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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

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal opens

Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April – The 1371 ME Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was opened this evening at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall in the presence of Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye.

After extending New Year greetings, Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Col Thein Nyunt, who is also Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs formally opened the pandal followed by dances and songs marking the annual traditional water festival.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the auditor-general, deputy ministers, officials and party sprinkled water on dance troupe members of the ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Command, business companies and Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

They and a large crowd of people enjoyed the Thingyan songs and dances of well-known film stars, vocalists and artistes including Yawai Aung, May Than Nu, Cho Pyone, Myo Thanda Tun, Nyein Nyein Ei, Nawarat and so on and the dance troupes.

MNA

Whole country packed with devotees doing meritorious deeds and merry makers on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April – Today is the eve of Maha Thigyan in 1371 Myanmar Era. The Maha Thingyan is an occasion when the Myanmar people do meritorious deeds. From the start of the Thingyan Eve, pagodas, stupas and monasteries across the nation have been packed with people doing meritorious deeds.

Maha Thingyan water-throwing pandals have been built along Bogyoke Road in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, along Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and along the roads in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, and the people are happily and peacefully taking part in the Thingyan festival.

Likewise, water-throwing pandals and free meal-offering pandals have been built in Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri and Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri.

For public participation in the Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival, a water festival pandal opening ceremony took place at Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone. It was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thien Swe, departmental heads, responsible people from companies and hotels, service personnel and guests.

On the occasion, Maha Thingyan water festival pandals were opened in front of Amara Hotel, Max Myanmar Company Hotel, Golden Myanmar Hotel, Yadana Theinga Hotel, Taw Win Nay Pyi Taw Hotel,

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 14 April, 2010

Happily take part in traditional Thingyan in a polite manner

Today (the second waxing of Kason, 1371 ME) is the Akya Day of the Maha Thingyan. People young and old happily take part in the Thingyan Festival, drenching each other with water, going round for getting doused in water and looking round the pandals.

Public warnings and notices have been issued against indecent behaviours during the festival at a time when the old year passes and the new year comes. Particularly, those going round by car are to drive safely and carefully in order not to cause any road accident.

For the people to be able to go safe and sound, the Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee has issued warnings and notices which all the motorists have to follow.

During the Thingyan Festival, such acts must be avoided as reckless driving, driving cars without exhaust pipes, driving cars without side doors and boots, driving licence-revoked old or under-repair cars.

It is especially important to avoid driving under the influence. During the festival, breathalyzers will be used to check whether the motorists have taken alcoholic drinks.

If all motorists as well as pedestrians are to follow traffic rules and regulations, we all can happily participate in the Thingyan without any accidents.

By following the prescribed traffic rules and regulations, all the people can take part happily and safely in Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan Festival.

Mayor inspects tube wells

YANGON, 13 April— Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the tube well at the corner of Thandar Street and Nilar Street, Ward-33, the tube well on Zeyathiri (2) Street, Ward-31, the tube well at the corner of Bolayaung Street and Shwethiri Street, Ward-30, the tube well in Saw Hla Baw Street, Ward-35, the tube well in Tabin Shwehtee Street, Ward-36 and the tube well at the corner of Tabin Shwehtee Street, Ward-40 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon East District. During the inspections, the mayor also looked into supply of drinking water and its quality.

MNA

Donate blood

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**

Construction Minister views construction site of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon)

Construction Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon).

CONSTRUCTION

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April— Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with departmental persons viewed progress of construction site of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) from the briefing hall of the project in Nyaungdon Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Division on 11 April morning.

The minister heard reports on progress of boring bole piles and tasks on going presented by an incharge-engineer of the bridge and left instructions to finish bridge works timely, ensure occupational safety and economical use of materials.

MNA

Shwe FM Thingyan Pandal

Opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Shwe FM family in progress.

MNA

YANGON, 13 April— Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Pandal of Shwe FM family was opened at the corner of Kyonegyi Street and 19th Street in Latha Township here this evening.

Col Ohn Cho of local station, Joint Secretary U Kyaw Soe of Yangon City Development Committee and Chairman of Shwe FM Daw Nan Mauk Lao Sai formally opened the pandal. Families of Shwe FM, Myanmar International School and Aladin played water at the pandal.

The Rays Music Band, hip hop groups and famous artistes will entertain in the new year which falls between 13 and 16 April.

The Shwe FM can be accessible in Bago Division, Mon State, Kayin State and Taninthayi Division. Those wishing to advertise in the radio programmes may contact No (131/133), Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Botahtaung Township here (Ph: 098571408 and 098566271)

MNA

52nd PyinOoLwin Gold Cup goes on

YANGON, 13 April—The 52nd PyinOoLwin Gold Cup, organized by PyinOoLwin Golfers Club and Kaung Myat Companies (KM Golf Centre), went on for the third day in PyinOoLwin Golf Club, Mandalay Division on 13 April morning.

The golf tournament consists of team event and singles' event at the gold level, team event and singles' event at the silver level and PyinOoLwin championship cup events.

PyinOoLwin (A) led the bronze level team event with 502 strokes ahead of Steel Melting Plant with 526 strokes. Aung Kyaw Kyaw (PyinOoLwin) led the bronze level singles' event with H'cap 19, followed by Win Myint (Kalaw) with H'cap 22. In the senior level singles' event, Ohn Tun (Yangon) stood first with H'cap 22, followed by Jar Naw (Yangon) with H'cap 20.

Khin Mar Nwe (PyinOoLwin) led the women singles' event with H'cap 17, followed by Su Su Di Min Tun (PyinOoLwin) with H'cap 22 and Soe Soe Lay (Mantaung) with H'cap 19. PyinOoLwin Gold Cup 52nd Anniversary Golf Magazine (2010) was published during the days of the golf tournament.

MNA

Anger mounts as US troops kill four Afghans on bus

Afghan policemen and protesters stand near a bus after it was fired upon by international troops during a anti-American protest in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday, 12 April, 2010. —INTERNET

KANDAHAR, 13 April—Afghans burned tires and chanted "Death to America" after US troops fired on a civilian bus near Kandahar, killing four people and wounding more than a dozen. Afghanistan's president accused NATO of violating its commitment to safeguard civilian lives.The attack Monday enraged Afghan officials and the public in Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace, and dealt a fresh blow to US and NATO efforts to win popular support for a coming offensive to drive the insurgents from the biggest city in the south. NATO expressed regret for the loss of civilian lives and said it was investigating.

Nearly 200 Afghans blocked highway where the shooting occurred, burning tires, firing weapons and chanting "Death to America" and other slogans. They also called for the ouster of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a Kandahar native who has been appealing for the people here to support the US-led campaign against the Taliban.

"The Americans are constantly killing our civilians and the government is not demanding an explanation," protester Mohammad Razaq said. "We demand justice from the Karzai government and the punishment of those soldiers responsible."—*Internet*

Baghdad bombing kills 3, TV reporter wounded

BAGHDAD, 13 April— A bomb planted inside a Baghdad liquor store Tuesday killed three people and wounded seven, police and hospital officials said.

Separately, an Iraqi TV reporter was in critical condition after a bomb stuck to the underside of his car exploded.

The noontime liquor store bombing in an eastern Baghdad neighborhood took place after people posing as customers left behind a black plastic bag filled with explosives in the shop, an Iraqi police official said. The Christian owner of the store was among those killed, the police official said.

The blast also damaged nearby stores. Broken bottles of alcohol and ripped beer cans could be seen scattered outside. A doctor at the nearby al-Kindi hospital, where the victims were taken, confirmed the casualties.

At least 141 journalists and another 43 media support staffers have been killed in Iraq since 2003, according to the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Internet

A wounded man waits for treatment at a hospital in Baghdad 13 April, 2010. The man was one of five people injured when a bomb planted inside the vehicle of a public relations officer at moderately influential satellite TV channel AL-Rasheed—generally considered critical of the Shi'ite-led government—exploded in the Doura district of southern Baghdad. The correspondent and five other people including a police officer were injured, police said.—INTERNET

Roadside bomb blasts kill 6 Afghan security forces

KABUL, 13 April— Roadside bombs killed four policemen and two Afghan soldiers, and three women died when mortars fired by suspected insurgents hit their homes in an increasingly volatile area just north of the capital Kabul, officials said on Tuesday.

Two other policemen were wounded and their vehicle was destroyed in the roadside blast Monday in northern Faryab province's Ghormach district, the Interior Ministry said. The Afghan Defense Ministry said two other soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit a bomb Monday near Qalat city in Zabul province of southeastern Afghanistan.—*Internet*

An improvised explosive device (IED) explodes in a controlled detonation in Yosef Khel district of Paktika province of Afghanistan.—INTERNET

Three killed in Navy plane crash in US

WASHINGTON, 13 April— Three crew members were killed in a Navy plane crash in northern Georgia of the United States on Monday, a Navy official said.There is no injuries on the ground, Naval Air Station Pensacola spokesman Harry White said.The plane, which belonged to the Training Air Wing 6, crashed when it was conducting routine missions in the region.An investigation is underway, said White.—*Internet*

Sarkozy: France will not give up nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON, 13 April—French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Monday that France will not give up its nuclear weapons because doing so would put jeopardize the country's "security and safety."

"A virtual world where there would be no nuclear weapons... every one would applaud that, but I cannot jeopardize the security and safety of my country," Sarkozy said in an interview with CBS News on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in the US capital.The transcript of the interview was made available on the broadcaster's website.

"I have inherited the legacy of the efforts made by my predecessors to build up arms as a nuclear power," he said. "And I could not give up nuclear weapons, insofar as I wasn't sure that the world is a stable and safe place.""It's a dream, an awesome dream that can turn into reality," he said."But I will not give up that nuclear weapon because it underpins my country's security. I will not do so on a unilateral basis, in a world as dangerous as the one in which we live in today," Sarkozy said.

Internet

Officials stand near partially destroyed offices of an Afghan intelligence services after three suicide bombers attacked in Kandahar city , south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday, 12 April, 2010. Afghan forces with automatic weapons defended as the bombers attempted to scale the wall of the compound. One of the attackers detonated his explosives belt, official said.—INTERNET

Scupting small, brightly-colored figurines out of dough is one of the famous cultural crafts of Yaowan Township of Xinyi City, east China's Jiangsu Province.
XINHUA

Chinese Naval fleet makes port call in Manila

MANILA, 13 April— At the invitation of the Philippine Navy, the naval Task Force 525 of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) arrived here Tuesday morning, kicking off a five-day visit to the Philippines.

The Chinese Naval fleet consists of missile frigate Ma'anshan (flagship), missile frigate Wenzhou and comprehensive supply ship Qiandaohu. It came here after completing its escort mission in the Gulf of Aden.

As the fourth escort convoy dispatched by the Chinese Navy, Task Force 525 escorted more than 600 Chinese and foreign merchant vessels, including six Philippine vessels, as well as vessels of some international organiz-ations such as the World Food Program during its 128-day mission.
Xinhua

35 militants killed in Pakistan's tribal area

ISLAMABADA, 13 April — At least 35 militants were killed in clashes which followed a major attack by the security forces in northwest Pakistan's Orazkai tribal agency on Monday, army sources said.

Two Pakistani security personnel were also killed and another seven troops were injured in the ongoing operation at Shereen Darra area of Lower Orakzai Agency, local officials said.

Officials claimed on Sunday that several bunkers in Orazkai built by militants had been destroyed on Saturday night.

They said the forces had set up their main base camp in Shereen Darra which was vital for the security of Kalaya, a main town in Orazkai.

Militants launched rocket and mortar attacks in Shereen Darra.

Sources said that security forces used helicopters and heavy artillery in the operation and destroyed many of the militants' hideouts.

The army said troops have secured important heights in the area and have also seized arms and ammunition. It said troops have taken control of most areas of the agency and were advancing towards Upper Orakzai Agency.

Security forces backed by helicopter gunships killed over 300 Taliban militants so far in Orakzai since late March when the army launched a fresh offensive in the agency to flush out Taliban.
Xinhua

At least seven killed, over 80 injured in train accident in Italy

ROME, 13 April — A small regional train derailed on Monday morning in Italy's northern Alto Adige mountainous region causing at least 7 death while more than 80 people were injured, many in serious conditions.

According to the rescue operators and local authorities, the toll is likely to rise during the day.

The accident, which occurred after 9.00 a.m. local time near the town of Merano, was apparently caused by a landslide hitting the railway.

Map locates the train derailment near Merano, Italy.
XINHUA

According to some witnesses, mud and debris collapsed on the train, which is now halfly covered by the fallen rocks while the remaining part is suspended upon a river. These wagons are thus in a very critical situation and relief efforts are hindered there.

The roads conn-ecting to the area have been closed to facilitate the rescue operations. More than 200 rescuers are at work, transporting the people injured to the nearest hospitals.
Xinhua

Children take a look at the painting of Harpy Eagle, the national bird of Panama, during an event for the endangered raptor at Summit Park in Panama City on 11 April, 2010.
XINHUA

Six killed in southern Kyrgyz mudslide

BISHKEK, 13 April— Six people died in a mudslide in south ern Kyrgyzstan, said the emergencies press service on Monday.

A car was buried by the mudslide occu-rred in the southern region of Batken, said a press release, killing all six passengers including two children. The driver was rescued and has been hospit-alized.
Xinhua

Two Marines killed in S Philippine clash

MANILA, 13April — Two Philippine Marines were killed in a running gunbattle between government forces and suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Isabela City, Basilan in south Philippines Tuesday morning, local media reported.

Tony Mendoza, Basilan police director, said a Hyundai van exploded near the grandstand in Isabela City at 10:30 a.m. followed by gunfire from an undetermined number of MILF fighters, abs-cbn reported on its website.

Jamju Rivera, a candidate for councilor in Isabela City, described the situation as a "running gunbattle" between the military and suspected members of the MILF who posed as policemen.

Two Marines were killed and another was wounded in the firefight.

Mendoza said more explosions have rocked the Isabela City plaza, causing many residents to flee. The city proper has been closed due to the ongoing firefight.
Xinhua

Indonesian passenger plane plunges into river, causing injuries

JAKARTA, 13 April— A passenger plane operated by Merpati Airline skidded off runway while landing in heavy rains and plunged into a river near the airport in Manokwari of Papua on Tuesday, injuring some 20 people, police said.

The head of the plane sunk in the river and its body was broken into two parts, Papua police spokesman Agus Rianto told Xinhua by phone.

The plane moved up to over 700 meters from the runway, he said.

"Several people were wounded and rushed to nearby hospitals," said Rianto.

The accident took place at 10: 50 local time (0150 GMT), the spokesman said.
Xinhua

Trucks block the road outside the Washington Convention Center prior to the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, capital of the United States, on 12 April, 2010.
XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Security guards to monitor buses during 2010 Expo

BEIJING, 13 April — During the World Expo from May 1 to Oct. 31, security inspectors will be stationed on all buses for the 42 Expo routes and at thousands of bus stops in a bid to ensure a safe Expo, according to local police.

Inspectors will be sent aboard every bus on all the Expo routes for security checks, Cheng Jiulong, deputy director and spokesman of the Shanghai municipal public security bureau, was quoted as saying by Tuesday's China Daily.

Security guards will also be deployed at the 2,188 bus stops and 60 junction stations in the city to check luggage and bags, Cheng said.

Escape windows will be installed on buses on Expo routes and in key areas in case any accidents take place.

Each bus operating on the inner-ring roads will be equipped with closed-circuit video to monitor any irregularities.

Shanghai has the world's most extensive bus system with nearly 1,000 bus lines. The buses have operated well in the past few years, with just a few accidents, terrorist attacks or passenger-induced accidents have been reported.

Xinhua

***People blow bubbles at the Soap Bubble Festival in Moscow, Russia, on 11 April, 2010.—*INTERNET**

New Zealand wins victory over Australia in apple case 90 years ago

WELLINGTON, 13 April — New Zealand has won a long-running case it took to the World Trade Organization against Australia over access for its apples 90 years ago, New Zealand media reported on Monday.

However, the New Zealand government and apple growers said they cannot officially comment on the interim report.

The World Trade Organisation disputes panel has rejected Australia's defence that New Zealand apple imports would risk the introduction of the bacterial disease fireblight, Radio New Zealand said.

The trade dispute has been running since the 1920s when New Zealand apples were first banned from Australia due to the discovery of fireblight in the country in 1919.

Xinhua

Cheryl Cole from Girls Aloud arrives at the Brit Awards at Earls Court in London on 20 Febbruary. 2008.
INTERNET

Singapore to provide more fund for SMEs productivity-related courses

SINGAPORE, 13 April —Singapore's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will get more money to send their staff for productivity training, the country's Manpower Ministry said on Monday. According to local TV broadcaster Channel NewsAsia, the ministry has plans to develop targeted programs to help SMEs which hire nearly six out of 10 workers here.

Manpower Minister Gan Kim Yong said that the Workforce Development Agency (WDA), agency to develop the workforce, will work with SPRING, agency to promote productivity to develop the training which includes customized workshops and diagnostic tools to help SMEs implement productivity measures.

Gan also said that the Workforce Skills Qualification system will now be recognized as a national credential. This means that it will be included in the Singapore Standard Educational Classification which is a national standard for qualifications.—*Internet*

20 new urban rising stars in China

BEIJING, 13 April — Tianjin: A key player in the Bohai Bay economic zone, a manufacturing and shipping center in North China, with per capita GDP exceeding 62,000 yuan ($9,082) in 2009.

Qingdao: A shipping center and seaside resort city, with per capita GDP exceeding 65,000 yuan in 2008.

Hangzhou: A key player in the Yangtze River Delta, strong in education and financial resources, with per capita GDP of 60,000 yuan in 2009.

Suzhou: Strong in foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade-oriented manu-facturing, with per capita GDP of more than 77,000 yuan in 2009, higher than Shanghai.

Dalian: The logistics center for Northeast China on the Bohai Bay, strong also in FDI and tourism, with per capita GDP of 73,000 yuan in 2009.

Shenyang: A major industrial base in northeastern China, strong in machinery industry and electrical equipment, with per capita GDP of more than 55,000 yuan in 2009.

Nanjing:--------- Important business city in the Yangtze River Delta, with per capita GDP exceeding 44,000 yuan in 2008.

Xinhua

***Li Ai, Xu Jinglei and Karen Mok (L-R) attend the premiere press conference for the movie "Go Lala Go" in Beijing, capital of China, on 7 April, 2010. The movie adapted from the best-selling novel "Du Lala's Promotion" will release on 15 April, 2010.—*INTERNET**

People attend a ceremony to celebrate the Water Splashing Festival, one of the most important festivals in their culture, in Yingjiang County of Dai-Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture of Dehong, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 11 April, 2010. As a prolonged severe drought in southwest China has left tens of millions of people thirsty for water and crops withered, local residents of Dai-Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture of Dehong, celebrated the annual Water Splashing Festival with the principal of sprlashing less water and recycling the water after the festival.
INTERNET

Hyundai Merchant signs 315 mln USD deal with China's Hebei Steel Group

SEOUL, 13 April —Hyundai Merchant Marine Co., South Korea's second largest shipper, in partnership with a Chinese local firm, announced Tuesday that it has signed a deal worth 315 million U.S. dollars with China's Hebei Steel Group to transport iron ore for the next 15 years.

The deal calls for Hyundai Merchant and China's ShangDong Far East Marine Group to deliver a total of 23 million tons of iron ore, including 1.5 million tons annually from Brazil and Australia, to China by 2025 for the Hebei Steel Group, the world's second largest steelmaker, the company said in a statement. It added the deal could bring in 21 million US dollars in annual sales, which add up to a total of 315 million US dollars over the next 15 years for the South Korean company.

"China has the largest steel market in the world, and we will continue to expand our market presence there," Hyundai Merchant said in a statement. Hyundai Merchant and ShangDong Far East have signed a strategic partnership earlier this year.—*Xinhua*

Australia's growers upset with release ban on apple imports

CANBERRA, 13 April — Australian apple growers on Monday were angered by a report saying the World Trade Organization (WTO) will overturn Australia's 90-year ban on New Zealand apple imports.

Apple and Pear Australia Limited general manager Tony Russell told Australian Associated Press on Tuesday there were still persuasive arguments about the pest and disease risk posed by New Zealand apples.

"Rather than erring on the side of conservatism they have decided to take a more pro-trade stance and I think that's a rather dangerous precedent," Russell said.

"This would be a slap in the face to Biosecurity Australia in terms of their ability to conduct impact risk assessments."

In a statement, the government confirmed the interim report of the WTO panel had been issued to both Australia and New Zealand. " The interim report is released in strict confidence to the parties involved," the statement said.

The news was sweet for New Zealand apple growers. Pipfruit New Zealand chief Peter Beavan told Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio they would treat Australia like a local market.

Xinhua

Photo shows Chinese actress Fan Bingbing poses in a scarlet dress for her new movie East Wind Rain directed by Liu Yunlong. INTERNET

A model presents a creation by Italian designer of Palestinian descent Jamal Taslaq during a fundraiser fashion show for a local charity in Amman on 12 April, 2010.— INTERNET

New lending slows on gov't curbs

BEIJING, 13 April —Bank lending slowed in March as the government took further steps to rein in credit, amid rising inflation and asset bubble risks.

Chinese banks advanced 510.7 billion yuan (75 billion US dollars) in new loans in March, down from the 700.1 billion yuan in February, the People's Bank of China, the nation's central bank, said on Monday.

That puts the total new loans for the first quarter at 2.6 trillion yuan, higher than the government targeted 2.25 trillion yuan, or some 30 percent of the planned 7.5 trillion yuan for the whole year.

"It is quite normal for the level of new loans in the first three months to exceed the planned target, as Chinese banks tend to lend more at the beginning of the year," E Yongjian, senior analyst at the research department of Bank of Communications, said.—*Xinhua*

Firecrackers accident destroys exhibition hall in central China county

ZHENGZHOU, 13 April —A hall for display of firecrackers in central China's Henan Province was ripped through Monday after the firecrackers being demonstrated exploded all of a sudden, local work safety authorities said.

The blast occurred at about 1:40 pm at the 30-sq-m hall in Mahuiying Village of Pingdeng Township, Yichuan County. The hall sat right next to a storehouse of fireworks and firecrackers, said a spokesman for the Yichuan County Work Safety Bureau. No casualties were reported.

No further details of damage in the accident were available.

The police was investigating the cause of the blast.

Xinhua

German supplier takes steaks from diners' plates

A German meat supplier has found a novel solution to unpaid bills: repossessing the steaks right off diners' plates.

Police in Aachen said Thursday that a dispute over money ended with the man grabbing his wares off the plates of some 20 bemused guests at a restaurant in the western city.

A furious argument erupted in the kitchen after the man made his daily delivery Wednesday evening but was told the restaurant didn't immediately have the euro400 ($535) in cash to pay his bill.

The vendor then took back the meat he'd delivered - including steaks already being cooked or marinated. That still didn't cover the bill, so he continued collecting meat in the dining room.

Police arrived at the scene after he left but said they believed no offense was committed.

A handout photo released by Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities shows a sarcophagus recently discovered in Bahariya Oasis, 300 km (190 miles) southwest of Cairo on 12 April, 2010.

Man drove drunk to prison for DUI sentence

Police said a Massachusetts man headed to a Vermont prison to serve a two-day sentence for driving under the influence was intoxicated when he drove himself to prison.

Vermont State Police say that staff at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield noticed that a 42-year-old man was intoxicated when he arrived late Tuesday afternoon and that he had driven himself there.

So prison staff called police.

Police said the man was then processed for DUI second offense and released back into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

The man was due to appear in court later this month on the latest charge.

Belgian chocolate maker Kris Dooms introduces chocolate in Belgium on 18 March, 2010. Belgium will set up a "chocolate corner" at Belgian pavilion to showcase the worldwide famous Belgian chocolate and its production process during the Shanghai World Expo in China.

Man robs ore. bank, steals car containing two dogs

Police say a man robbed a north Portland Bank of America branch on Wednesday, then stole a Jaguar with two Chihuahuas inside.

He crashed the car a short time later in a fast-food restaurant lot and fled on foot.

The car and dogs belonged to Melanie Davis, who was in the bank during the holdup. She tells The Oregonian the man burst into the bank shouting profanity, said it was a robbery and threatened to shoot those inside if they didn't cooperate. After grabbing the money, he demanded Davis' car keys. The dogs were recovered unharmed.

Police spokes woman Detective Mary Wheat says Portland police and the FBI are looking for the robber.

Access Agency, a marketing agency soon to be launched, is planning to open temporary fancy McDonalds restaurants during Fashion Weeks in London, Milan, New York, Paris, Sydney, and Hong Kong, etc. At that time, McDonalds will serve food in packings with logos of major fashion brands such as Hermers, Gucci and so on.

News Album

Measures taken for An Airport to be safe and convenient

Rakhine State PDC Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Transport Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspect An Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April— Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe on 12 April morning arrived at An Airport where they heard reports on laying of concrete on the runway, construction of civil aviation facility and air control tower, fencing and others presented by the director-general of Department of Civil Aviation and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander and the minister stressed the need for officials to ensure the environs of airport clean, to meet the set standard in carrying out maintenance work, to grow shade and flowery plants in the environs of the airport, ensure proper flow of drains on both sides of runways and to serve the duty with goodwill.

Next, the commander and the minister viewed the in-coming and out-going flights, signals of runways and arrivals and departures and attended to the needs.

MNA

T-Home water festival pandal seen on the eve of Maha Thingyan in Yangon .—MNA

Air Bagan water festival pandal filled with revellers on Maha Thingyan eve in Yangon.—MNA

Traditional Rakhine Thingyan Festival

(Laywady Kyaw)

All Rakhine people who are mostly pure Buddhists, hold many festivals on auspicious days such as Thadingyut, Tazaung–daing and Thingyan. They hold Traditional Rakhine Thingyan Festival by three stages, which are incense grinding, offering of water to Buddha Images and holding the water festival.

Incense-grinding is the first stage. Rakhine girls in the village make incense-grinding on Thingyan eve for offering of water to Buddha Images. They are soon joined by the village boys, and together these boys and girls grind incense happily with to the accompaniment of music and dance. In Rakhine State, we call it "Incensegrinding Pwe".

The second stage is offering of water to Buddha Images. Rakhine people usually hold offering of water to Buddha Images at pre-Thingyan day. Some young girls carry incense-grinding pots on each head and some bring alm-rice bowls with things to offer and go to the monastery on that day. The young boys also accompany them and go to the monastery together, reciting and singing Thingyan rhymes and songs with music and dance.

When they arrive at the monastery compound, the girls fill the pots with water from the nearby ponds and wells, the boys wash the Buddha Images, stupas and the monastery with water and offer incense paste to Buddha images. On their return, they go around the village and do manicuring, hair-washing, cleaning and bathing the elderly people.

In the Traditional Rakhine Water Festival as the third stage, Rakhine girls sit at the pandal and wait for the boys who go round the town and come to participate in water festival from one pandal to another.

In the village or quarters, there are Pandals which depend upon the Rakhine young girls who participate as pandal members. There are usually twenty to fifty Rakhine young girls in a pandal. There is a big boat filled with water in the pandal. The girls sit facing the boat with their back to the pandal and wait for the boys who will come to one pandal to another and participate in the water festival. The boys can choose the girls, they like, as their mates and chat teasingly but politely.

When the boys invite the girls to join them for water festival, they pour water on the girls' backs and ask for more water saying "Please give me some more water, Sister", As soon as the girls realize that it is time to participate in the water festival, they all get up and fill the boys' buckets with water. Then they join in the water festival, pouring water facing each other, speaking politely and happily.

In the Traditional Rakhine Water Festival, the boys go around the town in groups by bullock-carts or by cars. Every group brings musical instruments together with them and go round the pandals by singing and reciting Thingyan Songs and Rhymes. Thingyan revellers will praise the good, but satire the bad. This is their habitual practice.

There are rules and disciplines in the Traditional Rakhine Thingyan Festival. Rakhine people obey and practice these rules and disciplines. I would like to mention them;

- The Thingyan Pandal-girls have to sit facing the boat with their backs to the pandal, and waiting for the boys who will come to do merry making at one pandal to another.
- The Thingyan Pandal-girls have to enjoy the water festival with the boys if they would like it or not.
- Every Thingyan group has to bring buckets and water-bowls together with them, they are not to borrow them in the pandal.
- Every Thingyan group has to wait for its turn while the other group is enjoying the water festival in the pandal.
- The Thingyan groups are not allowed to bring weapons of any sorts with them, and they also have to obey with the pandal-discipline.

As mentioned above it is disciplined and polite Traditional Rakhine Thingyan Festival where we all can enjoy and usher it in the good news.

Therefore this is a festival to build a cultural bridge among all nationalities of the Union of Myanmar.

IMAGES OF NAY PYI TAW MAHA THINGYAN FESTIVAL

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Mayor Col Thein Nyunt speaking at opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal. MNA

Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye takes part in Thingyan.—MNA

Opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal in progress.—MNA

Whole country packed...

(from page 1)

Shwe Than Lwin Co Shwe Eethe Hotel, Myat Taw Win Hotel, Thingaha Hotel and Aureum Palace Hotel. The ministers, the deputy ministers and responsible persons of the hotels formally opened the ceremonies.

After the ceremonies, Yein troupes performed dances and vocalists and artistes sang Myanmar traditional Thingyan songs. Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened 1371

(See page 9)

Opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in progress.—MNA

Opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Yadana Theinga Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in progress.—MNA

Whole country packed...

(from page 8)

ME Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.

Similarly, opening of 7th Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Pandal took place at Theinbyu car training ground in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Managing Director U Wai Lwin of TMW Enterprise Ltd opened T. Home water festival pandal before Sedona Hotel on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road. Air Bagan, Channel V and Shwe FM water festival pandals were crowed with celebrities and revelers.

Moreover, water festival pandals representing districts and townships were also opened respectively.

(See page 10)

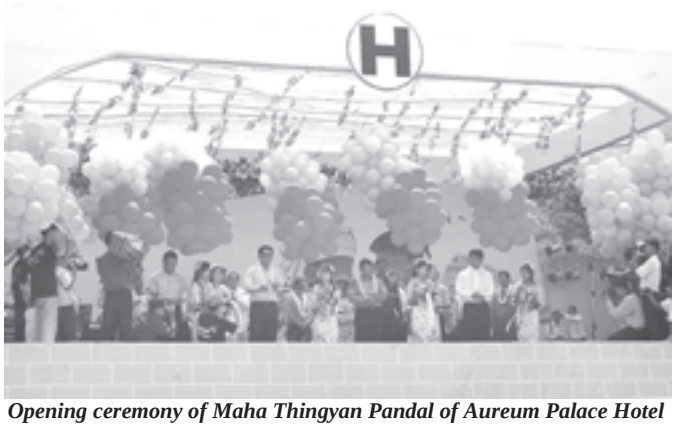
Opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Max Myanmar Company Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in progress.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw dwellers celebrating Thingyan Akyo Day at water-throwing pandal of Shwe Thanlwin Company.—MNA

Maha Thingyan Pandal of Myat Taw Win Hotel packed with Nay Pyi Taw dwellers celebrating Thingyan Akyo Day.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw residents playing water at Maha Thingyan Pandal of Thingaha Hotel on Thingyan Akyo Day.—MNA

Opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Golden Myanmar Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in progress.—MNA



Opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Aureum Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in progress.—MNA

"Yein" troupes entertaining at opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Taw Win Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

MNA

Whole country packed…

(from page (9)

About 20 pandals along Kandawgyi circular road and downtown Yangon were filled with revelers.

In Mandalay, opening of Nanmyothu Maha Thingyan Pandal of Mandalay City Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival of the Central Command was opened.

It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe and wife Daw Khin Thida, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, officials concerned, celebrities and Mandalarians.

Commander Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe formally opened 1371 ME Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival Nanmyothu water festival pandal.

The commander and the Mandalay mayor opened 1371 ME Mandalay City Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival of and Mandalay Mayor Maha Thingyan Central Pandel at the pandal.—*MNA*

***Merry-makers at Aureum Palace Hotel water-throwing pandal of Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.*—MNA**

***Contestant "Yein" troupes entertaining at opening ceremony Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.*—MNA**

***Ngwengan decorated float at opening ceremony of Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.*—MNA**

IMAGES OF WATER FESTIVALS IN NAY PYI TAW, YANGON AND MANDALAY ON MAHA THINGYAN AKYO DAY

***Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Managing Director U Wai Lwin of TMW Enterprise formally open T-Home Maha Thingyan Pandal.*—MNA**

***Contestant "Yein" troupes entertaining at opening ceremony of Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.*—MNA**

***Kyigon Station Family Maha Thingyan Pandal in Kalay of Sagaing Division packed with merry-makers and revellers.*—MNA**

Final rites of Ven. Monk Bhaddanta Kumara held

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The final rites of late Chairman of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Magway Maha Withutayama Monastery Venerable Monk Bhaddanta Kumara took place in the monastery and the remains were incinerated in the compound of Magway Myathalun Pagoda Festival in Magway yesterday.

The messages sent by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Pakokku Maha Withutayamika Ganawasaka (Central), Sangha Raja of Thailand Venerable Monk Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Nanasamvara, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs were read out.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials offered alms to the monks.

Chancellor of Sitagu World Buddha University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Ashin Nanissara delivered a sermon. Officials read out the messages of mourns sent by foreign embassies.

The remains of the late monk were conveyed by the decorated carriage, and were incinerated.—*MNA*

The remains of Ven. Monk Bhaddanta Kumara being conveyed to the crematorium.
MNA

The remains of Ven. Monk Bhaddanta Kumara being incinerated.
MNA

Ashes of late Ven. Monk Bhaddanta Kumara set adrift

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—A ceremony to set adrift the ashes of late Chairman of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Magway Maha Withutayama Mona-stery Venerable Monk Bhaddanta Kumara was held this morning.

Nine disciples monk of the late monk handed over the urn of the ashes to Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

The urn was conveyed to the pavilion on the port near the Myathalun Pagoda Festival in Magway, and then onto the decorated Karaweik vessel. In the Ayeyawady River, the minister set adrift the urn in the water.—*MNA*

***Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials set adrift the ashes of the remains of Ven. Monk Bhaddanta Kumara into the Ayeyawady River.*—MNA**

Laetan Creek Spanning Bridge.

Mohnyin aims...

(from page 16)

the State and funds of the public. A total of 37 rural libraries out of 109 self-reliant libraries in Mohnyin Township have opened to public. Rural dwellers are also using the libraries effectively.

People lived in both urban and rural areas of the township have easy access to communication for the State have opened digital auto exchanges, cellular phones, CDMA phones, and radio stations.

Self-reliant creek spanning bridge which links Mawhan village-tract in the township and the Union Road has been built over Laetan Creek. The bridge has a length of 212 feet, a width of 12 feet and 5 inches, and a height of 12 feet.

Mohnyin Township is witnessing the rural and urban development of the nation as a fruitful result of the peace and prosperity in time of Tatmadaw Government.

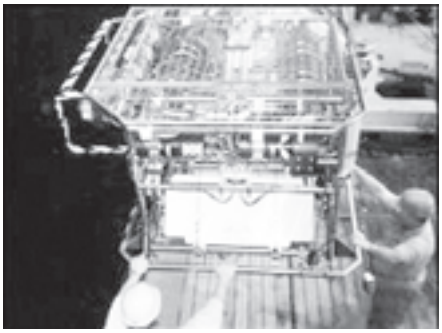
Translation: HKA
(Myanma Alin: 12-4-2010)

Mohnyin offers modern communication equipment for its people.

Taleban bomb maker arrested in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 13 April— Afghan Defence Ministry in a statement on Monday announced arresting a Taleban bomb maker in Kandahar province south of Afghanistan."Troops with Afghan National Army (ANA) during routine patrol pursued and arrested a militant who is professional in making Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Jalai district on Satu-rday," the statement added.

According to the statement, the arrested man who was busy in planting explosive device under a bridge, has made over 1,000 IEDs and roadside bombs over the past seven years to target Afghan and international troops and was involved in hundreds of explosions which claimed the lives of innocent Afghans and military forces.—*Internet*



The HyBIS submarine captured images of the vents on camera.—INTERNET

Fishermen perform lion dance during the 2010 China Jiangnan Net Boat Fair, a traditional local folklore carnival paying homage to Liu Chengzhong, a venerable figure who led people in annihilating locusts in the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368), in Wangjiangjing Town of Jiaxing City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 10 April, 2010.—XINHUA

Village idiot award for hairspray blaze

INDIANA, 13 April—A woman whose hair caught fire when her hairspray-coated follicles ignited as she lit a cigarette is now a southern Indiana town's reigning "Village Idiot."

Dani Hamm earned the honorary title this month by getting the most votes from regulars at the Story Inn, a restaurant and bar about 15 miles east of Bloomington where she's a bartender. The title awarded every April comes with a $100 bar tab at the rural inn. Hamm was driving to work in February when she lit up a cigarette and then heard a "whoosh" as her hair ignited. She wasn't injured because she used her hands to douse her hair, which she had coated with a liberal layer of hairspray.—*Internet*

Exploding breast implant alert issued by British officials

LONDON, 13 April — UK officials issued an alert to plastic surgeons upon realising some breast implants manufactured in a France and sold worldwide are twice as likely to explode as standard implants, London's *Daily Express* newspaper reports.

The implants, which could rupture and cause gangrene or toxic shock, were made with an unapproved silicone gel and could affect 45,000 women worldwide who boast the breasts made in the now-closed French factory.

The French government banned the sale of the implants made by Poly Implant Prothese, but 90 per cent of them have already been shipped to surgeons abroad.Medical professionals urged women who may have the implants, which UK surgeons began using in 2001, to remain calm but to contact their physicians to have them removed.—*Internet*

A model presents a creation by Italian designer of Palestinian descent Jamal Taslaq during a fundraiser fashion show for a local charity in Amman on 12 April, 2010.—XINHUA

China's busy port traffic points to strong economic recovery

BEIJING, 13 April — The third and fourth quarters are normally peak seasons for Chinese ports. This year, though, the busy season started in the first quarter, suggesting the nation's robust economic recovery is continuing.

"We have been quite busy in the last two or three months," said Guan Hui, who is in charge of unloading at Qiangang Company, a unit of Qingdao Port Corporation, as he supervised the discharge of 240,000 tonnes of iron ores from a bulk carrier while, just offshore, another three iron ore-laden ships waited for their turn to unload.

The scene at the ports this year is different from last year when China's foreign trade slumped as the global economic recession dragged the country' s economic growth down to a decade low of 6.1 percent.

In the first quarter this year, Qingdao Port, China's biggest port for crude oil and iron ores, recorded year-on-year 8.1 percent growth in throughput in the first quarter with 84.79 million tonnes. Container throughput was up 8.9 percent to 2.72 million twenty-foot equivalent units.That growth brought delight to Qingdao Qianwan Container Terminal, whose three docks are for foreign trade by container — but the brisk business conditions have brought their own challenges.

Xinhua

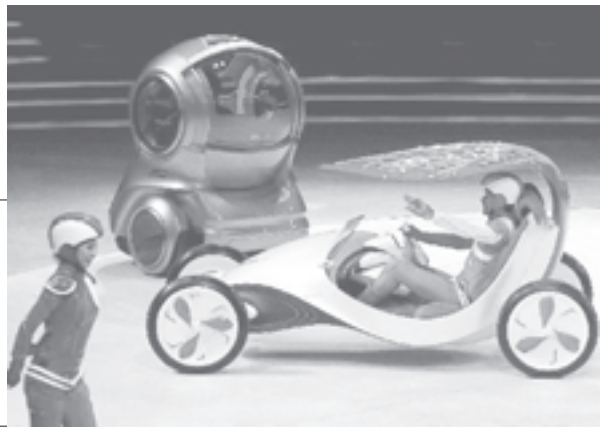
New techniques trace ancient Antarctic break-up

ADELAIDE, 13 April—An Adelaide University geologist has outlined discoveries made by a team in the Antarctic about the break-up of the Gondwana continent 500 million years ago. Dr Kate Selway has returned from a three-month study in the north-west Antarctic.

Geologists load equipment into their helicopter.—INTERNET

Scientists used three-dimensional imaging to look for evidence of how a former continent broke apart to form Australia, India and what remains of the Antarctic.Dr Selway says it has been a big task to piece together the latest geological evidence.

"We were looking for a specific zone where the geology suggested a big collision to form Gondwana and what we've seen is a large conductive region extending down about 30 kilometres into the earth that seems to be this collision zone," she explained. Dr Selway says the team used electromagnetic surveys to map evidence of the underground collision.—*Internet*



The concept car Yezi (leaf) made by Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC), is unveiled at the SAIC and GM pavilion of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo in Shanghai, east China.—XINHUA

Top trainer robbed of £100,000 by gunmen

LONDON,13 April—One of Britain's leading horse trainers and his wife were robbed of more than £100,000 (+113,000) in cash after masked raiders smashed their way into their remote luxury farmhouse and ordered them to empty the safe. Howard Johnson said he feared the two robbers, whom he described as calm and professional, would have killed them both had he not been able to hand over the money, which he was saving to buy his wife her "dream" holiday cottage.

With more than 60 winners to his name this season and prize money totalling £220,000 (+250,000), Mr Johnson had just returned from one of the busiest racing weekends of the year at Aintree — where one of his horses, Royal Rosa, had been running in Saturday's British Grand National.Speaking yesterday, he said he was accustomed to "hoarding" large amounts of cash at his house, a habit he developed when he was a heavy gambler.—*Internet*

Australian study finds new cause of heart disease in young women

CANBERRA, 13 April—An Australian study has identified a previously unsuspected cause of heart disease in women, the hormonal disorder polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), Australian Associated Press reported on Tuesday.

"The degree of blood clotting and blood vessel abnormalities seen in women with PCOS in this study was very striking," said Alicia Chan, a cardiologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and PhD student with the University of Adelaide's Robinson Institute.

" ... similar to what we would normally see in older patients with known heart disease. With women now making up almost half of all Australians affected by heart disease, it's very important that we understand the link between PCOS and these heart disease risk factors."

PCOS was seen in women of all body shapes, exploding a myth that it affected overweight women only, and the newly discovered PCOS-related heart problems occurred regardless of a woman's weight.

"It affected women of all body shapes and sizes including lean women," Chan said. "This is the first study to suggest that PCOS is strongly associated with an increased risk of heart disease independent of women's weight or evidence of diabetes."

A larger study will now be staged in a bid to confirm the results.

The PCOS is one of the most common female endocrine disorders that affects about ten percent of women of reproductive age, and it is a leading cause of infertility. Adelaide is the capital and most populous city of the Australian state of South Australia.

Internet

The chorus of Shaoxing College of Arts and Sciences proceed with their rehearsal in front of the Hall of King of Yue State, in a preparation to usher in the celebration ceremony marking the 2,500 anniversary of the founding of Shaoxing City, together with the warming up for the 6th World Choir Games, in Shaoxing, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 12 April, 2010.—XINHUA

New Microsoft phones aim at young consumers

BEIJING, 13 April—Microsoft on Monday unveiled two new mobile phones dubbed "Kin One" and "Kin Two," aiming at young consumers who emphasize social networking.

Both the new Kin phones have touch screens, slide-out QWERTY keyboards and cameras, and are powered by Windows Phone 7 Series software which Microsoft launched in February.

Kin One is smaller, designed to be used with only one hand, while Kin Two has a larger screen and keyboard and more memory.

A new smart phone called "Kin One" is introduced at a Microsoft news conference in San Francisco, California on 12 April, 2010.
XINHUA

Touting the Kin as a new kind of "social phone," Microsoft said its new handset will have a fun and simple interface that can automatically bring together feeds from Facebook and other leading social networking services all in one place, making it easier for users to stay connected.

"Social's part of the DNA of this phone," said Derek Snyder, a product manager at Windows Mobile, at an unveiling event for the new phones in San Francisco, "social networks are the cornerstone of this experience."

"Kin is an interesting attempt to target the 15 to 25 market," said Ross Rubin, consumer electronics and wireless industry analyst at market research firm NPD Group.

"Even if the device does not turn out to be successful, Microsoft is introducing some concepts that might be useful," Rubin added.

The two new phones are being manufactured by Japan's Sharp, and will be sold in the United States by U.S. telecom carrier Verizon Wireless online in early May and in stores shortly thereafter.

The phones will also be available in Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain in the fall by Vodafone Group PLC, which owns Verizon Wireless in partnership with Verizon Communications Inc.

Xinhua

Blue ear disease reoccurs in Vietnam's N Province

HANOI, 13 April—Blue ear disease reoccurred in Vietnam as there were 91 pigs found infected with the disease in the northern province of Hai Duong, said a report of the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Monday.

Meanwhile, about 1,090 pigs are currently reported to have the disease in another northern province of Thai Binh.

Earlier, 21 pigs were found infected with blue ear disease in Vietnam's northern province of Thai Nguyen on April 3. The pigs were all destroyed.

At present, health officials in affected provinces are taking appropriate measures to prevent the spread of the disease, said the report.

Internet

Singer Ciara attends the premiere of the film "Death at a Funeral" in Los Angeles on 12 April, 2010.—INTERNET

UCSD professor laureate of Pulitzer Prize for Poety

LOS ANGELES, 13 April—University of California San Diego(UCSD) professor and famed poet Rae Armantrout has won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Poety on Monday for her poetry "Versed", her 10th collection.

Born in Vallejo but grew up in San Diego, California, Armantrout has taught at UCSD where she is Professor of Poetry and Poetics for almost 20 years. A recipient of numerous other awards for her poetry, Armantrout has published many books of poetry including "Next Life," which was selected by The New York Times as a notable book of 2007.

People blow bubbles at the Soap Bubble Festival in Moscow, Russia, on 11 April, 2010.—XINHUA

"Versed" is "striking for its wit and linguistic inventiveness" and the poems were "often little thought-bombs detonating in the mind long after the first reading," the Pulitzer board said.

Armantrout was so surprised and excited, she has been in complete shock when she heard the news, according to news reports. Armantrout had just taken a bath, was drying her hair for a lunch appointment before she got a phone call telling her that she's won a Pulitzer Prize. The prize carries a 10,000 dollar award for her.—*Xinhua*

Domestic ore prices up again, but cheaper than imports

BEIJING, 13 April—Domestic iron ore prices rose 17 percent in March over the previous month to 177 US dollars per ton on Monday, according to data from industry watcher Mysteel com. That price is for 66 percent iron ore and includes tax and transport.

At 177 dollars per ton, the price is still lower than the spot price of imported iron ore.

Similar iron ore from Brazil rose to nearly 185 dollars per ton on Monday. Iron ore is typically classified as high grade when its iron content is above 65 percent.

Since imported ore rose above 130 dollars per ton, some Chinese steel mills have enhanced the iron content of domestic ore, said a salesperson from Hebei Iron and Steel Group.—*Internet*

SPORTS

Barcelona aim to build on 'Clasico' win

MADRID, 13 April—After outclassing Arsenal and Real Madrid in the space of five days treble winners Barcelona are on for a league and Champions League double and aim to build on their three-point lead over Real at the top of La Liga when they host Deportivo La Coruna on Wednesday. Barcelona had a week to cherish crushing Arsenal to reach the semi-finals of the Champions League and then beating Real 2-0 in 'El Clasico' at the Santiago Bernabeu to seize the upper hand in the title race.

The champions look to consolidate that Real win by beating Depor at Camp Nou while Real must pick themselves up for a trip to Almeria on Thursday. Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola watched his side end Real's perfect 15 home wins in the league and maintain his flawless record in the Clasicos winning all four since taking charge.—*Internet*

River Plate coach sees plans scuttled

Leonardo Astrada

BUENOS AIRES, 13 April—Leonardo Astrada announced on Monday that he had been sacked as coach of ailing Argentina footballing giants River Plate after the worst series of results in its history. Astrada has guided River Plate - winner of two overall Argentinian League championships, six opening season titles and six closing season titles - to a winless streak of five matches, including four defeats with the 0-0 draw on Sunday against Atletico Tucuman the final straw for the club's board.

River Plate — crowned Copa Libertadores champions twice — have garnered just 13 points from 14 matches of the closing season championship and lie in a lowly 17th position. "The decision was taken by the board and one has to accept it, but life continues," Astrada told local radio. According to press reports veteran coach Angel Cappa - who is having an excellent season with Huracan - is the favourite to take over at the helm.

Internet

Adebayor retires from national soccer team

Manchester City's Emmanuel Adebayor

LONDON,13 April—Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor has announced on Monday his retirement from national team, citing he is "still haunted" by the attack on his team at the African Cup of Nations in January. Gunmen killed two members of the team's delegation before the tournament began in Angola.

"Following the tragic events during January's African Cup of Nations, in which two of my fellow countrymen were killed by terrorists in Angola, I have made the very difficult decision to retire from international football," said Adebayor, the Manchester City striker, on Monday.

Xinhua

Robin Van Persie set for Arsenal return at Tottenham

LONDON, 13 April—Arsenal striker Robin van Persie could make a surprise return to the Gunners squad for Wednesday's crucial trip to Tottenham, BBC Sport understands.The 26-year-old Dutchman scored eight goals in 11 games before rupturing ankle ligaments during the Netherlands' friendly against Italy last November. In Van Persie's absence, Arsenal have scored only 1.77 goals per league game, as opposed to 3.26 before his injury.

Arsenal are three points behind leaders Chelsea with five games left. And with the Blues hosting Bolton at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday, Arsene Wenger's men could be six points adrift by the time they kick off against Spurs at White Hart Lane. Chelsea also benefit from a far superior goal difference, so anything other that a victory would deal the Gunners' title aspirations a potentially fatal blow.—*Internet*

Van Persie scored twice in Arsenal's 3-0 win against Tottenham in October.—INTERNET

Liverpool must wait on Fernando Torres injury diagnosis

LIVERPOOL, 13 April—Liverpool face an anxious wait to find out the extent of Fernando Torres' knee injury after the Spaniard was examined by a specialist on Monday. The problem ruled Torres, who has had a series of injuries this season, out of Sunday's 0-0 home draw with Fulham. But despite receiving treatment in Spain, the 26-year-old will now be reassessed later in the week when the specialist hopes to diagnose the issue. "He will receive treatment over the next few days," read a club statement.

It added: "Fernando Torres was examined by a knee specialist this afternoon in Spain. He received treatment... with the injury being reassessed later this week." Liverpool's next match is not until Monday, at home to West Ham, but of more significance now is the Europa League semi-final first leg at Atletico Madrid — Torres' former club — on 22 April. Torres was sidelined for a month after a knee operation in January and before Christmas struggled with a groin injury.—*Internet*

A solid return, an uncertain future for Woods

AUGUSTA, 13 April—Except for watching Phil Mickelson slip into another green jacket, Tiger Woods should have few complaints about his week at the Masters. He tied a tournament record by making four eagles. He was never out of the top 10 from the opening round. He had his best 72-hole score at Augusta National in five years. None of that might have been possible without a spontaneous and warm reception on the first tee on Thursday.

Woods might have looked like the same player, but he wasn't the same person. The fans who came to watch his golf could not ignore the sordid lifestyle that kept him away from the game in the first place. That's why the cheers were so important. They put him at ease from the start, and he felt more comfortable as the week went on, even as his swing got worse.—*Internet*

Guus Hiddink considered becoming Manchester City boss

MANCHESTER, 13 April—Guus Hiddink has revealed he was on Manchester City's list of names to replace boss Mark Hughes in December. "We didn't have talks but I knew there was some interest," said Hiddink. Roberto Mancini eventually got the job as City coach, while former Chelsea boss Hiddink, 63, decided to remain in international football.

The Dutchman, who has also managed the Netherlands, Australia and South Korea, will take charge of Turkey once his contract with Russia ends on 30 June. Hiddink admitted he had been torn between taking a job with a national team or returning to the Premier League with cash-rich City."It's a big club, a club with history, also a club with money," said Hiddink, who has also worked at PSV Eindhoven, Real Madrid and Fenerbahce.

Internet

Djokovic dumps coach Martin ahead of Monte Carlo campaign

NEW YORK, 13 April—World No. 2 Novak Djokovic has revealed that he is no longer working with American tennis coach Todd Martin following a disappointing eight-month partnership. The Serbian brought in Martin to work alongside his other coach Marian Vajda before last September's US Open, a tournament in which the 39-year-old was a finalist in 1999.

Martin has mainly worked with Djokovic in American events, but the 22-year-old lost in the last 16 at Indian Wells last month and was then beaten in his opening match in Miami a fortnight later. Djokovic, who retained his Dubai title before the first US hardcourt swing of the 2010 ATP Tour calendar, is now looking to regain his form on clay in Monte Carlo this week.— *Internet*

Novak Djokovic is seeking to bounce back after poor results in American hardcourt events last month.
INTERNET

Andy Murray will still focus on career over Davis Cup

LONDON, 13 April—Andy Murray will continue to focus on winning a Grand Slam ahead of the Davis Cup, despite his friend Leon Smith being named Great Britain captain. Smith, who coached Murray as a junior, was confirmed as Britain's new Davis Cup captain on Monday. Murray did not play in the recent defeat by Lithuania and is not yet prepared to commit to Britain's crucial tie against Turkey in July.

"Leon's my friend but I need to still do what's right for me," said Murray. "If I want to play, I'm playing for the team, it's not that I'm playing because Leon's the captain. "I hope that was not the reason why he became captain. I don't think that's the way to make a decision on something as big as this.—*Internet*

Smith (left) says he will respect Murray's decision either way.
INTERNET

First Chinese tourist group arrives in DPRK

PYONGYANG,13 April— A Chinese tourist group made up of 35 government officials and tourists arrived here Monday, becoming the first of its kind to visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) since China granted destination status to its neighbor in February.

The group, headed by Vice President of the Chinese Travel Bureau Zhu Shanzhong, was warmly welcomed by the tourism department of the DPRK on their arrival.

Xinhua

Cast member Martin Lawrence (R) and Shamicka Gibbs attend the premiere of the film "Death at a Funeral" in Los Angeles on 12 April, 2010.—INTERNET

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(14- 4-2010)(Wednesday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am~11:00am) MST
Oversea Transmission	- (14-4-10 09:30 am ~ 15-4-10 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Current Affairs "Working and Living Myanmar (Jade & Gem)"
* News
* Documentary "Myanmar Traditional Festival"
* Traditions and Customs of Inlay Thingyan
* News
* Thingyan Song & Thingyan Dance
* News
* LEDO Road
* Thingyan Songs & Dances

Oversea Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Current Affairs "Working and Living Myanmar (Jade & Gem)"
* News
* Documentary "Myanmar Traditional Festival"
* Thingyan Songs & Dances
* News
* Traditions and Customs of Inlay Thingyan
* Thingyan Songs & Dances
* News
* Smogless Sky, Enchanting Smiles (Mandalay, U Pein Bridge)
* Fine Arts Podium "Royal Drum"
* News
* Current Affairs "Working and Living Myanmar (Jade & Gem)"
* News
* Documentary "Myanmar Traditional Festival"
* Thingyan Songs & Dances
* News
* Music Gallery
* News
* Thingyan Songs & Dances
* Myanmar Movies "Thingyan Water Festival Rain"

Myanmar TV

Wednesday, 14 April
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:10 am
2. အောင်တော်မူ (စောမင်းနောင်စိုင်းညှိမင်း၊ တေးရေး-ဗိုလ်ကလေးတင့်အောင်)

7:25 am
3. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
4. Morning News

7:40 am
5. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

8:00 am
6. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

8:20 am
7. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

8:40 am
8. International News

8:45 am
9. ဆယ်စုနှစ်ကခါသကြိန်

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:10 pm
2. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

4:25 pm
3. Song of National Races

4:30 pm
4. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

4:45 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရပ်မြင့်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-၃တိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:00
6. Songs For Uphold National Spirit

5:05 pm
7. Classical Songs

5:15 pm
8. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

5:30 pm
9. ချစ်စရာတာသကြိန်

6:00 pm
10. Evening News

6:15 pm
11. Weather Report

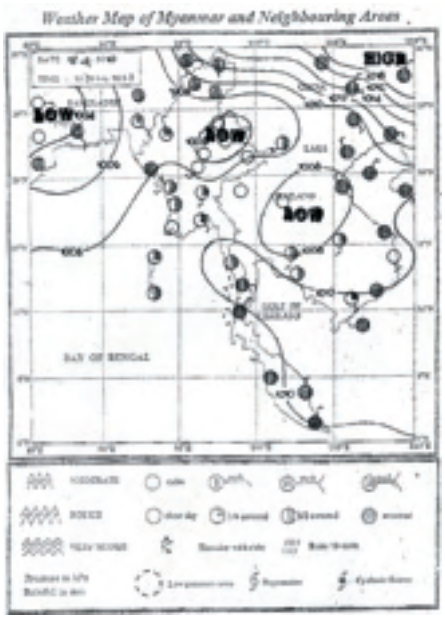
6:20 pm
12. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

6:40 pm
13. ရောင်စုံရေးသီတေးပန်းချီ

7:00 pm
14. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

7:30 pm
15. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ

8:00 pm
16. News
17. International News
18. Weather Report
19. ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားဇာတ်လမ်း "တန်ခူးလမှာရက်ရာဇာ" (စုမီ၊သဇ္ဈာဝင့်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်ဇောလင်း (အတွေးပုံရိပ်))



WEATHER

Tuesday, 13th April, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3℃) to (4 °C) above April average temperatures in Eastern and Northern Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (5℃) to (6 °C) above April average temperatures in Southern Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing Division, (7°C) above April average temperatures in Magway Division and about April average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (45.1℃), Chauk and Magway (45℃) each and NyaungU (44 ℃).The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 12-4-2010 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 13-4-2010 was 77°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-4-2010 was 65%. Total sun shine hours on 12-4-2010 was (9.3) hours.

Rainfall on 13-4-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Totalrainfall since 1- 1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph fromSouthwest at (18:30) hours MST on 12-4-2010.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 14th April 2010: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin States and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas.Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-4-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-4-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-4-2010: Generally fair weather.

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★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

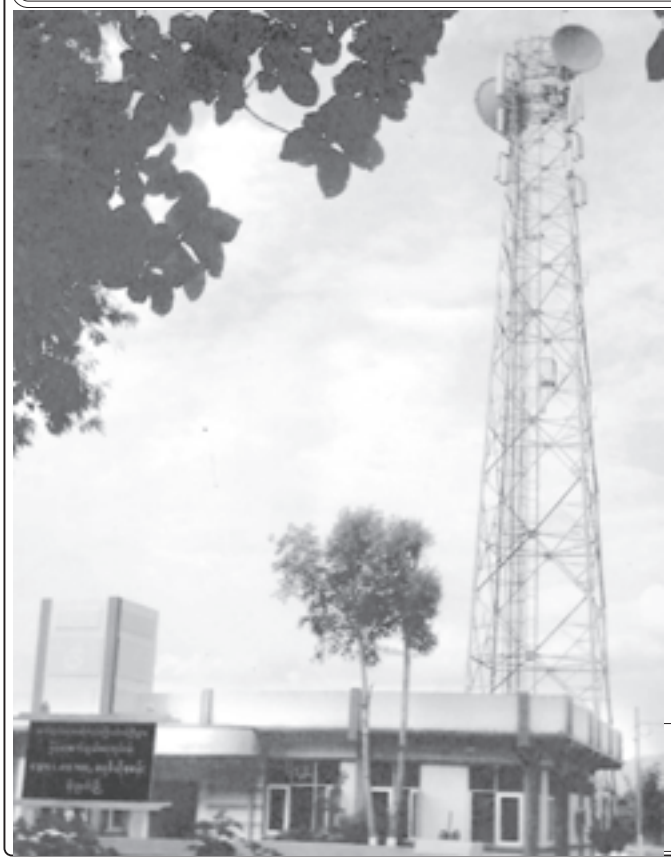
★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Mohnyin aims high



A modern facility providing communication services for Mohnyin.

Article & Photos: *Reporter Myo Aung*

It is heartening to see signs of development the length and breadth of the nation thanks to the peace and tranquility of the country as it is said, "Only with peace and stability will the nation develop."

As Mohnyin Township has always aimed high, any of its part even a village or a ward never lags behind in development. It has become a district town enjoying peace, stability and prosperity.

Lamineain Library is being constructed in Myaingtha village of the township with the K 1 million initial outlay of

(See page 10)

Children use space to think about time

New research shows that children use space to measure the passage of time.

SCIENCEDAILY,13 Apri1—Space and time are intertwined in our thoughts, as they are in the physical world. For centuries, philosophers have debated exactly how these dimensions are related in the human mind. According to a paper to appear in the April, 2010 issue of Cognitive Science, children's ability to understand time is inseparable from their understanding of space.

To probe the relationship between space and time in the developing mind, MPI researcher Daniel Casasanto and colleagues at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Stanford University showed children movies of two snails racing along parallel paths for different distances or durations. The children judged either the spatial or temporal aspect of each race, reporting which animal went for a longer distance or a longer time.

When asked to judge distance, children had no trouble ignoring time. But when asked to judge time, they had difficulty ignoring the spatial dimension of the event. Snails that moved a longer distance were mistakenly judged to have traveled for a longer time. Children use physical distance to measure of the passage of time.—*Internet*

Significant day temperatures

Minbu	45.1°C	Magway	45°C
Chauk	45°C	NyaungU	44°C