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Friday, 10 April, 2009

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects paddy harvesting in Dagon Myothit Townships

YANGON, 9 April—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, viewed the harvesting of Hsinyadana high-yield paddy grown on plot No.1 in mechanized model farming special zone (1) in Dagon Myothit (East), Yangon East District this morning.

On arrival at mechanized farm of Shwe Nagar Min Co Ltd in Dagon Myothit (South) special zone, Lt-

Gen Myint Swe inspected harvesting of HmawbyHmwe paddy with the use of combine-harvesters and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address at the coordination meeting held at the briefing hall and the commander gave a supplementary report.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe fulfilled the needs after hearing reports presented by entrepreneurs and officials concerned on sector-wise works and necessary matters.—MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views harvesting of HmawbyHmwe paddy with the use of combine-harvesters by Shwe Nagar Min Co Ltd in Dagon Myothit (South) special zone.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

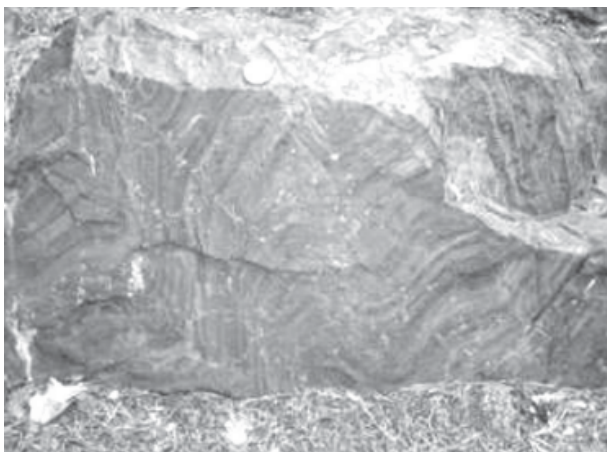
Four social objectives

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

New link between the evolution of complex life forms on earth and nickel and methane gas

EDMONTON, 9 April—The Earth's original atmosphere held very little oxygen. This began to change around 2.4 billion years ago when oxygen levels increased dramatically during what

scientists call the "Great Oxidation Event." The cause of this event has puzzled scientists, but researchers writing in Nature have found indications in ancient sedimentary rocks that it



Banded iron formations like this from northern Michigan contain evidence of a drop in dissolved nickel in ancient oceans

may have been linked to a drop in the level of dissolved nickel in seawater.

The researchers, led by Kurt Konhauser of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, analyzed the trace element composition of sedimentary rocks known as banded-iron formations, or BIFs, from dozens of different localities around the world, ranging in age from 3,800 to 550 million years.

Banded iron formations are unique, water-laid deposits often found in extremely old rock strata that formed before the atmosphere or oceans contained abundant oxygen. As their name implies, they are made of alternating bands of iron and silicate minerals. They also contain minor amounts of nickel and other trace elements.—Internet

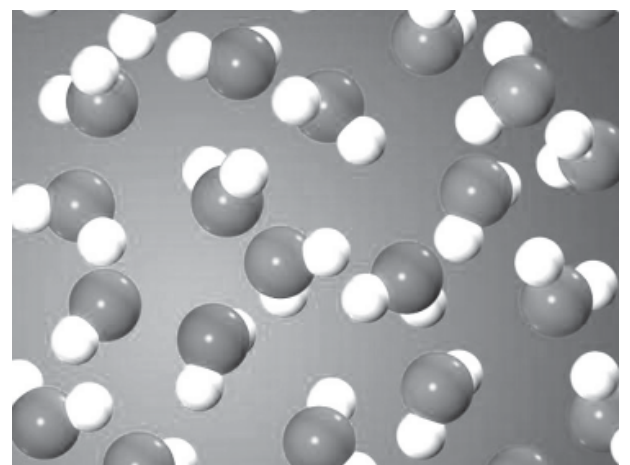
New way to split water into hydrogen and oxygen developed

SCIENCE DAILY, 9 April—Now, a unique approach developed by Prof. David Milstein and colleagues of the Weizmann Institute's Organic Chemistry Department, provides important steps in overcoming this challenge. During this work, the team demonstrated a new mode of bond generation between oxygen atoms and even defined the mechanism by which it takes place. In fact, it is the generation of oxygen gas by the formation of a bond between two oxygen atoms originating from water molecules that proves to be the bottleneck in the water splitting process. Their results have recently been published in Science.

Nature, by taking a different path, has evolved a very efficient process: photosynthesis ñ carried out by plants and the source of all oxygen on Earth. Although there has been significant progress towards the understanding of photosynthesis, just how this system functions

remains unclear; vast worldwide efforts have been devoted to the development of artificial photosynthetic systems based on metal complexes that serve as catalysts, with little success. (A catalyst is a substance that is able to increase the rate of a chemical reaction without getting used up).

Internet



3-D rendering of H2O molecules.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 April, 2009

Join hands for regional peace and development

Peace and stability is an essential prerequisite for the development of a nation. The more peaceful and stable it is, the more its government and people will be able to work for their political, economic and social development and for higher living standard.

Now is the time when the government is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, enlisting the cooperation of the entire national people and relying on their friendship, amity and unity. Moreover, it has always opened the door for armed groups of national races to be able to return to the legal fold. Its purpose in doing so is to reconsolidate national unity for the sake of national peace.

Realizing the goodwill and genuine overtures of the government, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and worked together with the government for the development of their respective regions. As a result, their regions have developed overnight as special regions and they are now able to enjoy the fruits of peace and development.

On 30 March also, Saw Nay Soe Mya, with the rank of captain, son of late chairman of KNU/KNLA Saw Bo Mya, and his 73-strong armed group and 88 members of their families joined the KNU/KNLA Peace Council based at Htot-kawko village. They brought 24 assorted arms and ammunition along with them.

The government, the people and the Tatmadaw gave a warm welcome to Saw Nay Soe Mya and his group, and officials concerned provided them with basic necessities and cash assistance. Measures have also been taken to build houses for them, allot plots of land for farming, supply drinking water and electricity and meet their health and education needs.

We believe that the entire Kayin State will become more peaceful and prosperous if Saw Nay Soe Mya and his group and their family members work hard for regional development under the leadership of the government and hand in hand with the KNU/KNLA Peace Council.



BPMI Co Ltd holds a ceremony to introduce Bio-essence skin care series.—MNA

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

Outstanding athletes of MFR honoured

YANGON, 9 April — A ceremony to honour outstanding athletes of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held in conjunction with a dinner at the assembly hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) on 4 April, attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife Daw Khin Than Win.

At the ceremony, the minister gave a speech and presented prizes to 25 footballers of the ministry who won championship shield in Myanmar League Closing Cup Football Tournament.

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Managing Director of Myanma Insurance U Thein Lwin and Director-General of Customs Department U San Thaug presented

prizes to other outstanding athletes in table tennis, Sepak Takraw, cycling, Wushu and para-sports.

The minister and wife hosted the dinner in honour of the outstanding athletes.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun presents prize to a footballer of F & R Ministry team who won championship shield in Myanmar League Closing Cup Football Tournament.—MNA

BPMI Co Ltd introduces Bio-essence skin care series

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—BPMI Co Ltd held a ceremony to introduce Bio-essence skin care series, used not only by

men but also by women on 4 April. Dr Tor Lam Huat, Chairman of Bio- essence (Singapore) made a speech on the occasion. The chairman and Singaporean Ambassador Mr. Robert Chua formally opened the ceremony. Singaporean actress Aileen Tan also attended the ceremony. As a special programme, forty people were worn make-up. In the make-up wearing contest, the prizes were presented to Daw Mi Mi Lwin, the first, Ma Nilar Win, second, and Ma Khaing Zar Lwin, the third.

As a sale promotion, Bio-essence skin care series were sold to those present at special discount. Bio-essence makes the skin young and smooth in a short time.—MNA

Dy Minister inspects roads and bridges

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe inspected Dagon Bridge and gave necessary instructions this morning.

Next, the deputy minister looked into road-works of Dagon-Thilawa

road. At the Thilawa briefing hall, Supretending Engineer of Yangon Division U Kyaw Hlaing explained facts about the implementing works to the deputy minister. Then the deputy minister gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Festival to be held

YANGON, 9 April —The 6th Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Festival (Yangon) will be held on a grand scale in Theinbyu driving test ground in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township here under the supervision of Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Festival Organizing Committee (Yangon).

The festival will be held from 12 to 16 April. Not less than 12 water-throwing pandals representing Rakhine Township associations and Rakhine social organizations will participate in the festival and Rakhine traditional foods and souvenirs will be sold there. — MNA



Iran charges American journalist with espionage

TEHRAN, 9 April—An American journalist jailed for more than two months in Iran has been charged with spying for the US, a judge said on Wednesday, dashing hopes of a quick release days after her parents arrived in the country seeking her freedom.

The espionage charge is far more serious than earlier statements by Iranian officials that the woman had been arrested for working in the Islamic Republic without press credentials and her own assertion in a phone call to her father that she was arrested after buying a bottle of wine.

Roxana Saberi, who grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, and is a dual citizen of the US and Iran, has been living in Iran for six years. She has reported from there for several news organizations, including National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp.—*Internet*

Iraqis clean the debris of their shop at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad.

INTERNET

Shiite rally marks anniversary of fall of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 April—Supporters of an anti-US Shiite cleric are gathering at a main downtown square in Baghdad for a rally marking the sixth anniversary of the fall of the Iraqi capital to American troops.

Cleric Muqtada al-Sadr is calling on all Iraqis to turn out for the rally at Firdous Square to protest the US military presence and demand the release of detainees. The square is where Saddam Hussein's statue was toppled on 9 April, 2003.

As protesters assemble, religious songs are blaring from loudspeakers at the square, decorated with huge Iraqi flags. Surrounding streets and Baghdad's bridges have been closed off.

The rally comes as the US prepares to pull combat troops from Baghdad by the end of June.—*Internet*



Iraqi Army soldiers stand guard as supporters of anti-US Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr march in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 9 April, 2009, marking the sixth anniversary of the fall of the Iraqi capital to American troops.—INTERNET

Iranian President welcomes 'honest' talks with US

TEHRAN, 9 April—Iran's hard-line president said on Wednesday that his country welcomes talks with the United States should the American president prove to be "honest" in extending its hand toward Iran, one of the strongest signals yet that Teheran welcomes Barack Obama's calls for dialogue.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's comments come after Obama said his administration is looking for opportunities to engage Iran and pledged to rethink Washington's relationship with Teheran. At his inauguration in January, Obama said his administration would reach out to rival states, saying "we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

"The Iranian nation welcomes a hand extended to it should it really and truly be based on honesty, justice and respect," Ahmadinejad said in a speech broadcast live on state television.—*Internet*

Iran opens nuclear fuel facility

TEHRAN, 9 April—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has opened the country's first nuclear fuel production plant, reports say.

The newly-opened plant in Isfahan will produce pellets of uranium oxide to fuel a heavy-water reactor planned for completion by 2010, the *Associated Press* reports.

This signals Iran has reached the final stage in the nuclear fuel cycle, analysts say.—*Internet*



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.—INTERNET

Suicide bomber kills four Afghan police, one child

KANDAHAR, 9 April—A suicide bomber on foot attacked a drug eradication unit in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing four police officers and a child while wounding seven other officers, a police official said. The attacker struck the patrol in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, a major drug-producing province, said Kamal Uddin, the deputy provincial police chief. Two police vehicles and three shops were damaged in the explosion, Uddin said. Initially he said that five policemen were killed, but later said that one of those killed was a child.

On Wednesday, a raid by US coalition troops in eastern Khost Province killed four people, including two alleged female militants, and wounded another woman, the coalition said in a statement Thursday. Yaqub Khan, the deputy provincial police chief, said the US troops did not inform police about the raid.—*Internet*

Eight wounded by Israeli troops in clash

SAFA, 9 April—Stone-throwing Israeli settlers and Palestinian villagers clashed near the site of an ax attack last week that killed a Jewish teenager, leaving at least eight Palestinians wounded.

The Palestinians were wounded when Israeli troops fired tear gas and live ammunition to break up the disturbances, medics said. One person was in serious condition. Safa and the neighboring Jewish settlement of Bat Ayin have a long history of poor relations. But tensions have been heightened since a Palestinian wielding a pickaxe last week killed a 13-year-old boy and

wounded a 7-year-old boy. The assailant fled and has not been caught.

The Israeli military said Wednesday's violence erupted when settlers from Bat Ayin went to a ridge on the edge of Safa to recite a traditional Jewish blessing for the sun — an open-air ritual that is performed once every 28 years. Palestinians started stoning them, and the settlers retaliated in kind.—*Internet*

An injured man rests in a hospital after being wounded in a bombing in the neighborhood of Kazimiyah in Baghdad, Iraq, on 8 April, 2009.—INTERNET



This undated image made available in London, on 8 April, 2009 by Maersk Line, shows the 17,000-ton container ship Maersk Alabama, when it was operating under the name Maersk Alva, which has been hijacked by Somalia pirates with 20 crew members aboard while sailing from Salalah in Oman to the Kenyan port of Mombassa via Djibouti.—INTERNET

Crew retakes US ship from Somali pirates

NAIROBI, 9 April—In a riveting high-seas drama, an unarmed American crew wrested control of their US-flagged cargo ship from Somali pirates on Wednesday and sent them fleeing to a lifeboat with the captain as hostage.

The destroyer USS Bainbridge, one of a half dozen warships that headed for the area, arrived at the scene on Thursday morning a few hours before dawn, said Kevin Speers, a spokesman for the company that owns the Maersk Alabama. He said the boat with the pirates was floating near the ship, the first with an American crew to be taken by pirates off the Horn of Africa.—*Internet*



Chavez says world 'center of gravity' now Beijing

BEIJING, 9 April—The world's center of gravity has moved to Beijing, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez told his Chinese counterpart on Wednesday during a visit focused on boosting Chinese oil purchases.

The frequent US critic also praised China's response to the global financial meltdown that has sent prices of his South American nation's key export, oil, down sharply. "No one can be ignorant that the center of gravity of the world has moved to Beijing," Chavez told China's president and Communist Party leader Hu Jintao.

Internet



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, left, shakes hand with Chinese President Hu Jintao during their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on 8 April, 2009.—INTERNET

East China Province reports 1st hand-foot-mouth death

HANGZHOU, 9 April—East China's Zhejiang Province reported Wednesday its first death from hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) this year.

A child in Cixi, Ningbo city died Sunday hours after he was admitted to hospital, said Zhang Leming, head of the Ningbo Municipal Health Bureau, on Wednesday.

The child developed symptoms of fever and rashes on his hands and feet last Friday and was sent to a community clinic on Sunday. Because of his severe illness, he was moved to the Cixi Municipal No 2 People's Hospital and retransferred to the Cixi Municipal People's Hospital.

The health bureau

provided no details of the child. Ningbo city had reported 367 cases of infections from the highly contagious disease as of 5 April, said Zhang.

Cases have also been reported in Beijing. The city has reported more than 1,000 cases this year, according to a statement issued by Beijing Health Bureau on Wednesday.—Internet

Six people killed in small plane crash in Papua, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 9 April—All six people on board were killed after a small plane crashed before landing in Papua Province in easternmost of Indonesia on Thursday morning, an investigator said.

Investigator from Indonesian Aviation Safety Commission named only Sulaiman said that the Comby PAS146 cargo-and-passenger plane operated by Avia Star airline was on route from Sentani to Wamena of the province. "It crashed about 5 km before landing in Wamena. All 6 people on board were dead," he told *Xinhua*.

The plane was burned down and the body of the plane broke into 3 parts, said Sulaiman. Investigation was carried out to find out the cause of the accident following the series of others small accidents taking place recently in Indonesia.

Internet



A British middle school student learns how to play the "Jingubang", a stage property, from an actor of Kunqu Opera in Suzhou city of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 8 April, 2009.—INTERNET

Rare megamouth shark caught, eaten in Philippines

MANILA, 9 April—Fishermen in the Philippines accidentally caught and later ate a megamouth shark, one of the rarest fishes in the world with only 40 others recorded to have been encountered, the World Wildlife Fund said on Tuesday.

The 1,100-pound, 13-foot megamouth died while struggling in the fishermen's net on March 30 off Burias island in the central Philippines.

It was taken to nearby Donsol in Sorsogon Province, where it was butchered and eaten, said



This photo released by the World Wildlife Fund shows a dead rare megamouth shark at the shores of Donsol town, Sorsogon Province, central Philippines on 30 March, 2009. INTERNET

Gregg Yan, spokesman for WWF-Philippines.

Yan said a WWF Donsol Project Manager Elson Aca took pictures of the megamouth and tried to dissuade the fishermen from eating it. Shark meat is the main ingredient in a local delicacy. The first megamouth was discovered in Hawaii in 1976, prompting scientists to create an entirely new family and genus of sharks.

The megamouths are docile filter-feeders with wide, blubbery mouths.

Internet



Firefighters hose down the fire at No 1 and No 2 light oil tanks of coal-to-liquids (CTL) projects base of Yitai Group in northwest China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 8 April, 2009.—INTERNET

One killed, three injured in California retreat shooting

LOS ANGELES, 9 April—One person was killed and three others critically injured after being shot overnight by an elderly gunman at a Korean religious retreat about 130 kilometres southeast of Los Angeles, authorities said on Wednesday.

The suspect, who was subdued after he killed one

woman and went on to shoot others on Tuesday evening, was among the injured and hospitalized, according to police.

Police identified the gunman involved in the fatal shooting at the Christian retreat camp run by a Korean religious group as 69-year-old John Chong, a resident of the retreat.

It was still unclear what was the motive for the shooting.

Residents of the sprawling retreat camp in a mountainous area said John Chong is known as "Uncle" in the camp.

The camp provides food and aid to the homeless, who also live on the property.

Internet

Four killed in overnight shootings in Houston

HOUSTON, 9 April—Four people were killed when gunshots rang out across Houston, Texas, overnight, police said on Wednesday.

Around 1 am on Wednesday, police were called to a Shell station in the city where they found three people wounded by gunshot. One of them died at the hospital. Officers said it may have been a road rage incident.

Around the same time, another person was fatally shot inside a tattoo parlor. Three armed men reportedly walked into the parlor, demanding money. The owner was killed while trying to stop them from robbing his customers.

Internet



Wang Demin, a farmer fond of painting, paints a tiger before his fellow villagers at home in Tancheng County of east China's Shandong Province, on 8 April, 2009.—XINHUA

China sees smaller decline in business climate index in Q1, confidence recovers

BEIJING, 9 April—China's business climate index, a main gauge of macro-economic outlook, continued to fall in the first quarter, but the decline was much smaller than that for the previous quarter, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Thursday.

The quarterly business climate index slipped from 107 at the end of last

year to 105.6 in the first quarter this year, the NBS said. It was the third drop in a row as the deepening global financial crisis continues to hit the Chinese economy.

But the decline was much smaller than a drop of 21.6 points in the last quarter of 2008, according to the NBS.

The index ranges from zero to 200. A reading

above 100 shows economic expansion, while a reading below 100 indicates contraction. The survey began in 1998.

The index for industrial sector rose from 98.5 to 99.8. The manufacturing sector was 98.4.

The index for the areas of transportation and postal service was up, but the service sectors edged down.—Xinhua

Shanghai becomes China's "oldest" city with 21% aged above 60

SHANGHAI, 9 April—Senior citizens account for more than 20 percent of the population of Shanghai, an economic powerhouse in eastern China, a city official said on Thursday.

Gao Julian, deputy head of the municipal civil affairs bureau, said that as of the end of 2008, there were more than 3 million registered citizens aged above 60 in Shanghai, or 21.6 percent of the population.

The proportion was 4.8 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

Shanghai now has the largest share of the aged in the population among Chinese cities, or twice the national average, according to Gao.

Of the 3 million, 17.8 percent were in their 80s and 90s. The proportion was 6.4 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

Of the 534,400 people aged above 80, about 20 percent needed daily care services, according to Gao.

Xinhua



A huge hand-painted Easter egg is displayed in Zagreb's main square on 6 April, 2009.—XINHUA

New York City likely to cut more jobs

NEW YORK, 9 April —New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Wednesday that the city has to further slash its budget amid economic crisis and is likely lay off 7,000 more city workers in the next fiscal year starting 1 July.

The mayor's Budget Director Mark Page sent a letter Wednesday to city agencies announcing plans to cut an extra 350 million dollars from next year's budget, on top of the previous cuts of 3.1 billion dollars he has already ordered, due to the deteriorating economic situation.—Xinhua



A student looks at a statue of "Lucy", 3.2 million-year-old hominoid fossil, in the National Museum in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, on 8 April, 2009. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Experts say health reform to boost economy

BEIJING, 9 April—Healthcare reform will counter the financial crisis by pumping money into local businesses and boosting consumption, experts say.

Ge Yanfeng, director at the Development Research Center affiliated to the State Council, said infrastructure projects will be awarded to businesses and help drive economic growth. In addition, the new medical insurance system will allow households to spend money previously set aside to cover medical bills.

He also said it will give many people a better qual-

ity of life and this in turn could lead to increased consumption. "The healthcare reform will provide a motive for China's economic growth," Ge told the Xinhua News Agency.

Li Yingpeng, analyst with China Galaxy Securities Company Limited, said the government needed an additional 50 to 60 billion yuan to fund its promise to increase the annual medical insurance subsidy from 80 to 120 yuan per person by 2010.

Xinhua

Bookings for world's cheapest car Nano begin today

NEW DELHI, 9 April—The much-awaited bookings for the world's cheapest car Nano which worth 2,000 US dollars starts on Thursday across India for a limited period of 17 days, local media reported. Tata Motors states to accept application forms of 300 rupees (6 US dollars) each for the 624-cc jelly-bean shaped Nano and a booking amount ranges between 2,850 rupees (57 US dollars) and 4,110 rupees (82.2 US dollars) among different banks.

Online booking for the Nano, the first such option in India, are also available with cost of 200 rupees (4 US dollars). Tata Motors itself has sold over 75,000 booking forms from its 218 outlets across the country so far while booking agent State Bank of India has distributed hundreds of thousands of applications only a day after Nano's commercial launch on 23 March.

Ravi Bhattacharya, sales manager of auto dealer Autolink Delhi said that ever since the car was commercially launched, his outlets received at least 100-200 unique inquiries daily. His firm has decided to deploy additional sales-people to handle the expected rush for the bookings.—Xinhua

Acer to go into smartphone market

BEIJING, 9 April—Acer Inc expects to launch its mobile smartphones for the first time on China's mainland in an expansion strategy by the world's No 3 personal computer vendor, Chairman JT Wang said on Wednesday in Beijing. Acer will promote them in cooperation with mobile carriers.

The Taiwan-based firm also expects its major personal computer business to continue growing 25 percent to 30 percent in the second quarter despite the global financial crisis, thanks to its newly launched ultra-mobility laptop series and the booming netbook business. Acer's mobile smartphones will feature a screen bigger than 3 inches and it has talked with two Chinese mainland mobile carriers about the launch. —Xinhua



Parajumpers from the Air Force 920th rescue wing remove a flotation collar from a full-size mockup of NASA's crew module for the Orion Crew exploration vehicle at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on 8 April, 2009.—XINHUA

Earthquake of 4.6 degrees shakes Chile's capital

SANTIAGO, 9 April—An earthquake of 4.6 degrees on Richter scale shook on Wednesday in Santiago, without reports of victims and material damages to the moment, Chilean National Office of Emergency (Onemi) reported.

The earthquake was at 06:23 am local time (1023 GMT) and its epicentre was located some 90 kilometres north-east to Santiago, the Seismology Institute from University of Chile said.

This is the third earthquake in less than 24 hours, since on Tuesday early morning it was registered another one of similar intensity in the central zone of the country. After that it was registered another earthquake of 4.1 degrees in the regions of Arica and Pinacota, border with Peru and Bolivia, without victims and damages.—Internet

Moderate earthquake hits India near Pakistan border

NEW DELHI, 9 April —A moderate earthquake measuring 5.3 degree on Richter scale on Thursday hit the Jaisalmer town in the western Indian state of Rajasthan early in the morning, without causing casualties, said a senior government official.

"No casualties have been reported yet. Some houses in this area may have been a little damaged," he said on condition of anonymity. Senior government officials have rushed to the spot to assess the damage in the area, he added.

Jaisalmer is a town in the west of Rajasthan near the Indian-Pakistan border. A moderate earthquake of 5.1 degree on Richter scale hit India-controlled Kashmir in February without causing casualties or major damage.

Internet

Cambodia scores historical records of rice harvest

PHNOM PENH, 9 April—Cambodia achieved historical records of rice harvest in 2008, Chinese-language newspaper the *Jian Hua Daily* on Thursday quoted Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Chan Sarun as saying. Farmers planted 2.25 million hectares of rice during the rainy season in 2008, with an average turnout of 2.54 tons of rice per hectare, Chan Sarun told an annual meeting of his ministry here on Wednesday.

In addition, they planted 350,000 hectares of rice during the dry season in 2008, with an average turnout of 4.04 tons of rice per hectare, said the minister.

"These are our historical records in terms of rice harvest," he added. In late March, the minister told reporters that the kingdom harvested over seven million tons of rice in 2008,

with at least two million tons ready for export.

Cambodia used to be a major exporter of rice within the region of the Mekong River.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Portugal to further boost cooperation

HANOI, 9 April—Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem said that blooming bilateral ties between Vietnam and Portugal created the potential for stronger cooperation, the *Vietnam News* reported on Thursday.

Khiem made the statement at the occasion of Vietnam visit by Portugal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Joao Gomes Cravinho on Wednesday. Khiem said that he hoped Portugal would start direct investment activities in Vietnam soon and suggested the two sides promote cultural and tourist cooperation. Cravinho expected the two countries would sign agreements on anti-protectionism and double tax avoidance soon to boost bilateral investment and commercial relations.—Internet

WELLINGTON, 9 April—An earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter scale struck New Zealand North Island's east coast off Gisborne region on Wednesday night, said GNS Science.

The quake struck at 11:12 pm local time on Wednesday (11:12 GMT Wednesday), 40 km east of the North Island city of Gisborne and had a focal depth of 20 km, New Zealand's Geological and Nuclear Science reported on Thursday. Gisborne police said the quake felt like a "mild quiver" but there were no immediate reports of damage.—Internet

Five magnitude earthquake strikes near New Zealand's Gisborne region

NEWS ALBUM

This NY robbery's also a fashion crime

Maybe she needed the money for a new hairdo. Police in suburban Westchester County are looking for a woman who wore an orange wig while robbing a bank. The woman got about \$3,000 on Thursday during the White Plains, NY, heist. No weapon was displayed.

Police said they're also investigating whether the robber made her getaway on a public bus.

Cat on NY TV News truck's roof becomes the story

A stray cat seeking a warm spot to nap made headlines when Long Island police rescued it from a television news truck's rooftop satellite dish.

WCBS-TV reporter says drivers were honking their horns and waving as her truck traveled Wednesday along a parkway to a Mineola (mi-nee-OH'-luh) press conference about an arrest in a string of burglaries. She waved back.

A motorist finally called to

McLogan that a cat was on the truck's roof.

Nassau County police Detective Sgt Anthony Repalone says he thought it was "an April Fools' joke" when the TV crew interrupted his press conference to report a feline in need of assistance.

Officers freed the black-and-white cat by dismantling a panel of the satellite dish.

The media-shy cat fled without comment.



Mosque motocross : A German motocross biker performs in front of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul.

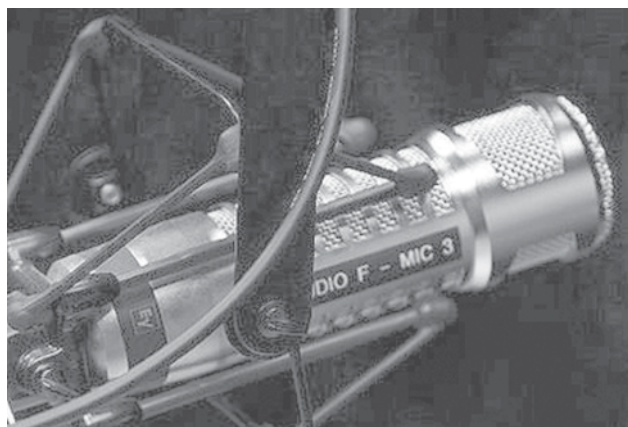
Man tries to rob Chinese restaurant as cops dine

A Massachusetts man had some misfortune when he allegedly tried to rob a Chinese restaurant. Four plainclothes police officers were enjoying their dinner at the time.

The man was arraigned Thursday in Lawrence District Court on charges of unarmed robbery, larceny, assault and battery on a police officer, and resisting arrest.

Authorities said he went into the Golden House Restaurant on Wednesday night and asked the cashier to change a quarter. When she opened the register, the man allegedly grabbed \$150.

The Eagle-Tribune reports that the owner yelled "Robbery, police." Sgt Robert Michaud, officers Ivan Resto, Marco Ayala and Jaime Adames chased the man out of the restaurant and captured him after a brief foot chase.



A Microphone at a radio station studio. A German DJ broke the world record for the longest continuous radio show Monday when he finished his "morning" programme over a week after beginning it, his station said.

Va boy drove 1,300 miles to Texas rodeo grounds

A 13-year-old Virginia boy apparently loaded his family's pickup truck with food, clothes and his dog, hitched up a trailer with two horses in tow and drove nearly 1,300 miles to Texas, police said. The teen's parents found him safe Friday.

Police are unsure why the boy ran away Wednesday morning from his Jetersville-area home. He apparently was well-prepared, even bringing extra propane tanks along.

Wyatt E McLaughlin was found about 2 pm Friday on a rodeo grounds near Weatherford, Texas, where he had performed several times before. His parents looked for him there on a hunch, said Sgt. Tom Cunningham, a Virginia State Police spokesman.



Tradition of Myanmar New Year Festival

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Myanmar New Year Festival which usually falls in April is known as “Thingyan”—a derivative from a Sanskrit word “Thin ka ran” meaning change, (a) change from old season Heyman (winter) to new season Geinman (summer); (b) change from old year to new year; (c) change from the last month (Tabaung) of Myanmar twelve-month lunar calendar to the first month (Tagu) of the new year. Thingyan also means “move”. The sun moves from south to north, from the tropic of Capricorn to the tropic of Cancer. The sun’s movements cause the three seasons of Myanmar, summer, rain and winter – warm, wet and cold seasons.

The legend of Thingyan has it that the two mighty deities, Sukka Deva (Thunder God or Indra) and Athi Brahma disputed over the solution of a mathematical problem. They agreed to refer their dispute to a human sage Kawalamine, whose verdict should be accepted as final. The wager was that the winner shall cut off the loser’s head. Kawalamine after examining the solutions of the two disputants found Indra’s solution was right. So Andra with his powerful weapon of thunder cut off Athi Brahma’s head. The blood gushed out from the head was auspicious for the winner Andra who smeared his body with it. Athi Brahma was so powerful a deity that if his head were thrown onto Earth, Earth would burn to ashes, if dropped into the oceans, all water would dry up. Andra selected seven goddesses of the seven days of the week, Sunday to Saturday, and assigned each the duty of holding the Brahma’s head for one celestial day (one human year). Next Andra cut off the head of one of his vehicle elephants Mahapeingala and affixed it to the headless body of Athi Brahma, whereupon Mahapeingala deity (Ganesh) appeared. This legend goes down deep into Myanmar tradition creating belief, saying and proverb. In Tagu, the first month of the year, duty change takes place between the two goddesses. The goddess holding the Brahma’s head of the passing out year happily hands her charge over to the new assignee goddess of the new year who receives it with sorrow, as she would be duty-bound the whole day (year) losing her leisure. Among Myanmar people, when an unpleasant duty is assigned to you, they are used to say “transfer of Brahma’s head to me!” But transfer of Brahma’s head does not follow the sequence of the days of the week. It is the Board of Calendar consisting of veda astrologers, who

after calculating their astrological mathematics would give out the result to tell which day goddess would have to take over the head holding duty in the new year. Humans born on the day of the new assignee in the new year are “atar-sars” – ill-luck people. They should do more good deeds to dispel ill-luck. Whereas those born on the day of the outgoing goddess are lucky. They will not get the burden of unpleasant duty, at least in the new year.

Normally, Thingyan Festival lasts four days – Akyo day is the eve day, awaiting the descent of Andra to Earth. Akya day is the day of the descent of Andra to Earth. Akyat day is the day of inspection by Andra and Atet day is the day Andra ascends (returns) to his celestial kingdom “Tavatimsa”. Depending upon the result of the veda calculations of the astrologers of the Calendar Board there can be two Akyat days in some years. The new year day follows the Atet day.

The legend of Andra annually visiting Earth goes thus: Humans are not saint, they are mortal and sinful. They need constant reminding to behave well and warning to avoid sins. Andra (Thagya Min in Myanmar) god king of Tavatimsa the Celestial kingdom is duty-bound to come down to earth every year to inspect humans if they behave well or not. He is accompanied by two assistant deities – Withakyone (Vissukama) and Matali. The former is the carpenter-cum-registrar and the latter is the driver of the chariot or vehicle Indra rides. Withakyone carries with him two Record Books, one is made of gold for registering the good people who behave well and the other made of dog’s skin for registering the wicked. In life hereafter, human souls are examined according to the said two Registers. (Doomsday Books) and the good will be rewarded but punishment awaits the wicked in hells.

Thingyan Festival is the first festival of Myanmar Calendar which has twelve months, each with its own kind of festival. Since the time of Myanmar kings these monthly festivals have been held on state level. Thingyan Festival is inaugurated with the announcement by beating the big drums in old days or sounding siren or by the report of Thingyan Cannon. People perform the Thingyan rite of pouring lustral water out of the Atar pot. Atar pot is a new earthen water pot of about four to six inches in diameter filled with clear cool and scented water. A bouquet of green springs of seven kinds of flora

representing seven days of the week such as Ohnlet (Coconut palm leaf) representing Sunday, Gantgaw leaves (ironwood tree) or Khayay leaf (Star flower tree) representing Monday, Seinpan (gold mohur tree) representing Tuesday, Ywet Hla leaves (Croton) representing Wednesday, Myay Zar Myet (Couch grass) representing Thursday, Thi (wood apple tree) or Than (Terminalia oliveri inermis Brandis) representing Friday and Dan (Henna) is put in the Atar pot, Sprigs of Thabyay (Eugenia) are also added. Thabyay like laurel is the symbol of victory. This pot is positioned on a stand at the entrance of the front door of the house. When the announcement is heard, the Atar pot is raised above head (usually by the elders in the household) to welcome Andra, praying for his blessings. Next, slowly the water is poured out on the ground to cleanse and purify the world and all humans. The bouquet of sprigs is kept tied at the entrance of the front door as a symbol of ushering in the new year.

There is a special bulletin called Thingyan sar giving the date and exact time of transition into the new year and forecasting climatic and crop condition to be expected in the new year. It is issued by the Board of eminent astrologers. Sometimes future situation of the world is also foretold in it.

The lighter aspects of Thingyan Festival are the joyous hilarious and boisterous activities of sprinkling, pouring, throwing, splashing clear water at each other. Public water throwing revelry, the noble intention of which is to clear physically and to cleanse spiritually. Water being the elixer of life cleanses up dirt and filth of the body as well as cleanses the sins of soul. Myanmar Kings celebrated Thingyan water pouring ceremonies in which the entire court participated and royal guests were invited to join. An English envoy Major Michael Symes gave in his book “*An Account of an Embassy to the Court of Ava, London 1800*” a full account of Thingyan water revelry he enjoyed at the residence of the Governor of Yangon in the time of King Bodaw Paya (1782-1819 AD).

Today Thingyan Festival is a free for fun for all revellers. Regardless of age, nationality, creed, religion, on position and social status, one and all participate, individually or in organized group just for the fun of drenching others and being drenched by others with Thingyan water, with goodwill, loving-kindness and cheerful heart. Thingyan water protects them from the bright warm shines of the month. Revellers sing, dance, joyously scream, and let loose themselves on Thingyan spree.

On the new year day, Thingyan mood and scenario turn sober and sublime. Social and religious activities are carried out by communities voluntarily, such as keeping Sabbath, meditating, visiting pagodas, temples and monasteries for worshipping, alms offering or other religious functions. Parents, elders, teachers and superiors are paid respect and homage. The aged are bathed, shampooed and fed. Public places and the surroundings are cleaned up, etc. etc.

Usually Thingyan holidays are 5 to 6 days. But now Thingyan holidays have been extended. Including two weekends, this year Thingyan holidays cover eleven days – a long period for people to enjoy leisure.

Myanmar New Year Festival which usually falls in April is known as “Thingyan”—a derivative from a Sanskrit word “Thin ka ran” meaning change, (a) change from old season Heyman (winter) to new season Geinman (summer); (b) change from old year to new year; (c) change from the last month (Tabaung) of Myanmar twelve-month lunar calendar to the first month (Tagu) of the new year.





Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects energy saving stoves and related equipment in Hsukalat Village of Kungyangon Township.

ENERGY

UMFCCI meets Thai, Bangladeshi Commercial Counsellors

YANGON, 9 April—General Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay and joint secretary-2 U Myint Soe of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) met with Commercial Counsellor Mr Md Aftabuzzaman of

the Bangladeshi embassy at UMFCCI Office on 2 April. Their meeting focused on trade promotion between two countries.

Similarly, the General Secretary and the joint secretary-2 met with Minister Counsellor

(Commercial) Mr Prajuab Supinee of Thai embassy at the same day. They discussed trade shows and meetings to be held in Thailand and opportunity for holding talks on health care service in cooperation with UMFCCI.

MNA



General Secretary of UMFCCI Dr Maung Maung Lay and Joint Secretary-2 U Myint Soe meet with Commercial Counsellor Mr Md Aftabuzzaman of Bangladeshi Embassy.—NLM

Stimulant tablets seized in Sangyoung Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Members of Yangon (West) Special Anti-Drug Squad searched Ko Myo (a) Myo Kyi at Myenigon bus stop in Sangyoung Township here at 12.45 pm on 24 March, and seized 27 WY Brand

stimulant tablets inside the plastic bag he was holding.

According to his confession, the team lay in wait for Ma Theingi and Maung Taik Aung at Shwe Gangaw Tea Shop in Odan Ward, Taikkyi Township. When they came into the

shop, the team members searched them and found out 1530 WY Brand stimulant tablets from Ma Theingi.

Arrangements are being made to expose their accomplices.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Myitta Village to emerge for storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi visited the project for building Myitta Village with the donations of Theravada Samadhi Pañña Association of Sri Lanka near Nyaungngu Village in Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division, on 6 April.

The minister met the

representatives of the donor and fulfilled the requirements of the project.

On completion, the village will have 704 houses, a school, a health care centre, a library, and water supply facilities.

The minister inspected the construction of 4120 feet long and 12 feet wide gravel road

linking Kungyangon-Dedaye Road and Thayetthonbin Village, and progress in building the village RC cyclone shelter.

He also inspected the project for boosting expeditious exploitation of energy for rural areas being implemented at Hsukalat Village.

MNA



A Cyclone Shelter built in Thayetthonbin Village of Kungyangon Township. — ENERGY

Mine blast injures innocent villager in Htantabin Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—U Saw Maung Myint of Thitchaseik village in Htantabin Township, Bago Division, stepped on a

mine planted by insurgents on 24 March evening as he went to Hsinlantaung woods for cutting bamboo in Thandaung Township

causing minor injuries to his left ankle, left elbow and left thigh.

Now he is being treated in Zayatkyi hospital.

MNA

T-Home water-throwing pandal with famous singers



YANGON, 9 April—T-Home water-throwing pandal of TMW Enterprise Ltd, which distributes SONY, LG, T-Home Electronic Products and INAX tiles and toilet facilities, will be opened at Inya bank on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, in this year.

“The Tree” music band, Keyboard Ko Myat Min, Chit Kaung, Myo Kyawt Myaing, Phyo Gyi,

Zaw Paing, Phoe Kar, Kaung Set, Pusu, Cobra, Shi, Gyogyar, Shwe Htaik, Zamnu, Thiri, Pyae Phu Khine and Uranium dancer troupe will entertain at the water-throwing pandal.

T-Home produces CRT-TV, LCD-TV, DVD Player, DVD Micro Hifi, Air Cooler, Deep Freezer, Can Cooler and Water Dispenser.

Those interested

person who want to buy T-Home products, may contact Wai Yan Electronic Centre at No. (162-164), Pansodan street (Middle) in Kyauktada Township in Yangon, TMW Tower in east Aungnan Yeiktha at No. 352, between 30th and 82th streets in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay and T-Home centres in Monywa, Myitkyina, Mawlamyine and Pyay.—MNA



Myanmar ICT Exhibition 2009 on 1-3 May

YANGON, 9 April— Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Exhibition (2009), jointly organized by Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association, will be held at Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road here from 1 to 3 May.

Computer devices, computer accessories, up-to-date electronic devices,

communication materials and software applications will be on show. IT entrepreneurs, electronic companies, communication materials and CDs sale centres and book shops will be put on display at the exhibition.

Companies and entrepreneurs may register at the office of MCPA, Ward-4, Room-4, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township, here (Ph-652276) not later than 10 April.—MNA

Scholarship Programme for undergraduate students

YANGON, 9 April—Korean government is presenting “Year 2009 Korean Government’s Scholarship for undergraduate students” to ten Myanmar students to promote mutual friendship and exchange education programmes between the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.

The scholarship winners must learn Korean language for one year prior to four-year undergraduate course. The scholarship programme covers school fees, air ticket to and from Korea, stipend and health insurance. The scholarship winners will leave for Korea in last week of May, 2009.—MNA

Certificate Course in BDS concludes



Minister U Nyan Win delivers an address at Simulation of Formal Banquet of BDS-20/2009 Course.—MNA

YANGON, 9 April— The Simulation of Formal Banquet, held as part of the curriculum of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS-20/2009) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held in the presence of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint

Soe at the Sedona Hotel, here, on 8 April at 6.30 pm.

Also present on the occasion were the Director-General and responsible officials of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the ministry, retired Myanmar Ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors and

lectures from Universities and Institutes as well as trainees.

It was also learnt that the Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS-20/2009) was held at Wunzin Minyazar Hall of the ministry at 9.30 am. At the ceremony, Director-General U Paw Lwin Sein of the Training,

Research and Foreign Languages Department awarded the certificates of completion to the trainees. Altogether 180 trainees including those interested in international affairs, entrepreneurs dealing with foreign firms, company officials and service personnels attended the 12-week course.—MNA

Free treatment given to those with eye complaints in Laymyethna Tsp



Eye specialists give free treatment to eye complaints of Laymyethna Township.—MNA

YANGON, 9 April— Local people with eye complaints of Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, Ayeaywady Division, received free treatment at Laymyethna township People’s Hospital from 3 to 6 April under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health, social associations and Aung San Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Saddhamma Kitthisara and assistance of Laymyethna Township Association (Yangon).

The team comprising Eye Specialist Professor Dr Kan Nyunt (Retd), Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, optometrists from Yangon Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital—Dr Nilar Thein, Dr Thein Zaw, Dr Sandar Myint, Dr Nu Nu Yin, Dr Aye Myat Oo, Dr Thein

Htut, Dr Kyaw Swa Win, Dr Htwe Thandar Yee, Dr Hnin Pwint Phyu, Dr Zay Zi Kyaw, Dr May Ko Ko Thet, Dr Shwe Wah Aye and Dr Wai Nwe Win, eight nurses, and Engineer U Bo Min of ALCON Co performed operations on the patients, together with Ophthalmologist Dr Thant Sin of Hinthada Township Hospital.

The team gave medical check-up to 4611 people from Kyaunggon, Yekyi, Athok, Ingapu, Ngathaingchaung, Hinthada, Kyeintali and Gwa townships in addition to those from the wards and villages of Laymyethna Township, and performed operations on 551 patients with cataract.

For the comfort and convenience of the team, local authorities, officials, local medical staff, Laymyethna Township Association (Yangon), townsellers and NGOs provided assistance; Laymyethna Township Association

US, British embassies visited NLD HQ 23 times in March

YANGON, 9 April— National League for Democracy (Headquarters) is making constant contact with the US and British embassies in Yangon and following their instructions. The people, therefore, are vigilant against their actions and activities.

Officials of the US

and British embassies visited NLD Headquarters in West Shwegondine Street, here, 23 times in March 2009. During their visits, they met with NLD CEC members of the party and gave large and small envelopes and parcels to the latter.

MNA

(Yangon), eye-drops and cash donations; and Sandar Myaing Co and ALCON Co, medicines and medical equipment.—MNA

*Eye specialists give
free treatment to
patients.*

MNA





Central Command Commander attends coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe attended the coordination meeting (2008) of Mandalay Division PDC, District and Township PDCs and departments, which was held at the meeting hall of Mandalay Division PDC office on 31 March, and he delivered speeches.

On 1 April, the commander and officials attended free treatment ceremony for eye patients of battalion, regiment and units under the central command, at local medical battalion and made a speech. And then the commander presented certificates of honour to wellwishers and concluded the ceremony.

Afterwards, the commander and party encouraged eye patients and looked into the treatments. He also presented eye glasses and medicines to eye treatment person.—MNA

Education Minister arrives back

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein arrived back here by air this morning after attending the 44th SEAMEO Conference and the 4th ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting held at Phuket in Thailand from 5 to 8 April.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and departmental officials.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein held discussions on

Myanmar's educational development and works being carried out for improvement of education standard at the meeting.

MNA



Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein being welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

Kanyinkauk steel suspension bridge inaugurated



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi speaking at opening of Kanyinkauk steel suspension bridge in Kungyangon Township.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the opening of Kanyinkauk steel suspension bridge in Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division on 6 April morning.

The minister formally opened the bridge by cutting a ribbon and a representative of the donor handed over the documents related to the bridge to an official.

Next, the minister and party inspected the suspension bridge and walked along it. The bridge lies

on Mayan creek between Mayan village and Kyaikpat village. The new bridge with five feet width and 100 feet in length replaced the old wooden one and it was built with the donation of Switzerland national Mr Toni.

The local people from the villages of Kungyangon, Twantay and Tawgyitan can use the village throughout the year. —MNA

Five foreign footballers to Yadanabon FC arrive

YANGON, 9 April—Five foreign footballers, who have joined Yadanabon FC, a team of Myanmar National League, representing Mandalay Division arrived by air at Yangon International Airport at 6.10 pm yesterday.

Director U Han Min Tun of Loi Hein Co (Alpine), the team's French coach, and officials of the team welcomed them.

They are three from Ivory Coast and two from Senegal: one striker, two midfielders and two defenders.

They used to play in the leagues of their countries. The club has hired them through the French coach. So far, Yadanabon FC has signed with 19 players.—MNA

Five foreign footballers, who have joined Yadanabon FC, arrive at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Over 9400 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 9 April — A total of 79.6 acres (32.21 hectare) of poppy plantations in Kutkai Township in Shan State (North), Pinlaung Township in Shan State (South), Kengtung and Mongton Townships in Shan State

(East) and PutaO Township in Kachin State had been destroyed from 27 March to 3 April. Altogether 9425.36 acres of poppy field were destroyed in states and divisions this year poppy cultivation season. — MNA

Filling stations kept open during Maha Thingyan holidays

YANGON, 9 April — Fuel stations and CNG filling stations under the Ministry of Energy in Yangon Division will be kept open during Maha Thingyan holidays, it is learnt. — MNA





Correct agriculture methods, use of natural fertilizer contribute to thriving crops plantations in Ayeyawady Division

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: MAS



Ripening paddy plantation of farmer U Htay Naing seen near Kyaukhmaw Village of Labutta Township.

(from page 16)

We, the news team, proceeded to Nyaunglein Village of Labutta Township. We saw the ripening summer paddy plantation in surrounding areas of Nyaunglein Village. We witnessed bending ears of paddy.

We had an interview with farmer U Win of the village. He said, "I cultivated 20 acres of paddy. All the sown acreage is under the plantations of Hsinthukha paddy

strain. Officials always supervised the per-acre yield of paddy. I used bio-fertilizer donated by wellwishers. So, the per-acre yield increased from 45 baskets of paddy to over 52 baskets. Inflow of seawater did not harm the paddy cultivation."

We saw green bean plantations near Nyaunglein Village. Green bean yielded six baskets per acre. No insects and bacteria destroyed the plantations this year. It was because natural fertilizer and bio-

fertilizer had been used since soil for the plantations were prepared.

We went to Kyaukhmaw Village. We witnessed paddy plantations on either side of the road to Kyaukhmaw Village. The village focused on cultivation of paddy. On arrival at the village, we had an interview with farmer U Htay Naing.

He said, "I have 100 acres of paddy and I use Ngasein and Pawhsan paddy strains in cultivation. Despite inflow of seawater to the farmlands, I followed suggestions of officials in undertaking paddy cultivation. By systematically using bio-supreme fertilizer, I was

able to prevent destruction of insects and bacteria."

In reality, physical properties can be damaged in the regions where seawater flowed. However, the farmers of Ayeyawady Division can use the bio-supreme fertilizers with the content of effective micro-organism and without chemicals in their farms. Therefore, the per-acre yield of crops did not fall.

In the fields of Farmer U Htay Naing of Kyaukhmaw Village, paddy yield was over 60 baskets per acre. Indeed, he used bio-supreme fertilizer in addition to assistance of the government and applying correct cultivation methods.

On our way, we saw thriving green bean, sunflower, green gram and summer paddy plantations at Myitpauk and Labuttaloktaung Village-tracts.

As a result of government's assistance, systematic applying of cultivation methods and quality fertilizers, and utmost efforts of farmers, the country has surplus of paddy.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin: 3-4-2009



A sunflower seen at thriving sunflower plantation.



*"I use bio-supreme fertilizer."
Farmer U Tun Myint of Bitut Village-tract.*



Officials checking insects and bacteria at paddy plantation.



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PDZ MAJU VOY NO (902N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PDZ MAJU VOY NO (902N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2009 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 PERKAPALAN DAI ZHUN
SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (482)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (482) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2009 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**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (9023)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (9023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2009 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/ CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Takeda Pharmaceutical
Company Limited, of 1-1,
Doshomachi 4-chome,
Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan, is
the Owner of the following
Trade Marks:-

ACTOS

Reg. No. 1679/2004

BASEN

Reg. No. 1680/2004

CATALIN

Reg. No. 1681/2004

DANZEN

Reg. No. 1682/2004

ENANTONE

Reg. No. 1683/2004

HICEE

Reg. No. 1684/2004

LIPOCHOL

Reg. No. 1685/2004

MAGESTO

Reg. No. 1686/2004

NEVRAMIN

Reg. No. 1687/2004

NICHOLIN

Reg. No. 1688/2004

PANVITAN

Reg. No. 1689/2004

PREVACID

Reg. No. 1690/2004

VITACIMIN

Reg. No. 1691/2004

in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations for human use".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 10 April 2009

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th April 2009 to 21st April 2009 (Water Festival Thingyan) being the public holiday. Goods will be received, shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday Fees.

**Slovenian car sales drop
by 22% in first quarter**

BELGRADE, 9 April—Car sales in Slovenia fell by some 22 percent to 14,648 in the first quarter of 2009, the Slovenian news agency STA reported on Wednesday. The car sales in March also fell by 22 percent compared to the same period last year, dropping to 5,731, the agency reported, citing a report of the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce.

Renault remained the top-selling brand in Slovenia in March with 753 cars sold. This is 29.4 percent less than in the same month of 2008.

The only car maker to increase its sales in March was Kia, which sold 337 cars, which is up 98.2 percent year-on-year. —Internet

**Three killed in Mexico
helicopter crash**

MEXICO CITY, 9 April—Three people died on Wednesday when a Mexican Geological Service helicopter crashed on Wednesday in a mountainous area of northwestern Mexico state Sinaloa, a state official said on Wednesday.

The aircraft, with the registration number ECOMIN-1000, had been carrying three people as part of a photography expedition, said Francisco Diaz Angulo, director of Sinaloa's Civil Protection department.

The helicopter left the airport of Pacific coast city Culiacan at 8.00 am local time and crashed close to the village of Cubiri, which is in the state's most mountainous region. —Internet

**ING to focus on Europe, divest
up to 8 billion euros**

AMSTERDAM, 9 April — Dutch financial services group ING Group (ING.AS) said on Thursday it plans to divest operations worth up to 8 billion euros (\$10.6 billion) to reduce risk and focus on Europe, life insurance and retirement services. ING (ING.N), which was loss-making in 2008 and got a 10 billion euro injection from the Dutch state last October, said in a statement it wants to divest non-core activities worth 6 to 8 billion euros, or 10 to 15 businesses. —Internet

Australian jobless rate rises to 5.7%

CANBERRA, 9 April—The jobless rate in Australia has reached 5.7 percent, rising at a faster pace than the government predicted just a few months ago, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics data released on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted rate for March is the highest level since December 2003. In February, the jobless rate was 5.2 percent.

The Statistics date said the number of people employed dropped by a seasonally adjusted 34,700 in March. There was a 38,900 slump in full-time workers, while there was a small rise in part-time workers.

The Australian government is expected to revise up its unemployment forecasts in its budget in May given the rapid deterioration in economic activity.

In February, it forecast a jobless rate of 5.5 percent by June 2009, rising to 7.0 percent by mid-2010. —Internet

**Large aftershock rocks Italy as death
toll hits 279**

L'AQUILA (Italy), 9 April—This quake ravaged medieval city took a limping step toward normalcy Thursday as some shopkeepers reopened for business, three days after a deadly earthquake made the historic center uninhabitable and halted nearly all economic activity.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi said the death toll from Italy's worst quake in three decades had reached 279, including 20 children and teens. The government also has increased the sum allocated for

emergency aid to \$132.73 million and Berlusconi said quake reconstruction will cost several billion euros.

Strong aftershocks overnight rattled residents—nearly 18,000 of whom are living in tent camps around the stricken region. An additional 10,000 have been put up in seaside hotels, out of the quake zone, and the Italian railway provided heated sleeping cars at L'Aquila's main train station, where nearly 700 people spent the night.

Internet



Firefighters collecting his belongings of quake victims, in L'Aquila, central Italy.—INTERNET



Spanish journalists, play with a Nintendo DSi handheld game machine prior to a Press conference by Nintendo Co President Satoru Iwata and Nintendo Senior Managing Director Shigeru Miyamoto at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo, on 9 April, 2009.—INTERNET

Nintendo not planning price cuts for hit machines

TOKYO, 9 April – Nintendo has weathered the global recession because of the popularity of its game machines and won't be resorting to price cuts to boost sales, the company's president said on Thursday.

Nintendo Co. President Satoru Iwata said consumers don't hold back on spending on products that are high on their "wish list" like his company's Wii home console or the new Nintendo DSi, the upgrade of the hit handheld machine. "If products are

similar, then people are going to look at which is cheaper," he said at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

"We do not think our video game machines are that kind of product."

He said he wasn't ruling out a price cut in the longer run, but said none were in the works in the immediate future. Despite a slowdown that has battered spending worldwide, Iwata said game purchases have held up, and actually grew over each of the last

two years.

Nintendo has scored hits with easier-to-play games that attract newcomers to gaming, including the elderly.

The DS comes with a touch panel, making it possible to play some games without complex button-pushing.

The Wii has been a hit, partly because of its wand-like controller. "It is more effective to work on how to become No. 1 on the wish list," Iwata said.

Internet

USVI backs plan to remove site from Superfund list

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, 9 April – The US Virgin Islands is endorsing a proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency to take an old chemical factory off a Superfund list of heavily polluted sites.

Robert Mathes is head of the islands' Department of Planning and Natural Resources. He said Wednesday that the proposed delisting of the former Virgin Island Chemical Corp. plant in St. Croix comes after 12 years of hard cleanup work. Contaminants including ethyl benzene and xylene had seeped into soil and groundwater at the former plant.

Internet



A full-size test mockup of the Orion crew exploration vehicle is displayed at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida on 2 April, 2009. The Orion will become America's primary vehicle for human space exploration, replacing the space shuttle after it is retired in 2010.—INTERNET

Study links larger waist size with heart failure

WASHINGTON, 9 April – A US study has found that larger waist circumference is associated with increased risk of heart failure in middle-aged and older populations, adding to the growing evidence that a person's waist size is an important indicator of heart health.

Researchers from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, reported their findings online on Tuesday in the Rapid Access Report of the journal *Circulation: Heart Failure*. They said that waist size was a predictor of heart failure even when measurements of body mass index (BMI) fell within the normal range.

"Currently, 66 percent of adults in the United States are overweight or obese," explains Emily Levitan, first author of the

study.

"Knowing that the prevalence of heart failure increased between 1989 and 1999, we wanted to better understand if and how this increase in obesity was contributing to these rising figures." —Xinhua

Germany launches Hypo Real Estate takeover bid

BERLIN, 9 April – The German government on Thursday launched its effort to take full control of battered lender Hypo Real Estate Holding AG, making a voluntary takeover offer to shareholders.

The government's bank rescue fund offered euro1.39 (\$1.84) per share of the commercial property lender, above the stock's closing level in Frankfurt Wednesday of euro1.20.

It did not give a total value for the offer. The government moved last month to take an initial 8.7 percent stake in Hypo Real Estate, buying new shares in the Munich-based company for euro 60 million.

The bank said then that it was "a prerequisite for the intended recapitalization of Hypo Real Estate" that the government "gain full control."

A new law signed this week by President Horst Koehler would allow the government to expropriate shareholders if voluntary efforts to secure stock fail. It has until June 30 to do so.

Hypo Real Estate has become the most prominent German victim of the financial crisis. It ran into trouble last September after its Dublin-based unit Depfa Bank PLC failed to find short-term funding amid the widening credit crunch.

Internet

Australian jailed over deadly lawn-watering fight

SYDNEY, 9 April—A man was sentenced on Thursday to at least 18 months in jail for fatally beating another man during an argument over Sydney's water restrictions.

Todd Munter, 39, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in December and had faced up to 25 years in jail, but the sentencing judge said the circumstances surrounding the killing called for a lighter penalty and sentenced Munter to three years, three months in prison. He is eligible for parole in 18 months.

Ken Proctor, 66, was watering his front lawn in October 2007 when Munter walked by and accused him of breaking the city's water restrictions. When Munter called him a "stupid old goat," Proctor turned his hose on the younger man, prosecutors said.

Munter then punched, pushed and kicked Proctor until he hit the ground, prosecutors said.

Internet

Rescuers work on a ladder as they try to retrieve artifacts from the damaged Santa Maria Church in the old city of L'Aquila, Italy, on 7 April, 2009.—INTERNET



SPORTS

Chelsea on course for semi-finals

LIVERPOOL, 9 April – Guus Hiddink believes Chelsea are on course for the Champions League semi-finals because they have found a way to expose the flaws in Liverpool's gameplan.

Hiddink made a mockery of Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez's reputation as European football's master tactician by pinpointing the Reds' weaknesses in defence and attack and exploiting them ruthlessly.

Despite falling behind to an early Fernando Torres goal in Wednesday's quarter-final first leg at Anfield, Chelsea hit back through two Branislav Ivanovic headers and a Didier Drogba strike to claim a stunning 3-1 victory.

Ivanovic's goals — the Serbian defender's first for Chelsea — underlined Hiddink's superior planning.

Benitez asks Liverpool's defenders to use a zonal marking system at set-pieces which means they have to mark space instead of opponents.

Internet



Liverpool's Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso (L) vies with Chelsea's German midfielder Michael Ballack during their UEFA Champions League quarter final first leg football match at Anfield, Liverpool. Chelsea won 3-1.—INTERNET

Guardiola calls for calm after Barca crush Bayern

BARCELONA, 9 April – Pep Guardiola may have been banished to the stands but he could not hide his delight after his Barca side have crushed Bayern Munich 4-0 at Camp Nou to all but book their place in the Champions League semi-finals.

A brace from Lionel Messi and further strikes from Samuel Eto'o and Thierry Henry on Wednesday demoralised Bayern in a first half goal blitz to put Barca in a commanding position for the return leg in Munich on April 14.

"Obviously 4-0 in the first leg of a Champions League quarter-final match is incredible," said Guardiola. "We did almost everything right. Bayern have great players so it is difficult to beat them. The talent made the difference tonight."

Internet



Barcelona's coach Josep Guardiola.

Kaka and Ancelotti going nowhere, says Galliani

MILAN, 9 April – AC Milan pair Kaka and Carlo Ancelotti will be going nowhere despite reported interest in them from Real Madrid, the Italian club's vice-president Adriano Galliani said on Wednesday.

Former world player of the year Kaka and coach Ancelotti have long been linked with the Spanish champions as well as clubs in the English Premier League – Milan turned down a bid from Manchester City for Kaka in January while Chelsea are believed to be interested in hiring Ancelotti next season.

But Galliani is adamant that both will be at the San Siro next season. "Every



AC Milan pair Kaka, and Carlo Ancelotti will be going nowhere despite reported interest in them from Real Madrid, the Italian club's vice-president Adriano Galliani said on Wednesday.

INTERNET

morning I read some entertaining stories (in the newspapers) and I have a laugh but the reality, and it's as clear as day, is quite another thing," he told Milan's official website in reference to the constant transfer rumours.—Internet

Safina desperate to prove tennis number one value

PARIS, 9 April – Russia's Dinara Safina, who will replace Serena Williams as world number one later this month despite never having won a Grand Slam title, insists she will prove she belongs on top of the rankings. The 22-year-old Safina, whose brother Marat was the men's top player in the world in 2000, will replace Williams, who has been on top for 11 consecutive weeks, and 72 in all, on April 20. "There's no question that while I am very proud of my results over the past year, I would have liked to reach this achievement in a different man-



Russia's Dinara Safina, will depose Serena Williams as world number one, despite never having won a Grand Slam title.

INTERNET

ner," said Safina, the runner-up to the American at the Australian Open this year. "I hope to prove to everyone over the coming months that I merit the honour of being world number one.—Internet

More seeds stumble out on Texas clay

HOUSTON, 9 April – Austrian Jurgen Melzer and Frenchman Jeremy Chardy, who had been the highest remaining seeds at the ATP US Clay Court Championships, were each ousted in straight sets here on Wednesday.

One night after US top seed James Blake and American second seed Mardy Fish made their exits in the first round of the 500,000-dollar event, American Wayne Odesnik defeated third seed Melzer 6-4, 6-0. Fourth seed Chardy also fell without taking a game in the second set, losing 6-1, 6-0 to Spaniard Guillermo Garcia-Lopez in another second-round match.

Also advancing to the third round was hard-serving American John Isner, who outlasted Chile's Paul Capdeville 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/5). Not since 2000 had the top two seeds failed to get out of the first round of the French Open tuneup event.—Internet

O'Neill charged for United outburst

LONDON, 9 April – Aston Villa coach Martin O'Neill has been charged with improper conduct by the Football Association for his behaviour after his side's 3-2 defeat by Manchester United on Sunday.

The charge relates to O'Neill's conduct towards referee Mike Riley following the final whistle in the Premier League game at Old Trafford. The Northern Irishman was angered by the amount of stoppage time that Riley added on at the end of the 90 minutes.

"What was it? Five minutes added time? I'm sure we wouldn't have got it at Villa Park," he said after Federico Macheda's 93rd-minute winner.



Aston Villa's Manager Martin O'Neill.

O'Neill also complained about what he saw as an unpunished foul on Villa winger Ashley Young in the build-up to Macheda's goal, as well as several earlier decisions.

"The officials also got three offside wrong," he said. O'Neill has until April 27 to respond to the charge.—Internet

Veteran Milutinovic to lead Iraq in South Africa

BAGHDAD, 9 April – Veteran Serbian coach Bora Milutinovic will lead Asian champions Iraq at this year's Confederations Cup in South Africa, the Iraq Football Union (IFU) told AFP on Wednesday. "We have reached an agreement with Bora and signed a contract with him to manage the team at the Confederations Cup," IFU deputy chief Najih Humoud said.

Milutinovic will take up the post on April 16, Humoud said, in an appointment that comes two months after Brazilian Jorvan Vieira was sacked



Veteran Serbian coach Bora Milutinovic.

as coach of the national side. "We agreed the contract could be extended if the team performed well at the competition, which starts on June 14", said Humoud.—Internet

Juve's Salihamidzic out for four weeks

ROME, 9 April – Juventus's Bosnian midfielder Hasan Salihamidzic will be out of action for the next four weeks after undergoing surgery on a damaged knee, the club said on Wednesday.

Salihamidzic, who has spent much of the season in the treatment room, injured his knee during the opening exchanges of Sunday's 3-3 draw at home to Chievo.

Meanwhile, Juve have reached an agreement with Portuguese centre-back Jorge Andrade to terminate his contract with the club, leaving him a free agent.

The former Portuguese international joined Juventus in 2007 after the club had rebounded from its relegation to Serie B for match fixing.

However, Andrade suffered a broken knee-cap early on in his Juve career and missed almost the entire 2007-08 season.

Internet



Actors rehearse the opening ceremony of 2009 China Wu Culture Festival held in Wuxi City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 8 April, 2009. The 2009 China Wu Culture Festival will kick off in Wuxi on 10 April. As a famous city with a history of 3000 years and the site of the old Wu Kingdom, Wuxi is known for its rich Wu culture.

INTERNET

Study: Love at first sight might be genetic

WASHINGTON, 9 April—Does love at first sight truly exist? According to a study published in the April issue of the journal *Genetics*, the answer might be yes—at least for fruit flies.

In experiments involving fruit flies (which may have implications for humans), a team of scientists from the United States and Australia discovered that at the genetic level, some males and females are more compatible than others, and that this compatibility plays an important role in mate selection, mating outcomes, and future reproductive behaviors.

The scientists noted the males with which females of each strain tended to mate and then examined whether the females showed differences in behavior soon after mating and in reproduction-related activities, such as how many offspring were produced and how much sperm was stored. They also examined the females' RNA (a type of molecule) to compare the genes expressed in females mated to males of different strains.

Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (10.4.2009) (Friday)

Transmissions

Local	Times
Europe	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
North America	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

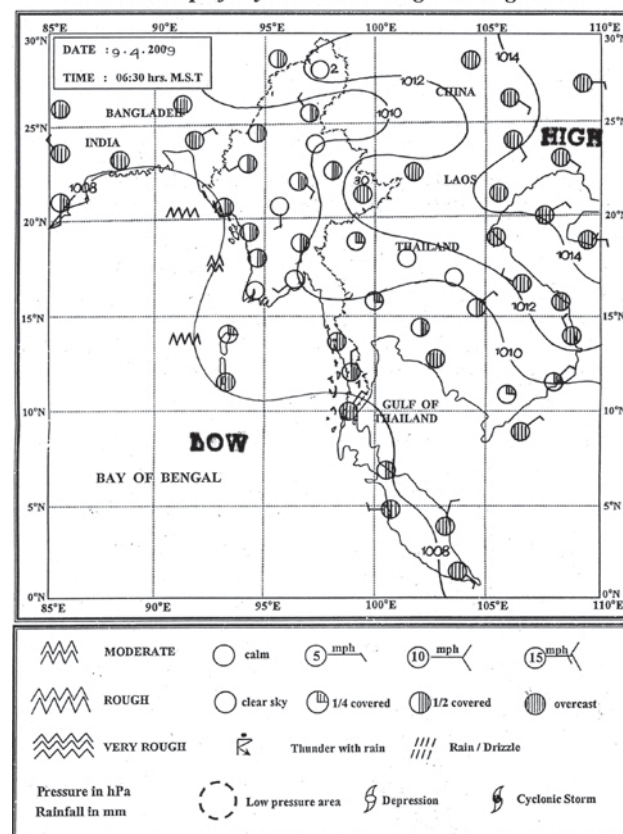
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
- * Cow Decoration Items
- * Water Festival "The Pride of Myanma Tradition"
- * Scenic Beauties and Sentiment (Sagaing)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Mandalay's Grand Wall and Moat
- * Delicious Mango Jam
- * Bronze Casting of Kyar Ton Village
- * King Thayawaddy's Bell
- * Myanma Eretes Sticticus
- * Variety Dances of Marionette "Dance of Garland"
- * Innwa Ancient Capital
- * A Day in Yangon (Zoological Garden)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
- * Cow Decoration Items
- * The glory of Maha Muni Buddha Image, at dawn
- * Water Festival "The Pride of Myanma Tradition"
- * Picturesque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-I)
- * Paintings decorated by art of goldsmith
- * A Pilgrimage to Dhammayangyi
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 9 April, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (4°C) below April average temperatures in Shan State and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Minbu (41°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kengtung (1.18) inches and Putao and Machanbaw (0.08) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 8-4-2009 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 9-4-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 9-4-2009 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 8-4-2009 was (9.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 9-4-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from West at (17:30) hours MST on 8-4-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 10th April 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 10-4-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-4-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-4-2009: Partly cloudy.



Friday, 10 April
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဟောကြားတော် မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

2. Morning news

7:40 am

3. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကစားနည်း

7:55 am

4. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

5. Song of national races

8:15 am

6. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

8:30 am

7. International news

8:45 am

8. The mirror images of the musical oldies

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

3. Songs of yester years

4:30 pm

4. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

4:40 pm

5. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

4:55 pm

6. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ စတုတ္ထနှစ်(ဥပဒေပညာအထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)

5:10 pm

7. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:20 pm

8. Musical programme

5:35 pm

9. လျှင်တော်မြို့ရဲ့ကျက်သရေဆောင် နည်းပညာတက္ကသိုလ်ပင်မဆောင်

5:45 pm

10. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

6:00 pm

11. Evening News

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေ့ဘက်ရှင်

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နားရီရာရင်ခွင်" (အပိုင်း-၂)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာလမ်းဆုံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)



Correct agriculture methods, use of natural fertilizer contribute to thriving crops plantations in Ayeyawady Division

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: MAS

At 7 a.m., we arrived at Kyeinchaung Village of Bitut Village-tract in Labutta Township of Ayeyawady Division.

The region last May was covered with surf of tidal wave when cyclone Nargis hit it. The rumours were spread that the farmlands were destroyed due to inflow of seawater. At present, we witnessed the thriving paddy plantations and lush and green gram plantations.

In an interview, farmer U Tun Myint of Kyeinchaung Village told the Myanmar Alin Daily, "I have 25 acres of green gram. Seawater flowed into some acres of land. In growing green gram, we applied the systematic agricultural methods and effective fertilizers. We followed the suggestions given by officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service and used bio-supreme fertilizer. Therefore, there was no loss and damage in cultivation task."

We saw thriving sunflower and green gram plantations of farmer U Tun Myint near Kyeinchaung Village. Especially, the green gram plants thrived well.

"I performed plough-

ing in time, used quality strain of green gram and bio-supreme fertilizers. Moreover, I took good care of the soil. Last year, I was able to produce seven baskets of green gram per acre. By using

two bags of bio-supreme fertilizer, yield of green gram increased up to 15 baskets per acre. Especially, my plantations were not destroyed by insects and bacteria. The inflow of seawater con-

tributes to the increase of per-acre yield of crops without any damage," explained the farmer.

The government is always providing necessary assistance for producing of crops in Ayeyawady

Division to prevent damaging of cultivation and crop production due to inflow of seawater. Therefore, Ayeyawady Division saw a good yield of crops this year.

(See page 11)



Green gram plantation thriving near Kyeinchaung Village of Labutta Township.

Dailies in alternative circulation during Thingyan

YANGON, 9 April—The dailies of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be published in turn during Thingyan (The Water Festival) holidays.

The Myanmar Alin and The New Light of Myanmar will not appear on 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 April. During these days, the Kyemon will be in circulation, and it will take holidays on 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 April. On those days, the Myanmar Alin and The New Light of Myanmar will be in circulation.

All the papers will resume a regular circulation on 22 April.—MNA

MRTV-4 (Free To Air) Channel to be broadcast up to 20 hours a day

YANGON, 9 April—Myanmar Radio and Television under Ministry of Information is broadcasting MRTV-4 (Free to Air) channel with 6-hour long programmes 4 times a day. It is learnt that the broadcast hour will be extended up to 20 hours starting from 11 April. MRTV-4 TV programmes are now being broadcast through VHF Channel (11) with VHF system in Yangon and its environs.

As such, people in Yangon and its environs can now receive MRTV-4 (Free To Air) Channel just with VHF TV antenna.—MNA

Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) closes on 12-16 April

Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) kept open

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Ministry of Forestry has been open as of 1 April daily except Monday from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. It will be closed temporarily during Maha Thingyan holidays from 12 to 16 April.

Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) will be kept open for public rest and recreation.—MNA

Sound from exploding volcanoes compared with jet engines

SCIENCE DAILY, 9 April—New research on infrasound from volcanic

eruptions shows an unexpected connection with jet engines. Researchers at

Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego speeded up the recorded sounds from two volcanoes and uncovered a noise very similar to typical jet engines. These new research findings provide scientists with a more useful probe of the inner workings of volcanic eruptions. Infrasound is sound that is lower in frequency than 20 cycles per second, below the limit of human hearing.—Internet



Scripps researchers installed an array of microbarometers at Mount St. Helens in November 2004 to collect infrasound near the site.