

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 271

3rd Waxing of Pyatho 1366 ME

Wednesday, 12 January 2005

## Prime Minister receives Indian guests

YANGON, 11 Jan —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here at 3 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of India U Kyi Thein, Direc-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha.—MNA

tor-General of the U Soe Tint, Director-Department Thura U were accompanied by Myanmar Mr Rajiv Prime Minister's Office General of the Protocol Aung Htet and, the guests Indian Ambassador to Kumar Bhatia.—MNA

## National Convention resumes on 17 Feb NC Delegates to arrive Nyaunghnapin Camp not later than 15 February

### National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee, Management Committee meet

YANGON, 11 Jan—The National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Manage-

ment Committee held a work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the NCCC in Kyaikkasan Grounds

here at 4 pm today, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council

Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the NCCC Minister for Electric

Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and commission mem-

bers, Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and work committee members, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and management committee members and others.

Joint Secretary-2 of the NCCC Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

In his address, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the meeting of the NCCC held on 23 November 2004 had already announced that the National Convention (See page 16)



Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee.—MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 12 January, 2005

### Promote Myanmar sports and uplift dignity of the nation and the people

The sports world today is making a rapid progress and capability of sportsmen and sports-women has also become higher, sports technics better and fitness of sportsmen and sportswomen stronger.

Sports are not just competitions but serve as a bridge of friendship between peoples and all nations take part in the International Olympic Games.

Myanmar athletes once took part in the games held not only in Southeast Asia but also in the Olympics as well. Myanmar sports world was crowned with victories especially in the soccer and track and field. In accordance with one of the four social objectives, viz, uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, the government is encouraging sports and the entire national people are giving their full support Myanmar sports teams, looking forward to their success.

The opening ceremony of the First South East Asian Archery Championships was held at the Kyaikkasan Archery Ground in Yangon on 10 January and it was attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The art of archery has been well known to Myanmar since ancient times but it is only for a few years that Myanmar archers have taken part in the international archery competitions.

Even though the existence of Myanmar Archery Federation is still young, the development programme of archery has been implemented tremendously under the leadership and guidance of Myanmar National Olympic Council, Myanmar Olympic Committee and Ministry of Sports by taking part in the continental and regional games and in the international and world archery championships and by hosting the continental, regional and invitational championships.

Altogether 76 archers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Laos and Myanmar are taking part in the First South East Asian Archery Championships being held in Yangon.

The purpose of hosting sports meets and taking part in those held in the countries in southeast Asia and other regions is to promote mutual understanding and friendship not only between the athletes but also between their nations.

At a time when the government is doing everything in its power to enhance Myanmar sports standard, we would like to call on Myanmar athletes to try their level best to win victories for the sake of the dignity of the nation and the people.

### Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 26-30 January

YANGON, 5 Jan—With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Street here from 26 to 30 January. The fair will house a large number of booths displaying stationery, automobiles, perfumes, agricultural implements, pumps, construction tools, farm implements, automobiles polishes, rust stain removers, lawn mowers, different kinds of glues, saws, aluminium ladders, generators, locks, room decorations, photocopiers and laser printers. In addition to entertainment programmes, the fair will also organize an art competition. Contestants may contact the company or dial 298128 or 295613 on 24 January latest.— 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

### Measures taken for upper Paunglaung hydro electric power project inspected

YANGON, 11 Jan — Accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and officials concerned, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint went on an inspection tour of upper Paunglaung hydro electric power project, east of Pynmana, Madalay Division being implemented by the Ministry of Electric Power on 8 January.

In response to the reports presented by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials, the minister instructed them to upgrade 31-mile long approach road into on all-weather one, to make efforts to complete feasibility study of meteorolog, hydrology and geology and to carry out engineering tasks. The project will help present Paunglaung hydro electric power project increase generating of electric power

yearly and supply the required water to it. Now measures are being taken for construction of the approach road, meteorological and geological survey and drawing designs at the same time. On arrival at Khabaung hydro electric power project, 18 miles west of Oktwin, Bago Division on the following day, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and directors-general inspected the chosen place for construction of power station and construction tasks of tunnel and water intake. The minister instructed officials concerned to make efforts to complete the project tasks earlier than schedule, to carry out the tasks with energetic efforts in open season, to use fuel, cement and construction materials efficiently, to minimize loss and wastage and to guard against occupational hazards and to take measure the project tasks in cooperation with other departments.— MNA

### Officials discuss 30-year plan of meat and fish sector

YANGON, 11 Jan — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein took part in the meeting to materialize the aims of the 30-year plan of the meat and fish sector today at the Fisheries Department in Yangon.

Officials of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Livestock and Fisheries Depart-

ment, the Fisheries Department, Livestock, the Feedstuff and Dairy Enterprise and the Apiculture Department discussed the implementation of the 30-year plan, feedstuff production and consumption, sea fish and prawn farming, and bee keeping.

The minister made arrangements to facilitate the work to realize the aims. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein addresses the meeting for implementation of the 30-year plan of meat and fish sector.

LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES



### GAD opens on-job training course No 3

YANGON, 11 Jan—The General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs opened its on-job training course No 3 for administrative staff grade (I) at the management development training centre this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, departmental heads of the ministry, commissioners and deputy commissioners, the principal, course instructors and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the course was aimed at producing competent town-

ship administrative officers equipped with patriotism, nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit. The Head of State has given guidance on establishment of a modern administrative machinery which is in conformity with existing laws, he said. Adhering to the guidance, the trainees are to make efforts in the process to see to the four major tasks in the interests of the people, he added. In conclusion, he called on the trainees to study hard to contribute towards progress of border areas and to put the guidance into reality.

A total of 62 trainees are attending the 14-week course. — MNA

RESPECTS PAID: The respect-paying ceremony of Institute of Medicine-2 (Yangon) was held at Myanmar Medical Association on 8-1-2005. Old students (1980-1985) paying respects to the retired teachers.— H





A worker at the Shijiazhuang Changshan Textile factory inspects thread for export quality cotton fabric between heavy machinery on the workfloor recently.

INTERNET



## China's new rule blocks foreign auctioneers

**BEIJING, 10 Jan**—Despite partial opening of China's auction market at the end of 2004, the enthusiasm of major international auction houses has been somewhat diluted by the ban on auctions of Chinese antiques, reported Monday's *China Daily*.

According to a new regulation effective on 1 January, foreign companies are allowed to hold auctions on the Chinese Mainland.

"We found cultural protection rules have not been changed. Those restricted by the rules are in fact the most promising business for us," said Shan Jing, manager at Christie's Beijing representative

office, was quoted as saying.

But some analysts said foreign auction houses may still find room for growth with the issue of the new regulation.

China prohibits foreign auctioneers from dealing ancient Chinese artwork on the Chinese Mainland or from taking them outside the Chinese Mainland.

MNA/Xinhua

## Dhaka to seek passage through India to import power

**DHAKA, 11 Jan**— Bangladesh would seek passage through Indian territories to import electricity from Nepal and Bhutan in exchange for allowing a tri-nation gas pipeline through Bangladesh.

It would be part of a regional energy and power-sector cooperation Bangladesh would propose at a discussion in Yangon on 12 January among Bangladesh, India and Myanmar on the proposed trans-boundary gas pipeline, *The Financial Express* reported on Monday.

The report quoted official sources as saying that Bangladesh would propose to include Nepal and Myanmar in the cooperation so that it could import power, if needed be, from the two countries using Indian territories.

A Bangladeshi private company, the Mohona

Holdings Limited, has proposed to install the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline to facilitate energy-hungry India's gas import from Myanmar.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain said Sunday that the country would like to see the gas pipeline installed under a regional energy cooperation.

He leaves the city Tuesday for Yangon for discussion on 12 January with his counterparts from Indian and Myanmar on the proposed gas pipeline. —MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese banks face increasing pressure to improve quality

**BEIJING, 10 Jan**— Increased competition product standardization and pressure to cut costs will be common agendas for the successful management of the banks in China, reported Monday's *China Daily*.

According to a customer service survey regarding banks in China by the newspaper, which asked respondents to rank the features of "good customer service", the banks in China have a long way to go to improve their levels of customer service satisfaction.

The survey also showed that 85 per cent of the respondents said they would switch their business to a bank that provided better customer service, suggesting that there is no brand loyalty to banks in China.

"It is time for China's banks to wholeheartedly embrace the concepts, understanding and practices of superior customer services," said the newspaper. —MNA/Xinhua

## China issues stamps to commemorate centennial anniversary of movie

**CHANGCHUN, 10 Jan**— A series of special stamps were issued Sunday in northeast China's Jilin Province to commemorate the advent of movie in China for a whole century.

The issuance by the China National Philatelic Corp (CNPC) also become one of the celebrations for the China Changchun Film Festival, which falls on 10 January.

The volume of the stamps totals 10,000 copies, with each costing 100 yuan (12 US dollars). "We expect the stamps to reflect the historical progress in Chinese film industry, and hope to promote the common development of

Chinese film and philatelic markets," said Luo Guilin, deputy general manager of the CNPC.

In 1905, a Beijing photo studio shot a silent movie featuring a Peking Opera drama, marking the birth of movie in China. Established in 1992 in Changchun, dubbed "the cradle of Chinese film", the China Changchun Film Festival has become a major event for Chinese film industry. —MNA/Xinhua

## Ukraine orders troops withdrawn from Iraq

**KIEV, 10 Jan**—President Leonid Kuchma on Monday ordered the foreign and defence ministries to develop a plan for withdrawing Ukraine's troops from Iraq within six months, a day after eight of its soldiers were killed in an explosion at an ammunition dump.

Ukraine, whose 1,650 troops are the fourth-largest contingent in the US-led military operation in Iraq, previously expressed intentions to withdraw this year, but the order apparently speeds up the timetable. Sunday's

fatal blast in Iraq was reported as an accident, but acting land forces commander Lt-Gen Volodymyr Mozharovsky said Monday that investigators were looking into the possibility that it was an attack. He said

witnesses reported seeing a car apparently watching the soldiers shortly before the blast, raising the possibility that the explosion could have been set off by remote control. In all, 16 Ukrainian soldiers have died in Iraq. —Internet

## Paris actively searching for reporter missing in Iraq

**PARIS, 10 Jan**—French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said that Paris was doing everything possible to find a newspaper journalist who went missing in Iraq along with her translator five days ago.

"We know about her courage. We are currently compiling all the information needed in order to bring about the happy ending we all want and are hoping for," Raffarin told reporters attending a New Year's reception.

Florence Aubenas, a senior correspondent

for the left-leaning French daily *Liberation*, has not been seen or heard from since last Wednesday, when she left her Baghdad hotel with translator Hussein Hanun al-Saadi.

Late in the day, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said he still had no conclusive information

about the reasons for the disappearance of the 43-year-old Aubenas.

"We still don't know for sure what the reasons are for this disappearance, and we're following up with all possible verifications and searches," Barnier told a press conference.

Internet



Members of the Royal Fusiliers guard Iraqis in Basra recently. —INTERNET

# China to launch nat'l private credit appraisal system this year

**BEIJING, 11 Jan**— China is expected to launch its first national private credit appraisal system later this year, one of the several major financial infrastructures China planned to put in place this year, an expert said over the weekend.

Li Yang, director of the Finance Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the system will play an important role for China to control financial risks.

Addressing the 2005 Fortune China Seminar over the weekend in Beijing, Li, also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of China's central bank, said China has set up a national corporate credit record system, and a number of private credit appraisal systems have also been established in some areas.

A lack of a national private credit record system has been blamed for the high risks the country's banks are faced with when offering credit loans.

Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the Central Bank, said a lack of a national credit appraisal system in China is the major reason behind the high bad loan rate of the country's state-owned commercial banks, which dominate the country's credit loan market.

Su Ning, deputy governor of the Central Bank, said the Chinese central

government has set up a task force to help establish national corporate and private credit appraisal systems.

Shanghai, the first city on the Chinese Mainland authorized to collect personal credit information, leads other provinces or municipalities around the country in introducing a personal credit system.

The personal credit rating system in Shanghai, China's biggest banking and economic centre, is beginning to take shape as one in four residents have their personal credit files recorded by an authorized credit information company.

A spokesperson for the Shanghai Credit Information Service Co. authorized to gather the information said that the company had collected credit records on 5.21 million residents in Shanghai, or 80 per cent of the city's credit consumers ranging from 6 million to 7 million.

It also gathered credit information on 600,000 large and medium-sized firms.

MNA/Xinhua

# Bangladesh increases food import in July-November period

**DHAKA, 11 Jan**—Import of food grains especially rice surged significantly, inflating Bangladesh's total import bills during the first five months of the current year.

The New Age Monday quoted statistics of the Bangladesh Bank, the national bank of the country, as saying that the value of letters of credit opened for importing rice increased by 84.3 per cent over the previous fiscal, while L/Cs for wheat and pulses were up by 83.5 per cent and 68.3 per cent respectively.

Value of L/Cs opened for rice import was 119.57 million US dollars, for wheat 191.62 million dollars and for pulse 90 million dollars during July-November of the current fiscal as traders

eye the local market that sees a significant price hike of food grains, mainly rice and wheat.

Total value of L/Cs opened during the period stood at 5.76 billion dollars, up from 4.55 billion dollars of the July-November of 2003-2004 fiscal.

The price of rice in local market rose in August and September following floods that hurt both local production and supply from import. The upward trend continued till the end of 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis walk out of their houses following a Katyusha rocket attack, which damaged a nearby civilian house in Baghdad, on 10 Jan, 2005.—INTERENT

စက်မှုဦးစီးဌာန ခေတ်တော်သွား

# Freight complex to come up in Delhi for Commonwealth Games

**NEW DELHI, 11 Jan**— A massive freight complex is to be constructed in the Indian capital ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games, according to *Indo-Asian News Service Sunday*.

The contract for the planning and design of the Integrated Freight Complex at Dwarka in the city's southwest has been assigned to the Delhi State Industrial Development Corp (DSIDC).

The DSIDC, which has undertaken over 6 billion rupees worth of projects in the last five years, has also been asked to construct 15 combined effluent treatment plants for the 21 industrial areas in

Delhi.

Of this, 10 plants have already been built, a DSIDC statement said.

For the Commonwealth Games in 2010, the Delhi Government has assigned over two billion rupees (some 44 million dollars) for a total infrastructure overhaul of the city. The next Commonwealth Games will be held in March 2006 in Melbourne. — MNA/Xinhua

# Abbas wins Palestinian election with 62-3% of vote

**RAMALDAH, WEST BANK, 10 Jan**—Mahmoud Abbas won election as Palestinian President with more than 60 per cent of the votes officials said on Monday, strengthening his hand to end years of bloodshed and resume peace talks with Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon who is expected to seek an early meeting with Abbas once he takes office, said the real test would now be Palestinian "action in terror". Abbas won 62.3 per cent of the vote in Sunday's ballot in the West Bank.

Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem to find a successor to Yasser Arafat, the Central Electoral Commission said.

MNA/Reuters



A group of 20-year-olds all in traditional kimono react as they ride on a roller coaster following their Coming-of-Age ceremony at Tokyo's Toshimaen amusement park on 10 Jan, 2005.

INTERENT

# Baghdad police chief shot dead as violence flares across Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 11 Jan**—Guerillas shot dead Baghdad's deputy police chief and his son yesterday and killed four police officers in a separate suicide bomb attack.

Elsewhere, a roadside bomb exploded in south-western Baghdad, killing two United States soldiers. Four others were wounded in the blast which destroyed a heavily armoured Bradley fighting vehicle.

The attack came four days after a powerful roadside bomb hit another Bradley, killing all seven US soldiers inside.

Baghdad's deputy police chief, Brigadier Amer Ali Nayef was assassinated with his son, Lieutenant Khalid Amer, also a police officer, when gunmen sprayed machine-gun fire from two cars.

Al-Qaeda in Iraq, the group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, posted a statement on the

internet claiming responsibility for the assassinations, describing the policemen as foreign "agents," and warning Iraqis co-operating with the US-led military that they would meet the same fate.

In a separate attack yesterday, a suicide car bomb exploded in the courtyard of a police station in southern Baghdad, killing at least four policemen and wounding ten others. A fake police car packed with explosives was used in the attack.

In other violence, three Iraqi National Guard soldiers were killed and six were injured in the northern city of Mosul when their joint patrol with US troops was attacked using a roadside bomb.

Internet

## China recorded 14 trillion yuan in total futures trading in 2004

BEIJING, 11 Jan — China's total futures trading in 2004 was valued at 14 trillion yuan (1.7 trillion US dollars), up 45 per cent year-on-year, according to the latest figures released by the China Securities Regulatory Commission over the weekend.

The commission, which oversees the markets of stock, futures and other securities, said a total of 97 firms were added to the list of listed firms on the Chinese Mainland last year, bringing the total number of listed firms to 1,377.

Through stocks and bonds offering, Chinese firms gathered 86.6 billion yuan (10.5 billion US dollars) worth of capital on the domestic securities market last year, up 5.28 per cent, the commission said. A total of 55 funds that specialize in securities markets were launched in 2004, which collected 186.2 billion yuan (22.7 billion US dollars) in capital, up 158.7 per cent, more than the combined volume of the previous

years, said the commission.

During a two-day national meeting on securities and futures regulation held by the commission, which ended on Friday, the commission said it will continue to facilitate a multi-tiered securities market system, and deepen initial public offering systems this year. The watchdog introduced regulations on a new pricing system for initial public offerings (IPOs), also known as an IPO enquiry system, from 1 January, 2005.

This represents one of the major efforts it has made to strengthen institutional arrangement for the country's securities market and protect the legitimate interests of

investors.

Under the new regulations, firms planning to launch IPOs will have to inquire about share prices among institutional investors, and the final IPO price will be decided by the result of the inquiry.

The commission also vowed to promote corporate governance among listed firms and healthy development of securities firms and institutional investors, and continue to protect the legitimate interests of minority stock holders.

Sentiment has been weak for the past four years due to irregularities by listed firms and structural problems of the stock markets.

MNA/Xinhua

## India, Italy to step up bilateral trade

NEW DELHI, 11 Jan — India and Italy agreed Monday to step up trade flows and explore enhanced cooperation in textile clusters and design.

This was indicated in the minutes of the 16th session of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation, signed by Commerce Minister Kamal Nath and Italy's Minister for Production Activities Antonio Marzano, the *Press Trust of India* quoted an official release as saying here.

Although the two-way trade between India and Italy has increased to 2.77 billion US dollars during 2003-04, both sides noted that it did not reflect the true potential. Nath said the bilateral trade between the two countries could be doubled to five billion US dollars within the next two-three years.

Both sides have decided to explore enhanced cooperation in textile clusters and design through National Institute of

Fashion Technology besides cooperation in leather, gems and jewellery, food processing, IT, tourism and energy.

On the issue of problems faced by Indian marine products exporters in Italy, both sides have agreed to expedite signing of memorandum of understanding for aquaculture and fishing products during the state visit of Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi in February 2005.

The two countries would set up a bilateral task force for development of industrial clusters and to foster cooperation between small and medium enterprises. India has also asked Italy to participate in infrastructure projects and special economic zones.

MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese official welcomes discussion of charter flights issue

BEIJING, 11 Jan — A Chinese Mainland official welcomed Taiwan's efforts of sending a delegation here to discuss the charter flights issue as the Chinese Lunar

New Year approaches, according to the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council.

"If Taiwan can keep its words and is willing to take flexible measures," said Chen Yunlin, director of the office, "The Mainland-Taiwan air links this year can be definitely attainable."

The air link between the two sides has been a long-standing issue, and it becomes particularly prominent during China's Lunar New Year, when many Taiwan residents choose to fly back to see their relatives on the island, and vice versa.

"We propose direct, round trip flights between the two sides with mutual participation, and the flights can ply several places in China's mainland," said Chen.

The Taiwan authorities agreed to the indirect charter flights in 2003's

Spring Festival on certain conditions: only Taiwanese airlines could operate the charter flights; the flights have to fly the routes by landing in a third place and the flight should be only one way, no passengers should be carried on the trip back. China's Mainland holds that the issue should be based on non-government cooperation and air companies of both sides could discuss detailed issues in a practical manner, Chen said.

A four-member delegation headed by Tseng Yung-chuan from Taiwan arrived in Beijing Sunday afternoon for discussion of chartered flights. The delegation said at the airport that they received calls from Taiwan businessmen and their relatives, asking them to make efforts for the operation of chartered flights on the festive occasion for family reunion.

MNA/Xinhua

## Australian diver missing while diving in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 9 Jan — Australian diver Dave Shaw went missing on Saturday while diving in South Africa, in one of the world's deepest fresh-water caves, in an attempt to retrieve the remains of a man who died there 10 years ago.

Shaw, one of a team of eight international divers, failed to meet one of his partners at what would have been his first designated stop some 220 metres on his way back to the surface.

Police said Shaw and other deep-water experts had found Deon Dreyer's remains in the cave in the Northern Cape by chance on a previous expedition and had decided to try to recover them.

"We cannot make any assumptions yet (on Shaw's fate)," police commissioner Ben Groenewald, head of the national police emergency services, said after the dive, one of the most difficult Shaw had attempted, was called off.

"The recovery attempt has been called off, the first priority is to see if Dave will come up," he said, adding that a decision on whether to search for Shaw would be taken later. The divers plunged into the 280-metre deep Boesmansgat

(Bushman's cave), which police said was the third-deepest fresh-water cave in the world, at 0415 GMT on Saturday, aiming to bring Dreyer's body to the surface by early evening.

Dreyer, a South African, blacked out and drowned while diving in the cave in 1994, aged 20, during a family holiday.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi girl watches angrily as US Marines from Lima Company patrol the devastated city of Fallujah on 10 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## Two US soldiers killed in Baghdad bomb attack

BAGHDAD, 11 Jan — A roadside bomb ripped through an Abrams tank Monday in Baghdad, killing two US soldiers and wounding four others, the US military said.

The blast destroyed the tank and the wounded were evacuated to a military medical facility for treatment, the military said in a statement.

The Abrams is one of the heaviest armoured vehicle used by the US troops.

With the approach of the 30 January parliamentary elections, guerillas have intensified their attacks against Iraqi officials, US troops and Iraqi security guards to destabilize the situation in the war-ravaged country.

MNA/Xinhua



A street scene is reflected off the glass surface of a modern office building in Beijing, China, Tuesday, on 11 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## Senior official explains China's major health challenges

**BEIJING, 11 Jan** — China now faces three major challenges in building its health systems, Gao Qiang, Executive- Vice Health Minister, said Monday at an annual meeting of the Ministry of Public Health. "Its response network to possible health emergencies is still not very tight".

Gao acknowledged China is frequented by epidemic outbreaks, mass food poisoning incidents and serious traffic and natural disasters on vast territory with a huge population.

He said the situation has changed greatly in the recent two years since Chinese Government departments at various levels began to pay more attention to the building of public health systems and risk response mechanism. "But we still have numerous weak points in view of our work style, team work, mechanism and financial input... Those points result in even weaker links in medical care at local levels," he added. Noting that the second challenge lies in the

threat of the spread of killer diseases, Gao said "HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, schistosomiasis and Hepatitis are far from being contained in his country with high prevalent rate and huge number of patients."

Meanwhile, he said chronic non-communicable diseases including sarcomata, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes are posing risks to the health of people. The Chinese vice health minister referred the third challenge to lower accessibility to health services. "Nearly 48.9 per cent of Chinese people cannot afford to see doctors when they fall ill and 29.6 per cent are not hospitalized whenever they should be," Gao said, quoting a sur-

vey outcome released last month by the Ministry of Health.

He ascribed the problems to five reasons, including China's lack of medical resources, imbalance distribution of the resources, low coverage of medicare system, fast rise of medical costs, and inadequate government input.

China has 22 per cent of the world's total population with only 2 per cent of world's medical resources. "Among those resources, 80 per cent of them are in cities and only 20 per cent in rural areas," Gao said. "The imbalance of resource distribution makes it ever harder for rural residents to access needed medical care." — *MNA/Xinhua*



## China to send 5,000 college teachers abroad yearly for more studies

**BEIJING, 11 Jan** — The Chinese Government will start from this year to send 5,000 young college teachers abroad each year to study for doctor's degree or undertake academic research in top foreign universities.

"This will be the largest in scale for the government to fund so many teachers to study abroad," said Zhou Ji, Minister of Education, at a ceremony on the project of sending outstanding young teachers to study abroad in Wuhan over the weekend.

The project, set up by the China Scholarship Council, plans to select academic leaders, promising scholars and outstanding young and middle-aged teachers to take further study abroad.

The project will be covered by the China Scholarship Council and universities the teachers work with.

About 50 universities participate in this programme, among which 28 universities, including the prestigious Peking University, Tsinghua University and Nankai University, signed on the project as the first group on Sunday. Others will join in the programme by the end of January.

*MNA/Xinhua*



*Wedding photographers take pictures of Chinese couples after a mass wedding in the city of Qinhuangdao, North China's Hebei Province, on 10 Jan, 2005.*

INTERNET

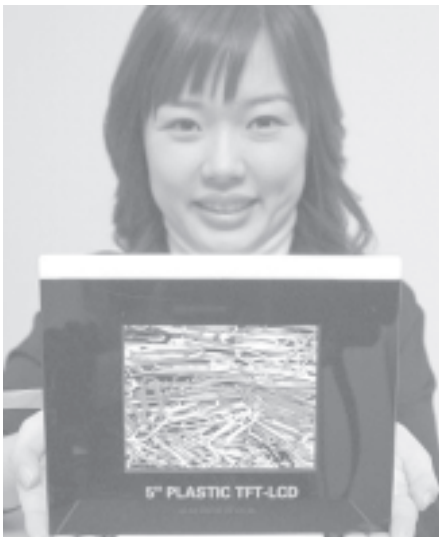
## Samsung develops largest plastic TFT-LCD display

**SEOUL, 11 Jan**—South Korea's Samsung Electronics said it has developed the world's largest five-inch, flexible plastic flat panel display for mobile phones and other portable applications.

Samsung said it used pliable plastic instead of rigid glass to develop its new TFT-LCD display. The plastic will not break and the external design can be freely shaped making potential applications virtually limitless. Plastic panels will enable numerous other new applications including wearable displays with helmets, glasses and other fashion related accessories.

"Future customer requirements dictate that we take this next step in the evolution of TFT-LCD technology," Kyuha Chung, Vice President of research and development for Samsung's LCD Business, said in a statement.

"By working with our partners in this research and development effort, we'll be able to solidify our leadership position in new emerging market applications for plastic LCD displays." — *Internet*



*Samsung Electronics employee holds up the five-inch transmissive plastic flat panel display on 11 Jan, 2005. —INTERNET*

## Uganda to host regional conference on petroleum potential

**KAMPALA, 11 Jan** — About 300 delegates from east African countries will meet here from March 2 to 4 to discuss the region's petroleum potential, local Press reported on Monday.

Assistance Commissioner at the Energy Ministry Ernest Rubondo was quoted as saying that the participants will include international and local petroleum investors.

"We want to increase the public's awareness of the region's petroleum potential," Rubondo said.

It was reported that Uganda has spent over 40 million US dollars in oil exploration in Semlik

Valley in the western region.

The three east African countries import oil worth over 1 billion US dollars annually. Among them, Uganda spends about 160 million dollars, Tanzania 320 million dollars and Kenya 650 million dollars.

The conference is being organized by the East African Community secretariat. *MNA/Xinhua*

## Manufacturing investment in Singapore to decline in 2005

**SINGAPORE, 11 Jan**— Manufacturing investment in Singapore is expected to decline by 3.6 per cent to about five billion US dollars in 2005 as compared with that of last year.

According to a statement by the Economic Development Board (EDB) on Monday, the drop is the result of the softening in the global electronics sector as electronics accounts for more than half of the city state's manufacturing investment.

At the same time, the EDB expects investment in the services sector, including infocomm and media services, logistics, and engineering and environmental services, to grow in 2005.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Vietnam reports one more human bird flu case

**HANOI, 11 Jan**— An 18-year-old girl from Vietnam's southern Tien Giang has just been confirmed to have contracted bird flu, and another positive case has died of the disease, local newspaper *Youth* reported on Monday.

Testing by the Hospital of Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City showed that the girl from Cai Lay District, who was admitted to the hospital on 6 January, showed that samples from the patient, who lives in an area suffering bird flu-infected fowls, were positive to bird flu virus H5N1. Her health condition has been worsening. A 16-year-old girl from Duong Minh Chau District in southern Tay Ninh Province, who was confirmed to have contracted H5N1 and treated by the hospital, died on 8 January after two weeks of treatment.

She slaughtered sick chickens for meals. Now, the hospital is treating suspected case of bird flu infection from Tien Giang's Chau Thanh District. Since late December 2004, the hospital has re-

ported four cases of H5N1 infections.

Among the fatality cases, a nine-year old boy from southern Tra Vinh Province died 4 January, and a six-year-old boy in southern Dong Thap Province died 30 December. All of them had direct or indirect contact with sick poultry. On 7 January, Vietnam's Ministry of Health officially announced the country had detected three human cases of H5N1 infections since 16 December, 2004.

They were from Tay Ninh, Dong Thap and Tra Vinh provinces. In late March 2004, Vietnam declared an end to the bird flu that killed 17 per cent of its poultry population and claimed 23 human lives during the previous outbreak starting in December 2003.

*MNA/Xinhua*

# Kyawzi will help double cultivation of crops

The Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is taking measures for an adequate supply of irrigation water, the most essential thing for agriculture, by pumping river waters after drawing plans.

The news crew of *Myanma Alin* visited

Kyawzi river water-pumping project in Taungtha township, Myingyan district, on 29 December 2004.

The project has supplied water for cultivation of monsoon paddy since its construction was under way in 2003-2004, explained a staff officer of the project. A total of

4,051 acres of monsoon paddy could be fed with water although the project was initially targeted to supply water to 4,000 acres of monsoon paddy in 2003-2004.

A total of 4,176 acres against targeted 4,300 acres were put under monsoon paddy in 2004-2005. In the past, Sunkan

Dam located between Thabaung and Kyawzi contributed to putting over 2,000 acres under paddy.

But now, the total acreage increased to over 4,000 thanks to Kyawzi

river water-pumping project. Sunkan Dam stores river water and feeds them into the farmland, and Kyawzi river water-pumping project adds an additional required amount of water.

Kyawzi river water-pumping project is designed to irrigate some 8,000 acres of farmland located in the vicinity of Taungtha township.

A total of 705 acres against the intended 1,000 acres were put under summer paddy in 2003-2004.

Plans are under way to put 4,000 acres under paddy, 2,000 acres under edible crops, and 2,000 acres under other crops.

The water is pumped out of the Ayeyawady River from the main pumping station with the use of two pontoons.

Arrangements have

*Article by Kyaw Sein*

*Photo by Thein Win Lay (Myanma Alin)*

been made to distribute water from two pumping stations after being constructed.

Under the urbanization plan, the government spent K 389.632 million on Kyawzi river water-pumping project, K 442.614 million on electric power projects, K 64.52 million on pumping stations, and K 63.56 million on shipbuilding projects, totalling K 960.36 million.

The implementation of Kyawzi river water-pumping project will help boost crop cultivation and production in the north-west part of Taungtha township.

All in all, the project will no doubt turn out to be a beneficial undertaking to the country.

**Translation: KTY**  
*Myanma Alin: 11-1-2005*

\*\*\*\*\*



*Kyawzi River Water Pumping Project.*

## Coordination meeting of Attorney-General and State/Division and district law officers held

YANGON, 11 Jan—The 26th coordination meeting of the Attorney-General and State/Division and district law officers was held at the Attorney-General's Office this morning.

Present were Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Attorneys-General Dr Tun Shin, U Han Shein and U Myint Naing, Director-General U Mya Nyein, Deputy Director-General of Attorney-General's Branch Office (Mandalay) U Tin Myint and officials.

In his address, Attorney-General U Aye Maung said it is necessary to draft laws correctly in such a way that the pub-

lic can understand them and the laws will cover the policies laid down by the government. He spoke of the need to nurture the new generation to hand down the tasks.

He said English proficiency in legal matters is essential because the law advisory board makes suggestions that whether Myanmar should sign international conventions, regional agreements and bilateral agreements or not. Law officers are to judge the case in accord with the existing law.

Regarding the qualifications of good leaders, he quoted Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than

Shwe as saying at the graduation parade of No 5th Intake of Technological Academy that only those with efficiency can lead ordinary people. Only those who possess brilliant qualifications will become model leaders. If a good leader lacks genuine qualification, there will be no followers.

He spoke of the need to follow this guidance as the light for life.

Next, law officers submitted reports. The preliminary coordination of the deputy attorney-general and State/Division and District Law Officers was also held on 8 January.—MNA

## AGM of Central Cooperatives Society held

YANGON, 11 Jan—The Annual General Meeting of the Central Cooperatives Society for 2003-2004 was held at the Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street

here this morning, with an address by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min. Meeting Chairman U Win Sein delivered an address. Officials presented the report of the board of direc-

tors, financial statements, audit report and future tasks. U Hla Pe of Kayah State and Daw Khin Marlar of Bagod Division were elected as members of the board of directors.—MNA



*Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min addresses the Annual General Meeting of Central Cooperatives Society. — MNA*

## First SEA Archery Championships Competitions commence

YANGON, 11 Jan — The 70-meter competitions for the First SEA Archery Championships, hosted in Myanmar, commenced at the Kyaikkasan Archery Ground here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Women's

Sports Federation, the director-general and officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of South East Asian Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President

of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe and executives, managers of South East Asian nations, coaches, archers, guests and fans.

In Compound (male) event, Myanmar (A) team stood first, Thailand, second and Myanmar (B) team, third. In singles

event, Paw Oo secured the first with 682 points, followed by Myo Aung Hsan with 674 points and Lin Naing with 660 points. In Recurve (female) event, Malaysia won gold medal, Indonesia, silver medal and Myanmar, bronze medal. In singles event, three

archers from Malaysian swept the first, second and third prizes.

In Recurve (Male) event, Malaysia team got the first, Indonesia, the second and Myanmar, the third. In singles event, Mr Cheng Chu Sian of Malaysia secured the first prize, Mr Kuswantoro of Indonesia, the second and Mr MD Marbawi Sulaiman of Malaysia, the third. In Compound

(Female) event, Myanmar team got the first prize and Vietnam, the second. In singles event, Yu Nanda Htaik of Myanmar secured the position, Thin Thin Khine, the second and Mary San, the third.

After the first day's events, Myanmar team took the lead with four gold medals, two silver and five bronze. The archery events continues tomorrow. — MNA

**After the first day's events, Myanmar team took the lead with four gold medals, two silver and five bronze.**

# Thanks to short-term, long-term plans, nation has seen emergence of sound economic infrastructures



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets Kayin State, district and township level departmental officials. — MNA

YANGON, 11 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein met departmental heads in Hpa-an, members of social organizations and officials at the hall of No 22 LID yesterday.

Present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities and

health and transport.

In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said the Secretary-1 and party came to Kayin State to fulfill requirements for development. According to the report of the chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council, there is sufficiency of rice in Kayin State except four townships. Continued efforts are to be made for sufficiency of rice, he said.

He said in Kayin State there are better foundations for development and there is greater progress

added. He called for participation in democratic nation-building tasks.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha explained the ratio of economic development in Kayin State. Minister For Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on implementation of border areas development project and rural development tasks and progress.

Next, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein reported on marketable items and arrangements for border trade and regular trade.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun reported on work of the ministry and financial matters.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on undertakings of the ministry such as information, education and entertainment programmes through electronic and printed media to reach rural and border areas and efforts for opening of rural libraries. The Secretary-1 explained the political, economic and social conditions of the nation.

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets service personnel after the meeting. — MNA

service personnel. Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu reported on the area of Kayin State, economic progress, land use, sufficiency of rice, target for cultivation of 500,000 acres of monsoon and 120,000 acres of summer paddy, production of major crops, arrangements for extended cultivation of oil crops and rubber, breeding of fish and prawn, raising of pigs and fowls, construction of roads and bridges, education,

in some sectors. He spoke of the need to make concerted efforts for development in every sector.

He said achievements have been made due to active participation of the government and the people.

He said the government has been endeavouring to enable Myanmar to stand tall among the nations of the world as a modern developed one. Such endeavours are significant milestones of the people, he

Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. — MNA



Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe. — MNA

## National Convention Convening...

(from page 16)  
mind by providing them with necessary requirements.

Next, Secretary of the NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on attendance of the delegates at the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July 2004, invitation of the delegates

to the National Convention to be resumed on 17 February 2005, measures taken for entertainment, information and daily issue of bulletins.

Next, Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported

on arrangements for resumption of the National Convention and future tasks, followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

MNA





Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein offers alms to Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana. — MNA



Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein offers alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indriya. — MNA

## National races are to...

(from page 16)

by helicopter and arrived at Hpa-an in Kayin State at 10.30 am yesterday.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commanding Officer of No 22 LID Col Khin Maung Thein, senior

to Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana.

The Secretary-1 met Chairman of the Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association U Tha Htoo Kyaw, Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Than and members of Myainggyingu Special Region in Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, at the parlour of No 22 LID.

families, to extend cultivation of all suitable crops including rice, beans and pulses, corn, and to place emphasis on planting rubber in the interest of the posterity. Next, U Tha Htoo Kyaw gave an account of arrangements for extended cultivation of rice, beans and pulses, rubber and pepper for regional progress and requirements for betterment of educa-

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected IPRD Office in Hpa-an on 10 January. During his meeting with officials of Hpa-an, Papon, Hlaingbwe, and Kamamaung, he attended to the requirements presented by them. The minister discussed matters relating to opening of self-reliant rural libraries according to the targets, to work in line with the prescriptions for work facilitation and for perpetuation of the libraries that will enhance the reading power of the village people.

He urged IPRD officials to ensure at least one TV each for every village, a radio for every rural family and a daily for every

village. They should launch their organizational task covering the task of holding talks, issuing wall magazines and distributing pamphlets as targeted.

This morning, the minister visited Tetnaywin

cinema and met with staff.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun also met with staff of Myanmar Economic Bank, Customs Department, Internal Revenue Department, Myanmar Insurance, and Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise in Hpa-an.



Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein presents gifts to U Tha Htoo Kyaw and party. — MNA

military officers, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyuu and members and departmental officials.

Together with Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials, the Secretary-1 and party visited Mebaung Monastery in the town and paid reverence to State Ovadacariya Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Indriya and Chairman of Kayin State Sangha Nayaka Committee Lonmani Ooyin Monastery Sayadaw Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Kavidhaja. The Secretary-1 asked after the Sayadaws and offered alms to them.

They also visited Siththa Manaung Pagoda in Hpa-an. Next, they offered alms

The Secretary-1 called on the national races to make efforts in cooperation with the government for successful implementation of the State's seven-point Road Map including the ongoing National Convention. The Secretary-1 said that the national organizations have returned to the legal fold due to their belief in the policy of the government, so local people including the national organizations and their families are urged to collaborate with the government for fully enjoying protection of the law and to be able to earn their living with peace of mind and in safety.

The Secretary-1 also exhorted the members of the national organizations to work hard for meeting the basic needs of their

tion, health, and transport sectors in the region.

In response, the Secretary-1 gave closing remarks and provided assistance to them. After the meeting, the Secretary-1 and party presented a basket of fruit and gifts to U Tha Htoo Kyaw and party and clothes to families in Myainggyingu Special Region.

Minister U Soe Tha met with personnel of the Planning Department in Hpa-an; Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein held discussion with departmental staff on exporting new items; Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa met with employees of the departments under his ministry and fulfilled their requirements. Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa also visited the fire station in Hpa-an.

Democratic  
Kayin  
Buddhist  
Association  
Chairman  
U Tha  
Htoo  
Kyaw.  
MNA



## Independence Day Exhibition concludes

YANGON, 11 Jan — The 57th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition organized by the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Information Organizing Subcommittee concluded today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township.

At the exhibition, central booth, booth on Myanmar ancient em-

pires, that on independence struggle, that on regaining the independence and safeguarding it and booths of various ministries were displayed.

Students of basic education schools in Yangon Division took part in the computer quiz organized by Yangon University of Computer Studies and the teaching contest with audio lab by

Soft Guide Computer Co Ltd. Bahan Township No 3 Basic Education Primary School won the first prize.

A total of 3,900 people visited the exhibition and bought books on various subjects, journals and magazines from News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, Sarpay Beikman Book Shop and other private book shops. —MNA



Schoolgirls and schoolboys observe the booth of Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs at the 57th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative exhibition. — MNA

## Thanks to short-term...

(from page 8)

He said that since its assumption of State duties in 1988 due to certain circumstances, the Tatmadaw has been keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — the lifeblood of the nation. “Our Three

Main National Causes” is the national duty not only at present, but also for the posterity. Over 100 national races have been living in amity and unity and through thick and thin in the Union since time immemorial. The national races have lived in the places which have abundant supply of food, water and other resources, while protecting one another. As the states

and divisions themselves are home to various national races, they are existing like mini-unions forming part as the Union of Myanmar. Thus, it is a special duty for all to safeguard the Union and the national solidarity.

Moreover, the national races have known the evil consequences of living under enslavement for over 100 years. Thus, all the national races will have to safeguard inde-

pendence for perpetual existence of the sovereign power and the right to self-determination in their hands. Thus, “Our Three Main National Causes” is the perpetual national duty for all. Since its assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has been materializing the national policy and the four political objectives, the four economic objectives, and the four social objectives.



Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivers an address. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects the e-Library of Hpa-an District IPRD in Kayin State. (News on page 16)—MNA

As sound foundations have been achieved in ensuring stability of State, community peace and stability and prevalence of law and order; and national re-consolidation, the seven-point future policy programme has been laid down and implemented to draft an enduring constitution for emergence of a modern and developed democratic state. The convening of the National Convention, the first and the most important stage of the policy programme is

in progress at present.

At the same time, the Government is making endeavours to strengthen the political, economic and defence sectors for everlasting of the future modern and developed nation. Economic growth plays an important role for the modernization and development drive and flourishing of democracy. Thanks to the short-term and long-term plans, the nation has seen the emergence of good economic infra-

structures. In addition, schools, hospitals and institutions of higher learning have been built in all major towns and development zones. So, all will have to utilize the sustainable development of the nation without fail and strive together with the Government for national development and success of the National Convention. The Secretary-1 and party cordially conversed with those present at the meeting. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects...

(from page 16)

Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officials welcomed them.

Director of Construction-7 of the Irrigation Department U Myo Tun reported on digging of channels that will link between Taungay Dam and Kyauktaga Dam and construction of the regulating dams. Director U Khin Maung Chit and Director-General U Kyaw San Win gave supplementary reports. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo also reported on supply and use of fuel to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, who then gave necessary instructions. Taungay Dam is the earthen one with 70 feet in height and 2970 acre-feet in length. Its water storage capacity is 3430 acre-feet. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected inflows of water to the dam. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the digging of canals between Taungay Dam and regulating dam-5 and earthwork and arrangements to irrigate the 70 acres of land. He also inspected the regulating dam-4 and earthwork, the sites chosen for construction of regulating dam Nos 3, 2 and 1 and plans for digging of canals, and left necessary instructions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party oversaw digging of a canal, one mile away from Kyaukdaga Dam, by means of heavy machinery. Next, they proceeded to Kyaukdaga Dam and inspected water supply of Kyaukdaga Dam for Taungay Dam through Kyaukdaga conduit pipe-1 and storage of water in Kyaukdaga Dam. At the briefing hall Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by Deputy Director U Myo Tun and Director-General U Kyaw San Win on digging of the canaly linking between Taungay Dam and Kyaukdaga Dam. Maj-Gen Htay Oo also reported on supply of machine oil and machinery. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Kyaukdaga Dam was constructed to help supply water to Kyatmauktaung Dam through Taungyaga Dam, and it lies a half mile away from Kyauktaga Village, Natmauk Township, Magway Division. Kyaukdaga Dam was inaugurated on 30 November 2004. It is 80 feet high and 7610 feet long and its storage capacity is 41130 acre-feet.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the briefing hall of Latkhokpin Dam near Latkhokpin Village, Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Division in the afternoon. Officials reported on construction of the dam to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, who next inspected earth

work there.

On arrival at Nyaunggon Dam in Meikhtila Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by officials on tasks being carried out for water supply of Chaungkauk Dam to Meikhtila Lake. Minister and officials gave supplementary reports.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended a coordination meeting on greening of Meikhtila plains. Speaking to the meeting, he said they were there to oversee the digging of the channel linking between Kyaukdaga Dam and Taungyaga Dam and to give necessary assistance for the project. Regarding the greening of Meikhtila plains, he said, it is necessary to undertake the project by means of the five tasks as a first step that had been laid down recently. He next urged the earlier completion of the project. Deputy Director U Myo Tun reported on digging of canal to link one dam to another. Officials then reported on greening tasks for Meikhtila plains.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint also reported on upgrading of 62 lakes in Meikhtila District. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a concluding remark to the meeting.

MNA

## Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects Yan Taing Aung Pagoda construction project in Lashio

YANGON, 11 Jan—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials yesterday arrived at the construction project site of Shwedagon replica Yan Daing Aung Hsutaungpyi Pagoda to be built on Wizayabumi Maha Mingalar Aungmye Hill at the entrance to Lashio, where they inspected documentary photos on activities of the project and the 520-viss bronze bell to be kept at the pagoda.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party paid homage to the bronze Buddha images temporarily kept

at Sasana Beikmandaw.

After that, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party heard a report presented by Chairman of the Pagoda Construction Committee Additional Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Col Win Naing on work carried out and future tasks and acquisition and utilization of funds donated.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on timely completion of the work and meeting the set standard.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected construction measures, progress of work and construction materials and left instructions on worksite safety, meeting the set standard and minimising loss and wastage.

MNA

### Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- \* In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- \* The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- \* Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- \* Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- \* Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

## The 58<sup>th</sup> 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, and
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

### Management Committee for Observance of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day meets

YANGON, 11 Jan—The Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day (2005) met for the second time at the Resistance Park here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Management Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, members of the Management Committee—senior military officers, departmental heads, members of work groups and guests.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered a speech, saying that the Management Committee has to carry out ongoing tasks to achieve the resolutions



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gives a speech at the second meeting of the Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Armed Forces Day (2005). — MNA

made at the second meeting of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in the last week of December.

The Management Committee members are to strive for upgrading of the military parade to be held with full essence, he

urged. He also called on the officials to take precautions for convenience of Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, Red Cross and auxiliary fire brigade who will participate in the Armed Forces Day Parade.

Secretary of the

Management Committee General Staff Officer (Grade I) of Yangon Command Lt-Col Myo Naing gave an account of the resolutions made at the first meeting and work progress; officials of work groups on military parade, decoration, transport, accommodation, information entertainment,

invitation, medical treatments, reception and security and management group, on progress of work and future tasks; departmental heads, on programmes for members of the MPF, Red Cross and auxiliary fire brigade to take part in the parade and training; and officials, on general matters.

The chairman of the Management Committee delivered concluding remarks.

After the meeting, Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected progress of decoration of the Resistance Park and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

MNA

### Mines Minister receives guest

YANGON, 11 Jan — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Chairman of Allure Group Co Ltd Mr Upakit Pachariyangkun of Thailand at his office this evening.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and officials concerned. — MNA

### Mayor meets executives, entrepreneurs

YANGON, 11 Jan — North Okkalapa Industrial Zone and Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone In-Charge Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin met chairman and executives of industrial zones, entrepreneurs and officials at management committee office this morning and discussed matters related to steel melting with them. Next, the mayor inspected measures being taken for production of machines and parts and stockpile of raw materials.

Afterwards, he looked into production of 2-ton diesel trucks in Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone. — MNA

### ENT Specialists Conference to be held

YANGON, 11 Jan — Myanmar Medical Association will hold the 15th Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists Conference from 5 to 12 March.

At the conference, pre-workshop will be held on 8 March and demonstration on surgical operation on 9 March at the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital. Ear, nose and throat complaints and their complications, treatment of goitre will be discussed. Paper reading session will also be held. Papers of specialists from states and divisions are to be sent not later than 15 January.

MNA

### Chinese delegates arrive to attend Meeting on Cross-border Crimes

YANGON, 11 Jan — A 22-member delegation led by Chinese Deputy Minister of People's Security Mr Zhao Yongji of the People's Republic of China arrived here by air this afternoon to attend the Myanmar-China Deputy Ministerial Level Meeting on Peace Building and Combating of Cross-border Crimes.

The Chinese delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff. The meeting in which delegates to Myanmar and China will take part is going to be held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel tomorrow. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party hold bilateral meeting with Indian Minister Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar and party. — ENERGY

### Myanmar, India sign MoU on cooperation in Petroleum Sector

YANGON, 11 Jan — Myanmar officials led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and their Indian counterparts led by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar discussed bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sector of the two nations on common interest at the ministry today.

The two ministers signed and exchanged notes of the MoU on bilateral cooperation in the petroleum sector. During its stay in Myanmar till 14 January, the Indian delegation will attend the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India meeting on cooperation in the petroleum sector, and will visit offshore oil and

gas enterprises in Myanmar.

The delegation led by Indian minister and wife was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and wife and officials yesterday evening.

The delegation arrived here at the invitation of the Myanmar minister.—MNA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. KOTA MUTIARA VOY: NO (171)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (171) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-1-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY: NO (074)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA Voy No (074) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-1-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM

Phone: 256908/378316/376797



ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V. "MANDALAY" VOY NO. 144/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 144/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 12-1-2005 and will be berthing on about 13-1-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharged of cargo from vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

Uganda to host international reading conference

KAMPALA, 11 Jan — Uganda is to host an international reading conference here on 18-19 January aimed at "propagating literacy at the grassroots," local Press reported on Monday.

The two-day conference is expected to draw 300 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Britain, the United States and Canada.

Ugandan Prime Minister Apollo Nsubambi is expected to open the conference.

"The purpose of this conference is to examine the various ways that will ensure that education for all results into reading for

all," said chief organizer Sam Andema from the Reading Association of Uganda.

Andema said that over 11 million Ugandans, who can neither read nor write meant that a large fraction of the community is automatically excluded from benefiting from any printed information that could be of use to them.

He said the improvement in enrollment levels at schools in the east African country was a positive sign, but many children still leave primary school unable to read and cannot effectively rely on reading skills for betterment. — MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela seizes 820 kilos of cocaine

CARACAS, 11 Jan— The Venezuelan judicial police seized 820 kilos of cocaine hidden in the rural Lara Estate, 350 kilometres west of Caracas, the Attorney General's office said Monday.

A statement issued by the office said police also arrested a Colombian in the operation, who was being wanted by police for involvement in a drug-trafficking case months ago in the border state of Tachira.

In another development, Peruvian police captured 100 kilos of high-purity cocaine and arrested six suspected drug pushers Monday in the northern Province of Loreto.

The drugs were found hidden in lumbers that are to be transported to Mexico in a warehouse in Iquitos, the capital of Loreto, the police said.

Last week, Peruvian police seized 324 kilos of cocaine in the country's capital Lima.

With an annual output of 300 tons, Peru, located in the notorious "Silver Triangle," is the world's second largest cocaine producer after Colombia.

Some 50,000 families are growing coca, the raw materials for cocaine, in Peru, involving 40,000 hectares of land.

MNA/Xinhua

Powerful winter storm slams California for 2nd day

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan — A powerful winter storm slammed California for the second day on Sunday, causing floods and at least two deaths around Los Angeles, which was the hardest hit, officials said.

The mudslides, floods, power outages and traffic crashes spawned by the storm were among the worst in a decade. "This is something we only see about every five to 10 years," said National Weather Service Meteorologist Dan Keeton.

The storm, which began battering California from San Francisco to Los Angeles on Thursday, was "hellbent" to continue through Monday with up to 2 feet of rain in some of the higher mountain elevations in and around southern California and up to 12 inches of rain in lowland areas, Keeton forecast.

Scattered showers and wind gusts were expected to continue through Wednesday, he said.

In Los Angeles, one man was killed and another

injured when the hillside tent in which they were sleeping was buried by a mudslide, officials said.

In Malibu, another man was killed after a vehicle slid off a highway, down a 20-foot cliff, and ended up halfway submerged in the Pacific Ocean, said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Lieutenant Randall Dickey. Four other people sustained minor injuries in the accident.

In a Los Angeles County canyon, rescue workers searched all the

way to the ocean but were unable to find a man who jumped into a rain-swollen creek. A man and his two children were pulled alive from the rubble of a hillside Los Angeles home which collapsed and was totally destroyed, fire officials said. They were taken to an area hospital with minor injuries. — MNA/Reuters

Heavy rains, floods force evacuation of over 5,000 Costa Ricans

SAN JOSE (Costa Rica), 11 Jan — Heavy rain and flooding have forced the evacuation of more than 5,000 Costa Ricans, and left four people missing.

Authorities on Monday evacuated residents along Costa Rica's Caribbean coast, where heavy rains since the weekend have sent water overflowing from rivers.

Homes and businesses

on the coast of Limon Province were flooded, and several shelters have been opened, Costa Rica's Emergency Commission said.

About 5,000 people have been sent to churches and other refuges since the flooding began, and four people were unaccounted for, the commission said.

Rescue workers have been unable to reach some

of the affected towns, including indigenous reserves around Alta Talamanca.

"The priority is to reach and help those who are isolated," commission spokesman Rebeca Madrigal told Reuters.

The floods did not affect coffee-growing areas of Costa Rica, a major producer of the commodity.

MNA/Reuters

Guinea-Bissau suffers locust plague

LUANDA, 9 Jan — After devastating crops in the north and east of Guinea-Bissau earlier this week, locust swarms arrived in the capital Bissau on Friday before departing for the south, a region considered as the nation's granary, according to reports reaching here from Bissau on Saturday.

Local residents in the capital city burned car tyres in an attempt to drive off the insects and large clouds of acrid fumes led to dozens of people being treated in hospital for smoke inhalation.

The locust swarm stayed in the capital for several hours, causing extensive damage to vegetation. The insects left the city on northerly winds heading for the Bijagos Islands and the southern districts of Bolama and Catio on the frontier with Guinea (Conakry).

Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Jr. visited regions of Guinea already afflicted by the

crop-devouring insects on Wednesday, calling for international help to implement control operations against the locusts.

He has also set up a "crisis Cabinet" to coordinate efforts in dealing with the locust swarms that have already invaded Gambia and neighbouring Senegal.

The World Food Programme and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have said they are ready to assist the Bissau authorities tackle the locust crisis.

In its latest update Friday on the locust threat in West Africa, the FAO said vigilance and intensive control operations are needed and it will take another three months to ascertain whether there is a threat of a locust plague.

The last locust plague in North and West Africa was in 1987-89, a crisis that cost the international community 300 million US dollars to control.

MNA/Xinhua



A view of a flooded street in Carlisle on 9 Jan, 2005. At least 14 people died, more than 1,000 homes were flooded and many more left without power after violent storms battered northern Europe over the weekend, bringing hurricane force winds and heavy rain. — INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်လာ ခိုင်ခံ့တော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

### East Asian neighbours readjusting acupuncture points

TOKYO, 10 Jan—Japan, China and South Korea plan to standardise “acupuncture points” which have subtly shifted through their separate practices in the 2,000-year old Chinese-born therapy.

In a project organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) since last March, the three East Asian nations have found differences in the locations of 92 of the 361 basic acupuncture points, the Asahi Shimbun said Monday.

In October, experts from the three countries agreed to standardise the locations of 77 points with the 15 others to be dealt

with by the middle of this year, the influential Japanese newspaper said.

The WHO is expected to formally determine the basic acupuncture points in 2006 to help disseminate Oriental medicine which has been gaining recognition in the West since the late 1990s, the daily said.

Acupuncture points are said to be located throughout the body

along channels, or “meridians,” through which vital energy circulates to bodily organs.

Illness is attributed to interruption of the energy, known as qi, and it is treated by inserting needles into certain acupuncture spots, burning herbs over them or applying pressures on them.

There are 365 traditionally known acupuncture points and the WHO

has recognised 361 of them.—Internet

*A therapist inserts an acupuncture needle into a patient's back on 10 Jan, 2005. Japan, China and South Korea plan to standardise 'acupuncture points' which have subtly shifted through their separate practices in the 2,000-year old Chinese-born therapy.—INTERNET*



### Black holes may actually drag fabric of space

SAN DIEGO, 11 Jan—Black holes may actually drag the fabric of space and time around them as they spin, creating waves for cosmic material to surf on, astronomers said on Monday.

This is new evidence that some black holes spin, even as they pull in everything around them, including light. Additional research shows that black holes can twirl material at tremendous speed, as fast as 20,000 miles per second.

“Gas whipping around the black hole has no choice but to ride that wave,” Jon Miller of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics said. “Albert Einstein predicted this over 80 years ago, and now we are starting to see evidence for it.”

Because black holes draw in everything, even light, they themselves are invisible. But astronomers have long studied what happens just outside the black hole, and have found what they call an accretion disk — a round pancake of material, often made up of material sucked from a nearby star that acts as a black hole's companion and food source.

One characteristic that astronomers watch at the mouth of black holes is the flickering of X-ray light. It would make sense

that the flickers would come very fast, since black holes spin so rapidly.

It was more puzzling when the flickering X-rays came more slowly, at as little as one 100th the speed of the fast flickers, Miller told reporters at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Miller and his colleagues theorize that in one black hole system they studied, the slower flickering could be the frequency of a space-time warp. In that case, the flickers — known as quasi-periodic oscillations

— could be caused by the fabric of space itself churning around the black hole in a wave.

Another team of researchers studying a different black hole detected three sun-sized blobs of gas whirling around in the hole's accretion disk.

By looking at iron atoms, which are good markers for what is occurring around a black hole, the scientists figured that these blobs made one complete trip around the black hole in a day, at speeds up to 20,000 miles per second.—MNA/Reuters

### Over 200 African immigrants land in Italy

ROME, 11 Jan — More than 200 illegal immigrants set their foot on a southern Sicilian island on Monday, the first of its kind this year, Italian police said.

A drifting immigrant boat with 210 passengers on board was towed into Lampedusa. The African immigrants were taken to a reception centre on the island.

The island's reception centre became overcrowded late last year and Italy initiated a controversial policy of immediate repatriation.

The move followed mass landings of 400-500 people from Africa at an alarming frequency.

Lampedusa is closer to the coast of Tunisia than to the Italian mainland and is viewed by immigrants as a stepping stone between Africa and Italy.

In response to the emergency, Italian and Libyan officials agreed ways to step up cooperation in fighting illegal immigration.

The two countries agreed to set up joint land, sea and air patrols, as well as reception centres in Libya, to stem the tide of migrants from the north African country.

MNA/Xinhua

### US space shuttle crew eager to return to flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, 10 Jan — Astronauts assigned to NASA first space shuttle mission since the 2003 Columbia disaster said on Friday they are confident mistakes and technical problems that led to that accident are in the past.

“If it wasn't safe, I wouldn't get on it,” said Eileen Collins, 48, a colonel in the US Air Force and commander of the shuttle Discovery crew.

Launch is set for mid-May and Collins and her five-man, one-woman crew are scheduled to spend 13 days in space on what NASA managers are calling a test flight to practice inspection procedures and heat shield repair techniques developed since the Columbia accident.

Columbia fell from the sky over Texas on 1 Feb, 2003, breaking up as it re-entered the atmosphere because of damage to the leading edge of its left wing. All seven astronauts

aboard were killed.

The wing was damaged by falling insulation from the shuttle's external fuel tank during launch 16 days earlier.

The astronauts spoke to reporters during a visit to the Kennedy Space Centre to see the new external fuel tank for Discovery. The tank arrived at the space center on Thursday.

“We're all really celebrating now,” said Collins. “It's time for us to go fly.”

During the mission, Collins and her crew will test inspection procedures using a new camera-laden boom to check the ship's belly and wings. The as-

tronauts also will devote the first of three spacewalks to experiment with various putty, patches and procedures for repairing damage to the shuttle's heat-resistant tiles and reinforced carbon wing panels.

NASA plans next week to pare down the half-dozen repair proposals under development to two or three that will be tested in orbit, said deputy shuttle program manager Wayne Hale.

“I'm very comfortable with many of the options,” said spacewalker Charles Camarda, 52, who will be making his first space flight aboard Discovery.

Internet



This photo released by NASA shows space shuttle Discovery mission specialists Soichi Noguchi, left, of Japan; Australian born US citizen Andrew Thomas, right, and technician Rafael Rodriguez in the Remote Manipulator Lab during a crew visit to the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Fla, on 7 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

**S  
P  
O  
R  
T  
S**

**Jamaica crushes French Guyana 5-0 in first leg Gold Cup semifinal**

HAVANA, 10 Jan— Jamaica claimed a decisive 5-0 win over French Guyana in Kingston on Saturday in the first leg of their Gold Cup qualifying soccer semifinal.

The Reggae Boyz took a 1-0 halftime lead through midfielder Jermaine Hue, who scored in the 14th minute. Jamaica continued to dominate the visitors after the break thanks to two quick goals from Damian Stewart in the 57th minute and Luton Shelton in the 63rd. Robert Scarlett found the net with a 35-meter (38-yard) strike after 75 minutes, and Teoforo Bennett seals the win with a 84th minute goal.

The second leg will be played January 15 at French Guyana. The winner of the tie will advance to the final round of the CONCACAF zone which is scheduled for Barbados Feb. 20-24. The top two teams advance to the Gold Cup final to be played in the United States July 6-24. — *MNA/Xinhua*



*Inter Milan's Adriano (C) kicks the ball in front of Cristian Zenoni (L) and Aimo Diana (R) of Sampdoria during their Serie A match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, northern Italy, January 9, 2005.—INTERNET*

**Inter beat Sampdoria 3-2**

MILAN, 10 Jan— Inter Milan scored three goals in the last seven minutes to seal an incredible 3-2 win over Sampdoria on Sunday and extend their unbeaten run to 18 Serie A games.

Leaders Juventus beat Livorno 4-2 at the Delle Alpi stadium with two goals from Italy winger Mauro Camoranesi and they now have a five-point lead over AC Milan who play at Palermo later on Sunday.

Third-placed Udinese beat Cagliari 2-0, Paolo Di Canio's rich vein of form continued with a goal in Lazio's 3-2 win at Fiorentina, and Vincenzo Montella scored both AS Roma's goals in their 2-1 victory over Atalanta.

Fourth-placed Inter were trailing 2-0 to Sampdoria after goals from Max Tonetto and Belarussian Vitali Kutuzov.

Roberto Mancini's side then struck three times in six minutes through Nigerian Obafemi Martins, Christian Vieri and Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba whose superb winner came in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Many Inter fans had left the San Siro

after Kutuzov's goal in the 82nd minute and missed seeing their team turn the game around in the dying minutes.

After Tonetto had put Samp ahead against the run of play a minute before the break, Inter had a series of chances to draw level but with Brazilian Adriano off-form they could not break through.

After the frustration came what looked to be the killer blow when Kutuzov, on loan from AC Milan, finished off a perfectly executed counter-attack.

Nigerian substitute Obafemi Martins started the fightback in the 88th minute, firing home with the outside of his left foot and a minute into stoppage time Martins set up Vieri who volleyed the equalizer.

Inter piled forward in search of a winner and it came with a sweetly struck drive from Recoba that left Sampdoria stunned. —*MNA/Reuters*

**Hearts of Oak win inaugural African Confederation Cup**

ACCRA, 10 Jan— Hearts of Oak won the inaugural African Confederation Cup with an 8-7 victory on penalties over fellow Ghanaian club Asante Kotoko in Kumasi on Sunday.

Hearts levelled the aggregate score at 2-2 with a goal in the final 10 minutes and then won the title in the shootout since African club competition rules do not allow extra time.

It was the first continental club competition final between two clubs from the same country. The first leg at Hearts' home ground in Accra had also finished 1-1 last Sunday.

Asante Kotoko, favourites to win the title after their first leg display, had taken the lead through former Hearts player Charles Taylor eight minutes into the second half. —*MNA/Reuters*

**Zidane may finish playing career before contract ends in '07**

PARIS, 10 Jan — Former France international Zinedine Zidane has hinted that he may finish his playing career before his Real Madrid contract ends in 2007.

"I'm not playing my last season but I may not be able to make it until 2007," Zidane was quoted as saying by French weekly *Journal du Dimanche*.

The playmaker, who turns 33 in June, joined the Spanish giants from Juventus for a world record fee of \$66 million dollars in 2001 and extended his contract last season.

"I can only play well when I feel well and happy," he added. "I don't want to carry on just for the sake of it. I will know in the very near future what I'm going to do."

Zidane said he had no regrets about ending his international career after champions France were eliminated by eventual tournament winners Greece in the Euro 2004 quarter-finals.

However, he is ready to wear Les Bleus colours again if a match is organised for the tsunami victims in South East Asia.

"I'll make myself available for such a game. I'm waiting for someone to set things up," he said.

*MNA/Reuters*



*Champion footballer Zinedine Zidane was chosen as the most popular Frenchman in a newspaper survey, despite his decision last year to leave the national side.—INTERNET*

**John Hartson gives Celtic victory**

GLASGOW, 10 Jan — Striker John Hartson fired Celtic into the fourth round of the Scottish Cup with a 77th minute winner as they beat old rivals Rangers 2-1 on Sunday.

Hartson gave Celtic victory when he slashed a shot across goalkeeper Stefan Klos after Chris Sutton flicked on Didier Agathe's deep cross from the right 15 minutes from time.

The Wales forward also set up Celtic's opener for Sutton on 36 minutes but Rangers levelled a minute after the

break with a header from Fernando Ricksen in front of 58,622 fans.

Celtic's win over their Glasgow neighbours stretches their unbeaten run at home to five years since Rod Wallace scored the only goal in a Scottish Premier League win in March 2000.

*MNA/Reuters*

**Espanyol move into third place after beating Osasuna 4-1**

MADRID, 10 Jan— Espanyol moved into provisional third place in the Primera Liga after a sparkling 4-1 comeback win at home to Osasuna on Sunday.

The visitors took the lead when Cameroon striker Pierre Webo snapped up the ball in midfield, galloped towards the area and squeezed a left-foot drive inside the post on 16 minutes.

But the Catalans turned the match on its head with three goals in an eight-minute spell before halftime.

Argentine striker Maxi Rodriguez sparked the fightback when he pounced on a poor headed pass back to the keeper to stab the ball home from a metre out on 32 minutes.

Brazilian midfielder Fredson made it 2-1 five minutes later when he powered in a header after a well hit Ivan de la Pena corner from the left.

The outstanding Ivan de la Pena capped another brilliant performance in midfield with a classy third when he curled in free kick from 20 metres out five minutes before halftime.

Fredson completed the rout when he netted with a close-range header seven minutes before time.

The result left Miguel Angel Lotina's side on 33 points from 18 matches, two behind second-placed Valencia, who beat neighbours Levante 2-1 on Saturday, and nine adrift of leaders Barcelona who have a tricky away match at Villarreal later on Sunday.

Real Madrid will have the chance to reclaim third spot when they face city rivals Atletico in another of Sunday's late matches.

Japan striker Yoshito Okubo made an impressive debut for Real Mallorca when scoring one and supplying the cross for another in his side's 2-2 draw at home to Deportivo Coruna.

*MNA/Reuters*



*RCD Espanyol Brazilian Fredson (L) jumps for the ball against Osasuna's Uruguayan Cesar Morales during their Spanish first division soccer match in Barcelona, Spain, January 9, 2005.*

INTERNET

### US companies foresee rapid growth of satellite TV for cars

LAS VEGAS (the United States), 11 Jan — Several US satellite firms said Sunday that they plan to feed satellite TV on cars within 18 months after satellite radio grabbed attention at 2005 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held here.

DirecTV, a US major satellite TV company, planned to release a special programming package for its mobile TV subscribers, thus the car users, in addition to receiving DirecTV in the cars, can watch 750 movies on 13 channels.

KVH, an antenna company that is leading in the growing car satellite TV market, expected the market will grow quickly as mobile screens in the cars are proliferating. The KVH has a rooftop satellite receiver/antenna system called the Tracvision A5 which is sold through 800 retail shops.

Meanwhile, Audiovox announced that it will offer a similar antenna receiver package at a price

of about 3,000 dollars. It estimated that about 35,000 to 40,000 car satellite TV units will sell the package this year.

Satellite radio company Sirius said it will offer two to three streaming satellite video channels for mainly children's programming by the summer of 2006.

Moreover, the Delphi company announced a partnership with the leading US cable operator Comcast for developing a satellite video system within 18 months.

The 2005 International CES, the world's largest showcase of latest digital technology and products, ran on January 6-9 in Las Vegas.

MNA/Xinhua

### Jilin Province partners with Shell to exploit oil shale

CHANGCHUN, 11 Jan — Northeast China's Jilin Province will partner with Shell Exploration Company B.V., a subsidiary of Royal Dutch/Shell Group, to exploit oil shale, said Zhao Shengtang, director of the provincial land resources department.

Oil shale is a rock that yields petroleum when distilled. Compared to conventional oil reserves,

it is far more costly and requires more complicated technology.

Shell will apply its In-situ Conversion Process (ICP) technology in the exploitation, which produces shale oil with better quality. Zhao acknowledged that a set of ICP facility can recover five to 15 million tons of crude oil from oil shale each year.—MNA/Xinhua

### Expert warns of geological disasters in urbanizations process

LANZHOU, 11 Jan — Urban construction authorities should be on guard against geological disasters in China's urbanization process, a disaster control expert has warned.

Landslides, mud-rock flows, ground subsidence and crevices can all be destructive to small, outlying counties and towns, a large number of which are being transformed into cities these days, said Wang Zhirong, an expert on geological disaster control with the Gansu Provincial Academy of Sciences in northwest China.

"Such disasters might affect every corner of a small town, while in large and medium-sized cities, it's much easier to localize the impact and divert the crowds to safer regions," Wang said in an interview with Xinhua on Monday.

He said some Chinese counties are constantly in danger of geological disasters because they were built in disaster-prone areas without a necessary geological survey in the first place to ensure safety. Improper irrigation, excavation and other human activities have even increased such risks, he said.

In 1998, Wang's academy carried out a survey on the geological disasters of 81 countries and towns in Gansu Province. They found that 48 of them, or 59.3 per cent of all that surveyed, suffered

mud-rock flows.

Meanwhile, incomplete statistics indicate the northwestern province reported at least 1,515 deaths in 188 landslides and mud-rock flows between 1950 and 1998, with a direct economic loss of 1.3 billion yuan (157 million US dollars).

The hillside Lijie Township in Zhouqu County, for example, suffers two to three disastrous mud-rock flows each year that destroy its roads and cut off the villagers from the outside world for two to three months. When the pivotal Lujixia Reservoir was built in the 1960s, the northwestern province relocated many peasants to plateau forms on either banks of the Yellow River that are prone to landslides and ground subsidence. The Yanguoxia Township of Yongjing County, for example, reports four to five landslides each year and the situation has been worsening since the 1980s.—MNA/Xinhua

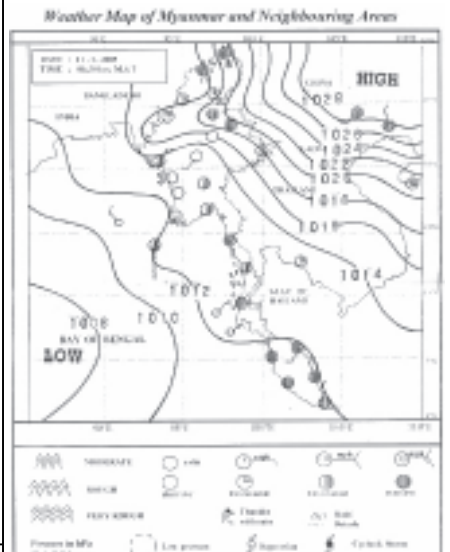
### German Foreign Minister to visit Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 11 Jan — German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer will be in Sri Lanka on Tuesday to discuss relief efforts and reconstruction, official Daily News said on Monday.

He will meet with President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and with Foreign Minister Lakshman Kiridgamara for talks on relief aid and bilateral relations.

The German Federal Government has increased its aid to the tsunami-hit region to euro 500 million (about 700 million US dollars). In addition, private donations have reached euro 300 million (about 420 million dollars), said German Embassy in Colombo.

In Sri Lanka alone, some 20 German Government and non-government organizations are working and helping with everything from water supplies and medical assistance to emergency shelters and psychological assistance.—MNA/Xinhua



### WEATHER

Tuesday, 11 January, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (0.32) inch in Putao. Night temperatures were (4°C) about normal in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State and Magway Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Namsam (-1°C), Lolo (0°C), Moekok (-1°C), Lashio, Heho and Pyn Oo Lwin (2°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 10-1-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 11-1-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-1-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 10-1-2005 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 11-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Northwest at (12:10) hours MST on 10-1-2005.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 12-1-2005:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-1-2005:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-1-2005:** Partly cloudy.



Wednesday, 12 January

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Sweet sweet smile
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -Bahama ma ma
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: -Peace train
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music - Gimme 3
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music -I can wait forever -Forever and ever -Together forever
- 9.00 pm Variations on a tune "Do I love you" Article/music
- 9.15 pm Music at your request
- 9.25 pm -Don't want me now -If you still need me -Running back to you
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

**Wednesday, 12 January**  
**View on today:**

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ဂျော့နိုးဆရာတော် အုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက် အဘိဓမ္မာပလာဂ္ဂဗုဒ္ဓ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပလာယုဒ္ဓမတော်တ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မပလာယုဒ္ဓမတော်တ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မပလာယုဒ္ဓမတော်တ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မပလာယုဒ္ဓမတော်တ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မပလာယုဒ္ဓမတော်တ</li> </ol> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. To be healthy exercise</li> </ol> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Morning news</li> </ol> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Nice and sweet song</li> </ol> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စုအဖွဲ့အစည်း</li> </ol> <p><b>8:10 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. အရေးကြီးပုံ</li> </ol> <p><b>8:20 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. ဂျော့နိုးဆရာတော်</li> </ol>	<p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. International news</li> </ol> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Let's go</li> </ol> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Martial song</li> </ol> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</li> </ol> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Demonstration Exercises For Correct Pronunciation</li> </ol> <p><b>4:45 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Musical programme</li> </ol> <p><b>5:00 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (ပထဝီဝင်အလေးမြင့် (ရုက္ခဗေဒ))</li> </ol> <p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Songs of national races</li> </ol> <p><b>5:30 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ</li> </ol> <p><b>5:40 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. ဂီတမဟာဓမ္မစာပေ</li> </ol> <p><b>5:50 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. "သတင်းကောင်း" သွားညှိ၊ ဆုပေးပွဲ၊ ချီးမြှင့်ပွဲ-ညှိမင်းလွင်</li> </ol> <p><b>6:05 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. ရုက္ခဗေဒသင်ခန်းစာ</li> </ol>	<p><b>6:15 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Discovery</li> </ol> <p><b>6:20 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Musical programme</li> </ol> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Evening news</li> </ol> <p><b>7:00 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Weather report</li> </ol> <p><b>7:05 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. မြန်မာ့စာပေ၊ မြန်မာစာပေ</li> </ol> <p><b>7:20 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Musical programme</li> </ol> <p><b>7:30 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. လေကြောင်းကတ္တောက်မြင်းပွင့်လှမ်း ကာတာလားကြောင်းစရိတ်ခံသစ်</li> </ol> <p><b>7:45 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. အချစ်အပြဿနာ ဓမ္မရုပ်မြင်ကြား နိုင်မစေမှု နှိပ်စက်မှု "စက်မှုဇုန်မှည့်သည့်" ရွှေနိုင်ငံ သင်ခန်းစာ</li> </ol> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. News</li> <li>20. International news</li> <li>21. Weather report</li> <li>22. ဓမ္မရုပ်မြင်ကြားအမှတ်တရအဖွဲ့များ မပျော်သောအလင်း (အပိုင်း-၅) "အပြန်အလှန်" ဝါပြန်အလှန်</li> <li>ဝါပြန်အလှန်၊ ချိုကော်၊ မင်းဟိုသီး၊ မင်းသူ၊ ရတနာအင်း၊ မြို့စခန်းကျော်၊ နှုတ်ခွင့်၊ သူ့ဟာသူ၊ ဝေသနာ၊ နှုတ်ခွင့်၊ ချစ်တော်-သက်တော်</li> <li>24. The next day's programme</li> </ol>
--	--	---

**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

**Officials concerned are to make arrangements for the delegates to arrive the camp conveniently**

(from page 1)

would resume on 17 February 2005; that the officials concerned are to invite the delegates to the National Convention to arrive the Nyaungnabin

Camp not later than 15 February; that meanwhile, the officials concerned are to make arrangements for the delegates to arrive the camp conveniently.

The Work Committee also is to complete its

tasks timely for the National Convention whereas the Management Committee is to make efforts for the delegates to attend the convention with peace of

(See page 8)

**National races are to make efforts in cooperation with government for successful implementation of Road Map including ongoing National Convention**



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein holds discussions with Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association Chairman U Tha Htoo Kyaw and party. — MNA

YANGON, 11 Jan—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by SPDC Member Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for

Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for

Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, left here (See page 9)

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects supporting dam project for Kyatmauktaung Dam**



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects the construction of dams in Kyaukpadaung Township. — MNA

YANGON, 11 Jan —Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials, arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport by air yesterday morning. He was welcomed there by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Brig-Gen Than Htay of Kyaukpadaung Station, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe and departmental officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the briefing hall of Taungyay Creek Dam, the supporting dam project-2 for Kyatmauktaung Dam, where (See page 9)

**INSIDE**

After the first day's events, Myanmar team took the lead with four gold medals, two silver and five bronze.

(Page 7)