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Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend rice and alms donation ceremony for monasteries in PyinOoLwin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the ceremony to donate rice, edible oil and provisions to monasteries in PyinOoLwin Township, at the Gandakuti Building of Maha Arnthtu Kantha Buddha Image in PyinOoLwin at 9.30 a.m. today.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha from monasteries in the township, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads of the SPDC Office and ministries, local authorities, nuns, social and religious associations and guests.

The Senior General and wife offered meals, fruits, lights, flowers and water and paid homage to the Buddha image.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee (Hngettwin) Satubonmika Maggin Yeiktha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijaya administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The Senior General, wife and families donated rice, edible oil and alms to members of the Sangha led by the chairman of Mandalay Division SNC.

General Thura Shwe Mann, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, ministers and officials also offered donations to members of the Sangha.

The families of the Senior General presented rice, edible oil, nun robes and alms to the nuns through Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Nun Daw Paññaçari of Zayan Nunnery.

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Maha Arnthtu Kantha Buddha Image. —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

Saturday, 18 April, 2009

Join hands with the government and strive for IT development

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 13 April arrived at Yatanarpon Teleport Building where he inspected the Yatanarpon New Town Project under implementation in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division and gave guidance.

As part of the satellite town project, Yatanarpon Teleport was opened in December 2007. And the construction of the Seven incubation centres on 2,200 acres of land out of 10,000 acres of the project has been completed as the first phase.

At the present day, Information Technology (IT) plays a pivotal role in all the sectors such as political, economic, social, defence sectors etc of a nation. The effective use of IT contributes much to the development of a nation, and the development of a nation could bring about the advancement in IT.

Under the project, altogether 18 companies were allocated, and work is under way for construction of mills and factories. As the development of IT largely depends on the market, efforts are to be made to seek market.

As IT plays a leading role in all the sectors such as political, economic, social, defence sectors etc of a nation, all the IT entrepreneurs are to join hands with the government for the people to be able to effectively use IT. Only then, will the nation make progress in all the sectors.

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**

Devotees offer gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay celebrate New Year

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April —Myanmar people performed meritorious deeds such as keeping Sabbath at pagodas, temples and monasteries, practicing meditation, making donations and setting animals free on Myanmar New Year occasion in Nay Pyi Taw today.

In the morning, platform and cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw was packed with pilgrims and devotees performing meritorious deeds.

Similarly, pilgrims visited Datusaya Datpaungsu Pagoda, NanU Aung, Nan U and Tataingya Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw Zeya Theikdi ward offering flowers, water, light and joss sticks and carrying out sanitation at the pagodas.

Likewise, pilgrims did meritorious deeds at Phayakoesu Pagoda and Lawkamarazein Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.

In the evening, members of the Sangha recited Parittas in respective streets of the wards in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.

Similarly, people in Yangon performed meritorious deeds at pagodas, temples, monasteries and dhammayons in Yangon today. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas on streets and wards, people donated blood, offered alms to members of the Sangha and paid respects to aged people.

Myanmar New Year Day ceremony in conjunction with the releasing of life was held at Shwedagon Pagoda.

Likewise, Botahtaung, Sule, Maha Wizaya, Kaba Aye, Lawkachantha Abhayalabamuni, Tooth Relic (Yangon), Koehtatgyi, Kyaikwaing and Shwe Phone Pwint Pagodas were packed with pilgrims doing meritorious deeds.

Similarly, meritorious deeds were performed in Mandalay on New Year Day.

Families of Central Command released 100,000 fish into the moat.

Likewise, ceremonies to release fish and to pay respects to the elder persons were held in townships across Mandalay.

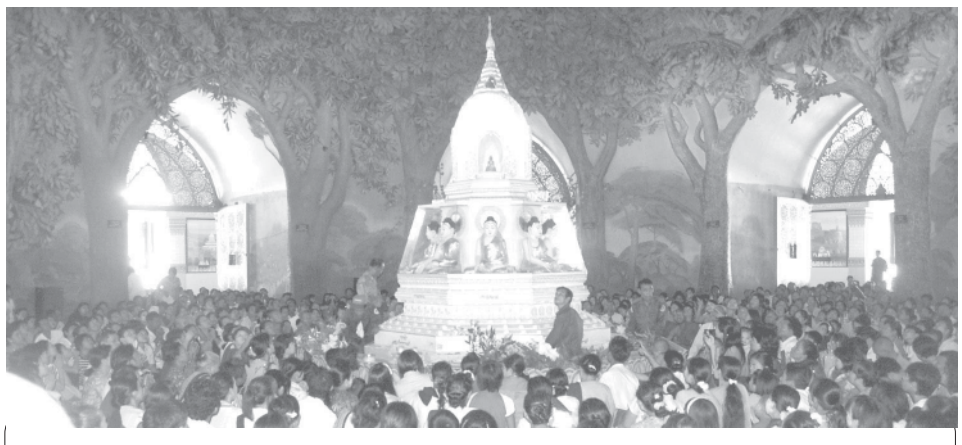
Families of Mandalay City Development Committee also set 300 birds free and released 45,000 fish into the moat. They also poured Paritta water into the tank of Malun water supply station.

In the evening, members of the Sangha recited Parittas on streets and wards in Mandalay.

MNA

People paying homage to a Buddha Image at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on Myanmar New Year Day.—MNA

Members of religious associations of the ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Station and Nay Pyi Taw District release fish into Malini Mingala Lake of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA



Maha Wizaya Pagoda being packed with pilgrims and devotees on Myanmar New Year Day.—MNA

Afghan quakes kill 22

KABUL, 17 April — Two earthquakes killed at least 22 people and destroyed several hundred homes when they struck two hours apart in eastern Afghanistan, local authorities said on Friday.

The quakes hit overnight the district of Khogyani in Nangarhar Province near the Pakistan border and where police launched rescue efforts searching for more dead and injured under the rubble of pancaked homes.

"Four villages were seriously damaged by the two earthquakes. Twenty-two people have been killed and 30 injured. More than 200 homes have been destroyed," Khogyani district chief Haji Said Rahman told *AFP*.

The interior ministry in Kabul confirmed an initial death toll of 19 and said police were in charge of the rescue effort.

"The police started work early this morning. All the 19 dead bodies were picked up by police," interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashari told *AFP*. "The work is going on and the rubble is being removed to try to find more dead bodies or injured people," he added.

The US Geological Survey said two moderate earthquakes rattled the Hindu Kush border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the early hours of Friday.

A 5.5-magnitude quake struck at 1:57 am Afghan time (2127 GMT Thursday) 85 kilometres (55 miles) southeast of Kabul and 140 kilometres west of the Pakistani city of Peshawar, according to the US agency.—*Internet*

***Two earthquakes killed at least 22 people and destroyed several hundred homes when they struck two hours apart in eastern Afghanistan, local authorities said on Friday.*—INTERNET**

Two suspected arrested over attack on female legislator in Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 April — Two suspected men have been arrested by Afghan police on the charge of having links in terrorist attack on female legislator in Taleban's hotbed Kandahar Province, according to a press release of Interior Ministry issued here on Thursday.

"On Wednesday, two persons were arrested in the fourth district of Kandahar city by counter-terrorism police in Kandahar, suspicious on assassination of female legislator Setara Achiakzai,"the press release said.

Achiakzai, a Kandahar provincial council member and women's right activate, was gunned down on her way home by two motorcyclists on last Sunday.

Achiakzai is the second well- known female figure assassinated in Taleban's former stronghold Kandahar Province over the past oneyear.—*Internet*

18 killed in suicide bombing west of Baghdad

RAMADI, 17 April — The death toll from a suicide bomb explosion inside an Iraqi military base on Thursday rose to 18 with 53 other soldiers injured, a military source said.

"The latest reports said that 18 Iraqi soldiers were killed and53 others were injured by the blast," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The attack took place after midday, when a suicide bomber disguised in a military uniform blew up his explosive belt inside a restaurant in the Habaniyah military base near the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, the source said.

The bomber targeted dozens of Iraqi soldiers who are entering the restaurant during lunch time after their daily training, the source added.

Earlier, the source said 16 were killed and some 50 others injured in the bombing.

It was not immediately clear whether US troops were at the scene, as the US military has no comment on the incident yet.

The source could not give further details as the incident is under investigation, he said.

The latest deadly wave of car bombings shows that militants could still cause fatal attacks despite recent security gains.—*Internet*

Iraqi police remove a car that was destroyed by a bomb hidden under it, outside the al-Bairuti coffee shop in Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 April, 2009.
INTERNET

An Iraqi police officer looks at a wrecked car belonging to a member of the Sahwa (anti-Qaeda militia), killed in Baquba.
INTERNET

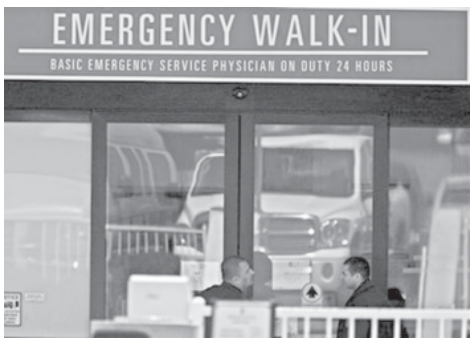
Gunman commits suicide after killing two near Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 17 April — A gunman shot dead two people at a hospital near Los Angeles before killing himself on Thursday, authorities said.

The gunman, a pharmacy worker at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Centre, shot two person at the centre in Long Beach, about 64 km south of Los Angeles. One victim died at the scene and the other died later in the hospital's emergency room. The shooting sent patients and employees scrambling for cover in offices and bathrooms, according to witnesses at the scene. Witnesses told reporters at the scene that the gunman was an employee of the hospital pharmacy.

"It was one of the co-workers in the pharmacy that did it himself. He worked for the pharmacy," Charity Perez, whose husband works at the hospital, told KCAL9, a local TV station.

"He was a great wonderful guy. I mean, I've been crying, my kids and I have been crying because we all know him. He's a really nice guy. Always came to work. Always helped when you needed help with medicine so I don't know what caused it."—*Internet*



***Police secure the door of the emergency walk-in area as they surround the Long Beach Memorial Hospital after a shooting that left two people dead and one in critical condition, on 16 April, 2009 in Long Beach, Calif.*—INTERNET**

Roadside bomb kills two police, wounds four in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 April—Two police were killed and four others were wounded as their car struck a roadside bomb on Wednesday in southern Afghan province of Kandahar, Interior Ministry said on Thursday.

"A roadside bomb struck the police car in Al- Himara area of Painjwai district yesterday killing two police and injuring two others," a statement of Interior Ministry issued here said.

It also added that two women, all residents of the area, were also wounded in the incident. The Taleban militants have vowed to intensify their activities mostly in the shape of roadside bombing and suicide attacks in the central Asian state.—*Internet*

People visit a luxury yacht during the opening day of the 2009 China (Shanghai) International Boats Show on the Huangpu River in east China's Shanghai municipality, on 16 April, 2009. The four-day boats exhibition attracts over one hundred luxury yachts and 300 exhibitors. —XINHUA

China, Kazakhstan vow to boost ties by signing new agreements

BEIJING, 17 April — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev held talks in Beijing on Thursday afternoon.

The heads of states agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in all fields and join hands to tackle the challenge of international financial crisis.

After the talks, Hu and Nazarbayev signed a joint declaration and witnessed the signing of 10 agreements on cooperation in the fields of transport, education, agriculture and telecommunications.

President Hu said the strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan had maintained a fast growth in recent years. The two countries have maintained frequent high-level contacts, political mutual trust, expansion of practical cooperation and good collaboration within the multilateral frameworks.

Nazarbayev said Kazakhstan values the development of friendly and cooperative relations with China. He said China has raised its status in the international community by successfully holding the Olympic Games and launching the *Shenzhou-7* spacecraft.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Developing, emerging economies should unite in face of crisis

BOAO, 17 April —Fidel V Ramos, former president of the Philippines and now chairman of the Board of Directors of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), has urged the developing and emerging economies to unite to cope with the financial crisis.

"I strongly agree with proposals that developing and emerging economies need to unite and come up with a coordinated approach to cushion the impact of a collapse of highly developed economies," he said in an interview with the official publication of the BFA Annual Conference 2009. The session starts Friday in south China's island province of Hainan.

The Asian ethic of "Prosper Thy Neighbour" is an imperative during hard times, he said, noting that the global community is a huge neighbourhood and teamwork is the answer to finding a way out during these very trying times while a "safe net" is needed to provide cushion for economies against the financial crisis.

"These trying times also call for deeper cooperation and collaboration amongst Asian countries, meaning greater regional investment and a trans-border process for cooperation and common security," he said.

Xinhua

Actresses perform a repertoire of Kun Opera in the Lingering Garden in Suzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 15 April, 2009. —XINHUA

Asia to take lead in crisis recovery: BFA secretary-general

BOAO, 17 April —China and some Asian emerging economies will take the lead in rebounding from the economic crisis, said Long Yongtu, secretary-general of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA).

The financial crisis did little harm to the financial systems of Asian countries, different from the financial crisis in 1997 which had caused destructive impact on some Asian countries, he said in an interview with *Xinhua* on Friday.

"The emerging market stands for the future of world economy," he said, adding that the growth of emerging economies like China, Brazil, Russia and India, among others, are of critical importance to the growth of global economy.—*Xinhua*

Toshiba expects bigger net loss than expected

TOKYO, 17 April— Japanese electronics and high-tech giant Toshiba Corp said Friday it expects a net loss of 350 billion yen (3.5 billion dollars) for the fiscal year 2008 that ended last month, even more than its previous forecast.

In January the company had expected a net loss of 280 billion yen, blaming weak demand due to the economic downturn and a stronger yen affected its exports. But the company expects a smaller operating loss of 250 billion yen, compared with the earlier projected loss of 280 billion yen. (1 US dollar is equivalent to 100 yen) .—*Xinhua*

Kuwait stops exports of oil due to sandstorm

KUWAIT CITY, 17 April —Kuwait on Thursday halted exports of oil as a result of a prevailing sandstorm. the official Kuwait news agency *KUNA* reported.

Mohammad Mansour Al-Ajmi, the spokesman of the state-own Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), said in a statement that the halt of oil exports would remain in effect till prospected improvement of the weather conditions.

The Gulf state, a major exporter of oil, often resorts to this measure when weather conditions turn bad, said *KUNA*.

Xinhua

US new home construction falls 10.8% in March

WASHINGTON, 17 April —New home construction in the United States fell by 10.8 percent in March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 510,000 units, the second lowest level on record, the US Commerce Department reported on Thursday.

The March fall was worse than economists had expected and housing starts in February was revised lower as well. That provided fresh evidence that the housing slump, which was a major factor triggering the current recession, has not ended.

The record low was a 488,000 unit pace set in January this year.

For March, single-family housing starts were flat at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 358,000 units after a 0.6 percent gain in February.

Multi-family housing starts, however, plunged by 42.6 percent to an annual rate of 116,000 units, following a 69.7 percent surge in February.

By region, the biggest drop was a 26.3 percent decrease in activity in the West, followed by a 16.8 percent decline in the South.

Home construction posted a 15.9 percent rise in the Midwest and a 6.3 percent increase in the Northeast.

Xinhua

Visitors attend an exhibition of animal heads sculptures constructed with ancient technique to mimic the sculptures of the Yuanmingyuan Imperial Summer Palace in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 16 April, 2009. —XINHUA

Shwedagon Pagoda holds consecration ceremony

YANGON, 17 April—To mark the completion of offering gold foils and maintenance of Shwehtidaw (umbrella) and main structure of the pagoda, the consecration ceremony of Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the upper terrace of the pagoda at 6 am on Myanmar New Year Day, today, attended by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Pyay Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kundalajoti, member Sayadaws and Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the pagoda.

At Chanthagyi Prayer Hall, Chairman of the Shwedagon Pagoda Perpetual All-round Renovation Work Committee Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun supplicated on offering of gold foils to the pagoda.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and party received the Nine Precepts from the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw and offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Insein Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint donated robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and congregation share the merits gained at consecration ceremony of Shwedagon Pagoda.
MNA

Sayadaws recite Parittas at environs of Nay Pyi Taw by helicopter

Members of the Sangha recite Parittas at environs of Nay Pyi Taw aboard the helicopter.—**MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Members of the Sangha led by State Ovadaçariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara of Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññasiri of Ngwetaung Tawya Monastery of Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, together with Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials, recited Parittas to mark the New Year Day at surrounding areas of Nay Pyi Taw aboard the helicopter at 7.30 a.m. today.

The Sayadaws, the deputy minister and officials dispersed Metta after sprinkling the water of Parittas. Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Deputy Commander Col Min Zaw and officials offered meals to members of the Sangha at Nay Pyi Taw Paunglaung Yeiktha.—*MNA*

Parittas recited in Nay Pyi Taw to be free from various dangers in New Year

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung release fish into Malini Mingala Lake of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—**MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—The recitation of Parittas to be free from various dangers in New Year was held at the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda of Nay Pyi Taw at 6 a.m. on 8 Waning of Oo Tagu, 1371 Myanmar Era, (Myanmar New Year Day), today.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññasiri of Ngwetaung Tawya Monastery of Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin supplicated on the religious affairs.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Commander Col Min Zaw and officials donated offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, State Ovadaçariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara of Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

The Jivitadana ceremony followed at Malini Mingala Lake in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda. First, a total of 14 religious associations from ministries, 27 associations from Nay Pyi Taw Station and 12 associations from Nay Pyi Taw District totalling 53 led by lay persons holding the signboards and Sasana flags, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, the commander and responsible persons conveyed Atar pots from the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda and went round the pagoda. They descended from the southern stairways of the pagoda and took the designated places at Malini Mingala Lake.

Next, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and officials released fish into the lake in performing meritorious deeds.

MNA

Shweli Hydropower plant to be open soon

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min on 15 April arrived at Shweli Hydropower Project near Mantet village, about 17 miles southwest of Namhkam of Shan State (North), being implemented by the Hydropower Implementation Department and Yunnan United Power Developing Co Ltd of the People's Republic of China. The minister inspected running of turbines on the generator floor at the plant, installation of No (6) machine, operating of machines through computer system at the central control room, progress of installation of machines at gas insulated switch gear room, supplying of electricity through GIS system and construction of protection room and switch yard.

Yesterday, the minister met with officials of the project and responsible persons of Yunnan United Power Developing Co Ltd (YUPD) and gave necessary instructions.

The minister looked into construction of the regulating dam, spillways and afflux dam from the briefing hall.

At Shweli Hydropower Project, the regulating dam is under construction on Shweli river. Water will be supplied to the power plant of the project to be installed with six 100-megawatt generators for producing 4,022 million kwh yearly, and the power plant of the project will be open soon.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein calls on Philippine President

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein calls on President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Residential Suite of Royal Wing Suites & Spa in Pattaya, Thailand.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein called on President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Royal Wing Suites & Spa in Pattaya, Thailand, at 9 p.m. on 10 April.

Together with the Prime Minister at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein and high-ranking officials. Together with the Philippine President were Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Alberto Romulo and Economic Minister Mr Peta Fevila and high-ranking officials.

At 11.30 a.m. on 11 April, Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Abbhisit Vejjajiva met Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries at the Grand Ballroom of Royal Cliff Grand & Spa Hotel in Pattaya. At the meeting the Thai Prime Minister said ASEAN summits have been postponed to a suitable time due to the internal situation occurring in Thailand. Arrangements will be made for Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN countries to return home safe and sound.

Then, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN partner countries such as the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Japan left Pattaya by special flight in the evening. They were seen off at U-Tapao Airport by the Thai Prime Minister.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party left the airport at 5.40 p.m. on 11 April by special flight and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 April afternoon via Yangon.

Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win, member of the Prime Minister's trip, attended the first ASEAN Political-Security Community Council meeting held at Royal Cliff Beach Resort Hotel at 9 a.m. on 10 April.

The meeting was first held to implement the ASEAN Political-Security Community Road Map that has been adopted according to ASEAN Charter. The participants mainly discussed matters pertaining to implementation of various sectors related to the council, the schedule of assigning duties to carry out various sectors on implementation of the road map and drawing of the draft plan on procedures of ASEAN Political-Security Community and the communication draft plan. They also discussed coordinated efforts for organizing nuclear-armed nations to sign the treaty on South East Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, further strengthening centralization of ASEAN, the plan for monitoring implementation of tasks of ASEAN Political-Security Community, laying down of priority sectors and designing of procedures and rights of permanent representatives to the ASEAN Secretariat.

The third ASEAN Cooperation Council meeting took place at Orchid Ballroom of Royal Cliff Grand & Spa Hotel at 10.45 a.m. on 10 April. Minister U Nyan Win attended the meeting together with ASEAN foreign affairs ministers. The meeting discussed preparations for related summits to be held from 11 to 12 April, implementation of ASEAN Charter and arrangements for holding ASEAN-ROK Summit.

Minister U Nyan Win attended a lunch hosted in honour of ASEAN foreign affairs ministers at Chrysanthemum Palace of the hotel. In discussing the regional and international issues over the lunch, they discussed matters on North Korea's launching of missile and global financial crises and means to solve the issues.

Member of the delegation Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha signed ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for Inspection of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products together with ASEAN economic ministers at the conference room of the hotel at 6 p.m. on 10 April.

MNA

Plant gene mapping may lead to better biofuel production

WASHINGTON, 17 April — By creating a "family tree" of genes expressed in one form of woody plant and a less woody, herbaceous species, scientists at the US Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory have uncovered clues that may help them engineer plants more amenable to biofuel production.

The study, published in the April 2009 issue of *Plant Molecular Biology*, also lays a foundation for understanding these genes' evolutionary and structural properties and for a broader exploration of their roles in plant life. "We are studying a very large family of genes that instruct cells to make a variety of enzymes important in a wide range of plant functions," said Brookhaven biologist Chang-Jun Liu. By searching the genomes of woody poplar trees and leafy Arabidopsis, the scientists identified 94 and 61 genes they suspected belonged to this family in those two species, respectively.—*Internet*

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends Informal Working Dinner of heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April — Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended Informal Working Dinner of heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries held at Panorama Seaview in Royal Cliff Beach Hotel of Pattaya, Thailand at 6.30 p.m. on 10 April.

Also present at the dinner were King Sutan Haji Hassanal Blkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam , Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Mr Abbhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

The heads of State/Government discussed local and international affairs.

Thai Prime Minister Mr Abbhisit Vejjajiva explained the facts about home affairs of Thailand and G-20 Summit. The Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan explained ASEAN+3 Financial Ministerial Meeting.

Afterwards, the Thai Prime Minister explained preparation made for ASEAN-related meetings to be held on 11 and 12 April and the dinner was ended at 9.30 p.m.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives in Pattaya, Thailand

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein being greeted by Thai Minister of Interior Mr Chavaral Charnvirakul at U-Tapao Airport in Pattaya.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—At the invitation of Thai Prime Minister Mr. Abbhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein accompanied by Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and departmental heads left here by special aircraft at 10 a.m. on 10 April and arrived at U-Tapao Airport at 12.50 p.m. to attend the 12th ASEAN-China Summit, the 12th ASEAN-ROK Summit, the 12th ASEAN-Japan Summit, the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the 7th ASEAN-India Summit, the 4th East Asia Summit and the 3rd ASEAN-UN Summit to be held in Pattaya of Thailand.

Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein and Director-General Mr. Somsakdi Suriyawongse of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand boarded the aircraft to welcome the Prime Minister.

Disembarking from the aircraft, the Prime Minister was greeted by Thai Minister of Interior Mr. Chavaral Charnvirakul who presented a garland to him.

Then Governor of Rayong Province Mr.Sayumporn Limthai, Commander of Sattahip Naval Base Vice-Admiral Supakorn Buranadilok and officials welcomed the Prime Minister.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party left there in a motorcade and arrived at Royal Cliff Beach Hotel in Pattaya where they are going to put up.—*MNA*

Russia needs more political competition

MOSCOW, 17 April—Russia needs stronger political competition and a greater freedom to protest, President Dmitry Medvedev said in remarks released Thursday, sending the strongest signal yet that he may rethink the legacy of predecessor Vladimir Putin.

Medvedev, who has positioned himself as a cautious liberal during his first year in power, has until now followed the path blazed by Putin, who methodically rolled back Russia's post-Soviet freedoms during his presidency.

Medvedev's statements at a meeting Wednesday with civil society activists contained some of his most explicit criticism of Putin's policies to date. The remarks were released on the Kremlin's Web site on Thursday.

Medvedev specifically criticized the 2006 law that toughened registration and accounting rules for human rights groups and other non-governmental organizations, hampering their operations.

"A significant number of officials, which I think is quite dangerous, have got a sense that non-governmental organizations are enemies of the state which must be confronted to prevent some disease from seeping through and undermining the foundations of our order," Medvedev said.—*Internet*

Economist says worst of recession may be over

LONDON, 17 April—The worst of the recession may be over, a leading economist said in a newspaper interview.

David Miles, who joins the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee in June, told the Western Mail that government moves to cut interest rates, increase public spending and boost the money supply were having an effect.

"Economic history teaches us that a combination of tax cuts, running large fiscal deficits, substantial cuts in interest rates and more quantitative easing is likely, with a certain time lag, to have a substantial impact on demand in the economy," he told the regional newspaper.

"And it may well be that the worst of the recession may well be behind us. That's not a confident prediction but a judgment about what may be the case."—*Internet*

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer meals to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party released fish into the lake, and doves, parrots, pigeons and sparrows at the environs of National Kandawgyi Gardens.

Members of PyinOoLwin District and Township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, members of Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades also released fish into the lake.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing release fish into the lake of National Kandawgyi Gardens.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing…

(from page 1)

After member of Mandalay Division SNC KanU Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ñanissara delivered a sermon, the Senior General, wife and party shared merits gained.

Next, the Senior General, wife and party offered meals to members of the Sangha and nuns at the Gandakuti Building.

Family members of Senior General Than Shwe offer rice, edible oil, nun robes and alms to nuns led by Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Nun Daw Paññaçari of Zayan Nunnery.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe hears facts about Kyaukse Industrial Region presented by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.—MNA

State-owned factories to place emphasis on manufacturing…

(from page 16)

manufacturing of quality products. Moreover, the Senior General pointed out that the factories are to try hard to gain a proper profit by adjusting the operating ratio.

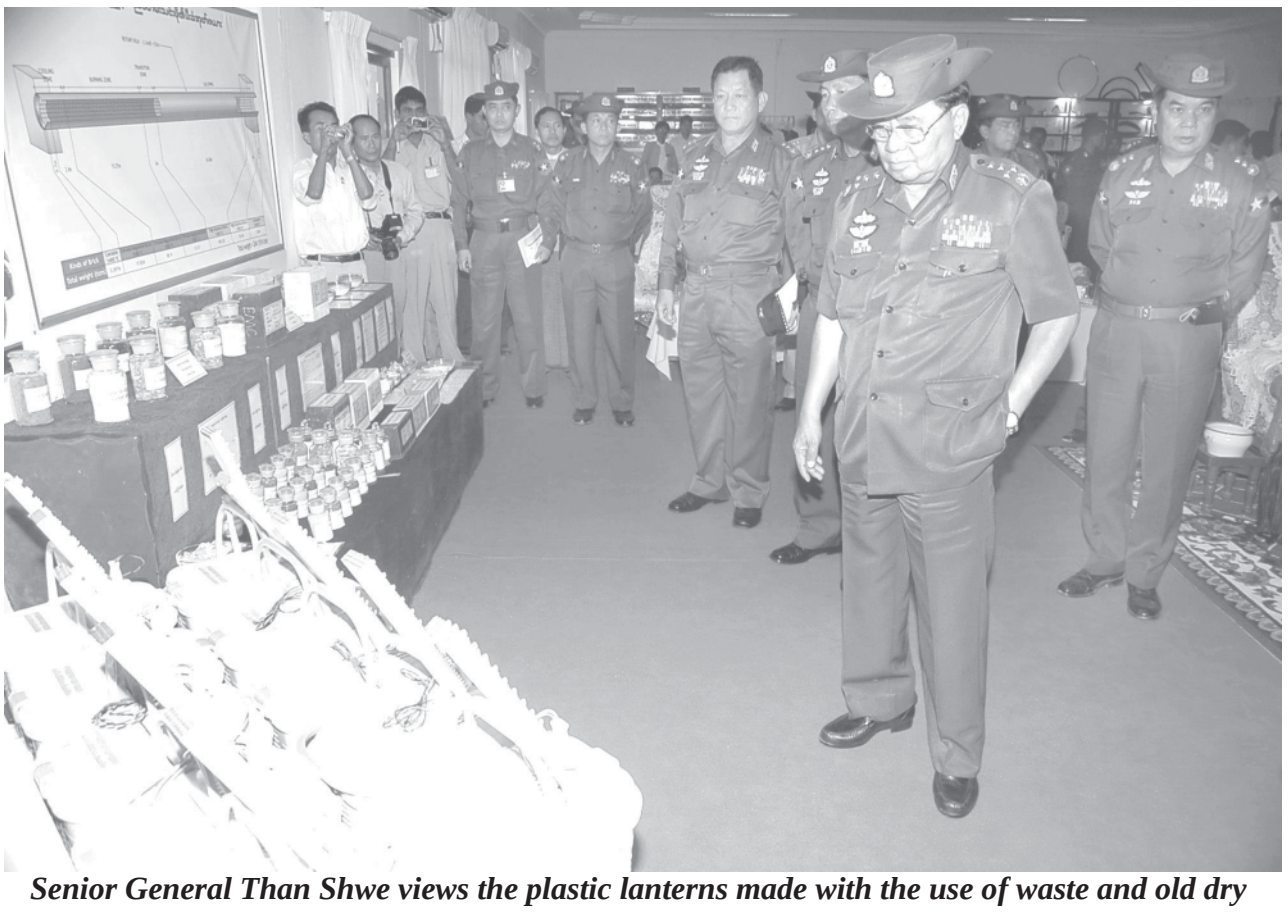
At the hall, the Senior General and party viewed the plastic lanterns made with the use of waste and old dry cells to light LED bulbs.

Next, the Senior General inspected limestone to be used for cement plants, hi-tech fire bricks, cement, bags of cement, raw materials for glass factory, personal and household goods manufactured from Kyaukse Industrial Region.

Before the arrival of the Senior General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw visited Hsinmin Cement Plant Group. The factory manager reported on the areas and location of the two Hsinmin Cement Plants, arrival of raw materials, supply of natural gas and electricity for producing of finished goods, difference of dry process and wet process, weak and strong points, operating ratio of the factories.

They also visited Hsinmin Cement Plant (1), Hsinmin Cement Plant (2) and Tawwin Plastic Factory.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe views the plastic lanterns made with the use of waste and old dry cells to light LED bulbs.—MNA

Personal and household goods manufactured in Kyaukse Industrial Region.—MNA

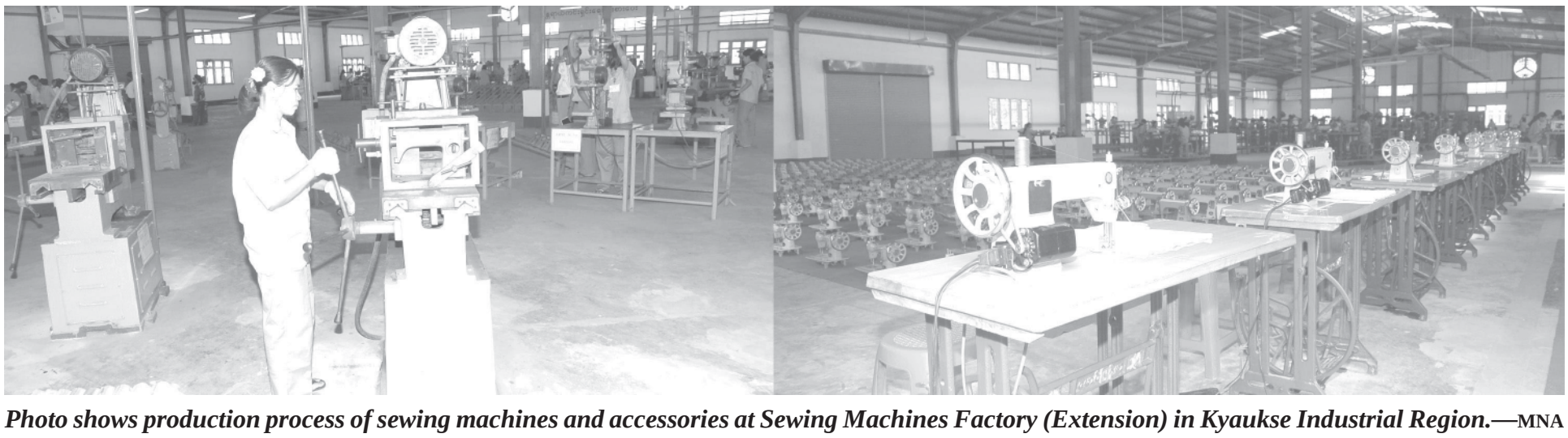


Photo shows production process of sewing machines and accessories at Sewing Machines Factory (Extension) in Kyaukse Industrial Region.—MNA

New moves for peace

Kyaw Ye Min

The people are very pleased to hear good news stories since the run-up to the Myanmar New Year. One of them is that Saw Nay Soe Mya with the rank of captain, son of late chairman Saw Bo Mya of KNU/KNLA and members returned to the legal fold, that really added to a prosperous future of the nation.

It is common knowledge that the government is trying its utmost to achieve national reconsolidation in order to put an end to the internal armed insurgency that has risen since the post-independence period. In its bid to put into reality "National reconsolidation", one of the four political objectives, the government has asked national race armed groups to return to the legal fold. As a result of the benevolent attitude and goodwill the government holds towards national race armed groups, 17 major groups and more than 20 small groups have entered the legal fold and made peace.

Now, the three strong forces of the nation: the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are implementing the State's seven-step Road Map in harmony to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic one. In the meantime, they are working hard hand in hand with the peace groups in pursuing the tasks for boosting regional development and maintaining stability and peace with the aim of cementing national unity and generating progress of border areas.

In reality, peace and stability of a region are necessary for its development. Only with stability and peace will it be possible for a region to immerse itself in development tasks unhindered. Captain Saw Nay Soe Mya and members are well convinced of that point.

He said that his members and he did so due to the fact that they had placed trust in the nation-building tasks the government had been discharging for national development; they had understood well that stability and peace were necessary for regional development; they had witnessed that local people were very pleased with regional development resulting from peace and stability; national race armed groups that had returned to the legal fold earlier were enjoying better living conditions with peace and stability thanks to the government's compassion and care for them; and they had realized that **KNU's objectives and activities were getting the people of Kayin State into a variety of adversities, let alone a prosperous future of the local people.** He added that he and his members jointed Htot-kawkoe Village, where KNU/KNLA Peace Council is based, to put into deeds the idea he had got before his father's demise.

KNU/KNLA Peace Council led by Major General Htein Maung made peace on 11 February 2007, and settled down at Htot-kawkoe. Two or three weeks after they had made peace, I, the author of this article, visited Htot-kawkoe, accompanying an international organization. At that time, Htot-kawkoe Village was in the process of being established, and excavators and bulldozers were found operating to build the alignments of the roads. I noticed that 40 to 50 two-storey fine houses had been built in rows with CI sheets roofing and wooden walls. And it was very heartening to see that the village had got a rural health care centre, a grocer's, a tea shop, a Win Thuzar Shop, and a barber shop.

On our tour, I was attracted by charming smiles, joys, and words straight from the heart of local people. Apparently, they sounded very happy with their living conditions after they had entered the legal fold, far better than that previously. In particular, I was fascinated by the sincere, frank attitude of U Htein Maung. I still remember the words he said to me from the bottom of his heart.

The entire people deeply wish the KNU remnant members to return to the legal fold for ensuring peace, stability and progress of Kayin State.

On TV, I noticed that **Htot-kawkoe Village had developed several times more than that when I visited it. I would say its remarkable development is largely due to the government's encouragement and assistance and the work local people have exerted with heart and soul. I think that the returning to the legal fold of Saw Nay Soe Mya and group will help speed up regional development tasks.**

Saw Nay Soe Mya and members were provided with assistance and ushered by officials of local regiments and units, and servicemen and their family members from a place in the forest to Htot-kawkoe Village. On arrival at Htot-kawkoe Village, they were accorded a rousing welcome by the chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council, Kayin State level departmental officials, members of KNU/KNLA Peace Council led by his uncle U Htein Maung, and local people totalling over 1000. On the occasion, they were provided with personal goods, provisions, kitchen utensils, clothes and cash assistance through officials concerned. Similarly, family members of KNU/KNLA Peace Council also provided them with personal goods. I deeply shared the joy of Saw Nay Soe Mya and members who had taken shelter in the embrace of their motherland after their return out of intolerable sufferings they had encountered staying in the neighbouring country. In fact, that was just part of the fruit of peace. In the near future, they will be able to enjoy much better living conditions.

Soon after their return, authorities concerned cordially met Saw Nay Soe Mya and their family members and built houses and allocated land allotments to them under the arrangements of the government. Moreover, they took measures for them to get safe water and electricity, and fulfilled the requirements for their health and education. The government has laid down a long-term plan to continue to provide assistance for them. Saw Nay Soe Mya and members far their families will soon join hands with the KNU/KNLA peace council in the tasks for development of their region. They are eager to carry out regional development tasks and try to achieve greater peace and stability of the whole Kayin State and put an end to the armed struggle line. That is good news for the nation and the people.

I am sure local people of Kayin State extended warmer welcome to Captain Saw Nay Soe Mya and party than other people did, because their returning to the legal fold somewhat guaranteed stability and peace of their state and their future. So, they wish the remnant KNU members return to the legal fold like Captain Saw Nay Soe Mya for maintaining peace and stability and development of the whole Kayin State.

Actually, Kayin State is a peaceful land, and Kayin nationals are by nature open-minded and sincere. However, KNU has greatly tarnished their reputation and brought a wide range of straits to local people by committing massacres, robberies, arson and terrorist attacks with the intention of troubling local people. Besides, KNU has placed too much reliance on alien masters and betrayed the national cause with the west-look policy.

In the past, KNU was able to commit all forms of atrocities constantly such as terrorist acts, massacres, rape, trafficking in persons and forced recruitment of minors. Now, the remnant KNU troops are like a puppet dancing to the tune of their alien masters for a handful of dollars. They are in no position to take a stronghold in the soil of the nation, so they have to stay hiding along the Myanmar-Thai border.

Since 1995, KNU and the Tatmadaw have held three informal meetings and four formal meetings to make peace. Nevertheless, the peace talks did not come to fruition due to its insisting in its policy. So, seven groups — DKBA led by U Tha Htoo Kyaw; Battalion (16) of No. 6 Brigade led by U Saw Tha Mu He; No. 2 Brigade in Thandaung Region led by U Saw Phe Re Mo; the group led by Phado Aung San; a group from No. 2 Brigade led by U Ko Gyi; KNU/KNLA Peace Council led by Major General Htein Maung, and the group led by Saw Nay Soe Mya— have broken away from it to return to the legal fold.

(See page 11)

New moves for peace

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 10)

Now, all the groups are implementing the tasks in collaboration with the Tatmadaw government for progress of local people. So, local people of their regions are now enjoying the taste of development, thus accounting for the fact that their living standard is far higher than that in the time when KNU dominated the regions. Unlike previously, the regions are now doing well in businesses with educational institutions, hospitals, post offices, roads, bridges, and integrated farms.

Any group will achieve success in their work if they show goodwill and give priority to the public interest. Here, they have to hold correct views and conviction to meet success. Now, the activities of DKBA and the groups of Phado Aung San, U Saw Tha Mu He and U Htein Maung have proved successful because of their aspiration for peace and conviction of working together with the Tatmadaw for development of their region and their country.

According to some foreign radio stations, KNU is willing to hold peace talks with the Tatmadaw due to mediation of Thailand. The Thai Foreign Affairs Minister and KNU Vice-Chairman Saw David Takapaw seemed to have met in Bangkok. I noticed that according to the broadcasts, KNU had a plan to meet the Tatmadaw for peace talks and ceasefire. Peace talks and ceasefire should have conducted much earlier. KNU's attitude lies at the centre of the process for peace and stability of the whole Kayin State and a promising future of Kayin nationals. Anyhow, it is good news for local Kayin nationals.

As discussed above, optimistic views and correct concept are necessary for progress of peace talks. In addition, **remnant KNU members have to show trust in the government's aspiration and attitude for national reconsolidation. And they should no longer pay any attention to alien instigation. Otherwise, any form of peace talks is impossible. If they really want peace and hold trust in the Tatmadaw government's benevolent attitude, they, like other peace groups, will be able to lead a peaceful life with higher living standard soon.**

The entire people of Kayin State are in support of KNU's moves for peace and so are the entire national people. On the other side of the truth is untruth. What divide the truth and untruth in this regard are conviction and concept. The activities of a person will be all wrong so long as he sticks to wrong view and concept.

On the whole, the entire Myanmar people wholeheartedly welcome the group of Captain Saw Nay Soe Mya. I wish the group a success in undertaking regional development tasks in concert with KNU/ KNLA peace council under the leadership of the government and in pursuing the process for peace and stability of the whole Kayin State and putting an end to the armed strife. The entire people deeply wish the KNU remnant members to return to the legal fold for ensuring peace, stability and progress of Kayin State.

Translation: MS

Israeli army confirms air strike at Gazan house

JERUSALEM, 17 April — The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) has confirmed that its air force attacked a house allegedly rigged with explosives in the Gaza Strip on Thursday evening.

The air raid at the booby-trapped building was carried out "in response to recent hostilities" waged by Gazan militants, including the rocket fire against southern Israel on Wednesday night, said an IDF spokeswoman.

Palestinian sources said that no injury was reported as the house was empty at the time of the strike, which broke a weeks-long lull between the two sides.

Months ago, the IDF launched a cross-year 22-day punishing military offensive in the Palestinian enclave in response to continued rocket attacks at its southern land, leaving over 1,300 Gazans and 13 Israeli killed.

The two sides separately staged their ceasefire in mid-January, yet sporadic flare-ups of violence continued in the following months, and Egypt-brokered negotiations over a long-term truce has so far seen no progress.

Internet

BEWARE OF FIRE

Tourists cover their bodies with mud on Jordan's side of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, on 15 April , 2009. A growing number of medical patients and visitors are flocking toward Jordan's Dead Sea for its black mud which is known to have healing properties that can treat skin diseases.

INTERNET

HK, Canadian researchers find new H5N1 inhibitors

HONG KONG, 17 April — Researchers from Hong Kong and Canada found a new inhibitor against H5N1 avian flu virus by using a new technology platform, according to the University of Hong Kong which made the results public on Wednesday.

The university's faculty of medicine and the Genome Sciences Center of the British Columbia Cancer Agency, Canada, made use of computational molecular docking in a recent collaborative research and screened about 230,000 compounds. Twenty of them were found to be potential anti-H5N1 virus candidates.

Of the 20 compounds tested, "compound-1" demonstrated the ability to inhibit neuraminidase, thus the replication of the virus at a level comparable to oseltamivir, an effective drug currently used to combat influenza.Professor of the university's Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine Allan Lau Sik-yin said, neuraminidase was an agent capable of enabling the virus to spread to normal host cells.

However, current drugs such as oseltamivir, which could inhibit neuraminidase, would become totally non-effective one day if the virus developed strong resistance towards the drugs.According to Lau, the study revealed that "compound-1" was able to bind to the neuraminidase of the virus and it may overcome the drug resistance introduced by mutation of the virus.

"Researchers will enhance the binding to reduce the chance of the occurrence of drug resistance," Lau said, adding that it would take about five to eight years for the new drug to be resulted. Besides, Lau told that by using computational analysis, the cost of this study had largely gone down and about two years of time have been saved, when compared with traditional research methods involving real-life demonstrations.

Xinhua

Zhao Xiaoying attends the awarding ceremony after she won the northern China zone final of the 2009 Miss Tourism International (MIT) held in Huangshan City, east China's Anhui Province, on 12 April , 2009. Zhao Xiaoying, Gui Mengyi and Shen Yujie were awarded the top three.—XINHUA

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Closing date: 30 April 2009

Earthquake hits Southern Sumatra, Indonesia

HONG KONG, 17 April — An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale occurred in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia 4:07 am Friday (2007GMT Thursday), according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory on Friday.

The epicenter was initially determined to be 3.3 degrees South latitude and 100.2 degrees east longitude, about 260 kilometres south of Padang, Indonesia.

There have been no reports of casualties or damage so far.—*Internet*

Fire destroys partially Honduras' historical patrimony of Comayagua

TEGUCIGALPA, 17 April — A fire destroyed part of the Comayagua city, former capital of Honduras, said the authorities on Thursday.

The fire occurred on Wednesday night, and Comayagua Mayor Carlos Miranda said that "the loss is irreversible because we are talking of great part of the history."

Located in central Honduras, Comayagua was established in 1537. It was the first capital of Honduras till 1880 when it was replaced by Tegucigalpa. The city has been regarded as the country's religious, cultural and historical treasure.

The fire destroyed the Episcopal Palace built in 1775, the country's first university called the Tridentino College, the Del Carmen chapel, the Ecclesiastic Colonial Museum and the tool used by the bishop from Comayagua's bishopric.

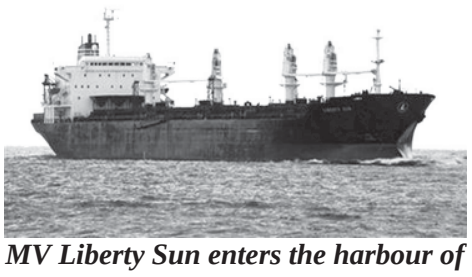
Some valuable documents, such as the marriage certificate of Central American hero Francisco Morazan, were also lost in the disaster.

The cause of the fire was likely to be an electrical short-circuit, said fire-fighters.

Internet

Girls pour water brought from the Lancang River into a jar in a ceremony held 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

French raid pirate ship, US seeks to freeze assets



MV Liberty Sun enters the harbour of Mombasa, Kenya on 16 April , 2009.
INTERNET

MOMBASA, 17 April — The US and its allies battled Somalia's pirates on two fronts on Wednesday, with French forces seizing a bandit mother ship and Washington seeking to keep the marauders from their spoils. A US freighter that escaped a pirate bombardment of gunshots and grenades steamed into Kenya's Mombasa port Thursday with an armed Navy guard.

One pirate issued a new threat to "slaughter" Americans, and Tuesday's assault on a second US cargo ship, the *Liberty Sun*, underscored the outlaws' ability to act with impunity despite international naval operations against them and mounting concern worldwide over how to end the escalating attacks off the Horn of Africa.—*Internet*

NASA's Kepler telescope captures first views of planet-hunting sky

WASHINGTON, 17 April — NASA's Kepler mission has taken its first images of the star-rich sky where it will soon begin hunting for planets like Earth, NASA said on Thursday. The new "first light" images show the mission's target patch of sky, a vast starry field in the Cygnus-Lyra region of our Milky Way galaxy. One image shows millions of stars in Kepler's full field of view, while two others zoom in on portions of the larger region.

"Kepler's first glimpse of the sky is awe-inspiring," said Lia LaPiana, Kepler's program executive at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "To be able to see millions of stars in a single snapshot is simply breathtaking."

One new image from Kepler shows its entire field of view — a 100-square-degree portion of the sky, equivalent to two side-by-side dips of the Big Dipper. The regions contain an estimated 14 millions stars, more than 100,000 of which were selected as ideal candidates for planet hunting.—*Internet*

Czech Republic earmarks $145,000 for Afghan rebuilding

PRAGUE, 17 April — Czech Foreign Ministry has earmarked some 2.9 million crowns (145000 US dollars) for reconstructing projects in Afghanistan's Logar Province, the ministry said on Wednesday.

The funds will be allocated to farming cooperatives, for water management, for reconstruction of schools and police stations, among other projects.

The Czech aid group Provincial Reconstruction Team, which has operated in Afghanistan for more than a year, will be in charge of the reconstruction projects.

The aid group had completed 14 projects by March, with another 43 projects under way.

Xinhua

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

6.0 quake strikes off coast of Chile

SANTIAGO, 17 April — A strong earthquake struck off the coast of Chile late Thursday, but authorities reported there were no victims or damage.The temblor had a magnitude of 6.0 and hit a little after 10 p.m. local time (0200 GMT Friday), according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

It was centered about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of the port city of Iquique, which lies some 1,000 miles (some 1,500 kilometers) from the capital, Santiago.

Chile's Emergency Bureau told The Associated Press the tremor was felt moderately in Iquique and other towns in the region, but nobody was harmed and there was no damage.—*Internet*

Taleban behead gov't employee in NW Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 April — Taleban militants beheaded a government employee in Badghis Province northwest of Afghanistan, a local official said on Thursday.

"The militants abducted Wali Mohammad Akhundzada from Balamurghab district Wednesday and beheaded him on the charge of spying for foreign troops based in the province," Abdul Ghani Sabiri the deputy to provincial governor told *Xinhua.*

The late Akhundzada was on his way to the provincial capital Qalai Now when the insurgents took him away to unknown location and abandoned his beheaded body in the area, the official added.—*Internet*

Iran willing to build new relationship with US

TEHERAN, 17 April — Iran's president on Wednesday sent the clearest signal yet that the Islamic Republic wants warmer ties with the US, just one day after Washington spoke of new strategies to address the country's disputed nuclear programme. Taken together, the developments indicate that the longtime adversaries are seeking ways to return to the negotiating table and ease a nearly 30-year-old diplomatic standoff. President Barack Obama's administration has sought to start a dialogue with Iran — a departure from the Bush administration's tough talk.

Iran had mostly dismissed the overtures, continuing to take hard-line steps like putting an American journalist on trial on espionage allegations.

But in his speech Wednesday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad changed his tone, saying that Iran was preparing new proposals aimed at breaking an impasse with the West over its nuclear programme.

"The Iranian nation is a generous nation. It may forget the past and start a new era, but any country speaking on the basis of selfishness will get the same response the Iranian nation gave to Mr. Bush," Ahmadinejad told thousands in the southeastern city of Kerman.

In Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton discussed Ahmadinejad's comments during a meeting Wednesday with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"With respect to the latest speeches and remarks out of Iran, we welcome dialogue," Clinton said. "We've been saying that we are looking to have an engagement with Iran, but we haven't seen anything that would amount to any kind of proposal at all."—*Internet*

A Polish seasonal worker takes part in the asparagus harvest in a field near the eastern German town of Klaistow.—INTERNET

Cultural ministry: 60% of Italian heritage sites at risk of earthquakes

ROME, 17 April — The Leaning Tower of Pisa, Uffizi Gallery in Florence and Hadrian's Villa near Rome are among some 60 percent of Italy's heritage sites at risk of earthquakes, the Italian culture ministry said on Thursday.

At a conference in the wake of the 6 April earthquake that damaged all churches and heritage buildings in the Abruzzo region's capital, L'Aquila, the culture ministry called for enhancing of a 2007 program of controls and risk reduction for the150,000 buildings thought to be vulnerable.

The ministry said a government directive to complete a vulnerability survey on buildings by December 2010 is behind schedule, since the state owns only a small proportion of sites while others are run by the Church, local authorities or private bodies.

Ministry architect Laura Moro said the first phase of the programme is to verify vulnerability, while the second phase would focus on reducing the risk of buildings being damaged by quakes.

Internet

At least 16 die in Mexican shootout

MEXICO, 17 April — At least 16 people have died in a gun fight between Mexican soldiers and a drug gang in the country's southern state of Guerrero, the regional prosecutor's office said on Thursday.

The clash took place Wednesday close to the town of San Nicolasde Oro while US President Barack Obama is visiting Mexico City.

During a routine patrol, Mexican soldiers stopped a vehicle that belonged to drug trafficking suspects, who opened fire rather than allowed a search. Some 15 traffickers and one soldier died in the shootout.

Troops later seized 20 automatic rifles, nine vans, some pistols and explosives on the spot.

Some 6,300 people died in drug-related killings in Mexico last year and the violence has begun to spill over into the United States.

Internet

NEWS ALBUM

The Shark became the most famous resident of Headington when it landed in the roof of 2 New High Street Headington, Oxford. This ordinary home (built as a semi-detached house in about 1860 but now attached by a link to a second house to the north) suddenly became the centre of world attention, and the headless shark still excites interest today.

Ancient ecosystem found under Antarctic glacier

Researchers have found an ancient ecosystem below an Antarctic glacier and learned that it survived millions of years by transforming sulfur and iron compounds for growth.

The ecosystem lives without light or oxygen in a pool of brine trapped below Taylor Glacier, next to frozen Lake Bonney in eastern Antarctica, said John Priscu, co-author of the research.

Priscu is a longtime Antarctic researcher and professor in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University.

Canadian man leaps to death from flying airplane

A young man aboard a small charter flight flying in northern Canada forced open the aircraft's door and leapt to his death, police said.

The accident happened as the plane was flying from Yellowknife, capital of Northwest Territories, to Cambridge Bay in Nunavut Territory, a spokesman of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.

The man was apparently distressed before he leapt from the aircraft that was flying at an altitude of about 23,000 feet.

The crew of the King Air 200 aircraft called in an emergency during the flight, reporting that one of the two passengers on board was being unruly.

Egypt to search 3 sites for Cleopatra's tomb

Archaeologists will begin excavating sites in Egypt next week in an attempt to solve a mystery that has stymied historians for hundreds of years: Where is the final resting place of doomed lovers Cleopatra and Mark Antony?

Archaeologists looking for the tombs of the celebrated queen of Egypt and the Roman general will begin excavating three sites at a temple where tombs may be located, Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities said in a statement Wednesday.

Cleopatra and Mark Antony, whose relationship was later immortalized by William Shakespeare and then in a movie with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, could have been buried in a deep shaft in a temple near the Mediterranean Sea, the council said.

Archaeologists last year unearthed the alabaster head of a Cleopatra statue, 22 coins bearing Cleopatra's image and a mask believed to belong to Mark Antony at the temple.

A visitor looks at a painting in the opening day of the China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE) 2009 in Beijing 15 April, 2009. The fair showcases over 80 selected galleries and presents some 5,000 pieces of art projects including painting, sculptures, multimedia creations.

The world's first cloned camel, Injaz (front), is seen at the Camel Reproduction Centre in Dubai. The female camel calf was born, created from cells harvested from the ovary of an adult she-camel which were grown in culture before being frozen in liquid nitrogen.

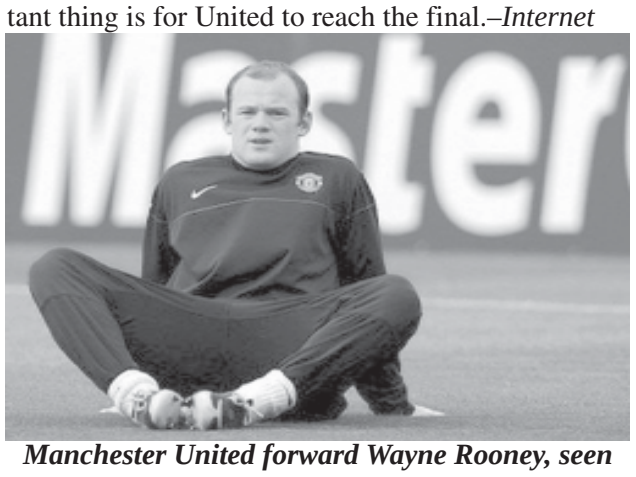
SPORTS

Rooney ready to sink his boyhood heroes

MANCHESTER ,17 April — Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney has warned Everton he will put sentiment to one side in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against his former club.

Rooney remains an Everton fan despite the acrimony surrounding his 27 million pounds move to United in 2004, but the England star knows he can't afford to let emotion get the better of him at Wembley this weekend.The 23-year-old spent much of his youth in an Everton shirt as he played football with his friends in Liverpool and he travelled to Wembley to see the Toffees beat United 1-0 in the 1995 FA Cup final.

That was Everton's last visit to Wembley and now Rooney, who spent two seasons at Goodison Park, plans to ruin their return to the English national stadium."It still means something that it is Everton. It is the team I grew up supporting," Rooney said."It makes it a big day for me, although the most important thing is for United to reach the final.–*Internet*



Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney, seen here on 14 April, 2009, has warned Everton he will put sentiment to one side in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against his former club. **INTERNET**

Arsenal injury crisis mounts before Chelsea clash

LONDON ,17 April — Arsenal suffered another injury blow ahead of Saturday's FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea after Arsene Wenger revealed teenage left-back Kieran Gibbs has a groin problem.

Gibbs deputised for Gael Clichy in Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final second leg win over Villarreal, but the 19-year-old finished the tie limping and is a doubt for the Cup semi-final.If Gibbs is sidelined on Saturday, he will join defenders Clichy, William Gallas and Johan Djourou and goalkeeper Manuel Almunia on the sidelines, while Bacary Sagna may also miss out with a virus that forced him to withdraw from the Villarreal match.

"We still have Sagna as a doubt for the weekend. And after Villarreal we have Kieran Gibbs as doubt too. He has a little groin problem.

Internet

Arsenal suffered another injury blow ahead of Saturday's FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea after Arsene Wenger revealed teenage left-back Kieran Gibbs, seen here on 14 April, 2009, has a groin problem.— **INTERNET**

Pato is being picked on, moans Galliani

MILAN, 17 April — AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani has demanded that referees give more protection to star teenage striker Pato.Milan have been complaining in recent weeks that Pato is being targetted by defenders and Galliani is worried for the Brazilian.

AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani has demanded that referees give more protection to star teenage striker Pato of Brazil.— **INTERNET**

"He is being scientifically targetted the moment he steps on the pitch with the hope that, given that he is young, he will become a peripheral figure, something that happens on occasions," complained Galliani."

Defenders have always kicked forwards but the treatment dealt out to Pato is a little excessive.

"But it's up to the referees to see if things are legal or not.

Internet

UEFA Cup defeat can inspire City, says Hughes

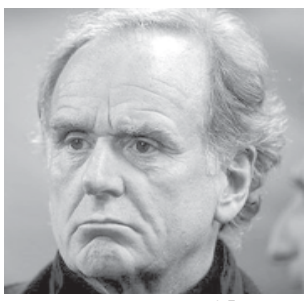
PARIS ,17 April — Manchester City boss Mark Hughes believes his expensively-assembled side can use their UEFA Cup exit as a launching pad for a fresh European assault next season.

Despite being reduced to 10 men and hitting the woodwork twice, City beat Hamburg 2-1 in their quarter-final second leg on Thursday, but went out 4-3 on aggregate.Now Hughes has challenged his team to repeat their performances in the last six games of the Premier League season to ensure they finish in the top seven and return to European competition.

"That's the standard and we've got to do it more often," said Hughes, whose side are in 11th place in the table, six points off seventh spot which would guarantee a place in the new-look Europa League next season."—*Internet*

Manchester City's Wayne Bridge (centre) vies for the ball against Hamburg's Jonathan Pitroipa during the UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg football match at the City of Manchester Stadium. Manchester City won the game 2-1, but Hamburg advanced to the semi-final winning 4-3 on aggregate. **INTERNET**

Cobolli wants Juve to restore honour



Juventus' president Giovanni Cobolli Gigli.

ROME ,17 April — Juventus president Giovanni Cobolli Gigli admitted on Thursday that the Serie A title was beyond his team but that he wants them to beat Inter Milan on Sunday to restore their honour.

The top two meet at Turin's Olympic stadium for what could have been a title decider but recent poor results from Juve have left them 10 points adrift of the leaders with just seven games to play.

And even Cobolli admits that is too much ground to make up in too little time. Moreover, he wants merely to see an improvement on Juve's last two matches — in which they picked up only one point and leaked six goals.—*Internet*

Torres ready to commit future to Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, 17 April — Fernando Torres has hinted he is ready to commit his long-term future to Liverpool after revealing how much he loves life at Anfield. Torres has been touched by the affection shown to him by Liverpool fans since moving to Merseyside from Atletico Madrid in 2007.

Internet

Liverpool's Spanish striker Fernando Torres (right) is challenged by Blackburn Rovers' Ryan Nelsen during their Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool. — **INTERNET**

Venus crashes to defeat in Charleston

CHARLESTON, 17 April — Wimbledon champion Venus Williams crashed out of the Charleston WTA claycourt tournament on Thursday, losing 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) to German 16th seed Sabine Lisicki.

Second seed Williams, who was the champion here in 2004, sent down five double faults and showed the same weaknesses in her game that were obvious in her three-set struggle against India's Sania Mirza in Wednesday's second round.

Defeat meant Venus was unable to keep the title in the family after sister Serena won here in 2008.

Internet

Sabine Lisicki, of Germany, celebrates her 6-4, 7-6 (5) win over Venus Williams, of the United States, in the third round of the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament by hitting autographed tennis balls into the crowd in Charleston, SC on 16 April, 2009. **INTERNET**

Wawrinka knocks out Federer at Monaco tennis

MONTECARLO ,17 April — Roger Federer was free to enjoy the rest of his honeymoon Thursday after being knocked out of the rain-lashed Monte Carlo Masters by compatriot, and Olympic gold medal-winning partner, Stanislas Wawrinka.

World number two Federer, without a title in 2009 and desperately short of form and confidence, went down 6-4, 7-5 to the 13th seed in the third round.It was Wawrinka's first victory in three attempts over the 13-time Grand Slam title winner who had lost the last three finals here to Rafael Nadal.

"My forehand was hurting me in the beginning.

I was making a few too many errors," said a subdued Federer after a day when start of play had been delayed by five hours because of heavy rain."

That kind of gave him the advantage. It was unfortunate, but I thought Stan played well."

Internet

Summit of Americas to define US policy

HAVANA, 17 April —The world will know if the United States, under President Barack Obama, is willing to change its policy towards the region at the fifth Summit of the Americas, Cuban state-run newspaper *Granma* said on Thursday.

Obama, the first US president to attend the summit, will lead a 1,000-member US delegation to Trinidad and Tobago, where all the hemisphere's nations will show up except Cuba.

Many nations expect that Obama will move to lift the 50-year-old US economic blockade on Cuba.

Granma described the US policy alternatives as either "the great garrote" or "good neighbour," echoing the phrases used by former US presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt.

Internet

A member of the Oil Protection Police leaves the site of a burning oil pipeline near the northern city of Kirkuk in 2006. Ten Iraqi policemen were killed and 22 others wounded when they were targeted by a suicide car bomber as they headed home from protecting an oil installation, a police commander has said.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(18.4.2009) (Saturday)

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

Local Transmission

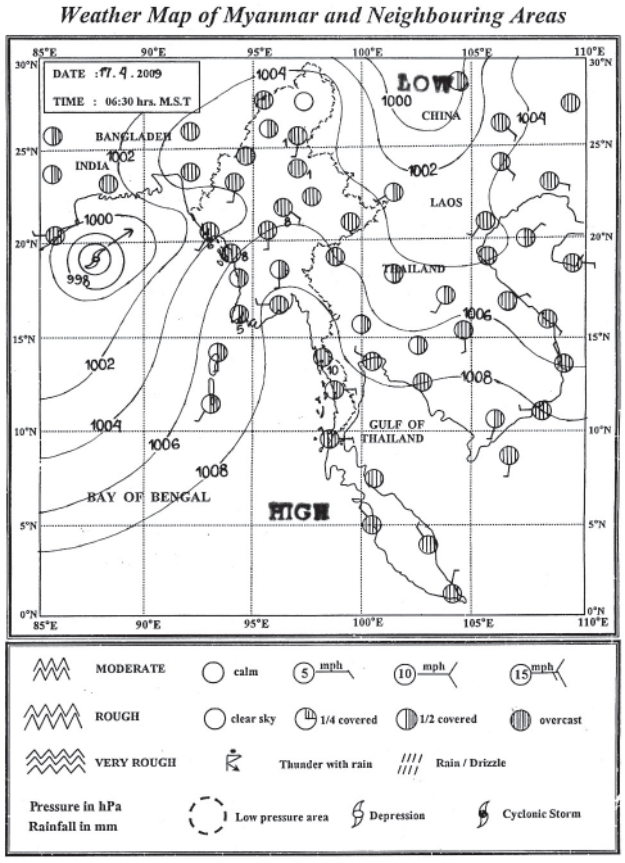
* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Myanmar Arts & Sculptures
* Colourful Flowers you can find in Myanmar
* Teachers Matter
* Thiri Zeya Buhmi Golden Palace and Museum of King Anawrahta
* Myanmar Ushers in an Auspicious New Year
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America 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 Centres throughout Myanmar
* PaO Nationals Traditional Long Drum
* Yaw Clothes from Yaw Region
* Jewelled Handiworks
* The Grand Bagaya Monastery (INWA)
* Myanmar Arts & Sculptures
* Colourful Flowers you can find in Myanmar
* Teachers Matter
* Thiri Zeya Buhmi Golden Palace and Museum of King Anawrahta
* Preservation and Reproduction of Sea Turtle
* Valuable Myanmar Native Orchids
* Myanma Movies Impact
* Mee Hsu Khan Folk Songs
* Myanma Traditional Snacks
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 17 April, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Chin State and Taninthayi Division, (5°C) to (7°C) above April average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below April average temperatures in Bago and Yangon Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas.The significant day temperatures were Monywa, Myingyan and NyaungU (40°C) each.The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.11) inch, Nay Pyi Taw (Thapyaygone) (1.22) inches, PyinOoLwin (2.08)inches, Maungdaw (1.65) inches, Tadaoo (1.46) inches, Mudon (1.26) inches and Kawkareik (1.06) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-4-2009 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 17-4-2009 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-4-2009 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 16-4-2009 was (7.7) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 17-4-2009 was (0.07) inch at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (0.20) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (1.06) inches at Mingaladon, (1.54) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South at (12:35) hours MST on 16-4-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, the cyclonic storm Bijli over the Northwest Bay has moved quickly in a Northeast wards and arrived over the Northeast Bay during last (3) hrs and centered at about (180) miles South of Kolkatta, India. It is forecast to cross the Bengladesh between Kox's Bazzar and Chittagaung next (24)hrs (On the early morning of 18-4-2009, Saturday). Weather is cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18th April 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Chin States, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, isolated scattered in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine and Chin States, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas will be experience off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) to (50) mph.Seas will be moderate to rough in the Andanman Seas and elsewhere bay of Bengal.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuaion of rain or thundershowers in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-4-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-4-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-4-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of April 2009: During the coming weekend, liklihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

TV Myanmar

Saturday, 18 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. Nice & Sweet Song

7:50 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am
6. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

8:15 am
7. တိရစ္ဆာန်ဥယျာဉ်နေပြည်တော်သွား လိုက်ကြစို့တူမျော်မျော် (အပိုင်း–၁)

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Musical Programme

11:00 am
1. Martial Song

11:10 am
2. Musical Programme

11:25 am
3. ချစ်စရာ့အရွယ်ကစားကြမယ်

11:50 am
4. တစ်ပတ်အတွင်းရုပ်မြင်သံကြား ပြည်တွင်းသတင်းစဉ်

1:20 pm
5. Yan Can Cook

1:45 pm
6. မှုဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

2:00 pm
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:10 pm
8. "သာယာရွှေပြည်တို့နေပြည်" (ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊ အောင်ရဲလင်း၊ ဇင်ဇင်ဧော်မြင့်၊ မော့စ်၊ ဗေလုဝ၊ ရှက်တယ်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ–စင်ရောမောင်မောင်)

2:45 pm
9. International News

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
3. Dance of national races

4:30 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (သခ္ခါအထူးပြု) (သခ္ခါ)

4:45 pm
5. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:55 pm
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:10 pm
7. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

5:30 pm
8. ပုသိမ်မှန်စက်ရုံ

5:45 pm
9. The mirror images of the musical oldies

6:00 pm
10. Evening News

6:30 pm
11. Weather report

6:35 pm
12. ပဉ္စလက်ကျောင်းတော်

6:50 pm
13. သူရွေးသီရာတေးကဗျာ

7:50 pm
14. "အပန်းဖြေလှည့်ပါမြစ်ကမ်းခြေသာယာ"

8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "ချစ်ခြင်းဖွဲ့မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း–၁) (နွေ၊ မင်းသူ၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်ဇင်၊ တင့်တင့်ထွန်း၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်ဇင်၊ မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ခင်မောင်ဦး၊ စိုးသိမ်းထွဋ်)

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State-owned factories to place emphasis on manufacturing quality products

Senior General Than Shwe visits Kyaukse Industrial Region

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe made an inspection tour of Kyaukse Industrial Region in Mandalay Division yesterday morning.

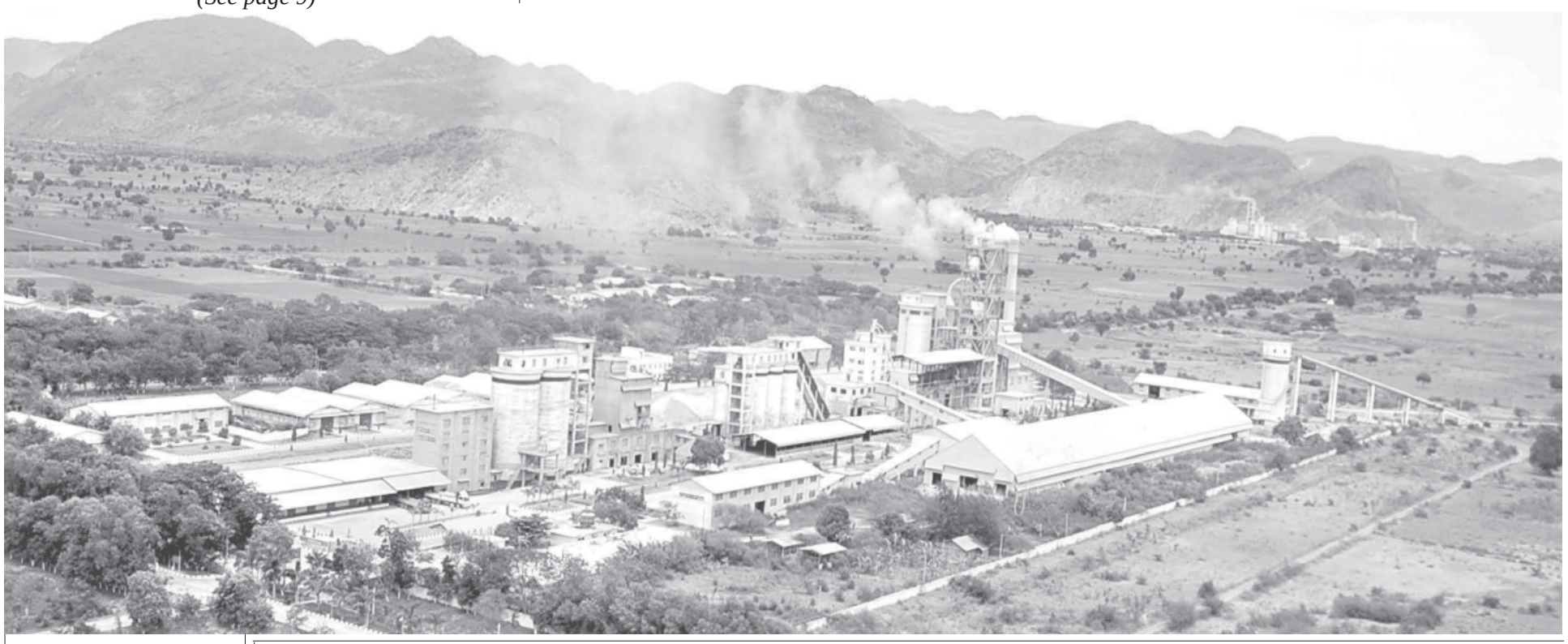
Accompanied by State Peace and Development Council member General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and party, the Senior General arrived at Kyaukse Industrial Region at 12.40 p.m.

At the briefing hall, the Senior General heard reports on yearly production and distribution of finished goods at Cement Plant, Vest Factory, Candy Factory, Footwear Factory, Sewing Machine Factory, Bicycle Factory, Advanced Fire Brick Factory and Plastic Factory built in Kyaukse Industrial Region, progress in construction of Glass Factory, growing of shade trees and vegetable plantations and progress of three private cement plants being resettled in Taungdaw region of Kyaukse Township presented by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

In his guidance, the Senior General said that while striving for boosting production of goods, the State-owned factories are to place emphasis on

(See page 9)

***Senior General Than Shwe on his inspection tour of the cement plant of Kyaukse Industrial Region.*—MNA**



An aerial view of Hsinmin Cement Plant in Kyaukse Industrial Region.

MNA

Cyclone Bijli not heading towards Myanmar coastal region

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April— According to the 3.30 p.m. MST observatory by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, Cyclone Bijli, which centered at the northeast of the Bay of Bengal, has moved fast in a direction towards northeast, reaching the northeast of the Bay of Bengal where it re-centered at a point, 200 miles southwest of Cox's Bazar of Bangladesh. It is forecast to enter the inland area through the coastal region of Bangladesh near Cox's Bazar within 12 hours starting this evening, and it is forecast that the cyclone will also pass the northern regions of Myanmar.

The force of cyclone was degraded into the yellow level from the orange one, and it is forecast that the cyclone is not moving with a direction to Myanmar coastal region. During the storm, the tidal surf will be at 3 feet to 5 feet high along northern Rakhine coastal region. Likelihood of surface wind speed will be 40 to 50 mph. Sometimes, the surface wind speed will be 60 mph with high tidal waves.

Impacted by the storm, there will be heavy rains in Kachin, Rakhine and Chin States and Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and isolated rains in some regions within next 36 hours.

Therefore, trawlers, fishing boats and ferry boats in the territorial waters along Rakhine coastal region should go to the safer regions from the dangerous area of the cyclone, said the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

MNA