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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 sends message of congratulations to Kuwait

YANGON, 18 Jan— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla al-Sabah, on his accession as Emir of the State of Kuwait. — MNA

Myanma Railways is performing construction of the approach railroads at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on both sides. So far, the construction tasks of the approach railroads have been completed by 78 per cent on Mawlamyine bank and 76 per cent on Mottama bank.

Smooth transport among regions will contribute toward forging friendly relations among national brethren and flourishing of Union Spirit

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects construction of approach railroad at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)

YANGON, 18 Jan — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Prime Minister

General Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief

(Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, and officials of the State

Peace and Development Council Office, left Myeik for Mali Island of Palaw Township on 16 January morning.

At Malikyun Yeiktha, Commodore Win Shein reported on transport links to Mali Island, and agriculture and

livestock breeding tasks on the island. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions.

At Mali Hall, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with officers, other ranks and family members of Tatmadaw

(Navy) and presented gifts to them.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the port at Mali Island.

At Malikyun Affiliated BEHS, they were welcomed by townselders, Headmistress Daw Hla Hla Aye, teachers and students. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the classrooms and school buildings and attended to the needs.

They flew to Palauk of Palaw Township by helicopter. Col Tin Myint of Palauk Station briefed them on progress of Palauk Station, regional development tasks, agriculture and livestock breeding undertakings. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions. At Aung Nan Taung Hall in Palauk Station, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with Tatmadawmen and family members, and presented gifts for them to Col Tin Myint of Palauk Station.

(See page 8)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party observe physic nut saplings, seeds and grafts. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 January, 2006

Work together for regional development

As Myanmar is rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources and extending cultivation of crops by making full use of these resources, agricultural production is on the rise. Cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy can not only ensure self-sufficiency in food but also contribute to economic development.

As Taninthayi Division has vast areas of vacant and virgin land and a lot of potential for economic enterprises, it is necessary to grow more crops suitable to the soil and climate of the region. In the same way, priority should also be given to fisheries and mineral and natural gas industries.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by responsible officials, visited Myeik University, Myeik General Hospital, Kyweku-Kyaukphya bridge and the site for Myeik Myothit and other development projects, and gave necessary instructions to responsible personnel on 15 January.

In his meeting with division-, district- and township-level departmental personnel and entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of the Coastal Region Command, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the third 5-year short-term plan had been successfully implemented, that the fourth 5-year short-term plan was to be implemented based on achievements of the third and that there would be continued progress in all sectors only if the government, the people and the Tatmadaw worked in concert.

Taninthayi Division is a region where oil palm thrives and therefore oil palm is being grown widely to meet domestic consumption of edible oil. The government is providing all the necessary assistance to national entrepreneurs. Now 35 companies are working to grow oil palm on 500,000 acres of land and some have built crude palm oil mills and put them on test-run. Township-level responsible personnel are also required to provide all the necessary assistance for fisheries, mineral extraction, extended cultivation of paddy, oil palm, rubber, pepper and physic nut plants.

While the government is fulfilling all the requirements for the development of various regions, regional authorities and local people are required to work together for the progress of their respective regions.



CASH DONATED: U Hla Moe (Myanma Airways)-Daw Thwe Thwe Khaing and family of 101/102, Building No 16, Ward 4, Hline Township, recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged. Photo shows the wellwishers presenting the donation to Joint Secretary of administrative board U Thein Aung. — H

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

Naga traditional New Year festival held in Leshe, Sagaing Division

YANGON, 18 Jan — The Naga traditional New Year festival was held in Leshe, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, on 15 January.

Present were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attend Naga traditional New Year festival.— MNA



Naga traditional New Year festival in progress. — MNA

Thura Aye Myint, Daw Wai Wai Khaing, wife of the commander and Patron of Sagaing Division Organization for Women's Affairs, local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and Naga nationals.

U Kya Naw, a Naga national, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave speeches. Daw Waung Lai Shee, a Naga national, explained the salient points of the New Year. Naga elder U Keeshi Hmu and Naga nationals

presented souvenirs to the commander, the minister and officials.

The commander and the minister presented TV set, satellite receivers, cash for township water supply functions, a computer, a copier, cassette players, food,

clothes, paddy seeds for highland cultivation, maize seeds, tea saplings and farm implements for the Naga people of various townships. Officials also presented ministry-wise donations to the Naga national races. Diamond Palace Company and hoteliers and tour companies also presented K 5 million for the Naga region development. Naga traditional food was served and Naga traditional dances were entertained.

Later, sports competitions were held to hail the New Year. The commander and the minister presented prizes to the winners. In the evening, a bonfire was held where Naga people entertained the guests with traditional dances.— MNA

Fifth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour opened



YANGON, 18 Jan — The fifth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour, jointly organized by Myanmar PGA and MGF and sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd, was opened at Regina Golf Club in Tachilek yesterday morning. MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Deputy Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin, Tactical Operations Commander Col Myint

Han, Air Bagan Ltd Chairman U Teza and Mr Surapongrun Raun of Regina Hotel and Golf Club opened the tour.

A total of 100 golfers — 19 Thai professionals, 27 Myanmar professionals, 46 Myanmar and eight Thai amateur golfers — are taking part in the golf tour. Bunlue Maneerat (Thailand) led the professional division by shooting a three-under-par 69 in the first round. Palawat Sangsai (Thailand), Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon), and Min Naing (Srixon) tied in the second position by firing 70 each. In the amateur division, Khin Zaw Win stood in the first po-



Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) tees off the ball to open the tournament. — MGF

sition by scoring a two-under-par 70 together with his runners-up Htay Aung, Yan Naing Phyo, Bo Bo and Aung Win (Monywa) who shot 73

each. Taunggyi Gems Master will present K 500,000 and Regina Hotel and Golf Club 10,000 bahts to hole-in-one scorers.— MNA

25 Chinese records go into "Guinness Book" in 2005

SHENYANG, 17 Jan— Twenty-five Chinese records went into the *Guinness Book of World Records* in 2005, sources with China's submitting office said on Monday.

"These new entries reflect China's long history and rich culture, modern achievements in science and technology, as well as the lives of ordinary Chinese," said Wu Xiaohong, a staff member with the Guinness submitting office of Liaoning Publishing Group, which is the only Guinness-authorized agency in China.

The Confucius family genealogy, one of the 25 records, is considered the longest of its kind in world records. Dating back 2,800 years, it clearly records the 86 generations of the Con-

fucius family tree. In addition, the records of unique feminine writing symbols discovered in Hunan Province and the oldest angiosperm fossils unearthed in Northeast China are both a mirror of China's long civilization, said Wu.

Some modern wonders, including the "highest" Qinghai-Tibet Railway on the "roof of the world", the longest rubber dam in east China which runs 1,135 metres, all rated entries in the *Guinness Book*.

Hong Kong's Kwai Chung container wharf, 105 metres high and

860,000 square metres in space, is considered the largest world industrial construction.

Some group events were also recorded by Guinness, such as the flute performance attended by 5,600 Hong Kong children, and the horse race in Inner Mongolia, which involved 200 horses. Individual Chinese also contributed to the Guinness Book. A Beijing resident, named Wang Jun, made a two-stringed traditional Chinese instrument, known as "Erhu", which measures only 4.7 centimetres.—MNA/Xinhua

ထိုင်းကန်ဒီဇိုင်း ဝါးဂျီ



A Chinese man walks next to a row of traditional Chinese red lanterns at a park in Beijing on 17 Jan, 2006. The Chinese celebrate Spring Festival with Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on 29 January this year. —INTERNET

Gas tanker explosion rocks New York

NEW YORK, 17 Jan— Powerful explosions caused by an overturned gas tanker rocked New York City at noon Monday, police said.

Fox TV reported that a gas truck crash had caused the explosions, broadcasting a footage showing a burning gas truck lying on its side just under a bridge of the Line 7 railway, with firefighters sprinkling where heavy smoke was billowing from.

Part of the blackened railway tracks was seen dangling under the bridge, apparently burnt down by some 8000 gallons of gas reportedly carried by the underlying truck.

A police officer near the site would not confirm if people were injured or if it was a terrorist attack, saying that nothing else was known other than that it was caused by a gas tanker which has caught fire.

A call by Xinhua to NYPD's Press inquiry also brought no definite explanations. Asked about the cause of the explosions and any possible casualties, an unidentified officer simply said the explosion happened sometime ago before hanging up.

The gas tanker was seen on fire on a highway between No 69 and No 74 subway stations on the Roosevelt Avenue, Queens. Heavy smoke billowing into the sky was once seen even by Xinhua reporters at the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan. —MNA/Xinhua

Thai Energy Ministry to raise number of NGV vehicles

BANGKOK, 17 Jan— The Energy Ministry of Thailand has set a target to increase the number of vehicles with engines modified for natural gas for vehicles (NGV) to 500,000 units in 2010, Thai News Agency said on Monday.

Cherdpong Sirivich, the permanent secretary for energy, said the ministry wanted to see 70,000 vehicles installed with NGV kits this year and had a target to raise the number to 300,000 and 500,000 units in 2008 and 2010 respectively.

The ministry also in-

tended to see the number of NGV service stations increase to 420 and 740 in 2008 and 2010, the report said.

At present, there are 10,400 units of vehicles with NGV kits. The number is smaller than targeted since shops providing the installation

services are in small number. Cherdpong said the Energy Business Department had come with a workshop programme to train and increase the number of skilled technicians to ensure the installation of NGV kits for 76,600 units of vehicles more.—MNA/Xinhua

Two feared dead in Pakistan's quake-zone landslide

BADHIARA (Pakistan), 17 Jan— At least two Kashmiri men were feared dead after being swept off a cliff by a landslide triggered by heavy rain in Pakistan's earthquake zone on Monday, Reuters witnesses said.

A Reuters Television cameraman had been filming a party of villagers, including women and children, trying to traverse a stretch of mountain road covered by earth and rock from an earlier landslide when the next one struck.

At least three other people were injured in the accident near the village of Badhiara in Pakistani Kashmir. Sudhir Awan, a Pakistani soldier on leave, managed to escape the falling rocks and was bleeding from a head injury.—MNA/Reuters

Iraq captors threaten to kill journalist

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan—The abductors of US journalist Jill Carroll have threatened to kill her if the United States does not free Iraqi women prisoners within 72 hours, reports Aljazeera.

Aljazeera aired a brief video on Tuesday showing Carroll speaking to the camera, without broadcasting her voice.

The Qatar-based station said the kidnappers identified themselves as

members of a previously unknown armed group calling itself the "Brigades of Vengeance".

Aljazeera reaffirmed its rejection of all forms of violence against journalists and demanded Carroll's immediate release.

Carroll, a 28-year-old who was working for The

Christian Science Monitor, was abducted earlier this month while her Iraqi interpreter was killed.

Carroll had been on her way to a meeting with Adnan al-Dulaimi, a Sunni Arab leader whom she had intended to interview, the newspaper had said.

INTERNET



An Iraqi soldier mans his machinegun after a raid in the village of Gurna, about 80 km (50 miles) from Basra in southern Iraq on 16 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET

More Ethiopians need food aid after poor rains

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Jan— About 1.75 million Ethiopians will need emergency food aid in the first half of 2006 due to poor rains in parts of the country, adding to the 5.5 million Ethiopians already getting food shipments, the United Nations said on Monday.

Last year's rainy season got off to a late start and was not heavy enough to support good crop growth in Ethiopia's southern Somali region and south-central Oromiya region, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

The spreading humanitarian crisis in the country of about 70 million people stems from a prolonged drought that has left more than 11 million people at risk across eastern Africa this year, the UN office said.

Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya are among

those suffering as well, it said. There is enough food in Ethiopia to meet immediate needs, but security or logistic woes could threaten future supplies, according to the World Food Programme, the United Nations' food distribution arm.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore, Japan collaborate to provide personnel training for ASEAN

SINGAPORE, 17 Jan— The International Trade Institute of Singapore (ITIS) said on Monday that it will continue working with a Japanese organization to provide personnel training for the ASEAN countries.

"Together with AOTS (Japan's Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship), ITIS is pleased to continue offering itself as a platform for AOTS to implement strategic training programmes for officials from both the government and private sectors in the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries," said ITIS' Chairman Ted Tan. Speaking at an event

celebrating the 10th anniversary of the collaboration between the two organizations, Tan noted that ITIS and AOTS have conducted over 20 programmes and trained more than 400 participants from the ASEAN countries in the past 10 years.

These programmes covered such areas as the export market development, international business financing, train-the-trainers on expanding busi-

ness through exports, practical corporate management, trade and export promotion strategies, as well as streamlining trade procedures.

A subsidiary of the city state's external trade development agency International Enterprise Singapore, ITIS provides training, consulting and research in the fields of international trade and business leveraging on Singapore's experience.

MNA/Xinhua



Nuclear Engineer Craig Marianno, a contractor for the Department of Energy demonstrates on 16 Jan, 2006, some of the radiation detection devices that will be used during the New Horizons mission launch. The spacecraft launch is scheduled for a Tuesday afternoon liftoff on a 9 - to 14 - year trip to Pluto. —INTERNET

US helicopter downed in north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan — A US helicopter crashed north of Baghdad on Monday, the military said.

Previously, the Dubai-based al-Arabiya channel said the helicopter was hit by a rocket in the area near the town of Meshadah.

The US military confirmed the incident, but said there was no immediate word on the fate of its two-member crew.

US troops immediately cordoned off the area preventing people from approaching the scene, with several helicopters flying overhead, the channel said.

The channel did not give further details, including casualties in the incident.

MNA/Xinhua

Norwegian doctor made up cancer study

OSLO, 17 Jan— A Norwegian cancer expert made up fictitious patients for an article about treatment of oral cancer published in a leading medical journal, the hospital said on Sunday.

"The material was fabricated," said Trine Lind, spokeswoman of the Norwegian Radium Hospital where Jon Sudbo has worked as a doctor and a researcher. "We are shocked. This is the worst thing that could happen in a research institution like ours."

Sudbo, 44, invented patients and case histories for a study of oral cancer that was published in the British medical journal the Lancet in October 2005, she said.

The Norwegian daily *Dagbladet* said that 250 of his sample of 908 people in the study all shared the same birthday.

Lind said Sudbo, who has not commented publicly on the hospital's charges and could not be contacted on Sunday, had admitted falsifying the data for the article.

The hospital has set up a commission to investigate why Sudbo falsified data and how his material passed a review by other experts.

The panel would also examine previous articles by Sudbo, including two in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The Radium Hospital had halted Sudbo's research at the department of Medical Oncology and Radiotherapy and was discussing whether he could continue treating patients. — MNA/Reuters

Four dead, several missing in Indonesian boat accident

JAKARTA, 17 Jan — A passenger boat with 34 people onboard sank off Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara Province early on Monday, leaving four passengers dead and seven more missing.

The boat was hit by tidal waves and sank at 02:00 local time (1800 GMT Sunday) near the Alor Island, some 2,100 kilometres east of Jakarta.

Alor regent Ans Takalapeta confirmed the accident, adding that the evacuation process was hampered by bad weather.

According to him, torrential rains and tidal waves were seen at the scene when rescue team was arriving.

"We have coordinated measures to suspend all inter-island travels until the waters back to normal, because we witness heavy rains and giant waves at present," he was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

S'pore to set up 24-hour tsunami, earthquake warning centre

SINGAPORE, 17 Jan — Singapore will set up a round-the-clock tsunami and earthquake warning centre by the end of this year, Channel NewsAsia quoted Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Yaacob Ibrahim as saying at Parliament on Monday.

He said that Singapore's National Environment Agency (NEA) under his ministry has been developing a tsunami monitoring and early warning system as part of the Indian Ocean Warning System for the region. — MNA/Xinhua

GMS countries seeking roadmap for trade facilitation

KUNMING, 17 Jan — More than 80 officials, experts and entrepreneurs from China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Asian Development Bank convened here Monday discussing the facilitation of trade and investment in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

They were attending a seminar hosted by the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs under China's Ministry of Commerce and the provincial commerce department of Yunnan.

The seminar was aimed to seek a roadmap for the

implementation of a strategic framework on trade and investment facilitation between the six countries after leaders of the countries reached an agreement on such a framework in July last year in Kunming, capital of Yunnan in southwest China. Topics on the seminar included Customs reform, improvement of Customs inspection and quarantine management, revision of trade-related laws and regulations, and the improvement of the environment of logistic service.

China hopes to further its cooperation and exchange with the Asian Development Bank and other countries in the sub-region to work out a most favourable scheme for smooth flow of trade and investment between the countries, said Yi Xiaozhun, Vice-Minister of Commerce. — MNA/Xinhua

One dead, 150 hurt in bullfight festival in India

NEW DELHI, 17 Jan — One person has been killed and up to 150 others have been injured in Madurai, a city in South India's Tamil Nadu during the bullfight festival, Jallikattu, New Delhi Television reported here Monday.

Madurai hospitals were flooded with patients, many were seriously injured.

The incident occurred when an angry bull charged at onlookers during the show. Up to 100,000 people were watching the fight, said the report.

During the festival, Tamil Nadu's men attempt to contain a charging bull that has just had his tail bitten to get it in the charging mood.

The festival has been associated with valor in the past. By proving his valor against the bull, a young man greatly increases his status among girls who are choosing a suitor.

In modern times, Jallikattu, like its European equivalents such as the bull-running of Pamplona, faces much public condemnation. This time, animal welfare organizations have asked the authorities to phase out the festival. — MNA/Xinhua



A military helicopter

flies over smoke after

an explosion in

central Baghdad on

15 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET



Iraqi soldiers patrol the holy city of Najaf, 150 kms south of Baghdad on 15 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Malaysia, Singapore agree to jointly promote tourism

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Jan— Malaysia and Singapore have agreed to jointly launch a two-year marketing campaign to promote tourism in the two countries, tourism bodies of the two countries said on Monday.

Tourism officials from the two sides on Sunday signed an agreement on the sidelines of a tourism meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said a joint statement released by tourism bodies of the two countries.

Among activities

identified for the joint marketing campaign, Malaysia and Singapore will work hand in hand to promote bilateral tourism flows, market tourism products to third countries and reactivate tourism games between the two countries.

The focus will be on strategic advertising in the United States, West

Asia and Russia where the two sides will share the funding on an equal basis, the *Bernama* news agency quoted the statement as saying.

Malaysian Tourism Minister Leo Michael Toyad described the two countries as natural partners with very strong ties traditionally.

MNA/Xinhua

US troops death toll rises to 2,220

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan— As of Tuesday, 17 Jan, 2006, at least 2,220 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count.

At least 1,741 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include six military civilians. The *AP* count is four lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Tuesday. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,081 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. — *Internet*

Two roadside bombs rock Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan— Two roadside bombs rocked central and western Baghdad on Monday morning, causing casualties, a police source told *Xinhua*.

"A roadside bomb remotely detonated at about 9:00 am (0600 GMT) in Saadoun tunnel in central Baghdad as a convoy of Sport Utility Vehicles, used by US contractors, was passing by," Captain Ahmed Abdullah said.

The blast caused ca-

sualties in the US convoy and the US troops immediately sealed off the area, prohibiting Iraqi police and civilians from approaching, he said.

Another roadside bomb attack took place at about 9:35 am (0635 GMT) at the Yarmouk in-

tersection in western Baghdad, Abdullah said. The attack destroyed two police vehicles and two civilian cars, he added.

Guerrillas frequently attack the US troops, foreign contractors and Iraqi forces by roadside bombs.—MNA/Xinhua

Young Russian diplomat drowns in Manila

MANILA, 17 Jan— A 22-year old Russian diplomat drowned to death in his condominium building at Makati City, south of Metro Manila, police said on Monday.

Gurgen Balayan, a protocol officer of the Russian Federation Embassy in the Philippines, was found dead Sunday night at the shallow portion of a swimming pool in the condominium where he lived, police said.

Police said Balayan's neighbour who found him

dead initially thought the Russian diplomat was just doing some pleasure floating in the pool.

The neighbour alarmed the security guards when he noticed that Balayan was no longer breathing in the same position after he came back in the pool at

7:30 pm. Balayan was pronounced dead at the Makati medical centre upon arrival at the emergency room at 7:45 pm, police said.

Police said investigators are still looking into possibilities of foul play in Balayan's sudden death.

MNA/Xinhua

CNN banned in Iran for translation gaffe

TEHERAN, 17 Jan— Iran on Monday banned CNN journalists from working there after the broadcaster misquoted President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as saying Iran wanted nuclear weapons, the *ISNA* students news agency said.

CNN's simultaneous translation of Ahmadinejad's lengthy news conference on Saturday included the phrase "the use of nuclear weapons is Iran's right".

In fact, what the Iranian President said was that "Iran has the right to nuclear energy," the official *IRNA* news agency reported. CNN later clarified in an apology on Sunday night.

Iran denies any intention of seeking nuclear weapons, saying it wants atomic technology merely

for the generation of electricity.

ISNA said Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry deemed the error a "violation of professional ethics" and suspended CNN journalists from working in Iran until further notice.

CNN does not have a permanent bureau in Iran but a local journalist is a contributor to the network and visiting correspondents are occasionally given permission to enter the country on short assignments.— *MNA/Reuters*

764,000 poultry culled in Turkey to fight bird flu

ANKARA, 17 Jan— Some 764,000 poultry have been culled in Turkey to fight bird flu, the National Coordination Centre for Bird Flu said on Monday.

The centre said bird flu has been detected in 13 provinces and there are suspected bird flu cases in another 16 provinces.

The first bird flu case was reported in Aralik town of eastern Igdır province on 26 December, 2005. The disease is also seen in cities of Igdır, Erzurum, Sanliurfa, Erzincan, Agri, Bitlis, Yozgat, Ankara, Bursa, Istanbul, Van, Aydin and Kars, the centre said.

There is "risk" of bird flu in provinces of Mus, Ardahan, Izmir, Isparta, Konya, Karaman, Siirt, Karabuk, Sivas, Bayburt, Elazig, Diyarbakir, Eskisehir, Mugla, Batman and Malatya, the centre added.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Nine killed in Russian office fire

Moscow, 17 Jan — Nine people were killed in an office building fire on Monday in Russia's Pacific port of Vladivostok, *Interfax* news agency reported.

Some people leaped from the upper floors of the eight-storey building to escape the flames. Fourteen people were injured, *Interfax* said.

Prosecutors said they were investigating why fire escapes in the building were blocked by metal grills.— *MNA/Reuters*



Reese Witherspoon poses with the award she won for best actress in a musical or comedy for her work in "Walk the Line," at the 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards on 16 Jan, 2006, in Beverly Hills, Calif.—INTERNET

25 killed, 38 injured in suicide explosions in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Jan— In the successional suicide explosions happened on Monday in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, 25 persons were killed, at least 38 others were injured, local officials said.

"This evening in the bordering Spin Boldak District, a suicide attacker in a motorcycle rushed into the crowded people and exploded himself. Twenty civilians were killed, and more than 20 others were injured," the provincial governor Assadullah Khalid told journalists in a Press conference.

People were having picnic in the area and some wrestling game was also going on. The explosion happened at the end of the celebration, and three vehicles were also damaged.

On the same day in Kandahar, another suicide explosion has claimed five persons' lives, and injured 18 others.

"A 15-year-old young man exploded himself near an ANA (Afghan National Army) convoy in the centre of Kandahar City this afternoon. Five persons including one Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier, three civilians and the attacker were killed, six ANA soldiers and 12 civilians were injured," Zahir Azimi, the spokesperson of Defence Ministry told *Xinhua*.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Electric power sector witnesses sustained progress

Increased generating of power in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Hydel power projects being implemented across the country

With the nation's development, people's living standard has improved markedly. As science and technology is changing and advancing year by year, people are

able to access to modern electronic devices.

In the past, television, electric iron, tape recorders and fans are regarded as luxuries and only elites had been able



Paunglaung underground power station in Pyinmana.

Generating capacity of hydel power stations

(Electricity in megawatt daily supplied)

Sr	Project	State/Division/Town	1988	2005	Progress
1	Biluchaung (1) (2)	Loikaw, Kayah State	120	360	240
2	Kinda	Myiththa, Mandalay Division	-	18	18
3	Hsedawgyi	Madaya, Mandalay Division	-	18	18
4	Zawgyi (1)	Yaksawk, Shan State (South)	-	8	8
5	Zawgyi (2)	Yaksawk, Shan State (South)	-	9	9
6	Thaphanseik	Kyunhla, Sagaing Division	-	12	12
7	Paunglaung	Pyinmana, Mandalay Division	-	270	270
8	Monechaung	Sedoktara, Magway Division	-	70	70
9	Zaungtu	Bago, Bago Division	-	20	20

to reach these facilities. Housing in urban areas were separate ones but now skyscrapers have become symbols of urban areas. Almost every household uses fluorescent lamps, bulbs, televisions, video, fans, refrigerators, washing machines, air-conditioners and electric stoves.

Let alone other regions, there are over 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon and thus if one household uses a four-foot fluorescent lamp in the city it means over 20 megawatts of elec-

tricity have to be supplied.

Therefore, the government is always seeking ways and means for the development of the electric power sector with the aim of enabling the people to be able to catch up with the higher living standard. Land and water resources are abundant in Myanmar. Exploring and exploiting these resources, electricity is being supplied to the people through hydel power stations.

There are three ways to generate electricity—hydel power, gas-fired power and fuel-fired power.

Hydel power projects are the most reliable ones for the country.

In generating electricity through hydel power projects, there was only Lawpita hydel power project in the past, but now 30 new hydel power projects have been implemented throughout the country.

The table shows the generating capacity of the completed nine major hydel power projects out of other projects implemented in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

MCWA Secretary and party make field trip to Zigon Township

YANGON, 18 Jan — Secretary of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw

Wai Wai Tha, CEC members Daw Khin Than Win, Dr Daw Khin Mya Win and Daw Thazin Nwe,

Chairperson of Bago Division (West) MCW Supervisory Committee Daw Naing Naing Maw

and Secretary Dr U Aye Nyein made a field trip to Bago Division (West) yesterday.

They assessed efforts and functions of the trainees who had completed the township-level teachership course on behaviors of reproductive health at Zigon Township level, and Nwategon Village and Lema Village level.

Moreover, they held round-table discussions on accomplishments of township MCWA and village MCWA branches, and their cooperation with other social organizations. — MNA



CEC members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association hold round-table discussions on reproductive health with local people. — MYANMA RAILWAYS

20th Gems & Jade Sales attract 1,506 merchants

YANGON, 18 Jan — Local and foreign gems merchants totalling 1,506 gathered here to participate in the 20th Gems and Jade Sales organized by the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited.

The sales continued for the third day today at Myanma Gems Mart here.

The gem and jade lots will be sold through bargain and auction systems tomorrow.

Merchants are allowed to put their bargain forms into boxes not later than 7 am tomorrow.

MNA

Donate blood

Myanmar will be totally free...

(From page 16)
nation. Six post-graduate diploma courses, 29 master degrees courses and 37 doctorates courses are bringing out brilliant medical professionals in accord with the national requirement.

In this age of information communication technology, advanced teaching methods are being introduced for the advancement of the nation's medical science.

Scholars of the medical fields are being sent to take part in courses, seminars and study tours

abroad to enhance their knowledge.

It is also sending qualified persons to attend MRCP, MRCS, MRCOG and FFA courses in foreign universities.

The government is also running courses on diploma in family medicine for doctors. Thanks to the 30-year national health plan covering short-term projects, the nation is now free from smallpox, polio and leprosy, and the nation will be free from iodine deficiency in the near future.

Myanmar has seen

success in conducting liver transplants, renal transplants, limb replants and cardiac operations, that are international level achievements of the nation.

He said the government annually awards honorary badges to health staff who show outstanding performances, calling for sustained efforts to win the respect of not only ASEAN nations but also other world nations by promoting the medical science standard of the nation.

In carrying out public



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views display of medicines and medical equipment at 52nd Conference of Myanmar Medical Association. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint formally opens medicine and medical equipment exhibition. — MNA



Personnel of MWAFF presents K 200,000 to Minister Dr Kyaw Myint. — YCDC

Sanitation tasks, cash donation carried out hailing National Convention

YANGON, 18 Jan — Hailing and supporting the National Convention, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized sanitation tasks in conjunction with the ceremony to donate cash to the fund of Insein General Hospital at the hospital in Insein Township on 14 January morning.

Head of Organizational Department of MWAFF Dr Daw Nyunt

Nyunt Oo, Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairperson of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Myo Thu, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, MCWA, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade, employees of YCDC and departmental personnel, totalling over 900 partici-

ated in the sanitation tasks in the compound of Insein General Hospital.

At the cash donation ceremony, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and Medical Superintendent Dr Aye Pe accepted K3.45 million donated by 26 wellwishers.

Medical Superintendent Dr Aye Pe spoke words of thanks. — MNA

health care services, it is required to give health educative talks and take diseases control measures on a wider scale. In the process, health staff are to make field trips right to the grassroots level in collaboration with social organizations.

Under the aegis of the

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, considerable success has been achieved in performing operations on cleft lip and palate patients and eye patients.

Members of the Myanmar Medical Association that has come into existence since 1949 is to do their utmost to be able to cure all types of diseases at reasonable costs in the nation.

The members are to preserve codes of conduct to win the respect and reliance of the people. And intellectuals and intelligentsia should be fully equipped with nationalistic fervour and the spirit of doing their bit in the interests of the people.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called on the members to make harmonious efforts to ensure perpetual existence of the association, to produce human resources, and to en-

hance the role of the association.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the commemorative medicines and medical equipment exhibition.

The Secretary-1 and party viewed the pavilions around the exhibition.

Also present were ministers, NHC members, senior officers of the Defence Services Directorate of Medical Services, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Ministry of Health, members of UN agencies, MMA and international organizations, representatives of international medical associations and guests.

The conference and exhibition continue until 24 January. — MNA

Lorenzo Sofa Show Room opens

YANGON, 18 Jan — Lorenzo Sofa Show Room of NatRay Co Ltd was opened on 14 January at No 22, 9th-Mile, Pyay Road, here.

President of the Myanmar Women Entre-

preneurs Association Daw Khin Myint Myint, film stars and Managing Director of NatRay Co Ltd Daw Khin Marlar formally opened the show room.

NatRay Co Ltd will

sell new design sofas at a discount up to 22 January to mark the opening of show room.

New design sofas for 2006 are displayed at the show room.

MNA



Opening of Lorenzo Sofa Show Room of NatRay Co Ltd in progress. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife visit Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San paying reverence to Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda. — MNA



YANGON, 18 Jan — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, accompanied by Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and heads of department yesterday visited Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto, Mon

State.

They offered flowers, lights and water, and paid homage to the pagoda.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye also made a cash donation at the pagoda.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party signed in the visitors' book and offered gold foils to the pagoda. — MNA

Smooth transport among regions ...

(from page 1)

On arrival at Dawei, they were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Aye Ko of Dawei Station, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Moe, Chairman of Dawei District PDC Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo and officials.

At the construction site of Dawei Airport Project, Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun reported on construction of Dawei Airport and progress of tasks. Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe gave supplementary reports on the construction project. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye instructed them to put on record project-wise implementation of the airports.

Next, they oversaw progress in construction of the runway at the airport and tasks being carried

out with the use of heavy machinery. The runway of the Dawei Airport is being upgraded to the new one measuring 12,000 feet by 100 feet.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with Tatmadawmen and family members of regiments and units of Dawei Station at Aung San Hall in the station.

On 17 January, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Heinze of Yebyu Township where they were welcomed by Commodore Maung Oo Lwin of Heinze Station and officials.

At Heinze Station Hall, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called on Tatmadawmen and family members and presented gifts for them to Commodore Maung Oo Lwin. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed physic nut saplings.

At 11.15 am, they went to Mawlamyine where

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, senior military officers and departmental officials welcomed them.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected beautifying tasks along Strand Road and progress of Mawlamyine.

On arrival at the construction site of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Project, they oversaw Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). Senior Engineers of Public Works reported on construction of the approach railroad at the bridge and progress of tasks.

Deputy General Manager U Moe Naing of Myanma Railways and Project Engineer U Lwan Thu briefed Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on laying of rail tracks on the approach road, tasks of the approach structures and construction of Mawlamyine Station.

(See page 9)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party view the natural beauty of Mali Island. —MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets with Tatmadawmen and family members of regiments and units of Palauk Station. —MNA



Smooth transport among regions ...

(from page 8)

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivered an address, saying that efforts are to be made for timely completion of building the approach railroad bridge, laying of rail tracks and construction of the railway station according to schedule. Construction of roads and bridges were carried out for better transport among States and Divisions. Smooth transport among the regions will contribute much toward forging friendly relations among

the approach railroads at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on both sides. So far, the construction tasks of the approach railroads have been completed by 78 per cent on Mawlamyine bank and 76 per cent on Mottama bank.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected construction of Mawlamyine Station and gave instructions on keeping the station pleasant and clean.

In the afternoon, they went to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda and paid homage to it. Next, they left there and arrived

report.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo explained assistance being provided for enhancement of agricultural task and boosting the yield of agricultural products, efforts to be made for ensuring local food sufficiency and use of quality strains in cultivation.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha also explained progress of short-term economic plans, data and facts related to



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents gifts for Tatmadawmen and families of Heinze Station to Commodore Maung Oo Lwin.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents gifts for Tatmadawmen and families to Col Tin Myint of Palauk Station.— MNA

the national brethren and the flourishing of Union Spirit. Therefore, it is necessary to complete the project tasks meeting set standard as early as possible. Duties have been assigned to officials for building Yangon-Dawei railroad to become the one-day trip. After inspecting Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party oversaw construction of the approach road (railroad) on Mawlamyine and Mottama banks.

Myanma Railways is performing construction of

back here in the evening.

On 16 January afternoon, Prime Minister General Soe Win, who accompanied Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, met with local authorities of Dawei District, and Dawei, Launglon, Yebyu and Thayetchaung Townships, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at the city hall in Dawei. Local authorities reported on progress of the district and respective townships. The commander gave a supplementary

yearly achievements. He stressed the need for Taninthayi Division to strive for gaining more progress in development with added momentum.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Soe Win delivered a speech, saying that Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived Dawei from Myeik on inspection tour of Taninthayi Division. They left instructions in the regions on the inspection tour for strengthening region-wise economy, ensuring local food sufficiency, extending cultivation of oil palm and rubber, utilizing water and land resources, and enhancing education standard of the people by creating learning opportunities.

Not only Dawei District but also townships in the district need to ensure food sufficiency. Due to favourable climatic and geographical conditions, Dawei region is to place emphasis on growing of 200,000 acres of rubber to meet the target. The Government will provide facilities for higher production as much as possible. The Government had laid down and is implementing necessary plans for equitable development of all regions of the Union, for narrowing of the gap among the regions and for uplift of the living standard of the people. The people, who trust and rely on guidance and leadership of the Head of State and endeavours of the Government, participated in the development tasks. Hence, progress can be witnessed in all regions.

In Taninthayi Division, Ye-Dawei Railroad and Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik-Dawei Motor Road have emerged. Thus, local people have easy access to all parts of the nation through motor road in addition to waterway and airway. In the economic sector of the division, local people will have the opportunities to engage new

(See page 11)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets Tatmadawmen and family members of regiments and units of Dawei Station.— MNA

Commander, Ministers attend cultivation of 30-acre physic nut planting ceremony of North-East Command



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing plants and waters a physic nut plant. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Jan — Hailing the National Convention, the 30-acre physic nut planting ceremony was held at the 100-acre quality physic nut farm of North-East

Command on 15 January afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East

Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, officials and guests.

The commander, the ministers and party viewed sample physic nut, its oil, saplings and physic nut oil lamp. They sowed seeds of physic nut in the nursery. At the area for the plantation, they distributed grafts of physic nut plant to those present. At the ceremony, Tatmadaw families took part in the planting of 36,000 physic nut plants.

At the 100-acre

model farm of the command, they oversaw mixed-cropping of honey orange and pineapple plantations, thriving mushroom, and progress

of the farm.

On 16 January, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, together with Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidar-

State Health Department Dr Aung Win formally opened it. At the ceremony, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented hospital equipment and Col Zaw



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and party observe physic nut seeds and saplings. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan plants and waters a physic nut plant. — MNA

ity and Development Association Minister Col Zaw Min and officials, visited the Shan State (North) development exhibition of departments concerned at Union Sports Ground in Lashio.

Next, the commander and the ministers inspected the agriculture and livestock breeding farm and the 100-acre physic nut farm of Shan State (North) Police Force in Lashio Township.

Hailing the National Convention, the opening ceremony of 16-bed Station Hospital in Mongyaw Village was held. Minister Col Zaw Min and Head of Shan

Min staff uniforms to Dr Zin Ko Ko Aung. Next, they inspected units of the hospital. Similarly, they attended opening of the new building and the library of BEHS (Branch) in Mongyaw Village. The commander handed over school uniforms for teachers to Headmistress Daw Khin Swe Win. Local national race U Kan Na expressed gratitude.

Mongyaw Station Hospital (16-bed), 126 feet long and 118 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 61.2 million, and the new building of the school measuring 150 feet by 30 feet at a cost of K 23.8 million. — MNA

Delegates from all walks of life are actively...

(from page 16)

over it. Meanwhile, the Government is reconvening the National Convention to draft a new enduring State Constitution.

The National Convention was convened in 1993. However, some political groups walked out of the National Convention in 1995 and the National Convention was adjourned.

The Government laid down Seven-Point Road Map and reconvened the National Convention on 17 May, 2004. A total of 1,086 delegates of eight groups participated in the 2004-National Convention. In the National Convention held in 2005, delegates focused matters on detailed basic principles for power sharing of executive and judiciary sectors.

Senior General Than Shwe said that the enduring State Constitution must serve the interests of all national races.

Delegates from all walks of life are actively participating in the National Convention to lay down detailed basic principles to be included in the constitution.

Thanks to the efforts of the Government, we are now witnessing the development of the State.

However, some organizations and nations have been interfering in the internal affairs of the State. In an attempt to hinder the development growth of the State, they imposed economic sanctions and forced organizations to halt their assistance to the State. Their acts are hindrance to the democratization in Myanmar.

Nevertheless, the Government and the people will guard the State against the destructive acts. In an effort to formulate the State Constitution, the Government is reconvening the National Convention phase by phase in accordance with the Seven-Point Road Map. Hence, we all believe in the National Convention and national races are to support the National Convention for the emergence the constitution.

Executive U San Pu of Muse Township USDA



Members of the panel of chairmen at the mass meeting held in support of National Convention. — MNA

tabled a motion in support of the National Convention. He said the National Convention resumed on 5 December 2005. The convention laid down detailed basic principles for sharing of power on legislation in 11 sectors and other five matters after the approval of the delegates.

The delegates from all walks of life are striving for the emergence of an enduring constitution step by step. People honour the delegates. Infrastructures developed year after year due to the (from page 11)



Medical Superintendent Dr Sai Khin Maung Wah presides over the mass meeting.— MNA

Delegates from all walks of life are actively...

(from page 10)
cooperation of the government, the people and



Muse District USDA Executive U San Pu. — MNA

the Tatmadaw. Peace and tranquillity has prevailed in the country. The government and armed groups are participating in regional development tasks in cooperation with the people. Anyone who harms Our Three Main National Causes has to be warded off, he said.

Next, member of Shan State (North) Women's Affairs Organization education group leader Principal of Lashio Government Computer College Dr Nan Soe Aung seconded the motion.

She said over 100 national races have been residing in the country in unity since time immemorial. She said the Union Spirit is important for national solidarity. Similarly, emergence of an enduring constitution is important for establishment



Shan State (North) WAO member Dr Nan Soe Aung.— MNA

of a modern developed democratic nation. Only when there is an enduring constitution, can a modern democratic nation be built as fast as possible.

After taking up the State duties, the government carried out tasks for peace and tranquillity and social development, introduced market-oriented eco-

nomical system and built a great number of infrastructures.

She said she honoured the delegates who discussed the basic principles for the constitution.

Next, member of Shan State (North) War Veterans Organization Supervisory Committee Maj Myo Win (Retd) seconded the motion. After taking up the State duties, the government undertook measures for development of economic, social and political sectors. Making peace with national armed groups is a historic achievement.

They are also participating in drafting the constitution as delegates at the National Convention. All the regions in the country have developed on account of the 24 region development project and five rural development tasks. Roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, universities and colleges, dams and reservoirs and water supply projects were built. How-



Shan State (North) WVO member Major Myo Win (Retd).— MNA

ever, she warned that all the people should be aware of destructive elements.

In conclusion, she said she respected the convention and supported it.

Member Daw Than Than Oo of Lashio Town-

ship Maternal and Child Welfare Association seconded the motion saying that the nation really needs a durable constitution. Over 1,000 delegates to the National Convention have reached a certain point in laying down and adopting basic principles and detailed basic principles. The people are glad to see the National Convention laying down principles concerning the rights of women, children, aged persons and disabled persons. The government while endeavouring for all-round national development has been in the process of convening the National Convention for drafting a new constitution.

The government has spent over K 30,000 million and US\$ 150 million on the 15-year narcotic drugs elimination plan. According to UNODC and CNC reports there was 80 per cent reduction of poppy cultivation in the nation. Up to now the nation has destroyed US\$ 14.6 billion worth of narcotic drugs. It is also cooperating with other countries in launching the anti-narcotics drive.

Veterinary surgeon U Sai Tun Aung of Lashio seconded the motion saying that the nation now



Lashio Township MCWA Member Daw Than Than Oo.— MNA

produces over 1.2 billion baskets of paddy, enough to feed nearly 80 million people. The nation's present population is 54 million. In Shan State (North) the government has built two major bridges, 62 small-scale dams, 481 schools, one government computer college and one government technological college, and 464 miles of all-weather roads. Shan State can now produce surplus rice. The people are happy to know that the National Convention has laid down detailed basic principles concerning the peasant's rights.

The National Convention is the only firm foundation for building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The lopsided pressures and slanders are the acts to endanger Our Three Main National Causes. With full Union Spirit, all the people in Shan State (North) unanimously supported the National Convention.

Advocate U Thauw Lwin of Lashio said that the ongoing National Convention has adopted the 104 basic principles to be embodied in the Constitu-



Veterinary surgeon U Sai Tun Aung of Shan State (North).— MNA

tion through the common consent of all the delegates. So, the Constitution will bestow more rights to the people, and it will be more perfect and more modern with greater essence than the previous ones.

The constitution will ensure that the future government, state and people will be imbued with Union Spirit as well as the unity of the nation.

The National Convention, the first stage of the State's seven-point Road Map, is the fundamental factor in drawing an enduring State Constitution. Only when the State Constitution is in force, will it be able to ensure Our Three Main National Causes, the life-



Advocate U Thauw Lwin of Lashio.— MNA

blood of the nation. So, the NC serves as the foundation for future democratic nation.

When the constitution is completed, self-administered areas will have the rights to carry out executive, legislative and judicial proceedings, and have the opportunity to safeguard the interests of local people all the more.

The successful completion of the NC is the aspiration of national races.

In conclusion, he said he wholeheartedly supported the mass meetings that have been held across the nation, and seconded the motion in support of the National Convention.

All the participants expressed unanimous support for the National Convention, and chanted slogans, bringing the mass meeting to an end.

MNA

Smooth transport among regions ...

(from page 9)

businesses such as pearl culture, oil palm cultivation and tourism industry in addition to fisheries tasks.

Only when natural resources will be exploited and utilized by man power, will economy of the region be strengthened. Therefore, living standard of the people can be raised.

The Government is implementing the policies for ensuring uplift of the people's living standard. Upholding the State's policies, state service personnel and local authorities are to look after the local people in their respective regions and they are to be one with the local people. Only when the service personnel can win trust of the people, will the people cooperate with them.

At Dawei University, the Prime Minister heard reports on construction and academic matters of the university by Pro-Rector U Kyaw Kyaw Htay. Assistant Engineer U Khin Maung Than of Public Works and U Tezar Win of Ever Green Co reported on construction tasks at the university. Minister for Edu-

cation Dr Chan Nyein gave a supplementary report. After greeting the faculty members, the Prime Minister inspected construction of the main building at the university.

On 16 January evening, USDA Secretary-General Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo, together with CEC members Minister U Soe Tha and Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, met with Division USDA Secretary U Kyaw Kyaw Htay, secretaries, executives, organizers and members of Dawei District, Dawei, Launglon, Yebyu and Thayetchaung Township USAs at Dawei District USDA Office.

On 16 January, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa called on district and township level employees of Immigration and National Registration Department, Fire Services Department, Social Welfare Department, and Relief and Resettlement Department at the Dawei District INRD in Dawei, and urged them to conscientiously discharge duties and functions of their departments with patriotic spirit. — MNA



Kutkai Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Myinzu and USDA member of Lashio Ward-12 Daw Nan Win Nandar Tun.— MNA

Delegate Groups hold meetings to compile proposals

YANGON, 18 Jan— Delegate Groups of the National Convention — Delegate Group of Political Parties, Delegate Group of National Races, Delegate Group of Workers and Delegate Group of State Service Personnel — held their group meetings at designated halls of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

Delegate Group of Political Parties

The Delegate Group of Political Parties held its meeting at the hall-1 this morning. U Tun Yin

ing the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

Delegate Group of National Races

The Delegate Group of National Races held its meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hall. The meeting was presided over by Duwa Zoat Doung of Shan State (North) together with members of the panel of chairmen U

Yangon Division, Daw Tin Tin Ohn of Shan State (North) and U Thein Tun of Mandalay Division presented proposals on detailed basic principles concerning the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

Delegate Group of Workers

The Delegate Group of Workers held its meeting at the Hall-5.



Meeting Chairman U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party addresses meeting of Delegate Group of Political Parties. — MNA



Meeting Chairman Duwa Zoat Doung of Shan State (North) delivers a speech at the meeting of Delegate Group of National Races. — MNA

Law of National Unity Party presided over the meeting. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu and Assistant Director U Khin Sein of Work Group-3 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 26 delegates out of 28 attended the meeting accounting for 92.86 per cent. First, meeting chairman U Tun Yin Law delivered a speech.

Next, U Tun Yi of National Unity Party and U Khin Maung Thein of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, presented proposals of their parties on detailed basic principles concern-

Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Rei of Kayah State and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division.

Deputy Director U Than Tun and Assistant Director U Tin Maung Oo of Work Group-5 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 623 delegates out of 644 attended the meeting accounting for 96.74 per cent.

The meeting was opened with an address by meeting chairman Duwa Zoat Doung.

Next, U Tun Thwe of Rakhine State, Daw Khin Aye Maw of

The meeting was presided over by U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division together with members of the panel of chairmen U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division and U Bo Thein of Shan State (East).

Deputy Director U Zaw Win and Assistant Director U Aung Win of Work Group-7 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 46 delegates out of 47 attended the meeting accounting for 97.87 per cent.

The meeting was opened with an address by meeting chairman U

U Kyaw Mya Aung of Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Division presented proposals on detailed basic principles concerning the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

The meeting chairman sought the approval of those present on the proposal and approved the meeting ended with concluding

vening Work Committee acted as MCs.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 106 delegates out of 109 attended the meeting accounting for 97.25 per cent.

The meeting was opened with an address by meeting chairman U Hla Tin.

Next, U Khin Maung Oo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Myint Tun of the Ministry



Meeting Chairman U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division speaks at the meeting of Delegate Group of Workers. — MNA

Kyaw Win Tun.

Next, Daw Aye Aye Thauang of Patheingyi Township of Ayeyawady Division, U Kyaw Hlaing of Myeik Township of Taninthayi Division and

remarks by the meeting chairman.

Delegate Group of State Service Personnel

The Delegate Group of State Service Personnel held its meeting at the Hall-7. The meeting was presided over by U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce together with members of the panel of chairmen Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence and U Arnt Maung of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Deputy Director U Htay Win and Assistant Director U Htein Min of Work Group-9 of the National Convention Con-

of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Daw Nyunt Nyunt Shwe of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development presented proposals on detailed basic principles concerning the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

The meeting chairman sought the approval of those present on the proposal and approved the proposal.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

MNA



Meeting Chairman U Hla Tin of Ministry of Commerce delivering an address at the meeting of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel. — MNA

Members of the delegate group of other invited persons support detailed basic principles

YANGON, 18 Jan — The following is a translation of suggestions of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention by U Aung Myint of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 regarding the detailed basic principles for legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region or State Hluttaw in formulating the State Constitution on 9 January at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 15 December 2005, the Work Committee Chairman discussed matters related to the detailed basic principles on the legislative functions of the Region or State Hluttaw to be included in the Chapter "Legislature" of the State Constitution.

We members of the delegate group of other invited persons made a careful review about the 23 points carried by the explanation of the Work Committee Chairman.

And we found:

- the principle to fix commencement dates of the Region or State Hluttaw and times for sessions,
 - the principles to vest power in the State Peace and Development Council to convene the first session of the Region or State Hluttaw, one point of the Road Map, and to convene sessions for next terms of Hluttaws,
 - the principle for members of the Region or State Hluttaw to swear oaths,
 - the principle for the Region or State Hluttaw to convene sessions to be held at least in a year,
 - the principle on the matters to be carried out at the sessions of the Region or State Hluttaw,
 - the principle for the Region or State Hluttaw to convene a special or emergency session,
 - the principle on number of members necessary to form quorum for validity of the first session of the Region or State Hluttaw the Region or State Hluttaw,
 - the principle on voting, and deciding through voting at the sessions of the Region or State Hluttaw. These points meet our satisfaction.
- Moreover, we noticed the principles on absence of Hluttaw members, ensuring validity of decisions of Hluttaws, and public information. We also found:
- the principle to take action against a member who is absent from a session of the Region or State Hluttaw,
 - ensuring validity of decisions of the Region or State Hluttaw notwithstanding vacant seats, and a person who is not entitled to attend does so,
 - issuing of activities of the Region or State Hluttaw for public information. We also noticed the basic principles on legislature;
 - the power of the Region or State Hluttaw to enact laws,
 - the principle for the Region or State Hluttaw to take measures in making laws,
 - the principles on matters for which the Region or State Hluttaw has to make a decision, seek approval and approve,
 - the principle on power vested in the Region or State level bodies to submit matters to the Region or State Hluttaw,
 - the principle on the right of members of the Region or State Hluttaw to submit bills to Hluttaws,
 - the rights of the Region or State governments to submit regional plans, annual budget, and bills on taxation to the Region or State Hluttaw in accordance with procedures,
 - the power vested in Region or State chief minister to issue bills,
 - the rights of the members of the Region or State level bodies as well as members of the Region or State

Hluttaw to hold discussions according to the Constitution. These points are proper.

Apart from them, we also noticed the principles on duties and rights of the Speaker of the Region or State Hluttaw:

- the duties and rights of the Speaker of the Region or State Hluttaw,
- the right of members of the Region or State Hluttaw to hold discussions, and the power to arrest a member attending a session of the Region or State Hluttaw,
- the principles on reports, documents and records published by the Region or State Hluttaw.

These points have been prescribed exactly for formation of and sharing of powers between the Region Hluttaw and the State Hluttaw or between Region government and State government.

So, we members of the delegate group of other invited persons would like to express our stance that these detailed basic principles should be adopted.

I would like to read out the detail basic principles:

Region or State Hluttaw

1. (a) The day the term of Region or State Hluttaw comes into force is that of the Pyithu Hluttaw
- (b) The first regular session of Region or State Hluttaw shall be convened within 15 days after the commencement of the term of the Hluttaw
2. (a) The State Peace and Development Council shall convene the first regular session of Region or State Hluttaws after the Constitution has come into force
- (b) The Speaker of Region or State Hluttaw who continues to perform his duties in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution shall convene the first regular session for the next terms of Region or State Hluttaw
3. (a) Members of Region or State Hluttaws shall take oaths before the chairman of Region or State Hluttaw at the first regular session of Region or State Hluttaw.
- (b) Members of Region or State Hluttaw who have not taken oaths, shall take oath before the Speaker of the Hluttaw at the session of the Region or State Hluttaw they first attend
4. The Speaker of the Region or State Hluttaw shall convene the regular session of the Region or State Hluttaw at least once a year. The interval between two regular sessions shall not exceed 12 months.
5. The following matters are carried out at the session of the Region or State Hluttaw.
 - (a) Recording the address delivered by the Union President
 - (b) Reading out and recording messages sent by the President and other messages permitted by the Speaker
 - (c) Recording the address delivered by region or state chief minister
 - (d) Submitting, discussing and making decision on a bill
 - (e) Discussing and deciding the matters the Region or State Hluttaw shall implement in accordance with provisions of the Constitution and the existing laws
 - (f) Discussing, deciding and recording the reports presented to the Region or State Hluttaw
 - (g) Submitting proposals, holding discussions and making decisions
 - (h) Raising questions and giving replies
 - (i) Implementing matters permitted by Speaker of Region or State Hluttaw
6. (a) Speaker of respective Region or State Hluttaw can convene special session or emergency session of Region or State Hluttaws if necessary.
- (b) Speaker of respective Region or State Hluttaw shall convene a special or emergency session of region or state as soon as possible when the Region or State Chief Minister informs to do so
- (c) Speaker of respective Region or State Hluttaws

U Aung
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Shan State
(North)
Special
Region-2.
MNA



shall convene a special session of region or state as soon as possible if at least one-fourth of the Region or State Hluttaw members ask to convene it

7. (a) The first day session of the Region or State Hluttaw is valid if more than half the number of members who have the right to attend the session of the Region or State Hluttaw, are present. The session if invalid shall be adjourned.
- (b) The sessions that are adjourned due to invalidity in accordance with the sub-para (a) as well as the valid sessions that are extended are valid if at least one-third of the Hluttaw members, who have the right to attend a session of Region or State Hluttaw are present
8. (a) Save as otherwise provided by this Constitution, a matter that should be decided through voting in the Region or State Hluttaw shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting
- (b) The Speaker of the Region or State Hluttaw or the Deputy Speaker discharging duties as the Speaker shall not vote in the first instance in the sessions of the Region or State Hluttaws, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the matters of an equality of votes
9. If for a period of 15 consecutive days a member of Region or State Hluttaw is, without permission of the Hluttaw, absent from a session of Region or State Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw can declare the seat of the Region or State Hluttaw member vacant in accordance with prescribed provisions. In computing the said period of 15 days, no account shall be taken of any period during which the session is prorogued, or is adjourned.
10. Although there are vacant seats, the Region or State Hluttaw shall have the right to carry out its tasks. Moreover, the session shall not be annulled, if the acts of some person who was not entitled to do so sat or voted or took part in the proceedings are discovered later.
11. The functions and records of the Region or State Hluttaw shall be published for public information. But, the functions and records restricted by a law or decisions of the Region or State Hluttaw shall not be published.
12. Region or State Hluttaw has the power to make laws for the whole or any part of the Region or State concerning matters stated in the Region or State Legislative List
13. (a) When the Region or State Hluttaw enacts a law, it may —
 - (1) entrust the right to issue bylaws, rules and regulations concerning the law to a region or state level organization formed under the Constitution
 - (2) authorize the organization or authority to issue notifications, orders, directives and procedures concerning the law
- (b) The bylaws, rules, regulations, notifications, orders, directives and procedures issued with the right vested by a law shall be consonant with the stipulations contained in the Constitution and the law concerned.

(See page 14)

Members of the delegate group...

(from page 13)

- (c) after issuing a bylaw, rules or regulations under the law enacted by Region or State Hluttaw, the organization concerned shall circulate the bylaw, rules or regulations to Hluttaw members during the nearest regular session of the Region or State Hluttaw with the arrangement permitted by the Hluttaw Speaker.
- (d) If the bylaw, rules or regulations are found to be not consonant with the provisions of the law concerned, Region or State Hluttaw members can submit a proposal to annul or amend the bylaw, rules or regulations to Region or State Hluttaw within 90 days from the date they are circulated.
- (e) If a decision is made by Region or State Hluttaw to annul or amend a bylaw, rules or regulations, the decision shall not affect however without prejudice to the validity of any action previously taken under the bylaw, rules or regulations.
14. (a) Matters that requires decision, assent and approval of Region or State Hluttaw shall be implemented as follows.
- (1) If the Region or State Hluttaw is in session, the matter shall be decided at that session.
 - (2) If the Region or State Hluttaw is not in session, the discussions and decisions on the matter shall be made at the nearest Region or State Hluttaw session
 - (3) A special session or an emergency session shall be convened to discuss and decide the matters which need prompt action for public interest.
15. (a) Of the matters included in the Region or State Legislative List, the Region or State level organizations formed under the Constitution, can submit bills on matters under their management to the Region or State Hluttaw in accordance with the prescribed provisions.
- (b) Bills on region or state plans, annual budgets and taxation which are to be submitted exclusively by the Region or State Government shall be submitted to the Region or State Hluttaw in accordance with the prescribed provisions.
16. Of the matters included in the Region or State Legislative List, except those prescribed under the Constitution to be submitted exclusively by the Region or State Government, the Region or State Hluttaw members can submit bills on other matters in accordance with the prescribed provisions.
17. Region or State Hluttaw shall make a decision when Region or State Government submits region or state budget in accordance with the prescribed provisions.
18. (a) The Region or State Chief Minister shall

- (1) sign the bill approved by the Region or State Hluttaw and promulgate it as a law, within seven days after receiving it.
 - (2) sign the bill approved by the Self-Administered Region leading body and promulgate it as a law, within 14 days after receiving it.
 - (b) Although the Region or State Chief Minister does not sign the bill and promulgate it as a law with the fixed time, the bill shall come into force in like manner as if he had signed it on the last date of the fixed time.
 - (c) The bills signed by the Region or State Chief Minister and bills which have come into force in like manner as if they were signed by him, shall be promulgated in the Union Gazette. The laws shall come into force on the date of such promulgation unless the contrary intention are expressed.
19. (a) Of the members of a region or state level organization formed under the Constitution, members of Region or State Hluttaw shall have the right of discussing and voting concerning bills or matters related to their organizations in the Hluttaw sessions
- (b) Of the members of a region or state level organization formed under the Constitution, those members who are not Region or State Hluttaw members while attending the session with the permission of Hluttaw Speaker shall have the right of discussing concerning bills or matters related to their organizations
20. The Speaker of Region or State Hluttaw shall—
- (a) supervise Region or State Hluttaw sessions
 - (b) invite the Union President if he informs him of his desire to address the Region or State Hluttaw session
 - (c) make necessary arrangements when the Region or State Chief Minister informs him of his desire to address he wishes
 - (d) have the right, if necessary, to invite members or persons of region or state level organization formed under the Constitution to the Region or State Hluttaw session to make clarification as regards matters under discussion
 - (e) perform other duties and responsibilities entrusted by the Constitution or a law
21. (a) Subject to the provisions stated in the Constitution and provisions stipulated in the Region or State Hluttaw Law, members of Region or State Hluttaw have freedom of speech and voting at the Region or State Hluttaw as well as at Region or State Hluttaw committee and organization. Concerning the discussions and functions, a Region or State Hluttaw member shall be privileged except under the Region or State Hluttaw Law.
- (b) Subject to the provisions stated in the Constitution and provisions stipulated in the Region or State

Hluttaw Law, members or persons who are permitted or invited to attend Region or State Hluttaw session have freedom of speech at the Region or State Hluttaw or Region or State Hluttaw committee and organizations. Concerning such discussions, they shall be privileged except under the Region or State Hluttaw Law.

- (c) Action shall be taken against those members stated in sub-para (a) and (b) in accordance with the existing laws if they make physical assault in enjoying the privileges
22. (a) If there arises a need to arrest a Region or State Hluttaw member attending a Region or State Hluttaw session or a person attending the Hluttaw session with the permission or at the invitation of the Hluttaw Speaker, the reliable evidence shall be submitted to the Hluttaw Speaker. He shall not be arrested without prior permission of the Hluttaw Speaker.
- (b) If there arises a need to arrest a member of a committee or an organization formed by the Region or State Hluttaw attending a session of the committee or organization, the reliable evidence shall be submitted to the Hluttaw Speaker through the head of the committee or organization concerned. He shall not be arrested without prior permission of the Hluttaw Speaker.
- (c) If there arises a need to arrest a member of Region or State Hluttaw or committee or organization formed by the Hluttaw while the Hluttaw or the committee or the organization is not in session, reliable evidence in support of such arrest shall promptly be submitted to the Region or State Hluttaw Speaker.
23. The reports, documents and records published by the Region or State Hluttaw or under its authority shall be privileged.

We have discussed the matters on the explanation of the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee regarding the detailed basic principles for the legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region or State Hluttaw.

In conclusion, I would say the detailed basic principles have been laid down to avert entrusting of State power to an individual or organization and possible future disputes, and to specifically designate the systems to communicate and deal between the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as well as between the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. That will help our nation avoid possible future disputes and guarantee national solidarity. So, we members of the delegate group of other invited persons support these detailed basic principles.— MNA

Hingis, Federer start with a bang in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Martina Hingis marked her return to grand slam action with a thumping victory and Swiss compatriot Roger Federer was almost as impressive at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

Hingis beat Russia's 30th seed Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-2 in the first round. The former world number one showed no sign of nerves in her first grand slam match since 2002, wrapping up a surprisingly one-sided victory that left her opponent in tears.

"It was beautiful to walk in there. There were so many memories coming back. This stadium has been so great to me," 25-year-old Hingis told reporters. She won the Australian Open in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

"This was the best match I've played since I came back. I wouldn't necessarily say that it was easy, I just played really well."

Federer, a strong favourite for the men's title, also made the perfect start to his campaign when he won in brilliant fashion and his main rivals all struggled.

The world number one hardly broke sweat as he brushed aside little-known Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 while Australian Lleyton Hewitt, Argentine Guillermo Coria and Russian Nikolay Davydenko were all pushed to five sets.

Last year's losing finalist Hewitt needed all his fighting spirit to scrape past Czech Robin Vik 6-4, 2-6, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3 while sixth seed Coria overcame the distraction of a leg injury to wear down Romanian

Victor Hanescu 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Fifth seed Davydenko also needed the maximum number of sets to blunt the massive serve of Croat Ivo Karlovic, eventually grinding out a 7-5, 4-6, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory.

MNA/Reuters



Sociedad striker Kovacevic to miss rest of season

MADRID, 17 Jan — Real Sociedad striker Darko Kovacevic will miss the rest of the season after tearing the Achilles tendon in his left leg during training on Monday.

Kovacevic was in the final stages of a recovery programme after an operation on the same tendon in November and was taking part in a training game.

Club medical staff said the 32-year-old former Yugoslavia international would undergo immediate surgery.

Sociedad recently signed Danish international Morten Skoubo from Brondby to replace leading striker Nihat Kahveci who is poised to leave the club in the January transfer window.

MNA/Reuters

Amelie Mauresmo of France returns a shot from Tiantian Sun of China during action on Tuesday, 17 Jan, 2006 at the Australian Open Tennis in Melbourne, Australia. Mauresmo defeated Tiantian 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV URANUS VOY NO (02)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV URANUS VOY NO (02) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.1.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: OCEAN TEAM SHIPPING
CO LTD CHINA**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SELATAN MEGAH VOY NO (YMA201)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SELATAN MEGAH VOY NO (YMA201) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.1.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN JAKARTA
INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY
FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCY**

**Assistant Director - Coordination in the
Bureau for External Relations and
Coordination**

Visit our website at www.aseansec.org for details on job specifications, qualifications and application procedures. Closing date is 31 January 2006.

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Air Canada to introduce Toronto-Shanghai non-stop flights in June

BEIJING, 17 Jan — Air Canada on Sunday announced that effective 16 June, 2006 it will introduce non-stop service between Toronto and Shanghai.

Air Canada will operate three non-stop flights per week between Toronto and China's largest city, complementing its

Toronto-Beijing non-stop service launched in June 2005, and its daily non-stop flights to both Shanghai and Beijing from Vancouver.

Air Canada also operates twice daily flights to Hong Kong including non-stop service from Toronto.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 18 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (4°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan (2°C), Pinlaung and Heho (3°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 17-1-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 18-1-2006 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 18-1-2006 was (91%). Total sunshine hours on 17-1-2006 was (8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 18-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (11:30) hours MST on 17-1-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-1-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and weather will be partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-1-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-1-2006: Fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Thursday, 19 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. ဓမ္မစာအုပ်အဖွဲ့အစည်းတို့
ဓမ္မစာအုပ်အဖွဲ့အစည်းတို့
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7:15 am
2. ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတရားစာအုပ်အဖွဲ့အစည်း
အဖွဲ့အစည်းတို့
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အဖွဲ့အစည်းတို့

7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
4. Morning news

7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
6. Dance of national races

8:00 am
7. အထူးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

8:10 am
8. Dance variety

8:20 am
9. အထူးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

8:30 am
10. International news

8:45 am
11. Let's Go

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm
4. အထူးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

4:55 pm
5. အထူးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

5:10 pm
6. Cute little dancers

5:20 pm
7. ဖြစ်ပေါ်နေသော အဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

5:30 pm
8. "အထူးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ"

5:30 pm
9. နိုင်ငံရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

5:50 pm
10. Musical programme

6:00 pm
11. Evening news

6:30 pm
12. Weather report

6:35 pm
13. နိုင်ငံရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

6:50 pm
14. အထူးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

7:00 pm
15. Musical programme

7:15 pm
16. အထူးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

7:35 pm
17. ဖြစ်ပေါ်နေသော အဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

8:00 pm
18. News

19. International news

20. Weather report

21. နိုင်ငံရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ

22. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Thursday, 19 January
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -Bop' baby

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -Let's dance

8:50 am National news & Slogan

9:00 am Music:

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music: -To the moon & back

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music: -You're still the one

9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Pouri

9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers: -My love, -I've a dream, -Daddy

9:45 pm New & Slogan

10:00 pm P.E.L.

Myanmar will be totally free from iodine deficiency in the near future

Myanmar Medical Association opens 52nd conference



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at 52nd conference of Myanmar Medical Association. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Jan — The 52nd Myanmar Medical Conference took place here this morning, with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Secretary-1 said that the State Peace and Development Council has laid down the 12 objectives in its national development drive. One of the social objectives — uplift of health, fitness and education

standards of the entire nation — is an essential factor in building a new nation. The government has been narrowing the health gap between the rural and urban areas and ensuring health and longevity and a disease-free society as much as it can.

The nation now has 826 hospitals, up from 631 in 1988. The result of giving priority to the rural health care is the opening of 1,452 village health centres in the whole nation up to now. The government has been

building more hospitals, and at the same time it has been upgrading the facilities with advanced medical equipment and appointing more specialists in the health sector. The number of institutions of higher learning of the medical field has reached 14 at present, up from four in the past. A larger number of qualified students are being admitted to the institutes of medicine, while post-graduate courses are being conducted in the

(See page 7)

Delegates from all walks of life are actively participating in the National Convention to lay down detailed basic principles to be included in the constitution

People in Shan State (North) support National Convention



YANGON, 18 Jan —

A mass meeting in support of the National Convention organized by Shan State (North) Union Solidarity and Development Association was held this morning at Union Sports Ground in Lashio, Shan State (North).

Present were Joint-Secretary and executives of Shan State (North) USDA, secretaries, executives and members of district/township USDA's in Shan State (North), depart-

mental officials, members of War Veterans Organization, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, social organizations, nurses and local people. Dr Sai Khin Maung Wah, a Medical Superintendent of Shan State (North) Hospital, presided over the meeting together with Headmistress Daw Sao Tin

Mya (Retd), Dr Khin Nan Thi, Headmaster U Nyunt Sein (Retd), Palaung national U Kyaw Yin, Townselders Duwa Zaw Aung and U Loke Yun.

Executive of Kutkai Township USDA Daw Nan Myintzu acted as master of ceremonies and member of USDA Daw Nan Win Nandar Tun as co-master of ceremonies.

Speaking on the occasion, Meeting Chairman

Dr Sai Khin Maung Wah said there were disturbances in 1988 and the Tatmadaw Government took the responsibilities of the State.

Since then, the Government has been striving for the development of the State. Thanks to the efforts of the Government, now, the State is on track for development and law and order prevail (See page 10)



Those present at the mass meeting in support of the National Convention chanting slogans. — MNA