Special Refresher Course No 61 for basic education teachers opens
Highly qualified new generation youths main resources to build better society, modern and developed nation, discipline-flourishing democratic state

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at Special Refresher Course No 61 for teachers. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For success of noble Red Cross activities

Today, 8 May 2007, is the World Red Cross Day.

The activities of Red Cross are based on humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

Myanmar Red Cross Society was formed in 1920. Since then it has been carrying out relief and humanitarian works.

The MRCS was recognized as a member of the International Committee of Red Cross in 1939, and it became a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1946.

With the aim of alleviating the sufferings the MRCS is engaged in such humanitarian works as improvement of health care services, prevention and control of disease and providing help to those in distress.

Like the international RC societies the MRCS in cooperation with the relevant ministries, local authorities and social organizations is taking disaster relief measures in times of emergency as an auxiliary force.

In accordance with this year’s World Red Cross Day motto “Together for Humanity” the entire national people are to give a helping hand to Red Cross members who are engaged in humanitarian and relief works for successful realization of their noble tasks, regardless of race, religion, status and friend and enemy.
A joint Press conference of the 10th ASEAN+3 Finance Minister’s Meeting is held in Kyoto, Japan, on 5 May, 2007. The finance ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as China, Japan and South Korea (ASEAN+3) concluded their 10th meeting on Saturday afternoon in Kyoto, vowing to further deepen financial cooperation. — Xinhua

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ Meeting concludes 10th meeting

**K**yoto, 6 May — The finance ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as China, Japan and South Korea (ASEAN+3) concluded their 10th meeting on Saturday afternoon in Kyoto, vowing to further deepen financial cooperation.

The finance ministers unanimously agreed in principle to build up a self-managed reserve pooling arrangement governed by a single contractual agreement with a step-by-step approach to better protect the fast-growing Asian economy from possible currency upheavals.

The ministers regarded the prospective arrangement as an appropriate form of multilateralization of the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), which now governs only bilateral currency swaps, and recognized the consensus reached as a significant achievement towards an advanced framework of regional liquidity support mechanisms, according to a joint statement released after the meeting.

The CMI, introduced in 2000, is aimed at preventing a recurrence of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis. Under the initiative, central banks from participating countries are allowed to swap foreign exchange reserves to fight speculative attacks on their currencies.

—Xinhua

### Fresh tornadoes pound central US

**L**ondon, 6 May — A new wave of tornadoes has hit at least six counties in the central US, a day after a massive tornado devastated a small town in southern Kansas.

One man was killed in the latest storms and 11 people injured in another Kansas town. More severe weather is expected.

Rescuers are searching for survivors of the Greenburg tornado, which killed nine people and injured dozens more.

US President George W. Bush has declared parts of Kansas a disaster area and has pledged federal aid for reconstruction.

“I’m confident this community will be rebuilt, to the extent we can help, we will.”

Kansas Senator Pat Roberts, who toured the devastated region, said: “It is no understatement or overstatement to say this town has been wiped off the face of the Earth.”

There were eight confirmed reports of tornadoes in Kansas overnight on Saturday.

A man died in Ottawa County, 250 miles northeast of Greensburg, state officials said, and 11 people were injured in the town of Osborne when a tornado hit two restaurants. — Internet

### Baghdad car bomb blast kills 33

**B**aghdad, 6 May — A car bomb has killed at least 33 people and injured dozens more in a mostly Shia Muslim district of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, police say.

The blast happened in Bayaa in the south-west of the city — an area which has been targeted several times by car bombs blamed on Sunni insurgents.

Bystanders used blankets to carry away dead and injured, placing them in the back of pick-up trucks, Reuters said.

Eight US soldiers and a journalist have also been killed in separate attacks.

Six of the soldiers and the journalist were killed in a roadside bombing northeast of the capital, the US military said.

Another two soldiers died in separate bomb attacks in Baghdad. — Internet

### Kenya aircraft found in mangroves

**N**airobi, 6 May — The wreckage of a Kenya Airways jet missing for nearly two days has been found in a dense mangrove forest outside Douala, Cameroon’s commercial capital.

But the chief executive of Kenya Airways said on Sunday that he had no news about the aircraft’s condition or about the 114 people who were on board.

“Tum Naikum said: ‘We have no confirmed information about survivors or any possible casualties.’

The wreckage was found about 20km southeast of coastal Douala, along its flight path, but it was unclear if it might have been returning to the airport. Naikum said it had been difficult to spot, because it was hidden by a thick canopy of trees.

Thomas Sobakam, chief of meteorology at Douala airport, said: “We are actively looking for survivors.”

The Nairobi-bound Boeing 737-800 departed from Douala airport early on Saturday, an hour late because of rain, with 105 passengers and nine crew members on board.

The airliner issued a distress call, but then lost contact with the radio tower between 11 and 13 minutes after takeoff. — Internet

### US troops killed at Kabul prison

**K**abul, 6 May — Two US soldiers have been shot dead by a man dressed in Afghan Army uniform outside a prison in the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, US military said.

The man shot at vehicles leaving the high-security Pul-e-Charkhi prison east of the capital on Sunday, injuring two other US soldiers in the attack.

The gunman was killed by Afghan troops stationed outside the jail who came to the aid of the US soldiers. The motive for the attack is being investigated. The victims have not yet been identified.

Major Sheldon Smith said it initially appeared that the man was a rogue soldier, but this has not yet been confirmed.

“He fired shots into a vehicle being driven by US service personnel as they were leaving the prison. This action resulted in the death of two soldiers and left two other soldiers wounded,” Major Smith said. — Internet

Holes on an iron door caused by a rocket are seen at the site where a rocket was fired outside a civilian house in eastern Kabul, capital of Afghanistan on 7 May, 2007. — Internet
Syphilis rise in US, causes worry

WASHINGTON, 6 May—Syphilis has risen sharply in the United States this decade, driving up the country’s rate for the disease and placing these men at higher risk for AIDS, federal health officials say.

Since dropping to the lowest level on record in 2000, the US rate of syphilis, a sexually transmitted bacterial disease, has risen steadily. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials said on Friday that the rate rose five years in a row through 2005, the most recent year for which the CDC had figures. Gay and bisexual men accounted for 7 per cent of syphilis cases in 2000 but more than 60 per cent in 2005, CDC experts estimated.

“Syphilis raises these risks by an estimated two to five times, he said. Condom use can greatly reduce the risk of getting syphilis, which is readily curable with antibiotics in its early stages but capable of causing severe medical problems and even death if left untreated.

Many are HIV-infected or test positive for HIV for the first time when they learn they have syphilis, he said.

China plans to hold first “no car” day

BEIJING, 6 May—China’s smog-choked capital and the financial hub of Shanghai have agreed to close their roads for the country’s first “no car” day, along with over 100 other cities, the official Xinhua agency said on Saturday. On 22 September private cars will be barred from some roads, forcing people to walk, use public transport or get back on the bicycles for which Chinese cities used to be famous.

Officials are struggling to clean up the grey skies of its major cities, as pollution takes a rising toll on health and growth, while supporting an industry key to its booming growth.

The country’s car fleet has been growing, with an estimated 1,000 new private vehicles hitting the streets of Beijing alone each day, the report said. But for those members of the growing middle class who have been crammed into a bus or train, taxis will still be allowed to ply the otherwise car-free streets.

One dead, around 20 injured in roller coaster accident in Japan

TOKYO, 6 May—A person died and around 20 others were injured, at least two seriously on Saturday in a roller coaster accident in a park in western Japan, Kyodo News said, citing local police.

The accident occurred at shortly before 1 pm (0400 GMT) in an amusement park “Expoland” in Suita, Osaka Prefecture. The roller coaster suddenly slanted during the latter half of its 1,050-metre ride, killing one female, Jiji Press said. Most of the injured people have been rushed to a local hospital.

According to the operator of Expoland, the roller coaster, carrying its maxim 24 passengers during the accident, was designed to have passsengers stand through the ride. It can run at a speed of up to 75 kilometres per hour and reach up to 40 metres above the ground. Expoland temporarily closed after the accident, which occurred in the last days of Japan’s Golden Week holidays.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

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The cause of the accident is still under investigation.
Indian bank to open more int’l branches

NEW DELHI, 6 May—An Indian bank, the Bank of Baroda, which currently operates in 21 countries, is setting up offices in Bahrain, Qatar, Australia, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago over the next five months, news website ndtv.com reported here Friday. Its next target will be to spread its wings in New Zealand, Kuwait, Yemen and Russia.

“Right now overseas business contributes to 19 per cent of total business and 31-32 per cent of net profit. In two years we expect it to contribute 23-25 per cent to total business, over 35 per cent of net profit,” the website quoted Amil Khandelwal, Chairman of Bank of Baroda, as saying. Bank of Baroda is banking on the pockets of Indian population in the target countries to drive up its international business. However, according to the website, it is going to be a tough road ahead especially with Indian banks having achieved limited success in overseas markets.

China imports record amount of refined copper

BEIJING, 6 May—China imported a record 202,955 tons of refined copper in March, a surge of nearly 150 per cent over March 2006, sources with the China Association of Nonferrous Metals Industry said on Saturday.

China also imported 776,576 tons of unforged copper and copper products in the January-March period, up 58 per cent from the year-earlier level.

The first quarter also saw imports of scrap copper inch up by four per cent to 1.02 million tons. The total included 354,226 tons bought in March, up 29 per cent.

Industry specialists say China’s annual copper consumption will continue to grow at around 7.5 per cent per year in the next few years to total 6.5 million tons, including five million tons of refined copper.

US gasoline prices hit $3 as refiners strain

NEW YORK, 6 May—US gasoline prices shot above 3.00 US dollars per gallon on Friday, with striking distance of record highs, as the aching domestic refinery system strained to keep up with rising demand.

Average retail gasoline prices in the world’s top consumer reached 3.012 US dollars a gallon, the AAA travel group said, up more than 30 cents since early April and near the record of 3.057 US dollars hit after hurricanes slammed Gulf Coast oil installations in 2005.

“This year, companies struggling to retool refineries to meet new environmental standards, have faced longer, more extensive maintenance and serious outages, draining gasoline inventories ahead of peak summer demand.

“The problem this year is our continuing and increasing inability to refine enough gasoline to meet growing demand,” said Geoff Sundstrom of AAA. “I think it is very possible that we will set a new record high price this month.”

US gasoline stocks have dropped by 15 per cent in three months, with refineries now running at around 85 per cent of capacity, well below the 92 per cent analysts say is normal this time of year to build up summer gasoline stocks. "By this point in the season, nationwide gasoline inventories should be building, or at a minimum plateauing," Stephen Schork of the Schork Group said in a report.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez speaks to the media in Caracas on 5 May, 2007. Chavez on Saturday officially enrolled himself in his newly formed United Venezuelan Socialist Party (PSUV). — XINHUA

Iran says more sanctions will not stop nuclear work

TEHERAN, 7 May—Iran’s President on Saturday told major powers considering United Nations sanctions they could “issue resolutions until you get tired,” making clear the country would press ahead with its disputed nuclear programme.

But amidst a deepening standoff between Teheran and the West, Iran’s Foreign Minister reportedly welcomed a Swiss proposal for talks on Teheran’s atomic ambitions, even though the country has repeatedly rejected demands it halt uranium enrichment.

The West suspects Iran of pursuing atomic weapons but Teheran says it wants only to generate electricity so it can export more of its oil and gas. Two sets of UN sanctions have been imposed since December and major powers this week warned a third may be needed if Teheran does not halt its activities.

“They want to stop (Iran’s atomic plans) with continuous resolutions,” President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a speech to university students in the southeastern province of Kerman.

“I tell them: issue resolutions until you get tired,” he said according to the IRNA news agency.

Analysts say the measures, including arms and financial sanctions, are hurting business and deterring foreign investment in the Islamic state, which despite its oil wealth is struggling with inflation and unemployment.

China Minsheng Banking Corp, one of the country’s 10 listed commercial banks, has reported recently net profits up 47 percent year-on-year to 1.11 billion yuan (144.2 million US dollars) in the first quarter of the year.— XINHUA

Lebanese singer Karla Birkashi known as Yara (R) winner of the Murex award for best Lebanese singer poses with Egyptian singers Ihab Tawfic (C) and Sherine Ahmed during a ceremony held in Casino du Liban, north of Beirut on 5 May, 2007. — INTERNET
Russian expert says seals can play role in fighting terrorism

MOSCOW, 7 May — Besides the US Navy SEAL special task forces, the sleek, torpedo-shaped real seals can also serve in counter terrorist operations, and so do its companions: dolphins and sea lions, according to a Russian expert. Gennady Matishov, director of the Murmansk Marine Biology Institute. Matishov and his team have been studying the utility of marine animals in Russia’s Northern Fleet since 1984, according to the Interfax news agency. Since 2004, a group of seals were deployed in an area near the pier zone of submarines on the coast of the Barents Sea and the research team carried out round-the-year training programme, the Russian academician said. The seals have now been able to help special forces in combating underwater subversive operations and those “soldiers” can serve the military for up to 15 to 20 years, much longer than its human colleagues, according to Matishov. “In our opinion, the use of marine mammals is a very promising program to enhance the protection of coastal installation from terror attacks and in monitoring the underwater situation,” he said.

US convoy, Afghan police hit by two suicide bombs

NEW DELHI, 6 May — At least six people have died and four were injured in a blast in an explosive factory in Central India’s Nasik area Saturday, national news channel New Delhi Television reported. The blast happened at Harasur Village in Nasik. The news channel reported that the impact of the blast was big enough to cause the entire three-storey building to collapse. An estimated 10 to 15 people are believed to have been trapped inside. The building, which housed an explosive company, collapsed after an internal blast. The workers who were inside, got trapped and were killed. However, there were no reports saying the cause of the blast as yet. Another two persons were killed and 28 others injured in a factory blast in Gokak Town in South India’s Karnataka late on Friday. It is believed that a short-circuit may have triggered the Karnataka blast.

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Sri Lanka flood death toll hits 11, 50,000 homeless

COLOMBO, 6 May — The death toll from flooding along Sri Lanka’s rain-drenched southwestern coast has risen to 11, while at least 50,000 people are now homeless and living in temples and schools, officials said on Saturday. Raids flooded many roads around Colombo on Thursday and Friday, causing traffic chaos and disrupting trade on the Colombo Stock Exchange because many traders were unable to get to work. Flood levels had subsided by Saturday morning, and rains abated. “We now have 11 dead, while there are around 50,000 homeless,” said police media spokesman Deputy Inspector General Jayantha Wickramaratne. National Disaster Management Centre officials said the number of people displaced could be as high as 80,000.

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Landslide strands at least 120 tourists on Xinjiang-Tibet highway

NGARI (Tibet), 6 May — At least 120 tourists and 30 buses were stranded for more than 12 hours on a mountainous highway linking Xinjiang and Tibet following a landslide on Friday night, a local police officer said. The landslide was caused by a mud-rock flow near the Mayum La Bridge close to the China-Nepal border at 11:00 pm, said Xu Shenglong, deputy head of a road traffic management division of the armed police in Ngari Prefecture of the southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region. The armed police division organized immediate road work and traffic resumed Saturday afternoon. Xu said the mud-rock flow was a result of the rapidly thawing snow on the nearby mountains. “Similar accidents have been reported in several parts of Tibet and we have put up sign boards along the highway with warnings and our telephone numbers on it.” The armed police has a special taskforce that responds to all emergencies and conducts road work. The Xinjiang-Tibet Highway is dubbed a “heavenly highway” because its average altitude is above 4,600 metres. Mayum La Bridge is a pivotal point on the highway and the only way to travel from the regional capital Lhasa to Ngari in the far west.

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Granite tiles of Paung Township

Presentation: Nu Nu Yee and Tin Tin Win
Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Should Myanmar combine effectively its rich natural resources with technology, the people will be able to enjoy long-term interest. Ensuring rural economic growth is at the core of the five rural development tasks. So to Granite Decorating Tiles Enterprise at Kyaukyaydwin Village in Paung Township, Mon State. The proprietor of the enterprise is Daw Sein Shwe. Despite being a woman, she was found healthy and active enough to make two trips to the collected facts about slate; and that it was produced abroad and in Myanmar it was found only in Paung Township, Mon State. Her daughter Nan Hteik Hta explained the characteristics of slate, saying that by nature, slate earners and daily wage earners. The granite tiles are cut, as ordered by the customers, and are distributed mostly to Yangon then to international market. Sometimes Malaysia places orders for tiles. They are also distributed to other states and divisions. Slate tiles are used as granite in building car parks and walls, decorating toilets and paving pedestrian lanes.

The quarry is about one and a half miles from the road. On our way to the quarry we found shady trees and heard wildlife making sounds from afar.

The mountain. Two workers separating a slate layer from the mountain.

ONE VILLAGE, ONE PRODUCT

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There Lin Thura Company produces slate, marble, granite, alabaster, Shwelar Ngwelar stone and sandstone and distributes finished products to international market, thereby contributing towards the programme of one village, one product.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 6-5-2007

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Cut slate tiles.
Special Refresher Course No 61 for…

(from page 1)

and syllabus to reach international level.

Beginning 1998-99 the curriculum and syllabus were upgraded starting from primary level. International standard curricula and syllabuses were laid down for both basic and higher education at the national education promotion seminar held in April.

He said refresher courses on teaching and related subjects at the basic education level are being conducted for turning out qualified teachers and arrangements are being made for teaching of related subjects by the teachers who hold degrees on relevant subjects coupled with those who hold masters degrees.

He said the teachers attending the refresher course are honours and masters degree holders and they will soon be in service. He also said that the teachers are mainly responsible for not only teaching the pupils but uplifting learning opportunity available in the nation.

The task of improving the quality of education is the responsibility of the Head of State and the educational policy of the government, he said. The government has assigned the heavy duty to the teachers. He spoke of the need for them to make endeavours for realizing the fact that they were given a mission by the government.

He also urged the teachers to nurture the students, to possess quality education in the higher education sector. New fields of study are taught in honours, masters and Ph.D courses in the higher education sector in accord with the national education promotion programme.

He said infrastructures on modern communications, workshops, laboratories, research centres, and e-library have been built. The teachers themselves are new generation intellectuals and intellectuals produced and nurtured in the fields of education fully blessed with educational environment.

That is why it is believed that the teachers will be able to train and nurture student youths to be able to pursue higher education and face the challenges of higher education sector. At the same time, the teachers based on their experiences are to turn their students into intellectuals and intellectuals.

The definition and aim of the education of present day has changed with the passage of time. As disseminating of information alone is not enough in teaching, motivation and practice are to be introduced for development of intellectual power. Today is the time when constant study needs to be initiated to keep pace with changes and developments.

Students are to be trained to become those capable of applying intellectual power, of distinguishing right and of shouldering the duties of society.

Nowadays, the teachers are to strive together with students in the fields of learning as each and every nation is vying for advancement in science and technology.

It is necessary to make continued efforts based on national unity and favourable conditions for eternal peace of the nation, for continued development of the national economy, for the nation to be able to keep pace with international community, for higher social and educational status of the people and for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy.
Special Refresher Course No 61 for...  
(from page 8)  

All the government’s endeavours are towards reaching the goal. At the same time, efforts are being made for perpetuation of national independence and sovereignty and for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy the entire people have longed for.  

A look at the present-day situation of the country will show that the entire mass of people have developed a practice of working together in unity for national development, peace and stability.  

As a result, peace and stability have been prevailing all over the nation. Moreover, the people are now enjoying the fruits of peace and development as steady progress have been made in the economic and social sectors year after year.  

It is necessary to make continued efforts based on national unity and favourable conditions for eternal peace of the nation, for steady development of the national economy, for the nation to be able to keep pace with international community, for higher social and educational status of the people and for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy.

At a time when the national people are having to rely on themselves for the long-term interests of their own, the onus is on the education sector to ensure higher educational status of the people, to constantly turn out highly-qualified human resources and to enable the nation to keep abreast of other nations in science and technology.  

Plans and work programmes for promotion of national education have already been laid down. And these plans and programmes will surely come to fruition if all those responsible in the education sector, including teachers, do their bit.  

In conclusion, I would like to urge teachers and responsible personnel to pull together to ensure the success of education programmes, bright future for the people, the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, national peace and stability and perpetuation of the Union.  

After the opening ceremony, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted the teacher trainees.  

The course will last four weeks and it is being attended by 1128 basic education teachers. — MNA

Minister on inspection tour of railroad sections

NAW PHAT TAW, 7 May — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe went on an inspection tour of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad section on 5 May.  

The minister and party inspected progress in building of the axis to link Kyangin-Thayet and Thayet-Pwintbyu railroad sections.  

Next, the minister looked into progress in building of the axis of Thayet-Pwintbyu railroad section and gave instructions on stockpiling of construction materials and timely completion of the project.  

The following day, the minister and party party heard reports presented by project engineer U Than Htay with the help of charts and the deputy minister gave a supplementary report.  

Afterwards, Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe reported to the minister on arrangements for rural development. Upon arrival at Pwintbyu-Pakokku railroad section, project engineer U Maung Maung Tin reported to the minister on earth work to build the axis. Next, the deputy minister reported on other salient points and the minister gave necessary instructions. Kyangin-Pakokku railroad section is 322.5 miles long and it will pass through main towns— Oakshiptin, Kanna, Thayet, Minhla, Minbu, Saku, Pwintphyu, Salin, Seikphyu and Myitchay. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivers an address.

1. & 2

Fire breaks out in Botataung Tsp

YANGON, 7 May — A fire broke out at an apartment on the Fifth and Sixth Floors of the Building No 47/49 on 46th Street in Botataung Township today. The fire started at about 7 pm and it was put under control at about 8 pm without spreading to other apartments.  

As soon as the fire had started, officials concerned and fire engines rushed to the scene and managed to put out the fire.  

It was due to a lit mosquito repellent coil which started fire while everyone was out. — MNA

USDA opens Basic...

(from page 16)  

People with strong ideological and personal prejudices have made false and fabricated news and spread rumours. Besides, they are also trying to destroy the stability and development of the State under the pretext of human rights and democracy. They are more of a hindrance than a help.  

USDA members are to rebuff the false and fabricated news.  

In his concluding remarks, the USDA Secretary-General urged the trainees to work hard to become good organizers of the association, to serve in the interests of local people, to organize the people to take part in implementing the development tasks, to inform the people so that they can realize the destructive acts that hinder the building the new nation, to try hard to flourish the national spirit and to participate in implementing the seven-point Road Map joining hands with the people. — MNA

MLF to boost marine products export

NAW PHAT TAW, 7 May — Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries will work together with private organizations and companies to boost the export of marine products. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein assigned the tasks of boosting marine products to state/division Fisheries Departments, Myanmar Fisheries Federation and 62 companies yesterday.  

On the occasion at Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Insein Township, the minister urged officials concerned to step up their efforts for development of sea and fresh water fishing and briefed on matters related to export earnings.

Chairman of MFF U Htay Myint reported to the minister on tasks for boosting the marine products to exceed the target of the ministry. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of railroad on Kyangin-Thayet Railroad Section. — RAILWAYS

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivers an address.
MWVO’s Central Organizing Committee holds Advanced Organizing Course No 11/2007

YANGON, 7 May — The Central Organizing Committee of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization opened Advanced Organizing Course No 11/2007 at the training hall of the organization at Naunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and central organizing members, the head of MWVO Headquarters and officials, supervisory committee members, the principal and course instructors and trainees.

First, Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) made an opening speech on the occasion, saying that MWVO’s courses are continuously conducted in the states and divisions in view of winning the trust and admiration of the people and strengthening belief and conviction of the members of MWVO. The courses No 11/2007 are opened at MWVO’s training centres in Yangon, Mandalay and Magway Divisions at the same time today. He spoke of the need for the trainees to firmly believe in the national politics. Building of political, economic and defence powers will dawn upon the trainees at the course. All the trainees will become aware of the development of border areas, designation of 24 special development regions and rural development tasks. They will keep alive with nationalism, patriotism and Union spirit at the course. The Vice-Chairman urged the trainees to make efforts to strengthen MWVO, apply the subjects they attained from the course in the practical fields and organize fellow war veterans and the people, implement five future tasks adopted by MWVO Conference in 2005 and live main tasks being carried out by the Central Organizing Committee of MWVO, strive for the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed democratic nation in cooperation with Tatmadaw and the people and serve duties for the realization of ongoing seven-step Road Map of the State.

After the opening ceremony, the Vice-Chairman cordially greeted the trainees. A total of 50 trainees from Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions are attending the four-week course. — MNA

USDA CEC member attends opening of new roads in Ayeyawady Div

YANGON, 7 May — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended opening of gravel road in Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

The CEC member attended opening of Basic Physical Course (1/2007) in Myaungmya this morning and delivered an address. A total of 150 trainees are attending the two-week courses.

He later met with members of Myaungmya District USDA and fulfilled the requirements. Afterwards, the minister attended inauguration of Kwelwe tarred road built by Myaungmya Township DAC.

The length of the tarred road is 2,280 feet and its width 12 feet and the road was built at a cost of K 11.47 million. The new tarred road will ensure transport of residents in Kwelwe, Payachaung, Kyangon, Lapan and Bamawthongwa Villages.

The CEC member met with local residents of the Four villages and attended to their needs. — MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends opening of a gravel road in Kayngidau Township.—PRANSDA

Nation Coaching Course opens

YANGON, 7 May — Jointly organized by International Hockey Federation and Myanmar Hockey Federation, Nation Coaching Courses were opened this morning at Artificial Tuff Hockey Pitch on Thetnbyu Road. The ceremony was attended by Vice-President of MHF U Kyaw Naing and executives, guests and trainees.

First, Vice-President U Kyaw Naing made a speech and International Level-1 Hockey Coach Mr KM Awais of Pakistan extended greetings. The course was attended by coaches of MHF and the Tatmadaw teams, physical training teachers of basic education schools under No-3 Basic Education Department.

Mr KM Awais arrived here on 5 May. He was welcomed at the airport by Vice-President U Kyaw Naing, Executive U Aung Than and Secretary of Competition and Training Sub-committee Sgt Nay Tun.

Mr KM Awais was a former selected player of Pakistan National Hockey team and won gold and bronze awards in international hockey competitions. He was also a coach of Pakistan Women’s National Hockey team. He is the author of a book titled “Hockey” which is translated into Myanmar. — MNA

Construction of Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin) inspected

YANGON, 7 May — Bridge Construction Project Special Group-4 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction is building Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin) across the Ngawun River, about one mile from old Myokwin Bridge on Hinthada-Myokwin-Kwikauk Road. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun today inspected the installation of iron frame.

Senior Engineer In-charge U Kyaw Lin reported on installation of the iron frame. The minister stressed the need for worksite safety and timely completion of the project. Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin) is of reinforced concrete type. The bridge including approach roads is 2,835 feet long and 28 feet wide. It can withstand 60 tons of loads. — MNA

Minister inspects Hlawga Power Station

YANGON, 7 May — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials inspected conversion of UXL MOPS System of Boiler Control to Centum CS 3000 System in Hlawga Power Station on 5 May.

Chief Engineer U Nyunt Aung reported on conversion of the old system of Boiler Control to the new one to the minister.

Manager U Thein Zaw also reported on collection of gas, running of the station at full capacity and supply of power.

The minister called for maintenance and durability of machinery equipment and making efforts for supplying more power.

Later, the minister and party inspected the power station and Hlawga Sub-power station, and the officials conducted them around the power station. — MNA

Mr KM Awais being welcomed by officials of Myanmar Hockey Federation.—MKF
US Democrats stand firm on Iraq troop withdrawal

WASHINGTON, 7 May — Democratic congressional leaders said on Sunday they would “shake the White House” to pressure President George W Bush to get US troops out of Iraq as they seek a new war-funding bill to replace the one Bush vetoed.

Democrats on Sunday’s political talk shows pursued a theme that the United States should not be the referee in Iraq’s civil war and showed no sign of giving ground on troop withdrawals.

“This is the American people’s fight. They asked us to send a message to the President,” New York Democratic Representative Charles Rangel, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said on CBS’s “Face the Nation” programme. “We’ve gotta shake that White House until the people of the United States are heard.”

With the Iraq war helping drag Bush’s approval rating to an all-time low of 28 per cent, according to a Newsweek magazine poll, he must work with the Democratic-controlled Congress on a war finance bill. He rejected a 124-billion-US-dollar bill last week because it set specific dates for troop withdrawals.

New York Democrat Senator Charles Schumer, appearing on CNN’s “Late Edition”, said Democrats and Republicans were “not that close” to reaching a compromise on a funding bill but said there were encouraging signs. Rangel said the House would not let up on Bush until the United States was out of Iraq.

“We hope that he would be sophisticated enough to come up with an international solution,” he said. “But the people that elected us said, bring our troops home. Enough is enough. There is no victory in sight. It’s a civil war and we don’t have the wherewithal to resolve that major problem.”

Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut, a Democrat candidate for president, said he remained committed to legislation from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Senator Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, both Democrats, that sets a firm timetable for pulling all US troops by 31 March, 2008, but would consider other options if that fails. — MNA/Reuters

Gunmen abduct British oil worker, hit terminal in Nigeria

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 7 May — Gunmen abducted a British oil worker from a drilling rig off Nigeria’s coast and attacked a nearby oil export terminal on Saturday, diplomats and security sources said.

The Briton was taken from a rig known as Trident 8 off the coast of the southern state of Bayelsa, while the other attack occurred nearby at the 200,000 barrel per day Brass crude oil export terminal operated by Italian oil company Agip, they said.

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Bulgaria to withdraw troops from Iraq after 2007

SOFIA, 7 May — Bulgaria would withdraw its troops from Iraq after 2007 if no related international resolutions were issued to extend its mission, Defence Minister Veselin Bliznakov said on Saturday.

According to the state-run news agency BTA, the Defence Minister said no matter how security situation in Iraq would be, Bulgaria would end its mission in the country after 2007 if the United Nations Security Council did not renew its mandate.

The UN Security Council decided in November 2006 to extend the mandate of the international forces in Iraq to 31 December, 2007. Bulgaria has currently 155 military personnel deployed in Iraq, responsible mainly for security maintenance.

B l i z n a k o v’s remarks were at variance with the Bulgarian Parliament’s decision in February to extend the country’s military mission in Iraq to the end of March 2008.

Since April 2004, over ten countries have completed withdrawing forces from Iraq. There are now some 160,000 forces deployed in Iraq, from some 20 countries. The United States constitutes the bulk of the international forces with over 140,000 troops.

— MNA/Xinhua

‘No survivors’ in Cameroon crash

DOUALA, 7 May — Rescue workers in Cameroon say there are no signs of any survivors from the Kenya Airways plane that crashed and was found in a mangrove swamp.

They say they could see many bodies partly buried in the mud of the swamp. The Boeing 737-800 was carrying 114 people from at least 23 countries.

The plane came down shortly after taking off in heavy rain from Douala en route to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. The wreckage was found some 36 hours after vanishing from radar screens.

A Cameroonian official in charge of the recovery effort at the scene, some 20km south-west of Douala, said he had surveyed the entire site and no one had survived.

“There are no chances of finding any (survivors) under the circumstances,” Luc Ndjobo said. “There is a crater filled with water and a clearing, then buried in the mud there are scattered plane parts and debris,” he told AP news agency.

A team from the US National Transportation Safety Board is due to arrive at the scene, with French and US investigators already conducting aerial searches, US embassy officials said.

— Internet
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (225)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (225) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 8.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie unclaimed.

Cargo will be discharged daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared and under the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Thailand

Dated: 8 May 2007

Iran “welcomes” proposal for more nuclear talks

TEHERAN, 6 May — Iran's Foreign Minister has welcomed a Swiss proposal for continued talks on Teheran’s disputed nuclear programme, which the West suspects is aimed at making atom bombs, Iranian media said on Saturday. Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki met a Swiss envoy on the sidelines of a 3-4 May international conference in Egypt organized to seek ways to end the violence in neighbouring Iraq, the English-language Teheran Times daily said.

The paper did not give details of Mottaki’s views on the Swiss plan, which Western diplomats have said was among topics discussed at a meeting between Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Turkey on 25-26 April.

Diplomats said Switzerland had proposed a staged plan leading to a simultaneous suspension of Iran’s uranium enrichment work and of UN sanctions, which would enable talks between Iran and six world powers to begin.

But they said Larijani made it clear to Solana Iran had no intention of fully suspending its work to refine uranium, which can be used to fuel nuclear power plants or make nuclear weapons. Iran says it only wants to generate electricity.

Nepal Oil Corporation heavily indebted

KATHMANDU, 6 May — Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) owes over 150 million US dollars to the banking sector and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), reported website ekantipur.com Friday. NOC’s financial status has reached an alarming condition due to its growing losses in the last five years, said a report released by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MICS) Thursday. The corporation incurred losses totalling more than 180 million dollars over the last five years, as it sold petroleum products at lower prices than their purchasing prices, said the report.

This is the first time that the ministry has issued a report on NOC’s financial status. Of the total debt, NOC needs to pay more than 92 million dollars to the IOC and nearly 65 million dollars to local financial institutions.

“The NOC has to pay an annual interest of nearly 13 million US dollars for this debt,” said Purushottam Ojha, acting secretary at the ministry. The corporation has authorized capital of 7.5 million dollars and paid-up capital of 1.45 million dollars.— MNA/ekantipur

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The New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 8 May, 2007

THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE WAS 20 YEARS AGO.

THE SECOND BEST TIME IS NOW.
Scientists develop “ethanol corn”

LOS ANGELES, 6 May—A new variety of corn developed and patented by Michigan State University (MSU) scientists could turn corn leaves and stalks into products that can be used to make ethanol. Leaves and stalks of the newly-developed corn are just as valuable as the golden kernels, the American Association for the Advancement of Science said on its website EurekAlert.

Right now, most US ethanol is made from corn kernels. This is because breaking down the cellulose in corn leaves and stalks into sugars that can be fermented into ethanol is difficult and expensive. “We’ve developed two generations of Spartan Corn,” said Mariam Sticklen, MSU professor of crop and soil sciences. “Both corn varieties contain the enzymes necessary to break down cellulose and hemicellulose into simple sugars in their leaves. This will allow for more cost-effective, efficient production of ethanol.”

“In the future, corn growers will be able to sell their corn stalks and leaves as well as their corn grain for ethanol production,” Sticklen said.

“What is now a waste product will become an economically viable commodity,” he said.

Environmentalists slam Cyprus for spring bird hunt

NICOSIA, 6 May — Wildlife campaigners criticized Cyprus on Friday for giving the go-ahead for two days of spring bird shooting, a practice banned under European Union directives and which took place over a decade ago. Bird hunters will be permitted to shoot on 6 May and 9 May, marking the first time the pursuit will be held in this eastern Mediterranean island since 1993.

Hunters, who number more than 40,000 in a Greek Cypriot population of about 750,000, are a powerful lobby in the country which holds presidential elections next year. The targets will be turtle doves, declining species across Europe. “It will be a case of targeting a threatened bird species at the most vulnerable stage of its life-cycle,” said Martin Hellicar, the executive manager of Birdlife Cyprus, the local arm of the international conservation group.

Turtle doves are a legitimate game species in the autumn, but not, say environmentalists, in spring when adults are migrating to breed.

Mumps outbreak expanding in Canada

OTTAWA, 5 May — An outbreak of the mumps that originated earlier this year is spreading quickly in Canada and has infected more than 200 people, local media reported on Saturday.

The disease, which originated in eastern Nova Scotia province and has infected 203 people there, has spread to central provinces, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) said. Ontario is reporting three confirmed cases with five other suspected cases under investigation. New Brunswick also has reported 34 cases and Prince Edward Island had one confirmed case.

Nova Scotia medical officials are calling on Ottawa’s Public Health Agency for a national strategy to deal with the outbreaks. Catching the mumps can have serious consequences. The disease, which causes swollen and tender glands and other flu-like symptoms, can lead to sterility, deafness and viral meningitis.

It is spread by coughing, sneezing, sharing drinks and food, and kissing, and can be contagious for about seven days before symptoms appear, and up to nine days after.

Mumps causes the glands near the ears to swell.— XINHUA

Figures show newspaper circulation in steep slide across US

WASHINGTON, 7 May — Newspaper sales continued a steep slide in the United States, The New York Times reported Wednesday. The industry as a whole posted a 2.1-per-cent drop in weekday circulation, and 3.1 per cent on Sundays, in the six months ended 31 March, compared with the period a year earlier, the paper cited figures released by the Audit Bureau of Circulation on Monday.

The decline followed first-quarter reports for the major US newspaper companies that showed falling earnings, declines in advertising and plans for continued staff cuts, heightening fears about the future of newspapers, it said. The figures reflect 745 of more than 1,400 daily newspapers in the United States. Circulations figures have dropped gradually for two decades, beginning in the 1980s, but since 2004 the decline has picked up speed as readers and advertisers have migrated to the Internet, the paper said.

Sales have held fairly steady in recent years at the nation’s three largest-circulation newspapers, USA Today (more than 2.2 million), The Wall Street Journal (more than 2 million) and The New York Times (more than 1.1 million). The Los Angeles Times, rolled by internal dissension, leadership turnover and a recent deal by its owner, the Tribune Company, to take the company private, lost 4.2 per cent of its weekday sales, and 4.7 per cent on Sundays, said the report. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan to give $100m for new funds with ADB

KYOTO, 7 May—Japanese Finance Minister Koji Omi said on Sunday his government would contribute up to 100 million US dollars to two new funds to be set up for promoting clean energy and facilitating the investment climate in Asia.

The new funds will be established in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank. Omi told the opening session of the agency’s annual meeting in Kyoto, western Japan.

The ADB said on Friday it would spend at least 1 billion US dollars on clean energy projects in 2008, as it seeks to strengthen its role in balancing economic development and environmental concerns in the region. That would mark a rise of 10 per cent or more from this year, when it is expected to invest 900 million US dollars in such projects.

Drive with care
Wenger offers United praise

London, 6 May—Arsene Wenger stated his belief that Manchester United deserved to win the title. He was not hopeful of re-

ninth Premiership title. Saturday culminated in

the Manchester derby on

Ferguson's side. Against Chelsea which se-

ners of the Premiership, United are worthy win-

bers. His side's run of good form, players like Ryan Giggs, Gary Neville, Paul Scholes turning

Ferguson's side, is seen as a major factor in their success. "We had a big problem only to play all season only

Manchester United for 20 years and players like Ryan Giggs, Gary Neville, Paul Scholes turning

every week for me. "I don't know how long I will last now but I am enjoying it," Ferguson, who has been at the Old Trafford helm for over 20 years, had a change of heart in 2002 after announcing his retirement and he stated: "It is easy to retire. It was a quick
decision. I did it years ago and regretted it within days." Asked how the latest title triumph rates with the previous
eight. Ferguson added: "All of them were good.

Aston Villa ended up as champions, the Premier League and we had a big job to do to catch them makes

this one special. "Chelsea and Manchester United were both strong sides but there were a few turning points
when United didn't show any weakness and they had an offensive ability the others did not have."

Arsene Wenger

"No, I don't expect to receive a bottle of wine from Sir Alex Ferguson but congratulations to him anyway. "They have been the most consistent side and they also have individual players who can make a difference. "Chelsea and Manchester United were both strong sides but there were a few turning points when United didn't show any weakness and they had an offensive ability the others did not have."

Arsene Wenger

"I went to see my grandson play; they won their

winning the Wachovia Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 6 May, 2007.—Internet

MADRID, 7 May — UEFA Cup finalists Espanyol produced another

Espanyol beat Atletico

sprightly performance as they effectively ended Atletico Madrid's slim

hopes of a Champions League place with a 2-1 win at Montjuic on

Sunday. Espanyol put the boot to the Madrid side when they completed

a 5-1 aggregate win in their Uefa Cup semifinal on Thursday and they had few problems dealing with the out-of-form Atletico.

A well-taken volley from Moroccan midfielder Moha and an oppor-
tune strike from Uruguayan centre-forward Walter Pandiani put the

Catalans 2-0 up with 16 minutes to go.

Midfielder Martin Petrov pulled one back for Atletico at the death but it came too late to prevent a morale-booster win for the home side who will face fellow Spaniards Sevilla in the Uefa Cup final in

Glasgow on 16 May.

Sevilla, who are still in with a chance of a European and domestic

treble, face Real Madrid in Sunday's late match at the Bernabeu.

Despite the defeat Atletico remain in sixth place in the table but are

now only a point ahead of Recreativo Huelva and two clear of Getafe.

MNA/Reuters

Title triumph spurs on Ferguson

London, 7 May—Manchester United fans can enjoy a special match against a team that has been a

success in the Premier League and Europe. The match is against Atletico Madrid, who are in the

Champions League semifinals. The match is sure to be a special occasion for Manchester United fans,

who will have the chance to see their team take on one of the most successful teams in Europe.

Getafe beat Betis to join hunt for European places

Madrid, 7 May — Bernd Schuster's

Getafe joined the hunt for a place in

Europe after classing goals from Daniel

Guiza and Francisco Casquero earned a

2-0 Primera Liga win at struggling Real

Betis on Sunday.

Striker Guiza put Getafe in front when

he turned in at the near post on 16 min-

utes and talented midfielder Casquero

made sure of their first away victory

since January with a spectacular lobbed

finish before the break.

MNA/Reuters

MOURINHO CONSOLES FRANK LAMPARD AND JOHN TERRY

London, 6 May—Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho says the courageous manner of his side's title de-
fense has made him prouder than their Premiership


Chelsea's 1-1 draw with Arsenal at the Emirates

ensured United claimed the title for the first time

since 2003.

"I have to say maybe I'm prouder now than when we were champions," said Mourinho. "All season my players have been heroes against everything. "This was a game to remember and showed how big Chelsea are as a club." Mourinho offered his congratulations to Manches-
ter United, but could not bring himself to say that the best team had won the title.

"It doesn't matter, what matters is the team with more points is the champion," added Mourinho.

"I have to congratulate the champions, the players, the manager, the fans, the board; all the people that helped them to be champions. Mourinho pinpointed Chelsea's lack of defensive

cover for centre-back Ricardo Carvalho as why the
defending champions failed to win the Premier-

ship for a third successive time.

"We had a big problem only to play all season only with Carvalho at centre-half but now is not the

moment to talk about that. —Internet

Ascoli, Messina go down, Milan held at home

Milan, 7 May — Ascoli and

Messina were relegated from Serie A after defeats on Sunday while

Champions League finalists AC Milan could only draw 0-0 at home

to Fiorentina.

Bottom side Ascoli, on 21 points, went down with three games re-

maining after losing 1-0 at fellow strugglers Torino.

Messina will also play in Serie B

next season after Hernan Crespo's

close-range finish gave recently-
crowned champions Inter Milan a

1-0 away victory.

Palermo's 2-1 home defeat by AS Roma meant Milan could have vir-
tually guaranteed a Champions League berth for next season if Kaka's

first-half penalty had not hit the post.

Milan made several changes from

the side that won Wednesday's

Champions League semifinal

against Manchester United and were

without the injured Ronaldo.

Fellow Brazilian Reginaldo nearly netted for Fiorentina, who are also in the hunt for European places, but

Dida pulled off an excellent

sprawling save.

Lazio leapfrogged Milan into third and are close to securing their place

in next season's Champions League qualifying stages after Luis Jimenez's

scuffed strike gave them a 1-0 win

over Livorno.—MNA/Reuters

Mourinho salutes Chelsea courage

MOURINHO CONSOLES FRANK LAMPARD AND JOHN TERRY

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
Twelve American soldiers killed in Iraq in three days

Baghdad, 7 May — Twelve American soldiers have been killed across Iraq in recent three days, including six who died with one civilian journalist in a roadside bombing in Diyala Province on Sunday, the US military said.

On Friday, an American soldier was killed and four others were wounded when an roadside bomb detonated in western Baghdad. More than 3,370 US soldiers have been killed since the US-led war in Iraq broke out in March 2003, according to media estimates based on Pentagon figures.

On Saturday, two American soldiers were killed while conducting combat operations in Iraq’s western province of Anbar, according to the military statement.

Another American soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their vehicle was struck by two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) north of Baghdad on Sunday, according to the military. Also on Sunday, a US soldier was killed and another injured when their patrol was struck by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad.

Meanwhile, another US soldier also died Sunday in a “non-combat related incident” in Tikrit north of Baghdad, which is under investigation.

On Saturday, two Marines assigned to Multi National Force-West were killed while conducting combat operations in Iraq’s western province of Anbar, according to the military statement.

Members of a folkloric dance group from Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico perform on the Mexico side of the border during the fourth “Fiesta Bi-Nacional” that takes place between Naco, Arizona and Naco, Sonora, Mexico, at the wall that separates the US and Mexico, near Naco, in April 14, 2007 file photo. Residents from both sides of the border celebrated the fiesta with food, entertainment, dancing and volleyball with the net set up on the border barrier.

INTERNET

Earthquake report

(Assigned at 19:30 hours MST today)

A moderate earthquake of intensity (5.6) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside of Myanmar about (990) miles North of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (18) hrs (33) min (13) sec MST on 7th May 2007.

WEATHER

Monday, 7 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, scattered in Mandalay Division and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States. Manda- lay, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. Day temperatures were (5ºC) above May average temperature in Kachin State, (3ºC) above May average temperature in Rakhine State. (5ºC) to (6ºC) below May average temperature in Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, (7ºC) below May average temperatures in Mon State, (10ºC) below May average temperature in Kayin State and about May average temperature in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature were Katha and Kalewa (41ºC) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kayan (7.60) inches, Thaton (6.22) inches, Hpa-an (5.58) inches, Mektila and Hninawbi(4.14) inches each, Kawthoung (3.19) inches, Thaton (2.09) inches, Thandwe (1.73) inches, Mawlamyine (1.50) inches, Dawes (1.42) inches, and Kyauktau (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature on 6-5-2007 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 7-5-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 7-5-2007 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 6-5-2007 was (1.2) hours(approx). Rainfall on 6-5-2007 was (0.70) inch at Mingaladon, (0.51) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.99) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (14.12) inches at Mingaladon, (17.48) inches at Kaba-Aye and (15.83) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Northeast at (16:20) hours MST on 6-5-2007.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-5-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, Bagu Division, scattered in Chin and Shan States, upper Sagar and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate to rough sea in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 8-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 8-5-2007: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 8-5-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
**USDA opens Basic Journalism Course No 9**

**Stability of State, economic & educational development, necessary infrastructures for future State**

USDA members urged to work hard to make further progress, rebut false and fabricated news

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**Twenty persons of Meiktila Township resign from NLD party**

YANGON, 7 May — Altogether 20 members of Meiktila Township National League for Democracy in Mandalay Division including U Win Zaw of Aungzeya Village, U Tun Tun Oo and U Myint Lwin of Nandawgon Village and Daw Nu Than of Thirimingala Village resigned from the party out of own volition on 20 March 2007, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In their letters of resignation to the Meiktila Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said that they no longer wished to be NLD members as they were fed up with the party activities and put no trust in the party leaders. That was why they resigned from the party out of own volition, they said.—MNA

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**New Rainfall Record**

（Issued at 10:30 hours MST on 7th May 2007）

The amounts of rainfall (193) mm (7.60 inches) observed at (09:30) hours MST on 7th May 2007 in Kayan is the (24) hours new maximum rainfall record at the station for the month of May during last (25) years. The former record was (144) mm (5.67 inches) on 3 May 1999.

MNA