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Wednesday, 1 February, 2006

Government providing farmers with fuel oil to the most possible degree for boosting production of agricultural sector

Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Pammawady River Crossing (Myinkaseik) Bridge



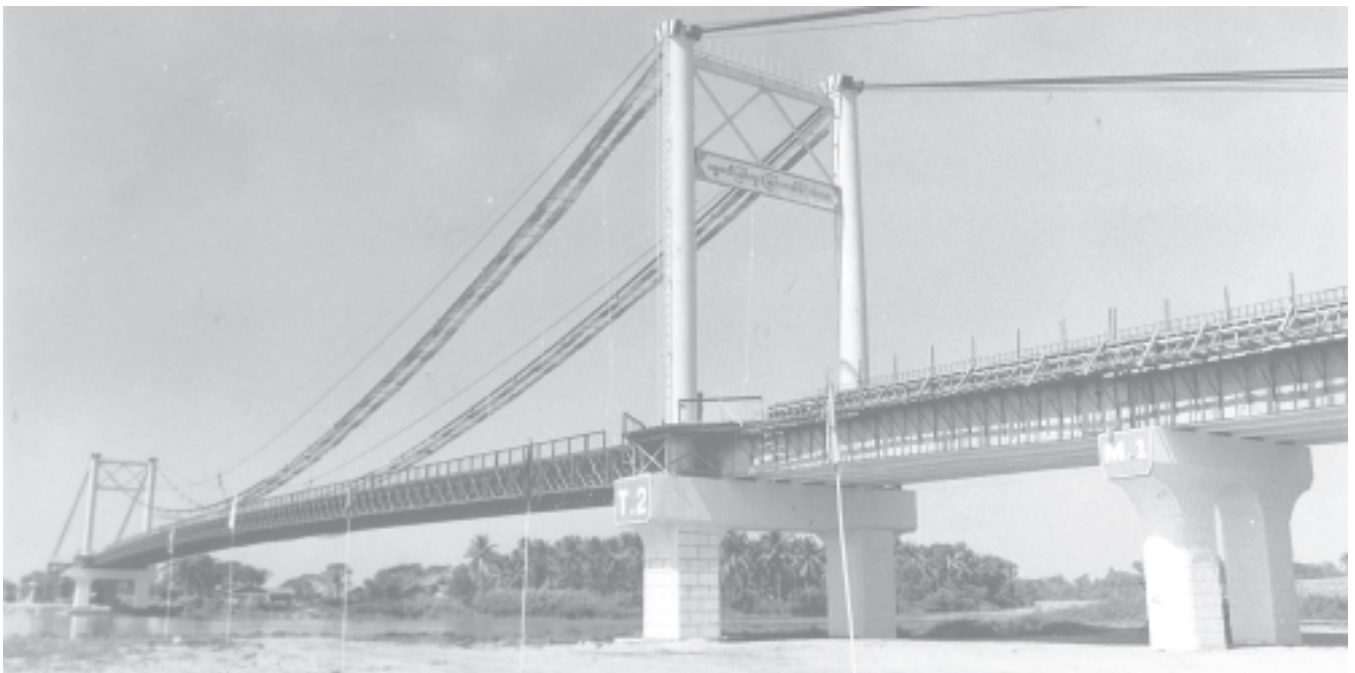
YANGON, 31 Jan—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, yesterday afternoon inspected construction of Pammawady River Crossing (Myinkaseik) Bridge linking Myaungmya and Patheingyi in Ayeyawady Division and gave guidance.

First, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard a report presented by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on Patheingyi-Myaungmya-Einme-Dhaka road network, chosen axis of Pammawady River Crossing (Myinkaseik) Bridge, salient points of the bridge and progress in construction of approach structures on Patheingyi and Myaungmya banks.

Next, Chairman of Myaungmya District PDC Lt-Col Kyi Htut Win reported on conditions of
(See page 8)

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Pammawady River Crossing Bridge (Myinkaseik) linking Myaungmya and Patheingyi.

MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 1 February, 2006

Extend cultivation of physic nut plants

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by high-ranking officials, on 28 and 29 January visited Ngwe Hsaung in Pathien Township in Ayeyawady Division and inspected the beautifying work of the Ngwe Hsaung beach and hotels there, rural development and construction of roads linking villages.

In his meeting with departmental personnel and members of social organizations at the general administration office in Ngwe Hsaung, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that all the necessary steps were being taken for parallel development of various regions, that states and divisions were developing because of the development measures taken by the government and that it was necessary to make towns and villages hygienic places to live.

During his tour of Ngwe Hsaung, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe attended the ceremony to sow physic nut seeds and plant physic nut grafts at Shaukchaung village in Ngwe Hsaung, Pathein township. Ayeyawady Division is the region the nation has to rely for marine and agricultural products. In the 2005-2006 cultivation season, more than 3.6 million acres were put under monsoon paddy and efforts are being made to put over 1.6 million acres under summer paddy.

Moreover, 10 major crops, perennial crops, a variety of new crops and physic nut plants are being cultivated in accordance with the target. Bio diesel obtained from physic nuts can be used in water pumps and electric power stations and crushed physic nuts can be used as natural fertilizer. Therefore, cultivation of physic nut plants will surely contribute to agriculture and power generation. Physic nut plants can be grown in any region and so plantations of physic nut should be established scientifically.

At the ceremony to plant physic nuts in Shaukchaung village in Ngwe Hsaung, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe urged the townselders to engage in the cultivation of physic nuts systematically as one of the rural development tasks. Due to the measures taken by the government, transport and economic enterprises in Ngwe Hsaung has developed. We would also like to call on the regional authorities and farmers to extend the cultivation of physic nut plants for development of agriculture and production of bio diesel.



Daw Wan and her family of No 65, AungMinGaung 1st Street, Kamayut Township, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Treasurer of the Home for the Aged U Aung Than recently. —MNA

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

Yangon Command sets the target of growing 50,000 physic nut plants

YANGON, 31 Jan — Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win called for meeting the division's target of 500,000 physic nut plants within three years at a ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Yangon Station under Yangon Command.

At the ceremony held at the Yangon Station, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and his wife

grow physic nut plants.

There are a total of 15,000 physic nut saplings and 2,000 trees in the nursery of Yangon Station.

Similarly, the Commander and party also participated in the physic nut plants growing ceremony held at Defence Services Medical Academy in Mingaladon Township. —MNA

Minister inspects arrival of machinery for dam projects



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects machinery to be used for construction of dam. —A & I

YANGON, 31 Jan— Accompanied by officials, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo arrived at Sule Wharf No 7 this morning and inspected the arrival of two sets of trench cutter and their accessories imported from Germany for dam projects of the Irrigation Department.

Next, the minister inspected the loading of machinery for Htamanthi project onto watercraft at

No 3 Bo Aung Kyaw Wharf. Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and officials reported on transportation of machinery to respective regions through MV Beluga Project. The Irrigation Department Director-General also reported on transport of machinery weighing over 500 tons to project regions and the minister left necessary instructions.

MNA

Golf training centre of MGC, Han Golf Masters Golf Academy opened

YANGON, 31 Jan— Jointly conducted by Myanmar Golf Club and Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd, golf training centre of MGC and Han Golf Masters Golf Academy was opened this afternoon at Myanmar Golf Club on Kyaukyaydwin Street in Mayangon Township.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, President of MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), General Secretary U Aung Kyi and executives, guests and officials.

First, the minister gave a speech. Next, Managing Director of Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd, Teaching Professional U Chan Han extended greetings.

Afterwards, General Secretary U Aung Kyi of MGF presented gift to Professional Golfer U Aung Hla Han of Srixon who donated golf equipment to tournaments.

Next, the minister, and the president of MPGA and MGF cut the ribbon and the minister and party including new generation golfer Phone Pyi Chan Han took off the golf balls to open the centre.

Teaching Professionals U Chan Han, U Ko Ko Lay and U Hsan Tun, U Zaw Paing and U Han Tun Thuang will conduct the golf training and those wishing to practise golf may join the centre from 6



A new generation youth tees off to mark the opening of a golf training centre of MGC and Han Golf Masters Golf Academy. — MGF

to 8 am daily.

After the opening ceremony, clarifications on opening the centre were made. Officials replied to the queries raised by journalists. —MNA

Precious jade garment on show in China's National Museum

BEIJING, 30 Jan— A 2,000-year-old royal garment made up of more than 4,000 pieces of jade sewn together with gold thread is now on display in China's National Museum.

The jade clothing, excavated from an mausoleum dating back to the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC - 25 AD), is the oldest and most exquisite of its kind ever to be found in China.

The armour-like garment is 1.74 metres long and is made up of 4,248 pieces of jade held together by around 1.5 kilos of gold thread.

The garment was unearthed in the Lion Mountain on the outskirts of Xuzhou, East China's Jiangsu Province. Archaeologists believe it was worn by a king of the State of Chu in the Western Han Dynasty.

Mausoleums of 12 kings of the ancient state were discovered around the city of Xuzhou and Chinese archaeologists have conducted excavations of the tombs.

An exhibition on the

discovery of the mausoleums is being held in the National Museum in Beijing till 20 April, with nearly 200 pieces of precious cultural relics on display.

The first repaired iron helmet of the Western Han Dynasty is also on show. Experts believe the helmet is of great importance to the research on the military history and the advent of civilization in China.

MNA/Xinhua

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Chinese artistes perform during a temple fair in Beijing, on 30 Jan, 2006. China marked the start of the Year of the Dog on Sunday with fireworks and dumplings, as the biggest holiday in the Chinese world reached a crescendo.

INTERNET

Paraguay road accident kills six

BUENOS AIRES, 30 Jan— Six people died, three of them children, on Saturday night when the van they were travelling in hit a tanker truck in Arroyos y Esteros, 73 kilometres from the Paraguayan capital Asuncion, according to Sunday reports from Asuncion.

Local police said that the victims were heading for Santani, on National Highway 3, when they tried to overtake another van on a sharp curve, and hit a truck carrying fuel to the capital.

The dead were Pablo Rodriguez, 38, the driver, Marta Rodriguez, 40, Dominga Sosa, 32, and three children, Paola Rodriguez Sosa, Roque Rodriguez Sosa and Rocio Rodriguez Sosa. Four of the van's occupants died instantly, and the other two died in a local hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

US journalists seriously injured in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan— ABC news anchor Bob Woodruff and camera operator Doug Vogt were seriously injured in a roadside bombing in Iraq on Sunday, the US television network said.

At the time of the blast, they were travelling with an Iraqi Army unit in an Iraqi vehicle near Taji, near Baghdad, the network said. After the blast, the vehicle came under small arms fire, ABC news reported.

"Bob and Doug are in serious condition and are being treated at a US military hospital in Iraq," the network said in a statement. Both men have head injuries and are being treated in Iraq, the network reported. The men were injured by an improvised explosive device, or IED, which are often planted by guerillas on roads to attack US vehicles.

Woodruff and Elizabeth Vargas were named by ABC on 5 December as co-anchors to replace the late Peter Jennings on the network's "World News Tonight". They started on 3 January.

Iraq remains the most dangerous place for journalists. Some 60 journalists have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to the media watchdog the Committee to Protect Journalists, or CPJ.

At least 41 of those were Iraqi, the CPJ said in a recent report. Other media watchdogs say the toll is higher.

MNA/Reuters

First snow falls in Lisbon since 1983

LISBON, 30 Jan— Snow fell in Lisbon on Sunday for the first time since 1983 and ice in central Portugal closed major motorways, local media and witnesses reported.

Snow and sleet fell across the capital but did not settle as temperatures hovered around freezing point.

The motorway linking Lisbon to second city

Porto was shut for much of the day as were several other motorways running from Lisbon to the interior, state news agency Lusa reported.

It said snow fell in the mountains of the southern Algarve tourist region.

Temperatures fell as a cold front moved south across the country bringing rain and strong winds. The coldest temperature on

Sunday was minus 8 Celsius (18 Fahrenheit), according to the SIC news channel. —MNA/Reuters

Scottish girl, 11, reportedly treated for heroin use

LONDON, 30 Jan— An 11-year-old Scottish girl was admitted to hospital last week to be treated for the effects of heroin, local media reported on Sunday.

Scotland's *Sunday Mail* newspaper said the girl, who has not been identified, collapsed in her primary school in Glasgow on Wednesday. She then told doctors she had been smoking the drug for more than two months, the paper said.

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said an investigation was underway but would not give any further details. The newspaper also quoted a spokesman for the city council as saying the story was correct.

"Initially, the teachers thought she had unwittingly taken drugs," the newspaper quoted another source close to the case as saying.

"It turned out she had been using the drug regularly for weeks".

MNA/Reuters

Officials confirm bird flu death in Iraq

RANIYA, 30 Jan — Battered by rampant violence and political instability, a new threat in Iraq was confirmed on Monday — the first case of the deadly bird flu virus in the Middle East.

A 15-year-old Kurdish girl who died this month had the deadly H5N1 strain, Iraq and UN health officials said. The discovery prompted a large-scale slaughter of domestic birds in the northern area where the teen died as the World Health Organization formed an emergency team to try to contain the disease's spread.

"We regretfully announce that the first case of bird flu has appeared in Iraq," Iraqi Health Minister Abdel Mutalib Mohammed told reporters.

World Health Organization officials confirmed the finding, though it was not immediately clear how the girl, Shangen Abdul Qader, who died on 17 Jan in the northern Kurdish town of Raniya, contracted the disease.

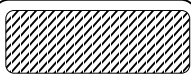
The prospect of a bird flu outbreak in Iraq is alarming because the country is gripped by armed guerilla and lacks the resources of other governments in the region.

Government institutions, however, are most effective in the Kurdish-northern area where the girl lived.

Health teams cordoned off areas in and around Raniya on Monday and began Iraq's first bird slaughter.

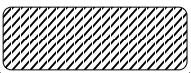
Policeman Khalil Khudur said he led a team that killed 3,000 birds, mainly chickens and ducks, in Sarkathan, a village of about 600 homes four miles north of Raniya. Villagers and cars were also sprayed with chemicals to kill any trace of the disease.

Internet



Iraqi government workers disinfect vehicles travelling out of local villages in Raniya.

INTERNET



PM says India will not come under pressure on Iran nuke issue

NEW DELHI, 30 Jan — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday allayed the concerns of the Left parties on the Iran nuclear issue, saying the Indian Government would not come under pressure and would do whatever was best for the country.

"We will do what is right for the country, for India's national interest in the prime concern, whether it is domestic or foreign policy," the Press Trust of India quoted Singh, who was on the sidelines of a swearing-in ceremony of new entrants to the Union

Council of Ministers, as saying.

"We will not come under pressure. We will do the right thing for the country. Our prime concern is to protect and safeguard India's enlightened national interest," the Prime Minister said

He was replying to

a question on the Left parties' demand asking the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government to abstain from voting if consensus eludes the crucial IAEA meeting on Iran's controversial nuclear programme on 2 February.

MNA/Xinhua



A general view shows building work continuing at the new Wembley Stadium in London, on 30 Jan, 2006. The new Wembley Stadium has a 70 percent chance of being ready for the FA Cup final in May, project officials said on Monday. —INTERNET

Chavez joins US activist Sheehan to bash Bush

CARACAS (Venezuela), 30 Jan — Venezuela's President, Hugo Chavez, joined US anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan on Sunday to attack President George W Bush and the Iraq war at the close of the World Social Forum.

Chavez, a former soldier known by his supporters as "El Comandante", has become a voice for many opponents of Washington who are drawn by his self-styled socialist revolution and his close alliance with Cuban leader Fidel Castro. "Enough of imperialist aggression. We must tell the world, down

with the US empire," Chavez said hugging Sheehan, whose son died in the Iraq war, and the widow of Puerto Rican independence activist Filiberto Ojeda Rios, who was killed in a gunfight with police last year.

"We have to bury imperialism this century. Cindy, we are with you in your fight," he said on his

regular Sunday television broadcast.

US relations with Venezuela have become increasingly antagonistic as Chavez campaigns against US free-market policies in South America and Washington portrays him as an anti-democratic threat to regional stability.

Sheehan was the latest

US activist to appear on Chavez' Sunday programme, where he holds court for five to six hours on topics from baseball and his life in the Army to Venezuelan history and oil prices.

"The war in Iraq will end, our troops will come home. Bush will be impeached and he will be brought to justice," said Sheehan, who held a vigil outside Bush's Texas ranch. Sheehan was in Caracas for the 6th World Social Forum, where nearly 60,000 activists met to protest against US foreign policy and debate ideas from land reform for the poor to fair trade and indigenous rights.

The forum, which began in 2001 in Brazil as an alternative to an annual gathering of world leaders in Davos, Switzerland, was billed as non-partisan. But much attention focused on Chavez, who was given pop star treatment by some participants who praised his programmes for the poor and what they called his leadership of the region's movements.

MNA/Reuters

Russia arrests two spies working for Britain

Moscow, 30 Jan — Russian security services have arrested two spies working for British intelligence, the *Interfax* news agency said on Saturday, citing the former head of Russia's state security service.

Russia accused Britain last Sunday of running a James Bond-style spying operation in Moscow using a receiver hidden in a fake rock to communicate secret information. It named four embassy workers as intelligence officers running Russian agents.

Former FSB head Nikolai Kovalyov did not make clear whether the two people arrested were linked to the "fake rock" affair. It appeared likely, however, that they were Russians rather than British officials since diplomats have immunity from arrest.

"Two British spies have been arrested. Of course they are not silent they are talking," Kovalyov told Russia's NTV television station in a programme that will be aired on Sunday night, *Interfax* reported.

A spokesman for the FSB said he could neither deny nor confirm the report, advising Reuters to watch the programme and listen to Kovalyov's comments.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said Britain was asking the Russian Foreign Ministry for information. "We have not been notified but it is not clear whether this report is about British staff," he added.

Last Sunday's television programme said one Russian, who had been turned by British agents while abroad, had been arrested for treason. It said Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) was also feeding funds to non-governmental organizations in Russia, but did not explain why such funds should be donated covertly. Britain generally does not comment on matters relating to the intelligence service.

The affair coincides with moves by President Vladimir Putin to clamp down on NGOs which Kremlin officials accuse of promoting Western political interests in Russia. Putin, himself a former KGB spy, said on Wednesday he had not decided whether to expel the diplomats who were named.

MNA/Reuters

Japanese march to protest crime by US military

TOKYO, 30 Jan — Some 800 Japanese calling for an end to crimes by US military personnel marched in protest on Saturday, a day after prosecutors indicted a US sailor for killing and robbing a 56-year-old Japanese woman this month. The demonstrators gathered in a park near a US naval base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, and later held a march nearby, *Kyodo News* agency said.

"Not just in Yokosuka, but in cities with bases such as Okinawa...there are many incidents and accidents involving US soldiers," *Kyodo* quoted Masahiko

Goto, a lawyer who took part in the demonstration, as saying.

Japanese prosecutors on Friday indicted Seaman William Reese, 21, who was arrested this month on suspicion of killing and robbing Yoshie Sato on January 3 in Yokosuka.

The incident has come at an awkward time in US-Japanese relations, as Tokyo and Washington attempt to hammer out a deal with local Japanese communities to reorganise US bases in Japan in an attempt to make the US military more flexible. —MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi soldier mans a checkpoint in Baghdad on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Three French nationals freed after kidnap in Haiti

PARIS, 30 Jan — An 84-year-old nun and two other French citizens kidnapped in Haiti have been released, the French Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

The three were abducted at gunpoint on Tuesday on a notoriously dangerous road near Cite Soleil, a shantytown on the north side of Port-au-Prince, police said. They were in Haiti on a

humanitarian mission. "We confirm that the three French nationals abducted in Port-au-Prince have been freed and are safe," an official at the French Foreign Ministry said. "They are at the

embassy." Police said the abductors of the French missionaries demanded a ransom. But the Foreign Ministry official declined to comment when asked if a ransom was paid.

MNA/Reuters



Painted elephants show their skills during the fourth elephant festival at Kaziranga National Park, 250 kilometres (156 miles) east of Gauhati, India, on 30 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET

Death of Polish roof collapse rises to 66

CHORZOW (Poland), 30 Jan — Poland said on Sunday that 66 people were killed when the snow-laden roof of an exhibition centre collapsed in the country's worst disaster in almost two decades.

Rescue workers wound down the search for survivors among the wreckage in Chorzow near Katowice, capital of Poland's southern industrial heartland, after working through a night in which temperatures fell to minus 15 Celsius (5 Fahrenheit).

About 150 people were injured when the modern building, about the size of a soccer field, suddenly collapsed.

Dozens of distraught relatives and survivors gathered to await news of friends and loved ones who had been attending an event for international pigeon enthusiasts.

As hearses drove up to the cordoned-off site to pick up bodies, rescuers brought out cages of pigeons. Other pigeons flew aimlessly around the wreckage.

Around 1,300 rescuers including police, firefig-

ters, soldiers and local mine workers used cutting equipment and thermal imaging gear to search for survivors. President Lech Kaczynski said the death toll was unlikely to rise.

Officials had earlier feared dozens more were trapped, but the regional fire brigade chief said it was unlikely that anyone else would be found in the wreckage, either dead or alive. —MNA/Reuters

Pakistan train derails, six killed

ISLAMABAD, 30 Jan—Six people were killed and 25 were injured when a Pakistani passenger train derailed on Sunday and one carriage plunged into a ravine, but all other passengers were believed to have been rescued, officials said.

But they said troops using searchlights in the dark were still scouring the site of the crash near the central city of Jhelum.

The Lahore-bound train was travelling from Rawalpindi, a city neighbouring the capital Islamabad, when it jumped the track on a curving slope, sending one carriage plunging 50 feet (15 metres) into a ravine, while the others came to rest on the slope, according to Ishaq Khakwani, a junior minister for Railways.

MNA/Reuters

US Army forces 50,000 soldiers into extended duty

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — The US Army has forced about 50,000 soldiers to continue serving after their voluntary stints ended under a policy called "stop-loss", but while some dispute its fairness, court challenges have fallen flat.

The policy applies to soldiers in units due to deploy for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The Army said stop-loss is vital to maintain units that are cohesive and ready to fight. But some experts said it shows how badly the Army is stretched and could further complicate efforts to attract new recruits.

"As the war in Iraq drags on, the Army is accumulating a collection of problems that cumulatively could call into question the viability of an all-volunteer force," said defence analyst Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute think tank.

"When a service has to repeatedly resort to compelling the retention of people who want to leave, you're edging away from the whole notion of

volunteerism."

When soldiers enlist, they sign a contract to serve for a certain number of years, and know precisely when their service obligation ends so they can return to civilian life. But stop-loss allows the Army, mindful of having fully manned units, to keep soldiers on the verge of leaving the military.

Under the policy, soldiers who normally would leave when their commitments expire must remain in the Army, starting 90 days before their unit is scheduled to depart, through the end of their deployment and up to another 90 days after returning to their home base.

With yearlong tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, some soldiers can be forced to stay in the Army an extra

18 months.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Hilferty, an Army spokesman, said that "there is no plan to discontinue stop-loss".

"We understand that this is causing hardship for some individual soldiers, and we take individual situations into consideration," Hilferty said.

Hilferty said there are about 12,500 soldiers in the regular Army, as well as the part-time National Guard and Reserve, currently serving involuntarily under the policy, and that about 50,000 have had their service extended since the programme began in 2002. An initial limited use of stop-loss was expanded in subsequent years to affect many more.

MNA/Reuters

British soldier shot dead in Iraq

LONDON, 30 Jan — A British soldier was killed in Iraq after coming under enemy fire, the Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier was a member of a patrol in the southeastern Maysan province, which came under small arms fire at 0840 GMT, the MoD said.

The soldier, from the Seventh Armoured Brigade, serving with the First Battalion The Highlanders, died as a result of his injuries. Defence Secretary John Reid said: "I was very saddened to hear this morning that a British soldier had died whilst performing his duty in Iraq."

The death brings to 99 the total number of British troops who have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003. Britain has about 8,000 military personnel in four southern Iraqi provinces, mostly based around the city of Basra.

Reid announced on 20 January that about 230 British troops have been injured in enemy action since the war in Iraq began. Of those, 40 suffered life-threatening injuries. —Internet

Inner Mongolian blizzard devastates herds

SHANGHAI, 30 Jan—A blizzard this week in Inner Mongolia has killed thousands of livestock, and threatened millions more with starvation, China's state news agency reported on Saturday.

The blizzard, near the city of Ordos, killed

40,000 livestock, and cut off villagers' access to drinking water and food, Xinhua said. No human deaths were reported. Some 3.32 million head of livestock, mostly cattle and sheep, could face starvation, it said.

MNA/Reuters

British police officers accused of misreporting in wrongful shooting

LONDON, 30 Jan — An inquiry into the police mistaken shooting of an innocent Brazilian man has concluded that some of the officers involved misreported what had happened in a bid to evade blame for the incident, British media reported at the weekend.

Jean Charles de Menezes, 27, was killed in a south London underground station when he was mistaken for a suicide bomber on 22 July. The Brazilian electrician was shot seven times in the head by armed anti-terrorism officers.

Results of the inquiry by the Independent Police Complaints Commission have not been released. But Sky News TV and the

News of the World newspaper reported on Saturday and Sunday respectively that the inquiry has concluded that one division of the police involved filed a false log report about the shooting in an effort to escape blame.

The Special Branch surveillance police team first wrote in its log that it had informed the police involved in the shooting

that they were chasing Hussein Osman, one of the suspected failed suicide bombers on 21 July, Sky News and *News of the World* said.

But the Special Branch later altered that log to say it had informed the police on the ground that it did not know who they were chasing, the TV station and the newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua



Troops of Pakistan para-military forces patrol in the troubled area of Dera Bugti in Balochistan Province of Pakistan, on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

New York's Chinatown puts on show to mark "Year of Dog"

NEW YORK, 31 Jan — Tens of thousands of people on Sunday greeted the start of the Year of the Dog in New York's Chinatown in lower Manhattan with firecrackers, Chinese music, drums and lion dancing.

The boisterous ceremony, attended by some 100,000 people as claimed by the organizer, Better Chinatown Society (BCS), took place at noon in Chatham Square, a hustling junction of three intersecting streets including Mott, Bayard and East Broadway.

Police closed road traffic in nearby streets with roadblocks and fire officers were also on call.

Standing on a makeshift stage at the centre of the square, Liu Biwei, consul general of the Chinese Consulate in New York, greeted the

Chinese community and the audience in Mandarin, Cantonese and English: "Happy New Year to you all".

Echoing Liu, local government officials and leaders of the Chinese-American societies also shouted out their best wishes which drew thunderous applause from the audience.

The cultural festivities began with a drumming show in honour of the so-called Spirit of the Chinese Drum. Artists also performed Chinese pop songs and traditional instrumental music.

Lion and dragon dancing, favourite among the audience, attracted large crowds in nearby alleys and streets decorated with red lanterns for the occasion.

Asked about the Chinese Lunar New Year installed as a state holiday last year, Martin Golden, state senator of New York State, told *Xinhua* that he did his part in the promotion efforts to make it a city as well as state holiday.

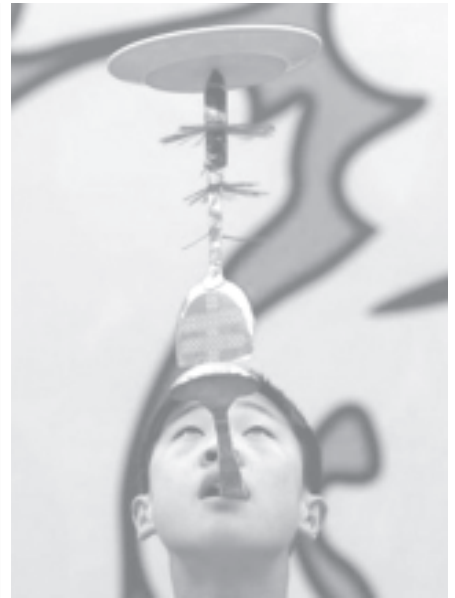
He said he will strive for making it a national holiday in the United States.

Tian Shirui, head of the BCS, told *Xinhua* that to make the Chinese New Year a national holiday in the United States requires enormous efforts from the Chinese community.

"But we will push for that", Tian said, adding that it may take five to six years before the goal can be actually realized.

The BCS is also to stage the Annual Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade on 5 February, which will feature lion and dragon dancing, traditional dance, marching bands and adorned floats.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese juggler balances a plate on a spoon as he performs at a temple fair in Beijing, on 30 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET

Leprosy eliminated in India

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan — In a major success, India has eliminated leprosy, a disease still attached with social stigma, but government said it was just a milestone towards, the goal of eradication which would mean no case of the disease in the country.

"As on 31 December last year, there were over 100,000 leprosy cases with a prevalence rate of 0.95 per 10,000 population," Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss told reporters here on Leprosy day (Monday) that coincides with the martyrdom day of Mahatma Gandhi.

MNA/PTI

India, Pakistan, Iran begin workshop on gas pipeline

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan — Senior officials from India, Iran and Pakistan are attending a two-day workshop that began deliberations here Monday to work out technical details of the multi-billion dollar tri-nation gas pipeline project, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs Hadi Nejad-Hosseini is leading the team from his country, while Interstate Gas Company Limited (IGCL) Managing Director Saed Hassan Nawab is heading the

Pakistani delegation.

The Pakistan Government has assigned IGCL the task of handling the pipeline gas import.

Representatives from GAIL India Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation are attending the workshop on behalf of India.

The decision to hold the workshop was taken during the Joint Working Group meetings between India and Pakistan and between India and Iran to set up technical level panels to discuss specifications about the pipeline.

MNA/Xinhua

Kidnapped Iranian soldiers released

TEHRAN, 31 Jan — Nine Iranian soldiers kidnapped by an extremist Islamic military group in the country's volatile eastern border region have been released, the official *IRNA* news agency reported on Monday.

The report revealed no further details, but owed the release to "the efforts of Iranian police".

The nine soldiers were taken hostage by members of the military group Jondollah in the eastern border province of Sistan-Baluchestan in late December 2005 and then were transferred across the border into Pakistan.

The kidnappers asked the Iranian Government to pay ransom and release some jailed members of

their group in exchange for the release of the soldiers, threatening to kill them if the demands were not met.

Iran accused the United States of supporting Jondollah, which also has links with the Taleban.

Sistan-Baluchestan, bordering with Pakistan and Afghanistan, is one of the most turbulent and poorest provinces in the Islamic Republic.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines records 5.1% GDP growth in 2005

MANILA, 31 Jan — The Philippines recorded an economy growth of 5.1 per cent in 2005, lower than the 6 per cent in 2004, as a result of high oil prices and other factors, the government said on Monday.

According to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the gross domestic product rose 6.1 per cent in the October -

December period last year, higher than the 5.3 per cent growth in the same period in 2004.

However, the 2005 GDP growth rate was still

below the government's target set at 5.3 per cent, the NSCB said.

NSCB Secretary-General Romulo Virolo said that all major sectors contributed positively to the growth of the economy despite the persistent increases in oil and consumer prices and the political turmoil that continued to hound business and government.

The Philippines was dragged into a political turmoil after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was accused of corruption and electoral fraud in June.

President Arroyo, for her part, hailed the GDP growth in 2005 was an achievement, even though it was hampered by the higher oil prices, weaker global demand for Philippine products and political squabbling.

MNA/Xinhua

Bus accident in Brazil kills at least 11, wounds 38

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Jan — At least 11 people died and 38 more were wounded on Monday when a bus fell off a cliff in Corumbaiba municipality, in the south of the central Brazil state of Goias, local media reported. The accident occurred when the bus swerved to avoid a truck that was travelling in the oncoming lane of a narrow curve, transport police told the media. The bus then left the road and fell off a 20-metre cliff.

Apart from the dead and injured one passenger is missing. Among the dead is a group of street traders from Maranhao State, who were on their way to Sao Paulo to buy merchandise. One of the drivers died in the incident while the other is seriously injured.

Rescuers carried the injured to hospitals in the cities of Corumbaiba and Catalao, both in Goias, and also to Uberlandia and Caldas Novas, in Minas Gerais.

The dead were transferred to the Catalao's Institute of Legal Medicine. —MNA/Xinhua



Smoke rises above Ramadi's soccer stadium after US forces called in a laser guided airstrike, in Ramadi, 115 kilometres (70 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraq on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

“The Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda”

The pagoda is named in Pali. The word “Maha” means great, the word “Rattha” means nation, the word “Abhisamaggi” means extraordinary unity.

So, the title of the pagoda means the pagoda of the great and extraordinarily united nation.

Myanmar is a nation where more than one hundred national races make their home in harmony. Gracious attributes of the Three Gems, moral conduct, cultural heritages and national characteristics flourish well in Myanmar, which is, in area, second largest in Southeast Asia among the ten ASEAN nations and 42nd largest in the world among 191 nations. So, Myanmar is great. All the national races have been living in unity in Myanmar where four cardinal virtues and ways to blessings flourish. Therefore, Myanmar is well-known worldwide as the Golden Land.

For a certain period in the past, Myanmar fell under alien subjugation. Myanmar has a fine tradition that it showed sheer unity of its national races in throwing off the yoke of servitude. It was Panglong Agreement, which conceived independence of Myanmar and was signed by the leaders of national races in unison in Panglong Region, southern Shan State.

Today, Panglong region, where Union Spirit was thoroughly regenerated, has witnessed unprecedented progress thanks to all-out efforts of the Tatmadaw government.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had given guidance that a pagoda had to be built in the Panglong region as a token of performing meritorious deeds in honour of and tribute to the personalities

who had exerted their utmost efforts to build a consolidated nation for the national races and national patriots who had given their all in the service of the nation and the people to regain national independence and then

Applying advanced technology plus the technical assistance of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Asia World Co undertook the project. Upon completion, the Shwedagon Pagoda replica structure will be 135 feet high with a 120-foot diameter and 60-foot high cave in it. So, the substantial building will be like a golden mountain standing magnificently with the resistance to rain, strong winds and even an earthquake.

build a Union in order that all the national races may live in unity and harmony.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, arrangements were made to build the pagoda entitled Maha Ratthabhisamaggi in Panglong. Prime Minister General Soe Win on 28 November 2002 paid a visit to the region and sought advice from local Sayadaws, who then chose the site in the compound of Panglong Pyidaungsu Monument. On 29 November morning, the ground-consecration ceremony was held to launch the construction of the pagoda along with the driving of stakes by dignitaries led by the Prime Minister.

On 12 April 2003, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe visited the construction site and gave guidance on the project.

Applying advanced technology plus the technical assistance of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Asia World Co undertook the project. Upon completion, the Shwedagon Pagoda replica structure will be 135 feet high with a 120-foot diameter and 60-foot high cave in it. So, the substantial building will be like a golden mountain standing magnificently with the resistance to rain, strong winds and even an earthquake.

The cash donations presentation ceremony took place in the cave of the pagoda on 2 January 2006. That day's donations amounted to K 391,078,992 including K 2.1 million by Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and family; K 2.1 million by Maj-Gen Tin Tun of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Myint Wai and family; K 50 million by the Eastern Command Headquarters; K 23.61 million by military commands and light infantry divisions; K 110 million by wellwishers of Taunggyi; K 33 million by U Tun Myint Naing (Asia World Co); and K 30 million by U Aung Ko Win (Kanbawza Bank Ltd).

So far, the project is nearing completion, and eight Buddha images are kept. So, the pagoda is now teeming with pilgrims and wellwishers.

Therefore, the spirit of Abhisamaggi and Union Spirit flourish the length and breadth of the nation as well as among the entire national people.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 30-1-2006



Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects preparations to plant physic nut saplings. (News on page 2) —MNA

All 70 Canadian miners safe but still trapped

TORONTO, 31 Jan — Seventy Canadian miners trapped for 19 hours in a potash mine will stay in refuge rooms as firefighters battle to extinguish a blaze and clear the smoke before they can be brought to the surface, mine officials said on Monday.

The cause of the fire, which broke out at 3 am Central Standard Time (2100 GMT) early on Sunday at the mine in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, was unknown.

The mine, owned by Minnesota-based Mosaic Co is the main employer in the small town which is near

the provincial border with Manitoba.

Marshall Hamilton, a spokesman for Mosaic, said a rescue team equipped with breathing apparatus had reached the refuge rooms and seen the miners. He said it would be several hours before rescuers could attempt to bring the miners to the surface. Firefighters were still battling to bring the fire under control and the tunnels would have to be ventilated.

The large size of the mine — about 18.6 miles (30 kilometres) by 12 miles (20 kilometres) — would add to the delay. —MNA/Reuters

Illegal blood banks mushrooming in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 31 Jan — **Illegal blood banks are mushrooming in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh in the absence of any government control, putting at risk the life of patients needing blood.**

Local daily *New Age* quoted sources in the health directorate as saying on Monday that about 150 blood banks are operational in the capital and about 500 in other parts of the country.

The blood from the private blood banks is risky to use as they usually do not screen collected blood, the daily quoted a physician as saying.

It is known that the screening of blood costs about 450 taka (about 6.9 US dollars) a bag. “After screening, a bag of blood might cost up to 700 taka (about 10.8 US dollars) while its usual price is 200 taka (about 3 dollars),” Taher Ali, an employee of the Modern Clinic and Blood Centre, was quoted as saying. According to the daily, the blood from the private blood banks is often contaminated with germs of deadly diseases as they collect blood from the professional donors.

“We have found that 29 per cent of professional donors have hepatitis B, 3.8 per cent hepatitis C and 30 per cent syphilis,” a physician at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



Senior General Than Shwe hears report on construction of Pammawady River Crossing Bridge (Myinkaseik) and Pathein-Myaungmya-Einme-Daka Road by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. —MNA

Efforts are to be made for full utilization of land resources as well as for extended cultivation of paddy, boosting the per acre yield and mixed cropping

(from page 1)
motor roads in Myaungmya District and Wakema-Pathein motor road.

Having heard reports, Senior General Than Shwe stressed the need for officials concerned to strive for earlier completion of Pammawady River Crossing (Myinkaseik) Bridge and construction of Kyungon River Bridge on Wakema-Kyungon-Myinkaseik-Pathein road.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed round

progress of construction of Pammawady River Crossing (Myinkaseik) Bridge.

The bridge is being constructed by Special Construction Group-5 of Public Works.

The reinforced concrete bridge is situated on Pathein-Myaungmya road.

It is 1,260 feet in length including 540 feet long main bridge.

On completion, one will be able to travel through the 32-mile long Pathein-Kankon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya motor road, saving 33

miles. Construction of Pammawady River Crossing (Myinkaseik) Bridge is nearing completion.

Afterwards, Senior

General Than Shwe arrived in Pathein where he met with Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, members of the Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development

Division in terms of agriculture, and the more agriculture develops in the division, the more national economy makes progress.

As the sown acreage

tural sector.

To be able to substitute diesel with physic nut oil, bio-diesel is now being produced and utilized, thereby contributing to development of

To be able to substitute diesel with physic nut oil, bio-diesel is now being produced and utilized, thereby contributing to development of agriculture and rural development. Therefore, efforts are being made for extended cultivation of physic nut plants.



Pammawady River Crossing Bridge (Myinkaseik) linking Myaungmya and Pathein.

MNA

Council, chairmen of Pathein, Hinthada, Myaungmya, Maubin and Pyabon PDCs and division-level departmental officials at the South-West Command.

At the meeting, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung reported on total land areas of Ayeyawady Division and land utilization, cultivation of monsoon paddy, summer paddy and ten major crops, extended cultivation of pulses and beans, new item crops and perennial crops, measures being taken for cultivation of 100,000 acres of rubber and 500,000 acres of physic nut plants, self-sufficiency in rice, fish and prawn breeding, raising of poultry and economic development of the division.

Senior General Than Shwe in his guidance said that the nation has to rely on Ayeyawady

of monsoon paddy is over 3.6 million acres in Ayeyawady Division, accounting for 25 percent of total sown acreage of the nation, efforts are to be made for boosting the per acre yield of monsoon paddy. In this regard, the capability of division, district and township authorities is imperative.

This being the case, service personnel are to have a sense of trying hardest for development of agriculture in the division.

In taking measures for development of agricultural sector, those concerned are to make innovations to be able to engage in full cultivation of paddy as there has been shortage of fuel oil.

The government is providing farmers with fuel oil to the most possible degree for boosting production of agricul-

agriculture and rural development. Therefore, efforts are being made for extended cultivation of physic nut plants.

At the same time, efforts are to be made for full utilization of land resources as well as for extended cultivation of paddy, boosting the per acre yield and mixed cropping.

In conclusion, Senior General Than Shwe spoke of the need for service personnel to strive to be endowed with leadership skills while engaging in national development tasks, to make efforts for enhancing the living standard of rural people and for regional development.

After the meeting, Senior General Than Shwe and party left Pathein and arrived here in the evening.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe meets senior military officers, local authorities and departmental personnel at South-West Command Headquarters (News on page 1). MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off NC delegates



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein bidding delegates farewell. — MNA

YANGON, 31 Jan — Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein this afternoon greeted the delegates to the National Convention who would go back home as the National Convention was adjourned.

Accompanied by Secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members of the commission, members of the working committee for convening the National Convention, Chairman of the management

committee for convening the National Convention, Vice Chairmen of the management committee Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein met the delegates at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township and bade farewell.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party visited the shops in Nyaungnapin Camp.

MNA

59th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.
- To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people.
- For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence.
- To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development.
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein bidding the National Convention delegates farewell. —MNA

People in all states, divisions...

(from page 16)

The NCCC chairman presided over the plenary session, while NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as MC.

Of 1,079 delegates who were entitled to attend the NC, 1,069 or 99.07 per cent were present at the session.

Regarding the future plans of the National Convention, the Work Committee chairman said that the NC resumed on 5 December last year to continue to adopt detailed basic principles in drawing an enduring State Constitution of the Union of Myanmar.

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the NC delegates attended the convention with enthusiasm to complete National Convention proceedings of the seven-point Road Map laid down by the State. At the convention, the delegates set up brotherly relations in dealing with each other, and presented proposals in a frank way in the interests of the State and the people.

At the plenary sessions held from 21 to 30 March 2005, alternate panel of chairmen collected the proposals submitted by the delegates to adopt detailed basic principles for the sharing of executive and judicial powers. And the panel of chairmen forwarded the collected proposals on 6 and 7 December 2005.

At the plenary session that took place on 12 December, detailed basic principles for the distribution of executive and judicial powers could be

adopted in accordance with the proposals of the delegates. That highlighted the wholehearted participation of the delegates.

Regarding the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Region or State Hluttaw to be included in the Legislative Chapter, the explanations of the Work Committee Chairman were read out at the plenary sessions held on 13, 14 and 15 December the same year.

Delegate groups held group-wise discussions about the clarifications of the Work Committee and compiled proposals. And the proposals were read

group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, on 6 January; and proposals of the delegate group of State service personnel and the delegate group of other invited persons, on 9 January.

At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 10 January 2006, the Work Committee chairman's explanations about detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Chapter "Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens" and the Chapter "The Role of the Tatmadaw" were read out.

Respective delegate groups of NC delegates held discussions on the explanations of the Work Committee and compiled proposals, which were submitted to the plenary



Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. —MNA



U Aung Toe. —MNA

and the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, on 27 January; and proposals of the delegate group of State service personnel and the delegate group of other invited persons, on 30 January.

It is found that in the proposals, the groups expressed their support for the explanations of the

Convention.

NC delegates will be free while members of alternate panels of chairmen will be carrying out functions. The National Convention is adjourned today so that the delegates will be able to go on their economic and social affairs they have stopped, and members of alternate

basic principles that should be adopted will be adopted in line with the wishes of the majority of the delegates. With a view to enabling the delegates to present proposals conveniently, some headings, in accordance with the schedule of the headings, will be presented after weighing the work volume. In conclusion, I would like to urge the delegates to collect necessary facts in advance so that you can make good suggestions.

Secretary of the NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech on management. He said the National Convention resumed on 5 December 2005 will be adjourned soon and the delegates will go back home in their respective regions. The commission has made arrangements for transport and management matters for convenience of the delegates who will leave on 31 January, 1 and 2 February.

Arrangements have been made for supervision and safety of their going home by officials of the (See page 11)

It is found that in the proposals, the groups expressed their support for the explanations of the Work Committee chairman. They submitted separate suggestions based on their experiences in the frame of the six objectives of the National Convention, and in the frame of the 104 basic principles laid down by the National Convention. Members of the alternate panels of chairmen will have to collect these proposals sector-wise and forward them to the plenary session of the National Convention.

out at the plenary sessions held from 2 to 9 January 2006. Proposals of the delegate group of political parties were read out at the plenary session on 2 January 2006; proposals of the delegate group of representatives-elect, on 3 and 5 January; proposals of the delegate group of national races and the delegate group of peasants, on 5 January; proposals of the delegate group of workers and the delegate

sessions of the NC held from 24 to 30 January this year. Proposals of the delegate group of political parties were submitted to the plenary sessions held on 24 and 25 January; proposals of the delegate group of representatives-elect, on 25 and 26 January; proposals of the delegate group of national races, on 26 January; proposals of the delegate group of peasants, the delegate group of workers,

Work Committee chairman. They submitted separate suggestions based on their experiences in the frame of the six objectives of the National Convention, and in the frame of the 104 basic principles laid down by the National Convention. Members of the alternate panels of chairmen will have to collect these proposals sector-wise and forward them to the plenary session of the National

panels of chairmen will have to compile their findings.

When the National Convention resumes, regarding legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Region or State Hluttaw, and the Chapter "Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens" and the Chapter "The Role of the Tatmadaw", detailed



National Convention plenary session in progress in Pyidaungu Hall. —MNA

People in all states, divisions...

(from page 10)

respective states and divisions. Invitations will be sent to the delegates in advance.

During the National Convention, the National Convention bulletin featuring group-wise discussions, matters relating to laying down detailed basic principles was published daily and it will serve as the invaluable record.

The delegates contributed articles, poems, novels and anecdotes with interest. They liked the bulletin and understood customs and culture of national races and it also contributes toward the national solidarity. The articles, poems, novels and anecdotes in the bulletin are published in a book form.

The minister thanked officials, staff, service personnel of the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Defence, Anyein troupe of Yangon Command, artistes of Myanmar Motion Picture, Music and Thabin Asiayons and wellwishers for their understanding, cooperation and donations.

He wished them a safe journey.

Next, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered a concluding speech.

Thanks to the ac-

tive, harmonious and cooperative efforts of the delegates, the National Convention has successfully adopted a number of detailed basic principles for writing a new constitution during the period of nearly two months beginning 5 December 2005.

The detailed basic principles the National Convention has successfully adopted concern the chapters included in the sharing of the executive and judicial power the delegates had discussed at the previous sessions for drafting the constitution.

the Work Committee Chairman concerning his study on the legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and Region and State Hluttaws, the delegates would have to consider whether the detailed basic principles presented by him should be adopted.

After free and frank discussions the delegates made group-wise on the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications, they submitted and read their papers at the plenary sessions held on 2, 3, 5, 6 and

delegates on their part made group-wise discussions and presented papers in the follow-up plenary sessions held on 24, 25, 26, 27 and 30 January.

The alternative panel of chairmen after thoroughly studying the group-wise papers that gave suggestions on or supported the clarifications, will compile a paper of their own in which suggestions and opinions of same essence were put together, for submission to the Work Committee.

The National Convention is adjourned today, for the Work Committee to take time to

tution and constitutions of world nations to lay down detailed basic principles for other chapters.

Because of the harmonious participation of the delegates, chapter-wise detailed basic principles can be adopted successfully at the National Convention up to now for writing a durable constitution. The delegates have already known that the people in all states and divisions after witnessing the progress in adopting the detailed basic principles have unanimously supported the National Convention.

I reiterate that the government will continue to convene the National Convention till its successful completion, while overcoming the disturbances of external and internal saboteurs, with the support of the entire national people and the unity of the delegates. I would also like to urge the delegates to serve the public interest with goodwill and relentless zeal without deviating from the course due to slan-

ders till the success has been fully achieved.

The coming sessions of the National Convention will be held at the time when the end of the present year is drawing nearer, during which farmers have less work as they have completed their cultivation season, to adopt the detailed basic principles for the chapters "the legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and the Region and State Hluttaws" and "Citizenship, Rights and Duties of Citizens" and "the Role of the Tatmadaw", on which the delegates have presented suggestions.

I thank the delegates, who held discussion in harmony and union for the success of the National Convention, and personnel of the Management Committee and support groups. The National Convention that resumed on 5 December 2005 was adjourned at 9.45 am today. —MNA

Because of the harmonious participation of the delegates, chapter-wise detailed basic principles can be adopted successfully at the National Convention up to now for writing a durable constitution.

The chapters are: Powers and Duties of the President, the Executive Power of the Union Government, the Executive Power of the Region or State Government, the Executive Power of the Leading Bodies of the Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones, the State Service Personnel, and the sharing of the Judicial Power.

At the plenary sessions held on 13, 14 and 15 December 2005 were the clarifications made by

9 January 2006 in the presence of all the representatives of the delegate groups.

The plenary session held on 10 January 2006 witnessed the Work Committee Chairman explaining the chapters "Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens" and "the Role of the Tatmadaw" of the chapters remaining to be clarified, and inviting suggestions from the delegates whether to adopt the detailed basic principles. The

study the group-wise papers and the 1947 Constitution, the 1974 Consti-

MWAF sponsors educative talks



Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe accepts membership applications for joining MWAF.

YCDC

YANGON, 31 Jan — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation sponsored talks at City Hall here this morning.

Personnel of MWAF, patrons of Yangon Division Organization for Women's Af-

fairs, chairperson and executives of division, district and township organizations, members of Women's Affairs Organization of Yangon City Development Committee and others were present.

Dr Daw Khin Hsan

Nwe extended greetings. She accepted 658 membership applications. Dr Ma Tin Win gave talks on ways to pursue a happy life. A total of 5,425 staff and families of YCDC have already joined the organization. —MNA

AGM of Kyaukse Association (Yangon) held

YANGON, 31 Jan — Annual general meeting of Kyaukse Association (Yangon) was held in conjunction with an award-presenting ceremony for outstanding students at the Dhamayon building of Yangon City Development Committee

on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here on 28 January morning.

Present on the occasion were Honorary Patron of Kyaukse Association (Yangon) Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaug and

wife Daw May Kyi Sein and Patron Daw Kyi Khin and executives.

A total of 12 children of association members, who passed 2005 matriculation examination with distinctions, were awarded. MNA

Explosion occurs in Pyu, no casualty

YANGON, 31 Jan — According to the information from a duty-conscious person to the effect that a suspicious packet was found at a shop in Pyu Development Market at 10.45 am on 30 January, the owner of the shop entrusted the bag to Pyu Police Station through the authorities concerned.

The packet was put at a secure place of the police station and kept under surveillance. At 11.45 am, the packet ex-

ploded, making a dent measuring 9 inches wide and 2 inches deep on the ground.

There were no casualties in the incident.

Upon investigation, the packet was placed there by a 13-year-old boy. When the boy was asked, it is learnt that a young man asked him to put the packet at the shop and he did so for money.

Efforts are being made to expose the unscrupulous destructive el-

ement who is responsible for the blast.

The terrorist insurgents are making an attempt to jeopardize community peace and tranquility and to cause panic among the public resorting to various ways and means.

As their wicked acts were denounced in the strongest terms by the people, they committed such perpetration using innocent children. MNA

Zhejiang province leads the way in per capita GDP

HANGZHOU, 31 Jan — Zhejiang Province has become the first Chinese province to register a per capita GDP of over 3,000 US dollars.

The province's GDP totalled 1.336 trillion yuan (167 billion US dollars) in 2005 - a per capita GDP of 3,400 US dollars compared to a per capita figure of 2,890 US dol-

lars the previous year.

Fast economic growth in recent years has brought great benefits to the people. By the end of last year, the proportion of urban families with a per capita disposable income lower than 8,000 yuan (about 1,000 US dollars) dropped to 14.4 per cent, 30 points lower than in 2000, according to the Zhejiang Provin-

cial Statistics Bureau.

The statistics show that the proportion of families with a per capita income ranging between 8,000 yuan and 20,000 yuan rose to 55.4 per cent and the proportion of families with a per capita income higher than 20,000 yuan shot up to 30.5 per cent from 3.4 per cent in 2000. —MNA/Xinhua

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China's real estate investment passes 5 trillion yuan mark

BEIJING, 30 Jan— The total investment in China's booming real estate sector has rocketed to an estimated 5.3 trillion yuan (657.6 billion US dollars) over the last five years.

According to the Chinese Ministry of Construction, China saw a rapid increase in real estate investment between 2001 and 2005, a crucial period in the country's rapid urbanization process.

Statistics show that the national real estate investment in the first 11 months of last year reached 1.324 trillion yuan, up on the total of 2004 — 1.316 trillion yuan. The ministry also revealed that by the end of 2005, the purchase of private housing had accounted for 93.2 percent of the total dealings, with

Chinese residents spending 968 billion yuan that year, about twice that of the year 2000. Chinese residents' total expenditure on houses in the past five years has exceeded 4 trillion yuan.

The blooming market has also promoted the development of the second-hand house market, reported the ministry. Currently, the total number of staff involved in house development, estate agents and property management have exceeded 4 million.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Ma Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for PFIZER ENTERPRISES S.A.R.L.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 1 February, 2006

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV LU SHAN VOY NO (64)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LU SHAN VOY NO (64) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/SULE 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (139)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (139) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Spain seized record 50 tons of cocaine in 2005

MADRID, 30 Jan— Spanish police seized a record 50 tons of cocaine last year and arrested nearly 2,000 people for drug trafficking, the government said on Sunday.

Spain, with its long coastline, has for years been viewed as an important entry point for Latin American cocaine to Europe.

The country ranks third behind Colombia and the United States in the amount of cocaine it seizes, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Spanish police also

confiscated more than 646 tons of hashish in 2005, the third highest annual total on record.

The ministry statement confirmed figures reported recently by newspaper *El Pais* which said that Spanish cocaine seizures in 2005 accounted for almost 60 per cent of the European total.

It said 50 tons of cocaine

ETA bomb at Spanish jobs agency injures policeman

MADRID, 30 Jan— A bomb exploded outside an office of the Spanish state employment agency in the Basque country early on Sunday, causing extensive damage and injuring a policeman, police said.

A Basque police statement blamed the separatist guerilla group ETA for the blast which occurred at about 2 a.m. (0100 GMT) at the Employment Institute (INEM) office in the Bilbao suburb of Santutxu.

Police received no warning of the explosion, but a passer-by alerted them to a suspicious bag outside the office 20 minutes before the blast, giving the police time to cordon off the area. The blast caused extensive damage to the office and broke glass in nearby houses and vehicles.

A Basque police officer was slightly hurt and treated at the scene for cuts on his hands, the police said. —MNA/Reuters

China's high-tech products export to US, EU exceeds \$150b

BEIJING, 30 Jan— Chinese Mainland's high-tech products export to the United States, Hong Kong and European Union (EU)

exceeded 150 billion US dollars in 2005, statistics from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

The sum included 52.04 billion dollars, 51.26 billion dollars and 49.94 billion dollars respectively to the three regions. The export volume of high-tech products to the three regions accounted for 31.3 per cent, 39.9 per cent and 33.4 per cent of the Mainland's total export.

The ratios increased by 14 percentage points, 21 percentage points and 12 percentage points respectively over those in 2000.

Currently, China's high-tech products are mainly imported from Asia and exported to the

United States and European Union. Up to 87.6 per cent of the Mainland's high-tech products are traded with the European Union, the United States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

The European Union remains the largest trade partner in the Chinese Mainland's high-tech products.

The bilateral trade volume of high-tech products with the European Union reached 69.35 billion dollars in 2005, ahead of the United States, which had a bilateral trade volume of 68.15 billion dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

China's export of cyber-products breaks \$100b mark

BEIJING, 30 Jan— China's export of cyber-products has exceeded 100 billion US dollars for the first time, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total export figure reached 104.84 billion US dollars in 2005. Export volume of notebook PCs, LCDs (Liquid Crystal Displays), ICs (Integrated Circuits) and HDDs (Hard Disk Drives) totalled 29.9 billion dollars, 14.54 billion

dollars, 14.01 billion dollars and 4.11 billion dollars respectively, up 43.9 per cent, 22.6 per cent, 30.9 per cent and 51.6 per cent from the previous year.

In 2005, the proportion of cyber-products from China's total export volume increased to 13.7 per cent from 7.9 per cent in 2001.

The ministry's statistics also showed that the export of communication products reached 72.28 billion dollars and electronic products hit 24.48 billion dollars, up 37.8 per cent and 32.7 per cent respectively from last year.

In 2005, the scale of China's high-tech industry was expected to reach 3.3 trillion yuan (412 billion dollars), up 780 billion yuan and accounting for 5.2 per cent of the gross domestic product. —MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတို့၏ အခန်းကဏ္ဍ နှစ်ဦးစီးဌာနကြီး တည်ထောင်ခွင့်



Toyota Motor Corp's President Katsuaki Watanabe unveils its redesigned Camry sedan in Tokyo on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Kuwait's new emir sworn in after Parliament approval

KUWAIT CITY, 30 Jan — Kuwait's new emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah was sworn in Sunday as the ruler of the oil-rich Gulf emirate after the National Assembly (Parliament) unanimously approved the Cabinet nomination.

The new Emir, 77, who had been the Prime Minister and is half brother of the late emir, take the oath before the legislators.

"I swear by Almighty God to respect the Constitution and the laws of the state, to defend the liberties, interests and properties of the people and to safeguard the in-

dependence and territorial integrity of the country," Sheikh Sabah said.

Earlier in the day, the National Assembly unanimously approved new emir Sheik Sabah by voting, ending an unprecedented leadership crisis that saw the legislature vote to oust the former leader.

In addition to 14 Cabinet members, 50 lawmakers of the Assembly

voted unanimously for the new emir who was nominated following last week's ousting of Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah by the Parliament for health reasons.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad had automatically become the emir to succeed his predecessor Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah who died on 15 January.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria, US launch HIV/AIDS partnership project

LAGOS, 30 Jan — A partnership scheme between Nigeria and the United States on HIV/AIDS control has yielded a liaison office and equipment for the use of personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces.

A government statement obtained on Saturday quoted Minister of State for Defence Rowland Oritsejafa for saying that with the formal take-off of the initiative, the Nigerian military would now use modern technology to coordinate its HIV/AIDS control programme.

The Minister stated that the partnership was historic as it signals the new focus of the world's military "to use its resources for each other and not to focus guns and other weapons on each other".

Among the items commissioned alongside treatment materials on Friday

in the capital Abuja are official and utility vehicles, a 50-KVA generator, communications equipment and other gadgets, the statement said.

Though the partnership programme is primarily for the use of the military personnel, civilians living within the barracks are to make use of the facilities for their treatment and test,

it said.

With more than 3.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, Nigeria today ranked third in the world, with children and young people being the most affected. Last month, Obasanjo pledged to provide free anti-retroviral treatment for the sufferers from 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Ten killed in head-on collision in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 30 Jan — Ten people have been killed in a head-on smash between a Toyota Tazz and VW Jetta on the Klerksdorp Wolmaran stad Road, about 200 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg, police said on Saturday.

Inspector Sam Tselinyane said: "We are not sure what happened, but there were seven people in the Tazz and six in the Jetta, including a six-year-old girl."

Five people — four women and a man — in the Tazz and four men in the Jetta died on impact on Friday night. The 10th person was travelling in the Jetta.

Tselinyane said he could not name the dead as their families had to still be informed.

MNA/Xinhua

Ten killed in billiard shooting in southern Philippines

MANILA, 30 Jan — Ten people, most of them teenagers, were shot dead and five oth-

ers were wounded in the southern Philippines, a local newspaper reported on Monday.

According to the report of Philippine Daily Inquirer online edition, the firing at a billiards hall in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur, on Sunday was suspectedly due to a family feud.

Citing the Chief Superintendent Akmad Malmalinta, police chief in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the report said that the victims were spectators of a billiard game.

According to the police, the gunman, whose son was killed in the same town in December, fired his assault rifle, killing eight on spot. Two others died in hospital afterwards.

MNA/Xinhua

Computer virus attacks to rise in 2006

CHENNAI, 30 Jan — Computer virus attacks like "spy-phishing" are expected to be on the rise this year, making them a "predominant concern" for individual companies, according to a report by a leading computer security concern.

The 2005 Annual Round-Up and 2006 Forecast by Trend Micro said, in 2005, the vast majority of threats were inspired by financial gains "rather than notoriety". More targeted attacks focussed on "certain company and their users" or on a particular group with a "common connection".

Spy-phising, a new kind of attack witnessed last year dealt with "the de facto usage of blended threats" motivated by financial gains. Attackers looked for other stealth methods and had found a more effective tool of them all called "rootkits". Towards end of 2005, rootkits were being used as the ultimate weapon to assist cloaking "malware and grayware" activity.

Rootkits modify the operating system behaviour to hide certain processes, files, folders and registry entries.

"Botworms", a special type of "hybrid threat", have been fast spreading "primarily due to the fact that they have become open sources developments, built in a modular fashion". The report said 2005 could be referred to as the "year of grayware", with 65 per cent of the top 15 threats (against software and hardware) accounting for nearly 11 million. —MNA/PTI

Big fire burns down university boarding house in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 30 Jan — A boarding house for female university students in Bangkok's Bang Kapi District was burnt down in a big fire, sending some 100 tenants to flee for their life, local police said here on Sunday.

"Five students were injured from inhaling smokes and no one was killed in the big fire which engulfed the four-storey building at 9:30 pm Saturday night," the police said, adding, "some 20 fire engines took about four hours to control blaze from

spreading to other buildings, but by that time the fire had apparently consumed the building."

"The fire started on the second floor and quickly spread to other floors as the owner of the buildings had modified the building as boarding house by installing wood walls to make more rooms for tenants," the police disclosed.

Most of the tenants are students of the Ramkhamhaeng University.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman stands at the Moscow Red Square, on 30 Jan, 2006, with St Basil's Cathedral in the background. Snow fell on Monday across Moscow, while temperatures reached -1 Celsius (30 Fahrenheit). —INTERNET

SPORTS



Tunisia's goalkeeper Hamdi Kasraoui (R) saves the ball in front of Guinea's Ismael Bangoura (L) during their African Nations Cup soccer match at Border Guard stadium in Alexandria, Egypt, on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Primera Liga match reports

MADRID, 31 Jan—Brief reports of Primera Liga matches played on Sunday:

Alaves 3 — Real Sociedad 1

Alaves earned their first home win of the season and increased the pressure on Sociedad coach Jose Maria Amorrortu.

The home side went ahead in the 34th minute when Nene's free kick was only cleared to the edge of the area from where Santiago Carpintero volleyed the opener.

Australian striker John Aloisi stabbed home the second from close range after 58 minutes, and sealed the win with a neat lob on the counter in the 86th minute. Sociedad's Dalibor Stevanovic scored a consolation goal for the visitors at the end.

Espanyol 3 — Malaga 1

Striker Raul Tamudo put Espanyol in front after 10 minutes heading Ivan de la Pena's free kick home, and had a penalty saved by Francesc Arnau in the 17th minute.

He made amends four minutes later steering De la Pena's deep cross in at the far post and strike partner Luis Garcia made it 3-0 chesting down Juanfran's pass and swivelling to fire past Arnau after 32 minutes.

Malaga defender Alexis thundered a 30-metre drive into the top corner five

minutes before the break but it did not stop Antonio Tapia's side slipping to the foot of the table.

Osasuna 0 — Real Betis 2

Osasuna continued to drop behind the leaders when they lost their unbeaten home record to a side who had not won away all season.

Betis took the lead in the 34th minute when Luis Fernandez on the edge of the area volleyed a great shot inside the far post.

A Joaquin free kick in the 60th minute was headed home by Brazilian forward Edu to seal the match for Betis.

Sevilla 2 — Villarreal 0

Sevilla's early persistence was rewarded in the 34th minute when Dani Alves threaded a ball into the path of Luis Fabiano for the Brazilian striker to lift the ball over the advancing Sebastian Viera.

Villarreal had midfielder Josico sent off just before the break for collecting two yellow cards in under a minute for arguing with the referee.

Jesus Navas crossed for Frederic Kanoute to volley the second at the far post in the 58th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Barcelona 12 points clear, Real win away

MADRID, 31 Jan — Barcelona returned to winning ways on Sunday with a 3-0 victory at second from bottom Real Mallorca to go 12 points clear at the top of the Primera Liga.

Real Madrid moved up to third after beating Celta Vigo 2-1 away. Barcelona have 52 points from 21 games. Valencia are on 40 with Real on 39.

Barcelona suffered their first defeat in 25 games when they lost 4-2 at Real Zaragoza in the King's Cup on Thursday. But the champions bounced back to make it 14 consecutive wins in the league against a robust Mallorca after Ludovic Giuly opened the scoring six minutes before the break.

Argentine striker Lionel Messi came off the bench to make sure of the points with two goals after Mallorca had defender Eduardo Tuzzio sent off in the 72nd minute. Second-placed Valencia scored twice in the last seven minutes to salvage a 2-2 draw at home to Zaragoza.

Zaragoza took control with goals from Sergio Garcia and Ewerthon but the dismissal of David Generolo and the introduction of Valencia striker Patrick Kluivert in the second half turned the game.

The Dutchman pulled a goal back in the 83rd minute and set up the second, a header by Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar six minutes later. Real's game at Celta Vigo was an end-to-end encounter which could have gone either way.

Brazilian forward Robinho collected Julio Baptista's pass after 17 minutes to fire Real in front, but five minutes before the break Argentine defender Matias Lequi stooped to head Angel's cross into the net. Robinho scampered clear on a swift counter-attack in the 57th minute to see his shot saved by Jose Manual Pinto, but Brazilian defender Cicinho followed up to score.

Both Pinto and Iker Casillas made important interventions with the Real keeper's save from David Silva's cross-cum-shot, that rebounded off the post and appeared to cross the line, vital to preventing an equaliser in the 68th minute.

Real are now unbeaten in the their last eight league and cup games.

MNA/Reuters

Cameroon top group, DR Congo qualify

CAIRO, 31 Jan — Cameroon made it three wins out of three at the African Nations Cup after striker Samuel Eto'o steered the Group B winners to a 2-0 victory over Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday.

DR Congo joined Cameroon in the quarter-finals on goal difference despite the defeat, edging out Angola who beat Togo 3-2 in the night's other game in Cairo.

Cameroon, who had already qualified for the last eight, took a 31st minute lead with 25-metre pile-driver from Chelsea midfielder Geremi and Eto'o added their second two minutes later.

DR Congo had defender Gladys Bokese dismissed in the 72nd minute for kicking out at

against Group A runners-up Ivory Coast next Saturday.

The Congolese take on host nation Egypt on Friday.

Cameroon's reward is a quarter-final place

MNA/Reuters



South Africa's Clifford Mulenga, left, and Zambia's Benedict McCarthy vie for the ball at the African Nations Cup Group C soccer match between South Africa and Zambia at Alexandria Stadium in Egypt on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Imperious Federer wins second Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 30 Jan—Top seed Roger Federer overcame an early scare to ease past Marcos Baghdatis 5-7, 7-5, 6-0, 6-2 on Sun-

day to win the Australian Open for the second time while capturing his seventh grand slam title.

The unflappable Swiss

rebounded from a nervous start when he dropped the first set with a string of unforced errors then trailed 2-0 in the second, to run away with the match and end Baghdatis's magical odyssey.

The unseeded Cypriot had captured the imagination of tennis fans the world over with his fairytale run to the championship match, but was unable to keep pace with Federer once the world number one raised his game.

Federer won 11 games in a row between the second and fourth sets then broke Baghdatis's serve to

seal victory and become the first man since Pete Sampras in 1993-94 to win three consecutive grand slams.

Federer won Wimbledon and the US Open last year and if he wins the French Open final in June, he will become the first man since Australian Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four grand slam titles. The 24-year-old Federer also joined American Richard Sears and Briton Will Renshaw as the only men to win their first seven grand slam finals. Sears and Renshaw both achieved the feat in the 1880s. —MNA/Reuters



Marin Cilic of Croatia returns the ball to Igor Andreev of Russia during their match at the ATP Zagreb Indoors Tennis Tournament in Zagreb, Croatia, on 30 Jan, 2006. Cilic won 2-1 (6-3, 1-6, 6-3). —INTERNET

Tests show no sign of bird flu in Romanian woman

BUCHAREST, 30 Jan — No sign of bird flu has been found in a Romanian woman suspected of having the deadly virus, according to preliminary laboratory test results released on Saturday.

Romania has found avian flu in poultry in 26 villages since October but has recorded no human cases.

Earlier on Saturday, the

81-year-old woman from one of the affected villages was admitted to hospital in the south-eastern town of Galati with symptoms similar to bird flu.

"Preliminary tests show no sign of bird flu. It looks like she has bronchitis," Adrian Streinu-Cercel, head of Romania's main virus laboratory in Bucharest, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Japan Minister under fire over US beef inspections

TOKYO, 31 Jan — Japan's Farm Minister came under fire on Monday as an opposition party called for his resignation after the minister admitted that he did not follow the Cabinet's policy of checking US meatpackers before resuming beef imports.

Japan earlier this month reinstated a ban on imports of US beef after cattle parts believed to carry a higher risk of mad cow disease were found in a shipment from the United States.

Last November, the month before Japan lifted the two-year-old ban, the Cabinet adopted a policy

that the government should inspect US meatpacking plants that would export beef to Japan to see if they complied with agreed procedures before resuming beef imports from the United States.

But Japan only started checking US meatpackers after it lifted

the ban on December 12. The first shipment of US beef in two years arrived at a Japanese airport on December 16.

Japan's Agriculture Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said the ministry did not act in accordance with the Cabinet's decision because it could not make a judgment about US compliance before US beef shipments to Japan resumed.

"I apologized for that," Nakagawa told an opposition party lawmaker in a House of Representatives Budget Committee session.

Seiji Maehara, the head of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, was quoted by Japan's *Kyodo News* agency as saying that Nakagawa should be dismissed.

Japan reimposed the ban on US beef and beef offal on January 20 after a shipment from New York was found to contain parts of a spinal cord, barred under the bilateral agreement.

MNA/Reuters

7,000 year-old sacrificial altar found in central China

BEIJING, 31 Jan — A sacrificial altar, dating back about 7,000 years, has been discovered in central China's Hunan Province, according to Chinese archaeologists.

The altar is the earliest sacrificial site so far found in China, said He Gang, a researcher with the Hunan Institute of Archaeology.

"Ancients prayed to the gods of nature, such as the gods of the earth, river and heaven," said He at a archaeological forum held by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences recently in Beijing.

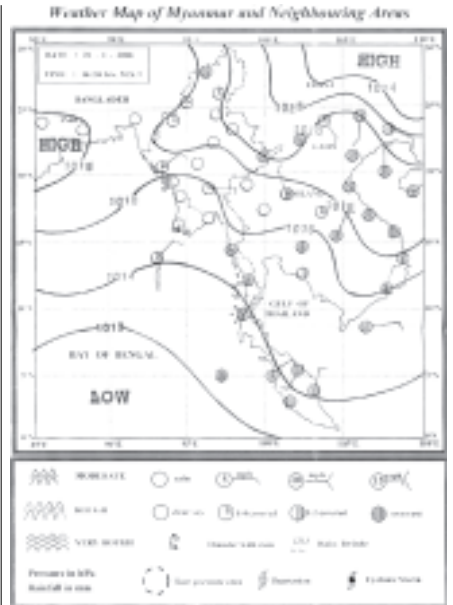
Archaeologists have found China's oldest white pottery specimens among the altar relics. The pottery is decorated with phoenix and beast patterns.

"The discovery of the altar is of great importance to research into the origin of religion and ancient civilization," said He. Located in Anbian Town, Hongjiang City of Hunan Province, the site covers an area of 1,000 square metres.

Bones of dozens of animals including deer, pigs, cattle, bears, elephants and rhinoceros have been excavated from the 39 sacrificial pits at the site.

Examination of the teeth of pigs dug up at the site indicated that they had been domesticated, He said, adding that this shows that animal husbandry had emerged at that time.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 31 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin State and Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C) and Mogok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-1-2006 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 31-1-2006 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 31-1-2006 was (78%). Total sunshine hours on 30-1-2006 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 31-1-2006 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 (18:05) hours MST on 30-1-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-2-2006: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-2-2006: Fair weather.

U Saw Hlaing

(Age, 88 years)

Advocate (Rtd)

Son of (U Hoke Sein) and (Daw Mya May), husband of (Daw Nyunt Nyunt), (Daw Khin Myint), residing at No 17 B, Pyay Road, 6th mile, Hline Township, beloved father of Dr U Aung Mon (Rector, University of Pharmacy, Yangon) and Dr Than Than Tin (Professor, Head, Dept. of OB/GYN, Yangon Central Women's Hospital, University of Medicine-1), grandfather of Dr. Saw Win Myint (Lat War Co. Ltd.), Dr San Yu Mon and Mg Phyo Than Htoo (final part II, IM-1) passed away on 29-1-2006, Sunday at 11:42 pm. Funeral service will be held at the Yayway Cemetery on 2-2-2006 at 11:00 am.

Buses will leave the above-mentioned residence at 9:00 am on 2-2-2006.

Bereaved family



Wednesday, 1 February
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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am
6. မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စုအဖွဲ့အစည်း
- 8:15 am
7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am
8. ခေါင်းစည်းအင်အား ရောဝင်တီ မြစ်ကူးတံတားများ

- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:45 pm
4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယပုဒ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ အထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm
5. Song of national races
- 5:10 pm
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:20 am
7. Classical song
- 5:30 pm
8. ရွှေပန်းခွယ် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:40 pm
9. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ လတ်ပွဲ
- 6:00 pm
10. Evening news

- 6:30 pm
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
12. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညွှန်ရှင်
- 7:05 pm
13. အနာကြီးရောဂါ ဆက်လက် ကင်းဝေးဖို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီ ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့
- 7:20 pm
14. သူ့အမြင် သူ့အတွေး သူ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်နှင့် သူ့ရွေးချယ်ခဲ့သောလမ်း
- 7:35 pm
15. အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေ ပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနုပညာ (အပိုင်း-၈)
- 8:00 pm
16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. ပဝေပွဲ နှစ်စဉ် ဆေးရောင်အကြိမ် (၁၃ ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ (ရုပ်သံ) "မင်းကုသဇာတ်တော်ကြီး" (ဒုတိယပုဒ်) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း) (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 20. The next day's programme



Wednesday, 1 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -It's all coming back to me now
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Get real

- 8:50 am National news & slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Moving on up
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Let's go childish
- 1:30 pm News & slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunchtime music: -Take a bow -When I need you -Nothing's gonna change my love for you -Stay with me
- 9:00 pm Variations on tune: -Unchained Melody
- 9:15 pm Article/music
- 9:25 pm Music at your request: -Only you -That's the way I like it -Love is a many splendored thing -Smile a little smile for me
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

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

People in all states, divisions witnessing progress in adopting detailed basic principles unanimously support National Convention
NCCC Chairman gives concluding remarks at NC plenary session



Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen of subcommittees, officials, delegates of National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and

Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Office of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee, and respective ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of national race groups that have returned to the legal fold and exchanged arms for peace. Before the Plenary Session, the NCCC chairman and members, the NCC Work Committee chairman and members, the NCC Management Committee chairman and members, chairmen of subcommittees and officials, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates signed the attendance books at the Pyidaungsu Hall and recreation hall for the delegates.

(See page 10)

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the NC delegates attended the convention with enthusiasm to complete National Convention proceedings of the seven-point Road Map laid down by the State.



Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the National Convention plenary session. —MNA

YANGON, 31 Jan — The plenary session of the National Convention went on at Pyidaungsu Hall in Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the NC

Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia and delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the SPDC Office, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party

INSIDE

Applying advanced technology plus the technical assistance of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Asia World Co undertook the project. Upon completion, the Shwedagon Pagoda replica structure will be 135 feet high with a 120-foot diameter and 60-foot high cave in it. So, the substantial building will be like a golden mountain standing magnificently with the resistance to rain, strong winds and even an earthquake.