Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XV, Number 357 | 2nd Waxing of Hnaung Tagu 1369 ME | Monday, 7 April, 2008

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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing welcome back Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San on their return from India

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April – Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at 4.30 pm today welcomed back 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 at Nay Pyi Taw Airport where they arrived back by special flight after paying a good-will visit to the Republic of India at the invitation of Vice-President Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari of the Republic of India.

Together with Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, SPDC members Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence and Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and their wives, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, senior military officers, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and departmental heads, Charge d'Affaires *ai* of the Indian Embassy Mr Manoj Kumar Bharti and officials also welcomed back Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister

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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing welcome back Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

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Keep watchful eye on any suspicious destructive acts

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 7 April, 2008

Strive in unison for national development

Blessed with forests, arable land, creeks and rivers, Kayin State is engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding on commercial scale. Making better use of rich natural resources, local people of Kayin State are to try their utmost for successful realization of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

In its efforts to improve the socio-economic life of the people the government is fulfilling such infrastructures as transport, education, health and agriculture. As those infrastructures contribute not only to the progress of a region but also to that of the entire nation, all the national brethren are to exert relentless efforts for regional development.

The government is taking all possible steps for the development of the education and health sectors. In this regard, both urban and rural regions are being equitably provided with public health care services. In the meantime, the respective health staff are striving for imparting knowledge on health to rural people.

Today is Knowledge Age. Teachers are nurturing and training students not only to be outstanding in their studies but also to be equipped with patriotism capable of serving the interest of the State and the people.

At present, efforts are being made for approval of the draft constitution through a national referendum for the emergence of a new democratic nation aspired by the people.

Peace and stability and prevalence of law and order are indispensable for regional development. Therefore, the government and the people are to strive together to bring about peace and stability.

At a time when efforts are being made in all the sectors for national development the government and the people are to work in unison, and only then, will political, economic and social sectors of the State develop harmoniously.

***Dr Win Myint and Daw Khine Khine Oo and family of Yadanamon 6th Street in Hline Township donate K220,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through U Aung Than, Patron of the Executive Committee of the Home.*— 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**

Treatment given to patients with eye complaints

NAY PYI TAW, 6—April—Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived at Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital (300-bed) on 4 April.

They viewed free medical treatment being provided by the Ministry of Health and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation to patients with eye complaints of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District under the arrangements of the USDA.

***Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo view giving medical treatment to an eye patient at Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital (300-bed).*— MNA**

The commander, the minister and party looked into eye surgical operations being given by the specialists on the patients at the hospital. The deputy minister and officials conducted them round the hospital.

The commander and the CEC member attended to the needs.

The free medical treatment to patients with eye complaints from Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District continues today.

MNA

Thakayta Township USDA donates blood to Central Women's Hospital (Yangon)

YANGON, 6 April — Members of Thakayta Township Union Solidarity and Development Association of Yangon East District collectively donated blood at Central Women Hospital (Yangon) this morning.

Medical Superintendent Dr U Aung Win of the hospital extended greetings to the blood donors. Next, Joint-Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Tha Win explained the purpose of the blood donations and Pathologist Dr Daw Khin Shwe Mar explained the salient points of bloody donations.

Afterwards, the medical superintendent presented certificates of houour to blood donors. Next, officials viewed the blood donations.

Altogether 47 members of Thakayta Township USDA donated blood to the hospital.

MNA

Pakistani delegation arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 6 April—A Pakistani delegation led by Lt-Gen Hamid Rab Nawaz, Inspector General Training and Evaluation of Pakistan Armed Forces, arrived here by flight this morning.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Mya Win, Military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials concerned. — *MNA*

Cricket Coach back from Pakistan

YANGON, 6 April — Executive of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Ye Myo Tun arrived back here yesterday after attending the ACC Level-2 Coaching Course held in Lahore, Pakistan.

The coaching course organized by Asia Cricket Council (ACC) was opened in Pakistan from 26 to 31 March.

He was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President of MCF Chairman of Organizing the Competitions and Discipline Enforcement Committee U Kyaw Kyaw and members.

MNA

***Myanmar Cricket Federation Vice-President U Kyaw Kyaw welcomes back Cricket Coach at the airport.*— MCF**

Chavez seeks Russian submarines

MOSCOW, 5 April — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez may sign a contract for four Russian diesel submarines on a visit to Moscow next month, the *Kommersant* daily reported on Friday, citing unidentified officials.

Chavez has been invited to the May inauguration of Dmitry Medvedev as Russian President.

If he takes up the invitation, the Venezuelan leader may use the opportunity to sign a contract to buy four Kilo-class diesel submarines agreed at the start of this year, the paper said.

Kommersant said the submarine contract, worth about one billion US dollars, had been set to be signed in February.

Venezuela is seeking a loan of about 800 million US dollars from a Russian bank, probably from Russia's official debt agent, Vneshekonom-bank, for some of the arms purchases, the paper said, adding that the loan had yet to be agreed.

The paper said Venezuela also wants to buy 12 *Ilyushin Il-76* military transport aircraft while Russia is interested in selling Caracas its new generation *Sukhoi Su-35* fighters, which are still being tested.

Venezuela is Russia's fourth biggest arms buyer after China, India and Algeria.

MNA/Reuters

A hot air balloon flies near the famous water fountain (Jet d'eau) over the Geneva lake, during the 4th Montgolfiades Geneva Hot Air Balloon festival in Geneva, Switzerland, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

British police seize 350 kilos of heroin

LONDON, 6 April — British police have made one of the country's biggest ever heroin seizures with a street value estimated at 15 to 20 million pounds (30 US dollars to 40 million US dollars) and arrested three men, the Metropolitan Police said on Saturday.

The specialist crime central task force seized 350 kilos (770 pounds) of heroin from two cars at a motorway service station in Kent, southeast England, on Thursday. Two men living in London, Harminder Chana and Atif Khan, and Dutchman Patrick Kuster have been charged with conspiracy to supply heroin, police said.

Chana and Kuster were arrested in the motorway service station, while Khan was arrested in Ilford in east London.

"This is one of the largest ever seizures of heroin by police in the UK," said detective chief inspector Peter Beyer.

MNA/Reuters

About 30,000 trade union members from all over Europe demonstrate for fair pay, an increase of the purchasing power for workers and a fair deal for public sector workers, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Argentina celebrates Olympic torch relay

BUENOS AIRES, 6 April — Argentine Buenos Aires government's sports undersecretary Francisco Irarrazabal said on Friday that the Olympic Fire's passing through Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, "will be the biggest event" of this sort "in the forthcoming two to three years".

Irarrazabal said "we started organizing it seven months ago and everything is ready" for Friday April 11 when the Olympic Flame relay will be carried out with Argentine athletes.

Irarrazabal said in a speech at Buenos Aires' Legislature, where the Olympic Flame was presented, that the event will be transmitted through television to some "1.300 billion people worldwide". "It is a historic opportunity to unite peoples, nations and ethnic groups," said Irarrazabal.

MNA/Xinhua

A boy talks to his mother, both internally displaced persons (IDPs), as she has her lunch outside their temporary holding ground in Nakuru, 160 km (100 miles) from the Kenyan capital Nairobi on 3 April, 2008.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Death toll rises to 20 in Diyala suicide bombing

BAGHDAD, 6 April — The toll from the suicide bomb attack on mourners in Diyala Province on Friday rose to 20 killed and 30 people injured, a provincial police source said.

"Our latest reports said that 20 people were killed and 30 others wounded," Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Salim told *Xinhua* by telephone.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive vest among a crowd of people at a cemetery in the town of al-Sadiyah, northeast of the capital city of Baquba, Salim said.

The mourners were burying a policeman killed a day before in Diyala violence, he said.

Earlier, a police source put the toll at 10 killed and 30 wounded.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border in the east, is a hot bed for sectarian violence and a major stronghold for al-Qaeda network. *—MNA/Xinhua*

NATO soldier dies of wounds in Afghanistan

KABUL, 6 April — A soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) who sustained injuries in an explosion in south Afghanistan died, a Press release of the alliance issued on Saturday said.

"An ISAF soldier died Friday from injuries sustained in an explosion during a patrol in southern Afghanistan," the Press release added.

However, it did not disclose the date and the exact place of the incident where he faced the fatality.

In the Press release the multinational force also did not disclose the nationality of the soldiers, adding ISAF does not release the casualty's nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

Conflicts and Taleban-related violence have left more than 300 people dead, including Afghan and NATO troops as well as civilians, since the beginning of this year in Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua

US lawmakers invest $196m in Pentagon contractors

WASHINGTON, 5 April — The US lawmakers have invested a total of 195.5 million US dollars in the defence department's contract companies and gained much profit from the Iraq war, said a new study released on Thursday.

The Centre for Responsive Politics, a Washington-based nonpartisan group, conducted the study by reviewing lawmakers' financial statements in 2006.

From 2004 to 2006, a total of 151 Congress members invested 78.7 million dollars to 195.5 million dollars in companies that have contracts with the Pentagon, and brought them profit of between 15. 8 million dollars and 62 million dollars, according to the study.

It also found more congressional Republicans than Democrats have stocks in the defence companies, but Democrats' military- related investment in 2006 is higher than Republicans, which is 3. 7 million dollars to 577,500 dollars.

The Centre for Responsive Politics voiced the concerns that lawmakers' investment in the defense department contractors could constitute a conflict of interest as they take part in the decision-making on Iraq war budgets.

MNA/Xinhua

Palestinian children take part in a demonstration calling for an end to the siege on the Gaza Strip on the occasion of Children's Day, in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Canadian man sentenced to 18 years for spreading HIV

OTTAWA, 5 April — A Canadian man was sentenced to 18 years' in prison Friday after being convicted of spreading HIV through sexual relations with 15 women.

Carl Leone, 32, pleaded guilty last year to 15 counts of aggravated sexual assault after failing to inform his sexual partners of his HIV status. Five of the 15 women are now HIV-positive, *Canadian Press* reported.

Justice Joseph Quinn from the Ontario Superior Court in Windsor originally handed him 15 consecutive sentences totaling 49 years, but later reduced to 18 years. Leone's age, his lack of a criminal record and the fact he pleaded guilty to spare his victims the trauma of testifying were factors in his sentence, said Quinn.

But he pointed out that Leone committed a "despicable and selfish crime for five to 10 minutes of sexual gratification".

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistani paramilitary soldiers on patrol in Karachi. Three paramilitary soldiers and five outlaws were killed on Saturday in a gunfight in Pakistan's restive southwestern province of Baluchistan, officials said.—INTERNET

Pirates seize French yacht, 30 crew off Somalia

PARIS, 5 April 5— Pirates have taken over a French luxury yacht with 30 crew on board off the coast of Somalia, the boat's owner said on Friday.

Luxury sailboat the *Ponant* was heading from the Seychelles to the Mediterranean Sea when pirates stormed it in the Gulf of Aden, which lies between Somalia and Yemen, said a spokesman for the boat's owner, the Compagnie des Iles du Ponant. There were no customers on board, a spokesman for the tour company said, adding that most of the crew are French.

"We have been informed that pirates are on board. We are in close contact with the Foreign Ministry," said Guillaume Foucault, of the Compagnie des Iles du Ponant, which is part of the CMA-CGM shipping group.

France Info radio said the French Navy had lost contact with the yacht, adding that surveillance aircraft had been diverted to the area and a ship from the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom was heading towards the site of the attack. The French Foreign Ministry said in a statement it was verifying reports of the attack.

MNA/Reuters

Pirates who seized a French luxury cruise yacht, seen here, and its 30-member crew in the Gulf of Aden were headed for their Indian Ocean lair off Puntland, northeast Somalia, local officials have said.—INTERNET

Congo finds radioactive minerals in ore export

KINSHASA, 5 April — Security forces in Democratic Republic of Congo's Katanga Province have intercepted a truck transporting radioactive mineral ore bound for export, local authorities said on Friday.

The truck, carrying 30 tonnes of copper and cobalt ore for Chinese-run firm Hua-Shin Mining, was stopped at an inspection checkpoint near Kolwezi, one of Congo's biggest copper belt mining towns, on Wednesday.

Kolwezi mayor Christian Busindi said only part of the load was believed to exceed the acceptable levels of radioactivity and those minerals would be deposited at a secure site to be determined by state copper miner, Gecamines.

"We have detained some of the company's representatives ... Now we need to find out where (the minerals) came from," he told *Reuters*.

Ore mined in Katanga, home to one of the world's richest belts of copper and cobalt, habitually contains trace amounts of uranium, which Congo is currently banned from exporting.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide attack kills four, injures eight in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 5 April — A suicide attacker Friday morning exploded himself near a police vehicle, killing three policemen and one civilian, injuring eight others, in southern Afghan province of Helmand, said a police official.

Mohammad Hussein Andiwal, the provincial police chief, told *Xinhua* that it occurred at around 9 a.m. (0430 GMT) when the suicide attacker came by foot to the police vehicle parking outside a local market in Lashkar gah District, the capital of Helmand Province, then exploded himself. — *MNA/Xinhua*

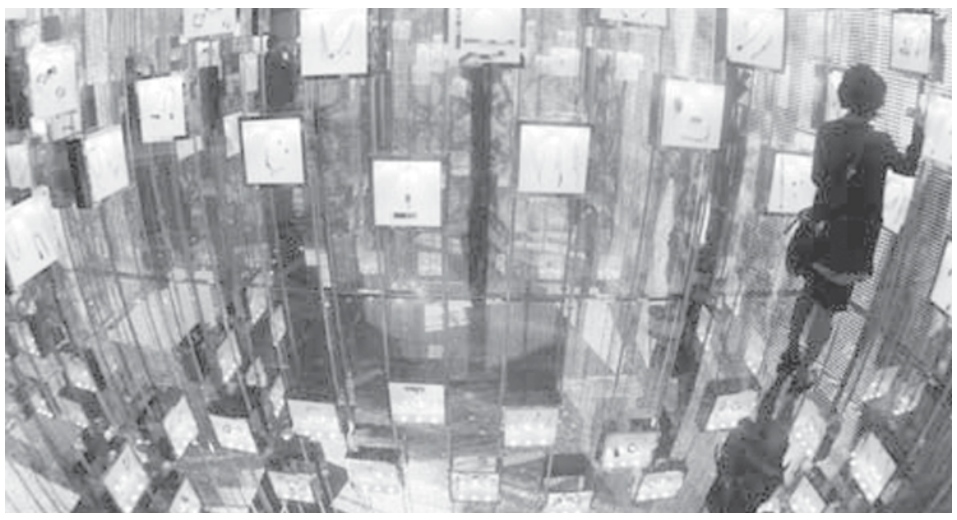
Bus crash kills 15 in eastern India

KOLKATA (India), 5 April — At least 15 people were killed on Friday when a bus in which they were travelling veered off the road and plunged into a canal in eastern India, police said.

The driver of the bus, carrying 50 passengers, lost control while overtaking another vehicle in a busy street of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal State, police and witnesses said.

Rescuers took dozens of injured people to a hospital as divers looked for more bodies in the water.

"The toll may rise later in the evening as we are looking for more bodies," Raj Kanojia, a senior police official, said in Kolkata. — *MNA/Reuters*



A man walks past a Dior showcase during at the Baselworld in Basel on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Egypt mulling ways to curb price hikes

SHARM EL- SHEIKH, 6 April — The Egyptian Government is seeking coordinating efforts to curb price hikes that hit the country greatly in recent months, Egyptian Minister of Investment Mahmoud Mohieddin said on Saturday at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

On the sidelines of the Second Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED II) opened here earlier in the day, Mohieddin said one of the options is to stop turning agricultural crops into organic fuel that will only result in further rise of food prices.

On Wednesday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak issued a decree to exempt import Customs on basic commodities to increase supply in the local market to stabilize prices.

During the AMED II, Mohieddin said he will post participants on investment opportunities and measures to encourage investments in a bid to lure more investments for the development of Egypt.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, India bilateral trade rise to $16.7b in 2007

SINGAPORE, 5 April — A total trade figure between Singapore and India rose to 23 billion Singapore dollars (about 16. 7 billion US dollars) last year, making Singapore as India's 11th biggest trading partner, a Singapore minister said on Friday.

Singapore is also the fourth largest cumulative investor in India, with 2.26 billion US dollars worth of foreign direct investments (FDI) in India, Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore's Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, said at the opening ceremony of the Incredible India Business Conference here. He said that 60 per cent of this FDI was invested after 2005, when the two countries signed the bilateral free trade agreement, named Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

The minister called on Singapore's businessmen to involve in India's economic development as India is poised to be the 3rd largest economy in the future. He hoped that Singapore "will have some part to play in this rise of India in the next 60 years".

MNA/Xinhua

A Thai mahout cleans an elephant's tusks at Ban Tatit village in Surin Province, Thailand, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Newly selected (L-R) Miss India Earth Harshita Saxena, Miss India World Parvathy Omanakuttan and Miss India Universe Simran Kaur Mundi pose during the Miss India Pageant 2008 in Mumbai on 5 April, 2008.
INTERNET

Bangladesh expects $7b remittance in current fiscal

DHAKA, 5 April — Bangladesh expects an inflow of seven billion US dollars remittance in current fiscal (from July 2007 to June 2008), a senior Central Bank official said here Thursday.

The fresh expectation of Bangladesh Bank (BB) came after around 500,000 Bangladeshis, living and working abroad, sent home a record 809 million dollars in March, taking the inflow of the total remittance in the first nine months of the fiscal to over 5.67 billion dollars.

From January to March this year, at least 220,099 Bangladeshis found work in over 100 countries, which is 42.51 per cent more than the same period of the previous year, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) statistics.

The country's foreign exchange reserve stood at 5.30 billion dollars Thursday due to robust remittance growth, the Central Bank official said.

MNA/Xinhua

US seizes $1.3m illegal dietary supplement products

WASHINGTON, 15 April — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Friday that at its request US Marshals on Wednesday seized nearly 1.3 million US dollars of illegal dietary supplements from a Michigan-based company. The products, made by LG Sciences in Brighton, Michigan, contain unapproved food additives or new dietary ingredients that cause the products to violate the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, FDA said in a statement.

Labelled as dietary supplements, the seized products were marketed for use by body builders and sold on-line and in retail stores under the names "Methyl 1-D", "Methyl 1-D XL" and "Formadrol Extreme XL".

"Working with the FDA, we are taking prompt civil action to protect the public health by seizing these illegal products and forestalling their shipment into the stream of commerce in any manner that could create harm to the public," said US Attorney Stephen J Murphy. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Commuters leave Friedrichstrasse city train station during a warning strike by the Municipal Transport Service company BVG in Berlin on 5 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Japanese green tea bottle tainted with weedkiller

TOKYO, 6 April — A bottle of green tea produced by Japan's Kao Corp was found tainted with a large amount of weedkiller, the company said on Saturday.

Kao, Japan's largest household products maker, said the bottle, sold at a Tokyo supermarket late last month, may have been contaminated intentionally as the weedkiller was not used in the production line.

A man who drank the "Healthya" tea suffered a minor diarrhoea but has already recovered, the company said, adding that he said the bottle may have been half-open.

Kao said it has not found any other tainted bottles in its inspection and it has no plan to recall the products.

MNA/Reuters

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Karzai praises China for role in Afghanistan

BUCHAREST, 5 April — Afghan President Hamid Karzai praised China on Thursday for its role in helping the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

"China is very close to Afghanistan, and also a long-time friend of Afghanistan," Karzai said at a Press conference after meeting with leaders of NATO nations and UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon and other high-level representatives of international organizations, including the World Bank and the European Union.

He said this in reply to a question as to what kind of role China could play in Afghanistan. He said that China, one of the biggest trade partners of Afghanistan, has made big contribution to the reconstruction, development of his country and "training of our people".

"China has a very significant role to play for the stability of Afghanistan and the region," Karzai said. NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said that NATO had good relations with China.

Xinhua

Russian speed skater and Olympic champion Svetlana Zhurova (L) lights the Olympic flame at the end of the St Petersburg leg of the Olympic torch relay on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Olympic torch relay starts in St Petersburg

ST PETERSBURG, 6 April — The Olympic torch relay starts on Saturday morning in St Petersburg for the third leg of its global journey.

The relay kicked off here at about a quater to 11 a.m. local time. After a brief ceremony on the Victory Square, Galina Zybina, Russia's shot put gold medalist at the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, became the first person to bear the torch.

After 250 metres, she handed the flame over to Leonid Tyagachyov, the president of the Russian Olympic Committee, who ran another 250 metres.

The torch race will end at the Palace Square at 3 p.m. (1100 GMT) on the South of the Hermitage museum when a show is carried out to celebrate the journey. A short break will be made near the St Isaac's Cathedral.

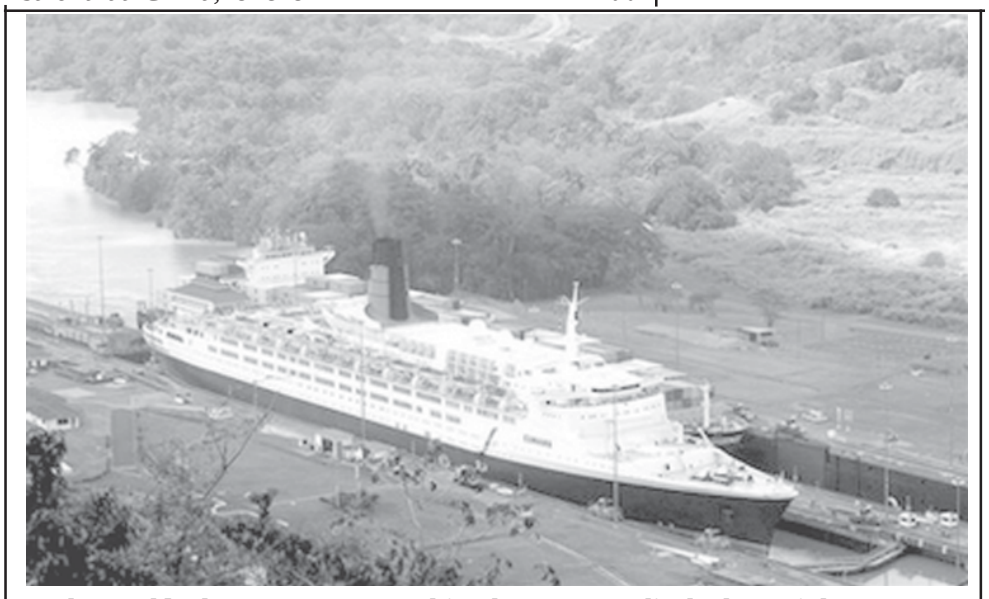
In all, the torch will be carried by 80 people, among them famous athletes, cultural and business figures and politicians, covering a distance of about 20 kilometres.

The stop in St Petersburg is the third in the Olympic torch relay outside China, and it has already been in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 2 April and Turkey's Istanbul on 3 April. It will go on Saturday from St Petersburg to London, the capital of Britain. —*Xinhua*

Supply problems push gasoline prices to record high in LA

LOS ANGELES, 6 April — Supply problems at refineries pushed the average prices of regular gasoline to record levels in Los Angeles and surroun-ding areas this week following slight declines the week before, the Automobile Club of Southern California reported on Friday.

The average price of a gallon of self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was 3.639 dollars in the Los Angeles area on Friday, erasing the previous record of 3.62 dollars set March 18.—*Xinhua*



The world's largest passenger ship, the 'Queen Elizabeth 2', right, passes through the Pedro Miguel locks at the Panama Canal in Panama City, on 5 April, 2008. The Queen Elizabeth 2 will be retired later this year and turned into a floating five-star hotel in Dubai.—INTERNET

Blasts rocks south of Nepali capital

KATHMANDU, 6 April — Three blasts have been heard in the south of Nepali capital Kathmandu on Friday night.

In Lalitpur District, which borders Kathmandu across Bagmati River in the south, two blasts occurred at around 7:30 pm (GMT 1345).

Chief of crime branch of Kathmandu Police, SSP (Senior Superintendent of Police) Upendra Aryal told *Xinhua* one blast occurred in front of the district election office located at Kupondole while a second blast occurred near the office of the local development ministry at Harihar Bhawan.

Xinhua

Computer glitch causes new chaos at Heathrow T5

LONDON, 5 April — The new Terminal 5 at London's Heathrow airport was hit by new baggage chaos Saturday as a computer glitch forced British Airways to cancel 24 short-haul flights.

"This morning, a software problem has arisen in the baggage system at Terminal 5. This is entirely BAA's responsibility," a spokeswoman for airport operator BAA Ltd said.

In a statement explaining the cancellations, British Airways said: "We are now having to manually reconcile bags for each flight, which takes considerably more time than using the automated system."

The 4.3-billion-pound (8.7-billion- US dollar) terminal, used solely by British Airways, has become a public relations disaster, with computers, baggage handling systems, lifts and telephone wires meeting with problems shortly after it opened on 27 March .

Xinhua

Sand sculptures are pictured at Le Touquet Paris-Plage, northern France where more than 120.000 visitors are expected for the African Safari Sand Sculpture Exhibition, with more than 200 sculptures following the traces of one of the most ancient people, the Maasai.—INTERNET

5-year-old Spanish child dies of obesity

MADRID, 5 April — A five-year-old child has died of obesity in Murcia city in southeastern Spain, local media reported Saturday.

The Murcia health department said the child weighed 50kg, much more than the 18 to 20 kg of his normal-weight peers.

The child's family took him to hospital on 17 March as he was suffering from slight dyspnea. His condition subsequently worsened and he died in an intensive care unit Wednesday. *Xinhua*

Keep watchful eye on any suspicious destructive acts

An Observer

An aphorism says that anyone has the right to form ideas wrongly, but has no right to express opinions and act wrongly. That reflects the essence of democracy.

If asked what democracy practice is, I would like to say that you can wave your stick freely, but do not hit my head. I think it is comprehensible.

In Myanmar, it has become nearly rooted that democracy and anarchy are exercised in tandem. Up to now, there still have been many persons who fall into the snare of beautiful words such as no strings attached, spectrum and democracy. Myanmar Communists were also claiming democracy. Movements for airing grievances that took place at Mya-ra-pin ridge in Bago Yoma mountain range around 1969 were indeed, democratic terrorist acts. In the incident, revisionists in the central committee of the Burma Communist Party were slaughtered.

It is common knowledge that eventually, the BCP (Central) met its tragic end, while terrorizing and attacking the people. That reflected a saying "Crime does not pay".

The evil practice reared its head again in the 1988 unrest. Then, the practice grew into mob rule in which many innocent people were beheaded. At that time, burglaries and cootings were taking place even in daytime. Later, many people from the mobs planned to threaten and bully those against whom they haboured grudge. Therefore, local people had to take security measures street, ward and village-wise in order not to be bullied and attacked.

The people were then free from the dangers posed by the terrorist suboteurs due to the fact that the Tatmadaw took control over the situations in time. So, the people escaped from staying in a state of panic, and the trade and businesses of the people returned to normalcy.

Nonetheless, terrorist destructionists stuck to their misconduct. They were no longer in a position to terrorize the people because the Tatmadaw was standing firmly by the public. In desperation, they turned to the tactics of armed revolts, defending themselves by establishing political parties, and carrying out semi-underground movements.

Later, there emerged expatriate insurgent groups such as NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF, NLD (LA), DPNS and NCUB in border areas that got involved in above-ground and underground movements in combination as necessary. Claiming that what they were doing were just for democracy, they contacted many organizations of certain powers.

In consequence, the government and the people fall victim to the economic sanctions. That was not all. The people had to withstand the stresses and strains of psychological warfare launched with media superiority, along with a variety of terrorist acts.

It was very despicable of those terrorist saboteurs to kill many persons by delivering letter bombs and parcel bombs to the targeted persons. In fact, they were sacrificing the lives of the people on the pretext of democracy movements.

Since 28 August 2005, the government has declared NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF, and SSA-S, that were masterminding and committing in collusion various forms of terrorist acts and murders, as unlawful associations. Moreover, it has declared the members of NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF and NLD (LA) as terrorists.

The government has declared them as unlawful associations and terrorists because it has got reliable sources, profound exhibits, and compelling evidences. One shall pay for one's misdeeds. There have been many evidences that they are staying hiding in certain countries and masterminding terrorist acts. They have been put on record in respective archives.

The list of terrorist destructionists' atrocities on the public is endless. Among them, I would like to present some of the hostilities they committed in and after 1988, targeting religious rites and social occasions.

On 23 January 1988, they fired heavy weapons and small arms on the places around the platform of the Kyaik-hti-yo Pagoda, killing five pilgrims and wounding six.

On 25 December 1996, they detonated time-bombs in Maha Pasana Cave in Kaba Aye where the ceremony to temporarily keep Buddha Tooth Relic for public homage was taking place. Five people including members of the Sangha were killed and 18 other people were injured.

On 15 April 2002, a time-bomb went off in Myawady, and five victims died on the spot and 31 were injured.

They also fired small arms and launchers on the convoy of Alantaya Sayadaw and missionary group. From 1988 to 2003, KNU insurgent group launched attacks on the people including members of the Sangha for more than 50 times, and over 100 innocent people were killed and over 230 were wounded.

From 1966 to date, Ywet Sit's SSA-S insurgent group committed more than 30 terrorist acts, killing over 220 people and wounding over 140.

So, hundreds of innocent people have fallen victim to the terrorist attacks of NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF and NLD (LA).

The terrorist saboteurs are plotting to disrupt the referendum that is scheduled to take place in coming May. According to the information received, many bombers underwent training on explosives to detonate bombs in the forthcoming Water Festival.

Accordingly, security forces are now taking measures for stability of the State, community peace and security of the people.

An enemy in disguise of a true friend is the most dangerous one. We cannot notice who is a terrorist by just looking at him. They may be in disguise of anti-government groups, and they will never hesitate to sacrifice the lives of the people to achieve their targets.

It is impossible to make particular persons get wet and other persons not get wet in dousing water over the crowd in the Water Festival. So, I would like to urge the people to start to keep a watchful eye on the environments in order that all the people can enjoy themselves in the festival in safety and without worries. If so, a handful of terrorist bombers in disguise of true friends or public members will be exposed.

Translation: MS

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh

Myanmar will never allow using its territory to any organizations that harm neighbouring countries

Myanmar citizens know Myanmar affairs best and have right to self-determination

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye calls on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in New Delhi.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April —Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh at his residence in New Delhi at 5 pm on 2 April.

Also present at the call were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Indian Prime Minister was accompanied by Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr Pranab Mukherjee, National Security Adviser Mr NK Narayanan of India, Indian Minister of State for Commerce Mr Jairam Ramesh, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Mr Shiv Shankar Menon and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.

In his speech, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that his goodwill visit to the Republic of India is to further cement the friendly relationship between the two countries and to promote cooperation between the two countries. There is no big problem between the two countries. Both countries are good neighbouring nations upholding five principles of peaceful co-existence. The Union of Myanmar realizes that SAARC-South Asian Association of the Regional Cooperation plays a key role in promoting regional peace and stability and social economic co-operation. Therefore, the two countries need to reciprocally join hands in all regional and international aspects.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye continued to say that in recent years, the goodwill visit of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe to India and

(See page 10)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indian Minister of External Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April —Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India Mr Pranab Mukherjee at the Parliament Room of the Taj Mahal Hotel in New Delhi at 3 pm on 2 April.

It was also attended by Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of India U Kyi Thein, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Mr Shivshankar Menon, Indian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials. – *MNA*

***Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets External Affairs Minister of India Mr Pranab Mukherjee at Taj Mahal Hotel.*—MNA**

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Indian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April —Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari held a meeting at the Deccan Suite of Hyderabad House in New Delhi at 7.20 pm on 2 April.

Together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw.

Together with the Indian Vice-President were Foreign Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India Shri Nalin Surie, Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the Indian Vice-President frankly discussed bilateral interests. Next, a ceremony to sign MoUs between the governments of Myanmar and India followed. It was attended by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party and the Indian Vice-President and party.

Minister U Nyan Win and Mr Pranab Mukherjee singed Framework Agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India for the Construction and Operation of a Multi-Modal Transit Transport Facility on Kaladan River Connecting the Sittway Port in Myanmar with the State of Mizoram in India, Protocol on Facilitation and Protocol on Maintenance and Administration in the presence of the leaders of the two countries and exchanged the documents. Myanmar Ambassador U Kyi Thein and Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes of the Ministry of Finance Mr PK Mishara singed the MoU between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of Indian on Intelligence Exchange Cooperation and Agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and exchanged the documents.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Vice-President Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.— MNA

Minister U Nyan Win and External Affairs Minister Mr Pranab Mukherjee sign MoU between the governments of Myanmar and India.— MNA

Ambassador U Kyi Thein and Mr PK Mishara sign MoU between the governments of Myanmar and India.— MNA

Afterwards, a dinner was hosted and the two leaders discussed matters related to further cementing the cooperation between the two nations, better transport and trade between the two countries and close cooperation between the two countries on regional peace and stability and regional organizations. Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party and the Indian Vice-President and party enjoyed dinner.

Framework Agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India for the Construction and Operation of a Multi-Modal Transit Transport Facility on Kaladan River Connecting the Sittway Port in Myanmar with the State of Mizoram in India includes upgrading of Sittway Port, improvement tasks for running of vessels along the route of Kaladan from Sittway Port to Sitpyitpyin and construction of roads from Sitpyitpyin to the border region.

MoU between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of Indian on Intelligence Exchange Cooperation was signed strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations and facilitating regional security by exchanging intelligence to combat transnational crimes including terrorism.

Agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income was inked in order to avoid double taxation for investors from the two countries and prevent fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets Indian President Ms Pratibha Patil at President's House Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing…

(from page 1)

for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the SPDC Office, departmental heads and officials, who accompanied Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Strengthening of friendly relations…

(from page 16)

helps in the regional peace and prosperity. There can be mutual benefits by combining natural resources of Myanmar and technologies of India. Myanmar entrepreneurs and economic ministers concerned were brought. Multilateral cooperation is necessary in the interest of the two countries. There is no problem between the two countries. If the problems cropped up, they were settled through mutual friendship and understanding and then developments of political, economic and social welfare were explained.

Next, the Indian President said that she has desire to gear up economic cooperation. India is ready to provide technical assistance to Myanmar especially information technology and communications. Moreover, it can provide technical assistance to Myanmar in energy sector. India encourages and welcomes Myanmar political reforms. India understands Myanmar's efforts.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Indian…

(from page 8)

that of former Indian President Abdul Kalan to Myanmar were the significant milestones in friendly ties between both countries.

He added that the bilateral trade gradually increases although it is not yet to meet the target. It needs to upgrade the border trade to the normal one between the two countries. He said that he thanked the Republic of India for its contributions to development of Myanmar.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the Kaladan Multi-purpose Project is a symbol of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. He expressed thanks for arrangements of the Republic of India to promote cooperation in the news and information sector, the energy sector, the agricultural sector, the transport sector and the education and health sectors.

He noted that Myanmar places emphasis on stability, peace and development along the border lines of the two countries. Myanmar will never allow using its territory to any organizations that harm neighbouring countries. Likewise, Myanmar acknowledges the position of India that does not allow its territory to movement of the organizations against Myanmar.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye explained endeavours of Myanmar to hold the national referendum to seek approval for the draft State constitution in democratic State construction process.

In his address, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh said that India gives special consideration to relationship with Myanmar and wishes to promote friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries. In the cooperation between the two countries, priority is being given to some sectors. It is very important for development of border areas and prevailing of stability and peace between the two countries.

He added that the two countries are jointly carrying out not only bilateral relationship but also matters related to regional and international organizations. He said he believes that the agreements to be signed today will expedite the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. India welcomes efforts of Myanmar for political reforms. He said he firmly believes that Myanmar citizens know Myanmar affairs and they have the right to decide their own fate. — *MNA*

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife…

(from page 16)

Next, two Myanmar young women presented bouquets to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed by Daw Mar Mar Shein, wife of the Myanmar Ambassador, Military Attache' Col Nay Win and wife Daw Nwe Nwe Khin, Consul-General U Soe Paing of Myanmar Consulate-General and wife Daw Aye Myint Than and embassy staff.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye went to the dais and took the salute of the Guard of Honour of Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air).

At that time, the military band played National Anthems of the two nations.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the Guard of Honour.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials proceeded to Taj Mahal Hotel.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye takes the salute of Guard of Honour of Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air).— MNA

General Deepak Kapoor calls on Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April — General Deepak Kapoor, Chief of Indian Army Staff called on 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 at Parliament Room of Taj Maha Hotel in New Delhi, India at 3 pm on 2 April.

Also present on the occasion together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw and Myanmar Military Attache (Army, Navy and Air) Col Nay Win.

General Deepak Kapoor of India was accompanied by Director-General of Military Intelligence (DGMI) Major General R. Roy, officials of the Ministry of Defence and Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.

They discussed matters related to friendship and cooperation between armed forces of the two countries.

MNA

***Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives General Deepak Kapoor of Chief of Indian Army Staff at Taj Maha Hotel in New Delhi.*—MNA**

Commander, Minister meet with USDA members in Thandwe

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April—Patron of Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein and CEC member of USDA (In-charge of Rakhine State) Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with departmental officials, members of USDA and Social Or-gnizations and townsel-ders in Dwayawati Hall of Thandwe Township on 31 March.

U Myint Lwin, Chairman of Thandwe Peace and Development Council explained development under-takings in the town.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Shein gave a speech on the occasion and CEC member of USDA Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe urged them to strive for further development of the town and to wipe out the danger of internal and external destr-uctionists with the strength of unity.

Later, CEC member of USDA Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe presented K 500,000 each to Thandwe, Taungup and Maei Township USDAs, clothes, publications and K 200,000 each to members of social organizations in Thandwe.

MNA

***Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe donates clothes to USDA in Thandwe Township.*— TRANSPORT**

Minister attends opening of Work Efficiency Course

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April – Work Efficiency Course No 1/2008 for Assistant Engineers of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power No 2 was held at the hall of the ministry, here, on 1 April.

Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint opened the course delivering an address.

MNA

Ministry of Industry-1 holds coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April – The Ministry of Industry-1 held the meeting to review accomplishments for 2007-08 financial year and assign duties for 2008-09 financial year at its hall, here, on 4 April.

In his address, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung said that the staff is to implement the policies of the Ministry of Industry-1 while maintaining the momentum of achievement. By making assessments on weak and strong points of the tasks in 2007-08 financial year, all-out efforts are to be made for boosting production in 2008-09.

Managing Directors and factory managers of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries, Myanma Foodstuff Industries, Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries, Myanma Ceramics Industries and Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries reported on progress of their tasks.

Officials also submitted reports on distribution of products to the people through Win Thuza Shops and special sales. Directors-general and officials of the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department and the Directorate of Industries reported on their respective sectors.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. —*MNA*

Take Fire Preventive Measures

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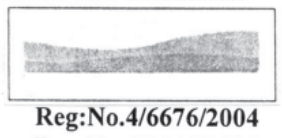

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Canada urged to protect fresh water from US

OTTAWA, 5 April — A think-tank urged Canada Thursday to develop a better strategy to protect its fresh water from the United States, which will face severe shortages in the near future.

In a report titled "Turning on Canada's Tap", the Polaris Institute criticized the government for not having a good policy on water exports.

The document warns of a future where American companies' appetite will supersede domestic demand for Canada's water. Water is included in the North American Free Trade Agreement so Canada may be forced to make it available to the US and Mexico on the free market, says the report.

With the United States' southern cities experiencing increasingly depleted reservoirs, many will soon begin looking north, says the report. "Twenty-four per cent of America's medium sized cities and 17.3 per cent of its large cities are expected to face serious water shortages by 2015," it says.

US President George W Bush and US Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci have both requested publicly that Canada begin making bulk water exports to the United States, according to the report.

MNA/Xiinhua

HK, Indonesia sign agreement on mutual legal assistance

HONG KONG, 5 April — Hong Kong and Indonesia signed here Thursday an agreement concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLA).

The agreement was signed by Wong Yan Lung, secretary for Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, and Indonesia's Attorney General Hendarman Supandji, on behalf of their respective governments.

The agreement is the 23rd of its kind that the HKSAR has signed to facilitate greater international cooperation to combat serious crimes.

It will allow for a wide range of reciprocal assistance to be offered in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offences and in the proceedings relating to criminal matters.

The assistance provided for in the agreement includes service of documents, taking evidence, effecting temporary transfer of persons in custody to provide assistance, facilitating the voluntary appearance of persons to provide assistance.

It also includes providing documents and other records, executing requests for search and seizure as well as identifying, tracing, restraining, seizing, forfeiting and confiscating proceeds of crime. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Russia ready to return to CFE treaty conditionally

BUCHAREST, 5 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin said here Friday that his country was ready to return to an arms reduction treaty if there was a compromise from Western nations.

"We are ready to return to the treaty but expect a mutual step," he told a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council on the last day of a three-day NATO summit. Russia imposed a moratorium on the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) in December 2007 in protest against US plans to deploy a missile defence system in Eastern Europe and NATO's ongoing expansion.

Moscow has insisted it would resume its participation if NATO countries ratify the 1999 version of the treaty, which limits the stationing of troops and heavy weapons from the Atlantic coast to Russia's Ural mountains.

Putin said Russia had withdrawn troops from Afghanistan and other countries and destroyed heavy weapons according to the treaty, but NATO members failed to ratify it.

MNA/Xinhua

Aide to Israeli security minister shot near Gaza

JERUSALEM, 5 April — A top aide to Israel's Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter was wounded by gunfire from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip on Friday during a border tour with a delegation from Canada, medical staff said.

The aide was evacuated to a nearby hospital suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg. Dichter was nearby but was not injured in the shooting.

Israel Radio reported said the minister was accompanying a delegation of Canadian Jews on a visit to the Israeli border community of Nir Am, which is the target of frequent cross-border shooting and rocket attacks by Palestinian militants.

An Ecuadorian foreign worker was killed in January in a shooting attack on another community near the border.

MNA/Reuters

Aleksandar Vasoski from Frankfurt, front, and Angelos Charisteas from Nuremberg, back, challenge for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between Eintracht Frankfurt and 1. FC Nuremberg in Frankfurt, Germany, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Two men held after severed head found on UK beach

LONDON, 5 April — Two Lithuanian men were arrested on Friday by British police investigating the murder of a woman whose severed head was found by children in a plastic bag on a Scottish beach. Police said the men, whom they have not named, were being questioned over the death of fellow Lithuanian Jolanta Bledaite.

The men, aged 19 and 40, have not been charged.

Bledaite, 35, from the town of Alytus, 150 kilometres west of the capital Vilnius, was identified after hundreds of calls were made to police following the discovery on Tuesday of her severed head by two sisters aged 8 and 11.

Two hands were also found on the foreshore at Arbroath, in eastern Scotland.—*MNA/Reuters*

Malaysia seeks UNESCO to recognize its education system

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 April — Malaysia will seek recognition for its national education system from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), according to local reports on Friday.

Malaysian Education Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said that he will ask the UNESCO, at the body's meeting on 7-10 April, to study and compare Malaysia's national education system with those in other countries to dispel allegations on its weaknesses, according to Malaysia's national news agency *Bernama.*

Hishammuddin also said that he will share his experience with the UNESCO in improving the national education system, including the use of information and communication technology and career development opportunities for teachers.

The UNESCO has recognized Malaysia's efforts in helping those in rural areas, especially those programmes to narrow the digital gap by providing access to education, he added.

Hishammuddin was elected to the UNESCO executive board on 24 October last year, according to *Bernama.*

MNA/Xinhua

Visitors look at the Italian small car Fiat 500 at the fair Auto Mobil International in Leipzig, eastern Germany, on 5 April, 2008. Around 500 exhibitors from 17 countries present their cars until 13 April, 2008.
INTERNET

An Olive Ridley turtle coming towards the shore to lay eggs, near Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district in Orissa, India, in 6 March, 2008 file photo. The construction of a major port in eastern India threatens one of the world's largest mass nesting sites for endangered sea turtles, environmental activists said on Saturday as they called for authorities to halt the project immediately.—INTERNET

Miss Universe 2008 to be held in Vietnam in July

HANOI, 6 April — The final of the Miss Universe 2008 is scheduled to take place in Nha Trang City of Vietnamese central Khanh Hoa Province on 14 July, local newspaper *Young People* reported on Friday.

Over 80 candidates will come to Vietnam from 15 June to participate in a series of social and cultural activities such as sightseeing, fashion show and raising charity funds in capital Hanoi, Nha Trang, southern Ho Chi Minh City and southern Binh Duong province.

The final will be organized at the 7,500-seated Crown Convention Centre which is rapidly being constructed with investment of seven million US dollars. Vietnam's Phu Nhuan Jewellery Joint Stock Company is tasked to design and produce the crown for Miss Universe 2008, with estimated expense of 200,000-250,000 US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Climate change threatens Australia's koala

SYDNEY, 6 April — Australia's unique tree-dwelling koalas may become a victim of climate change, new research reported on Saturday shows. Australian scientists say that eucalyptus leaves, the staple diet of koalas and other animals, could become inedible because of climate change.

"What we're seeing, essentially, is that the staple diet of these animals is being turned to leather," Australian National University science professor Bill Foley was quoted as saying in the Weekend Australian.

"Life is set to become extremely difficult for these animals."

Increased carbon dioxide reduced nitrogen and other nutrients in eucalyptus leaves and boosted tannins, a naturally occurring toxin, greenhouse experiments by James Cook University researcher Ivan Lawler found.

This sharply reduced the levels of protein in the leaves, requiring koalas and other animals to eat more nutritionally-poor eucalyptus leaves to survive.

MNA/Reuters

India plans 70 space missions

NEW DELHI, 6 April — India plans to undertake 70 space missions in five years, a nearly three-fold jump from the previous half-decade, to address requirements and develop new technologies for future needs, according to the NDTV Friday.

"We have proposed something like 70 missions totally compared to about 26 missions in the tenth plan period," Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization G Madhavan Nair said.

Nair, also Secretary in the Department of Space, said that the aim is to address requirements of the area of communication transponders and work in the fields of microwave remote sensing, hyper spectral and other new technologies of the future.

"Future developments will be towards the manned space mission and reusable satellites and Ka-band satellites," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Workers assemble Russian Soyuz TMA-12 space craft at an assembly department in Baikonur, on 5 April . South Korea's first astronaut, a biosystems engineering student, Yi So-yeon, 29, is set to blast off for the International Space Station (ISS) from the Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, with captain Sergei Volkov and Oleg Kononenko of Russia on board on 8 April. —INTERNET

Russian's rocket ready to put first Korean in orbit

BAIKONUR(Kazakhstan), 6 April — Preparations for the launch of a Russian rocket due to take South Korea's first astronaut into space next week entered their final stage on Saturday as technicians assembled the spaceship.

"Everything is going according to plan, everything is fine," said Oleg Urusov, a spokesman for Russia's Federal Space Centre.

"The rocket is due to be moved to the launch pad tomorrow morning."

The Soviet-designed Soyuz TMA-12 spacecraft will blast off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome on the Kazakh steppe on Tuesday at 17:16 pm (1116 GMT).

The rocket, originally designed during the Cold War as a ballistic missile, will carry South Korean nanotechnology engineer Yi So-yeon and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Volkov and Oleg Kononenko.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Arsenal's title bid fades after another draw

LONDON, 6 April —Arsenal and Liverpool drew 1-1 for the third time this season on Saturday in a further blow to the London side's Premier League title hopes.

Peter Crouch fired Liverpool ahead shortly before halftime and, although Nicklas Bendtner headed in an equalizer after the break, Arsenal's chase after league leaders Manchester United now looks forlorn.

Chelsea are more realistic challengers to United's crown after moving three points clear of Arsenal into second place with a comfortable 2-0 win at Manchester City.

A Richard Dunne own goal and Salomon Kalou's second-half effort were enough for Avram Grant's side to notch their 11th away league win of the season and put them two points behind United who play at Middlesbrough on Sunday.

Arsenal and Liverpool both made changes to their starting line-ups after Wednesday's 1-1 draw in the Champions League quarterfinal, first leg at the Emirates, a result that made Liverpool slight favourites to go through.

Peter Crouch was given a rare start by Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez who opted to leave Fernando Torres on the bench and the tall England striker had an impressive game.

MNA/Reuters

Hanover's Jiri Stajner, right, heads the ball during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between VfL Wolfsburg and Hanover 96 in Wolfsburg, northern Germany, on 5 April, 2008. Wolfsburg's Ricardo da Costa, left, and Jan Simunek, centre, try to defend.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1 S	P	2 L	A	3 S	H	■	■	4 D	O	5 U	B	6 T
A	■	A	■	H	■	7 F	■	E	■	P	■	R
8 V	I	R	G	O	■	9 A	M	N	E	S	T	Y
A	■	G	■	U	■	I	■	Y	■	E	■	I
10 G	R	E	M	L	I	N	■	■	11 S	T	U	N
E	■	S	■	D	■	12 T	O	13 P	■	■	■	G
■	14 I	S	L	E	■	■	■	15 L	E	16 V	Y	■
17 M	■	■	■	18 R	U	19 T	■	E	■	E	■	20 C
21 E	D	22 D	Y	■	■	23 H	E	A	R	S	A	Y
T	■	U	■	24 T	■	Y	■	S	■	T	■	G
25 H	U	M	D	R	U	M	■	26 U	N	I	O	N
O	■	A	■	O	■	E	■	R	■	G	■	E
27 D	U	S	T	Y	■	■	28 S	E	L	E	C	T

Roma beat Genoa to move within a point of leaders Inter

ROME, 6 April — Daniele De Rossi's penalty 10 minutes from time helped AS Roma beat Genoa 3-2 on Saturday to move within one point of Serie A leaders Inter Milan.

Champions Inter can re-establish their four-point advantage at Atalanta on Sunday but will be without injured top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Genoa forward Marco Borriello needlessly brought down Rodrigo Taddei and Rossi blasted the ball home to spare second-placed Roma's blushes after throwing away a two-goal lead.

The hosts opened the scoring on 14 minutes when Taddei tapped in a rebound after goalkeeper Rubinho had blocked his first effort from Max Tonetto's cross.

MNA/Reuters

Newcastle United's captain Michael Owen, left, scores a goal past Reading's captain Ivar Ingimarsson, right, during their English Premier League soccer match at St James' Park, Newcastle, England, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Rostock's Tobias Rathgeb, left, and Schalke's Halil Altintop challenge for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between FC Schalke 04 and Hansa Rostock in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Schalke up to second, Stuttgart surge on

BERLIN, 6 April — Schalke 04 moved up to second place in the Bundesliga with a 1-0 home win over Hansa Rostock on Saturday while resurgent VfB Stuttgart beat Hamburg SV by the same score.

Schalke, who lost 1-0 at home to Barcelona in a Champions League quarter-final first leg in midweek, improved their chances of returning to the competition next season thanks to a Halil Altintop goal early in the second half.

Hamburg dropped a place to third after a Roberto Hilbert volley and one spectacular save from Stuttgart's 19-year-old keeper Sven Ulreich consigned the visitors to defeat.

Bayern Munich, who lead on 54 points, can take a big step closer to a 21st league title when they host VfL Bochum on Sunday.

With seven games left Schalke are second on 48 while Hamburg (47) cling on to the final Champions League place.

Werder Bremen are behind them on goal difference after a 2-1 victory at Hertha Berlin. Stuttgart, last season's champions, climb to fifth on 45.

Bayer Leverkusen are sixth with 44 points and will go third if they win at Borussia Dortmund on Sunday.

Stuttgart picked up only 25 points from the first 19 matches but have turned their form around brilliantly with a run of six wins and two draws. *—MNA/Reuters*

Chelsea win at Man City puts pressure on Man Utd

LONDON, April 6 — Chelsea closed the gap on leaders Manchester United to two points by winning 2-0 at Manchester City on Saturday.

Arsenal are five points off the pace after a 1-1 home draw with Liverpool.

Chelsea's victory gave them 74 points from 33 matches and means the pressure will be on United when they travel to Middlesbrough for their game in hand on Sunday.

"I don't know if I will be watching United (on television) tomorrow but I know what result I want," Chelsea manager Avram Grant told the BBC.

A Richard Dunne own goal and Salomon Kalou's second-half effort were enough for Grant's side to maintain their dogged title challenge.

It also put the Stamford Bridge club in good heart for Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinal second leg against Fenerbahce when they must overturn a 2-1 deficit.

Chelsea, who made six changes to the side that lost in Turkey, had to work hard for victory after Dunne turned City old boy Nicolas Anelka's cross into his own goal on six minutes. *—MNA/Reuters*

Manchester City's Gelson Fernandes, left, vies for the ball against Chelsea's Frank Lampard, right, during their English Premier League soccer match at The City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, on 5 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Ten-man Real hang on for 1-1 draw in Mallorca

MADRID, 6 April – Real Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw at Real Mallorca in the Primera Liga on Saturday, extending their lead at the top to seven points.

The champions rode their luck in the first half but took the lead just before the break through Wesley Sneijder.

The game swung Mallorca's way after Sergio Ramos was sent off in the 65th minute and Borja Valero's stunning equalizer soon after had the visitors desperately hanging on at the end.

"The sending off changed the game. Bearing that in mind, and the stage of the season we are at, a point is a good result," Real coach Bernd Schuster said.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing police raid popular bar district for drugs

BEIJING, 6 April– Beijing police detained more than 20 people, including eight foreigners, on suspicion of using and trafficking drugs in two bars in Sanlitun, a popular bar district, the *Xinhua* news agency and witnesses said.

Police raided the street late on Friday, closed the Phoenix Cafe and Pure Girl Bar and seized Yaba tablets, ecstasy and marijuana, *Xinhua* said, citing Beijing's public security authority.

Eyewitnesses said scuffles broke out as police with dogs, batons and guns demanded identity cards and passports, and that several foreigners, mostly young women, were escorted away to waiting vans.

MNA/Reuters

Philippines deports two Jordanian nationals linked to bomb plot

MANILA, 6 April — Philippine Bureau of Immigration deported Thursday night two Jordanian nationals suspected of plotting to bomb several embassies in the Philippine capital, including the US Embassy in Manila, according to local media Friday.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan identified the deported Jordanians as Khalil Kh Al-Ali and Walid Abu Aisheh, Philippine TV network GMA reported.

Both were expelled pursuant to a summary deportation order that the Bureau of Immigration board of commissioners issued against them on 13 March for violating Philippine immigration laws.

"They were also placed in our immigration blacklist, hence they are now banned from re-entering the Philippines for being undesirable aliens," Libanan said.

Bureau of immigration records showed that Al-Ali was ordered deported for working in the country without a valid permit while Abu Aisheh was found to be an overstaying and undocumented alien.

MNA/Xinhua

Arne Friedrich, right, of Berlin and Diego, left, of Bremen challenge for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between Hertha BSC Berlin and SV Werder Bremen in Berlin, Germany, on 5 April, 2008.

INTERNET

Czech police uncover pervitine lab producing drug for Britain

PRAGUE, 6 April — Police from the Czech National Anti-Drug Squad (NPC) recently uncovered one of the largest laboratories for the pervitine production that weekly produced 500 grammes of the drug for Britain, NPC head Jiri Komorous said on Friday.

The police detained five people, including two British citizens, during the operation codenamed Lotus, the Czech news agency *CTK* reported.

The detained have been taken into custody and face up to 15 years in prison if found guilty, Komorous and NPC spokesman Bretislav Brejcha said.

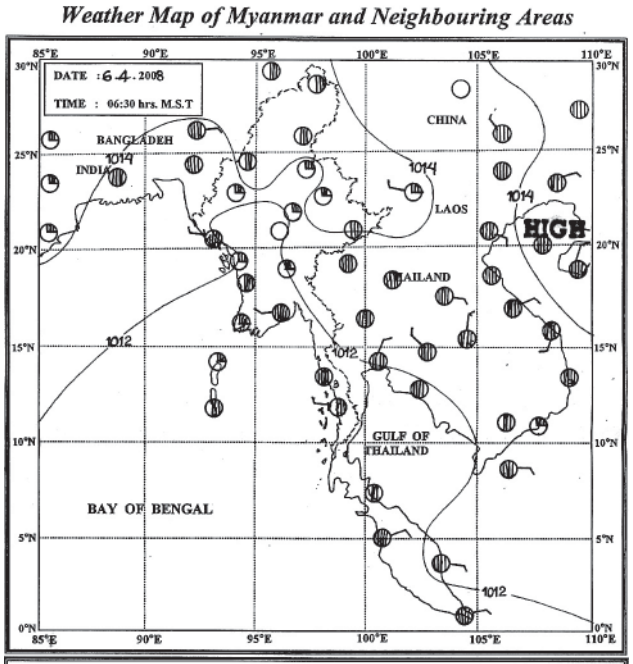
Two foreigners who sold heroin in the Czech Republic were also recently arrested by NPC officers, they said.

The gang busted during the Lotus operation produced pervitine from over-the-counter medicines in a garage.

It was led by a British citizen and money for drug production also came from Britain. People in the Czech Republic bought medicines containing pseudo-ephedrine for it, from which they produced pervitine.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 6 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3ºC) to (4ºC) above April average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (5ºC) above April average temperatures in Kachin State and Ayeyawady Division and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (41ºC) and Magway (40ºC). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthoung (0.20) inch and Dawei (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 5-4-2008 was 100ºF. Minimum temperature on 6-4-2008 was 76ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-4-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 5-4-2008 was (7.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 6-4-2008 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 Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 5-4-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-4-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

TV Myanmar

Monday, 7 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. သဘာဝဂုဏ်အင်ထူးခြား အလှဆင်သင်ပုန်းကျောက်များ
7:55 am
5. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား ရိုးရာအက
8:05 am
6. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ
8:20 am
7. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. "နတ်လူသာခုခေါ်စေသော်" (ခေတ်သစ်၊ထိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း၊ သတိုးစော) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–သော်ကိုကိုကျော်)
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
4:25 pm
3. ကွန်ချောင်းရေလှော်ပင်တမံ
4:35 pm
4. သက်တံရောင်သံစဉ်
4:45 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ–ပထမနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)
5:00 pm
6. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန် ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ
5:10 pm
7. ခါသကြိန်အဆိုအကများ
5:20 pm
8. "စက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတိုင်းပြည်အကျိုး" (ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊မိုးဒီ၊သဇင်၊နှင်းဆီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–တင်အောင်ရွှေသုတေသီ)
5:30 pm
9. Musical programme
6:00 pm
10. Evening news
6:30 pm
11. Weather report
6:35 pm
12. အလှရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
6:55 pm
13. Musical programme
7:10 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တယ်––ချစ်တယ်" (အပိုင်း–၁၂)
7:50 pm
15. ထေရဝါဒဗုဒ္ဓသာသနာတော် ထွန်းကားပြန့်ပွားရေး ဆရာဒကာလက်တွဲညီစွာ ကြိုးပမ်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု (အပိုင်း–၄)
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်"(အပိုင်း–၁၆)
20. The next day's programme

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

Strengthening of friendly relations and cooperation brings benefits to two countries, contributes to regional peace and prosperity

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

India supports and welcomes Myanmar's political reforms

Indian President Ms Pratibha Patil

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Indian President Ms Pratibha Patil at President's House Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called on Indian President Ms Pratibha Patil at the President's House Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi of India on 2 April.

Present at the call were Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General of the SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw from Myanmar side and Minister of External Affairs Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Mr Shivshankar Menon and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra from Indian side.

At the call, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that he felt delighted to meet the Indian President for the first time since she took office as president. He conveyed a message of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe wishing the Indian President mental and physical well-being. He said, our two countries have maintained friendly ties in the long history since many years ago. Strengthening of friendly relations and cooperation brings benefits to the two countries and

(See page 10)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San arrive in New Delhi

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April — At the invitation of Vice-President of Republic of India Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party on 2 April left here by a special flight to pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of India, and arrived at Palam Airbase in New Delhi at 11.40 am local time.

The Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San was welcomed at the Palam Airbase by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Head of Protocol Department of External Affairs Ministry of India Shri Sunil Lal on board the plane.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and delegation members were then welcomed by Minister of State for Commerce Shari Jairam Ramesh, Secretary of External Affairs Ministry Shri Nalin Surie and Joint Secretary Shri T.S Tirumurti, and Indian Ambassador to the Union of Myanamr Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials.

(See page 10)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the Guard of Honour of Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air).— MNA