General Thura Shwe Mann meets with departmental officials, businessmen in Rakhine State

Adding goodwill to efforts will ensure greater success

There will be economic development only if there is increase in production. Entrepreneurs should invest both in services and trade sectors for national economic advancement. They should systematically run businesses that will benefit individuals and organizations as well as the nation.
PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 21 April, 2006

For all-round development of the Union

The Union of Myanmar is endowed with natural resources and favourable conditions for economic development. Therefore, regional development plans are being systematically implemented for parallel development of all the states and divisions of the Union.

The Head of State and all state-level officials off and on tour various regions in the Union and see for themselves the development situation of each region, inspect development plans and construction work being carried out there and fulfill all the requirements.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe accompanied by high-ranking officials, visited Sittway, Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Kyauktaw, Ann, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe and Taungup townships in Rakhine State from 12 to 19 April and inspected implementation of plans and regional development work and met with departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townsenders.

At the meeting, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe emphasized that if all the national brethren worked together they would gain successive achievements and the State would develop by leaps and bounds, that it was necessary for national people to have strong Union Spirit and be united and that the Union as well as all the regions in it would enjoy rapid development only if all the national people were united and work in concert.

Rakhine State is rich in natural resources and has favourable environment for economic development. The government on its part is raising the momentum of implementation of regional development plans and building new roads and bridges for improvement in transport infrastructure. Therefore, the people on their part are required to work hard for the development of their region.

In the past, people in Rakhine State had to rely on air and water transport to go to other states and divisions. But now, with the emergence of the Yangon-An-Sittway, Yangon-Taungup, Kyaukpyu and Yangon-Ngaithainchaung-Gwa-Thandwe roads, they can easily travel to other states and divisions and expand their businesses.

At present, deep-sea fishing and shrimp farming are thriving in Rakhine State. Moreover, the Thahtay hydroelectric power station is being built on the Thahtay river 12 miles northeast of Thandwe. On completion, it will have the capacity of generating 102 megawatts and surely contribute to the development of Rakhine State.

We would like to call on all the national people in Rakhine State as well as in the other states and divisions to bear in mind the guidance of General Than Shwe and work hard for all-round development of the Union.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali was born in 1961, Province of Amlaj, Tabuk, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He obtained Bachelor of Political Science degree in 1986 from King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987. He worked at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Cairo from 1994-1998. At present he is serving as General Manager of Department of Citizen’s Affairs. Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali is married.—MNA

Cash donated to Eye Hospital, Waibargi Hospital

Cash donation of Myanmar-ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association in progress at Eye Hospital on Natmauk Street. — MNA

YANGON, 20 April — Myanmar ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association donated K 1 million each towards Eye Hospital on Natmauk Road and Waibargi Hospital for Communicable Disease in North Okkalapa Township through the Medical Superintendents of the hospitals this morning.

Present on the occasion were member of Board of Patrons of the association, wife of the Foreign Minister Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the Minister for Health Daw Nila Thaw, members of Board of Patrons of the association, wives of the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs Daw Le Lys and Dr Daw Khin Mya Win, wives of high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of the Philippines Embassy, wives of Ambassadors of ASEAN Embassies, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health Dr Tin Nyunt and officials concerned.—MNA

Cash donation of Myanmar-ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association in progress at Waibargi Hospital in North Okkalapa Township. — MNA

Cash donated to Eye Hospital, Waibargi Hospital

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Programme for contests to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and illicit Trafficking

YANGON, 20 April — To mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June, Yangon Division painting, cartoon, poster and computer arts and computer digital poster contests will take place. The cartoon contest will be held at 9 am and painting contest at 1 pm on 25 March and poster contest at 9 am on 26 May at Mya Nyila Hall of Latha BEHS-2. The contests are categorized into four levels —under-10 age level, 10-15 age, 15-20 age and above 20.

The computer painting contest will be held at the University of Computer Studies in Hline Township at 9 am on 22 May dividing into middle and high school Levels.

The application forms are available at Yangon Division Police Force Commander’s Office on Bank Street in Kyaukdata Township and the respective township PDC offices from 1 to 7 May and the applications are to be sent in person from 8 to 14 May.

The registration cards for the contests will be provided on the day of submitting the applications. The contestants are to inform the University of Computer Studies at 8 am on 21 May to be able to study beforehand.—MNA

People’s Desire

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

Cash donated to Eye Hospital, Waibargi Hospital

Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board member U Chit Myaing recently accepted K 100,000 donated by Daw Tin Tin of Hline Township for her 85th birthday. — MNA

Donate Blood

Cash donation of Myanmar-ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association in progress at Waibargi Hospital in North Okkalapa Township. — MNA
China urges flexibility over Iran nuclear plans

BEIJING, 19 April — China is disturbed by the deepening international stand-off over Iran’s nuclear plans but still hopes for a negotiated solution, a senior Chinese envoy told Iranian officials, the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai visited Tehran on Friday after Iran announced it had enriched uranium, defying international calls for it to halt such work.

He urged his Iranian hosts and other countries to step back from confrontation, a spokesman for China’s Foreign Ministry told a regular news conference on Tuesday. “China expressed its disquiet about current developments,” spokesman Qin Gang said. “We hope all sides will maintain restraint and flexibility to create conditions favourable to an appropriate resolution of the Iran nuclear issue through diplomatic negotiations,” Qin said, paraphrasing Cui’s message. Iran has defied UN calls for it to halt its atomic research, which the West fears could be a cover for making nuclear weapons. Western countries have been pushing the UN Security Council to make its demands that Iran suspend its nuclear enrichment binding under international law.

But China and Russia — veto-wielding permanent members of the Security Council along with the United States, Britain and France — fear that could later lead to sanctions, something they have traditionally opposed.

US Army probes marijuana smuggling into Kuwait

ARIFJAN (KUWAIT), 19 April — The US military said on Tuesday it was investigating allegations that its postal service was used to smuggle marijuana, following the arrest of three civilian sub-contractors by Kuwaiti authorities. The US Army was responding to reports in Kuwaiti newspapers that three US soldiers were arrested for selling marijuana in southern Kuwait.

A US Army spokesman said the three men, arrested on Sunday, were not soldiers but American civilian contractors who worked for Westar, a contracted company of the Army Material Command at Camp Arifjan, south of Kuwait City.

The daily Arab Times said all three suspects confessed to the crime and admitted they used to bring in the drugs through the US Army mail in Kuwait. Their case has been sent to prosecutors in the Gulf Arab state.

“The US military and its command in Kuwait expect all military, civilian and contracted personnel working for the US military to respect the laws of Kuwait,” Lieutenant-Colonel Debbie Haston-Hilger said in a statement.

Japanese WWII soldier returns home after 63 years

TOKYO, 19 April — A former Japanese World War II soldier who recently turned up living in Ukraine has come home to Japan, planning to visit his relatives after six decades.

Ishinosuke Uwano, 83, was officially registered as dead by the Japanese government in 1958 when he was last reported seen in Russia’s Sakhalin Island.

It was unclear why and how Uwano, who served in the Japanese Imperial Army on Sakhalin until the war’s end in 1945, ended up in Ukraine. “I have never spoken Japanese for 60 years, and first of all I would like to say to you ‘konnichiwa’ (good afternoon),” Uwano told reporters in Russian shortly after arriving at Tokyo’s Narita international airport.

“What I am looking forward to seeing and talking with my brothers and cousins.”

He was drafted into the Japanese Imperial Army in 1943 to join other soldiers on Sakhalin Island.

Japanese media said Uwano moved to Ukraine in 1965 and married a Ukrainian woman. Uwano, who has three children, lives in Zhitomyr west of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev.

During a 10-day visit to Japan, Uwano plans to travel to his home in Iwate, about 450 km (300 miles) north of Tokyo, to see relatives and friends and visit the graves of his parents. The photo taken on 13 April shows the crude oil price on a billboard in New York, US. The crude oil price hit new record on the New York Mercantile Exchange on 17 April, closing at 70.40 US dollars a barrel for the fear of the continuing stand-off over Iran’s nuclear plans. Photo taken on 17 April, 2006 at Liaocheng, a city in east China’s Shandong Province, shows a pea-green spider with a human face-like mark on its body. The WTO court rules against US in anti-dumping row

WORLD TRADE Organization’s highest court on Tuesday ruled that some methods used by the United States to decide whether foreign goods are being dumped break global trade rules.

The Appellate Body, in a published ruling, overturned a previous decision by a WTO panel of judges which had largely sided with Washington in the dispute over the European Union formula, as well as the methodology as such.

Several hundred million dollars of trade volume was involved in the dispute, which covered products such as steel, pasta, ball bearings and chemicals, the EU said in a statement.

In most of the cases no anti-dumping duty would have been imposed if the United States had not used zeroing procedures to determine the scale of dumping, the EU said.

Peter Mandelson said in a statement. The EU dispute had challenged 31 separate determinations of anti-dumping duties applied by the United States using the zeroing formula, as well as the methodology as such.
**Nepal to organize Birth Anniversary of Lord Buddha**

**KATHMANDU,** 19 April — Nepal will celebrate the 2,550th Birth Anniversary of Lord Gautam Buddha in western Nepal on Tuesday.

“On the occasion, the big World Peace Bell located at Lumbini would be struck 10 times symbolizing the Ten Perfections of Buddha hood,” the statement said.

Similarly, other functions under the celebration include inauguration of biogas plant at Lumbini, organization of a seminar on the Participation of Local People in the Development of Lumbini, identification of various local development programmes and distribution of stipends to 101 students, the statement said.

A 271-member Main Celebration Committee comprising of persons from different sectors has been constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yangkila Sherpa for celebrating the day.

**Russia opposes sanctions on Iran for nuclear issue**

**MOSCOW,** 19 April— Russia is against using sanctions to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Kamynin said here on Tuesday prior to the opening of the six-party consultations on over the delicate issue.

“We are convinced that neither sanctions nor (the) use of force will lead to the solution of the problem,” Kamynin was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

All the basic provisions of Russia’s stance on this account “are well known and remain valid”, the spokesman said, calling for a political settlement of the situation.

Taking part in the consultations in Moscow are high-level diplomats from Russia, China, the United States, Britain, France and Germany.

Kamynin said Moscow was concerned with the recent statement by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Iran’s creation of full nuclear cycle.

He described it as a step in the wrong direction that went against the will of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and was in defiance of a statement by the UN Security Council chairman.

**Danish police find heroin stash in sword blades**

**COPENHAGEN,** 19 April— Danish police said on Wednesday they had found heroin worth more than $1 million ($59,000 pounds) that had been smuggled into the country from Pakistan in the hollowed-out blades of 25 antique sword replicas.

They made the discovery after raiding the apartment of a British man who had died earlier from a drug overdose along with a woman of unknown nationality in a hotel room in Copenhagen.

Detectives found 740 grams of heroin of 70 percent purity in the metre-long engraved blades of the decorative swords. “The blades were the last place we thought to look and it was a surprising place to find the drugs,” Ole Wagner of the drugs squad told Reuters.

He believed at least five more swords had reached Denmark earlier this year. —INTERNET
ASEAN Foreign Ministers meet in Bali on ASEAN Charter

DENPASAR (Indonesia), 20 April — Foreign Ministers from the member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) met on the Indonesian island resort of Bali on Wednesday to discuss the recommendation on the arrangement of ASEAN Charter.

The ministers started their retreat meeting at 5:00 pm local time and ended at 6:00 pm. But no result of the closed meeting was announced.

The retreat was chaired by Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, who is the chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee.

The annual retreat, conducted in an informal setting, has no formal agenda in order to allow the ministers to engage in an open, frank and free-flowing discussion on important issues affecting the region, Indonesian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The foreign ministers’ retreat was held following a two-day meeting of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) here on Monday and Tuesday.

This was the third meeting of EPG which prepared for the ASEAN Charter.

The EPG, set up at the 11th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, is made up of experienced figures from ASEAN countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

The Indonesian representative in the EPG, Ali Alatas, said on Tuesday that the meeting concluded on Monday was declared in Bangkok on 8 August, 1967, ASEAN did not have any charter to support its legal status.

MFA/Min

Macedonian postal van robbed by armed men

TRIARA, 19 April — Several armed men attacked a Macedonian postal van on Tuesday morning, escaping with cash worth over 200,000 euros (about $240,000 US dollars), police said.

Reports from Macedonian capital of Skopje quoted local police as saying that the post office van, escorted by police, had been blocked on the Tetovo-Mala Recica road by a Hyundai car.

Several armed men rushed out of the car and attacked the police officers and post office staff. They robbed more than 10 million denars from the van before fleeing. The Macedonian Interior Ministry said in a Press release that the police had begun searching for the suspects. The robbery is the latest in a series of attacks on money-carrying postal vans in the past few months. — MFA/Xinhua

Floods cause havoc in parts of Canada

OTTAWA, 19 April — As swollen rivers continue to rage in the central prairies of Canada, the country’s Atlantic Provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador are also in flood.”

Landslides, washed out culverts and destruction of buildings have left residents stranded waiting for rescue workers to reach them.

The capital city of Ottawa, St. Lawrence and the Chaudiere River have been declared under emergency alerts.

The Harmas-Koros and Maros rivers have also been placed under emergency alerts.

A staff weighs a little Siberian Tiger in a Siberian Tiger Zoo at Mudanjiang, a city of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 19 April, 2006. As members of the 5th generation of the tiger family in the zoo, three little Siberian Tigers were born on 6 April. The zoo houses 236 Siberian Tigers now, 228 more than the number of 1986 when it was founded. — Internet

Three killed in French military helicopter crash

TOULOUSE (France), 19 April — Three French military personnel died when their helicopter crashed on Tuesday in an accident in the Hautes-Pyrenees region in the south of the country, the local authorities said. The Puma helicopter, which belonged to the fifth helicopter combat regiment of Pau in the Pyrenees-Atlantiques region, crashed on the side of a mountain a little before 1200 GMT.

Three killed in French military helicopter crash

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Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with Microsoft chairman Bill Gates during a meeting at the company’s headquarters in Redmond, Washington, on 18 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Samsung shows 2GB phone memory card

SEOUL, 19 April — Samsung Electronics said on Wednesday it has developed a tiny, 2GB memory card for use in mobile phones, just three months after it announced a card with half of that capacity.

The 2GB MMC micro card is about the size and shape of one key on a standard computer keyboard and just .04 inches thick. It can store as much as 12 hours of “mobile video,” Samsung said, without specifying a format.

It can also transmit data quickly. A user can download three hours of mobile video, for example, in less than two minutes, according to Samsung.

The cards can read data at 10 megabits per second and write at 7 mbps, the Seoul-based company said.

Both the 2GB and 1GB cards are expected to become available later this year, Samsung said. There was no word yet on pricing.

The cards are based on MMCmicro, a format designed by Samsung that’s based on the MMC (Multimedia Card) standard. The MMC standard competes with SD (Secure Digital) cards. Many handset makers, including Samsung, make phones compatible with both card types.

Earlier this year, SanDisk announced a 1GB card based on its smallest memory card format, MicroSD.

Memory card developers are reducing the size of the cards and boosting their memory capabilities to accommodate for small cell phones and for the additional data services that cellular operators are offering.

MFA/Reuters

MFA/Reuters

Tisza River at record level in Hungary

BUDAPEST, 19 April — Hungary’s flooded Tisza River this week reached its highest level for more than 30 years, flood defence officials said on Tuesday.

In east Hungary, it crested at 269 centimetres in Szolnok, southeast of Budapest, and reached 960 centimetres in the southern city of Szeged.

This was 20 centimetres up from the recorded level in 1970, Gyula Reich said.

Flood defences are now in place along 2,198 kilometres of waterways in the central European country. And emergency warnings have been made along 716 kilometres of the Tisza between Kiskore and the Serbian border. Some sections of the Zagyva, Harmas-Koros and Maros rivers have also been placed under emergency alerts.

MFA/Xinhua

Internet

Internet
Study shows most Portugal wildlife under threat

LISBON, 20 April — More than half of Portugal’s bird, animal and fish species face some degree of threat, mostly from human action, according to a government study released on Wednesday.

The survey of 551 vertebrate species showed that 46 per cent could be considered out of possible danger, Portugal’s Institute for the Conservation of Nature said in its report.

“The main factors of threat identified are generally related to the destruction, degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats stemming from the action of man,” it said.

Species considered under critical danger include the bearded vulture, the mountain goat, the monk seal, the black vulture and the saramuga, a freshwater fish found in the Guadiana River basin.

Sixty-nine per cent of freshwater and migratory fish species were under threat or nearly threatened, the highest rate of the groups studied. Factors pressuring species include forest fires, dams, hunting, timber-planting for pulp and paper industry, abandonment of farmland and draining of wetlands, the study said.

The study updated surveys carried out in the 1990s. It covered continental Portugal and its Azores and Madeira islands.

At least 20 killed in Lake Tanganyika boat accident

BUJUMBURA, 20 April — A ferry carrying up to 160 passengers and their goods capsized on East Africa’s Lake Tanganyika at the weekend, leaving at least 20 people, a Congolese provincial governor said on Wednesday.

The passengers were travelling from Fizi in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Uvira, a town about 120 kilometres (75 miles) away when strong winds struck the vessel late on Sunday.

The accident took place in Fizi territory. The information I have says 20 people died and there are some missing,” Deogratias Buhambahamba, governor of Congo’s South Kivu Province, told Reuters.

He said the search for survivors was continuing.

Quoting survivors, national radio station RTNC said 70 people died and 90 survived the boat disaster — a relatively common occurrence in former Zaire where roads have been destroyed by years of civil war and neglect.

Thousands of Kenyans displaced after heavy flooding

NAIROBI, 20 April — Up to 3,000 Kenyans were forced to leave their homes on the coast after a river draining into the Indian Ocean burst its banks and flooded their homes, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Emerging from a severe drought that killed scores of people, the East African country has in recent weeks received pounding rains that have also forced thousands in the northeastern region from their homes.

The coast and northeastern regions were hardest hit by the drought. “There has been a lot of rain upstream and as a result, the Sabaki River burst its banks,” said Jan Ireri, district commissioner of the coastal Malindi District.

Three thousand people were affected. Their homes and farms were submerged, but in the last four days or so, the water has receded to its normal level.”

Poll shows Internet plays bigger role in life decisions

WASHINGTON, 20 April — Nearly half of US users of the Internet went online for help with major life decisions such as finding a college for their child or looking for a new place to live, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

The results show that the Internet is becoming increasingly important to users in their everyday lives, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, a non-profit group which conducted the survey.

Some 45 per cent of Internet users, or an estimated 60 million Americans, said the Internet helped them make big decisions or face a major moment in their life during the previous two years, the survey found.

That was up from 40 per cent of Internet users who answered the same survey questions in 2002.

Specifically, the survey asked 2,201 adults last month if the Internet played a crucial or major role in making at least one of eight major life decisions.

An estimated 21 million Americans turned to the Internet when buying a car for a family member or to help another person with a major illness, the Pew Internet group said.

Some 16 million Americans used the Internet when buying a car or making a major investment or financial decision, it said.

An estimated 10 million Americans used the Internet when looking for a new place to live; eight million when changing jobs; and seven million when dealing with their own major illness or health condition, the survey said.

The crater of Peru’s volcano Ubinas in the Moquegua region, some 550 miles (900 km) south of Lima, is seen on 19 April, 2006. — INTERNET

Road crew members for the Mount Washington Auto Road work on removing snow on 19 April, 2006 from the highest peak in the northeastern United States. They hope the road will be open by the end of April. — INTERNET

A fragment of a purported copy of the Gospel of Judas on display for members of the media at the law firm of Voris, Sater, Seymour and Pease on 19 April, 2006, in Akron, Ohio. Pieces of the forgotten manuscript based on the life of Jesus’ disciple were reportedly purchased by bankrupt Ohio Art Dealer Bruce Ferrini of Bath Township some time after their discovery in Egypt in 1970 and stored in a bank vault in downtown Akron. The law firm is drumming up interest in the documents to help raise money to pay Ferrini’s creditors. —INTERNET

A yellow alert has been called, which means precaution due to emission of gases and steam,” Armando Minaya, head of the geophysical institute in the town of Querapi and covers for their water deposits,” Minaya said. The volcano has not been active since 1969.

Civil Defence asked the 42 farming families in Querapi, three miles (4.5 kilometres) from the 5,672 metre-high volcano, to evacuate. But they did not want to leave, Minaya said.

The volcano, in the Moquegua region 550 miles (900 km) south of Lima, has been belching for much of the month. It has sent ash and sulfur as far away as the town of Ubinas, home to 3,500 people five miles (eight kilometres) away. Small tremors have also been felt in nearby towns.

Minaya said emissions had affected crops and water sources. He said geologists have travelled to the area to measure volcanic activity. — MNA/Reuters

The study updated surveys carried out in the 1990s. It covered continental Portugal and its Azores and Madeira islands. — MNA/Reuters

Thousands of Kenyans were forced to leave their homes on the coast after a river draining into the Indian Ocean burst its banks and flooded their homes, a senior government official said on Tuesday. —MNA/Reuters

WASHINGTON, 20 April — Nearly half of US users of the Internet went online for help with major life decisions such as finding a college for their child or looking for a new place to live, according to a survey released on Wednesday.
At present again, the VOA, BBC and RFA are brazenly opening the media front, and resorting to evil, wicked and mean ways. But the people’s global views and knowledge have become wider during the period of 18 years. They do not accept any shameless act to interfere in the internal affairs of the country.

(Translation: TMT)
General Thura Shwe Mann...  (from page 1)

At the meeting, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said that the ministry will provide necessary assistance to the rubber cultivation and physic nut in the state and to change the cultivation method for high yield production of paddy.

Afterwards, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi briefed on the arrangements of the ministry to sell fuel for the convenience of customers.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung discussed matters on conservation of mangrove forests in the state.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on the Government’s assistance for booming of hotel business and tasks being carried out for high-tech communication system in Rakhine State. He also called for businessmen to join hands with the Government for success of the state’s rubber cultivation target of 4,540 acres.

Next, Minister for Livestocks and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on arrangements for an increase in prawn production, and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung on matters related to development of human resources.

After hearing reports, General Thura Shwe Mann said they were there to assist with the development tasks in Rakhine State.

The Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway, which once was a dream, has been built thanks to the goodwill and vision of the Head of State. The highway is also the result of the cooperative efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. The national economy has achieved success to a certain degree. In addition to the national development undertakings, the government has also increased the monthly salaries of the government staff.

Hence, State service personnel should be dutiful and loyal to the nation. They should collectively strive to develop the places they are assigned to as their native regions. They should also serve the public. Adding goodwill to their efforts will ensure greater success.

There will be economic development only if there is an increase in production. Entrepreneurs should

Pyinmana District USDA gets new office

YANGON, 20 April—Pyinmana District Union Solidarity and Development Association opened its office on 17 April in Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw City.

Col Khin Maung Htoo of Pyinmana Station, Pyinmana District USDA Secretary U Khin Maung Htay and Head of Pyinmana District Administration Office U Khin Maung Zaw formally opened the office. At the opening ceremony held at Kandawmingala Hall in Pyinmana, 13 wellwishers donated cash amounting to K 655,000 to the funds of the district USDA.

Executives and members of township USDAs in Pyinmana District also attended the opening ceremony. — MNA

278 drug-related cases exposed in March

YANGON, 20 April — Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 278 cases of narcotic drugs in March 2006.

They seized 155.3828 kilos of opium in 44 cases, 59.5451 kilos of heroin in 99 cases, 1.5348 kilos of opium oil in 14 cases, 4.3279 kilos of low-grade opium in 19 cases, 4.532 kilos of marijuana in 12 cases, 1,532,228 stimulant tablets in 48 cases, 0.0051 kilo of stimulant power in one case, 8,188 kilos of opium speciosa in nine cases, 0.075 litre of cough syrup, 0.0022 kilo of stimulant solid (ice), 24 cases in failure to register and eight other cases.

Action was taken against 441 persons — 340 men and 101 women — in 278 drug-related cases.

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General Thura Shwe Mann... (from page 8)

invest both in services and trade sectors for national economic advancement. They should systematically run businesses that will benefit individuals and organizations as well as the nation.

All will have to strive to increase exports and foreign exchange income and boost production of import substitute goods. The government will assist and encourage private enterprises according to the law. The government as well as the private sector should collectively strive to boost production, extend exports, manufacture import substitute goods, reduce wastage and apply thrifty means.

Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Huay Oo and executives Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Maj-Gen Thein Swe also met with USDA members in Thandwe on 16 April. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 18 April visited Nyaungbinkwin oil palm farm and Ngapali rubber farm. — MNA

B Licence Coaching Course opens

YANGON, 20 April — Under the arrangements of Myanmar Olympic Committee, the Third B Licence Coaching Course, co-organized by the Fire Services Department, here, opened at the training hall in Thuwunna this morning. Vice-Chairman of MOC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin delivered an address. Instructor of AFC Mr Robert Lim Lee extended greetings to all.

Mayoress Brung-Gen Aung Thein Lin speaking at opening of B Licence Coaching Course. — SPED

Myanmar-Turkish agreement on trade and economic cooperation signed

YANGON, 20 April — A ceremony to ink the agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Turkey was held at the hall of National Archives Department, here, this afternoon. At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw and Under-secretary of the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Trade Mr Tuncer Kayalar signed the documents. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Mr Tuncer Kayalar signed the documents. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Commerce Mr Tuncer Kayalar.

Price hike makes gold shops deserted

YANGON, 20 April — Normal gold sales have come to a halt, and the deserted jewellery shops have seen no buyers at all these days, due to unreasonable hike in gold prices, prompted by excessive greed. Instead of having in mind pleasure for hearing the news about the significant increase in monthly salaries of State service personnel, gold merchants and jewellery shop owners have been raising gold prices in large amounts. — MNA

Terrorist’s bombs exploded in Yangon

YANGON, 20 April — Early morning explosions at several places in Yangon today caused only minor damages to brick walls and window panes of some buildings, with no human injuries. Explosions occurred at four places in Kyauktada Township in Yangon Division and at one in Dagon Township.

In addition, weak explosions occurred in Lannadaw Township while a worker of Development Affairs Committee was carrying out sanitation task. Terrorist insurgents have been blowing up bombs and committing destructive acts to undermine peace and stability and to harm lives and prosperity of the people. The people and members of Myanmar Police Force are joining hands to expose and arrest the terrorist insurgents who blew up the bombs. — MNA

Fire preventive measures to be stepped up

YANGON, 20 April — Now, the hot season is in full swing the Fire Services Department and the Myanmar Fire Brigade are thus holding educative talks and reminding the people about fire on a wider scale with the aim of avoiding fire outbreaks. However, some regions suffered fires that took place due to negligence.

A fire broke out at Ma Bayung Village in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division, at about 7 pm on 4 April. The fire started from the house of Daw Than Hlaing, destroying two houses.

At about 2 pm on 5 April, the live fire in the kitchen of the house of Ma Bu San Ni of Kamnyaung Village tract, Meeuaung Sakhan Village, Okkan Township, Yangon Division, gutted nine huts and two wooden houses. While a tank was filled with gasoline at U Kar Khan’s oil depot in Zaygyo Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State, the oil tank accidentally hit the tank, and the sparks set fire to the oil tanks at about 1 pm on 6 April.

The fire burned an oil tank and 30 oil tanks destroying a total cost of K 2.5 million.

At about 4.30 pm on 6 April, a fire broke out at Chaunggyi Odan Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West), due to short-circuit at the house of U Saws Mya Thein. Some furniture and possessions worth K 30,000 were destroyed in the fire. A fire took place at Sein Pwint brewery of U Thet Gyi of 62nd Street in Pyaydivian Township, Mandalay Division, about 5 pm on 6 April while the generator that was kept running caused wire shock, destroying a building and a tank of methyl alcohol valued at K 200,000.

A fire broke out due to wire shock at the house of U Myint Thein of Ward 9 in Kalaw Township, Shan State (South), at about 3.45 pm on 12 April. Members of Fire Services Department put out the fire before it spread to other houses. The fire destroyed the house with a total loss of about K 100,000.

The live fire at the kitchen gutted the house of Daw Lu Hlaung (a) Daw Nan Ma Raw of No 3/262 in Aung Thabye Ward, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, at about 9 pm on 13 April. A total of 50 members of the Fire Services Department extinguished the fire, which destroyed five houses causing a total loss of K 250,000.

Seikkhun Village in Shwebo Township, Sagaing Division, saw a fire that started from the kitchen of the house of U Htay Aung at about 9.30 pm on 15 April. Altogether 45 members of the Fire Services Department extinguished the fire that burnt 15 houses with a total loss of about K 2,152,000.

The boiler stove set fire on Lucky Star Restaurant of Ko Aung Naing Oo of Block 4 in Aung Nan Ward, Myinkaba Township, Kachin State, at about 1 am on 16 April. Altogether 46 members of the Fire Services Department extinguished the fire that destroyed four shops of tea and groceries causing a total loss of about K 270,000.

While the car with number plate 7/Ka 5363 was on Pyay Road in 61/26 Mile in Hlme Township, Yangon Division, the car caught fire due to short-circuit at 10.40 am on 17 April. It destroyed the windscreen and seats causing a total loss of K 100,000.

At the house of Daw Hnin Hwe, Palamsung Kanphyar Ward in Ward 12, Myeik, Tanintharyi Division, a burning candle fell itself without being noticed and set fire to nearby heap of clothes at about 12.30 pm yesterday. A total of 60 firefighters put out the fire. In the accident, a house was destroyed and another house partly causing a total loss of about K 1,500,000. A fire broke out at Hmaw Shan Village in 1B/14 Ward, Phakant Township, Kachin State, at about 11 am yesterday, starting from the kitchen of the house of Daw Khan Aung. Fifty firefighters put out the fire. Three houses were burnt in the fire with a total loss of about K 30,000.

The Fire Services Department today called on each individual and family again to constantly take fire preventive measures. — MNA
Romanian soldiers help villagers to reinforce a dam broken by Danube River in Bistret, 280 km (174 miles) southwest of Bucharest on 18 April, 2006. Ten thousand Romanians faced evacuation on Tuesday as rescue workers raced to fix a broken dam on the Danube before the swelling river could flood their low-lying villages.—INTERNET

Police rescue tram passengers high above New York

NEW YORK, 20 April — New York police conducted an all-night rescue operation on Wednesday for scores of passengers stranded for hours on two commuter trams stalled high above the city.

The gondolas — one suspended over Manhattan with 22 riders and another over the East River with 47 people — unexpectedly came to a stop at 5:22 pm (2122 GMT) on Tuesday, police said, due to a mechanical problem or electrical outage.

“Then a backup generator malfunctioned as well, which required the police department to begin rescue efforts,” said police spokesman Martin Speechley. No injuries were reported. By early on Wednesday, police had removed most of the passengers from the gondola above the East River, using a metal cage hoisted alongside the tramcar, according to news reports. “It could take a number of more hours to get everyone else to safety because we’re not rushing things,” Speechley said.

“In the meantime, there have been no injuries, passengers are in good spirits, and we’re supplying them with food and drinks.” — MNA/Reuters

Nokia expands research and development in China

HELSINKI, 20 April — Nokia announced on Tuesday that it will further strengthen its research efforts in China by expanding its Chengdu R&D Centre to carry out part of Nokia’s mobile network infrastructure products development for global and local markets.

Nokia Chengdu R&D Centre, established in August 2005, started as a focused R&D unit for IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) based communications applications. In order to have more direct responsiveness to emerging customer needs in this market, Nokia has decided to further expand the Chengdu R&D Centre scope, engaging in development of systems such as carrier grade platform middleware, WAP gateways for mobile browsing, intelligent packet core subsystems and increasing multimedia applications development effort.

The expansion of Nokia Chengdu R&D Centre will capitalize on the favourable competence base in China, and develop a better alignment with the Chinese mobile communications market, a key global growth driver, the company said.

“The Chinese mobile market is seeing tremendous growth and digital convergence is coming to the mobile mass market in China.” — MNA/Xinhua

China, US sign agreements to promote science, technology cooperation

WASHINGTON, 20 April — China and the United States on Tuesday signed several agreements on expanding bilateral cooperation in science and technology.

Xu Guanhua, China’s Minister of Science and Technology, and John Marburger, Science Adviser to President George W Bush, signed in Washington a protocol on extending an inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in science and technology, and a memorandum of understanding.

The two officials also exchanged information on newly announced strategies and plans in their respective countries, aimed at boosting scientific and technological development. Also on Tuesday, Xu signed with US Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt a memorandum of understanding on health and medical sciences cooperation.

The agreement is designed to expand cooperation between the two countries in research of AIDS, infectious diseases, traditional medicine, vaccine-preventable diseases and other medical sciences. — MNA/Xinhua
Myanmar has put avian influenza under control in bird flu-infected townships in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

Continued observation on disease control and detection is being conducted in the rest of poultry farms.

The LBVD also issued a reminder regarding regular flow of fowls and ducks and their eggs and quail eggs and safe consumption.

From the first week of March 2006 the bird flu occurred in Myanmar and it spread to 13 townships in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

The bird flu is now under control in those townships. Duration of the outbreak of the disease is between seven days and 20 days.

In bird flu-free townships, measures on transport of fowls and their eggs are to be taken with the support of the township livestock breeding and veterinary department and Bird Flu control Committee comprising LBVD, Health Department, Development Affairs Committee and Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

In disease control townships arrangements are being made for transport, sale of chickens, ducks and quails with the permission of local authorities and safe consumption.

Regarding the rehabilitation, arrangements are to be made for raising of new fowls, training and holding talks on disease control.

The reminder also includes detailed instructions for breeders and producers, transport, buying and selling of fowls and fowl eggs and safe consumption.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

Malaysia bans distribution of 3 Western books

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 April — The Malaysian Internal Security Ministry has banned the distribution and possession of three books written in English, Malaysian national news agency Bernama said on Wednesday.

The three books are *High Times* published by New York-based Trans-High Corporation, *Cannabis Culture* by a Canadian company, and *Weed World* by an England firm.

The ban, which took effective on 13 April, was imposed under the Malaysian law and covered printing, importation, production, reproduction, publication, sale or possession of the three books, Bernama said.

The ban was imposed as the books jeopardized national security and morality, Bernama quoted a statement from the Malaysian Internal Security Ministry as saying.

Global tests confirm 24th bird flu death in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 20 April — International tests have confirmed a 24-year-old Indonesian man who died this month had bird flu, a Health Ministry official said on Wednesday, taking the country’s death toll from the virus to 24.

Indonesia has the second highest bird flu death toll of any country. But the government has resisted mass culling of birds, citing the expense and impracticality in a country where keeping a few chickens or ducks in the backyards is common.

“A 24-year-old who died on 8 April, 2006, has been confirmed positive of bird flu. The confirmation came from Hong Kong on 18 April,” the official at the ministry’s bird flu information centre told Reuters. Local tests are not considered definitive and blood samples are sent to a World Health Organization-affiliated laboratory in Hong Kong for confirmation.

Not counting the latest death, the H5N1 avian flu virus has killed 109 people worldwide since 2003, according to the WHO. — MNA/Reuters
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U Tha Maung, Advocate
For AstraZeneca UK Limited
C/o Kelvin Chia Yang, Lawyer
Unit 311 Grand Plaza Parkroyal, Dagon Township, Yangon, Union of Myanmar
phone: 01-3622945/982920

Dated 21 April 2006

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

1. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Government of the Union of Myanmar sealed Quotations with deferred payment for three years as well as L/C at sight proposals are invited by the Managing Director, Public Works, Naypyidaw City, Myanmar for the detailed design (including the erection procedure), fabrication, supply of materials, equipment, and supervision of steel truss erection for LEINLI Suspension Bridge across Paung Laung Chaung, Pyinmana-Pinlong Road, Southern Shan State.

2. The particulars of LEINLI Suspension Bridge may be obtained for USD 500 by request in writing or in person at the specified price following address.

Managing Director
Public Works
No. 11, Ministry of Construction
Naypyidaw City, Myanmar.

3. The Quotation should be submitted to the above address not later than 16:30 hours on 3rd July, 2006.

4. When this Quotation is accepted, the Contract will be made in the name of Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Naypyidaw City, Myanmar.

Managing Director,
Public Works

DRIVE WITH CARE

MVA/Xinhua

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More tourist arrival
recorded in Zambia

LUSAKA, 19 April—
Over 42,000 tourists came to Zambia by air in the first quarter of this year compared to nearly 37,000 in the same period of 2006, according to Zambia Daily Mail on Tuesday.

Zambia started Visit Zambia Campaign in 2005 in major sources throughout the world such as the United States, Britain and South Africa in an effort to increase foreign tourist visits by 20 percent every year and attract 400,000 more tourists by 2010. As a result of the campaign, the number of tourist arrivals increased to 19,600 in the first quarter, compared to about 14,300 in 2004, registering an increase of 24 per cent.
Chinese museum says it has bra, slippers from 1,000 years ago

HONOUR, 19 April — A museum in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region claims it has found fragments of a brassiere and a pair of embroidered slippers that are nearly 1,000 years old.

The heritage pieces, believed to be worn by a noblewoman in the Liao Dynasty (916-1125 AD), will help researchers study the costumes and needlework of those days, said Tian Yanguo, head of Aohan Banner Museum in the city of Chifeng.

Tian noted that the pieces were spotted in a Liao Dynasty tomb in Xinhui Town in early April 2004 and were later kept at his museum. “But the museum started a huge renovation project shortly after that, so we were not able to study the heritage pieces until we resumed work at the new facility this year.”

According to Tian, the fragments show the brassiere was cotton padded, gold filigree and damnitly embroidered. It is similar in style and function to those worn by modern women.

“It was made of fine silk and had shoulder and back straps like brassieres of today,” he said. “It’s a pity most of the cotton padding in the cups has decayed.”

The finding shows that people in the Liao Dynasty, a state founded by the Khitan ethnic group, were quite open and maintained close contact with the central Chinese regions, acknowledged Tian.

The pair of slippers, in sharp contrast, remained largely intact, he said. “The shoes are about 23 centimetres long. They were embroidered with hundreds of flowers and even the soles were made of fine silk. It must have belonged to a noblewoman.”

According to Shao Guoyan, a noted expert with the Aohan Banner Museum, more than 90 per cent of the deserted Liao Dynasty tombs in Inner Mongolia need further excavation.

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Sand covers one-eighth of China

BEIJING, 19 April — Sand covered about one-eighth of China from 14 to 18 April and about 330,000 tons of sand fell in Beijing on Sunday night, clean air days a year. So far this year, the city has reported 56 blue sky days, 16 days fewer than in the same period last year.

Many residential communities in Beijing are cleaning the dust-covered roads by washing instead of sweeping.

“The situation this year is worse than the past two years, Xiao said.

The sand storms this year could be attributed to high temperatures, prolonged droughts and frequent cold air, Xiao said.

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Oil hits record over $72 on Iran fears

LONDON, 19 April — Oil hit a record 72.64 US dollars a barrel Tuesday as Iran defied world pressure to halt its nuclear programme, raising fears of a cut in supplies from the world’s fourth biggest crude exporter.

In London, North Sea Brent crude oil jumped 1.18 US dollars to set its all-time high as Iran and the West exchanged increasingly sharp words over the Islamic Re-public’s determination to push ahead with uranium enrichment.

US crude oil climbed to 71.60 US dollars, smashing through its previous record of 70.85 US dollars. “This is a bull market and we have not found a top yet,” said Tom Bentz, a senior analyst at BNP Paribas Commodity Futures in New York.

Prices fell back slightly in later trade, with Brent, an indicator of the cost of Europe’s oil imports, ending up 1.04 US dollars to 72.50 US dollars, while US crude settled up 95 cents at 71.35 US dollars. High US oil stocks have helped to push US crude below Brent.

“The current shoot up we are experiencing is as a result of the Iran problems and it’s not helped by the flare up between Israel and the Palestinians,” OPEC President Edmund Daukoru said Tuesday.

“But mainly it’s the threatening statements being made against Iran as a result of its nuclear programme,” added Daukoru, who is also Nigeria’s oil minister.

Nigerian output is also a major concern. Oil prices have soared from 20 US dollars at the start of 2002 and are nearing the inflation-adjusted peaks of over 80 US dollars hit in 1980, the year after the Iranian revolution.

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Blast in western Ethiopia kills three, wounds 37

ADDIS ABABA, 19 April — A blast in western Ethiopia has killed three people and wounded 37 others, state-run television said on Tuesday.

It said the blast occurred on Saturday, a busy market day, in the town of Gedo 150 kilometres (93 miles) west of the capital Addis Ababa.

The giant Horn of Africa country has been hit by a series of explosions in recent months in what police have said is an attempt by unknown culprits to destabilize the country of 72 million.

Three blasts rocked Addis Ababa last month, injuring at least four people and in January several public buildings and hotels in the capital were damaged by explosive devices.

In February, the Federal Police Anti-Terrorism Taskforce issued a statement saying it had foiled a plot to “unleash armed urban terrorism” by a group linked to the main opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD).

Tensions have grown since the CUD contested the results of last May’s parliamentary poll, resulting in violent clashes that left more than 80 people dead.
Romania midfielder Petre to join CSKA Sofia
SOFIA, 20 April — CSKA Sofia have signed Romania midfielder Florentin Petre from Dinamo Bucharest on a three-year contract from 1 July, the Bulgarian champions said on Wednesday.

"We have watched Petre closely for a long time and we know he is a player with great abilities," said CSKA official Lazar Vasiliev after returning from Bucharest where the deal was concluded.

The 30-year-old, a Romania regular, has been at Dinamo for 12 years appearing in some 250 games.

He won the Romanian title three times and the Romanian Cup five times.

CSKA signed 10 players during the championship's winter break but city rivals Levski have overtaken them at the top of the standings, wiping out a seven-point lead.

Serbian coach Miodrag Yestic was sacked two weeks ago and was replaced by Plamen Markov. The former Bulgaria coach made a winning debut at the weekend when CSKA defeated relegation-threatened Pirin 1922.

Arsenal's Fredrik Ljungberg, right, of Sweden challenges for the ball with Villarreal's Guyou during their Champions League semi-final first leg soccer match at Arsenal's Highbury Stadium in London, on Wednesday, 19 April, 2006. Arsenal won 1-0. MNA/Reuters

"It's a good result, we will go there to try to score," he told Sky Sports. "It's not enough just to go there and defend, we want to score goals.

"I felt the team was a bit nervous and we did not risk enough. We faced a good team, very strong in midfield and couldn't impose ourselves enough to create more chances." — MNA/Reuters

Milan take hope from missed chances against Barcelona
MILAN, 20 April — AC Milan will have to find their killer instinct in front of goal if they are to turn round their Champions League semifinal against Barcelona following Tuesday's 1-0 home defeat.

The home side badly "lost but didn't find the goal," we hope we have more opportunities at the Nou Camp," said Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf.

Barcelona showed they have great players but tonight we also saw their defects. They gave us a lot of space and we could get forward," Kaka said.

Montgomery, Campbell chase record purse at Irish Open
LONDON, 20 April — Eight-times European number one Colin Montgomery and US Open champion Michael Campbell will chase a record prize fund of $2.2 million (2.72 million US dollars) in next month's Irish Open.

Montgomery's bid for a fourth victory in the tournament will be boosted by playing at a course he helped design, Carton House in Maynooth, County Kildare.

Real confirm interest in Gerrard, Adriano and Schuster
MADRID, 20 April — Real Madrid's director of football Benito Floro has proposed the club buy Liverpool's Steven Gerrard and Inter Milan's Adriano, and suggested Bernd Schuster as the next Real coach.

"As a priority I recommended the signing of a powerful centre forward like Adriano, and a quality midfielder should Zinedine Zidane leave," Floro told radio station Cadena Ser.

"Gerrard is a player I included on the list and is someone the club have wanted to sign in previous seasons." Zidane, 33, has hinted he may retire after the World Cup finals in Germany though he has a contract with Real until 2007.

Martin has spoken openly about his desire for a new coach to replace Juan Ramon Lopez Caro at the end of the season and last month listed seven high-profile figures as his preferred targets.

"Floro said he had proposed another option, not mentioned by Martin — former Real Madrid and Germany midfielder Schuster, currently the boss of modest neighbours Getafe.

"Schuster's name was on the list because if Lopez Caro does not continue I think the ideal person is someone who knows Spanish football well. Also he tries to play the type of football Real want to see."

Wladimir Klitschko from the Ukraine, right, works alongside his brother Vitali during a training session in Mannheim, Germany, on 19 April, 2006. Byrd from the United States for the IBF and IBO heavyweight titles.

Klitschko will fight IBF heavyweight champion Chris Byrd from the United States for the IBF and IBO heavyweight titles.

The exhibition of Lido has opened in St Petersburg, on 19 April, 2006. The installation consists of 32 figures in the human growth, placed on a chess board. The exhibition of Lido has opened in the Russian Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg. — MNA/Reuters

"They took their chance while we created a
Second cyclone hits Australia’s N-E coast

SYDNEY, 20 April — A tropical cyclone with winds of up to 200 kilometres per hour (125 miles per hour) crossed Australia’s remote northeast coast on Wednesday, officials said, the second cyclone to hit northern Queensland in a month.

There were no early reports of damage in the area, where there are few major settlements or infrastructure.

Residents had been warned to take shelter as Tropical Cyclone Monica, a mid-range category-three storm, closed in on Lockhart River, an aboriginal community of about 600 people in Queensland state’s sparsely populated Cape York Peninsula.

The cyclone began crossing the coast just south of Lockhart River, about 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) north of the Queensland capital Brisbane, soon after 2 pm local time (0400 GMT), meteorologists said.

“It will take a couple of hours to cross the coast. It should weaken slightly as it moves across Cape York Peninsula,” Queensland Weather Bureau meteorologist Manfred Greitschus told Sky television.

MNA/Reuters

US journalist expelled from Indonesia

JAKARTA, 20 April — US freelance journalist William Nessen was detained by immigration officials upon arrival in the Indonesian city of Medan on Wednesday and his deportation was due later in the day. Nessen arrived in the North Sumatra capital en route to nearby Aceh Province, where he said he would visit his wife.

“I plan to meet my wife, who is an Acehnese,” he was quoted by the Detik.com news website as saying.

Nessen wrote with the separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in 2003 when Jakarta launched an offensive to crush rebellion in the province.

He surrendered himself to the Indonesian military but local authorities charged him with immigration violations for failing to show his passport and other documents.

He was sentenced to one month for immigration charges but was freed from spy charge.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 20 April, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State and lower Sagaing Division, isolated in Rakhine and Chin States, Bago, Yangon, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chinten, Mon and Kayin States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Chauk (40°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (1.46 inches), Bhamo (0.99) inch, Kawthoung (0.59) inch, Machanbaw (0.55) inch, Hsipaw and Sagaing (0.39) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 19-4-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 20-4-2006 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 20-4-2006 was (68%), Total sunshine hours on 19-4-2006 was (4.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 20-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from South at (15:30) hours MST on 19-4-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21-4-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Chin State and Magway Division and rain or thundershowers are likely isolated in Kachin and Kayah States, Mandaelay, Sagaing, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered 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: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 21-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 21-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 21-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 05:30 hours M.S.T. Today)

A strong earthquake of intensity (6.0) Richer scale with its epicentre outside the West Coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia about (850) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismologi- cal observatory, was recorded at (05) hrs (10) min (04) sec MST on 20th April 2006.
Lt-Gen Maung Bo donates rice to Pariyatti monasteries in Mawlamyine

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife Daw Khin Lay Myint offering provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Construction of Mechanical Training School (Mandalay) in progress

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, and Daw Tin Tin Latt, wife of the commander, presented provisions to the nuns. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Obhasa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

At the ceremony, 200 bags of rice, 540 viss of edible oil, 675 viss of salt and 27 bags of onion were donated to 23 monasteries and four nunneries in Mawlamyine. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife, the commander, officials offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws and nuns. — MNA

A terrorist, who had completed an explosive course, met his tragic end in a fight against tricycle pedaling men. He was drunk and causing trouble before his death. Not a single government employee even touched him. The BBC, VOA, RFA, Interent and websites shouted that he was hit by police and fire brigade members. They were just attempting to instigate the public. The radio stations repeatedly aired the half-crying voice of a women, saying that her son was unjustly murdered by police and fire brigade members. We knew the truth only when the director-general of the Myanmar Police Force explained the matter at the press conference. The terrorist was so rowdy that he met with public response. He met his own death. There should not be any hard feelings.

MOE SHIN

Weather Forecast for 21-4-2006

Nay Pyi Taw City & neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).