Considerable success achieved in combating drugs menace during past 5 years
Myanmar will do her utmost to realize objectives of 15-Year Plan

19th Ceremony of Destruction of Seized Drugs held

YANGON, 26 June
— The 19th Ceremony of the Destruction of Seized Drugs organized by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) was held this morning in the compound of Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Secretary of CCDAC Brig-Gen Khin Yi made an address.

In his address, he said the purpose of the occasion held today is to burn and destroy drugs that are endangering the human race, the distinguished guests will have the opportunity to witness firsthand, the unsparring efforts of Myanmar in the fight against drugs as a national cause.

Today, the 26th of June, is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Ceremonies to mark this day are being held in countries all over the world and also in Myanmar. Every year on this day, Myanmar holds a ceremony to commemorate this day by burning and destroying drugs seized as a result of the efforts to eliminate drugs in the country. Myanmar has conducted ceremonies of burning drugs in this manner and has now reached the 19th year. These ceremonies are being conducted not only in Yangon but also in border areas of Myanmar and other townships, and the total number of burning seized drugs has now reached 34 times.

Myanmar has achieved considerable success in combating the menace of drugs and has gained considerable momentum during the past 5 years.

Monitoring Programme jointly conducted with UNODC has reported that poppy cultivation has declined 13% and the opium production had fallen to 828 metric tons in 2002, while in 2003, poppy cultivation further declined 24% while opium production fell to 810 metric tons. In 2004, there was a decline in poppy cultivation of 29% and opium production fell to 370 metric tons. The Opium Yield Survey conducted annually in collaboration with the US has also shown a potential production of 292 tons in 2004, a drastic decline of 88% if compared to 1996 levels. Cultivation also declined 81% for the same period. (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Mandalay Division strives to meet million paddy sown acreage in three years

Myanmar is an agro-based country. This being so, systematic steps are being taken for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

In the agriculture sector, self-sufficiency in rice has been accorded special priority and relentless efforts are being made to export the surplus. In this regard, cultivation of quality paddy, utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers and application of proper cultivation methods are being launched.

In the meantime, emphasis is being placed on boosting the per acre yield of the ten major crops.

The coordination meeting on meeting the target of monsoon paddy sown acreage for 2005-2006 in Mandalay Division was held at the meeting hall of the Central Command on 22 June with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, Meiktila District has been designated as a special region and efforts are being made to put monsoon paddy under one million acres in Mandalay Division in three years for ensuring self-sufficiency in the region.

To be able to do so, relentless efforts are being exerted district-wise and extended land reclamation is being launched in Yamethin District starting from 2004-2005.

In Meiktila District, monsoon paddy was put under 112,124 acres in 2004-2005 and irrigation facilities are under repair to meet the set sown acreage in 2005-2006. Likewise, in Kyaukswe District, possible ways and means are being sought to ensure water supply for agriculture purpose so as to meet the set sown acreage.

To exceed the target of monsoon paddy sown acreage, PyinOoLwin District, Myingyan District, NyaungU District and Mandalay District are exerting strenuous efforts by making the most of available resources.

To meet the target of one million sown acreage by 2006-2007, Mandalay Division has been working hard since 2004. And arrangements are being made to put monsoon paddy under 874,600 acres in the division in 2005-2006.

Possible ways and means are being applied to ensure water supply and available resources tapped in Mandalay Division to meet the set sown acreage of monsoon paddy.

Therefore, officials concerned are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts in accord with the guidance of the Head of State to exceed the target of sown acreage and ensure self-sufficiency in Mandalay Division.

Rail Transportation Deputy Minister arrives back

YANGON, 26 June — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the East-West Economic Corridor Conference: Investment Opportunities co-organized by UNESCAP, AWB and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Business Forum, held in Bangkok, Thailand.

He was welcomed back at the airport by Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Min Swe, the head of office, departmental officials and families. — MNA

Departmental vehicles checked on dry day

Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint together with Committee Members Deputy Minister for Construction U Tin Swe, military officers and departmental heads, supervised the dry day inspections at the main points of the city this morning.

Similarly, Committee Members Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, military officers and departmental heads supervised the dry day inspections.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver’s licence and wheel tax bill, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking traffic rules from 7 am to 5 pm today. — MNA

MD U Hsein Aung Khine formally opens Ocean Gate computer showroom and service centre

New computer showroom, training centre opened

YANGON, 26 June — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived back here by air on 24 June evening after attending the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Seminar for the countries of Asia-Pacific region held in Tokyo, Japan on 21-22 June.

The deputy minister was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Directors-General of departments and officials under the Ministry, and Counsellor of Embassy of Japan. Deputy Director-General of the Health Planning Department U Aung Kyaing also arrived back with the same flight.— MNA

Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and members supervise dry day inspection teams. — MNA
Annual session of Asian News Network bearing fruits

BEIJING, 25 June — Politics, economics and the nuts and bolts of newspaper readership underlined the annual gathering of the Asia News Network (ANN) in Beijing on Friday. The annual conference also shone a spotlight on regional integration, openness and the impact of the Internet and commercialization on China’s media.

The conference brought to Beijing more than 30 editors and executives from Asian countries, and was hosted by China Daily, whose Editor-in-Chief Zhu Ling becomes chairman of the group this year. The impact of China on other regional economies and the future of the country’s economy were two topics at the heart of the discussions held over three sessions and the 13th sitting of China Daily’s CEO Roundtable, held to coincide with the conference.

CEO Roundtables bring together top executives and government officials and have been held in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing. Founded in 1999, the Asia News Network is a grouping of 14 newspapers from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Once a “sleeping dragon”, China is now playing a more important role both regionally and globally, according to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, which funds the Asia News Network.

China is generating tremendous interest, thus the choice to hold the meeting in Beijing. “Giants always evoke a little bit of interest because people ask: ‘Where are they going?’”

Vietnam’s export earnings increase in first half of this year

HANOI, 25 June — Vietnam is estimated to reap export turnovers of over 14.4 billion US dollars in the first half of this year, a year-on-year rise of 17.4 per cent.

Items recording high growth in export value include wood products, up 49.4 per cent; fruits and vegetables, 43.2 per cent; and rice, 10.5 per cent, according to the country’s Trade Ministry on Friday.

In the period, export turnovers of Vietnam’s four biggest currency earners, namely crude oil, textile and garment, footwear and seafood, respectively rose 35.1 per cent, 0.1 per cent, 2.9 per cent and 5 per cent. The crude oil value surged to 3.4 billion dollars due to the increasing world price, though the volume declined 14 per cent to 8.3 million tons.

Meanwhile, the country exported nearly 8.2 million tons of coal worth 300 million dollars, posting volume declined 14 per cent to 8.3 million tons.

To look for answers, a group of panelists were gathered for the event at the Kempinski Hotel including Anthony Saich, chair of the International Affairs Faculty at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Long Yongtu, secretary-general of the Boao Forum, and Wen Tiejun, dean of the School of Agriculture and Rural Development at Renmin (People’s) University of China.

Chinese Vice-Premier calls for closer eco links with Ireland

BEIJING, 25 June — China is ready to enhance cooperation with Ireland in all areas, Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here on Friday during his meeting with Irish Minister of Finance Brian Cowen.

Huang said the relations between China and Ireland are good. He expressed appreciation to the government of Ireland for its efforts to promote bilateral relations and the links between China and Europe.

He said the Chinese Government is willing to further push forward the relations with Ireland and Europe.

Cowan said since the two countries established diplomatic links 25 years ago, the relations between Ireland and China have improved rapidly. In recent years, the two sides have had frequent exchanges of high-level visits and have cooperated in various areas.

The governments of the two countries have set a goal of doubling the value of two-way trade. In 2004, trade between China and Ireland topped 3.3 billion euros, increasing 42 per cent over the previous year. The figure is expected to reach 6 billion euros in the coming years.

Cowan expressed the wish to further expand cooperation with China in such areas as education, technology, and culture. The two countries should also increase coordination on international affairs, he said.

American hostage in Iraq still alive

MANILA, 25 June — An American, who has been kidnapped with a Filipino overseas worker in Iraq, is still alive, a Philippine foreign affairs official said on Friday.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for special concerns Rafael Seguis said at a Press conference that Roy Hallums, the American kidnapped along with Filipino accountant Robert Tarongoy, is still in captivity alive.

“We were focusing on Bobby (Robert Tarongoy’s nickname). But I was told that he (Hallums) is still alive. You can ask Bobby,” Seguis said.

Seguis also denied reports that the Philippine Government paid between 1.4 million dollars to 10 million dollars for the exchange of the safe release of Tarongoy, who has been home on Thursday.

However, Seguis said that the Iraqi kidnappers demanded the Philippine Government to continue the ban of the deployment to Iraq, which was agreed by the government.

Many dead in fresh Iraq violence

BAGHDAD, 25 June — At least 23 people have been killed during a series of guerrilla attacks on the security forces across Iraq.

Eleven died during bomb attacks outside the home of a policeman in the northern city of Samarra.

In another northern city, Mosul, at least four policemen died in a suicide car bombing.

The blasts followed the discovery of the bodies of eight policemen who died in an attack by gunmen in the western city of Ramadi.

There were also reports of clashes between US-backed Iraqi forces and guerrillas in Tal Afar, near Mosul.

The attack in Samarra began with several carloads of armed men occupying a road outside the house.

They opened the way for a suicide bomber to drive up and detonate his explosives, killing nine civilians and wounded 16 others.

Two attackers were killed, apparently while planting a second bomb intended to kill emergency services workers arriving at the scene.

The officer, a member of an elite police commando unit, was not injured.

In the Mosul attack, a suicide attacker rammed his vehicle into an Iraqi police patrol on a bridge in the south-west of the city.

The eight policemen who died in Ramadi had been manning a checkpoint on the road between the western city of Ramadi and the Syrian border. They were apparently ambushed.
Chinese show great concern toward orphans of AIDS victims

BEIJING, 25 June — Many non-governmental organizations and social celebrities vowed to help the orphans of AIDS victims at a Press conference held in the State Council Information Office on Friday.

Hollywood movie stars Jackie Chan and Andy Lau expressed their willingness to invite AIDS orphans to their homes for a few days in an effort to allay public discrimination against these disadvantaged children.

“Hearing about the second summer camp for the orphans to be held in Beijing and Hong Kong in August, Jackie quickly responded to the organizers,” said Li Guoqiang, a camp organizer with the China Youth Concern Committee (CYCC).

“These orphans will be thrown into the dark and cold in the rest of their lives if no people really care for them,” said Zhang Chaoqiang, the chairman of board of directors of Sohu.com, one of China’s biggest web portals. “It is actually a question of life and death.”

“We have collected donations or efforts from society and made joint efforts to promote their welfare more effectively,” said Wang Bing, head of the Beijing Huaxia Charity Foundation. The current number of children whose parents died from AIDS is close to 80,000 in China, and it is predicted that the number will soar to 200,000 in 2010, according to an CYCC official Li Qimin.

“Bias, poverty and depression are the biggest problems haunting these children during their lifetime,” Li said.

In the summer camp last year, the organizing committee spent two months finding a place for the orphans to stay. They were refused by nearly 40 hotels and institutions in Beijing, whose owners feared that receiving them would negatively affect their businesses.

But Chinese bias against people with HIV/AIDS is changing. Not only have Chinese leaders and high-ranking officials’ shaken hands with HIV/AIDS patients and eaten meals with them in front of newsmen, many folk activities have also reveled burgeoning efforts to transform the disease’s public image.

China’s second summer camp for the orphans is sponsored by the CYCC and Beijing Huaxia Charity Foundation. About 60 to 70 orphans, none of whom are HIV carriers themselves, from various provinces will attend the camp from 12 to 17 August in Beijing, and they may visit Hong Kong. During the camp, 60 to 70 families will be selected to adopt these kids, to eat and live with them together. — MNA/Xinhua

China to promote cooperation with Germany

BEIJING, 25 June — Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan met here on Thursday with former chancellor of Germany Helmut Kohl, agreeing to further promote exchanges and cooperation between the two sides.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission and state councillor, said China and Germany are enjoying rapid development of ties at the present time.

“The two sides witness frequent, high-level visits, fruitful cooperation in various fields, and sound coordination in international affairs,” he noted.

Relations between the two Armed Forces also enjoy smooth development and cooperation in various fields constantly expanding, Cao said.

Cao said China attaches importance to the strategic partnership with Germany, and is ready to further enhance exchanges and cooperation between the two sides.

Kohl expressed his hope that the exchanges and cooperation between Germany and China would get further promoted.

Kohl paid a visit to China as guest of the China Institute for International Strategic Studies to attend an international symposium on non-traditional security. The two-day symposium, attended by 60 officials, experts and scholars from 17 countries of Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania, concluded here on Thursday. — MNA/Xinhua

Forty crocodiles ready for their journey to Dhaka

CHENNAI, 25 June — Under the “cross border conservation” programme, 40 marsh crocodiles will be airlifted to Dhaka in Bangladesh late Friday night, according to Harry Andrews, Director of the private Madras Crocodile Bank (MCB) in South India’s Tamil Nadu State.

Of the 32 females and eight males which will fly to Bangladesh capital by an Alitalia airlines cargo flight, 10 will be kept in the Dhaka zoo and the rest will be moved to the “Endangered Species Breeding Centre” of the Wild-life Foundation. About 60 officials, experts and scholars from 17 countries of Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania, concluded here on Thursday. — MNA/Xinhua

First cross-strait tourism expo to be held in Xiamen

BEIJING, 25 June — The first cross-strait tourism exposition is due to be held in Xiamen, an open city in east China’s Fujian Province in September 2005 at the co-sponsorship of the National Tourism Administration and Fujian Provincial People’s Government, a senior provincial tourism official said on Thursday.

Huang Xiaoyan, director of the Fujian Provincial Tourism Bureau, said the expo is aimed at promoting qualified and innovative tourism products, and increasing investment in local tourism industry, as so as to further push tourism development across the Taiwan Strait. There will be 320 booths in the venue of the exposition, with most of which having been booked by Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao tourism operators. Participants from 130 countries and regions worldwide will also join the expo, which is expected to arrange such activities as holding of a tourism forum and picture displays during the session. — MNA/Xinhua

Zoo workers pull a crocodile for release into the water at Mirpur zoo in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 25 June, 2005. Five rare fresh water crocodiles from India, destined for a breeding programme, arrived on Saturday, a zoo official said. — INTERNET

Brzezinski alleges incompetence in Iraq effort

WASHINGTON, 25 June — As President Bush tries to shore up support for his Iraq policy, Demo- crats continue to lament the increasing violence and rising US casualty count.

During remarks in the Democrats’ weekly radio address, President Carter’s national security chief Zbigniew Brzezinski said the war has been conducted with “tactical and strategic incompetence.”

And he noted because of the war, “America finds itself more isolated than ever before” and the object of unprecedented international mistrust.

Brzezinski adds, “Patriotism and love of country does not demand endless sacrifice” of America’s troops. — INTERNET

Ethiopia protests over BBC’s post-riot story

ADDIS ABABA, 25 June — The Ethiopian Embassy in London on Friday protested against a post-riot story carried by British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), which it described as “outrageous and baseless”, according to the Ethiopian News Agency.

In a letter sent to the BBC monitoring against the story titled “Ethiopia charging families 120 dollars to retrieve riot victims’ bodies”, Ethiopian Ambassador Fisseha Adugna said, “This wild allegation is absolutely without foundation and has caused great distress to many.”

“I understand that you are a monitoring service, but the choice of this item among many others without any background checking, which your staff on the ground in Addis Ababa could have easily carried out, is irresponsible and unworthy of your institution,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier secures the area as he looks at Iraqi policemen who were shooting at a suspected car during a patrol in central Baghdad, on 25 June, 2005. — INTERNET
The Myanmar War Veterans Organization, one of the reserve forces of the State, consists of servicemen from Army, Navy and Air Force who shouldered duties at different ranks and retired from the Tatmadaw.

The MWVO came into existence in 1948 when the nation regained independence. The MWVO was upgraded into MWVO (Central) on 22 December 1972, and into MWVO Central Organizing Committee on 26 September 1973, and was reconstituted on 18 August 1989.

The MWVO also formed the economic central leading committee to do various businesses — commodity production, local and foreign trade, and services. It is carrying out tasks on agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, services, trade, tourism industry, construction, and mining precious stones.

The directly-benefited tasks include social, religious and cultural undertakings, greenivng tasks, urban and rural beautifying tasks, sanitation tasks, and health and educative tasks.

The indirectly-benefited measures comprise participation in the State’s projects, mobilizing workers, machinery, bricks, sand and gravel, and transportation of earth. Its concept is that if the projects are completed ahead of schedule, the people will enjoy the fruits of construction projects earlier, and the nation will develop more rapidly.

The social welfare services work force under the Central Organizing Committee is leading State Division WVO supervisory committees and WVO organizing committees in carrying out the social welfare tasks. In doing so, the work force provides MWVO members and their families with regular assistance, assistance for educational purpose, assistance for attending courses, assistance for funeral services, assistance for disabled members, assistance for aged members, rice, and other assistance.

The MWVO also formed the economic central leading committee to do various businesses — commodity production, local and foreign trade, and services. It is carrying out tasks on agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, services, trade, tourism industry, construction, and mining precious stones.

Besides, the MWVO, a consolidated force, is contributing towards national political movements with might and main. State/Division WVOs have held preliminary conferences at respective regions to hail the MWVO Conference (2005).

At the preliminary conferences, the members held discussions on the five sectors — national politics, national defence and security, economy, social welfare, and public welfare services, and passed resolutions.

As a matter of fact, MWVO members have possessed defence capability, organizational capability and management capability, and armed with nationalistic fervour, Union Spirit, sacrificing spirit, and esprit de corps.

The members are therefore to make continued efforts to hand down such fine traditions to new members. In addition, they have to place greater emphasis on handing down exemplary traditions to new generations, winning trust and reliance of the public, and strengthen friendship with the people.

The MWVO is therefore to be aroused to continue the fine traditions, the MWVO, the reserve force of the nation, will continue to make magnificent contributions towards nation-building tasks, national defence duties and will be able to stand firm in the interests of the nation and the people.

Translation: MS

Winners awarded

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents a prize to a winner.

Talks on Myanmar Women’s Day given in Yangon Division

Yangon, 26 June —Supervised by Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs, talks on Myanmar Women’s Day were given in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. It was attended by Chairman of Yangon East District Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Mar Mar Thein and members.

Organizers of district and township OWA gave talks on the occasion. Likewise, Mayangon Township OWA held tree planting ceremony and talks on Myanmar Women’s Day were given at No 5 Basic Education Middle School yesterday morning.

A similar ceremony was held in Hlaine Township yesterday.

Later, Chairperson of Hlaine Township OWA Daw Pan Pan Phyo presented membership applications of MWAF to Daw Wint Wint Naing.

Talks on Myanmar Women’s Day in progress at Dagon Myothit (North) Township. —Women’s Affairs
Preliminary seminars on respective sectors for Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005) start

YANGON: June 26— Preliminary seminars on respective sectors for Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005) commenced at the designated places of Bayintnaung Transit Centre-1 on Bayintnaung Road this morning.

The seminar of the group-1 on national political sector was held at the guest hall. Member of MWVO Central Organizing Committee Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presided over the seminar together with members Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and U Chit Naing, and Lt-Col Khin Maung Than acted as MC. Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivered an opening speech. Next, the MC announced the list of 17 participants who will take part in the second day session of the seminar.

The seminar of the group-2 on national defence and security sector was held at the mess (See page 7)

Coord Meeting for...

Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and Maj-Gen Saw Tun, COC members and delegates of States and Divisions signed in the register book.

The MC announced the start of the meeting with attendance of 416 delegates or 98.34 per cent out of 423, according to the permission of the meeting chairman.

Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) delivered an address, saying that the State Peace and Development Council, the Tatmadaw Government, is making all-out efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In doing so, the Government has laid down Our Three Main National Causes as national policy — non-dis-integration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — and has adopted and is implementing 12 objectives all-round development in political, economic and social sectors of the State.

In this regard, the Government has laid down four-point people desire to guard against the threat and interference of some big countries and distractions of national traitors. At present, the Government has laid down the seven-point Road Map and is striving to transform the country into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation step by step.

The State Peace and Development Council reorganized Myanmar War Veterans Organization with 35 Central Organizing Committee members on 21 October 1998 under Order No 4/98. Similarly, duties were assigned to the COC members to reorganize State and Division WVO Supervisory Committees. They could reform State/Division, District and Township WVO Supervisory Committees systematically.

After that, the MWVO Conference 2001 was held from 1 to 5 June 2001 successfully and the conference adopted seven future tasks. WVOs at different levels accepted the guidance of Patron of MWVO Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe as work guideline and is carrying out five tasks as national political affairs, State defence and security affairs, economic affairs, social and welfare and public welfare and seven future tasks adopted by the 2001 conference as well.

For successfully holding the MWVO Conference 2005, preliminary conferences of State and Division WVO Supervisory Committees have been completed from 22 April to 5 June 2005. The COC members attended to supervise the preliminary conferences in their respective organizational regions. Before the preliminary conferences, billboards hailing the conference were put up on a grand scale in States and Divisions. In all preliminary conferences, participants submitted reports on implementation of the five tasks, made discussions and decisions, sought approvals and put on records systematically.

In the Conference, the delegates are to participate in the discussions for achieving more successes in performing the tasks of MWVO. In this regard, the participants are to submit progress of respective States and Divisions, and to give suggestions with positive attitude for improvement of Myanmar.

Next, Secretary of the Organizing Committee for the Conference U Aung Thaung explained matters related to the conference 2005.

Later, State and Division delegates were organized into the groups to discuss seminars on national political sector, on State defence and security sector, on economic sector, on social and welfare sector and on public welfare sector.— MNA
With love for nation and people
Forsake relatives, lover
’Cause of strong love for life of militaryman
Fresh and vibrant, that stride in life
Have marched on dutifully
‘mid smell of cartridge, gun smoke
Enemy’s bastrion, layers of them
Penetrated and destroyed, with might
Bombs and cannon, sounds of explosions
As if they were music, took them to heart
Found joy in battle and battleground
When victorious, we’re happy
When we’re successful, we’re glad
Sometimes, when men on our side
Fall, and we see their plight
The heart is hurt, tears tumble
We can’t take it, we seek out the enemy
We crush them, with much bravery
We love the life of a soldier

Whatever it is, we, all of us
Set aside our lives, for our nation
We love it and repay what we owe
Ever dutiful, we’ve been
When we take rest, retire
Noble determination, is red as ever
We love our nation and people
If it is national cause
Unhesitatingly, we will rejoin
“I’m not too old yet,” we’ll yell
Red stamina, arms outstretched
We will do our duty to the nation.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe
(Trs)
Hailing the Myanmar War Veterans Conference-2005
Preliminary seminars on…

(from page 6)
hall-B. Member of
MWVO Central Organiz-
ing Committee Col Tin Yi (Retd) presided over
the seminar together with
members Col Zaw Tun (Retd), and Chin State
WVO COC Chairman
Lt-Col Ohn Myint acted
as MC. Col Tin Yi (Retd)
delivered an opening
speech. Next, the MC an-
nounced the list of 17
participants who will take
part in the second day
session of the seminar.

The group-3 held
its seminar on economic
sector at the mess hall-
C. Vice-Chairman of
MWVO Central Organiz-
ing Committee Maj-
Gen Maung Pa pre-
sided over the seminar
together with members
Brig-Gen Phone Zaw
Han and Brig-Gen Myo
Myint. Mandalay Divi-
sion NyaungU Township
WVO Organizing Com-
nitee Chairman Capt Win
Min Than (Retd) as co-MC. Col
Maung Pa delivered an
opening speech.

Similarly, the
group-4 held its seminar
on social and welfare sec-
tor at the hostel for offic-
ers. Vice-Chairman of
MWVO Central Organiz-
ing Committee Maj-Gen
Thein Swe presided over
the seminar together with
members Brig-Gen Win
Sein and U Win Pe. Bago
Division (West) Padaung
Township WVO Organiz-
ing Committee Chairman
Capt Myint Soe (Retd) acted
as MC and

Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivers a speech at seminar on social and welfare sector of the group-4. — MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivers a speech at seminar on national political sector of the group-1. — MNA

Col Maung Pa delivers a speech at seminar on public welfare sector of the group-5. — MNA

Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivers a speech at seminar on national defence and security sector of the group-2. — MNA

Col Tin Yi (Retd) delivers a speech at seminar on national defence and security sector of the group-2. — MNA

Col Tin Yi (Retd) delivers a speech at seminar on national political sector of the group-1. — MNA

Noble Determination
Red As Ever

* With love for nation and people
  Forsake relatives, lover
  ’Cause of strong love for life of militaryman
  Fresh and vibrant, that stride in life
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Myinmu Maung Naing Moe
(Trs)
Hailing the Myanmar War Veterans Conference-2005

CASH DONATED: Mr Sakakibara Yoshiyasu from Japan donated K 200,000 to the trust fund of Hninzigon Home of the Aged on 26-6-2005 through Secretary of the Managing Board of the Home Maj-Gen Aung Than (Retd). — MNA
Considerable success achieved...

(from page 1)

Myanmar has taken the initiative in addressing the drug problem by launching the 15-Year Drug Elimination Plan since 1999 with three 5-year phases. The first 5-year phase of this plan ended in 2004 and we are now into the second 5-year phase.

The target activities for the first 5-year phase had been successfully achieved and the success can be attributed to the serious commitment of the Government, close monitoring and supervision. Furthermore, the active participation of the regional authorities, local leaders of the national races and the local people was also a crucial contributing factor.

The implementation of the 5 rural development tasks in 24 regions to improve the living standards of the national races of the border areas also contributed to the successful results.

I would like to assure you here that we Myanmar will do her utmost to realize objectives of 15-Year Plan, progressing on with the main tasks such as elimination of drug production and drug abuse, prevention, law enforcement and garnering the active participation of the community and also cooperating with the international community. Learning from the success and challenges encountered during the first phase, plans have been made to implement the second 5-year phase in the most effective way.

In this regard, a pilot project which aims to support the poppy farmers in cultivation of alternative cash crops, the New Destiny Project has been launched since April 2002.

The Opium Yield Survey conducted annually in collaboration with the US has also shown a potential production of 292 tons in 2004, a drastic decline of 88% if compared to 1996 levels. Cultivation also declined 81% for the same period.

The amount of opium and heroin that has been seized has reduced from 7800 kilos of opium and 1400 kilos of heroin in 1997 to only 600 kilos of opium and 970 kilos of heroin in 2004 attesting to the reduction in the poppy cultivation and opium production activities.

Although poppy cultivation and opium production has been reduced, learning from the success and challenges encountered during the first phase, plans have been made to implement the second 5-year phase in the most effective way.
Considerable success achieved…
(from page 8)
reduced in Myanmar, the danger of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) has emerged as a new drug threat. The first sei-
were made by 2005 for a total of 1,315 kilos. In addition to ‘Ice’, another form of stimulant ‘Ecstasy’, which is popularly known as ‘head-shaking’ pills’, was also seized since 2001. Altogether 4 seizures were made by 2005 amounting to a total of 355 tablets.
Regarding the seizure of precursor chemicals, I would like to stress here that we are taking urgent measures with our neighbouring countries for the control of these chemicals.
We are fully aware of and accept the fact that Myanmar alone cannot be successful in the fight against drugs but needs cooperation with neighbouring countries. Subsequently, we have established bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries of the sub-region as well as beyond the region.

The amount of opium and heroin that has been seized was reduced from 7,800 kilos of opium and 1,400 kilos of heroin in 1997 to only 600 kilos of opium and 970 kilos of heroin in 2004 attesting to the reduction in the poppy cultivation and opium production activities.

We are aware that Myanmar has handed over to China in April this year, 847 blocks of heroin weighing 592.52 kilos was seized in Hnitkayin Village, Ye Township, Mon State, which was destined to be shipped to international waters.

National law enforcement agencies, with assistance from the UNODC Cross Border Cooperation Project, Border Liaison Offices along the Myanmar-China border areas have been established in Lweje in Kachin State and Chintshwehaw in Northern Shan State. Similarly, Border Liaison Offices for the Myanmar-Thailand border area cooperation have been opened in Myawady and Tachilek. A similar office for Myanmar-Laos cooperation has been set up in Tachilek also.

To increase cooperation with Thailand, preparations are underway to open Border Liaison offices in Kawkhoun and also in Wampon and Wamkyin in Tachilek District for cooperation with Laos. In cooperation with China, since 2001 Myanmar has handed over 35 culprits to China. In April last year, China also handed over two culprits to Myanmar. Similarly, Myanmar has handed over two culprits to Thailand and Thailand also handed over one culprit to Myanmar in January 2005.

I would like to make some comments at this juncture, the collaborative efforts of Myanmar with the international law enforcement agencies. In the early weeks of July 2004, 847 blocks of heroin weighing 592.52 kilos was seized in Hnitkayin Village, Ye Township, Mon State, which was destined to be shipped to international waters.

We are fully aware of the fact that Myanmar alone cannot be successful in the fight against drugs but needs cooperation with neighbouring countries. Subsequently, we have established bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries of the sub-region as well as beyond the region.

With a view to enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries and also with inter-

ATS; in that year more than 32 million of ATS tablets were seized. In terms of the proportion of townships where ATS seizures were recorded, ATS seizures were made in 100 townships out of the 383 townships in the whole of Myanmar representing over 26.1 % of the townships in Myanmar.
In addition, crystal form of amphetamine, known as ‘Ice’, was first seized in 2001.
Altogether 7 occasions of ‘Ice’ seizures.
YANGON, 26 June — A ceremony to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking organized by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control was held at Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw and Hanthawady Roads in Kamayut Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were CCDAC Chairman Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Vice-Chairman Minister U Nyan Win, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, Brig-Gen Khin Yi and members, the Resident Representative of UNODC, the coordinator for Foreign Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Vice-Chairman Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Assistant Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and a number of AHRN (Myanmar) departmental heads, representatives of social organizations, members of the Organizing Committee for IDAADIT, journalists and guests.

CCDAC Chairman Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo, in his address, said that today, we are commemorating the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The problem of narcotic drugs is not something that only a nation or a race had to deal with. It is a crisis confronting the entire human race. Consequently, on this occasion every year, we have been emphasizing the problem of drugs and its dire consequences to the people so that they will clearly realize and avoid it. These zealous public campaigns are being undertaken not only in Yangon but also throughout the States and Divisions of the whole country for the past eighteen years. Today, nations around the world will also be commemorating this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The theme for this year’s International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “Value yourself — make healthy choices”. This is a signal to all those who are gathered here, including myself who are presently serving our country's interest. We need to ensure that the new generation who will inherit this responsibility in the future are young, healthy and void of drugs. Only then a meaningful and valuable future can be assured.

All of us are fully aware of the negative consequences of drugs, particularly the use of heroin through injection habits. This has led to the transmission of dreadful HIV/AIDS infection that is taking the lives of young people mercilessly today. We have also seen disabled youths with psychotic disorders emanating from the use of amphetamine type substances.

Using drugs is never rewarding and part of our strategies to control and prevent the use of it is to enhance public awareness. In these campaigns, we have included exhibitions and competitions for literary work, music, paintings, cartoons and posters that have proved to be the most effective to amass public attention.

We are now in the eighth year of undertaking such nationwide campaigns extensively. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to present a brief overview of Myanmar’s efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs. We all are aware that successive Governments, to combat this menace, have promulgated laws and regulations appropriate to the prevailing situations throughout modern times.

Myanmar is amongst the group of countries that requires to combat the menace of narcotic drugs. Strategies and tactics adopted through a 15-year Drugs Eradication Plan and through the New Destiny Project were implemented in full vigor to eradicate illicit poppy cultivation, opium and heroin production, drug trafficking and abuse of it. This resulted in a decline in both poppy culti-
Utilizing own wealth ...

Value yourself — make healthy choices!

Mr Jean Luc Lemahieu of UNODC presents a certificate to a winner. — MNA

Mr Willy De Maere of ARHN presents a certificate to a winner. — MNA

Director-General U Bo Win presents a prize to a winner. — MNA

Retired Ambassador U San Thein presents a prize to a winner. — MNA

Press Conference on Narcotic Drug Elimination Endeavours of CCDAC held

YANGON, 26 June — Press conference on Narcotic Drug Elimination Endeavours of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control took place at the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw Road and Hanthawaddy Road in Kamayut Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, officials from MPE, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, and representatives from various Ministries, journalists and other friends.

Joint-Secretary of CCDAC Police Col Kham Aung clarified matters on ceremonies of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and 19th Destruction of Seized Narcotic Drug.

Police Col Kham Aung and departmental officials replied to the queries raised by the journalists and the ceremony ended at 11 am. — MNA

Mr Jean Luc Lemahieu reads out the message sent by UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo accepted K 250,000 for prize presentation ceremony donated by UNODC Resident Representative Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu; K 300,000 by AHRN (Myanmar) Coordinator Mr Willy De Maere; K 250,000 for prize presentation ceremony donated by UNODC Resident Representative Mr Kofi A Annan.

Later, MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi also presented first, second and third prizes to the winners in the 10-15 age painting contest; Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department, the winners in the 10-15 age cartoon contest; Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association Retired Ambassador U San Thein, the winners in the 15-20 age cartoon contest; Chair-
man of Myanmar Border Areas Development Association Retired Ambassador U Maung Maung Soe, the winners in the above-20 age cartoon contest; and Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, the winners in the under-10 age poster contest.

On prevention and control front, members of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department and Anti-Narcotics Task Forces are stepping up enforcement measures. Drugs confiscated through these joint efforts are being burnt and destroyed — for the nineteenth time — in the presence of all our distinguished guests this morning.

Activities such as supply reduction and enforcement measures alone will not lead to total disappearance of drugs. Reducing demand is also an important factor with public cooperation playing major role in this equation. Therefore, as part of demand reduction campaigns, we have been initiating treatment and rehabilitation programmes together with educational campaigns for both the general population and students on the menace of narcotic drugs. They are being undertaken nationwide through specially established programmes.

In the same context, the Government is also taking measures to reduce transmission of HIV through injecting drug use. This is done in cooperation with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There is also a need to advocate students and youth to love it own nation and people, appreciate our own literature, music and culture, realize the grim consequences of drug abuse and, the need to abstain from it. To complement this need, we are holding competitions for best literature work, music, paintings, cartoons and posters as part of our campaigns to provoke understanding on the danger of drugs.

The organizational skills and influence of various artists who had served as judges in an encouragement to both professionals and amateurs, students as well as members of different sectors of the community to participate increasingly in these competitions year by year.

Consequently, I would like to encourage the judges to step-up their organizational campaigns to increase the number of participants in competitions. The increase in the number of competitors is an indication of an increase in the number of people committed to combat the dire consequences of drugs use. Utilizing our own wealth and resources, Myanmar, is stepping up all its efforts to eradicate drug abuse and related problems as part of our national cause. In line with this year’s theme...
MANNING, 25 June — Viet- namese are using renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind, to meet its increasing de- mand for electricity. Vietnam plans to in- crease its combined electric- ity capacity of biomass, geo-thermal, wind and solar energy stations to six wind- and hydro power generators to around 1,500 megawatts in the next five years from current 200 megawatts, the EVN said.

The country will coop- erate with some foreign agencies from such coun- tries as Germany, Japan and Switzerland, to build wind and solar power sta- tions in the central regions.

Vietnam plans to build 300,000 bio-gas tanks in rural areas nationwide by 2010.
China in strong opposition to EU’s restriction to import Chinese shoes

BRUSSELS, 25 June — China strongly opposes the launch of anti-dump- ing investigation by the European Union to import Chinese shoes, which lacks practical and legal basis, Chong Quan, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce, said here on Friday.

“China also prompts the EU to make prudent decisions so as to avoid from trade friction,” Chong said.

The delegation of the European Commission has recently reported to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce that the EU plans to launch a probe into a certain kind of imported Chinese shoes from China at the end of June. Chong said. The Chinese Government is highly concerned with it.

The Chinese side holds that the EU has removed the control on the quotas for imported Chi- nese shoes on January 1 this year, but only sev- eral months later the EU launches an anti-dump- ing investigation into Chinese shoes based on inaccurate statistics, in- tending to take a new round of restriction. This is against the free trade principle, he added.

Chong said China has also noticed that there exist serious errors with the EU’s data concern- ing six categories of imported Chinese shoes from January to April this year, including leather shoes and sleep- ers, and reality in actual trade was distorted, thus misleading the public and the relevant business circles in the EU.

The quantities of im- ported Chinese shoes rose 581 per cent and its total value 433 per cent from January to April, according to the EU sta- tistics, and the price of each unit was lowered by 28 per cent, but the relevant Chinese Customs figures, nevertheless, showed that the quantity, value and price for each unit of the above shoes was down 22.8 per cent, 59.5 per cent, and 30 per cent re- spectively.

China has lodged a representation with the EU on serious errors re- lated to the methods of sampling and statistics calculations, and it asks the EU side to check the data accurately, and pub- licizes the true situation with China’s shoe ex- ports.

— MNA/Xinhua

Annan criticizes US House proposal to cut UN contribution

UNITED NATIONS, 25 June — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday again criticized a proposal introduced into the US House of Representatives by Henry Hyde which would threaten “a draconian and unilateral cut” in the US contribution to the world body’s budget to force reform.

“I believe that a pro- ceed with extreme mis- taken and would, if adopted by the US Gov- ernment as a whole, prove disastrously counterpro- ductive,” Annan wrote in an opinion piece in The Wall Street Journal.

“It would break the reformist coalition be- tween the US and other member-states whose collec- tive pressure could other- wise make these reforms happen,” he added. “Fortu- nately, the Hyde with- holding proposal is not backed by the administra- tion.”

The UN is an asso- ciation of sovereign states and the way to make changes or reforms is to negotiate agreement with other member-states, Annan said, noting that he had proposed a reform package covering devel- opment, security, and the rule of law in a report released earlier this year.

“Decisions can be taken this September, when political leaders from all over the world meet at UN headquarters for the 2005 world sum- mit,” he wrote. “Over 170 have said they will come, and President Bush is ex- pected to be among them.”

“The stakes for the US, and for the world, could hardly be higher. The opportunity to forge a common response to common threats may not soon recur. It is in that context, and for that rea- son, that a reformed and strengthened UN is so badly needed,” he con- cluded. — MNA/Xinhua

Study shows advantages of hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles

LOS ANGELES, 25 June — Switching to vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells instead of fossil fuels will provide significant health and environment benefits, save life and money, according to a new study released on Thursday.

A study published in the journal Science shows that a redesigning the current vehicle exhaust to emit hydrogen will greatly reduce emissions of pollutants that cause health effects or harm the environment.

The study examined the effects on urban pollution or health of replacing all US fossil-fuel on-road vehicles with HFCVs. They compared the ben- efits of producing hydrogen by steam reforming of natu- ral gas, wind-electrolysis and coal gasification, and found that most of HFCVs’ benefits arose from eliminating current vehicle exhaust. An all- HFCV fleet would hardly affect tropospheric water vapour concentrations, the researchers said. Conversion to coal HFCVs may improve health but would damage climate more than fossil electric hybrids. — MNA/ Xinhua

China and ASEAN Nations discuss defence, security cooperation at Moscow summit

MOSCOW, 25 June— Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday leaders attending the summit meeting of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) reached agreements on building up defence structures and security cooperation within the bloc’s framework.

Speaking at a Press conference following the summit, Putin said some of the agreements signed at the summit concerned “a unified air defence system and improvements to the CSTO Rapid Deploy- ment Forces in Central Asia,” the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The leaders decided to create an interstate com- mission on military-eco- nomic cooperation, which “will give an impetus to closer interaction between CSTO defence industrial complexes”, Putin said.

Putin also said CSTO forces could be used in peacekeeping operations. The CSTO com- prises Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Armenia. Putin said leaders also discussed developments in the CSTO and adjoining areas, in particular Cen- tral Asia and Afghanistan.

“We’re concerned about the continuing presence of terrorist training camps in Afghanistan, as well as some secret serv- ices’ involvement in them,” Putin said, adding Afghanistan is also a source of growing drugs exports.

While Putin acknowl- edged the international community’s measures to restore stability and fight terrorism and drugs traf- ficking in war-torn Af- ghanistan, he said these efforts are still a far cry from what is needed.

— MNA/Xinhua

Children and residents of Akkaraipettai look at a sand sculpture of a mermaid, made on Friday by young students from a nearby town, on the seashore at Nagappattinam, India, on 25 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Tourists walk along Patong Beach on 23 June, 2005, in Patong, Thailand. — INTERNET
Nigeria, Argentina qualify for semis of FIFA Youth C’ships

ENSCHEDE, June 26— An inspired, physical and talented Nigeria defeat the hosts after an absolute marathon penalty shootout (final score: 10-9), while an unstoppable Argentina eliminated European champions Spain 3-1 to book their berths in the semi-finals of the FIFA World Youth Championship Netherlands 2005 on Saturday.

The hosts were hit with an impossibly early punch before the capacity crowd of the Parkstad Limburg Stadium even had chance to settle into their seats. Roaring up right from the kick-off, Solomon Okoronkwo crossed low to settle into their seats. Before the capacity crowd an impossibly early punch was taken by the Nigerians with a huge challenge.

Without a goal throughout the tournament, Argentina qualified for the semi-finals with a 3-1 win over Spain to advance to the semis of the FIFA World Youth Championship on Saturday.

Germany’s Kevin Kuranyi, left, and Brazil’s Roque Junior battle for the ball during the Confederations Cup semi-final between Germany and Brazil in Nuremberg, Germany, on 23 June, 2005. Brazil won the match 3-2. —INTERNET

Adriano leads Brazil past Germany in Confederations Cup

NUREMBERG (Germany), 26 June— Adriano rose to the occasion to score twice, leading Brazil past Germany 3-2 in the semi-finals of the 2005 Confederations Cup on Saturday.

Adriano opened the scoring with a deflected free-kick at the 21st minute. But only two minutes later, Lukas Podolski’s header levelled the scoring for Germany. Brazil again took the lead at the 43rd minute thanks to a penalty shot by Ronaldoinho. But the team fought back as Michael Ballack made no mistake from the spot in injury time of first half.

Adriano settled the win with a powerful low drive to beat German goalkeeper Jens Lehmann with 14 minutes remaining.

It was the first time the two teams met in an official competition since the 2002 World Cup finals which Brazil won 2-0.

With the Nigerians coming a better player in the first half, Germany took a slight advantage in ball possession. But it was the Brazilian team who were celebrating the first goal at the 21st minutes. Adriano’s free-kick from 30 meters away took a deflection off Sebastian Deisler, leaving Lehmann wrong-footed.

The hosts fought back immediately as Podolski headed home a Fabian Ernst’s cross to level the score. The Nigerians responded with a powerful header home a Fabian Ernst’s cross to level the score.

The host team still had time to find their second goal in the first half. Huth and Ballack both went down under challenges from Roque Junior and Emerson and Chandra awarded the second penalty kick of the game.

Ballack kept his nerve to beat Brazilian goalkeeper Dida with a well-taken effort.

The Germany team again dominated possession and had several chances. But the Brazilians scored the decisive goal. Adriano contributed to Huth’s challenge to send a cross-shot home.

German coach sent on Mike Hanke to switched to a three men front line in the last minutes. But the Brazilian protected their advantage well till the final whistle.

Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said he was very happy with his team’s performance: “It was fantastic playing Germany here in the semifinals. Germany gave everything in an effort to beat Brazil here at home. It was an extremely tight game.”

“Germany were physically stronger, but Brazil were dangerous in attack with Robinho and Adriano. We’re delighted to be through to the final,” Parreira said.

—MNA/Xinhua

Park proud of playing for Man United

SEOUL, 26 June— South Korea midfielder Park Ji-sung said on Saturday that he would become a better player by playing in English Premier League club Manchester United.

The 24-year-old signed this week to move from PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands to Manchester United on a four-year deal, becoming the first South Korean to play in the Premier League.

On returning from a medical in Britain, he told reporters at Incheon airport that he was proud to join the Red Devils. “Personally I’m very proud of myself. I feel sorry and very grateful to (PSV Eindhoven) coach Hiddink, but I think I can return his favour by becoming a better player in Manchester”, said Park.

Park and South Korea team mate Lee Young-pyo were signed by Hiddink who coached the South Korean team during the 2002 World Cup.

Park played a key role in co-hosts South Korea’s run to the semi-finals, scoring one of the goals of the tournament to knock out Portugal.

Park continued his progress in PSV which won the Dutch title and reached the Champions League semi-finals last season.

Although he felt proud of joining Manchester United, Park said that South Korea’s success in the 2002 World Cup was still the peak of his career.

“The joy that I felt during last World Cup finals could not be matched by anything else,” Charisteas said. —MNA/Xinhua

Greek striker supports coach

NUREMBERG, 25 June— Greek star striker Charisteas said he still believed in coach Otto Rehhagel despite Greek team’s dismal performances at the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup. Greece lost to Brazil and Japan and then played a goalless draw with Mexico to finish bottom at Group B. They are also the only team without a goal throughout the tournament.

But the 25-year-old Charisteas remained loyal to his coach and said he could not imagine Greece without Otto.

Charisteas explained why his teams had the disappointing performance at the Confederations Cup: “We are facing a tough period and we have not been able to show our traditional aggressiveness. Before the Confederations Cup we had two very difficult World Cup qualifying matches, against Turkey and Ukraine, and we didn’t come in the best shape to Germany. “In our first match here we had to play Brazil, which always mean a huge challenge. We lost 3-0 and then against Japan we performed poorly again,” Charisteas said. —MNA/Xinhua

Maradona confirms hiring of Basile as new coach of Boca Juniors

BUENOS AIRES, 26 June— Former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona said Saturday Alfonso Basile “talked to Boca and all is ready” for his coaching the club.

Maradona said Basile will start with pre-season work on 30 June. Basile, 62, will replace Jorge Benitez, who resigned after a scandalous elimination from Liberators Cup, by Mexico’s Guadalajara Chivas in the quarterfinals.

The entry of Basile was imminent, but the remarks of the former captain of Argentina ratified the versions, although on Tuesday the Directive Commission of the club will make the definitive confirmation.

Basile coached Santa Fe Colon until December last year, and in Argentina he has also coached Racing Club, San Lorenzo, Velez Sarsfield, Chacarita Juniors, Rosario Central, Huracan, Instituto, Talleres and Cordoba Racing.

Abroad, he coached Atletico Madrid (Spain), Nacional (Uruguay) and America (Mexico). — MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

OGS REE BECK FOURTH ST LEO THER APLET THE TER UG YA DEEG ROOM GROE SOR BAVAT SEER RAM RY EDRAF AY GEYAR LEX STR
Considerable success achieved...

In 2005 January, 178 kilos of Ice that were concealed inside sculptured wooden poles were seized in Shwe Pyi Thar Township, Yangon Division. In May 2005, 102 kilos of Ice were also seized in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division. Collaborative efforts with international law enforcement agencies are under way to be able to arrest the drug traffickers who were involved in these cases.

Similarly, we also enjoyed good cooperation with western neighbour, India. We have been meeting at both senior and field official levels to find ways and means to control and prevent drugs and precursor chemicals being trafficked across our common borders. This cooperation has resulted in the drastic decline in the seizure of drugs and precursor chemicals in recent years.

I would also like to add that the outstanding efforts of neighbouring Thailand on their War on Drugs has affected the sub-region and has also contributed to our efforts for drug eradication.

I would like to reiterate the fact that although Myanmar has not received any substantial international support in the fight against drugs, we have been following the guidance, strategies and tactics laid down by our national leaders and are using our utmost efforts.

In conclusion, at this 19th occasion, we are going to burn and destroy the following drugs seized in Yangon by our law enforcement agencies: 625,029 kilos of opium, 759,201 kilos of heroin, 139,997 kilos of marijuana, 3,029,000 tablets of ATS tablets, 14,763 kilos of ATS powder, 93,316 kilos of Ephedrine powder, 179,646 kilos of Ice and 310,285 tablets of Diaperum tablets.

Furthermore, I would like to mention that the drugs to destroy today have a street value of more than 328 million US$. The total value of drugs destroyed since the 1st occasion up till now has now reached more than 14,661 million US$.

Before we proceed with the burning and destruction of the drugs, may I cordially invite you to conduct tests to personally confirm the authenticity of the drugs.

A few hours later, dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps and officials concerned destroyed the cough syrup containing drug and tested the drugs to be incinerated.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Li Jin Jun pressed a button to incinerate the drugs.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted the dignitaries and invited guests.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of CCDAC, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Vice Chairman Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of the diplomatic corps Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Li Jinjun, ambassadors and military attaches.

Representative of UNDP Mr Charles James Petrie, resident representatives, departmental officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of CCDAC, officials of the Ministry of Information, foreign correspondents, invited guests and students.

WEATHER

Sunday, 26 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Kachin and Rakhine States and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, upper Sagaing and Yangon Division. The noteworthly amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (9.96) inches, Ann (6.46) inches, Putao (6.06) inches, Katau (4.33) inches, Maungdaw (4.06) inches, Sittway (4.02) inches, Thaton (3.62) inches, Thandwe (3.46) inches, Mokkinywa (3.35) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.23) inches, Yangon-gyi (3.19) inches and Kayan (3.15) inches.

Maximum temperature on 25-6-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 26-6-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9-30 hrs MST on 26-6-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 25-6-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 26-6-2005 were (3.19) inches at Yangon Airport, (2.40) inches at Kaba Aye and (2.95) inches at Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (25.16) inches at Yangon Airport, (22.05) inches at Kaba-Aye and (19.88) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (20) mph from Southwest at (03:30) hours MST on 26-6-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-6-2005: Rain will be isolated in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon and Rakhine States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is 100%.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-6-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Asleep in Jesus

Daw Tin Tin Nwe’ (Agnes Rivers Guha)

Aged 75

Daughter of Mr.B.RIVERS and Daw Hla Tin; wife of Dr D.K.Guha (deceased); mother of Daw Mya Mya Mu (Sheila)-Mr R.E. Shaffer, Daw Than Than Ma (Monica)-Dr Thuong Nyant Shwe. U Tin Htut (Sunny)-Daw Marlar Aung; granddaughter of (3), fell asleep in Jesus on 25-6-2005 at 00:10 am at No 74, Room 5, Kyundaw Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon.

Burial service will be held at 10 am on 27-6-2005, at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Pyay Road, Myeikmyone and thence to Yayway Christian cemetery for entombment. May her soul rest in peace.

Bereaved family
Coord Meeting for Organizing MWVO Conference (2005) held

YANGON, 26 June — The coordination meeting for organizing the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005) was held at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township this morning. Vice-Chairman of MWVO Central Organizing Committee Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) presided over the meeting together with members of the Panel of Chairmen Chairman of Shan State (South) WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein and Chairman of Chin State WVOSC Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo. First, Vice-Chairmen of MWVOCOC (See page 6)

* ‘Ice’, was first seized in 2001.
* ‘Ice’ seizures were made by 2005 for a total of 1,315 kilos.
* Another form of stimulant ‘Ecstasy’, which is popularly known as ‘head-shaking pills’, was also seized since 2001.
* Altogether 4 seizures were made by 2005 amounting to a total of 355 tablets.

INSIDE

The directly-benefitted tasks include social, religious and cultural undertakings, greening tasks, urban and rural beautifying tasks, sanitation tasks, and health and educational tasks.

Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) makes an address at the coordination meeting for holding MWVO Conference-2005 at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township. — mna

Ambassadors, military attaches, resident representatives and officials of UN agencies test seized drugs to be torched. (News on page 1) — mna