

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 272

4th Waxing of Pyatho 1366 ME

Thursday, 13 January 2005

Prime Minister receives Bangladeshi Minister and party

YANGON 12 Jan — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr AKM Mosharraf Hossain and party at the Hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha this evening.

Also present at the call were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Bangladeshi State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mr AKM Mosharraf Hossain and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.— MNA

the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet. The Bangladeshi Minister was accompanied by Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr AB Manjoor Ranhim. — MNA

Our Three Main National Causes important for perpetuation of the Union and they are national policy to be handed down from one generation to another

YANGON, 12 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein met officers, Tatmadaw members and families at the station hall of No 22 LID in Hpa-an yesterday.

The Secretary-1 told officials at different levels about education, health, social affairs and welfare, participation in carrying out community welfare

services in cooperation with the people, participation in the tasks for success of the seven-point Road Map.

The Secretary-1 cordially met Tatmadaw members and families.

The Secretary-1 and Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung went by helicopter to Thingannyinaung in Myawady District. They were welcomed by Col

Myint Thein of regional station, Chairman of Myawady District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Oo and local authorities. They then proceeded to Myawady.

On the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge the Secretary-1 and party inspected waterway of Thaungyin River.

The Secretary-1 and party met departmental heads and members of social associations and officials.

Chairman Lt-Col Myint Oo reported on location of Myawady, population, efforts for peace and stability, rain, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, food sufficiency, cultivation of perennial crops and livestock breeding, education, health, transport sectors, site chosen for establishment of an industrial zone and an economic zone and facts about regional development.

In his discussions, SPDC member Lt-Gen Maung Bo said the government is endeavouring to become a peaceful, united Union while catching up with developments in international communities. Achievements have been made due to the participation of the people with patriotism.

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Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gifts to Pado Aung San, leader of Phayagon Region Peace Group of Phayagon Village, Hpa-an Township.— MNA

INSIDE

Since the stage of an academy till now, the institution has been training and producing good sons and daughters for the nation for 40 years, and they are discharging their duties well the length and breadth of the nation.

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KYAW MIN KHAUNG

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 13 January, 2005

Success of National Convention: key to emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy

The Tatmadaw Government has had to take State responsibilities according to the demand of the situations that occurred in 1988. Since the assumption of State duties, it has adopted "Our three main national causes" — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — as its national policy and defended the Union of Myanmar. Our three main national causes are so important to us as life that we as well as our new generations have to safeguard them.

In addition to the national policy, the Tatmadaw Government laid down four political objectives, four economic objectives and four social objectives and, since then, have been relentlessly implementing them for peace and development of the nation. Moreover, the government has worked together with the Union-born national races for the stability of the State, community peace and national reconsolidation and has made great strides in all these endeavours.

The government is currently working on the implementation of the seven-point policy programme for the emergence of an enduring constitution and a modern and developed nation based on the new constitution. Now, delegates of various national races and people from all walks of life are unitedly taking part in the National Convention, the first and most important stage of the policy programme or Road Map.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee held a work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the NCCC in Kyaikkasan Grounds on 11 January and it was attended by Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the meeting of the NCCC held on 23 November, 2004, had already announced that the National Convention would resume, and so, he said, it would be held on 17 February, 2005.

The National Convention is as important to the Union of Myanmar and its national races as life. Therefore, we are holding the National Convention in unity and with full national essence for the emergence of an enduring constitution.

We would like to call on the entire national people including delegates to the National Convention to make it a complete success so that emergence of a durable constitution and a peaceful, modern and developed democracy will be ensured.

Development tasks in Taninthayi Div looked into

YANGON, 12 Jan — Director-General of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department Col Than Swe met officials concerned in Myeik on 9 January and discussed on development tasks with them being carried out in border areas in Taninthayi Division.

After Head of Regional Development Supervising Office Maj Thet Naung and officials had presented reports on development tasks and staff affairs, he gave necessary instructions to them.

The director-general met the officials concerned and local people in Taninthayi and Khamaukgyi Town and held discussions on development tasks with them. Next, he checked Maryan TV Retransmission Station. — 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

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang receives General Managers Mr Y Takada and Mr N Utsumi of Sumitomo Corporation of Japan.



Home Affairs Minister receives Chinese Vice Minister

YANGON, 12 Jan — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received visiting a 22-member Chinese delega-

tion led by Vice Minister of the Public Security of the People's Republic of China Mr Zhao Yongji and party to attend the

Myanmar-Chinese Deputy Minister Level Meeting for Realizing Peace and Tranquillity of the Border Area and

Combating Transnational Crime at the ministry this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General of the General Administration Department U Myat Ko, senior police officers and the head of office.

The Chinese Vice Minister briefed Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo on cooperation in realizing peace and tranquillity between Myanmar and China border areas and combating transnational crimes. — MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Chinese Vice Minister of Public Security Mr Zhao Yongji and party. — HOME AFFAIRS

Minister looks into development tasks in Hpa-an

YANGON, 12 Jan — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt arrived at Hpa-an yesterday and looked over tarring of Anawrahta road being implemented by Hpa-an Township Development Affairs Committee and the local people. Commissioner of Kayin State U Maung Maung, Kayin State DAC Director U Thet Hnin Oo and officials reported on measures taken for tarring of the road. Regarding the reports, the minister instructed the officials concerned to make plan to upgrade the roads in the township. The road is 1,800 feet long and 12 feet wide, which was contributed by Kayin State DAC and local people.

Next, the minister looked into Vocational Training Centre for



Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt inspects tarring of Anawrahta Road in Hpa-an on 11-1-2005. — MNA

Women and Youth Training Centre. On arrival at Hpa-an water supply station, the Township DAC Senior Engineer reported to the minister on tasks

being carried out for water supply and future tasks. The minister gave necessary instructions on water supply to the officials concerned. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bostered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



သတိပြု

China speeds up building of disaster warning relief network

BEIJING, 12 Jan — China plans to build an eight-satellite system for round-the-clock disaster monitoring by 2010, as part of its efforts to improve its disaster warning and relief network.

The country will launch three of the eight satellites in 2006 to cover the major part of its territory and update ground station facilities, said Zhou Ming, deputy director of the Disaster Relief Department under the Ministry of Civil Affairs Monday.

The government expects that the satellite network will survey the country every six hours in 2007, he said.

China is working hard to make an efficient disaster warning and re-

lief network, drawing a lesson from its neighbouring countries that have just hit by deadly tsunamis, he said.

The country's 31 provincial administrations have finished disaster and emergency relief plans, and cities along the main rivers and in earthquake-vulnerable areas have also done so, he added.

Meanwhile, the country has set up state reserves of disaster relief materials in ten cities and 26 provincial ones to store clothes and 370,000 tents.

China has adopted a direct reporting system for epidemics from county hospitals to the Ministry of Health based on computer network nationwide after it was stricken by severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in 2003.

The Ministry of Health also established ten medical expert teams to support local administrations in dealing with emergency cases.

MNA/Xinhua



HK's toys industry urged to explore more markets

HONG KONG, 12 Jan — Hong Kong's toys industry is encouraged to penetrate fast-growing emerging markets and go higher-end at the opening of the Hong Kong Toys & Games Fair and Hong Kong International Stationery Fair here on Tuesday.

The two fairs, held concurrently from 11 January to 14, have attracted over 2,000 exhibitors from around the world to showcase their latest collections of toys and games, office equipment and stationeries.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 31st Hong Kong Toys and

Games Fair, Chairwoman of Legislative Council's Commerce and Industry Panel Sophie Leung warned that traditional toys are facing even keener competition, given the decreasing birth rates worldwide and increasing popularity of computers and online games.

She added that as the

growth of toy exports to mature markets remains stable, it is time to diversify exports to emerging markets including Chinese Mainland.

Hong Kong's toys exports have relied heavily on the United States, which accounts for over 40 per cent of Hong Kong's toys exports.

In the first 11 months of 2004, HK's toys exports totalled 71.1 billion HK dollars (9.12 billion US dollars), a moderate growth of 1 per cent compared with the same period in 2003. However, toys exports to emerging markets grew significantly by 20 per cent to 40 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese retailer waits for customers to buy Chinese Knots in Beijing on 10 Jan, 2005. INTERNET



Japan mulls reviewing policy on state-sponsored foreign students

TOKYO, 12 Jan — Japan's Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry on Tuesday urged relevant ministries to review the policy on foreign students, saying Japan has a higher percentage of government-sponsored foreign students than other industrialized countries but their academic performance has been declining.

Considering the tight fiscal situation, Japan should shift its focus on spending state money to improve the quality of foreign students, the ministry said.

The ministry also called on law enforcement authorities to tighten immigration screening for privately financed overseas students, some of whom are sometimes found to have overstayed their visas.

In a report evaluating the policy, the ministry recommended that the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry review existing systems concerning foreign students.

The number of foreign students studying in Japan totalled about 117,300 last year, topping the 100,000-mark target set by the government in 1983 when the number of overseas students totalled about 10,000, according to the ministry.

Of the 117,300, about 9,800 are studying under the Japanese Government scholarship, while the other 107,500 are privately funded.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Madagascan FMs meet on bilateral relations

TANANARIVE, 12 Jan — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Monday held talks with his Madagascan counterpart Marcel Ranjeva on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern.

Li said the two countries have supported each other on domestic construction and international affairs since China and Madagascar established diplomatic relations in 1972.

China is willing to strengthen coordination with Madagascar on international issues, and promote visits and cultural exchanges between the two nations, said Li, noting China will encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Madagascar.

Ranjeva said the China-Africa Cooperation Forum has served as a platform for China's support for Africa, expressing his thanks for China's help. Madagascar cherishes the friendship between the two countries, said Ranjeva, noting

his country will adhere to the one-China policy and support China's peaceful reunification. Li is on his four-nation African tour from 6 January to 14 January, which has taken him to Lesotho and Seychelles. He will also visit Mauritius.—MNA/Xinhua



British troops cordon off the area following a car bombing in the centre of the southern city of Basra, 500 kms from Baghdad on 12 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

1,356 of US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—As of Tuesday, 11 Jan, 2005, at least 1,356 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,068 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 am Tuesday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President

Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,218 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 959 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 10,372 US servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday. — Internet

Motorcycle sales in Indonesia projected to surpass five million units

JAKARTA, 11 Jan— The Indonesian Motorcycle Industries Association (AISI) has targeted to boost sales to above five million units this year from 4.1 million units in 2004.

AISI chairman Ridwan Gunawan was quoted Monday by *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper as saying motorcycle sales in the country will continue climbing this year although the growth will not be as remarkable as that of last year.

"We posted a growth of 40 per cent last year but it might be down to 20 per cent this year," he said.

He said the booming in motorcycle sales in the last two years has left producers overwhelmed by soaring demands.

AISI, which comprises six leading brands including Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, Piaggio and Kymco, has an output capacity of 3.5 million units a year. —MNA/Xinhua

Japanese DM pays official visit to Singapore

SINGAPORE, 12 Jan— Japanese Minister of State for Defence Yoshinori Ohno Monday arrived in Singapore for a two-day official visit.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence on Monday, Ohno called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and met with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, apart from meeting with his Singaporean counterpart Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean.

The statement said that Ohno will also call on Tony Tan, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence, and tour the Changi Naval Base.

MNA/Xinhua

China Changchun Film Festival opens in N-E China

CHANGCHUN, 11 Jan— The Seventh China Changchun Film Festival opened Monday in Changchun, capital of northeastern Jilin Province and one of the largest film production bases in the country.

"On celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of films in China, the Seventh China Changchun Film Festival will give greater impetus to China's film industry," said Zhao Shi, deputy director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television and director of the organization committee of the film festival.

A total of 87 films will compete for the Golden Deer awards including Excellent Chinese Feature Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Technological Innovation, Box Office Intake and New Rising Actors in Film in the next two days.

Different from the former sessions, the Changchun film festival has newly established three awards, ie awards to Technological Innovation, Box Office Intake and New Rising Actors in Film while calling off the Award to Best Foreign Language Film.

"Our aim is to tap potentials for the Chinese language films and to search for the best combining point of the market and the art," said An Li, deputy director of the organization committee of the film festival. —MNA/Xinhua

Singapore provides more funds for biomedical research

SINGAPORE, 11 Jan— Singapore institutions have allocated more funds for biomedical researchers to support their work in universities, hospitals and disease centres.

According to local media reports on Monday, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research and the Biomedical Research Council have pledged 48 million Singapore dollars (about 29 million US dollars) and 50 million Singapore dollars (about 30 million US dollars) respectively.

Seventy-four biomedical research projects will get funds ranging from 250,000 Singapore dollars (about 152,000

US dollars) to three million Singapore dollars (about 1.8 million US dollars) for one to five years.

These projects cover areas such as cancer, brain and heart diseases, stem cell research, immunology, and infectious diseases.

The Biomedical Research Council has granted 156 million Singapore dollars (about 95 million US dollars) to support 189 projects since 2001, while 240 publications, 26 patent filings and 11 invention disclosures have been produced so far.

MNA/Xinhua



A scientist looks at 'chakragati' mice that mimic human disease symptoms at a Singapore laboratory on 11 Jan, 2004. A government science agency awarded more than 48 million Singapore dollars (29 million US) in project funding last year to Singapore-based biomedical researchers.—INTERNET

Four British soldiers to appear in court martial for abusing Iraqis

BERLIN, 11 Jan— The first of four British soldiers accused of abusing Iraqi civilians was to appear in front of a British court martial at a base in northern Germany on Monday.

The four unnamed soldiers face charges including assault and indecent assault related to the detention of Iraqi civilians at a warehouse near the southern city of Basra in the weeks after the United States and Britain invaded Iraq in March 2003.

The Ministry of Defence declined to name the four soldiers, citing possible reporting restrictions in the court.

The three other soldiers are scheduled to appear in front of courts martial also in northern Germany on Wednesday, a British military spokesman said. The first court martial is due to end on Tuesday.

The accusations surfaced after staff at a photo

development laboratory in Britain showed British police photographs that were purported to depict scenes of abuse.

A British military spokesman said the judge would have the discretion to decide whether evidence cited in the case would be kept secret to avoid endangering the safety of British soldiers still serving in Iraq in the lead-up to January 30 elections.

Britain's military has launched more than 100 investigations into the deaths of and injuries to Iraqis in incidents that range from combat to detention to road accidents.

A number of US soldiers have already been convicted of similar

charges arising from a prisoner abuse scandal at the notorious Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad after photographs appeared in the world Press, embarrassing the government of US President George W Bush.

Later on Monday, opening arguments are due to begin in Fort Hood, Texas in the trial of Charles Graner, the accused ringleader in the Abu Ghraib scandal.

Last October, in the stiffest sentence handed down by US authorities, Staff Sergeant Ivan "Chip" Frederick was jailed for eight years after pleading guilty to committing an indecent act, assault and dereliction of duty, also at Abu Ghraib.—MNA/Reuters



A US Marine from Lima Company takes cover as they patrol devastated city of Fallujah, some 50 kilometres west of capital Baghdad on 10 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Poll shows British support for Iraq war at record low

LONDON, 11 Jan— Public support for the war in Iraq has fallen to a record low, with only 29 percent of Britons believing that it was the right thing to do, according to a poll.

However, a strong majority of Britons believe that elections for an Iraqi assembly should go ahead this month, according to the poll conducted by Populus at the weekend and published in the Times newspaper.

Support for the war peaked at 64 percent in April 2003, when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was overthrown, three weeks into the US-led invasion, and has declined steadily over the subsequent 18 months, it said.

The number saying that waging war

was the wrong thing to do has decreased slightly to 53 percent from 57 percent two months ago, and the proportion saying that they did not know has risen from 13 to 18 percent since November, it said.

For the first time, more supporters of the governing Labour Party think that the war was the wrong thing to do, by 44 percent to 37 percent.

This compares with a 47 to 43 percent margin in favour of military intervention in a similar poll last November.—Internet

Turkish PM arrives in Russia to boost cooperation

Moscow, 11 Jan—Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Moscow on Monday to discuss with Russian officials the further development of relation between the two countries the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported on Monday.

Erdogan said that the visit of Russia President Vladimir Putin to Ankara last month had become a pivotal point in bilateral relation.

During that visit the joint declaration reached by the two side on strengthening friendship and multifarious partnership confirmed the mutual desire to improve bilateral cooperation in an spheres, the Turkish Prime Minister said.

Erdogan believes that the good reations between Moscow and Ankara will promote regional peace stability and welfare and that in the whole Europe.

He predicted if both sides exert more efforts, bilateral trade turnover may reach 15 billion US dollars this year, 25 billion in 2007, and 20 billion in the near future.

“The increased trade between our coun-

tries puts Russia among the main economic partners of Turkey,” Erdogan said.

In his opinion, Turkish companies operating in the Russia market will be able to supply their products to Central Asian countries, and Russian energy companies investing their capital in energy projects in Turkey will be able to enter the European market with their products.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Kenyan President calls for increased Chinese investment

NAIROBI, 11 Jan—Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki has called for increased Chinese investment to boost the existing bilateral relations between the east African country and China.

While meeting China’s Assistant Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng at State House, Nairobi on Monday, Kibaki singled out the improvement of the country’s road network as an area which could benefit from Chinese investment and expertise.

“We welcome your participation in the improvement of our roads. Investment opportunities in this sector exist not only in Kenya but also in the whole region, particularly Sudan which has experienced decades of civil strife,” Kibaki said.

The President said Kenya appreciated China’s support particularly in economic and technical fields where China

has become a leading development partner. He thanked China for giving Kenya the preferred tourist destination status, which he said would further promote Kenya’s tourism industry which is picking up after several years of slump.

On his part, the visiting Chinese Assistant Minister, who has been in the country to witness the signing of the comprehensive Sudan peace agreement, commended Kenya’s role in the promotion of peace and stability in the region.

He said Kenya’s leading role in the Sudan and Somalia peace processes has made the country popular not only in China but also in the international area.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong rains leave many dead, homeless in Central, S America

BUENOS AIRES, 11 Jan—Heavy rains have claimed many lives and left thousands homeless in Central and South America, officials said Monday.

In Argentina, at least seven people were killed and thousands more displaced by the heavy rains, the authorities said.

The storm, accompanied by strong winds, also interrupted electricity supply and flooded roads in the Argentine provinces of Tucuman and Cordoba.

A 40-year-old woman and her five-year-old son drowned in torrent near the city of Tucuman. A 32-year-old man was electrocuted when a high-tension cable collapsed.

About 500 people were evacuated from their houses to shelters Sunday. Another 500 people had to abandon their houses, according to the authorities.

In Venezuela, three people were killed and 328 left homeless by heavy downpour last week in the states of Vargas, Falcon and Yaracuy, an official said.

Civil Protection Director Colonel Antonio Rivero said Vargas was the state most severely affected by torrential rains and ensuing landslides.

Rivero warned that the number of victims may rise since security officials have received reports that another 200 people in east Vargas asked to be evacuated.

Intense downpour also left at least 2,000 people homeless in west Panama, along the Costa Rican border.

MNA/Xinhua

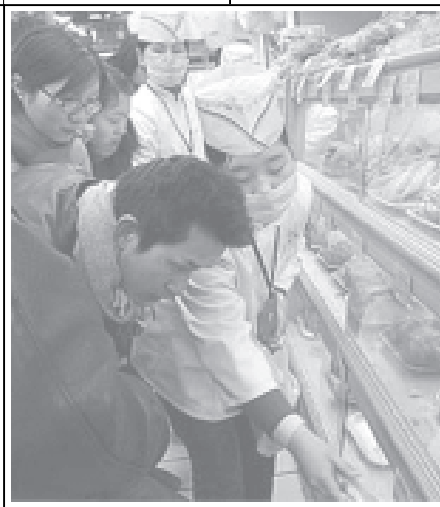
Unlicensed foreigners banned driving in Cambodia’s two cities

PHNOM PENH, 12 Jan—Cambodia’s seaside city Sihanoukville joined Siem Reap, home of Angkor Wat temples, to become the second area in the country to ban foreigners who do not hold international or local drivers’ licences from driving motorbikes, local media reported on Tuesday.

“We want safety for the foreign visitors and for the moto taxi drivers to have jobs,” *The Cambodia Daily* quoted So Chunhuor, director of Sihanoukville’s Public Works and Transport Department, as saying.

“Some expatriates do not know the streets and have never driven before so they get in accidents,”

he said. So Chunhuor said that notice of the ban had been broadcast in Sihanoukville throughout December and that the announcement also urged residents to apply for driving licences. Unlicensed foreigners have been banned from driving in Siem Reap since March 2003.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Chinese shop for bread at a Beijing supermarket on 11 Jan, 2005. —INTERNET

Scientists to start DNA analysis of 2,500-year-old horses

XI’AN, 11 Jan—Chinese and British scientists are planning for the DNA analysis of 12 horse skeletons unearthed from the burial ground of a prominent duke who lived more than 2,500 years ago in northwestern Shaanxi Province.

Archaeologists with Beijing University and Cambridge University have used a professional database to process data collected from the skeletons, including the size and weight of the skulls, spinal columns and limbs.

A Cambridge laboratory will be entrusted to carry out the DNA analysis, after the State Admin-

istration of Cultural Heritage of China gives the green-light, said a source with the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archeology who declined to be named.

The DNA test will hopefully find out more facts about ancient horses, including their skeletal bone mineral density and other trace elements, which may shed light on how horses were fed and tamed in history, he said.

Experts say this will be the first comprehensive study on ancient Chinese horses, though sacrificial horses and carts are often found in north China.

The 12 horse skeletons were unearthed from two sacrificial tombs close to the No 1 Tomb of Duke Jinggong (577 BC - 537 BC) of the Qin Kingdom in Fengxiang County, 170 kilometres west of the provincial capital Xi’an.

MNA/Xinhua

Allawi says attacks on oil and power have cost Iraq 10 billion dollars

BAGHDAD, 11 Jan—Attacks on oil and electricity infrastructure have cost Iraq 10 billion dollars in revenue, interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi told state-run Al-Iraqiya television.

“The total cost of direct and indirect losses due to the targeting of oil and electricity infrastructure in Iraq has surpassed 10 billion dollars till now,” Allawi said.

“Some of these losses resulted from attacks on oil pipelines feeding storage areas as well as attacking oil tankers carrying imported gasoline” to Iraq.

Allawi was referring to the daily attacks on gasoline tanker trucks heading into the country from Turkey that are often targeted, with the drivers kidnapped or killed.

Last week, Oil Minis-

ter Thamer Ghabban warned that guerillas were waging an all-out war on the country’s vital oil industry, costing Iraq nearly eight billion dollars in petrol revenue since the March 2003 US-led invasion.

Saboteurs have effectively shut down exports from Iraq’s lucrative

northern oil fields around Kirkuk, and the country relies on its southern port of Basra to ship its vital revenue earner to the world.

In late December, they fired mortars at the Dura refinery in southwestern Baghdad, which feeds the capital’s main power plant.—*Internet*

Iraqi and US troops help Iraqi military wounded in a roadside bomb blast in the northern city of Mosul on 11 Jan, 2005. INTERNET





Japan Ground Self-Defence Force's (JGSDF) members wave to bid farewell to Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force's transport ship Kunisaki departing to Indonesia at a naval base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo on 12 January, 2005.—INTERNET

Thailand mulls new plan to prevent bird flu resurrection

BANGKOK, 12 Jan— Thailand launched an emergency plan on Monday in response to the World Health Organization's (WHO) warning of possible large-scale resurrection of avian influenza.

The government will draw up an initial plan for bird flu control and come out with a comprehensive strategy tackling all related issues in three months, Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisang was quoted by newspaper *The Nation* as saying on Tuesday.

A system will also be put in place to prepare the country in the event of

mutation enabling the flu virus transmitted between humans. WHO earlier warned that Asia is still in face of the possibility of large-scale emergence of bird flu and the disease would be more lethal than SARS if no proper prevention measures adopted.

Bird flu killed 12 people in Thailand last year but no new cases have been reported in the coun-

try since November.

However, remanent of the virus is still existing in the kingdom and might be resurrect epidemic, said Chaturon, who oversees the country's bird flu prevention work.

"The bird-flu epidemic poses a bigger danger than many Thais like to think," he said. "We can't afford to be complacent." —MNA/Xinhua

WB regards agricultural trade reforms as key to reduce poverty

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan— With almost 70 per cent of the poor people in developing countries living in rural areas, agricultural sector reforms, in particular global trade liberalization, will be crucial in reducing poverty, according to a World Bank report released Monday.

The report, Global Agricultural Trade and Developing Countries, notes that despite the recent framework agreement in Geneva, agricultural protection continues to be among the most contentious issues in global trade negotiations.

High protection of agriculture in industrial countries was the main cause of the breakdown of the Cancun Ministerial Meetings in s2003, and remains among the key outstanding issues in the Doha Round of global trade negotiations, it says.

MNA/Xinhua

US translator pleads guilty of illegally carrying secret papers

BOSTON, 11 Jan— A US civilian translator at the Guantanamo Bay Prison for foreign terrorism suspects pleaded guilty on Monday to illegally carrying classified documents outside of Cuba and lying about it.

Ahmed Fathy Mehalba, a naturalized US citizen of Egyptian descent, was returning to the United States from visiting family in Egypt on September 29, 2003, when officials at Boston's Logan Airport found a compact disc containing 725 secret documents relating to national defence in his luggage.

Federal prosecutors said Mehalba, 32, initially told authorities he did not know about the files and lied about not understanding the definition of the word "secret" regarding classified information.

"Is that what happened?" US Magistrate Judge Charles Swartwood asked Mehalba.

"Yes," replied the linguist.

His attorneys, Joseph

Savage and Michael Andrews told the judge they had no objections to his guilty plea.

Assistant US Attorney Michael Ricciuti, who also heads the US Attorney's anti-terrorist unit, told the court Mehalba had been briefed on classified materials several times in recent years, beginning when he joined the Army in 2000.

He received a similar briefing two years later when San Diego-based information company Titan Corp, a Pentagon contractor, hired him as a linguist.

When he arrived at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to work as a translator at the prison camp, Ricciuti said Mehalba was briefed again on secret documents.

MNA/Reuters

မြို့ပြဆွေးတာ ထိန်းပါးလေလွန်း ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

Beijing invests heavily to improve subway emergency system

BEIJING, 12 Jan — Beijing has recently invested 9 million yuan (more than 1 million US dollars) to improve the emergency system for its subway, reported Tuesday's Beijing News.

The report said the fund was used mainly to buy respirators, install blast shelters and fix fire extinguishers for subway stations and crucial machine rooms along the lines.

Meanwhile, passenger escape passages have been redesigned. Emergency illumination system and direction plates have also been installed to enhance the evacuation ease, the report said.

Currently, the No 1 and No 2 subway routes are well equipped with warning, smoke emission and fire control systems, it said. So far, Beijing has seen operation of three subway routes and another elevated train route with 70 stations and a total length of 114 kilometres.

MNA/Xinhua

East China oilfield produces 27 million tons of crude oil in 2004

JINAN, 12 Jan— The Shengli Oilfield in east China's Shandong Province turned over a record 26.74 million tons of crude oil and 900 million cubic meters of natural gas in 2004, company sources said on Tuesday.

The figures are the highest reported in the past four and six years respectively.

In 2003, the oilfield based in Dongying turned out 26.58 million tons of crude and 810 million cubic metres of natural gas.

A company spokesman said the oilfield has taken advantage of China's macro-control policies as well as the climbing oil prices and expanded production, enhanced management, improved efficiency and further explored the international market.

Thanks to its technological innovation and optimized allocation of resources, the company's gross revenue increased to 72.88 billion yuan (8.8 billion US dollars) and added value climbed to 48 billion yuan (5.8 billion

US dollars) in 2004.

The spokesman said Shengli oilfield has maintained balance between oil exploitation and reserves for eight years in a row.

Its proven oil reserves have been growing by more than 100 million tons annually for 22 consecutive years.

In 2004, it reported an additional 28.12 million tons of exploitable oil reserves and 1 billion cubic metres of newly proven natural gas reserves.

Shengli Oilfield is the second largest onshore oilfield in China following PetroChina's Daqing in the northeast.

It has a history of more than 40 years and its daily output of crude oil averages 520,000 barrels.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to export more farm, forest products in 2005

HANOI, 12 Jan— Vietnam has targeted to export 4.5 billion US dollars worth of agricultural and forestry products in 2005, a year-on-year increase of 4.7 per cent.

To fulfil the target, the country will focus on building brands, registering product trademarks, improving quality and seeking outlets, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on Monday. Local enterprises should be more proactive in building brands and registering their trademarks, MARD minister Cao Duc Phat said, adding that due to a dearth of well-known brands, export prices of many Vietnamese agricultural and forestry products, including rice, tea

and coffee beans are much lower than those of other countries.

For example, a ton of Vietnamese tea costs up to 40 per cent less than tea

exported by Sri Lanka, while a ton of Vietnamese rice is 40 US dollars cheaper than a ton from Thailand.

MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians walk past a Singapore Airlines poster in Singapore on 11 Jan, 2005.
INTERNET

The UDNR where good sons and daughters are produced

Kyaw Min Khaung

Our motherland is a union nation where over 100 national races are living together in unity and amity in every part whether the land may be the plains or the hill regions, with their blood thicker than water in times of emergency, for, they all are of the same ancestors, always close to one another like the peo-

fications to serve the interest of the locals, and, in addition, the UDNR offers greater opportunities for its students to lead a better life. Students who have completed the primary teachership course at the university can pursue higher education at the University of Distance Education (UDE), while discharging duties as an

been training its students to become junior leaders for regional development in addition to producing qualified teachers. The students are being trained to become skilled in farming, first aid and fire fighting, and in times of emergency, they will become the people's militia defending their own villages and regions, as they

which were a number of sublime pagodas enhanced the beauty of the historic range. After passing through Sagaing, the bus was on its way to Ywathitgyi.

I was travelling to Ywathitgyi to meet with my niece, Ei Yan Par, attending the regular course No 36 at the university. She is a native of a hill village in Matupi Township, Chin State. Located far from major towns — Falam, Haka, Tiddim and Matupi — in the state, her village is difficult of access. Sincere people of the village are just farmers as their ancestors. Although there is a primary school in the village, it still needs teachers. The whole village is happy as my niece is able to attend the UDNR, because she will become a teacher at her own village after completion of her studies at the institution. Thus, everyone at the village is waiting for the day she will return to the village as a teacher. The villagers are putting much hope for her, for, she will play a leading role in the village and regional development undertakings.

As No 36 four-year BEd course is going to end soon, she will have to go on a study tour of some

at the stage of a high school or an institute. Thanks to the goodwill and farsightedness of the Head of State, the UDNR has emerged in the nation.

The bus stopped at a place not far from the university. I came out from the car, and stepped into the UDNR compound on the bank of Ayeyawady River. The whole compound looked beautiful with groves of shady trees of various species making the place cool and pleasant. As it was the end of a day's session of classes, students were returning to their hostels in boys' columns and girls' columns walking in twos. I saw it as a symbol of discipline. While looking at them, I noticed their firm Union Spirit through their sparkling eyes. I met with my niece at the parlour of her hostel "Malikha". She looked energetic and active. After receiving guidance of the Head of State, she and her classmates

will discharge duties as teachers as well as regional development organizers in various parts of the Union, serving as reinforcements for national unity.

After saying goodbye to her, I left the hostel, and while walking in the entrance of the compound, I heard the song "Eggs and nest intact" from the canteen of the university.

"All the land, water and mountains

The heritage of nature we will have to love
On this land live the brethren

Eggs and nest intact
So cherishable is our land...so cherishable"

I believe that the university, where children of the nationalities pursue education together, will continue to produce good sons and daughters on whom the mother Union can rely.

Translation: TMT
Myanma Alin+Kyemon:
12.1.2005



The photo shows trainees of University for Development of National Races.

ple partaking water from the same source.

Of the brethren, some live in remote border areas, whose sustainable social development needs the energetic efforts of local youths. Moreover, the local youths will have to play a role in producing human resources, the main force behind the education development of the regions in the far corners of the nation, where teachers are in dire need. In order to produce a vital force to effectively address the problems of the remote border areas, the Academy for Development of National Groups (ADNG) was founded on 20 October 1964 in Ayemyawady Ward, Sagaing. On 14 August 1968, the ADNG was relocated at Ywathitgyi in Sagaing Township. The Government enacted the Law No 9/91 on 10 May 1991 to upgrade the Academy to University for Development of National Races (UDNR). The university began to run its classes on 10 June 1991.

As the ADNR has become a university, it has been producing youths with higher quali-

elementary school teacher. After getting a degree from UDE, they can attend the BEd course at the UDNR till becoming an MEd or M Phil Education degree holder depending on their ability and efforts. The Government has made arrangements for the outstanding students of the regular courses to join a university of medical, technological, computer, veterinary or nursing profession, thereby paving the way for a UDNR-trained student to reach a better future, work more effectively for the local people, and join the Union Solidarity and Development Association as reliable core force.

The regular three-year primary teachership course of the UDNR has been upgraded to a four-year BEd course beginning the course No 36 in 2000-2001 academic year. After completion of the four-year course, BEd degree will be conferred on the students, and they will be assigned as teachers. Any student who has passed the matriculation examination can join the course.

The UDNR has

have also undergone basic military and martial arts trainings.

A significant image of the university is that there are no unhealthy competitions among the students resulting from delusion, because deep in their hearts is the belief that they are of the same family, pursuing education

Since the stage of an academy till now, the institution has been training and producing good sons and daughters for the nation for 40 years, and they are discharging their duties well the length and breadth of the nation.

with the same aim of serving the brethren's interest. They always help each other and have respect to one another like real brothers and sisters, with their youthful faces like the window of their sincere heart.

My marathon thoughts about the university were stopped for a while by a cool breeze that touched my face when the Mandalay-Ywathitgyi passenger bus I was riding passed the Sagaing Bridge across the Ayeyawady River. On the right side on the road to Ywathitgyi was the Sagaing Hill; there on

parts of the nation together with her classmates, and receive guidance of the Head of State. It is a great opportunity for UDNR students to receive the guidance. In all seriousness, the Head of State will give the valuable guidance for their whole life.

Since the stage of an academy till now, the institution has been training and producing good sons and daughters for the nation for 40 years, and they are discharging their duties well the length and breadth of the nation. In other nations, schools for the nationalities are only

Myanmar PGA & MGF President's Trophy Golf Tournament opens

YANGON, 12 Jan — Organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, a ceremony to open Myanmar PGA and MGF President's Trophy Golf Tournament for 2004-2005 was held at Hanthawady Golf Course, Bago this morning.

At the opening ceremony, golfers took positions at the designated places and President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Brig-Gen Thura Maung Ni (Retd), Bago Division Police Force Commander Police Col Myint Wai, Regional Sale Manager of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd U Tin Htay, Director of Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club Lt-Col Lay Myint (Retd), General Secretary of MGF U Aung Kyi opened the tournament by teeing off the balls and the 18-hole event followed.

After the first day's event, Myint Thaug (KM Golf Centre) and Min Naing (Srixon) took the lead with 72 strokes each, followed by Myint Shwe (Wilson), Kyaw Swa Lin (Srixon), Aung Win (YCDC) and Zaw Zaw Latt with 73 strokes each and Zaw Paing Oo with 74 strokes in the professional level.

In amateur level, Nay Lin Tun secured the first with 70 strokes, followed by Zaw Zin Win with 74 strokes and Thein Zaw Myint and Naing Naing Lin with 75 strokes each. Air Mandalay, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Wilson, Srixon, Granslam (Musing Wear), Accel International Co, Ltd (Canon), Sun Far Travel and Tour, Pan-West (Myanmar), Kasco, Ping, Eastern-Pro, Pro-Shops and Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club were co-sponsors and the tournament was organized by Han Event Management. The second round of the tournament continues tomorrow. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets officers, other ranks and families of regiments and units of Hpa-an Station at the hall of No 22 LID in Hpa-an.— MNA

Our three Main National Causes important...

(from page 1)

The government and all the national people tried to remove evil consequences such as armed struggle among the national people, instability and lack of law and order and development and cultivation of opium. These were evil legacies of the colonialists,

tries, facts for traders and border and regular trade.

In his discussions, the Secretary-1 said he and his party came to Myawady to bring about development in Kayin State and to fulfill the requirements for improvement of bilateral trade through proper channel.

In bilateral trade with neighbouring countries, Myawady is an important gateway and it was upgraded to district level, he said.

proved and arrangements were made for better administration. These results strengthen national solidarity spirit, the Union Spirit and patriotism among the national people.

He spoke of the service people who discharge duties for raising of socio-economic life of the people in border areas to try to realize the goodwill of the State.

He said the government has laid down and im-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially converses with departmental officials in Myawady.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets Pado Aung San.— MNA

he said.

He said the government is implementing the border area development project, the 24-special region development project and the rural development project in the Union.

He called for serving the interests of the nation and of their own with patriotism.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on importance of Myawady District for the economic progress of the nation and practice in accord with the economic policies of the State.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein reported on trade with neighbouring coun-

There was no peace and tranquillity due to armed struggle in border areas. The country lagged behind in development of education, health and social affairs and transport compared with neighbouring countries.

The government formed the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races led by the Head of State and the Work Committee led by the Secretary-1. Moreover, tasks for education, health, transport and economy were undertaken after formation of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

With peace and tranquillity, security has im-

plemented Our Three Main National Causes— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

He said Our Three Main National Causes is very important for perpetuation of the Union and they are national policies to be handed down from generation to generation.

He also said that the government is also undertaking the four political objectives, four economic objective and four social objectives. Now there is peace and tranquillity and national solidarity in the country. Economic and social infrastructures have been established for national development.

(See page 9)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views flow of water in Thuangyin River from Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge in Myawady.— MNA

Construction of Yangon-Mandalay...

(from page 16)

by in charge of the project U Moe Thu on progress of building Meiktila-Mandalay section of Yangon-Mandalay six-lane road, and plans to construct Meiktila bypass. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed the officials to construct fine village-to-village roads and to accelerate construction of Thabyewa-Pyintha section of Meiktila bypass for completion of the project earlier than scheduled.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint also supervised the construction of No 1 water pumping station for supply of water to Meiktila plain near Kon village in Wundwin Township, Meiktila District. He inspected construction tasks along Meiktila-Mandalay section and building of Dan Creek bridge.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party saw over Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi village in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South). In the afternoon, they inspected sluice gates of Thittetkon Diversion Weir in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, the canals of Kinda Dam in TadaU Township, and Palintaung Water Pumping Station.

Together with Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and departmental officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint this morning inspected the Myitnge Bridge Project being undertaken by the Ministry of Construction on Yangon-Mandalay Road between Singaing Township and Amarapura Township. Officials reported on work progress, future programmes and supply of construction materials and fuel.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on the project. — MNA

60th 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

Much progress in education sector made due to implementation of national education promotion programmes beginning 2001-2002 Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than joins opening of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw

YANGON, 12 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence unveiled the signboard of the new building of Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kyonku Village of Ngaputaw Township this morning.

Among those present were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, authorities and officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed the multimedia classrooms at the school and enjoyed entertainment of the students.

Patron of the school building construction committee Captain Aye Pe (Navy) of the local station briefed them on matters concerning the school building and handed over



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than addresses opening ceremony of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw Township.— MNA

documents related to the building to Ayeyawady Division Education Officer U Myint Swe.

Headmaster U Myint Naing accepted one computer set donated by the commander; K 200,000 and two computer sets by No 1 Department of Basic Education and K 50,000 by U Htay Myint-Daw Khin Aye and family of Pathein.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that it is necessary for prevalence of law and order, economic enhancement and

human resource development which are three basic factors in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The Government has been uplifting the education sector for development of human resources. By designating 24 development regions, the Government has created opportunities for the local people so as to join institutions of higher learning in the respective States and Divisions. In addition, as the five rural development tasks were laid down and are being implemented, modern

schools could be extended and more teachers and faculty members could be appointed in the rural regions.

He added that development of the country relies on nurturing of new generation youths to become intellectuals and intelligentsia of the State. Much progress of the education sector could be made due to implementation of the national education promotion 30-year long-term programme beginning 2001-2002 academic year. To increase opportunities for learning education, more basic education schools have been opened in the entire nation year after year. In this regard, through there were 33,474 basic education schools in 1988, there are now over 40,500 schools and over 240,000 teachers appointed to teach over 7.78 million of students in 2004-2005 academic year.

He asserted that as over 4,700 schools were upgraded to the post-primary schools, those who

learned middle school level education in their respective regions increased to over 300,000. Furthermore, after implementing the school enrolment plan as the national movement activity, over 1.1 million of children or 96.56 per cent of school-going age of the whole nation could be enrolled at KG. With regard to the higher education sector, there are 156 universities and colleges at present though there were 32 in 1988.

In Ayeyawady Division, he said, 257 BEHSs, 580 BEMSs and 5,948 BEPSs could be put into education service. Nowadays, local students can enjoy fruitful results for opening school buildings including that of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw Township.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged those present to turn out educated persons on whom the State can rely and ensure durability of the school building.

The new building of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) is 150 feet long, 32 feet wide and 34 feet high. It is a two-storey building comprising eight classrooms, one altar room and the rest for the headmaster and teachers. Altogether 40 students can be accommodated. The building was built at a cost of K 6.3 million contributed by the State and K 53.7 million by the local people, amounting to K 60 million in total. The construction of the building was started on 27 December 2003.

After that, they attended the library namely Bawa Shayhsaung Village Head U Hla Myint in the same village, and visited it. Wellwisher U Soe Myint-Dr Daw May May Kyi spent K 3.1 million on construction of the library on the plot donated by Dhammapala Monastery Sayadaw and U Chit Yi-Daw Khin Thaug. There are various kinds of periodicals and books totalling 3,263. — MNA



Newly-opened Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw Township.— MNA

USDA Public Relations and Information Management Course No 4 opened

YANGON, 12 Jan—The opening of the Public Relations and Information Management Course No 4 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at the USDA training centre in Hmawby Township here this morning, with an address by USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo.

It was also attended by USDA secretariat members, CEC members and officials, and trainees from State/Division USDAs.

In his introductory address, the Secretary-General said that in the process of transforming the nation into a discipline-flourishing democratic one in line with the wish of the entire people, the successful implementation of the State's seven-point Road Map is more delicate and has more political essence than the tasks carried out previously for restoration of peace and stability, prevalence of law and order, national unity and national progress. Under the leadership of the government, over 21

million members are participating in the drive in cooperation with such congenial organizations as Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society and auxiliary fire brigade in addition to the people, he added.

He cited the address delivered at the concluding ceremony of the advanced management course by USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe, as saying that it is important to build the spiritual improvement of the members to a certain degree by inculcating them with the concept that real power is represented by quality but not quantity. He said that the Patron also gave guidance on building consolidated unity of the association with the members, who deeply trust the Association's aims, future work programmes and tasks and will never leave the Association with whatever reasons for their self-interests or in case of

the possible dangers of their lives. Now, plans and programmes are underway constantly in compliance with the guidance for spiritual and physical development of the members, and the course is part of the drive, he said.

Doing so is just for further progress of the nation, restoration of peace and tranquillity, and safeguarding and protecting the motherland with full use of good foundations, he said. Only when there is a certain close relation between spiritual development and physical development, will the nation be able to exist as long as the world does, with brighter future of the national people, he noted.

The members are to play a leading role and to correctly and effectively organize the people by shouldering regional development undertakings and organizational measures simultaneously, helping the people solve their problems and carrying out public welfare services in collaboration with the public. The



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo cordially greets trainees of USDA Public Relations and Information Management Course No 4.—MNA

members are also to take a pragmatic approach to the tasks for raising the living standard of the people and regional progress in order to win trust and conscious support of local residents, and in this case, the members are to be qualified ones fully imbued with firm belief and strong concept, he said.

In addition, the members of the USDA, a strong national force, are to be convinced well of the importance of their duties and responsibilities, to foresee fruits of

their nation-building endeavours, and to realize the genuine goodwill of the State leaders in paving the way for shaping the nation into a developed one with flourishing democracy and discipline.

In the process, the members must uphold Our Three Main National Causes and 12 objectives in implementing the seven-point Road Map as well as the future tasks laid down by the Association, hand in hand with the people, he said.

In conclusion, the

Secretary-General exhorted the trainees to work hard in the studies constantly to be able to effectively put into practice the knowledge gained from the course in the pragmatic sphere, to try best to become model of dealing with the people, and to perform the tasks with a sense of duty.

Next, the Secretary-General, secretariat members and CEC members had a cordial conversation with the trainees.

MNA

Cooperatives Minister inspects booths of MCCPSF

YANGON, 12 Jan—Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min viewed around the booths displayed for the sixth day at Myanmar Cooperative Centenary Products Show and Festival 2005 at Cooperative Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza), Bahan Township, today.

The Minister was conducted around the booths by Director-General of the Cooperative Department Col Soe Win, Director-General of the Cottage Industries Department U

Sein Than, Deputy General Manager of Cooperative Exports and Imports Enterprise U Saw Oo and officials.

The Minister inspected the booths of Kayah, Shan, Mon and Kachin States and Mandalay, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago and Magway Divisions, the Cooperative Department, the Cottage Industries Department and private salesrooms.

Afterwards, the Minister gave necessary instruction to the

delegates of states and divisions at the office of the leading committee.

On behalf of U Tin Aung-Dr Daw Khin Hla Shwe, Daw Thein Thein Soe donated an antique lacquer food carrier for Myanmar Lacquer College and Lacquerware Museum. The Minister accepted the donation and expressed thanks.

Myanmar Co-operative Centenary Products Show and Festival 2005 continues up to 13 January.

MNA



Daw Thein Thein Soe hands over ancient lacquer food carrier donated by U Tin Aung-Dr Daw Khin Hla Shwe to Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min.—COOPERATIVE

Ministers oversee Paunglaung Multipurpose Dam Project

YANGON, 12 Jan—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut arrived at Paunglaung Multipurpose Dam Project, 10 miles East of Pynmana, Mandalay Division on 9 January.

During their arrival, Director U Bitta of Irrigation Department

Construction Group-5 and Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported to the ministers on progress of constructing spillway. Regarding the reports, the ministers gave necessary instructions to officials concerned. After inspecting construction of dam and durability of it, the ministers gave instructions on timely

completion of the project, its durability and minimizing of loss and wastage. Next, they inspected underground power station, installation with three turbines at the station and power control room.

If four 70 megawatts turbines are installed at the station, it is expected to generate 280 megawatts.—MNA

Meeting for Realizing Peace & Tranquillity of Border Areas and Combating Transnational Crime held

YANGON, 12 Jan—The Myanmar-China Deputy Minister Level Meeting for Realizing Peace and Tranquillity of Border Areas and Combating Transnational Crime was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel, here, today.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Chinese Vice Minister of Public Security Zhao Yongji gave speeches. Also present on the occasion were 30 Myanmar delegates and 22 Chinese delegates.

The participants of the meeting were divided into three groups. The group-1 led by Police

Chief of Staff Police Brig-Gen Win Myaing and Deputy Director-General Mr Chen Weiming of Chinese Border Area Control Department discussed enhancement of border region inspection camps' authority, prevention against destructive persons, security measures of tourists and combating of transnational crimes; the group-2 led by Head of CCDAC and Drug Elimination Department Police Col Kham Aung and Chinese Deputy Director-General Mr Li Yuan Zheng of Drug Control Department held a discussion on combating and preventing illicit drug

trafficking, weapons, ammunition and explosive substances and human trafficking; and the group-3 led by Head of Transnational Crime Combating Department Police Col Sit Aye and Deputy Director-General Mr Zhang Jufeng of Chinese International Cooperation Department discussed cooperation of police forces in training courses, assignment of border area relations officers of the two countries, designation of emergency units, economic crime, money laundering, control of gambling and currency imitation.

MNA

**Yangon Sailing Club
Annual General Meeting**

All members of Yangon Sailing Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date : 23 January 2005
Place : Yangon Sailing Club
Time : 9:30 a.m.

Secretary
Yangon Sailing Club

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MILE STONE VOY NO (7)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MILE STONE Voy No (7) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-1-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EASTERN CAR LINER
LTD JAPAN**

Phone: 256924/256914

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Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.
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B.A.(LAW) LL.B.,
LL.M(UK)
P. O. Box. 109,
Ph:248108/723043
(For: Donnern Songjan & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 11 January, 2005.



Audits find contractors overcharging

UN by million dollars

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Jan—Internal UN audits of the Iraqi oil-for-food programme found large contractors overcharging the world body by several million dollars and said one UN agency systematically mishandled funds in the field.

Fifty-eight reports were released on Sunday by Paul Volcker, the former US Federal Reserve chairman, who is conducting an independent probe of the 64-billion-US-dollar programme. The audits had been demanded by at least five US congressional committees probing wrongdoing in the now-defunct programme.

The reports from the UN watchdog — the Office of International Oversight Services — found "no irregular activities" or corruption on the part of UN staff.

Nevertheless, they point to lapses in supervising the programme, especially in keeping a rein on contractors hired.

The reports indicate that Benon Sevan, head of the programme, complied with many of the requests but it is not clear which ones. But the audits re-

peatedly criticized the Nairobi-based UN Habitat agency for ignoring recommendations.

The oil-for-food programme began in December 1996 to allow Iraq to sell oil and purchase civilian goods, an effort to ease the impact on ordinary Iraqis of sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The reports, based on a slew of other UN internal audits, do not cover bribery conducted by then-president Saddam Hussein's government in the drawing up of oil deals, which it was allowed to do under UN Security Council resolutions.

But they provide enough details on mismanagement for Congress to attack.

The big contracts, where the UN watchdog was sharply critical, were granted to Rotterdam-

based Saybolt Eastern Hemisphere BV, which monitored the quantity of oil Iraq exported legally. The British Lloyd Inspections firm, later replaced by the Swiss-based Cotecna Inspection SA, inspected goods entering Iraq so vendors could be paid.

Saybolt, for example, was accused of charging for more staff than were actually working as well as housing and transportation that Iraq supplied. The audit reports determined Saybolt invoices led to overpayments of 186,000 US dollars.

One report, dated July 21, 1999, on Lloyds Register reported possible overcharges of 1.38 million US dollars because inspectors, who earned 770 US dollars a day, were not at their posts for 1,800 days.

MNA/Xinhua

Two earthquakes hit western Turkey

ANKARA, 12 Jan — Two earthquakes hit western Turkey early Tuesday, injuring one person, semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The first quake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale occurred at 01:48 am local time (2348 GMT Monday) in Milas Town of Mugla Province.

The epicentre was Gokova Gulf, officials of Bogazici University Kandilli Earthquake Monitoring Centre were quoted as saying. It jolted Mugla, Marmaris Town, western Aydin Province and Datca Town.

One person slightly

injured in Marmaris was taken to the Marmaris State Hospital for treatment, said the report.

Another earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter Scale hit Gokova Gulf at 06:35 am (0435 GMT), the report said.

Turkey is crossed by several major fault lines and earthquakes are a frequent occurrence.

The worst earthquake in recent years was in August and September 1999, when two quakes struck northwestern Turkey and southeastern Greece, killing more than 20,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua

11 dead, 17 injured in Nepal bus accident

KATHMANDU, 12 Jan—

At least 11 persons including a girl died and 17 others were injured Monday afternoon when a passenger bus plunged into a river in central Nepal, Radio Nepal reported Tuesday. The bus heading for Bhairahawa from Pokhara fell into the Trisuli River near Simaltal of the Narayangadh-Mugling road section, some 150 kilometres south of Kathmandu.

The injured are undergoing treatment at two local hospitals, half of them are in a critical condition, the state-run radio quoted doctors as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria, Canada sign two MoUs on education, assistance

LAGOS, 11 Jan — Nigeria and Canada on Monday signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) valued at 2.6 billion naira (19.5 million US dollars) for the development of some projects in the west African country, the official *News Agency of Nigeria* reported.

Nigerian presidential economic adviser Ode

Ojowu signed the MoUs on behalf of the country while the Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria David Angell signed for the Canadian Government.

The first MoU for which Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency

(CIDA), is committing 2.1 billion naira (15.8 million dollars) for the development of the School of Health Technology in Calabar, capital of the southeastern state of Cross River, and the Primary Health Care project in the central state of Bauchi.

MNA/Xinhua

Oil prices end in negative territory

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Oil prices ended in negative territory on Monday after dealers took profits from a nearly two US dollars surge that had been triggered by export disruptions in Iraq and the North Sea.

US light crude settled down 10 cents to 45.33 US dollars a barrel, erasing gains that brought futures to 47.30 US dollars in the midst of the open-call session, their highest level since 1 December. London Brent fell 26 cents to 42.92 US dollars a barrel.

"There was a meltdown late as the mar-

ket could not push any higher than what it already tested... prices broke down on technicals and profit-taking," said Steve Bellino, senior vice-president for energy risk management at Fimat USA.

Prices had jumped as Iraqi oil officials said that sabotage ahead of the country's January 30 elections had paralyzed oil operations in the north of the country, forcing a suspension in refining while export flows remained idle.

"The Iraqi election and possibility of oil facility sabotage, approaching refinery maintenance/

turnaround and the possibility the upcoming OPEC meeting will endorse further cuts rallied the market," said brokers Refco in a report.

Buying interest was also supported after news that Saudi Arabia had cut crude allocations to major oil companies with global refining systems in February compared to January.

Trade sources told *Reuters* on Monday that the cuts were smaller than those made in January from December, but declined to give precise numbers.

OPEC members said

last week they had implemented the cartel's one million barrel per day supply cut from 1 January.

After a relatively mild weather so far during the Northern Hemisphere winter, forecasters are expecting a chill to set in over the eastern heating markets from late January through February, bolstering demand.

Short-term forecasters also said mild US weather this week could come to an abrupt halt by the weekend, as an arctic blast sinks down from Canada.

MNA/Reuters



Hollywood star Matt Damon, right, and Japanese actress Miho Shiraishi pose for photographers during a news conference to promote one of his latest movies "The Bourne Supremacy" at a Tokyo hotel on 12 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

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The most ambitious interplanetary mission ever launched reaches a climax on Friday when a clam-shaped probe plunges towards Titan in a suicidal quest to unlock the mystery of Saturn's biggest moon. Artist's impression shows the Huygens probe leaving the Cassini orbiter to enter Titan's atmosphere.— INTERNET

RMB card allowed to be used for payment outside China

BEIJING, 11 Jan— Holders of Chinese currency UnionPay banking cards can pay for their shopping, dining, travelling and medical bills and extract cash in local currency as of Monday in South Korea, Thailand and Singapore, the first time ever for the card to be used outside China.

Chinese banking insiders say the move represents another substantial step China has taken to gradually open up its financial system and improve the convertibility of Renminbi (RMB), or the Chinese currency.

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said the move came after it allowed the cards to be used in Hong Kong and Macao for payment of private consumption over the past two years.

Under Chinese monetary rules, a holder of the

Chinese currency UnionPay card issued by the country's 29 commercial banks and rural credit cooperatives can extract up to than 5,000 yuan (about 610 US dollars) equivalent of local currency through automatic machine tellers in the three countries, Hong Kong and Macao.

Li Yang, a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the central bank and director of the Finance Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, described

the move an actual arrangement for convertibility.

The central bank announced its decision to allow the use of the cards in the three Asian countries December 29, 2004 in a bid to offer card holders safe, fast and convenient payment services for Chinese citizens travelling in those countries, and boost foreign trade and people-to-people exchanges between China and those countries.

China has been gradually easing its control over its currency during the

past decade, and the Chinese currency is now convertible on almost major capital accounts but not on capital accounts.

Zhang Jun, director of China Economic Research Centre at the Shanghai-based Fudan University, said the moves, plus the recent measure to raise the ceiling of the amount of cash in Chinese currency to be brought into and from China, indicate the Chinese currency is "moving steadily to full convertibility".

MNA/Xinhua

China to control spread of schistosomiasis in next decade

BEIJING, 11 Jan— The Chinese Government plans to control the spread of schistosomiasis in four years and eliminate the disease in the next decade, according to a latest government document.

Working to eliminate the disease, provincial governments will cover the medical fees of patients with the disease who are in the late stages, according to the plan from the Ministry of Health.

Carried by freshwater snails, schistosomiasis, or acute snail fever, is a fatal parasitic disease that attacks humans' blood and liver.

The Ministry of Health's statistics indicate an increase in cases of the disease in China. China had 843,000 registered schistosomiasis patients at the end of 2003, and 24,000 of them were at the late stage of the disease. This is 22 per cent more than that in 2002.

East China's Jiangxi Province has suffered serious outbreak of schistosomiasis since the flooding disaster in 1998. Currently there are still more than 100,000 schistosomiasis patients in the

province, including about 4,000 in the middle and late stages of the disease. The provincial government has just issued a specific plan to cover all the medical fees for the schistosomiasis patients who are in the late stages.

Five provinces and municipalities in China's east and south, Guangdong, Shanghai, Fujian, Guangxi and Zhejiang, recently also launched a campaign against the outbreak of schistosomiasis.

These regions saw an outbreak of the disease from 1985 and 1995, which has dwindled in recent years. The provincial governments hope that the campaign will prevent a rebound of the epidemic. The schistosomiasis is mainly in spread in provinces along the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, as well as those provinces south of the river. —MNA/Xinhua

Uganda takes measures to offer better mental health services

KAMPALA, 12 Jan — The Ugandan Government is taking new measures to offer better services to its countrymen who suffer from mental health related problems, reported local Press on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Health Mike Mukula was quoted as saying that under the Health Sector Strategic Plan Project One, the government is constructing six new mental health units at Kabale, Fort Portal, Hoima, Soroti districts and Gulu and Arua hospitals.

It also plans to construct seven mental health units in Mubende, Jinja, Mbale, Masaka, Moroto, Lira and Mbarara districts.

MNA/Xinhua

Pregnant women need to keep asthma under control

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan — Pregnant women need to keep their asthma under control, because if they cannot breathe properly, neither can the unborn baby, according to new US guidelines issued on Tuesday.

Although asthma drugs may affect the developing baby, they pose less of a risk than the breathing problems caused by asthma, the panel of experts who issued the guidelines said.

"The evidence is reassuring, and suggests that it is safer to take medications than to have asthma exacerbations," said Dr Barbara Alving, acting director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, which directed the panel.

"The guidelines should be a useful tool for physicians to develop optimal asthma management plans for pregnant women."

Asthma affects more than 20 million Americans and is one of the most common potentially serious medical conditions to complicate pregnancy.

The panel estimated it affects up to 8 per cent of pregnant women, who may be afraid to take drugs to control their condition.

"Simply put, when a pregnant patient has trouble breathing, her fetus also has trouble getting the oxygen it needs," said Dr William Busse of the University of Wisconsin Medical School, who chaired the National Asthma Education and Prevention Programme.

MNA/Reuters

Bangladeshi missions abroad blamed for poor performances

DHAKA, 11 Jan — Bangladeshi consular offices in London, Tokyo and Paris were blamed Sunday for poor performances in achieving their export targets.

The performance of consular offices in the three countries has deteriorated over the past six months despite repeated warnings. The *Financial Express* Monday quoted a high-ranking official as saying.

A meeting organized by the Commerce Ministry here on Sunday was told that London, Paris and Tokyo missions lagged behind by 0.92 per cent, 3.50 per cent and 7.55 per cent respectively from the export targets set for the period between July and October of the current fiscal year (July, 2004 - June 2005).

If the performances of these consu-

lar offices do not improve, the ministry will summon the consular chiefs to the country for explanations, the official said. He said the meeting decided to hold the ambassadors and high commissioners responsible for the failure of the consular offices from now on.

The meeting was told that 25 out of 46 missions have failed to achieve the target during the same period.

The target of these missions was nearly 1.58 billion US dollars for the period between July and October of the current fiscal year. But they achieved nearly 1.46 billion dollars, down by 7.58 per cent.— MNA/Xinhua

A pre-historic stone jar sits on a hillside above a bomb crater from the Vietnam War era (indicated by a sign (R), at Site 1 at the Plain of Jars on 11 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Nigeria's defender signs 3-year contract with Marseille

MARSEILLE (France), 12 Jan—Nigeria's under-21 international defender Taye Taiwo has signed a three-year contract with Olympique Marseille for an undisclosed fee.

In a statement on the French Ligue 1 club's web site Marseille manager Pape Diouf said the move was "an investment for the future".

Left back Taiwo could be used to replace former French international Bixente Lizarazu, who returned to Bayern Munich after an unsuccessful first half of the season at Marseille.

But Lizarazu's likeliest replacement should be Japan's Koji Nakata, who will train with Marseille on Thursday while his agent negotiates with the club.

Marseille coach Philippe Troussier knows the Japanese midfielder well from his days as Japan manager before the 2002 World Cup. He had used the Kashima Antlers player at left back at the time.

MNA/Reuters

Gramenet book place in King's Cup quarter-finals

MADRID, 12 Jan—Third division Gamenet took a major stride towards booking their place in the King's Cup quarter-finals when they beat Lleida 2-0 at home in the first leg of their third round tie on Tuesday.

Primera Liga high-fliers Sevilla also headed towards the last eight after claiming a 2-0 victory in an eventful first-leg match at second division Recreativo Huelva.

Brazilian striker Julio Baptista cracked home twice from the penalty spot in a game in which both sides were reduced to 10 men in the first half.

Recreativo suffered an early setback when midfielder Emilio Viqueira was sent off after just 27 minutes when he appeared to insult the referee.

But the home side held firm and appeared to have been thrown a lifeline when Sevilla defender Javi Navarro

conceded a penalty and was sent off in the final minute of the half, but midfielder Angel Rodriguez hit the post with his spot kick.

Sevilla only managed to break the deadlock in the 70th minute when they were awarded a penalty after defender Pedro Baquero handled a Baptista free kick in the area.

The Brazilian blasted home from the spot and added another seven minutes later, winning the penalty when he went down under a challenge from Baquero.

Two quick goals at the start of the second half gave Gamenet a handy advantage over second division Lleida ahead of

next week's return leg.

Third division Gamenet, who knocked out Barcelona and Levante in previous rounds, took the lead in the 52nd minute after defender Mario stabbed home during a goalmouth scramble following a corner.

They added another seven minutes later courtesy of midfielder Dimas and were comfortably in control for the rest of the match.

Five other ties will be played on Wednesday including the only all-Primera Liga clash between Osasuna and Getafe, while favourites Real Madrid travel to Valladolid on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (C) gets a shot past Watford's Gavin Mahon (L) during the Carling Cup clash at Anfield, Liverpool.—INTERNET

Gerrard's goal gives Liverpool 1-0 win over Watford

LONDON, 12 Jan—Steven Gerrard's second-half goal gave Liverpool a 1-0 win over Second Division Watford in the first leg of their League Cup semifinal at Anfield on Tuesday.

The England midfielder struck after 56 minutes, finishing a flowing move with a firm goalbound shot from just inside the area that Watford defender Neil Cox could only head into his own net. Liverpool, record seven-time League Cup winners, struggled in the first half but improved after the interval following the introduction of Czech striker Milan Baros as a substitute.

"Watford deserve a lot of credit because they came here tonight and made it a real battle," Gerrard told Sky Sports.

"The manager told us we underestimated them in the first half but we came out and passed it a bit quicker and worked a bit harder."

Watford, 16th in the Second Division, competed well in the early stages, threatening to open the scoring after 18 minutes when Brynjar Gunnarsson's powerful header was blocked by goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek.

The Premier League side showed more urgency after halftime, however, Gerrard firing a shot just over the crossbar and

Neil Mellor forcing a good save out of Watford goalkeeper Paul Jones before Gerrard broke the deadlock.

Watford continued to press forward after falling behind and striker Heidar Helguson was only denied by a last-ditch challenge from defender Djimi Traore in the dying minutes.

"It's a great result for us but it could have been better," Watford manager Ray Lewington said. "We have done tremendously well, worked hard and disrupted them. We were always in the match and have everything to play for."

Gerrard said Liverpool, who host Manchester United in the Premier League on Saturday, would have to improve against Watford at Vicarage Road in two weeks.

"We need to be a lot better than that in the second leg," Gerrard said.

Chelsea play Manchester United at Stamford Bridge in the first leg of the second semi-final on Wednesday. The final is at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on 27 February. —MNA/Reuters



Lille's Cameroonian midfielder Jean Makoun (R) and Marseille's French midfielder Samir Nasri fight for the ball during their French L1 football match at stadium Nord in Villeneuve d'Ascq.—INTERNET

Marseille beat Lille 2-1

LILLE (France), 12 Jan—Olympique Marseille bounced back from the weekend's shock French Cup defeat with a convincing 2-1 away victory at Lille on Tuesday.

Spearheaded by a rejuvenated Steve Marlet, who opened the scoring in the second minute, Marseille inflicted Lille's first home defeat of the season in any competition.

Former French international Marlet was also instrumental in his team's second goal, crossing for young midfielder Samir Nasri to volley home in the 22nd minute.

Lille were a little lucky to reduce the scoring after the break when Philippe Brunel converted a disputed penalty for a foul by Abdoulaye Meite on striker Matt Moussilou.

Marseille were knocked out of the Cup 3-2 by second division Angers in the first round on Saturday.

The game at Lille was the first Ligue 1 match of 2005, the other 18 clubs resume their league season on Wednesday after a short break.

The win lifted Marseille to fourth in the standings on 32 points, seven behind leaders Olympique Lyon, who face a tricky trip to Sochaux.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia seeks miracle in Tiger Cup

JAKARTA, 12 Jan—The Indonesian soccer team are now hoping they can make another miracle to win the Tiger Cup trophy after a 3-1 defeat by Singapore in the first leg of the finals here on Saturday.

Indonesia must beat host Singapore with a difference of at least three goals in the second leg on 16 January, but coach Peter Withe said over the weekend winning in Singapore "is no mission impossible". "It will indeed be a difficult task to win the second match of the finals in Singapore on 16 January, but it's not a mission impossible," he was quoted Monday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

Indonesia made a dramatic path to the finals when they beat host Malaysia 4-1 after losing 2-1 at home ground.

"The players have also realized what went wrong in the home game against Singapore on Saturday, and they want to rectify the situation. We should remember that up until the final, Indonesia had scored 23 goals and conceded only six," said the Briton.

"If our players are able to play the same spirited and cohesive way in Singapore as they played against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, then the Tiger Cup should come home with us to Jakarta," he said.

Indonesia now seeks its first Tiger Cup title after losing in two previous finals of the biyearly event.

MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar, Bangladesh and India to perform trilateral cooperation in petroleum sector

YANGON, 12 Jan — To perform trilateral cooperation in petroleum sector among Myanmar, Bangladesh and India, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party met with Bangladeshi State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mr AKM Mosharraf Hossain and party and Indian Minister of Oil and Natural Gas Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar at the Ministry of Energy this morning.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in petroleum sector on common interest among Myanmar, Bangladesh and India, efficient use of natural gas



The Tri-Lateral Meeting on Mutual Cooperation in Petroleum Sector among Myanmar, Bangladesh and India in progress. — ENERGY

exploited in Rakhine Off-shore, sales of natural gas from the offshore to Bangladesh and India by laying

pipelines and other oil and natural gas tasks.

The Bangladeshi and Indian Ministers and their

parties were invited by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

MNA

Myanmar leads SEA Archery C'ships with 7 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze

YANGON, 12 Jan — The First South-East Asian Archery Championships continued for the second day at Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, this morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, members of the panel of leading patrons of the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, officials, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of South-East Asian Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta and officials, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe and officials.

Ms Sharmani Gane-

san, Ms Anbarasi Subramanian and Ms Man Redee Sut Txi of Malaysia stood first, second and third in the women's recurve 70-metre event yesterday. In today's women's individual event, Ms Anbarasi Subramanian of Malaysia, Ms Susidwi Megasari of Indonesia and Ms Man Redee Sut Txi of Malaysia bagged first, second and third prizes respectively. In the yesterday's men's 70-metre compound event, Paw Oo, Myo Aung San and Lin Naing of Myanmar won first, second and third prizes respectively. MAF President Dr Khin Shwe and officials presented prizes to the winners. Similarly, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented medals and gold



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents prize to Paw Oo of Myanmar who stood first in the men's individual event. — NLM

harp trophies to Paw Oo, Myo Aung San and Ye Min Swe who won first, second and third prizes in today's men's individuals

event.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials awarded first to third medals and gold harp trophies to Yu Nanda Htaik, Thin Thin Khaing and Cathy in the women's individuals event; Mr Cheng Chu Sian of Malaysia, Mr Kuswatoro of Indonesia and Mr Md Marbawi Sulaiman of Malaysia in the men's recurve 70-m event; and Nyi Nyi Tun, Tun Lin Aung and Mr Md Marbawi Sulaiman of Malaysia in the men's recurve individual event respectively. After winning three gold, three silver and two bronze today, the Myanmar team is leading the championships with seven gold, five silver and seven bronze.

The team events will be held on the final day tomorrow. — MNA

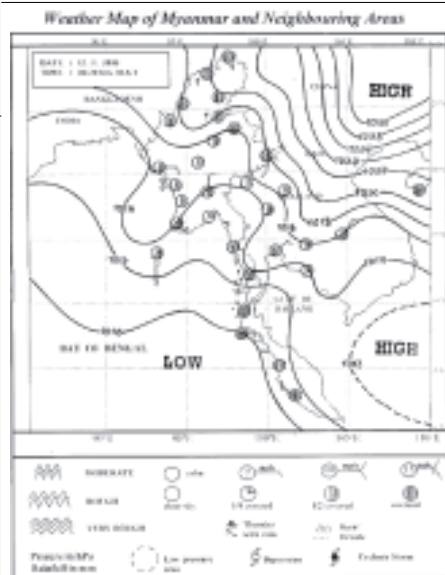


Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) tees off the ball at opening MPGA & MGF President's Trophy Golf Tour. (News on page 7) — MGF

FSD holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 12 Jan — The second day session of coordination meeting for the Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at the meeting hall of the minister's office this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Officer on Special Duty at the Ministry for SWRR Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thauang, director-general, deputy directors-general, directors, deputy directors, the head of office, assistant directors, advisers and heads of department in states and divisions. During the meeting, officials concerned reported on measures taken for respective departments and future tasks. Regarding the reports, the minister instructed the officials concerned to systematically carry out the tasks, to make field trips down to grassroots levels and provide the needs, to make efforts to be of service personnel.

Next, the minister viewed fire drills and rehearsal of the band of FSD. — MNA



WEATHER

Wednesday, 12 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been widespread in upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin State, isolated in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining states and division. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hakha (0.28) inch. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Shan State, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (2°C), Heho and Mindat (4°C) each and Haka (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 11-1-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 12-1-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-1-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 11-1-2005 was (7.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 12-1-2005 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 6 mph from West at (09:00) hours MST on 12-1-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in South and Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 13-1-2005:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of night temperature are likely in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-1-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-1-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

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

Emperor of Japan sends felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 12 Jan— *The following is a message of felicitations from Akihito, Emperor of Japan, to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of your country.

The 58th 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

Efforts of MHC draw Myanmar people's interest to history



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses Myanmar Historical Commission Golden Jubilee International Conference. — MNA

YANGON, 12 Jan — The Myanmar Historical Commission held its Golden Jubilee International Conference at Diamond Jubilee Hall here this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Edu-

cation Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Secretary-1 said that the Myanmar Historical Commission (MHC) was founded in 1955

seven years after the nation regained independence. The time-required task of re-compiling Myanmar history, a sector of nation-building endeavour, was (See page 9)

Construction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Meiktila and Mandalay Districts inspected

YANGON, 12 Jan— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, and officials, yesterday inspected progress of construction of Meiktila bypass linking Kantaung village and Pyintha village on Meiktila-Thazi Road.

of Yuzana Highway Co Ltd U Aung Wan, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instruc-

tions on timely completion of the project. He looked into the

road construction tasks and preparations for building a bridge across

Nyaungmyint Creek. On arrival at the toll gate on Yangon-Mandalay High-

way in Meiktila, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report (See page 10)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Myitnge Bridge in progress on Yangon-Mandalay Highway.— MNA

In response to the report by Director (Project)