Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, scholarships and Pakokku Library Book Award presented for 2008

YANGON, 30 March—The prize presentation for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, scholarships and Pakokku Library Book Award for 2008 was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Patron of Fund Supervisory Committee for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein gave a speech.

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prize to Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-long Literary Award winner Dr Kyaw Sein.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented prizes to Dr Kyaw Sein (Dr Kyaw Sein) winner of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-long Literary Award. The Minister presented first, second and third prizes to Aung Tha Hsan (Thandwe) for “Tay-thu-inget es-pat-paung-ta-ya-ka-bya-zyu”, Maung Saw Tun (Kyaungheton) for “Amay-ywa-kinw-achar-ka-byar-myar” and Aphyaukmyay Maung Swe Mon for “Yay-chan-ta-khwe-pa-tan-kyat” in collected poems genre and second and third prizes to Min Zeya for “Nge-thaw-hla-thi” and Paung (Hlaingthit) for “Plastic-hwe-ga-kya-ti-bwint” in novel genre.

Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay presented first, second and third prizes to Ma Kyu Kyu Swe (Yangon University of National Culture and Fine Arts), Maung Pyi Phyo Aung (Mandalay UCNFA), Maung Phyo Pyi Sone Nyein (Monywa University), Ma Theint Theint Phyo, Maung Hin Lin Aung and Ma Nilar Tun of (Yadanaibon University).

(See page 8)

Educative talks on health 4 April

YANGON, 30 March—Talks on Antioxidant & Your Health will be held at Myanmar Fishery Federation on Bayinthaung Road in Insein Township on 4 April.

Specialist Prof Dr Khin Maung Win will give talks and any one may attend the talks sponsored by Zifam Company.

MNA

Video games, cell phones and academic performance: Some good news

BARCELONA, 30 March — Using cell phones and playing video games may not be as harmful to children’s academic performance as previously believed, according to new research by a team of Michigan State University scholars.

In fact, cell phones had no effect on academic performance as previously believed, according to new research by a team of Michigan State University scholars.

And while the researchers found a strong relationship between video games and lower grade point averages, playing video games did not appear to affect math skills and had a positive relationship with visual-spatial skills.

Internet
Extend cultivation of paddy and other crops

As the economy of Myanmar is based on agriculture, the government, with a view to boosting productivity of the agriculture sector, is trying its utmost to fulfill all the requirements. Needless to say, water is a sine qua non for agriculture. Therefore, dams, sluice gates and diversion weirs are being built wherever possible.

Paunglaung diversion weir constructed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation near Thitseintpin village in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township was commissioned into service on 25 March. The purpose of the diversion weir is to irrigate farmland with the water that has been used in generating electricity.

Paunglaung diversion weir was built by damming the river downstream from the Paunglaung dam. The diversion weir can irrigate, through its left and right canals, about 35,000 acres of farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Yedashe townships for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops all the year round.

Now that Paunglaung diversion weir has been built, monsoon and summer paddy, sugarcane, corn, sesame and such beans as green gram and chick pea can be grown in villages along the canals of the weir.

Thanks to the construction of more dams, sluice gates and canals across the nation, irrigated acreage of farmland and production of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. As a result, the income of farmers has increased and their living standard of crops is increasing. 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Internet

United States top the world with 250 million firearms owned privately. Loose gun control has made the country a hotbed for gun-related crimes.

Fatal shootings in US since July 2008

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 31 March, 2009 3

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BEIJING, 30 March — A gunman stormed a nursing home in Carthage, NC, Sunday morning, fatally shooting eight people and injuring three others, including a police officer.

The United States top the world with 250 million firearms owned privately. Loose gun control has made the country a hotbed for gun-related crimes.

The following are major shooting incidents happened in the United States in the past eight months.

2008:
27 July — One person was killed and eight others were wounded as a man opened fire inside a church with a shotgun in the city of Knoxville, Tennessee.
1 Aug — A gunman took the lives of three teenagers and injured another near Menominee River in northern Wisconsin.
13 Aug — A man forced his way into the Arkansas Democratic headquarters and fatally shot state party chairman Bill Gwatsne.
2 Sept — Six people were shot dead and two were wounded in a series of shooting incidents in Washington State.
16 Oct — One high-school student was killed and three were seriously injured when a gunman shot at them near their school in Detroit, Michigan.
26 Oct — Two people were killed and one was injured in a shooting incident at the University of Central Arkansas.
23 Nov — A teenager shot dead a young man in a shopping mall in suburban Seattle. One person was also seriously injured.
14 Dec — A man dressed in a Santa Claus costume barged into a Christmas Eve party in Covina, a Los Angeles suburb, and opened fire, killing nine people before taking his own life.
2009:
24 Jan — Two people were killed and seven others wounded in a gun shooting spree by unidentified assailants in a house in Wichita, Kansas.
On the same day, two teenagers died and seven others were injured when a gunman opened fire at a group of students outside a nightspot in Portland, Oregon.
24 Feb — At least seven people were injured in a gun shooting incident at the New Orleans’ Mardi Gras festival.
10 March — A gunman killed 10 people and himself in a hour-long rampage in Alabama that left his mother, grandmother and other relatives dead.
15 March — In a vicious shooting case that happened in Miami, the gunman shot four people to death and committed suicide. —Internet

US, Iraqi troops clash with anti-Qaeda group in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 March — Iraqi security forces backed by US troops fought Sunday sporadic clashes with a local Awakening Council group members in a central Baghdad Sunni enclave, police and witnesses said. Since Sunday morning, the troops have tried to restore control in the Sunni neighbourhood of Fadel, a former stronghold for al-Qaeda militants, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Residents in the neighborhood said that US armoured vehicles and Iraqi military trucks deployed in the key crossings of the neighbourhood and frequently sent a message to local residents by loudspeakers, ordering them to hand over weapons by midday. —Internet

Kurdish rebel leader in Iraq vows not to disarm

SULAIMANIYAH, 30 March — The military chief of Kurdish rebels launching attacks into Turkey from hideouts in Iraq said his group will not lay down its arms until there is a political settlement between the Turkish government and the militants, according to an audio tape released on Saturday.

Murat Karayilan’s audio recording, sent to Iraqi Kurdish journalists, came less than a week after Iraqi President Jalal Talabani called on the Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK, stop fighting or leave Iraq.

“Our weapons are necessary because we are not dealing with a state that believes in democracy,” Karayilan said in the tape. “We are dealing with a state ruled by military generals. To abandon our arms without a political solution to our issues means suicide.” —Internet

Suicide attack kills eight, wounds six in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 March — A suicide attack rocked Dand district of Kandahar province in south Afghanistan Monday, killing eight persons and injuring six others, Zalmai Ayubi the spokesman for provincial administration said.

“The terrorist entered the headquarters of Dand district around 11:50 am and blew himself up, killing eight persons including two police and six civilians,” Ayubi told Xinhua.

He also added that six more persons, including police chief and district chief of Dand were injured in the blast.
Japan factory output dives 9.4 percent in February

TOKYO, 30 March—Japan’s industrial output plunged for a fifth straight month in February as companies slashed production amid recession at home and in its major export markets, official data showed on Monday.

Factory production in Asia’s biggest economy dropped 9.4 percent from the previous month as demand for Japan’s cars, televisions and other high-tech goods has dried up, the trade and industry ministry reported.

The reading was worse than a market forecast of a 9.0 percent decline. Production had fallen a record 10.2 percent in January as the global downturn has battered Japan’s exports, forcing its manufacturers to lay off thousands of workers and idle plants.

“Overall, industrial production is dropping quickly,” with passenger cars, small vehicles and auto parts as well as chip-making machinery declining the most, the ministry said.

On a brighter note, production is expected to pick up as inventories run low, with the ministry forecasting a 2.9 percent rise for March and a 3.1 percent increase in April, based on the manufacturers’ own forecasts.

But the ministry remained cautious in its predictions for the world’s number two economy, where exports halved last month and which is believed to be on course for its worst recession since World War II.—INTERNET

With Mexico’s army in the war on drugs

REYNOSA, 30 March—Acting on a tip, 30 masked soldiers in combat gear burst down the door of a boarded-up house to find 55 terrified migrants, hostages of the Gulf drug cartel.

Amid screams and the smell of urine and sweat, they find a blood-spattered room and a nail-encrusted log used to beat the captives and extort money from their families: $3,000 each.

Five suspected kidnappers are hauled off in a military truck, including the alleged leader — the son of a local police officer.

The Associated Press spent five days on the front line of Mexico’s drug war, embedded with the army’s 8th Division in Tamaulipas state, one of many organized-crime hotspots now policed by 45,000 troops nationwide. Launched by President Felipe Calderon in December 2006, the army is Mexico’s last and best hope to gain control over drug cartels and spiraling organized-crime hotspots now policed by 45,000 troops embedded with the army’s line of Mexico’s drug war, embedded with the army’s

 Eight killed in shooting spree at US nursing home

WASHINGTON, 30 March—A gunman stormed a nursing home in Carthage, North California, on Sunday morning, fatally shooting eight people and injuring three others, including a police officer, police said.

The gunman, identified as Robert Stewart, 45, was wounded and apprehended at the scene, Maureen Krueger, a local District Attorney, told reporters.

The shooting happened around 10 am eastern time (1400 GMT) at Pine lake Health and Rehab Centre, a five-star, 90-bed rehabilitation, nursing and Alzheimer’s care facility, according to Carthage Police Chief Chris McKenzie.

Those killed including a nurse and 7 patients, ranged in age from 78 to 98.

After the attack, six people were taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital. Justin Garner, a police officer, was among the wounded. He was the first police officer at the scene to confront Stewart.

Officials said without Garner’s action, the tragedy could be worse, because the gunman was shooting randomly room after room at the time.

Local officials were stunned by the magnitude of the violence. “This doesn’t happen in Carthage, this is brand new to us,” said Carol Sparks, the town manager. “Everybody right now is in a state of shock. I am too.” Carthage has a population of some 2,000 people.—MAN/INTERNET

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25 killed in Sri Lanka sea battle

COLOMBO, 30 March—At least 24 Tamil Tiger rebels and a navy sailor were killed in a major sea battle off Sri Lanka’s northeast coast on Monday, a navy spokesman said.

Government forces sank four boats of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) off the coast of Mullaittivu, spokesman D K P Dassanayake said.

He said one sailor was killed and three more wounded in the sea battle.

The battle came as ground troops stepped up attacks against the Tigers who have been cornered in a narrow strip of jungle in Mullaittivu.

Stressful 25-year-old man died

CAIRO, 30 March—A stress-tired man died in the country’s overcrowded prisons, according to Carthage Chief Chris McKenzie.

The 25-year-old man was found dead on Monday morning in the prison’s infirmary, where he had been held for 10 years. McKenzie said the man was suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and had been under a great deal of stress.

McKenzie said the man’s death was a tragedy for his family, who had been waiting for him to be released for 10 years. —INTERNET

IDB President highly appraises China’s entry

Medellin, 30 March—President of the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB) Luis Alberto Moreno has said that he was very satisfied with China’s entry into the IDB.

“Without doubts, China is very important for the world economy, not only for it production and commerce, but also for its monetary reserves, which are three times more than those of the European Union,” Moreno said.

Moreno pointed out that “China has a clear goal in Latin America and the Caribbean, with which it has a growing commerce that has been multiplied by three times in the last 10 years.” Moreno also stressed that “the IDB has great knowledge on Latin American countries and that is what China needs for its insertion.”

The IDB will soon start cooperation with the People’s Bank of China, or the central bank, and other Chinese financial institutions, Moreno said.

China promised to make a contribution of 350 million US dollars to the IDB to be used on economic and social development programmes.

INTERNET

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The battle came as ground troops stepped up attacks against the Tigers who have been cornered in a narrow strip of jungle in Mullaittivu.
Indonesia speeds up infrastructure projects developments

JAKARTA, 30 March—Indonesia’s Public Work Ministry accelerates building 12 prioritized infrastructure projects, including toll roads and bridges, which could create massive jobs and boost the real estate sector, a paper said here on Monday.

A Director at the Ministry Hermanto Dardak quoted by Bisnis Indonesia as saying that the speed-up of the projects aimed at cushion the impact of the global financial routs.

“A new road can step up economic activities by six times,” he said.

The projects of roads were to be accomplished this year, including mega bridge connecting Java island and Madura island, and toll road of Bogor Ring Road, said Dardak.

The government has launched over 6.2 billion US dollars stimulus package to finance huge infrastructure projects.

The country’s economy is predicted to grow between 4 to 4.5 percent this year.

Tainted pepper recalled in California

LOS ANGELES, 30 March—The California government has ordered a recall of pepper tainted with salmonella after at least 33 people fell ill after eating the pepper, health officials confirmed on Sunday.

The tainted pepper was traced to spices from a San Francisco Bay Area food company, a Union City firm that distributes most of its pepper to Asian restaurants, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Most of the 33 sick people found in California were in northern and central parts of the state, although nine additional cases were found in other states, the CDPH said.

The products do not have lot or batch numbers, but bear the “Lion How Brand” label. They include the company’s entire product line, including ground or whole peppercorns of the white, black and cayenne varieties, chopped onion and onion powder, and chopped, minced or granulated garlic, the CDPH said.

Lion How Brand powder and mustard powder should also not be eaten, the CDPH said, adding that further investigation was still underway.

The company cannot be reached for comment. —Xinhua

Missile BrahMos test fired at India’s Pokharan

NEW DELHI, 30 March—India Sunday successfully test fired a new version of its supersonic surface-to-surface cruise missile BrahMos at Pokharan in the deserts of the western Indian state of Rajasthan, a senior Indian Defence Ministry official said.

“The Block II version of BrahMos missile, which has a striking range of 290 km, successfully made to its target in exactly two-and-a-half minutes after its was launched in Pokhran at around 11:00 am (0530 GMT),” the official said, on condition of anonymity.—Xinhua

Five Taleban insurgents killed by self-planted bombs in Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 March — Five Taleban insurgents were killed as the mines planted by themselves exploded pre-maturely in Khost province east of Afghanistan on Monday, a local official said.

Today at 5:00 am local time (GMT0030) when Taleban militants were planting mines in two parts of a road in Sabari district but both the mines went off pre-maturely leaving five rebels dead and injured two others,” Daulat Khan Qayumi the district chief of Sabari told Xinhua.

Taleban militants have not made comment so far.

The militants who staged a violent comeback four years ago have vowed to speed up attacks mostly in the shape of roadside bombings and suicide attacks this year in Afghanistan. —Xinhua

Brazil, China to cooperate in developing genetically-modified cassavas

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 March — Brazil and China signed this week an agreement on cooperation in researches to develop genetically-modified cassavas, announced the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) on Friday.

The agreement aims to develop cassavas that contain more glucose and less starch which can be used in the production of ethanol, the Embrapa said in a statement.—Xinhua

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The company cannot be reached for comment. —Xinhua

Missile BrahMos test fired at India’s Pokharan

NEW DELHI, 30 March—India Sunday successfully test fired a new version of its supersonic surface-to-surface cruise missile BrahMos at Pokharan in the deserts of the western Indian state of Rajasthan, a senior Indian Defence Ministry official said.

“The Block II version of BrahMos missile, which has a striking range of 290 km, successfully made to its target in exactly two-and-a-half minutes after its was launched in Pokhran at around 11:00 am (0530 GMT),” the official said, on condition of anonymity.—Xinhua

A German policeman detains a demonstrator during a protest in Berlin, on 28 March, 2009. Thousands of demonstrators gathered in Berlin and Frankfurt to protest against globalization and deepening global recession. —Xinhua

CDPH said, adding that further investigation was still underway.

The tainted pepper was traced to spices from a San Francisco Bay Area food company, a Union City firm that distributes most of its pepper to Asian restaurants, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Most of the 33 sick people found in California were in northern and central parts of the state, although nine additional cases were found in other states, the CDPH said.

The products do not have lot or batch numbers, but bear the “Lion How Brand” label. They include the company’s entire product line, including ground or whole peppercorns of the white, black and cayenne varieties, chopped onion and onion powder, and chopped, minced or granulated garlic, the CDPH said.

Lion How Brand powder and mustard powder should also not be eaten, the CDPH said, adding that further investigation was still underway.

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A German policeman detains a demonstrator during a protest in Berlin, on 28 March, 2009. Thousands of demonstrators gathered in Berlin and Frankfurt to protest against globalization and deepening global recession. —Xinhua
Australian biker shot in gang war

Sydney, 30 March—An Australian Hells Angel whose brother was bluffe-d to death at Sydney airport was under guard in hospital Monday after being shot late Sunday outside his Sydney home and was in a stable condition in hospital. News reports said the victim was Peter Zervas, whose brother Anthony was beaten to death at Sydney airport on March 22 during a brawl that simmered tensions between biker gangs explode into public violence.

The commander of the New South Wales Police Gangs Squad, superintendent Mal Lanyon, said there was little doubt the gunman was from a biker gang.

“I think it’s probably realistic that we will be looking at other motorcycle gangs,” he told ABC radio.

Lanyon said he was concerned at reports biker gangs were stockpiling weapons and bringing members of overseas chapters to Australia as reinforcements. Internet

Spider found at grocery likely not lethal

A spider found in a Tulsa grocery store might not have been as deadly as initially thought.

The spider, spotted in a shipment of bananas at Whole Foods, was taken on Sunday to the University of Tulsa, where animal facilities manager Terry Childs identified it as a Brazilian wandering spider, considered one of the most lethal in the world. But Barry Downer, the curator of aquariums and herpetology at the Tulsa Zoo, said video and photos he had seen of the spider led him to believe that it was a Huntsman spider, which is harmless to humans.

“There’s pretty definitive evidence it has been misidentified,” Downer said.

Childs said Wednesday night that he destroyed the spider at the urging of a TUI administrator because of safety concerns.

Downer said the spider should have been preserved for study, but he was told that the body would not be made available.

“It doesn’t make any sense to me why it wouldn’t be saved,” he said.

A school spokesman said on Thursday that the university is looking into how and why the spider was destroyed.

Richard Grantham, director of the plant disease and insect diagnostics lab at Oklahoma State University, also said the spider should not have been destroyed.

News album

Kangaroos “on the run” in France

Panic gripped Australian theme park in southern France when 15 kangaroos were found missing Saturday.

While 13 kangaroos were found on Sunday following a major search operation, three marsupials are still at large.

“When we arrived on Saturday morning, five pens had been broken open, their paddocks were smashed and the perimeter fence was torn in several places,” said Carole Masson, owner of the nature reserve in southwestern Carcassonne. “We had 15 missing kangaroos — it was complete panic,” she said.

Obama conditions bailout funds for automakers

WASHINGTON, 30 March—The White House says neither General Motors nor Chrysler submitted acceptable plans to receive more bailout money, setting the stage for a crisis in Detroit and putting in motion what could be the final two months of two American auto giants.

President Barack Obama and his top advisors have determined that neither company is viable and that taxpayers will not spend untold billions more to keep the pair of automakers open forever.

In a last-ditch effort, the administration gave each company a brief deadline to try one last time to convince Washington it is worth saving, said senior administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to more bluntly discuss the decision.

Obama was set to make the announcement at 11 am Monday in the White House’s foyer.

In an interview with CBS’ “Face the Nation” broadcast Sunday, Obama said the companies must do more to receive additional financial aid from the government.

Women, 84, rescues 5-year-old boy from river

An 84-year-old woman rescued a 5-year-old boy who was pushed into a river in Inman, Shandong province.

As he played on a small bridge in Lanxi village, one of his friends pushed Yu Hang into the river.

Wu rushed into the river and pulled the boy to the riverbank. She was exhausted after the episode was over and had to be fetched home by other villagers.

The boy and Wu have become close friends.

Easter egg designer Regina Schilling presents one of her miniature works, a painted zebra finch egg, at the 19th Easter Egg Art Market in Dresden. Some 40 artists present over 5,000 decorated eggs at the event, which runs through.
Let’s cultivate a good habit of reading

Kyaw Oo Swe

Therefore, in that regard, the Head of State has given guidance on development of libraries. In line with the guidance, the Ministry of Information made strenuous efforts for success of the drive through the opening of altogether 55,755 self-reliant rural libraries throughout the nation. In the process, it has had to carry out the five tasks, namely, acquisition of building and land for perpetuation of libraries, facilitating the libraries with furniture, developing the reading habit among rural people, maintenance of books and publications in the libraries and raising the library funds. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information is now taking steps for acquisition of the internationally recognized ISSN and ISBN to infiltrate the literary markets at home and abroad. However, it is likely that the government alone is incapable of carrying that task and so are those from the literary world alone. This being so, who will cooperate in what way in this regard?

It is obvious that the three main pillars, namely, human resources capable of maintaining the libraries, raising the funds and management are a must for perpetual existence of rural libraries.

People’s Republic of China and India hold the book promotion ceremonies in their efforts to develop the reading habits among their people. In Myanmar, there are some businessmen and entrepreneurs who are interested in literature, literary enthusiasts and literati who can afford money. And they are making efforts for development of Myanmar literature. They held the literary award and manuscript award presentation ceremonies of Pakokku U Ohn Pe, Tun Foundation, Thuta Sweson and Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary and Manuscript Award. Nowadays, one should not be content with the holding of such ceremonies but he should aim to cultivate the reading habits among the people as a national concern so that the latter can keep pace with changes and developments. Therefore, literary foundations and organizations are to be established through the concerted efforts of librarians, literati and entrepreneurs for development of human resources capable of managing the libraries, raising the library funds and management for perpetual existence of rural libraries. Having contacted with the regional and international literary organizations, those foundations and organizations are to successfully implement the drive for development of their literature and libraries in all seriousness. In the meantime, they are to engage in the drive for cultivating the reading habits among the youths and children. In the process, they are to give priority to developing the reading habits among the school-age children in both urban and rural regions while opening more libraries in schools, raising the library funds, developing human resources and transforming the self-reliant libraries into the e-libraries. They should develop the reading habits by organizing the reading contests, the book talks and the literary talks and setting up of reading camp, creative poetry picture book and story hour. It is a high time to launch the mass activities at national level to develop the reading habits among the people made up of the foundations, organizations and publishers.

In conclusion, businessmen and entrepreneurs who are financially strong and social organizations are to make concerted efforts individually or in groups for expanding the literary market and cultivating the reading habits among the people. It has already been stated in the introduction that each and every one needs to have strong spiritual resistance so that the language, literature, culture and customs of the State and the people do not fade away and disappear. Thus, the entire national people are to be convinced of the fact that the developing of the reading habits is a high time to launch the mass activities at national level to develop the reading habits among the people made up of the foundations, organizations and publishers.

To make the literary market more successful, discussions, paper reading sessions, workshops and foreign tours are to be conducted.

(Continued from yesterday)

As a matter of fact, the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council at the Fourth Conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held in July 2006 had already stressed the need for those engaged in printing, publishing and distribution of books and publications to serve the interest of the State and the people, and also at the national literary award and Sarpay Berikman manuscript award presentation ceremonies held yearly by the government, he spoke of the need for them to cooperate with writers and journalists in nation-building endeavours. Moreover, the Minister for Information, whenever he met with CEC members of the Myanmar Writers and Journalist Association and Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association, stressed the need of serving the national interest and fulfilled the requirements for development of the literary world and of those in the literary world.

With regard to making the literary market more successful and equipping the people with the reading habit, the following is the excerpt from the address made by the Minister for Information at the Fourth Conference of MJWA held on 28 June 2008:

“IT is required for the literary world to make progress only making efforts for development of those from the literary world. And it is required for the literary market to make progress in striving for development of the literary world. To make the literary market more successful, discussions, paper reading sessions, workshops and foreign tours are to be conducted. It is due to the fact that 70 per cent of the population reside in rural regions. However, the literary market is still growing only among urban people. Therefore, for development of the literary market, the literary world and those from the literary world, it is required to cultivate the reading habit among the readers. And it is our belief that only when the rural people are fully equipped with the reading habit, will the literary market and the literary world develop.”

It can be deduced from the excerpt from the address made by the Minister for Information that those from the literary world are required to equip the rural people with the reading habit, will the literary market and the literary world develop. However, it is found that in the past there were a small number of libraries in rural regions. It was due to the fact that books and publications could not be bought owing to lack of funds, there were no human resources that can manage libraries, it was devoid of reading facilities for local people and students and financial constraints.

Likewise, lack of reading habit among the people would result in the decline of literary market, for they were in no position to collect books that are worth reading. With an increase in the demand for books on entertaining, publishers and producers are desirous of making investment in those books. As a result, there are hardly any publishers who publish informative and knowledgeable books. Actually, publishing of informative and knowledgeable books, extension of the literary market and equipping the people with the reading habit are interdependent.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 31 March, 2009
Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win presented outstanding awards in Myanmar and English to Maung Phyo Min Han of No 5 Basic Education High School in Botahtaung Township, Ma Phyo Thinza Khin and Maung Aye Chan Kyaw Kyaw of No 2 BEHS in Pathein, Ma May Thu Zaw of No 1 BEHS in Myitkyina, Maung Kyaw Zin and Ma Barani Soe Soe of No 1 BEHS in Mohnyin.

Managing Director of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint presented outstanding awards in mathematics, chemistry and physics to Ma Hsu Yi Hnin of No 2 BEHS in Yankin, Ma May Thu Kyaw of No 6 BEHS in Pathein, Maung Phyo Aung Kyaw of No 1 BEHS in Latha and Ma Wai Mon Aung of No 1 BEHS in PyiOoLwin.

Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win presented outstanding awards in biology, economics, geography, history and optional Myanmar to Maung Phyo Aung Kyaw of No 1 BEHS in Latha, Maung Pyi Shan Aung of No 1 BEHS in Zalun, Ma Yin Yin Than of BEHS in Gangaw, Maung Myo Pyu of BEHS in Hopin and Ma Thet Hnin Wai of Kangyidaunk Township.

U Tint Swe, Chairman of Pakokku Library Committee explained the presentation of the prizes. Dr Kyaw Sein spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, the minister and guests had documentary photos taken together with the award winners.—MNA

Scholarship, academic matters discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—A coordination meeting on selection of candidates from Universities of Medicine for FRCP scholarship, post-graduate medical courses and chances for specialists was held at the hall of the University of Medicine-1, Yangon, on 22 March, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Rectors and faculty members of medical universities from Yangon and Mandalay reported on selection of candidates for FRCP and academic matters for the subject-wise post-graduate courses.

After attending to the needs, the minister gave concluding remarks.—MNA

Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint speaks at the coordination meeting on selection of candidates from Universities of Medicine for FRCP scholarship.—MNA

Natural disaster prevention management course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—The opening of natural disaster prevention management course No 3/2009 of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at Kyaukpyu District Red Cross Society in Rakhine State today.

Director-General U Than Oo of the Relief and Resettlement Department made an opening address. At the course, the instructors will lecture subjects on disaster prevention. A total of 58 trainees of Kyaukpyu District are attending the 5-day course.—MNA
YANGON, 30 March—A ceremony to honour those who have participated in the committees for successful realization of the objectives of the Ministry of Information was held at the Studio-A of Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road here at 11 am today with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, advisors, literati and artistes who have participated in the committees for successful realization of the objectives of the Ministry of Information, guests and service personnel and others.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information is discharging the two main duties, namely, news and information duty and duty concerning literature and fine arts, adding that it is making all-out efforts in the process of changing news and information sectors for the better both in form and essence.

He said that the ministry is trying its utmost for development of Myanmar literature and those from the literary field while striving for Myanmar literature to achieve international prominence. Meanwhile, it is making relentless efforts together with film and video artistes for the development of film and video fields so that they keep pace with changes and developments, he noted.

The ministry has recognized the active participation of literati, musicians and artistes in the successful realization of its objectives, he said and stressed the need for officials concerned to strive for Myanmar literature to achieve international prominence and to prevent the influence of media that can harm Myanmar culture and national interest. In the same way, concerted efforts are to be exerted for expanding the film and video markets, qualitative improvement of films and videos and development of film and video worlds, he said.

In conclusion, the minister urged those present to make well-coordinated efforts for cultivating the reading habits among the entire people including those from rural regions and for the emergence of organizations and foundations capable of ensuring the perpetual existence of the already established self-reliant rural libraries.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented cash awards to Vice-Chairman of the National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee (2006-2007) U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), on behalf of the committee members, to Chairman of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscripts Award Scrutiny Committee (2006-2007) U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), on behalf of the committee members, to Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Scrutiny Committee (2007-2010) U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), on behalf of the committee members, to member of the Board of Judges for Myanmar Motion Picture Standard, 2007 Motion Picture Censorship Group and Video Censorship Group Daw Po Po Kyi (Po Po Kyi-Law), on behalf of the group members, to Chairman of the MRTV Classical Song Scrutiny Committee, the Modern Song Scrutiny Committee and Myanmar Classical Song Scrutiny Committee Bogale Tint Aung, on behalf of the committee members and to Chairman of Myanmar References Compiling Committee U Thaw Kaung (Thaw Kaung), on behalf of the committee members.

Afterwards, member of the MRTV Classical Song Scrutiny Committee, the Modern Song Scrutiny Committee and Myanmar Classical Song Scrutiny Committee U Maung Maung Latt (Naung), on behalf of the artistes, spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the Minister for Information cordially greeted those present on the occasion. —MNA

Kite Festival-2009 concludes

YANGON, 30 March—The Prize presenting ceremony of 5th Kite Festival for 2009 organized by Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation was held at Inya Lake Hotel here on 28 March, attended by secretary general of Myanmar Olympic Committee director general of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik.

The director-general and personnel from Myanmar Women Sports Federation and Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation presented prizes to winners of the competition in respective categories. —MNA

New earth road opened in Pakokku

YANGON, 30 March—Anant Makyigan-Phalan Oh earth road of Pakokku Township constructed by Pakokku Township Development Committee was opened on 26 March, as a gesture to mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day for 2009.

U Tin Maung Soe, chairman of the district Peace and Development Council officially opened the new road which is 5,120 feet long and 12 feet wide, contributing to smooth transport for 8 villages of 6 village-tracts. —MNA

Women publishers hold book sales

YANGON, 30 March—The book sales of women publishers is in progress at Lawkanal Art Gallery on Pansodan Lower Block here.

Books on various categories published by Books of famous authors are on sale. —MNA

Women publishers hold book sales

Pyone, Zun Pwint, Nay Yi Yi, Yan Aung and Yan Aung-2, Kan Kaw Wityi, Bagan and Myo Sat Thit Publishing Houses are on sale, at a discount of 10 to 30 percent. The book sales which is held for forth time will continue up to 5 April. —MNA

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The construction of the diversion weir started in 2005-06. The diversion weir was built to minimize the wastage of water that flows out from the hydropower generating and to supply water to 35,000 acres of farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Yedashe Townships. The diversion weir is located on Paunglaung River 11 miles downstream of Paunglaung Dam. Each main canal is over 29 miles long. The left canal will irrigate 16,000 acres of farmland and the right one, 19,000 acres of farmland. In building the diversion weir, efforts were made for construction of the afflux bund for prevention against flooding at the villages on its right side. The bund is over 20,000 feet long across Paunglaung River. Moreover, Assistant Director (Mechanical) U Tun Aung Naing explained, “The mechanical engineers participated in the construction of the bund with the use of heavy rocks to block the flow of water. After completion of both right and left canals, the river has been unblocked. Workers repaired the machines as quickly as possible for timely completion of the construction tasks. If they were not able to carry out maintenance work, the damaged machinery were sent back to the workshop. About 100 mechanics, technicians and workers discharged their duties. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, we strove for completion of the tasks as scheduled.”

After completion of both main and two four feet by six feet valves, and the sluice gate has two four feet wide and 15 feet high, the diversion weir is 750 feet long. The sluice gate has two four feet by six feet valves and one six square feet valve and two four feet by six feet valves. The diversion weir can irrigate 35,000 acres of farmlands and it has 29.72 miles long main canal, 29.35 miles long right main canal and 12.73 miles long tributary canals.

It was estimated that the project was implemented by spending K 16,143.526 million on construction tasks. Actually, the irrigation facility that can increase the yield of agricultural produce and individual income of the local farmers will contribute to the uplift of living standard of the local people.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
29-3-2009
US soldier guilty in killing of four Iraqis in 2007

VILSECK (Germany), 30 March—A military court convicted a second US soldier of murder in the execution-style slayings of four bound and blindfolded Iraqi detainees in 2007 after the soldier pleaded guilty at his court-martial Monday.

Wearing his dress uniform and speaking crisply and confidently, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Mayo of Fort Bragg, NC, pleaded guilty to charges of premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder at the proceedings at the US Army’s Rose Barracks in southern Germany.

He pleaded not guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice in the incident, which occurred while he was deployed to Iraq. Military prosecutors dropped that charge.

The 27-year-old will be sentenced later Monday for a charge of手機 he was deployed to Iraq. Military prosecutors dropped that charge.

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INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL goes fly in Vietnam

HANOI, 30 March — The International Kite Festival, held for the first time in Vietnam, concluded on Sunday, attracting kite artisans from 17 counties and regions, the Vietnam News reported on Monday.

Germany took the prize for youngest participants, Argentina, Spain and Brazil attracted clowns from France, Switzerland, Argentina, Spain and Brazil,...—XINHUA
Brazilian researcher finds maternal milk polluted with toxic chemical

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 March—A Brazilian researcher has found a presence of a high toxic chemical in samples of maternal milk in some Brazilian cities, due to the environmental pollution.

Claudia Hoffmann Kowalski Schroder made the research as part of her PhD project for the Food Engineering Faculty (FEA) in University of Campinas (Unicamp), the university reported on its website on Sunday. The Hoffmann found tracks of “Poly-chlorinated biphenyl” (PCB) in most of the 200 samples of maternal milk taken in seven states of Brazil.

The biggest accumulation of PCB was found in the samples from Sao Paulo, most populated and polluted state of Brazil. The PCB are synthetic chlorinated hydrocarbons which threat the quality of maternal milk, the best food for newborns. Since organs of infants are still in developing phases during the nursing, the presence of the PCB in maternal milk has unpredictable consequences.—Internet

Dust in Antarctic ice may help understand past climates

LONDON, 30 March—Ancient dust trapped deep in Antarctic ice sheets may come from South America and help uncover details of past climate change, a new study said on Sunday.

Dust deposition in Antarctic ice sheets was much higher during the last ice age, but the causes of this flux have long been unclear, researchers from universities of Edinburgh, Stirling and Lille, wrote in the journal Nature-Geoscience.

Their study, however, shows that the coldest periods of the past 80,000 years correspond with the dustiest periods in Antarctica’s past.

At that time, glaciers in Patagonia were at their biggest and dust from them was blown across the ocean to Antarctica, they said. During warming periods, dust was trapped in melt water which ran into lakes at the edge of the ice, so less dust was blown south to Antarctica. Dust from the ice cores was analyzed and found to be a close match with mud of the same age in the Magellan Straits, the researchers said, showing that most of the dust originated in this region.—Internet

An aerial view shows homes on the southside of Fargo, North Dakota in the Briarwood neighbourhood surrounded by flood waters on 29 March, 2009. A dike holding back the swollen Red River failed early on and swamped a school in Fargo, North Dakota, but a backup dike contained the spill as cold weather favored flood fighting and evacuation efforts.—INTERNET

Gene found to suppress skin cancer

WASHINGTON, 30 March—US researchers said on Sunday they had identified an enzyme gene that suppresses tumor growth in melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

The researchers from the National Institutes of Health found that one of the most often mutated genes that code for matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) enzymes, MMP-8, actually serves as a tumor suppressor gene, but not an oncogene, as was previously thought.

MMP enzymes play a key role in the process of remodeling skin after sunburns, cuts or other injuries, and the MMP family gene has long been thought to increase the risk of cancers, including breast, colon and melanoma.

“The study suggests that a better approach may be to look for drugs that restore or increase MMP-8 function or for drugs that block only those MMPs that are truly oncogenic,” the researchers said in a press release.

The findings were published in the British journal Nature Genetics. Internet

22 killed at Ivory Coast soccer match stampede

ABIDJAN, 30 March—A stampede at a World Cup qualifying soccer match in the Ivory Coast killed at least 22 people and wounded 132 Sunday, authorities said.

Fans at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny arena pushed against each other shortly before the game between Ivory Coast and Malawi, setting off a panic that led to the stampede, Interior Minister Desire Tagro said on state television.

“They started pushing to get in because the match was about to start and each and every one of them wanted to get in,” Tagro said.

An Associated Press photographer said people began shoving and pushing 40 minutes before the beginning of the game. Police fired tear gas into one section of the crowd.—Internet

Men carry an injured spectator following a stadium stampede ahead of a World Cup qualifying match between Ivory Coast and Malawi, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on 30 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Hard-to-cure TB poses new global health threat

BEIJING, 30 March—The Beijing Chest Hospital was packed with people on a recent weekday morning. In the waiting area, Wang Chong, a migrant worker who has been fighting tuberculosis for several months, was facing a dilemma: Does he continue treatment that has already cost him more than $5,000 or stop before his savings are wiped out?

It’s not only his health at stake. If Wang stops treatment prematurely, his tuberculosis is likely to morph into one of the new, harder strains that resist the drugs he has been using and that pose a growing threat to global public health. Countries as diverse as China, Russia and South Africa are vulnerable, and the new strains have also appeared in the United States.”TB is now taking on a deadly new form — one that will spread further,” said Cornelia Hennig, the World Health Organization’s TB programme coordinator for China. “We can choose: Either we act now with rational and proven approaches, or we pay later with a worsening epidemic.”

The WHO is trying to bring renewed vigor to the fight with a three-day meeting of health ministers from the worst-affected countries in Beijing starting 1 April. Also attending are WHO Director-General Margaret Chan and Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a major contributor to research on global health problems. Countries are expected to draw up five-year plans to prevent and control the spread of drug-resistant TB.—Internet

The findings were published in the British journal Nature Genetics. Internet

Internet
**SPORTS**

**BUENOS AIRES**, 30 March—Main Argentines press said on Sunday that Diego Maradona had a successful start as coach of the Argentine soccer national team, which won 4-0 against Venezuela in the 11th date of the South American qualifiers for the 11th World Cup South American qualifiers for the 11th date of the South American qualifiers for the 11th World Cup.

“The passion returns: 4-0 to Venezuela,” local daily Clarín published on Sunday hailed Lionel Messi “great performance,” adding that “the national team went from lower to higher in the official debut of Maradona as coach.”

La Nación daily said that “Maradona’s team, with Messi’s hand” and added that “Argentina make its way with attack power.” “With Messi as flag attach, the team was convincing and excited the people, beyond some of the lacking when making the game.”

**London**, 30 March—Striker Emile Heskey won on Sunday ruled out of England’s World Cup 2010 qualifier at home to Ukraine this week with a hamstring injury.

The Aston Villa forward was forced off in the 14th minute of England’s 4-0 friendly win against Slovakia at Wembley on Saturday, shortly after putting his side in front. It was the former Liverpool and Wigan Athletic striker’s first international goal in almost six years and his first goal for England at their national stadium.

England coach Fabio Capello said Heskey had been suffering from “cramp”, but the Football Association revealed that scans to his left hamstring showed that he would not be able to face Ukraine on Wednesday.

Heskey’s withdrawal follows that of West Ham striker Carlton Cole, who came on in place of Heskey against Slovakia but was then taken off after sustaining a thigh strain.

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Argentina press say Maradona has successful debut as coach

Argentina’s national football team coach Diego Maradona applauds his players on 28 March. Maradona could not have asked for a better result in his first official match as Argentine coach, with his team crushing Venezuela 4-0.

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Boluda confirmed as Real Madrid president

**Madrid**, 30 March—Vicente Boluda was confirmed as the president of Real Madrid at a General Assembly of club members on Sunday, the club announced on its website. In total, 943 members voted to keep Boluda in his post, while 248 voted against him and there were 26 abstentions.

Sunday’s meeting replaced the flawed General Assembly of 7 December, after which former president Ramon Calderon was forced to step down amid allegations of electoral vote-rigging. The confirms Boluda as president, as until Sunday he had only held the post on an interim basis.

However, Boluda confirmed at the beginning of the meeting that the club intend to hold fresh presidential elections in June. A poll published on Sunday in the sports paper Marca suggested that former president Florentino Perez is the overwhelming favourite to win the elections.

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Zambia fight back to rock Egypt in World Cup

**Johannesburg**, 30 March—Zambia came from behind to force a 1-1 draw with Egypt at Cairo Stadium on Sunday as the 2010 World Cup-African Nations Cup qualifying tournament continued.

Wigan striker Amr Zaki put the ‘Pharaohs’ ahead on 27 minutes only for defender Dennis Banda from Lusaka army club Green Buffaloes to equalise early in the second half. Egypt, winners of the previous two biennial Nations Cup tournaments, will be bitter disappointed at failing to get their full-round campaign off to a winning start at home.

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Brazil ties Ecuador 1-1 in World Cup qualifier

**Quito**, 30 March—Brazil made a 1-1 away draw to Ecuador in their World Cup qualifier on Sunday due to the outstanding performance of goalkeeper Julio Cesar.

Cesar outplayed the five-time world champions but were denied the goal by Inter Milan goalkeeper Cesar time and again.

Substitute Julio Baptista scored the opening for Brazil in the 74th minute before substitute Cristian Noboa made the equaliser in the 89th minute at the Atahualpa at 2,800 meters above sea level.

Brazil accumulated 18 points from 11 games in the 10-team South American qualifying group, five behind leaders Paraguay, while Ecuador have 13.

Zambia’s Francis Kasonde celebrates after scoring a goal against Egypt during their 2010 World Cup-African zone group C qualifying football match in Cairo.

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Tiger thrills at Bay Hill with winning putt on 18

**Orlando**, 30 March—Tiger Woods drove away from Bay Hill wearing the navy blue blazer traditionally awarded to the winner of the Arnold Palmer Invitational. He is more interested in a jacket of a different color, but this was a good a result.

Woods could not have written a better script Sunday, even if he’s guilty of plagiarism. For the second straight year at Bay Hill, he made pivotal putts along the back nine and came to the 18th hole needing a birdie to win.

From the middle of the fairway, he had 164 yards to the green that was in the final group, same as last year. The putt was far easier this time — only about 12 feet up the hill with a slight left-to-right break — but the outcome was predictable to just about everyone except for the lone voice from the bleachers that blurted out, “Playoff!”

Woods holed the putt, and broke into a routine that also was similar to a year ago. He crouched and backedpedaled as the ball rolled to the hole, but instead of slamming his cap to the ground, he punched the air with a roundhouse and hugged his caddie, Steve Williams, who lifted him slightly into the air.

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**Internet**

Argentina's national football team coach Diego Maradona ruled out of Ukraine game

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Zambia's Francis Kasonde celebrates after scoring a goal against Egypt during their 2010 World Cup-African zone group C qualifying football match in Cairo.

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Tiger Woods celebrates after sinking the putt to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla., on 29 March, 2009.

Woods closed with a 3-under 67 for a one-shot victory over Sean O’Hair.

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Vicente Boluda, was confirmed as the president of Real Madrid at a General Assembly of club members.

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Cholesterol drug reduces blood clots by over 40% 

BEIRNG, 30 March—A new study showed Crestor (rosuvastatin calcium that helps fight high cholesterol) reduced the risk of blood clots by 44 percent.

The study dubbed JUPITER — Justification for the Use of Statins in Prevention: an Intervention Trial Evaluating Rosuvastatin — was presented at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions Sunday. It demonstrated that Crestor also reduced the combined risk of cardiovascular death, heart attack and stroke by 47 percent.

The study was a long-term, large-scale study of 17,802 patients designed to determine if treatment with Crestor lowered the risk of heart attack, stroke and other major cardiovascular events in patients with low levels of “bad” cholesterol (or LDL-C), and raised levels of the inflammatory marker C-reactive protein (CRP). Inter.net.

Asleep in Jesus

Daw Rosalind Sui Thluai Ling, B.A. Ed, B.Ed
Towship Education Officer, Chin State (Retd)
Age 72 years
Hakha, Chin State

Beloved daughter of (Rev Sang Ling-Daw Sai Pen), beloved sister of (Capt Sui Mang Ling, Retd), (Tial Cuai), R. Sui Thluai Ling asleep in Jesus on 30.3.2009 at 1:40 pm in her residence, Hakha, Chin State. Funeral service will be held at Hakha Baptist Church on 31.3.2009 (Tuesday) at 1:00 pm and buried at Hakha Baptist Cemetery.

Relatives and Friends far and near, please accept this as the only intimation.

Bereaved Family Members

WEATHER

Monday, 30 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagan Division, weather has been partly cloudy in remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below March average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway, Bagu and Ayeayawaddy Divisions, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagan Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant Day temperatures were Minbu (42˚C), Magway and Thatayawaddy (41˚C) each, Aunglan (40˚C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hkamti (0.15) inch. Maximum temperature on 29-3-2009 was 101˚F.

Minimum temperature on 30-3-2009 was 68˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-3-2009 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 29-3-2009 was (9.4) hrs approx. Rainfall on 30-3-2009 was Nil at Mingladan, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Tr) at Mingladan, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from South west at (21:30) hours MST on 29-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31st March 2009: Rain or thunder-showers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Saginga, Mandlay, Taninthyais Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thunder-showers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 31 March, 2009
Paunglaung Diversion Weir irrigating 35,000 acres of farmlands in
Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe, Yedashe Townships

Article: Kyaw Sein; Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

While Paunglaung River is flowing along its course, the 59.07-mile main canal of the diversion weir is benefiting the irrigated areas.

We, members of the news team of the Myanma Alin Daily arrived at Paunglaung Diversion Weir to write articles on progress of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project. Staff Officer U Thar Yar of Construction (5) took us to the briefing hall of the diversion weir. We witnessed thriving summer paddy and pea plantations along the road to the diversion weir. These plantations are being irrigated from the diversion weir.

We saw the local people near the briefing hall. They looked at film star Eindra Kyaw Zin who was (See page 10)

Green tourism on 4 April

YANGON, 30 March—Myanmar Tour Operators Association will hold a talk at Asia Plaza Hotel on 4 April.

Dr U Khin Maung Nyunt will give a talk on Green Tourism and any interested persons may enlist at MTOA Office (Tel-559672 and 559673).—MNA

Over Clocking to be demonstrated

YANGON, 30 March—Organized by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, with the assistance of Golden Power Technology and Personal Computer Magazine, Over Clocking Demonstration will be held at Myanmar Info-Tech from 1 to 3 pm on 3 April.

Experts from Golden Power Technology and Personal Computer Magazine will conduct the demonstration. Preliminary discussions will be in the form of the workshop. Experiences and knowledge will be shared during the demonstration.

Any interested persons may attend the demonstration. For further information, dial Tel-652276.—MNA

Completion certificates presented

YANGON, 30 March—A ceremony to present completion certificates for State School for Fine Arts and State School for Music and Drama of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture for 2008-2009 academic was held in conjunction with fine arts exhibition at National Theatre, here this morning.

Director-General of Fine Arts Department U Yan Naing Oo made a closing speech on the occasion. Next, the director-general and officials presented completion certificates to 46 trainees.

 Afterwards, the director-general viewed fine arts exhibition and enjoyed varieties of dances performed by the students.—MNA