YANGON, 28 April — Under the supervision of the e-National Task Force of the Union of Myanmar, the Fifth Myanmar ICT Week-2006 was held at Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation Ltd in Hline Township this morning, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, Ambassadors and Chargé d’Affaires ai of foreign missions, responsible persons of social organizations, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, members of BODs of Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation Ltd, chairmen and officials of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Practitioners Association, Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association and IT companies.

The government is pursuing the resolution to ensure the development of information and communication technology, and in recent years, ICT has made progress remarkably thanks to assistance and encouragement of computer experts from the government sector and private sector, computer industrialists and some persons from abroad.

He said: ICT exhibitions, competitions and talks have been held yearly to mark the establishment of the ICT Park, and this year being the fifth.

As you know, today the world has seen rapid development in exchanging information between one nation and another. In the ever-changing world, information can be received in a short time and that contributes towards exploration of resources, methods of quick communication, and development of production process. So, ICT has become a force that influences daily life and makes changes.

The government is pursuing the resolution to ensure the development of information and communication technology, and in recent years, ICT has made progress remarkably thanks to assistance and encouragement of computer experts from the government sector and private sector, computer industrialists and some persons from abroad.

Now, the drive for the development of Myanmar’s ICT has been brought to fruition due to the encouragement, and active participation of ICT experts and industrialists.

(See page 8)
Stamp out atrocities of internal and external destructive elements

Nowadays, Myanmar is trying hard for ensuring extensive human rights. With prevalence of law and order, peace and tranquillity has been restored in almost all parts of the nation.

Systematic measures are being taken to bring about equitable development, enhance socio-economic life of the people and ensure development of human resources.

Sound foundations for the smooth transition to democracy and the emergence of a modern and developed nation have been laid. Meanwhile, the National Convention, the first and most important step of the seven-step Road Map, is being convened.

At a time when Myanmar is enjoying the fruits of development in all aspects and is laying sound foundations for building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, internal and external destructive elements are levelling fabricated news and perpetrating atrocities with every intention of tarnishing the image of Myanmar.

The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the Press Conference No 4/2006 at the city hall of Kengtung, Shan State (East) on 26 April. At the press conference, achievements of Myanmar in the fight against narcotic drugs, matters relating to terrorist acts including drug trafficking, ethnic cleansing and rapes under guises of political ground committed by internal and external destructionists were clarified with evidences.

At present, the National Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map, is in session. Over 1,000 representatives including delegates of national races, delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect and representatives from national race armed groups who had returned to the legal fold are taking part in it.

However, the National League for Democracy walked out of the National Convention, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and Kokang Democratic Party which were under its influence also failed to attend the meeting.

Moreover, the NLD is constantly demanding a dialogue with the government. National Convention with over 1,000 delegates of national races, representatives-elect, people from all walks of life is wider in scope than NLD’s dialogue.

The NLD is sticking to activities that did not serve the interest of the State and the people. And it has contacts with expatriates and internal and external elements.

Therefore, we firmly believe that the State and the people will be able to stamp out atrocities of internal and external destructive elements through concerted efforts.

16th annual meeting of MMCWA commences

YANGON 27 April — The opening ceremony of 16th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the meeting hall of MMCWA at the corner of Parami Road and Thanthuma Road in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hlay Win, Honorary Patron of MMCWA Daw Than Nwe, members of the panel of patrons, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, executives, chairpersons of State and Division MCW Supervisory Committees, secretaries, joint-secretaries, members of social organizations, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials and guests.

At the ceremony, Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivered an address.

Next, the commander and party viewed documentary photos on movement of MMCWA displayed at the hall.

MWAF Vice-President meets Kayin State WAO patron and members

YANGON, 28 April — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint met with Mon State Women’s Affairs Organization Patron Daw Tin Tin Latt and Kayin State WAO Patron Daw Mar Mar Lu and members at Kayin State PDC Office on 19 April.

Patron of Kayin State WAO Daw Mar Mar Lu extended greetings and the Vice-President of MWAF made a speech on participation with other NGOs in the State’s development tasks, prevention against trafficking in human and rehabilitation tasks, controlling HIV/AIDS and national health plans, eradication of narcotic drugs and regional development tasks.

Later, Kayin State WAO Chairperson Daw Tin Sein explained facts about activities of the organization.

The Vice-President viewed documentary photos on movements of Kayin State WAO. Next, she met with trainees of tailoring and basic computer courses. A total of 35 trainees are attending the tailoring course and 30 at the computer course.

MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint has a cordial conversation with members of Kayin State WAO. — MNA

UMFCCI General Secretary receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 27 April — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing received Manager Mr Takao Hirai and Mr Yosuhiro Isono of Kuraray Company of Japan at UMFCCI Office on 25 April and discussed matters on the investment opportunities of garment industries in Myanmar.

UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing meets Mr Takao Hirai and Mr Yosuhiro Isono of Japan. — UMFCCI
Indian rejects US proposal on farmers of developing countries

GENEVA, 26 April — India on Tuesday rejected a recent proposal of the United States seeking to relax safeguard measures available to farmers of developing countries stating it was “unacceptable” and would adversely affect them.

US diplomat’s jeep near crashes with Kazakh leader’s car

ALMATY, 27 April — US officials said on Tuesday one of their diplomats accidentally steered between vehicles in Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev’s motorcade, but a Russian media report said he nearly crashed into the President’s car.

Iran says will harm US interests if attacked

TEHERAN, 27 April — Iran said on Wednesday it would harm US interests anywhere in the world if the United States launches an attack, a step Washington says is an option if diplomacy fails to resolve a nuclear standoff.

Bank robbery suspects fled in limousine

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 April — San Francisco police arrested a man and woman suspected of robbing a bank and fleeing in style using a limousine as their getaway car, officials said on Wednesday.

INTERNET
Russia ignores US, delivers nuclear fuel to India

WASHINGTON, 26 April — Russia has delivered fresh nuclear fuel for two Indian reactors, ignoring a US request for a delay until rules are formally changed to allow such transfers, American officials said in recent interviews.

The delivery, which experts say violates international rules, comes as the US Congress is considering whether to approve an agreement that would allow India to obtain nuclear fuel, reactors and technology from the United States and other countries for the first time in three decades.

The Russian fuel for the two Tarapur power plants “has been delivered but it has not yet been used. It’s in a storage facility,” a senior US official told Reuters.

“This kind of activity should not take place, in our view, until the NSG has acted. It’s not good precedent,” he said.

The United States has asked India to refrain from using the fuel and believes this request will be honoured, he added.

The official, who spoke anonymously because of the sensitivity of the matter, insisted that while the transfer is an “irritant ... (it) has not been a major issue.”

The 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group has not yet altered its rules to permit nuclear transfers to India and is not expected to do so until Congress votes.

That could take months because of concern that the US-India civilian nuclear co-operation agreement could undermine efforts to control nuclear proliferation.

“Russia has clearly violated NSG rules,” Daryl Kimball, director of the nonprofit Arms Control Association, said of Moscow’s nuclear fuel delivery.

Three Italians, Romanian killed in Iraq attack

ROME, 27 April — A bomb blast rocked an Italian convoy on a road in southern Iraq on Thursday, killing four people — three Italian soldiers and one from Romania, the Defence Ministry said.

An officer with the Carabinieri was seriously wounded and was taken to a US hospital about 93 miles from Kuwait City, Defence Minister Antonio Martino said.

The roadside bomb targeted a four-vehicle convoy carrying 17 troops to relieve those at the local Iraqi police station in the city of Nasiriyah.

Romano Prodi, who will head the next Italian government, said he had no plans to speed up Italy’s withdrawal because of the bombing.

Prodi had opposed the war and has pledged to bring Italian troops home by the end of the year.

“Our position is not changed,” Prodi said at a news conference at his coalition’s headquarters.

“We’ve discussed it with the whole coalition,” Prodi’s extreme left coalition allies seized on the news to criticize Premier Silvio Berlusconi’s decision to send troops to Iraq and to demand a quicker withdrawal.

“Today’s attack that caused the deaths of Italian soldiers is an additional loss that Berlusconi’s wicked choice to stand by his friend (President) Bush brings today to our country,” Communist lawmaker Marco Rizzo was quoted as saying by the Apcom news agency.

US airstrike, rebel attacks kill 13 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 April — An airstrike by US-led forces in southern Afghanistan, a Taleban assault on a police station and a roadside bomb attack on a military convoy left 13 people dead in escalating violence, officials said on Tuesday.

Four Afghan soldiers were killed during a US-led operation against Taleban and al-Qaeda guerrillas in eastern Kunar Province on Tuesday when their convoy was bombed near the border with Pakistan, provincial governor Assadullah Wafa said.

On Monday, US-led forces launched an airstrike on a suspected Taleban camp in the Lashkar Gah area of southern Helmand Province killing three fighters, the US military said in a statement.

Also on Monday, Taleban guerrillas attacked a police station in the Mianishin District of neighbouring Kandahar Province. They killed one police officer, but lost five of their own men, a provincial official said.

More pigs, cattle in Vietnam contract FMD

HANOI, 27 April — The number of pigs, bulls and buffaloes hit by foot-and-mouth disease in Vietnam’s central highlands Lam Dong Province has risen to nearly 4,000, of which nearly 1,500 died, local newspaper Pioneer reported on Thursday.

The disease has recently hit the animals in six out of 12 districts and towns in the province, mainly Duc Trong District.

World Cup tickets deposited in bank

FRANKFURT, 26 April — A travel agent has deposited 12,000 World Cup tickets for Brazil matches in a vault in a German bank for safe keeping until their owners arrive for the tournament that starts on 9 June.

The coveted tickets, which were transported in an armoured car to Cologne, will be kept in the vault of Sparkasse savings bank. They belong to fans who booked their World Cup travel and tickets through a Brazilian tour operator. The fans, who will be based in Cologne, will receive their tickets upon arrival in Germany, Cologne’s Tourist Board said on Wednesday.

Defending champions Brazil expect to have more than 5,000 fans based near them in their campaign to win a sixth title.

Even Brazil training sessions are a hot ticket. More than 45,000 tickets to watch Brazil train in Switzerland before the World Cup quickly sold out within hours on Tuesday.
Putin says Russia should switch energy focus to Asia

MOSCOW, 27 April — President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said Russia, the world’s second biggest oil exporter, was struggling with “unfair competition” on energy markets, and should focus on supplying Asia.

“Despite the great demand for energy resources, any excuses are being used to limit us in the north, in the south, in the west. We must look for markets, fit into the processes of global development,” it was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying.

“The countries of the Asian-Pacific Region are developing at great speed and need to cooperate with us,” he added.

US officer to be charged over Abu Ghraib abuse

WASHINGTON, 27 April — The US Army plans to charge a high ranking officer in connection with the abuse of prisoners at Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib prison, The Washington Post and The New York Times reported on Wednesday, quoting his lawyer.

The papers said in their online editions that Lieutenant-Colonel Steven L. Jordan, the former head of the interrogation unit at the jail, was expected to be charged on Friday with dereliction of duty, lying to investigators and conduct unbecoming an officer.

He would be the highest-ranking officer at Abu Ghraib to face criminal charges in connection with the abuse of inmates at the prison.

Photos of inmates being intimidated by dogs and sexually humiliated were broadcast around the world after the abuses became public in 2004, undermining Washington’s efforts to win support for its war in Iraq.

So far 10 low-ranking officers have been convicted and Jordan was the last major figure whose status remained unresolved after other more senior officers have been reprimanded, fined and relieved of command, The New York Times said.

“We’re thankful that the deaths are linked to a recent upsurge in fighting with Tamil rebels.”

A new-type fighter of PLA Air Force carries out training. Implementing a series of important instructions by President Hu Jintao on intensifying military training, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), guided by the scientific development concept, has persisted in reform and innovation and intensified training through scientific measures this year. —INTERNET

Northern Vietnam has large iron ore mines

HANOI, 27 April — Vietnam’s northern mountainous region is estimated to have total reserves of 224 million tons of minerals, mainly iron ores, according to a local industry agency on Wednesday.

Of the reserves, iron ores account for 213 million tons, titanium (lustrous silver-white metal that exhibits allotropy), 4.8 million tons, mangan (grey metal used in making steel and glass) 3.2 million tons, lead, zinc, copper and tin the remainders, the National Research Institute of Mining and Metallurgy under the Industry Ministry said, noting that most of the mines are located in the seven provinces of Lao Cai, Thai Nguyen, Tuyen Quang, Lang Son, Ha Giang, Cao Bang and Bac Can.

Vietnam has yet to tap the region’s mineral potential due to financial and technological issues, the institute said. The country exploited around 400,000 tons of iron ores in the region each year in the 1995-2003 period. The annual iron ore-exploiting capacity has increased to some 3 million tons in recent years, partly to serve higher import demand of China.

Since 1955, Vietnam has discovered more than 5,000 mines of mineral ores, including those important to industries such as oil, coal, apatite, iron, copper, aluminum, lead and zinc.

Venezuela to supply cheap oil to Nicaragua

CARACAS, 27 April — Venezuela announced on Tuesday a pact to ship fuel to Nicaragua under preferential terms.

The pact said Venezuela would supply 10 million barrels of fuel a year to an alliance of Nicaraguan mayors, many from the leftist Sandinista party, including presidential candidate Daniel Ortega, who is opposed by Washington.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said his country would accept 60 per cent of payment within 90 days of shipment, while the remaining 40 per cent will be paid off over 25 years at a 1 per cent interest, including a two-year grace period.

Seher Bulut, who is living in Adilcevaz Town in southeastern province of Bitlis, was born in 1884, said a news agency reported on Tuesday.

“According to our researches, Bulut has eight answers.”

A Sri Lankan soldier checks a car for explosives at a roadside checkpoint in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 27 April, 2006. Police found five headless corpses near the Sri Lankan capital on Thursday, a senior police officer said, and authorities were investigating if the deaths are linked to a recent upsurge in fighting with Tamil rebels. —INTERNET

122-year-old Turkish woman applies for “Guinness Record”

ANKARA, 27 April — A 122-year-old Turkish woman has applied for Guinness Book of Records as the world’s oldest living woman, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Tuesday.

Seher Bulut, who is living in Adileva Town in southeastem province of Bitlis, was born in 1884, said provincial governor Asim Hacimustafaoglu.

“The military equivalent of a grand-jury investigation to determine whether he would face court-martial, administrative punishment or no penalty.

The Tangaroa wooden raft is seen at the port of Callao in Lima, on 26 April, the next step would be if Jordan was charged, the next step would be launching the Tangaroa from Callao on 28 April . —INTERNET

A Sri Lankan soldier checks a car for explosives at a roadside checkpoint in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 27 April, 2006. Police found five headless corpses near the Sri Lankan capital on Thursday, a senior police officer said, and authorities were investigating if the deaths are linked to a recent upsurge in fighting with Tamil rebels. —INTERNET

The New Times quoted Spitzberg as saying Jordan, a reservist who has remained on active duty for three years, was currently stationed in the Washington area.

The paper added that if Jordan was charged, the next step would be

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 29 April, 2006 _5
China rejects US-proposed resolution on Iran

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April— China, which has veto power in the UN Security Council, rejected on Tuesday a US proposal to order Iran to suspend uranium enrichment work under legally binding provisions of the United Nations Charter.

With China and Russia opposed to sanctions against Iran, the West wants to ratchet up pressure gradually to curb Teheran’s nuclear ambitions after a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, due on Friday.

As a first step, Western

English language hits one billion words

LONDON, 26 April— A massive language research database responsible for bringing words such as “podcast” and “celebutante” to the pages of the Oxford dictionaries has officially hit a total of 1 billion words, researchers said on Wednesday.

Drawing on sources such as weblogs, chat-rooms, newspapers, magazines and fiction, the Oxford English Corpus spots emerging trends in language usage to help guide lexicographers when composing the most recent editions of dictionaries.

The Press publishes the Oxford English Dictionary, considered the most comprehensive dictionary of the language, which in its most recent August 2005 edition added words such as “supersize,” “wii” and “retail politics” to its pages. Oxford University Press lexicographer Catherine Soanes said the database is not a collection of 1 billion different words, but of sentences and other examples of the usage and spelling.

“The corpus is purely powers want a Security Council resolution that would turn demands in an earlier Council statement on Iran into a legally binding measure under the Chapter 7 provision of the UN Charter.”

But China’s UN Ambassador Wang Guangya told reporters, “It has always been China’s position that this Iranian nuclear issue has to be solved diplomatically.

“Therefore I think any resolution based on Chapter 7 will not serve the purpose in this regard,” Wang said.

The Security Council passed a statement last month asking IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei to report simultaneously to the Council and the IAEA board of governors by 28 April on whether Iran has halted enriching uranium, a process that can produce fuel for nuclear warheads.

MNA/Reuters

China committed to safeguarding world peace

ABUJA, 28 April — Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Nigeria’s capital of Abuja on Thursday that China was committed to safeguarding world peace and would work with other countries to enhance global security and stability.

“To China, its own development is an integral part of the progress of mankind. China will develop itself by maintaining a peaceful international environment, and its own development, in turn, enables China to promote world peace,” said Hu, in a speech at the National Assembly of Nigeria.

The Chinese people will hold high the banner of peace, development and cooperation, pursue an independent foreign policy of peace, peaceful development and continue the opening-up strategy for mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, the Chinese President said.

MNA/Xinhua

EU slams secret CIA flights

BRUSSELS, 28 April — The United States’ Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had run more than 1,000 secret flights in and out of Europe since 2001, an inter-parliamentary team said on Wednesday.

The European Parliament inquiry into allegations of “extraordinary rendition” charges the US agency with kidnapping terror suspects.

“The CIA has, on several occasions, clearly been responsible for kidnapping and illegally detaining alleged terrorists on the territory of member states, as well as for extraordinary renditions,” Italian MEP Giovanni Fava said in his team report on Wednesday.

The rapporteur made specific reference to several alleged abductions, including the kidnap of

Japan’s electronics giant Sony employee displays the new portable DVD player DVP-FX810 recently. —INTERNET

Japan: Powerful quake jolts Indonesian island

JAKARTA, 27 April — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale struck Indonesia’s Simeulue Island early Wednesday, causing panic among residents.

National news agency Antara reported the quake hit the island at 01:26 local time (18:26 GMT Tuesday), but there was no report of casualties.

The island is located near Ache Province where more than 130,000 were killed in an earthquake-triggered tsunami on 24 December, 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Six killed in truck crash in Philippines

MANILA, 28 April — Six Filipinos including three children were killed on Thursday when a 10-wheeler delivery truck hit them and later burst into flames in Limay Town, some 120 kilometers to the west of Manila, police said. The truck driver lost control of the vehicle when it hit a rock on Roman Expressway in Barangay (village) Alangan, Limay Town at about 8:45 a.m. Thursday, police told reporters.

The truck then hit a 24-year-old mother, her two daughters at the age of two and one and her niece, who were walking along the highway’s shoulder, according to police. — MNA/Xinhua

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The truck then hit a 24-year-old mother, her two daughters at the age of two and one and her niece, who were walking along the highway’s shoulder, according to police. — MNA/Xinhua
Youths are new generations who can shape a brighter future of a nation. And they are like flowers poised to be in full bloom under the sunshine. So, it is required to ensure that youths will never fall victim to narcotic drugs but they become reliable human resources without any flaw in them.

Now, narcotic drugs are posing grave dangers to the entire mankind of 6300 billion world people. Narcotic drugs are intoxicant substances such as poppy, marijuana, intoxicating brew, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, pethadine, LSD, morphone, methadone, ADT and pheno tablets.

In Myanmar, the government is taking a leading role in implementing the projects for prevention and control of narcotic drugs as national duty. Indeed, narcotic drugs are not native to Myanmar but just evil legacy the colonialists intentionally left in the nation. Successive governments have made efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs in the nation and in the process, the Tatmadaw launched the operations “Moe Hein”, “Nga Ye Pan”, “Taung Yan Shin”, “Taung Hteik Pan” and “Aung Moe Hein”. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was enacted in 1993. And two strategies, three tactics and three techniques are being employed for elimination efforts so as to accelerate the anti-drug campaign as a national concern, and to gradually eliminate narcotic drugs in the nation. Successive governments have made efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs in the nation and in the process, the Tatmadaw launched the operations “Moe Hein”, “Nga Ye Pan”, “Taung Yan Shin”, “Taung Hteik Pan” and “Aung Moe Hein”. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was enacted in 1993. And two strategies, three tactics and three techniques are being employed for elimination efforts so as to accelerate the anti-drug campaign as a national concern, and to gradually eliminate narcotic drugs in the nation. Successive governments have made efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs in the nation and in the process, the Tatmadaw launched the operations “Moe Hein”, “Nga Ye Pan”, “Taung Yan Shin”, “Taung Hteik Pan” and “Aung Moe Hein”. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was enacted in 1993. And two strategies, three tactics and three techniques are being employed for elimination efforts so as to accelerate the anti-drug campaign as a national concern, and to gradually eliminate narcotic drugs in the nation.

In 17 years (1988-2005), the Tatmadaw Government-managed to reduce poppy sown acreage to 9,840 from 61,562, and destroyed 172,959.82 acres of poppy plantations. It also destroyed 104,197 pyis (small basket) of poppy seeds entrusted by local people to it. It held ceremonies to destroy seized narcotic drugs 19 times in Yangon and 38 times in states and divisions. It established 577,085 acres of poppy substitute crops and 147,389.50 acres of perennial crops. The first five-year phase of the 15-year Narcotic Drugs Elimination Plan showed success, and the government is making sustained efforts to maintain the achieved momentum in implementing the second phase. The government is giving encouragement to cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, breeding livestock and running business enterprises for strengthening the economy and raising the standard of living of local people in the regions of border areas where poppy was grown.

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It is needed to be free from diseases to be able to lead a healthy life and to be convinced of the trap of narcotic drugs in line with the two aims of the Ministry of Health — to enable every citizen to enjoy longevity and to be free from diseases. As producing healthy human resources is an important national task in a bid to build a new nation, emphasis is to be placed on making sure that new generation youths are free from the bad habit of drug abuse.

Every youth, citizen and nation is to stay away from cases of narcotic drugs and take an active role in the movements with self-consciousness for prevention and control of narcotic drugs to be able to serve the interests of the world people. All are therefore urged to contribute towards the emergence of reliable human sources of youths free from drug abuse, while actively taking part in the campaign for wiping out narcotic drugs, the common enemy of the entire human beings.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 27-4-2006

Fish breeding camp inspected in Nyaungdon Township

YANGON, 28 April — Vice-Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Rtd), Member Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials this morning inspected Thazin Yay Kyaw Fish Breeding Camp being undertaken by the M W V O (Headquarters) in Nyaungdon Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Division.

At briefing hall, in charge of the camp Maj Aung Win Zaw reported on fish breeding and production at the camp, and measures to be taken for raising fish in the monsoon season to the Vice-Chairman and party.

After that, the Vice-Chairman and party observed the tasks.— MNA

101 Hair Regrow Centres to give free treatment

YANGON, 28 April — Hair-growing medicine 101 was introduced to the people at the Grand Plaza Park Royal here on 20 April, with a speech by Mr Kao Guan Kun who invented hair-growing medicine.

A total of 101 bald and hairless persons who first get registered at 101 Hair Regrow Centre-1 (Ph: 251230) at 115, 20th Street, Latha Township, and at 101 Hair Regrow Centre-2 at 15, Thabyenyo Street, Sanyoung Township (Ph: 708317) before 31 July can enjoy free treatment. — MNA

The introduction of hair-growing medicine 101 in progress. — MNA
Workshops and contests will enhance…

(from page 1)

In a bid to implement a plan for ICT development, the government promulgated the Myanmar Computer Development Law in 1996, and under the law, the Myanmar Computer Development Council, the Myanmar Computer Federation, the Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, the Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association and the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Associations were formed in 1998.

And owing to the leading role of the e-National Task Force that was formed in 2000, and harmonious cooperation of the Myanmar Computer Federation and other computer associations that represent the private sector, the Myanmar ICT is picking up development momentum.

The ICT Master Plan Framework drawn for 2000-2005 has expedited the implementation of the ICT development plans, and the ICT Parks stand magnificently as part of the master plan.

Under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) set up for the period from 2006 to 2010, the Myanmar ICT Development Master Plan / Action Plan (draft) has been written with the assistance of the Republic of Korea. As regards the drawing of cyber law, the Electronic Transactions Law that will make substantial contribution towards e-Government and e-Commerce was promulgated in 2004. It is heartening to learn that the Telecommunications Law and the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Law that are parts of cyber laws have been drafted.

As part of the functions of ICT standardization, Myanmar computer fonts have been standardized, and a unicode system Myanmar font has been launched to be used on computer. In various fields, computer programmes can be used smoothly in Myanmar in accordance with these standards. Moreover, every national across the country who can read and write Myanmar can apply information on computer. So, I would say there will be great opportunities to help digital culture flourish, close down digital gap, and enhance the people’s efficiency in information technology.

In the education sector, measures are being taken for the development of human resources through ICT. Multimedia classrooms that are common in high schools, e-Education centres, data broadcasting system, and Intranet in the academic field depicts the development of the ICT sector. Now, two universities of computer studies and 24 government computer colleges have been opened for the development of human resources in the ICT sphere. Computer degree courses are also conducted in many other universities. The Myanmar Computer Federation and other computer associations conduct on-job training courses and hold cross certification examinations regularly for strengthening the ICT capacity and human resources.

The government on its part now has linked all the ministries with one another with the use of broadband system to be able to carry out government functions through ICT. Basic computer management systems are being built in governmental departments.

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Information Minister inspects Shan State (East) IPRD, Sub-printing House (Kengtung)

YANGON, 28 April—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department and Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, inspected functions of Shan State (East) IPRD and Sub-Printing House (Kengtung) on 25 April. At Shan State (East) IPRD, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan viewed the wall magazine at the TV room. At the library, the minister inspected official functions of IPRD, Myanmar Radio and Television, NPE and Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprises.

Head of Shan State (East) IPRD Dr. Hlaing Thein Kyaw, Sub-printing House (Kengtung) General Manager U Soe Win and Zey Nwe Dimo, Sub-printing House (Kengtung) General Manager, welcomed the minister’s visit.

In conclusion, the minister would like to call on the people and observers at this exhibition to have an opportunity to assess the present condition of ICT in Myanmar and prospects. And ICT companies have a good opportunity to introduce their products and services.

A total of 150 pavilions of 71 companies are staged in the Fifth Myanmar ICT Week movements, and arrangements are being made for exhibiting modern ICT booths, and holding workshops, programming contest, Web Development contest, and Networking contest. I believe these workshops and contests will enhance the people’s knowledge about information and communication technology in the nation and help the people realize the application of ICT. It is also encouraging to know that programmes have been set up to exhibit the Myanmar ICT Week in the month of April, summer vacation, for the students to visit the exhibition.

In conclusion, the minister would like to call on the e-National Task Force, Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation, Myanmar Computer Federation and other computer associations to make efforts with added momentum and to further cooperate with organizations at home and abroad for the ICT development. I wish all of you a great success in the Fifth Myanmar ICT Week.

Minister of the ICT Week Organizing Committee BOD member of Myanmar Info-Tech U Tin Aung reported on arrangements for holding the ICT Week-2006.

Next, documents on ICT progress in Myanmar were presented in the ICT Week. ICT workshops and seminars, products and service launching and programming contests and web development contest will be held at the Myanmar Info-Tech Building in Hline Township up to 4 May, and the ICT Exhibition at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Dagon Township from 29 April to 1 May.

MINA

MINA

The Fifth Myanmar ICT Week — MINA

MINA
Kengtung ring road inaugurated

YANGON, 28 April—The inauguration of Kengtung tarred ring road was held at the pavilion at the top of the road in Shan State (East) on 25 April.

Deputy Director of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee U Khin Kyaw presented facts about the facility.

Secretary of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Director of the committee U Tin Hlaing formally opened the road.

Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing unveiled the signboard to mark the opening ceremony.

The commander inspected the road and coldly greeted local people.

The 660 feet long and 12 feet wide road constructed by Kengtung Development Affairs Committee is aimed at ensuring regional development, smooth transport and brisk commodity flow in the region. The remaining part, 2,540-foot section, will be upgraded into a tarred one in 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, local authorities, departmental heads, members of social organizations and local people. — MNA

Progress witnessed in Wamhsaw Model Village...

(from page 16)

As part of realizing the one of the social objectives — Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, the specialist teams from Loilem District General Hospital gave health care service to 177 patients at the rural health care branch in Wamhsaw Model Village.

Loilem District MCWSC and District WAO held the discussions together with MCWA members and local women of Wamhsaw Model Village, totalling 135.

Majority of local national races in Mongshu Township grow paddy, groundnut and soyabeans, pineapple, apple and other perennial crops.

They breed pig, poultry and cow on a manageable scale to earn family income.

A 14,000-gallon capacity water tank was built to supply water to local people and agricultural farms.

Wamhsaw Model Village is facilitated with power supply, telephone and postal service.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, 53,554 villages facilitated with...

(continued from page 16)

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16th AGM of MMCWA concludes

YANGON, 28 April — The 16th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association concluded this afternoon at the office of the association after its second day session had been held. It was attended by MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, chairpersons, secretaries and joint-secretaries of State and Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees.

At the meeting, resource persons submitted their papers representing the respective states and divisions of the country. They were Secretary Dr Maung Maung Myint representing Kachin State; Dr Tun Lwin representing Kayah State; Secretary Dr Htay Aung representing Kayin State; Secretary Dr Maung Maung Kyaw representing Chin State; Dr Kyaw Shein representing Sagaing Division; Secretary Dr Maung Maung Hla representing Tannthayi Division; Secretary Dr Htay Aung representing Bago Division (East); Secretary Dr Aye Nyein representing Bago Division (West); Secretary Dr Aung Win representing Magway Division; Secretary Dr Khin Maung Tun representing Mandalay Division; Secretary Dr Tin Win Kyaw representing Mon State; Secretary Dr Khin Aung Cho representing Rakhine State; Secretary Dr Hla Myint representing Yangon Division; Secretary Dr Sai Khum Hlaing representing Shan State (South); Secretary Dr Sai San Win representing Shan State (North); Secretary Dr Zin Mar Oo representing Shan State (East); and Secretary Dr Swe Win representing Ayeyawady Division. Next, matters related to the papers were discussed and Daw Khin Khin Win, the presiding chairperson, took part in the discussions and approved resolutions and work programmes (draft) of the association. Then the meeting ended with concluding remarks by Daw Khin Khin Win. — MNA

Cash donated to Yangon General Hospital

YANGON, 28 April — Singapore Association of Myanmar (SAM) donated K 7 million to the Bio-medical Engineering Workshop of Yangon General Hospital this morning.

The donation ceremony was attended by Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha, the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Thamblynathan Jasudasen members of SAM, professors and members of management committee of the hospital.

First, the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar explained the purpose of donation and presented the cash donation to the medical superintendent. Next, the medical superintendent presented certificate of honour. — MNA

Basic cultural dance and playing harp course opened in Hpa-an

YANGON, 28 April — A ceremony to open the No 1 basic cultural dance and playing harp course of the Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs took place at Women’s Vocational Training School (Hpa-an), attended by Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Khin Kyu and officials.

Altogether 40 trainees are attending the 14-week course. After the ceremony, the director-general inspected the University for Development of National Races (Hpa-an).
YANGON, 28 April — The occurrence of bird flu that broke out in 13 townships of Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions in early March this year, came to stop due to effective control measures taken by local authorities, division bird flu control committees, Myanmar Police Force, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Health Department, Livestock Breeding Federation and livestock breeders.

The disease can be controlled in KhinU Township to maximum 34 days and in Kyaukse Township to minimum 20 days.

The personnel concerned found no avian-related fowl deaths and no evidence of the disease as they are checking chicken death rates at the farms, making diagnoses after a series of tests and conducting blood and other related tests.

After testing 625 blood samples and 60 trachea samples, no H5N1 has been found in Mandalay and Sagaing divisions up to now.

Selling and transporting of chicken, duck and eggs were temporarily prohibited in the disease-hit townships as soon as the flu broke out there.

Although the townships are still barred from doing inter-township trade of fowls and eggs, they are now permitted to conduct intra-township trade.

Poultry products were prohibited even in states and divisions free from avian flu. But now inter-region trade have been permitted in those states and divisions and they can transport fowls and eggs to the once affected townships. Up to yesterday, Shan State (South) transported sterilized 325,000 eggs to Mandalay and 107,000 sterilized eggs to Kyaukphadaung, and Ayeyawady Division transported 13,605 chicken, 320 ducks and 830,00 eggs to Yangon Division.

The products were transported under the permission of local authorities and bird flu control committee based on the certification of L B V D and regional laboratories.

The TV Myanmar is broadcasting and the dailies and weeklies are issuing control measures and instructions against the flu. As for the education campaign against the disease, flyers are being distributed and billboards erected. The L B V D will extend its field public education campaign and other related works in Shwebo and other regions in Sagaing Division with the assistance of Japanese government and in cooperation with U N I C E F and the Health Department.

MNA
Senegalese PM hopes to strengthen cooperation with China

Brussels, 27 April— Visiting Senegalese Prime Minister Macky Sall said here Wednesday that he hopes to further strengthen cooperation with China in various fields, on the basis of friendship, mutual respect, partnership and mutual support.

Sall said Senegal and China have maintained good relations since the resumption of diplomatic ties not long ago. The two sides conduct frequent high-level exchanges and increasing cooperation between companies. The bilateral relations show active momentum of development, he said.

China and Senegal resumed diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level on 25 October, 2005. Sall reiterated that the Senegalese Government and the Senegalese Democratic Party (SDP), the governing party, will continue to adhere to the one-China policy.

Sall, also deputy secretary-general of the SDP, is leading a SDP delegation on a one-day visit to China from 23 April to 1 May, at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Two bombers kill themselves in Egypt’s north Sinai

CAIRO, 27 April— Two men blew themselves up in Egypt’s north Sinai on Wednesday, one near an airport used by an international observer force and one near the northern town of El Arish, security sources said.

The bombs, which followed three deadly explosions in the east Sinai resort of Dahab on Monday, killed only the bombers, an Interior Ministry statement said.

It was not immediately clear if all the incidents were related but most members of the group blamed for attacks in Sinai over the past two years came from the El Arish area.

A spokesman for the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) group, which supervises the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, said the first bomber appeared to target two of its vehicles but there were no MFO injuries.

The second man blew himself next to a police car outside a police station in Sheikh Zuwayed, near the northern coast town of El Arish. The car was empty and there were no other casualties, the security sources said.

Straw praises China’s increasingly active role as global player

LONDON, 27 April— British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Wednesday praised China’s increasingly active role in international affairs.

"There are many examples of where China has shouldered its new responsibilities as a global player and bolstered the work of the international community," said Straw at a seminar discussing the rise of China at Smith Institute, a socio-economic think tank in London.

"China played a crucial role in stabilizing the markets in the Asian financial crisis of 1997. It is working with international partners on the challenge of avian flu," he said.

China has also played a very positive role in the six-party talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, and "can bring to the table a degree of political leverage" which no other country has, he added.

"Talking about China’s economy, Straw said China is "a fifth of humanity to the global economy", and has become such an integral part of the global economic landscape.

"There is always going to be a great deal of interest in China’s economic policies and progress. We need and want China to succeed. We need and want China to maintain political stability and to continue stable and sustainable growth," he said. Straw also hoped China to shoulder more responsibilities and play a leading role in world affairs as its weight builds and its impact around the globe gets deeper.
Good weather boosts Kenya’s March tea output

NAIROBI, 26 April — Kenya’s tea output for March rose to 19.8 million kilogrammes from 11.6 million kilogrammes compared to the previous month reversing the declining trend that had been experienced since the last quarter of 2005, tea regulators said on Tuesday.

The Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) attributed the increased production to favourable weather conditions in tea growing regions leading to the recovery of withered tea bushes. However, the board said the output for January-March lagged behind the output for the same period last year by 35.4 million kilogrammes due to the effects of the drought that was more pronounced during the first two months of the year. “In view of the ongoing rains, production for the April-June period is expected to surpass the output for the same period last year,” the board’s Managing Director Phrasia Mwangi said in a statement.

Small island countries need in-depth studies on climate change

PORT LOUIS, 27 April — Climate change research organizations have been urged to give more attention and to provoke in-depth studies on the impacts of climate change that can affect small island developing countries (SIDS) adversely.

Addressing the 25th plenary session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) opened on Wednesday in capital Port Louis of the island country Mauritius, Environment Minister of the country Anil Bachoo said the possible impacts of climate change on SIDS are currently not fully appreciated partly due to lack of information and detailed scientific research. — MNA/Xinhua

Guidebook useful for irritable bowel patients

NEW YORK, 27 April — Patients with irritable bowel syndrome can use a self-help guidebook to reduce the number of office visits, improve symptoms and lower health care costs, a new report suggests.

The findings suggest that primary care physicians should offer patients with functional abdominal symptoms information on what they can do to manage their condition, lead author Dr Andrew Pepys, of University College London, who headed the research team, said in an interview. Heart attack is a leading causes of death in developed countries. Patients often survive an attack but if there is extensive damage they are more likely to suffer heart failure.

“Reducing the immediate damage is thus critically important,” said Pepys, who reported the findings in the journal Nature.

In animal studies, Pepys and his team found the drug was effective in reducing the damage caused by the protein and produced no serious side effects. The researchers are in discussions with pharmaceutical companies and hope to begin human trials within a year.

The drug interferes with C reactive protein (CRP) which is produced in large amounts in the body after a heart attack.

When a person has a heart attack there is a dramatic rise or two. Everyone has CRP but it is normally at low levels.

At the moment, Pepys said, 420 patients, treated at 54 primary care centres, who were randomly assigned to receive a self-help guidebook, a guidebook plus a self-help meeting, or no extra care (control group).

New drug could reduce heart attack damage

LONDON, 27 April — A new drug that blocks a protein could reduce the damage and scarring caused by heart attacks, British scientists said on Wednesday.

The drug interferes with C reactive protein (CRP) which is produced in large amounts in the body after a heart attack.

“By blocking the protein we reduce the extent of damage in a heart attack, and that in turn reduces the size of the scar,” Professor Mark Pepys, of University College London, who headed the research team, said in an interview. Heart attack is a leading causes of death in developed countries. Patients often survive an attack but if there is extensive damage they are more likely to suffer heart failure.

Reducing the immediate damage is thus critically important,” said Pepys, who reported the findings in the journal Nature.

The researchers assessed the outcomes of 420 patients, treated at 54 primary care centres, who were randomly assigned to receive a self-help guidebook, a guidebook plus a self-help meeting, or no extra care (control group).

A new drug that blocks a protein could reduce the damage and scarring caused by heart attacks, British scientists said on Wednesday.

Cape Canaveral, (Florida), 27 April — An unmanned Russian cargo ship arrived at the International Space Station on Wednesday carrying 2-1/2 tons of supplies and an experimental satellite to test technologies for future space-based robotic telescopes.

The Progress spacecraft settled into a docking port on the station’s Zvezda module at 1:41 pm EDT (1741 GMT) as the outpost sailed 220 miles (350 kilometres) above the Mediterranean Sea, near the coast of Greece.

“Everything went very smoothly... absolutely no problems,” NASA commentator Rob Navias said from Mission Control Centre in Houston.

The cargo ship, which was launched Monday from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, was the first to arrive since the station’s new crew reached the orbital complex on 1 April.

A view of the Mount Lawu volcano, which is 10,712 feet (3,265 m) is seen from the Selo village, near Indonesia’s city of Boyolali, on 26April, 2006.— INTERNET.
Barcelona reach final in 0-0 draw against Milan

BARCELONA, 27 April — Barcelona reached the Champions League final for the first time in 12 years on Wednesday after a goalless home draw with six-times winners AC Milan sent them through deservedly 1-0 on aggregate.

Leading 1-0 courtesy of Ludovic Giuly’s goal in the San Siro, Ronaldinho-inspired Barcelona were in positive mood from the start but squandered a host of chances.

Dida saved well from Samuel Eto’o twice in the first 20 minutes, Juliano Belletti failed to connect in front of goal early in the second half and Dida did well to block a close-range header by substitute Henrik Larsson in the 75th.

The misses did not matter however, as Milan, seeking their third final appearance in four years, looked second best throughout.

Andriy Shevchenko put an early chance into the side netting and had a 69th-minute headed goal controversially ruled out for a push on Carlos Puyol that had the visiting bench protesting wildly.

But Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes did not have a serious save to make all night and the Italian side can have few complaints over the two legs.

In the 17 May Paris final Barcelona will meet Arsenal, who also advanced 1-0 on aggregate after a goalless draw at Villarreal on Tuesday, reaching the final for the first time.

Ferrero outsurgs Martin to reach last 16 in Barcelona

BARCELONA, 27 April — Former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero outslugged fellow Spaniard Alberto Martin 6-4, 7-6 to reach the Barcelona Open third round on Wednesday.

The 10th seed, runner-up to Rafael Nadal last year, was a break down at 4-3 in the first set but bounced back with three games in succession to move ahead.

Ferrero, the world number 28, led 3-0 in the second but Martin hit back to force a tiebreak for his compatriot to romp through 7-1.

Ferrero will next meet either another former French Open champion from Spain, Albert Costa, who is due to retire after the tournament, or eighth seed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia.

Ninth seed Tomas Berdych was a casualty, losing 7-6, 6-3 to unseeded Spaniard Albert Portas, while Finn Jarkko Nieminen and Russian Evgeny Korolev also reached the last 16.

Later on Wednesday, top seed and French Open champion Nadal begins the defence of his title with a second-round match against fellow Spaniard Feliciano Lopez.

China’s Wang Liqin returns the ball during a third-round match of Group A against Denmark’s Michael Maze at the 40th World Team Table Tennis Championships in Bremen, north Germany, on 26 April, 2006. China beat Denmark 3-0. —INTERNET

Chinese Taipei’s Kuo Hsing-I (L) and Yen Ching-Mei compete against Vietnam’s Tran Du Van during their women’s women’s doubles quarterfinal match at the 4th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, on 28 April, 2006. China beat Vietnam 3-0. —INTERNET

Lehmann shows Arsenal the stairway to heaven

LONDON, 27 April — Jens Lehmann’s dramatic late penalty save against Villarreal is further proof that Arsenal have been leading a charmed life in Europe.

Miserably in domestic football, where their cup campaigns ended long ago and only a UEFA Cup slot looks secure, Arsenal have become the first London club to reach a European...
"Storm warning"  
(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 28-4-2006)  

According to the observations at (12:00) hours MST today, severe cyclonic storm with Hurricane wind force over the East Central Bay is moving Northeast direction and is centred at about (215) miles Southwest of Pathein. It is now crossing some Deltiac areas and its center is forecast to cross the west coast of Rakhine State within next (24) hours commencing noon today.  

Under the influence of this storm, widespread rain or thundershowers are likely in Rakhine, Chin, Mon, Kayin, Northern Shan and Kachin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in some area. Maximum wind speed near the centre of the storm may reach about (150) mph and squall with rough seas are likely at times off and along Deltiac and Rakhine coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50-60) mph.  

On crossing the coast the storm surge height about (8-12) feet above normal tide are speed along the Rakhine western coastal areas.  

WEATHER  

Friday, 28 April, 2006  

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Division and isolated in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls. Cyclonic Storm Mala Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal and isolated of the remaining Rakhine State and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Chin State, about normal in lower Sagaing and Magway Division s and (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (41°C), Na Pyi Taw City and Aunglan (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall all recorded were Co Co Island (2.95) inches, Myinmu (2.80) inches, Monywa (2.45) inches, Pathein (1.18) inches, Kyaukpyu (1.06) inches and Nay Pyi Taw City (1.02). Maximum temperature on 27-4-2006 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 28-4-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 28-4-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 27-4-2006 was (4.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 28-4-2006 were (0.39) inch at Mingaladon, (0.43) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.63) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (0.55) inch at Mingaladon, (0.79) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.42) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Northwest at (00:30) hours MST on 28-4-2006.  

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:00) hours MST today, yesterday's cyclonic storm (Mala) has further intensified into severe cyclonic storm with Hurricane wind force and it is moving Northeast direction and is centered at about (215) miles southwest of Pathein. It is now crossing some Deltiac areas and its center is forecast to cross the west coast of Rakhine State within next (24) hours commencing noon today. Weather is cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.  

Forecast valid until evening of the 29-4-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered to widespread in the whole country with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).  

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Deltiac and Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50-60) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.  

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain or thundershowers in the coastal areas.  

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).  

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).  

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2006: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).  

Weather outlook for first weekend of May 2006: During the coming weekend, one or two rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw City, widespread rain or thundershowers in Yagon and Mandalay Divisions.
53,554 villages facilitated with self-reliant libraries in the country and 1,985 libraries in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 28 April — A ceremony to mark the opening of 1,985 self-reliant village libraries in Shan State (East), organized by the Ministry of Information, was held at Sibin Thayar Hall in Kengtung on 25 April, attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Mya-Thaung Thein Oo, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, departmental heads, local authorities, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, wellwishers and locals.

The commander said that the Information and Public Relations Department has set up self-reliant village libraries across the nation to enhance the knowledge of rural people. So far, 53,554 libraries have been set up in the township. In the previous year, 111 out of 223 candidates passed the matriculation examination with the pointed.

BEHS, two BEMSs, 37 BEPSs and four monastic education schools at which 180 teachers were appointed, 8,994 students are attending at one BEHS.

Soe explained progress of the township. In the basic education sector, 8,994 students are attending at one BEHS, two BEMSs, 37 BEPSs and four monastic education schools at which 180 teachers were appointed. In the previous year, 111 out of 223 candidates passed the matriculation examination with the pass rate 49.78 percent. A total of 345 eighth standard students are pursuing education B.E.M.S in Wamhsaw Model Village.

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At the same time, progress can be witnessed in all parts of the townships in Shan State. With prevalence of peace and stability, Wamhsaw Model Village of Mongshu Township located on Mongnaung-Mongshu Road is being equipped with development facilities.

On 24 March morning, a ceremony to hand over a new building measuring 120 feet by 30 feet to the Basic Education Middle School was held in Wamhsaw Model Village, attended by departmental officials and locals.

Mongshu Township Education Officer U Myint Soe explained progress of the township. In the basic education sector, 8,994 students are attending at one BEHS, two BEMSs, 37 BEPSs and four monastic education schools at which 180 teachers were appointed. In the previous year, 111 out of 223 candidates passed the matriculation examination with the pass rate 49.78 percent. A total of 345 eighth standard students are pursuing education B.E.M.S in Wamhsaw Model Village.

At self-reliant Armanthit Library in the village, the chairman of the library supervisory committee and the librarian accepted 100 assorted books donated by Lodlem District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Htwe Htwe Hla; 100 assorted periodicals by Daw Ohnma Myint of District Women’s Affairs Organization; novels and periodicals in Shan language and journals by Township USDA Joint-Secretary U Myo Min Aung; and 450 books by local people.

Afterwards, the collective physic nut plants growing ceremony followed. Members of USDA, MCWA and WAO and local people participated in growing physic nut plants. So far, Mongshu Township has put 235 acres under 8346900 physic nut saplings against the target of 5,500 acres. In nine townships of Lodlem District, physic nut plants have been cultivated on 8,791 acres of land against the target of 48,500 acres in 2006, and 45,267,460 saplings are kept at the nursery.

Shan, Lishaw, Lahu, Yinnet national races are residing in Wamhsaw Model Village, and they joyfully participate in traditional festivals.

Progress witnessed in Wamhsaw Model Village of Mongshu Township

YANGON, 28 April — With a view to bringing about equitable development in all main regions in Shan State, the Government has been setting up Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong as special development regions.

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U Sai Saung Si (a)
U Nelson resigns as member of SNLD and Pyithu Hluttaw

YANGON, 28 April — U Sai Saung Si (a) U Nelson (National Registration No-13/kamana (Naing) 009824), member of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and chairman of Kyaukme Township SNLD Central Executive Committee and member of Pyithu Hluttaw from Kyaukme Township Constituency-2 resigned from the party on the grounds that he no longer wanted to perform his duties at the party and he wished to participate in national and regional development tasks in cooperation with local authorities. He submitted copies of his resignation to Kyaukme Township SNLD Central Executive Committee, Kyaukme Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission and SNLD (Yangon) on 6 April 2006.

U Sai Saung Si had already put up his resignation to Pyithu Hluttaw Electric General Election Commission (Yangon) on 27 April. In the resignation letter, he mentioned that he resigned of his own accord from the member of Pyithu Hluttaw from Kyaukme Township Constituency-2.

In the letter sent to MDGEC, U Sai Saung Si said he attended the National Convention representing SNLD. He walked out of the NC in 1995-96 due to the decision of the party to boycott the convention. Since then he had been in disagreement with the party and believed that attending the convention is a correct decision for him. He mentioned he continued to support the National Convention. SNLD seems to give much reliance on external elements and to be associated with armed insurgent groups. Their acts can lead to the disintegration of national solidarity and the Union. In addition, the party is in no position to serve the interest of the regional people. Because of the above-mentioned reasons, he said, he resigned from the SNLD and as a member of Pyithu Hluttaw.