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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

Building of democratic state to be alongside law and discipline enforcement to clearly separate democracy from mobocracy and anarchism

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to trainees of UDNR BEd course

YANGON, 20 Jan—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received the trainees of the No 37 Course (BEd) of the University for Development of National Races at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall on Pyay Road here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the chairman of Yangon Division PDC Yangon Command commander, ministers, the chief

justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, members of CSSTB, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, the rector of the university, course instructors and trainees.

SPDC Office Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win acted as MC.

The Senior General in his speech said you trainees are going to graduate from the University for Development of National Races and to discharge educational duties. So, you should have to be convinced of the objectives of the university.

Of the objectives of the university, the most crucial one is "For national race youths from border areas to be educated and to become human resources".

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to trainees of No 37 Course (BEd) of University for Development of National Races.
MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 January, 2006

Strive for development of medical science

The State Peace and Development Council has laid down and is implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. One of the four social objectives—uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation—plays a pivotal role in building a new and modern nation.

Systematic measures are being taken to narrow the gap of health care services among rural and urban regions for the people to be free from diseases and enjoy longevity. Doctors play an important role in this regard.

The 52nd Myanmar Medical Conference took place at Auditorium of the Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Street, Yangon on 18 January with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address, Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein spoke of the need for MMA members to do research work constantly not only for improvement of health care services but also for development of medical science, and called on them to try their utmost to be able to cure different types of diseases at reasonable cost by means of innovation of new medicines, new therapy and medical equipment.

Thanks to the 30-year national health plan covering short-term projects, the nation is now free from smallpox, polio and leprosy, and it will soon be free from iodine deficiency.

Myanmar has seen success in performing liver transplants, renal transplant, limb replant and cardiac operations, that are international level achievements of the nation.

In carrying out health care services of the people, health staff are required to give talks and take disease control measures on an extensive scale. In the process, they are to make field trips right down to the grassroots level in collaboration with social organizations.

The MMA members are to preserve codes of conduct to win the respect and reliance of the people. In an effort to build a modern nation, intellectuals and intelligentsia are to do their bit with nationalistic fervour and patriotic spirit. MMA, an organization representing medical scientists, has come into existence since 1949 and has been highly regarded by the people.

Such being so, the MMA members are to do their utmost for perpetuation of the association while striving for improvement of health care services and development of medical science.



Under the aegies of parents from both sides, Dr Thant Zin and Dr Su Su Lin on Thamadeikhti Road, Kyaukmyaung in Tamway Township present recently K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Treasurer U Aung Than of the Home.— 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

Indian Admiral and party visit downtown Yangon



The Indian Admiral and party pay tribute to fallen heroes at Memorial to Fallen Heroes on Arzani Road.— MNA

YANGON, 20 Jan — Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash (PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM, ADC) and party of Indian Navy of the Republic of India, accompanied by Defence Attaché Colonel Jasvinder Singh Chopra and officials, offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to the Buddha image at the prayer hall on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. The Indian Admiral signed in the visitors' book and made cash donation. The Indian guests viewed round the religious buildings at the pagoda.

At the Memorial to Fallen Heroes on Arzani Road in Bahan Township, Vice-Chairman of the Maintenance Committee for the Memorial Lt-Col Tun

Oo and military officers welcomed them. The Indian Admiral and party paid tribute to the fallen heroes by laying the flower basket.

On arrival at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda road in Dagon Township, Lt-Col Zaw Win and officials of the museum conducted the guests round the museum. Later, the Indian guests visited King Zafar Shah's Tomb on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township.— MNA

Digital World Seminar held



Visitors observe CCTV cameras being displayed at Digital World Seminar.— UMFCCT

YANGON, 20 Jan— Organized by Cho Cho Co Ltd and OMNI Technology Co Ltd, Digital World Seminar was held at Traders Hotel on 14 January. It was attended by President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, the Vice-Presidents, CEC members and entrepreneurs.

First, Managing Director U Wai Phy of Cho Cho Co Ltd made a speech. Next, General Manager U Wai Phy Lin explained matters on Auto Gate System, Home Security System and software application system and Business Manager Mr Jeffs Vicente of iBMS Technology Pte Ltd (Singapore) on Building Management System.— MNA

AGM & paper reading session of MES to be held

YANGON, 20 Jan— Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Engineering Society will be held on 5 February from 8.30 am to 12 noon and paper reading sessions on 4 February at 8.30 am to 5 pm and on 5 February at 1 pm to 5 pm at Myanmar Info-Tech. All members are invited to attend but for the limitations in seating plan, those who wish to attend the paper reading session may register prior to the sessions. For further information, dial phone number 652822.— MNA

Road and bridge construction tasks inspected

YANGON, 20 Jan— Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 17 January inspected laying of gravel on District-to-District Road (1) in Magway Division.

The director-general inspected the construction site of concrete culvert in Yanpai Creek and building of Nyaungchaung wooden bridge in Taungdwingyi Township. Next, the director-general inspected laying of gravel on roads of Sabayin village and Ngayantchaung village in Aunglan Township. After inspecting construction of the district-to-district road No-1, the director-general gave instructions. Upon completion of the road, people living in the region will be able to have access to Townships in Yangon Division, Bago Division (West), Magway Division and Mandalay Division through the road with the length of 132 miles and six furlongs.—MNA

Food Processing Industry Group to be formed

YANGON, 20 Jan— Members of Myanmar Industries Association held a coordination meeting to establish Food Processing Industry Group at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry yesterday. It was attended by Patron of MIA Dr Kyaw Htin, Chairman U Myat Thinn Aung, Vice-Chairman U Zaw Min Win. U Wai Phy of the association explained organizational set-up of the group. Those present took part in the discussions and decided to form the group as soon as possible. Altogether 50 entrepreneurs engaged in food processing industries attended the meeting.— H

WTO hails Malaysia's open trade policies, prudence

GENEVA, 18 Jan— World Trade Organization (WTO) economists on Monday hailed Malaysia for its openness to trade and macroeconomic reforms they said had helped it boost national wealth and fully overcome last decade's Asian financial crisis.

Economists from the WTO Secretariat in Geneva studied the Asian nation's trade policies between 2001 and 2005 as part of a cycle of reviews of all the body's member countries.

"Malaysia has continued to liberalize its policies on international trade and foreign investment," during the review period of the review, their report said. "As a consequence of its openness to trade together with prudent macroeconomic and structural reforms in key areas, it looks as if the Malaysian economy has now fully recovered from the Asian financial crises in 1997-98."

Growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) had risen from 0.3 per cent in 2001 to 4.4 per cent in 2002, 5.4 per cent in 2003 and 7.1 per cent in 2004, they said. Slower world and trade growth, higher oil prices, and falling demand for semi-conductors and lower prices for palm oil — both major exports — are expected to trim GDP growth to 5 per cent in 2005.

The WTO economists said Malaysia's over-reliance on export-led growth, particularly in electrical and electronic products, had contributed to the slowdown in 2001, leaving the country vulnerable to the business cycle in

developed economies.

"To address this issue, measures have been taken to develop new sources of growth ... in order to improve the economy's competitiveness and resilience to shocks," the report said. These include agriculture, resource-based industries, high-technology manufacturing and services.

MNA/Reuters



South Korean protesters shout slogans during an anti-US press conference against the inaugural meeting of a newly established high-level security forum between the two allies dubbed the 'Strategic Consultation for Allied Partnership.' in Seoul, on 19 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

US confirms holding eight women prisoners in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan— US forces in Iraq said on Wednesday they were holding eight women prisoners, after the abductors of an American journalist threatened to kill her unless the authorities freed all Iraqi women within 72 hours.

"We have eight females. They are being held for the same reasons as the others, namely that they are a threat to security," said Lieutenant Aaron Henninger, a spokesman for the US military detentions operation. Some 14,000 men are held at Abu Ghraib and other jails on suspicion of guerilla activity.

Arabic television station Al Jazeera aired a brief

video on Tuesday night showing Jill Carroll, 28, a freelance journalist working for the Christian Science Monitor.

It was the first glimpse of Carroll since gunmen kidnapped her in a Baghdad street on 7 January and killed her translator. The video showed Carroll speaking to the camera, although her voice was not broadcast.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan Cabinet condemns US airstrike

ISLAMABAD, 18 Jan — The Pakistani Cabinet on Tuesday strongly condemned the US purported airstrike in the tribal area of Bajaur, which resulted into the loss of life.

At least 18 people including women and children were killed on Friday when US missiles hit three houses in the Damadola Village in the Bajaur agency bordering Afghanistan. "Pakistan is committed to elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestation but our sovereignty should also be respected," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid told a news conference after the Cabinet meeting.

Rashid rejected reports appearing in the Western media alleging that Pakistani agencies extended any support for the Bajaur incident.

He said that Pakistan had an understanding with the coalition forces on sharing of information but in this incident no information was given.

The Cabinet also offered prayers for those who lost their lives in Bajaur. — MNA/Xinhua

Mexico demands US probe of second migrant shooting

MEXICO CITY, 19 Jan— Mexico demanded on Tuesday that Washington investigate the fatal shooting of another undocumented migrant by US security agents, adding fuel to a smouldering dispute over illegal immigration.

Mexican Ismael Segura, 23, was fatally shot in the chest by security agents in Texas on the weekend after he resisted arrest and tried to flee in his car, the second killing of a Mexican migrant by US security forces in recent days, the Mexican Government said.

Segura was badly injured and died later in hospital.

Mexico — also fuming at a US proposal to erect a border fence and make illegal immigration a serious crime — said its consulate in McAllen, Texas, had asked the local security department for a full inquiry into Segura's death.

"It hurts us, it angers us and we reject any measure that threatens people's human rights," said Interior Minister Carlos Abascal.

Mexico was already reeling at the death of another illegal migrant, 18-year-old Guillermo Martinez, who was shot by US border guards on New Year's Eve as he snuck across the border near San Diego, prompting President Vicente Fox to demand "total justice".

MNA/Reuters

Russian FM speaks against sanctions on Iran

MOSCOW, 18 Jan — Sanctions are not the best way of persuading Iran to heed international concerns over its nuclear programme, Russia's Foreign Minister said on Tuesday.

"The question of sanctions against Iran puts the cart before the horse. Sanctions are in no way the best, or the only, way to solve the problem," Sergei Lavrov told a news

briefing in reply to a question. He said years of international sanctions against Iraq had failed to change the behaviour of ousted leader Saddam Hussein.

The United Nations Security Council could adopt sanctions against Iran if the Islamic republic is referred to it by the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN's nuclear watchdog.

Moscow, with a one-billion-US stake building Iran's first atomic reactor, wields the greatest potential foreign leverage over Teheran of any other country. Russia has so far resisted efforts led by the United States, Britain, France and Germany to have Iran reported to the Security Council.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier dies of non-combat wounds in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan — A US soldier died of wounds sustained from non-combat actions in Baghdad, the US military said on Wednesday.

The killed soldier, assigned to the Multi-National Division in Baghdad, died on Tuesday, the military said in a brief statement.

It said the incident is under investigation and the name of the soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The latest death brought to about 2,220 the number of US military personnel who died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Three wounded in two car bombs in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan — Two car bombs detonated separately in Baghdad on Wednesday, with one of them wounding three civilians, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

"A car bomb parking near the al-Hurriyah Square in Baghdad's southern district of Karradah, wounding three civilians," the source said according to initial police reports.

"Another booby-trapped car detonated as it was parking in the al-Maghrib Street in the al-Aadhmiyah District in northern capital, but the casualties were not immediately known," the source said on condition of anonymity.

The targets of the attacks were not immediately clear, as there were no US or Iraqi security forces near the explosion sites, the source said. — MNA/Xinhua



British soldiers inspect damage following a roadside bomb attack on their patrol, on 19 Jan, 2006, in the southern city of Basra, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad. —INTERNET

Iran urges IAEA to keep its nuclear file in technical domain

TEHERAN, 18 Jan— Iran on Tuesday urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to keep the Iranian nuclear case in the technical domain and free from political influences.

Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh, Iran's representative to the Vienna-based IAEA, made the call during his meeting with IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Teheran expects the IAEA not to let the Iran case to be driven from technical domain into a political one, Soltaniyeh was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Alaeddin Borujerdi, chairman of Iran's Majlis (Parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, also urged

ElBaradei to make technical evaluation which is in line with the IAEA mandate rather than political statements on Iran's nuclear programme.

"According to international law, Iran's nuclear dossier should not be referred to the UN Security Council," Borujerdi was quoted by the semi-official Mehr news agency as saying.

Borujerdi expressed hope that ElBaradei would take the continued cooperation between the two sides into consideration in his future pronouncements about Iran and would maintain the IAEA's impartiality.

The Iranian calls came one day after officials of the European trio of Britain, France and Germany as well as the United States, Russia and

China held a close-door meeting in London to discuss the Iranian nuclear issue.

At the London meeting, the European trio informed the other participants of their intention to call for an emergency IAEA board of governors meeting on 2-3 February.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မုရွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Saudi King to visit India

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan— Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud will be the chief guest at the Indian Republic Day celebrations to be held on 26 January, said a Press release issued by the Ministry of External

Affairs here on Monday.

The King will arrive in India on 24 January on the invitation of Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation.

During the four-day visit, India and Saudi

Arabia are expected to sign bilateral agreements. King Abdullah will hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

These talks are likely to cover issues of bilateral interest as well as the regional and international situation.

With a business delegation expected to accompany the King, he would also address a Business Summit hosted by the apex Chambers of Indian Commerce and Industry.

MNA/Xinhua

Qantas flight makes emergency landing in Sydney

CANBERRA, 18 Jan— A Qantas flight bound for Los Angeles made an emergency landing soon after take-off in Sydney on Tuesday due to an engine problem.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that Flight 249 was forced to return to the airport after the pilot noticed a noise that indicated problems with

one of the engines.

"It (the engine) wasn't on fire, (but) there may have been a brief flame," a Qantas spokesman was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Jordanian UN peacekeepers killed in Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Jan— Two UN peacekeepers were killed and a third wounded by gunfire in the Haitian capital on Tuesday in the latest clash between UN troops patrolling a Port-au-Prince slum and the gangs who control it.

The three peacekeepers, all Jordanian nationals, were manning a checkpoint in the capital's restive Cite Soleil neighbourhood when they came under fire, UN chief spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said.

"One of the peacekeepers was reportedly killed on the spot. The other two were taken to hospital where one of them died of his wounds shortly after," Dujarric said.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi girl dies of suspected bird flu

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan— Health officials in northern Iraq have sent samples to Jordan for testing for the bird flu virus H5N1 after a 14-year-old girl died in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniya.

Tijan Abd al-Qadir died on arrival at the main hospital on Tuesday after falling ill 15 days earlier in her home town of Raniya, in Kurdistan close to the Turkish and Iranian borders, Muhammad Khashnow, the Kurdish regional health minister has said.

"The doctors in Sulaimaniya suspected this might be a case [of bird flu]," he told Reuters. "They

have sent samples to Amman and we will know the results next week."

Raniya is close to Lake Dukan, which draws many migratory birds to the region and where Iraqi officials had been taking measures to try to prevent domestic fowl from being infected.

"The rest of the family is in good health," Khashnow said. He said that the family was not in the poultry business.

"The doctors in Sulaimaniya suspected this might be a case... They have sent samples to Amman and we will know the results next week".

Internet

Construction workers

install roof tiles on a

building as high-rise

buildings are seen in

the background in

Jakarta, Indonesia, on

19 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET



British police reportedly foil plot to kidnap Blair's son

LONDON, 18 Jan — British police have foiled a plot to kidnap Prime Minister Tony Blair's 5-year-old son Leo, *The Sun* newspaper reported in its Wednesday edition.

Citing an unnamed security source, the tabloid newspaper said people on the fringe of a group which campaigns for the rights of divorced fathers had planned to snatch the child and hold him for a short period. The paper gave no details of how the group planned to evade the tight security which surrounds Blair and his family to carry out the kidnapping.

Police have made no arrests and think they disrupted the supposed plot in its early stages, *The Sun's* source said.

The BBC said police sources had confirmed that they were aware of a possible plot but were not convinced those involved had the ability to carry it out.

A spokesman for Blair's Downing Street office had no comment. A

London police spokeswoman said: "We don't comment on security matters."

The newspaper said detectives uncovered the plan while monitoring people on the fringe of the Fathers 4 Justice campaign group just before Christmas. The group has staged a series of high-profile stunts to highlight the plight of fathers who

are denied access to their children.

Its campaigners have scaled the walls of Queen Elizabeth's London residence and thrown coloured flour at Blair while he addressed Parliament.

The group's founder, Matt O'Connor, 38, said his group was not behind the alleged plot.

MNA/Reuters

Seven killed, 25 wounded in Bolivian bus fall

LIMA, 18 Jan — At least seven people were killed and 25 injured when an intercity coach was driven off a cliff by its fatigued driver in central Bolivia, the *ABI* news agency reported on Tuesday.

The accident occurred in Locotal, located in the central region of Cochabamba. The driver appeared to be exhausted and began steering poorly, taking the bus over the edge of a 100-metre precipice, said the report. The bus was travelling from Cochabamba to the neighbouring eastern region of Santa Cruz, according to *ABI*. — MNA/Xinhua



A British soldier scans the landscape through his gun sight as he secures the scene of a roadside attack, on 18 Jan, 2006, outside of the southern city of Basra, Iraq. — INTERNET

Electric power sector witnesses sustained progress

Increased generating of power in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Hydel power projects to be implemented

On one occasion, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance saying that in the third five-year plan efforts were to be made to generate 2000 megawatts of electricity and in doing so measures were to be taken based on the abundant water resources.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, 11 hydel power projects which can supply power to the national grid and other projects which will benefit 42 regions have been implemented and these projects generate nearly 2000 mega-

watts of electricity.

It is estimated that throughout the country, there are 268 small, medium and large sites which have a total capacity to produce nearly 40,000 megawatts of electricity.

Measures are being taken to implement the remaining projects and upon completion of all the projects, electricity needs of the country will be fulfilled.

The table shows systematic arrangements being made to supply power in the time of the Tatmadaw government.



An aerial view of Ahtet Paunglaung Hydropower Project to be implemented on Paunglaung River near Kyitaung-Khawma Village, about 10 miles east of Pyinmana, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division.

Hydel power projects to be implemented

Sr	Project	Region	Megawatt
1	Upper Paunglaung	Pyinmana Township Mandalay Division	140
2	Htamanthi	Homalin Township Sagaing Division	1200
3	Tarhsan (Thanlwin)	Taunggyi Township Shan State	7310
4	Thahtaychaung (Thade)	Thandwe Township Rakhine State	100
5	Thaukyaykhat	Toungoo Township Bago Division	140
6	Thajet	Taninthayi Township Taninthayi Division	20
7	Dayaingchaung (Paingkyon)	Hlaingbwe Township Kayin State	25
8	An Chaung	An Township Rakhine State	15

China, Nigeria vow to boost relations

ABUJA, 18 Jan— China will make concerted efforts with Nigeria to enhance relations between the two countries, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Monday.

When meeting his Nigerian counterpart, Oluyemi Adeniji, Li said Sino-Nigerian ties have been in a smooth development since the two countries established diplomatic relations 35 years ago.

He said during a visit to China last year, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and Chinese President Hu Jintao reached consensus on establishing a strategic partnership of political mutual-trust, economic mutual-benefit, and mutual assistance on international affairs, thus bringing bilateral ties to a new high.

Adeniji, for his part, said his country is willing to maintain the present momentum in the development of its relations with China.

The Nigerian Government will firmly adhere to the one-China policy and promote common development of the two countries, he added.

To continuously boost Sino-Nigerian strategic partnership, the two sides have reached agreement on four aspects:

— Enhancing political exchanges and making good use of mechanisms such as consultation between their foreign ministries;

— Deepening and broadening trade and economic cooperation to realize trade balance;

As an important trade partner and investment destination in Africa, Nigeria welcomes more Chinese enterprises to invest in the country in the fields

of agriculture, energy, electric power, infrastructures, communication and satellite research;

— Promoting exchanges and cooperation in the fields of culture and education; China will continue to provide scholarship for Nigerian students, while Nigeria hopes that the Chinese teaching could be strengthened in the country; and

— Strengthening consultation and coordination in international affairs, including human rights, peacekeeping missions, development aid and prevention of HIV/AIDS, through the United Nations and other multilateral organizations to safeguard the rights and interests of developing countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Villagers try to catch a bull during a bull-taming festival on the outskirts of Madurai town, about 450 km (280 miles) from the southern Indian city of Chennai on 16 Jan, 2006. The annual bull-taming festival is celebrated as part of the south Indian harvest festival of Pongal. Participants have to catch a bull and run with it for about 50 metres.

INTERNET



Ten clipper yachts arrive in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 18 Jan — With the arrival of the remaining four yachts in Singapore's Keppel Bay later Tuesday, all the ten yachts in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race are now in the city state for a 10-day stopover, marking the end of the fifth race from Fremantle, western Australia to Singapore.

Singaporeans, headed by Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang, gave the crews of the yachts a warm welcome by beating drums and putting garlands around the crews' necks. The main highlight of the Clipper Singapore stopover is the three-day Singapore Festival Village to be held at Sentosa Cove, and this event is open to the public. —MNA/Xinhua

All national races are to guard the Union against dangers of destructive elements

People in Mon State support National Convention

YANGON, 20 Jan — A mass meeting in support of the National Convention organized by Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association was held on 18 January at Yamanya Sports Ground in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

It was attended by the secretary, executives and members of Mon State USDA, members of township USDA in Mon State, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, faculty members and students of Mawlamyine University and Mawlamyine Education College, nurses and local people totalling over 25,000.

Judge U Nyunt Tin (Retd) presided over the meeting together with Chairman of Pa-O Literature and Culture Committee U Kun Aung Nyein, Industrialist U Nyunt Wai, Head of Mon State Education Department U Aye Shein (Retd), Dr Saw Wa Htoo, Businessman U Tin Maw and Head of Mon State Education Department U Than Myint (Retd).



Meeting Chairman Judge U Nyunt Tin (Retd) — MNA

Executive of Mawlamyine Township USDA Daw San San Win and Executive of Mawlamyine Township USDA Daw Nay Chi Oo acted as MCs.

Speaking on the occasion, Meeting Chairman U Nyunt Tin said 104 basic principles and detailed basic principles were laid down at the National Convention in accord with the wishes of the people. Delegates from

all walks of life are participating in the convention in an effort to shape the future nation.

He quoted a passage from the speech of Patron of USDA Head of State Senior General Than Shwe made at the annual general meeting of USDA on 15 September, 1996, saying that a new enduring State Constitution is necessary for the prevalence of peace and tranquillity and development of the State and the National Convention plays a critical role in formulating the State Constitution. If there are hindrances to the National Convention, the constitution will not emerge, the meeting chairman said.

He continued to say that therefore, the Seven-Point Road Map was laid down in an attempt to build the peaceful, modern and developed nation. Some delegates to the National Convention have experience in dealing with executive, legislation, judiciary and political affairs and some are graduates and doctorate degree holders. Delegates representing the people of Mon State are also participating in it. The success of



Mawlamyine Township MCWA Executive Daw Khine Khine Maw — MNA the National Convention is of paramount importance. All national races are to guard the Union against the dangers of the destructive elements within and without and to support the National Convention with Union Spirit and Patriotic Spirit, he concluded.

Afterwards, Executive of Paung Township USDA Dr Win Kyaw Thu tabled a motion to support the National Convention saying that the Government is striving to build a discipline flourishing

democratic nation in accordance with the Seven-Point Road Map. Delegates representing all national races are participating in the National Convention. Now, the convention is up to a certain point. All national races are to make a contribution to the success of the National Convention which is a national duty of the people. All national races are committed to shaping the future democratic nation joining hands with one another. Hence, the entire mass of national people are to support the National Convention for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Townseller U Kyaw Shein of Shwemyaing Thiri Ward of Mawlamyine seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said no one can deny that unprecedented development can be witnessed in the country. In the past, local people in Mon State were in trouble due to the danger of insurgency. At present, national race armed groups had returned



Mon State WAO member Daw Tin Tin Kyaw — MNA

to the legal fold and are participating in the National Convention. Local people desire peace and stability and development



Mawlamyine Township USDA executives Daw San San Win and Daw Nay Chi Oo. — MNA



Panel of chairmen at the mass meeting in Mon State to support the National Convention. — MNA

only. All the national brethren want to enjoy fruitful results of peace and development.

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes and 12 objectives, the Tatmadaw Government is building infrastructures in all aspects for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Therefore, the entire people



Paung Township USDA Executive Dr Win Kyaw Thu. — MNA

Constitution. Now, the National Convention has achieved success to a certain extent for laying down detailed basic principles to



Worker U Myint Zaw Win of Mawlamyine Industrial Zone — MNA

draft the constitution.

In conclusion, she supported the functions of successful holding the National Convention for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in line with the seven-point Road Map.

Executive of Mawlamyine Township MCWA Daw Khaing Khaing Maw seconded

the motion in support of the National Convention. In her speech, she said that thanks to nation-building endeavours of the Tatmadaw Govern-



Mon State WVO Maj Tun Tun Aung (Retd). — MNA

ment, progress has been made in all regions of the nation including border areas. The people can enjoy transport facilities throughout the nation. Higher education is within the reach of youth for enhancing human resources. These infrastruc-



Farmer U Kyaw Nyunt of Min Village in Mawlamyine. — MNA

tures are the foundations to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Parents focus on improvement of their offspring. Likewise, the Government is undertaking improvement of living standard of all national races and emergence of a modern nation with genuine goodwill.

(See page 7)

Diplomats tours Shan State (North), Mandalay Division

YANGON, 20 Jan — Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Philippine Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez and ambassadors, charges d'affaires and resident representatives of UN agencies and their wives led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and wife left here by air on 16 January and arrived at Lashio Airport.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Thant Zin and local people.

They visited the 4,400-acre summer paddy transplanting ceremony in Myoma field in Hsenwi Township. In Muse, officials explained development of Muse and border trade between Myanmar and China. Next, the guests visited Myanmar-China border area.

On 17 January, the diplomats attended the press conference of Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council in Lashio. In the evening, the commander and wife hosted a dinner to them.

On 18 January, they visited Lashio and PyinOoLwin. At National Kandawgyi Gardens, Rector Brig-Gen Nyi Tun of DSA hosted a lunch to them. Next, they visited to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay. In the evening, the commander hosted a dinner to them.

The diplomats visited Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) and U Pein Bridge in Mandalay yesterday and arrived back here by air.— MNA

Cash and kind donated to MWAFF

YANGON, 20 Jan — Wellwishers donated cash and kind to Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation at the hall of the federation in Bahan Township this afternoon.

President of the federation Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President

Daw Khin Lay Myint and heads of department accepted K 16.9 million and gifts worth K 2,325,000 donated by 43 wellwishers.

Later, President Daw Than Than Nwe thanked the wellwishers for their donations.

MNA



MWAFF President Daw Than Than Nwe accepts cash from a wellwisher.— MNA



MWAFF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint accepts cash from a wellwisher.— MNA

Meeting of MWAFF Work Committee held

YANGON, 20 Jan — The Annual General Meeting Organizing Work Committee of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held a meeting at the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this morning, attended by Chairperson of the work committee Daw Khin Lay Myint and members and Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Patron Daw Khin The Htay.

First, Chairperson of the work committee Daw Khin Lay Myint made a speech and subcommittee members and secretaries discussed the completion of the tasks.

Afterwards, those present reported on the future plan and the chairman of work committee gave necessary instructions. Next, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman of work committee.— MNA



The coordination meeting of MWAFF Annual General Meeting Organizing Committee in progress.— MWAFF

All national races are to guard ...

(from page 6)

In conclusion, she urged all the participants to take part in the respective sectors for successful realization of the National Convention for the emergence of the constitution that is lifeblood of the people.

Mon State WVO member Major Tun Tun Aung (Retd) seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said that nowadays, delegates from States and Divisions are participating in the discussions at the National Convention unitedly.

On 17 February, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an open-

ing address, saying that the Tatmadaw, throughout the course of history, has never lost sight of the interests of the national people. Moreover, it has pledged to go on making concerted efforts to turn into reality the ambitions, hopes, and wishes of the entire people. The Tatmadaw will also cooperate with the simple national people who entertain patriotism and Union Spirit until the seven-point Road Map has been successfully implemented.

Only Tatmadaw can shape the future nation. History of the Tatmadaw and that of the country are inter-related. The Tatmadaw

was born of the national people due to the need for Independence of the nation. At a time when priority is being given to security in the world, participation of the Tatmadaw in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is most appropriate.

In conclusion, he urged the entire people to support successful realization of the National Convention, the first phase of the seven-point Road Map, upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Industrialist U Myint Zaw Win said that the inborn duty, which all national races will discharge unitedly is the emergence of the State constitution.

The government

has realized all round developments such as health, education and economic sectors and established 18 industrial zones for national entrepreneurs. We have



Those present at the mass meeting in Mawlamyine chanting slogans.

MNA

to overcome various kinds of hardships for successful completion of the National Convention. He wholeheartedly endorsed the NC.

Peasant U Kyaw Nyunt of Minywa village in Mawlamyine Township discussed that our country is based on agriculture. Seventy per cent of nation's population are earning their living through some of agriculture, livestock breeding and forest sec-

tors.

In addition, four economic objectives are being implemented. The farmers have enjoyed the fruits of developments thanks to the five rural development tasks. Thanlwin bridge (Mawlamyine) was opened on 5 February 2005.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe attended it and gave guidance saying that it was important for the nation to have the strengths —

community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, and unity.

We must overcome the difficulties through those strengths. Holding the true patriotism, they absolutely supported the NC.

Next, the chairman sought approval of those present at the mass meeting. All participants unanimously supported the National Convention and the mass meeting ended.—MNA

(from page 1)

The University for Development of National Races was previously the Academy for Development of National Groups that produced primary assistant teachers. Now, it has been upgraded to a university with the aim of providing higher education for youths of national races to become graduates.

With different forms of objectives, the University for Development of National Races is different from other universities and colleges in nature. So, you trainees have to be equipped with the concepts and convictions that are in conformity with the salient points of the university.

In the past, far-flung areas had just a few relations with the interior regions of the nation. As a result, the majority of the youths in border areas were far from access to the opportunity of pursuing edu-



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets trainees of No 37 Course (Bed) of UDNR. — MNA

All the national brethren have lived harmoniously in each and every region of the nation since yore

Excerpts from Senior General's guidance

- * **In the past, far-flung areas had just a few relations with the interior regions of the nation.**
- * **In the drive for narrowing the development gap between one region and another and ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation, the government has been opening educational institutions to raise the education standard of local people and establishing special training schools in far-flung areas.**
- * **In a bid to reduce the development gap as far as it can and to ensure equitable development of the Union, you trainees will have to make efforts whatever role you are in.**

cation.

That is why the government today is taking measures for nurturing the youths in border areas to become educated ones, and human resources, and for creating a situation in which the people in the interior regions and the people in border areas can enjoy equal opportunity.

In the drive for narrowing the development gap between one region and another and ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation, the government has been opening educational institutions to

raise the education standard of local people and establishing special training schools in far-flung areas. In this regard, you trainees will have to effectively nurture local youths for the development of human resources in accordance with the objective of the university.

Only then, will it be possible to ensure simultaneous development of human resources across the nation. In a bid to reduce the development gap as far as it can and to ensure equitable development of the Union, you trainees will

have to make efforts whatever role you are in.

I would like to exhort you, in accordance with the objectives of the university, to cultivate a spirit of goodwill in nurturing and teaching local youths to become educated persons and human resources in the regions where you will be assigned duties.

Moreover, you will also have to inculcate youths of national races with the spirit of cherishing the Union in the spheres of ideas and moral conduct.

National races do not live in the nation separately race-wise or region-wise. But all the national brethren have lived harmoniously in each and every region of the nation since

yore. Therefore, the national races in nature live together with amity without enmity.

So, you will have to enhance Union Spirit already inculcated into the youths. Only when the people are fully equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the

Union of Myanmar exist perpetually.

Union Spirit is not the spirit based on an organization, a race and an ideology, but the nationalistic spirit that concerns the entire national people. Indeed, Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegra-

tion of the border areas and national races development project, the 24-special development regions project, and the rural development project.

Apart from original duties, you will also have to practically contribute towards regional develop-

Union Spirit is not the spirit based on an organization, a race and an ideology, but the nationalistic spirit that concerns the entire national people. Indeed, Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty — is the national duty that concerns all the national races of the Union and that all the citizens have to carry out conscientiously.



Po Kayin national Nan May Lwin Aung speaks words of thanks. — MNA

ment projects being implemented in the regions you will be posted.

The production of human resources plays an important role in the building of the nation. With this context, the government has taken measures for the youths in the special development regions to have access to higher education.

In the past, medical science, engineering, and architecture were available only in Yangon. Now, the opportunity to pursue higher education has thoroughly covered each and every region in the nation. As a result, infrastructures necessary for development are being constructed region-wise with the strength of

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(See page 9)

With the development of human resources, all the regions of the Union will see equitable development

(from page 8)

the intellectuals and intelligentsia respective regions have produced. The government is taking steps with the aim of ensuring development of human resources in every region, and enabling the human resources to take part in the tasks for regional and national development.

With the development of human resources, all the regions of the Union will see equitable development.

You will have to play a part in developing human resources to be fit and healthy and valuable enough to discharge the assigned duties well. The government on its part has been making arrangements for development of economic infrastructures in all regions. The number of dams, highways and major bridges the government has built for economic develop-

in our nation the eruption of anarchy resulting from mob rule. In this regard, the task of building of democratic State should go alongside the enforcement of law and discipline to clearly separate democracy from mobocracy and anarchism.

For the nation to develop firmly with peace and stability in the future, we will have to draw the line between democracy and mobocracy and anarchism, and with this task in mind, we are building a modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation. What's more, stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order are the foremost requirements to reach this end. Without having those requirements, the people will not be in a position to rightly elect good persons with peace of

persons through democratic means only if they have higher level and wider scope of knowledge.

And that is why we are endeavouring for all the people living in all four corners of the Union to choose the right persons with correct knowledge and vision.

All in all, the government has been in the process of ensuring a strong economy, food sufficiency, community peace and the rule of law for the people to vote without any prejudices in the corruption-free election for the future nation.

As you are education staff produced by the UDNR, I wish you all to nurture national races youths of the remote areas to have better education, wider knowledge and stronger Union Spirit, while playing your own

regional development as we are about to complete our training at the university. We have pledged to serve the country dutifully by keeping the goodwill of the State in the fore.

The border regions had poor transport and faced various kinds of hardships in the past due to lack of peace and stability. As there was inadequate number of teaching staff to educate the students, the government arranged to nurture our brothers and sisters to become not only teachers but also junior leaders to participate in regional development work. The State has also placed emphasis on improvement of education in border regions. So, a total of 1,034 basic education schools have been opened and 170,000 local youths are able to pursue their education well.

modern developed nation. All sectors of the country have met significant progress as the State is undertaking border region development tasks as well as 24 special region development project to ensure the equitable development of all the regions in Myanmar. There has been progress in socioeconomic life of the people and they have realized the goodwill of the State. These fruitful results have emerged due to strenuous efforts of the people under the correct leadership of the government. We, all national brethren have made a vow to continue our efforts for the emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation with the sense of Union Spirit. We shall also participate in the national development tasks for the improvement of socio-economy of the people. We will train our pupils to cultivate themselves correct thoughts and good attitude so as to flourish Union Spirit.

Since the assumption of State duties, the government has spared no efforts to build political and economic foundations to shape a new modern and developed nation. However, those who are jealous of the progress of the State are attempting to tarnish the image of the State by resorting various ways. But we are confident that we will be able to guard against their acts with the might of the people. I would like to conclude that we will strive for the successful realization of the work programmes laid down by the State enlisting the national people.

Next, on behalf of the trainees of BED course No 37 of UDNR, Po Kayin national Nan May Lwin Aung spoke words of thanks. She said our alma mater has trained us during a period of four years to cultivate correct thoughts and Unin Spirit so as to efficiently carry out the tasks for development of education, health, economic and social sectors. Besides, we have been trained to realize the objectives of the State. As we have completed our learning at the university, we will have to carry out duties assigned by the State in the near future. We are committed to serve the interest of the State and the people.

By implementing long-term education plans,

the government is taking measures to reform the education system to meet international standard and to enable the country to become a constant learning society. In doing so, it has established e-development centres for communication and technology, electronic networks and e-libraries at the schools and universities and opened postgraduate and doctorate courses for creating more learning opportunities. Hence, human resources that can defend the nation well have emerged. At our university also, teachership diploma courses, bridge courses and four-year bachelor's courses are being conducted and those qualified will have a chance to attend the M Ed courses next year. As we know the importance of our job ahead, now we are trying to become qualified teachers and to produce educated youths on whom the State can rely.

The Union of Myanmar is home to diverse national races. Our ancestors, while seeking greener pasture across the nation, had lived together in unity and amity keeping eggs and nest intact. With the conviction that unity is the strength of the nation, they established Myanmar. We have learned in history that they guarded against any dangers in times of emergency at risk of their lives wherever they lived in the country. They protected the motherland with patriotic spirit for perpetuity of the Union. We have our bounden duty to safeguard our nation. So we will try to inculcate Union Spirit into our pupils and local people. The nation has developed significantly in a short period owing to harmonious efforts of the government and the people with correct State policies and objectives. While keeping the development momentum, we national people are required to take part in respective roles for the success of State work programmes in cooperation with the government. We are determined to serve our duties consciously as good service personnel by upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Later, the ceremony came to a close at 10 am. Senior General Than Shwe and party then cordially greeted the trainees and supervisor teachers.

MNA

The drive for flourishing of Union Spirit will not work if it is implemented through conception and conviction alone. It must be put into motion not only theoretically but also practically. So, the government is putting efforts into the harmonious implementation of the border areas and national races development project, the 24-special development regions project, and the rural development project.

ment almost meets the national requirements.

The government's aims is to develop industries and fulfil other national requirements together with the human resources development, the nation is achieving thanks to sound education, health and transport infrastructures. And with this aim in mind the government has launched the national development drive with high acceleration.

You should take part in the drive as a grain of sand and a lump of brick with the conviction that the Union will perpetuate as long as the results of the sound infrastructure development and the flourishing Union Spirit can be integrated well.

Our country is a Union made up of over 100 national races. Hence we will have to build a democratic state in accord with the essence of the nature of the Union, that is a communal home of various national races. But what is important is to build a discipline-flourishing state. However, so thin is the layer parting democracy, mobocracy and anarchism that without the control of law and discipline, democracy can become mobocracy and also anarchism.

We have witnessed in other countries as well as

mind in an election free from all kinds of frauds.

With the conviction that stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order are the most basic requirements in building a democratic state, you will have to cooperate with officials concerned to help fulfil the requirement.

The second requirement is the firm national economic development. People will be able to observe morals only if their social needs are ensured. In this regard, the government has been striving in all sectors for economic progress of the entire nation. But it is facing difficulties in its economic development drive because of the sanctions and disturbances of the foreign masters and their lackeys — the internal traitors. The people are also suffering from those disturbances and sanctions.

What you should know clearly is that we are going to build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in earnest.

The government has been developing the human resources and public knowledge which is the third requirement for emergence of a true democratic state. People will be able to correctly choose good

part in laying basic foundations for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation.

On behalf of the trainees of BED course No 37 of UDNR, Kayan national Maung Mya Than spoke words of thanks. He said under the arrangement of the government, we got opportunities to attend the University for Development of National Races that was established for the development of national races and the Union. We will have to perform our duties soon in the drive for

Besides, more universities and colleges have been opened in respective regions for higher education. Educated local youths are now able to actively participate in regional development tasks. Education is fundamental to develop the State and the people. While the State is taking systematic measures to enhance national education, we, on our part, shall try our best to be educated so as to serve the country realizing the goodwill of the State. Now is the time when the government is building a peaceful and



Kayan national Maung Mya Than speaks words of thanks.— MNA

NCC Management Committee holds coord meeting

YANGON, 20 Jan — The National Convention Convening Management Committee held the coordination meeting at the hall of the committee in Nyaungnnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, this morning. Present on the occasion were Chairman of NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairmen Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence and Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, members of the Management Committee, chairmen and secretaries of sub-committees, and departmental officials.

Secretary of the Management Committee Lt-Col Than Htay acted as MC. Chairman of NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung who presided over the meeting delivered an opening address.

Next, chairmen and secretaries of sub-committees and departmental officials submitted reports on their respective sectors and progress of tasks. Afterwards, officials of the NCC Management Committee Office took part in the discussions.

The general round discussion of the NCC Management Committee members and officials of the sub-committees followed.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung attended to the needs, and the meeting ended with his concluding remarks.— MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye views sales of gems and jade lots



Lt-Gen Tin Aye of Ministry of Defence views UMEHL's Gems and Jade Sales.

MNA

YANGON, 20 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence yesterday afternoon

attended the 20th Gems and Jade Sales 2006 of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road,

here.

BOD Members of UMEHL, members of Sales Committee and officials welcomed Lt-Gen Tin Aye at the Myanmar

Gems Mart.

Next, he viewed sales of gems and jade lots through tender and auction system, and left there.— MNA



NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung speaking at the NCCMC meeting.— MNA

Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw speaks at meeting of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia.— MNA



Delegate Groups hold meetings

YANGON, 20 Jan — Delegate Groups of the National Convention — the Delegate Group of National Races, Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia and Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons— held their group meetings at designated halls of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

Delegate Group of National Races

The Delegate Group of National Races held its

meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hall this morning. U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Rae and Duwa Zoat Doung of Shan State (North). 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 626 delegates out of 644 attended the meeting accounting for 92.30 per cent. First, meeting chairman U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint delivered a speech.

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

After seeking the approval of the proposals, the meeting chairman approved it and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia

The Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia held its meeting at the Hall-6. The meeting was presided over by President Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw of Myanmar Technicians Association together with members of the panel of chairmen Surgeon Dr Thein Nyunt {Nyunt Wai (Katha)} and U Hla Myint of the Ministry of Rail Transportation. Deputy Director U Than Win and Assistant Director U Nyein Myint of Work Group-8 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs. The master

of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 51 delegates out of 56 attended the meeting accounting for 91.07 per cent. First, meeting chairman Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw delivered a speech.

Next, Musician Hinthada U Myint Ngwe and Rector U San Tint of Mawlamyine University 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. After seeking the approval of the proposals, the meeting chairman approved it and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons

The Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons held its meeting at the Hall-8. The meeting was presided over by Secretary of Myanmar History Commission U Tun Aung Chin together with members of the panel of chairmen U Paw Laik Kham of Shan State (North) Spe-

cial Region-2 and Dr Manan Tuja of Kachin State Special Region-2. Deputy Director U Aung Kyi and Assistant Director U Win Myint of Work Group-10 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs. The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 88 delegates out of 89 attended the meeting accounting for 98.88 per cent. First, meeting chairman U Tun Aung Chin delivered a speech.

Next, U Sao Kai Hpa of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 and U Mann Tin Aung Myint of Haungthayaw Special Region Group 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.

After seeking the approval of the proposals, the meeting chairman approved it and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

MNA



Myanmar History Commission Secretary U Tun Aung Chin makes a speech at the meeting of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.— MNA

UDNR trainees visit Pyithu Hluttaw, Zoo (Yangon), Aquarium

YANGON, 20 Jan — Accompanied by Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi who is the secretary of management committee for excursion, Rector of University for Development of National Races U Zaw Min Thein, leader of the excursion group Professor Daw Aye Aye Kyaing and officials, trainees of the No 37 Course (BE) of UDNR visited Pyithu Hluttaw on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Next, they proceeded to Zoo (Yangon) where Director U Myint Swe of Forest Department explained facts about the zoo.

After exchanging commemorative pennants, a trainee spoke words of thanks.

At Aquarium of Kandawgyi Natural Gardens, an official of Fisheries Department extended greetings to them and gave a briefing on the aquarium. Next, the trainees viewed round the gardens. — MNA



The trainees of No 37 Course (BE) of the University for Development of National Races visit the Zoological Garden (Yangon). — MNA

Wife of Indian Admiral visits MMCWA building, Myanmar Gems Mart



Mrs Kumkum Prakash, wife of the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COCS) and Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy of the Republic of India, at the Early-Childhood Development Centre of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. — MNA

YANGON, 20 Jan — The visiting Indian guests led by Mrs Kumkum Prakash, wife of the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COCS) and Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy of the Republic of India, accompanied by Daw Su Nyunt Oo, wife of Commander of Taninthayi Naval Region Command Commodore Win Shein and officials, visited Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in the corner of Thanthuma

Road and Parami Road yesterday morning. They were welcomed by Daw Khin Khin Win, President of MMCWA.

President Daw Khin Khin Win and Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha explained the functions and aims of the association.

Daw Khin Khin Win presented gifts to the Indian guest.

The wife of the Admiral of Indian Navy signed the visitors' book and posed for a documentary photo.

The Indian guests observed photos and documents of activities of MMCWA and Early Childhood Development Centre. They also visited Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. — MNA



Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Daw Khin Khin Win presenting a gift to Mrs Kumkum Prakash. — MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ပိုင်းဝန်းတူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၆-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၁၉)ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်
ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက် (၄၈,၆၆၇) တိုက်
ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန်
ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက်
စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊
ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

တီဘီရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ပိ

- ☆ ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၃)ပတ်ကျော် ချောင်းဆိုးလျှင်-
- ☆ သလိပ်တွင် သွေးပါလျှင်-
- ☆ တငွေငွေအဖျား တာရှည်လျှင်-
- ☆ တဖြည်းဖြည်း ပိန်ချိုးလာလျှင်-

နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနများတွင် တီဘီရောဂါရှိ-မရှိ စစ်ဆေးပါ
တီဘီလူနာများကို အစွမ်းထက်သော တီဘီဆေးများဖြင့်
ပျောက်ကင်းသည်အထိ အခမဲ့ ဆေးကုသပေးလျက်ရှိပါသည်။

အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက အမျိုးသားတီဘီရောဂါ တိုက်ဖျက်ရေးစီမံကိန်း
(ဖုန်း- ၀၁ ၃၈၀၉၅၁၊ ၃၈၀၉၅၂၊ ၃၈၀၉၅၃ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်ဆုံးမိနိုင်ပါသည်။)

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf C'ship commences



YANGON, 20 Jan — The Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2006, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, was opened at Shwemantaung Golf Re-

sort in Mandalay this morning.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, and Design and Development Director U Tint Oo of IBTC opened the golf championship.

In the first round of the amateur division, Maung Nyo led 164 ama-

teur golfers by shooting 68 strokes together with his runners-up Kyaw Kyaw, Zaw Naing Oo, Kyaw Hlaing Oo, Myo Tun, Zay Zay and Win Myint who tied at 69. Co-sponsors of the championship were Air Mandalay, Crusher Club Soda, Srixon and Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel. The competition is being organized by Han Event Management. The second round continues at the same venue tomorrow.

MNA

Donate Blood

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (045)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2006 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 upto 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (72606)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (72606) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 GATI COAST TO COAST**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Lula asked to help find Brazilian missing in Iraq

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 19 Jan—Relatives of a Brazilian engineer kidnapped in Iraq a year ago called on President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday to appeal to kidnappers to at least clarify Joao Jose Vasconcellos' fate.

"I believe the only thing missing is the president's involvement," said Rodrigo Vasconcellos, his 25-year-old son. Brazilian Foreign Ministry's efforts have so far failed to bring any news on whether the man is alive. "The groups there want certain recognition and there is no greater recognition than from the kidnapped person's president. If he asked to talk, to make contact, that would give more importance to negotiations," he told Reuters.

Brazil's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday it was continuing efforts to resolve the case. Brazil has no embassy in Iraq.

Joao Jose Vasconcellos, 50 and a married father of three, was kidnapped on 19 January, 2005 on the way to the airport to fly back to Brazil, after his convoy was attacked near the

central Iraqi city of Beiji. Two people died in the attack.

Early reports said a group calling itself the Al Mujahedin Squadrons claimed responsibility for the ambush.

The abduction hit a nerve in Brazil, where most people were critical of the US-led invasion of Iraq and largely unaware any Brazilians were in the country. Vasconcellos was working for a company hired to repair a power plant near Beiji.

Rodrigo Vasconcellos said the family still nurtured hopes to see Joao Jose alive but acknowledged they were ready for the worst.

"It would bring me comfort if they said that he died, that they have proof, that he died so and so. And we'll definitely want to see the remains... But we will go to the end, we won't accept him being written down as missing, this is out of the question," he said. — MNA/Reuters

Iran confident of defeating western bid to refer it to UNSC

TEHERAN, 19 Jan—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Iran was capable of frustrating the attempt by the European Union (EU) and the United States to push for referral of its nuclear case to the UN Security Council.

"There is no problem. They are trying their best and we cannot prevent others from making such efforts. It is a wrong for some to believe that world organizations are their own tools and they can exert pressure on others by making use of such tools," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

He asserted that the EU and the US would fail if they continued to use "language of force".

"The Europeans and the Americans should discard their arrogant position and instead adopt a rational stance on global developments... they should offer reasons for their actions," Ahmadinejad said.

Earlier in the day, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told IRNA that "taking into account the current

situation, we think the possibility is slight for Iran's case to be sent to the UN Security Council".

Mottaki urged the EU not to seek the referral, terming it as a hasty decision which would complicate the situation.

Meanwhile, Mottaki's deputy Mehdi Mostafavi, who is on an official visit to South Africa to seek support over the nuclear dispute, called on the EU to continue and accelerate negotiations in order to reach a compromise and remove misunderstandings.

"Iran will continue its close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European states," Mostafavi told IRNA in Johannesburg, adding "no change has been made in Iran's stance on its nuclear programme which is for peaceful purposes".

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine Govt calls for cool head following US refusal

MANILA, 19 Jan— The Philippine Government Wednesday called on the public to keep cool head after the United States refused to hand over the custody of the four US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman on 1 November.

Philippine Spokesman Ignacio Bunye said that the US refusal into an emotional issue against "an old-time friend and ally".

The United States has formally rejected a Philippine Government request to hand over the four accused US Marines, citing that the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) between the two countries has granted it the custody of the suspects

during legal proceedings. "We assure every interested party of a speedy and fair trial of the case, even as we continuously bank on the assurance made by US Government of its full cooperation in accordance with law," Bunye said. The Department of Justice decided not to serve the arrest warrants issued last week against the US Marines but hope that the US Government can afford

assistance to make the suspects appear before court trial.

A ranking Foreign Affairs official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua Wednesday that the Subic Bay authorities should be blamed for the Philippine Government's failure to secure custody of the four US Marines. The official said that the Subic Bay authorities should have consulted first with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Justice before turning over the suspects to the US Embassy. Article 5 paragraph 6 of the Visiting Forces agreement states that "the custody of any United States personnel over whom the Philippines is to exercise jurisdiction shall immediately reside with United States military authorities, if they so request, from the commission of the offense until completion of all judicial proceedings".

MNA/Xinhua

Oil prices jump above 66 dollars

NEW YORK, 19 Jan— Oil prices closed to a three-month high of 66.31 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange Tuesday on concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions and reduced Nigerian production.

New York's main oil contract, light sweet crude for delivery in February surged 2.39 dollars to close at 66.31 dollars, the highest finish since 29 September.

In London, the price of Brent North Sea crude for March delivery soared 1.72 dollars to close at 64.90 dollars a barrel, also its highest point in more than three months.

The rally in crude prices spread to natural gas and heating oil despite warm weather, which typically drives down prices on those fuels. Natural gas, which is used to generate heat and electricity, picked up 38 cents to 9.17 dollars per million British thermal units. Heating oil gained 7 cents to 1.79 dollars a gallon and unleaded gasoline added 9 cents to 1.82 dollars a gallon.

Geopolitical tensions are spooking the markets, observers said, even as mild temperatures have boosted supplies and production in the Gulf of

Mexico has slowly recovered after hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Geopolitical concerns and an inflow of money have boosted oil prices nearly 7 per cent since the start of the year.

Russia and China joined the US and Europe Monday in asking the UN Security Council to step into

the fray with Iran, which announced last week that it is restarting a nuclear research programme after a two-year suspension. Iran, the second-biggest oil producer in the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries, exports some 4.2 million barrels per day.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi gunmen kill 10 guards, kidnap engineer

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan— Gunmen killed 10 Iraqi guards and kidnapped at least one Malawian engineer in an attack on a convoy in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The source told Reuters the guards had been protecting the engineer, who is employed by Iraqna, part of the Egyptian-owned Orascom Telecom, and had been travelling in three or four cars when the gunmen struck. A spokesman for Iraqna, Shamil Hanafi, said six guards had been killed in the attack and two seriously wounded.

"We have two engineers who are missing — one from Malawi and one from Madagascar. We still do not know what has happened to them," he told Reuters.

There have been a spate of attacks on Iraqna engineers in the past. Hanafi said eight engineers had been previously kidnapped — six Iraqis and two Egyptians. — MNA/Reuters

Bomb kills two in US security team in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan— A roadside bomb killed two US private security contractors and seriously wounded a third in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Wednesday, the US Embassy said.

The embassy said they worked for a private security firm and Iraqi soldiers in Basra said the Americans were in the city to train Iraqi forces.

"Coalition forces promptly arrived on the scene, cordoned off the area, and transported the wounded personnel to a nearby Coalition medical facility," the embassy said in a statement. A Reuters cameraman said he saw two four-wheel drive vehicles, one of them seriously damaged, at the scene of the attack in the al-Tariq District of Basra. — MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဓာတ်မိဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Poland to host Miss World 2006 final

WARSAW, 20 Jan — The final of the Miss World 2006 beauty contest would take place in Poland on 30 September, Witold Asminowicz, a spokesman for the Miss Polonia organization, announced here on Wednesday.

The announcement was confirmed by Miss World organization on its official website where Poland was described as "a heart of Central Europe".—MNA/Xinhua

“Brokeback Mountain”, “Walk the Line” win big at Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan— The gay cowboy romance “Brokeback Mountain” won four Golden Globes Monday night, including best dramatic movie, while the Johnny Cash bio-pic “Walk the Line” swept the top musical film awards.

In addition to its best dramatic film award, “Brokeback Mountain” earned Golden Globes for

director Ang Lee and screenplay writers Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana.

The film also won best original song for “A Love that Will Never Grow Old,” by songwriters Gustavo Santaolallo and Bernie Taupin.

Meanwhile, “Walk the Line” was named best comedy or musical film at the 63rd annual Golden Globe Awards presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Co-stars Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, who both did their own singing while portraying American

country rock legendary Johnny Cash and his wife June Carter Cash, claimed the top acting prizes.

“Brokeback Mountain” led all nominees going into the show, with seven nods including one for actor Heath Ledger, but he lost to Philip Seymour Hoffman, who claimed the prize for his dead-on performance as the title character in “Capote”.

Felicity Huffman won best dramatic acting honours for “Transamerica,” in which she portrayed a male-to-female transsexual who learns she has a teenaged son.

George Clooney, was also a big favourite heading

into the ceremony, carrying a rare three nominations into the event. He won the first award of the evening — a best supporting dramatic actor prize for his portrayal of an under-pressure CIA agent in “Syriana” — but it would be his only victory of the night.

Clooney’s screenwriting and directing work on “Good Night, and Good Luck,” an homage to newsman Edward R Murrow, both lost out to “Brokeback Mountain”.

British actress Rachel Weisz took home supporting dramatic actress honours for her work in “The Constant Gardener”.

MNA/Xinhua



From left to right, silver medallists Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy of Germany, gold medallists Tattiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin of Russia, and bronze medallists Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov of Russia in the Pairs Skating category at the European Figure Skating Championships at the Palais des Sports ice rink in Lyon, central France, on 18 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

New Zealanders help to date ancient Chinese map

WELLINGTON, 18 Jan — A New Zealand laboratory has been given the job of dating an ancient Chinese map which could revolutionize the views on who discovered New Zealand, Australia and the Americas, according to a local TV report on Tuesday.

Until international publicity about the ancient map in the past few days, the radio carbon-dating unit of New Zealand’s Waikato University had no idea how important the parchment was, said NZTV.

Experts believe the analysis has the potential to indicate a famous Chinese explorer discovered America

before Christopher Columbus. It would also reinforce theories that the Chinese were the first to discover Australia and New Zealand.

Steve Behrendt, a historian, said the theory, which had been around for the past decade or so, was popularized in a book in 2003 called 1421.

The theory is back in the spotlight again with

a map that supporters say adds weight to the idea that the Chinese discovered America.

Waikato University is one of the leading laboratories in the world with radio carbon analysis and a tiny scrap of paper currently being analyzed has provoked intrigue and controversy as far away as Britain and the United States.—MNA/Xinhua

Two Chinese dragon lanterns to emerge in Bangkok Chinatown

BANGKOK, 18 Jan— The People’s Republic of China is to present a special gift — two giant dragon lanterns — to the King of Thailand to mark the 60th anniversary of his accession to the throne and the dragons will take pride of place at the Chinese New Year festival in Yaowarat (China Town) on 29 and 30 January, Thai newspaper The Nation said on Tuesday.

Pracha Maleenont, Thai Tourism and Sports Minister, was quoted as saying that this year’s China Town festival will be bigger than ever in Bangkok, and will have the theme: “A warm friendship of two nations under the great kindness of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej.”

The centerpiece of the celebrations will be a 30-metre-long dragon

lantern to be installed at the China Town Gate — with another five-metre-long dragon flanking it — and both will be lit at night falls.

The Chinese Government will also send dragon-dancers and kung-fu troupes — more than 100 dancers all up — from Guangzhou to perform at the festival, which will run from morning till midnight

over the two days. Adding to the spectacle will be more than 150 lanterns in Thai and Chinese styles, lighting up Yaowarat, Charoen Krung and Trimit roads during the event.

The lanterns have been designed in the traditional style of Chinese court and made by Foshan Folk Art Research Institute.

MNA/Xinhua

Tourists spend more to descend famous volcanic caldera in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 18 Jan— Tourists descending Ngorongoro in northern Tanzania to see the world’s most famous volcanic caldera will pay four times more than they used to.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority has hiked the entry fee starting from this year for each descending motor vehicle from 25 US dollars to 100 dollars, according to reports reaching here on Tuesday.

Vincent Mbirika, public relations officer of the Ngorongoro crater management, explained that the entry fee had been

hiked for nature conservation benefits.

An average of 80 motor vehicles per day has been entering the world’s most complete crater to view the gathering of wild animals but Mbirika did not elaborate on the maximum number of motor vehicles allowed to enter the crater without causing environmental damage to its eco-system.

Tourists, who have to descend the crater on hired motor vehicles, pay 30 dollars each for themselves for a one-day single trip if they come from foreign countries. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area that spans some 8,300 square kilometres was established in 1959 and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.

MNA/Xinhua



Fog swirls around the Empire State Building at sunrise on 13 Jan, 2006 in New York City. The New York area is experiencing unseasonably warm temperatures this week, with highs on Friday expected to reach 52 degrees Fahrenheit (11 Celcius).—INTERNET

SPORTS



Chelsea star Didier Drogba, of Ivory Coast, shoots the ball during a training session at Cairo soccer stadium in Cairo, Egypt on 19 Jan, 2006 ahead of the opening session of the 2006 African Cup of Nations there on Friday. —INTERNET

Arsenal hope to sign teenager Walcott within 24 hours

LONDON, 20 Jan — Arsenal hope to conclude a deal within 24 hours to sign Southampton's exciting 16-year-old striker Theo Walcott, manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday.

"We're very heavily in the race but nothing is done and, as long as nothing is signed, you cannot talk about it," the

Frenchman told the Premier League club's website.

"However, we are hoping to get a decision in the next 24 hours."

The pacy teenager, who is rated as the finest English prospect since Wayne Rooney, has said he wants to join Arsenal if he leaves Second Division Southampton.

Walcott became the south-coast club's youngest player when he featured against Wolves on the opening day of the season.

He has scored four goals in 13 league matches and also hit five goals in nine games for England's Under-17s last season.

MNA/Reuters

Brazilian striker Quirino joins Djurgarden

STOCKHOLM, 20 Jan — Swedish champions Djurgarden have signed Brazilian striker Quirino on a four-year contract, the club said on their website on Thursday.

Tiago Quirino da Silva, 21, has been with Brazilian side Atletico Mineiro since 1998 and made his debut for their first team in 2003. He scored eight goals in 21 appearances last year. Quirino, who has played for Brazil's Under-18 and Under-20 teams, joins Djurgarden in February. —MNA/Reuters

Turkey's Nihat to stay at Sociedad until end of season

MADRID, 19 Jan — Real Sociedad's Turkish striker Nihat Kahveci said on Wednesday he would not leave the Primera Liga club before the end of the season.

"All I am concerned about is helping Sociedad," he told a news conference. "Yesterday we decided that I would stay until May. It was a decision taken jointly between myself and the club."

The 26-year-old's contract with Sociedad runs out at the end of this season and media reports had been linking him with a move to Spartak Moscow in the January transfer window.

Sociedad coach Jose Maria Amorrtu left the player out of his last two squads because he felt Nihat did not have his mind focused on the task in hand.

"I don't want to talk about Spartak at present because I am still a Sociedad player," Nihat said.

MNA/Reuters

Turkish coach resigns after Federation vote

ISTANBUL, 20 Jan — Fatih Terim resigned as coach of Turkey's national side on Thursday after the country's football federation re-elected Haluk Ulusoy as chairman, CNN Turk said on its website.

"I am resigning to give the new administration, chosen because of the changes in the Turkish Football Federation's management, freedom in its decisions," the website quoted Terim as telling the *Dogan News Agency*.

"I will unilaterally annul my contract although it is a five-year deal. Of course I respect whatever decision the new federation takes," he said.

The comments could not immediately be confirmed.

Terim took over as coach of the Turkish national side last year but Turkey, who reached the 2002 World Cup semi-finals, failed to win a place in this year's World Cup after losing to Switzerland in the playoffs.

Earlier on Thursday Turkey's sports minister challenged Ulusoy's re-election as federation chairman while allegations of irregularities persist around his previous term in office.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea's Bridge joins Fulham on loan

LONDON, 20 Jan — Chelsea defender Wayne Bridge has joined fellow Premier League club Fulham on loan in a bid to retain his England squad place for the World Cup.

Fulham said on their website on Thursday that Bridge, who returned from a long injury layoff in October, had joined them until the end of the season.

"Wayne Bridge is a world class player and even though he is only just returning from injury, we are more than delighted to have him on board for the remainder of the season," Fulham manager Chris Coleman told the website.

Bridge lost his place at Chelsea to Spain left back Asier del Horno this season after a broken leg sidelined him for eight months from February.

"I'm really happy to join Fulham for the remainder of the season because I

think that the next few months is an incredibly important period for me to be playing regular football, as I would obviously love to be part of the (England) manager's plans for the World Cup competition," Bridge said.

Bridge won his 21st cap in England's last match, a 3-2 win over Argentina in a friendly in Geneva in November, a year almost to the day after his previous international appearance.

The World Cup in Germany starts on June 9 with England in Group B where they meet Paraguay, Trinidad & Tobago and Sweden.

MNA/Reuters

Roddick leads men's seeds into 3rd round of Australian Open

CANBERRA, 19 Jan — Second seed Andy Roddick, seventh seed Ivan Ljubicic, 11th seed David Ferrer and 18th seed Mario Ancic are among men's seeds securing their third round tickets at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday.

But 13th seed Robby Ginepri of the

United States, 17th seed Radek Stepanek and 19th seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic were ousted, losing chances for a place in the last 16.

Ginepri, a US Open semifinalist, was beaten by German Denis Gremelmayer, Stepanek defeated by Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus, who is former world junior champion.

Berdych was knocked out by Gilles Simon of France.

Roddick, who thundered down an ATP Tour-best 912 aces in 2005, defeated Wimbledon doubles champion Weslie Moodie of South Africa by straight sets 7-5, 6-3 and 6-2.

Roddick has a seed-free path to the quarters, where he may strike Ljubicic.

Ljubicic and Ancic of Croatia, second and third for aces last year and who teamed together to earn Croatia its first Davis Cup last year, also advanced to the last 32 of the championship without losing a set.

Ljubicic beat unseeded German Philipp Kohlschreiber 7-5, 6-2 and 6-1, while Ancic knocked out Czech Jan Hernych 6-1, 6-4 and 6-4.

Ferrer of Spain beat Daniele Bracciali of Italy 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5-7) and 6-2, and will play Ancic next. Former French Open champion Gaston Gaudio reached the last 32, winning German Lars Burgsmuller 6-3, 6-2 and 6-3.

Gaudio will meet French Fabrice Santoro next, who ousted Romanian Andrei Pavel 6-4, 6-1 and 6-4.

MNA/Xinhua



Newly signed Villarreal player, Guillermo Franco, from Mexico, poses with his new shirt for photographers during his official presentation in Villarreal, Spain, on 19 Jan, 2006. Franco arrives to the Spanish league from Mexico's Monterrey.

INTERNET

FIFA back St Etienne over Tunisia reserve

PARIS 20 Jan — FIFA have backed St Etienne in their refusal to release defender Alaeddine Yahia to holders Tunisia after his late selection for the African Nations Cup.

World soccer's governing body ruled that Yahia's selection "outside the time limit set by the regulations", the Ligue 1 club said on Thursday on their website.

The Tunisian Football Federation had announced on Tuesday they were calling up Yahia to replace injured Feyenoord player Karim Saidi.

The tournament in Egypt starts on Friday and Tunisia open the defence of their title against Zambia in a Group C match in Alexandria on Sunday.

St. Etienne have lost five players to the 16-nation tournament which ends on February 10.

MNA/Reuters



Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina reacts after defeating Lleyton Hewitt of Australia during the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 19 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

NASA probe blasts off for Pluto

CAPE CANAVERAL, 20 Jan — The world's first mission to Pluto blasted into space on Thursday on an Atlas 5 unmanned rocket to begin a 9-1/2-year journey to the only unexplored planet in the solar system.

After two days of delays due to poor weather and a power outage, the 197-foot tall (60-metre) rocket, built by Lockheed Martin Corp, lifted off at 2 pm EST (1900 GMT) from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

High winds at the Florida launch site forced the first scrub of the launch of the *New Horizons* spacecraft on Tuesday, followed on Wednesday by a storm-triggered power outage at the mission control centre in Laurel, Maryland.

With an unprecedented five solid-fuel strap-on boosters, the rocket sent the relatively tiny spacecraft into space faster than any object

launched by man before. It sprinted into the sky and quickly disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean.

"The five solid rocket boosters are burning just fine, sending the *New Horizons* spacecraft on its way to the very edge of our solar system," said launch commentator Bruce Buckingham, shortly after the liftoff.

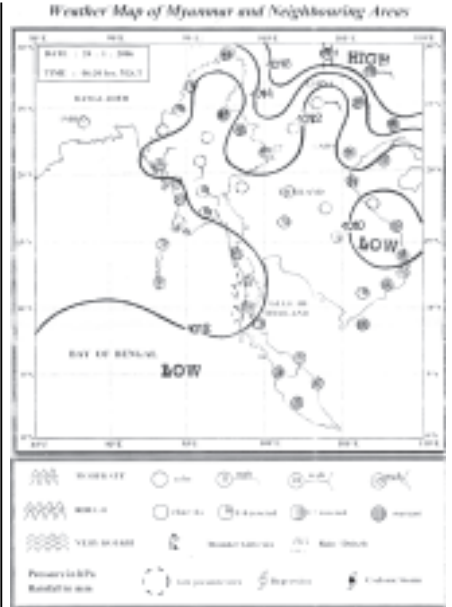
The launch sparked a small protest and was overseen by the Department of Energy because the spacecraft carried 24 pounds (10.9 kilos) of radioactive plutonium that will decay over time, providing heat that the probe's generator can turn into electricity to power instruments and systems.

MNA/Reuters



German Lutz Ponte works at his snow sculpture 'FIFA-Cup' during a snow sculpture competition in Neuhermsdorf, eastern Germany, on 19 Jan, 2006. Ten artists are taking part in the competition to cut sculptures from snow cubes measuring nine cubic metres (yards).

INTERNET



WEATHER

Friday, 20 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Bago and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures was Lashio (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 19-1-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 20-1-2006 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 20-1-2006 was (91%). Total sunshine hours on 19-1-2006 was (6.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 20-1-2006 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 (4) mph from West at (15:10) hours MST on 19-1-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21-1-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-1-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-1-2006: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for last weekend of January 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Radio Myanmar

Saturday, 21 January
Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music:
-Targan is tane... Toybox
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
-Think about love... Dolly Parton
8.50 am National news +12 Objectives & People's Desire
9.00 am Music:
-Go... Juicy
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music
-Power of two... Indigo
1.30 pm News & Slogan
1.40 pm Music at your request
-A picture of you... Boy Zone
-Lock me in your heart... Mandy Moore
-Owner of my heart... Shake
-Radio Heart... Charly Mc Clain
ASEAN Review
9.00 pm -News from ASEAN member countries
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Music Culture
-A strange phenomenon of Myeik
9.30 pm Souvenirs
-The "A" team... Sgt. Barry Saeller
-Guantanamera... The Sandpipers
-A day in the life of a fool... Jack Jones
9.45 pm New & Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Saturday, 21 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am
6. Musical programme

8:10 am
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am
8. ထပ်ဆင့်အောင်ပွဲဧရာဝတီတံတား (ဒေးဒရဲ)

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. Grammar made easy

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:15 am
2. Musical programme

11:30 am
3. News

11:45 am
4. Games for children

12:05 pm
5. Round up of the week's TV local news

12:50 pm
6. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"

1:10 pm
7. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အရည်ပေးရန်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)

1:50 pm
8. ကြားမြင်သုတ ပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပေသဘာ

2:00 pm
9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:05 pm
10. Dance of national races

2:20 pm
11. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:30 pm
12. "အလေးတော့ကိုပြော" ရဲ့ နိုင်ငံရေး၊ ရတနာစင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုန်းစိန်)

2:45 pm
13. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:45 pm
4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ညွှာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်ပြ)

4:55 pm
5. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:00 pm
6. မြန်မာစာပြန်စာတေး

5:15 pm
7. "ရွှေကြက်ဆူဆိုင်အိုဒီယို" ဧရာဝတီဈေးကြော်ငြှမ်းပွဲ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မုန့်မြင့်အောင်)

5:25 pm
8. Musical Programme

5:35 pm
9. Games for children

6:00 pm
10. Evening news

6:30 pm
11. Weather report

6:35 pm
12. "ကြက်ဆူဆိုင်-မှတိုင်အိုဒီယို"

6:45 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အသည်းနှလုံးနဲ့လူသား" (အပိုင်း-၃)

8:00 pm
14. News

15. International news
16. Weather report
17. "မိုးယသိုလှိုင်ပျံမည်တာဝရာဇာတိ နိကာယ" (အပိုင်း-၁) ညွှန်ဝင်းရန်အောင်ကျော်စွာအောင်လှိုင်နီရီအယ်လ်သန်းမုအယ်သန်းမုရီမြတ်သူဇာရီမြတ်နုနု၊ ရိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ ရတနာစင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းရော်အောင်အောင်)

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိမြေရင်" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

19. မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးပီပီဣသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာအတ္ထုပ္ပတ္တိ ဟောပြောခြင်းတရားတော်

20. The next day's programme

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Senior General Than Shwe receives visiting Indian Admiral and party

YANGON, 20 Jan — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received visiting Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash (PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM, ADC) and wife of Indian Navy of the Republic of India at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, here, at 11.30 am today.

Also present at the call were 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, Member of the State Peace and Development



Senior General Than Shwe receives Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash (PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM, ADC) and party of Indian Navy. — MNA

Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen

Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat

Hein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win. The Indian Admi-

ral and party were accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and Defence Attaché Colonel Jasvinder Singh Chopra. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe hosts dinner to trainees of No 37 Course (BEd) of UDNR

YANGON, 20 Jan — State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe hosted a dinner to the trainees of No 37 Course of (BEd) of the University for Development of National Races at Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road this evening.

Also present at the dinner were SPDC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of Yangon Division PDC the Commander of Yangon Command, the ministers, the Chief-Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Se-

lection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, members of CSSTB, members of management committee for excursion, the Director-General of SPDC Office, departmental heads, guests, the rector of UDNR, course instructors and trainees.

Before and after dinner, the vocalists entertained those present with songs to the accompaniment of Myanma Athan Modern Music Troupe. After the dinner, the artists of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture presented dances.

MNA

For all the national people to strive for promoting Myanmar education which produces human resources, the main forces for national development, to keep abreast of international standard

(In honour of trainees of the 37th batch of University for Development of National Races)

Senior General Than Shwe greets trainees of UDNR at the dinner at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building.

MNA

