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Monday, 11 April 2005

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend inauguration of Bagan Viewing Tower

YANGON, 10 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, accompanied by Secretary-I of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye

Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by air at 8.30 am today and arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport in NyaungU, Mandalay Division.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen

Bagan Viewing Tower is 198 feet high and 54 feet in diameter. The 13-storey tower, was built with the use of modern technology designed to withstand storms and earthquakes. Business centre, offices and shopping mall are allotted on the ground floor, waiting lounges on the first floor, the meeting room, Bagan History Video Showroom and coffee shops on the second floor, store rooms on the third floor and offices on fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh floors.

Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and

Ye Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpadaung Station, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Bagan Viewing Tower and Hotel Construction Project of Htoo Trading Co Ltd in Bagan Archaeological Re-

Newly inaugurated Bagan Viewing Tower in Bagan Archaeological Region of NyaungU Township.

MNA



gion, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on progress in implementing the Bagan Viewing Tower and Hotel Construction Project in Bagan Archaeological Region in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior

General Than Shwe.

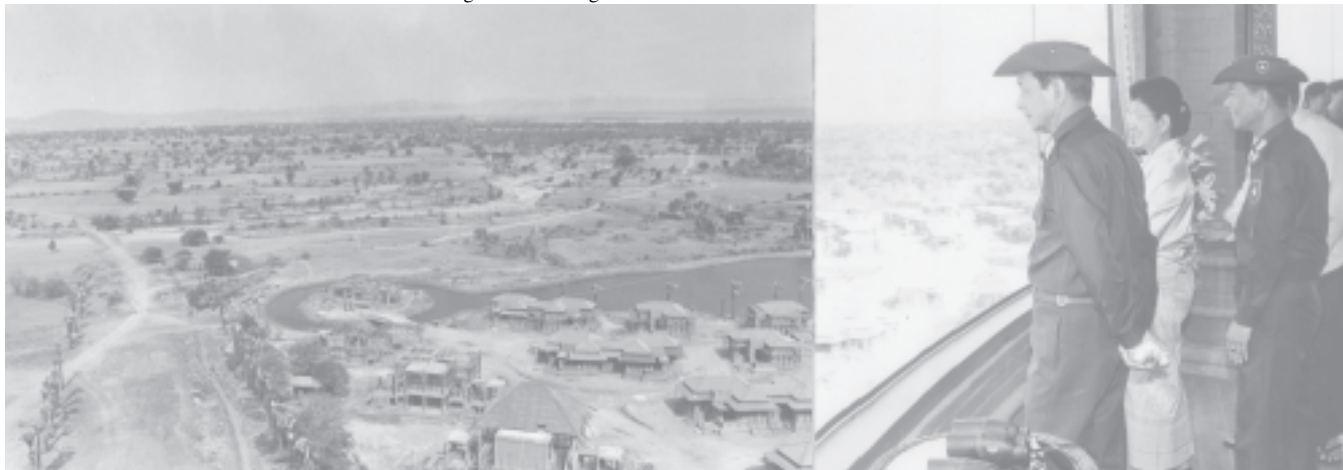
Managing Director U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd submitted reports on construction of the tower and facts about the tower.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

Sea turtle species identification is key to improving knowledge about these species, their distribution, their natural history and causes and impact of their deaths.

SEIN SEIN THEIN (DAGON UNIVERSITY)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San enjoy scenic beauty of Bagan and buildings of Bagan Hotel Project.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 11 April, 2005

PM's visit to Laos further cements mutual friendship and cooperation

The Union of Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic have been able to maintain the amicable friendly relations based on mutual respects and understanding. The friendship between the two nations has been further strengthened through the exchange of visits between leaders of the two countries.

At the invitation of the prime ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win paid a goodwill visit to those countries from 6 to 9 April.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win during his visit to the Lao PDR met Laotian President Mr Khamtay Siphandone at the hall of the President's House in Vientiane on 6 April. The Myanmar Prime Minister said in the meeting that the exchange of visits between leaders of the two countries further cements friendly ties of the two countries; that in Myanmar, the National Convention is being held; and that the seven-point Road Map will be implemented until it meets with success.

In his meeting with the distinguished Myanmar guest, the Laotian President said that he learned progress of the Union of Myanmar; that he was delighted at the successful convening of the National Convention and hosting of the World Buddhist Summit; that the Laotian Government and its people will always support the Union of Myanmar; and that Myanmar should concentrate on development of the country, ignoring accusations and pressures of disruptive and destructive elements.

The visit of the Myanmar Prime Minister to the Lao PDR has been able to highlight progress in political, economic and social sectors of Myanmar. The host nation also has been able to further cement friendship and cooperation with Myanmar, maintaining its good neighbourliness. There have been fine traditions between Myanmar and Laos since yore. Thanks to efforts of the local administrative bodies of the two sides, bilateral cooperation has been promoted at the border.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has been cooperating with Lao PDR in various spheres and extended a helpful hand to the latter at the 10th ASEAN Summit. Meanwhile, the Lao PDR would like to coordinate with Myanmar to mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Myanmar.

All in all, we believe that friendship and cooperation resulting from the exchange of visits between leaders of the Myanmar and Lao PDR will contribute much to better serving the interests of the nations.

First Myanmar Flash Movie Competition 12 April

YANGON, 10 April— With the aims of cherishing Myanmar culture and attracting youth to computer science, Myanmar Media Technological Network Co Ltd will organize the First Myanmar Flash Movie Competition with the title Myanmar New Year.

Prize presentation ceremony will be held at the Conference Hall of MICT Park in Hline Township on 12 April morning. Experts from Myanmar Computer Professional Association will choose the winners in the competition for the first, second and third prizes and two consolation prizes.

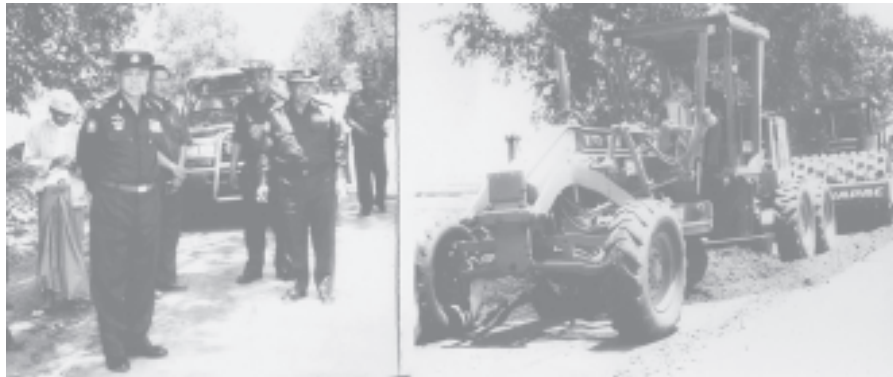
The participants are to present their flash movie and anybody may attend the competition.

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of townships in Ayeyawady Division



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than oversees construction of Myaungmya-Einme section.— MNA

YANGON, 10 April— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, gave instructions to departmental officials at division, district and township levels at the office of Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council Office on 8 April morning.

He inspected 86 acres of farmlands being supplied water with CNG powered pump in Danonchaung Village in Myaungmya Township.

At Panmawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik), Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on facts about the bridge and progress of tasks by Senior Engineer Daw Si Than of Bridge Construction Group-5, and gave necessary instructions.

Panmawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik) is a suspension bridge with 360 feet long approach bridge on either side and 540 feet long main bridge, totalling

1,260 feet.

On completion, the bridge will be facilitated on Patheingyi-Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya Road stretching 32 miles which is 33 miles shorter than Patheingyi-Daka-Einme-Myaungmya Road stretching 65 miles. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected up-grading of Myaungmya-Einme section.

He attended the ceremony to put Gyogon Bridge crossing Einme Creek into service in Einme. The bridge is 136 feet long and 12 feet wide. Its clearance is 9 feet high and 60 feet wide. The bridge was built at a cost of K 40 million.

They joined the rally in opening the building of Gyogon BEHS (Branch) in Gyogon Village. In Einme, he looked into rebuilding the reinforced concrete type Mayanngu Bridge on Thayetkon Creek on Einme-Myaungmya Road.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials in Einme. He also met with officers and other ranks at the local battalion. — MNA

Upgrading of buildings in Yangon Int'l Airport

YANGON, 10 April— Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe accompanied by Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department of Civil Aviation, Managing Director of Myanma Airways Col Tin Maung Tun inspected decoration at departure terminal-1 of Yangon International Airport yesterday morning. The minister and party also inspected decoration, construction of Internet Cafe, renovation of ceilings and other maintenance work at the airport and the minister gave necessary instructions. The tasks are being carried out by Htoo trading Co.Ltd. Deputy General Manager of the company Daw Aye Mon conducted the minister and party round the sites. — MNA

Departmental vehicles checked on dry day

YANGON, 10 April— Vice-Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe to-

gether with committee members Vice-Adjutant General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla and officials, this morning supervised the functions of the dry day inspection teams at the main points here.

Similarly, Member of the committee Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe together with Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials also supervised the dry day inspection teams.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's license and wheel tax bill of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules from 7 am to 5 pm.

MNA





Indian carrier Jet Airways will make its maiden flight to Malaysia on 9 April, marking growing economic ties between Kuala Lumpur and New Delhi. —INTERNET



Iraqs rally on second anniversary of occupation

BAGHDAD, 10 April — Tens of thousands of Iraqis rallied across Iraq on Saturday, demanding a swift withdrawal of foreign forces two years after they toppled former president Saddam Hussein.

The demonstrators, most of them supporters of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, chanted "No, no to terrorism," "No, no to America" and "No, no to occupation" as they marched through

Baghdad streets toward Firdus Square (Paradise Square) where a towering statue of Saddam was pulled down two years ago.

Sadr's supporters were all dressed in orange prison jumpsuits and in handcuffs, in a clear reference to the outfits US authorities use for detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Some supporters brandished the notorious picture of a naked Iraqi detainee with wires at-

tached to his body, a reminder of the Abu Ghraib Prison scandal.

The effigies of US President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and toppled Saddam were burned in the streets.

Police vehicles cordoned off the main roads in central Baghdad and two major bridges across the Tigris River that bisect the city.

US forces kept a distance from the rally.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Bahrain sign open skies agreement

SINGAPORE, 8 April — Singapore and Bahrain on Thursday signed an open skies agreement (OSA) here, which enables airlines of the two sides to fly freely on any route between and beyond the two countries without limits on frequency of flights.

According to a statement by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), airlines of the two parties are also allowed to use each other's airport as the base to launch cargo flights to third countries.

Singapore's Minister for Transport Yeo Cheow Tong, who signed the agreement with Bahrain's Minister of Transportation Shaik Ali Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, said that the OSA will complement and support the economic collaboration efforts between the two countries.

"Like Changi Airport, Bahrain International Airport serves a much wider hinterland of air traffic, and there is potential for both

airports to feed air traffic to each other, as well as to the Gulf and Southeast Asia hinterlands," Yeo noted.

"As the OSA lifts all restrictions on flights between Singapore and Bahrain, via and beyond to any third country," Yeo added, "Gulf Air will have the flexibility to expand its network in Asia and Australia, using Singapore as a gateway."

Singapore has so far inked nine OSAs with countries including the United States, New Zealand and Brunei, and Singapore is now engaging in OSA talks with Australia, according to the minister.

Yeo told Xinhua at the

signing ceremony that he appreciated the progress China had made in the civil aviation sector in the past five years, with its civil aviation market having been much more liberalized. As the island state attaches great significance to the development of the industry in China, Singapore Airlines (SIA) has increased the route and frequency of its flights to China, Yeo said.

He hoped that a similar OSA can be reached be-

tween China and Singapore, and bilateral cooperation in the field of civil aviation be further strengthened. —MNA/Xinhua

Motorola opens research lab in India

NEW DELHI, 8 April — US communications company Motorola announced on Thursday it has set up an applied research laboratory in Bangalore, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The Motorola Labs India, which is the company's 11th such facility worldwide, will conduct applied research in converged networks, automotive networking, enter-

prise applications and embedded systems and physical sciences.

"The research activities will be in line with our vision of seamless mobility, uninterrupted access to information, entertainment, communication, monitoring and control," Motorola's Chief Technology Officer Padmasree Warrior said. Though the telecom major declined to specify the investment, it said substantial funds would be made available from the 85 million US dollars it had budgeted for its software research and development in India.

"We are initially hiring about 50 people, including PhD scientists and high-end technologists to

undertake research projects and create intellectual properties for our global research and development organization," Warrior said.

The company's other research laboratories are located in the United States, Britain, France, China and Japan, employing about 1,000 scientists and technologists.

Motorola vice-president for South-East Asia Amir Sharma said the company would invest 17 million US dollars and hire about 500 people annually to ramp up its Indian operations. About 40 per cent of software products that go into the latest mobile handsets are being developed in India. — MNA/Xinhua

Good city should properly handle transportation problems

BEIJING, 9 April — Life will be boring, if people cannot walk in a city, said Zhang Yonghe, a well-known Chinese architect, here on Thursday.

At the "Sino-French Architectural Forum" held at the Beijing City Planning Exhibition Hall, Zhang with more than 180 Chinese and French architects were invited to deliver speech and have discussed issues such as city planning, sustainable development, traffic, reform of old downtown, commercial architecture and project technology and material.

Zhang, also director of the Architecture Study Centre of China's prestigious Beijing University, said a good city should properly handle transportation problems, as more and more cities are plagued by surging traffic jams.

French architect Jerome de Boisseson said developed countries including France are also confronted by the traffic problem as increased private cars and parking lots break into public space of the city.

"Quite a few Western cities came to realize the importance of public transportation, and some cities like Boston in the United States even dismantled the highways, which were originally typical construction of the city," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

New air route expected to further China-S Korea tourism, trade

QINGDAO, 9 April — Chinese Customs officials say they have seen growing tourism and trade between Weihai in east China's Shandong Province and Incheon of South Korea since a new air route opened between two cities last week.

The route connecting Weihai, a small seaside city, and Incheon in north-western South Korea, opened on 27 March. Twelve inbound and outbound flights a week are operated by Air China, Shandong Airlines and Korean Aero Service Co. Ltd, said Customs officials in Qingdao, a port on China's east coast.

By 31 March, 10 flights had flown the 45-minute, 450-kilometre route, carrying 724 inbound and outbound passengers and 10 South Korea-bound shipments

worth more than 20,000 US dollars in total, according to the Qingdao Customs.

MNA/Xinhua

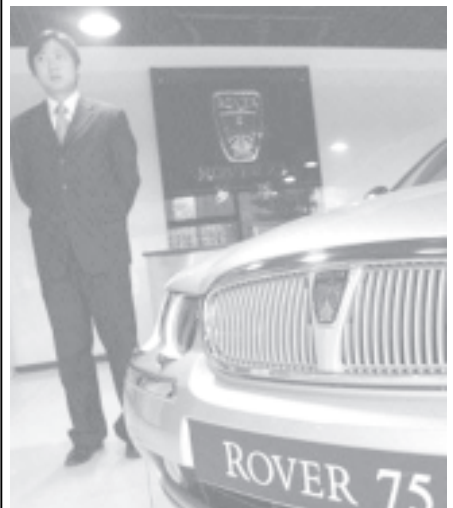
US soldier killed in bomb attack in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 April — One US soldier was killed in a bomb attack in the northern Iraqi province of Kirkuk on Friday, the US military said in a statement.

An improvised explosive device was detonated at midday near Hawija, some 240 km north of Baghdad, the statement said.

Earlier in the day, the US military said that a US marine was killed in a motor vehicle accident in the restive city of Fallujah on Wednesday. Over 1,540 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Internet



A salesman stands next to a Rover 75 car in a Beijing showroom on 8 April, 2005. —INTERNET

Expert says three Philippine volcanoes act up

MANILA, 8 April — The Philippine Institute on Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) Thursday said that it is closely monitoring at least three volcanoes in Luzon and Visayas after indicating “abnormal” activities for the past months.

Phivolcs director Renato Solidum said at a Press briefing at the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) building that ash ejections and frequent volcanic earthquakes have been monitored in the past months on Mayon Volcano in Albay, Taal Volcano in Batangas and Kanlaon Volcano in the boundaries of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental.

Solidum said that Taal Volcano, whose last eruption was on October 1977, started displaying abnormalities since October 2004.

“Taal is currently under alert level No. 1. Some seismic disturbances have been detected over the past weeks,” Solidum said.

“The main crater is off-limits to the public because sudden steam explosions

may occur or high concentrations of toxic gases may accumulate,” Solidum said.

Kanlaon Volcano has been placed on alert level No 1 since last month due to nine ash eruptions that were recorded since 21 January while Mayon Volcano has been on alert level No 2 due to inflated crater glow and volcanic earthquakes.

The Philvocs has placed a six-kilometre permanent danger zone on Mayon volcano while a four-kilometre radius danger zone were set on Kanlaon Volcano.

Solidum, however, said that there is still no need to evacuate residents living near the Volcanoes. “We only start evacuation at alert level No 3,” said Solidum, assuring that explosion is not imminent.

MNA/Xinhua

China objects US decision to restrict imports of China's textiles

BEIJING, 8 April — A spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce said here Thursday that China “firmly objects” to the US decision to launch investigations aiming to restrict Chinese textile imports and hopes that the US will alter its decision.

“We hope the US Administration will ... fully recognize the extreme sensibility and huge negative impact of the special restrictions on textile goods, ... and take prudent and responsible attitude towards making restrictions and reverse the decision of launching investigations,” spokesman Chong Quan said in a statement.

The US Administration announced Monday that it will launch a special restrictive measures investigation on cotton trousers, cotton knit shirts and cotton or man-made fabric underwear imported from China.

The US Administration made the decision without application from US manufacturers and based on preliminary figures. Chong said that

would send a “wrong signal” to US manufacturers and set a “bad example” for other members of the World Trade Organization. All quotas on textile trade were eliminated from 1 January this year as a result of the previous round of world trade liberalization. But the United States and the European Union have recently announced similar restrictive measures against Chinese exports of textile goods.

The spokesman said the US decision has gone against provisions concerning China's accession to the WTO and the internal procedure of the United States and would “harm the multi-lateral trade regime.”

Also on Thursday, Chong said in a separate statement that China

strongly objects to the European Union's recent restriction guidelines on imports of Chinese textile goods. According to the statement, the EU action would create “new unstable factors” for China-EU textile trade and would have a negative impact on the global textile trade.

The European Commission (EC), the EU's executive arm, issued on Wednesday special guidelines on measures against textile and clothing imports from China.

Chong stressed that China would work with the United States to properly resolve the issue through dialogue and co-operation within the bilateral framework in the spirit of development, equality and mutual benefit.—MNA/Xinhua



A family eat 'gyudon' beef-on-rice bowls at a shop in Tokyo on 9 April, 2005.—INTERNET

ဝက်မှိုင်းအားခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Biological pest control effective to save coconut palms in S-E Asia

BANGKOK, 8 April — A tiny parasitic wasp are reared in a large scale under the initiative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to save coconut palm trees from pest damage in Southeast Asia.

The small wasp parasitoid named *Asecodes hispinarum* is natural enemy of the coconut hispine beetle, which can destroy palm leaves and significantly reduce coconut yields, the FAO said in a statement issued here on Thursday.

“Biological control has proven to be the most effective and we are currently mass-rearing a small wasp parasitoid, *Asecodes hispinarum*, which attacks the larvae of the beetle, to control the spread of the pest and

bring it to non-economically damaging levels,” the statement quoted FAO biological pest control consultant and expert Wilco Liebrechts as saying.

Coconut plantations in the Maldives, Nauru, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and China have been invaded by coconut hispine beetles in the past five years, according to the statement.

New to continental Southeast Asia, this invasive pest has rapidly spreading and causing

massive damage there for lack of natural enemy.

If left uncontrolled, the beetle infestation would cause in excess of one billion US dollars damage in Vietnam alone, according to a FAO study.

Though local authorities have taken emergency measures to prevent the pest invasion, chemical control proved not only expensive and ineffective but also a serious health risk to farmers, families and consumers, the FAO statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker walks past an ancient stone tablet at the Confucian Temple in Beijing on 8 April, 2005.—INTERNET

US soldiers involed in drug-trafficking in Colombia have immunity

BOGOTA, 8 April — Five US soldiers arrested for drug-trafficking in Texas have “privileges and immunity” as personnel of the US Embassy in Bogota, US Ambassador to Colombia William Wood said on Thursday.

The five soldiers, who were supposed to support anti-narcotics operations in southern Colombia, were arrested on 29 March while carrying 16 kilos of cocaine to their country.

Wood said they were part of the “military personnel” of the embassy, thus avoiding the possibility of being extradited to the Andean country.

The Colombian Government recognized “several weeks ago” the “official status” of the US troops involved in drug-trafficking, he added.

Under a bilateral treaty signed in 1974, the

embassy last January received a list “with the names of the military personnel temporarily assigned to the Embassy of the United States”, Wood said. Since the soldiers' names appeared on the list, their “official status” was acknowledged and thus they have immunity, the ambassador noted.

“The incident is regrettable, but this is not the first time we have had to face this situation,” he said. “We have been committed to applying the law to whoever is involved (in drug-trafficking).”

MNA/Xinhua

Two killed, several wounded in US shooting incidents

WASHINGTON, 8 April — Two people were killed and several others were wounded in separate shooting incidents in the United States on Thursday, media reports said. In Laurel, Delaware, the suspect, Allison L Norman, shot one person to death and wounded two others.

He continue the shooting rampage in neighbouring Salisbury, Maryland, killing one person and wounding two others, before he was arrested by police.

Norman was charged with first-degree murder and handgun violations, the reports said.

MNA/Xinhua

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party visit most ancient university of Vietnam

YANGON, 10 April — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win and party visited the most ancient university of Vietnam built in 17th century AD in Hanoi at 5 pm on 7 April. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party were welcomed by officials of the Cultural Department. The officials explained ancient stone inscription and literature in the university.

Next, Vietnamese traditional cultural troupe entertained the Myanmar delegation with traditional music.—MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party visit most ancient university of Vietnam.—MNA



Japan's electronics venture Nippon Avionics employee Hiroki Shibata displays the prototype model of head-mount-display (HMD) infra-red helmet on 8 April, 2005.—INTERNET

Singapore, Panama conclude free trade agreement

SINGAPORE, 10 April — Singapore and Panama have reached a free trade agreement (FTA) after three rounds of talks beginning in February of last year, said a statement from Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry on Friday.

"The Panama-Singapore FTA is a comprehensive agreement that seeks to liberalize bilateral engagement in areas beyond trade in goods and services," the statement said.

Terms on investment, Customs procedures, competition policy, government procurement, financial services, telecommunications, ecommerce and dispute settlement are also included in the

agreement.

The FTA enables 98 per cent of Singapore's exports to Panama to enjoy duty free access five years after it takes effect, and will immediately eliminate all duties for Panamanian products entering Singapore.

Besides covering Panama companies' interests in key services areas such as logistics, maritime and business, the agreement will provide investors from both sides with added protection for their investments.

MNA/Xinhua

Mekong countries discuss flood management, mitigation

HANOI, 9 April — Representatives from countries interested in the Mekong River gathered in Laos, discussing measures of dealing with floods which have claimed many lives in the Mekong Basin, according to local sources on Friday.

Experts from member countries of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam; its dialogue partners, China and Myanmar, as well

as experts from Japan, Germany, France and Nepal attended the 3rd Mekong Flood Forum which opened in Vientiane on 7 April. The meeting touched on such issues as disaster preparedness, early warning systems, forecasting tools, capacity building, and the economic value of floods.

During the two-day gathering, the experts discussed measures to accelerate the implementation of one of the MRC's initiatives: Flood Management and Mitigation Programme.

Between 2000 and 2002, more than 1,000 people in the Mekong Basin lost their lives to floods and the economic damage was conservatively estimated at over 500 million US dollars, experts said, noting the ongoing effects were felt by millions of people who lost crops, livestock or their homes.

MNA/Xinhua

29 killed in Iraq violence

BAGHDAD, 10 April — Tens of thousands of Shia protestors poured into central Baghdad on Saturday to demand that US troops leave Iraq as 29 people were killed in attacks on the second anniversary of Saddam Hussein's downfall.

On Saturday, violence against Iraqi security forces and civilians killed 29 and wounded scores more in separate incidents.

In the most deadly attack, an improvised explosive device (IED) killed 15 Iraqi soldiers and wounded several others on Saturday morning on the main highway through Latifiyah, 40 kilometres south of Baghdad, a Defence Ministry official said. On the same road just outside Latifiyah, attackers gunned down five civilians, a medical source said. The region populated

by a mix of Sunnis and Shias, is called the "triangle of death" for its high rate of murders and kidnappings.

Also south of Baghdad, four drivers were killed and four others wounded in an ambush on a 14-truck Trade Ministry convoy travelling between Kut and the capital, an Interior Ministry source said. The route from Kut, 175 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, has become a regular target for insurgents.

In Baghdad, Sayed Fadel al-Shoq, a deputy to

Sadr was killed, and another deputy was injured in the southern Dura district as they drove to an anti-US protest, a Sadr official said.

In the northern city of Mosul, a suicide car bomber in an Opel killed a police officer and a civilian and wounded 14 others, including 11 policemen, medical sources and police said. And an Iraqi soldier and a civilian were killed in a roadside bomb in Mashahda, 30 kilometres north of Baghdad, an army captain said.

Internet



A US tank blocks a bridge across Baghdad's Tigris River in an anti-US protest to mark two years since the city fell to coalition troops on 9 April, 2005.

INTERNET

Pakistani President to visit Philippines

MANILA, 10 April — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will pay a state visit to the Philippines from 18 to 20 April at the invitation of his Philippine counterpart Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, said the Philippine Presidential Palace on Friday.

The visit will be the first state visit by a Pakistani Head of State to the Philippines since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in 1949.

MNA/Xinhua

Endeavours being made for development of economic ...

(from page 16)

of Foreign Affairs Mr Le Cong Phung and senior officials.

In the discussions, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said his visit was to promote friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He praised Vietnam for its economic progress. He said concerted efforts are being made on self-reliance basis for development of all sectors in his country and achievements have been made.

He said tasks are being carried out for transformation of centralized economy into market-ori-

ented economy, especially, rights are given to do business in export and import and private sectors. Private and cooperative enterprises play a vital role in production sector, he said.

Endeavours are being made for development of economic and social infrastructures and for smooth political transition. Success has been gained after the implementation of the policies laid down. At the National Convention discussions are being made for sharing of executive, judicial and legislative powers between central govern-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets Vietnamese President Mr Tran Duc Luong.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win calls on Vietnamese President Mr Tran Duc Luong at Presidential Palace in Hanoi.—MNA

ment and states and regions, he added.

We accept that national solidarity and internal political stability is important. If there is no outside interference through various ways and means, rapid progress will be made. Nations like Vietnam, an old friend, understand our country and continued efforts are to be made for success in accord with the seven-point Road Map, he added.

President Mr Tran Duc Luong said that Myanmar is not a country sharing the border with Vietnam. However, he regards Myanmar as a close neighbour. Both nations had the

same experience on national struggle. Vietnam regards Myanmar as a trusted friendly nation and wishes to enhance the existing and future relations, he added.

He noticed that Myanmar people have enjoyed developments in economic and social sectors under the leadership of the State Peace and Development Council led by Senior General Than Shwe. He also learnt that economic growth rate is on the increase and thanked Myanmar for its support of Vietnam's admission to WTO. He spoke of the need for nations upstream Mekong

River not to harm the interests of those nations from lower Mekong River in exploiting marine resources in the river.

Continuing, he said, Vietnam supported Myanmar at the regional and international meetings, especially, admission to the ASEAN and ASEM held the previous year. He said he believes that after laying down the seven-point Road Map by the State Peace and Development Council, introduction of democracy in the country will be successful. Peace and stability is very important for a nation, he emphasized.

MNA

Myanmar-SRV discussions further cemented ...

(from page 16)

Next, the two Prime Ministers met in the parlour.

At 10.30 am, the meeting of the Union of Myanmar and the SRV was held at the meeting hall of the Office of the Government. Also present together with Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to SRV U Tin Latt, Director-General U Soe Tint at the Prime Minister's Office and departmental heads.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister at the Office of Government Mr Doan Mang Giao, Minister for Cul-

ture and Information Mr Pham Quang Nghi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Le Cong Phung, Deputy Minister for Trade Mr Phan The Rue, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Drep Kinh Tan and senior officers.

At the discussions, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address, saying that the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have the same background history. In retrospect, the two countries have had friendly relationship with exchange of goodwill visits of the leaders of the two countries. During the goodwill visits, they signed agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two countries. For ensuring promotion of bilateral trade, a joint

trade committee was formed. The trade volume between the two countries multiplied about three times in 2003 compared with that in 2002. Furthermore, evidence of more progress had been seen in 2004. Thus, the Government always invites foreign investments to Myanmar. The Prime Minister added that he invites entrepreneurs from Vietnam to invest in Myanmar. He said that he believed today's discussions would be further cementing friendly relationship and cooperation between the two countries. And, more cooperation will be carried out in the two countries.

In his address, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai said that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, being a friend of Myanmar, observes progress of Myanmar without losing sight. It was known that

they recognized internal stability and building the country, implementation of the seven-step Road Map and successful completion of the second meeting of the National Convention.

The Vietnam realized the sanctions imposed on Myanmar in the name of democracy and human rights as it has

been subject to sanctions posed by western nations. Vietnam, on its part, opposes such acts.

He believed Myanmar would reach the peaceful and stable democratic society it desires under the collective leadership headed by Senior General Than Shwe. He disclosed that Vietnam's foreign

policy is to enhance cooperation with Myanmar based on friendship. He said that Vietnam always expresses gratitude to Myanmar Government and people for their support of Vietnam's independence struggle. He added that cooperation between the two countries is to be enhanced. —MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai pose for a documentary photo.—MNA

Vietnamese Prime Minister hosts dinner in honour of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party

YANGON, 10 April — Myanmar Delegation led by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar on a goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was hosted a dinner by Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai of the SRV at the State Guest House in Hanoi at 7 pm on 7 April.

Also present at the dinner were the ministers, the deputy foreign minister, the Myanmar Ambassador and departmental heads.



SRV Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai hosts a dinner in honour of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party in Hanoi.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win proposes a toast at the dinner. —MNA



Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai proposes a toast at the dinner.—MNA

Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai of the SRV was accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior officials and the ambassadors from

ASEAN countries.

At the dinner, the two Prime Ministers proposed toasts.

During the dinner, the artistes of Vietnamese cultural troupe enter-

tained the guests with the songs.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party arrived back at Hanoi Daewoo Hotel in Hanoi.—MNA



Vietnamese cultural troupe members entertain the distinguished Myanmar guests at the dinner. —MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win leaves for Cambodia

YANGON, 10 April — Myanmar Delegation led by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar on an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam went to Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi at 8 am local time on 8 April to leave for Cambodia.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the SRV Le Cong Phung, Vice-Chairman of Office of the Government Mr Nguyen Van Lam and party, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Latt and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Mya and staff of Myanmar Embassy and office of Military Attaché bade farewell to the Prime Minister and party at the airport. The Prime Minister and party left for Cambodia by special flight.—MNA



Vietnamese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Le Cong Phung sees off Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at Noi Bai International Airport. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye...

(from page 1)

At 9 am, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party attended the ceremony to inaugurate Bagan Viewing Tower.

Also present on the occasion were departmental heads, de-

tion members, local people, staff of the company and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Managing Director U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd cut the ribbon to open the tower.

Secretary-1 Lt-

The ninth and 10th floors are for restaurant decks. The View Deck is staged on the 11th floor and the opening view deck on the top floor.

Bagan Viewing Tower was built by applying modern technologies and it was decorated with Myanmar handicraft and works of Bagan era. It is installed with three 11-person-capacity lifts.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San inspect ground floor of Bagan Viewing Tower.— MNA

eral Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party went on to the 11th floor by lift and enjoyed

of Bagan, renovation of pagodas and stupas in Bagan and their environs. Vice-Senior General

Bagan Hotel Project near the tower. Next, they looked into business rooms, offices and shops

Bagan Viewing Tower is 198 feet high and 54 feet in diameter. The 13 storeys tower was built with the use of modern technology designed to withstand storms and earthquakes. Business centre, offices and shopping mall are allotted on the ground floor, waiting lounges on the first floor, the meeting room, Bagan History Video Showroom and coffee shops on the second floor, store rooms on the third floor and offices on fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh floors.

The ninth and 10th floors are for restaurant decks. The View Deck is staged on the 11th floor and the opening view deck on the top floor.

Bagan Viewing Tower was built by applying modern technologies and it was decorated with Myanmar handicraft and works of Bagan era. It is installed with three 11-person-capacity lifts.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Htoo Trading Co Ltd Managing Director U Teza formally open Bagan Viewing Tower.— MNA

partmental officials at division, district and township levels, entrepreneurs, teachers, students, social organiza-

Gen Thein Sein unveiled the plaque of the tower and sprinkled scented water on it.

Vice-Senior Gen-

scenic beauty of Bagan from the View Deck.

At the Open View Deck on the 13th floor, they observe the scenes

Maung Aye signed in the visitors' book.

On the 10th floor, they viewed scenes of Bagan and buildings of

on the ground floor.

They also visited the buildings and rooms at the hotel project of Htoo Trading Co Ltd.

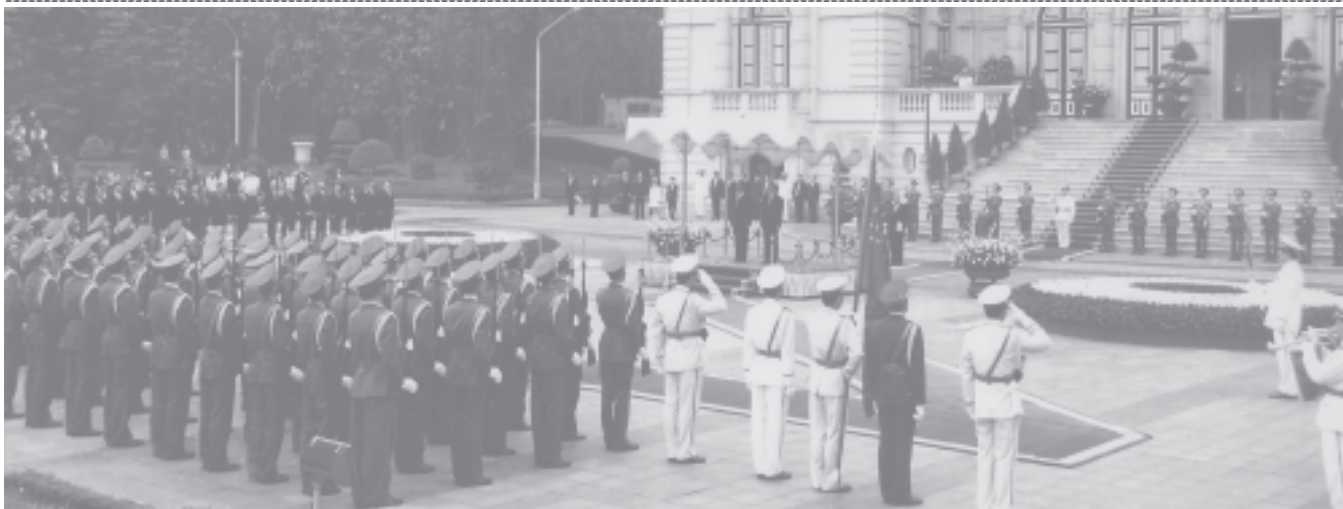


Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveils the plaque of Bagan Viewing Tower.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sprinkles scented water on the plaque of Bagan Viewing Tower.— MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends welcoming ceremony in Vietnam



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and SRV Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai take the salute of the Guard of Honour.— MNA

YANGON, 10 April — At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win accompanied by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and departmental heads arrived at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at 9.10 am local time on 7 April.

First, Myanmar Ambassador to SRV U Tin Latt and Governor of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of SRV Mr Nguyen Thanh Sam welcomed the Members of Myanmar Delegation on board.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Deputy Mini-

ster for Foreign Affairs of SRV Mr Le Cong Phung, Vice-Chairman of Office of the Government Mr Nguyen Van Lam, members of reception group, Myanmar Ambassador U

Later, a Myanmar girl presented a bouquet to the Prime Minister who alighted from the aircraft.

To attend the welcoming ceremony, the Prime Minister and party,

ese girl presented a bouquet to the Myanmar Prime Minister.

Then, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai went to the dais

Myanmar and Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The two Prime Ministers then inspected the Guard of Honour.

Prime Minister of SRV Mr Phan Van Khai

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win also presented the members of Myanmar delegation to the Vietnamese counterpart.

Prime Minister Lt-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and SRV Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai inspect the Guard of Honour.— MNA

Tin Latt and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Mya and staff of Myanmar Embassy and office of Military Attaché.

arrived in a motorcade, at Presidential Palace where Prime Minister of SRV Mr Phan Van Khai cordially greeted them. A Vietnam-

and took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

At the time, the State Band played the anthems of the Union of

presented the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior officials to the Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Gen Soe Win cordially greeted the Ambassadors from the ASEAN countries.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Vietnamese Ministers, deputy ministers and senior officers.— MNA



SRV Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai greets Myanmar delegation members.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win calls on General Secretary of Communist Party of Socialist Republic of Vietnam



YANGON, 10 April — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, who was on a goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, called on Mr Nong Duc Manh, General Sec-

retary of the Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam U Tin Latt, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and departmental heads, Leader of External Affairs Department of Cen-

trist Party deserves to be congratulated on its efforts to raise the living standard of Vietnamese people. Likewise, Myanmar is striving its utmost to develop the sectors of politics, economy and social affairs,

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets Mr Nong Duc Manh, General Secretary of Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. —MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win shakes hands with Mr Nong Duc Manh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. MNA



retary of the Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the headquarters of the party in Hanoi on 7 April morning.

Also present at the call were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu,

tral Party Committee Mr Nguyen Van Son, Assistant General Secretary Mr Ho Tien Nghi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Le Cong Phung and high-ranking officials.

At the call, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said the purpose of his visit to Vietnam was to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two nations. He said the Vietnam Com-

and significant success has been achieved due to these efforts. The Prime Minister added that the Union Solidarity and Development Association is also actively cooperating with the government in nation-building tasks. And the country has always placed emphasis on ensuring peace and stability and national consolidation.

He went on to say that

national economy is increasing more than 8.5 percent in each year. Now the National Convention is in progress as a first step after the seven-point Road Map of the State has been laid down. The country's ultimate goal is to build up a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. All in all, the Prime Minister said he is grateful to the good neighbours for their support and understanding of Myanmar.

Next, Mr Nong Duc Manh said the Prime Minister's goodwill visit coincides with the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Reciprocal visits of senior officials indicate that there has been a traditional relationship between the two countries for decades. He said that he understands the difficulties Myanmar is facing now. He added that it is heartening to note that Myanmar has achieved

significant success in political, economic and social sectors and is exercising open-door policies. He said he believed that Myanmar will achieve its goal of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Vietnam is a sincere and good neighbour of Myanmar. Vietnam is safe-guarding sovereignty and adhering to the principles of non-interference and mutually beneficial cooperation, he said.

MNA



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of SRV Mr Le Cong Phung and officials greet Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. (News on page 9) — MNA



A Myanmar girl presents a bouquet to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. (News on page 9) — MNA

Sea Turtle Conservation Programme

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)

To the Zoologists, it is a country with some of Asia's most threatened turtle species; logger head Turtle Hawksbill Turtle, leatherback Turtle and Olive Riddley Turtle. In March 2005, (5) scholars of Dagon University and (21) officials of Department of Fishery visited Gayetgyi Island, Nga Oo Thauung, Ma Sein Yon, Nga Mau Thauung Island to have thorough look at the present situation of sea Turtles in Ayeyawady Division.

The Sea turtle, heritage of the world has decreased recently. Southeast Asian Fisheries Department Centre (SEAFDEC) has conducted Sea Turtle conservation programme. U Cho Hla Aung (DOF official) as conservator on Sea Turtle Population statistic and Tagging programme has disseminated the format

sea turtles and, to collect the information and to make progress of Sea Turtle tagging exercise



Nesting site in Gayetgyi beach.

in Myanmar. We altogether (26) trainees attended the course in Gayetgyi Island to collect the population statistics on sea turtles in Myanmar and to plan Sea Turtle conservation in future. These efforts will be initiated by the trainees. Regarding tagging programme, the trainees agreed to organize local peoples. With

TED stands for Turtle Excluder Device, on the use of TEDs and installation of Myanmar Tur-



tle Free Devices for the information of the fishermen. Turtle Free Devices in an Excluder Device improved on the TED programme developed to be used in Southeast Asian countries.

The Sea Turtle, heritage of the world has decreased rapidly. Protection of spawned eggs and hatched baby turtles is effective to conserve the turtle population. Artificial hatchery is conducted in Gayetgyi Island to this objective and management of hatchery becomes an important issue. These are only three species of Sea Turtle in abundance in Ayeyawady Division. Thus natural nesting behavior also has been observed to refer to the

suitable handlings of turtle eggs in hatcheries. Sex fixing of turtles depends on the tempera-

ture during development of embryo. Higher temperature produces females and lower temperature gives males. Suitable temperature management in hatcheries is required for natural sex ratio of Sea Turtles. We have observed for detailed relationship of temperature fluctuation and sex fixing was recognized at first step. For the future research we have to find out the critical temperature and timing when embryo was affected by temperature through its developing stage. Also the critical temperature should be examined for each nesting beach as its own character.

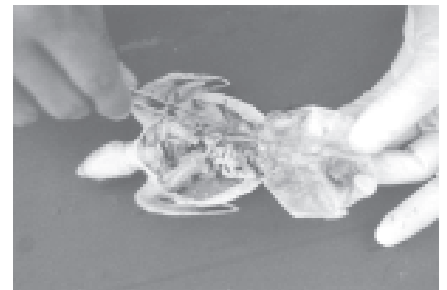
Sea Turtles are highly migratory and most probably they like the waters of Southeast

Asian region. Therefore, Department of Fishery conducted research and extension for sea turtle conservation. Sea Turtles have been used since time immemorial for food and other commodities. Their importance in trade dates back millennia, whether it was cilipee, leather, live turtles, meat, oils or tortoise shell that was trafficked.

Recently, Sea Turtles have become important for non-consumptive use, tourism, educational and scientific research activities that provide opportunities for employment and information service as well as other economic gains. A less apparent, but irreplaceable value is as ecological resources. These reptiles are

both local and international conservation by conserving these animals and their habitats. In a word, conserving Sea turtles means protecting the seas and coastal areas, which in turn means protecting a complex interconnected world on which human societies depend.

I assume that marine mammals and Sea Turtles have adapted to life in a three dimensional environment. Our knowledge of many marine mammals and Sea Turtle species are limited, hampered by infrequent viewing opportunities and difficulties identifying those seen. Species identification is key to improving our knowledge about these species,



The genital gland being examined to identify the sex.

unique components of complex ecological systems, the vitality of which is linked exploitable products as well as ecosystem services. Because they migrate thousands of kilometres and take decades to mature, turtles serve as important indicators of the health of coastal and marine environments on both local and global scale. In addition to the value as natural material-resources, these animals have immeasurable worth as cultural assets. Marine turtles are model flag ship species for

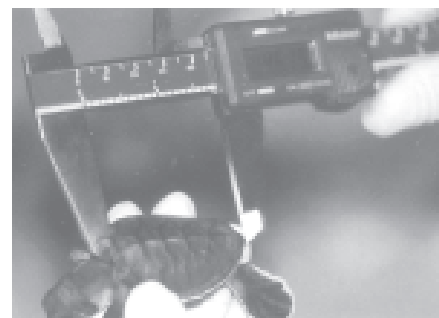
their distribution, their natural history and causes and impact of their deaths. Accurate species identification is expected of fishermen, scholars, NGO's and Fishery Department. Not only Department of Fisheries but also other Departments like Forestry and Education must be involved in the conservation and management of Sea Turtles. The long term success of any conservation programme requires trained personnel and support of the public.



Mother Turtle returning to sea after egg laying in Gayetgyi Island, Bogalay.

of Sea Turtle Statistics and Standardized tagging code to be implemented in SEAFDEC member countries. Department of Fishery (DOF) trained the trainees from Universities and her mother department in Gayetgyi Island in Bogalay Township. The objective of this 10-day Training is to conserve

the increase of demand in aquatic resources, trawling operation has increased in the waters of the Southeast Asian countries. Trawl fishing operations threaten the lives of other non-commercial marine species such as Sea Turtles, juveniles, dolphins and dugongs. Training produced promotional TED programme. The word



Measuring of baby green turtle

ADVERTISEMENT

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**Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.**
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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 11 April 2005

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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.**
for BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 11 April 2005

Uribe welcomes Chinese companies to Colombia

SHANGHAI, 9 April — Visiting Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Velez said here on Friday Colombia highly values economic and trade cooperation with China and welcomes more Chinese companies to invest in Colombia.

"I hope more Chinese companies will invest in Colombia, and the two countries' companies can further enhance cooperation," Uribe said. Last year, China's exports to Colombia reached one billion US dollars, accounting for one twelfth of Colombia's total imports.

HSA suspends sales of Pizer's Bextra in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 9 April — Singapore has suspended the sales of Bextra, an anti-inflammatory drug produced by the global pharmaceutical manufacturer Pfizer, Channel NewsAsia reported on Friday.

Study shows that taking Bextra may pose risk to patients' cardiovascular safety or incur rare but serious skin reactions, which have led to similar bans on the drug in the United States, the European Union and Canada.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to establish earthquake research centre

SINGAPORE, 9 April — Singapore aims to establish a research centre devoted to earthquake- and tsunami-related studies within a year, *Channel NewsAsia* reported on Friday.

Based on the present Protective Technology Engineering Laboratory, the biggest of its kind in Asia outside Japan, the centre will study, among others, undersea earth movements between plates that may cause giant waves, as well as the effects that earthquake exerts on buildings.

A joint project by the Meteorological Services, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, the centre will come as part of the efforts to set up an early-warning system for tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

The deadly tsunami occurred on 26 December of last year has provoked countries around the Indian Ocean into putting such a system in place.

Experts hope that nations concerned in the region will share information and common knowledge and work as a coherent group instead of looking at different directions for help.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စု

China, Bangladesh hail bilateral relationship

DHAKA, 9 April — China and Bangladesh issued a joint communique here on Friday, praising the development of bilateral relationship.

"The visit of Premier Wen Jiabao was a great success and further raised the bilateral relations between China and Bangladesh to new heights," says the communique.

Both sides declared the Year 2005 as the "Year of China-Bangladesh Friendship" in celebration of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations, according to the communique.

It says the two sides reviewed the progress of bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations 30 years ago and highly praised the fruitful cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in the fields of political affairs, economy, social development, culture, etc.

It notes the two sides believed that consolidating and further developing traditional China-Bangladesh relations and exploring new areas of cooperation, served the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples, and contributed to regional

peace, stability and development. The two sides agreed to establish a Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation featuring long-term friendship, equality, and mutual benefit.

It says the two sides agreed to continue the frequent contacts and exchange of visits between the senior leaders of the two countries, intensify the friendly exchanges between government agencies, parliaments, political parties, Armed Forces, and non-governmental organizations of the two countries with a view to promoting the comprehensive, in-depth, and stable development of the bilateral relations.

According to the communique, the two sides agreed to maintain and reinforce the annual diplomatic consultation mechanisms between the two countries in order to share views on bilateral relations and important international and regional issues in a timely manner.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh reaffirms adherence to one-China policy

DHAKA, 9 April — The Bangladeshi Government reaffirmed adherence to the "one-China policy", opposing Taiwan's membership in any international organization, according to a joint communique issued by the two governments here on Friday.

The communique says the Bangladeshi side reiterated that there is only one China, and that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory. Bangladesh opposes Taiwan's membership in any international and regional organizations open to sovereign countries only, and fully supports China's peaceful reunification.

It also says the Chinese side reiterated its respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as well as its support for Bangladesh's efforts to develop national economy.

The two sides believed that strengthening exchanges and cooperation

between the Armed Forces and conducting cooperation in public security and justice were significant components of the bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to conduct further exchanges and cooperation in these areas, according to the communique.

It says the Chinese side appreciated Bangladesh's active efforts to promote regional cooperation in South Asia. The Bangladeshi side supported China's willingness to establish mutually beneficial cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The two sides believed that the level of cooperation within the Forum on Regional Economic Cooperation among BCIM should be further elevated and both sides will offer more support and cooperation to the Forum.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



Sony's humanoid robot SDR-3X kicks a football recently. — INTERNET

HK Customs seizes 1.9m HK dollars worth of drugs

HONG KONG, 9 April — Hong Kong Customs officers on Thursday cracked two drug-trafficking cases at the Hong Kong International Airport, seizing 5.4 kilos of cannabis resin and 4.1 kilos of ketamine with a total retail value of about 1.9 million Hong Kong dollars, a government Press release said on Friday.

A Nepali man, two Malaysians — one man and one woman, aged 30 to 35, were arrested. Under detention by Customs pending further investigation, they will be charged later with trafficking in dangerous drugs.

On Thursday afternoon, Customs officers of the Drug Investigation Bureau raised suspicions over a Nepali man who had arrived in Hong Kong by circuitous routing (from Nepal to Hong Kong via Bangkok, Thailand). After collecting baggage that had reached Hong Kong on 6 April, the man went through Customs clearance.

After a search, Customs officers found in a concealed compartment at the bottom of his traveller's bag 5.4 kilos of cannabis resin with a retail value of about 480,000 Hong Kong dollars. The 35-year-old Nepali man was arrested. It is believed that the drugs syndicate attempted to evade Customs investigation by the circuitous routing.

Subsequently, Customs officers from the Airport Command and Drug Investigation Bureau cracked another drugs case in an operation code-named "Bayonet" at 6.30 pm.

MNA/Xinhua

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Premier Wen Jiabao confident of China-India ties

BEIJING, 9 April — The Sino-Indian relations are "at prime time now", said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in a recent interview with *Press Trust of India*.

He will begin his visit to India on Saturday, whose trip coincides with the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

"There is no fundamental conflicts between China and India and both sides need to learn from each other," Wen told the Indian media in Beijing.

China and India, the world's two most populous nations and fast growing economies, have improved their relations dramatically in recent years.

Bilateral trade soared to 13.6 billion US dollars in 2004, 13 times the volume of ten years ago. India is China's largest trade partner in South Asia while China has become India's second largest export market and third import market.

"The economic and trade relations have developed rapidly with cooperation fields widened and contents deepened," said Wen. "There exist great potentials for such relationship," Wen added.

The Sino-Indian rela-

tions are following the track of sustained, healthy and mature development and have entered a new stage of all-round cooperation, said Wen.

Both nations, viewing each other as important cooperative partner, continue to enhance political trust and pledge to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and fairly and reasonably settle the "issue left over by history" through equal consultations, said Wen.

Besides, the Premier said, the two countries

have made new progress in cooperation in trade, culture, technology, education, tourism and international affairs and are all confident of their future relations.

"The prosperity of China and India represents not only the rise of the whole Asia, but also the progress of the developing countries," Wen said, describing the two countries as sincere friends instead of rivals.

"The common development and friendship between China and India are in the interests of the two peoples," the Premier said.

Premier Wen's India visit will come up with a series of important agreements in various fields.

MNA/Xinhua

India attaches importance to Chinese Premier's visit

NEW DELHI, 9 April — In a major step towards resolution of the vexed boundary question, India and China are expected to set out next week political parameters and guiding principles taking into account security interests, welfare of people living around the border region and other key factors.

"We attach great importance to the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to India," Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran told reporters here on Friday.

The two leaders are expected to review the current state of bilateral relations and discuss ways and means to further strengthen the constructive and cooperative partnership keeping in view the current international situation and the global and strategic perspective of bilateral relations, the Foreign Secretary said.

He also noted that Wen visited India in 1994 as a senior member of the Communist Party of China, but "this is, however, his first visit as the Prime Minister of China, a country with which we enjoy friendly and good neighbourly ties". Over a dozen agreements are likely to be inked during the visit covering cooperation in civil aviation, trade, Customs, water resources and culture. The two sides are also expected to firm up a vital protocol on confidence-building measures during Wen's four-day visit to India from Saturday. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore introduces new loan scheme for SMEs

SINGAPORE, 9 April — Singapore launched a new programme to help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) take out loans with little or even no collateral, Channel NewsAsia reported on Friday.

The SME Access Loan scheme will pool debts from different SMEs and then sell them in the form of bonds in the capital market so as to spread out the overall risk and get loans for those who are at higher risk level.

Initiated by the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (Spring Singapore) and International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore), the programme aims to securitize some 300 million Singapore dollars (about 180 million US dollars) within six months.

DBS Bank will help manage this loan and securitization programme for about 100,000 SMEs in the city state, who have had difficulties in borrowing from banks.

The scheme is expected to deepen the growing corporate bond market here, which is worth 100 billion Singapore dollars (about 60 billion US dollars), according to the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake again jolts Indonesia's Nias

JAKARTA, 9 April — An earthquake measuring 6 on the Richter Scale jolted the Indonesian island of Nias on Friday, where an 8.2-magnitude quake flattened buildings and killed over 650 people on 28 March.

The Jakarta-based meteorology and geophysics agency (BMG) said the tremor occurred at 12:48 local time (05:48 GMT). The epicentre was located 125 kilometres southeast of the Nias capital of Gunung Sitoli.

MNA/Xinhua

Most HK people concern hair problem

HONG KONG, 9 April — One of Hong Kong's largest commodity store **Watsons** on Thursday announced the results of a survey about hair and self-confidence which shows 96 per cent of interviewees believed hair problem could affect social life.

Watsons conducted a survey last month which successfully interviewed 1,564 Hong Kong people. The survey aimed to gauge the impact of hair on social relationships. Results of the survey indicated that hair can affect a person's mood, self-confidence and social performance.

Seventy per cent of people think that waking up with bad hair will affect their mood the most, much worse than failing to find the right outfit or having a dull look on their face.

"Hair is the index of health and vitality and bad hair is one of the biggest social turnoff because in-

stinctively, people like to be with healthy people," said clinical behavioural psychologist Lee Po Nang.

Among the interviewees, 77 per cent confessed that they have hair problems and 19 per cent were prescient and worried that they eventually will.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to set up academic centres on folk literature

KATHMANDU, 9 April — The Nepali Government is providing assistance in the establishment of academic centres in all of the country's five development regions in order to carry out research on folk literature, a government official said on Friday.

"The Royal Nepal Academy is in the process of preparing a master plan for conducting research of various languages and folk literature and it was ready to work together with the local-level organizations and institutions for protecting the beauty of the folk literature," Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Buddh Raj Bajracharya told reporters.

The academy needs to increase its collaboration

with various community-level organizations across the country, Bajracharya said. He called on the Royal Nepal Academy to become more active in identifying Nepali art, culture and literature in the international arena by promoting academic relations at the international level. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to sell oil to East Timor

JAKARTA, 9 April — The Indonesian Government has planned to supply oil to neighbouring East Timor in the near future, an Indonesian official said here on Thursday.

Indonesia will sell oil to East Timor at international price, said Lin Arifin

Takhyan, director-general of oil and gas under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

"We will offer international price standard, as applied by Australia," he was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying.

He said state-run oil and gas company Pertamina will use its terminal and gas pumps in East Timor, which seceded from Indonesia in 1999.

Pertamina still possesses terminal and gas pumps there (East Timor), he said. Indonesia and East Timor have held several talks on oil supply recently but the volume and value of the supply have not been decided, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore Cos secure record high overseas contracts in 2004

SINGAPORE, 9 April — Singapore companies secured overseas contracts worth 2.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 1.5 billion US dollars) in 2004, more than double the volume of the previous year, Channel NewsAsia reported on Friday night.

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) attributed the record high amount in the past 10 years to robust exports to India, China and the Middle East.

BCA figures showed that exports to India surged almost 10 times over the previous year to account for about 30 per cent of the total overseas deals won by Singapore contractors in 2004, while exports to China jumped over 80 per cent from a year ago. — MNA/Xinhua



Japanese actor Yuya Yagira, who won the best-actor award in the last Cannes Film Festival in France, attends a cherry blossom viewing party hosted by the Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at Shinjuku Gyoen park in Tokyo on 9 April, 2005.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Giggs may miss United's FA Cup semifinal for injury

LONDON, 9 April — Manchester United's winger Ryan Giggs is doubtful for the England Premiership soccer giant's FA Cup semifinal against Newcastle on 17 April due to a hamstring injury.

"I don't think he will make it," United manager Alex Ferguson told MUTV on Friday, referring to the game at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

The Welsh international, who picked up the injury against Blackburn last weekend, will definitely miss United's trip to bottom club Norwich City on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

United humiliated while Chelsea survive scare

LONDON, 10 April — Manchester United were humiliated 2-0 at Norwich City while leaders Chelsea were only eight minutes away from their first home defeat this season before substitute Didier Drogba salvaged a 1-1 draw with Birmingham City.

Second-placed Arsenal narrowed the gap with Chelsea to 11 points with a 1-0 win at Middlesbrough with six matches to go. Manchester United, however, were left 14 points adrift in the third place after their 20-match unbeaten league run was snapped by Norwich who scored two goals in 11 minutes through Dean Ashton and Leon

McKenzie.

It was only Norwich's fourth league win, all at home, and it ended a run of five defeats. They remain three points adrift at the bottom.

While Manchester United suffered stunning loss, the Champions-elect Chelsea were lucky to escape in Stamford Bridge before Birmingham.

On-loan Uruguayan Walter Pandiani shocked Chelsea by giving Birmingham the lead in the 65th minute. His goal could have ended the London side's 33-match unbeaten run at home in all competitions going back to February 2004.

However, Drogba sidefooted home when he pounced on a fine lay-off by Frank Lampard for his 10th goal of the season to

extend his side's unbeaten league run to 23 games.

The relegation battle at the opposite end of the table looks like it has plenty more twists left in it, as Southampton's recent revival fell flat as they were despatched 3-0 by a professional Blackburn Rovers outfit.

Goals from Morten Gamst Pedersen and Steven Reid sandwiched an own-goal from Andreas Jakobsson to seal what was a desperate afternoon for Saints fans.

And that afternoon was made even grimmer by Portsmouth's 4-2 win over Charlton Athletic in Alain Perin's first game as Pompey manager. An early burst in goals from Yakubu and Steve Stone gave the impression that all was going just swim-

mingly before Charlton fought back to level through Jonathan Fortune and Danny Murphy on half-time.

But Perrin's half-time pep-talk paid off belatedly as Diomansy Kamara and Lualaba secured a win that will resonate through the South Coast. Pompey are seven points clear of Saints with six games to go.

Fulham could find themselves dragged back into the mire though they remain six points clear.

They could have breathed easier had they not lost 3-1 at Bolton, who demolished them after the sending off of Claus Jensen for a deliberate handball on the line. His offence also resulted in a scoring penalty from Jay Jay Okocha in the 13th minute. — MNA/Xinhua

Davenport to meet Farina Elia in Florida final

WASHINGTON, 10 April — Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport of the United States and Silvia Farina Elia of Italy will meet in the final of the Amelia Island tennis championship in Florida after the two won their semifinal victories on Saturday.

Defending champion Davenport swept aside Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-0, 6-3 in 48 minutes, and 12th seed Farina Elia demolished unseeded Virginie Razzano of France 6-1, 6-3.

Davenport hammered 29 winners and held off a rally from seventh seed

Petrova, who was forced to play two matches on Friday to reach the last four of the rain-hampered event.

The 28-year-old American, looking for her third Amelia Island title, captured the first set in just 17 minutes, but was pushed harder in the sec-

ond before breaking Petrova in the seventh and ninth games to clinch the victory.

"I knew she was coming off two tough matches yesterday and that she could possibly be a little fatigued," Davenport was quoted as saying.

"Yesterday (losing the first set 6-1 to Venus Williams) was a big wake-up call, so I wanted to get off to a better start today," she added.

Despite winning six of her seven matches against Farina Elia, Davenport expects a tough test on Sunday.

"The one time I lost to her was actually on grass, which you probably wouldn't call," she said.

"But on this surface, I definitely have to be most focused and I can't take anything for granted.

Farina Elia, who reached the last four when Serena Williams retired from the quarterfinal with a sprained ankle, dictated play right from the start in her semifinal against Razzano. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan Open badminton tournament

TOKYO, 10 April — World number one Lin Dan breezed past Dane Kenneth Jonassen 17-14, 15-10 on Saturday to set up the men's singles final against fellow Chinese Chen Hong at the Japan Open badminton tournament here.

Chen Hong overcame Athens Olympic gold medalist Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia 15-9, 15-5 to reach the final on Sunday.

Also in the women's play, world number one Xie Xingfang of China defeated Pi Hongyan of France 11-7, 11-5.

Xie thus made the final against compatriot Zhang Ning, the Athens Olympic and world champion who struggled to beat Wang Chen of Hong Kong, 11-6, 6-11, 13-11 in Saturday's semifinals.

Xie, who took the top ranking announced Thursday after winning six tournaments in a row including the most prestigious All England, stretched her singles match winning streak to 34 after the 33-minute semifinal.

"I was able to control the game pretty well today. I think I did everything what I wanted to do today," said the 24-year-old Xie. — MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

B	R	I	D	L	E	S	S	W	E	E	T
A	S	M	S	O	S	C	S	O	S	D	E
R	E	P	E	L	S	O	P	I	N	I	O
R	S	R	S	L	S	V	S	L	S	C	U
E	B	O	N	I	T	E	S	S	T	I	R
N	S	V	S	P	S	T	I	M	S	S	E
S	M	E	M	O	S	S	A	L	M	S	S
P	S	S	S	P	E	A	S	R	S	E	A
L	A	N	D	S	S	T	R	A	N	S	O
E	S	A	S	L	S	O	S	T	S	S	U
A	U	C	T	I	O	N	S	H	E	A	L
S	S	R	S	F	S	E	S	O	S	G	E
E	V	E	N	T	S	S	T	I	N	T	E

Aussie leads Masters as Tiger struggles

WASHINGTON, 9 April — Australian Mark Hensby, making his spectacular debut in Augusta, Georgia, shot an opening three-under 69 to lead the Masters Golf Tournament on Thursday.

With almost two-thirds of the field still to finish the storm-hit first round on Friday, the 33-year-old, however, is hard to savour his moment of glory for too long.

American Chris DiMarco is at four-under par with four holes left to play.

England's Luke Donald, level with Hensby, was forced to stop with four holes left to play.

World number one Vijay Singh, Retief Goosen and Phil Mickelson were lurking dangerously — all three at two-under. Both Singh and Mickelson, the defending champion, have seven holes to finish Friday morning, while Goosen five.

Tiger Woods and Ernie Els will be thankful to have their rounds interrupted by nighfall, giving them a chance to regroup.

The 29-year-old Woods was two-over par after 12 holes and if it had not been Woods, but instead a mere golfing mortal, the score could have been three times

worse.

The three-times Masters champion had to use all his magic scrambling ability to save par as his driver let him down.

Woods attempt to end his major slump got off to a watery start when he hit his eagle putt off the 13th green, his fourth hole, into Rae's Creek to run up a bogey and go two-over par.

The former world number one could only look on in stunned disbelief as his ball raced past the hole and went running down the bank.

Els, trying to wipe out last year's one shot defeat to Mickelson, got off to the worst possible start when he opened bogey, bogey.

When he walked off the 11th hole after play was stopped for the day he stood three-over and a lot of work left to do to get back into contention.

Only eight of the 31 groups managed to complete the first round. But the weather forecast for the rest of the tournament is good. — MNA/Xinhua

British teenager to fight Olympics boxing final rematch

HAVANA, 10 April — Cuba's Olympic boxing champion Mario Kindelan will fight in an Athens Olympics boxing final rematch against British teenager Amir Khan in May or June, according to Cuban sports official on Saturday.

Angel Iglesias, vice-president of the Cuban Sports Institute (INDER), told BBC in Liverpool, England, that the expected fight could not be held prior to April 30 as reported by British media.

He said the encounter of the Olympic gold and silver medallists is expected as a top event of a series in which other members of the Cuban boxing team will participate, and the date has to be put off due to logistic difficulties. Iglesias assured that Kindelan would take the fight before his retirement.

MNA/Xinhua



Marcus Gronholm of Finland crests a rise in his Peugeot 307, on 10 April, 2005 during Special Stage 17, Te Hutewai, near Raglan, South of Auckland, New Zealand, on his way to a second place finish in the 2005 Rally of New Zealand.

INTERNET

**ရေခဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း
ဆပ်ပြာရည်ဂင်္ဂါဘူးဖြင့် ကစားက**

- ၁။ လက်ဝယ်တွေ့သူ - ထောင် (၁) နှစ်
၂။ ကစားသူ - ထောင် (၃) နှစ်
၃။ ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချသူ - ထောင် (၅) နှစ် နှင့်
ပစ္စည်းကိုင်သိမ်း

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မတီ

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သတိ

- ၁။ လေပေါင် (၁၀၀) မှ (၁၅၀) အထိ အတင်အချ မြှင့်လှုပ်၍ ရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပက်ကစားခြင်း၊ ကြောင့် ရေစူးအား ပြင်းလွန်၍ ရေပက်ခရသူတွင် အသားရေများ ပွန်းပဲ့စွတ်ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိ၊ နားများ အား ထိုးမိပါက မျက်လုံး၊ နားကန့်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ အန္တရာယ် ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေကစားမည့်အားဖြင့် ရေပက်ခံကား များတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များ အသုံးပြု၍ ရေပက်ခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
၂။ သင်္ကြန်ရေပက်ကစားခြင်းအား သင်္ကြန်ရေပက်များအတွင်း နေ့စဉ် နံနက် (၀၇:၀၀) နာရီမှ (၁၈:၀၀) နာရီအတွင်း သာ ရေပက်ကစားကြရန်နှင့် (၁၈:၀၀) နာရီ နောက်ပိုင်း ရေပက်ကစားခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
၃။ တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မတီ

သတိ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း ဟွန်းမတီးရ။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

**Greece welcomes Turkey's
gesture on lifting
"casus belli"**

ATHENS, 10 April— Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis welcomed on Friday statements of Turkish officials concerning the lifting Ankara's long-standing "casus belli" ("cause of war" threat) against Greece if it decided to extend its territorial waters in the Aegean Sea.

"These statements are an important step toward the continued improvement of Greek-Turkish relations," he said, commenting on a proposal made by the Speaker of the Turkish National Assembly Bulent Arinc earlier Friday.

"It is Greece's standing goal to constantly improve Greek-Turkish ties and I believe that the Turkish Government shares this position and also wishes a new period in Greek-Turkish relations," he said.

He stressed that reaffirming this common desire to improve bilateral ties was one of the main goals of his upcoming visit to Turkey next week.

Arinc reportedly proposed lifting the "casus belli" against Greece, while Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul later said Arinc's statement was part of Ankara's policy for the resolution of all Greek-Turkish

problems and the normalization of bilateral relations.

The Turkish Parliament leader said that the 1995 National Assembly resolution should be lifted, due to the fact that the issue had never been put to a vote in the National Assembly.

"In essence, it is not even a resolution... This must be examined," he added.

Turkey has threatened to declare war on Greece in the event that Athens exercises its internationally established right under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to extend its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles from the country's coastline, including those of its islands.

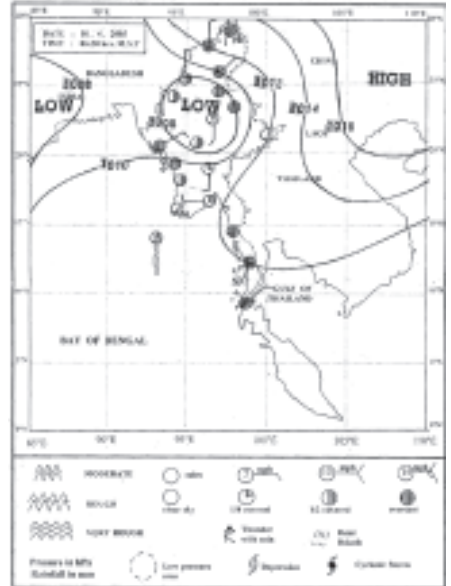
MNA/Xinhua

သတိ

အရက်/ဘီယာများအား မော်တော်ယာဉ်များဖြင့် လှည့်လည် ရောင်းချခြင်း၊ မဏ္ဍပ်များအနီးနှင့် အခြားနေရာများတွင် တရားမဝင်ရောင်းချခြင်းများ မပြုလုပ်ရန် တားမြစ်သည်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 10 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Mon States. Upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Maungdaw (0.47) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin, Northern Shan States, Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Eastern Shan State, Mandalay, Taninthayi and Ayeyawady Divisions, (4°C) below normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway (43°C), Mandalay, Myingyan and Aungmye (42°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 9-4-2005 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 10-4-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-4-2005 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 9-4-2005 was (10.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 10-4-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.63 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.69 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South at (12:15) hours MST on 9-4-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-4-2005: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Rakhine States and Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-4-2005: Partly cloudy.

**Monday, 11 April
Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news
8.35 am Music:
-Aisy Waisy
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
-Tarzan & Jane
8.50 am National news/
Slogan
9.00 am Music:
-Show me the meaning of being lonely
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music:
-That don't impress me much
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch Time Music:
- If we're only friends
-Look for a star
-Ginny comes lately
9.00 pm Spotlight on the Star
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Music
9.35 pm Vocal Gems
-2 Hearts ... Phil Collins
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



**Monday, 11 April
View on today:**

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitations of parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oaktamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. Song of national races
8:05 am
6. အတီးဖြင့်ပွဲ
8:15 am
7. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ
8:30 am
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Grammar made easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Practice in Reading
4:45 pm
4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လျှောက်ရေး ရန်ကုန်သို့ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
5:00 pm
5. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ
5:15 pm
6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
5:30 pm
7. မြန်မာရိုးရာ တေးဂီတလေး -ကျေးလက်တေးသံသား
5:45 pm
8. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
5:55 pm
- 9. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ**
6:10 pm
10. Discovery
6:15 pm
11. နိုင်ငံခြားကတန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဗျောက်မင်းဂျွန်" (အပိုင်း-၈၄)
6:30 pm
12. Evening news
7:00 pm
13. Weather report
7:05 pm
14. စည်းကမ်းထိန်းပါ မြန်မာရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဗဟုသင်္ကြန်ပြပွဲတော်မှာ
7:25 pm
15. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ
7:40 pm
16. Industrial Achievement
8:00 pm
17. News
8:05 pm
18. International news
8:15 pm
19. Weather report
8:25 pm
20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဟောမန်ဆောင်း၏ ရုတ်သီစဉ်" (အပိုင်း-၇)
8:30 pm
21. The next day's programme

Endeavours being made for development of economic and social infrastructures and for smooth political transition

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win

Vietnam regards Myanmar as trusted friend, wishes to enhance existing and future bilateral relations

President Mr Tran Duc Luong



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win calls on Vietnamese President Mr Tran Duc Luong at Presidential Palace in Hanoi.—MNA

YANGON, 10 April — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win called on President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Duc Luong at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi at 3.45 pm on 7 April.

Present on the occasion

were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to the SRV U Tin Latt,

Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and heads of departments.

President Mr Tran Duc Luong was accompanied by Chairman of the President's Office Mr Nguyen Van Chien, Deputy Minister (See page 6)

Dailies in alternative circulation during Thingyan

YANGON, 10 April— Dailies of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be published in turn during Thingyan holidays. Myanma Alin Daily and The New Light of Myanmar Daily will not appear on 13, 14 and 15 April (Thingyan Akyo, Akyo and Akyat days). During these days, Kyemon will be in circulation and it will take holidays on 16, 17 and 18 April (Thingyan Atet Day and Myanmar New Year Day). On these days, Myanma Alin and The New Light of Myanmar will resume circulation.—MNA

Myanmar-SRV discussions further cemented friendship and cooperation between the two countries

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win discusses with Vietnamese counterpart

YANGON, 10 April— The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan

Van Khai and party, after attending the welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, arrived at the Government Office at 10.20 am on 7 April.

First, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and

Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai had a documentary photo taken in front of the hall where the discussion would be held.

(See page 6)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party discuss with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai and party at Office of Government in Hanoi.—MNA