

Danañca, generosity; this is the way to auspiciousness

Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XV, Number 361

11th Waxing of Hnaung Tagu 1369 ME

Wednesday, 16 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

■ **To approve the State Constitution is a national duty of the entire people today. Let us all cast “Yes” vote in the national interest.**

Senior General Than Shwe attends opening of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Emergence of one bridge after another highlights robust economy of the State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 April—A ceremony to open the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, constructed by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction was held at the Mingala Pandal near the bridge on Mandalay bank on 11 April morning, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) (See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for documentary photo at opening of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 April, 2008

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) for regional development

Secure and smooth transport is the engine of improvement of the social-economic life of the people. In addition, by travelling from one region to another, national brethren can enhance cohesion, friendly relations and mutual help among themselves. With this concept, the government is constructing roads and bridges across the nation to form a network of transport facilities.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), which mainly links between Mandalay Division and Sagaing Division, was inaugurated on 11 April, and the opening ceremony was graced by the presence of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

The 5614-foot-long facility is over the Ayeyawady River, linking Khawadaw Ward in Shwekyetyet Village of Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, and Dagaung Ward in Sagaing, Sagaing Division.

The region where the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is situated occupies a strategic position and is easily accessible from various states and divisions of the four corners of the nation.

Also being a hub of the State's commerce and commodity flow, the bridge makes a splendid contribution towards regional and national economic growth.

So far, the government has constructed 233 bridges, each of whose length is above 180 feet. The Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is the 10th of its kind in Mandalay Division.

Local people are therefore to help maintain collectively the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) for its durability.



A golfer tees off the ball at the third round events of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup.—MNA

People's Desire

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

Third round events of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup continues

NAY PYI TAW, 15 April — The third round events of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup continued at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course, Myodaw Golf Course and Yay Pya Golf Course this morning and 156 participants from

participated in the third round event.

At Yay Pya Golf Course, 48 participants from Ministry of Commerce team, Ministry of Home Affairs (A) team, Kachin State team, Sagaing Division team, Bago



A golfer in action at the third round events of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup.—MNA

26 teams competed in the tournament.

A total of 54 participants from Tatmadaw (Army) team, Air Force Club, Ministry of Home Affairs (B) team, Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs team, Nay Pyi Taw Command (A) team, Magway Division team, Mandalay Division team, Rakhine State team and Shan State (East) team

Division (East) team, Yangon Division team, Shan State (South) team and Mandalay Shwe Man Taung Club took part in the event.

In the third round event at Myodaw Golf Course, 54 participants from Navy Club, Ministry of Forestry team, Nay Pyi Taw Command (B) team, Kayah State team, Kayin State team, Bago Division (West) team, Mon State team, Shan State (North) team and Kaung Myat Club

competed.

Mandalay Division team stood first with 297 strokes, Yangon Division team second with 299 strokes, Ministry of Home Affairs (A) team, Bago Division (East) team and Kachin State team third with 305 strokes each, Sagaing Division team fourth with 307 strokes, PBANRDA team, Air Force Club, Mandalay Shwe Man Taung Club and Ministry of Forestry team



The third round events of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup in progress.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 15 April—The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of U Htein Lin as Director-General of Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Dr Aung Myo, Director-General of National Archives Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, as Director-General of Progress Appraisal and Progress Reporting Department of the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—MNA

fifth with 308 strokes respectively in the third round event.

In the event, Thura Kyaw won first with 69 strokes, Soe Kyaw Naing second with 70 strokes, Aung San Win, Zaw Zaw Latt and Hla Myo Aung third with 71 strokes each, Ko Ko Naing and Yan Myo Aye fourth with 72 strokes, Aung Kyaw Thu Aung Tu, Myo Tun, Min Naing and Myo Win Aung fifth with 73 strokes.

The best strokes in the three-day events were Ministry of Forestry that stood first with 894 strokes, Mandalay Division team second with 898 strokes, Navy club team third with 907 strokes, Kaung Myat Club fourth with 908 strokes and PBANRDA fifth with 910 strokes.

Zaw Zaw Latt won first with 213 strokes, Hla Myo second with 217 strokes, Min Naing third with 218 strokes, Zaw Zin Win and Myint Shwe fourth with 219 strokes each, Myo Min Aung and Aung Win fifth with 220 strokes in the three-day events.

The winners will be awarded first, second and third prizes and consolation prizes. The prize presentation ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup will be held at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course here tomorrow.—MNA

Clinton, Obama target faith voters at forum

GRANTHAM, 13 April — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton defended her support for abortion rights at a forum on faith on Sunday, saying the decision to have an abortion was not just about the "potential life" of a child, but the lives of others involved, including the parents.

Clinton and her rival for the Democratic

presidential nomination, Barack Obama, attended the event sponsored by Faith in Public Life, a nonpartisan resource centre. The Democratic candidates were courting religious activists from across the political spectrum — a group with clout in US politics.

Abortion is one of the most divisive issues in

American politics and many of the evangelical Christian leaders and others in the audience are opposed to abortion rights for religious reasons.

Clinton was pointedly asked during the nationally broadcast forum if she believed life "begins at conception."

"I believe that the potential for life begins at conception ... but for me, it is not only about the potential life, but the other lives involved," Clinton said, noting her Methodist faith and the denomination's own struggle with the issue. —Xinhua



Labourers work in the National Stadium, or the "Bird's Nest," in Beijing, capital of China, on 11 April, 2008. The "Bird's Nest" will be unveiled to the public when it hosts its first event - the "Good Luck Beijing" 2008 IAAF Race Walking Challenge on 18-19 April. —XINHU



A woman carries a gas canister as she flees her burning house in Phnom Penh on 11 April, 2008.

XINHUA

Disappointing turnout on first day of Italy's general election

ROME, 14 April — Polls reopened Monday in Italy's general election after a disappointing turnout on the first day. Just 62.5 percent of eligible voters had cast their ballots by Sunday night when polling stations closed at 22:00 local time (2000 GMT), according to the Interior Ministry.

The turnout was four percentage points lower than that at the last general election two years ago.

Polls resumed Monday at 7:00 am (0500 GMT) and will close at 3:00 pm (1300 GMT). Final turnout figures in Italy's general elections usually top 80 percent.

Analysts are expecting a poorer turnout than before, arguing that Italian voters are fed up with politics in the face of a sluggish economy and years of political instability.

The general election was called after the government led by center-left Premier Romano Prodi collapsed in January, after only 20 months in power. —Xinhua

Ahmadinejad says other countries can gain access to Iran's nuclear technology

TEHERAN, 14 April — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Monday that other nations can gain access to Iran's nuclear technology within the framework of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regulations, the semi-official *Fars* news agency reported.

"Experiences and valuable achievements of Iran concerning peaceful nuclear technology are reachable by other nations within the framework of IAEA regulations," Ahmadinejad said in his meeting with Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo.

The Iranian President pointed out that the monopolizing powers "are endeavouring to prevent the nations from gaining access to the peaceful nuclear energy."

But the Islamic Republic of Iran will resist this pressure and intends "to restore this right of acquiring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to all nations," he added.

Xinhua

Abbas forces detain 21 Hamas members in West Bank

RAMALLAH, 14 April — Islamic Hamas movement denounced on Monday that 21 Hamas members have been arrested by the security forces of President Mahmoud Abbas in different West Bank areas.

"The security forces of the interior ministry in the caretaker government of Salam Fayyad has escalated its actions and detained 21 people all over the West Bank," said a Hamas leaflet sent to reporters.

According to the leaflet, the arrests took place in the towns of Nablus, Jenin, Hebron and

Bethlehem.

Hamas called on Abbas of Fatah movement and his Palestinian

National Authority (PNA) to immediately stop arrests against Hamas members.

Xinhua

but there is no reports on casualties among the US soldiers as the troops sealed off the area, the source said.

A huge fire sparked by the blast totally burned more than 20 kiosks and shops selling used clothes in the popular market, he said, adding some 12 teams of firefighters rushed to the scene and put out the fire at dawn.

In a separate incident, the source said that a roadside bomb struck another US patrol in the Fadhiliyah neighborhood in eastern Baghdad, and there was also no reports on casualties. —Xinhua

Residents gather at the ruins of gutted shops after a blaze in New Baghdad district east of the capital on 14 April, 2008. —XINHUA





Israeli reservists carry a “wounded” person from the debris of a destroyed house during a mock missile strike drill held in Jerusalem on 9 April, 2008, as part of the largest civil defence exercise in Israel’s history.—INTERNET

16 killed in northern Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD, 14 April — At least 16 people were killed and 22 others injured in two separate bombings in northern Iraq on Monday, Iraqi police said.

A parked car bomb exploded in the Rabiaa area west of Mosul, apparently targeting the passing Peshmerga (the Kurdish Freedom fighters) convoy, an officer with Mosul police said on condition of anonymity.

He said the blast killed 12 soldiers and wounded another two. In a separate incident, four people were killed and at least 20 wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up during a funeral for a Shiite family in northern city of Tal Afar, 70 km west of Mosul, the officer added.—MNA/Xinhua

Two NATO soldiers killed, two wounded in explosion in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 April — Two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed and two others were wounded in an explosion in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, according to a statement issued by ISAF.

“The wounded soldiers were transported to an ISAF hospital where they are being treated,” it said. In accordance with ISAF policy, ISAF does not release the casualty’s nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so.—MNA/Xinhua

Thai new year road death toll rises to 180

BANGKOK, 14 April — A total of 76 people were killed and 1,103 others were injured in road accidents on Sunday, the third day of the “seven dangerous days” of Thai traditional Songkran festival, the Road Safety Monitoring Centre announced Monday.

Jaral Phakdeethanakul, permanent secretary for Justice Minister who is an official of the road safety centre, was quoted by local news network *The Nation* as saying that 1,018 road accidents happened Sunday and 76 people were killed in these accidents.

He said the accumulated death toll of the three first day of the seven dangerous period rose to 180.

He said 2,238 accidents happened from Friday to Sunday, in which 2,514 people were injured.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq’s neighbours end security talks in Damascus

DAMASCUS, 14 April — Iraq’s neighbours concluded here on Monday a two-day meeting of their security coordination committee in efforts to promote cooperation in helping restore stability in the war-torn country. A statement issued at the end of the meeting said the participants praised “positive cooperation” between Iraq and its neighbours in fighting terrorism and efforts to improve the security situation in Iraq.

The train leaves Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, for Kolkata, capital of India’s West Bengal State, on 14 April, 2008.

XINHUA



EU welcomes Kenyan agreement on coalition government

BELGRADE, 14 April — The European Union on Monday welcomed the agreement on forming a coalition government in Kenya and wished a better future for the east African country.

“The European Union welcomes the agreement between Kenyan President Kibaki and opposition leader Odinga on the formation of a Coalition government,” a statement from the Slovenian EU presidency said.

While hailing the Kenyan leaders’ “commitment to work together in good faith to promote the greater interests of their nation as a whole,” the statement expressed the hope that the leaders would “proceed with the national reconciliation and dialogue agreed upon on 28 Feb.”

“The EU looks forward to working with the new government of Kenya, and states its readiness to support it in the implementation of a coherent and far-reaching reform agenda, to address the fundamental root causes of recurrent conflict and to create a better, more secure and more prosperous Kenya,” the statement concluded.

MNA/Xinhua



Philippine Police investigators collect fragments of a bomb that exploded on 13 April, 2008, at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in the southern port city of Zamboanga. A powerful explosion rips through the Roman Catholic cathedral compound and another bomb explodes near a bank in Zamboanga, causing no injuries but reviving fears of terrorism in an area that has been targeted by al-Qaida-linked militants, police say.—INTERNET

Italy’s centre-left concedes defeat in general election

ROME, 14 April — Walter Veltroni conceded defeat on Monday to two-time Premier Silvio Berlusconi in the general election.

“As is customary in all Western democracy, and as I feel it is right to do, I called the leader of the People of Freedom, Silvio Berlusconi, to acknowledge his victory and wish him good luck in his job,” Veltroni told reporters. Though the official results have not come out, a projection by state television RAI gave Berlusconi’s center-right alliance a solid lead in both the Senate and the lower house of the national parliament.

MNA/Xinhua



View of an oil platform off the coast of Brazil. Brazil has discovered a new offshore oil field that could prove to be "the third biggest field in the world," the head of the country's National Oil Agency, Haroldo Lima, said Monday.—INTERNET

Official says Brazil discovers world's third-largest oil and gas reserves

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 April — Brazil's state-owned Petrobras, BG Group and Repsol have discovered what could be the world's third-largest oil and gas reserves, Haroldo Lima, director of the National Oil and Gas Agency (ANP), which regulates the sector in the country, said on Monday.

In a seminar at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Rio, Lima stressed that the information has not been released "officially" yet.

He added that, if confirmed, the field, with an estimated volume of 33 billion barrels, in the deep waters of the Santos Basin, in southeastern Brazil, would be the world's

biggest oil and gas discovery of the past 30 years. According to the ANP director, the field, temporarily named "Sugar Loaf," in reference to Rio's landmark, would be five times larger than Tupi, the giant field discovered in November 2007.

Tupi is regarded as the largest oil and gas reserve ever found in Brazil, bearing an estimated volume of 5-8 billion barrels of light oil.

Petrobras' Press office has not confirmed the discovery yet, but informed that the Sugar Loaf field is located in block BMS-9 of the Santos Basin, west of the BMS-11, where Tupi was discovered.

MNA/Xinhua

Economic news

China issues notice on grain exports to Hong Kong

BEIJING, 14 April — The Ministry of Commerce has issued a notice ensuring that grain and grain product supplies maybe provided to Hong Kong, but it also warned of penalties for those who diverted such food shipments to other markets.

Wheat, corn, rice and flour made from these grains could only be sold to Hong Kong and violators would have their export licenses suspended. The licenses would only be available

to suppliers who had signed agreements with designated Hong Kong counter-parties. "The relevant authority should issue a license strictly according to the quota allocated by the government and note on the license that the export is only to Hong Kong with no transshipment is allowed," said the notice.

Hong Kong importers had to keep clear inventory and sales records that tracked food imported from mainland, said the notice.—MNA/Xinhua

Visitors look at the model of a lifeboat on the Third International Shipbuilding Industry Exhibition opened in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 14 April, 2008. About 200 companies from home and abroad took part in the 3-day exhibition on Monday.

INTERNET



S Korea, France launch negotiation over nuclear energy cooperation

SEOUL, 15 April — South Korea and France on Tuesday launched a two-day negotiation over bilateral cooperation in nuclear energy, South Korea's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said.

The ministry said

South Korea will seek to cooperate with France's CEA, a government-funded technological research organization, on development of sodium-cooled fast reactors (SFR), very high temperature reactors (VHTR) and technology

in reducing radioactive levels of nuclear waste.

South Korea plans to develop SFR and VHTR as its next generation reactors, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported. France is a leader in nuclear waste management.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's higher Internet, credit card use fuels e-commerce

HANOI, 14 April (Xinhua)—The number of Vietnamese consumers shopping online has increased rapidly over the past three years, mainly due to growth in the number of Internet and credit card users, especially among youths, according to local news paper Vietnam News on Monday.

Up to 52 percent of Internet users in Vietnam are aged between 20 and 34. The country currently has over 100 websites providing online shopping and services. About 150,000 businesses have posted their own websites for trade promotion.

Most popular items for sales on the websites are books, movies, music, games, air tickets, clothes,

shoes and electronic products, the newspaper said. Some online shopping providers in Vietnam are optimistic about e-commerce's future.

The optimism is based on the increasing number of Internet users, improvement in the country's electronic payment system, and the competition that is assured

between domestic and international sites after 2010 when the latter will be allowed to provide e-commerce in Vietnam, according to the newspaper.

Vietnam had roughly 18.6 million Internet users, or more than 22 percent of its total population by the end of 2007, up from

MNA/Xinhua



Asian airline, airport representatives gather in Macao to seek new air route

MACAO, 14 April — The "Regional Asia-Routes Development Forum 2008 Macao", inaugurated here on Monday, drew a large number of business representatives of the Asian aviation industry to the city, who met and discussed new air route development and business opportunities in the air services.

Over 400 delegates from major airlines and airports in Asia and Europe attended the three-day event, which was hosted by the Macao International Airport Company Ltd. Although Macao's aviation sector is going

through a healthy growth, it still shares the same challenges with its international counterparts, such as the raising of fuel prices, the increase in security measures resulting in longer queuing

time for passengers and the capacity constraints caused by infrastructures issues, said Liu Suning, executive director of Macao International Airport Co Ltd.

MNA Xinhua

Pacific Airlines to become Vietnam's first budget carrier

HO CHIMINH CITY, Vietnam, 14 April — Vietnam's Pacific Airlines and Australian airline Jetstar formed here Monday a strategic and commercial partnership to support Vietnam's first

low-cost carrier named Jetstar Pacific for future growth within both Vietnam and intra-Asia markets. Under a business service agreement reached by Jetstar and Pacific Airlines, Jetstar Pacific will operate a future fleet of up to 30 Airbus A320 aircraft by 2014.

MNA/Xinhua

The boards of Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines on Monday agreed to merge in a deal that would create the world's largest airline. —INTERNET

*** To ratify Constitution
Let's go to the polling booth**

*** We remain ever united
whoever tries to divide us
And will cast “Yes” vote**

Commission for Holding Referendum meets sub-commissions



Commission Chairman U Aung Toe and party visit a polling booth in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—The ceremonies to hold meetings between the Commission for Holding Referendum and members of the sub-commissions in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin State, Mon State, Shan State, Mandalay Division and Yangon Division, and members of the township sub-commissions, and members of the ward/village-tract sub-commissions took place at respective states and divisions this morning.

The commission had a meeting with Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District sub-commission, and



Dr Tin Aung Aye at a polling booth in Myitkyina, Kachin State.—MNA

township and ward sub-commissions in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District at Nay Pyi Taw No 5 Basic Education High School this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Commission for Holding Referendum U Aung Toe.

Also present were the secretary and members of the commission, members of sub-commissions of Pyinmana District, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Townships, and wards and village-tracts, and those in-charge

and members of polling booths.

In his speech, U Aung Toe said that it is required to make arrangements for all eligible voters of all the places where referendum will be held to cast votes, and for those eligible voters who are away for various reasons to cast votes in advance in accordance with referendum law and rules; that commissions at all levels are responsible for comfort and convenience of the voters when they vote; that copies of the book ‘State Constitution (Draft)’, book ‘Referendum Law and Rules’, the manual for Heads and Members of Polling booths, the book on work guideline for members of ward/village-tract sub-commissions, and the book ‘Referendum’ have been distributed nationwide; that clarification on Referendum Law and Rules has been conducted to sub-commissions of districts, townships and ward/village-tracts.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District sub-commission reported on progress of formation

of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and township sub-commissions, opening of supporting sub-commission offices, progress in making the list of eligible voters, arrangements for polling booths, required number of ballot boxes, mobilizing polling booth heads and members, the books, work guideline books, and documents sent by the commission, reception and distribution of ballots in advance and ballots to sub-commissions at different levels.

Members of the commission U Aye Maung and Dr Tun Shin hold discussions about the processes.

U Aung Toe made concluding remarks.

After the meeting, the chairman and members of the commission cordially greeted the attendees.

They inspected polling booth (1) of Zeya Theiddi Ward of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, lists of voters, and copies of the book on Referendum Law and Rules for approval of State Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the

(See page 7)



A voting demonstration in progress in Yangon.—MNA



Books on the law, bylaws and directives concerning the ratification of Constitution.—MNA

* Let's get democracy By voting at polling booth

* For flourishing of democracy Ratify Constitution

Commission for Holding Referendum meets...



Arrangements are under way to help the aged cast vote. —MNA

(from page 6)

Union of Myanmar and Work Guideline Book, and the voting demonstration.

The commission also met sub-commissions of Kachin State, district, township, ward/village-tracts at town hall of Myitkyina at 7 am, with an address by member of the commission Dr Tin Aung Aye.

Chairman of Kachin State sub-commission U Maung Maung Win reported on arrangements for polling stations and ballot boxes in Kachin State, and chairmen of district commissions, on processes on the referendum.

Dr Tin Aung Aye and members of the sub-commissions inspected voting demonstrations at the polling booth in the



A voting demonstration in progress in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana. —MNA

Dhammayon in Shansu (North) Ward in Myitkyina.

A similar ceremony was held at Mon State sub-commission at 8 am. Member of the commission U Aung Myo gave a speech.

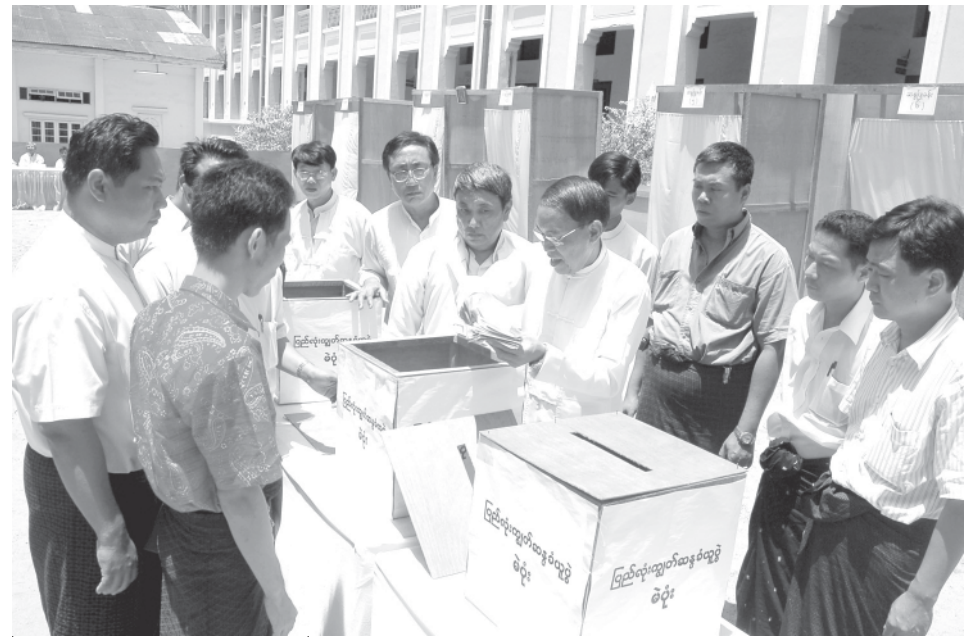
The chairman of Mon State sub-commission reported on performances of members of the district, township, and ward/

village-tract sub-commissions, and heads and members of polling stations; and members of the sub-commission, on relevant tasks and follow-up programmes.

After the meeting, the commission members and sub-commission members inspected the demonstration on voting at Sitkekon Ward polling station (1) in No 8 BEHS

Ballot boxes will be properly inspected.

MNA



Chairman of the sub-commission U Khin Maung Than reported on progress of works.

They inspected the demonstration.

Likewise, commission members met with sub-commissions of districts, townships and ward/village-tracts in Yangon Division at No 2 BEHS on Myomakyaung Street in Dagon Township, Yangon, this morning.

Commission member U Thaung Nyunt delivered a speech.

Yangon Division sub-commission Chairman U Hla Soe reported on work progress. U Thaung Nyunt gave concluding remarks.

Next, the commission member and party inspected the voting demonstration.

Since the second week of March 2008,

over 465,000 copies of the five books—‘State Constitution Draft (2008)’, ‘Referendum Law’, ‘Referendum Rules’, ‘Manual for Referendum Holding Commission Polling Station Heads’, and ‘Work Guideline for Ward/Village-tract Sub-commissions’—have been distributed to related organizations.

The book ‘State Constitution (Draft), can be studied at the libraries of Information and Public Relations Departments across the nation, the libraries under the Ministry of Culture, libraries of universities, colleges and institutes, and copies are available now at the bookshop of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Sarpei Beikman Book Centre, and private book shops.—MNA



People taking part in the demonstration. —MNA

in Mawlamyine Township.

The meeting between commission members and sub-commissions of Shan State (South) district, townships and ward/village-tracts took place at the city hall of Taunggyi at 9 am. Commission member U Sai Tun Mya made an address.

Chairman of Shan State sub-commission U Khin Maung Gyi reported on work progress.

The commission member gave concluding remarks.

They inspected the demonstration at Kyaunggyisu Ward polling station (1) in Taunggyi.

Similarly, commission members had a meeting with Mandalay Division sub-commission at the National Theatre on 66th Street between 20th and 21st streets in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, at 8 am, with an address by commission member U Tin Maung.



Red Cross members will assist older or sick people to cast vote. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe attends opening ...



General Thura Shwe Mann speaks at ceremony to open Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).
MNA

(from page 1)

Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor, heads of departments of the SPDC Office and the ministries, those from Public Works, the Deputy Superintending Engineer of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project and officials, departmental officials from Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions, local authorities of Mandalay District, Sagaing District and townships, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, women's Affairs organizations, Maternal and Child welfare Associations, war veterans Organizations, Red Cross society and fire Brigades, teachers and students and local people.

Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann made a speech on the occasion. He said that the opening of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) has brought auspiciousness to Myanmar people. The Head of State who gave guidance and fulfilled all necessary requirements in the course of the construction of the bridge attended the opening ceremony. The presence of the Head of State on such auspicious occasion reflects his serious attention to the bridge and his goodwill towards the people.

The over 180 feet long facility built by Myanmar technicians in the time of the State Peace and Development Council is the 233rd of its kind and the 8th of Ayeyawady river crossing bridges. It is in parallel with

western parts of Ayeyawady river in upper Myanmar. Due to poor transport, certain regions lagged behind in development.

Therefore, in the time of the State Peace and Development Council a large number of bridges were built in the states and divisions in order to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

The goodwill of the government is to enhance the socio-economic life of the people, to fulfill the food, clothing and shelter needs and bring about secure and smooth transport and to enable the people to engage in trade and commerce in an easy way.

This is the fulfillment of the government for each citizen who wishes to earn his living in the framework of law, to enhance his socio-economic life, to enjoy better transport and to develop his region and nation to keep pace with changes and developments. Bringing about equitable development across the nation amounts to striving for regional development as well as development of education, health, economic and social sectors of national races.

Located in central Myanmar, the facility is strategically important for better transport in the states and divisions. In the meantime, the bridge is indispensable for tourism industry as it links regions where Theravada Buddhism flourishes as well as where there are historic religious edifices and monuments and cultural heritages.

The Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon) contributes a lot to national development as it is located in a region where trade, commerce, industries and information technology flourish.

At present, the government is making all-out efforts in order to be able to cooperate with neighbouring countries, countries in the region and international community in all spheres while striving for bringing about community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order and development of health, education, economic and social sectors.

If economic and social sectors of people fully develop along with sound infrastructures it is sure that the country will keep abreast of international community.

The government has built a large number of infrastructures in production, service and trade sectors for development of economy of the State. In the meantime, nine districts greening tasks in arid zone is making progress. Thanks to concerted efforts of the government and the people unprecedented progress has been made in the greening of Sagaing and Mandalay hills.

All in all, carrying out greening tasks with own resources in the interest of the State and the people amounts to engaging practically in a major community task.

With the development of socio-economic life of the people coupled with their scope of knowledge the nation will be able to overcome a series of insti-

gation, obstacles and hindrances and to safeguard the nation for its perpetuation.

He stressed the need for the people to be disciplined and united and to make constant efforts with patriotism and nationalistic fervour.

In conclusion, he said that the SPDC is implementing political, economic and social objectives in order to reach the national goal in a short time. It is doing so with the aim of enhancing the socio-economic life of the people, of enabling the people to earn their living in the framework of law, of enabling the nation to stand tall among international community, of ensuring the perpetuation of the Union and of safeguarding the nation from falling into foreign subjugation.

The State constitution capable of guaranteeing national interest from generation to generation will soon be approved by the people, he added and spoke of the need for the people to do their bit in the process of approving the State constitution as national duty. And to collectively ward off any wicked acts detrimental to the process of approving the State constitution and to safeguard the bridge for perpetual existence.

In his address, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe said that since 1992, the Inwa bridge had no longer been able to cope with any vehicle of above 15 tons. In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, Ayeyawady Bridge

(Yadanabon) was thus constructed.

The Head of State graced the inauguration of Ayeyawady Bridge, the eighth Ayeyawady River-crossing facility, he said.

Thanks to the new roads and bridges, the people now can travel in Mandalay Division and from and to Magway and Bago divisions, Kachin State, Shan State (North) and Shan State (South), he said, calling for maintaining the transport facilities for their durability and warding off the threats of internal and external saboteurs with patriotic spirit and nationalistic fervour.

Commander of North West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe said that the bridge makes significant contribution towards regional development, calling on local people to help maintain the facility for its durability.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun also made a speech.

A local resident expressed thanks the government for the bridge.

Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted the attendees.

Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han formally opened the bridge.

Senior General Than Shwe and party posed for a documentary photo together with officials.

General Thura Shwe Mann formally unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge and sprinkled scented water onto it, so did Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe, and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun.

Senior General Than Shwe inspected the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).

The 5614-foot-long bridge lies at a place, about 2000 feet upstream Inwa Bridge.

The main bridge is 3694 feet long, the approach bridge on Mandalay side, 1140 feet long, and the approach bridge on Saging side, 780 feet long.

The bridge has a 49-foot-wide motorway and two six-foot-wide pedestrian lanes.

Its clearance area is 700 feet wide and 40 feet high. At maximum, it can withstand 60 tons of load.—MNA



Newly inaugurated Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).—MNA



Revellers gather at the pandal on Anawrahta Street in Latha Township.—MNA

Pandals in Yangon packed with revellers on second Akyat Day

YANGON, 15 April—Today, being second Akyat Day of Maha Thingyan, different townships here were packed with revellers who were participating in the water festival while pandals were being crowded water-thowers to the accompaniment of Thingyan music.

Pandals on Shwegondine road, U Chit Maung road, Saya San road and University Avenue in Bahan Township, those on Yankin road, Yanshin road, Kanbe road and Kaba Aye Pagoda road in Yankin Township, those on Bagaya and Bago roads in Sangyoung Township,

those on Upper Kyimyindine road, Strand road, Natsin road and Bagaya road in Kyimyindine Township, those on Baho road, Ahlon road and Myoma Kyaung road in Dagon Township, those on University Avenue, Inya road, Yangon-Insein road, Pyay road, Hanthawady road, Nanattaw road and Bayint Naung road in Kamayut Township, those on Yangon-Insein road, Pyay road, Station road and Bayint Naung road in Hline Township were packed with revellers on board the cars.

Specially packed areas were Inya road in Kamayut Township,

University Avenue, Kaba Aye Pagoda road, U Chit Maung road and Shwegondine road in Bahan Township and Anawrahta road and Maha Bandoolla Road in downtown.

Altogether 74 padals in 14 townships of Yangon East District were also crowded with revellers while actors, actresses and vocalists presented entertainment at the 19th Street's Pandal in Latha Township. Among revellers were Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Than Win, Col Kyaw Naing Oo of Yangon Command and officials.—MNA



Revellers participate in Thingyan Festival at the pandal of Jewellery Luck Co Ltd in Dagon Township.—H



Great Wall pandal on 16th street in Lanmadaw Township .

H



Visitors enjoy Thingyan festival at Tong Tah pandal in Pazuntaung Township.—H

T-Home Thingyan pandal opened

NAY PYI TAW, 15 April—A ceremony to open T-Home Thingyan pandal of Mandalay Maynmar Traditional Maha Thingyan 1369 ME was held on 66th street between 26th street and

27th street in Aungmyathazan Township on 12 April evening.

Mayor of Mandalay Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, T-Home Mangaging Director U Wai Lwin and

U Myo Thein (Myo Thein electronic) cut the ribbon to open the Thingyan pandal.

Later, the mayor, officials and guests doused each other with scented water.—MNA

Valiant Thingyan pandal opened

YANGON, 15 April — A ceremony to open Valiant Thingyan pandal of the 19th Street family was held at Latha Township, here, on 12 April afternoon. Col Kyaw Naing Oo of Yangon Command, Chairman of Latha Township Peace and Development Council

U Thein Tun and Patron of Myanmar Towards Co Agga Maha Thirithudamma Theingi Daw Ni Ni cut the ribbon to open the pandal.

Later, dance and song entertainment programmes began and the water festival was joyfully held.

The pandal is providing different kinds of snacks and entertainment programmes with the participation of flim artistes and well-known musicians from the Eve of Thingyan to the final day.

MNA



Valiant pandal being crowded with revellers on 19th street in Latha Township.—MNA

New Year wish

* Falling are yellow leaves
And appearing are buds
With small twisters
Everything's new
And singing is a cuckoo
A beautiful summer song

* Ushering in blooming Tagu
Time of happiness
When Padauk flowers turn gold

* Padauk flowers as gift
For success and joy
We hold this water festival
A traditional carnival

* Cherish we the noble rituals
Generosity forever
Discipline we adhere
Practising religion
Destination Nibbana

* In this New Year
Wishing everybody
Clear of dirt
And shines with glory

Maung Maung Moe Aung
(Translation)

Nibbana is the highest happiness

Health is the best gain; contentment is the best wealth; a trusted friend is the best kinsman; and Nibbana is the highest happiness.

Dhammapada-204

Let's go to the polling booth and cast "Yes" vote in the national interest.

Assured. We'll cast "Yes" vote without fail.

Kan Kaung



Girls enjoying themselves at Nga Like Kantha Gardens in the Thingyan in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 16)—MNA



People cooling themselves in water during the Thingyan in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 16)—MNA

Strong Wind Warning

NAY PYI TAW, 15 April – During the hot day Season, beginning from now to May, as day temperatures rise markedly all over the country, towering clouds are expected to form and occasional strong winds are likely at times in the afternoon/evening over most of the area. Surface wind speed may reach (35) to (40) mph and it may also be accompanied by isolated heavy rain and hails in some places.—MNA

Meditation Centre opened in Tawya TatU Monastery

YANGON, 15 April — Tawya TatU Monastery in Aung San, Insein Township opened its 114th Mogok Vipassana meditation centre at the monastery from 1 to 7 April. Over 1600 laypersons practised meditation there. The 115th Mogok Vipassana meditation centre was opened at the monastery on 11 April with the participation of over 2200 laypersons. It will last till 20 April. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Saddamma Kitti Sara delivered sermons there.—H



Damsels performing Thingyan dance to the audience at Kyunshwewah pandal of the Ministry of Forestry in Mandalay.—MNA



T-Home family pandal in Mandalay is crowded with merry-makers enjoying the Water Festival.—MNA



An unidentified artwork, showing a crashed car in the pavement, is pictured on display at Berlin's "Potsdamer Platz" square, on 14 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Images of the Day

Artifacts on display at a new exhibition titled "Egypt's Sunken Treasures" in Madrid. Some 500 treasures of ancient Egypt retrieved by divers from under the sea are on gathered for display in a special space in the Spanish capital former slaughterhouse. —XINHUA



A white albino Japanese Rat Snake is seen at a snake viewing facility in Iwakuni, southwestern Japan, on 15 April, 2008.— XINHUA



Guitar maker George Marlin strums on his Big Foot creation at the Miami Beach Guitar Festival in Florida, on 13 April, 2008. The three-day festival that ends Sunday, attracted guitar makers, musicians and guitar collectors from around the United States. —XINHUA



Participants eat Jajangmyeon, Chinese-style noodles topped with a thick sauce of black bean paste, at a speed eating competition, sponsored by an online company, for movie tickets at a movie theatre in Seoul, on 14 April, 2008. —XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (TBH-221)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (TBH-221) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.4.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Foodstuff Industries for Supply of the following Spares which will be Purchased in US Dollar/Euro.

Sr.No	Description	Quantity
(a)	Spare parts for press Machine and Rolling Machine	7 Items

Closing Date &Time 12-5-2008 (16:00) Hour.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the General Manager (Marketing) Myanmar Foodstuff Industries, Ministry of Industry (1) Office No.37, Nay Pyi Taw Starting from 10.4.2008 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call 067-408370



Visitors view a flower arrangement artwork during the China Peony Flower Arrangement Exhibition in Luoyang, a city of central China's Henan Province, on 15 April, 2008. More than 100 floral artists and designers presented their peony arrangement artworks in the theme of green Olympics in Luoyang on Tuesday.—XINHUA

France moves to justify teaching job-cuts amid protests

PARIS, 14 April — French National Education Minister Xavier Darcos has moved to justify teaching job-cuts, the main source of protests among high school students, saying that this was part of a government reform programme.

“We have to be a little reasonable,” the minister said Sunday, explaining that the 11,200 teaching jobs that will not be renewed within the education ministry, “8,500 are teaching positions, of which 5,000 will be offset through overtime work, meaning that only 3,500 positions will be redundant.”

“We will recruit 18,000 new teachers at the beginning of the new school term and the average number of students per class will remain the same at the beginning of 2008 as it was in 2007,” said the minister, adding that “this was 28 students per class in high schools in general and 19 students per class in vocational high schools.”

MNA/Xinhua

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း				
စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
1.	Raw Materials For Refractory Brick	6 Items	9.4.2008	5.5.2008
2.	Extension of 9 MVA Transformer (FE)	1 Set	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
3.	Air Quenching Cooler Exhaust Fan	1 Set	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
4.	Slurry Valves And Accessories	11 Items	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
5.	Conveyor Chain	5 Items	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
6.	Flexible Gas Tube With Flange	2 Sets	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
7.	Kiln Supporting With Shaft	2 Sets	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
8.	Trunnion Journal For Raw Mill (FE)	1 No	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
9.	Head Cover For Raw Mill (FE)	1 No	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
10.	Girth Gear And Drive Pinion For Cement Mill (FE)	1 Set	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
11.	Dump Truck 25 tons (FE)	1 Unit	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
12.	Dump Truck 10 Tons (FE)	1 Unit	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
13.	Forklift (TCM) 3.5 Tons (FE/Ks)	1 Unit	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
14.	15 Tons Ore Car	10 Items	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
15.	Cable Wire And Accessories	8 Items	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
16.	Unit Cooler For Quality Control Room	1 Unit	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
17.	3 Phase Induction Motor For Air Separator	1 Unit	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
18.	Magnetic Brake Assembly With Power Module	2 Items	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
19.	Electrical Instrument Accessories (FE/Ks)	1 Unit	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
20.	6.6 KV Vacuum Circuit Breaker	1 Set	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
21.	Spare Parts For Heavy Equipment	14 Items	9.4.2008	16.5.2008
22.	Spare Parts For Production M/C	3 Sets	9.4.2008	16.5.2008

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၄၁) နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါများ လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။
တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူထားသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။
(အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Mortar barrages kill three in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 April — A series of mortar barrages rocked the Iraqi capital on Monday, killing three civilians and wounding 13 others, an Interior Ministry source said.

A mortar round landed on the al-Sinaa street in Baghdad's central neighbourhood of Karrada and struck a bus carrying passengers, killing two civilians and injuring six others aboard, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Separately, four mortar rounds landed on residential buildings in the Zaiyouna neighbourhood, in eastern Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding four others, the source said.

The attack caused damages to some buildings in the neighbourhood, he said.

Also on Monday, two mortar rounds hit Baghdad's southeastern neighbourhood of al-Ghadeer, injuring three people, he added.

The source also said that the death toll, from the roadside bomb attack targeted a police patrol in the Sa'adoun Street in central Baghdad, rose to six killed and 12 others wounded.

Earlier, the source put the toll at five killed and nine injured by the attack. A police vehicle was damaged by the blast and several policemen were among the casualty, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran's military plane crashes in Teheran airport

TEHERAN, 14 April — A Sukhoi plane belonging to Iran's military crashed Monday at Tehran's Mehrabad airport, but the two pilots safely ejected before the crash, local Fars news agency reported.

“A Sukhoi plane of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, while landing at the Mehrabad airport, encountered a technical problem at about 19:00 local time (1430 GMT) and crashed,” Fars reported.

“The plane's pilot and co-pilot saved themselves using parachutes before the plane hit ground,” it said.

A fire broke out after the crash and firefighters were busy extinguishing the fire, Fars reported.

MNA/Xinhua



Young ladies of the Dai ethnic group dance at the opening ceremony of the Water Splashing Festival in Luxi of southwest China's Yunnan Province on 12 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Report says Australians ready to act on climate change

CANBERRA, 14 April — A majority of Australians recognized the need to act on climate change and accept that their lives have to change as a result of climate change, according to a report released on Monday.

The Climate Institute report found 94 percent of people supported changes in their own

lives, and a large majority also want to see government leadership on the issue.

Institute chief executive John Connor said people are prepared to act in a number of areas of their lives in order to reduce their impact on the environment.

“People are prepared to fix their lighting, get

more energy efficiency in their homes, get more energy-efficient appliances,” he said.

Connor also said people are not averse to higher energy bills if it means the energy is coming from cleaner sources.

“They want to see all new electricity come from clean energy,” he said.—Xinhua



A man receives medical treatment after being diagnosed with dengue fever in a temporary shelter set up by the Air Force in Rio de Janeiro on 14 April, 2008. Dengue has killed 83 people since January and infected more than 7500 in Rio de Janeiro state, according to official figures.—INTERNET

Chile urges Japan to stop whale hunt

SANTIAGO, 14 April — Chile urged Japan Monday to completely and definitely stop whale hunting, which Tokyo claims is for scientific research purposes.

Because of international pressure and protests from environmental organizations, the Japanese Fishing Agency said it only killed 551 whales, a 40-percent reduction from its target of 900 this year.

Chile’s Environment Minister Ana Lya Uriarte said, “Chile has expressed its complete disapproval, and will continue to do so, against the whale hunt ever since Japan said it would begin the attempt near its coasts.” “It is our duty,

the whole world’s duty, to seek mechanisms to preserve them,” said Lya Uriarte. It is reported that Japan’s disputed

research programme will be discussed in the forthcoming International Whale Commission —Xinhua

Some 158 kg of heroin seized in Turkey

ANKARA, 14 April — Turkish police on Monday seized 158.3 kg of heroin in two operations in eastern province of Van, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Anti-drug squad confiscated 95 kg of heroin in a house in Van.

In another operation, police seized 63.3 kg of heroin in a truck in Gulpinar town of Van.

A total of nine

suspects were detained in the operations. Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from

Asia and the Middle East to western European markets.

Xinhua



A couple of visitors watch a stone carving by the Culture Wall of Historic Celebrities in Wulongtan Park of Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 13 April, 2008. The recently-built 100-metre-long culture wall presented sculpts depicting historic stories, folklores and historic celebrities, which attracted a lot of visitors every day. —XINHUA

Death toll from NE China coal mine explosion rises to 16

SHENYANG, 14 April — The death toll from a coal mine explosion in northeast China’s Liaoning Province at the weekend rose to 16 after two missing miners were found dead, investigators said on Monday.

The bodies of two missing miners in the blast were retrieved at 5 pm Monday from the No 3 Coal Mine of Shaguotun Village, Huludao City, said a Huludao City government official. The bodies of 14 miners had been recovered two hours

earlier.

A gas blast occurred at 10:15 am on Saturday when 39 miners were at work. Twenty-one miners escaped unharmed, while two were injured.

They were sent to hospitals, where they were reported to be out of danger.

The rescue operation has ended.

Investigators said

there were illegal mining activities at the pit, such as the digging beyond officially-approved limits.

The mine’s investor, surnamed Li, and legal representative, surnamed Liu, have been questioned by police. The mine’s bank accounts were frozen.

The direct cause of the accident is still under investigation.

Xinhua

Colombian Navy destroys five cocaine labs

BOGOTA, 14 April — Colombia’s Navy reported Monday it destroyed five labs used to process cocaine on the Colombia’s border with Ecuador, and arrested at least two former paramilitaries guarding the location.

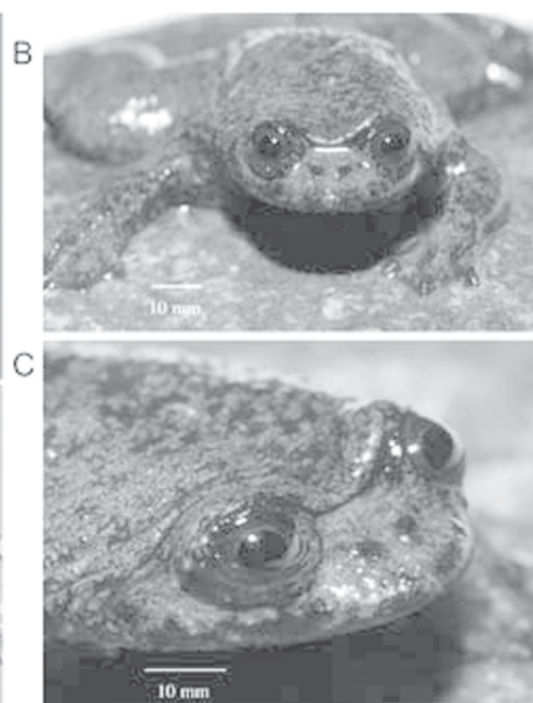
“Troops from the

Navy Number 70 Fluvial Infantry Battalion gave a hard blow to Los Rastrojos criminal gang, arresting two of its members, including one nicknamed ‘Neneco,’ and destroying five of its production labs,” Colombia’s Navy stated in a communique. The arrestees are also former members of Colombia’s United Self-Defence (AUC) in the western Narino border province.

The AUC was disarmed in April of 2006 but its ultra right-wing commanders gathered troops and continued their illegal activities, including illicit drug trafficking in the Colombian regions.

The Colombian Navy reported that during this attack it confiscated weapons, communication equipment, paste to produce cocaine, coca leaves, gasoline and other substances.—Xinhua

An undated handout combination image shows a Map of Borneo (A) showing the Indonesian portion, Kalimantan, in the South-Central part of the island, and (B) Barbourula kalimantanensis in anterior view, and (C) lateral view showing extreme flattening. Barbourula kalimantanensis, a rare and primitive frog living in a remote Borneo stream has no lungs and apparently absorbs oxygen through its skin, researchers reported on 9 April, 2008.—XINHUA



SPORTS



Chelsea's John Terry (L) clears the ball past Wigan Athletic's Emile Heskey during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 14 April, 2008. —XINHUA

Result of English Premier League soccer

LONDON, 14 April — Following is the result of English Premier League soccer match on Monday:

Chelsea	1	Wigan Athletic	1
Played on Sunday			
Liverpool	3	Blackburn Rovers	1
Manchester United	2	Arsenal	1
Played on Saturday			
Birmingham City	1	Everton	1
Bolton Wanderers	1	West Ham United	0
Derby County	0	Aston Villa	6
Portsmouth	0	Newcastle United	0
Reading	0	Fulham	2
Sunderland	1	Manchester City	2
Tottenham Hotspur	1	Middlesbrough	1

MNA/Xinhua

Zambian soccer player clinches deal with Portugese team

LUSAKA, 14 April — Zambian midfielder Rainford Kalaba has clinched a five year deal with Portuguese Superliga side Sporting Braga after passing medical tests on Friday, *The Pos* reported Monday.

The member of Zambian national soccer team, nicknamed the Chipolopolo Boys, would move to the club during the FIFA summer transfer window in June.

"Kalaba has signed a five-year deal with Braga and returns to the club in June for the club's pre-season (training)," the Zambian newspaper quoted a Portuguese newspaper as saying.

"He now returns home ahead of Zambia's 2010 World Cup qualifiers next month," it added.

"I am impressed with how big the club is and it

has a spectacular structure and a very nice stadium," Kalaba said in an interview.

This will be Kalaba's second European stint after a one-year stay with French Ligue 1 team OGC Nice in the 2005-2006 soccer season.

Kalaba joins Braga after inspiring ZESCO

United of Zambia to their first league title last year, when he was also voted Footballer of the Year as Zambia's top scorer.

The midfielder has been on loan to ZESCO from KCM/FAZ Division One North team Afrisports since July 2006.

MNA/Xinhua



Katerina Emmons of the Czech Republic competes during the women's 10m air rifle final in the "Good Luck Beijing" 2008 ISSF World Cup at the Beijing Shooting Range Hall in Beijing, on 12 April, 2008. Katerina Emmons claimed the title with a score of 504.9 points. —XINHUA

Chinese Zhu defends his championship in men's 10-metre air rifle

BEIJING, 14 April — Chinese sharpshooter Zhu Qinan seized the gold medal of the men's 10 metres air rifle after a hot pursuit with 700.8 points here at the Good Luck Beijing ISSF World Cup on Monday.

American shooter Matthew Emmons was edged to the second place with a narrow distance of only 0.1 points, while Indian Gagan Narang took the bronze with 700.3 points.

Starting with 597 points after the qualification round and ranked fifth, Zhu, the 24-year-old Olympic gold medalist and Olympic record holder in

the discipline, pulled up his socks to overtake by scoring nine of the ten shots above ten point in the final, leaving only a 9.9 at the fourth shot.

His arch-rival, the 27-year-old Emmons and Athens Olympic champion in rifle prone who strided into the final with a leading 599 points in the qualification round, managed to maintain his advantage until the last shot, when he scored 10.1, outscored by Zhu with 0.3 point in the shot.

Always among the last two to open fire, the champion admitted that he had a difficult time in

the competition.

"I was not in good shape lately," Zhu said, "I had an appendectomy on 1 March, and resumed training on 24 March. Both my technique and health are not as good as before." He said that the qualification was tough for him.

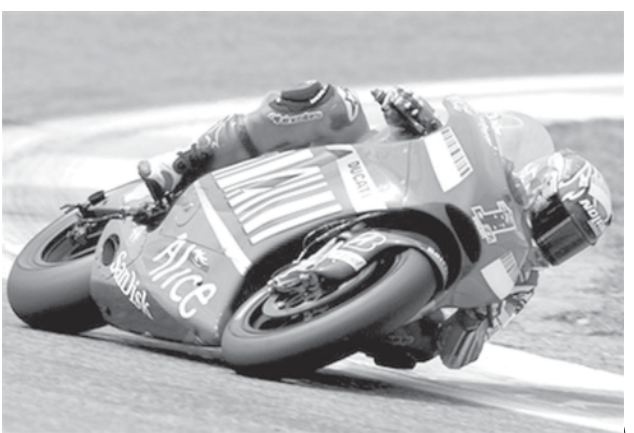
"I felt exhausted, but I stick on with my strong will," he added. "Even you fail to play at your normal level at the beginning you shouldn't give up."

"I felt so nervous especially at the every beginning...I failed to do

a good job at the first five shots." Looking into the Olympic Games this August, Zhu hoped that he would not win so difficultly then. "There are still four months ahead and I will adjust condition," he said.

Emmons said the silver medal was more than he expected. "The score of 599 is my personal best in World Cups, although it wasn't my best final. It was a good sign that better events are coming up soon," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Casey Stoner, from Australia, rides his Ducati through a curve during the MotoGP race of the motorcycling Portugal Grand Prix at the Estoril race track in Sintra, outside Lisbon, Portugal, on 13 April, 2008. Jorge Lorenzo, from Spain, won ahead of second placed Dani Pedrosa and in third Valentino Rossi.

INTERNET

Result of Portuguese soccer championship

LISBON, 14 April — Following is the result of Portuguese soccer championship on Monday:

Braga	0	Uniao Leiria	1
Played on Sunday			
Nacional Madeira	1	FC Pacos de Ferreira	2
Naval	0	Maritimo	3
Sporting	2	Leixoes SC	0
Played on Saturday			
Estrela Amadora	0	Belenenses	2
Vitoria Guimaraes	1	Boavista	0
Vitoria Setubal	1	Porto	2
Played on Friday			
Benfica	0	Academica	3

MNA/Xinhua



Jessica Hardy of the United States celebrates after winning the gold medal in the final of the women's 50m breaststroke at the World Short Course Swimming Championships at the MEN Arena in Manchester on Thursday. —INTERNET

Results of women's trap event at Good Luck Beijing ISSF World Cup

- BEIJING, 14 April — Following are the results from women's trap event at the Good Luck Beijing ISSF World Cup here on Monday:
1. Gao E, China, 93 hits (71+22)
 2. Pak Yong Hui, DPR Korea, 90 (69+21)
 3. Irina Laricheva, Russia, 89 (68+21)
 4. Deborah Gelisio, Italy, 88 (70+18)
 5. Kim Yong Bok, DPR Korea, 85 (70+15)
 6. Chae Hye Gyong, DPR Korea, 83 (68+15)

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Defence Minister meets Pakistani President

BEIJING, 14 April — Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met here on Monday with visiting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, pledging to strengthen friendly cooperation between the two nations' armed forces. Liang told Musharraf that the Chinese armed forces are ready to deepen friendly cooperation with Pakistan to promote the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership of bilateral cooperation.

Hailing the increasingly consolidated and developed bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties 57 years ago, Liang noted that the two armed forces have maintained close ties and conducted exchanges and cooperation in various fields. Musharraf said that Pakistan was satisfied with the development of relations between the two armed forces and he hoped both sides would continue to make joint efforts to safeguard regional and world peace and stability and make new contributions

to promoting common development.

Citing Pakistan's and China's "all-weather partnership," Musharraf said the friendship between the two countries had a broad foundation and extensive contents and renewed itself as time passed.

MNA/Xinhua

Gaza power plant to shut down by Tuesday due to fuel shortage

GAZA, 14 April — Palestinian Petrol Corporation chief in Gaza warned on Monday that Gaza's main power plant will be closed by Tuesday due to the shortage of fuel. "The remaining amounts of industrial fuel to keep the power plant operating will be only sufficient until

Tuesday," Mujahid Salama said in a statement, warning "if more fuel is not allowed, Gaza Strip will be sinking in full blackout." If more amounts of fuel are not allowed into Gaza within 24 hours, there will be catastrophic reflections on all aspects of life in the Gaza Strip, mainly health and education sector, added Salama.

He, however, noted that "the Israeli side, which began to positively react to our calls on Sunday, will allow fuel into Gaza within the coming few hours."

After Hamas movement took control of the Gaza Strip in June last year and routed President Mahmoud Abbas' security forces, Israel imposed a blockade on the enclave and shut down all Gaza border crossings.

Following an increase of homemade rockets attacks carried out by Gaza militants on Israel, Israel termed the Gaza Strip "a hostile entity" and cut off amounts of fuels needed to operate Gaza power plant, engines and vehicles.

MNA/Xinhua

More US soldiers' remains repatriated

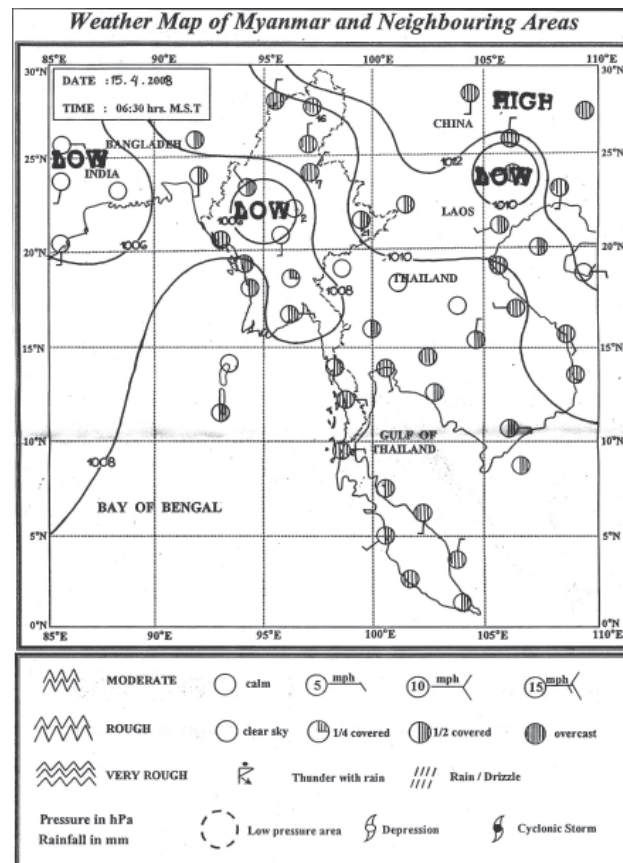
HANOI, 14 April — The Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons transferred Monday custody of possible remains believed to be those of Americans who died during the conflict in Southeast Asia and recovered from excavation sites in Vietnam's central region.

At the repatriation ceremony at the Da Nang International Airport in central Da Nang city on Monday, US Ambassador to Vietnam Michael Michalak and US Army Lieutenant Colonel James Saenz, representing the US government, received

custody of the remains, according to a Press release by the American Embassy in Vietnam. The ceremony marks the 106th post-war repatriation of remains from Vietnam.

To date, 883 Americans have been identified since 1975 — 627 from Vietnam, 224 from Laos, 29 from Cambodia, and three from China. There are 1,763 Americans still unaccounted for from the war in Southeast Asia, including 1,353 in Vietnam, said the release.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 15 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State, isolated in Shan, Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather have been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Southern Shan, Chin States, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu and Aungmye (42°C) each, Monywa (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyin Oo Lwin (0.99) inch, Kengtung (0.83) inch, Kyaukse (0.78) inch, Putao (0.67) inch, Machanbaw (0.55) inch and Bhamo (0.39) inch.

Maximum temperature on 14-4-2008 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 15-4-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-4-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 14-4-2008 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-4-2008 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 (7) mph from Northwest at (16:30) hours MST on 14-4-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-4-2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Mon and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-4-2008: Partly cloudy.



People plant trees at a carbon neutral woods along east bank of the Yongdinghe River in the Shijingshan District of Beijing, China. The tree planting event for the green Olympics was held there on Tuesday. — XINHUA



Wednesday, 16 April

View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy
exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

8:30 am

4. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

4:55 pm

3. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

6:00 pm

4. Evening news

6:30 pm

5. Weather report

7:20 pm

6. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

7:35 pm

7. "စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှန်"

8:00 pm

8. Local news

9. International news

10. Weather report

11. "သပြေကုန်းမှရွှေအမြီးများ"

12. မြန်မာ့ဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း

"၅၈ နောင်ကြီး" (အပိုင်း-၂)

(နိုင်ငံခြား၊ မြေးစန္ဒီကျော်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်ဦး)

(စနိုးပိုင်)

Let us all

- * **who are equipped with ardent patriotism,**
- * **who cherish genuine independence,**
- * **who aspire perpetuation of sovereignty,**
- * **who loathe foreign interference and manipulation, and**
- * **who oppose puppet government with strings of colonialists,**

VOTE “YES” for ratification of the Constitution.

- **On this New Year festival**
Joyfulness is the traditional Thingyan.
- **With scent of Golden Padauk flowers**
Peace prevailing in entire Myanmar.

- **Democracy cannot be**
achieved by anarchism or
violence, but by Constitution.

- **Let’s approve Constitution to**
shape our future by ourselves.

Nay Pyi Taw enjoys happy Thingyan

NAY PYI TAW, 15 April—Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar, was thronged with revellers, taking part in the Thingyan Festival with lots of fun and joy on 13 and 14 April and today. Pandals all around the capital were packed with fun-loving people and the roads and lanes where pandals were located were also crowded with revellers roaming the city by vehicles. A lot of cars and motorcycles were seen along the Bogyoke Road and other streets in Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana during the Thingyan Festival.

A large number of revellers gathered at the beach of Paung Laung Creek near the famous Hlekhwin Hsutaung Pyae Pagoda and enjoyed the water festival in groups or individually.

Nga Like Kanthaya Gardens that is seven miles from the city was also packed with visitors. The public park opened on 9 April is located at Nga Like Dam.

In addition to the city dwellers, people from various parts of the country were also taking Thingyan holidays in Nay Pyi Taw, some enjoying swimming at bathing beach, others taking relaxation and many more dining at restaurants from morning to evening.

Over 30,000 people took part in the city water festival on 13 April, over 40,000 the next day and over



50,000 today.

During the said three days, a large number of people visited the Zoological Gardens, some having a picnic at shady places.—MNA

*Revellers visit Nga Like Kanthaya
Gardens at Nga Like Dam in Nay Pyi Taw.*

MNA

- **For ratification of Constitution**
Let’s go to polling booth to cast “Yes”

- **Towards the new nation**
Will ratify Constitution.