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Sunday, 6 April, 2008

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects development tasks of Kayin State

Constitution written for ensuring perpetual existence of the nation, rights of the entire national people and interests of the people

All are to guard against destructive acts, take part in respective roles with Union Spirit holding belief

emergence of State constitution is the duty of all citizens

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April— Prime Minister General Thein Sein accompanied by Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of Govern-

ment Office and departmental heads left Yangon for Hpa-an of Kayin State by air yesterday.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Mon State

Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min, Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin of Hpa-an station and offi-

cials.

The Prime Minister met chairmen of District, Township and Ward PDCs, departmental staff, members of social organizations and townselders at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an.

Secretary of Kayin State PDC U Maung Maung reported on the forming of Kayin State, land utilization, complete cultivation of rice, new kind of crops and perennial crops, self-sufficiency in rice and oil, breeding of fish, prawn and chicken, river water pumping projects, roads, transportation, education and health sectors, village-to-village roads, bridges, drinking water supply in rural areas and regional development work, GDP and services in 2007-2008.

Chairman of Kayin

State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min gave a supplementary report on regional development tasks, extended agricultural and livestock breeding tasks, education and health care services, information, transportation and rural development tasks.

Next, the Prime Minister said that they were there to inspect development tasks of Kayin state, fulfill the requirements and inform what the local people and departmental officials should know.

Sharing border with Thailand, Kayin state is indispensable for bilateral trade, economy and relations of the two nations. But, there is still armed insurgency in some remote areas of Kayin state. The insurgent groups are still committing destruc-

tive and sabotage acts.

Peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order are a must for regional development. Hence, all are to join hands and cooperate with the State to bring peace and tranquility to the whole Kayin state.

In addition, blessed with rich natural resources, Kayin state has prospects for economic development by extensively carrying out agricultural and breeding tasks.

All the people in Kayin state are to redouble their efforts for more economic development through agricultural and livestock breeding tasks, for it is blessed with arable land, creeks and rivers.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets local authorities, departmental staff, members of social organizations and townselders in Kawkaik.—MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 6 April, 2008

Reinforce traffic rules for road safety

Road safety measures deserve a serious attention for safety of those using roads and those commuting daily in busy cities.

In 2007 alone, Myanmar saw more than 900 road accidents, leaving more than 100 dead and more than 1500 injured. The majority of the traffic accidents have been due to reckless driving. Road accident also results from negligence of road users and mechanical problems.

The traffic accidents that took place in the early 2008 included head-on collisions, and some that stemmed from high speed, killing the drivers.

Although authorities concerned are constantly reinforcing traffic rules, making surprise-check tours and giving educative talks for reducing the rate of traffic accidents, road accident is also common owing to reckless driving of some drivers. In particular, the accident of private cars is on the increase.

Therefore, it is required to give talks to ensure that every driver abides by traffic rules and the people use zebra-crossing and overpasses in crossing the roads. Similarly, it is needed to take measures constantly to deal with bumper-to-bumper traffic and congested traffic and to enable road users to walk with convenience on pavements of both sides of the roads.

Each citizen will enjoy road safety if authorities concerned supervise traffic rules enforcement measures systematically, and drivers, road users and slow-moving vehicles respect the traffic rules.



In memory of late parents Bo Ye Hla-Daw Thauang Yi and late husband U Maung Lwin, Dr Daw Chit Chit Hla and daughter Ma Su Lwin Moe family of Mayangon Township, Yangon donate K 220,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through joint secretary U Maung Maung Gyi of the Home recently.—H

People's Desire

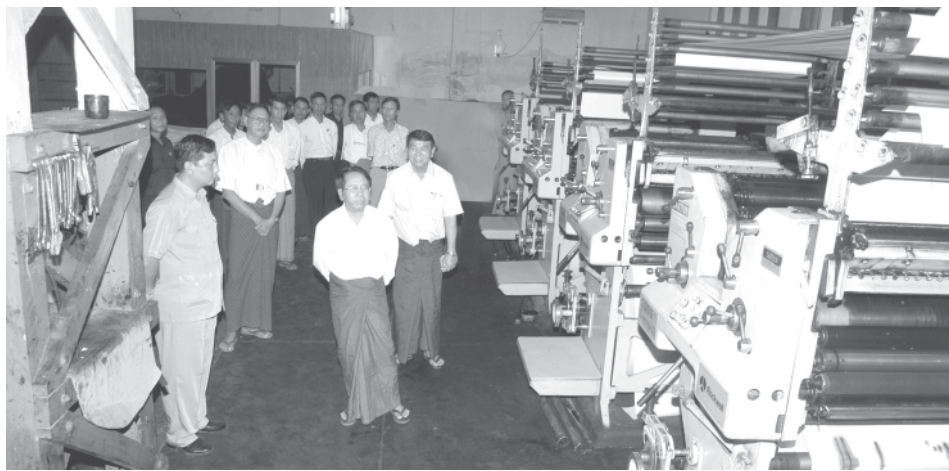
- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements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

Information Minister inspects Sub-printing House in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected the Sub-printing House (Mandalay) and the Upper Myanmar Government Press House in Mandalay yesterday.

On arrival at the Sub-printing House (Mandalay), the minister heard a report presented by Deputy Chief Editor U Nyunt Zaw on functions of the sub-printing house.

After that, the minister viewed round the facility and spoke of the need to print newspapers of high quality as early as possible, to minimize loss and wastage in utilization of raw materials and to take fire preventive measures.



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Sub-printing house (Mandalay).—MNA

This morning, the minister went to the Upper Myanmar Government Press House of Printing and Publishing Enterprise in Mandalay and heard reports presented by Managing Director of PPE U Aung Nyein and factory Manager U Toe Kyaw on work being

carried out and printing of school text books.

After inspecting warehouses and functions of the press house, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan stressed the need for officials to systematically put machinery and finished materials, to

supervise the use of machinery for durability, to minimize loss and wastage in utilization of raw materials, to print error-free publications and to take security and fire preventive measures.

MNA

M&M Gano Trading honours outstanding staff



Chief Executive Officer Mr Lew Soon Kiak of Gano Excel extends greetings at fifth anniversary honouring ceremony of M&M Gano Trading Co Ltd-Gano Excel Myanmar.—MNA

YANGON, 5 April – M&M Gano Trading Co Ltd-Gano Excel Myanmar held the 5th ceremony to honour outstanding staff at Chatrium Hotel Yangon this evening.

Chief Executive Officer Mr Lew Soon Kiak gave an introductory speech and Gano Excel Myanmar Managing Director Daw Nwe Nwe Soe made an opening address.

They presented certificates of honour and prizes to 154 ruby directors, 46 pearl directors, 11 emerald directors, 12 diamond directors, three silver diamond directors, two gold diamond directors and one crown diamond director.

The lucky draws and entertainment programmes for those present were held.

Later, Managing Director Daw Nwe Nwe Soe spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Educative talks on legal affairs given

YANGON, 5 April – The Working Group for Legal Studies and Consultation of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held the educative talks on legal affairs at the meeting hall of Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise, here, this morning. Leader Daw Ni Ni Win of the working group made an inaugural speech.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Leader Professor Dr Daw Than Nwe and party, wives of departmental heads of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, staffs and guests.

During the meeting, Deputy Head of Yangon Division Law Office Daw Khin Mar Mar gave talks on marriage, divorce and inheritance and Professor Dr Daw Than Nwe, on Anti-Human Trafficking Law. Later, they answered the queries raised by those present.—MNA

Most Americans believe country on wrong track

WASHINGTON, 5 April — Most Americans believe their country is on the wrong track, the highest level since the early 1990s, according to a poll published on Friday.

The poll conducted by the CBS News and the *New York Times* found that 81 percent of the 1,368 Americans surveyed said they believed "things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track," compared to 69 percent in 2007 and 35 percent in early 2002.

A majority of nearly every demographic and political group, including Democrats and Republicans, men and women, residents of cities and rural areas, college graduates and those who only finished high school, believed the country is

moving forward in the wrong direction, the poll showed.

It also found about 78 percent said that the country is even worse than five years ago when the Iraq war started.

The poll came as the

country is suffering from crises on housing, economy and international image. Forty percent of respondents in the poll said that regulators should be mostly to blame, while 28 percent named government leaders.—*Internet*



Artorn Chandavimol, President of the Thai Scouts Promotion Foundation, fires an arrow containing tamarine seeds before leading scouts in a tree growing project, in a forest in Sang Khlaburi in Kanchanaburi Province, western Thailand on 4 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Israel has no intention on attacking Syria

JERUSALEM, 5 April — Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Haim Ramon said Thursday morning that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria.

Ramon said in Israel Radio that the anxiety of the last few days is "surprising and baseless", rejecting earlier reports that Israeli security forces have been put on high alert along the northern border.

The Israeli Government is always looking to negotiate with Syria, Ramon added.

Tensions on Israeli-Syria borders mounted on Wednesday following senior Israeli defence officials confirmation of Arab ahead of a possible conflict with Israeli.

Major General Amos Gilad, head of Israeli Defence Ministry's Diplomatic-Security Bureau, also denied on Thursday that the northern front is facing a new eruption of war despite the reports of Syrian reserves being called up.

MNA/Xinhua

US military death toll rises to 4,012

WASHINGTON, 4 April —As of Thursday, 3 April, 2008, at least 4,012 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. The figure includes eight military civilians. At least 3,272 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is one more than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Thursday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.—*Internet*

Demonstrators chant slogans as they march in Basra, 550 km (340 miles) south of Baghdad on 4 April, 2008. About 1,500 supporters of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr took the streets of Basra protesting the arrest of Mehdi army fighters by the Iraqi military and the US military occupation in Iraq.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

At least three injured in two blasts in S-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 5 April — At least three persons were injured Thursday in two blasts in southwestern Pakistan, according to local TV reports.

A gas pipeline was damaged in the second blast, police officers were quoted as saying.

Police officer Esa Khan said that unknown persons had attached a bomb to a motorcycle parked near a railway crossing at the town of Dera Allah Yar, to target Bangal Khan, a tribal elder, but he escaped unhurt in the

attack. The police officer said that all the injured persons were passers-by.

Meanwhile, locals said that the blast injured seven persons, two of them in critical condition.

They said that a motorcade of the activists of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was scheduled to pass through the area. The motorcade was heading to the southern Sindh Province to attend a ceremony to commemorate the party's founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Damaged and destroyed small airplanes are seen at the North Little Rock, Ark, airport on 4 April, 2008, after a tornado struck late Thursday.—INTERNET



LONDON, 5 April — British Airways said on Thursday the chaos surrounding the opening of its new terminal at London Heathrow had so far cost it around 16 million

pounds (31.8 million US dollars).

The high-profile opening of Terminal 5 last month turned into an unmitigated public relations disaster, with hundreds of flights cancelled and tens of thousands of bags going missing.

"The impact was borne by the shorthaul schedule, where there were 300 cancelled flights, equating to 0.2 percentage points of capacity," BA said in a statement.

"The financial impact of these events is estimated to be around 16 million pounds, reflecting all costs associated with the disruption and lost revenue opportunities," it added.

MNA/Reuters

US airstrike kills family members in southern Iraq

BASRA (Iraq), 4 April — A US airstrike hit a house in Iraq’s second largest city of Basra, killing three people and wounding six others, all were from one family, witnesses said on Thursday.

“A US aircraft pounded a house in the al-Qiblah neighbourhood in western the city of Basra last night,” residents of the neighbourhood told

Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack killed three civilians, including a woman, and wounded six others, all from one family, they said. A US military statement confirmed that its aircraft carried out a strike targeted “enemy forces”. “In support of the Iraqi security forces, coalition forces directed aerial fire against enemy

forces April 2 near al-Qiblah, killing one enemy and destroying a house,” the statement said.

Early on Wednesday morning, Iraqi Army forces cordoned off the Qiblah neighbourhood and clashes with militants after the troops searched houses in an attempt to detain suspected gunmen, witnesses said. Last week, fierce clashes between Shiite militias and US-backed Iraqi security forces raged Iraq’s southern oil hub city of Basra, as Iraqi security forces launched a massive offensive, dubbed “Operation Cavalry Assault”, aimed at restoring order in the city where instability was spreading. — *Xinhua*



This file photo shows a cake maker squeezing cream on a cake at a bakery. A New Zealand school is to ban children sharing birthday cake as the government introduces new guidelines to restrict unhealthy food being sold to pupils, a report said on Friday.—INTERNET

68 fall ill after meals in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 April — Sixty-eight pupils from two schools in the Serang Pram Utara District sought treatment at two hospitals in Butterworth, northern Penang state in separate food poisoning incidents on Thursday, local media



Iraqis grieve by the rubble of a destroyed house in Basra, Iraq, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on 3 April, 2008. A US air strike destroyed a house in the southern city of Basra, killing a militant, the US military said Thursday. Iraqi witnesses and hospital officials said at least three civilians were among the dead.—INTERNET

Seven killed in suicide truck bombing in Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 4 April — A suicide truck bomb attack struck an Iraqi Army checkpoint near the

city of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh Province, killing seven people and wounding 12 others, a military source in the province said on Thursday.

The attack took place at about 9:00 p.m. (1800 GMT) on Wednesday,

when the attacker rammed his explosive-laden truck at the checkpoint outside the village of Addaya, some 40 kilometres west of Mosul, Brigadier Khalid Abdul-Sattar, spokesman of the Iraqi Army operations office, told — *Xinhua*.

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Suspected bird flu case found in S Korea

SEOUL, 14 April — The South Korean Government said Wednesday that a suspected case of bird flu has been discovered at a chicken farm in southwestern province of Jeollabukdo.

According to the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, preliminary tests conducted on chickens that died at the farm in Gimje

City, 260 kilometres southwest of Seoul, turned up positive for the bird flu virus. About 150,000 chickens on the farm started dying at the farm in March and the owner reported it to the government on Monday, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency said. The ministry will conduct further tests to determine if the virus is a low or high virulent strain of bird flu. — *Xinhua*

Small airplane crashes in Surinam, 19 die

CARACAS, 5 April — A two-motor aircraft crashed Thursday in south Surinam, killing all 19 passengers and crew members aboard.

The Antonov AN28 Russian-made aircraft belonged to local Blue Wing airline, according to news reaching here from

Surinam’s capital of Paramaribo.

Surinam’s Air Traffic Director Kenneth Dors said the causes of the accident are not known yet. The aircraft had lifted off from Paramaribo and crashed in a jungle region close to its destiny south of Surinam, a country of

northeast South America.

According to a Press release, some 20 people were travelling aboard the aircraft, including two pilots. Aeronautic Security Manager Brian Desouza said local inhabitants have reached the site of the crash.

Xinhua



Villagers stand near the remains of a twin-engine, 18-seater Antonov plane run by local airline Blue Wing Airlines which crashed, killing all nineteen people aboard, in remote gold-mining area Antino in Surinam in this picture taken on 3 April, 2008. —INTERNET

Taser gun claims another life in United States

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — An inmate in an Orange County jail has died a week after being stunned with Taser guns, it was reported on Thursday.

Jason Jesus Gomez, 35, lost consciousness March 25 after police shocked him with Taser electric stun weapons during an altercation in his cell at the Intake Release Centre in Santa Ana near Los Angeles, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The district attorney’s

office is investigating the events that led to Gomez’s death, which came amid increasing scrutiny of the department’s oversight of the county jails.

Orange County Interim Sheriff Jack Anderson instructed Michael Gennaco, head of the Office of Independent Review for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, to monitor the investigation of Gomez’s death. Last week, the interim sheriff asked the

district attorney’s office to conduct a criminal investigation into the incident. On Wednesday evening, the department released the first public details on the confrontation that resulted in Gomez’s death.

Jail staff entered Gomez’s cell after he injured a nurse’s arm and exhibited “erratic behavior”, the statement said. A struggle ensued in which Tasers were used.

Xinhua



A general view shows the 'Plaza de las Tres Culturas', or the plaza of the three cultures, in the central Tlatelolco area of Mexico City on 27 Dec, 2007. Using written symbols such as hearts, arrows and hands, the ancient Aztecs maintained an arithmetic system that was far more complex than previously understood, scientists said on Thursday.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Cuba, Russia strengthen economic ties

HAVANA, 5 April — Russian Transportation Minister Igor Levitins four-day visit to Cuba, which concluded Thursday, has helped strengthen economic ties between the two countries, Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque said.

Levitin arrived here to attend the 8th session of the Inter-governmental Cuba-Russia Commission

For Economic-Trade and Scientific-Technical Collaboration, which closed Wednesday.

The meeting was successful, Levitin said. After meeting with Levitin, Perez Roque said that prospects of increased trade, aerial communication and tourism cooperation with Russia look promising.

“Relations between

Cuba and Russia are in a new phase, characterized by a permanent and ample political dialogue,” said Perez Roque.

He added that “there is a reciprocal and common interest to promote bilateral ties at a time when we have found the way to develop economic ties, and new opportunities of mutual interest arise”.

MNA/Xinhua

Dollar falls as US non-farm payrolls drops in March

NEW YORK, 4 April — The dollar fell against most major currencies on Friday as US employers cut payrolls for a third consecutive month in March.

The Labor Department said on Friday non-farm employment fell by 80,000 jobs in March, the biggest decline in five years. It was the first time the US economy shed jobs for three straight months since a five-month string in 2003.

The national unemployment rate climbed to 5.1 percent, the highest since September 2005. A combined 152,000 jobs were lost in January and February, compared

with a previous estimate of 85,000, the Labor department reported.

Worries about a possible US recession have raised prospects that the Federal Reserve may cut interest rates even further.

The euro bought 1.5723 dollars in late New York trading compared with 1.5679 dollars it bought late Thursday. The British pound fell to 1.9916 dollars from 1.9952 dollars.

The dollar fell to 1.0080 Swiss francs from 1.0097 Swiss francs, and fell to 102.04 Japanese yen from 102.35 Japanese yen. It rose to 1.0086 Canadian dollars from 1.0038 Canadian dollars.

Internet

Australia's 10 richest lose 5b dollars in three months

CANBERRA, 5 April — Australia's ten richest businesspeople have lost a total of 5 billion Australian dollars (4.5 billion U.S. dollars) over the past three months due to the global financial upheaval, New Limited reported on Saturday.

Australia's richest man, Andrew Forrest, has recorded the biggest losses, with share in Fortescue Metals falling by 1.01 billion dollars (0.91 billion US dollars), but his fortune is still valued at more than 7 billion dollars (6.3 billion US dollars), the report said.

The nation's second richest man, James Packer, performed slightly better, with his paper losses for the first quarter of 2008 estimated to be about 600 million dollars (540 million US dollars).

Retail giant Gerry Harvey's shareholdings have dropped in value by 900 million dollars (810 million US dollars).

Meanwhile, Olympic legend Herb Elliot faces losing half of his 40-million dollar fortune, the highest profile casualty of the collapse of stockbroker Opes Prime.

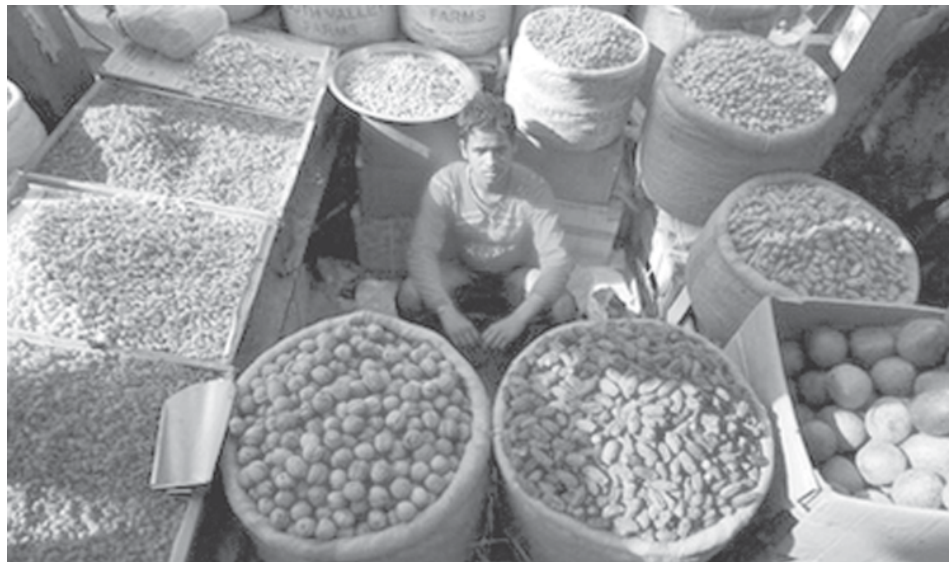
The Weekend Australian reported on Saturday that Elliot has lost control of half of his 5.5 million shares in Fortescue Metals Group worth about 20 million dollars (18 million US dollars).

Internet



An Intel worker in Cavite, south of Manila. The world's top chip maker is considering pulling out of the Philippines, the economic daily BusinessWorld said on Friday, citing a company statement.—INTERNET

An Indian shopkeeper waits for customers amidst his stacks of dried-fruit at a market in New Delhi on 2 April, 2008. Indian inflation accelerated to a more than three-year high of seven percent, data showed, fanning expectations of higher interest rates that could slow economic growth further.—INTERNET



BAE to cut nearly 600 jobs in Britain

LONDON, 5 April — Britain's BAE Systems Plc said on Thursday it hoped to use voluntary redundancies to cut nearly 600 jobs from two sites in England. Europe's largest defence contractor is cutting 134 jobs from its Woodford site near Manchester, northwest

England and 450 jobs from Brough, near Hull on the east coast.

Brough is the main manufacturing centre for BAE's Hawk trainer jet, and it had been hoping for an order from the United Arab Emirates which failed to materialize.

“The reasons for the

redundancy programme ... are changes to business requirements and workload and BAE Systems ... will obviously be working closely with employees and their representatives to mitigate the loss of these posts,” BAE said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Passengers stranded as US airline files for bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — Thousands of passengers stranded at airports across the United States Thursday as low-cost carrier ATA Airlines suddenly cancelled all flights and filed for

bankruptcy. Many of these unlucky passengers learned of the airline's collapse at ticket counters, where advisories were posted in the handful of major cities served by the Indianapolis-based airline.

At Los Angeles International Airport, dozens of ATA passengers arrived early in the morning at the terminal only to find empty check-in counters and apologetic flyers. —MNA/Xinhua

Putin says NATO enlargement “direct threat”

BUCHAREST, 5 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin Friday repeated his warning to NATO over its further enlargement of the 26-nation military alliance, saying it was a "direct threat".

"The appearance of a powerful military bloc along our borders would be taken in Russia as a direct threat to the security of my country," Putin told a Press

conference after meeting NATO leaders who concluded a three-day summit here Friday.

Moscow has long been concerned about an expanding NATO which has moved toward its borders. The military alliance, originally set up in 1949 to counter the military power of a similar bloc led by the former Soviet Union, has grown

up from 12 members to the current 26 members through five enlargements.

Though NATO countries maintained that the expansion was not directed at Russia, Moscow remained unconvinced. "Statements that it is not directed at us cannot be taken as sufficient. Security cannot be based on promises," Putin said.—MNA/Xinhua



Kids watching TV at home. Young children who lead sedentary lifestyles are up to six times likelier to be at serious risk of heart disease later in life than active peers, according to a study released on Friday.—INTERNET



Irish Prime Minister Ahern to step down on 6 May

DUBLIN, 4 April — Bertie Ahern will step down as Ireland’s Prime Minister on 6 May, bowing to pressure for him to go early following a series of embarrassing appearances in the witness stand at an anti-corruption tribunal.

Ahern, flanked by his cabinet colleagues, announced his intention to resign to reporters in Dublin.

One of Europe’s longest serving heads of government after almost 11 years in office, Ahern had previously said this would be his last term in office but that he did not intend to go until it ended in 2012.

“Having reflected on the need to ensure that the work of my ministerial colleagues is not distracted by incessant publicity about the tribunal, I have decided of my own volition to bring forward that date,” Ahern said.

MNA/Reuters

Afghan girls look on as musicians play folk music and people dance during a wedding party in a refugee camp on the outskirts of Islamabad, Pakistan, on 3 April, 2008.

INTERNET

Paramedics take part in an emergency drill in front of the Ernst Happel Stadium, in preparation for the EURO 2008 soccer championships, in Vienna, Austria on 4 April, 2008.

INTERNET

S Africa bus accidents kills 17

JOHANNESBURG, 4 April — Seventeen people were killed when a bus burst a tyre and overturned in South Africa on the way to Mozambique’s capital Maputo, Sapa news agency reported on Thursday.

A police spokesman said a further 24 people were injured in the crash near the Mozambican border. About 10,000 die on South Africa's roads each year, making the country one of the world's most dangerous places to drive.

According to road safety group Arrive Alive, an estimated 4 in 100,000 people die in road accidents across Europe, compared to 25 per 100,000 in South Africa. — MNA/Reuters



Air Force says US bomber catches fire after landing in Qatar, crew safe

DUBAI, 4 April— US B-1 bomber caught fire after landing at a an air base in Qatar Friday but the crew evacuated and was safe, the US air force said in a statement.

The air force said the incident occurred at 9:10 pm local time as the plane was taxiing at al-Udeid air base, 35 kilometres (22 miles) south of the capital Doha.

“A US Air Force B-1 while taxing after landing at al Udeid was involved in a ground incident and caught fire at 2110 local time,” the statement said.

“The crew evacuated the aircraft and is safe. The fire was contained,” it said, adding that the accident was under investigation.

A US defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity earlier said the bomber hit something while taxiing,

causing an explosion. Four crew members were aboard.—Internet



This US Air Force image obtained in 2001 shows an Air Force B-1B Lancer bomber. An explosion occurred on board a US bomber after it landed in the Gulf state of Qatar on Friday, a defence official said, but no-one was hurt in the blast.—INTERNET

Zimbabwe police arrest two foreign journalists

HARARE, 4 April — Zimbabwean police on Thursday arrested two

foreign journalists at a Harare hotel for covering the country’s election

without accreditation, police said.

“I can confirm that we have arrested two reporters at York Lodge for practising without accreditation,” said police spokesman Wayne Bvudzijena, who added the police would identify them on Friday.

Witnesses said that armed riot police and what appeared to be state intelligence agents were at the hotel. An employee at the hotel told Reuters by telephone: “There are just ordinary policemen, some in plain clothes. Some of them are armed.”

MNA/Reuters

The noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

In order to carefully preserve the noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) at home and abroad, the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar always attaches great importance to the implementation of this noble task.

In this regard, we all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and greatly honoured to learn that the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued the Notification No 1/2008 regarding presenting religious titles on the 60th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2008.

According to the Notification No 1/2008 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, the respective religious titles were presented as follows to internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, Buddhist nuns and laypersons who earnestly carried out the noble task for promotion, purification, perpetuation and propagation of Buddha Sasana at home and abroad –

Religious titles for distinctively fulfilling two Dhuras (duties), Gantha Dhura (duty of learning and teaching the Pitaka Scriptures) and Vipassana Dhura (duty of engaging in meditation)

- (a) Abhidhajamaharatthaguru title to three eminent Mahathera (Chief monks)
- (b) Aggamahapandita title to twenty-eight

eminent Mahatheras including four Mahatheras from abroad (two from Sri Lanka, one from Thailand and one from Lao PDR)

- (c) Mahadhammakahatika Bahujanahitadhara title to one eminent Mahathera
- (d) Dhadhammakahatika Bahujanahitadhara title to seven eminent monks
- (e) Aggamahaganthavacakapandita title to forty-five eminent monks including one from abroad (Sri Lanka)
- (f) Mahaganthavacakpandita title to fifty-two eminent monks and three eminent nuns
- (g) Ganthavcakpandita title to fifty-nine eminent monks and seven eminent nuns

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism

Both internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, nuns and laypersons who distinctively carried out the noble task of the excellent missionary works on Buddhism at home and abroad were presented these religious titles as follows,

- (a) Abhidhaja-aggamahasaddhammajotika title to six eminent Mahatheras (Chief Monks)
- (b) Aggamahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to thirty-four eminent monks including four eminent monks from abroad (two from the Republic of India and two from Thailand)

- (c) Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to thirty eminent monks, four eminent nuns including one eminent nun from abroad (Thailand) and two laypersons including one laypersons from abroad (the Republic of India)
- (d) Saddhammajotikadhaja title to thirty-nine eminent monks, two eminent nuns and one layperson
- (e) Aggamahakammathanacariya title to nine eminent monks
- (f) Mahakammathanacariya title to fourteen eminent monks
- (g) Kammathanacariya title to eight eminent monks

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for laypersons)

The outstanding laypersons who generously donated and provided the four requisites for the noble task of excellent works on Buddhism at home and abroad were presented the respective religious titles as follows. It is learnt that these religious titles have been presented since 1991.

For male

- (a) Aggamahasirisudhammamaniyotadhara title to six laypersons
- (b) Sirisudhammamaniyotadhara title to three laypersons
- (c) Sihasudhammamaniyotadhara title to three laypersons
- (d) Sudhammamaniyotadhara title to twenty-four laypersons

For female

- (a) Aggamahasirisudhamma Theingi title to six laypersons
- (b) Sirisudhamma Theingi to five laypersons
- (c) Sihasudhamma Theingi title to two laypersons
- (d) Sudhamma Theingi title to thirty-one laypersons

It was further learnt that the great grand religious-titles presentation ceremony was held at Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Kaba Aye Hillock in Yangon, Myanmar, on 21st march 2008. The religious-title recipients at home and from abroad attended this very auspicious ceremony to receive their respective religious titles which were presented by the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar for the year of 2008.

It was further learnt that the great grand religious-titles presentation ceremony was held at Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Kaba Aye Hillock in Yangon, Myanmar, on 21st march 2008. The religious-title recipients at home and from abroad attended this very auspicious ceremony to receive their respective religious titles which were presented by the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar for the year of 2008.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein
inspects development tasks...

(from page 1)

Today, the world has become in need of more food and industrial raw crops and so, agricultural and breeding tasks are to be extended from manageable scale to commercial scale. The government on its part has established necessary infrastructures for the improvement of socio-economic standard of the people. Therefore, the people should effectively utilize these better foundations.

The State has fulfilled the requirements for the improvement of education and health standards of the people. So service personnel from related fields are to strive for the people to become educated and healthy citizens. Since the unavoidable assumption of State duties when the nation was about to break up due to unrest and anarchic acts in 1988, the Tatmadaw has given priority to peace and stability of the State and community peace and tranquility. It has exerted efforts to built economic and social infrastructures of the nation that lacked development in all sectors.

Thanks to the government's goodwill attitude toward the people, the State has significantly developed in all aspects. The government, despite difficulties and



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents gifts to faculty members of Technological University (Hpa-an) and University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an).—MNA

Legal experts took time to complete the draft constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the delegates to

of the people. This is why all are to guard against any destructive acts and to take part in their respective roles



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents cash for extended building of Kawkareik Township People's Hospital (100-bed) and gifts to service personnel through an official.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein converses with local authorities and residents in Hpa-an.

MNA

hardships, has been in the process of democratic transition and as a result, the constitution that is instrumental for the emergence of a new nation will be approved very soon by holding the national referendum.

the National Convention. The draft constitution has been written not for an individual, a party or an organization but for ensuring perpetual existence of the nation, rights of all the national people and interests

with Union Spirit holding the belief that the emergence of the State constitution is the duty of all citizens.

Next, the Prime Minister presented gifts to the members of Kayin State USDA, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Hpa-an Township War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade. He then greeted those present.

The Prime Minister and party visited Hpa-an People's Hospital (200-bed) at 11.30 pm. In meeting with the staff, he said the duty of giving public health care of medical staff is not only giving treatment but also disease prevention and diagnosis. As the State has placed emphasis on giving health care services down to rural areas, medical staff are to go down to those areas to give both public health care and health educative talks.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister made cash donations and presented gifts to those present. Next, he comforted the patients and presented medicines and nutritious food.

On arrival at Hpa-an University, the Prime Minister greeted Rector Dr Daw Mya Mya Aye, professors and faculty members.

In the knowledge age, while making self study constantly, teachers are to sharpen the abilities of the students, inculcate in them a good habit of abiding by the school and ward disciplines since young

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein comforts patients at People's Hospital (200-bed) in Hpa-an.—MNA

Prime Minister inspects regional ...

(from page 16)

After regaining Independence, the country had lagged behind in development due to the armed insurgencies that based on racism, dogmatism and regionalism. Prevailing of peace and stability and prevalence of law and order will reflect development of the State and living standard of the people. Hence, the government has been making efforts for prevailing peace and stability of the nation. As a result, the prevailing peace and stability can be witnessed in the entire nation.

He continued to say that the government performed regional development tasks in Mon State where the prevalence of law and order and community peace and tranquility had been stored. Therefore, local people can carry out the tasks for socio-economic development as much as possible, enjoying fruits of security and peace.

Next, the Prime Minister urged the local people to make concerted efforts for local food sufficiency, economic growth, turning out of educated persons and uplifting of health and fitness for the people by using assistance provided by the State.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister said that arrangements are being made for holding the national referendum in coming May. The referendum is not for one person, the Tatmadaw, one party and one association, but for seeking unanimous approval for a constitution that is instrumental for building a new democratic nation that people long for. Therefore, all the entire people are to actively participate in the tasks for emergence of a constitution, upholding the concept that the emergence of the State constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar.

Next, the Prime Minister presented gifts to social



Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially chats with townselders and members of social organizations in Mawlamyine.—MNA

organizations of Mon State and cordially greeted them.

At the briefing hall of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Project, the Prime Minister gave instructions that officials are to inspect and maintain the bridge for its durability as it contributes to development of the local people and the nation.

Five up and down trains along the routes of Mawlamyine-Yangon, Mawlamyine-Nay Pyi Taw and Ye-Yangon, about 1,500 pony carts and trishaws and about 800 various sizes of vehicles including trucks with loads from 10 tons to 20

tons pass through Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) daily.

After inspecting Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the Prime Minister viewed the Strand Road of Mawlamyine.

At Mawlamyine General Hospital (350-bed), the Prime Minister the medical superintendent and staff to make field trips to the grassroots level for providing public health care services to the rural people. Next, the Prime Minister presented cash to the funds of the hospital to Medical Superintendent Dr Nyan Zaw.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party visited Mawlamyine Railway Station.

On arrival at Mawlamyine University, the Prime Minister met with Rector U Thein Tun and faculty members. After hearing the reports on academic and management matters presented by officials, the Prime Minister urged them to try to turn out the students to become the educated and reliable human resources of the State equipped with good morality and Union Spirit and to abide by laws, rules and regulations of the State.

At Technological University (Mawlamyine), the Prime Minister met Principal of Technology University (Mawlamyine) Dr Yan Aung and Principal of University of Computer Studies Dr Nay Chi Le Le Thein together with faculty members. In his address, the Prime Minister gave instructions that the faculty members are to turn out the students for producing educated human resources while pursuing the developing sciences.

Next, the Prime Minister presented gifts to the principals and faculty members.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party left Mawlamyine by Tatmadaw helicopter and arrived at Yangon in the afternoon.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein donates cash to Mawlamyine General Hospital (350-bed).—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects development tasks...

(from page 8)

and the law, and equip them with the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union.

The Prime Minister presented gifts to the rector and faculty members of Hpa-an University.

In his inspection tour of Hpa-an Technological University, the Prime Minister instructed Principal Dr Tun Kyaw Myint of Hpa-an Technological University, Principal Dr Daw Thin Thin Htaik of Hpa-an University of Computer Studies and the faculty members to work hard to constantly produce human resources who are capable of taking over the tasks for national development. The Prime Minister presented gifts to the principals and faculty members.

The Prime Minister left Hpa-an and arrived at Kawkaik in the afternoon.

He held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, members of social organizations and townselders at town hall of Kawkaik Township. Kawkaik District PDC Chairman U Khin Win reported on facts about the region, utilization of lands, progress of cultivation of projected crops, monsoon and summer paddy, other crops and crops for industrial raw materials for 2007-2008, and education, health, information and communication sectors.

In response, the Prime Minister attended to the needs, calling on them to improve the living conditions of local people by utilizing the natural blessings in respective regions. He also urged educational staff to

not only educate but also nurture the students so that they will become ones who abide by school and ward disciplines and the law, and imbue them with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit with good moral characters. He said that they have to do their bit in the processes for transition to democracy.

The Prime Minister presented gifts to social organizations and cordially greeted the attendees.

On arrival at Kawkaik People's Hospital (300-bed), the Prime Minister instructed Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Maung and staff to give health education talks and take preventive measures on a wider scale in rural areas.

The Prime Minister presented cash assistance to the medical facility and gift to the health staff. Prime Minister General Thein Sein left Kawkaik and stopped over the night in Mawlamyine, Mon State.—MNA

Minister meets service personnel of Sagaing District, Township



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets responsible persons of departments and social organizations in Sagaing District and Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Secretariat member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with departmental personnel and members of social organizations in Sagaing District yesterday.

A total of 700 District and Township level departmental staff and personnel of social organizations were present on the occasion.

In his speech, the minister said that the development of a region or a nation depends on harmonious effort of three main pillars namely the government, the public and civil servants. The adoption of correct policies and plans guided by the government calls

for active participation of the people. It is the duty of civil servants to organize the entire national people to take part in implementing the government's policies with correct concepts. Service personnel are the main pillar to link the government and the people.

The current developments are indeed the result of harmonious efforts made by the government, the people and the civil servants in unison.

People are now enjoying fruits of development in various sectors such as agriculture, transportation, health and education.

Today, all the people favour three basic necessities — peace and

stability, development of an individual from household to the whole nation and earning their living under the protection of law. Knowing this, the government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a democratic one aspired by the entire people. As a result, the people have witnessed more progress than ever before. Overall, the people need to be aware of the ploys of internal and external destructionists and neo-colonialists who are trying to jeopardize peace and stability and development of the nation resorting to various means.

Later, the minister cordially greeted those present.

MNA

Ba Gyan and brothers Co Ltd holds dinner and prize-giving ceremony

YANGON, 5 April — A dinner to mark the 10th anniversary of distributing GP Pistons

and RBI Rubber Products Parts and the 2nd anniversary of distributing Golden

Flower GP Lubricants was held in conjunction with the prize-giving ceremony at Oriental House in Mandalay on 27 March and Attayan Hotel in Mawlamyine on 1 April, with the extended greetings by Managing Director of Ba Gyan and brothers Co Ltd U Aye Win (a) U Ba Gyan.

The ceremonies held in Mandalay and Mawlamyine, Managing Director Mr Hussein Hindhi of German Mirror Co Ltd from UAE and Managing Director Mr Mohammed Hussein Hindi of German Mirror Lubricants and Grease gave accounts of



A get-together and prize-presentation ceremony to mark importation of GP piston and RBI rubber product parts and Golden Power GP lubricant and engine oil in progress in Mandalay.—MNA

Transport Minister receives guests of Maxicon Container Line

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received Capt P S Rath (CEO) and party of Maxicon Container Line at the meeting hall of Myanmar Five Star Line in Yangon on 31 March.

They discussed matters on running of container vessels between Myanmar and India.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Capt P S Rath (CEO) and party of Maxicon Container Line.—MNA



Ladies' Heart Women Fashion Product introduced

YANGON, 5 April — Pyinsaman Laban Co Ltd introduced Ladies' Heart Women Fashion Products at the Mindon Hall of Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Road, here, on 2 April.

Director of Pyinsaman Laban Co Ltd U Nay Htet Zaw Win explained the purpose of introduction. On behalf of



Director U Nay Htet Zaw Win of Pyinsaman Laban Co Ltd explains new Ladies' Heart fashion product.—MNA

the journalists, U Win Nyein of Alintan Journal extended greetings. Managing Director of the company Daw Mya Pwint Phyu explained the marketing system of Ladies' Heart Fashion.

Wares of Ladies' Heart Fashion are imported from Hong Kong. The company will give door-to-door services for the fashion wares free of charge. The Ladies' Heart wares are available through phone contact. Ladies' Heart wares include from the small size to the XXL one in addition to wares of casual, smart

casual, evening dress, shawl and coat for the women.

An order is to be offered in advance to buy the Special Limited Edition clothes of Ladies' Heart and new uniform ones month ahead.

Ladies' Heart clothes are available at Capital Hyper Mark, Room No 206, Blazon in Yangon and Mandalay, Sein Gay Har Super Centre and Dagon Centre. Customers may dial 01-395252, 395159-Ext 403, 553138-Ext-206, 553139-Ext-206 and 095012987.

MNA

Images of the Day



An Indian laboratory technician tests blood samples for HIV. A Canadian man was sentenced on Friday to 18 years in prison for knowingly exposing women to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.—INTERNET



People set up a picnic next to a mobile sauna that is mounted on a four-wheel drive truck in Barnaul in the Altai region on 5 April, 2008. A local craftsman installed the Russian sauna, or banya, in the cabin of a four wheel-drive personnel carrier and said the rugged army vehicle can master almost any terrain.—INTERNET



The Russian Space Shuttle Buran is loaded on a pontoon-boat at a terminal in the port of Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 5 April, 2008. The Buran will navigate the River Rhine in a tug formation to it's destination, The Technik Museum Speyer in Germany. At left is one of the shuttle's wings.—INTERNET



Members of the 'Kitezh' military history club, dressed in medieval costumes, play mini soccer in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 5 April, 2008. The players were dressed in costumes resembling soldiers of medieval Russia and Western Europe, pitching the soccer games as a battle between East and West.—INTERNET



Indian jewellery designer Garima Maheshwari poses with jewellery collection which was used in the Bollywood movie 'Jodhaa Akbar', in the eastern India city of Kolkata on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET



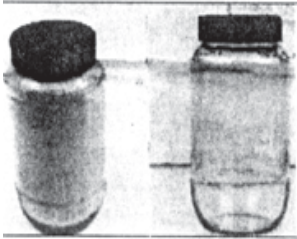
Joe Allison, anine-year-old boy from Totnes, Devon smashed a world record by hanging 16 pieces of spoons on his face , media reported on Saturday.

XINHUA

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PNA hopes Russia-host conf to save M-E peace process

RAMALLAH, 4 April — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Wednesday considered an upcoming Middle East peace conference, hosted by Russia, as a way to save peace talks with Israel.

“We support Russia’s role in the peace process by organizing Moscow conference which was agreed upon” at the US-hosted peace conference of Annapolis last November, said Nabil Shaath, the PNA

representative in the conference’s preparation.

Shaath explained that Annapolis conference, in which the PNA and Israel resumed their peace talks, “did not achieve anything so far and the negotiations made no progress and Israel did not fulfil any of its obligations”.

He also agreed that Moscow summit was a sequel to Annapolis conference.

The initial date for the meeting is the middle of June, according to Shaath, who said that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will visit Moscow between 17 and 19 April to hold talks with President Vladimir Putin before the latter meets US President George Bush.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexican police seize 80 kilos of cocaine, cash

MEXICO CITY, 4 April — Mexican police seized at least 80 kilos of cocaine and 480,000 US dollars cash on Wednesday in Reynosa, in Tamaulipas State, on Mexico’s northern border with the United States, the country’s National Defence Ministry (Sedena) said.

Sedena said in a communique that the money and illicit drugs were found in an abandoned truck.

The vehicle was abandoned three km from a checkpoint where routine inspections were being carried out near the border with the US.

The Gulf Cartel, one of Mexico’s biggest drug trafficking gangs, operates in this region, and has recently been struck heavily by Mexican authorities.

MNA/Xinhua

85 cholera affected patients found in Vietnam

HANOI, 4 April — Cholera has spread to 10 Vietnamese northern localities, affecting 85 people since 5 March, local newspaper *Saigon Liberation* reported Thursday.

Hanoi capital has been the hardest-hit locality with 44 cases, the paper quoted Nguyen Huy Nga, head of the Preventive Medicine Department under the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, as saying.

Other affected localities include Hai Phong City, and the provinces of Ha Tay, Bac Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Phu Tho, Bac Giang, Nam Dinh, Ha Nam and Vinh Phuc. Most of the patients ate unsafe food such as raw shrimp paste, seafood salad and puddings. The country is now facing high risk of the disease’s spread to central and southern regions in the approaching summer, said Deputy Minister of Health Trinh Quan Huan. — MNA/Xinhua

Israel says removed 50 West Bank dirt roadblocks

JERUSALEM, 5 April — Israel said on Thursday it had removed 50 roadblocks in the occupied West Bank as part of promises made to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

A senior Palestinian security source said he could confirm the removal of at least three of the dirt-mound obstacles, near the cities of Ramallah, Jericho and Tulkarm. He said Palestinians expected more would be dismantled soon.

A senior US official said “it is hard to assess”

the impact of scrapping the roadblocks, let alone confirm all were taken down, because Israel had yet to give Washington or the Palestinians a map showing where they were located. On Sunday, after talks Rice held with Israeli and Palestinian leaders on bolstering peace negotiations, Israel said it would remove 50 roadblocks, ease travel for Palestinian businessmen and increase the number of entry permits for Palestinian workers.

MNA/Reuters

Jamaican with bomb parts in luggage charged in court

ORLANDO (Florida), 4 April — A Jamaican detained at a Florida Airport after bomb parts were found in his luggage said he intended to blow up a pipe bomb on a tree stump in Jamaica and to show his friends how to make explosives like those used in Iraq, US investigators said on Wednesday.

Kevin Brown, 32, who was arrested at Orlando International Airport on Tuesday, made an initial court appearance, standing silently in a white jail jumpsuit and leg shackles before US Magistrate Karla Spaulding.

Spaulding scheduled a bond hearing for Thursday at which Assistant US Attorney Vincent Citro said he will provide some details on the case.

In an affidavit, FBI agent Kelly Boaz said two galvanized pipes, end caps with holes drilled in them, two prescription bottles containing air gun pellets, a model rocket igniter, batteries, lighters, lighter fluid and two bottles of nitromethane were found in Brown’s luggage.

Investigators also found bomb-making instructions in his backpack. Nitromethane is a liquid commonly used as a solvent and cleaning agent, and can be used to manufacture explosives.

MNA/Reuters



Turkish apnea diver Devrim Cenk Ulusoy is escorted by police as he runs with the Olympic torch in Istanbul, Turkey, on 3 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Cuba to open TV channel with foreign content

HAVANA, 5 April — Cuba’s state-run television broadcaster will start a 24-hour channel with mostly foreign content in a move to provide Cuban audiences with more variety. The Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, ICRT, made the announcement on Wednesday at a conference of the Cuban writers and artists guild, where intellectuals have criticized the poor television programming in the socialist state.

The opening up to additional foreign content on television comes at a time when Cuba’s new President Raul Castro, who succeed his ailing brother Fidel Castro, has begun lifting what he has called “excessive prohibitions” in the country.

ICRT vice president Luis Acosta said the new channel will have content from a dozen countries, but he did not give details.

Cuba has five channels that are all run by the state. One of them, Cubavision

International, can only be seen over cable television. It broadcasts official Cuban news and culture to the world 24 hours a day.

Cuban cable TV distributed in Havana and at beach resort hotels includes three Chinese channels. Cuban television frequently broadcasts American films. Many are pirated, even though their sale to Cuba is not banned by US trade sanctions in place since 1962 against the Communist government.

MNA/Reuters

Study shows Botox may move from face to brain

WASHINGTON, 4 April — Researchers have found that botulinum neurotoxin type A, which is more commonly known as Botox, the popular wrinkle eraser, can migrate into the central nervous system after it's injected into the skin, according to latest issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience* available on Friday.

The discovery by Italian researchers has raised new concerns about how the toxin works and what unintended consequences it may have.

The botulinum toxin cuts off communication between nerve cells by destroying a protein named SNAP-25. The disruption paralyzes the muscles controlled by the

nerve cells.

These paralyzing properties allow doctors to treat some diseases such as strabismus (or "crossed"



This undated file photo shows a person is receiving botulinum toxin injection.—INTERNET

eyes). Plastic surgeons also use small doses to paralyze facial muscles, thereby making lines and wrinkles less visible. A team of Italian researchers were

evaluating another potential use of the toxin: treating epilepsy. But when studying its effects on epileptic mice, they noticed evidence

of the toxin on both sides of the animals' brains, even though they had injected it on only one side.

Using doses analogous to those prescribed in

humans, researchers then injected botulinum into the eyes, whisker pads, and brains of normal mice and rats. They traced the toxin's wreckage — the cleaved SNAP-25 — to see where and how it moved through the nervous system. In the case of botulinum type A, the kind used in Botox, they found that wreckage along nerves originating from the injection site and in neighboring nerves. The toxin even reached part of the brain stem.

"A significant portion of the toxin is active where it's not intended to be," said Matteo Caleo, the lead researcher. The experiment is the first to show that botulinum migrates.

Xinhua



An elephant family roam the park to enjoy the sunny day in the Beijing world Park which attracts so many tourists in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 April, 2008.—XINHUA

India short of 600,000 doctors

NEW DELHI, 5 April — India is short of 600,000 doctors, one million nurses and 200,000 dental surgeons, accounting for nearly 5 per cent of the country's medical workforce due to Indian doctors' migration to

developed countries like Britain and the United States.

India, on the other hand, has a dismal patient-doctor ratio. For every 10,000 Indians, there is one doctor, according to a report

issued by the Planning Commission of the Indian Government Thursday.

India also faces an acute shortage of dental surgeons. At present, the number of dental surgeons registered in India stands at just over 73,000 against the requirement of 300,000.—MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan gets Swedish early warning aircraft

ISLAMABAD, 5 April — The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Thursday got first of the five airborne early warning and control system aircraft it ordered from the Swedish Saab, according to a PAF statement.

The first Saab 2000

Erieye aircraft for the PAF was rolled out in Sweden and prepared for flight trials by the year end after being equipped with a full suite of mission systems, including radars and avionics.

"The Pakistan Air Force achieved a major landmark

in its Airborne Early Warning Programme with the roll out of its first Saab 2000 AEW & C in a simple but impressive ceremony at the Saab facility in Sweden," the PAF statement said.

The aircraft will be put through trials before being delivered to the PAF in 2009, according to officials.

The PAF plans to have a fleet of five Saab 2000 Erieye aircraft. Pakistan signed a contract with Saab for the AWACS in June 2006 and the aircraft have been specially developed to the PAF's requirements.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese man eaten by zoo tiger

BEIJING, 5 April — A tiger devoured a mentally ill man who entered the animal's zoo cage in northeast China, local media reported on Friday.

Zhang Yachun disappeared from his home in Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang Province, on March 24 and five days later police told his parents he had been eaten by a tiger in a nearby zoo, the China news service reported, citing a *Harbin* newspaper.

"Only two legs and his skull were left," the report said.—MNA/Reuters

Malaysia on track to become biotech hub

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 April — Malaysia's aspiration to become a biotechnology hub by 2020 with a combined approved investment worth 20 billion ringgit (6.27 billion US dollars) is on track, local Press reported on Friday. Malaysia to date has already

rolled out 51 BioNexus-status companies with a combined approved investment value of one billion ringgit (313.48 million US dollars), Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Maximus Ongkili said after making a working visit to the Malaysian Biotech-

nology Corp Sdn Bhd's headquarters here on Thursday.

"All incentives are in place and we will go all out to produce 70 BioNexus-status companies by year-end," the *New Straits Times* (NST) quoted Ongkili as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam imports bird flu vaccines from China

HANOI, 5 April — Vietnam has recently imported from China 60 million doses of vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 to prevent outbreaks among poultry, local newspaper *Industry and Trade* on Friday.

Early this week, the World Veterinary Association offered Vietnam 20 million doses of vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N2 among fowls. Bird flu is now

hitting the two southern provinces of Soc Trang and Ca Mau and central Quang Nam Province, according to the Department of Animal Health under the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam have so far killed and led to the forced culling of dozens of millions of fowls in the country.

Regarding human trials for bird flu vaccines, 10

volunteers, who are vaccine researchers, received the second dosage of the trial vaccine on Thursday. On March 6, they received the first dosage, said local newspaper *Pioneer* on Friday.

To date, Vietnam has confirmed a total of 106 human cases of bird flu infections, including 52 fatalities, since the disease started to hit the country in December 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



Members of the Mexico's Experimental Dance's Company of Lola Lince perform during the opening ceremony of the 3rd Scenic Art International Festival of Panama, in Panama City, on 3 April, 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Nikolay Davydenko of Russia returns a shot against Andy Roddick of US during their semifinal match at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 4 April, 2008.—INTERNET

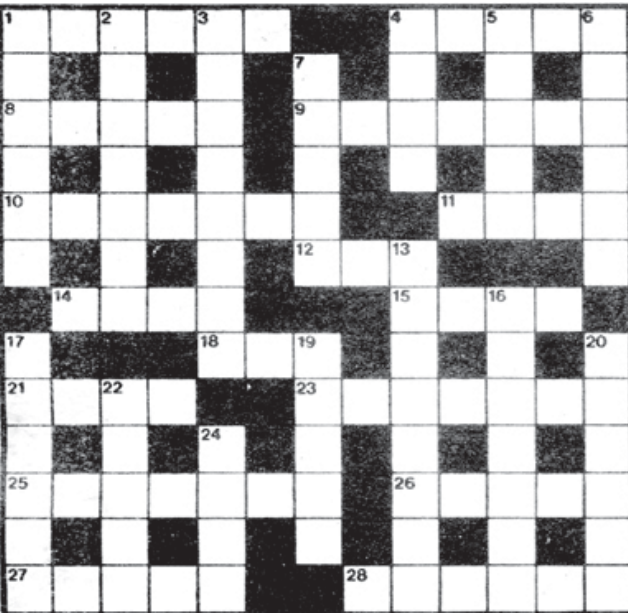
Liverpool to appeal against Mascherano ban

LONDON, 5 April — Liverpool said on Friday they would appeal against an additional two-match ban imposed on midfielder Javier Mascherano by the English FA.

The 23-year-old Argentine midfielder, who was banned from Liverpool's Premier League match against Everton last Sunday, was given the additional two-match suspension and fined 15,000 pounds (29,800 Us dollars) by the FA on Thursday following his sending off against Manchester United on 23 March.

Liverpool said on its website (www.liverpoolfc.tv) they would appeal against the decision, even though they risked having the punishment increased. —MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1 Dash of water

4 Suspect

8 Zodiac sign

9 General pardon

10 Impish trouble-maker

11 Stupefy

12 Apex

14 Man, for example

15 Tax

18 Groove

21 Whirlpool

23 Rumour

25 Monotonous

26 Merger

27 Covered with fine particles

28 Choose
- DOWN
- 1 Ferocious

2 Bounty

3 Part of the body

4 Contradict

5 Overturn

6 Irksome

7 Swoon

13 Enjoyment

16 A trace

17 Technique

19 Herb

20 Young swan

22 French author

24 Priam's city

Nadal to meet Davydenko in Miami final

MIAMI (Florida), 5 April — World number two Rafael Nadal will face fourth-seeded Russian Nikolay Davydenko in the Sony Ericsson Open final after semi-final victories on Friday.

The Spaniard, who reeled off the last 12 points of the match, beat Czech Tomas Berdych 7-6, 6-2 in windy conditions, while Davydenko beat Andy Roddick of the United States by the same scoreline.

Roddick looked a shade of the player who beat world number one Roger Federer on Thursday and gave Davydenko his first victory in their six career matches.

Nadal holds a 2-0 record against Davydenko in their career meetings.

"For me (it's) going to be very important because to play a final in a Masters Series event, up against the big players, I know I need to play at my best level," Nadal told reporters. —MNA/Reuters

Bourdy leads French assault at Portuguese Open

CASCAIS (Portugal), 5 April — Frenchman Gregory Bourdy, who claimed his maiden victory at the Mallorca Classic in October, added a six-under-par 65 on Friday to his course record 63 to take the outright lead at the Portuguese Open.

Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano was two strokes off the pace on 12-under 130 after firing a second-round 66.

Last week's Andalucia Open champion Thomas Levet (64), bidding for back-to-back wins, further boosted the French challenge on 131 while Briton Simon Khan (67) was fourth on 132.

Another Frenchman, former Portuguese Open champion Jean-Francois Remesy, tied the course record set by first-round leaders Bourdy and holder Pablo Martin of Spain to share fifth place on 133 with British trio Steve Webster, Simon Dyson and Oliver Fisher. —MNA/Reuters



Gonzalo Fernandez Castano of Spain makes an approach on the 17th hole during the second round of the Estoril Portuguese Open golf tournament at the Oitavos Dunes golf course in Cascais, near Lisbon, on 4 April, 2008.—INTERNET

African Confederation Cup holders CS Sfaxien advance

JOHANNESBURG, 5 April — Holders CS Sfaxien squeezed into the African Confederation Cup third round with a 2-1 aggregate victory after a 1-1 draw in the second leg at JSM Bejaia in Bejaia, Algeria on Friday.

Sfaxien fell behind when Braham Chaouch scored after three minutes but Younis Sellimi levelled midway through the first half and that proved to be enough to advance. Compatriots Esperance also went through after a 2-0 home win over Moroccan Second Division side Rachad Bernoussi.

MNA/Reuters



Necaxa's midfielder Gerardo Galindo (R) battles for the ball with Atlas' striker Juan Carlos Medina during their Mexican league championship soccer match at the Jalisco stadium in Guadalajara City, Mexico on 4 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Wagner holds clubhouse lead at Houston Open

HOUSTON, 5 April — Johnson Wagner shot a three-under-par 69 to grab a three-stroke clubhouse lead in the second round of the weather-delayed Houston Open on Friday.

A storm front forced a one hour, 45-minute suspension of play in the afternoon and as a result 36 players were unable to complete their second round at Redstone Golf Club.

Wagner, co-leader overnight with holder Adam Scott of Australia after both fired course record 63s on Thursday, offset two bogeys with five birdies to finish 12-under on 132.

MNA/Reuters



Shark's Beast Mtawarira is tackled by Hurricane's Jeremy Thrush in their Super 14 rugby match at Westpac Stadium, Wellington, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Ochoa takes charge with Young at hot Mission Hills

RANCHO MIRAGE (California), 5 April — World number one Lorena Ochoa moved ominously into a tie for the lead in the opening women's major of the year, firing a one-under-par 71 in the Kraft Nabisco Championship second round on Friday.

A stroke off the pace overnight, Ochoa took control at the tournament's midway point with American Heather Young, who carded a five-birdie 70 at Mission Hills Country Club.

The pair ended a hot day in the California desert at five-under 139, one ahead of Swede Maria Hjorth and South Korea's Kim Mi-hyun who returned matching 70s.

MNA/Reuters

S Korean digital goods exports expands 12.8% in March

SEOUL, 5 April — South Korean exports of digital goods expanded 12.8 percent in March from the same period last year, said a government report on Thursday.

According to the report by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, South Korean companies exported a total of 11.33 billion US dollars worth of digital goods last month. It is the first time that South

Korea has posted double-digit export growth in the digital sector since November 2007.

Meanwhile, imports of digital goods stood at 6.51 billion US dollars during the same month, up 13 per cent from a year earlier. The trade surplus in the sector was 4.82 billion US dollars, the ministry added.

The ministry attributed the expansion to the sharp increase in overseas sales of mobile handsets as South Korea's exports of mobile handsets jumped 50.4 per cent in March from a year earlier to 2.04 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia's RTM to open special programme for bloggers

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 April — The Malaysian Information Ministry will open a special segment on Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM)'s prime news programme every Sunday to allow bloggers to voice their comment on various issues, Malaysia's national news agency Bernama reported on Thursday.

The 20-minute programme segment, which will start on 20 April this year, would be opened to provide an avenue for bloggers to voice their opinions, Bernama quoted Information Minister Ahmad Shabery Cheek as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

No happy returns as NZ school bans birthday cake

WELLINGTON, 5 April — Children in a New Zealand school have been banned from bringing cakes to share on their birthdays, due to new government healthy eating guidelines.

Pupils at Oteha Valley primary school north of Auckland have been told they are allowed to celebrate their birthdays, but the cake must stay at home, the New Zealand Herald newspaper reported.

The Ministry of Education has been on a fat-busting crusade, introducing sweeping guidelines against unhealthy food in New Zealand schools.

Oteha Valley has a large number of pupils born in September and October, and there can be up to four cakes a week in some classes, principal Megan Bowden told the Herald.

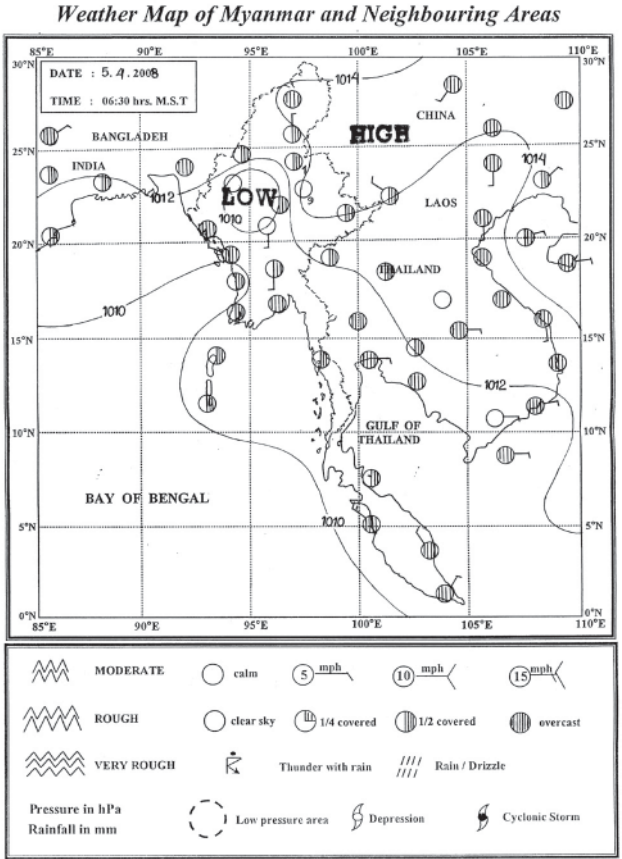
It had gotten to the point where parents thought they were required to provide a cake for their child's birthday.

The school has advised parents in a newsletter to stop sending cakes to school from the next term.

MNA/Reuters



An obese child is weighed at a clinic in Tianjin, China. Young children who lead sedentary lifestyles are up to six times likelier to be at serious risk of heart disease later in life than active peers.—INTERNET



WEATHER

Saturday, 5 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperature in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (41°C), Nay Pyi Taw and Nyaung U (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogoke (0.74) inch, Lashio (0.35) inch, Hsipaw (0.20) inch and Mindat (0.07) inch.

Maximum temperature on 4-4-2008 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 5-4-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 5-4-2008 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 4-4-2008 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 5-4-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (1.69) inches at Mingaladon, (1.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.83) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 4-4-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 6-4-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of day temperatures in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 6-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-4-2008: Partly cloudy.



Sunday, 6 April
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. ခါသကြိမ်အဆို/အကများ
- 8:00 am
5. 840 living on water
- 8:30 am
6. International news

- 11:00 am
1. Martial song
- 11:25 am
2. ခါသကြိမ်အဆို/အကများ
- 11:30 am
3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:40 am
4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 12:05 pm
5. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် “ယောက်ဖတော်ခါနီးရင် စဉ်းစားဖို့လိုတယ်” (ရန်အောင်လွင်မိုး၊ ရာဇာနေဝင်း၊ ထွန်းအိန္ဒြာဗို၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မျိုးမင်း (ရင်တွင်းဖြစ်))
- 2:15 pm
6. Musical programme
- 2:30 pm
7. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 2:45 pm
8. International news
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song

- 4:10 pm
2. Musical programme
- 4:20 pm
3. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား ရိုးရာအက
- 4:30 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (သချာအထူးပြု) (သချာ)
- 4:45 pm
5. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန် ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ
- 4:55 pm
6. ခါသကြိမ်အဆို/အကများ
- 5:00 pm
7. ဆိုကြမယ်ပျော်ကြမယ်
- 6:00 pm
8. Evening news
- 6:15 pm
9. Weather report
- 6:30 pm
10. “ညောင်မယ်မျိုး” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ငုတ်ပျောကြော်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ရွှန်းဝင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

- 6:45 pm
11. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 7:00 pm
12. “ကောင်းခြင်းဝေဖြာ” (ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ရန်ပိုင်စိုး၊ ပိုင်စောရဲထွန်း၊ မင်းသူ၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်၊ ခင်မိုးမိုး၊ အေးချစ်စန်းဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကိုအောင်မိုး-ပဲရစ်)
- 7:15 pm
13. အောင်ရင်၏တေးများ
- 7:30 pm
14. ခါသကြိမ်အဆို/အကများ
- 7:45 pm
15. ထေရဝါဒဗုဒ္ဓသာသနာတော် ထွန်းကားပြန့်ပွားရေး ဆရာဒကာလက်ထံတို့ညီစွာ ကြိုးပမ်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု
- 8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. Musical programme
20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မာယာထောင်ချောက်” (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
21. The next day's programme

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

Prime Minister inspects regional development tasks in Mon State
Referendum is not for one person, Tatmadaw, one party, one association, but for seeking unanimous approval for constitution that is instrumental for building new democratic nation that people desire
Entire people to actively participate in tasks for emergence of constitution



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April — Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, ministers, deputy ministers, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min, senior military officers, the director-general of the Government Office, departmental heads and officials, met local authorities, departmental personnel, social organization members and local people at the Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine this morning.

Secretary of Mon State PDC U Khin Maung Tun reported on salient points of the state, progress of agriculture, education and health sectors and requirements of the state.

The commander gave the supplementary reports on productivity and services of the state for 2007-08, efforts made for progress of education and health sectors, maintenance of bridges and water supply task.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said that he came to Kayin and Mon States to inspect development tasks for providing necessary assistance to these regions.

(See page 9)

