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New Year Day of 1371 ME

Friday, 17 April, 2009

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Syrian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic, which falls on 17 April 2009.—MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Only if IT can effectively be used, will the nation develop; national development will promote IT as well

Senior General Than Shwe inspects Yatanarpon new town project

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected implementation of Yatanarpon new town project in

PyiOoLwin Township on 13 April morning.

First, Senior General Than Shwe accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, member of SPDC Lt-Gen

Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing (See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe looks into progress in implementing Yeywa Hydropower Project

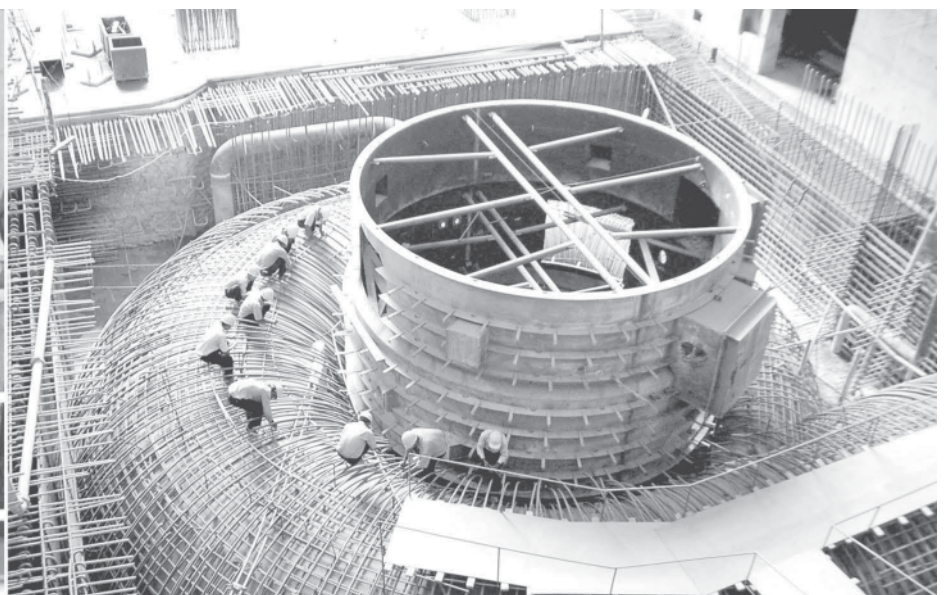
NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 14 April morning inspected progress of Yeywa Hydropower Project being implemented by No. 2 Construction of Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 on Myitnge River, 31 miles to southeast of Mandalay.

Accompanied by SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party, the Senior General arrived at Yeywa Hydropower Project by helicopter at 12.15 p.m.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min reported on facts about the project, conditions of approach roads, progress of water diversion tunnel, RCC main embankment works at

entrance and exit to the water diversion tunnel, construction of the power intake structure, the spillway, the power plant and the switch yard, 79 per cent completion of the project and efforts being made for timely completion of the tasks, and transport of imported heavy machinery parts of the power plants from Yangon to the project site.

(See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe on 14 April inspects progress of Yeywa Hydropower Project on Myitnge River, 31 miles southeast of Mandalay.—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



PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 April, 2009

Resume duties with renewed vigour and interest

Myanmar New Year Day falls on the 8th Waning of Tagu 1371 Myanmar Era (17 April 2009).

Today, the old year of 1370 ME has gone by, thus ushering in 1371 ME. During the Thingyan Festival (Water Festival), Myanmar people had a good time by splashing and pouring water onto each other.

In other words, the people have cleansed the guilt or sins they made last year by dousing water to each other and one another. So, they have to resume their responsibilities with renewed enthusiasm.

On the occasion of the Myanmar New Year Day, Myanmar Buddhists perform meritorious deeds such as visiting pagodas, monasteries, stupas, temples to take precepts, making donations, and doing meditation.

The youth pay respects to their parents, grandparents, teachers and elderly persons and give bath, shampooing, and manicuring to old persons as a gesture of preserving Myanmar traditions and culture. People serve refreshments to others.

The entire people can enjoy themselves and do wholesome deeds in Thingyan Festival due to stability and peace maintained in the whole country.

On Myanmar New Year Day, the people are exhorted to do their bit with renewed strength and mind in the process of transforming the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one.

Regional development tasks inspected in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min on 2 April inspected tasks of Yaybok Dam Project, construction of houses in Htilon Village near Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe Road and the nursery.

In Paingkyon, he met departmental officials and local authorities.

He viewed the development tasks of Paingkyon.

At Paung Village Basic Education Middle School in Kawkareik Township, Brig-Gen Zaw Min inspected construction of new two-storey building and Pata bridge.

On 3 April, he attended the ceremony to drive stakes for construction of new stand at Aungthanlwin State Sports Ground in Hpa-an.—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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends graduation dinner of 112th Intake of OTS



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets graduate officers at the graduation dinner of the 112th Intake of OTS.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended the graduation dinner of the 112th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School at Convocation Hall of the school in Bahtoo, Yaksawk Township of Shan State on 10 April.

It was also attended by Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htaik, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-

Gen Hla Htay Win, Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Yar Pyae, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers of the Kalaw Station and Bahtoo Station, departmental heads, graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

First, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted the graduate officers individually.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party had dinner together with the graduate officers and their parents and relatives. After dinner, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party enjoyed entertainments presented by Myawady Music Band and Myawady Anyeint Troupe.—MNA

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—A strong earthquake of intensity (6.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Indonesia) about (1380) miles South of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (02) hours (31) minutes and (33) seconds MST on 16th April, 2009.—MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Syrian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—On the occasion of the National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic, which falls on 17 April 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Walid Al-Moualem, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic.—MNA



Fidel Castro says Cuba has no desire to rejoin OAS

HAVANA, 16 April—Cuban former leader Fidel Castro rejected the allegation that Cuba would return to the Organization of American States (OAS), local press reported on Wednesday.

Castro said in an article entitled “Does the OAS have the right to exist?” that this organization “has a history with all the trash of betrayal to Latin American peoples since the 1960s.” Cuba was shut out of the OAS in 1962 during the Cold War when the United States imposed pressure on the organization in an attempt to overthrow the socialist government of Cuba and isolate it.

“We will not knee before the OAS to return to that institution,” said Castro. He added that the OAS general secretary Jose Miguel Insulza “knows that we

do not even want to hear the vile name of that institution.” Castro said that the OAS “has not done a single service to our people.”

The OAS is scheduled to hold the fifth Summit of the Americas from April 17 to April 19 in Puerto Espana, Trinidad and Tobago. Castro said the summit “will be a battle field where many governments will be in embarrassing situation.”

Latin American presidents have said that they will demand the return of Cuba to the OAS and the end of the US economic embargo against Cuba in the summit. According to Cuba, the US blockade is “genocide” and it has cost at least 93 billion US dollars since 1962.

Internet

At least 10 killed in suicide bombing in Iraq

KIRKUK, 16 April — At least 10 people were killed and some 20 others were wounded in a suicide car bombing in the city of Kirkuk on Wednesday, a local police source said.

The attack took place at about 5:00 pm (1200 GMT) in central the city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, when a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car into a bus carrying policemen who are task of protecting oil installations, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Internet



An Afghan official takes note as he inspects a damaged vehicle after an explosion in Mazar-i- Sharif the provincial capital of Balkh Province north of Kabul, Afghanistan on 13 April, 2009. A remote bomb which was placed in a taxi vehicle exploded but left no casualties Afghan police officials said.—INTERNET

Iran to offer new proposal package to world

TEHERAN, 16 April — Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday said that Iran would offer new proposal package to the world, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Addressing a crowd in Kerman city of Iran’s southeastern Kerman Province, Ahmadinejad said that “We are developing a new package. It is prepared to be proposed to the world.” He did not, however, elaborate on the content of the package and whether it has its concern to do with the country’s nuclear stand-off. “This document would be the guarantee of peace and justice in the world, of respect to the rights of the nations, and of participation of all the governments and nations to resolve the issues of the world,” he added.

In response to West’s packages of incentives to encourage Iran to halt its sensitive nuclear programme, Iran offered its own package to France, Britain, Russia, China and the United States, plus Germany (G5+1) last year, in which Teheran’s concern had been directed to the global issues rather than its nuclear programme. The United States and other Western countries claim that Iran intends to secretly develop nuclear weapons. The UN Security Council also requires Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment activity. Iran, however, insists that its nuclear plan is only for peaceful purposes, vowing to continue its uranium enrichment activity despite pressure and sanctions from Western countries.

Internet

A man who was wounded in a bomb attack receives treatment in a hospital in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 15 April, 2009.

INTERNET



Omer, (white bandage), 7, and Imad, 11, Iraqi children who were injured during the war, attend a psychological therapy session at the Red Crescent Hospital in Amman on 15 April, 2009.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,273

WASHINGTON, 16 April — As of Wednesday, 15 April, 2009, at least 4,273 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.

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.

Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 605

KABUL, 16 April — As of Wednesday, 15 April, 2009, at least 605 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 on Wednesday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 446 were killed by hostile action.

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 military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.—Internet

China becomes world leader in UHV power technology

BEIJING, 16 April — A spokesman of the State Grid Corporation of China (State Grid) said here on Wednesday the country has become the world leader in the development of ultra-high-voltage (UHV) power transmission and transformation technology. In recent years, China has achieved an overall breakthrough in UHV core technology and the localization of UHV equipment, with more than 100 domestic manufactur-

ers and suppliers participating in the manufacturing and supply of UHV equipment, Ma said at the annual General Meeting of the China Business Council for Sustainable Development (CBCSD), on behalf of his company's general manager Liu Zhenya.

In January 2009, the world's first 1000kv UHVAC transmission project, known as the Jindongnan-Nanyang-Jingmen UHVAC transmission project, was put

into operation. It marks a breakthrough in the technology of long-distance, large-capacity and low-loss UHV power transmission. The project has been organized and independently innovated by the State Grid, said the company official. So far, the State Grid has formulated 47 national standards and a whole set of specifications for UHV project design, construction, operation and maintenance, he said.—Xinhua



Participants present ethnic clothes during the annual Naboli (beautiful girl) contest, in Jinggu, southwest China's Yunnan Province on 14 April, 2009.

XINHUA



Security tech experts recruited to help Expo in Shanghai

BEIJING, 16 April—The municipal security bureau has selected 58 engineers for a security technology consulting team serving the 2010 Shanghai World Expo.

The engineers came from various companies in relevant fields, such as electronics, telecommunications and automatic systems. They will help approve key security projects' designs, especially for those located in Expo Park. They will also ensure these projects are running smoothly before and during the 184-day-long event.

"Enhancing security technology will be central to hosting a successful Expo," deputy director of the bureau Jiang Xianfa was quoted as saying by Thursday's *China Daily*. The event will last much longer than the Olympics and is expected to bring 70 million visitors, a record high for an international event hosted in China.

"All of these engineers are leading experts in their fields," Jiang said. "Their professionalism and experience with globally advanced technologies will greatly enhance our capacity to deal with various levels of security threats." Jiang also said authorities welcomed similar contributions to the Expo from the social sector. Cai Chengchu, deputy director of the Shanghai World Expo Coordination Bureau's security department, said the team would be especially useful in preventing terrorism. Cai said the team would continue providing technological assistance to the local police after the Expo.—Xinhua

People perform a water-fetching ceremony by the Lancang River in Jinghong, Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan Province on 15 April, 2009. People celebrate the annual and traditional Water Splashing Festival, which signifies the visit of spring.

XINHUA

Powerful quake rocks western Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 April —

An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale struck western Indonesia on Thursday morning, but there is no report of damage or casualty so far, local meteorology agency said.

The epicenter of the quake, which occurred at 3:01 am local time (2001 GMT Wednesday), is located at a depth of 50 km below the sea level, 32 km south-west of Mentawai Islands and off the western coast of Sumatra, the Geophysical, Climatological and Meteorological office (BMG) said in a statement. But the office did not say whether the earthquake has potential to trigger a tsunami.

Xinhua

New edition of China Encyclopedia published

BEIJING, 16 April — A new edition of the Encyclopedia of China, which has been compiled over 14 years, has been published by the Encyclopedia of China Publishing House this month.

The second edition draws on a corpus of 32 volumes, 60,000 items, 30,000 pictures and 1,000 maps, said the publishing house Wednesday. The Encyclopedia of China was the first large-sized comprehensive encyclopedia in China. Its first edition was published in 1993.

The publishing house's Editor-in-Chief Xu Weicheng said, with 60 million Chinese characters, the latest edition is much slimmer than the 130-million-character first edition. The new edition rewrote a large number of items, updated or replaced some outdated ones, and integrated some overlapping ones.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China launches second "Compass" satellite for global navigation system

BEIJING, 16 April — China successfully launched its second navigation satellite on early Wednesday, as part of the country's independent global satellite navigation system. The carrier rocket, *Long March 3C*, blasted off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 0:16 am.

An official with the National Engineering Center of Satellite Navigation told *Xinhua*, the successful launch of the geostationary Earth orbit satellite was of great importance as it was the second one of the country's satellite navigation system independent from foreign technology. The system, code named "COMPASS", is a crucial part of the country's space infrastructure for providing navigation and positioning services in transportation, meteorology, petroleum prospecting, forest fire monitoring, disaster forecast, telecommunications and public security among others. It can bring significant social and economic benefits, the official said.—Xinhua



China's Compass-G2 navigation satellite is launched on a Long March-3C carrier rocket at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 15 April, 2009.—XINHUA



Nay Pyi Taw sees a grand Golf Tourney



Prime Minister General Thein Sein participates in Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament. —MNA

Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, the senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers and the deputy

presentation ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course, here, this evening, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister Col Thein Nyunt, Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe presented prizes to the respective outstanding golfers.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt gave second prizes to Myo Min Aung of Navy club with 214 strokes in three-day total and Ministry of PBANRDA team with 1119 strokes on three-day

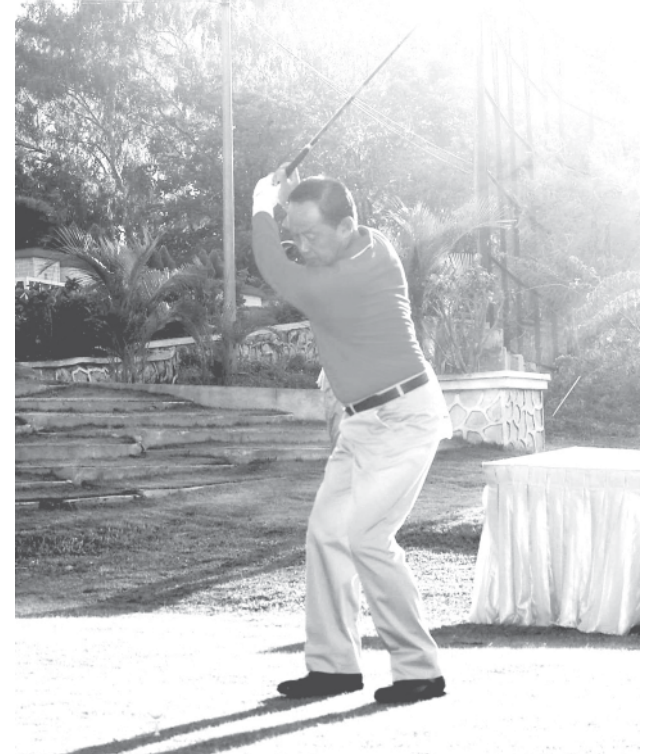
aggregate.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin also awarded first prizes to Myint Thaung of Forestry Team with 212 strokes in three days and Ministry of Forestry team with 1108

strokes in three-day total.

The Secretary-1 presented Tour Gold Cup of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Golf Tournament to Ministry of Forestry team.

MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo participates in Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament. —MNA

MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents Tour Gold Cup of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament to Ministry of Forestry team. —MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan...

(from page 16)

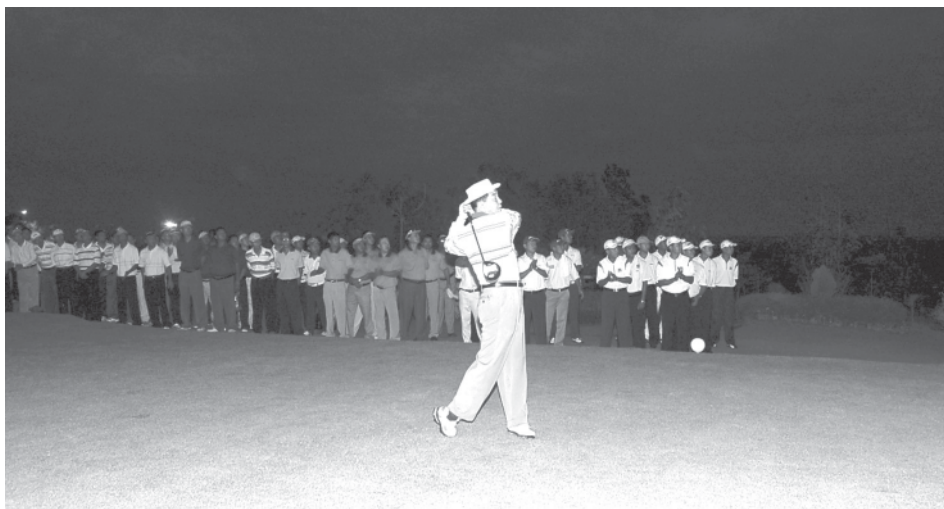
PBANRDA, Yepyar Golf Paradise, Kachin State PDC, Yangon Division PDC and Mandalay Division PDC took part in the group (C). They

played the golf event at City Golf Course, Yepyar Golf Course and Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course in turn from 14 to 16 April.

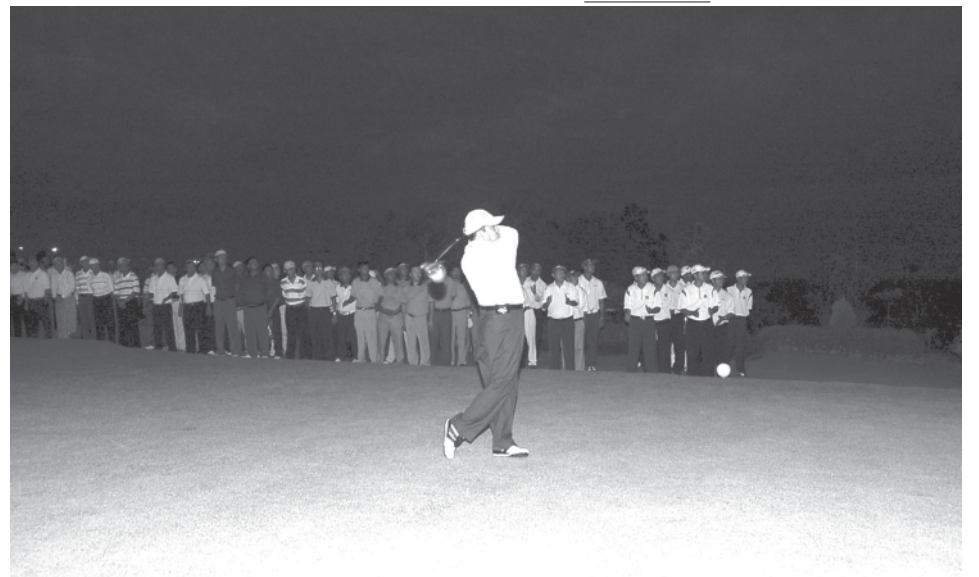
Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and

ministers enjoyed the tournament at City Golf Course on 14 April, Yepyar Golf Course on 15 April and Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course on 16 April.

At the prize



Minister Col Thein Nyunt tees off the ball at Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin tees off the ball at Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament. —MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt gives second prize to Myo Min Aung of Navy. —MNA



Development of private industries to contribute to improvement of industrial sector and building of an industrialized country

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits Ayethaya Industrial Zone of Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of SPDC Office, left Nay Pyi Taw by helicopter on 8 April and



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits Machine Shop and Foundry Shop of Ayethaya Industrial Co Ltd.—MNA



arrived at Taunggyi at 8.50 am.

In meeting with officials and entrepreneurs at Ayethaya Industrial Zone of Taunggyi, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye heard reports on development tasks for the industrial zone presented by in-charge of the industrial zone Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

The minister also reported on setting up of subcommittees for Ayethaya Industrial Co Ltd, collection of raw

materials for the foundry shop project and future tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that they came to the industrial zone to provide necessary assistance for its development. He added that Ayethaya Industrial Zone is one of the 18 private industrial zones set up with the assistance of the government. He said that as Ayethaya industrial zone has been equipped with foundry, machine and forging shops similar to that of Mandalay and Monywa Industrial Zones, it is necessary to strive to achieve more success year after year. He stressed the need to conduct research to be able to keep abreast of other industrial zones.

He pointed out that it is necessary to manufacture the agricultural equipment and other machine parts for Shan State and quality implements meeting set standards for State-owned and private-run industries. The development of private industries will contribute to the improvement of the industrial sector and building of an industrialized country, he added.

For establishment of the industrialized nation, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye explained that efforts are being made for setting up the industries and turning out the educated human resources such as technicians and engineers for the industries. He noted that if the industrial facilities can be secured, the country can

stand tall as a modern and developed nation.

He said that while striving for building an industrialized nation, emphasis is being placed on development of the agriculture sector, especially for achieving sufficiency of agricultural produce and surplus food. He continued to say that due to correct policy of the State, the country has achieved local food sufficiency. Indeed, he added that food is basic need for all the global countries. Therefore, he explained that during the period of the world financial recession, Myanmar endures the economic meltdown and is exporting agricultural produce to the foreign markets.

In conclusion, he pointed out that it is nec-

essary to manufacture necessary industrial products for boosting production of agriculture sector and for development of the regions, and he stressed the need to take innovative measures for converting the waste into bio-battery to be able to supply electricity to all the houses of the villages.

Afterwards, they viewed finished wood products, quality crops and fertilizers, ores, marble slabs, agricultural implements and paddy threshers, automobiles and spare parts manufactured by the industrial zone.

Later, they visited Machine Shop and Foundry Shop of Ayethaya Industrial Co Ltd and heard reports presented by the factory manager and officials.—MNA

Efforts are being made for setting up the industries and turning out the educated human resources such as technicians and engineers for the industries.



Various kinds of motor vehicles assembled at Ayethaya Industrial Zone.—MNA



Kengkham Multipurpose Dam Project completed by 12 per cent



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Kengkham Dam near Kengkham Village in Yaksawk Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected Kengkham Dam near Kengkham Village in Yaksawk Township on 9 April.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and members of his entourage including Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, the Commadner-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Ya Pyae, ministers and officials helicoptered to the project.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay

Oo reported on work progress, saying that the multipurpose dam project on the Namt-et Creek near Kengkham Village was designed to support water to Zawgyi Dam; that the project comprised a 6-megawatt hydropower plant; that major works were main dam, culvert, hydropower plant, spillway and canal; and that the project had been completed by 12 per cent.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on conditions of forests around the project and its surrounding areas.

In response, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called on completion of the project on schedule and getting rid of the trees and woodlands in the basin area in time. He asked about another dam to be constructed on the Nampar Creek,

downstream Kengkham Dam. The Agriculture and Irrigation Minister presented a report, saying that Nampar Creek Dam could be completed ahead of Kengkham Dam Project; that the facility would be able to irrigate some 1000 acres of farmlands; that it would also be able to support water to Zawgyi Dam; and that the project would have a small-scale hydropower plant.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called for sooner launch of the project and expediting tasks for development of the areas around the project including Kengkham Village.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the main dam, the project site and progress of Kengkham Village and its environs.—MNA

Private crops plantations thriving well in Yaksawk Township

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected private plantations being undertaken in Indaw Kyaukgu region of Yaksawk Township on 10 April.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed perennial and seasonal crop plantations in Kyaukson, Indaw, Hsihson Ganaing regions of Yaksawk Township and Taungthaik perennial and seasonal crops plantations in Kyaukgu region. Responsible persons of the plantations reported on matters related to the plantations and thriving of crops.

After visiting the plantations, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions. He said that the government gave permissions to establish private plantations on vacant and virgin lands with the farsightedness to serve the interest of the State and

the private entrepreneurs. In Indaw region, there are four private plantations, he added. He stressed the need to extend cultivation of marketable perennial plants on a commercial scale. Moreover, he continued to say that it is necessary to grow seasonal crops such

as maize and niger for saving the cost of cultivation for the perennial crops. He pointed out that it is important to organize the experienced agriculturalists for successful cultivation of crops.

In Indaw Kyaukgu region of Yaksawk

Township, a total of 32,000 acres of vacant and virgin lands were allotted to private entrepreneurs. So far, over 4,000 acres of land have been reclaimed. At present, the entrepreneurs have grown seintalon mango, orange, macadamia, djenkol bean,

avocado pear, coffee, tea, physic nut and coconut plants and maize, sugarcane, soya bean, niger and groundnut.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left the private plantations and arrived back in Bahtoo in the afternoon.—MNA



Perennial and seasonal crops plantations in Yaksawk Township.—MNA





Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe hears report presented by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.—MNA

Only if IT can effectively be used, will the...

(from page 1)
of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, and officials of the SPDC Office arrived at Yatanarpon Teleport building of the project at 10.30 am.

In his reports presented to the Senior General at the hall of the teleport, Commander Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe said that as the first phase of the project, the teleport building, seven incubation centres and telephone, data and CATV systems have been built. Arrangements for power supply and drinking water supply have also been made. Concrete roads have been built. Construction of factories has started after allotting

plots for 18 investing companies. According to the private housing project in the north of Yatanarpon new town, 150 plots have been allotted and houses are being built. Tasks are being carried out phase-wise to complete the project sooner.

Next, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on opening of Yatanarpon Teleport in December 2007, construction of the teleport and seven incubation centres on 2200 acres of land out of 10000 acres of project area, arrangements for building factories by 18 companies, offering of permits to hire the incubation centres and hiring of some centres, offering of IT businesses in which companies can invest and plans for building a park and convention centre, services centre, training centre and houses.

Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han reported on progress in

construction of infrastructures such as roads and water and power supply facilities in the private housing project site (North), land allotments for companies and private entrepreneurs and construction of roads and houses by contractor companies.

In giving guidance,

Senior General Than Shwe said that it is necessary to complete the project as soon as possible overcoming difficulties. Today's IT (Information Technology) is influencing all sectors such as politics, economy, social affairs and defence, and it is used very widely and extensively. Only if IT can effectively be used, will the nation develop, and national development

will promote IT as well. It is necessary to develop IT-related industries to meet the requirements of local and foreign markets. As IT industries will develop only if there is a market, it is needed to seek the market.

As the State is encouraging IT industries in the interest of investors, they themselves are to make efforts for the development of their

industries.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected IT equipment to be produced by companies investing in Yatanarpon new town project.

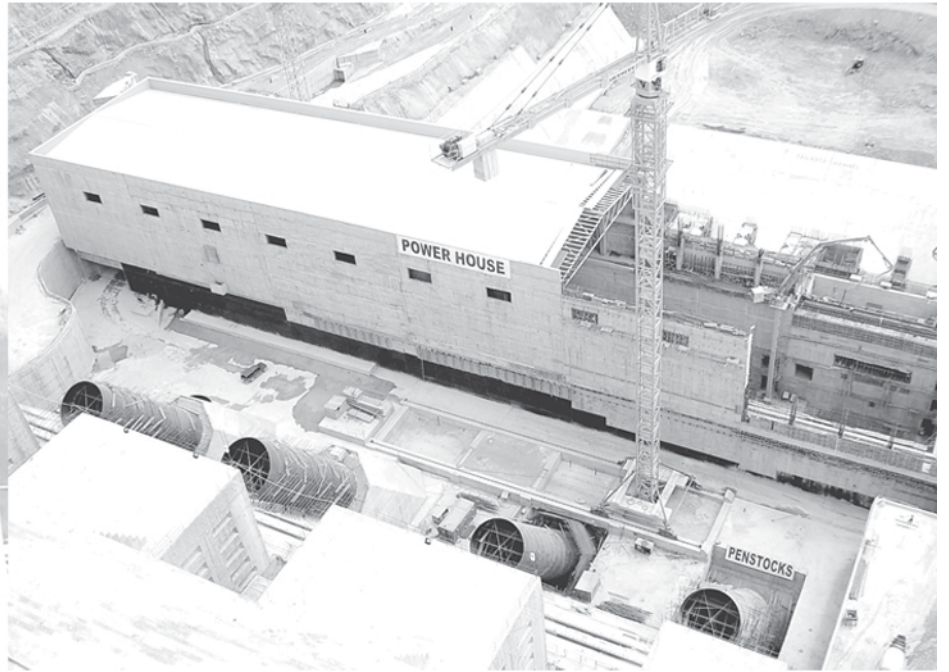
Later, the Senior General and party inspected the implementation of the project by car and left the town.

MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects IT equipment of the companies.—MNA





Senior General Than Shwe on 14 April inspects progress of Yeywa Hydropower Project on Myitnge River, 31 miles southeast of Mandalay.—MNA



Yeywa Dam, one of the world's largest RCC dams.—MNA

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance that as the Yeywa Hydropower Project is nearly completed, it is necessary to take care of all the project tasks including installation of machines.

Next, the Senior General presented fruit baskets to the foreign technicians.

The Senior General and party viewed completion of the main concrete dam, construction of the spillway and power intake structure, building of the power plant to be installed with four turbines and

penstock pipes.

The Senior General and party passed the approach tunnel of the main dam by car to view the progress of the project.

Yeywa Hydro-power Project is a major project of the State to generate 790 megawatts.

The project is being implemented to build a 2264 high feet long and 433 feet high Roller Compacted Concrete Dam for generating hydropower.

Yeywa RCC Dam is one of the largest RCC dams throughout the world.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

The minister also reported that Yeywa dam is the fourth highest RCC dams across the world. The main embankment was completed during the period from 7-2-2006 to 14-12-2008, and it stood ninth in the most quickly constructed dams across the world, he added.

Deputy Minister U Myo Myint submitted the reports that Upper Yeywa Dam to be built upstream of Yeywa Dam will be of concrete type with 200 feet high and 1640 feet long facility. The dam can generate 140 megawatts and contribute to generating hydro-electricity of Yeywa Hydropower Project.





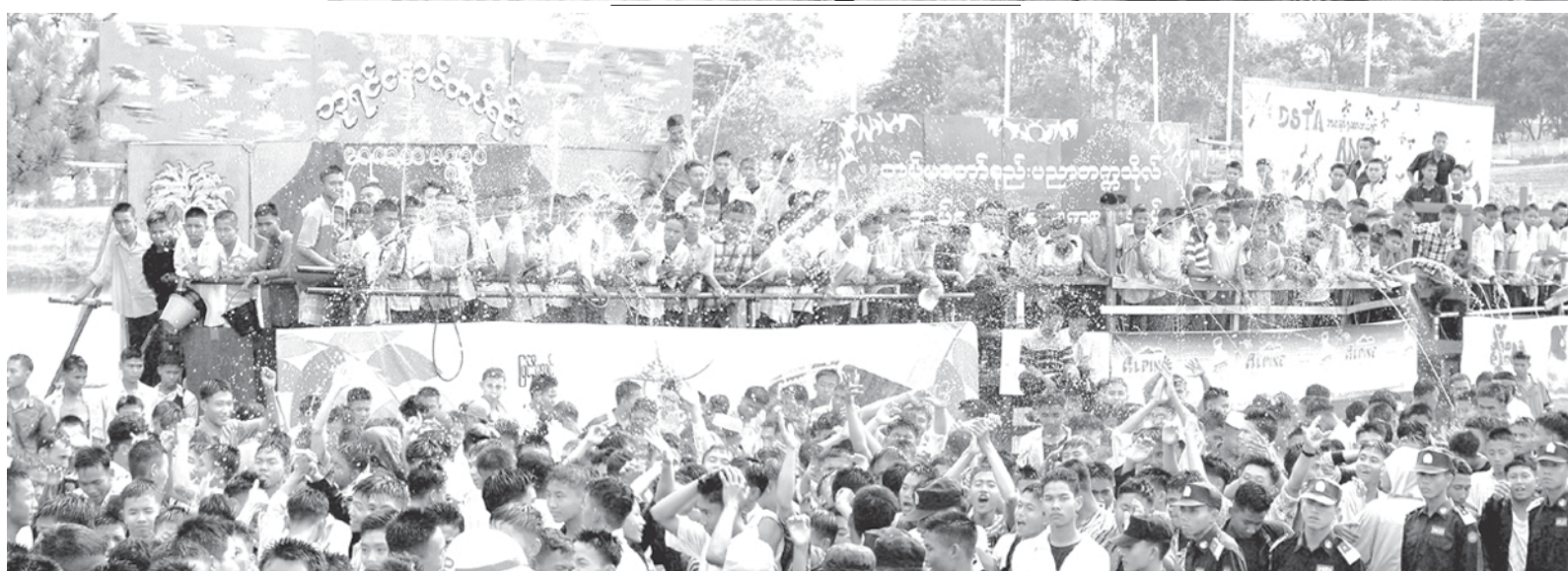
Revellers enjoy Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, PyinOoLwin on Atet Day

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April—Today is Maha Thingyan Atet Day which falls on 7th Waning of Hnaung Tagu, 1370 ME.

Various roads and streets including Paunglaung Road in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana were packed with revellers and decorated floats. The merry-makers and revellers enjoyed the water throwing festival at Paunglaung Creek. Local



Picnickers seen at Paunglaung Creek near Sutaungpyae Pagoda on Maha Thingyan Atet Day.—MNA



The merry-makers and revellers enjoy at Defence Services Technological Academy's water throwing pandal.

MNA

people, social organization members and staff families visited Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden and Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).

In Yangon, the water throwing pandals in townships of four Yangon districts were crowded with water throwers and decorated floats. Especially, the entertainment stages on Inya Road, University Avenue, the bund of Inya Lake and Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road performed entertainment to the water throwers and merry-

makers. Likewise, artistes and dance troupes presented songs and dances to the people at Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.

The wellwishers donated foods and snacks to the people at various regions.

(See page 11)

The merry-makers and revellers enjoy at Yangon Mayor's water throwing pandal on Maha Thingyan Atet Day.—MNA



The merry-makers and revellers enjoy at Defence Services Academy water throwing pandal in PyinOoLwin.—MNA





Revellers enjoy Maha Thingyan...

(from page 10)

The devotees offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to the pagodas and stupas, and many people performed meritorious deeds at the religious buildings.

Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyaw Soe closed the Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Festival this evening, and cultural troupes and staff sang the song and performed dances. The mayor, wife and officials presented prizes to the respective dancing troupes.

In Mandalay, the Mandalay Mayor, wife and officials enjoyed the entertainment of artistes at Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal this morning. Next, the mayor and party visited Thingyan pandals of departments concerned and private entrepreneurs around the moat.

Likewise, revellers enjoyed the Maha Thingyan Festival in all wards of PyinOoLwin on Atet Day. Merry-makers and picnickers visited the ring road of Kandawgyi Lake, the pandals at National Kandawgyi Gardens and National Landmarks Garden.—MNA



Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden being packed with revellers on Atet Day of Maha Thingyan.—MNA



Managing Director U Htoo Thet Htwe and responsible persons of Air Bagan Ltd open Air Bagan water throwing pandal on Akyo Day.—NLM



Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden being crowded with revellers on Atet Day of Maha Thingyan.—MNA



US seeks int'l effort to curb piracy

WASHINGTON, 16 April—The United States will join international efforts to fight against piracy off the Horn of Africa, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said here on Wednesday.

The United States and the international community will “explore ways to track and freeze pirate assets,” Clinton told reporters, noting “pirates are buying more and more sophisticated equipment

... buying faster and more capable vessels.”

She also said that the United States will send an envoy to a Somali donors conference this week to seek more effective ways to halt piracy off the Somali coast.

“Our envoy will work with other partners to help the Somalis assist us in cracking down on pirate bases and in decreasing incentives for young Somali men to engage in piracy,” she said.

Despite sustained patrols by international warships, piracy is rampant recently off coast of the war-torn Horn of Africa nation of Somalia.

Internet



This undated image 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, on 8 April, 2009, while sailing from Salalah in Oman to the Kenyan port of Mombassa via Djibouti.—INTERNET

Canada auto workers union refuses further concessions to Chrysler

OTTAWA, 16 April—The Canadian Auto Workers Union on Wednesday refused to make any special concessions for automaker Chrysler, despite a threat that Fiat could walk away from a possible partnership to save the ailing company.

Fiat wants the unions in Canada and the United States to agree to match the lower wages at Japanese and German car plants as a precondition for the partnership. The US government has given Chrysler until the end of April to negotiate a partnership with Fiat, or face the prospect of a bankruptcy filing or liquidation.

Canadian Auto Workers president

Ken Lewenza said Wednesday his union would bargain with Chrysler for a deal similar to the one struck with General Motors earlier in the year. The GM agreement was worth approximately 7 Canadian dollars (5.6 US dollars) an hour in reduced labour costs. Chrysler, however, said it needs savings in the range of 20 Canadian dollars (16 US dollars) an hour to stay in business. Lewenza said that giving Chrysler a better deal would end up hurting GM. Historically, the Canadian Auto Workers Union makes somewhat similar deals with the three US automakers, a pattern that keeps sector labor costs equal. —Internet

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

- Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in Euro ;

Tender No	Description	Quantity
12(T)1/MR(MC)	Vacuum Brake Cylinder 21" F Type	100 Sets

2009-2010
Closing Date/Time - 15.6.2009 (Friday) (12:00) Hours
- Tender documents are available at our office starting from 10.4.2009 during office hours and for further detail please call Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985.

Philippine Govt: 122 Filipino seamen held by Somali pirates

MANILA, 16 April—The Philippine government said on Wednesday that a total of 122 Filipino seafarers are being held by Somali pirates, following the hijacking of a Greek-owned ship with Filipino crew on Tuesday in the Gulf of Aden.

MV Irene EM — the latest vessel captured by pirates off Somalian waters — has 22 Filipino seafarers on board, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement. This is the ninth hijacking in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean since the start of the month. The foreign department said the newly-abducted Filipinos are reportedly unharmed and it is continuing to coordinate closely with concerned foreign authorities and the local manning agencies of the hijacked vessels to secure the early and safe release of the Filipino seafarers.

As the number of Filipino hostages keeps swelling in Somalia, the Philippine government remains clueless on how to provide protection to the thousands of seafarers sailing through the dangerous waters of Africa. The Philippine government said that as a policy, it will not negotiate nor pay ransom to the kidnappers. Consequently, negotiations with pirates are usually left to the ship owners, who pay huge amounts to the pirates to ransom their crew.—Internet



Israeli Anat Teva (C) works on a sand sculpture depicting the cartoon character Garfield during a competition on Beit Yanai beach north of the coastal city of Netanya on 15 April, 2009.—INTERNET

Thousands in California protest against US tax, budget policy

LOS ANGELES, 16 April—Thousands of people took to the streets on Wednesday outside city halls and other landmarks across California to protest against increasing taxes and government spending in the United States.

The rallies, part of a nationwide Tea Party movement on the tax deadline day, were aimed at expressing people's objection to President Barack Obama's economic policy, including the huge stimulus package, organizers said. Protesting events were under way

or planned in many Los Angeles area middle-class and wealthy communities, including one at the California Republican Party headquarters in Burbank.

About 30 people gathered outside the city hall in Glendale, a Los Angeles suburb city, hoisting signs with slogans like "Stop the Spending" and "America, No Left Turn." In Santa Ana, Orange County, a traditional Republican stronghold, protesters carried American flags to gather crowd.

Internet



Paddlers compete during the 2009 China National Canoeing Marathon on a river in Shaoxing, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 14 April, 2009. Around 60 paddlers took part in the competition. Xinhua

US commander in Gulf submarine crash loses command

MANAMA (Bahrain), 16 April —The skipper of an American nuclear submarine that collided with another US Navy vessel at the mouth of the Persian Gulf last month has been relieved of command, the Navy said. The statement on Tuesday said there was

enough information to remove Cmdr Ryan Brookhart from his post at the helm of the USS Hartford even though an investigation into the incident is not done yet. He has been temporarily assigned to a staff job in Bahrain, home to the US 5th Fleet.

The submarine skipper's commanding officer, Rear Adm. Michael J Connor, "expressed his loss of confidence in Brookhart's ability to command," according to the Navy statement. Navy officials did not make Brookhart or Connor available for comment.

Cmdr Chris Harkins, deputy commander of Submarine Squadron Eight, has taken over the command of the Hartford.

The accident occurred in the pre-dawn hours of March 20 while both ships were on regularly scheduled deployments to conduct security operations. Officials said the vessels were heading to port in the same direction when they collided in the Strait of Hormuz. The submarine was submerged at the time.—Internet

1,000 people asked to evacuate as flooding situation worsens in central Canada

OTTAWA, 16 April—A thousand people were advised on Wednesday to leave their homes in Canada's Manitoba Province, as the Red River continues to swell. The notice affects people living just south of provincial capital Winnipeg, where hundreds have been forced from homes after weeks of flooding threats.

Officials announced earlier Wednesday that the peak flow of the Red River in Winnipeg will exceed the flood of 1950 to become the second highest in history, only after that of 1997 when the "Flood of the Century" happened.

The province's chief flood forecaster, Alf

Warkentin, said the crest, expected to pass through Winnipeg within the next couple of days, is forecast to be 6.78 meters. Only the flood of 1997, with a crest of 7.35 meters, was worse in the past 100 years.

On Tuesday, the city pleaded for 500 to 600 volunteers to assist with sandbagging efforts to

protect about 100 endangered homes. Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Tuesday toured the region and pledged aid from the federal government. Caused by a combination of ice jams, melting snow and rain, the Red River flooding wreaks havoc on Manitoba every year.

Internet

NATO to hold exercises in Georgia

BRUSSELS, 16 April —NATO will conduct two series of exercises in Georgia between May 6 and June 1, the alliance's central military command said on Wednesday.

Nineteen countries will participate in the exercises designed to improve interoperability between the organization and its partner countries. The 19 countries are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Britain, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) said the exercises, codenamed Cooperative Longbow 09 and Cooperative Lancer 09, were planned in spring 2008, months before the Georgia-Russia military conflict that soured NATO-Russia relations.

Xinhua



Researcher develops vaccine for E coli diarrheal diseases

WASHINGTON, 16 April — A Michigan State University (MSU) researcher has developed a working vaccine for a strain of E coli that kills 2 million to 3 million children each year in the developing world, a press release from the university said on Wednesday.

Enterotoxigenic E Coli, which is responsible for 60 percent to 70 percent of all E coli diarrheal disease, also causes health problems for US troops serving overseas and is responsible for what is commonly called traveler's diarrhea.

Mahdi Saeed, professor of epidemiology and infectious disease in MSU's colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Human Medicine, has applied for a patent for his discovery and has made contact with pharmaceutical companies for commercial production. Negotiations with several firms are ongoing.

"This strain of E coli is an international health challenge that has a huge impact on humanity," said Saeed, who has devoted four years to develop the vaccine at MSU's National Food Safety and Toxicology Center. "By creating a vaccine, we can save untold lives. The implications are massive." Enterotoxigenic E Coli affects millions of adults and children across the globe, mainly in southern hemisphere countries throughout Africa and South America. It also poses a risk to US troops serving in southern Asia and the Middle East.

Saeed's breakthrough was discovering a way to overcome the miniscule molecular size of one of the illness-inducing toxins produced by the E. coli bug. Since the toxin was so small, it did not prompt the body's defence system to develop immunity, allowing the same individual to repeatedly get sick, often with more severe health implications.

Internet

Twelve bln euros needed for reconstruction in Italian quake-hit areas

ROME, 16 April — Gianni Chiodi, governor of Italy's Abruzzo region which was rocked by a powerful earthquake on 6 April, said on Wednesday that reconstruction in the hardest-hit L'Aquila City and neighboring towns will cost about 12 billion euros (16.2 billion US dollars).

He said the sum "seemed a reasonable number" and it was also necessary to evaluate damage caused by the earthquake to the area's economy and social fabric, adding that the quake-hit region would "require other important resources" for its reconstruction.

European Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani said on Wednesday that the EU could contribute up to 500 million euros of the funds needed. Some of this money will come from an EU fund for natural disasters, while the rest will be reallocated from structural funds destined for Abruzzo and Italy. "Europe will do its part and will not abandon the Italian people," he said.—Internet

Dengue cases up to 170 in Cook Islands

WELLINGTON, 16 April — Cook Islands has recorded 170 cases of suspected dengue fever over the last three weeks, the *Cook Islands News* reported on Thursday.

Cook Islands Ministry of Health this week said 13 people have been admitted to hospital showing symptoms of the mosquito-borne disease with results expected to be received from Australia this week confirming the presence of a new outbreak in Rarotonga.

The ministry said that no evidence has suggested the infection has reached the outer islands. A national clean up campaign was undertaken last week with environmental risk assessments and actions completed for all probable cases. Many empty cans, bottles and plastic bags were disposed of immediately, the daily said.—Internet



An Afghan girl carries her little sister in Naray, Afghanistan's eastern Kunar Province. In four isolated districts of Afghanistan, attacks on the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force rose 120 percent in February and March from a year earlier as coalition troops have started to push deeper into the harsh terrain where militants have been fighting for decades.—INTERNET

NEWS ALBUM



The world's tallest man, Bao Xishun of China, at a shopping mall in Hong Kong on 10 January, 2009. A contender for world's tallest man underwent foot surgery at a Chinese hospital where doctors confirmed he is 10 centimetres (four inches) taller than the current title-holder, state press said on Tuesday.

A Qantas airliner was grounded after four snakes went missing from the cargo hold on a passenger flight from Alice Springs to Melbourne, according to officials.

Baby pythons escape during flight in Australia

Four baby pythons escaped from a container aboard a passenger plane in Australia, leading to a search that forced the cancellation of two flights, the airline said on Thursday.

Twelve non-venomous Stimson pythons were being transported Tuesday on a flight from Alice Springs to Melbourne in the plane's cargo area in a bag inside a plastic foam box with air holes. When the flight landed, it was discovered that four snakes had escaped from the package, a Qantas spokeswoman said in a statement.

A reptile expert searched for the 6-inch (15-centimeter) -long snakes but did not find them. It was not known if the snakes were still on the plane or if they had somehow escaped outside after the plane landed. In the meantime, the plane missed two flights it had been scheduled to fly and the passengers were transferred to other flights.



Photo taken shows two goats locked in their horns at Wadian Township, Linquan County, Anhui Province on 13 April, 2009. More than 200 of them took part in a goat-fighting match on this day.

Man lobs \$30,000 from cars

Taiwan police have arrested a 55-year-old man for lobbing bank notes worth about T\$1 million (\$29,600) from vehicles, causing disorder in the streets, an officer said on Monday.

The man tossed the bills from a taxi in a crowded part of Taichung city on Sunday as people stopped to pick up the cash, Changhua police official Lin Shih-ming said.

"He might have had a nervous condition, as his state of mind wasn't normal," Lin said.

He is believed to have thrown heaps more money on an earlier road trip

starting in the capital Taipei.

The man also burned about T\$400,000 and had two more sacks of cash, apparently the proceeds of a property sale, Lin said.

Some of the passers-by who picked up the bills turned the money over to police, while others pocketed it, he said.

The taxi driver turned the man in to police in Changhua county, just south of Taichung.

The suspect would be charged with public endangerment and destruction of currency, Lin said.

SPORTS

Ferguson relishing United, Arsenal clash

PORTO, 16 April—Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson predicted a “terrific” all-English Champions League clash with Arsenal after his team disposed of Porto in the quarter-finals on Wednesday. The reigning European champions became the first English team to win in Porto and will now meet Arsene Wenger’s Arsenal for a place in the Rome final after the London team swept past Villareal.

“It would be tough no matter who we played, but the fact it is another English side gives it a different type of spice,”



Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson

Ferguson said. “Our game earlier in the season was fantastic. It was the way football should be played.” We are two good footballing sides, so it should be a terrific semi-final and we are looking forward to it.”—Internet

Nadal and Federer cruise in Monaco tennis

MONTE CARLO, 16 April—Rafael Nadal, bidding for a fifth consecutive Monte Carlo Masters title, reached the third round on Wednesday by racking up his 134th claycourt win, against just four defeats, since 2005. Roger Federer also breezed through to stay on course for a fourth consecutive final appearance as the build-up to the French Open continues.

Federer saw off Italian Andreas Seppi 6-4, 6-4 and will face Swiss compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka for a place in the quarter-finals. Nadal recovered from dropping serve twice to beat dogged Argentine Juan Ignacio Chela 6-2, 6-3 and will next face Ecuador’s Nicolas Lapentti who defeated Marat Safin.

The volatile Russian, who squandered a 5-2 third set lead as well as three match points, flirted with disqualification as his hopes crumbled. Federer, the second seed, was kept on his toes as Seppi saved three match points in the penultimate game on his own serve before the Swiss brought proceedings to a close after 1hr 23min.—Internet

Seven goals in two games “an exception” - Cech

PRAGUE, 16 April—Chelsea’s Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech on Wednesday said the fact he has conceded seven goals in his last two matches was “an exception”.

The Blues drew 4-4 with Liverpool in a thrilling Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday, after shipping three goals in a 4-3 Premier League victory at home to Bolton on Saturday. Cech looked uncharacteristically vulnerable against Rafael Benitez’s Liverpool, but played down concerns about his form.

“Sometimes, you can’t avoid making mistakes. It’s an exception. It can happen,” he said during an audio press conference with the Czech media after Chelsea had clinched a 7-5 aggregate victory at Stamford Bridge. Cech was embarrassed in the 19th minute of Tuesday night’s match when Liverpool left-back Fabio Aurelio swept an opportunistic free-kick past him from wide on the right to open the scoring.—Internet

Arsenal still outsiders in Championship: Wenger

LONDON, 16 April—Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal are still “super outsiders” to win the Champions League even though his side brushed aside Villarreal 3-0 to book a semi-final showdown with Manchester United.

The Gunners were at their majestic best in Wednesday’s quarter-final second leg at the Emirates Stadium as goals from Theo Walcott, Emmanuel Adebayor and Robin van Persie dispatched Manuel Pellegrini’s Spanish club in resounding fashion.

After spluttering through the first half of the season, Arsenal appear to be hitting peak form at just the right time. They are unbeaten in 18 Premier League matches and now have a European semi-final to look forward to as well as Saturday’s FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea.

Internet



Spain’s Rafael Nadal.

Ilunga commits himself to ‘second rate’ West Ham

LONDON, 16 April—Democratic Republic of Congo international defender Herita Ilunga signed a permanent deal with English Premiership side West Ham on Wednesday just months after he described them as being a ‘second rate team’.

The 27-year-old had joined from French First Division side Toulouse on a season-long loan to replace left back George McCartney - who was sold to Sunderland - but has since played every Premier League game and scored his only goal in an FA Cup

third round match with Barnsley.

Ilunga, who also played for Toulouse’s championship rivals St Etienne after arriving from Spanish outfit Espanyol B, made his remarks about the Hammers in December adding that he saw them as a stepping stone in his career. However, the 18-times capped left back received the full support of manager Gianfranco Zola, who has made good on his promise of signing him permanently on a contract which runs till 2013.

Internet



Chelsea’s Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech(L), seen here on 8 April, 2009, said the fact he has conceded seven goals in his last two matches was “an exception.”—INTERNET

Blatter demands fair play in AFC leadership row



FIFA president Sepp Blatter has demanded all sides play by the book in an increasingly bitter battle for power inside the Asian Football Confederation.

INTERNET

SINGAPORE, 16 April—FIFA president Sepp Blatter has demanded all sides play by the book in an increasingly bitter battle for power inside the Asian Football Confederation.

The head of the sport’s world governing body made the comments as relations between AFC president Mohamed bin

Hammam and his chief rival, Bahrain’s Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, plummet. Shaikh Salman, Bahrain’s Crown Prince, is challenging Bin Hammam for his seat on FIFA’s executive committee, with the winner decided at the AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur on May 8.

Qatar’s Bin Hammam, accused by his opponents of being a dictator, says he will step down as AFC chief if he loses the FIFA seat, despite his term not expiring until 2011. The battle, which both sides claim to be winning, has become increasingly political among the powerful factions within the AFC’s 46 member nations, with Japan, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia all opposed to Bin Hammam.—Internet

Alpine Bau wins bid for Warsaw Euro 2012 stadium

WARSAW, 16 April—German-Austrian construction group Alpine Bau has been picked to build the stadium in the Poland’s capital Warsaw which is set to host the opening match of Euro 2012, Polish authorities said on Wednesday.

Sports Minister Miroslaw Drzewiecki said that Alpine Bau, which has formed a consortium with the Polish group Hydrobudowa, won the bidding to build the 55,000-seat Vistula riverside venue after coming up with a 1.25-billion-zloty (289-million-euro, 385-million-dollar) offer. The bids of the consortium’s five rivals weighed in at between 1.29 billion and 2.23 billion zlotys, Drzewiecki said.

According to the timetable for the European football championships, the Warsaw stadium is meant to be ready by May 2011, a year ahead of the start of the tournament. The Alpine Bau-Hydrobudowa consortium has already won the contract for two other Euro 2012 venues. It is due to construct a 44,000-seat stadium in the Baltic port city of Gdansk and upgrade one in the western city of Poznan into a 47,000-seat arena.—Internet



Democratic Republic of Congo international defender Herita Ilunga.—INTERNET



Magic tap, which appears to float in the sky with an endless supply of water. In actuality, there is a pipe hidden in the stream of water. Location: Aqualand, Cadiz.—INTERNET

Smile predicts success of your marriage

BEIJING, 15 April—A smile in your past photographs is an indication that your marital life will be successful, says scientists. Psychologists have found that how much people smile in pictures in the past can predict their later success in marriage. The researchers asked almost 650 adults for pictures taken during their final year school and rate the brightness of their smiles.

The scientists, from DePauw University in Indiana, also asked the volunteers, between 21 and 87, whether they had ever been divorced, and subsequently matched their answers with the data on their smiles.

Those with the weakest smiles were more than three times as likely to have been through a divorce than those who beamed their way through their teenage years, the journal *Motivation and Emotion* reports.

“Smile intensity predicted whether or not participants divorced at some point in their lives,” the researchers said, adding: “The less intensely participants smiled, the more likely they would be divorced later in life.”—*Internet*

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (17.4.2009) (Friday)

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

Local Transmission

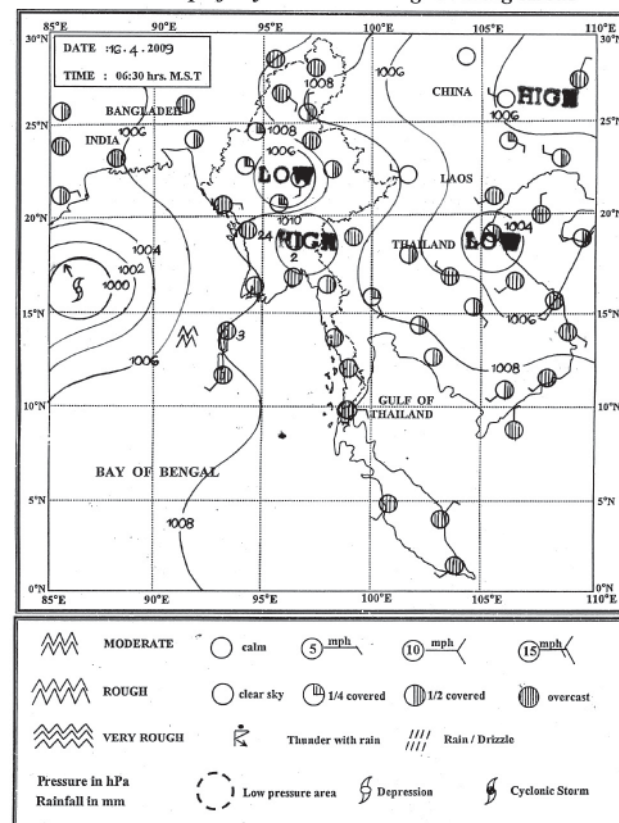
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * The Exotic Land of Myanmar
- * A Day in Yangon (Myanmar's Shwedagon)
- * Beauty of Ngwe Hsaung and Lovers' Island
- * Floral Lovers' Paradise (National Kandawgyi Gardens)
- * Meditation Centers throughout Myanmar
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Traditional Thingyan Dance (2009)
- * Rakhine Traditional Water Festival (Nantha Grinding Celebration)
- * Traditional Thingyan Dance (2009)
- * Falam Vocational Training School
- * Thriving Herbal Medicinal Plants As Poppy substitutes in Kachin State
- * Sightseeing Around Taunggyi, Inlay (Part-II)
- * The Splendour of Mt. Victoria (Natmataung)
- * Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf Works
- * The Exotic Land of Myanmar
- * A Day in Yangon (Myanmar's Shwedagon)
- * Beauty of Ngwe Hsaung and Lovers' Island
- * Floral Lovers' Paradise (National Kandawgyi Gardens)
- * Meditation Centers throughout Myanmar
- * Yaw Clothes from Yaw Region
- * Jewelled Handiworks
- * The Grand Bagaya Monastery (INWA)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 16 April, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Rakhine State, isolated in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, upper Sagaing Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (7°C) above April average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Kayah State, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Toungoo and Shwegyin (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Naypyitaw (0.55) inch, Kyauktaw (1.14) inches, Kyaukpadaung (0.94) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-4-2009 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 16-4-2009 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-4-2009 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 15-4-2009 was (8.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 16-4-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (0.12) inch. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (0.99) inch at Mingaladon, (1.54) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.89) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 15-4-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the cyclonic storm Bijli over West Central Bay is centered at about (165) miles Southeast of Vishakhapatnam (India). It is forecast to move initially North-Northwest direction and recurves later North-Northeast Direction. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17th April 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be Scattered in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderated to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-4-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-4-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-4-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Friday, 17 April
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့ (အဖွဲ့ဝင်) မကွေးတိုင်း ပွင့်ဖြူမြို့ရွှေစေတီကျောင်းတိုက် ဆရာတော်အဂ္ဂမဟာဂန္ထဝါစက ပဏ္ဍိတိဘဒ္ဒန္တကုဏ္ဍလဟောကြား တော်မူအပ်သော “နှစ်သစ်မင်္ဂလာတရားတော်”

8:00 am

5. Nice and sweet song

8:15 am

6. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

8:30 am

7. International news

8:40 am

8. ဘဒ္ဒန္တကုမာရ (အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာန အဘိဓမ္မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက) ဥက္ကဋ္ဌဆရာတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော် သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့၊ မဟာဝိ သုတာရာမတိုက်သစ်၊ မကွေးမြို့ ထံမှ နဂင်္ဂပေါသထသီလခံယူ ဆောက်တည်ခြင်း

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. ဓမ္မပူဇော်အစီအစဉ်

4:40 pm

3. Dance of national races

4:50 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

ပထမနံပါတ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု)
(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

4:55 pm

5. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:00 pm

6. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

5:10 pm

7. ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန နိုင်ငံတော်သံစုံတီးဝိုင်းဖျော်ဖြေ တင်ဆက်မှုအစီအစဉ်

5:15 pm

8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:25 pm

9. Song of yesteryear

8:40 pm

10. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

6:00 pm

11. Evening News

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. မန္တလေးမြို့မစိန်ရတု

7:15 pm

14. “သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် ကြွယ်ကြွယ်အိတ်”

7:30 pm

15. ရွှေတောင်မြို့ကျီးသံလေးထပ် ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပဏ္ဍိတကနမက္ကာရအစီဇွန်ယူ ဘုရားရှိခိုးကြီး (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးသုခ၊မောင်နှင်းမိုး)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. “ဇေယျတုသဗ္ဗမင်္ဂလ”

- (ဆရာကြီးဦးသုခ)

20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘဝနာ ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein on PM's departure for the PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye saw off Prime Minister General Thein Sein who left here for the People's Republic of China by special aircraft to attend the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2009 to be held at Boao in Hainai Island of the People's Republic of China at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 2.30 p.m. today.

Also present at

the airport were Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of SPDC Office and departmental heads, Charge d' Affaires ai of Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr. Wang Zong Ying and officials.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thien Zaw, the director-general of Government Office and departmental heads.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein on the PM's departure for the PRC at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA



Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament 2009 held on 14, 15, 16 April: prizes presented on 16 April



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye taking part in Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament.

MNA

Significant day temperatures

Toungoo and Shwegyin (39°C) each

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

Nay Pyi Taw	(0.55) inches,
Kyauktaw	(1.14) inches,
Kyaukpyu	(0.94) inch.

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April — The Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament-2009 took place at City Golf Course, Yepyaw Golf Course and Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw from 14 to 16 April, with the participation of 108 golfers of 18 teams from Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), the ministries, states and divisions and golf clubs.

The Tournament was opened at City Golf Course on 14 April morn-

ing, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and golfers.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Nay Pyi Taw

Mayor Col Thein Nyunt opened the tournament.

The golfers of Defence Services (Air), Ministry of Home Affairs, Magway Division Peace and Development Council, KM, Shan State PDC (South) and Paunglaung teams are included in Group (A). Defence Services (Army), Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Forestry, Blue Water, Topaz and Sagaing Division PDC are included in Group (B). Defence Services (Navy), Ministry for

(See page 5)

Cyclone warning

NAY PYI TAW, 16 April — According to the 5.30 p.m. MST observatory, cyclone Bijli centred at the central west of the Bay of Bengal, 180 miles east of Vikasapattinam of India. During past three hours, the cyclone moved to north-northeast direction. It is forecast to enter the inland area between Bangladesh and the northern region of Rakhine State of Myanmar in the afternoon of 18 April (Saturday), in next 48 hours.

The force of cyclone is now at the orange level, and it is moving with the direction to the coastal region of Myanmar. While the cyclone is entering the inland area, the tidal surf will be 5 feet to 7 feet high along Rakhine coastal region and 3 feet to 4 feet along the coastal region of Delta. During the storm wind, the likelihood of surface wind speed will be 60 to 70 mph, and the waves will be higher. Therefore, trawlers, fishing boats and ferry boats at the water territorial area along Rakhine coastal region should go to the safe regions from the dangerous area of cyclone, said the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA