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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to President of the Republic of South Africa

NAY PYI TAW, 27 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. Kgalema Motlanthe, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa which falls on 27 April 2009.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of inter-village gravel road, new school building in Kyauktan

YANGON, 26 April—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, attended an opening ceremony of a new gravel road linking Sinmakaw village and Tada village held at Sinmakaw village in the town of Tada yesterday.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and an elderly villager cut the ribbon to open the new road, and they inspected the road.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence visits classrooms of new building at Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Sinmakaw Village.—MNA

Next, they also attended a ceremony to open the new building of Sinmakaw Middle School (Branch). The commander, the chairman of District PDC and a villager cut the

(See page 8)

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

Water Pumping Project for Greening Meiktila Plain

Article & Photos: Tin Htwe (MNA)

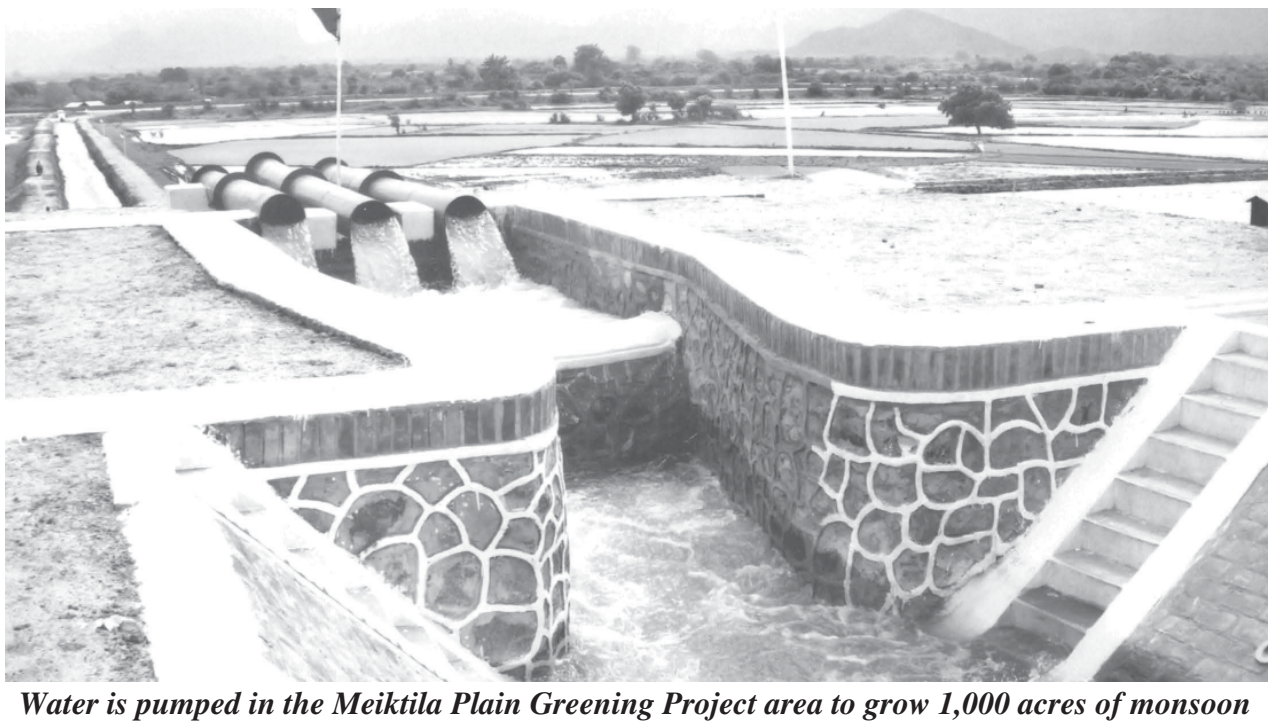
It is no exaggeration to say that farmers of Anyar (arid) regions prefer water to gold, because it is not difficult for them to get gold if they are provided with adequate irrigated water.

Meiktila Plain that covers parts of Meiktila and Kyaukse districts in Mandalay Division gets average annual rainfall of 29 inches only. So, it relies on irrigation facilities for agricultural purposes. Now, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the Meiktila Plain Greening Project. As a result, the farmlands in the irrigated areas of Kinda Dam and the Samon Creek have proved successful all-year round.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is executing the Water Pumping Project for Greening Meiktila Plain.

The project is situated in Wundwin Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division, and it supplies water from the Kindar Diversion Weir to 30,000

(See page 7)



Water is pumped in the Meiktila Plain Greening Project area to grow 1,000 acres of monsoon paddy for 2008-2009 fiscal year.

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 27 April, 2009

Maintain already-built foundations for national development

The runway of Kengtung Airport in Shan State (East) was opened at the airport the other day, with an address by Prime Minister General Thein Sein. The Prime Minister formally opened the stone plaque to mark the opening of the runway.

The government has built Union Highways, major bridges across the rivers, railways, ports and new airports in efforts to ensure smooth transport in the nation. In air transport sector there were only 21 airports in 1988 and now the number of the airports reaches up to 32. In the past, the number of airports where Fokker F-28 jets can take off and land was seven but the number has increased to 26.

Taunggyi-Namhsan-Kengtung motor road was built as an exit of Kengtung region, In addition, new railroads were built and the runway of Kengtung airport was extended. The new runway is 8,000 feet long, 150 feet wide and 18 inches thick and it is an asphalt concrete one. F-28 aircraft carrying 85 passengers can take off and land at the airport.

The government upgraded Kengtung Airport phase by phase as Kengtung is a major city in Shan State (East) in eastern part of Myanmar.

Infrastructures including Kengtung Airport built for development spending a large sum of money are foundations built through the strength of local people. This is why all the national people need to strive for national development through regional development.

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**

Work coord meeting of MPF held

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — The work coordination meeting of Myanmar Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs took place at Areindama hall of MPF here yesterday morning attended by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Vice Chief of MPF Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win and senior police officers, heads of state/division MPFs, principals of Police Training Depots and officials.

First, the minister delivered an address.

Then senior police officers, the heads and the principals reported on their respective works.

MNA

FM sends message of congratulations to South African counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2009.

MNA

Vice-Mayor looks into development of Seikkyi-Khanaungto

YANGON, 26 April— Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa this morning inspected progress in construction of Shukhintha concrete ringroad in Seikkyi-khanaungto Township.

After attending to the needs, the vice-mayor met with departmental officials, social organization members and local people.

Officials of Engineering Departments (Water and Sanitation) and (Road and Bridge) of YCDC reported on efforts made for supply of drinking water and progress of roads and bridges construction.

After fulfilling the requirements, the vice-mayor looked into digging of Aungmnigala Lake and maintenance of the road to the jetty.

At the Township People's Hospital, the vice-mayor provided cash assistance for the patients.

MNA

***Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspects undertaking of regional development tasks in Seikkyi-khanaungto Township.*— YCDC**

***Lucky draw programme of MDG Co Ltd (Myanmar Distribution Group) in progress at Traders Hotel.*— MNA**

MDG Co holds lucky draw programme

YANGON, 26 April— MDG Co Ltd (Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd) held the lucky draw programme for the merchants at Traders Hotel yesterday evening.

Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein of the company explained the purpose of holding the lucky draw programme. Next, the managing director, responsible persons, sale agents and media persons drew the lots of lucky draws.

Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd held lucky draw programmes worth K 100 million in March and April 2009.

Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd is producing Gold Roast coffeemix, Calsome cereral, Royal Myanmar teamix, Gold Roast Gold Coffee, Ben Cafémix, Fresh-up lemon tea, Calsome plus cereral, Calsome Plus strawberry cereal, Calsome plus chocolate cereal to the whole nation.—*MNA*

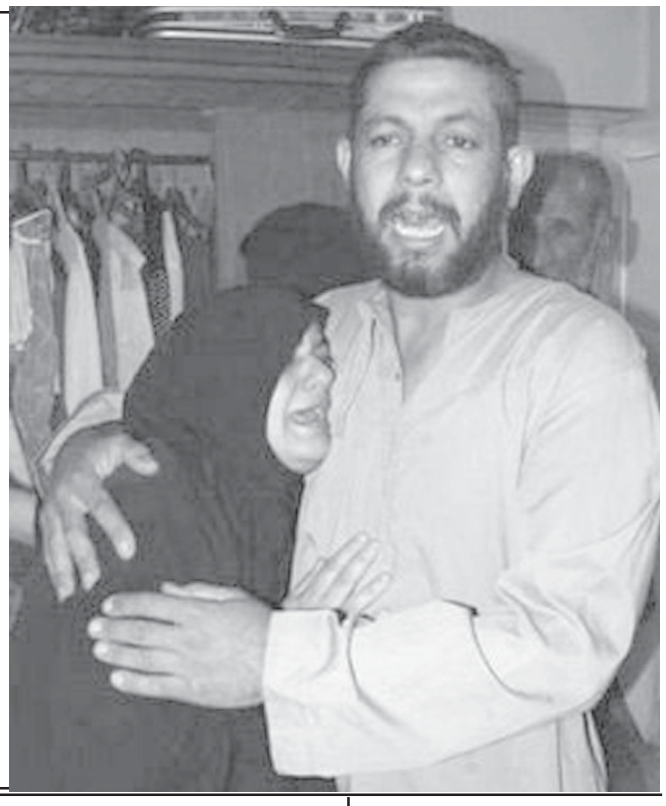
Residents light candles at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad's Kadhimiya district on 24 April, 2009. Iran has closed a border crossing with Iraq for Iranians after many pilgrims from the Islamic Republic were killed in two bomb attacks in the neighbouring country, official media reported on Saturday.—INTERNET

Iraq raises security at Shiite shrines after bombs

BAGHDAD, 26 April—Iraq tightened security on Saturday at major Shiite shrines in response to two days of suicide attacks targeting worshippers — including one at a revered Baghdad tomb that was the single deadliest bombing in the country this year.

More than 150 people, many of them Iranian pilgrims, died in the attacks on Thursday and Friday.The increase in attacks in recent weeks has raised questions about the abilities of Iraq's security forces, and U S Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with Iraqi leaders on Saturday in Baghdad to assure continued American support even as it moves toward withdrawing its troops.

The number of dead in Friday's attack by two female suicide bombers at Baghdad's shrine of Imam Mousa al-Kazim reached 71, an Iraqi police official said on Saturday.A hospital official confirmed the toll, adding that 125 were also wounded in the bombing. Many were Iranian pilgrims on their way to pray at the popular mosque.—*Internet*



A woman, whose her husband was killed during a US raid, cries in her house in Kut, 150 km (95 miles) southeast of Baghdad on 26 April, 2009. Hundreds of Iraqis protested against US forces on Sunday after US soldiers killed a policeman and a woman in an overnight raid that was condemned by the provincial governor.—INTERNET

AU condemns attacks on Somalia parliament

NAIROBI, 26 April—African Union envoy for Somalia on Saturday condemned mortar attacks on Somali parliament where at least eight people were killed and 15 wounded.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, African Union Commission for Somalia Nicolas Bwakira regretted that the mortar attacks which missed the parliament building and hit nearby villages took place when significant progress has been made towards achieving peace in Somalia.

The attack comes after a break in violence in the capital but no group has so far claimed responsibility. Bwakira appealed to all stakeholders to forge ahead in their efforts to ensure sustainable peace and stability in the country and not to be discouraged by such attacks.

Internet

Taleban commander, five more militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 April—Afghan troops with the support of the US-led Coalition forces have killed six Taleban fighters including a local commander in the eastern Paktika Province over the past two days, a spokesman of the local administration Jehanzeb Sulimankhil said on Saturday.

Afghan forces with the US-led coalition forces conducted a joint operation which was launched in Khoshamnd district two days ago and wrapped up on Friday, killing Taleban commander Mullah Qazi and his five men," Sulimankhil told *Xinhua*.

Taleban fighters have not made comment so far. However the militants have vowed to intensify attacks against Afghan government and international troops based in war-torn Afghanistan. —*Internet*

Australian soldiers kill 80 Taleban fighters in Afghanistan

CANBERRA, 26 April—Australian soldiers in Afghanistan killed about 80 Taleban fighters in a major operation, Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon said on Sunday.

"I think too often they hear the bad news, particularly when we suffer fatal casualties. I think these briefings are important to demonstrate that we are making real progress," Fitzgibbon told *Fairfax News.*

The latest battle, against 40 insurgents, 12km from Australia's main base at Tarin Kowt in Afghanistan, has being hailed as a major blow to the Taleban, Fitzgibbon said.

Fitzgibbon has secretly visited troops in Oruzgan Province on Saturday before attending an Anzac Day dawn service at Tarin Kowt in Afghanistan.—*Internet*

Five police die in attack on Afghan governor compound

KANDAHAR, 26 April—Three Taleban suicide bombers evaded tight security to attack a governor's compound in southern Afghanistan, killing at least five police officers on Saturday, authorities said.The multi-pronged assault was the latest bold attack in Kandahar, the country's largest southern city and the Taleban's spiritual birthplace.

The three bombers were able to get past a first security checkpoint in the Kandahar governor's compound, and one bomber set off his explosives at a second checkpoint, said Ahmad Wali Karzai, the president's brother and the head of the provincial council.The two other bombers moved deeper into the compound before police fired on them and their explosives detonated, Karzai said.—*Internet*

Afghan men remove destroyed furniture from the governor's compound after an attack by suicide bombers in Kandahar Province on 25 April, 2009. —INTERNET

Militants kill driver of Intelligence director in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 April—A driver of director of National Intelligence Directorate Department in Afghan eastern Khost Province was killed by unknown gunmen on Saturday morning, official said.

"Ahmad Shah was killed by two motorcyclists in the Khost city, capital of Khost Province, on Saturday morning," senior police official Hasan Khan told *Xinhua*.

Internet

Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew meets Chinese State Councilor

SINGAPORE, 26 April—Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew met with visiting Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong here on Saturday.

During the meeting, Liu said that China-Singapore relations have developed rapidly, and cooperations in various fields between the two countries have made great achievements.

She said that the friendly and mutually beneficial cooperations between the two countries have shown great foresight and have been advancing with times.

"The Suzhou Industrial Park has set a successful example for economic and technological cooperations between China and foreign countries. The Tianjin Eco-City, construction of which started last year, unveiled a new chapter for bilateral cooperations in sustainable development and environmental protection fields. The bilateral trade and economy relations have entered a new stage with the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement coming into effect this year," Liu said.

Liu noted that the all-round development of the China-Singapore relationship is conducive to the two peoples and promoting prosperity and stability in the region.—*Xinhua*

A parading flowers float passes through the crowd during the annual flower parade "face of spring" in Lisse, about 20 kilometres southwest to Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 25 April, 2009.—XINHUA

Three dead, two hurt in Georgia shooting

ATHENS, 26 April — A University of Georgia professor who police suspect in the fatal shootings of his ex-wife and two men outside a theater near campus on Saturday disappeared in his Jeep after dropping his children off with a neighbour, authorities said.

A nationwide manhunt was on for 57-year-old George Zinkhan, whom neighbours and others described as a quiet, introverted and respected marketing professor at the university in Athens.

Members of a local theater group had gathered midday at the Athens Community Theater when Zinkhan left his children in his car and fired at them, said Athens-Clarke County Police Capt Clarence Holeman. Killed were Zinkhan's ex-wife Marie Bruce, 47, Tom Tanner, 40, and Ben Teague, 63, Holeman said. Two others were injured by flying shrapnel.

SWAT members swarmed Zinkhan's neighbourhood about seven miles from campus, and authorities searched his university office but came up empty. It didn't appear he had used his credit cards or ATM card, police said.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

A police car is let into a crime scene by other law enforcement personnel after a shooting in which three people were killed and others wounded at a community theater on 25 April, 2009, in Athens, Georgia.—XINHUA

Strong earthquake shakes north Bulgaria

SOFIA, 26 April — A powerful earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale was felt in northern Bulgaria on Saturday evening around 8 pm local time (1800 GMT) in the areas of the cities of Dobrich, Pleven and Varna, local press reported.

Residents of many other cities and towns also reported feeling the shocks.

According to the Seismological Centre with the Geophysical Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the epicentre of the earthquake was about 400 km southeast of Sofia in the region of Vrancha Mountain at Romanian territory.

There was no immediate report of casualties or property damages.

Xinhua

Five killed in 10-vehicle crash in US state of New Jersey

WASHINGTON, 26 April—Five people were killed and several others were injured in a 10-vehicle crash on a highway near Mount Laurel, New Jersey on Saturday, US authorities said.

Southbound Lanes on the New Jersey Turnpike near Mount Laurel were closed for investigation after the accident, *CBS* News quoted turnpike authorities as saying. The crash occurred at about 1 pm local time (1700 GMT).—*Xinhua*

Rocket builder Steve Eves one-tenth scale Saturn V rocket returns to earth in Price, Maryland 25 April, 2009. The main section of the rocket is shown with three parachutes deployed.
XINHUA

WHO declares swine flu outbreak "public health emergency"

GENEVA, 26 April — The World Health Organization (WHO)on Saturday declared the swine flu outbreak in Mexico and the United States a "public health emergency of international concern" and urged countries to be alert.

Based on the advice of a WHO emergency committee, Director-General Margaret Chan "has determined that the current events constitute a public health emergency of international concern," the UN agency said in a statement.

The WHO chief is recommending, on the advice of the committee, that all countries intensify surveillance for unusual outbreaks ofinfluenza-like illness and severe pneumonia, the statement added.

However, more information is needed before a decision could be made concerning the appropriateness of the current "phase 3" alert level of a pandemic risk, according to the advice of the committee, which is composed of international experts in a variety of disciplines.

The WHO's pandemic alert includes altogether six phases. "Phase3" means "no or very limited human-to-human transmission."

The emergency committee was established in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005). It convened its first meeting on Saturday to assess the swine flu situation and advise the WHO chief on appropriate responses.

Xinhua

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday declared the swine flu outbreak in Mexico and the United States a "public health emergency of international concern" and urged countries to be alert. —XINHUA

Afghan children watch a tiny street stall selling gasoline while the shopkeeper is away in Kabul, Afghanistan on 25 April, 2009.—INTERNET

European economy still deep in recession

BRUSSELS, 26 April — Economic data released recently showed that Europe is still deep in economic recession, but some signs of recovery have been spotted.

Industrial new orders fell in the 16-nation euro zone in February by 0.6 percent month-on-month, and by 34.5 percent year-on-year, European Union's statistics agency Eurostat said on Thursday.

The fall, for the seventh month in a row, indicated that export, one of the vital driving forces to Europe's economic growth, was not gaining steam yet.

Current account deficit in the 27-nation EU in the final quarters of 2008 widened over the same period a year ago though narrowed over the third quarter.

Its external current account recorded a deficit of 57.3 billion euro (74.5 billion U.S. dollars), compared with a deficit of 67.4 billion in the third quarter, and a deficit of 21.6 billion euros in the same period in 2007, according to the second estimate of Eurostat.

In the period, the EU made direct investment abroad of 23.9 billion euros, compared with 171.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 2007, while foreign direct investors disinvested in the EU by 34.4 billion, compared with investment of 140.0 billion in the same quarter of 2007.

Portfolio investment recorded a net inflow of 370.1 billion euros compared with a net inflow of 8.3 billion in the same months of 2007.—*Internet*

Britain's first electric car — 1884

LONDON, 26 April — A British man has released a photograph of his great-grandfather, a 19th century inventor, sitting atop what is believed to be Britain's first electric car.Graham Parker, 76, said his grandfather, Thomas Parker, created his electric car as early as 1884, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Friday.

"I don't think all that many were made because he was more interested in trams and tramways," Parker said.Thomas Parker, who died in 1915, was a prolific inventor who is credited with electrifying the London Underground trains as well as overhead trains in the cities of Liverpool and Birmingham.

"He was into anything really," Graham Parker said. "Anything on four wheels was quite a novelty, people were terrified of the things and someone with a red flag had to walk in front of it. Electricity was even more terrifying because it was something you couldn't see or touch, there seemed to be quite a lot of resistance to it." —*Internet*

Air pollution "helps plants blunt climate change"

PARIS, 26 April— Cleaning up skies choked with smog and soot would sharply curtail the capacity of plants to absorb carbon dioxide and blunt global warming, according to a study published on Thursday.

Plant life — especially tropical forests — soak up a quarter of all the CO2 humans spew into the atmosphere, and thus plays a critical role in keeping climate change in check.

Through photosynthesis, vegetation transforms sunlight, CO2 and water into sugar nutrients.

Common sense would suggest that air pollution in the form of microscopic particles that obstruct the Sun's rays — a phenomenon called "global dimming" — would hamper this process, but the new study shows the opposite is true.

"Surprisingly, the effects of atmospheric pollution seem to have enhanced global plant productivity by as much as a quarter from 1960 to 1999," said Lina Mercado, a researcher at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Wallingford, Britain, and the study's lead authour.

Internet

Bulgaria faces tough talks on gas deal with Russia

SOFIA, 26 April— Bulgarian Premier Sergey Stanishev was to travel to Moscow for sensitive talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the terms of Bulgaria's participation in the South Stream pipeline to bring Russian gas to Europe.

Stanishev's task in Moscow "will not be an easy one," Bulgarian President Georgy Parvanov said on Saturday at a gas summit in Sofia that was boycotted by Putin over Bulgaria's lack of readiness to ink the South Stream deal on the sidelines.

Parvanov also reiterated Bulgaria's wish to take part in the project to channel Russian gas through Bulgaria to Western Europe via a pipeline under the Black Sea.

But he admitted there was a "clash of interests" between Sofia and Moscow on the terms of the deal and insisted that the small Balkan state would defend its interests.

"It is not fatal if we do not ink the deal now. There is no rush," he said.

Internet

Worker try to clear a barrage of used plastic bottles which blocked the Olt river near the city of Miercurea Ciuc, in Romania's central region Transylvania, on 24 April, 2009. According to local authorities millions of plastic bottles from an unknown source were discovered floating on the river and ended up blocking the water way.Polluters are rarely punished under Romanian law as they have to be caught in the act.—INTERNET

A lynx wild cat at the quarantine in Manamain Bahrain. Bahraini authorities are seeking to tame a roaring trade in wild animals, which are being smuggled in to meet fierce demand for exotic creatures in the tiny Gulf archipelago.

INTERNET

Central China Expo starts in Anhui

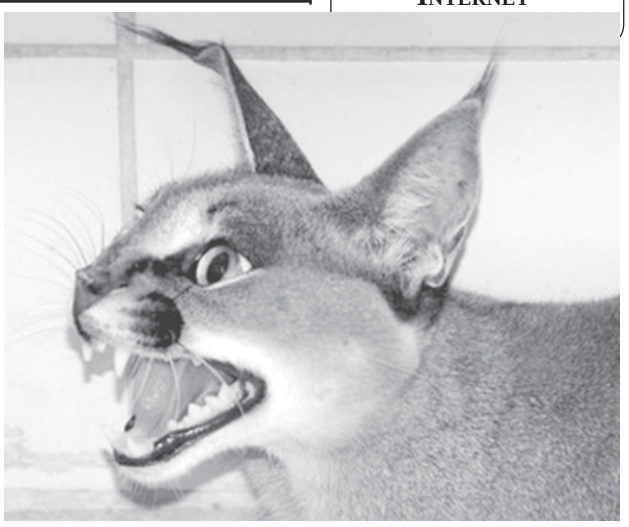
HEFEI, 26 April—The 4th Central China Expo started in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province, on Sunday.

The Expo attracted 16,000 businessmen despite the global financial crisis, including representatives from 300 of the world's top 500 multinational corporations such as Carrefour and IBM.Also on hand were some foreign officials, including Noli De Castro, Vice President of the Philippines, Yok Muming, New Party Chairman from Taiwan, and chief executives of the Hong Kong and Macao Special Autonomous Regions Donald Tsang Yam-Kuen and Edmund Ho Hau Wah.—*Internet*

China colour TV exports down 14.9% in Q1

BEIJING, 26 April 26—China exported 8.37 million colour TV sets in the first quarter of this year, down 14.9 percent from a year earlier, according to a report released by the China Video Industry Association.

The exports valued at 1.67 billion US dollars, down 18.4 percent. From January to March, China's TV makers produced 17.34 million colour TV sets, down 9.2 percent, the report said.Industry analyst Wen Jianping attributed the declines to the adverse impacts of the global financial crisis, which caused operation difficulties in some manufacturers.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Visitors sit in a vehicle to experience a simulated quake during an exhibition of products and technologies that can be used to cope with earthquakes in Shizuoka, Japan,on 25 April, 2009. —INTERNET

Microsoft to release version of Windows 7

SEATTLE, 26 April— Microsoft said on Friday a version of its long awaited Windows 7 operating system will be made available from next week.The version, known as a 'release candidate', or RC, essentially means the world's largest software company is in the final stages of completing the operating system, the successor to the unpopular Windows Vista.

Microsoft said the RC will be available for download by program developers and IT professionals subscribing to the MSDN and TechNet networks on 30 April and available more broadly on 5May.The company has still not said when the finished version would begin to be installed on PCs or available to buy in shops, but the company's chief financial officer said on Thursday it could be as early as July.That would allow Microsoft to capitalise on back-to-school sales and set it up for a strong holiday shopping season.Microsoft's operating systems, installed on the vast majority of the world's PCs, are still the backbone of the company, providing more than half of its $4.4 billion (3 billion pounds) profit last quarter.—*Internet*

Three in critical condition after deadly bus-truck crash in China

KUNMING, 26 April — Three out of the 22 injured people have been in critical condition, following a bus-truck crash which killed 19 on Saturday in southwest China's Yunnan Province, local authorities said on Sunday.

Currently, 22 injured people are being treated in hospital, of whom three remain in critical condition, said a spokesman for the government of the Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture.

A medical expert team was established to rescue the injured.

A truck that carried watermelon bumped into the back of a domestic tourist bus on an expressway in Chuxiong at about 6:40 am, and both fell off the road.

Fourteen people on the bus and two on the truck were killed instantly and two more bus passengers died en route to hospital. One died in hospital. The accident led to a traffic congestion on the expressway that links Kunming with Chuxiong. The traffic returned to normal late afternoon. — *Internet*

Photo taken on 25 April, 2009 shows the scene of an accident on the Kunchu Expressway in Chuxiong Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province. INTERNET

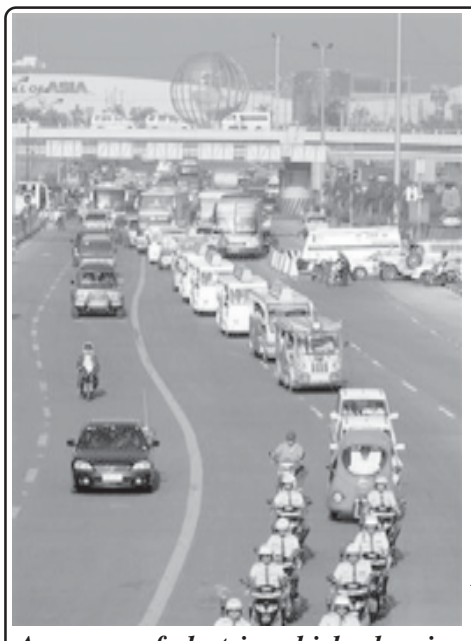
Exercise attacks bad effects of belly fat

URBANA, 26 April—US researchers say moderate exercise reduces inflammation linked to metabolic syndrome, a group of risk factors predicting heart disease and type 2 diabetes.The syndrome has been linked to inflammation found in visceral fat — better known as belly fat.

"In the study, the benefits of exercise were apparent, even without a change in diet. We saw improvements in insulin sensitivity, less fat in the liver, and less inflammation in belly fat," study researcher Jeffrey Woods of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign said in a statement.

The researchers assigned mice to either a sedentary group, an exercise group, a low-fat diet group, or a group that combined a low-fat diet with exercise for six or 12 weeks.Combining diet and exercise didn't yield dramatically different and better results than diet or exercise alone. The only significant increase from six to 12 weeks in belly fat was in the sedentary mice. Woods said this is a promising finding.

Internet



A convoy of electric vehicles bearing candidates for this year's Miss Philippines-Earth beauty pageant, makes its way to the busy avenue around Manila to encourage people to find ways for alternative sources of energy to reduce pollution as the Philippines join the rest of the world marking Earth Day.

Woman runs over children, kills son

A 5-year-old boy was killed in Central California after his mother accidentally ran over him and his sister, authorities said.

The Fresno (Calif) Bee reported on Monday the woman from Mendota, Calif, ran over her son and her 3-year-old daughter when she accidentally put her foot on the accelerator instead of the brake.

The incident took place Sunday, sheriff's officials said. The 3-year-old girl remains in critical condition, said a spokeswoman for Community Regional Medical Centre in Fresno.

Visitors look at a shopping-guide robot during the "Hannover Messe" industrial trade fair in Hanover, Germany, on 20 April, 2009. The shopping-guide robot, which is said to be the first of its kind in the world, was designed by German scientists. It is a 1.5-meter tall, 75 kg weight robot that can help shoppers shopping.

Mechanical spiders march in parade

A parade celebrating the 150th anniversary of a Japanese port's opening included a pair of 40-foot-tall mechanical spiders.

The spiders, operated by French performance art group La Machine, walked on Sunday by raising and lowering each of their eight mammoth legs in turn and sprayed water from their mechanical mouths, the *Kyodo* news agency reported on Monday.

The parade, which celebrated the 150th anniversary of Yokohama port, was attended by an estimated 500,000 people, organizers said.

Two giant mechanical spiders, operated by French production company La Machine, walks along the waterfront in Yokohama, south of Tokyo. The 37 tonne spider which stands at 12 metres tall is in Yokohama as part of the events celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Yokohama.

Keeping slim is good for health, planet

Maintaining a healthy body weight is not only good for one's health, it benefits the environment as well, British researchers said.

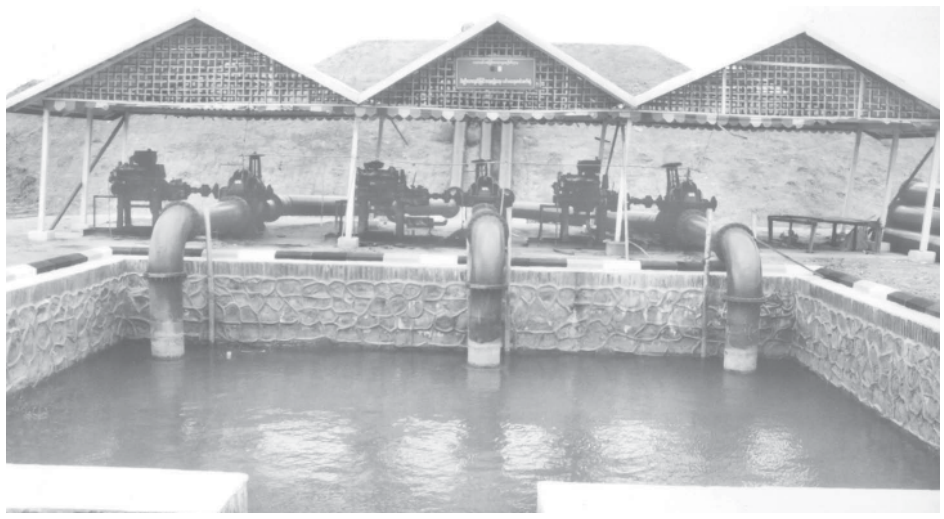
Phil Edwards and Ian Roberts of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine said because food production is a major contributor to global warming, a lean population, such as in Vietnam, will consume almost 20 percent less food and produce fewer greenhouse gases than a population in which close to 40 percent of people are obese as in the United States."When it comes to food consumption, moving about in a heavy body is like driving around in a gas guzzler," the study authors said in a statement.

"The heavier our bodies become the harder and more unpleasant it is to move about in them and the more dependent we become on our cars. Staying slim is good for health and for the environment. We need to be doing a lot more to reverse the global trend towards fatness, and recognize it as a key factor in the battle to reduce emissions and slow climate change."

NEWS ALBUM

Water Pumping Project for Greening Meiktila Plain

Article & Photos: Tin Htwe (MNA)



The temporary waterworks and tank to support irrigation water before the project is completed.

U Thant Zaw (Deputy Director), in charge of the Meiktila Plain Greening Project.

Staff Officer U Thura Win, in charge of canals and structures.

The Meiktila Plain Greening Project benefits 1000 acres of monsoon paddy for 2008-2009 fiscal year.

(from page 1)

acres of agricultural farms: 8000 in Wundwin Township and 22,000 in Thazi Township.

With the green light given at Meeting (2/2004) of the Special Projects Implementation Committee, the Water Resources Utilization Department launched the project on 15 November 2004. So far, it has completed the project by 42.85 per cent, and is trying hard to complete it by 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The Meiktila Plain Greening Project is intended to support irrigation water to Pyaungpya and Ngalaingzine irrigated areas through Myogyi Dam after the Myogyi Dam Project is over, and to supply the surplus water from Kindar Diversion Weir to the farmlands in Meiktila Plain. Now, the project is not completed yet, but has started to benefit some farmlands.

In an interview, U Thant Zaw (Deputy Director) of the the Meiktila Plain Greening Project, said, "Mostly, the projects the Water Resources Utilization Department is implementing are river water pumping projects. But, the Meiktila Plain Greening Project is not designed to pump river water. We can't rely on the Samon River and the Ayeyawady River to supply water to the 30,000 acres of farmlands in Meiktila Plain. So, it is designed to pump water from canals.

The photo shows the main canal under construction.

"Of the eight stations, seven are in the project area, and the last one is in the irrigated area of Kindar Diversion Weir. The project is about 40 miles from Kindar Diversion Weir, so we have to build many more grids to install 30,000 acres of lands in a region where water is scarce."

Staff Officer U Thura Win, in charge of the canals and structures said, "Previously, the villages of the region were dry because agricultural farming was impossible there. Now, the project is ongoing, but it has begun to support irrigation water, so many paddy fields in the irrigated area have turned green and local farmers have got a lot of benefits. In the past, all the green farmlands were only in the irrigated area of Kindar Diversion Weir. Now, the dry fields in Wundwin Township have also become green. After the project is completed, the whole Meiktila Plain will be green."

Upon completion, the Meiktila Plain Greening Project will benefit 15,000 acres of paddy fields, 5000 acres of cotton, 5000 acres of edible oil crops and 5000 acres of other crops, totalling 30,000 acres of farmlands. So, the prudent project will help the economic growth of the State and local people.

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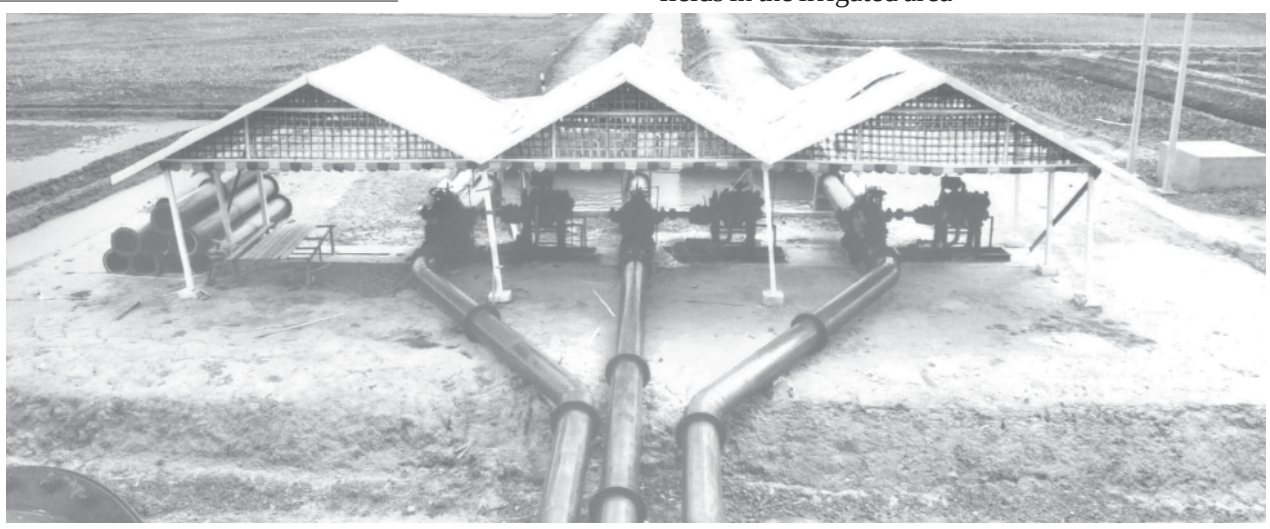
Translation: MS

Kyemon: 23-4-2009



The temporary waterworks and steel water pipelines installed to benefit 1000 acres of monsoon paddy while the project is ongoing.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening…

(from page 1)

ribbon to open the new building. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the new school building.

Afterwards, an official handed over documents related to the school building to the assistant township education officer. The commander presented publications for the Thuta Yeikmon Library to the chairman of the village council.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander presented bio batteries and bulbs to responsible people and they had a documentary photo taken together. They also inspected repairs of the village drinking lake and the library. Lt-Gen Myint Swe donated periodicals to the library.

Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander inspected the rural dispensary and staff quarters and the currents of Hmawwin Creek.

MNA

Extended construction of roads, bridges in Kachin State coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—A work coordination meeting on extended construction of roads and bridges in Kachin State took place at Kachin State Peace and Development Council Office in Myitkyina on 21 April morning with opening address by Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win.

The Kachin State superintending engineer of Public Works, district senior engineers and engineers in charge of road special groups explained their respective construction works. Then the commander gave them necessary instructions.

MNA

Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club holds 20th Annual Meeting

20th Annual Meeting of Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar in progress at Chatrium Hotel. — **MNA**

YANGON, 26 April—The 20th Annual Meeting of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club was held at Chatrium Hotel, here, this evening.

Patron U Khin Maung Thwin (AFP) delivered an opening address. President of the club U Sao Kai Hpa (Mainichi) explained the annual report, and Secretary U Thitsa Hla Htwe (TBS), the financial statement.

The meeting elected new executive committee of the club. U Hla Htway (Nihon Keizai Shimbun) was elected as patron, U Sao Kai Hpa (Mainichi) as president, Mr Zhang Yunfei (Xinhua) as vice-president, U Thitsa Hla Htwe (TBS) as secretary, U Myat Thura (Kyodo News) as joint secretary, U Han Htwe Aung (TV Asahi) as treasurer and U Min Zaw (Tokyo Shimbun) as auditor.

Later, Patron U Hla Htway gave concluding remarks.

After the meeting, the club hosted a dinner to those present. It was also attended by special guests, honorary members of the club Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa, U Thein Tun (Chairman of Tun Foundation Bank) and member correspondents of the club.—*MNA*

Tobacco Kills

Minister meets people of villages in Taungtha Township

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April – Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected construction of Yonsigyi Village Station Hospital in Taungtha Township on 24 April morning. He next met with the villagers and fulfilled the needs for providing health care and lighting the whole village.

In Panpaung Village, the minister met the people of the villager and its neighboring villages, provided necessary assistance for lighting the villages and inspected arrangements for generating electricity from Panpaung Creek.

In the afternoon, the minister met with the local people in Kyaukkataunggon Village and attending the opening of the biogas power plant in Pakhat Village. He then attending the opening of Shaukpin Village biogas power plant, inspected lighting process and met the local people.

On 25 April in Makyicho Village, the minister met the local people of the village and its neighbouring villages and made arrangements for lighting the villages, education sector, supply of clean drinking water and regional development.

MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung presents LED lamps to Panpaung Village of Taungtha Township through officials. **INDUSTRY-1**

Officials visit low-cost housing in Mudon Township

YANGON, 26 April — The chairman of Mawlamyine Township Peace and Development Council and departmental officials, Head of Mawlamyine Township Forest Department U Tun Aye and staff, chairmen of Yoego and Pharauk village PDCs and members of social organizations totaling 100 on 10 April viewed low-cost houses made of eucalyptus built by Mudon Township Forest Department at Tarpathon nursery in Mudon, Mon State.

Head of Mudon Township Forest Department U Mann Tin Tun Kyi gave accounts of low-cost housing.

MNA

Aungmyethazan Township Fire Prevention Committee of Mandalay Division is supervising sanitation tasks as part of fire preventive measures in the township. Most recently, members of MPF led by Police Captain Min Han, Commander of Aungmyethazan Township Police Force, carried out similar sanitation tasks.— **NLM**

Development tasks inspected in Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe on 19 April morning inspected progress in construction of the bridge across Taungngu Creek on Magway-Taungdwingyi Road, building of low-cost houses in Kokkogwa Village of Taungdwingyi Township, construction of brick canal of Kandawgyi Lake in Kwangyansu Village, cultivation of summer paddy and tarmacking of No. 1 inter-district road.

In Aunglan Township, he viewed storage of water at Pade and Bwetgyi dams and maintenance of the embankments.

MNA

Chin State PDC holds meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—Chin State Peace and Development Council held the coordination meeting at its office in Haka on 2 April morning, with an address by Chairman of Chin State PDC Brig-Gen Hong Ngaing.

Chairmen of District and Township PDCs, township administrators and departmental officials reported on progress of their tasks. The Vice-Chairman of Chin State PDC gave a supplementary report. Brig-Gen Hong Ngaing attended to the needs.

On 6 April morning, Haka-Hmaingkha Village road section of Haka-Hmandaw Road was inaugurated in Hmaingkha Village. The Chairman of Chin State PDC and officials cut the ribbon to open the road section.

MNA

I&P Ministry holds work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April — The coordination meeting of the Ministry of Immigration and Population was held at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday and today attended by Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein and departmental heads, the state and division level heads of office and officials.

The minister urged those present to carry out the tasks abiding by rules and regulations and to strive in harmony for the success of tasks laid down by the ministry.

Next, state and division level head of offices reported to the minister on implementation of their respective tasks and future plan.

Then the director-general briefed works being carried out by the departments and the deputy minister made a supplementary report.

Afterwards, the minister fulfilled the requirements and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the minister.

MNA

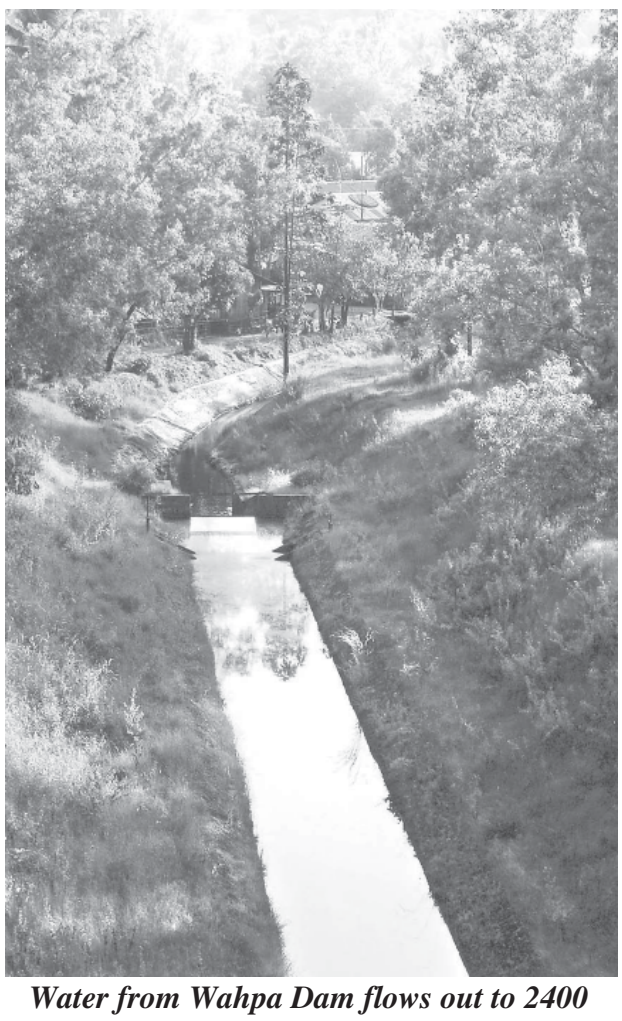
Minister attends opening of new school building in Shwebo Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint on 24 April morning presented cash assistance to the patients at Township Hospital in Wetlet Township.

Afterwards, the minister attended the opening ceremony of the new building of Basic Education Middle School in Ta-ohn Village of Shwebo Township.—*MNA*

Wahpa Dam supplying drinking water to Thaton dwellers, irrigating 2400 acres of farmlands

Article and Photos: **Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)**



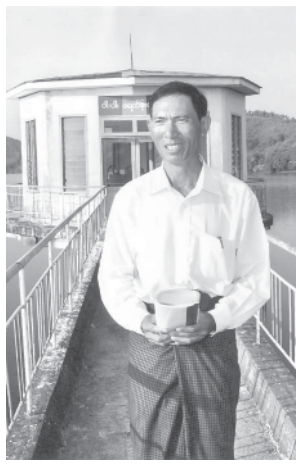
Water from Wahpa Dam flows out to 2400 acres of farmlands through a drain.

(from page 16)

and it was inaugurated in 1994. In the past, self-reliant wells were dug for drinking water. In laterite soil, the wells had to be dug up to 60 feet deep. At present Wahpa Dam is supplying 2.43 million gallons of drinking water to the local people and irrigating 2400 acres of farmlands in Gaw, Binhlaing and Theingon Village-tracts. Moreover, water is being supplied to 500 acres of summer paddy plantations. The dam having over 200 inches of rainfalls annually drains out surplus water through the spillway. We control water supply to the town and all the local people are being supplied with 20 gallons each of water per day."

To observe the water supply functions of the dam, we proceeded to the office of Township Development Affairs Department on Yongyi Road of Nankhe Ward in Thaton. Assistant Director Executive Officer U Myint Thein and Junior Engineer (Civil) Daw Khin Moe Hnin explained supply of water to the township.

Assistant Director U Myint Thein said that a total of 630,000 gallons of water is being provided to 7,827 households of four wards in Thaton Township. After performing the quality control task, drinking water is being supplied, he added. As over 500,000 gallons of water is added into the water supply facility, over 11 million gallons of water can be distributed to the urban area. He further explained that water from the dam is being pumped to 300,000-gallon-capacity water tank at the foot of Myathabeik Hill through 24-inch diameter concrete pipes. After that, drinking water from the tank is supplied systematically to the households installed with water meters in the urban areas, he said.



"630,000 acres of drinking water is being supplied to urban people."

U Myint Thein
Assistant Director,
Executive Officer of
Thaton Township
DAC

As part of efforts to develop the nation, the Irrigation Department and Township Development Affairs Department are joining hands in supplying water to Thaton dwellers and 2,400 acres of farmlands.

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Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
24-4-2009

"Wahpa Dam is supplying drinking water for local people and water of agriculture purpose to 2400 acres of farmlands."

U Hla Myaing, Deputy Staff Officer (Civil), Wahpa Dam

South African ruling ANC wins overall victory

JOHANNESBURG, 26 April — The South African ruling African National Congress (ANC) has won overwhelmingly in Wednesday's national elections by garnering just over 66 per cent of the votes, the tally from the Independent Electoral Commission in Pretoria, the administrative capital of the country, showed early on Saturday morning.

But ANC has fallen short of the two-thirds of votes needed to secure a parliamentary majority. With Almost 99 per cent of the votes counted, ANC got 66.02 per cent of the vote but fell short of the 66.7 per cent of the votes to ensure the two-thirds majority in Parliament.

The opposition Democratic Alliance was placed at the second with 16.54 per cent of the votes, followed by the new Congress of the People with 7.42 per cent of the votes. The South Africans went to voting stations on Wednesday to elect a new National Assembly and nine Provincial Legislatures. The National Assembly will then pick a new president, widely expected to be (ANC) leader Jacob Zuma. – *MNA/Xinhua*

Lila Ralston, right, reads sympathy cards as Rick Rose signs one at the entry of Athens Community Theater, on 26 April, 2009, in Athens, Ga Authorities had few leads Sunday as they searched for a University of Georgia professor who disappeared after his ex-wife and two other men were shot to death outside the theater on Saturday.—INTERNET

In this photo taken on 21 April, 2009, students in Connie Moran's sixth-grade personal finance class enthusiastically raise their hands to answer a question at Ariel Community Academy on Chicago's South Side. The sixth-graders in this class may be brand-new to bear markets and have a hard time pronouncing 'diversification.' But they have a wealth of knowledge to share about how to survive the meltdown of the stock market and the economy.—INTERNET

ROK to tighten quarantine measures for US, Mexican Pork

SEOUL, 26 April — The South Korean Government announced to tighten quarantine measures for pork from the United States and Mexico after outbreaks of swine influenza in these countries, local media reported on Sunday.

South Korea's National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service announced Saturday that US and Mexican pork to be imported from Monday will be put in quarantine to check if it was infected with the disease.

The quarantine agency will also conduct inspections of the belongings of tourists who have travelled to the US and Mexico, local media said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

An Indian Star tortoise crawls over its fellow tortoises as it jostles for space in a holding box at the Wildlife Protection and National Parks Department headquarters in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur in 2007. Malaysian authorities seized 814 tortoises and 160 king cobras as they were being smuggled out of the country on its northern border, according to a report on Sunday.—INTERNET

Darfur kidnappers say Chad talks stalled

KHARTOUM, 26 April — Kidnappers holding two foreign aid workers in western Sudan's volatile Darfur region said on Saturday that talks with the government of neighbouring Chad had stalled and a quick solution appeared difficult.

"The negotiations were not successful. Tension will rise in this situation," an unidentified kidnapper told *Reuters* via satellite phone near the Chad border. "The delegation returned yesterday because we wanted to guarantee its safety."

Earlier this week, the group calling itself the Freedom Eagles of Africa said a delegation would go to Chad for direct talks with a senior official but the man told *Reuters* on Saturday the group had returned with no resolution.

Canadian Stephanie Joidon and Frenchwoman Claire Dubois were seized at gunpoint from their compound in the south Darfur settlement of Ed el Fursan on April 4. The kidnapper said Dubois was still ill and her health was deteriorating.—*MNA/Reuters*

Madagascar Drought puts 250,000 children at risk

PORT LOUIS, 26 April— Up to 250,000 children are at risk of malnutrition and disease in southern Madagascar as a political crisis and tropical cyclones exacerbate severe food shortages, the UN children agency said.

UNICEF said that the rains had failed again in the Indian Ocean island's southern region, devastating the last harvest and reducing the amount of safe water available for human consumption.

"By the end of 2008, almost 400,000 people were living in food-insecure districts across Madagascar. The situation has only worsened since. Up to a quarter-million children are now reportedly at risk of disease and malnutrition," it said.

Earlier this week, aid agencies warned that the world's fourth largest island was on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe.

Acute malnutrition rates have reached serious levels in five districts in Madagascar, the UN agency said in a report late on Friday. —*MNA/Reuters*

Brazil's unemployment rate consecutively rises

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 April— Brazil's unemployment rate consecutively rise due to the global financial crisis, the Monthly Employment Study released by the country's Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) said on Friday.

The unemployment rate in Brazil reached 9 per cent in March, up from 8.5 per cent in February, the IBGE said, adding that it was the third consecutive rise in the country's unemployment rate. The number of people who search for a job last month reached 2.1 million, the highest figure since 2007, the study said.

In Salvador and Recife, the poorest regions in the northeast of the country, the unemployment rate jumped to 11.9 per cent and 10.4 per cent.

The government took some measures, which included numerous tax cuts and actions to stimulate consumption, to preserve the jobs in the first quarter of the year. Although the measures resulted in the industrial production undergoing a slight recover in the period, they did not increase employment as much as it was expected.

Nevertheless, the IBGE said that the unemployment levels in Brazil are stabilized. The March figures reflect a high demand for jobs, when the market is not generating many new jobs, said the study's manager Cimar Azeredo.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Women react during the funeral of residents who were killed in a US raid in Kut, 150 km (95 miles) southeast of Baghdad on 26 April, 2009. Hundreds of Iraqis protested against US forces on Sunday after US soldiers killed a policeman and a woman in an overnight raid that was condemned by the provincial governor.—INTERNET

Clinton tries to reassure Iraqis during visit

BAGHDAD, 26 April— US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to reassure nervous Iraqis that the US won't abandon them, even as she said the American troop withdrawal would stay on schedule despite a recent surge in violence.

On her first visit to Baghdad as chief US diplomat, Clinton said on Saturday that Washington remains committed to moving US soldiers out of urban areas by June 30 and pulling out combat troops from the country by 2011.

"Our strategy in working with you may be in a new phase, but we pledge our full and continuing commitment to Iraq and the Iraqi people," she told a news conference after meeting Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari.

"As we drawn down militarily we will deepen our civilian cooperation," Clinton said, standing beside Zebari in an auditorium at the Foreign Ministry.

The withdrawal will proceed in a "responsible and careful way," she said, and would not affect efforts to improve Iraq's security forces, or complete reconstruction and development projects.

Zebari welcomed Clinton's "very assuring message that the United States would continue to support the efforts of the Iraqi government and the enhancement of Iraqi security and stability." He said Iraqi authorities wanted to ensure there is "no vacuum" when US troops leave.

Clinton made clear, however, that Iraqis and their security forces in particular need to overcome sectarian and other differences if they are to build a united, secure nation, she said.

Internet

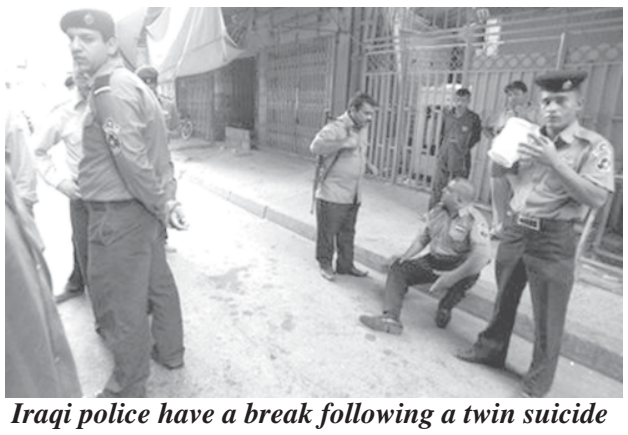
People wear masks as they stand with their bags inside Mexico City's international airport on 24 April, 2009. Governments around the world rushed on Sunday to check the spread of a new type of swine flu that has killed up to 81 people in Mexico and infected around a dozen in the United States.—INTERNET

Vietnamese drug trafficker detained by China border police

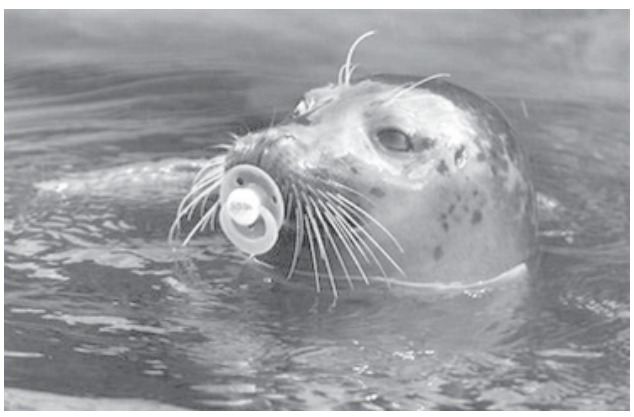
NANNING, 26 April— A Vietnamese woman was detained by police for smuggling more than 1,000 grams of heroin into China, according to a police source in southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Saturday.

The woman, whose name on her passport is Trinh Thi-hien, 32, was seized at a check point at the China-Vietnam border. Police discovered 1,045 grammes of high-purity heroin concealed in a hard-bound book cover.

Police said the woman has confessed that she smuggled the drug to help her boyfriend to pay off a gambling debt.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqi police have a break following a twin suicide attack close to the Iman Musa al-Kadhim mosque in the mainly Shiite Muslim district to Kadhimiya in northern Baghdad. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Saturday arrived in Baghdad on a surprise visit which came as a wave of violence engulfed the country just weeks before US troops leave Iraqi cities.—INTERNET



A seal appears with a comforter found in it's pool in the zoological garden in Jihlava, Czech Republic, on 25 April, 2009.—INTERNET

Iran closes Iraq crossing after bomb attacks

TEHERAN, April 26 — Iran has closed a border crossing with Iraq for Iranians after many pilgrims from the Islamic Republic were killed in two bomb attacks in the neighbouring country, official media reported on Saturday.

On Thursday, most of the 57 people who were killed in a suicide bomb in the northeastern Iraqi province of Diyala were Iranians, who have flocked to Iraq's Shi'ite holy sites since Sunni Arab strongman Saddam Hussein was ousted in 2003.

The following day, two female suicide bombers blew themselves up near a Shi'ite Muslim shrine in Baghdad, killing 60 people, police said. Many of the dead and wounded were Iranian pilgrims.

"After ... bombings in Iraq and the martyrdom of a number of Iranian pilgrims, crossing the Khosravi border for Iranians has been banned until further notice," the official *IRNA* news agency said. State radio carried a similar report.

The Khosravi border crossing lies north-east of Baghdad. Iranian media did not say whether other border crossings were also affected.

MNA/Xinhua

South side of Mt everest facing denudation

KATHMANDU, 26 April— Forest degradation ratio in Sagarmatha National Park and its buffer zone, in the south of Mt. Qomolangma (Mt Sagarmatha, also named Mt Everest), has been increasing due to the use of excessive wood for fuel, a survey has shown.

"Our study on Fuel Wood Consumption and Forest Degradation has shown that forest degradation is at 8.5 square metres per hectare in the park," local newspaper *The Himalayan Times* on Sunday quoted Nabindra Lal Karmacharya, who is undertaking a master's thesis under the Faculty of Environment Science in Khwopa Engineering College, based in Bhaktapur to the east of Nepali capital Kathmandu.

Annual 27,000 international tourists, their guides, porters and accompanying persons add woes to the problem as food cooked in a wood oven is believed to be tastier. The total population of the area is 5,869. A whopping 92.5 per cent people depend on fuel wood, 5 per cent on electricity, 1.5 on Liquefied Petroleum Gas and one per cent on kerosene, according to Karmacharya.

The news report also quoted an official at Ministry of Forestry, Land and Soil Conservation, saying the forest degradation was taking place in the south side of Mt Everest.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Nepal to introduce new hydropower act to woo more investment

KATHMANDU, 26 April— The Nepali Government is ready to address all the policy-level and practical difficulties to facilitate and encourage investors to increase investment in power sector, said Minister for Water Resources Bishnu Prasad Poudel. According to Sunday's *The Rising Nepal* daily, Poudel called on international as well as domestic investors to invest in hydropower sector of Nepal.

MNA/Xinhua

Actresses Rue McClanahan (L) and Bea Arthur who starred in TV series "The Golden Girls" pose at a taping of the 6th annual TV Land Awards in Santa Monica in this file photo from on 8 June, 2008.—INTERNET

TENDER INVITATION

Myanma Ceramic Industries, Ministry of Industry (1) is intended to establish a Cement Manufacturing Plan in Lashio Township, Northern Shan State, adopting the wet process cement manufacturing and capacity of 500 ton per day using kiln firing system with coal firing system.

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Cement Machinery Manufacturing Companies of People's Republic of China with machinery and Full-Turnkey Basis including technical sevices, machinery supply, erection commissioning and supervisory services, The details can be obtained from the following contact office.

-Myanma Ceramic Industries:
Building No(41) Nay Pyi Taw
Union of Myanmar
Tel 067-408386, 408296
Fax 067-408064
Tender Closing Date- 30.6.2009

Women hold candles and pictures of their dead husbands during a commemorative ceremony at the Chernobyl memorial in Donetsk. Ukraine paid homage to victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe 23 years after the worst nuclear accident in history.
INTERNET

Three terrorists killed in Algeria

ALGIERS, 26 April—Algerian security forces killed Saturday three terrorists during a security operation in the city of Tebessa, east of the capital Algiers, security sources said.

Among the three terrorists killed, one was the assistants of al-Qaida leader Al-Khadrawi who has been arrested last week, the sources said. No casualties have been reported among security forces following the battle that lasted for more than one hour.

Large amounts of weapons and ammunition have been found during the operation, the sources added. Meanwhile the army and local security troops foiled attempts by terrorists to infiltrate into the city of Bejaia, east of Algiers. The terrorists attacked military barracks of the local troops in the area.

However, they failed to infiltrate through the security siege. Algerian security forces also arrested members of a pro-terrorists cell in the district of Khenchela.

Security sources said members of the cell who face accusations of helping terrorist groups will be referred to the court as soon as interrogations end. —*Internet*

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st May (Friday) 2009, May Day and 8th May (Friday) 2009 Full Moon of Kason being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

US passenger plane makes emergency landing

WASHINGTON, 26 April—A US passenger plane made an emergency landing at an airport in Boston, Massachusetts, on Friday, after a passenger tried to enter the cockpit, news reports said.

Delta Air Lines Flight 86, which took off from John F Kennedy Airport in New York, was bound for Tel Aviv, Israel.

During the flight, a passenger tried to break into the cockpit but he was subdued by fellow passengers.

The plane, with 206 passengers and 11 crew members aboard, then landed in Boston's Logan International Airport at about 10 pm (0200 GMT Saturday), said Delta spokesman Anthony Black. Authorities were investigating the incident in Boston.—*Internet*

A flock of birds, disturbed by a plane's take off, takes flight from the side of the runway of the airport in Canandaigua, NY according to Federal Aviation Administration data released for the first time on 25 April, 2009, pilots reported striking at least 59,776 birds since 2000. The most common strike involved mourning doves; pilots reported hitting 2,291 between 2000 and 2008. Other airborne victims included gulls (2,186), European starlings (1,427) and American kestrels (1,422).—INTERNET

China, Singapore ink MoU on education cooperation

SINGAPORE, 26 April—China and Singapre signed here on Friday a revised government-to-government Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on education coooperation.

The MoU was signed by China's Minister of Education Zhou Ji and his Singaporean counterpart Ng Eng Hen, and witnessed by visiting Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong.

The signing of the new MoU, almost 10 years after the launch of the first MoU on education exchanges between the two countries, will further bolster education cooperation in areas such as shool twinning programmes, school leader and teacher exchanges and professional sharing conferences and seminars.

The MoU also provides for new collaborations in the university sector of the two countries, in particular, it signals strong government support on both sides for the partnership between Singapore's New University and a top Chinese university.

Internet

Somali pirates seize German vessel, free Greek ship

NAIROBI, 26 April—Somali pirates seized a 31,000-tonne German grain carrier in the Gulf of Aden on Saturday, a Kenyan maritime official said.

Kenyan advocate Francis Kadima, who is defending the eleven pirates captured off the coast of Kenya by the French warship "Le Nivose" gives an interview near Mombasa.—INTERNET

Pirates also released the Greek vessel, MV Saldanha, after they were paid $1.9 million in ransom, a pirate source said.

The Malta-flagged, German-owned MV Patriot belongs to Patriot Schiffahrts and is managed by Blumenthal JMK of Hamburg, Germany, said Andrew Mwangura, director of the Mombasa-based East African Seafarers Assistance Program.

"I hear it was taken early this morning," he told *Reuters*. "It was hijacked in the eastern end of the Gulf of Aden."

The ship's 17 crew members are unhurt, Mwangura said.

The Foreign Ministry in Berlin could not confirm the German vessel had been seized but said it was investigating.

A pirate told *Reuters* his comrades had also released a Greek ship but he could not give its name.

"My friends have released the Greek ship after $1.9 million ransom was paid," said the pirate, identified only as Hussein.

Mwangura named the ship as the Saldanha, captured on 22 February, and said it was now on the way to safer waters.

Two other Greek ships are still in pirate hands — the MV Irene EM, with 22 Filipino crew members, and the Nipayiya.

Internet

Palestinian dies as Gaza smuggling tunnel collapsed

GAZA, 26 April— A Palestinian young man was killed on Saturday evening after a tunnel, dug under the borders between the Gaza Strip and Egypt and used for smuggling, collapsed, medics and security sources said.

Gaza emergency chief Mo'aweya Hassanein told reporters that Mustafa Abu Jazar, 24, of Rafah town in southern Gaza Strip died of suffocation in a tunnel under the borders that collapsed on Saturday.

Hamas security sources in Gaza said that right after the tunnel collapsed in Rafah town, rescue teams arrived at the scene and managed to take out the body of a Palestinian young man, died of suffocation.

In the last two years, the Palestinians dug hundreds of tunnels under the borders between southern Gaza Strip and Egypt. The tunnels were used in smuggling goods that Gaza Strip population lack. —*Internet*

Strong family relationship delays alcohol

LAUSANNE, 26 April—Teens who have a strong relationship with parents may start drinking later, lessening their risk of developing alcohol problems, Swiss researchers said.

Lead authour Dr Emmanuel Kuntsche of the Swiss Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Problems in Lausanne, Switzerland, said past studies suggested that the age at which teens start drinking is a key factor in whether they eventually develop alcohol-related problems, such as fights, having academic or work problems.Kuntsche and colleagues surveyed 364 teens three times during a two-year period.

The study, published in the May issue of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, found that, in general, teens who reported an earlier drinking age during the first survey tended to be drinking more heavily by the second survey and were at greater risk of drinking-related problems by the third survey.

However, only teens who reported both a later drinking age and a high-quality relationship with their parents had a lower risk of drinking problems compared with their peers.Kuntsche said a high-quality relationship was one where teens felt they could discuss their problems with their parents and that their parents respected their feelings. —*Internet*

A parrot which lost part of its beak is seen in its cage in Cali on 18 April, 2009, after being rescued by Ana Julia Torres. Torres is a teacher whom for the last 16 years has been adopting and helping injured animals. She founded the Villa Lorena shelter for injured and mistreated animals which cares for at least 680 animals, including some that have been dismembered by hunters.

INTERNET

Nanoparticles may help attack cancer more directly

WASHINGTON, 26 April—Nanoparticles designed to provide more direct delivery of cancer drugs to tumors have been developed by US researchers.

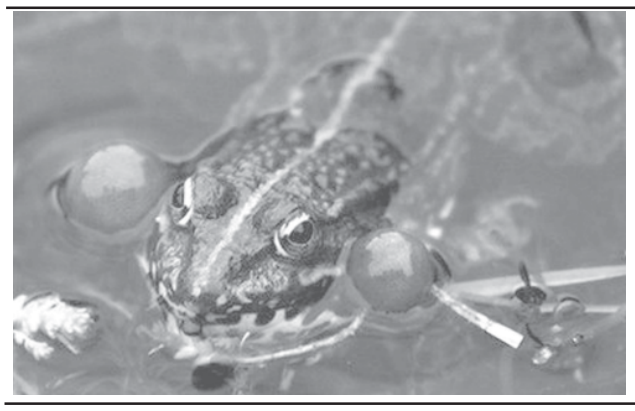
Made from a safe, biodegradable polymer, the nanoparticles are chemically engineered to inhibit the MARK signaling pathway, which is involved in most human tumors, and to carry a higher concentration of anti-cancer drugs to a specific area, according to the scientists at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology.

By inhibiting the MARK signaling pathway, the nanoparticles hinder the multiplication of cancer cells and make the cells more susceptible to chemotherapy drugs.

The researchers also modified the polymer used in the nanoparticles to increase drug loading 20-fold to overcome what they describe as a current drawback in nanomedicine — low efficiency of drug loading.

"Current chemotherapy drugs must be admi-nistered in high concentration throughout the body in order to destroy tumor cells, translating to high toxicity and discomfort for the patient, mainly due to the effects on normal cells," co-lead author Rania Harfouche said in a Brigham and Women's news release.

Internet



A toad croaking in the wild. The most hotly-awaited international music competition of the year takes place in Germany on 10 May — the second annual international toad song contest.—INTERNET

China's new contender for world's tallest man

TIANJIN, 26 April—Zhao Liang needs two beds to rest his 2.46-metre (8ft, 1in) frame, one of life's inconveniences for the Chinese giant who could become officially known as the world's tallest man.

The 27-year-old is 10 centimetres (four inches) taller than the current holder of the title, another Chinese man, but the media-wary Zhao has not yet decided whether he wants the Guiness Book of Records to officially ratify him. Lying on a makeshift iron bed in a hospital in the northern city of Tianjin after an operation on his foot, Zhao seems almost bored with his sudden rise to fame.

The hospital was forced to put together two standard-sized iron beds to accommodate the giant from central Henan province whose parents are of average height, but he still has trouble fitting his large frame onto the narrow mattresses.

His shoulders, hands, legs and feet are all massive, and he finds it difficult to find clothes and shoes to fit. Weighing 155 kilogrammes (341 pounds), Zhao squeezes into European size 56 (US size 20) shoes, and has to order his sports shoes from Japan or the United States.

He is huge even compared with China's most famous tall man, Yao Ming, the basketball star who plays for the Houston Rockets in the American NBA and stands 2.29 metres tall.—*Internet*

Contender for the 'world's tallest man' title, 2.46 metre tall Zhao Liang, 27, is pictured recuperating from foot surgery as his mother shows the size of his trousers at a hospital in Tianjin, northern China.—INTERNET

Albino buffalo a first for Kenya

NAIVASHA, 26 April—Rangers in Kenya's Hellsgate National Park have spotted an albino buffalo, the first of its kind ever recorded in the wildlife rich country, park officials said on Friday.

"This is the first time that an albino buffalo has been found in our parks and it's a great day for nature and animals lovers," said Nelly Palmeris, senior warden at Hellsgate.

The three-month-old calf, spotted within a large herd, has a very light brown coat, and is easily distinguished from other buffalo.

Its lighter colour will make it a more noticeable target for predators, park officials said.

The cultural stigma against albinos, both animal and human, among the Maasai pastoralists that live near the park could also create a threat.

"The African community and especially Maasais associate albinos with bad omens," Palmeris said. "We are just coming from a bad drought and the Maasai might associate the famine with this buffalo and kill it."

Internet

Researchers say immune cell may spread cancer

DENVER, 26 April—An immune cell thought to fight breast cancer may actually promote its spread, US researchers say.The mice studies linked the spread of breast cancer to the lungs to production of an inflammatory protein — called RANK ligand — by immune system cells known as lymphocytes.

Wei Tan and Michael Karin of the University of California, San Diego, say their findings establish RANK ligand as a potential marker to help determine breast cancer prognosis."Without lymphocytes, there is no metastasis," Tan said in a statement.

The researchers developed two types of mice that developed breast tumors. The first group had lymphocytes in the tumors and expressed RANK ligand while the second group did not. The cancer spread to the lungs in the first group but did not in the second group.

When the RANK ligand was injected into mice that lacked lymphocytes, the potential for the cancer to spread was restored — indicating the RANK ligand making lymphocytes were critically important to the process. —*Internet*

SPORTS

Chelsea's Hiddink plans to take fight to Barcelona

LONDON, 26 April—Guus Hiddink has vowed to carry the fight to Barcelona in this week's Champions League semi-finals as he steels himself for his biggest test as Chelsea's interim manager. The Dutchman believes it would be suicidal to sit back and try to contain the La Liga side's vast array of attacking talents, even though the Blues have the advantage of playing the second leg at Stamford Bridge eight days later.Instead, he has urged them to pose their own problems against a side whose defence is far from watertight.

"It is a huge clash against the best team in Europe, possibly the world," said Hiddink, after Chelsea's 1-0 victory over West Ham on Saturday."But we should not go there and drop back, wait and wait until the storm is coming."We must take what is in our team and do some harm as well. That is always our intention in big games. If we wait, we will have problems."—*Internet*

***Chelsea's Salomon Kalou (R) scores during the Premier League football match between West Ham and Chelsea at Upton Park. Kalou ensured Chelsea will travel to Barcelona for next week's Champions League semi-final in buoyant mood after sealing their 1-0 win over West Ham.—*INTERNET**

Bordeaux thrash Vannes to seal League Cup crown

PARIS, 26 April—A clinical first-half showing from title-chasing Bordeaux inspired them to a 4-0 victory over underdogs Vannes in the French League Cup final at the Stade de France here on Saturday. Second-division Vannes had seen off top-flight opposition in the shape of Valenciennes, Auxerre and Nice en route to the final, but were blown away by a three-goal blitz from their opponents in the opening 12 minutes. Yoann Gourcuff capped a fine display with a fourth before half-time to cap Bordeaux's third triumph in the competition following their victories in 2002 and 2007.—*Internet*

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1 C	A	2 N	N	3 I	B	4 A	L	■	■	5 F	■	6 N
U	■	U	■	R	■	M	■	7 L	E	A	V	E
8 R	E	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	■	R	■	T
S	■	T	■	N	■	S	■	N	■	9 C	U	B
10 E	P	I	C	■	11 D	E	V	I	S	E	■	A
■	■	A	■	12 N	■	D	■	E	■	■	■	L
13 F	A	L	L	O	W	■	14 S	N	I	15 V	E	L
I	■	■	■	X	■	16 T	■	T	■	I	■	■
L	■	17 G	L	I	D	E	R	■	18 H	O	O	19 P
20 B	A	R	■	O	■	M	■	21 A	■	L	■	O
E	■	U	■	22 U	P	P	E	R	D	E	C	K
23 R	U	F	U	S	■	L	■	E	■	N	■	E
T	■	F	■	■	24 D	E	C	A	N	T	E	R

***Hull City's midfielder Nick Barmby (L) challenges Liverpool's forward Dirk Kuyt (R) during their English Premier League football match at The Kingston Communications Stadium in Hull. —*INTERNET**

Benitez says Liverpool can still win Premiership

HULL, 26 April—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez insists his side can still win the Premier League title after watching them overcome Hull 3-1 at the KC Stadium.Benitez is refusing to give up on his club's hopes of winning their first championship in two decades, even though Manchester United restored their three- point lead at the top with a 5-2 victory over Tottenham in Saturday's late game.

While United remain firm favourites, Benitez has urged Liverpool to complete a perfect finish to the season, starting with next Sunday's home encounter with struggling Newcastle at Anfield.Benitez will be boosted by the return to fitness of talismanic leader Steven Gerrard, who is poised to shake off a nagging groin problem as Liverpool aim to finish the campaign with four straight wins and hope United slip up. The England international has missed the last four games but Benitez confirmed that he expected him to be available again for the visit of Alan Shearer's side.—*Internet*

Ferguson dampens title talk after United comeback

MANCHESTER, 26 April—Sir Alex Ferguson refused to accept that the Premier League title race is over after his team moved three points clear at the top of the table thanks to a stunning 5-2 victory over Tottenham at Old Trafford on Saturday.

The United manager saw his side score five goals in 22 second-half minutes to recover from a 2-0 half-time deficit, but they benefited from a dubious 56th-minute penalty award from referee Howard Webb.

The official judged that Spurs goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes had tripped Michael Carrick, although replays suggested the decision was wrong - a theory backed up by furious Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp. Even Ferguson felt it had been a fortunate call, although his obvious pleasure at the manner in which his team played thereafter did not extend to him celebrating what would be the 11th English league title of his career.—*Internet*

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney

Late-show Henry rescues Barcelona in Valencia draw

MADRID, 26 April—Barcelona dropped two vital points in the Spanish title race on Saturday in a 2-2 draw at Valencia where substitute Thierry Henry grabbed a late equaliser.It means champions Real Madrid, now seven points behind, can close to within four points at the summit with victory at Sevilla on Sunday and then try to beat their rivals in next Saturday's 'El Clasico' at the Santiago Bernabeu.

***Barcelona's Thierry Henry reacts during the Spanish league football match against Valencia at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia.—*INTERNET**

Dutch midfielder Hedwiges Maduro and winger Pablo Hernandez scored twice in as many minutes to go 2-1 up after Barcelona had taken the lead through Lionel Messi on 24 minutes.Henry scored in the 86th minute to salvage a point for Barcelona who had a 12-point lead over Real back in mid-December, but could find themselves just four ahead by next weekend.—*Internet*

Four-goal Fiorentina boost Champions League hopes

ROME, 26 April—Fiorentina eased past Roma 4-1 to take another confident step closer to Champions League qualification.

Victory moved them into fourth place in the table — the last qualifying spot for Europe's premier club competition — on 58 points although they could be displaced by Genoa, who are a point behind and tackle struggling Bologna on Sunday.

For Roma, however, their Champions League hopes are fading fast with defeat leaving them in sixth place, six points behind Fiorentina with just five games left.

Internet

***AS Roma's Matteo Brighi (L) vies with Fiorentina's Manuel Pasqual during their serie A football match at Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence.—*INTERNET**

I'm in best form ever, warns Nadal

BARCELONA, 26 April—Rafael Nadal pronounced himself in the best shape of his career on Saturday as the world number one stormed into the Barcelona Open final where he will face Spanish compatriot David Ferrer.

"I'm living the best time of my career," said Nadal after easing into his fifth straight final at his home event with a 6-3, 6-2 dismantling of Russia's Nikolay Davydenko."I really need to appreciate this time because it will not be repeated."

The 22-year-old king of clay is ready to follow up last week's fifth straight title victory in Monte Carlo with the same achievement in the Catalan capital.—*Internet*

Federer, Djokovic struggle to derail tennis ace Nadal

ROME, 26 April—Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic launch their latest attempts to derail Rafael Nadal's non-stop, claycourt express at the Rome Masters which gets under way at the Foro Italico on Sunday.Nadal won three successive titles here until last year when he suffered a shock second round loss to Spanish compatriot Juan Carlos Ferrero. With Federer losing to Radek Stepanek in the quarter-finals, Djokovic seized his opportunity to take the title beating Stanislas Wawrinka in the final. However, if Federer and Djokovic, the world numbers two and three respectively, had been hoping Nadal's early exit in 2008 was to signal a rapid decline, they were in for a devastating wake-up call.—*Internet*

Teacher attacked by ungrateful squirrel

ANN ARBOR, 26 April — A Michigan teacher guiding students around the University of Michigan campus was attacked by an irate squirrel when she tried to help one of its young.

The teacher, from Detroit, spotted the squirrels Thursday as she ushered her students through a campus tour, *The Ann Arbor* News reported on Friday. She noticed the young squirrels were not in their nest and a crow was eyeing one that appeared to have been left behind.

The teacher, whose name was not reported, first tried to shoo the crow away from the squirrels and then to draw the mother's attention to the danger. The mother squirrel instead turned on the teacher.

Diane Brown, a spokeswoman for the Detroit Public Schools, said the teacher fell while running back to the bus to get away from the angry squirrel. The animal bit or scratched her ankle, but the teacher was able to get up and escape.—*Internet*

A model presents a creation during a wedding dress show in Madrid, capital of Spain, 24 April , 2009.

XINHUA

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(27.4.2009) (Monday)

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 Gold and Silver Smith of Inlay
* Memory of Good Time imprinted on My Mind
* Promote Sino-Myanmar Cooperation
* Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
* Reclaim and exploit Fallow and Virgin Land nationwide
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Upper Sedawgyi Multipurpose Supporting Dam Project
* Kachin hand-woven material
* Healthy Babies, Sweety Smiles
* Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung
* Promote Sino-Myanmar Cooperation
* Myanmar Orchestra (Thichinkhant)
* Enjoy our Shan Food
* Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-I)
* The Prosperous and pleasant Myawady
* Myanmar Modern Song
* The Gold and Silver Smith of Inlay
* Memory of Good Time imprinted on My Mind
* National Races Village (Kachin, Kayah, Kayin)
* Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
* Reclaim and exploit Fallow and Virgin Land nationwide
* Travel and Description (Yangon to Thanlyin-Kyauk Tan)
* Traditional Chin Clothes
* Work hard together to promote Myanmar Tourism Industry
* Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-II)
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

TV Myanmar

Monday, 27 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 and sweet song

7:50 am
5. "မြန်မာ့ကျောက်မျက် ရတနာများ ဖြင့်ဖော်ကျူးထားတဲ့ မြန်မာ့ ကျောက်မျက်ရတနာပြတိုက်"

8:00 am
6. Cute little dancers

8:10 am
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am
8. Musical programme

8:35 am
9. International news

8:50 am
10. "မီးမီးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်" (နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မေသဇ္ဇာဦး၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ ဂေဇောမင်းထက်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ–အောင်မိုး (ပဲရစ်)]

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. Dance variety

4:20 pm
3. Musical programme (The radio Myanmar modern music troupe)

4:30 pm
4. "စက်မှုကုန်ကြမ်းသီးနှံရာဘာ" (အပိုင်း–၁)

4:45 pm
5. Dance of national races

4:55 pm
6. Musical programme

5:05 pm
7. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမိုင်းအထူးပြု) (သမိုင်း)

5:20 pm
8. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:25 pm
9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:35 pm
10. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:50 pm
11. Song of yesteryear

6:00 pm
12. Evening news

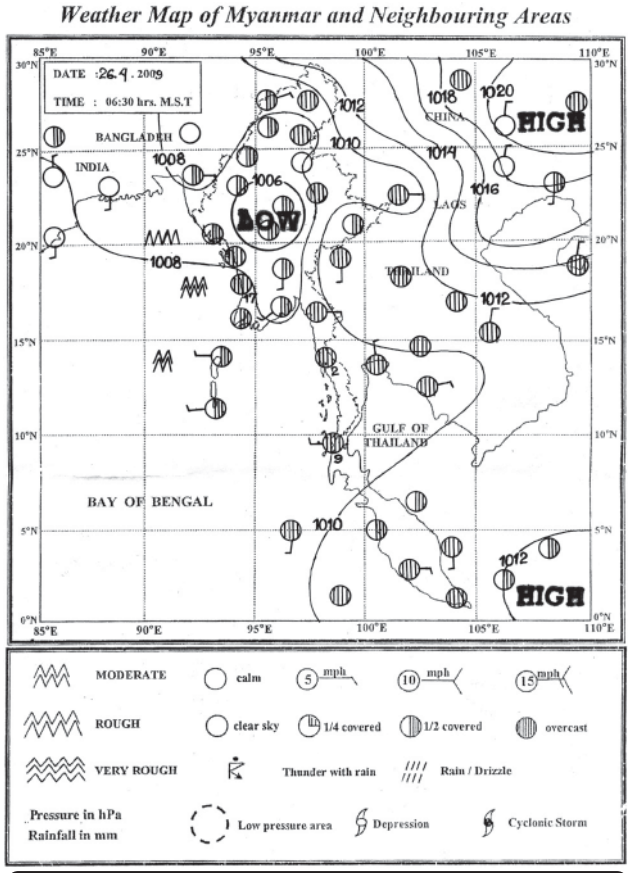
6:30 pm
13. Weather report

6:35 pm
14. Sing and enjoy

7:00 pm
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း–၂၈)

8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူ့သံစဉ်" (အပိုင်း–၁၀)

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 26 April, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Rakhine State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (7°C) above April average temperatures in Kachin State, (5°C) to (6°C) above April average temperatures in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (44˚C), Minbu, Magway and Pakokku (43˚C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (0.67) inch and Kawthong (0.36) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-4-2009 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 26-4-2009 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-4-2009 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 25-4-2009 was (8.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 26-4-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (1.06) inches at Mingaladon, (1.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.83) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 25-4-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27th April 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Rakhine, Southern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine, Southern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-4-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-4-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-4-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Wahpa Dam supplying drinking water to Thaton dwellers, irrigating 2400 acres of farmlands

Article and Photos: **Aung Than** *(Mingala Taungnyunt)*

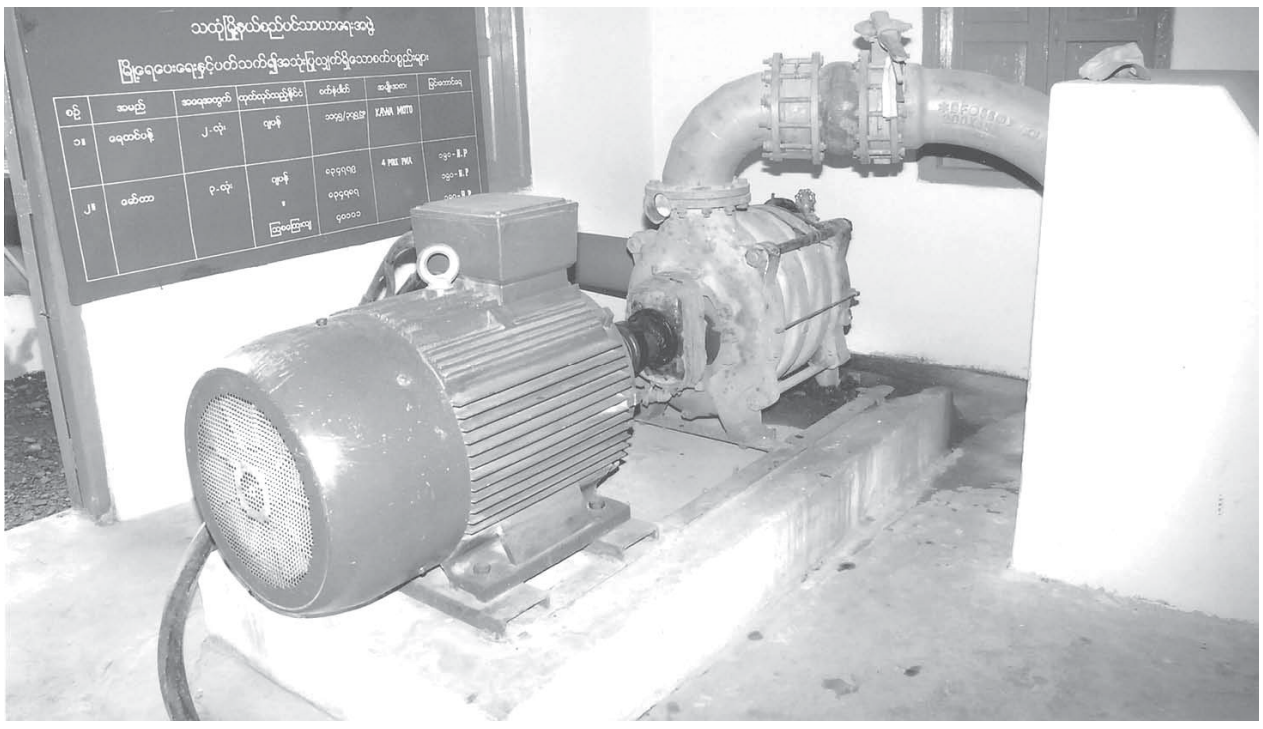
Last month, I made a field trip to Thaton District of Mon State to observe the higher living standard of the local farmers thanks to sluice gates built by Irrigation Department and their feeling. On the way to Irrigation Yeiktha of Thaton, we saw a signboard bearing "Town Water Supply" beside Thaton-Hpa-an Road.

Staff Officer (Civil) U San Thwin of Construction (6) of Irrigation Department conducted us round the drinking water supply facility being undertaken by Thaton Township Development Affairs Committee for 68,730 people of five wards from Thaton.

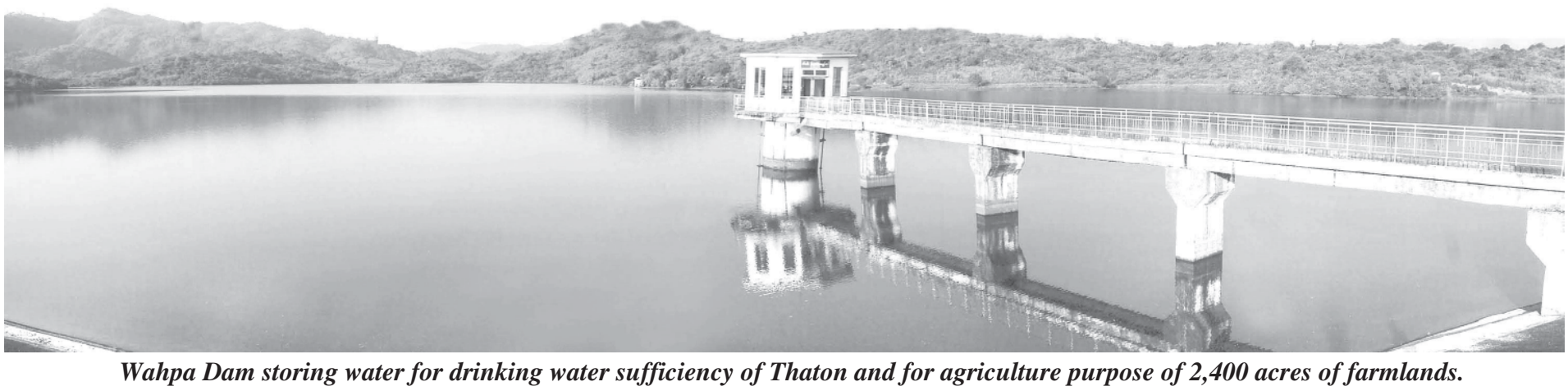
The department is supplying drinking water to the township from Wahpa Dam, 1.5 miles east of the town, through 24-inch diameter concrete pipelines.

We had an interview with Deputy Staff Officer (Civil) U Hla Myaing of Irrigation Department which is maintaining Wahpa Dam in Thaton. He said, "In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Wahpa Dam was built on Wahpa Creek in Thaton Township

(See page 9)



Two 150-Hp water pumps being operated at Wahpa Dam.



Wahpa Dam storing water for drinking water sufficiency of Thaton and for agriculture purpose of 2,400 acres of farmlands.

Myanmar rout Macao 4-0 in qualifying of AFC Challenge Cup 2010

YANGON, 26 April— The group (A) matches of the qualifying round for the AFC Challenge Cup 2010 were held at Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka of Bangladesh this afternoon.

In its debut, the Myanmar National Football Team trounced Macao 4-0. The winning goals for Myanmar came through from Khin Maung Lwin at 2nd minute and Yaza Win Thein at 15th minute in the first half and Pyae Phyo Oo at 3rd minute and Myo Min Tun at 14th minute in the second half.

Myanmar will play against Bangladesh on 28 April.—*MNA*

Dry day supervision performed

YANGON, 26 April— Chairman of the Dry Day Supervisory Committee Brig-Gen Hla Myint Shwe and committee members together with departmental officials supervised driving of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles, driving pass, driver's licences, wheel tax and wearing of departmental uniforms and following of traffic rules at the main points of Yangon this morning and evening.

MNA

Untimely rainfall warning

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — According to the observations at 11.30 a.m MST today, as a consequence of the cloud moving from the East towards Myanmar, fairly widespread rain or thundershowers are likely in Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions with isolated heavy rain within next 24 hours commencing noon today. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 to 40 mph.—*MNA*

New effort to discover habitable Earth-like planets

HERTFORDSHIRE, 26 April—Astronomers have announced plans to build an ultra-stable, high-precision spectrograph for the Science and Technology Facilities Council's 4.2-m William Herschel Telescope (WHT-part of the Isaac Newton Group or ING on La Palma) in an effort to discover habitable Earth-like planets around other stars.

Internet

The original HARPS spectrograph at the European Southern Observatory, during laboratory tests. The vacuum tank which isolates the spectrograph from the environment is open, allowing some of the high-precision optical components to be seen.