Ariyasaccana dassanam, to discern the noble-truths; this is the way to auspiciousness

Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XVI, Number 4 | Fullmoon Day of Oo Tagu 1370 ME | Sunday, 20 April, 2008

■ 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, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Maha Bawditahtaung Laykyunsetkyar Standing Buddha Image

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April —Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing paid homage to the Maha Bawditahtaung Laykyunsetkyar Standing Buddha Image in Maha Bawditahtaung Monastery in Khatatkantaung village in Monywa Township, Sagaing Division this morning.

The Senior General and wife accompanied by Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of the SPDC,

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Bawditahtaung Laykyunsetkyar Standing Buddha Image.

MNA

INSIDE

Is that so, Maung Ka Lu? More than that, Grandpa

MAUNG KA LU

Today, colonialists consider that the more political parties with various concepts fight each other, the weaker the nation concerned will be with national disunity. So, they are instigating multi-policies and driving a wedge among national races in small countries to provoke ethnic groups to fight each other.

PAGE 10

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 April, 2008

Boost export of value-added bamboo and rattan furniture

Myanmar is rich in forest resources. So, it can contribute towards economic growth of the nation by boosting production and export of marketable forest products.

In Myanmar, bamboo grows naturally everywhere. There are 22 kinds and more than 100 species of bamboo in Myanmar. Bamboo is used widely in building houses and making household utensils in rural areas and in construction works in suburban areas. On average, 1000 million stems of bamboo are used a year.

Household utensils made of bamboo such as bamboo basket, bamboo tray and bamboo sieve have been used for many years in the nation. And various kinds of bamboo products such as bamboo chopstick, bamboo hat, bamboo fishing rod and bamboo shoot are exported. Moreover, bamboo charcoal is also exported.

Rattan is also found in the forests in the nation, especially in Ayeyawady Division, Kachin State, Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division. Of the cane species, Kyeinhnamaung (Letmekyein), Tawtanlankyein, Kalarkyein, Wayinkyein, Kyeinphyu and Kyeinpok are marketable.

Now, rattan is exported not only as raw materials but also as value-added product to the People's Republic of China and some European countries.

Therefore, efforts are to be made for boosting production of forest products for export of rattan and bamboo not only as raw materials but also as value-added products.

To mark the birthday of Daw Khine Khine Win of Myothit Street-2 in Kyaukmyaung, Tamwe Township, wellwishers donate K 100,000 to Prof Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently.—H

People's Desire

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

Rural area development tasks inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo inspected sinking of artesian well for supplying water to the rural area in Gether Hmwe Village, Ayardaw Township of Sagaing Division on 12 April.

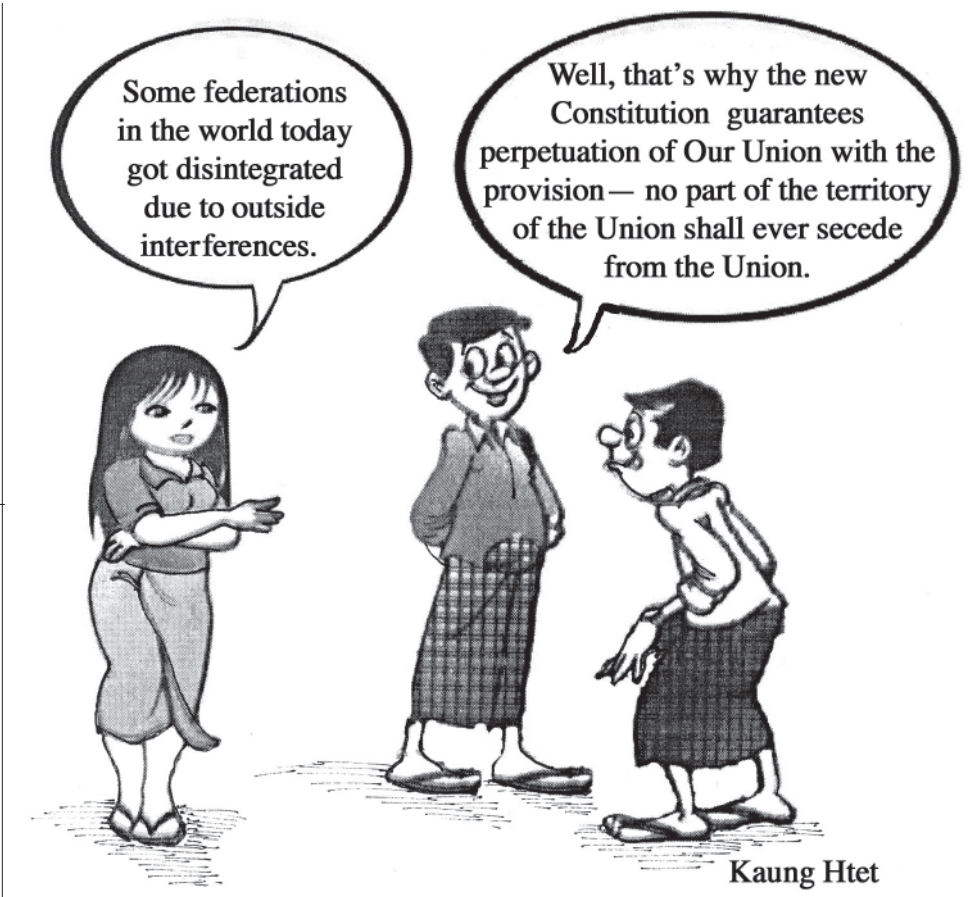
The Commander and the USDA Secretary-General also met with local residents and members of social organizations, and presented sports gear to them.

In Ngwetwingon Village, the commander and the secretary-general inspected No 17 artesian well that produces 16000 gallons per hour and paid homage to the Saya-daw of Ngwetwingon Monastery.

Later, they attended the opening ceremony of No 19 artesian well in Ihlya Village and met local residents at Basic Post-Primary School of the village.

The commander and the secretary-general proceeded to Yathit Village and observed the sinking of artesian well. They called for rural area development and boosting of agricultural produces and presented sports gear to the local people.

In the evening, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met staff members of the ministry at the Director's Office of Irrigation Department in Monywa and gave instructions to them.—*MNA*



Electric Power No 1 Minister inspects Yeywa Hydropower Project

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min arrived at Yeywa Hydropower Project being implemented on Myitnge River near Ye-Yamann village, 31 miles southeast of Mandalay on 15 April.

The minister inspected laying of concrete at unit (1) generator, installation of Druft tube and Grouting work at unit (2) generator and progress of construction of water intake.

So far, the construction of main dam has been completed 82 per cent and the entire project, 54.12 per cent. Upon completion, the project can produce about 3550 million kwh annually.

MNA

Myanma New Year Maha Thingyan Festival successfully ends with significant decrease in casualty

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—The Myanma New Year Maha Thingyan Festival for 2008 was held on a grand scale across the nation from 12 to 16 April with full national characters, culture and tradition.

The authorities concerned issued warnings through TVs and newspapers before the Maha Thingyan in order to avoid undesirable incidents. In addition, the authorities concerned supervised the water festival in order to make it systematic.

The entire national people celebrated the water festival in discipline to be in line with Myanma tradition and custom. However, because of some people who were negligent and indulged in drinking there occurred three traffic accidents and 24 brawls, leaving two people dead and 32 others injured. The traffic accidents caused two people dead and one injured while the brawls left 31 people injured.

The casualty during the water festival has decreased significantly year by year with an decrease in the incidence of crimes. During the period of Maha Thingyan in 2007, there were 41 cases with six deaths and 71 injured. In comparison, the case was brought down to 14, the death, to 4 and the injured, to 39. It is largely due to the fact that the entire national people strictly abided by rules, warnings and notifications and celebrated the water festival in a civilized and systematic manner in accord with Myanma culture and tradition taking lessons from the past.—*MNA*

Clinton says Obama can't stand the heat

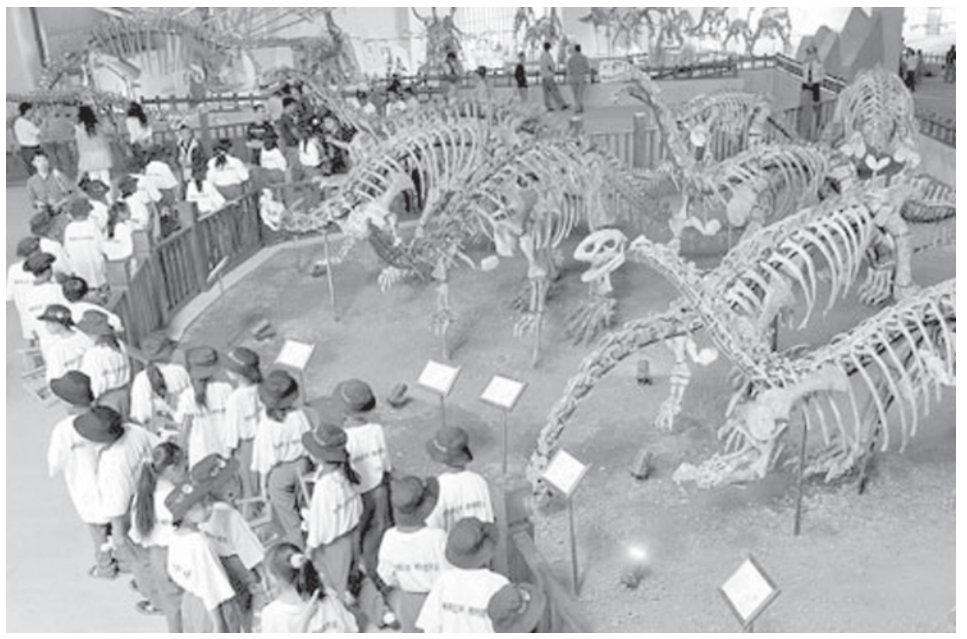
RADNOR, 19 April — Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton said on Friday that rival Barack Obama could not stand the pressure of the White House after the Illinois senator complained about tough questions at a debate.

Clinton said Obama's complaints about questions posed to him in their televised debate Wednesday night raised doubts about whether he was tough enough to stand up to the scrutiny of the presidency.

The debate questions, which focused on a series of controversies and comments involving Obama, drew complaints on Thursday from the Illinois senator and from viewers.

"I know some of my opponent's supporters and my opponent are complaining about the hard questions," Clinton, a former first lady, told a rally. "Well, having been in the White House for eight years and seeing what happens in terms of the pressures and the stresses on a president, that was nothing," she said.

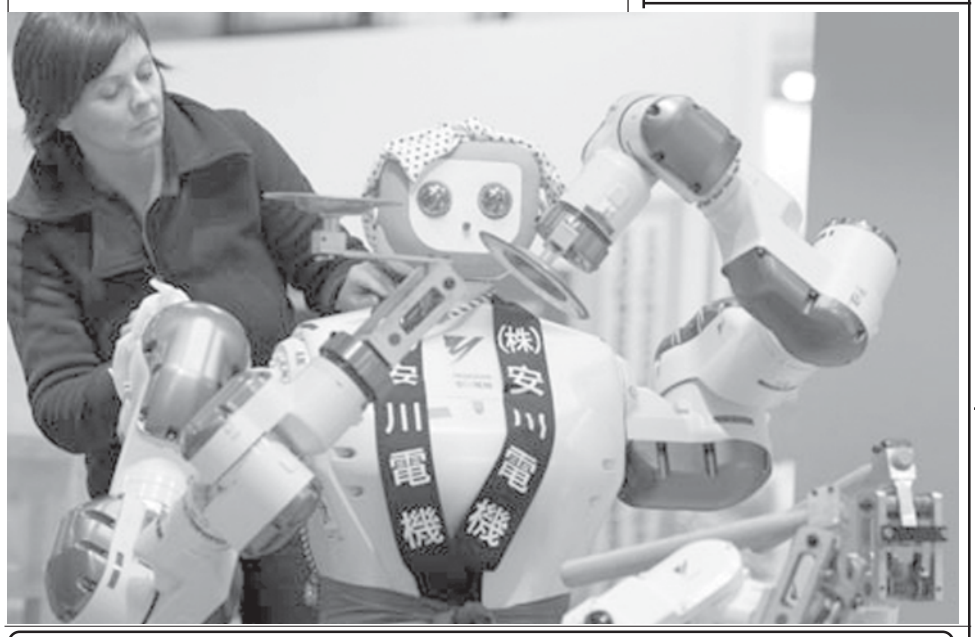
MNA/ Reuters



Children view dinosaur skeletons at the World Dinosaur Valley in Lufeng County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 19 April, 2008. The Lufeng World Dinosaur Valley, a dinosaur theme park which was opened to tourists on Friday, exhibited 60 dinosaur skeletons. **—XINHUA**

A worker poses while cleaning a "Motoman" dual arm robot by Japanese company Yaskawa Electric during final preparations at the "Hannover Messe" industrial trade fair in Hanover on 18 April, 2008. The world's leading fair for industrial technology, with about 5,100 exhibitors from 62 nations, opens to the public on 21 April and runs till 25 April.

XINHUA



Chinese Vice-President meets Japanese guests

BEIJING, 18 April — Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping met here on Friday with former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Ikuo Hirayama, president of Japan-China association for friendship.

Xi said China and Japan were important neighbors and nations in Asia-Pacific region. Improvement of the long-term and good-neighborly relations would conform to the fundamental interest of the two nations and the two peoples and be conducive to world peace and stability. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Japanese peace and friendship treaty, and is the year of exchanges between the youth of the two countries.

Xi called on the two sides to take the chance to strengthen cooperation in all fields and promote bilateral relations in a long-term, stable and healthy way. —*MNA/Xinhua*

US military death toll in Iraq rises to 4,037

WASHINGTON, 19 April—As of Friday, 18 April, 2008, at least 4,037 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. The figure includes eight military civilians. At least 3,295 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The *AP* count is two lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT. The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 29,780 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally.— *Internet*

Mugabe denounces Britain in post-poll speech

HARARE, 19 April — Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe bitterly attacked former colonial ruler Britain on Friday in his first major speech since disputed elections, saying London was paying the population to turn against him. Mugabe, 84, told 15,000 cheering supporters in a fiery address to mark independence day: "Down with the British. Down with thieves who want to steal our country."

In a stream of insults against Britain, Mugabe added: "Today they are like thieves fronting their lackeys among us, which they give money to confuse our people."

Mugabe, in power since independence in 1980, is under heavy international pressure over a delay in releasing results from the 29 March presidential election, which the opposition says was won by its leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

In a new setback for Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) the Harare High Court on Friday rejected its bid to prevent a partial election recount on Saturday. —*MNA/Reuters*

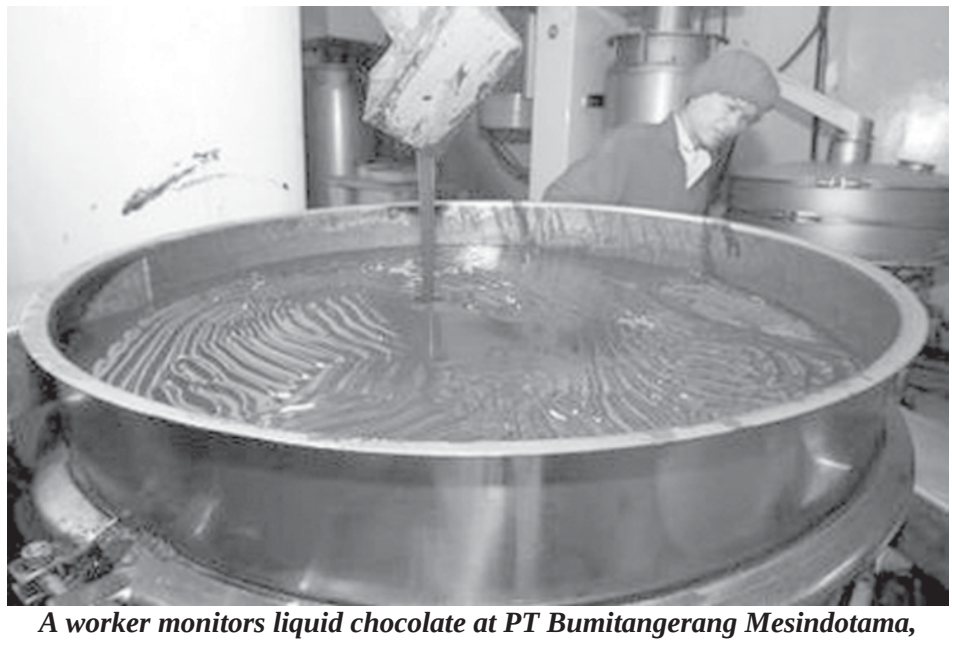
Thailand extends emergency decree in southernmost provinces

BANGKOK, 19 April — The Cabinet of Thailand agreed on Friday to extend an emergency decree in the three southernmost provinces plagued by violence for three more months, starting from 19 April.

The government decided to extend the decree in Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and four districts of Songkhla Province because of the ongoing unrest, local news network The Nation said.

It was the 11th extension of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations since the southernmost area was firstly enforced under emergency decree in July 2005.

Thailand's three southernmost provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala are violence-plagued. More than 3,000 people have been killed in violence since early 2004. —*Internet*



A worker monitors liquid chocolate at PT Bumitangerang Mesindotama, Indonesia's third largest cocoa grinder in Tangerang, West Java on 18 April, 2008. Indonesia cocoa grinders, already running at half of capacity, are still struggling to process more beans due to lack of high-quality fermented cocoa beans, an industry official said on Friday. **—INTERNET**

Kites fly in the sky of Berck-sur-mer, northern France, during the 22nd International kite meeting.—INTERNET

65 pct of China's invention patents from SMEs

BEIJING, 18 April — Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have become a major force in promoting China's science and technology innovation, which take up over 65 percent of the country's invention patents, a senior official has said.

Li Yuguang, deputy head of the State Intellectual Property Office, told a seminar on intellectual property rights (IPR) here that more than 80 percent of China's new products were from the SMEs, according to the Science and Technology Daily on Friday.

However, the SMEs generally lack awareness of IPR protection, with 80.2 percent of them having no IPR department, according to Li.

Yin Xintian, a spokesman with the office, told a press conference Thursday that China was making progress in its battle to protect IPR with better implementation of relevant laws and regulations.

However, "in merely 20-odd years it is impossible for China to establish IPR protection awareness similar to that of Western countries," Yin said.

Xinhua

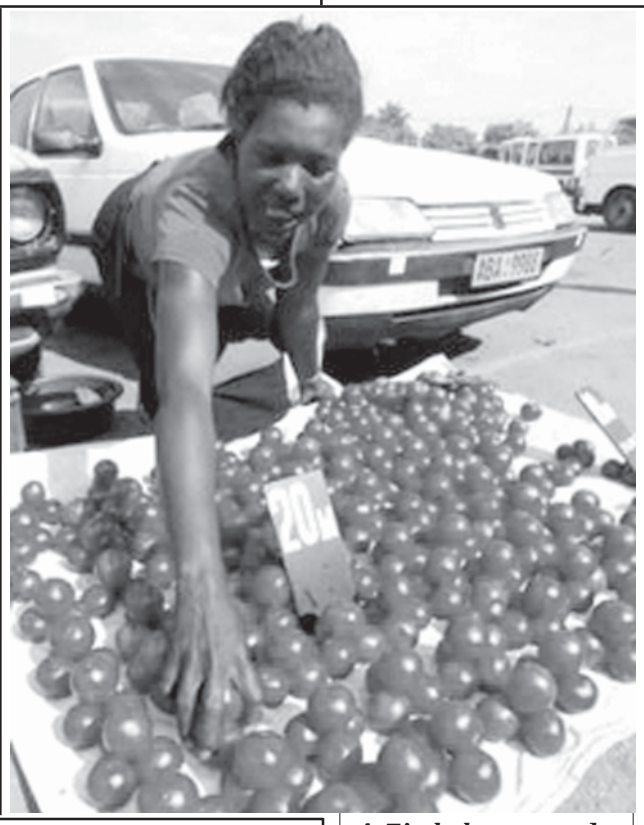
Vietnam has secured space sovereignty

HANOI, 19 April — With the successful launch of its first satellite named Vinasat-1, Vietnam has already secured "state sovereignty on the space," Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said on Saturday.

"Launching Vinasat-1 satellite is of great political and socioeconomic significance...Vinasat-1 is an important communication bridge linking Vietnam with nations in the region and the world," Dung said on the Central Vietnam Television just after the medium-sized communication satellite was successfully launched by French company ArianeSpace in Kourou site in French Guiana at 5:16 am (Vietnamese time) on Saturday.

"With this event (the successful launch), Vietnam has become the 93rd country in the world, and the 6th country in the region having satellites on orbits," he said.

Xinhua



A Zimbabwean trader arranges tomatoes for sale at a market in Harare's western suburb of Glen View on 17 April, 2008. INTERNET

A minibus drives past trees blown down by strong wind in Wenchang City, south China's Hainan Province, on 18 April, 2008.— XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China typhoon weakens, 18 fishermen missing

BEIJING, 19 April— Typhoon Neoguri has weakened into a tropical storm after slamming into the southern Chinese island province of Hainan, with 18 fishermen reported missing,state media said on Saturday.

The storm forced the cancellation of 76 flights, caused a power black-out in Hainan's northeastern city of Wenchang, and is now moving into Guangdong province, *Xinhua* news agency said.

Guangdong flood control authorities said residents in low-lying areas and dangerous houses had all been evacuated tosafety, it reported. About 20,000 boats in Guangdong had returned to port.—*Xinhua*

Fourteen killed as Burundi rebels, army clash

BUJUMBURA, 18 April—Rebels from Burundi's last guerrilla group fired mortar bombs at government positions in clashes that killed 10 rebels and four soldiers, an army spokesman said on Friday.

The military's deputy spokesman Colonel Justace Ciza said the fighting, which started late Thursday and continued into Friday morning, was centred on the rebel stronghold of Bubanza some 50 Km (30 miles) northwest of the capital Bujumbura.

Despite a September 2006 peace deal, the rebel Forces for National Liberation (FNL) continue to mount sporadic attacks. Last month 20 people, mainly soldiers and rebels, were killed in fighting on the outskirts of Bujumbura.—*Xinhua*

Spain nabs 10 suspected of involvement in ETA street violence

MADRID, 18 April — Spanish police on Friday arrested 10 people in Guipuzcoa, Basque region, with suspected involvement in street terrorism related to the Basque separatist group ETA, the Interior Ministry said.

The ministry said the arrests were made in cities of Renteria, Oiartzun and Mondragon.

The police also searched 18 houses and premises allegedly used by the group linked to ETA to hide assets and hold meetings.

The 10 are accused of throwing Molotov cocktails at a police station, setting fires and carrying out other attacks in the Basque region since 2005, according to the Interior Ministry.

This is the police's seventh operation against street terrorism in the Basque region since July, 2007, and it was carried out just a day after a bombing blamed on ETA injured seven policemen in Bilbao, north of Spain.

Xinhua

Dense smoke shrouds Argentine capital

BUENOS AIRES, 18 April — A dense cloud of smoke caused by field burning shrouded the Argentine capital on Friday, forcing officials to suspend flights and close major highways.

The smoke started to appear more than a week ago, but visibility deteriorated consider-ably on Friday and the pungent smell of smoke pervaded homes and offices, causing watery eyes and sore throats among city residents.

Officials blame road accidents that killed at least nine people on the grass fires in a rural area north of Buenos Aires.

Cattle ranchers use fire to rejuvenate grazing land cheaply.

Officials said on Thursday ranchers had started fires across 70,000 hectares (173,000 acres) of pasture and satellite images showed wind carrying a swathe of white over the capital and across the River Plate as far as Uruguay.

Xinhua

Foreign stragetic investors allowed to finance Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway

BEIJIG, 19 April — Indigenous and foreign strategic investors will have a chance to invest in China's longest high-speed railway linking the capital of Beijing and eastern financial hub Shanghai as the government intends to diversify the investors, *Xinhua* learned Friday from the Ministry of Railways (MOR).

An MOR official told *Xinhua* at the ground-breaking ceremony for the railway in Beijing that public securities offerings would be used, when conditions were mature, to finance the project so as to reduce the proportion of government investment.

The 1,318-km line with an investment of 220.9 billion yuan (31.6 billion US dollars) is the most expensive construction project in China's history.

The Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway Co Ltd was inaugurated in late December to lead the construction, and has a registered capital of 115 billion yuan.

However this accounts for only half of the total investment.

An official written reply from the National Development and Reform Commission verified that the company may use bank loans and bond issuance to offset the capital shortage.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian leader rules out rice export

JAKARTA, 19 April — Indonesia's ambition to become a rice exporter was put on hold Friday when President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono asserted he would not allow the export this year despite sufficient stocks at home.

"Last year we managed to boost rice production by 2 million tons and stocks seem to be secure this year. But I still cannot allow the export," the president said at the Merdeka Palace here.

The government will focus on efforts to cope with the surging global food prices which threaten to push millions of people in many countries deeper into poverty.

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign tourists to Cambodia up over 17 pct for early 2008

PHNOM PENH, 19 April — Foreign tourists to Cambodia increased over 17 percent for the first two months of 2008 compared to the same period of 2007, Tourism Minister Thong Khon said here on Friday.

About 400,000 foreign tourists visited here during the first two months of this year, Thong Khon said. The natural beach resorts, ancient temples, natural views, culture, good infrastructure and the stability of country are the main factors attracting foreign tourists, he added.

Meanwhile, Ho Vandy, President of Cambodian Association of Travel Agencies (CATA), said that during the Khmer New Year on 13-16 April, about 10,000 Cambodian people visited neighboring countries, increasing about 15 percent compared to the same occasion in 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

US banking giant Citigroup reported Friday a US$5.1 billion net loss during the first quarter and said it would cut an additional 9,000 jobs as it struggles with bad bets on sub-prime mortgages.
INTERNET

AT&T to slash about 4,500 jobs

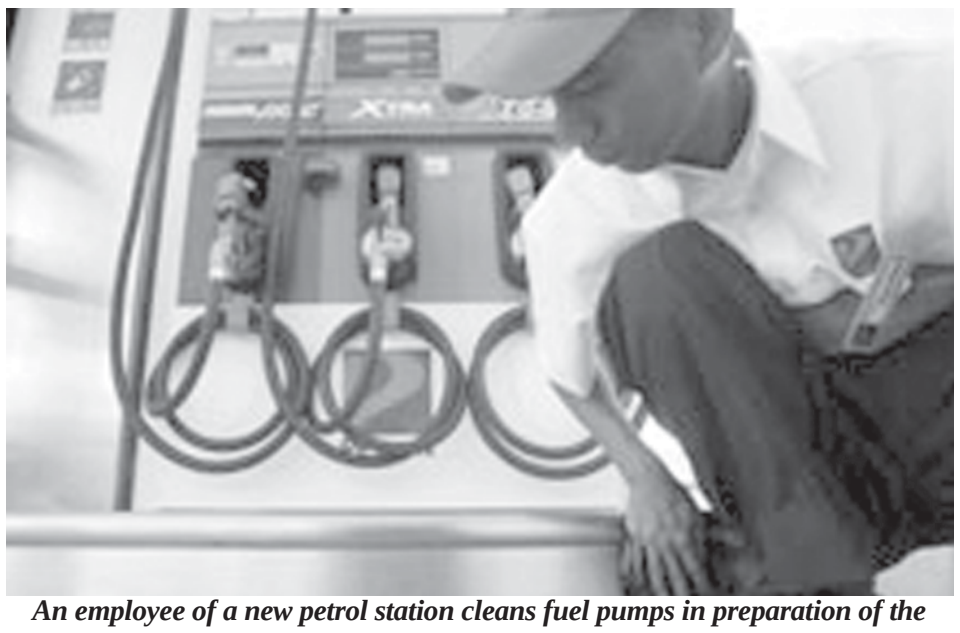
WASHINGTON, 19 April — US telecommunications giant AT&T Inc said Friday it will reduce its workforce by 1.5 percent, primarily among management employees, as part of its plan to streamline operations.

The company said it expects to take a pre-tax charge of 374 million dollars during the first quarter related to the job cuts.

The job eliminations come as the telecom titan rationalizes operations after a series of acquisitions of regional companies.

Internet

ECONOMICNEWS



An employee of a new petrol station cleans fuel pumps in preparation of the upcoming opening of its branch in Manila on 16 April, 2008. Crude oil futures rose nearly 2 US dollars a barrel on Friday to close at a new record high of 116.69 dollars a barrel on news about pipeline sabotage in Nigeria. — **XINHUA**

Crude touches $117 for first time

NEW YORK, 19 April — Crude oil futures rose nearly 2 US dollars a barrel on Friday to close at a new record high of 116.69 dollars a barrel on news about pipeline sabotage in Nigeria.

The front-month contract hit 117 dollars a barrel in electronic trading after markets closed. Crude oil for May delivery gained 1.83 dollars, or 1.6 percent, to settle at 116.69 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The price of crude oil was pushed higher after a militant group in Nigeria said it had sabotaged a major oil pipeline operated by a Royal Dutch Shell PLC joint venture and promised further attacks on the country's petroleum industry.

A spokeswoman for Shell confirmed that the pipeline was leaking, and said the damage appeared to have been caused by explosives. Nigeria is a major supplier of oil to the United States. — *Internet*

A man plays traditional game during the sixth day of the Costa Rican International Art Festival 2008 in San Jose, on 17 April, 2008. — **XINHUA**

Citigroup posts US$5.1b first quarter loss, to cut 9,000 jobs

NEW YORK, 19 April— US banking giant Citigroup reported Friday a 5.1 billion dollars net loss during the first quarter and said it would cut an additional 9,000 jobs as it struggles with bad bets on sub-prime mortgages. It was the second consecutive quarterly loss for the banking titan, heavily exposed to the sub-prime, or high-risk, mortgage crisis stemming from the worst US housing slump in decades and signs of recession in the world's biggest economy. But the first-quarter loss was almost half the prior quarter's loss of 9.83 billion dollars, and coupled with cost-cutting measures such as job cuts Citigroup Inc, under its new chief executive Vikram Pandit, appears to be putting the credit crisis behind it, analysts said.—*Internet*

Ongoing excavations at the Colossi of Memnon site on the western bank of the River Nile, close to the southern Egyptian town of Luxor, are seen in this March 8 photo. The two famous Collosi of Memnon (background) will be joined by two more as of next year following a string of dramatic new discoveries made by a team of international archaeologists on the site.—INTERNET

Putin, Abbas meet on bilateral ties, Mideast peace process

MOSCOW, 19 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas met at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence on Friday evening, and the focus of their discussions indicated that Moscow will play a greater role in the Middle East peace process.

The two leaders exchanged opinions of the development of the bilateral relations, the regional situation and the most important problem — the Palestinian-Israeli settlement.

Moscow welcomes and supports Palestinian and Israeli settlement efforts, Putin said.

Describing the visit of Abbas to Russia at a tense moment, Putin said "the situation is difficult, but we can see that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and you are working on positive trends." "We welcome that and will give you comprehensive support," he added.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who welcomed the wish of Abbas to carry on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and achieve mutually acceptable peace agreements, held talks with the Palestinian president earlier in the day.

MNA/Xinhua

368 road deaths during seven high risk Songkran travel days

BANGKOK, 18 April– The number of people killed in road accidents during the seven high risk travel days of this year's Songkran holidays 11-17 April numbered 368 while nearly 5,000 people were injured.

Deputy Prime Minister Sahas Banditkul, also director of the Road Safety Centre (RSC), said the overall death toll was seven more than last year, while the number of injuredis two less.

The number of accidents was 31 fewer than last year, he said.

The northern province of Phitsanulok had the highest number of casualties with 25 deaths whilethe northern resort province of Chiang Rai experienced the highest number of accidents with 176 cases reported.

On Thursday alone, there were 287 accidents, with 36 people dead and 310 injured. —*Internet*

Two pygmy elephants cross the road in Taliwas forest on Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo Island in this 21 July, 2005 file photo. Borneo's pygmy elephants may be descendants of an extinct Javan elephant race, saved by chance by an 18th century ruler, according to a new study released on 17 April, 2008. The study suggests that a small number of opposite-sex elephants can produce a thriving progeny of thousands if left undisturbed on an island, giving fresh hope to conservationists trying to protect nearly extinct species of large mammals.—INTERNET

Son of Dutch military chief killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 April — The son of the new head of the Dutch military and another Dutch soldier serving with NATO-led forces in Afghanistan were killed on Friday when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

Taliban insurgents leading an insurgency to topple the Afghan government and expel the foreign troops claimed responsibility for the blast, part of rising violence in Afghanistan in recent weeks following the traditional winter lull.

The Dutch Defence Ministry said in a statement there were no indications that the attack was specifically targeted at the 23-year-old son of chief of joint staffs Peter van Uhm, who took over command of the Dutch military on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

Strongest quake in 40 years rattles US Midwest

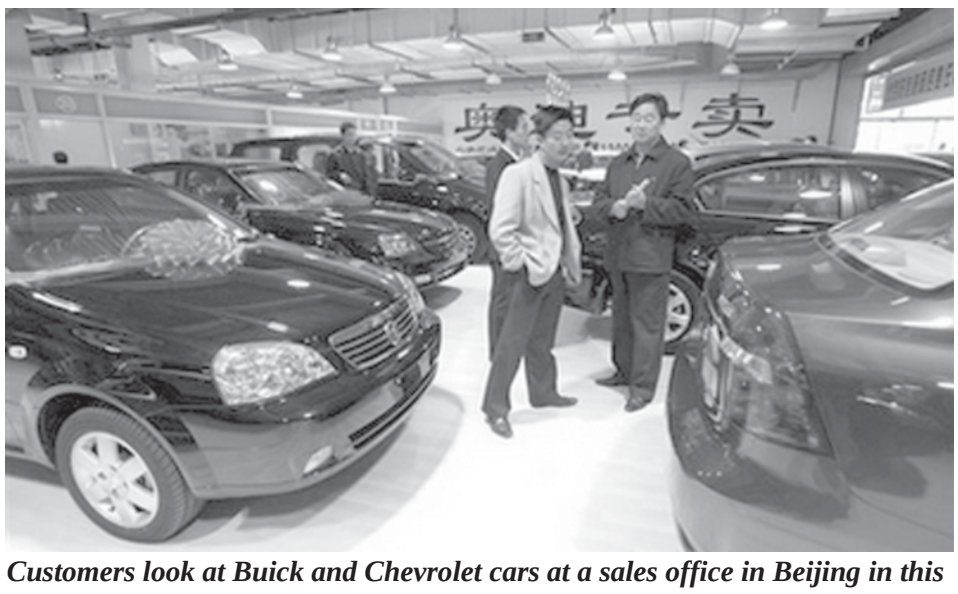
CHICAGO, 19 April — A 5.2 magnitude earthquake centered in southeast Illinois that was the strongest in the Midwest in 40 years startled residents before dawn on Friday, but officials reported no injuries and only minor damage.

The quake, the strongest since a 5.4 magnitude quake in November 1968, could be felt as far west as Kansas, as far east as Georgia and as far north as Michigan's Upper Peninsula, according to the US Geological Survey.

"Earthquakes of comparable size are felt over greater distances in the East than those occurring in the West," noted USGS seismologist Harley Benz.

Experts say soil conditions in the central United States are such that shocks in the region tend to travel farther and be felt in wider areas than in places such as California where they would be more quickly absorbed.

MNA/Reuters



Customers look at Buick and Chevrolet cars at a sales office in Beijing in this 18 Oct, 2006 file photo. General Motors Corp will sell its first gas-electric hybrid cars in China in July, introducing a model created in part by GM's Shanghai design center, the company said on Saturday.—INTERNET

UN chief opposes politicizing Olympics

UNITED NATIIONS, 19 April — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Thursday that he opposed any action to mingle the Olympics with politics.

Ban stated, during his meeting with Wang Yi, special envoy of Chinese President Hu Jintao, at the sideline of the UN Security Council high-level meeting on peace and security in Africa that the United Nations and he himself spare no effort in supporting the Beijing Olympics.

With the support of the Chinese government and Chinese people, the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing will be successful, and will serve as a platform for promoting world peace, harmony and cooperation as well as the mutual understanding of people from different countries, the UN chief said.

Wang said Beijing Olympics is highly expected not only by the Chinese people, but also by people all over the world. He stressed that any attempt to sabotage the grand sport gala goes against the will of the majority of the international community.

MNA/Xinhua

*** To ratify Constitution**

Let's go to the polling booth

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

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) or glory of the Ayeyawady

Shwe Lin Aung

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) was successfully inaugurated in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division on 11 April 2008. I see that the Ayeyawady, a feather in the cap of Myanmar and the beauty of Asia, adds an ornament.

When one hears the Ayeyawady, he or she can see in their mind the beauty of the major river flowing from north to south in Myanmar and historical heritage that Myanmar nationals can ever be proud of. The river Ayeyawady originated in Maykha and Malikha rivers in snow-capped Kachin land in the north of the country has been flowing past the historic Myanmar cities in the successive periods. It forms a delta, the granary in the south and flows into the sea.

It is true that Myanma history and the Ayeyawady can never be separated. The Ayeyawady not only witnessed that Myanmar established the empire from the city state but also encountered the state under the rule of the aliens at the Gawwein port in the dark days of history. National brethren sacrificed a lot of lives, blood and sweat for regaining independence and sovereignty. Historical records written by blood of patriotic national races can be heard everywhere together with the current from the start of the Ayeyawady to the south.

The early age of Myanmar started in Tagaung on the bank of the Ayeyawady and Shin Arahan and the great King Anawrahta introduced Theravada Buddhism in Bagan. Maha Bandoola fought bravely against the imperialists who invaded Myanma soil. He brought honour to the nation defending the motherland in the Ayeyawady delta.

After regaining the independence and sovereignty, Myanmar nationals struggled not to lose sovereignty again due to the evil isms and obstacles. It was in Ayeyawady delta where the Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people successfully launched people's militia strategy changing insurgent-infested black regions into white ones and hard-core ones.

I would like to present the existence of the Ayeyawady in the country and location of the newly built Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), by saying that the history of the Ayeyawady and that of Myanmar are identical.

Look at the flow of the Ayeyawady in the far north of the Union of Myanmar formed with rivers - Maykha and Malikha, Parcham river in the south. In the Union, there are Naff river in the west and Mekong river in the east. From the start, the flow of the Ayeyawady is close to the east boundary. It approaches south west in the central plain (Mandalay). In Magway Division, the Ayeyawady flows in the east of the west Yoma. It can be said that the river equally provides the national races with water.

It is important to link the east bank and west bank of the Ayeyawady. That was why the Inwa Bridge was built in 1924. It has one railroad between the two 10-foot wide motorways. The 3,948-foot Inwa Bridge was opened on 2 January 1934. On 30 April 1942 during the Second World War, No 7 and No 8 piles were destroyed. On 27 October 1954, the bridge was reopened. In other words, the only one bridge across the Ayeyawady was reopened over six years after regaining the independence.

The Inwa Bridge had no longer been able to cope with heavy vehicles after over 60 years. Any vehicles of above 15 tons have not been permitted to pass over the bridge since 1992. They were transported to the other side with the use of Z-craft. As a result, there were some hindrances in the flow of commodities.

The new age of the history has reached with the implementation of border areas and national races development special projects, 24-development region projects and rural development tasks in states and divisions by the Tatmadaw government. All of us know that the government is making endeavours for having closer relations among the national races by building bridges across the rivers and roads passing through the mountains in various states and divisions. Due to the endeavours, the songs of goodwill of the national races instead of explosion of arms in hilly and plain regions of the Union and the Ayeyawady were heard.

The Tatmadaw government made efforts for construction of bridges across the Ayeyawady, the life-blood of Myanmar, beginning from 1994. As a result, bridges crossing the Ayeyawady River have emerged one after another since 1997.

(1)	18-9-97	The 4183 feet long Nawade Bridge, Pyay, Bago Division
(2)	10-2-98	The 2362 feet long Maubin Bridge, Maubin, Ayeyawady Division
(3)	14-11-98	The 2688 feet long Bala Minhtin Bridge, Myitkyina, Kachin State
(4)	15-11-99	The 8544 feet long Bo Myat Tun Bridge, Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division
(5)	4-4-01	The 5192 feet long Anawratha Bridge, Chauk, Magway Division
(6)	24-11-02	The 8989 feet long Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway), Magway, Magway Division
(7)	23-3-03	The 4088.3 feet long Dedaye Bridge, Dedaye, Ayeyawady Division

Throughout 20th Century there was the only Bridge across the Ayeyawady that is Inwa Bridge. However, in the early 21st Century in the time of the State Peace and Development Council there emerged seven more new Ayeyawady bridges. The newly opened Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is the eighth of its kind across Ayeyawady River in the time of the State Peace and Development Council. If Inwa Bridge is added it has become the ninth of its kind and it can be termed the glory of the Ayeyawady.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is situated in a place where different roads from states and divisions in south and south-east parts of the nation and Shan State in north-east and east parts of the nation meet. It also links Kachin State in the north, Chin State and Sagaing Division in the north-west. Moreover, it will become a major bridge on future Asia Highway that will cross neighbouring India, China, south-east ASEAN nations.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) will contribute a lot to swift and smooth commodity flow of different regions of the nation. It will also be of utmost importance in the transportation of products of Chin State where tea is grown most, items of Kalay and Monywa Industrial Zone, products of Kchain State as well as those of Shan State (North) and Shan State (East), those of other states and divisions in southern part of the nation. Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions are making progress in agricultural, industrial, tourism, information technology sectors, etc.

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Maha Bawditahtaung Laykyunsetkyar Standing Buddha Image

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to a Buddha image.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing release sparrows. —MNA

(from page 1)

the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command, the Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command, the ministers and officials arrived at the Standing Buddha Image at 8:30 am.

First, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offered alms, fruit, light, flowers and water to four Buddha statues being temporarily kept on the first floor of the Standing Buddha Image. The four Buddha statues will be kept on 27th floor.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and the congregation paid homage to the 424-foot-height Maha Bawditahtaung Laykyunsetkyar Standing Buddha Image from the first platform of the Image and they released sparrows.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party oversaw the development of Monywa in a motorcade.

MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) …

(from page 7)

For the emergence of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Head of State Senior General Than Shwe himself had given guidance in all seriousness like the ones given in the implementation of other roads and bridges large and small. In accord with the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe, necessary requirements were fulfilled and the bridge construction project was implemented by Public Works according to the resolution of the Special Projects Implementation Committee's meeting held on 2-6-1999.

Myanmar engineers built the bridge based on experiences gained from construction of small and large bridges throughout the nation. The engineers took systematic steps in the searching of the axis, surveying of earth and designing. Construction of the bridge began on 30-10-2000. Thanks to concerted efforts of Myanmar engineers and officials concerned the 5,614 feet long bridge has now emerged. The upper structure of the bridge is of steel frames and the lower structure of the bridge is of reinforced concrete. The 49 feet wide motor road is flanked by two six feet wide pedestrian lanes. It can bear 60 tons of load.

Eastern and western parts of the bridge are dotted with historical sites and religious edifices. Yadanabon Mandalay which is famous as a place where Theravada Myanmar monks study Pariyatti scriptures was built by King Mindon who sponsored the fifth Buddhist Synod. Mandalay complete with Maha Myat Muni Pagoda, Mandalay Hill, Yankin Hill with religious monuments and edifices on top, the world's biggest book (stone inscription-Tripitaka treatises) and monasteries with a large number of monks represents Theravada Buddhism of Myanmar.

On the other bank of Mandalay where one can reach after crossing Ayayawady Bridge (Yadanabon) lies Sagaing Hill where Buddhist monks and lay persons are practising Pattipatti Sasana. Kaung Mudaw Pagoda can be visible to one who is at SwunOo Poñña Shin Pagoda on Sagaing Hill as well as one who is at Padamya Hill. And if one proceeds to Thalawady he can reach Boddhi Tahtaung where 424 feet high Buddha image, the world's tallest Buddhist image, stands tall plus religious region of Buddha-to-be Kassapa. Moreover, if one arrives in Monywa he can witness Ledi San Kyaungdaw monastery of Ledi Sayadaw who was very famous for his practice in the field of Patipatti Sasana. The monastery is a well-known destination for Buddhists who arrive in Monywa. This being the case, it can be said that Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) serves as a link between Pariyatti Sasana region and Patipatti Sasana region and between regions where there are the greatest book and the highest Buddhist image. It can be termed as the glory of Ayeyawady river that enables the national brethren from states and divisions to join hands and that stands witness to victories of national races.

(Translation: NY+TS)

Yadanabon Myothit Project based on Information Technology is being implemented in Pyin Oo Lwin Township in Mandalay Division in accord with the guidelines drawn up by the State.

The wise one dispels intoxication through non-intoxication

When the wise one dispels intoxication through non-intoxication, he having ascended the tower of wisdom —being himself free from sorrow and being himself wise—looks at the sorrowing people and the unwise as one, standing on a mountain, views those on the plains.

Dhammapada-28

Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe.—MNA

Coordination meeting on development of…

(from page 16)

Arrangements are being made to choose site for housing complex for private dwellers, staff quarters and buildings for entrepreneurs who have invested in Yadanabon Myothit Project.

The Head of State has also given guidance on the rapid progress of Yadanabon Myothit.

The place where Yadanabon Myothit Project is being implemented is the hill station and the project will achieve rapid development considering the factors such as good climate and better transportation.

The ministries concerned and the entrepreneurs are to work together in implementing the project and land allotment.

The government has already fulfilled the basic requirements such as building of roads, supply of electricity and water.

The Secretary-1 also said that several experiences have been achieved in implementing the construction projects.

He instructed the officials to seek ways and means in compliance with the condition of the region for land allotment, by following the example of the construction tasks in Nay Pyi Taw.

Next, Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe reported on construction of Yadanabon Myothit and establishment of residential quarters in cooperation with construction entrepreneurs in accord with the guidelines of the State.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on the objectives of the Yadanabon Myothit construction project, completion of the first phase of the projects, investor companies and types of works, construction of roads and housing projects to be implemented.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on water supply for Yadanabon Myothit and tasks to be undertaken.

Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han reported on programmes for construction of Yadanabon Myothit and officials concerned on water and power supply, installation of telephone lines and allotment of plots.

The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements. He said efforts are to be made for emergence of beautiful, modern ICT city. Conservation of environment should be taken into consideration in implementing of the project.

He said housing projects are to be undertaken in accord with the rules and regulations of development committee and he called for cooperation with departments concerned and private entrepreneurs.

MNA

The place where Yadanabon Myothit Project is being implemented is the hill station and the project will achieve rapid development considering the factors such as good climate and better transportation.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo. —MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw. —MNA

Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han.

MNA

● For ratification of Constitution
Let's go to polling booth to cast "Yes" vote.

● Towards the new nation
Will ratify Constitution.

Is that so, Maung Ka Lu? More than that, Grandpa

Maung Ka Lu

Maung Ka Lu: Hello, Grandpa. How are you? I think it will be all right only if there are well-experienced persons like you.

Grandpa: Your words seem strange to me. What's happened to you? I have to keep myself fit because I want to see successful completion of the seven-step Road Map before I die. Our country gets favourable geographical features and fertile soil and is rich in natural resources. And it hardly faces natural disasters. Therefore, if we people restore peace, we remain united and we work hard together in national interests, as you have said many times, our country will have a prosperous future. Before my last days, I want to see development of our country.

Maung Ka Lu: Yes, as you know, our country has good foundations for development. But, the British colonized our country and exploited the natural resources for more than 100 years. Patriotic people of various national races sacrificed many lives to regain the independence. However, after our country had regained independence, the politicians became addicted to various political concepts, and various forms of foreign political dogmatism. Then, they formed political groups and competed each other. In the end, they vied each other for power and turned to armed struggle line. So, the people fell victim to the evil consequences for four or five decades. How could the nation enjoy development?

Grandpa: Now, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold, and peace has been restored the whole country. In addition, the people have become united. So, the entire nation has enjoyed development in various sectors more than ever. Now, I am 80, and in my life, the nation has developed at the unprecedented level.

Maung Ka Lu: Yes, development and peace are incredible. The government has adopted the seven-step Road Map and is implementing it in cooperation with the people. Now, they are implementing the fourth step of holding the referendum for the approval of the draft constitution.

Grandpa: Our country has exercised the multi-party system with various political concepts. It doesn't matter there are various forms of political parties. But, variety of political concepts caused a lot of evil consequences. In the political world, there were many left-wing groups and right-wing groups. So, how can they remain united? They stuck to their parties and policies and focused on coming to power. We have gone through real tough times for more than 40 years due to multi-coloured insurgency.

Maung Ka Lu: You are right, Grandpa.

Grandpa: I don't care the variety of political parties, but variety of policies. How good it will be if all the parties give priority to perpetuation of our country, independence, and sovereignty. I am sure the people will recognize all the parties that make the country prosperous, that don't rely on any foreign countries, that no longer stick to sectarianism and serve national interests as the parties on the track of national politics.

Maung Ka Lu: Today, colonialists consider that the more political parties with various concepts fight each other, the weaker the nation concerned will be with national disunity. So, they are instigating multi-policies and driving a wedge among national races in small countries to provoke ethnic groups to fight each other.

Grandpa: That is why it is stated in Section 404 of the State constitution (2008) that "a political party shall (a) set the objective—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, (b) have the duty to be loyal to the State".

Maung Ka Lu: Then, if the political parties respect the sections of the constitution, they will become people's parties and national political parties.

Grandpa: Yes, moreover, it is stated in Section 485 that "A political party shall: (a) accept and practise discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy, (b) abide by this Constitution and the existing laws, (c) be legally registered as a political party". So, there will be more parties that honour the provisions and serve the public interests in accordance with the existing laws. And there will be no anarchic acts and riots. The number of prestigious political parties will be on the increase. Only then, can discipline-flourishing democracy be introduced to our country.

Maung Ka Lu: Is there is a principle that guarantees the right to organize freely for political parties?

Grandpa: Certainly, Section (406) says "In accordance with the law, a political party shall have the right to (a) organize freely, (b) stand for election". As to expressing wishes and organizing, a political party has to honour the existing laws. Genuine democracy prohibits destroying buildings, burning automobiles and robbing private shops under the pretext of expressing wishes and organizing.

Maung Ka Lu: As you once said that party politics or a political party is an organization of members with same opinions and common goals. Political parties canvass for votes in the pre-election period with pledges that they will serve the interests and improve the living conditions of the people. The party that wins the majority of votes will have to exercise the sovereign powers on behalf of the people.

Grandpa: Yes, every political party has to bring prospects to the people. Such parties that give priority to coming to power at the expense of the lives and property of the people become expatriate groups, armed insurgents and terrorist groups. Any parties or politicians that rely on foreign countries cannot be people's parties or people's politicians. They must be lackeys or puppets of foreign countries. Therefore, Section (407) states four points that prohibit the continued existence of a political party.

Maung Ka Lu: What are they, Grandpa?

Grandpa: Section (407) says that the continued existence of a political party shall not be permitted if (a) it has been declared as an unlawful organization in accord with the existing law; (b) it makes connections with or provides support and assistance to insurgent groups waging an armed rebellion against the State, organizations or persons the State has announced as the ones committing terrorist acts or organizations the State has declared unlawful; (c) it directly or indirectly receives financial, material and other assistance from the government or a religious organization, or any other organization or an individual person of a foreign country; (d) it abuses religion for political purpose. And Section (408) says that if the body having the authority to register political parties finds that a political party has violated any one of the provisions stated in the Article 408, the party's registration shall be revoked. If a party wants to enjoy and exercise genuine discipline-flourishing democracy, that must obey all the provisions of the constitution. The provisions are designed to protect the people from the evil consequences of party politics.

Maung Ka Lu: Then, I wonder if those who have relations with external elements through diplomatic means and media, who rely on foreign countries and receive foreign assistance, who want to come to power with foreign assistance, who ask power through riots, and who want to come to power through shortcut without democratic means of public decision are satisfied with those provisions.

Grandpa: I don't think so. With the 20-year experiences, the people know well who are axe-handles relying on external elements, who follow instructions of foreign countries to get the nation into economic crises, and who have worked for development of the nation. So, the draft constitution is going to be approved through the support of the people on 10 May. It is up to them as to whether they will cooperate with the people.

Maung Ka Lu: These days, the mouthpieces of the colonialists and axe-handles are shouting that the people should object to the new constitution. However much they are plotting to deceive the people of 56 million to disrupt the processes, I don't think their acts will ever work.

Grandpa: Is that so, Maung Ka Lu?

Maung Ka Lu: More than that, Grandpa.

Translation: MS

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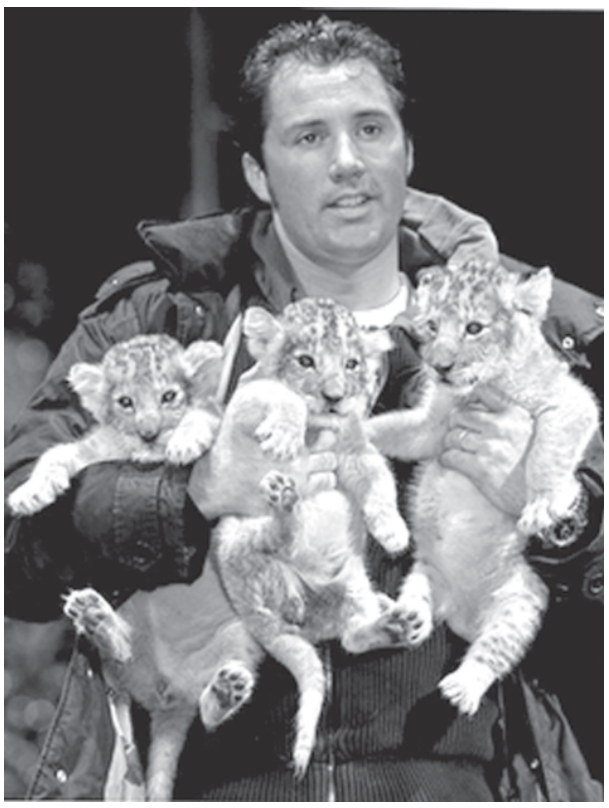
Images of the Day

This undated family photo provided on 17 April, 2008 by the Greater Baltimore Medical Center shows brothers, top left: Cody Benjamin, top right: Joshua Drew, center: Gavin Michael, and bottom right, Logan Christopher are shown. A 32-year-old mother from Belcamp, Md. gave birth to the quadruplets on 29 Jan, 2008. Cody, Joshua and Gavin are identical. The parents wish to remain unidentified until they introduce themselves and their boys at a news conference on 18 April, 2008.—INTERNET

A view of the leading edge of the remaining part of an ice shelf that extends into the northwest part of the Weddell Sea in Antarctica is seen in this handout photo taken on 4 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Artists from the Strange Fruit company perform "Swoon!" at the Sydney Opera House on 17 April, 2008. "Swoon!", a fusion of theatre, dance and circus runs until 26 April for free.
INTERNET

Ethereal dance : A woman from Canadian circus group, Cirque du Soleil performs "Delirium" onstage at the O2 arena in London.—INTERNET



Lion trainer Martin Lacey carries three lion cubs during a presentation at the Circus Krone in Freising, southern Germany on 15 April, 2008. The cubs were born at Easter and are hand-raised and fed a special milk mixture.—INTERNET

Dolphins in captivity. Two British men were found guilty on Thursday of harassing a local celebrity dolphin during a booze-fuelled late-night swim in the English Channel.—INTERNET

File photo shows an Iraqi internally displaced family stands outside their makeshift housing in Baghdad in March 2008.
INTERNET

India optimistic on "last mile" in WTO talks

NEW DELHI, 19 April—India's trade minister said on Friday he was optimistic that negotiators of a global trade pact could cover the "last mile" towards an agreement.

Kamal Nath said at a dinner conference that momentum in the trade talks had built up in the past two months.

He hoped there would be a ministerial meeting in the third week of May and said there had been substantial progress in the negotiations.

All countries wanted a rules-based trading system on a multilateral basis and India needed it as much as most other countries, he said. "I am optimistic because the momentum which is being built up in the last two months, and even the last two weeks, is heading towards it," he said.

"We've got to cross the last mile. I hope we can do it." On Thursday, Commerce Secretary Gopal K Pillai told Reuters that ministers from World Trade Organisation countries were likely to meet in Geneva in the week of 19 May to seek an elusive breakthrough in the talks to open up world trade. The negotiations, known as the Doha round, were launched in 2001 in a bid to boost the world economy and help developing nations export more.

Since then, they have missed several deadlines but intensive talks in recent months suggest a deal may be within reach.

"We are grappling in this round with some of the most difficult issues of global trade," Nath said.

MNA/Xinhua

Former Clinton labour secretary Reich backs Obama

WASHINGTON, 18 April—Robert Reich, a former labour secretary during President Bill Clinton's administration, endorsed Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on Friday. "My conscience won't let me be silent any longer," Reich wrote on his blog in announcing the endorsement for Obama, who is in a hard-fought Democratic presidential battle with former first lady Hillary Clinton.

Reich said he had delayed a formal endorsement because of "the pull of old friendships" but he believed Obama offered the best chance of creating a new kind of politics and transcending old divisions.—*MNA/Xinhua*

UNHCR calls on Colombia to return land to displaced people

BOGOTA, 19 April — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Friday called on the Colombian government to resume the process of returning land to displaced people.

UNHCR's representative in Colombia Gustavo Valdivieso told reporters that the UNHCR understood why the country suspended the devolution process, but urged the government to identify land to be confiscated from the armed groups and give it to the displaced.

"We hope the land can be identified and handed over to as many displaced people as possible," said Valdivieso.—*MNA/Xinhua*

*Oriol Servia, of Spain, goes into turn three followed by Alex Tagliani, of Canada, as the cruise ship Queen Mary sits in the background during qualifying for the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach auto race, on 18 April, 2008, in Long Beach, Calif. The two finished second and third respectively after the first session of qualifying. —*INTERNET

Iraqi troops surround Sadr office in Basra

BASRA,19 April — Iraqi troops cordoned off the Basra office of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's followers on Friday and prevented them holding prayers in a move that seems sure to inflame tensions.

The government and Sadr followers confirmed the operation, which comes nearly a month after Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki launched a crackdown on Sadr's Mehdi Army militia in Basra, sparking violent clashes across the south and in Baghdad.

"We have orders from the prime minister to take back all the governmental buildings that are occupied by parties and political movements in Basra within 48 hours," Interior Ministry spokesman Major-General Abdul-Karim Khalaf, told *Reuters.*

Sadr's office in Basra is located in an old Olympic committee building from the Saddam Hussein-era. There were no reports of fighting between Sadr followers and Iraqi troops.

"Troops from the Iraqi Army prevented us from holding Friday prayers and now they are cordoning off the office.

They want to evacuate and storm the office," Harith al-Idhari, the head of the office, told Reuters

Sheikh Asad al-Nasiri, an aide to Sadr in the Shi'ite holy city of Najaf, condemned the "inhumane actions" of the Iraqi government and vowed that Friday prayers would go ahead as planned.—*MNA/Xinhua*

China kicks off LNG project in Dalian

DALIAN, 19 April — China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), the country's biggest oil producer, broke ground on Friday for the construction of its first liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Dalian, a port city in northeastern Liaoning Province.

The project, with a total investment of over 10 billion yuan (about 1.4 billion US dollars), consists of a wharf, a receiving facility and transportation pipelines.

It is designed to receive supplies from Qatar, Australia and other overseas markets.

The terminal is designed to store 3 million tonnes of LNG and supply 4.2 billion cubic meters of gas every year in the first phase, which would expand to 6 million tonnes and 8.4 billion cubic meters in the second phase.

CNPC is also building a LNG receiving facility in Rudong county of east Jiangsu Province.

Experts predicted that by 2020 China would import 10 million tonnes of LNG annually, boosting the interests of oil giants to build LNG projects.

To secure LNG supply, PetroChina, CNPC's listed subsidiary sealed a deal with Qatargas and Shell for 3 million tonnes of LNG annually that would last for 25 years early this month.

MNA/Xinhua

*A police dog team in Tiananmen Square in early March. Law enforcement authorities in the Chinese capital will secretly search bars for drug traffickers and addicts ahead of the Olympic Games.—*INTERNET

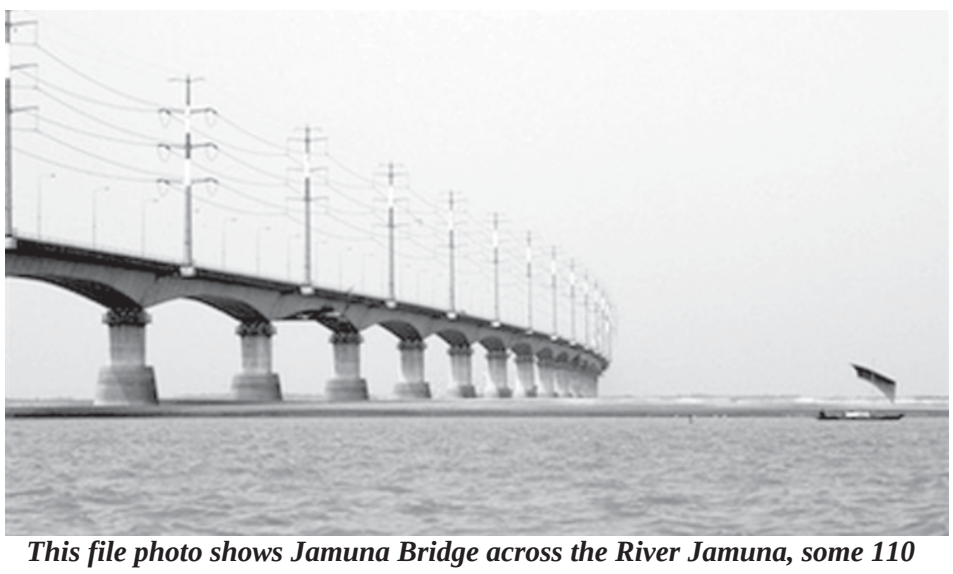
Paris meeting criticizes US president's plan on climate change

PARIS, 19 April — United States President George W Bush's plans on combating climate change have come under a barrage of attacks during the first day of the ongoing meeting of the world's largest polluting economies in Paris, the French media reported Friday.

In a speech Wednesday evening, the US president had announced a simple cap on emissions of greenhouse gases in his country to be achieved in 2025, whereas the European Union, which has set itself the target of reducing the gases by up to 20 percent or even 30 percent by 2020, is seeking a 50 percent reduction globally by 2050. President Bush's announcement was generally deemed as "disappointing" by the participants of the third edition of the so- called "MEM" (Major Economies Meeting), which is bringing together the eight industrialized nations, the big emerging economies such as China and India as well as the European Union.

MNA/Xinhua

This file photo shows the Pakistani medium-range ballistic missile, Shaheen-1 (Hatf IV), missile being fired during a test at an undisclosed location. Pakistan on Saturday test-fired a long-range ballistic missile, Shaheen II, or Hatf VI, capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads, according to the military.—INTERNET



This file photo shows Jamuna Bridge across the River Jamuna, some 110 kilometres northwest of Dhaka. At least 17 people died and 35 were injured, many seriously, when a bus flipped over as it crossed the bridge in northern Tangail district, according to police.—INTERNET

Vietnam's 1st satellite launch significant in socioeconomic development

HANOI, 19 April — The success in launching Vietnam's first satellite by a French company is of significance in its socioeconomic development, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said on Saturday.

"The project of launching Vinasat-1 satellite is of great political and socioeconomic significance, expressing the national space sovereignty, contributing to improving Vietnam's image in the international arena," the prime minister said on the Central Vietnam Television just after the communication satellite was successfully launched by French company ArianeSpace in Kourou site in French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America at 5:16 am (Vietnamese time) on Saturday.

Once being put into operation, Vinasat-1 will help improve Vietnam's information communications infrastructure, increasing the capacity and safety of the country's national telecommunications network, he said, adding that the satellite will be an important communications bridge linking Vietnam with the rest of the world, bringing the country's communications to a new height.

With the launch of the 2.6-ton Vinasat-1 produced by US firm Lockheed Martin to its geostationary orbit position of 132 degrees East using rocket Ariane-5, Vietnam has become the sixth Southeast Asian nation putting satellites into orbit. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Canada plans to ban polycarbonate baby bottles

OTTAWA, 19 April — Canada intends to become thefirst country to ban the import and sale of some types of plastic baby bottles because they contain a chemical that the government says could harm infants and toddlers.

Health Minister Tony Clement said on Friday he would bring in rules to outlaw plastic polycarbonate baby bottles, perhaps within the next year. These bottles are made with bisphenol A, which is also used in food and water containers.

Clement said bisphenol A could hinder child development and cited a study which he said showed that overexposure at an early age could cause behavioral and neurological symptoms later in life.

"We have concluded that early development is sensitive to the effects of bisphenol A," he told a news conference.

"Although our science tells us that exposure levels to newborns and infants are below the levels that cause effects, we believe that the current safety margin needs to be higher... It is better to be safe than sorry." The US government said on Tuesday that bisphenol A could be tied to early puberty, and to prostate and breast cancer.

MNA/ Reuters

China to spend 30 billion yuan to clean polluted lake

KUNMING, 19 April — Southwest China's Yunnan Province will spend about 30 billion yuan (4.29 billion US dollars) in the coming three years to tackle pollution in Dianchi Lake, the largest freshwater lake on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau.

Yunnan Governor Qin Guangrong listed the work on Dianchi as "top priority" in the building of a modern Kunming, capital of the province, at a conference earlier this week.

Qin said that the project's success relied on the implementation of six sub-programmes including pollution source interception, ecological protection, dredging and others.

Under the project, pollutants will be intercepted along all the 29 rivers that feed into the lake and a number of sewage treatment plants will be built.

The local government will also resettle about 30,000 people from lakeside and restore wetlands there by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia's brightest brain-storm for progress

CANBERA, 19 April — Aborigines with didgeridoos and wearing loin cloths opened a summit of Australia'sbrightest minds on Saturday, with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd urging fresh ideas to solve indigenous inequality and ease climate change.

"Today we are throwing open the windows of our democracy to let a little bit of fresh air in," Rudd told the 1,000-strong gathering of scientists, artists, corporate chiefs, unionists and central bankers in the capital Canberra.

"Rather than pretending that we the politicians of Australia have all the answers, and the truth is we don't, we are turning now to you the people of Australia," Rudd said.

MNA/Xinhua

Security personnel will search travelers at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) for weapons and explosives by using a new scanner that peers through their clothes and creates an image of the person's body, federal officials announced on Thursday. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Carvalho says double is still on

Blues defender refusing to give up title fight

Ricardo Carvalho

LONDON, 19 April — Ricardo Carvalho insists that Chelsea can still claim a memorable domestic and European double this season.

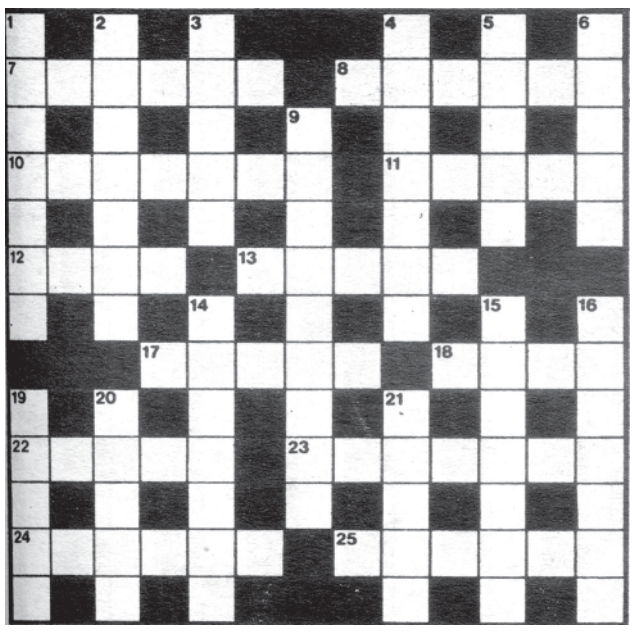
The Portuguese defender was instrumental in the Blues' vital 1-0 win over Everton on Thursday night, a result which closed the gap on Manchester United at the top of the Premier League to just two points.

With United set to visit Stamford Bridge on 26th April, Carvalho is adamant that the title race is far from over.

He is also confident that Avram Grant's men will prove too strong for Liverpool in the UEFA Champions League semi-finals, providing them with an opportunity to get their hands on two pieces of silverware.

Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

7 Lumberjack
8 Pattern of recurrence
10 Pod used for flavouring
11 Kingly
12 Impetuous
13 Violent muscular contraction
17 Eccentric
18 Ruin
22 Nobleman
23 Engraving
24 Infallible indication
25 Colour

DOWN

1 Bondage
2 Suffer anguish
3 Amphibious marine mammals
4 Nurture
5 The Theatre
6 Abundant
9 Joiner
14 Hint
15 Fire-dog
16 Yearning
19 Monastery superior
20 Footprint
21 Striking effect

Rooney plans revenge mission

United striker keen to win the league at Chelsea

Wayne Rooney

LONDON, 19 April— Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney has set his sights on winning the Premier League title at the home of rivals Chelsea next weekend, live on Sky Sports 1.

United travel to Blackburn on Saturday knowing that three points at Ewood Park could allow them to retain their top-flight title with a victory away to Chelsea the following week.

That would allow United to avenge their 3-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge in 2006, which sealed the league silverware for Chelsea.

And Rooney — who suffered a broken metatarsal in that game — is keen to erase the bad memories of two years ago, but the England forward admits he would also welcome securing the title at Blackburn, if that is possible scenario.

Internet

Utd boss wants players at best

United boss looks forward to a 'hugely significant' game

Sir Alex Ferguson

LONDON, 18 April—Sir Alex Ferguson is looking for top performances from his team when they take on Blackburn in a tricky tie at Ewood Park on Saturday.

Recent history is not on the Red Devils' side as they have lost twice and drawn once in their last four visits to Blackburn.

While United are two points ahead of Chelsea at the top of the table with a game in hand, Ferguson knows his side can not afford to slip up as they to travel to Stamford Bridge for their next league fixture in two weeks' time.

But he has received some leeway after Chelsea dropped two points at home to Wigan on Monday.

Reflecting on the situation, Ferguson said: "This game is hugely significant for us.

"We got the bonus we were looking for when Chelsea dropped two points on Monday and we could not have asked for anything more.

Internet

United trio agree new deals

Ferdinand, Carrick and Brown to sign extended contracts

LONDON, 18 April — Manchester United have agreed new long-term contracts with Rio Ferdinand, Wes Brown and Michael Carrick.

Sir Alex Ferguson has confirmed the trio have ended any doubts surrounding their futures by pledging to stay at Old Trafford.

Ferdinand has been discussing an extension with the Premier League champions for some time and has accepted a deal until 2013.

He has grown in stature at United this season and has spoken of his desire that this contract will not be his last with the club. The centre-half was a £30million signing from Leeds United in 2002 and he has made over 250 appearances.

The future of Brown had been less clear-cut after the England international repeatedly rejected the contract which had been offered.

Rio Ferdinand,Michael Carrick,Wes Brown

Brown was due to become a free agent in the summer and the Red Devils had rejected an approach from Newcastle United during January's transfer window.

Ferguson had previously been critical of Brown's agent in the negotiations, but the 28-year-old has decided to stay with his only club.

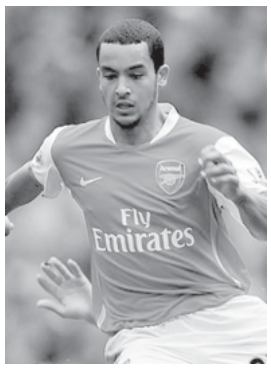
The versatile stopper, who has made the right-back spot his own this season in the absence of injured skipper Gary Neville, is approaching 300 appearances for United.

Internet

Walcott set for Wenger talks

Frustrated striker ready to confront manager

LONDON, 19 April — Theo Walcott is ready to confront Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger over his lack of first-team opportunities at Emirates Stadium. Wenger has openly admitted that he favours using Walcott as an impact substitute and the 19-year-old forward has had a limited role in the Arsenal first XI this season.



Theo Walcott

Walcott, who spoke to Wenger in October about what he needed to do to figure more prominently, has received praise for his influence from the bench following impressive displays against Milan and Liverpool in the UEFA Champions League.

The former Southampton star insists he has done everything asked of him by Wenger and he is again set to seek discussions with his boss if he is not handed a starting role at home to Reading on Saturday, a match which can be seen live on Sky Sports 1. —*Internet*

Vera Zvonareva, of Russia, celebrates her 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 upset victory over number one seed Jelena Jankovic, of Serbia, during the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament, in Charleston, SC on 18 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Thai princess presides welcome party for Beijing Olympic Flame delegation

BANGKOK, 18 April— Thailand's crown princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over a welcome party on Friday evening for the Beijing Olympic Flame delegation who arrived here early Friday morning.

During her talk with the delegation chief Jiang Xiaoyu, Princess Sirindhorn, the second daughter of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej known for her keen interest in Chinese culture, said she was looking forward to attending the opening ceremony of Beijing Olympic Games on August 8 on behalf of the King, and that she believed the relay in Bangkok will be smoothly and successfully held.

Jiang, also vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee of Olympic Games, presented a "Lucky Clouds" Olympic Torch as a gift to the Princess and thanked for her support for the torch relay.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kajornprasart, as chairman of the Olympics Torch Relay Organizing Committee of Thailand, said it is an important event and a first-time opportunity for Thailand to host the torch relay.

Xinhua

Scientists urge government to sharply reduce nuclear arsenal

LOS ANGELES,18 April— A group of US scientists have called on the government make sharp cuts in the US nuclear weapons stockpile, a newspaper report said Friday.

The scientists also urged the US to renounce first use of the bombs, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

The proposal was put forward Thursday by 95 members of the National Academy of Sciences. The group, mostly physicists at major US universities who have collectively won 23 Nobel Prizes, said that the existing US weapons programme was undermining the nation's security, the report said.

Organized by the Union of Concerned Scientists, the group called on the US to reduce its weapons inventory to 1,000 bombs, a significant cut from the current estimated 4,500 to 6,000, and to cease its capability to launch missiles within minutes, according to the report.

Richard Garwin, designer of the first hydrogen bomb, is among the scientists who signed the statement, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Jiang Xiaoyu (L), chief of the Beijing Olympic Flame delegation, presents a "Lucky Clouds" Olympic Torch as a gift to Thailand's crown princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in Bangkok on 18 April , 2008.—XINHUA

Egypt to send envoy to Iraq if security improves

CAIRO, 18 April — Egypt said on Friday it would wait until security conditions improved before it returned an ambassador to Baghdad, despite US requests for Arab countries to do more to support the Iraqi government.

Militants kidnapped and killed Egypt's ambassador to Iraq in 2005. "Egypt will not return its ambassador in Iraq before sufficient security guarantees are provided," Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said in remarks carried by state news agency *MENA*.

MNA /Reuters

New Maximum Temperature Record
(Issued at 12:00hours MST on 19th April 2008)

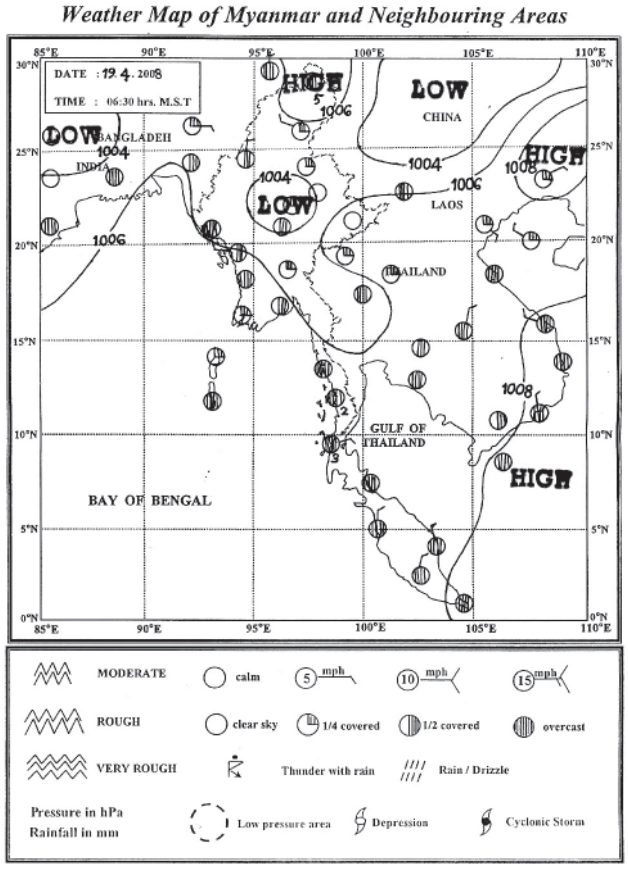
The maximum temperature (46ºC) (114.8ºF) observed 19th April 2008 in Chauk is the new maximum temperature record of the station for the month of April during last (37) years. The former record of the station was (43.8ºC) (110.8ºF) on 14th April 1998 and 30th April 2007.

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 20 April
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်(မင်္ဂလသုတ်) ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercises
7:30 am
3. Morning news
8:30 am
4. International news
11:00 am
1. Martial songs
11:15 am
2. Round up of the week's International News
12:10 pm
3. "မြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓမဇ္ဈိမ၏အနှိုင်းမဲ့ရတနာ"
1:55 pm
4. "စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှုန်"
4:00 pm
1. Martial songs
5:20 pm
2. Sing and enjoy
6:00 pm
3. Evening news
6:30 pm
4. Weather report
7:30 pm
5. "စိတ်အားထက်သန်ဆန္ဒအမှုန်"
7:50 pm
6. "ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာသနာရောင်ဝါ နေသို့လင်းစေသော်"
8:00 pm
7. News
8. International news
9. Weather report
10. "ခက်အောင်လုပ်နေသူများ"
11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မာယာထောင်ချောက်" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
12. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 19 April, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3ºC) to (4ºC) above April average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (5ºC) to (6ºC) above April average temperatures in Kachin, Chin States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (46ºC), Myingyan, Minbu and Magway(45ºC) each, Shewbo, Monywa, NyaungU, Aunglan and Pakokku (44ºC) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.71) inch, Putao (0.20) inch, Kawthoung (0.12) inch and myeik (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 18-4-2008 was 101ºF. Minimum temperature on19-4-2008 was 75ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-4-2008 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 18-4-2008 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 19-4-2008 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 (5) mph from Northwest at (11:30) hours MST on 18-4-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 20-4-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Mon, Kayin States and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-4-2008: Partly cloudy.

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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.

* **Let's get democracy**
  By voting at polling booth

* **For flourishing of democracy**
  Ratify Constitution

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

● **Let's approve Constitution to shape our future by ourselves.**

Coordination meeting on development of Yadanabon Myothit Project held

Arrangements made to choose site for housing complex for people, staff quarters and buildings for entrepreneurs in Yadanabon Myothit Project

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses coordination meeting on development project of Yadanabon Myothit.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—A coordination meeting on development project of Yadanabon Myothit being implemented in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Division was held at the meeting hall of Mandalay City Development Committee in Mandalay with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present were member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, the ministers, the Mandalay Mayor and officials of the SPDC office and departments concerned and guests.

In his speech, the Secretary-1 said that Yadanabon Myothit Project based on Information Technology is being implemented in Pyin Oo Lwin Township in Mandalay Division in accord with the guidelines drawn up by the State.

The project is being implemented on 10000-acre land and the preliminary opening ceremony was held in December 2007 as the main buildings had been completed out of the whole construction projects.

(See page 9)