April—A small plane crashed in a home in Florida after taking off from an airport on Friday, killing the pilot, according to a local TV report. The report by the WPLG TV said that the pilot, who was tentatively identified as 80-year-old Cecil Alexander Murray, died when the twin-engine Cessna 421-B, which can hold up to eight people, was registered to an air charter company in Tamarac, a Fort Lauderdale suburb.

A local county sheriff Al Lamberti told the TV that the plane took off from the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport en route to Fernandina Beach, where the pilot would try to sell it.

Before the crash, the pilot radioed the air traffic control tower and said that he had to return due to mechanical difficulties and engine problems, he said.

However, the plane lost altitude on its way back to the airport, and hit a power line and a tree before it crashed into the house, which burst into flames immediately, he added. According to the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), the Cessna, which can hold up to eight people, was registered to an air charter company in Tamarac, a Fort Lauderdale suburb.

According to local fire rescue officials, houses around the crash site were briefly evacuated and most of the fire was extinguished by about noon.

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Cuba receives wheat aid from Russia

HAVANA, 18 April—The Cuban government received on Friday around 23,000 tons of wheat donated by Russia for the victims of the hurricanes that whipped the island in 2008.

Russian Ambassador to Cuba Mikhail Kamynin delivered the humanitarian aid, saying this was the first part of the 150,000 tons of wheat that Russia will give to Cuba.

“We expect the vessels to arrive in the coming months, in a gesture of solidarity and friendship which is characteristic of the ties between both countries,” Kamynin said.

Cuban Exterior Commerce and Foreign Investment Vice Minister Orlando Hernandez expressed thanks to Russia, saying that “Cubans, since the triumph of the Revolution on 1 Jan, 1959, have had many opportunities to know the friendship showed by Russian people.” —Xinhua

Japan lifts restrictions on Chilean pork export

SANTIAGO, 18 April—Chilean pork has been allowed to be exported to Japan without restrictions starting Friday, the Agriculture Ministry said.

“This measure reveals the professionalism reached by the services of this ministry, and it is about to reach Chile’s goal of becoming a food power,” Agriculture Minister Marigen Hornkohl said.

Japan imposed a ban on the import of pork from 18 places in Chile after detecting dioxin in the pork last year. Thanks to the measures taken by the Agriculture Live Stock Service, it is verified that these places are not polluted anymore.

The Association of Pork Producers of Chile has proposed to improve the image of Chilean pork in Japan through the trade mark “ChilePork” as part of its international exporting strategy. —Xinhua

Two killed in shootings in Chicago

CHICAGO, 18 April—At least two people were killed and three others wounded in two separate shootings within minutes across the city of Chicago Friday afternoon.

Police said details on the shootings, which all occurred in a 15-minute span after 3 pm (2000 GMT), are still unknown. Two 18-year-olds were wounded in what police described as a drive-by shooting about 3:15 pm (2215 GMT) outside a public library.

One of the victims, shot in the neck, was taken to hospital and pronounced dead about an hour later, according to hospital sources. The other victim was shot in the face and was reported in serious condition, according to police.

Five people stabbed in northwestern Chicago

CHICAGO, 18 April—A father, his daughter and a grandmother were slain in a stabbing Friday morning at their home in Hoffman Estates, about 50 kilometres northwest of Chicago. Local police received a call from a “distraught female” about 6:44 am claiming someone had been stabbed inside a residence in the 1000 block of North Bluebonnet Lane, according to police sources.

When officers arrived, they found five people stabbed — including two dead on the scene — after an apparent fight. All five knew each other and range in age from 18 up, Russo said.

Cuban Exterior Commerce and Foreign Investment Vice Minister Orlando Hernandez (2nd R) in a wheat-presenting ceremony in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 17 April, 2009. Russia donated 22,000 tons of wheat to Cuba for the hurricane-stricken people on Friday. Last year, Cuba was whipped by three hurricanes that caused loss of up to 10 billion US dollars.—Xinhua

Police investigate the scene of a train crash in Karow, north of Berlin on 17 April, 2009. A German passenger train collided with a freight train late on Thursday, injuring 24 people, police said. “Nine people were taken to hospital but no-one suffered life-threatening injuries,” said a police spokesman, adding no liquid gas had escaped from the freight train, which was made up of 24 tankers. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

A firefighter surveys the remains of the house split in two after a small plane crashed minutes after take-off in a suburb of Oakland Park, Fla, on 17 April, 2009. —INTERNET

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Uncertainty surrounds death in French piracy raid

RENNES, 18 April—Three Somali pirates who survived a French commando assault to free a sailboat were charged Friday with hijacking the vessel and holding five passengers hostage, one of whom died in the raid, the prosecutor’s office said.

An autopsy could not determine who shot and killed the French skipper during the raid to free the Tanit from the grip of the pirates off Somalia, the prosecutor said Friday. However, for the investigating judges the death of one of the passengers weighs heavily on the prosecution.

The three men, aged 23, 25 and 27, were placed in three separate prisons which officials did not identify. That brings to 15 the number of Somali pirates jailed in France, which has taken a tough line against piracy endangering crucial shipping lanes in the Gulf of Aden.

Peru says only one missing in mudslide, 13 escaped

LIMA, 18 April—Peruvian officials say 13 farmers escaped unharmed from a mudslide in rural Peru, leaving just one person unaccounted for.

Local health official Richard Benavides revised initial reports that as many as 30 people were missing after mud and stones crushed dozens of homes Thursday.

In this undated photo released by the French Defence Ministry on 11 April, 2009, armed pirates and their hostages are seen aboard the French yacht Tanit, off the coast of Somalia. French navy commandos stormed a French sailboat held by pirates off the Somali coast on 10 April, 2009, in an assault triggered by threats the passengers would be executed. Internet

Early stress may increase cocaine effect

NEW ORLEANS, 18 April—Initial drug use can be motivated by curiosity or peer pressure, but in some animals it can result from a stressful event, researchers in Puerto Rico said.

Natalsha Lugo-Escobar, Nicole Carreras and Annabelle C Segarra of University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, said drugs act on the reward centers of the brain.

For the study, rats were stressed as fetuses by housing the pregnant mother alone; as neonates by isolating newborn rats for one hour daily during the first nine days of life; or as adolescents by housing each rat separately during days 21-35.

One group was isolated as fetuses, neonates and adolescents and one group acted as a control. The researchers found that the rats isolated during all three development periods showed a higher locomotor response to cocaine than control rats. Internet

Two more banks fail, lifting this year’s tally to 25

NEW YORK, 18 April—Regulators on Friday shut down two more banks, boosting the number of failures this year to as many as 200 by year’s end.

The tally of 25 bank failures this year all but guarantees the number that fall into the arms of regulators will surpass what was seen in 2008. Two of the nation’s largest savings and loans failed in 2008: Washington Mutual Inc and IndyMac Bank.

Last year’s total was more than in the previous five years combined and up from only three failures in 2007.

The latest banks seized were American Sterling Bank in Missouri and Great Basin Bank of Nevada.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp will continue to insure deposits. Regular deposit accounts are insured up to $250,000.

Customers of both banks can still write checks and use ATM or debit cards. The federal Office of Thrift Supervision took over American Sterling, while the Nevada Financial Institutions Division took control of Great Basin Bank of Nevada. The FDIC was appointed receiver of both banks.

The Missouri offices of American Sterling will reopen Saturday. Those in California and Arizona will open Wednesday. All will open as branches of Metcalf Bank. Depositors of American Sterling will automatically become depositors of Metcalf.

iranian scientists claim they have cloned a goat

iranian scientists have cloned a goat and plan future experiments they hope will lead to a treatment for stroke patients, the leader of the research said Wednesday. the female goat, named Hana, was born early Wednesday in the city of isfahan in central Iran, said Dr. Mohammed Hossein Nase e Isfahani, head of the Royan Research Institute.

"with the birth of hana, Iran is among five countries in the world cloning a baby goat," said Isfahani, an embryologist. In 2006 Iran became the first country in the Middle East to announce it had cloned a sheep. Two and a half years later, that animal is healthy, the institute said.

The effort is part of Iran's quest to become a regional powerhouse in advanced science and technology by 2025. In particular, Iran is striving for achievements in medicine and in aerospace and nuclear technology. Iran's nuclear work has led to an international showdown over Western claims that it wants to develop atomic weapons. Iran says its nuclear activity is aimed at generating electricity, not the bomb.

Laughter is the best medicine

Mirthful laughter was linked to lower cholesterol and less risk of cardiovascular disease in a study of high-risk diabetic patients, US researchers said.

Lee Berk, a psychoneuroimmunologist, of Loma Linda University, and Dr. Stanley Tan, an endocrinologist and diabetes specialist at Oak Crest Health Research Institute in Loma Linda, examined the effects of mirthful laughter on 20 high-risk diabetic patients with hypertension and hyperlipidemia — an elevation of lipids in the bloodstream.

Both groups were started on standard medications for diabetes — glipizide, TZD, metformin, ACE inhibitors and statins. The researchers tracked both groups for 12 months, testing their blood for the stress hormones epinephrine and norepinephrine; HDL, cholesterol; inflammatory cytokines, which contribute to the acceleration of atherosclerosis and C-reactive proteins, a marker of inflammation and cardiovascular disease. One group viewed self-selected humor for 30 minutes in addition to the standard drug therapies.

Iran's first cloned goat at the Royan Research Institute in the central city of Isfahan, Iran. Dr. Mohammed Hossein Nase e Isfahani, head of the Royan Research Institute in Isfahan, Iran, said the female kid, named Hana, was born.

Man holds 100 Guinness records

A New York man has become the first person to simultaneously hold 100 titles in the Guinness Book of World Records following a mass poetry reading.

Ashrita Furman, 54, obtained his 100th simultaneous record Tuesday by organizing a group that read a poem, "Precious" by late Indian spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy, in 111 languages in New York's City Hall Park, the New York Daily News reported Wednesday. "It was fun learning about many of these languages — quite a few I never even heard of," said Furman, who chose Zulu as his language for reading the poem.

Two more banks fail, lifting this year's tally to 25

NEW YORK, 18 April—Regulators on Friday shut down two more banks, boosting the number of failures this year to as many as 200 by year's end.

The tally of 25 bank failures this year all but guarantees the number that fall into the arms of regulators will surpass what was seen in 2008. Two of the nation's largest savings and loans failed in 2008: Washington Mutual Inc and IndyMac Bank.

Last year's total was more than in the previous five years combined and up from only three failures in 2007.

The latest banks seized were American Sterling Bank in Missouri and Great Basin Bank of Nevada. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp will continue to insure deposits. Regular deposit accounts are insured up to $250,000.

Customers of both banks can still write checks and use ATM or debit cards. The federal Office of Thrift Supervision took over American Sterling, while the Nevada Financial Institutions Division took control of Great Basin Bank of Nevada. The FDIC was appointed receiver of both banks.

The Missouri offices of American Sterling will reopen Saturday. Those in California and Arizona will open Wednesday. All will open as branches of Metcalf Bank. Depositors of American Sterling will automatically become depositors of Metcalf.
Villages along Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road benefiting from new transport facilities

**Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon); Photo: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)**

U Aung Kyaw Htwe, Chairman of Larport Village-tract PDC.

U Myint Naing, a driver, tells Kyemon Daily.

A bus on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road section.

The section goes through thick forests and has many bends. Previously, the region called Hse-ywa-gyaung between the east bank and west bank of the Pahtolone Creek had poor transport due to geographical barriers. In contrast, the region now has occupied a strategic position, standing in the middle part of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road.

Regarding the transport of the region around 1998, a local of Monywa told the Kyemon Daily, "After I was promoted to the post of a junior assistant teacher, I was posted to the school of Larport Village. I had to travel by car then by bullock-cart to Yagyi at the foot of the mountain range, and spent the night there. And I had to make my way to the village with a sword and a meal package passing through the forest and over the mountain range. The road was just a pathway at that time. We could get across the Pahtolone Creek easily only in summer, and if wishing to go to Kalaywa from Monywa had to take a bus for 165 miles along Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road; that to take that trip was a challenge in the rainy season; that the 115-mile Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road Project was launched on 1 June 2000 and completed in 2003-2004 fiscal year; that the project comprised six above-180-foot bridges, 20 medium and small bridges, and 322 culvert boxes; that on average in a day, the road dealt with seven cargo trucks, 10 air-conditioned buses, and over 20 small buses between Monywa and Kalaywa, and 18 trucks, 26 buses and 16 small buses between the villages on the road and urban areas.

The 450-foot-long Pahtolone Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road near Larport Village is of reinforced concrete type with steel girders. The construction of the bridge began on 1 December 2003 and finished on 3 January 2004.

Chairman of Larport Village-tract Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Htwe said that till 2000, by boat and by bullock-cart were main modes of transport for local people to travel to Mingin and Kanni and they had to take vessels to transport their goods. Due to Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road, Larport Village-tract is now on the verge of transforming itself into a town with the row of shops, restaurants, a rural health care centre, and an affiliated basic education high school.

Ko Myint Naing, a driver from Wingon-Monywa bus line said that due to the bridge, he could make a round-trip between Larport and Monywa in a day, load goods onto the trucks right at the village, and drive to Kalaywa directly. We believe that other villages along the road will enjoy rapid development like Hse-ywa-gyaung region and Larport Village-tract.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 13-4-2009

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Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa Road at entrance to Yagyi Village.
**Green cyclone Bijli lifts danger warning**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 April**—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department released an announcement today that according to the 5 a.m. MST observatory, Cyclone Bijli, which had centered at the northeast of the Bay of Bengal, crossed between the coastal areas of Cox’s Bazar and Chittagong of Bangladesh at last midnight.

After passing the inland area, the remnants of Bijli is moving with clouds to Myanmar’s eastern part through northern regions of the country. Impacted by the remnants of the cyclone, rain is likely to be widespread in Kachin, Chin, northern Shan and northern Rakhine States, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy fall in some regions within 24 hours starting this morning. In addition to the rain, likelihood of surface wind speed will be 30 to 40 mph temporarily.

Due to isolated heavy rain, the suddenly overflows and landslides are likely to be occurred at creeks and small rivers on the highland regions. Therefore, those living near the creeks and small rivers have to be in alert of the dangers of suddenly overflows and landslides.

The force of Bijli was degraded as the green colour lifted the warning for danger of the cyclone.

The department forecast that the weather will be fine after 24-hour period starting this morning.—**MNA**

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**Industry-2 Minister meets local people of Kyunsu Township**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 April**—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspected construction of the island ring road in Kyunsu of Taninthayi Division on 12 April.

He met with local people of Ye Gautung, Kyetcharung, Kaleinbe, Mawjut and Panlonaw villages in Kyunsu Township on 13 April, the people of six villages on 14 April, those of 10 villages on 15 April and those of four villages on 16 April.

In the meetings, the minister explained use of bio-battery and donated 20 sets of bio-battery, 500 lanterns installed with 60 LED bulbs, ten 5KW hydropower generators and 550 bags of cement for renovation of the schools to the region.—**MNA**

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**Mandalay Mayor Central Pandal’s prize-presentation ceremony takes place**

**YANGON, 18 April**—A prize presentation ceremony of Mandalay Mayor Central Pandal took place at the pandal on Maha Thyangya Atec Day of 1370 Myanmar Era, 16 April.

Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han presented prizes to U Myo Thant Tun (Unique) (CDD Group), Academy Sein Muta and Academy U Thaw Zin (Lawuinein Music) in the pandal design contest.

The officials presented prizes to the winners in the colour photo contest. Then, the Mayor and officials gave away prizes to the winners in the decorated float contest.

Next, the dance troupe entertained the guests with dance and songs. In the evening, the closing ceremony of the pandal was held with the speech of welcome to the New Year by the Mandalay Mayor.—**MNA**

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**Ahlon Gas Power Plant inspected**

**YANGON, 18 April**—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint heard reports of the local officials, those of 10 villages on 15 April and those of four villages on 16 April.

In the meetings, the minister explained use of bio-battery and donated 20 sets of bio-battery, 500 lanterns installed with 60 LED bulbs, ten 5KW hydropower generators and 550 bags of cement for renovation of the schools to the region.—**MNA**

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**Summer paddy plantations, integrated farms inspected in Magway Division**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 April**—Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe on 9 April looked into progress of 2.39 acres of integrated farm in Kywete Village of Minbu Township, livestock breeding and agriculture tasks of the integrated farm in Lekaing Village of Pwintbyu Township and cultivation of 15-acre summer paddy with the use of water from Taungmon main canal of Mezati Diversion Weir in Phaya Village on 9 April.

After hearing the reports of the local officials, Col Phone Maw Shwe attended to the needs.

At Pwintbyu Township PDC Office, he met with local authorities and departmental officials. Col Phone Maw Shwe inspected growing of Hsinyadan-4 strain sesame test plot of Pwintbyu Farm of Myanma Agriculture Service, progress of the integrated farm of Tawseint Village in Salin Township, functions of water supply at Tanyang river water pumping project in Yathit Township and cultivation of summer paddy.

At Aukseik river water pumping project in Seikhyu Township, he heard reports on growing of 100-acre summer paddy by officials. Afterwards, the Division PDC Chairman looked into cultivation of summer paddy on 136 acres of land with the use of irrigation facility from Umin Koepauk river water pumping project in Yathit Village of Chaik Township.—**MNA**

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**Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife present gifts to older persons at the tenth ceremony to pay respects to the aged held on 17 April.**—**TRANSPORT**
Assistant Supervisor U Saw Win, we left the office of DaikU Township Irrigation Department for Bawni Dam by motorcyle along the rough road. Along the way to the dam, we saw a large area of thriving summer paddy plantations in Pyinmalwin, Kadokywama and Kadok Phayagyi villages. The result has been largely due to utmost efforts of the local farmers. On arrival at Kadokywama, we were welcomed by local authorities and local people. First, Township Manager of MAS U Ngwe Hlaing explained, "DaikU Township has so far grown 32,206 acres of summer paddy against the target of 32,000 acres. Under the supervision of the local authorities, a total of 89,748 acres of land has been put under green bean, green gram and cow pea, 59,717 acres under groundnut, cold season sesame, summer sesame, sunflower, niger and other edible oil crops, 18,664 acres under physic nut, rubber, sugarcane, tapioca and toddy palm and 679 acres under chilli and pepper. With the use of water from Bawni Dam, Kankalay Village-tract cultivated 399 acres of summer paddy, Kokkine Village-tract 350 acres, Bawni Village-tract 1650 acres, Byangchei Village-tract 1036 acres, Maudan Village-tract 309 acres, by water ponds of the integrated farms and 18,500 acres by other irrigation facilities, totalling 32,206 acres. Accompanied by officials, the news crew visited thriving summer paddy plantations near Bawni Dam, Staff Officer of the village said, "Bawni Dam is supplying water to the farmlands of Kadok Phayagyi, U-Daungsu, Amara and Ponnaing villages through Tabinshwehti Sluice Gate. Local farmers used Hsintweyin, Theehtetyin, Yadana Aung and Manawthukha paddy strains as summer paddy. The news team members can witness thriving 3,000 acres of summer paddy of 504 farmers in the area of Kadok Phayagyi Village-tract."

On arrival at Bawni Dam, Staff Officer U Kyaw Win (Civil) of the Irrigation Department explained, “The government had constructed and opened Pyinbon, Kawliya, Baingda and Yenwe Dams. Likewise, Bawni Dam was inaugurated in 1998-1999. Thanks to construction of the dam, about 4,000 acres of monsoon paddy and 6,000 acres of summer paddy are being irrigated successfully.”

Bawni Dam is of earthen type and its embankment is 815 feet long and 85 feet high. The catchment area of the dam is 25 square miles, and a total of 46,372 acre feet of water flows into the dam yearly. The dam can store 39,500 acre feet of water at the highest level and 2,500 acre feet at the lowest level. The water surface area is 1,400 acres. The dam is installed with a 286 feet long RC conduit and a 150 feet wide spillway. We gazed the vast water surface of the dam. Actually, Bawni Dam is important for undertaking the tasks of agriculture sector of DaikU Township and Bago Division, the second granary of the country. In DaikU Township, the water source of the dam is playing a key role in growing monsoon and summer paddy. Moreover, Bawni Dam is an essential irrigation facility for Bago Division.
It was a painful memory of the nation’s history that comrades fought each other at the instigation of some Kayin leaders who had been caught in the snare of doubt.
China’s only naval museum to undergo extension

QINGDAO, 18 April — The Naval Museum in Qingdao, Shandong Province, east China, will undergo an extension project within 2009, the year the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy is marking its 60th founding anniversary.

The project will cost 500 million yuan (73 million U.S. dollars) and take two years to complete, said curator Xue Kuilong in an interview with Xinhua Saturday.

The existing museum was opened to the public in 1989, with over 3,000 pictures and objects ranging from large vessels such as warships and small things like whistle and compass.

On display in the museum are the records of China’s naval history since Zheng He (1371-1433) led Chinese fleets to cross oceans and reach as far as east Africa, as well as materials like uniforms that were collected from surface warships, submarines, navy’s aerial corps, marine corps, and land-based defense troops.

It is among a few comprehensive theme naval museums in the world, while the majority of naval museums in other countries are simply a display of some surface vessels and submarines, according to the curator.

He expressed his hopes that the new naval museum will be able to do a better job in creating public awareness about the oceanic knowledge and other things concerned, so as to let the public show interest in the country’s seas and the Navy.

The Chinese Navy was founded on April 23, 1949, based on a fleet of the Kuomintang regime’s navy that defected to the Communist Party of China (CPC)-led PLA.

Roadside bomb kills 2 Afghan soldiers, wounds 5 in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 April — Two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and five others were wounded as their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Afghanistan’s eastern province of Paktia on Saturday, an official said.

“A roadside bomb planted by enemy struck the vehicle of ANA at around 3:00 pm (1030GMT) in Zurmat district, killing two and wounding five ANA soldiers,” provincial deputy governor Abdul Rahman told Xinhua.

Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and wounded in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 April — A Taleban commander was killed after he led a raid on police in the northern Afghan province of Kunduz on Saturday and police returned fire, a local official said.

“Mullah Silab who commanded Taleban insurgents in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz province stormed a police checkpoint with his followers early this morning and police returned fire killing the rebel commander,” Juma Khan, the governor of Imam Sahib district, told Xinhua.

During the firefight, he said that there were other militants killed and injured but did not give exact figures.

Meantime, Taleban purported spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed from an unknown location that a Taleban fighter was killed but did not say if he was a local commander.

The site of a bombing in Baqouba, Iraq, Thursday, 16 April, 2009. Police said one person was killed and two injured when a bomb attached to a car detonated Thursday.

Internet

New fund promises low-cost malaria treatment

OSLO, April 18 — A $225 million fund to provide low-price anti-malaria medicine around the world was launched in the Norwegian capital Friday to fight a disease that kills 2.5 million children a year, at least 85 percent of them are children and most victims are in Africa, said Norway’s Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere.

New drug combinations have been developed to treat strains of malaria that have become resistant to the old remedies, but they cost 10 to 40 times more and are available to only 20 percent of those with the disease, according to a statement from the new body, the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria.

The program will cut the cost from $6 to $10 per treatment to between 20 and 50 cents by negotiating price cuts with pharmaceutical companies and through subsidies from international donors.

The age when the world had effective drugs against infectious diseases but let millions die ... because they couldn’t afford them is over,” said Stoere.

The program will start in 11 countries — Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda — and later be expanded worldwide.

A worker prepares a booth at the Hanover industrial fair in Hannover, Germany, Saturday, 18 April, 2009. Some 6,150 exhibitors from over 61 different nations will participate in the world’s largest fair for industrial technology from 20-24 April, 2009. This year’s partner country is Korea.

Internet

Spain in 100-million-euro offer to VW: reports

MADRID, 18 April — The Spanish government has made 100.7 million euros (131 million dollars) available to SEAT in a bid to persuade Volkswagen to build a new Audi model in Spain.—INTERNET

MADRID, 18 April — Industry Minister Miguel Sebastien had gone Wednesday to Volkswagen’s headquarters in Germany to plead the case for having the new medium-sized 4x4 Audi Q3 made at SEAT’s factory at Martorell in Catalonia.

But VW management demanded the 100-million-euro aid earmarked for SEAT be ruled out the running as Martorell was not deemed adequate by Spanish car industry is considered inadequate by Spanish car industry that its rival Cinco Dias said.

The 800-million-euro package for the Spanish government and are available to only 60 percent of SEAT’s 11,000 most of SEAT’s 11,000 workers recently agreed to a pay freeze in a bid to keep their jobs.—INTERNET

The Spanish government is offering 800 million euros to persuade Volkswagen to build a new Audi model in Spain.

The Navy’s aerial corps, marine corps, and land-based defense troops.

The program will be expanded worldwide.

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy is marking its 60th founding anniversary.

The military is being expanded worldwide.

The site of a bombing in Baqouba, Iraq, Thursday, 16 April, 2009. Police said one person was killed and two injured when a bomb attached to a car detonated Thursday.

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Melatonin may help autistic children sleep

Sacramento, 18 April—US researchers suggest melatonin may help children with autism or Fragile X syndrome sleep. The study, published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, linked melatonin treatment to lengthening mean sleep duration by a mean of 21 minutes, decreasing sleep-onset latency — the length of time it takes to fall asleep — by 28 minutes and shortening sleep onset by 42 minutes.

Study senior author Beth Goodlin-Jones of the MIND Institute at the University of California Davis Health System in Sacramento suggests treatment with over-the-counter melatonin supplements might help alleviate some of the stress that parents of special-needs children experience. Sleep problems, she says, are reported in up to 89 percent of children with autism and 77 percent of children with Fragile X syndrome — the most common form of inherited mental impairment ranging from learning problems to mental retardation.

“Sleep onset problems at the beginning of the night are very troublesome for children and their families,” Goodlin-Jones says in a statement. “Sometimes children may take one to two hours to fall asleep and often they disrupt the household during this time.” The study included information from 12 children who met diagnostic criteria for autism or Fragile X syndrome or both between the ages of 2-15. Sleep quality and quantity were measured both objectively and subjectively. Participants were given two weeks’ supply of either melatonin or a placebo.

Learning and motivation can be taught

Columbus, 18 April — An Ohio State University course on learning and motivation increases the odds that struggling first-year students will graduate, a researcher says.

“We are taking the students who are least likely to succeed in college and teaching them the skills they need to stay in school and graduate,” Bruce Tuckman, the creator of the course, said the statement. “Just taking this one class has made a big difference in how well below-average students do at Ohio State.”

Tuckman and Gary Kennedy, a graduate student in education, compared 351 students who took the class their first quarter at Ohio State with 351 matched controls who didn’t take the class. The students were matched on gender, age, ethnicity, high school school rank and ACT scores to make sure those who took the class were compared to students of similar ability and background.

Students were tracked for seven years. The study found that those who took the course had the higher retention and graduation rates and averaged significantly higher grade point averages for each of the first four quarters.

Insulin, not genes, may be key to obesity

West Lafayette, 18 April — US researchers suggest factors other than genes could cause obesity, causing genetically identical cells to store differing amounts of fat. Ji-Xin Cheng of Purdue University’s Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering and Department of Chemistry said the study findings indicate the faster a cell processes insulin, the more fat it stores.

“Insulin, not genes, may be the key to obesity,” Cheng said in a statement. “This work supports an emerging viewpoint that not genes but factors other than genes might be associated with excessive fat storage in cells. However, the Purdue researchers confirmed that these fat genes were expressed, or activated, in all of the cells, yet those cells varied drastically — from nearly zero in some cases to pervasive in others — in how much fat they stored.

“This work supports an emerging viewpoint that not all biological information in cells is encoded in the genetic blueprint,” said Thuc T Le, a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow at Purdue who is working with Cheng. “We found that the variability in fat storage is dependent on how 3T3-L1 cells process insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas after meals to trigger the uptake of glucose from the blood into the liver, muscle or fat cells.” The study is published online in the journal PLoS One.

M5 seeking real ‘Q’

London, 18 April — James Bond always went to Q to keep one step ahead of the enemy with the latest smart gadgets and now the real-life spies of M5 are to get their own technology mastermind.

M5 is seeking a chief scientific adviser “to lead and co-ordinate the scientific work of the Security Service so that the service continues to be supported by excellent science and technology advice”, its website said. Applicants must have “world-class scientific expertise and credibility in relevant scientific and technology disciplines”, their advertisement read.

“I think it’s unlikely that the person will be required to develop a weapons system for the latest Aston Martin,” Professor John Beddington, the government’s chief scientific adviser, told the BBC. However, the successful candidate will help protect Britain against threats to national security by keeping an eye on the latest moves in science and technology.

“It will involve a sort of future-gazing to see where technology will be taking us in a year or so,” Beddington said. “There is a really important role in providing scientific and technological advice on addressing problems agents in the field will face.”

M5’s chief science adviser would help “to frustrate terrorism, to prevent espionage hurting the UK, protect our critical national infrastructure and to frustrate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.” There’s an enormous amount of scientific content in this role. —Internet

Actor Pierce Brosnan (left) and Desmond Llewelyn, who has played ‘Q’ in several James Bond films. Britain’s domestic intelligence agency, M5, is seeking to recruit a chief scientific adviser “to lead and co-ordinate the scientific work of the Security Service so that the service continues to be supported by excellent science and technology advice.” —Internet

Photo taken on 16 April, 2009 shows two dredgers lie on the beach after being badly damaged during a gale off north China’s Tianjin Municipality.

Three crew members were confirmed dead and six others were missing during the accident.

XINHUA

Toyota driver Jarno Trulli of Italy prepares for the first free practice session of the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix at the Shanghai International circuit, on 17 April. At the third and final practice session on Saturday, Trulli finished second, 0.139 secs behind Germany’s Williams driver Nico Rosberg. —Internet

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The New Light of Myanmar

A secret to night vision found in DNA

MUNICH, 18 April — German-led scientists say they have discovered an important element of DNA that creates good night vision in nocturnal mammals. Ludwig-Maximilians University researchers in Munich said they discovered the DNA within the photoreceptor rod cells responsible for low light vision turns the rod cell nuclei themselves into tiny light-collecting lenses, with millions of them in every nocturnal eye.

“The conventional architecture seen in almost all nuclei is invariably present in the rod cells of diurnal mammals, including primates, pigs and squirrels,” said researcher Boris Joffe. “On the other hand, the unique inverted architecture is universally present in nocturnal mammals.”

That architecture has important ramifications for the optical properties of those cells, said Jochen Guck of the University of Cambridge. “Diurnal nuclei are responsible for normal vision in bright light, whereas it’s the rod nuclei that function at night.”

ESPECIAL REPORT

A small Japanese town with a falling birthrate

BEIJING, 18 April — Two families from the Dianshanhu Lake Area in Qingpu District at Shanghai will raise earthworms as part of a pilot project launched by a local environmental protection organization.

Under the right conditions, 1 kilogram of earthworms can eat up to 1 kilogram of kitchen garbage every day and produce about half a kilogram of earthworm waste, which can be used as fertilizer. The pilot program aims to promote worm farms as an effective way to cut down kitchen waste in the city.

Similar trials in Beijing are under way. The local scheme is being promoted by the Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Communication Center and the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

The reserved land for the main stadium of the 2016 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games is seen from a helicopter during a press tour organized by the Tokyo 2016 Bid Committee in Tokyo on 18 April, 2009.

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SPECIAL REPORT

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Earthworms may help dealing with trash

BEIJING, 18 April — Two families from the Dianshanhu Lake Area in Qingpu District at Shanghai will raise earthworms as part of a pilot project launched by a local environmental protection organization.

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Similar trials in Beijing are under way. The local scheme is being promoted by the Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Communication Center and the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

The reserved land for the main stadium of the 2016 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games is seen from a helicopter during a press tour organized by the Tokyo 2016 Bid Committee in Tokyo on 18 April, 2009.

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Sulfur in rocks tells early oxygen story

STATE COLLEGE, 18 April — US researchers say a study of sedimentary rocks created more than 2.4 billion years ago suggests the Earth had an early, oxygen-rich atmosphere.

Pennsylvania State University researcher Yumiko Watanabe said rocks sometimes have an unusual sulfur isotope composition thought to be caused by the action of ultra violet light on volcanically produced sulfur dioxide in an oxygen poor atmosphere. But the team of geochemists said they can show an alternative origin for that isotopic composition that might point to an early, oxygen-rich atmosphere.
**SPORTS**

**Premier League trio set for action**

**LONDON, 18 April—** With Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal in FA Cup semi-final action at Wembley this weekend, the focus in the Premier League turns to the increasingly desperate fight to avoid relegation.

While club chairmen fret over the financial implications of losing their seat on football’s richest gravy train, the annual scrap for survival is developing into a matter of pride rather than pound notes. Three of the bottom four places are currently occupied by teams from the north-east of England, making the prospect of relegation for Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough particularly painful.

As if going down wouldn’t be devastating enough, there is every possibility that one of their most hated rivals will push them through the trap door. Middlesbrough are second bottom on 30 points, level with Newcastle, who are also two points behind Sunderland, the team sitting one place above the drop zone.

...As Manchester United´s Portuguese player Cristiano Ronaldo...

**CROSSWORDS PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

1 Entirely
2 Author of “Brides-head Revisited”
8 Turn inside out
9 Museum chief
10 Leaving a will
11 Veritable
12 Armed conflict
13 Former Zimbabwean
17 Safe from infection
18 Nocturnal bird
19 Turning machine
20 Possessions
24 Humber port

**DOWN**

1 Flower eirelet
2 Supervise
3 Womaniser
4 Excrescence
5 Speak
6 Large wasp
7 Propeller
8 Recreativo Huelva
9 4-0 to reach the 2007 King’s Cup final.
10 Behind the trap door
11 Midfielder Xavi
12 Favour in the title race
13 Real will hope their city neighbours
14 Neighbours just four points above the drop zone
15 Can do them a favour in the title race
16 Real can fulfil their end of the bargain by
17 Beating third-bottom Recreativo Huelva.
18 Real Madrid at the top of the table
19 But Chelsea levelled 15 minutes later when Florent Malouda fired past keeper Lukasz Fabianski at his near post.
20 And a keenly-fought match looked to be heading to extra-time until Frank Lampard set up Drogba to clip past the stranded Fabianski from 18 yards.

**Real hope for Getafe favour as Barca keep busy**

**MAKEDON, 18 April—** After reaching the Champions League semi-finals for the second successive season Barcelona are back in league action on Saturday when they travel to Getafe, who have proved a difficult customer for the Catalans in recent seasons. Barca have a six-point lead over Real Madrid at the top of the table but have failed to beat Getafe in their last three league meetings, while Getafe famously thrashed Barca 4-0 to reach the 2007 King’s Cup final. Real will hope their city neighbours, just four points above the drop zone, can do them a favour in the title race, while Real can fulfil their end of the bargain by heating third-bottom Recreativo Huelva. On Wednesday Barcelona overcame Bayern Munich to reach the last four of the Champions League — where they will face Chelsea — and midfielder Xavi admits they have a tough six weeks in store as they go in search of an historic treble.

**Injury-hit Viduka handed Newcastle lifeline**

**NEWCASTLE, 18 April—** Mark Viduka could remain at Newcastle beyond the end of the season, manager Alan Shearer has revealed. "Australian international Viduka is set to be involved for the first time in seven weeks when Newcastle travel to Tottenham on Sunday in search of crucial points to boost their Premier League survival bid. A string of injuries this season have restricted Viduka to just one start and five substitute appearances, well short of the number of games the 33-year-old requires to just one start and five substitute appearances, well short of the number of games the 33-year-old requires..." said Shearer.

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**Top seed Dementieva into Charleston semi-final**

**CHARLESTON, 18 April—** Russian top seed Elena Dementieva made the Charleston WTA claycourt semi-finals on Friday when Slovakian opponent Dominika Cibulkova retired with a left leg injury. "The Russian will next face Spanish teenager Caroline Wozniacki, the fifth seed, who eased past France’s Virginie Razzano, the 13th seed, 6-2, 6-0. She came with the tape on her leg and I didn’t know if it was bad or not, so I just feel sorry she couldn’t finish the match,” said Dementieva. Wozniacki, fresh from her Ponte Vedra Beach claycourt title in Florida last weekend, said: “I need to stay aggressive (against Dementieva). My legs have been there, too. I need to keep running because she’s a great player, a great fighter.”

**Arsenal 1-2 Chelsea**

**LONDON, 18 April—** Didier Drogba scored seven minutes from time to earn Chelsea a place in the FA Cup final at the expense of Arsenal. Arsenal took the lead when Theo Walcott turned inside Ashley Cole in the box and his shot deflected past Petr Cech. But Chelsea levelled 15 minutes later when Florent Malouda fired past keeper Lukasz Fabianski at his near post.

...And a keenly-fought match looked to be heading to extra-time until Frank Lampard set up Drogba to clip past the stranded Fabianski from 18 yards. — Internet

**West Ham United’s James Collins (L) tackles Aston Villa’s Emile Heskey during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 18 April, 2009.**

**Elena Dementieva reacts while playing a match against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during day eight of the Sony Ericsson Open at the Crandon Park Tennis Center in March, 2009 in Key Biscayne, Florida.— Internet**

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Hitler-signed watercolors to be auctioned

BERLIN, 18 April—A pair of watercolor paintings depicting farm scenes and signed “Adolf Hitler” are up for auction in the German city of Nuremberg this month. The Weidler Auction House said Friday that the paintings are “average” quality and said they were being offered by a Polish owner, whom he declined to identify. The watercolors are listed in the catalog as “signed and dated 1914,” with bidding to start at euro3,500 ($4,618) at the auction, which runs 23-25 April.

As a young man, Hitler sought to earn his living as an artist. He is believed to have painted hundreds of works, several of which have come up for sale over the years. —Internet
Bawni Dam, an essential irrigation facility in Bago Division

The Union of Myanmar is an agro-based country. The government is striving for development of the agriculture sector by adopting the objective “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well” included in the four economic objectives. Indeed, the agriculture sector plays a key role in the growth of national economy. If production of agricultural produce increases, the country will achieve food sufficiency and export the surplus to the foreign market.

In all States and Divisions, a large number of dams and reservoirs have been built for ensuring adequate supply of water and prevention against flooding at farmlands. It is known to all that Bago Division is the second granary of the country in the agriculture sector.

DaikU Township is a fertile region in all the three seasons. In addition to cultivation of monsoon paddy in the rainy season, groundnut, green bean, pigeon pea, cow pea, sesame and sunflower are grown in the cold season. The local people are earning higher incomes by growing tapioca, sugarcane, rubber, corn and chilli.

Under the arrangements of Chairman of DaikU Township Peace and Development Council U Tun Tun Win and Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Hay Aung, the news team had the opportunity to visit Bawni Dam recently. The dam is located near new Bawni Village in DaikU Township, nine miles west of mile post 76/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Together with Staff Officer (Civil) U Kyaw Win of Irrigation Department, Township Manager U Ngwe Hlaing of Myanma Agriculture Service and (See page 9)