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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

All citizens are to take part in tasks to successfully hold the National Convention

Mass meeting held in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division to support National Convention

YANGON, 22 Jan — Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association organized the mass meeting at Koethein sports ground in Pathein yesterday morning.

with retired Commissioner of Ayeyawady Division General Administration Department U Myo Tun, retired Ayeyawady Division Education Officer U Ohn Maung, Awaiya U Thein Win of Awaiya Tra-

ditional Medicine Industry, Dr Win Thein of Pathein, Townselder U Soe Myint of San Furniture, U Aye Kyaw of Anandagonyi Saw Mill, U Aung of Myoma Rice Mill and U Khin Maung Myint of

Myint Travelling Service in Pathein. Myaungmya Township USDA Executive Daw Tin Su May and Thabaung Township USDA Executive Daw Myint Myint Maw acted as MCs.

in successive eras depended on unity of the national people. In 1988, the country faced disturbances due to instigation of underground and aboveground destructive elements. The Tatmadaw took the responsibility of the State in time as the country was on the verge of collapse.

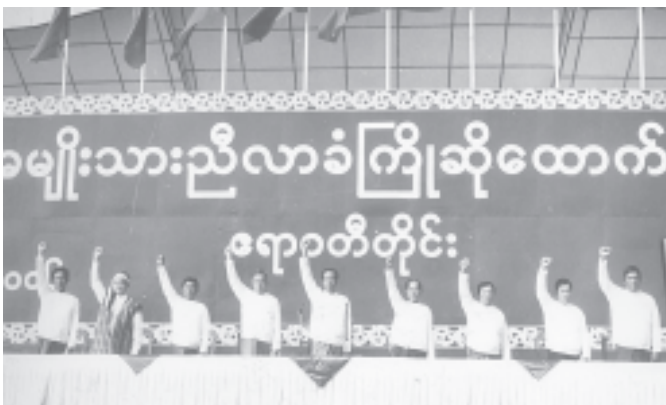
cratic nation, upholding Our Three Main National Causes and 12 State objectives. The Tatmadaw Government is convening the National Convention with a view to handing over of the State power to the people.

The Government is making efforts not only for emerging the discipline-flourishing democratic nation but also for realizing the national

(See page 8)

Speaking on the occasion, meeting chairman retired Rector U Soe Myint of Hinthada University said that Myanmar is a sovereign nation with fine tradition. Progress and decline of the nation

Tatmadaw is performing the tasks for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing demo-



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

It was attended by the Joint Secretary and executives of Ayeyawady Division USDA, the secretaries and executives of District and Township USAs, departmental personnel, members of Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, nurses, faculty members and students of Pathein University, local people, totalling 27,920.

Retired Rector U Soe Myint of Hinthada University presided over the mass meeting together



All are to be aware of dangers of internal and external destructive elements that do not want to see sector-wise development of the State and flourishing of national unity.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 23 January, 2006

Strive for success of National Convention through literature

The government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point Road Map in transition to a discipline-flourishing democratic nation while striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

As the drive calls for many intellectuals and intelligentsia who are well-educated, the government is making efforts with might and main to create opportunities in various sectors for the emergence of human resources.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to present Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards, scholastic awards and Pokokku library awards for 2005 of the Ministry of Information held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township on 21 January and made a speech on the occasion.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that it is common knowledge that some western countries in collusion with fugitives and underground agents are blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar to make her their minion nation. To be able to encounter such challenges, it is incumbent upon new generation men of letters to exert the might of literature to convince the people of the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

A trust fund was set up in 1991 with the donation of K 7.6 million by U Ohn Pe, and five categories namely, novel, short story, poem and treatise and research awards have been presented since 1993, lasting 13 years.

Moreover, since 2002, Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary award, award on Myanmar language subject in matriculation exam, award on arts in the University of Culture and award on subjects selected by the Ministry of Education were presented.

Myanmar literature has showed its mighty power in the nation's history. Throughout the period of independence struggle, literature was applied as a powerful weapon to enhance the bravery and unity of national people and to inculcate the people with the spirit of sacrificing lives, blood and sweat for regaining independence.

After independence had been regained, men of letters contributed towards the campaign of arming the people with the spirit of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty.

Men of letters are to organize the people through literature to strengthen the nation's political, economic and defence powers and to do their bit for success of the National Convention, a prerequisite for the emergence of an enduring State constitution.

Therefore, men of letters are to stamp out fabrications and concoctions made by some western big nations that are meddling in the internal affairs while doing their bit for the success of the National Convention.



In memory of late father Yoke Kim Chow and grandparents, daughters and sons in New York, the USA recently donated K 400,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi 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

Myanmar delegation arrives back from Beijing

YANGON, 21 Jan — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein arrived back here yesterday evening after attending the Ministerial Level Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Chinese Commercial Attaché to Myanmar Mr Tang Hai, FAO Resident Representative to Myanmar Mr Tang Zhenping, departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

The delegation led by Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department attended the high ranking officials meeting held on 17 January and the delegation led by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein the ministerial meeting held on 18 January.

The conference was organized by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the European Commission and World Bank and in close

cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The conference was attended by ministers and high ranking officials from more than 100 countries around the world. In the conference, coordination was made for the financial supporting to the needy countries from the international communities and donor countries for taking measures to prevent and control the pandemic.

The delegation led by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein observed Beijing Poultry Factory. On the way home yesterday, the minister and party, accompanied by Myanmar Minister-Counselor to Thailand U Myint Soe and Director Dr Kraing Sak Dangprom of Thai Poultry Department of Livestock Development, visited Integration Farm of Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Co Ltd in Korat.

Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Director Dr Than Hla and Deputy Director Dr Soe Lwin Nyein of the Health Department also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

Thai professional claims champion in Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour



YANGON, 22 Jan — The final round and prize presentation ceremony of the fifth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour took place at Regina Golf Club in Tachilek yesterday.

MPGA and MGF Executive U Ko Ko Lay presented prize to Tiger Putting Challenge champion Tin Maung Maung Soe (Han Golf Master); Tournament Director U Min Thein and Vice-Chairman U Zaw Min of Air Bagan Ltd gave prizes to daily best scorers.

Col Myint Han of Kengtung Station awarded prizes to Khin Zaw Win who stood first with 281 and Bo Bo second with 283 in the amateur division.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented the first prize to Somkiat Srisanka (Thailand) with 280 and the second prize to Bunlue Maneerat (Thailand) with 281 in the professional division.

Professional Golfer U Chan Han of Srixon



Winners and president of MPGA and MGF seen after prize-distribution ceremony.— MGF

presented US\$ 300, Killure Group K 500,000, U Win Kyi of Kachin Golfers Group K 500,000, KBZ Bank Ltd K 500,000 and Air Bagan Ltd Chairman U Teza K 1.2 million to Somkiat Srisanka.

The golf tour was sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd together with co-sponsor KBZ Bank Ltd, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Srixon, Regina Golf Club Tachilek, Killure Group, Kachin Golfer Group, Jade and Myanmar Co Ltd, Max Myanmar Co Ltd and London, and organized by Han Event Management. — MNA

Construction works carried out in Yangon Division

YANGON, 22 Jan— Director-General U Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, on 19 January, inspected construction tasks being carried out by Development Affairs Department in Yangon Division.

At Menincreek at the border of Bago Division (West) and Yangon Division, the director-general inspected 200 feet long Okkan creek crossing bridge and 30 feet long Yaythocreek bridge and gave instructions to officials. He also inspected laying of gravel on roads near Gyongyonyka village and Inkan village in Hmawby Township. Gravels have been laid on 19 miles and 6 furlongs gravel road and 23 wooden bridges and 94 small bridges have been built on the No 1 district-to-district road in Yangon Division with the length of 52 miles and 6 furlongs. DAD in Yangon Division have built 3 miles long urban roads, 27 miles and 5 furlongs long rural road and constructed 39 bridges in both rural and urban areas in 2005-2006 fiscal year.—MNA

China-ASEAN FTA agreement benefits China's textile export

BEIJING, 21 Jan — Since China and the ASEAN started their tariff reduction process on 1 July, 2005 on the basis of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA) agreement, the ASEAN would gradually lower its tariff upon Chinese textile and apparel, which may increase China's textile export to this region.

According to figures from the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles, Thailand and Malaysia's previous tariff rate upon textile and apparel import from China averaged at 21.5 per cent and 16.8 per cent, and the rate dropped to 16.9 per cent and 15 per cent from 1 July, 2005, and will drop to 10.6 per cent and 9.2 per cent from 1 January, 2007. The two countries will lower their tariff upon Chinese textile goods to zero in 2010, and the Philippines will reduce its textile tariff in a similar way, the chamber of commerce said. Indonesia, with its tariff rate against Chinese textile goods below 5 per cent, will directly lower it to zero in 2009. Vietnam's previous textile tariff rate was as high as 36.6 per cent, and it dropped to 31 per cent after 1 July, 2005, and will drop to 27.2 per cent in 2006. It is expected to reach 26.6 per cent in 2007, 22.8 per cent in

2008, 19 per cent in 2009, 12.6 per cent in 2011, 5.8 per cent in 2013 and zero in 2015. Beginning from July 2005, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand gave tariff cuts to each other on 7,455 kinds of commodities. The practice was launched in compliance with the Trade in Goods Agreement of a Framework

Agreement for Overall Economic Cooperation between China and the ASEAN countries. By 2010, China and six old ASEAN member nations, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, will impose zero tariffs on most normal products, while China and the other four new ASEAN members of

Cambodia, the Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam will do the same in 2015.

The China-ASEAN FTA has a population of 1.8 billion and two trillion US dollars in gross domestic product (GDP). It will become the third largest global trading region after the European Union and the North American Free Trade Zone. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Pentagon figures show army decline

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—Drug use, weight problems and parenthood have been taking their toll on the US military in the past three years, since the war on terror began, according to newly released Pentagon data.

Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act indicate the number of enlisted personnel leaving the military each year since George Bush, the US president, launched his War on Terror has increased from 8.7% in 2002 to 10.5% last year.

Enlisted losses—including people whose enlistments had expired—

increased from 118,206 in 2002 to more than 137,465 last year, while officer losses have increased from 5,619 in 2002 to more than 7,500 last year.

The subset of those leaving before their term was up, for reasons ranging from disability to drug abuse, increased from 58,214 in 2002 to 60,406 last year among enlisted personnel and from 1011 in

2002 to 1280 for officers. Lieutenant-Colonel Ellen Krenke, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said: "Service members leave the military for a variety of reasons."

"This is an all-volunteer military, which is dedicated to defending its country. We appreciate their service and respect their reasons for leaving the service."

Krenke said the military met and in some cases exceeded its retention goals this year.

The reasons for leaving the service differ in each branch, though general misconduct—a term which can mean anything from petty theft to brawling with colleagues—has consistently been the most common explanation.

Internet



A Japanese man takes a photograph near the snow-blanketed Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 21 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

2,224 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—As of Saturday, 21 Jan, 2006, at least 2,224 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,741 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include six military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,085 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,632 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet

More die in Russia's bitter cold

Moscow, 21 Jan — Russia's coldest winter in a generation killed seven more people overnight on Friday, bringing the death toll in Moscow to 123 and putting huge pressure on the Soviet-era heating and power network.

"The Moscow energy system has never sustained such a load," said Anatoly Chubais, chief executive of state electricity monopoly Unified Energy System.

Temperatures in the Russian capital have reached minus 30 Celsius and electricity consumption hit a record peak on Thursday, Chubais said in comments quoted by RIA Novosti.

Emergency services reported seven people died

overnight from exposure in Moscow. Another 22 were being treated in hospital, the *Interfax* news agency reported. Based on previous figures by Russian news agencies this would bring to 123 the number of people who have died from cold in Moscow since the end of October.

The human toll is mainly among the homeless.

This year is the coldest in Moscow since the winter

of 1978-1979, when temperatures fell to minus 38 Celsius (minus 36 Fahrenheit) in the capital.

The cold snap has hit public transport with many of Moscow's trolley-buses, that rely on an overhead cable, out of action. With many cars refusing to start, passengers on the city's underground railway system (metro) have swelled alarmingly in numbers. — *MNA/Reuters*



Iraqi firemen remove wreckage of a car from the road after a car bomb attack in the Shi'ite Shaab district in Baghdad on 21 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Drought kills at least 120 people in Burundi

KAMPALA, 21 Jan — At least 120 Burundians have died and thousands of others have fled to neighbouring countries due to food shortages brought on by drought prevailing in northern and eastern parts of the small

central African country, a report reaching here from Bujumbura said on Friday.

Burundi's Ruyigi Provincial Governor Moise Bucumin was quoted by the United Nations information as saying that a total of 2,500

people in Ruyigi Province have crossed to Tanzania since December, 2005.

Bucumin said 771 of these had settled in a refugee camp in Kigoma, a region in the west of Tanzania. "It is difficult to determine the exact number of those who cross the border since some of them seek shelter in Tanzanian households, where they work in exchange for food," Bucumin said.

The drought-related deaths occurred in the northeastern province of Muyinga, where the governor, Feruzi Mohammed, said 2,512 residents had fled, either to other provinces in the country or to neighbouring Rwanda and Tanzania.

MNA/Xinhua

Three killed in copper mine explosion in Chile

SANTIAGO, 21 Jan — Three people were killed, two injured in an explosion in copper mine in Chile, local media reported on Friday.

Rescuers managed to free 70 miners who had been trapped underground after the explosion, the report said.

The explosion happened at 8:30 am (1130 GMT) Friday when two trucks, one carrying industrial chemicals, crashed at the entrance of the Carola-Agustina mine, in Capiapo, the capital of Atacama Province, 820 kilometres northeast of Santiago. The three victims were two miners and a security guard. A firefighter and a contractor were wounded and were taken to a hospital in Capiapo. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China, WB to launch programmes on social economic issues

BEIJING, 21 Jan — China and the World Bank has decided to launch nearly 100 research programmes concerning the country's economic and social development during the fiscal years from 2006 to 2008, a senior Chinese official said on Thursday.

Li Yong, Vice-Minister of Finance, said the programmes cover China and global economy, poverty reduction and inequality, resources and environment management, financing for rapid economic growth, capacity building of public institutions, involving major economic and social sectors, said the Vice-Minister.

China will step up its cooperation with the Bank for better development strategies and more funding from the Bank in such key areas as agriculture, public health, education, energy efficiency and environmental protection, he said.

Li noted that China will also cooperate with the Bank in energy sectors to

explore improved ideas for pricing of resources, reform of the right to use resources, commercialization of energy-saving technology, and development of alternative energy and urban planning.

China is ready to draw on the rich experience the Bank has in terms of country comparison of social and economic development and its mature project management mechanism and practices to improve the country's fiscal budget management mechanism and performance evaluation of public spending, he acknowledged.

China and the Bank will go on expanding their bilateral knowledge-based

cooperation on the footing of mutual benefit for coordinated economic and social development and balanced global development, he said.

China and the World Bank have produced about 140 major economic research projects during the past 25 years since it resumed its membership in the Bank in 1980, involving the country's macro-economy, rural development and finance.

Moreover, the Bank has offered a host of valuable proposals for the country's reform and opening up to the outside world and development, he said. China has become a major recipient of World Bank loans during the past 25 years, and the total amount of loans it received has reached 40 billion US dollars.

The Bank said it will no longer offer cheaper loans to China due to its improved ability in financing on commercial basis from capital markets. — MNA/Xinhua

Over one million Rwandans facing food shortage

KIGALI, 21 Jan — Over one million people in Rwanda are facing starvation due to food shortages, according to a recent survey conducted by the Agriculture Ministry and the American Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) available here on Friday.

Director in charge of planning in the Ministry of Agriculture Ernest Ruzindana told reporters that the food security situation between January and June this year will be worse than it was during the same period of last year.

Of the food requirement of 1,058,000 metric tons for the season (from January to June), production is projected at only 884,000 tons, we expect to import 141,000 tons thereby having a shortfall of 33,000 tons, Ruzindana said, adding that most areas in the central African country need to pay special attention.

They are chronically food insecure due to their proneness to erratic weather conditions, he noted.

MNA/Xinhua

Privacy experts condemn US subpoena of Google

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — Right-to-privacy groups said on Friday an attempt by the Bush Administration to force Google Inc to turn over a broad range of materials from its databases set a dangerous precedent that should worry all Americans.

"This is the camel's nose under the tent for using search engines and all kinds of data aggregators as surveillance tools," said Jim Harper of the libertarian

Cato Institute who also runs Privacilla.org, an Internet privacy database.

The Bush Administration is already under fire from a number of rights groups over security measures it has taken since the 11 September, 2001 attacks on America, including pursuing checks on library records and eavesdropping on some telephone calls.

In court papers filed on Wednesday in US District Court in San Jose, the Justice Department stated that Google had refused to comply with a subpoena issued last year for one million random Web addresses from Google's databases as well as records of all searches entered on Google during any one-week period.

The government said it needed the information

to prepare its case to revive the 1998 Child Online Protection Act, which the Supreme Court blocked from taking effect two years ago.

The law prohibited Internet companies from knowingly making available obscene or pornographic material to minors. The Supreme Court said there were potential constitutional problems with the law and sent the case back to a lower court for consideration. It is expected to be heard later this year.

The Justice Department said on Friday that America Online, Yahoo and Microsoft had all complied with similar requests.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales rejected concerns that the subpoena might violate individual privacy rights.

MNA/Reuters

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Philippine soldiers inspect a passenger mini-bus locally called Jeepney at a checkpoint in Cotabato City, Maguindanao Province, southern Philippines on 19 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

BBC banned from broadcasting to Tajikistan

ALMA ATA, 21 Jan — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has been banned by Dushanbe from broadcasting to Tajikistan after missing the deadline for its broadcasting licence application, the BBC's Tajikistan office said on Friday, according to reports from Dushanbe.

Under a revised media law, any foreign broadcasting service who uses frequency modulation wave band to broadcast to Tajikistan, must apply for a licence from the local authorities, according to a BBC representative in

Tajikistan.

But the BBC failed to complete the registration process within the set time limit and has been told to shut down its service to the country, said the representative.

At the same day,

Tajikistan's radio and television administration said the government's order concerning the BBC was not a politically-motivated decision and was based solely on the law.

The BBC has written to Tajikistan asking for an extended time limit for its permit application. Additionally, the British Embassy to Tajikistan asked the country to recover the BBC radio service in the country.

The BBC's broadcasting service in the Tajikistan's capital of Dushanbe and the major city Khudzhand began in 1996. In 2004 it was updated to frequency modulation wave band from medium wave.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Marines killed by suicide car bomber in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan — A suicide car bomber has killed two Marines in western Iraq.

The military says the attack happened today in the volatile Anbar province during combat operations.

An Associated Press count shows at least 22-hundred-24 members of the US military have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003. — Internet



An Iraqi soldier takes his position as soldiers conduct security checks at a highway in Baghdad on 21 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

China-Greece relations in "best" period since diplomatic ties forged

BEIJING, 21 Jan— Chinese President Hu Jintao told visiting Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis on Friday that China-Greece relations are in the "best" period of time since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 33 years ago.

Hu said both China and Greece are great countries with profound civilizations. The two peoples respect and treat friendly with each other.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two countries have built up sound relations on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, Hu said.

He said the two countries have conducted fruitful exchanges and cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, shipping, technology, education and tourism. They also coordinate well in multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, he added.

The Chinese President said China and Greece have neither fundamental conflicts in interests nor pending problems. Under the new historical

circumstances, the two countries' building of an all-round strategic partnership will pose important and profound impact on the development of bilateral ties, he said.

"We are willing to join hands with Greece to expand bilateral pragmatic cooperation in various fields, and promote further development of Sino-Greek all-round strategic partnership," Hu said.

Noting Greece-China relations progressed quite well, Karamanlis said Greece sticks to the one-China policy and opposes "Taiwan Independence".

"We hope to enhance cooperation with China in the fields of shipping, energy, investment, tourism, culture and education," he said.

Greece had succeeded in hosting the Olympic

Games in 2004 and China will host the 2008 Games, which has provided important opportunities for both sides to enhance cooperation in hosting the Olympics, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand, Chile clinch cultural pact

BANGKOK, 21 Jan — Thailand and Chile on Friday reached a bilateral cultural pact aimed at promoting cultural exchanges as well as mutual understanding between the two countries.

The pact was signed by Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon and his Chilean counterpart Ignacio Walker Prieto. Under the five-year agreement, the two countries will cooperate in culture, archaeology, arts, literature, music, broadcasting, filming, sports and youth affairs.

The bilateral deal will take effect within 30 days once one party notifies the other, through diplomatic means, on its official endorsement of the pact.

It will be automatically renewed unless one party notifies the other in a written document six months in advance on its intention to terminate the pact.

Thailand has hammered out cultural agreements with Mexico and Peru. It plans to conclude similar pacts with Cuba and Argentina in the near future. — MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



A sign announcing voluntary restraint in selling US beef is posted at a supermarket in Tokyo on 21 Jan, 2006. Japan will reimpose a ban on all US beef imports just a month after lifting it, following the discovery of spinal material in a recent shipment which prompted mad cow disease concerns.—INTERNET

UNSG urges Iran to create conditions for talks by stopping nuke research

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Jan — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged Iran on Thursday to drop its decision to restart nuclear research in order to create conditions for the resumption of its talks with the European Union (EU).

"My own advice to the Iranians is to create an environment that will allow the negotiations to go forward," Annan told reporters at the UN Headquarters in New York.

"I think they should not escalate; they should not press ahead with their nuclear fuel research. We need time to build confidence and trust so that these negotiations will take place in an atmosphere which is appropriate," he stressed.

Last week, Iran broke the IAEA seals on equipment used to produce en-

riched uranium, ending its suspension of those activities. Iran contends that it is only conducting research for peaceful purposes, but the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says it is unable to verify this claim.

At the request of the EU troika—Britain, Germany and France, the IAEA Board of Governors has decided to convene a special meeting on Iran early next month. The trio and the United States have called on the 35-nation board to bring Iran

before the UN Security Council.

On Thursday, Annan also voiced hope that the Iranians would return to the negotiating table "in a genuine spirit of searching for a solution, because if indeed their intention is peaceful nuclear capability, the international community in the discussions have given an assurance that they will make sure that they do have the fuel necessary".

At the same time, he noted that as a last resort the matter would revert to the UN Security Council. "If all else fails and the process is exhausted and the issue were to come here, then the Council will have to deal with it," he said. In the past few days, several Iranian high-ranking officials indicated Tehran is ready to resume negotiations with the EU as long as they can end "within a time limit". Tehran has complained that its talks with the EU lasted for more than two years but failed to produce a solution.

MNA/Xinhua

Cholera kills five in south Zambia

LUSAKA, 21 Jan— Cholera has killed five people since it broke out recently in Mazabuka in southern province of Zambia while 12 others are admitted at a primary school-turned cholera centre in the district.

Town Clerk Ekan Chingangu confirmed the breakout of the disease to *Zambia News and Information Services* in Mazabuka on Friday, saying that the disease was first reported at Kasaka, Jila and Simwambwa villages, where villagers are said to drink water from contaminated sources due to lack of safe drinking water.

Chingangu said that people in the affected areas do not use pit latrines and

are answering the call of nature within their villages. He said four of the deceased are members of one family. Chingangu however, said measures have been put in place by the district health management team to ensure the disease does not spread to other areas.

He assured the community that enough cholera drugs have been sent to the affected area to deal with the situation.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria signs contract for two offshore oil blocks

LAGOS, 21 Jan— State-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corp have signed a production sharing contract with British energy company BG Group and indigenous Oando Group for two offshore oil blocks.

The official *News Agency of Nigeria* said on Friday that the contracts for blocks 332 and 278 were the only two of the 18 oil block winners who had paid their signature bonuses during the 2005 licensing round.

The deals also involved five indigenous companies that would serve as local content vehicles, it said. The combined signature bonus of the two oil blocks is 77 million US dollars with BG's block 332 valued at 51.5 million dollars and Oando's block 278 at 25.5 million dollars.

BG in a statement issued on Friday said that it acquired a 45-per-cent interest in, and operatorship of, block 332 under the agreement, which marks the group's entry into the

Nigerian upstream sector.

"Nigeria is a prolific hydrocarbon province which fits well with our market focused Atlantic Basin strategy," said Stuart Fysh, BG executive vice president for the Mediterranean Basin and Africa.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to host major cultural festival at world heritage site

HANOI, 21 Jan— Vietnam will organize a national cultural festival in the central province of Thua Thien Hue on 3-11 June to honour its tourism and culture values, and help expand trade and investment cooperation with foreign partners.

The Hue Festival 2006 with the theme of "700 years of Hue Cultural Heritage with integration and

development" will also bring into play cultural advantages of Thua Thien Hue, a locality with its imperial city of Hue and court music recognized as world culture heritages by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Ngo Hoa, vice-chairman of the provincial People's Committee said at a Press briefing here on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

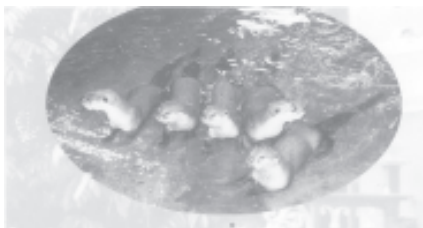


Iraqi soldiers conduct security checks at a highway in Baghdad on 21 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Yangon Zoological Gardens to celebrate its centenary

Tekkatho Tin Letya

Man needs rest and recreation after long work. Only when people feel refreshed and invigorated, will they be able to constantly discharge duties at full capacity in the interests of motherland and their own. With this context,



Otter (Lutra lutra)

the Tatmadaw, since its assumption of State duties, has given priority to community welfare services covering the entire nation in its bid to implement the four major tasks.

In the drive for development of the ecotourism sites, the government is upgrading the Pyin Oo Lwin National Gardens to an international level recreation centre. It is also speeding up tasks for all-round development of Mt. Popa National Gardens, Lawkananda Wildlife Park, Alaungdaw Kassapa National Gardens, and the Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and the Zoo.

The upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and the Zoo coincides with the centenary of the Yangon Zoological Gardens. According to the records, Yangon Zoo was



Red Panda (Ailurus fulgens)

launched on 25 January 1906. In 1908, it was renamed Zoological Gardens (Yangon), and a management committee was formed to supervise it.

At that time, the area of the Yangon Zoological Gardens was 42.02 acres. After the nation re-

launched on 25 January 1906. In 1908, it was renamed Zoological Gardens (Yangon), and a management committee was formed to supervise it.

On 6 July 1972, the Zoological Gardens (Yangon) Supervisory Committee was reconstituted with Colonel Hla Aung as chairman, the director of the Planning and Statistics Department as secretary, and directors of the Military Engineering



Tiger (Panthera tigris)

Unit, the Forest Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary

gained independence, the committee with members chosen under the approval of the then president supervised the zoo. In 1962, the Zoological Gardens (Yangon) Supervisory Committee was constituted under the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Then, a tiger cave,



Crested Serpent Eagle (Spilormis cheela)

a bird house, a house to keep animals without

Department, and the Fisheries Department, the general manager of the Agriculture Corporation, the head of Yangon Municipal Committee, and the head of the Settlement and Land Records Department as members.

On 1 December 1978, the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs handed over the Zoo-

logical Gardens (Yangon) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The managing director of the People's Pearl and Fisheries Corporation served as chairman of the supervisory committee.

Starting from 7 February 1980, the managing director of the Livestock Breeding Corporation, and starting from 28 August 1980, the director-general of the Labour

Department served as chairman respectively. In 1985-86, a committee was formed to supervise the tasks for the zoo. Then, the Labour Department handed over the Yangon Zoological Gardens Planning Department to the Forest Department on 1 April 1985.

Since 1 April 2003, Kandawgyi Gardens all-round upgrading project and the zoo (Yangon) upgrading project have been launched.

In the process, the groups led by the director-general, the deputy director-general and the director were formed under the directives of the commander of Yangon Command Headquarters and the minister for Forestry to conduct survey with the technological assistance of experts.

Now, the area of present Yangon Zoological Garden has touched 58.25 acres. In the zoo are 61 species of mammals including elephant, tiger,



Great Hornbill (Buceros bicornis)

bear, hippopotamus, monkey, takin and mountain goat, 16 species of reptiles including crocodiles, snake, and monitor lizard, 70 species of birds, and over 100 species of tree. The zoo opens from 8 am to 6 pm daily for public relaxation and recreation.

The upgrading tasks cover water supply

logical Garden exchanges animals and facts about animals with the zoos in other nations such as Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, Germany and Czech Republic apart from many international organizations.

Animal performance shows are staged on public holidays in the



Takin (Budorcas taxicolor)

systems for respective zones, growing of landscaping trees, renovation of buildings, reconstruction of roads, and upgrading of the Biological Museum.

The five objectives of the zoo are to ensure public relaxation and recreation, to enhance botanical and biological knowledge of visitors, to contribute towards environmental conservation, to provide research facts for students and researchers, and to promote ecotourism industry.

Biologists and botanists from many nations conduct research at the zoo. The Yangon Zoo-

zoo. Visitors can take an around-the-zoo trip riding an elephant or a horse. Restaurants are open in the zoo for the convenience of the visitors. So, the zoo is expected to draw the attention of the greater number of people in the time of centenary celebration.

I would therefore like to urge the people to take part in the special fun fairs and amusement programmes of the ceremony to mark the centenary of the Zoological Gardens (Yangon) to be held from 25 to 29 January.

Translation: MS

Spoken English Course for Women concludes



Head of Information Department of MWAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win speaking at Spoken English Course for Women. — MNA

YANGON, 22 Jan — Spoken English Course for Women organized by the subcommittees under Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation concluded at No 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township this morning, attended by head of department under MWAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win, deputy head Daw Mya Mya, work commit-

tee leader under MWAF Daw Min Thet Mon, Headmistress Daw Khin Lay Myint and course instructors.

Daw Kyi Kyi Win made a speech and the completion certificates were presented. Next, a trainee expressed thanks and the ceremony ended.

MNA

UDNR trainees continue excursion tour

YANGON, 22 Jan — Accompanied by Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi who is the secretary of the excursion tour management committee, Rector of University for Development of National

Races U Zaw Min Thein, Lt-Col Tun Oo of Yangon Station, leader of the excursion group Professor Daw Aye Aye Kyaing and officials, trainees of the BED Course No 37 of UDNR visited Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit in Hmawby Township this morning.

They continued their excursion tour of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township.

While in Hlegu Township, the trainees viewed round at Nga-moeyeik Dam.

In Insein Township, they paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill and made cash donations. Later, they looked at Yadana White Elephants.

MNA

UDNR trainees visit Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit. — MNA



Information sector witnesses sustained progress

Increased information work in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

The whole nation receives excellent media coverage

To raise the education standard of the entire people and for all the national people to be bright and intelligent and to possess the right concepts are the main factors which play an important role in striving to raise the living standard of the entire people and ensure national development.

The information sector is serving as a bridge between the State and the people, between the State and the international community and among people. The information sector is enhanced with the aim of enabling the people to know news and information such as development undertakings carried out

across the Union by the State.

Myanmar's news and information sector is developing in parallel with rapid development of information and communication technology. One can read newspapers as well as access to the Internet to know the daily developments of the State. Clear voice and pictures can be received in the northernmost part of the country such as Nanyun and Dawphonyan and southern part as Hainggyi Island and Coco Island.

To disseminate knowledge to rural people and to enhance the media coverage, Information and Public Relations Department offices have been opened throughout

the country and the number has reached up to 375. People are now able to view television programmes, and have access to libraries, wall magazines, self-reliant libraries and mobile libraries through these offices.

As efforts are being made to enhance the media to cover the whole country in the time of the Tatmadaw government, the table is the tangible proof of these efforts.



Computer Network building in Magway Sub-printing House.

Developing media

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Daily broadcasting hour of Myanmar Radio	16:5	18:45	2:40
2	Completed Retransmission station	15	197	182
3	Broadcasting hour of Myanmar TV	5	10	5
4	Number of viewer & listener in million	26.1	47.77	21.67
5	MRTV Channel	1	4	3
6	Office and library of IPRD	100	375	275
7	Self-reliant rural library	-	48667	48667
8	Sub-printing house	-	9	9

All citizens are to take part in tasks ...

(from page 1)

unity and ensuring development of all regions. While formulating the new State Constitution, the National Convention is studying previous constitutions of the nation. Due to the weak points of the past constitutions, the government and the people faced difficulties.



Meeting Chairman
U Soe Myint.—MNA

At present, the National Convention is being convened. At the same time, development of economic and social affairs of the State are being undertaken day and night. Therefore, progress in all aspects can be witnessed.

Hence, all are to be aware of dangers of internal and external destructive elements that do not want to see sector-wise development of the State and flourishing of



Lt-Col Nay Win (Retd).
MNA

national unity. In conclusion, all citizens are to discharge national duties to safeguard the nation. Only when an enduring State Constitution is drawn in conformity with the national people will the shape of the future of the State be created. Now, the seven-point Road Map had been declared. All citizen are to take part in the tasks for successful holding of the National Convention. In conclusion, he urged all to harmoniously strive for the emergence of the Constitution with patriotic spirit.

Joint-Secretary of Ayeyawady Division USDA U Aung Tin Myint tabled a motion in support of the National Convention. He said that

the Constitution is the mainstay of an Independent and sovereign nation. The nation without a constitution cannot stand as an independent and sovereign country in the long run.

After studying and reviewing strong and weak points of the nation's history and constitutions of the nations of the world, the Constitution of the Union of



Ayeyawady Division
USDA Joint-Secretary
U Aung Tin Myint.—MNA

Myanmar is being formulated. In conclusion, he said that successful convening the National Convention that is drafting the basic principles to shape the future nation is very important for the entire people.

Representative of Ayeyawady WAO Tutor Daw Tin Tin Than of Law Department of Patheingyi University seconded the motion in support of the National Con-



Law expert Daw Lay
Lay Mon. — MNA

vention. She said that the Tatmadaw Government had laid down 12 State objectives upholding the Our Three Main National Causes as national policy, and there is peace and stability of the nation. After that, the Government is undertaking development.

In the successive eras, like Myanmar men Myanmar women have been discharging the duties as leaders and followers in political, administrative, economic, social and cultural fields.

She added that the massive women of the nation together with the people will take part in

the respective sectors for the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map phase by phase.

Likewise, Ayeyawady Division MCWA Joint Secretary Dr Saw Thanda Myint seconded the motion in support of the National Convention.

She said that the Government had adopted and is realizing the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.



Tutor Daw Tin Tin Than
of Patheingyi University.
MNA

The first step of the Road Map is to successfully convene the National Convention.

The National Convention had laid down on basic principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the Constitution. To transform into a genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy system, it is necessary to implement the seven-point Road Map phase by phase. In conclusion, she seconded the



Entrepreneur U Myo
Chit. — MNA

motion in support of the National Convention that is shaping the future nation for serving the interests of the nation and the national people.

Lt-Col Nay Win (Retd) of Myaungmya Township WVO discussed that the National Convention, the first phase of seven-point Road Map was being convened and it was important for the nation to draft a new constitution. Our WVO, upholding the Three Main National Causes, would take part



Members of Panel of chairmen seen at the mass meeting in Patheingyi. — MNA

in the tasks for the emergence of a new democratic nation. He wholeheartedly support the NC.

Law expert Daw Lay Lay Mon said that a nation must have its ter-



Dr Saw Thanda Myint.
MNA

ritory as well as its people, government and sovereignty. Sovereignty has three powers— Legislative, Judicial and Executive. Emergence of a new enduring constitution is essential for the State. The Tatmadaw, the people and the State had been doing their utmost to write the constitution. She endorsed the NC.

U Myo Chit, an entrepreneur said that politics, economy and



Farmer U Hsan Myint.
MNA

social sector of a nation were interrelated. In striving for the development of the State's economy, four economic objectives were being realized. Market-oriented system would contribute towards the building of a modern developed nation. Reforms of law on economy had been made in order to build the infrastructures of market-oriented economic system in the

nation.

The weakness of basic principles on economy of 1974 constitution caused the State and the people a lot of economic problems. As a result, there occurred unrest in the nation in 1988. Taking lessons from the past, matters related to economy of the State were being discussed in the National Convention. So, he deeply supported the NC.

Peasant U San Myint said that the government was striving for the emergence of a new

democratic nation. Ayeyawady Division, delta region, had enjoyed the fruits of all round developments. They needed to safeguard the Road-Map to enable the nation to be a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. He also supported the NC.

The meeting chairman sought approval of those present to support the National Convention. They endorsed the National Convention and the mass meeting ended with chanting of slogans.

MNA

Come along while it's opportune

- * **United and loving, we'll be together**
Hands held, firm and unbroken
Should maintain, true patriotic spirit.
 - * **Entirely in unison, march toward new nation**
To move forward, the seven-step Road Map
Laid down as start of the Golden Convention
 - * **Lovable heritage, as genuine tradition**
Satisfied and amorous, national culture
Always aimed at it, beauty of the Union.
 - * **Happy and content, clean water**
For use and cultivation, upstate and down
Plentiful, in Myanmar's economic interest.
 - * **Throughout nation, roads and bridges**
New railways, power of energy
Those high-class, varsities built.
 - * **With understanding, cheerfully together**
Towards Golden Convention, honoured and welcomed
Endorsement and support, are people's true desire.
 - * **What is correct and righteous that's the spirit**
Nation's cause, peace and solidarity
Placed in the fore, it will surely be victorious
 - * **New in appearance, true discipline**
Full to the brain, on democracy path
On the march, in love and equanimity.
 - * **Appropriate, correct legislation**
To emerge at Golden Twin Banyans
The task, will surely succeed.
 - * **Doubt not, don't waver**
If you don't come along, while it's opportune
You'll be the one, who missed the chance.
- Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi)*
(In honour of mass meetings in support of the National Convention)

Yagyi Dam in Kyaukpadaung township...

(from page 16)

As the government has built such facilities as dams, diversion weirs and supporting dams, socio-economic life of people has improved significantly. That is why realizing the goodwill of the State, local people on their part are to maintain the facilities in cooperation with service personnel of the Irrigation Department. The commander said local people are urged to extend the cultivation of crops suitable to the soil of the region and conserve the forests and environment by making full use

of the facilities.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo made a speech, saying Yagyi Dam is the main one out of the five dams built for Kyatmauktaung supporting dam project. So far the State has built 182 dams across the nation to benefit 2.45 million acres of land. The government is taking measures to boost production of 10 major crops. Cultivation of industrial crops such as rubber, pepper, coffee, tea, onion and ginger is being carried out. In addition, steps are being taken for producing bio-diesel by



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw speaking at opening ceremony of Yagyi Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township.—MNA

growing physic nut extensively throughout the nation. Farm machinery such as pumps and power tillers and generators can be operated with oil of physic nut. As a result, the production of crops can be boosted, generating more incomes for the farmers.

Afterwards, a native expressed thanks to the State for building the dam. The commander formally unveiled the stone plaque of the dam. The commander and the minister posed for a documentary photo together with local people. Next, they inspected the dam and other facilities for water storage. The commander

and the minister gave instructions to officials to grow physic nut. Yagyi Dam is situated at Yagyi

Creek in Kuni village in Kyaukpadaung. The earth dam is 2280 feet in length and 69 feet in height. Its

water storage capacity is 4400 acre feet and it can irrigate 853 acres of land. —MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo speaking at opening ceremony of Yagyi Dam. MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inaugurate Yagyi Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township.—MNA

With better transport, local people...

(from page 16)

Government. At present, wooden bridges on two roads linking Yangon and Kungyangon and Lekkhokkon are being upgraded to the concrete ones. Due to opening Rakhinegyaung Bridge, local people in Twantay Township can go to Kawhmu and Kungyangon Townships through Thakhut and Wabalauk-thauk, Bodin and Tawku villages via Dalla Township. As Dalla Thakhut-Lekkhokkon Road can link with Dalla Kawhmu-Kungyangon-Dedaye Road, smooth flow of com-

modity will develop in the region. With better transport, local people will enjoy higher living standard. In conclusion, the commander urged all to maintain the bridge for its durability. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun explained building tasks of the bridge.

On behalf of the local people, Twantay Township USDA Joint-Secretary U Mya Thauang expressed gratitude. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cut the ribbon to open the bridge. The commander unveiled

the plaque of the bridge. Next, they inspected the bridge.

Rakhinegyaung Bridge has 24 feet wide motor road with three feet wide pedestrian way on either side. Its clearance is 10 feet high and 50 feet wide. The reinforced concrete bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

Bridge Special Group-13 started construction tasks of the bridge on 1 March 2004 and completed its tasks on 30 November 2005. There were seven bridges above 180 feet in Yangon Division before 1988. In the time of the

Tatmadaw Government, 25 bridges above 180 feet had been built in Yangon Division.

Likewise, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wellwisher Daw Tin Aye opened the Sangha Ward of Wabalaukthauk Station Hospital in support of the National Convention. In his address, the commander said that the Government had laid down and is undertaking five rural development tasks for narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas. As Wabalaukthauk Village has extended a Sangha ward at its 16-bed station hospital, local people including members of the

Sangha can enjoy health care services. All the personnel, social organization members and local people are to participate in the health care services of the village and regional development tasks.

Next, Township PDC Chairman U Khin Win accepted K 3,597,200 to the medical funds of the hospital including K 100,000 donated by Daw Tin Aye and family; K 50,000 each by U Tun Yi-Daw Sein Nu and U Kyin Tin-Daw San Myint and other wellwishers. The commander and the mayor inspected patient ward, the medical store and the operation theatre of

Wabalaukthauk Station Hospital and attended to the needs. Secretary of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Col Myint Kyi presented K 100,000 donated by Yangon Division PDC to the medical fund.

In Kawhmu Township, the commander, the mayor and party met with local people of Htamaing Village at Shwetaung Monastery.

First, the commander explained undertakings of five rural development tasks of the government and tasks for all-round development of Htamaing Village. The mayor also explained tasks of USDA members and local people for development of the village. Village USDA Organizer U Myint Thein, service personnel and local people reported on development of the village. The commander and the mayor fulfilled the requirements. They went to the physic nut nursery of the village and viewed nurturing 200 physic nut grafts. Afterwards, they inspected thriving 350 pulses and beans plantation near Yangonpauk Village in Twantay Township.



The opening ceremony of Rakhinegyaung Bridge in progress in Twantay Township.—MNA

MNA

COSC and Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy concludes visit



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and wife see off 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.—MNA

YANGON, 22 Jan—A goodwill delegation led by 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 left here by air for home at 4 pm today.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Ad-

miral Soe Thein and wife Daw Aye Aye, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander of Naval Dockyards Command Rear-Admiral Paw Tun, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Captain Aye Pe, Commander of Taninthayi Naval Region Command Commodore Win Shein

and senior military officers, Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra, Defence Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra and embassy staff.

Prior to their departure, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presented the documentary album and tape on goodwill visit to Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)

and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash (PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM, ADC).—MNA

Indian Admiral and party tour PyinOoLwin, Mandalay, Bagan

YANGON, 22 Jan — Visiting Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash (PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM, ADC) of Indian Navy and wife and party, accompanied by Commodore Win Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Indian Defence Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra and officials, arrived at Anisakhan Airport near PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

At Defence Services Technological Academy, Commandant Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials explained the history of the academy and academic matters.

Similarly, the Indian guests heard matters related to the history of the Defence Services Academy by Commandant Brig-Gen Nyi Tun and officials at DSA. Next, the Indian guests visited National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.

In the afternoon, the Indian guests met with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw at the guest house in Nanmyo, Mandalay. Afterwards, the Indian Admiral and party visited Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace and gold embroidery tasks. They proceeded to Bagan Archaeological Region and enjoyed beautiful scenes of Bagan.

In the evening, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe and wife hosted a dinner to the Indian guests. This morning, the guests toured Bagan Archaeological Region. —MNA



The goodwill delegation of Indian Navy at National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.—MNA

NC delegates visit pagoda, church



National Convention delegates of Christian faith say prayers at U Naw Memorial Baptist Church—MNA

YANGON, 22 Jan — Under the arrangement of Invitation and Reception Subcommittee of National Convention Convening Management Committee, delegates of National Convention paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labhamuni Pagoda on Minn Dhamma Hill in Insein Township this morning and observed the White Elephants. NC delegates of Christian faith also visited church today.

At 7.30 am, they accompanied by officials of Invitation and Recep-

tion Subcommittee of NCCMC arrived at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labhamuni Pagoda. They paid homage and offered light, flowers and water to pagoda. Chairman of the Pagoda board of trustees U Shein Aung Bo extended greetings and explained the brief history of the pagoda. NC delegates donated K 50,000 to the funds of the pagoda and presented K 27035 to the funds of White Elephants. NC delegates of Christian faith arrived at U Naw Memorial Baptist

Church on Anawratha Street in Latha Township and said prayers. —MNA

MOSA annual meeting takes place

YANGON, 22 Jan — The Third annual meeting of Myanmar Overseas Seafarers Association took place at Summit Parkview Hotel this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Transports U Pe Than and

departmental officials, Chairman U Min Sein of Executive Committee of the association and members and journalists.

U Min Sein made an opening speech. Later, Treasurer U Soe Tint read out financial statement and annual report.

The secretary of the executive committee and the treasurer replied to the queries raised by the members of the association.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of the chairman.

MNA



Chairman U Min Sein addresses the third annual meeting of Myanmar Overseas Seafarers Association —H

Personnel of IPRD head office, district and township offices urged to fully utilize their capabilities

15th Anniversary of IPRD observed

YANGON, 22 Jan—The 15th Anniversary of Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information was held at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning.

Present were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, managing directors and directors-general of enterprises and departments, officials, service personnel and guests.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech. He said efforts are to be made for success of the tasks of the department after reviewing the weaknesses and strengths of the previous years in accord with the objectives of the holding of the anniversary of the departments.

He said it is not the time for the service personnel



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers a speech at the 15th Anniversary of Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA

punishment system. Officials concerned are to supervise the tasks and duties of their subordinates, he said. He said the nine tasks for IPRD were laid down in 2005. Compared to the previous years, progress was made this year and 48,667 rural libraries have been opened so far.

He urged IPRD personnel of the head office, district and township of-

their goodwill, the service personnel are to make efforts for development of the country through the media. The government is now building a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In doing so, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, economic progress, development of human resources and knowledge are important, he added. Some of the armed groups that made peace with the government have totally given up their arms and there is peace and stability and prevalence of law and order. The government is endeavouring for development of economy of the people. However, some foreign nations and some local treacherous axe-handlers are undermining the national development, he said. He spoke of the need for IPRD personnel to actively take part in the tasks for boosting production, establishment of an industrialized country, production of energy and implementation of energy substitute projects, success of the seven-point Road Map, successful holding of the National Convention and building a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation

through the media.

The objectives of the ministry for 2006-2007 are—success of the seven-point Road Map, successful holding of the National Convention and implementing the objectives of the State through the media, the media coverage in border areas and abroad, dynamic media, adhering to the guidance of the Head of State, earning income and thrifty.

The service personnel are to discharge duties in accord with the objectives. He also said the objectives of IPRD for 2006-2007 were laid down. They are—to make endeavours for success of the seven-point Road Map, successful holding of the National Convention and implementing the objectives of the State; to maintain the durability of existing self-reliant libraries; to improve the quality of Doh Kyway Ywa Journal in both form and essence and increase its circulation; to distribute at least one newspaper and one journal or magazine to every village; for every village to have at least one television; for every village to have at least one radio; and for officials of district and township IPRDs to go to village at least once a year to perform information and public relation ac-

tivities; and to improve the quality of work performance regarding the services of information and public relations. The minister said in doing so, success will be achieved only when the offices at various level such as state, division, district and township cooperate with each other and make close supervision of the tasks. That is why service personnel are to carry out their duties in accord with the 14 points of the ministry. Prize winners are to continue their efforts and those who have not been awarded are also to try their best in their duty performance in order to win prizes. All departmental staff under the ministry are urged to successfully realize the objectives of the ministry.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented prizes to staff officer U Maung Maung Aye of Thayawady District IPRD, Deputy Head of Department U Tun Shein of Myanaung Township IPRD and Assistant Director Daw Khin Myint Khaing of the

Information and Public Relations Department, award winner in excellence performance in administrative field (Third Class). Deputy Minister U Thein Sein presented prizes to prize winning State and Division IPRDs through Yangon Division IPRD Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Myint, prize winning District and Township IPRDs through Deputy Head of Department U Tun Shein of Myanaung Township IPRD and Hlegu Township IPRD Deputy Head of Department Daw Ohn Myint. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presented prizes to prize winning District and Township IPRDs through Staff Officer U Mya Thin of Yangon North District IPRD and Okpo Township IPRD Deputy Head of Department Daw Nyunt Nyunt Sein. Next, IPRD Director General U Chit Naing also awarded prize winners individually.

After the ceremony, the minister and the deputy ministers cordially greeted those present. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a prize to Deputy Head of Department of Myanaung township IPRD U Tun Shein. — MNA

nel of the department to keep the spirit of discharging duty perfunctorily. It is the time to strive for success of tasks with goodwill under the reward and the

officials to fully utilize their capabilities.

He said the Head of State and officials fulfill the requirements of the service personnel. In response to



Director General U Chit Naing awards an outstanding student. — MNA

Myanmar Gems Emporium on 15 March

YANGON, 22 Jan — The 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium will take place at Myanma Gems Mart starting 15 March.

The Myanmar citizens who are engaged in gem mining and in sale of gems in accord with the Myanmar gems Law will be allowed to attend the Emporium according to the prescribed rules and regulations.

The gems with floor prices will be sold through competitive bidding system at the emporium and the national entrepreneurs will have an opportunity to make healthier profits from the sales.

Moreover, sale counters are being arranged for the national entrepreneurs who are engaged in sale of gems

in accord with the Myanmar gems Law to enable them to sell gems on the ground floor of MGM during the special sale period.

Those wishing to attend the special sales and obtain sales counters are to contact Myanmar Gems Enterprise beginning 14 February.

The gems with floor prices will be sold through competitive bidding system at the emporium. Scrutiny, acceptance and price fixation of the jade, gems and jewellery that the national entrepreneurs want to put on sale at the emporium will take place starting 23 January and those wishing to sell their gems at the emporium are to contact the head office of MGE. — MNA

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်ပင်သာယာမှု

China sets home grown TD-SCDMA

BEIJING, 21 Jan — The Chinese Ministry of Information Industry (MII) announced here Friday that it has set home-grown TD-SCDMA as national technology standard for the telecommunication industry.

The technology is already mature and ready for manufacturers to move ahead with production, said the ministry. The announcement means that China's home-grown standard for the third-generation mobile communication (3G) would get official support.

China had implemented a series of tests on TD-SCDMA since 2001. The result shows that the key technologies for TD-SCDMA have all been realized in equipment and terminals based on TD-

SCDMA could support most of the functions expected on 3G, the ministry said.

A stand-alone network for TD-SCDMA will be built for the home-grown technology, it said.

With the participation of concerned companies and research institutions, China has made a set of sub-standards for TD-SCDMA. In order to further regulate system and equipment based on TD-SCDMA, the MII decided to release it as the national standard, said

the ministry.

Companies engaged in TD-SCDMA are hopefully to develop the technology under the guide of the series of standards and a more mature environment would be formed for the industry, said the ministry.

Born several years later than the other two international standards for 3G, namely WCDMA and CDMA2000, China's home-grown standard encountered great difficulties on its way of development. — MNA/Xinhua



Street performers are seen carrying giant fans during a street performance rehearsal, on 21 Jan, 2006 in Singapore where Chinese locals will celebrate the Chinese New Year at the end of January. During that time, street performances and carnivals will be held as part of the month long celebrations.

INTERNET

More Chinese do Spring Festival shopping online

BEIJING, 21 Jan — As China's traditional Spring Festival is approaching, more Chinese are doing their Spring Festival shopping online, especially for imported goods, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported here Thursday. Business transacted on eBay, a famous website, almost doubled compared with the same period last year, the paper said.

"Traditional Spring Festival shopping mainly focuses on food, but most online consumers prefer luxury goods or imported ones like furs, jewellery and cosmetics," the paper said. Online shopping is especially popular with white-collar workers aged between 30 to 44 since they are busy and have more purchasing power, the paper said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to launch French-made broadcast satellite

BEIJING, 21 Jan — The China Great Wall Industry Corp (CGWIC), the country's satellite launch service contractor, and China Satcom signed a deal Friday on the launch of a French-made broadcast satellite.

According to the deal, CGWIC will, through the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, provide the launch service for China Satcom, the owner of the satellite.

The satellite, which will be manufactured by French company AlcatelAlenia Space, is expected to be lifted into

space in 2007 atop a Chinese-made rocket *Long March 3B* from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

With a designed life of 15 years, the satellite, known as *ChinaSat 6B* Radio and TV Satellite, will be fitted with 38 transponder, allowing easy reception of up to 300 television programmes across China, Southeast

Asia, Pacific and Oceania.

China's *Long March* rocket carriers have been used to offer 24 international commercial satellite launch services since 1990, involving 30 satellites and six payload services.

The rocket carriers have been enjoyed a reputation of high reliability thanks to their record of 46 successful consecutive launches since October 1996, including the coun-

try's two manned space launches.

China Satcom, or the China Satellite Communications Corporation, is one of the country's six telecommunications operators in China.

Alcatel Space, a wholly owned subsidiary of Alcatel, is the world's third largest satellite manufacturer and the largest in Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombia says child, 3 others killed by FARC mines

BOGOTA (Colombia), 21 Jan — Colombian rebels planted landmines that killed four peasants, including a child, earlier this month in a farming community near a coca eradication project, Vice-President Francisco Santos said on Friday.

The mines, which badly injured four other people outside the town of Vista Hermosa, were meant to impede the advance of police involved in clearing crops used to make cocaine from La Macarena National Park, the first anti-coca programme carried out in a Colombian nature reserve, Santos said.

"There is no justification for what they are doing, killing children the way they are, and killing poor farmers," Santos told reporters at a news conference at which he showed photographs of the victims' injuries. "This is cowardice." — MNA/Reuters

Thailand's jewellery export to reach \$5b in 2009

BANGKOK, 21 Jan — The export value of precious stones and ornaments in Thailand is expected to rise to 200 billion baht (five billion US dollars) within the next three years, said Deputy Prime Minister and Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit on Friday.

Speaking after the opening ceremony of Gemopolis Mall in the Unyathani Industrial Estate in Bangkok, Suriya said the ministry has a

policy to promote industries that earn the country considerable revenue. And the gems and jewellery is among the targeted industries to be promoted.

Last year, the country's export of gems and jewellery totalled 100 billion baht (2.5 billion US dollars). It is expected that the export value would double within the 3-4 years, he said. Regarded as an industrial cluster holding different levels of

producers and traders, the Unyathani Industrial Estate has a logistic advantage since it is located near Bangkok's new Suvarnabhumi Airport, and is convenient for visitors to observe the production process and purchase. — MNA/Xinhua



A photographer shoots a snow scene at Shennong Mountain in Qinyang, China's Henan Province on 20 Jan, 2006. — INTERNET

Mexico City offers new computers for old guns

MEXICO CITY, 21 Jan — Mexicans are being invited to exchange their weapons for computers under a quirky new idea to curb rampant crime in Mexico City.

Authorities in one of the city's 16 districts are offering a new computer, out of 150 donated by a charitable foundation, for each gun handed in.

"People often have a gun at home, which could perhaps be for self-defence, but sadly it becomes a family tragedy when it is not used properly" Guadalupe Lopez, local government head for the central district of Alvaro Obregon, told

Reuters. Shootings are a daily occurrence in Mexico City, a sprawling megalopolis of 18 million people where muggings, carjackings and kidnappings are common.

The computers-for-guns programme, which echoes past schemes in other city districts that offered groceries for guns, will target some of the district's most crime-hit areas, although collectors' items are also turning up. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Everton's Phil Neville, second from left, tries to keep Arsenal's Thierry Henry at arms length during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park Stadium, Liverpool, England, on 21 Jan, 2006. Everton won the match 1-0. —INTERNET

Beattie's strike sinks Arsenal

LONDON, 22 Jan— Arsenal suffered another bout of travel sickness on Saturday when James Beattie's first-half goal was enough to earn Everton a 1-0 Premier League victory.

With the top three sides not playing until Sunday, fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur wasted the chance to make inroads when they were held 0-0 at home by Aston Villa.

Arsenal, who have only won twice away in the league this season, remain fifth on 37 points, 24 behind leaders Chelsea who are at home to Charlton Athletic in a London derby on Sunday (1330 GMT).

Second-placed Manchester United, 16 points behind Jose Mourinho's side, also take on Liverpool at Old Trafford on Sunday (1600).

Debut goals from David Thompson and Neil Mellor, who hit a last-minute winner for Wigan Athletic, continued Middlesbrough's poor run as they lost 3-2 at the Riverside. Bolton Wanderers overcame Manchester City 2-0 while Morten Gamst Pedersen

netted for Blackburn Rovers in a 1-0 victory at Newcastle United.

At the bottom Birmingham City leapfrogged Portsmouth in the drop zone with a 5-0 demolition of Harry Redknapp's side at St. Andrews.

Beattie, whose six league goals this season for Everton have all come at Goodison Park, outmuscled Sol Campbell and Philippe Senderos to latch on to Tim Cahill's through ball and slot a low shot past Jens Lehmann after 13 minutes.

Freddie Ljungberg struck the post for Arsenal early on but the London side had another let off before halftime when a goal from Beattie was harshly ruled out for offside.

Arsenal, forced to switch Lauren to left back in place of the injured Ashley Cole and hand a league debut to teenage

defender Kerrea Gilbert on the right, enjoyed the lion's share of possession without threatening an equalizer.

Their frustration boiled over in the closing minutes when Spanish midfielder Cesc Fabregas was shown a straight red card for raising his hands to Cahill's face. —MNA/Reuters

Inter beat Palermo to cut Juve's Serie A lead

ROME, 22 Jan— Inter Milan cut Juventus' lead in Serie A to five points with a 3-0 win over Palermo on Saturday.

The result gave second-placed Inter 48 points from 21 matches. Juve can re-establish their eight-point cushion by beating Empoli on Sunday.

Inter took the lead in the 33rd minute when Esteban Cambiasso headed in at the far post from a corner.

They almost doubled their advantage just before halftime when Adriano's close-range shot was saved by Cristiano Lupatelli.

Palermo came out aggressively after the interval.

Inter keeper Julio Cesar did well to turn Fabio Grosso's free kick round his post in the 50th minute and could only watch as Simone Barone blasted the ball

against the base of the post shortly afterwards.

As the minutes passed, though, Inter turned up the pressure.

Winger Kily Gonzalez forced Lupatelli into a reflex save with a fierce drive from the edge of the area and Luis Figo's first touch let him down when Adriano laid the ball into his path on the edge of the box.

Inter finally got their second goal in the 77th minute when Walter Samuel's header from a corner deflected off Ivan Cordoba and into the net.

Figo grabbed the third with a free kick three minutes later to seal the win and extend Inter's unbeaten run in Serie A to 12 matches. — MNA/Reuters

Nine-man Lazio hold on to draw 1-1 with Cagliari

ROME, 22 Jan— Lazio had two men sent off in their Serie A match against relegation candidates Cagliari and were held to a 1-1 draw on Saturday.

The result left Lazio ninth on 30 points, 23 behind leaders Juventus, who play Empoli on Sunday. Cagliari climbed to 15th on 19 points, four above the drop zone. Lazio dominated the early stages and went ahead in the 36th minute when Paolo Di Canio nodded Massimo Oddo's cross past visiting keeper Antonio Chimenti.

The balance began to turn five minutes later, however, when defender Sebastiano Siviglia was red-carded for kicking out at Nelson Abeijon.

In the second-half Cagliari exploited the growing spaces in Lazio's defence to grab a 69th-minute equalizer, Massimo Gobbi tapping in Andrea Capone's low cross at the far post. The growing frustration of Lazio's players exploded after they had a goal disallowed for offside.

As resentment simmered, midfielder Fabio Liverani was booked for a foul and then had his yellow card turned to red for protesting to leave nine teammates to fend off Cagliari's attacks for the final 10 minutes. —MNA/Reuters

Real see off Cadiz with second-half fightback

MADRID, 22 Jan— Spectacular strikes from Roberto Carlos and David Beckham and a breathtaking effort from Robinho allowed Real Madrid to come from a goal down for a 3-1 win at home to Cadiz on Saturday.

Real looked to be in trouble after the modest Andalusians had grabbed the lead 10 minutes into the second half when striker Alexandre Medina steered home past keeper Iker Casillas.

But the home side turned the game on its head with two set-piece goals in four minutes, the first a Roberto Carlos rocket shot and the second a sweetly struck Beckham curler. Robinho, who has failed to live up to his Galactico billing since joining Real from Santos at the start of the season, capped a much-improved performance with an impressive dipping lob seven minutes from time.

The victory, Real's second in five league games, lifted them into third place, level on points with Valencia and 10 behind champions and league leaders Barcelona, who host basement side Alaves on Sunday.

Earlier, an aggressive Atletico Madrid earned their first win in 11 league games after goals from Maxi Rodriguez and Fernando Torres gave them a 2-0 win at Real Zaragoza. Maxi scored just before the half hour when he poked a shot under advancing keeper Cesar after scorching down the right to meet a clever through ball from playmaker Ariel Ibagaza. —MNA/Reuters

Own-goal keeps Porto three points clear at top

LISBON, 22 Jan— An own-goal gave Porto a 1-0 win over lowly Naval in the Premier League on Saturday to maintain their three-point lead over champions Benfica.

After 19 matches Porto have 43 points ahead of champions Benfica, who beat Gil Vicente 3-1 away on Friday.

Nacional Madeira and Braga lead the chasing pack with 36 points after playing out 0-0 draws with Penafiel on Thursday and Academica on Saturday respectively.

Porto grabbed their victory with a goal after 30 minutes when a cross from the right by winger

Ricardo Quaresma hit Naval defender Kanu and the ball rebounded into his own net.

Benfica had to come from a goal down on Friday to beat Gil Vicente for their seventh league win in a row.

The home side went ahead with a penalty from midfielder Nandinho after nine minutes following a foul by Benfica captain Simao Sabrosa on Carlitos.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

K	I	L	L	E	R	S	S	W	A	I	L	S
I	S	O	S	A	S	T	S	A	S	R	S	I
M	I	N	U	S	S	R	E	S	P	O	N	D
O	S	G	S	T	S	U	S	H	S	N	S	I
N	E	A	R	E	S	T	S	S	H	Y	M	N
O	S	G	S	R	S	H	U	T	S	S	S	G
S	T	O	I	L	S	S	S	H	O	P	S	S
B	S	S	Y	E	W	S	I	S	R	S	P	
A	N	O	N	S	S	A	L	R	E	A	D	Y
N	S	I	S	F	S	L	S	T	S	I	S	T
G	A	L	L	A	N	T	S	E	A	R	T	H
E	S	E	S	R	S	Z	S	E	S	I	S	O
R	O	D	E	O	S	S	I	N	T	E	R	N



Newcastle United's Alan Shearer, right, controls the ball past Blackburn Rovers' Michael Gray during their English Premier League soccer match at St James' Park, Newcastle, England, on 21 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

With better transport, local people will enjoy higher living standard

Rakhinegyaung Bridge put into service in Twantay Township

YANGON, 22 Jan — A ceremony to inaugurate Rakhinegyaung Bridge in support of the National Convention was held near Rakhinegyaung Village in Twantay Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the opening ceremony of the bridge.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that Rakhinegyaung Bridge above 180 feet is the 25th bridge in Yangon Division in the time of the Tatmadaw
(See page 9)



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin passing through newly-opened Rakhinegyaung Bridge. — MNA

INSIDE

The five objectives of the zoo are to ensure public relaxation and recreation, to enhance botanical and biological knowledge of visitors, to contribute towards environmental conservation, to provide research facts for students and researchers, and to promote ecotourism industry.

Page 6

TEKKATHO TIN LETYA

Yagyi Dam in Kyaukpadaung township, Mandalay Division, inaugurated

875,000 acres of farmland will be benefited

YANGON, 22 Jan — Yagyi Dam, part of Kyatmauktaung supporting dam project in Kyaukpadaung township, Mandalay Division, was inaugurated yesterday morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and De-

velopment Council Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, local authorities, social organizations and local people totalling over 6,000. Addressing the ceremony, the commander said it is very heartening to see another dam has emerged in the arid region

to contribute towards not only agricultural but also greening tasks. Yagyi

Dam is the 182nd in the nation. In such a dry and hot region with scarcity of

water, acreage of crops cultivation has been extended year by year thanks

to the State's efforts to build dams and reservoirs for greening, extending

Since 2004-2005, Mandalay Division has take steps to increase acreage of monsoon paddy cultivation up to 1 million acres during three years. As Yagyi Dam will supply water to Kyatmauktaung Dam, acreage of crops plantations will jump to 22,000 acres from 5,800.



Newly-inaugurated Yagyi Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

agricultural tasks and supplying enough drinking water for local people by spending huge sums of money. Now, 875,000 acres of farmland will be benefited.

Since 2004-2005, Mandalay Division has taken steps to increase acreage of monsoon paddy cultivation up to 1 million acres in three years. As Yagyi Dam will supply water to Kyatmauktaung Dam, acreage of crops plantations will jump to 22,000 acres from 5,800.

(See page 9)