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Thursday, 27 April, 2006

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of Serbia and Montenegro

YANGON, 27 April—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2006.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Republic of South Africa

YANGON, 27 April—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Thabo M Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2006. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Russian Deputy Chief of Staff (Army) Colonel General Moltenskoï Vladimir I

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received visiting Deputy

Chief of Staff (Army) of the Russian Federation Colonel General Moltenskoï Vladimir I and goodwill delegation members of the Russian Federation at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw City, at 9.30 am today.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Members of the State Peace and Development

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives visiting Deputy Chief of Staff (Army) of the Russian Federation Colonel General Moltenskoï Vladimir I at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw City.—MNA

INSIDE

The Diagnostic Centre situated in MMCWA compound in Yangon has been offering medical services at a reasonable charge to women for early detection of cancers of the reproductive system by means of mammography, pap smear, colposcopy and ultrasonographic examinations. Services like health education, counselling, and referral, where necessary, to relevant specialists are also provided at the centre.

PAGE 7 AYE PHUY

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 27 April, 2006

Make the most effective use of vacant and virgin land

With the purpose of boosting the agricultural production, the government is taking various measures such as building dams and river water pumping stations, disseminating cultivation methods, distributing agricultural equipment and providing quality strains. Plans are being implemented to strengthen the national wealth by modernizing the agriculture sector, by boosting rice production and by extending the cultivation of industrial crops and beans and pulses. At the same time, requirements are being fulfilled constantly for cultivation of new variety of crops, marketable crops and vegetables as this can increase farmers' income.

In striving for the increased production of the agriculture sector, it is necessary to reclaim vacant and virgin land, to increase the cultivation capacity and per-acre yield of each crop and to minimize loss and wastage. In the fiscal year 2006-2007, efforts are being made to put 500,000 acres of farmland under monsoon paddy and 150,000 acres under summer paddy in Kayin State and to meet the target for the cultivation of physic nut.

Bio-diesel derived from physic nut can be used in tractors, water pumps and generators. Moreover, crushed physic nut can be used as natural fertilizer. Therefore, cultivation of physic nut can contribute toward agriculture as well as supply of electricity to villages. People in rural areas should grow physic nut in their gardens and on all the vacant and virgin land available.

In Kayin State, farmers grow monsoon paddy, summer paddy, corn, edible oil crops and vegetables as double cropping. In Hpa-an and Hlaingbwe Townships, plantations of summer paddy and vegetables are flourishing. In Hlaingbwe Township, a dam is under construction and, on completion, it will be able to irrigate 3,000 acres of monsoon and summer paddy and supply drinking water.

The government is fulfilling requirements and providing assistance for rural and urban development and food sufficiency. At such a time like this, we would like to call on farmers to extend the cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and various kinds of crops by making the most effective use of vacant and virgin land available.

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People's Desire

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

Minister attends opening of GOS Course

YANGON, 26 April — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addressed the opening ceremony of Government Online System Course (GOS) (01/06-07) (Full Time) at the CPT Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw City yesterday.

A total of 64 trainees are attending a two-week course. After the ceremony, the minister inspected computers, lecture hall and e-library at two training halls. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw speaking at opening of Government Online System Course. COMMUNICATIONS

President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation visits Chaukhtatkyi Pagoda, Gems Mart

YANGON, 26 April — Visiting President of Supreme Court of the Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev and party arrived at Chaukhtatkyi Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township this morning. They offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to the image and Secretary of Pagoda Board of Trustees U Soe Nyunt explained the history and salient points of the Buddha Image.

Next, the President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation signed the visitors' book and presented the souvenir to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.



President of Supreme Court of the Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev and party visit Myanmar Gems Mart.

MNA

At 2 pm, the President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation and party visited Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Market boat leaves on 6 May

YANGON, 26 April — Mya Ayeya market boat of Inland Water Transport will leave Botahtaung No 6 Jetty for Mandalay on 6 May. Those wishing to sell goods aboard the ship may contact Cargo Transport Division (Tel-292199 and 292319).

The sellers from other states and divisions may contact IWT manager offices in Maubin, Danubyu, Hinthada, Myanaung, Kyangin, Pyay, Thayet, Aungmyan and Magway. — MNA



Tourists pass by the Paris Opera on a Velovisit in Paris, on 24 April, 2006. The new bike has seven seats designed for a driver and six passengers who sit in a circle and can chat while pedalling. INTERNET

Oxygen to be offered on trains to Tibet

LHASA, 25 April—The world's highest and longest plateau railroad, China's Qinghai-Tibet railway, will have a supply of oxygen on trains to combat the effects of altitude sickness on passengers during its trial operation in July.

"Oxygen will be supplied by using a system like central air-conditioning on trains, which can make the oxygen content in carriages reach 80 per cent of that in plain areas," said Ma

Baocheng, deputy manager of the Qinghai-Tibet Railways Company.

Oxygen masks will also be installed under seats in carriages, which passengers can use in case they still feel sick, Ma said.

In addition, each train will have a doctor and a nurse for emergency treatment of passengers, according to Ma.

The 1,956-kilometre-long Qinghai-Tibet Railway links Xining, capital of China's northwestern province

of Qinghai, to Lhasa, capital of southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The trial operation will be launched on 1 July.

Some 960 kilometres of its tracks are located 4,000 metres above sea level and the highest point is 5,072 metres, at least 200 metres higher than the Peruvian railway in the Andes, which was formerly the world's most elevated track.

MNA/Xinhua

Periodic comet to return above Earth in mid-May

NANJING, 25 April—A periodic comet, 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann, will make another close approach to Earth in mid-May, and people are likely to be able to see it with their naked eye, a Chinese scientist said.

The major part of Comet 73P, whose appearance resembles a dandelion, is expected to be 10 million kilometres from the Earth, on 12 May, said Wang Sichao, a researcher with the Purple Mountain Observatory under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The comet, discovered by A Schwassmann and A A Wachmann of Germany's Hamburg Observatory on 2 May, 1930, had split into three fragments on its last return in 1995. — MNA/Xinhua

Nine killed by storm in eastern India

KOLKATA, 25 April —At least nine people were killed and scores injured in a tropical storm that hit the eastern Indian city of Kolkata and surrounding districts overnight. The storm, accompanied by rains, snapped power lines and uprooted trees stalling traffic on city roads late Monday, West Bengal state's inspector general of police Raj Kanojia said on Tuesday.

Biswarup Mukherjee, a spokesman for Kolkata Electric Supply Limited, said large areas of the city had been without power. The storm also threw rail and air services into disarray, he said.

GC Bose, director of the regional meteorological office in Kolkata, said the storm packed windspeeds of up to 109 kilometres (68 miles) per hour.

He forecast more winds and rains for Tuesday in Kolkata and its outlying areas. Of the nine dead, four were electrocuted when overhead electricity lines gave way in the winds, Kanojia said. Two others died when their houses collapsed while three were crushed when trees fell on their vehicles, he said. Many flights in and out of Kolkata were delayed due to the storm with some diverted, an airport spokesman said.—Internet

Ship confirmed sunk in Bohai Sea with 10 missing

TIANJIN, 25 April—A cargo boat which was reported missing in the Bohai Sea of north China more than two months ago has been found sunk in the sea with 10 people aboard missing, local maritime authorities said Monday.

The missing were unlikely to have survived, said Cheng Rumang, an official with the Maritime Affairs Administration of Tianjin, a port city which is more than 70 sea miles away from the site where the boat was found. The boat was reported missing on its way



Developing states challenge US on UN reform plans

UNITED NATIONS, 25 April—Secretary-General Kofi Annan's plans to streamline the UN bureaucracy would be doomed if proposals from a powerful group of developing nations were adopted, US Ambassador John Bolton said on Monday.



South Africa, represented by Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, pictured here in March 2006, submitted on behalf of more than 130 countries a motion that would block all reforms proposed by UN Secretary.—INTERNET

But South Africa's UN ambassador, Dumisani Kumalo, speaking on behalf of 132 developing countries, said unless the UN reform effort was changed it would benefit rich nations at the expense of

poor ones. He accused Washington and others of attempting to paint the world body as "dysfunctional." Both men spoke to reporters before and after a meeting of the UN General Assembly's financial committee, which

is in charge of the budget. The committee planned another heated session on Thursday but Kumalo insisted any negotiations had to be on the basis of his draft resolution.

Kumalo's seven-page resolution seeks evaluations on issues such as how Annan's proposals would improve UN effectiveness and the impact of previous reforms. It also challenges his plea for more flexibility in moving around staff and resources. "If adopted, (it) would prevent any forward movement on the Secretary-General's recommendations, and it would be a debacle for the reform process and effectively could spell the end of the reform process," Bolton said.

MNA/Reuters

Philippine military chopper wrecked after emergency landing

MANILA, 26 April — A helicopter of the Philippine Air Force was totally damaged after it crashed in a remote village in Bulacan, northern Philippines on Monday afternoon while on an escort mission, a military official said.

All three officers and men on board the MG 520 helicopter were unhurt, said Air Force deputy spokesman Augusto Dela Pena. — MNA/Xinhua



An artist's conception of the CloudSat satellite, the most advanced radar designed to measure the properties of clouds. NASA has postponed for a fifth time the launch of two satellites designed to help unlock the secrets of Earth's cloud cover. —INTERNET

Pertamina to sell biodiesel fuel

JAKARTA, 25 April—Indonesia's state-owned oil and gas company PT Pertamina will sell environmentally friendly biodiesel fuel beginning next month in a bid to reduce the use of fossil fuel in the country, a newspaper reported on Monday.

The company said that in the first stage it would sell two types of biodiesel fuel, B10 and B5, in several gasoline stations in Jakarta. —MNA/Xinhua



Chinese woman Zhang Ting (C) pulls three cars using her hair during a stunt performance at a park in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province on 24 April 2006. Zhang successfully pulled the three cars for 20 metres.—INTERNET

UNSG candidate calls for balanced social development in Asia

BOAO (Hainan), 25 April — A candidate for the position of next United Nations secretary-general on Sunday called on the world community to pay more attention to unbalanced global social development, particularly in Asia.

Jayantha Dhanapala, senior adviser to the President of Sri Lanka, pointed out at the Boao Forum for Asia that one-fifth of the world still lives on a daily income of less than one US dollar.

A report from the Asian Development Bank showed that Asia registered some 1.75 billion labourers at the end of 2005, with 500 million others suffering from underemployment or unemployment.

The region's workforce will see another 245 million people in the coming decade, the bank predicted.

"Future stability and growth will therefore depend on creating 750 million jobs in the next

decade," said Dhanapala. Dhanapala, also former UN under-secretary-general for Disarmament, urged Asian nations to improve policies concerning corruption, food security and development of rural regions.

MNA/Xinhua

A rocket containing the CALIPSO and CloudSat satellites at Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) in California. NASA has postponed for a fifth time the launch of two satellites designed to help unlock the secrets of Earth's cloud cover, due to high winds.

INTERNET

MOSCOW, 25 April — Russia plans to equip all of its missiles with a new warhead which was successfully tested on Saturday, from 2008, its



Deputy Minister and Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov said on Monday.

"Last Saturday, we began official flight tests

for the—arming of promising missile systems which will go into service in 2008," Ivanov was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying when he reported to Russian President Vladimir Putin, "that is of landmark significance for us and the country".

Ivanov said that the successful tests confirmed

that its missile systems would be equipped with the new warhead, beginning from late 2006.

The minister said that both single and multiple warhead options were envisaged.

"They have been unified and are to be supplied both to the Strategic Missile Forces and the Navy," Ivanov said.—MNA/Xinhua

Girls much quicker than boys at timed tasks

WASHINGTON, 25 April — A new study of 8,000 people age 2 to 90 found females handle timed tasks more quickly than males. The difference is most pronounced among pre-teens and teenagers.

"If you look at the ability of someone to perform well in a timed situation, females have a big advantage," said Stephen Camarata of Vanderbilt University.

The study did not reveal significant overall intelligence difference by gender, however.

"To truly understand a person's overall ability, it is important to also look at performance in untimed situations," Camarata said. He thinks educators should pay attention to the results at a time when girls are generally out-performing boys in school.—Internet

First Shakespeare's complete works festival launched

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (Britain), 25 April — Britain's major company for Shakespeare's plays launched officially on Sunday night its biggest ever festival, inviting theater companies from across the country and world to join in a unique, year-long celebration of Shakespeare's complete works.

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is staging all of Shakespeare's 37 plays, sonnets and long poems from April 2006 to April 2007 in Stratford-upon-Avon, the mid-England town where Shakespeare was born and died.

The Complete Works Festival runs with 23 RSC shows, 17 international productions and 14 produced by visiting

companies based in Britain. The festival also presents a full programme of events that will appeal to theater and non-theater goers alike. These include post and pre-show talks with actors, directors and members of the creative team; workshops with wig, make-up and props practitioners; family days; practical workshops; live music; debate and exhibitions.

The official launch of the

festival took place over Shakespeare's birthday weekend with a Montague vs Capulet football match, behind the scenes workshops, live music and spectacular fireworks display by the river Avon on Sunday night.

The festival opens with Nancy Meckler's production of "Romeo and Juliet" and Gregory Doran's "Antony and Cleopatra."

MNA/Xinhua



Anthrax outbreak reported in west of Britain

LONDON, 25 April — Two cows have died of anthrax on a beef farm in south Wales which last had a case of the deadly disease 35 years ago, the Welsh Assembly Government said in a statement.

Tests were conducted following the sudden deaths of five cows at the farm.

The statement, which was issued late Sunday, said that anthrax spores may persist for many years in the environment and an investigation was underway to see if the current outbreak was

related to the earlier one.

Christianne Glossop, chief veterinary officer for Wales, said there was no threat to the public, farmers or any other livestock in the area.

No cattle from the farm have been sent for the food chain for almost 12 months.

Anthrax is now a very

rare disease in Britain and last occurred in Wales in 2002 and prior to that in Scotland in 1997. It was much more common in the previous century, with more than 1,000 cases in some years, but the number of cases declined sharply in the 1980s and 1990s.—MNA/Reuters

Russian missiles to be equipped with newly-tested warhead

Deputy Minister and Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov said on Monday.

"Last Saturday, we began official flight tests

for the—arming of promising missile systems which will go into service in 2008," Ivanov was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying when he reported to Russian President Vladimir Putin, "that is of landmark significance for us and the country".

Ivanov said that the successful tests confirmed

that its missile systems would be equipped with the new warhead, beginning from late 2006.

The minister said that both single and multiple warhead options were envisaged.

"They have been unified and are to be supplied both to the Strategic Missile Forces and the Navy," Ivanov said.—MNA/Xinhua



A member of the rescue personnel team adjusts his helmet near a collapsed bridge crossing the motorway E45 north of Aalborg, Denmark, on 25 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Study says black holes are energy-efficient "green"

WASHINGTON, 25 April — Black holes turn out to be "green." These monstrous matter-sucking drains in space are the most fuel-efficient engines in the universe, researchers said on Monday.

Just how efficient? If a car could use this kind of engine, it could theoretically go about a billion miles (1.6 billion kilometres) on a gallon (4.5 litres) of gas, said Steve Allen of Stanford University in California.

Unfortunately, no earthly car could do this, as black holes are fueled by matter lured by the holes' vast gravity. Their pull is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape.

Most of the energy

released by this matter as it thousands of light-years gets close to the black hole's across. A light-year is about point of no return — known 6 trillion miles (10 trillion kilometres), the distance as the event horizon — shows up in the form of light travels in a year.

high-energy jets, which spew forth from magnetized disks of gas.

These jets speed away from the black hole at speeds up to 95 per cent of the speed of light, which is 186,000 miles (300,000 kilometres) per second, and create huge bubbles in the hot cosmic gas of the galaxies. These bubbles can measure hundreds or even

To come up with their fuel-efficiency estimate, Allen and his colleagues used NASA's orbiting *Chandra X-Ray Observatory* to peer into the inner regions of nine giant elliptical galaxies. This view gave the scientists an idea of how much matter — the black holes' fuel — was available.

MNA/Reuters



Artist's impression illustrates the tremendous gravitational pull of a giant black hole on a passing star. The supermassive black holes that dot outer space are the "most fuel efficient engines" in the universe, according to the findings of a new US study that used a powerful NASA X-ray observatory to observe nine vast black holes.—INTERNET



Dancers from Saint Petersburg's Ice Ballet perform during a show at the Jorge Isaacs theatre in Cali, Colombia, on 25 April, 2006. —INTERNET

Avian influenza virus confirmed in 4th province of Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 April—The killer virus of H5N1 Avian influenza has been detected in the fourth province of Afghanistan, said a Press release issued by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Monday.

"According to the results of tests, H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza cases have been definitely confirmed in four provinces, namely Kabul, Nangarhar, Logar and Kapisa," said the Press release. Earlier the agency, through tests conducted in FAO's laboratory in Italy, had confirmed the spread of epidemic in three provinces, including the country's capital city Kabul.

Kapisa is the fourth province where the deadly virus of H5N1 has been confirmed while the neighbouring provinces of Parwan and Laghman have been classified as "highly suspected".

The FAO has so far conducted tests on 103 samples Afghanistan's birds in its Italy's laboratory since February. However, no case of transmitting the disease to human has been reported so far. —MNA/Xinhua

Fall River soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 April — A soldier from Fall River was killed in a roadside bombing in Iraq, Department of Defence officials announced Tuesday.

Michael Bouthot, 19, was serving in the Army when he was killed on Saturday.

Bouthot graduated from Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in 2004. He enlisted in the Army the following summer.

Bouthot was one of three Americans who died in when a roadside bomb detonated near his Humvee in Baghdad. —Internet



Ellen MacArthur, the fastest solo sailor runs on her trimaran sailing in Hong Kong on Tuesday, 25 April, 2006. MacArthur and her team attempt setting new records Asia Record Circuit 2006' which is a circuit attempts to establish new record times over 10 different legs between key ports of Japan, South Korea, Mainland China and Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. —INTERNET

Iraq oil hit by graft and attacks

BAGHDAD, 25 April — Iraq's oil industry is being crippled by corruption at a time when insurgents have stepped up attacks on the nation's infrastructure, a report has claimed.

The Oil Ministry's inspector general Ali al-Alaak said graft and smuggling are the main threat to Iraq's economy.

He called on policy-makers to better protect infrastructure such as pipelines and catch corrupt officials. Iraq has the world's third-largest oil reserves and the revenue from its sale is needed to rebuild the country.

Mr Alaak estimates that some \$4.2bn (£2.3bn; 3.4bn euros) worth of oil-related products were smuggled out of Iraq last year, while crude was stolen directly from the country's leaking and pipelines. "We really are losing billions," he said.

"The corruption in the oil sector and smuggling of oil products to neighbouring countries are the most important reasons behind the loss of billions of dollars, and these two problems are the biggest threat to Iraq's economy," he said.

He added that the campaign of violence has intensified against sensitive

sites. "Every time we fix the problems because of those attacks, the next day or a few days later they can attack the same site," he explained in Baghdad.

Another problem is that it has taken longer to upgrade pipelines and other oil equipment.

"We have done about 30% or 35% of what we had listed for 2005," he explained. "This is a really big problem.

"When we increase our production in the south we cannot push more through the pipeline because it can't handle the pressure."

Internet

Thousands tons of chicken not sold in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 25 April — Some 22,000 tons of chicken meat failed to be sold in Belgium as a result of the bird flu alert.

Meanwhile, whole-salers across the European Union (EU) got stuck with 300,000 tons of unwanted chicken meat, according to figures released by the EU executive European Commission on Monday.

During the first three months of the year chicken prices fell by up to 30 per cent in Belgium, but the sector has meanwhile recovered somewhat. At present some 22,000 tons of chicken is languishing in Belgian freezers. Half the meat consists of chicken legs intended for export across the EU. — MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills 2 in Baghdad's Sadr City

BAGHDAD, 26 April — A bomb inside a minibus exploded in a market area in Baghdad's Sadr City Shiite slum on Tuesday, killing two people and wounding five, police said.

Sadr City, in eastern Baghdad, is a stronghold of radical Shiite cleric and militia leader Moqtada al-Sadr, who is a member of the ruling Shiite coalition.

The blast damaged shop fronts in a commercial street and turned the bus into a mangled wreck.

MNA/Reuters



Workers at a construction site in Berlin's Alexanderplatz square. Business confidence in Germany rose to its highest level in 15 years in April, underlining the robustness of the ongoing recovery of Europe's biggest economy.—INTERNET

World Bank criticized over anti-malaria efforts

LONDON, 26 April—Public health experts criticized the World Bank on Tuesday for failing to tackle malaria in hard-hit countries while millions of children have died.

They said the Bank, which has an annual budget of 20 billion US dollars, has concealed the amount of money it spends to fight the illness, funded ineffective treatment, reduced its expert staff and published false statistics about its efforts.

Professor Amir Attaran of the Institute of Population Health at the University of Ottawa in Canada and his colleagues said the World Bank's programme in 2005-2010 was inadequate to reverse its history of neglect for malaria.

"They have made decisions which have killed a very large number of children throughout the world," Attaran said in an

interview.

"The reality is that the Bank got it dreadfully wrong on malaria in a number of ways," he said.

Suprotik Basu, public health specialist on the Bank's malaria team, rejected the accusation, saying developing countries were insisting that the World Bank stay engaged in the fight against malaria.

"Any insinuation that the Bank's support for malaria control in Africa or worldwide has been responsible for the deaths of children is misleading and grotesquely incorrect," he said.

Malaria, a parasitic disease transmitted by mosquitoes, kills more than a million people a year, mostly young

children in Africa.

Attaran and his colleagues described the Bank's technical expertise as insufficient and said it was institutionally unsuited to deliver excellence on malaria.

"We summarize the evidence, show that the Bank possesses demon-

strably little experience in malaria, and argue that the Bank should relinquish its funding to other agencies better placed to control the disease," Attaran said in a report published online by *The Lancet* medical journal.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake hits East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 April—An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale shook Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Province on Monday night, but there were still no reports of damage or fatalities.

According to the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency in Jakarta, the tremor was located at 8.57 degrees south Latitude and 119.63 east Longitude, with its epicentre in a depth of 184 kilometres

in the sea, Antara news agency reported on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore launches Food Safety Programme

SINGAPORE, 26 April—Singapore on Tuesday launched a Food Safety Programme which is based on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), an international recognized food safety management system.

"Through this programme, HACCP consultants will work closely with the companies to understand, assess and improve their operations and food safety practices," Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said when

announcing the programme at the opening of this year's Food and Hotel Asia trade show.

Regarding food safety as a competitive advantage for Singapore's food sector, Lim pointed out that HACCP can help local food and beverage (F&B) players expand overseas and assure visitors and local people that the food is safe for consumption here. The Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore), which initiated the programme with the Restaurant Association of Singapore, has earmarked one million Singapore dollars (about 629,000 US dollars) to help another 200 F&B companies become HACCP-certified in the next three years, according to Lim.

MNA/Xinhua

29th regional FAO conference begins in Venezuela

CARACAS, 26 April—The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization's 29th Latin American and Caribbean conference began on Monday in Caracas with a Press conference by FAO regional chief Jose Graziano Da Silva.

Da Silva said the conference had drawn ministers from 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries to discuss topics like food security and fighting hunger and poverty.

The UN millennium development goals, espoused by the FAO, include halving the region's hunger rates by 2015 and finally eradicating it along with extreme poverty by 2025.

At present, one of the region's biggest challenges is plummeting agricultural goods prices, which are making peasants poorer. Some farmers have been reduced to extreme poverty as a result of the situation, Da Silva told reporters.

Venezuela's Land and Agriculture Minister Elias

Jaua Milano outlined at the Press conference Venezuela's efforts to boost agricultural production and help the poor by providing cheap finance to food producers and subsidized or totally free food to the country's poorest citizens.

MNA/Xinhua



A model shows a dress by Australian designer Gorman at Australian Fashion Week in Sydney, on 26 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Thailand retains world's largest rice exporter

BANGKOK, 26 April—Thailand still retains its status as the world's largest exporter of rice in terms of volume and value, with Vietnam coming second, Thai Department of Foreign Trade said on Monday.

Rachane Pojanasuntorn, the department's director-general, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying the country's rice exports in the first quarter of this year reaching 1.79 million tons, worth 22.64 billion baht (567.4 million US dollars).

The price of exported Thai rice is around 317 US dollars per ton on average.

He was confident that the export volume and value would continue to

Its volume for this year is expected to reach a target of 7.5 million tons, up 2.7 per cent from that of last year.

Vietnam set a target to export 5 million tons of rice this year, down from 5.28 million tons last year.

In the first quarter of this year, Vietnam exported 1.1 million tons of rice. Because of this, Thailand and Vietnam still retained the world's first and second rankings as major rice exporters.

MNA/Xinhua



Villagers bring in a victim of a grenade blast for treatment at a hospital in Srinagar, India, on 25 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA)

Aye Phyu

As we all know, today our Government has been taking all the necessary steps to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Through the implementation of various national plans, efforts are continuously made to set up the proper infrastructures all throughout the country. Border areas development projects and rural development tasks are being carried out in order to bring forth the all-round proportionate development in each and every region. While the government is trying its best in its efforts towards its goals, MMCWA members, as part of the nation's strength, have also been going hand-in-hand by engaging themselves in their voluntary work for the development and welfare of the people.

The year 2006 marks the 16th anniversary of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) which was established in April, 1991 as a voluntary organization dedicated to serving the Myanmar society in promoting the health and well-being of mothers and children with the aim to improve the quality of life of the people. In line with this objective, MMCWA has been giving assistance in the areas of health, education, economic and social matters that will promote the families and their over-

all standard of living, making sure that the operations MMCWA also operates health activities in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health as well as

At present, MMCWA has been carrying out its activities all throughout the country with the supervision of the Central Council including the 15 members of the Central Executive Committee, under which there are various Supervisory Committees at State/Division and District levels respectively. These committees supervise and give necessary help to the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, altogether (325) in number, plus (15,489) branch associations under them. The total number of MMCWA members stands at (5,447,999) by the end of the year 2005, composing of about 10% of the population.

With regard to the educational activities, MMCWA has been operating an Early Childhood Development Centre in Yangon and (1,344) of community-based pre-schools and daycare centres country-wide. (31-12-05 data). These centres give valuable lifelong ideas and concepts to the children to enable them to adopt good habits and practices crucial for their physical, mental and intellectual growth. Parenting education is also one function of those centres. In addition, in line with the "Education for All" policy of the Ministry of Education, MMCWA

members at all levels in the States and Divisions try to ensure that all children of school going age get the chance to go to school and complete their primary education. Moreover, stipends, school uniforms and stationery are provided for the needy students. For non-formal education, township and branch associations supervise and organize the opening of 3-R courses, voluntary night schools, evening classes and reading-circles to speed up the reading rate of those who have finished the basic 3-R course. In a way MMCWA is helping to eradicate illiteracy and increase literacy rate of the country.

The role of the associations is more evident in the health area, especially in the remote places away from the hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries. MMCWA has a total of 91 maternity homes operating throughout the whole country. Primarily, these maternity homes are established to provide accessible, quality and appropriate ante-natal care, safe delivery, post-natal care and proper birth-spacing and reproductive health services to the women folk. These homes provide safe motherhood programme to pregnant mothers and aim to reduce the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio of the country.

MMCWA also operates health activities in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health as well as areas such as HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria prevention and control. Reproductive Health (RH) and Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) programmes have also been taken up in collaboration with UNFPA. Nutrition Programme undertaken by the associations also benefit mothers and children with MMCWA members helping in Community Nutrition Centres (CNC) and Village Food Banks (VFB) opened up in project areas as well as in many non-project areas too. Actually, MMCWA members participate in almost all the development efforts in villages and wards at the grass root level in a variety of programmes as model village, clean water, tobacco free zone, AIDS-free schools, so on and so forth. They cover a wide range of activities in promoting the healthy life, not only of the mother and child, but of the community as a whole.

Besides, the Diagnostic Centre situated in MMCWA compound in Yangon has been offering medical services at a reasonable charge to women for early detection of cancers of the reproductive system by means of mammography, pap smear, colposcopy and ultrasonographic examinations. Services like health education, counselling, and referral, where necessary,

to relevant specialists are also provided at the centre.

With due respect to the doctors who actually carry out the operations on children with harelip and cleft palate, credit should also be given to all association members who have participated in finding out within their own areas children (in some places, adults too) with congenital defects, subsequently arranging and helping in cash or kind or both for the corrective operations by the doctors.

Generally health problems are related to ignorance and lack of education. Mothers as focal persons in families play a significant role in the creation and maintenance of good health in the families. It is of paramount importance to educate the mothers on health matters so that they get to learn health issues about personal hygiene and the role of a clean environment for the health of the family, etc. Accordingly, MMCWA members organize educative talks frequently on various subjects. In fact, our associations succeeded in giving thousands of those educative talks enlightening mothers on many areas such as exclusive breast feeding, birth spacing, healthy environment, seasonal diseases and the like. Actually they contributed a great deal in the successful implementation of Advocacy and public awareness campaigns with respect to HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases. Besides, traditional or indigenous medicine courses are also given to help mothers to better manage their families in health matters.

Another important function of MMCWA is to help mothers in income generation. Vocational training courses like knitting, sewing, cooking, etc., appropriate to the respective regions are offered in order to promote family income. Sewing machines are often sold to them on installment basis as part of the arrangement. Similarly, micro credit and loan scheme is quite common in many maternal and child welfare associations to help poor women get a start in their effort to do some business for their living.

As far as the social area is concerned, MMCWA participate in the 'elderly-care' programme, providing medical and other help to the old people. Volunteers in some places even offered their time to those who were left alone in their houses to keep company with the elderly and listen to what they said.

The activities mentioned here do not cover all those that are being carried out in all of the associations. As one of the leading NGOs in the country, MMCWA, despite its main focus on mothers and children, is ready to give any kind of assistance to promote the condition of Myanmar people in whatever way they can. Sometimes, natural disasters destroyed a place and trust those public-oriented volunteers of the associations to come forward and render their services and help hand-in-hand with other national forces. Those are the members of the maternal and child welfare associations all throughout the country. We are no doubt a part of our nation's strength! We all should take pride in the nice things we have done and in the services (however small) we have rendered to other needy people. Let's all try to keep up our good traditions and march hand-in-hand with other national forces towards prosperity and development!

Another important function of MMCWA is to help mothers in income generation. Vocational training courses like knitting, sewing, cooking, etc., appropriate to the respective regions are offered in order to promote family income. Sewing machines are often sold to them on installment basis as part of the arrangement. Similarly, micro credit and loan scheme is quite common in many maternal and child welfare associations to help poor women get a start in their effort to do some business for their living.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye...

(from page 1)

Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence.

The Russian goodwill delegation was accompanied by Russian Military Attaché Colonel Vladimir I Konchakov. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shakes hands with Russian Deputy Chief of Staff (Army) Colonel General Moltenskoï Vladimir I. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party pose for documentary photo with Russian Deputy Chief of Staff (Army) Colonel General Moltenskoï Vladimir I and party. — MNA



Chinese Delegation led by Information Industry Minister concludes visit

YANGON, 26 April — A 9-member Chinese delegation led by Information Industry Minister Mr Wang Xudong left here by air yesterday evening.

The Chinese Minister and party were seen off at the airport by Vice-

Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and officials of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

MNA



Chinese Minister Mr Wang Xudong and party being seen off at the airport. — MNA

C-in-C (Air)'s Shield Table Tennis Tournament commences

YANGON, 26 April — A ceremony to open the Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Shield Table Tennis Tournament was held at Thura Ohn Khaing Hall of Flying Training Base in Shande, Meiktila, on 24 April morning.

It was attended by Commander of Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin, Col Myo Lwin of the local station, Commander of Ground

Training Base Col Thura Khin Maung Win, officers, other ranks, Meiktila District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Hla Myo Shein and officials.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Commander of Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin gave a speech and opened the tournament.

MNA

Reproductive health course conducted in Mandalay

YANGON, 26 April—Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee launched its multiplier reproductive health course for young people at its office on 20 April.

Present on the occasion were Chairperson of the supervisory committee Daw Khin Pyone Win and

members, Head of Division Health Department Dr Khin Maung Tun, Deputy Commissioner of the District GAD U Kyaw Myint, members of district and township MCWAs, course instructors and 48 trainees.

The chairperson delivered a speech and opened the course. — MNA

Commander inspects upgrading of Putao Airport

YANGON, 26 April — Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected the upgrading tasks at Putao Airport on 24 April. Next, they inspected the repaving tasks

in the central area of runway measuring 600 feet by 100 feet with 3 foot thickness. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presents varieties of books for Kyaikhtaw village library. (News on page 16) — MNA



Deputy Information Minister meets staff of IPRD in Meiktila, Kyaukse Districts



Deputy Information Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein meets with service personnel in Kyaukse District. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein met with staff of Meiktila District Information and Public Relations Department on 23 April and Kyaukse District Information and Public Relations Department on 24 April.

The deputy minister said how important it is to

inform the people timely know the salient points and do's and don'ts of the State and gave instructions on making continuous efforts for the lasting existence of the established libraries and reporting to the local authorities if there are some difficulties and taking measures with goodwill for the success. — MNA

Second Mayor's Cup Tennis Tournament 5-11 May

YANGON, 26 April — The Second Mayor's Cup Tennis Tournament to be organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation with the sponsorship of Yangon City Development Committee will be held at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza, here, from 5 to 11 May.

A class teams are to comprise four or five players to take part in two singles events and one doubles event. B class teams are to be formed with six or seven players to participate in three doubles events.

Furthermore, the U-10, the U-12 and the U-14 youth tennis games will be included in the tournament.

MTF will accommodate tennis clubs from countryside and youth players.

All the players wishing to take part in the tournament may enlist at MTF, Tel: 372360, not later than at 10 am on 4 May. At 1 pm on 4 May, a responsible personnel from each team are to attend the meeting to draw the fixtures of the tournament at the office of Myanmar Tennis Federation (MTF). — MNA

MWEA Vice-Chairperson leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 26 April — A 30-member Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Chairperson of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association Daw Nu Nu Yi and Executive Daw Myo Myo

Thet left for Thailand by air this morning to observe ASEAN Furniture and Interior Fittings (BITEC) to be held in Bangkok and meet the National Council of Women of Thailand.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairperson of MWEA Daw Thet Yi, Joint-Secretary Daw Khin Lay and executives.

MNA



Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Chairperson of MWEA seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Thailand. — MNA

Venezuela says Andean trade deals with US kill quality jobs

CARACAS, 26 April — Free trade agreements signed by neighbouring Andean nations Colombia and Peru with the United States sacrifice high quality jobs in favour of the low

income employment generated by primary exports, said a Venezuelan minister on Monday. Speaking to Venezuela's VTV state television station, Integration Minister Gustavo Marquez

said Colombia and Peru had sold out the possibility of commercially productive growth within the Andean region "for a plate of beans".

MNA/Xinhua

UMFCCI Vice-Presidents meet Chinese Delegation



UMFCCI Vice-Presidents hold discussions with Chinese guests. — UMFCCI

YANGON, 26 April — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and CEC members met a del-

egation led by Executive Vice Chairman Mr Zhuang Lixiang of Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress The Standing Committee of PRC at UMFCCI Office, yesterday morning.

They cordially dis-

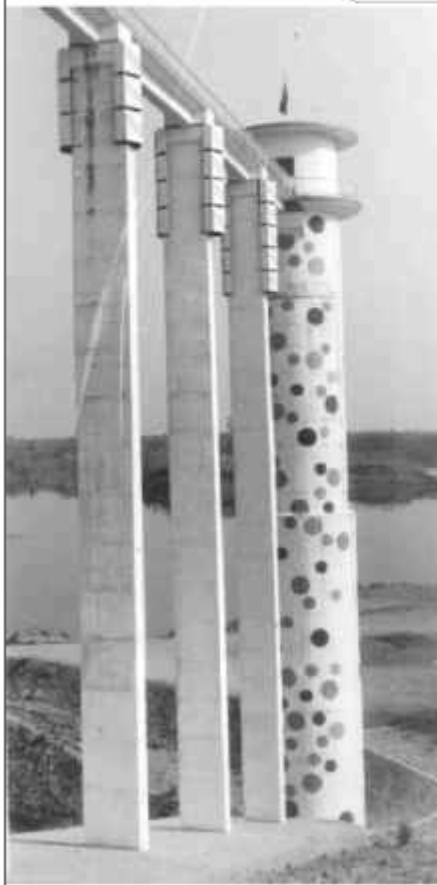
cussed matters on the opportunities of investment, the mutual trading and cooperation between the two countries, the participation of Myanmar entrepreneurs in the trade fair to be held in Shenzhen.

MNA

တန်ဖိုးရှိလှ လူငယ်ဘဝ
မှူးယစ်ကင်းစင် ကျန်းမာမှု

Ma Mya Dam to contribute towards regional development

Article by Kyaw Sein & photos by Thein Win Lay (Myanma Alin)



Reinforced concrete conduit and control tower of Ma Mya Dam that is under construction near Hmyinwataung Village in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Division, seen on 6 April.

Myanmar being an agro-based nation, the government has placed emphasis on construction of irrigation facilities, the fundamental requirement of agriculture, everywhere necessary and possible across the nation. Indeed, the development of the agricultural sector not just strengthens the national economy, but raises the socio-economic life of rural folks, the majority of the nation's population.

In the process, the government is pursuing its aims of irrigating crop plantations, preventing the regions on eastern and western banks of the Ayeyawady River from being flooded and bank erosion, and generating hydro-electric power on a small scale.

The meeting No 2/ 2002 of the Committee for Implementation of Special Projects held on 23 July 2002 passed a resolution to launch Ma Mya Dam Project in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Division.

In an interview conducted on 5 April,

the dam will have a 150 feet high and 11,800 feet long embankment, and its full water storage capacity will be 70,000 acre feet, its still water storage capacity, 4,500 acre feet, and its full water surface area, 1,330 acre-feet.

Now work is under way to install two 250-kilowatt generators in the project. The project comprises five major functions — construction of diaphragm wall, main embankment, conduit and control tower, spillway and irrigation system. This year, 200 acres around the project have been irrigated for local

the dam will have a 150 feet high and 11,800 feet long embankment, and its full water storage capacity will be 70,000 acre feet, its still water storage capacity, 4,500 acre feet, and its full water surface area, 1,330 acre-feet.

So far, 18 acres on the embankment have been put under about 24,000 physic nut plants. Since last year, 100 Seintalon species mango trees have been planted and 50,000 physic nut seedlings, nurtured along with 800 tamarind trees and 200 teak saplings grown along the spillway



Deputy Director of Construction (9)

U Kyaw Myint Hlaing.

paddy and prevent many acres of crops near the site from being flooded. In addition, it will generate hydro-electric power for surrounding villages.

So, Ma Mya Dam Project will make



The construction site of Ma Mya Dam Project being implemented by Construction (9) of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Deputy Director of Construction (9) U Kyaw Myint Hlaing explained facts about the project. He said the major purpose of the project was

farmers to gain knowledge of growing summer paddy. A total of 129,000 acre-feet water flows into the dam yearly. Upon completion,

for the greening of the region.

And the dam will be able to benefit 10,000 acres of farmland and 10,000 acres of summer

substantial contribution towards regional development.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
26-4-2006



Ma Mya Dam is being built by damming Ma Mya Creek near Hmyinwataung Village in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Division.

D issues statement on enhanced preventive and control measures against bird flu

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department issued a statement on enhanced preventive and control measures against bird flu in Myanmar.

Outbreak of bird flu and control

Starting from early March 2006, the outbreaks of bird flu occurred in 13 townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, in central Myanmar. Altogether 9,206 fowls from 408 poultry farms and 5,606 quails from 137 quail farms were culled and 0.33 million of fowls and 0.32 million of quails were destroyed. About 100,000 eggs and 80,000 quail eggs were also destroyed.

During the outbreak of the disease, ban on transport of fowls, ducks, quails and their eggs and movement of equipment used in poultry farms, promotion of bio security and public education were undertaken. The bird flu was under control in those areas on 6 April 2006 with the supervision and assistance of local authorities and the cooperation of Myanmar Police Force and staff of LBVD and Health Department and farmers.

Transport

During the outbreak of the disease, the respective bird flu control committees banned sale of fowls and eggs temporarily in the affected townships and transport of fowls and eggs in disease-free states and divisions.

The disease was under control in the restricted zones and the committees will lift the ban before the end of April and are making arrangements for regular flow of commodities.

Support for animal health

The bird flu control committee will take measures on transport of fresh fowls and eggs and their products from one place to another with the support of LBVD, the respective laboratories and township LBVD.

International and technical cooperation programme

The staff of LBVD are carrying out tasks on spraying poultry farms and disease surveillance, public education and issuing press release. Bird flu control was conducted in cooperation with Regional Coordinator of FAO Dr K Wantanee, expert Dr Parasit, adviser of USAID Dr J Mac Arthur and expert of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Dr Sudarat. Moreover, LBVD staff together with FAO expert Mr Anthony Williams, a British citizen and Mr Harvey Westbury of Australia conducted disease control and discussed emergency measures for the project and performance of the department.

International assistance

JICA, FAO, National Laboratory for Animal Health (NAH) and Livestock and Development Centre of Thailand provided equipment, pesticides and laboratory equipment worth US \$ 660,000. Besides, the People's Republic of China also provided RMB Yuan 1 million for use in disease control and the Japanese government equipment, medicines and others worth US \$ 2.1 million.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

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“AIDS” Conference in S Africa focuses on microbicides

JOHANNESBURG, 25 April — For women who cannot persuade their partners to use condoms to prevent infection of HIV, microbicides may give them a new hope to stay away from the deadly disease, according to an international conference ongoing in Cape Town, South Africa.

Microbicides 2006, attended by over 1,000 delegates mainly from Africa, called for more investment in research and development of an effective HIV-fighting vaginal microbicide.

Microbicides are compounds that can be applied inside the vagina or rectum to protect against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV that causes AIDS. They can be formulated as gels, creams, films or suppositories, said the website of the Global Campaign for Microbicides, www.globalcampaign.org.

Microbicides offer an

alternative to condoms as the most feasible method for primary prevention of HIV, especially as many women are unable to negotiate condom use with their partners, said the organization.

Despite the knowledge of successful HIV-prevention strategies, such as condom use and reduction in the number of sexual partners, HIV continues to spread at an alarming rate across the world, with sub-Saharan Africa as the epicentre.

In Africa, 76 per cent of HIV positive people in the 15 to 24-year age group are women.

Their vulnerability stemmed from a pervasive disempowerment, and the fact that for too long, only lip service had been paid to gender equality, said Graca Machel, wife of South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela.

“For over 20 years we have failed to provide women with a means to protect themselves against HIV infection... We need a microbicide available now,” women's rights advocate Machel was quoted as telling the conference by Johannesburg-based newspaper *The Star* on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua



Two giant pandas at Chiang Mai zoo in northern Thailand. The Thai zoo is hoping to build a “snow house” for its two giant pandas where they can escape the tropical heat to play in a room full of artificial snow.—INTERNET

Mines kill or injure 100 monthly in Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 April — Landmines and unexploded ordnances left over from the past two decades of war kill or injure some 70 to 100 Afghans a month in the post-war central Asian state, a fact sheet issued by Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) said on Monday.

“The number of mine victims (dead or injured) ranges from 70 to 100 each month, down from 150 to 300 per month in 2002,” it added.

More than 90 per cent of the victims are male and some 50 per cent are children, the fact sheet added. There is no official figure about the mines' victims in the war-shattered Afghanistan.

However, unofficial statistics say that 1.5

million Afghans have been killed or maimed in the most mine-contaminated country over the past 25 years of war. Meanwhile, Chief Programme Support Section of the UN Mine Action Service John Flanagan told journalists that the MAPA has cleared more than one billion square metres of contaminated land in Afghanistan since 1990.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese people look at computer screens at an internet cafe in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 26 April, 2006. China's top Web portals, including Sina Corp and Tom Online, have agreed to rid their sites of ‘unhealthy’ content, amid a broader Beijing campaign to clean up the internet.—INTERNET



US actor Tom Cruise waves to his fans upon his arrival, for the world premiere of the movie “Mission Impossible III” directed by US director Jeffrey Abrams in Rome on 24 April, 2006.

INTERNET

Seven ASEAN mobile operators form alliance

SINGAPORE, 25 April — Seven mobile operators in Asia announced on Monday that they have formed an alliance for global roaming and corporate mobile services, according to a joint Press release on the website of StarHub, a telecom operator in Singapore.

Apart from StarHub, other participants include Hutchison Essar from India, KT Freetel from South Korea, NTT DoCoMo from Japan, PT Indosat from Indonesia as well as Hutchison Telecommunications and Far EasTone Telecommunications from Hong Kong and Taiwan respectively.

Tentatively named the “Asia-Pacific Mobile Alliance”, it plans to provide the customers of its members with seamless, convenient, easy and value-added services when they roam within their mobile networks. In addition to promoting voice, video and data roaming via these networks, the alliance also plans to enhance cross-border customer support for multinational corporations, according to the Press release.

The alliance, with a combined customer base of about 100 million mobile subscribers, expects to expand its members over time. —MNA/Xinhua

Plane crash in southern Russia kills four

MOSCOW, 25 April — A small plane crashed on Sunday night in southern Russia, killing four people on board and injuring one, a regional department for Civil Defence and Emergency Situations said on Monday.

The An-2 plane crashed 100 metres off the runway on the outskirts of the Tersky settlement in the southern Stavropol Region, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The pilot Roman Loktev

and three passengers on board were killed. A woman, the only survivor, was seriously wounded and has been taken to hospital. NTV footage showed that the plane was badly damaged, and its crushed wreckage was lying in a field. The plane was trying to land before it had run out of fuel, according to a preliminary inquiry.

The pilot violating aircraft navigation rules is believed to blame for the crash. Meanwhile, he performed the flight without permission.

The plane, owned by a private company, was intended for killing wild weeds and was not fit for passenger transportation.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Nektar Therapeutics of 150 Industrial Road, San Carlos, CA 9407Q, U.S.A. is (the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-

NEKTAR

Reg.No. IV/5214/2005 in respect of “Pharmaceuticals, namely, pharmaceutical preparations having enhanced drug performance and/or drug delivery performance for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases as diabetes, infections, cancers, and inflammations, or of diseases or medical conditions that affect the peripheral nerves, the adrenergic and/or cholinergic receptors, the histamine receptors, the expression and/or regulation of growth factors, the skeletal and/or smooth muscle systems, the cardiovascular system, the endocrine and/or hormone systems, the blood circulatory systems, the immunological system, the synaptic and neuroeffector junctional sites, the reproductive system, the skeletal system, the autonomic system, the alimentary and/or excretory systems, and/or the central nervous system in Int. Cl. 5 and Medical devices, nameEy, medical apparatus in the nature of a unit for aerosol drug delivery to the deep lung of drugs as fine, dry particles in Int. Cl. 3. 10’.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt according to the law.
Khine Khine U, Advocate L.L.B., D.B.L., LL.M.(UK) For Nektar Therapeutics #731, 7th Fl., Traders Hotel, Yangon. April 27, 2006

SPORTS



Carlos Espinola, left, of Ecuador's Liga Deportiva Universitaria fights for the ball against Marcelo Silva of Colombia's Atletico Nacional, during a Copa Libertadores game at the Casa Blanca Stadium, in Quito, Ecuador, on 25 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Wimbledon declines to close prize money gap

LONDON, 26 April—Wimbledon will remain the only grand slam tennis event not to pay its men's and women's champions equal prize money, organizers said on Tuesday.

The All England Club announced at a news conference that prize money for this year's men's winner would amount to 655,000 pounds (1.17 million US dollars) with the women's champion getting 625,000 pounds.

The figures represent a 4-per-cent rise from last year. French Open organizers announced last month that they would pay their men's and women's singles champions the same prize money of 940,000 euros (1.13 million US dollars) this year, though they were criticized by the WTA Tour for not applying the equality throughout the draw.

The other two grand slams, the Australian and US Opens, have long offered equal money to men and women players.

Six-times Wimbledon winner Billie Jean King last week urged Wimbledon organizers to end the pay disparity but her pleas fell on deaf ears.

All England chairman Tim Phillips said the total prize money for this year's championships, which run from June 26 to July 9, would be 10.38 million pounds, up 2.9 per cent on last year.

"No tournament paid higher prize money than Wimbledon in 2005 and so far in 2006, and this increase further recog-

nizes the talent and commitment needed by top tennis players nowadays," Phillips said.

The men's doubles winners would each earn 220,690 pounds, a rise of 1-per-cent, with the women getting 205,280. Mixed doubles prizes remain unchanged at 90,000 pounds.—MNA/Reuters

Lehmann proves the hero as Arsenal reach final

VILLARREAL (Spain), 26 April—Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann saved a last-minute penalty to earn the London side a place in their first Champions League final after a 0-0 draw against a dominant Villarreal on Tuesday.

The Germany keeper guessed right and dived to his left to block Juan Roman Riquelme's spot kick after Jose Mari had gone down in the area two minutes from time.

Arsenal went through 1-0 on aggregate and will meet Barcelona or AC Milan, who play their semifinal second leg on Wednesday, in the final in Paris on 17 May.

Villarreal made all the running in a ragged match but wasted their chances in front of goal.

Arsenal, lacking their usual composure and flair, had to work hard to keep the Spanish side at bay with Mexico striker Guillermo Franco and Uruguay's Diego Forlan always dangerous.

It was their 10th clean sheet in succession in the competition, a record in all European cup football.

Zidane to retire after World Cup

PARIS, 26 April—Zinedine Zidane said on Tuesday he would retire after the World Cup finals in Germany.

"It's my decision and it's final," the France and Real Madrid playmaker told French television channel Canal+.

The 33-year-old, who led France to victory in the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, had hinted recently he was ready to quit.

Zidane became the world's most expensive footballer when Real signed him from Juventus for 66 million US dollars in 2001.

But injuries and inconsistency have dogged him over the last two seasons and, although he still has another year left on his contract with Real, he decided to call it a day.

"I have to listen to my body and I cannot carry on for another year,"

said Zidane, who cited Real's poor results as one of the reasons for his decision.

"It might seem a bit strange to announce it now, two weeks before the end of the championship but it's a decision I've been thinking about carefully and I had to take it before the World Cup," he said.

"In the last two years the results have eluded us. When you don't reach your goals you ask yourself questions. I know I can't do better than what I have already done and at my age, it's getting more and more difficult. I didn't want to experience another year like the ones I've been through."

MNA/Reuters



Jens Lundqvist from Sweden during his match against Martin Monrad from Denmark at the world team table tennis championships in Bremen, northern Germany, on 25 April, 2006. The team of Sweden won 3-0.—INTERNET

Vassell goal beats Villa, ends Man City losing streak

LONDON, 26 April—Darius Vassell scored after 71 minutes to give Manchester City a 1-0 win at his old club Aston Villa and end City's six-game losing streak in a low-key Premier League match on Tuesday.

The former England striker dove in a low shot after being fed by Claudio Reyna to make it four goals against Villa since his two million pound (3.58 million US dollars) move last July and bring welcome relief to his boss Stuart Pearce.

Instead it was Villa manager David O'Leary who had to listen to the boos as his side's poor run,

which has brought only one win in nine games, continued. City had lost six league games in a row before Tuesday's game and climb to 13th on 43 points.

"Today I thought we deserved it. Results haven't been good at the club but the players have stuck at it and they've been under a bit of pressure," Pearce told Sky Sports.—MNA/Reuters

Luzemburgo banned for accusing referee of flirting

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 April—Santos coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo has been handed a 60-day touchline ban for accusing a referee of flirting with him during a match.

However, Santos said on Tuesday that they had appealed against the decision, made by a disciplinary tribunal on Monday, and that under Brazilian rules Luxemburgo would be free to coach the team as usual until the new hearing takes place.

The former Real Madrid and Brazil coach made the remark after his team lost 3-1 to Sao Paulo in the Paulista Champion-

ship on 2 April. "He was flirting with me," said Luxemburgo during the post-match media conference. "He blew his whistle and looked at me with every decision he made....Maybe it was because of my pink shirt."

Luxemburgo was unhappy with some of referee Rodrigo Martins Cintra's decisions, including the sending-off of central defender Luis Alberto.—MNA/Reuters



Mexico's national soccer player Rafael Garcia kicks the ball during a practice session in Mexico City, Mexico, on 25 April, 2006 in preparation for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Mexico will face Iran, Angola and Portugal in Group D.—INTERNET



San Jose Sharks' Milan Michalek (9) of the Czech Republic is defended by Nashville Predators' Dan Hamhuis, left, as goaltender Chris Mason, right, looks on in the second period of their NHL Western Conference hockey first-round playoff game on 25 April, 2006, in San Jose, Calif.—INTERNET



YANGON, 26 April — The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced this evening that according to the observation at 9.30 pm M S T today, the tropical storm over Southeast Bay has intensified further into a cyclone namely Marlar and it is centred at 260 miles southwest of Cocogyun Island.

The cyclone is moving slowly in northeast direction. It is forecast to pass through the coastal region between Sittway, northern part of Rakhine State, and Chittagong of Bangladesh within 72 hours.

Squalls are likely in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and Rakhine and Chin States in 48 hours. And, squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Delta region, and off and along Rakhine Coast within 48 hours. Surface wind speed during squalls may reach from 50 to 60 mph. — *MNA*

The second best time is now.

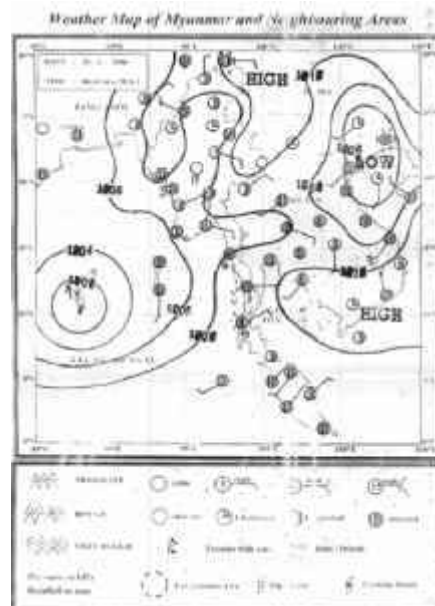
HYDERABAD (Pakistan), 26 April — A 16-year-old Pakistani girl has had a pair of forceps removed from her abdomen left there three years ago during an operation, the second such case in recent weeks, a doctor said on Tuesday.

"The girl was brought back to the hospital complaining of pain and after examination it was discovered she had a pair of forceps lodged in her abdomen," said surgeon Noor Mohammad

He said the girl was still not out of danger.

In March, doctors removed forceps from the abdomen of a 30-year-old woman left a year ago in the town of Jamshoro. But she died later of multiple complications.

MNA/Reuters



Wednesday, 26 April, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, Yangon Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kayin State and Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu and Magway (42°C) each and Monywa, Myingyan and Aunglan (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogoke (2.13) inches, Hsipaw (0.90) inch and Bago (0.75) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-4-2006 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 26-4-2006 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 26-4-2006 was (84%). Total sunshine hours on 25-4-2006 was (4.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-4-2006 were nil Mingaladon, tr at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.59) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (16) mph from Southeast at (11:55) hours MST on 25-4-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the depression over Southeast Bay has intensified further into a tropical storm and it is centred at about (300) miles Southwest of Port Blair, India. It is forecast to move slowly in a some Northerly direction. Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-4-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers are likely scattered in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

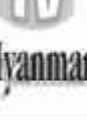
State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 mph. Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw City and neighbouring areas for 27-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 27-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 27-4-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

	<p>8:30 am 10. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 11. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. Musical programme</p> <p>4:50 pm 5. အဝေးသံတူသီလိပ်ညာစေ့ စွပ်ပြင်မကြာသင်နေ့စော -တင်ယူမီ (သတ္တဗောဓာ အညွှန်း) (သတ္တဗောဓာ)</p> <p>5:05 pm 6. Cute little dancers</p> <p>5:15 pm 7. အထိပ်ပြည့်</p> <p>5:25 pm 8. Musical programme</p> <p>5:35 pm 9. အားဖြည့်မှု</p> <p>5:40 pm 10. "ဆုတံဆိပ်ပြန်ပြန်" (မင်းဆုတံဆိပ် ကုသိုလ်) (ခါကိတ်တာ-မိန့်နဲ့နဲ့)</p>	<p>5:45 pm 11. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းရောက်သောစွမ်းအားဖြင့် မိမိလက်ခံသောစွမ်းအားဖြင့်</p> <p>6:00 pm 12. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 13. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 14. အစောဆုံးပြည့်</p> <p>6:45 pm 15. Musical programme</p> <p>7:00 pm 16. မြန်မာမှု ပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းဆယ်မျိုး)</p> <p>7:05 pm 17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လမ်းညွှန် "မန်မန်မန်မန်" (အပိုင်း-၃)</p> <p>8:00 pm 18. News</p> <p>19. International news</p> <p>20. Weather report</p> <p>21. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လမ်းညွှန် "နန်းဆိပ်မန်မန်" (အပိုင်း-၂) (စာတိုက်မိမိမိမိ)</p> <p>22. The next day's programme</p>
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Radio Myanmar

Thursday, 27 April
Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music:
 -Hello
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
 -I'll find you
8.50 am National news / Slogan
9:00 am Music:
 -Top of the world
9:05 am International news
9.10 am Music
 -The real thing
1:30 pm News / Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
 -If we are only friend
9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Pourri
9.30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
 -Always on my mind
9.45 pm News / Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Commander inspects extension of Union Highway in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials inspected the 500-acre opium substitute corn, sugar, sunflower, pigeon pea and apiculture project in Manmaw Village in Lashio on 22 April.

Farm-in-charge Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung reported on projects implemented and cultivation of physic nut. The commander gave instructions and visited the 1,000-acre plantations of physic nut and pineapple, Hsinshweli summer paddy plantation of Township Peace and Development Council and Myanmar Police Force.

The commander gave instructions on irrigation and use of natural and chemical fertilizers.

The commander and party inspected extension of Union Highway to Lashio being carried out by Asia World Co Ltd and plantation of 5,000 physic nuts of the command.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye felicitates Executive Deputy President of Republic of South Africa

YANGON, 27 April — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2006. —MNA

Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to Serbia and Montenegro

YANGON, 27 April — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia and Montenegro, which falls on 27 April 2006. —MNA

Weather Forecast for 27-4-2006

Nay Pyi Taw City & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Kyaikhtaw Model Village opens in Kawhmu Township Expectant mothers provided with cash, medicines and safe delivery kits

YANGON, 26 April — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the ceremony to inaugurate Kyaikhtaw Model Village in Kawhmu Township this morning.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai attended the ceremony to grow physic nut saplings at Mahseseik Village in Kawhmu Township. Local people took part in the physic nut saplings growing ceremony.

Next, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai formally opened the archway of

Kyaikhtaw Model Village. The commander unveiled the signboard of the village.

The commander inspected the telephone exchange and post office of the village, and the station hospital (16-bed). They presented cash assistance, medicines and safe delivery kit to the expectant mothers. The commander and wife donated K 100,000 to the fund of the station hospital to Medical Superintendent Dr Tun Win.

They visited the pre-primary school of Kyaikhtaw Model Village Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Branch), and presented snacks and toys to the children.

Next, the ceremony to mark the opening ceremony of the model village was held at Basic Education High School. Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai gave a speech.

Afterwards, MCWA membership applications were handed over to officials. Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai presented uniforms of the association to officials. At Amaeywa Library of the village, they donated various kinds of books.

The commander met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at Kungyangon and Kawhmu Township PDC Offices separately, and attended to their needs. — MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win pressing the button to unveil the signboard of Kyaikhtaw Model Village in Kawhmu Township. — MNA