

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 275

7th Waxing of Pyatho 1366 ME

Sunday, 16 January 2005

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 15 Jan— *The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State sent 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:*

From Natsagiin Bagabandi, President of Mongolia Excellency,

I would like to congratulate sincerely Your Excellency on the occasion of National Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish to Your Excellency good health, happiness and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

From Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

As the Union of Myanmar celebrates its Independence Day, it gives me great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency, along with my best wishes to you for good health and happiness, and to the Myanmar

people for continued progress and prosperity.

I should like to take this opportunity to commend the relations between our countries, and to tell you how keen I am to continue working with you to further strengthen them, for the benefit of our peoples.

From General Emile Lahoud, President of the Republic of Lebanon

In my own name and on behalf of the Lebanese people, I would like to convey to Your Excellency, on the occasion of the National Day, my sincere congratulations and best wishes of happiness and success to Your Excellency and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

From Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, I convey to your country my congratulations. I seize this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a happy future of the people of the Union of Myanmar.—MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Education sector seeing unprecedented progress More and more students eager to study education, knowledge, science, technology Teachers urged to train, nurture their pupils to be equipped with nationalistic sentiment Special Refresher Course No 56 for Basic Education Teachers opens

YANGON, 15 Jan—A ceremony to open Special Refresher Course No 56 for Basic Education Teachers was held at the Nawarat Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State

Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service

Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the rector of the CICS and heads of department, course instructors and trainee teachers.

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 56 for Basic Education Teachers. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 January, 2005

Health staff and people go hand in hand for provision of public health care

Health, fitness and higher education of national people are of so vital importance that the government is implementing a national objective: 'uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation'.

In this process, the government is carrying out health care activities such as disease control, prevention and treatment, and promotion of health standard so as to enable the people to enjoy longevity and healthy life.

National Health Committee Chairman and also State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, in his address delivered at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Health Research Conference 2004 of the Ministry of Health, which took place at the hall of the Central Bio-medical Library of the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Yangon on 14 January, said that the future of the country lies in the hands of today's youths; that the health of the youths has therefore been considered an important aspect; and that the undertaking of disease control tasks in developing countries by regarding the youths as 'target group' has turned out to be the most long-lasting benefits and the most effective strategy.

The launch of health campaigns and the provision of training by the Ministry of Health in conjunction with social organizations are part of carrying out the most effective strategy.

It is necessary to conduct research works that will provide answers as to what should be done for the success of this health drive within the frame of social and cultural traditions of Myanmar. The government has named six priority diseases, on which research should be conducted. They are: malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, and hypertension.

As regards these diseases, the research on effective therapies and potent medicines should go along with that of traditional medicines. Moreover, preventive measures are to be taken in sync with disease-relevant research works while keeping alert to newly-infectious diseases.

At a time when the rural development tasks are gathering momentum, rural people have to prepare themselves for active participation in health care activities of their own regions.

The onus is on local people themselves to launch community-based health surveys and health education campaigns down to the grassroots level.

All in all, health staff are responsible for the provision of health care in concert with the general public while the country is on its way to national goal, which is the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed democracy.

Myanmar Health Research Conference continues

YANGON, 15 Jan — The second day session of Myanmar Health Research Conference was held at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township this morning.

Resource persons submitted 15 papers to the conference today. Myanmar researchers and Professor Dr Shigeru Okada of Okayama University of Japan gave health talks as technology week. — 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

Commander, mayor inspect modernization tasks in Yangon



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect completion of 45th Street in Botahtaung Township. —YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 15 Jan — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, together with Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, inspected tasks for sanitation, proper drainage and road construction here today.

The commander and the mayor, accompanied by officials, inspected sanitation tasks being undertaken at the junction of U Chit Maung

Street and Tint Hsan Street in Bahan Township, Yangon East District, this morning.

They also inspected the repaving of Alanpya Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township, construction of gravel road at 45th Street in Botahtaung Township, repaving of the road section between Merchant Street and Maha Bandoola Street along Botahtaung Pagoda Road, and sanitation tasks being carried out at ditches on both sides of SinOdan Street in Latha Township.

They also oversaw the repaving of Strand Road in Ahlon Township, sanitation tasks being carried out at the main ditch at the border of Ahlon and Kyimyindine Townships, and sanitation tasks being carried out at Ywama Creek near the junction of Bayintnaung Road and Mingaladon Road (Lower) in Insein Township, and the laying of concrete slabs on the platforms on both sides of the approach road to Shwepyitha Bridge in Shwepyitha Township. During their inspection

Dhamma Desanas to be delivered at Eindawya Pagoda Pujaniya

YANGON, 15 Jan — Ashin Khemasirilankara (Sitagu Kyartapwint), Ashin Chandadhika (Shwe Parami Tawya) and Dhammaduta Ashin Chekinda will deliver Dhamma Desanas at the Beikman on the platform of Maha Dhammayanthi Eindawya Pagoda on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township during the period of the 156th Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda on 19, 20 January and 22 January respectively. — MNA

tours, the commander and the mayor heard reports presented by officials and engineers in connection with their respective tasks.

They called on the people to contribute towards the tasks, and the officials to speed up measures for the upgrading of Yangon City to a city possessing characteristics of an international level. —MNA

Bangladeshi, Indian Ministers leave

YANGON, 15 Jan — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials

saw off Bangladeshi State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mr

AKM Mo sharraf Hossain and party at Yangon International Airport on 13

January evening.

Similarly, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and wife and party saw off Indian Minister for Oil and Natural Gas Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar and party at the airport yesterday evening.

The Bangladeshi and Indian Ministers and parties attended the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India Trilateral Meeting on Cooperation in the Petroleum and Gas Sector and observed the offshore oil and gas sector functions of the nation.

MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi sees off Indian Minister for Oil and Gas Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar and party at the airport. — ENERGY

Notes on Combating Transnational Crime and Maintaining Social Order in Border Areas signed

YANGON, 15 Jan — A ceremony to sign the notes of the Meeting for Realizing Peace and Tranquillity of Border Areas and Combating Transnational Crime was held at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Chinese Vice Minister of Public Security Mr Zhao Yongji signed the notes.

Also present on the occasion were the Myanmar representatives led by the Director-General of Myanmar Police

Force, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and staff totalling 60. Matters related to realizing peace and tranquillity on the border areas between Myanmar and China and cooperation in combating transnational crimes with momentum were included in the notes.

The Chinese Vice

Minister and party visited Bagan-NyaungU and Mandalay on 13 and 14 January.

This evening, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo hosted a dinner in honour of the Chinese Vice Minister and party.

MNA

Singapore, Malaysia reach agreement on land reclamation

SINGAPORE, 15 Jan — After two rounds of talks in recent months, Singapore and Malaysia have eventually concluded an agreement to peacefully resolve its dispute over land reclamation by the city state.

According to local Press reports Friday, the two countries said in a joint statement on Thursday night that very good progress was made during the meetings last December and January, and the two government delegations concluded an ad referendum agreement.

"Both governments accepted the recommendations of the Government of Experts and agreed to use these recommendations as the

basis of a mutually acceptable and beneficial solution," the joint statement said.

The two governments agreed that the waters in the Straits of Johore constitute a shared water body, the joint statement said, adding that they recognized that they have a common interest in cooperating to ensure the safety of navigation in the Straits of Johore.

The two governments also recognized that they

have a common interest in cooperating to protect the environment, including the monitoring of water quality to protect the marine and estuarine environment, and monitoring ecology and morphology in the Straits of Johore and to address any adverse impacts, if necessary.

In this regard, the two governments agreed that monitoring and exchange of information in these two areas will be done through

existing mechanisms, namely, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore-Johore Port Authority (MPA-JPA) Operational Meeting of which, for the Government of Malaysia, a representative of the Marine Department, Peninsular Malaysia shall be designated to co-chair the said meeting, and the Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment (MSJCE).

The two delegations will submit the draft settlement agreement to their respective governments for approval before signing on a date and venue to be agreed upon. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese Govt urges to open rail-and-sea route for grain base

DALIAN, 14 Jan — The Chinese Government is urged to open a special combined rail-and-sea route to link the northeastern grain base with the country's southern and eastern provinces via the Dalian Port.

Cereals from China's northernmost Heilongjiang Province could be first transported by rail to Dalian Port, and then be shipped to the coastal provinces in the east, said Lian Deyi, director of Heilongjiang's Grain Bureau. The transport costs will be lower than that of direct rail transport.

Currently, Heilongjiang is in the busy season for grain sales, with an increasing number of

wholesalers from different parts of the country flocking in the province, said Lian, noting that transporting the grains has been an urgent issue to solve for the province.

To make the joint rail-and-sea route operational as early as possible, Lian suggests that the central government take substantial steps to further lower the shipping price, to attract more companies to choose the joint route for grain transportation.

Called China's biggest grain granary, the northeast area, which includes Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces, turned out approximately 18 per cent of the country's total food grain, with a large proportion shipped to other Chinese provinces.

MNA/Xinhua



Employee of Japanese electronics giant Sanyo displays a piece of toast and a 'Winnie the Pooh' cartoon toaster on 12 Jan, 2005. A Japanese manufacturer said it had created a 'Super Toaster' which heats the bread a split-second after slicing it.

INTERNET

Six die in minibus-tank crash in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan — Six people died Friday in a head-on collision of a minibus carrying Iraqi civilians and a US tank near Muqdadiyah, a military spokesman said.

Eight others were injured, CNN said. An investigation was continuing.

"This is a tragic accident," Maj Neal O'Brien, spokesman for the 1st Infantry, said. "The tank attempted to turn away from the oncoming vehicle, but could not avoid the collision."

The bus was travelling in a southbound lane when it attempted to pass a slower-moving vehicle in front of it, O'Brien said. The bus struck the tank's left front quarter panel.

Members of the 1st Infantry Division patrol stopped to render first aid

and assistance to victims, he said. The wounded were taken to Muqdadiyah Hospital. — Internet

China to invest \$240b in 85,000-km expressway

BEIJING, 14 Jan — China will invest some 240 billion US dollars in the 85,000-kilometre expressway network scheduled to be built in the coming 30 years, Zhang Chunxian, Minister of Communications said Thursday at a Press conference held by the Information Office of State Council.

From now to 2010, the annual investment will run from 17 billion US dollars to 18 billion US dollars, while from 2010 to 2020, the annual investment will be around 12 billion US dollars, said Zhang.

The construction fund will come from vehicle purchase tax, fees and taxes collected by local governments, state bonds, domestic investment and foreign investment, said Zhang. — MNA/Xinhua

1,360 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — As of Friday, 14 Jan, 2005, at least 1,360 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 1,071 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am Friday.

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, 1,222 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 962 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. — Internet

China strengthens aviation with Cuba, Portugal

BEIJING, 15 Jan — Chinese and Cuban aviation department held talks here Thursday in a bid to further promote bilateral aviation communications as well as strengthen cooperation in technology, investment and personnel training.

China has already started preparatory work on forming aviation links with Cuba, said Yang Yuanyuan, director of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).

China and Cuba signed aviation agreement last year. Airlines from both countries planned to open routes via a third destination.

Air China and China Eastern Airlines already signed aviation

agreements with Cuban Airlines. And China Southern Airlines will follow suit next month.

China also signed a code-sharing memorandum of understanding with Portugal Wednesday.

Even though aviation enterprises not run direct flights yet, they still can carry out cooperation by means of code-sharing, aviation officials said.

MNA/Xinhua



Air China planes at Beijing airport on 15 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

SCO achieves

“impressive progress” in 2004

BEIJING, 15 Jan— The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has taken active steps in its external and internal activities in the past year and scored “impressive progress”, SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguang said here Thursday.

Dubbed “a new model of regional cooperation”, SCO is an intergovernmental international organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June, 2001 by six countries of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Last year, SCO stepped up security cooperation, Zhang said at a reception marking SCO Secretariat’s first inauguration anniversary and presentation of its web site “www.sectsc.org”.

“We initiated the regional anti-terrorist structure, signed an agreement on cracking down on drug trafficking, and created a

mechanism of meetings for secretaries of the national security councils of SCO member states,” Zhang told an audience of more than 100 diplomats and representatives from SCO member states, some other countries and international organizations.

Zhang also elaborated on SCO’s efforts to advance collaboration in economy and trade, saying “we ratified measures on the programme of multilateral trade and economic cooperation among SCO member states”.

“We also launched the

web site of regional trade and economic cooperation, started a process of consultations on establishing the development fund and business council, and signing a multilateral agreement on transportation,” Zhang said. SCO also developed its contacts and cooperation by presenting the SCO observer status to Mongolia and establishing contacts and relations with the United Nations, the ASEAN, the European Union as well as other international and regional organizations, according to Zhang.—MNA/Xinhua

Asia-Pacific parliamentarians vow further cooperation

HA LONG CITY (Vietnam), 14 Jan— Members of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) have thoroughly touched issues concerning politics, economy, trade and environment, pledging closer regional cooperation and calling for stronger involvement of the international community.

“Despite the existing stability, our Asia-Pacific Region is facing various threats such as terrorism, trans-national crimes, HIV/AIDS and other diseases. In that context, countries in the region need to strengthen cooperation and exert joint efforts to resolve the causes of instability”, Nguyen Van An, Chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly, said Thursday while addressing the closing ceremony of the APPF’s 13th annual meeting.

The four-day meeting adopted 22 resolutions, including cooperation in overcoming the earthquake and tsunami disasters, the peaceful resolu-

tion of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, terrorism, actions for nuclear disarmament after 60 years of the atomic era, application of the Doha development agenda, cooperation in the prevention and eradication of emerging infectious diseases, cultural exchanges and cooperation among the Asia-Pacific countries.

Seeing huge losses caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis on December 26, 2004, delegations vowed to beef up activities regarding rescue, relief and reconstruction in Southeast Asian and East Asian countries hit by the disasters.—MNA/Xinhua

Two US Marines killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan— Two US Marines were killed in action in western Iraq, the US military said in a statement on Friday.

The statement said the two Marines, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, were killed on Thursday “while conducting security and stability operations in the al-Anbar Province.”

It gave no further details, saying the release of any information might be used by guerillas waging daily attacks on US-led forces in Iraq.

The deaths raised to 1,071 the number of American troops killed in action since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Internet



A US soldier patrols in Mosul on 14 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET



Airship Zeppelin flies over the site of the Aichi Exposition near Nagoya, central Japan, on 14 Jan, 2005—INTERNET

Wu Yi on China’s IPR protection

BEIJING, 14 Jan — Vice-Premier Wu Yi told US officials and business people here Thursday that China is resolved to protect intellectual property rights (IPR) and the officials should confide in China’s IPR protection.

Wu Yi briefed the roundtable conference hosted by the US Embassy in China about China’s achievements on the protection of IPR last year.

US Secretary of Commerce, Donald Evans, attended the conference, which was also held in 2003 and 2004, at a proposal by US Ambassador to China, Clark T Randt.

China formed a cross-ministry IPR protection working group last year with Wu Yi as head. Comprising a dozen ministries of the State Council, or China’s Cabinet, the group

launched a year-long specialized action from last September to crack down on infringement of IPR nationwide.

In two months following the action, Wu said Chinese police investigated more than 1,000 cases related to IPR infringement, involving 550 million yuan (about 66.5 million US dollars).

In addition, Chinese administrative authorities handled more than 9,800 IPR-related cases and confiscated more 10 billion pieces of fake goods.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill six Iraqis in attack on hotel in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan — Gunmen shot dead six people and kidnapped a Turkish businessman in an attack on a hotel in central Baghdad on Thursday, witnesses and police said.

The attack occurred at 6:30 am (0430 GMT) when gunmen opened fire on a minibus that came to pick up the businessman from the Bakhan Hotel.

The six people on board were all killed, while the businessman, identified as Abdulkadir Tanrikulu, was kidnapped. The incident was still under investigation. Iraqi militants have targeted Iraqis and foreigners working with the US-led coalition.

MNA/Xinhua

Former US mily policewoman testifies over Iraqi prison abuse

FORT HOOD (Texas), 14 Jan— A former military policewoman involved in the Iraqi prison abuse scandal testified on Thursday that an intelligence officer asked her to watch a male detainee shower and point at his genitals, supporting defence contentions that soldiers were following orders.

Megan Ambuhl told the court-martial of Special, Charles Graner, portrayed as the lead figure in the 2003 abuse scandal at Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib Prison, that military interrogators would tell the prison guards what to do with detainees.

Seven military police and one intelligence officer were charged in the case, in which detainees were photographed naked in sexually humiliating posi-

tions. Graner faces a maximum 17-1/2 year sentence in a trial that officials hope to conclude this week.

Ambuhl, who worked with Graner at the prison and admitted under cross-examination to having a sexual relationship with him, pleaded guilty last year to one count of dereliction of duty and was spared prison time.

“They would come down with their detainees and let us know what they

wanted us to do with them,” Ambuhl said, referring to military interrogators. “They might say this guy is cooperating, not cooperating.”

In one instance, she said an intelligence officer asked her to watch a male detainee shower despite the fact that prisoners usually had privacy. “They wanted me to go in the shower and point at the genital area and laugh at them,” she said.— MNA/Reuters

China, Portugal issue joint Press communique to consolidate ties

BEIJING, 14 Jan—China and Portugal issued a joint Press communique here Thursday, reaffirming friendship on the basis of mutual respect and pledging concerted efforts to consolidate and enrich ties in all areas, especially in economic arena.

The two countries signed the communique amidst Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio's state visit to China.

China and Portugal are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. To mark the historic occasion, Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio is paying a state visit to China from January 11 to 17 as guest of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

In the communique, China and Portugal speak positively of their relationship over past 25 years and vow to further enhance bilateral ties through strengthening high-level reciprocal visits

and deepening exchanges and cooperation in economy, culture, education, science and technology, tourism, and judicature.

Approved by the Chinese Government, the Portuguese Government decides to open a consulate general in Shanghai and dispatch an honorary consul to Hong Kong this year, the communique says.

The two sides highly value the achievements the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) has scored over past five years and agree that the Macao SAR should continue to play an important role in

furthering the exchanges and cooperation between China and Portugal.

In the communique, Portugal reaffirms to support the one-China policy and opposes to any unilateral action that will change the status of Taiwan.

Both countries are happy to see the sound development of relationship between China and Europe Union (EU), the communique says. The two sides express readiness to continue to make contributions to consolidate ties between China and EU in politics, economy and other areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Exhibition on China-Portugal cultural exchange opens

BEIJING, 15 Jan —An exhibition about the centuries-old cultural exchange between China and Portugal opened here Wednesday and visiting Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio and Mrs Sampaio attended the opening ceremony.

The exhibition, "Portugal meets China", will display 38 precious cultural relics, including the Portuguese-Chinese dictionary compiled in 16th Century, the first treaty signed between the two countries in 19th Century, and porcelains ordered by early noble Portuguese. Twenty-six of the rare items are supplied by Portugal and the remaining provided by the National Library of China, the Palace Museum and the First Historical

Archives of China.

According to President Sampaio's greeting in the exhibition booklet, Portugal-China relationship has had a great impact on the development of two cultures and embodied the things in common shared by the East and the West.

Chinese Minister of Culture Sun Jiazheng and some entourage of Sampaio were present on the occasion.

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean man uses his mobile phone while walking past a mobile phone billboard in Seoul on 14 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

Arab FMs agree to set up Arab Parliament

CAIRO, 14 Jan — The Arab foreign ministers on Thursday wrapped up a one-day extraordinary meeting here, agreeing to set up an Arab Parliament.

"The foreign ministers have unanimously decided to establish an Arab Parliament, which will consist four deputies from each member country," the Arab League (AL) said in a statement.

It added that the Parliament, which will be based in the Syrian capital Damascus, is meant to be part of efforts to reform the league which was established some 60 years ago. The meeting also decided to set up a special committee to follow up the resolutions of the pan-Arab organization and

introduced a new voting mechanism, both to be adopted at the Arab summit to be hosted by Algeria on March 22.

Meanwhile, a senior Arab diplomat told Xinhua the discussions of two other major proposals on reforming the AL were delayed indefinitely.

"The foreign ministers decided it is not the right time now to discuss the two proposals on establishing an Arab security council and an Arab court," said the diplomat.

The diplomat, who

declined to give his name, added, "the discussions are delayed indefinitely for further consultations among members countries".

Thursday's meeting, which brought together foreign ministers and permanent representatives from 22 member states, was mainly intended to discuss issues related to the AL reform. The body, established in 1945, has been charged with a grand mission to strengthen Arab positions on both regional and international issues through joint efforts and common actions.

MNA/Xinhua

Prisoners from Iraq's Abu Ghraib escape

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan— Iraqi police searched Friday for 28 prisoners from Abu Ghraib who escaped from their custody while being transported to another facility in Baghdad, police and US military spokesmen said.

Two police officers may have been involved in Thursday night's escape, Iraqi officials said.

The detainees were aboard a bus from the prison to another Iraqi correctional facility, said Lt Col Barry Johnson.

Iraqi police said several detainees had their hands bound with rope.

The inmates loosened the rope and managed to overpower the police and

guards. One took an AK-47 assault rifle from a police officer and shot the officer, critically wounding him, police said. Four guards and the bus driver were severely beaten, police said.

Handcuffs and rope were found scattered in the street afterward.

The 38 detainees on the bus initially escaped,

but Iraqi police said they captured 10 of them shortly afterward.

A source with the Iraqi Interior Ministry said authorities were investigating the trip because it was odd for prisoners to be moved at night with little security. Officials said they are questioning the detainees who were recaptured.—Internet

Indonesian car sales climb 36.4% in 2004 to record high

JAKARTA, 15 Jan — Car sale volume in Indonesia rose by 36.4 per cent to 483,317 units in 2004 from 354,331 a year earlier, the local association has said.

The Indonesian Automotive Industries Association (Gaikindo) claimed the full year sale volume in 2004 was the highest ever in the country's history, *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper reported Friday.

"We even had to revise our sale projection four times, as the preliminary estimate was not that large," Gaikindo secretary-general Freddy Sutrisno was quoted as saying.

He said the fourth

estimate of 450,000 units was still below the actual achievement, adding that the smooth general elections have encouraged domestic demands.

Other supporting factors for the domestic car market are a stable rupiah against the US dollar and the launching of new, affordable models, he said.

The association projected car sale volume this year at 520,000 units.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Minister resigns after brief detention by US forces

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan— Iraqi State Minister Adnan al-Janabi resigned on Thursday in protest against his brief detention by US forces, an Iraqi official told Britain's BBC network.

Janabi was handcuffed under US detention for 30 minutes near the Green Zone, home to the interim Iraqi government and US and British embassies.

The US military command in Baghdad made no comment on the detention. Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi tried to persuade him to withdraw the decision but failed, said the official on condition of anonymity.

Janabi, a Sunni tribal notable, has been chosen to be a member on the Allawi-led list of over 240 candidates running for parliamentary seats.

MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians pass in front of a Daei supermarket in Yokohama, Japan, on 15 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Train ticket prices rise by 15-20% for lunar new year

BEIJING, 15 Jan — The Ministry of Railways (MOR) on Wednesday announced that prices of train tickets will increase before the Spring Festival, China's traditional lunar new year, which will fall on February 9 this year.

The price hike is attempted to control passengers during the peak travel period due to a shortage of space.

Price of hard seat tickets will rise by 15 per cent and price of sleeper tickets will rise by 20 per cent from 1 to 7 February, according to the Ministry of Railways.

Chinese travellers will make an unprecedented 14.5 billion journeys by train during the 40-day peak travel season, which will start on 25 January, 4.97 million or 3.5 per cent more than the same period last year. An MOR source said the ministry held a public hearing on ticket price hike in 2002 and the price fluctuation was approved. In the past three years, the Ministry rose train ticket prices during peak season by 15-20 per cent. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Pakistan confirms Indian FM's visit next month

ISLAMABAD, 14 Jan — Pakistan Thursday confirmed that Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh will visit Pakistan between 15 to 17 February to hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart on a range of Confidence Building Measures.

These dates were agreed after a telephonic conversation Thursday between Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, the official *Associated Press of Pakistan* Thursday quoted a spokesman from Foreign Office as saying.

The two foreign ministers will discuss composite dialogue and bilateral matters, Kashmir and peace and security when they meet in February 2005, the spokes-

man said.

Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri had extended invitation to Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh in September last year.

The dates were discussed by the two sides for the month of February 2005, but were put on hold because of the postponement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit.

MNA/Xinhua

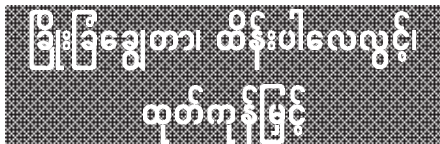
Gold production down in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 15 Jan — Mining group Rio Zimbabwe recorded a decline in production levels of both gold and nickel in the last quarter of 2004.

According to figures made available by the mining company on Thursday, gold production slumped by 1,472 ounces from 6,347 in the last quarter of 2003 to 4,875 in the last quarter of 2004.

Total gold output for 2004 declined by 5,272 ounces compared with the previous year when a total of 26,211 ounces of gold were produced.

Nickel production at Empress Nickel Refinery dropped by 811 tons from 6,198 tons in 2003 to 5,387 last year. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A Thai woman displays pearls at a pearl factory in Thailand on 13 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

Philippines issues travel advisory amid meningococemia cases

MANILA, 14 Jan — In light of the meningococemia cases in the northern resort city of Baguio, the Philippine Department of Health issued a travel advisory to Baguio travellers on Thursday.

Travellers from Baguio going to other countries would need certification that they had taken antibiotics and are advised to proceed to the Bureau of Quarantine (BoQ) of the department in Port Area, Manila, the department said.

Foreigners who travelled to Baguio are required to have their vaccination at the BoQ before returning to their home countries, it added.

The department also said the BoQ has been instructed to provide the

vaccines at a reasonable cost.

Besides eight laboratory-confirmed cases, Philippine authorities have reported 25 suspected cases in Baguio since the beginning of 2004, a total of 19 have died. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Asia's largest Picasso painting show to open in Beijing

BEIJING, 15 Jan — An exhibition of Pablo Picasso's paintings will be held in Beijing from 20 March to 20 May, 2005, exhibition organizer said at a Press conference here Thursday.

The 265 paintings, valued at an insurance premium of more than 100 million yuan (about 12.1 million US dollars), will be displayed in a royal garden near the Forbidden City, said the organizer Beijing Radio.

This is the largest display of Picasso's works ever held in Asia.

The organizer said that the paintings will be divided into eight

parts, covering a wide range of subjects including animals, portrait, poem and classical literature.

The French Picasso Foundation, the owner of most artistic works of Picasso, greatly supported the exhibition. Chinese and French organizers booked specific flight compartment to transport the paintings directly from Europe, said the organizer.

MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai World Expo — new platform for China-Portugal cooperation

SHANGHAI, 15 Jan — Portugal expects to carry out cooperation with China on the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, said visiting Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio here Friday.

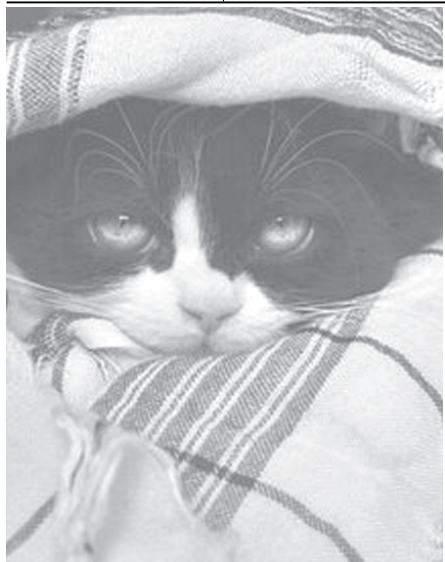
Sampaio made the remarks when Portugal and Shanghai signed a memorandum of understanding on Shanghai World Expo.

According to the MOU, the two sides planned to cooperate on such areas as gardening planning, exhibition hall design, after-expo use of

exhibition equipment and other relevant business planning, project management, personnel training and ticket strategy.

Portugal is eager to play its part in the preparatory works of

the Shanghai World, Sampaio said, adding that the Expo will become an important platform for enhancing mutual understanding for peoples worldwide. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A Jordanian keeps a kitten as he displayed it for sale in downtown Amman, on 14 Jan, 2005. The kittens, which are imported from Europe, are a favourite among wealthy Jordanians. — INTERNET

Academicians vote for top ten world, China science news

BEIJING, 15 Jan — Academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) have voted for top ten science news in 2004 in the world and in China, respectively.

The result of the 584 voters was publicized Thursday.

China's ten biggest science news include: the high-performance super server, the first Chinese-made nuclear power plant, the gas pipeline from West China to East China, the next-generation Internet, the launch of the second space exploration satellite, the new nano-tech material, the underwater high-precision positioning system, the find of membrane crystal structure, the quantum telecommunication technology, and the oil and gas exploration in the China seas. Xu Kuangdi, CAE president, said that all the top ten science news in China concern social and economic development in China.

The world's ten biggest science news include: the finding of water traces on Mars, the supersonic

plane which reaches a highest speed of 10,000 kilometres per hour, the first spaceship tour to the orbit surrounding Saturn, the first stem cell cloned from human body, the first observation on a single electron, the technology manufacturing hydrogen in a large scale, photon-based telecommunication technology, the find of the most remote celestial body in the solar system, the anti-body research on AIDS virus, and the first molecular motor which could be ceased or paused.

Lu Yongxiang, CAS president, said the four news pieces on space science and technology in 2004 in the world are most impressive.

The academicians chose the world's and China's ten top news from 30 candidates in each category.

MNA/Xinhua

Ratification of State Constitution through referendum

Aung Moe San

The most important requirement for Myanmar, in the process of building a discipline-flourishing democratic state in accord with the seven-point Road Map, is a constitution. To have a constitution, the Government is holding the National Convention.

No nation can enact a constitution alien to its social life, and no law can build a new society immediately. Otherwise, no country will need to develop her productivity and social standard.

Politics is social science. One cannot exercise random methods in politics just to win over opponents. Because it cannot be deemed an extempore talk. Whenever a scientist finds a universal truth about the nature, he takes time till the majority come to understand and accept his discovery. The same applies to politics. In politics, it is necessary to take into account "How much time and effort is needed for a new ideology or policy to be accepted and practised by the people." In every drive to establish a new system, sooner or later, the superstructure covering politics, administration, judiciary and culture changes together with the developments in the foundation of productivity.

Likewise, the modification and progress of the constitution of a global nation run parallel to the developments and changes in its basic society. In this context, Myanmar's constitution should cover all economic, political, administrative and social systems that suits best to the Myanmar society, and its drafting and ratification should be free from all kinds of bias such as desire, anger, fear and delusion. We should see the extremes of the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution to the right and left and their weaknesses and advantages as lessons for us. The National Convention has laid down and approved the 104 basic principles only after affirming that they agree to the nation's objective conditions. Besides, the discussions to lay down and approve the basic principles involved the task of reviewing the previous constitutions, the nation's past experiences and international events.

The disturbances causing delay to the National Convention are rooted in the 1988 unrest. The demand of the groups that took part in the incident was no other than an interim government. It was the act to remove the then existing government of Dr Maung Maung. But the then government made a proposal to hold a multiparty democracy general election, and because of the differences, there occurred confrontation between the Burma Socialist Programme Party Government and the organizations at the time. Those organizations failed to make a firm decision whether to heighten the strike or to hold negotiations with the BSPP Government. They were not able to accelerate their demonstrations. Those who wished to negotiate with the government were afraid of being branded as opportunists.

Because of their failure to assess their wavering situation and find a correct way, the unrest had gone out of control, and the people had to live with fear under the rule of anarchy. As the situation began

to threaten even the nation's very existence, the Tatmadaw had no alternative, but to act as a government trying to restore peace, stability and the rule of law in the nation. It then steered the nation towards market-oriented economy and democracy.

The Tatmadaw Government held the multiparty democracy general election in 1990 with a view to restoring national consolidation and drafting a constitution. But the parties that won the majority of votes in the election chose the wrong and intransigent way of demanding immediate transfer of power, instead of taking the correct way of drawing a constitution in cooperation with the Tatmadaw Government. They even went so far as adopting the policy of making confrontation with the Government.

In reality, their acts have invited foreign instigation, lopsided support for them and economic sanc-

The Tatmadaw Government held the multiparty democracy general election in 1990 with a view to restoring national consolidation and drafting a constitution. But the parties that won the majority of votes in the election chose the wrong and intransigent way of demanding immediate transfer of power, instead of taking the correct way of drawing a constitution in cooperation with the Tatmadaw Government. They even went so far as adopting the policy of making confrontation with the Government.

tions and pressures on the Government. But the government never deviates from its own chosen way of restoring national unity and installing democracy in the nation, and in accord with its original resolve, it held the National Convention in 1993.

At the Convention, delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates were able to unanimously lay down and approve the 104 basic principles for emergence of a constitution after making discussion in an atmosphere of oneness and unity.

When all were going well, US Secretary of State Ms. Albright visited Myanmar and met with Daw Suu Kyi. After her visit, the National League for Democracy changed its stance, and its delegates boycotted and turned their back on the National Convention. The NLD's unrealistic excuse of walking out of the Convention was that it was a sham convention. However, the NLD obtained nothing substantial, although there were exceptions that the NLD, after turning its back on the Convention, would find another way of benefit. Since then, the most appropriate way for the NLD to choose has been the way of drawing a constitution

in cooperation with the Tatmadaw. It should choose the policy of building mutual trust and national consolidation.

However, the NLD followed the wrong way of calling a Hluttaw, while ignoring the task of drawing and ratifying a constitution. It also expelled the six representatives-elect who pointed out a realistic view that such a step would lead the NLD to confrontation with the government defending and safeguarding the nation.

The NLD came under fire even from foreign media for its denying the right to hold different opinions within the party. Some flexible-minded representatives-elect resigned from the party as they did not believe and accept the confrontation course.

In connection with the NLD's pessimism over the ruling government, an editorial that appeared in *The Straits Times* (7 May 2002) of Singapore wrote that 'like it or not, she should seek common ground with the ruling troika' in nation-building tasks; that the government would comply with the public desire by holding elections in a democratic way in the future; that there was a working approach in which the government and the NLD could cooperate; that Daw Suu and the NLD should cooperate with the Tatmadaw rather than bear a grudge to it; that judging from the prevailing conditions, it was found that Senior General Than Shwe, deviating from the old track, had been prepared for a new one; and that it would be wise for Daw Suu to take part in this process'.

Never has the Tatmadaw government turned a blind eye to combined efforts. The government invited all the registered political parties including the NLD to the National Convention, whether Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's side accepted it or not, when the time has come to establish a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the seven-point Road Map. Yet, the NLD and some political parties went to extremes by sticking to their dogmatism, and turned their back on the National Convention. They set up illegally a Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Committee for confrontation purposes, demanding an immediate and exact copy of the Western-type democratic system.

Bearing a broad-minded attitude, the ruling Tatmadaw government has been making relentless efforts to realize the national consolidation amid subversive activities carried out by the NLD and its allies.

The State constitution, which is absolutely imperative for Myanmar society, will be written and ratified without fail in accord with the seven-point Road Map. All in all, what is needed is to avoid the fanciful principles embodied in the previous constitutions and to formulate applicable and pragmatic one consistent with our society through the holding of the referendum for ratification.

Translation: TMT + KTY

Myanma Alin: 15-1-2005

* * *

Education sector seeing unprecedented ...

(from page 1)

In his address, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said in his guidance at the conclusion ceremony of the Special Refresher

national requirement.

This is the national duty. The citizens, who are of high conviction and are dutiful, are the strength of the nation.

The quality every citizen should possess is the one needed for the State. In accord with the

realization of the national education promotion programmes.

As the Union of Myanmar is home to various national races it is imperative for ensuring national solidarity and peace and stability of the State, sound national economy, development of technology and human resources in an effort to enable the nation to stand tall among the world nations.

At a time when the education sector is overwhelming all the development sectors, it is indispensable for the education sector in ensuring development of the national forces, the prerequisite for the national defence.

The government has

guidance of the Head of State, teachers will be able to assess the national duties which include fulfilment of the long-term national interests and realization of the objective situations of the State and

The government has been implementing the national education promotion programmes with added momentum to be in conformity with the pillars of the whole educational infrastructures that are huge and wide.

Course No 7 and the Myanmar and International Studies Course No 6 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that if the



MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially meets with trainee teachers at the opening ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 56 for Basic Education Teachers.—MNA

trainees study the Myanmar affairs of the past and the present, they will clearly see events of the State and realize the main national requirements. Realizing the real events, a citizen is to do his bit in fulfilling the

the immediate requirements based on the history of the State and through knowledge gained from the course.

Accordingly, there will be spiritual development among teachers and progress will be made in

laid down and is implementing the national education promotion programmes step by step for successful realization of the national duty of the education sector.

Keeping pace with changes and develop-

Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei felicitates Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win

YANGON, 15 Jan— *The following is a message of felicitations from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei sent to Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

Your Excellency,

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam, it gives me great pleasure to present to Your Excellency, the Government and people of the Union of Myanmar, my warmest congratulations on the auspicious oc-

casional of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that the relations between our two countries have continued to develop from strength to strength. I wish that this will be maintained and further enhanced in the future for the mutual benefits of our two countries and peoples.

Finally, I send Your Excellency my personal best wishes for your continued good health and happiness as well as for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the Union of Myanmar.—MNA

ments, systematic steps are being taken not only in the basic education sector but also in the higher education sector for development of science and technology and effective use of it in the nation, and for the emergence of qualified new generation intellectuals and technocrats capable of serving the interest of the State and the people. Thus, the entire national people are now able to enjoy the fruitful results of the success.

The government has been implementing the national education promotion programmes with added momentum to be in conformity with the pillars of the whole educational infrastructures that are huge and wide.

At a time when the education sector is seeing unprecedented progress there have been more and more students who are eager to pursue education, knowledge, science and technology.

To be able to keep pace with changes and developments, the new generation youths are to study and learn science

and technology and have a constant vigil at the international affairs at a time when globalization is in the process.

However, it is of utmost importance for the new generation youths to properly assess and abstain from foreign behaviours, characters and ideas, which are contrary to Myanmar culture and traditions, with national outlooks.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all the teach-

tions to maintain the perpetuation of the country to be able to stand tall among the world as long as it exists.

To realize the national goal, the seven-point Road Map of the State has been adopted and is being implemented to shape a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Work programmes of the National Convention as a first step have been

The citizens, who are of high conviction and are dutiful, are the strength of the nation. The quality every citizen should possess is the one needed for the State.

ers to organize and nurture the student youths to be equipped with the nationalism and Union Spirit and the spirit to safeguard national culture and tradition.

He said as is known to all that nowadays, some are plotting schemes to undermine national solidarity and Unit Spirit with every intention of seeing the Union of Myanmar collapsing and falling under foreign servitude.

National people have established the Union of Myanmar since yore with national solidarity and Union Spirit that has been inherent in them. That is why it is also necessary for future genera-

undertaken. And second-step work programmes will be carried out at the National Convention, which will be resumed very soon.

Therefore, all the teachers are urged to train and nurture their pupils, new generation youths, to be equipped with nationalistic sentiment and to possess the ability to shape the country in the interests of its people, the secretary-1 concluded.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted the trainee teachers. Altogether 1503 teachers from states and divisions of Lower Myanmar are attending the five-week course.—MNA

Military Band Competition commences

YANGON, 15 Jan— The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commenced at the People's Square, here, this morning.

Before its programmes, bands comprising students of Hmawby Basic Education High School No 1 and Sangyoung BEHS No 2 performed skills demonstration.

Next, the band representing the Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s

Office, that of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Office and that of Defence Services Academy, the Band company-1 of Yangon Command, the Band company-1 of North-West Command and the band representing North-West Command participated in the competition.

Chairman of the Committee for Observance of the Competition Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe presented cash prizes to leaders of the bands of Hmawby BEHS No 1

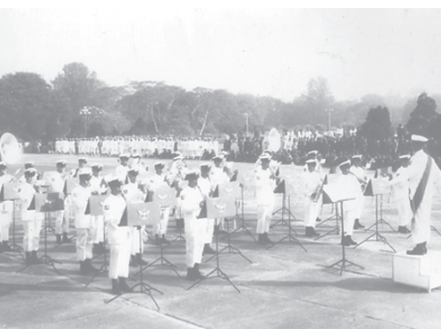
and Sangyoung BEHS No 2.

Also present on the occasion were senior

military officers, members of the panel of judges, Tatmadaw members and families.—MNA



Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe observes participation of bands at Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition. (News on page 9)—PRFU



Secretary-1 receives PRC guests

YANGON, 15 Jan — State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein received the Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister for the Public Security Mr Zhao Yongji at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force



Brig-Gen Khin Yi and Thura U Aung Htet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese

Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Chinese Vice Minister for Public Security Mr Zhao Yongji and party at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Chinese Vice Minister for Public Security Mr Zhao Yongji and party at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. MNA



Measures for development...

(from page 16)

The State can enjoy higher economic progress, he said.

Efforts are to be made to explore minerals, which can contribute towards the State's energy and construction sectors, and such precious stones as gold, jade, sapphire and ruby with the use of modern mining technologies so as to raise the income through the mining industry for national development, he noted.

In this regard, he said emphasis is to be placed on environmental conservation in order to avert possible adverse effects on the forests, rivers and creeks.

Myanmar is the source of quality precious stones, so efforts are to be exerted with added momentum to enlarge the scope of internationally-recognized gems market in the nation, he urged.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called on respective committees to strive for systematization in exploring, mining and trading minerals and precious stones in accord with the gems laws for betterment of the national economy.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on the income from the State's gems industry and Myanmar gems exhibitions, conditions of growing gems market in the nation and the joint-venture gems industry of the State and private entrepreneurs.

Deputy Minister U Myint Thein also gave an account of activities of the Central Committee, conditions of the mining blocks in the gems lands, and permission granted to entrepreneurs for mining the blocks in accord with the Myanmar Gems Law.

In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 gave concluding remarks.

MNA

CNC filling station opens ...

(from page 16)

The Commander, the Ministers, the deputy ministers and officials visited the station. Director U Myint Htay briefed them on storage system of the gas, functions of compressor, dispenser and the machine which calculates cost of the gas.

Afterwards, they viewed filling of Compressed Natural Gas to buses and departmental vehicles.

Today's station is the second one of its kind for NGV vehicles to be used in Yangon.

The station can sell CNG to about 300 NGV cars a day. It can fill CNG to four cars at the same time.

One hundred and sixty-five cubic feet of CNG, which is equal to a gallon of petrol in driving a car, is fixed K 100. In Yangon, more CNG filling stations will be opened soon.

MNA

Progress of irrigation facilities inspected at Thittetkon Diversion Dam in Myittha

YANGON, 15 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected irrigation facilities of Thittetkon Diversion Dam in Myittha Township on 11 January.

Chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn reported on progress of the irrigation facilities, supply of water from Thittetkon Diversion Dam in Myothit Township to Thangedaw Lake in TadaU Township and thriving sunflower, gram and wheat mixed-cropping in the region. The minister met with farmers of Thungedaw Village and explained agricultural matters. Later, the minister inspected supply of water to Thungedaw Lake through the canal.—MNA

ICT Week 2005 to conduct competitions

YANGON, 15 Jan — The competitions like Programming (Intermediate & Advanced), Web Development (Intermediate & Advanced), and Network Game (Professional & Amateur) will be held at the Fourth Myanmar ICT Week 2005, which will take place at Myanmar Communication and Technology Park here from 21 to 27 January this year.

Interested persons are invited to the competitions, and they are to contact the Myanmar Computer Scientists Association through the phone number 652276 for the first and second contests not later than 19 January and such game centres as Blastar, Net Zone, Xclaimz and Cyber Knight for the remaining contests not later than 21 January.

MNA

Annual meeting of MOSA held

YANGON, 15 Jan — The second annual general meeting of Myanmar Overseas Seafarers Association was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, marine superintendents, departmental officials, CEC members

and members of the MOSA.

Chairman of the Executive Committee U Min Sein made a speech on the occasion. Afterwards, CEC members submitted the CEC report and financial statement and the participants approved them.

Next, the chairman of MOSA gave the concluding remarks and the meeting ended.

MNA

The second annual general meeting of Myanmar Overseas Seafarers Association in progress.

MNA





Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects tasks for all-round renovation of the Shwephonepwint Pagoda. — MNA

Leading Committee for All-round Renovation of Shwephonepwint Pagoda meets

YANGON, 15 Jan — The third meeting of the Leading Committee for All-round Renovation of Shwephonepwint Pagoda was held at the hall in the precinct of the pagoda in Pazundaung Township this morning.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the meeting.

In his address, the minister explained the purpose of the meeting. He said he had learned of comfort and delight of the people during the visit to the pagoda. He urged members of the pagoda board of trustees and officials to contribute towards more magnificence of the

pagoda and to systematically keep donations with facts and figures.

Vice-Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Drawing Design of the pagoda Adviser to the Information and Public Relations Department U Aung San reported on tasks of the all-round renovation. Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Tint Lwin submitted re-

ports on the financial statement. Chairman U Tint Lwin next accepted K 300,000 for all-round renovation tasks donated by Daw Than Kyi and family of No 27, Panwa Road, Kamayut Township.

After giving the concluding remarks, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan paid homage to Buddha images and religious buildings and instructed the officials to make efforts for carrying on the renovation tasks. — MNA

Agriculture, livestock breeding tasks inspected

YANGON, 15 Jan — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin looked into North Okkala Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm being undertaken by YCDC near

No 3 Highway in North Okkala Township this morning.

The mayor heard reports on progress in production of fingerlings and fish breeding, cultivation of vegetables, poultry farming and pig

breeding at the farm. Next, the mayor gave instructions on supervision to be made for improvement of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks and boosting production of fingerlings.

MNA

Knowledge Bank Paper-reading Session held

YANGON, 15 Jan — The Knowledge Bank Paper-reading Session organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held on the second floor of Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street at noon today, attended by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin

Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung), U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), joint-secretaries, CEC members, enthusiasts and guests.

Joint-Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) introduced the submitted papers and CEC Member Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyu

Thin) read out biographies of the resource persons. Afterwards, Writer Maung Wint Thu read out the paper on difficulties in translating and Poet Thura Zaw, the paper on composing poems. The resource persons answered the queries raised by those present. Next, the vice-chairman of MWJA expressed thanks.

MNA

Final match of Singapore vs Indonesia to be telecast live

YANGON, 15 Jan — The TV Myanmar will telecast live coverage of the second leg of final match between Singapore and Indonesia teams in Tiger Cup Soccer Tournament to be held in Singapore beginning 5.50 pm on 16 January. — MNA

Id day falls on 21 January

YANGON, 15 Jan — The Government of the Union of Myanmar today announced that Bakri Id Day, which falls on 21 January 2005 (12th Waxing of Pyatho 1366 ME), is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. — MNA

NCCWC holds Co-ord meeting

YANGON, 15 Jan — A coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Work Committee was held at the meeting hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning, attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, joint-secretaries and work committee members.

Chairman U Aung Toe presided over the meeting and Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint acted as master of ceremonies.

The chairman of NCCWC made an opening speech and the vice-chairman and the secretary gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, the work committee members took part in the discussions. Next, the chairman gave the concluding remarks and the meeting ended in the afternoon. — MNA

Bhamo Vocational Training School for Women opens

YANGON, 15 Jan — Bhamo Vocational Training School for Women of the Education and Training Department, the Ministry of Progress of Boarder Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, was opened in Kachin State on 11 January morning in conjunction with the opening of basic tailoring course No 1.

Present on the occasion were Brig-Gen Soe Nwe of Bhamo Station, senior military officers, local authorities and officials.

Director General of the ETD Col Than Win explained the purpose of the opening of the training school. Brig-Gen Soe Nwe donated a device for physical exercise for the trainees, and the guests viewed the school.

A total of 30 trainees from Bhamo District are attending the 14-week course. — MNA

Soe Kyaw Naing emerges champion in MPGA & MGF President's Trophy Golf Tourney

YANGON, 15 Jan — The fourth round of the Myanmar PGA and MGF President's Trophy Golf Tournament took place at Hanthawady Golf Course in Bago this evening.

After the fourth round, IBTC Director U Tint Oo, Country Agent U Aung Hla Han, MPGA & MGF Executive U Ko Ko Lay, Chairman of

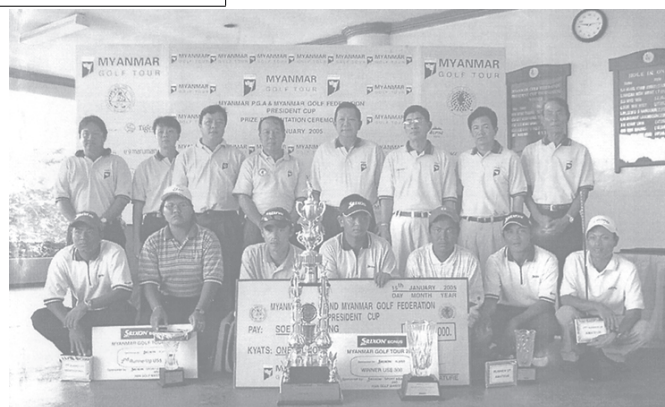
Bago District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thein Lwin presented prizes to daily best winners.

MGF General Secretary U Aung Kyi presented first, second and third prizes to Aye Aye Hsan, Htaik Htaik and Khin Mar Nyunt in the women's format system 36 division; and prizes to Khin Thu Thu, Htaik Htaik and Aye Aye Hsan who stood first, second and third in the women's scratch division.

Joint Deputy Managing Director Maj Thein Aung (Retd) of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd awarded first, second and third prizes to Zaw Zin Win with 291 strokes, Naing Naing Lin with 298 and Thein Zaw Myint with 298 respectively in the men's amateur golfers division.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) gave away prizes to Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) with 287 strokes, Zaw Paing Oo (Srixon) with 291 and Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) with 292 who stood first, second and third in the men's professional golfers division respectively. The president presented cheque for the prize to first prize winner Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon).

Market Planning and Development Manager U Kyaw Soe Lwin presented gifts to Hanthawady Golf Course Director Lt-Col Lay Myint (Retd). — MNA



Victorious golfers pose with prizes. — MGF

World get first look at surface of Titan

PASADENA (California), 15 Jan — The world got its first look at the surface of the Saturnian moon Titan on Friday when pictures from the European space probe Huygens showed a possibly rocky surface with “drainage channels” for liquids.

The first picture from a height of about 10 miles, as Huygens descended before landing on the surface, showed what scientists said appeared to be a shoreline. They speculated the channels might feed into canyons on the surface.

“I think none of us would have expected ... this kind of unveiling, but it is pretty consistent with the surprises we’ve seen before,” said Al Diaz, NASA’s associate administrator for science.

The 3-billion-US-dollar Cassini-Huygens mission, a joint project of NASA and the European and Italian space agencies, was launched in 1997 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, to study Saturn, its rings, moons and magnetosphere. In December, the Saturn explorer Cassini dropped off Huygens for a three-week journey toward Titan, culminating in the probe’s parachute-slowed plunge to the moon’s surface.

The photos were beamed from the European Space Agency’s headquarters in Germany.

Officials there said it appeared that Huygens landed on some sort of solid surface rather than

in liquid. They did not offer any speculation on where the “drainage channels” in the photo might lead or how they were formed.

Titan is believed to have liquid methane and ethane on its surface, but the moon’s heavy fog blanket made it unclear what Huygens would encounter when it reached its landing site.

Scientists said there had been problems retrieving data from one wind experiment but held out hopes they could get the information from a different study.

“We can say this afternoon we have ... a scientific success,” said Jean-Jacques Dordain, director-general of the European Space Agency, in a Press conference from its operations centre in Germany monitored on NASA TV.

Cassini, which acted as the relay station for Huygens, sent back signals showing it had finished retrieving and had turned toward Earth to begin transmission of a likely three hours of data.

Given the sensitive nature of the mission, the Saturn orbiter Cassini recorded the data from Huygens on four systems.

— MNA/Reuters



Two people use their mobile phones in the central business district of Hong Kong on 13 Jan, 2005. The number of mobile phone subscribers in China topped 334 million in 2004, according to the Ministry of Information Industry.

INTERNET

India’s Jharkhand to go in for telemedicine

NEW DELHI, 15 Jan — An ambitious telemedicine system to connect through satellite doctors of some of the best hospitals across India with patients in Jharkhand will be launched, according to Indo-Asian News Agency.

The Jharkhand Space Application Centre (JSAC) of the Information Technology Department has proposed the telemedicine system to help poor people avail of diagnostic facilities from good hospitals.

The 130 million rupees (2.9 million US dollars) project will be launched with the help of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Bangalore-based ISRO will provide satellite connectivity infrastructure to JSAC, like bandwidth and VSAT facilities and hardware.

“Under the telemedicine system, villagers will get the advice of doctors of renowned hospitals without having to shift to any place,” said an official of the IT department. It would benefit the state’s 54 per cent population living below the poverty line (BPL). The state has a population of 26.91 million.

“Doctors within and outside the state will be made available to rural people through mobile vans. It will cover the remotest areas of the state,” said RS Sharma, IT secretary of Jharkhand.

The project will be a joint venture of the IT and health and family welfare departments of the state with the expense being shared among them.

The project has been designed to cover three phases. In the first phase, seven district hospitals, one mobile van and two medical college hospitals would be connected through e-health of the IT Department.

In the second phase, eight district hospitals and one mobile van would be added, while in the third phase seven district hospitals, one medical hospital and one mobile van would be connected.

All the 22 district hospitals, three medical hospitals and three mobile vans would be connected with master control facility located at the state capital Ranchi.

A specialized centre would come up in every district hospital with facilities like video conferencing, telemedicine software and hardware, communication system, diagnostic equipment and medical equipment.

The mobile vans would also have video conferencing facilities. — MNA/Xinhua

Senior CPC official pledges to enhance Sino-Cambodian ties

BEIJING, 15 Jan — China is willing to make concerted efforts with Cambodia to enhance political exchanges between political parties, governments and parliaments of the two countries, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said here Friday.

Li Changchun, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark in his meeting with Prince Norodom Sirivudh, secretary-general of the Cambodian FUNCINPEC Party and Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister.

In the meeting, Li first conveyed regards to former King Norodom Sihanouk, King Norodom Sihamoni and FUNCINPEC Party Chairman Norodom Ranarith on behalf of Hu Jintao, General-Secretary of CPC Central Committee.

The two countries should further the mutual-

benefit cooperation in various fields and push forward the all-round development of Sino-Cambodian strategic relations of cooperation, he said.

China and Cambodia are friendly neighbours and close friends in need, said Li. The two countries enjoyed mutual political trust, carried out mutually beneficial economic cooperation and closely coordinated in international affairs in recent years, Li said.

The further development of Sino-Cambodian traditional friendship serves the fundamental interest of two countries and two peoples, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်ဂုဏ်သတ္တပတ် ၂၀၀၅ (ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၁ ရက်မှ ၂၇ ရက်အထိ)

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၁) ရက်၊ သောကြာနေ့

- ၀၈:၀၀ - ဖွဲ့စည်း အခမ်းအနား
- ၀၁:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပြပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ
- ICT Competitions

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၂)ရက်၊ စနေနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၂:၀၀ - ICT Product Presentation
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT Competitions
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပြပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၃)ရက်၊ တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၂:၀၀ - ICT Product Presentation
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT Competitions
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပြပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၄)ရက်၊ တနင်္လာနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၂:၀၀ - ICT Product Presentation
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT Competitions
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပြပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၅)ရက်၊ အင်္ဂါနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၂:၀၀ - ICT Product Presentation
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - Network Game ပြိုင်ပွဲ
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပြပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၆)ရက်၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၂:၀၀ - ICT Product Presentation
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - Network Game ပြိုင်ပွဲ
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပြပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၇)ရက်၊ ကြာသပတေးနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - Network Game ပြိုင်ပွဲ
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ICT Competitions ပြိုင်ပွဲများ
- ဆုချီးမြှင့်ခြင်း
- နိုင်ငံတော် ဂုဏ်သတ္တပတ်ပိတ်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား

(နည်းပညာပြခန်းများကို နံနက်(၉)နာရီမှ ညနေ(၅)နာရီအထိ အခမဲ့ပြသပါမည်။)

MICT Park၊ တက္ကသိုလ်များ၊ ဂျွှန်နယ်မြေ၊ ရန်ကုန်။

Nepali Govt adds to yearly budget

KATHMANDU, 15 Jan — The Nepali Government has scaled up the budget estimates for the current fiscal year by 3.6 billion Nepali rupees (51.4 million US dollars) to address security and relief issues.

The total budget for fiscal year 2004/2005 beginning from July 16 last year, which was 111.68 billion rupees (1.6 billion US dollars) earlier, has now gone up to 115.28 billion rupees (1.65 billion US dollars), according to a financial ordinance for the coming six months announced by Nepali King Gyanendra Friday evening.

The government also increased the rate of value added tax to 13 per cent from the existing 10 per cent, while civil servants will be receiving a special allowance equivalent to 20 per cent of their salary scale.

The budget is revised keeping in view the necessity to successfully implement the approved projects on time, increased security requirements, assistance to the anti-government insurgency victims and the need to review the facilities of government employees, the ordinance said.

The major programmes in the revised budget include restoration of peace, resolution of the social conflict and economic transformation of the rural areas, infrastructure development for investment promotion, high priority to education and health for human development. — MNA/Xinhua



An artist's concept of the European Space Agency's Huygens probe en route to Saturn's moon Titan after release from NASA's Cassini orbiter spacecraft is shown in this undated publicity photograph.—INTERNET

မြန်မာ့စွန့်စားရေး

Spanish, Moroccan police arrest 150 illegal immigrants

MADRID, 14 Jan—As many as 150 illegal immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa were arrested in a joint patrol of Moroccan and Spanish police on Wednesday in the autonomous city of Melilla, the Spanish Civil Guard said Thursday.

The operation was conducted near the Gurgu Mountain, involving over 1,000 policemen with support of three helicopters which flew over the Melilla border.

The two-day operation was aimed to prevent the entry of illegal immigrants, the Melilla Civil

Guard Command said.

The immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa put at the disposal of the Moroccan police, will be brought to justice in the North African country.

The tiny Spanish enclave of Melilla, perched on the coast of north Morocco, is a launching pad

for illegal immigration from Africa to Spain and the rest of continental Europe.—MNA/Xinhua

7 killed, 26 injured in Pakistan's road accident

ISLAMABAD, 14 Jan—At least seven persons were killed and 26 others injured on Thursday in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck in central Pakistan, local media reported.

The ill-fated bus was on its way to northern Pakistani city Peshawar from Karachi. When it reached near Rojhan Mazari in southern Punjab, it knocked the truck in order to avoid collision with a motorbike, said the local news agency *News Network International*.

As a result, six persons were died on the spot while 26 persons received injuries, the report said.

The injured were rushed to hospital where one child succumbed to injuries, and 15 injured people were stated to be in critical condition.

Police have registered a case and are investigating the accident.

Severe road accidents are quiet normal in Pakistan due to bad road facility and over loading.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya targets 15,000 tourist arrivals from China

NAIROBI, 14 Jan—Kenya is targeting 15,000 tourist arrivals from China by using a 30-series TV soap opera in a new marketing campaign that focuses on the East Asian market.

Kenya Tourist Board (KTB) Managing Director Ongong'a Achieng said Thursday 5,000 Chinese visitors came to Kenya in 2004 and they intended to triple the figure this year.

He added they were sure of achieving the target, since Kenya was granted the preferred tourist destination status by China in March last year.

He said a cast of 50 Chinese who visited Kenya last year carried out a production shoot of the drama "The Last Breakthrough," and the producers are planning to air the series to 100 million southern Chinese audiences, publicizing Kenyan culture and tourist attractions.

The KTB, the Ministry of Tourism and Information and Kenya Airways are partners of the venture.

"The Last Breakthrough will hit East Asian television screens in the near future and will air for one hour every evening during prime time for six weeks," said Achieng.

The series will run on a story line of dedicated Chinese medical volunteers spreading goodwill and saving lives in the developing world.

Achieng said he expected the series to raise Kenya's publicity in the East Asian region, and boost the profile of the country as a preferred tourist destination.

MNA/Xinhua

Canada steps up pressure on US over softwood trade dispute

OTTAWA, 14 Jan—Canadian International Trade Minister Jim Peterson announced Thursday that the Canadian Government will take steps to challenge recent US actions in the softwood lumber dispute between the two countries.

In a Press release, Peterson said the Canadian Government will launch a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) challenge of the final results of the first administrative review of countervailing duties imposed by the United States on softwood lumber imports from Canada.

"Canadians are justifiably shocked at recent US actions in the softwood lumber dispute," said Minister Peterson.

"Canada will continue to challenge these actions and ensure that the United States abides by its international trade obligations. The international rules-based trading system is founded on predictable and transparent rules that must be adhered to."

He said the Govern-

ment of Canada will continue to work with the provinces and territories and with industry to see an end brought to this dispute.

The countervailing duty administrative review issued on December 14, 2004, by the US Department of Commerce determined a new duty rate of 17.18 per cent, down

slightly from the original rate of 18.79 per cent.

The Government of Canada has filed a notice of intent to appeal the US International Trade Commission (ITC) threat of injury determination, issued on November 24, 2004, before the US Court of International Trade (CIT).

MNA/Xinhua

Four armed men killed in police operation in Haiti

HAVANA, 15 Jan—Four armed men were killed in a police operation on Wednesday in the Saline section of Port-au-Prince, according to reports from the Haitian capital.

Police also arrested a man and seized a weapon when they conducted a search for followers of former Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide, who fled the country on 29 February, 2004.

Armed men were hiding in the Chancerelles section of the capital, a police spokeswoman was quoted as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

Spain to continue contribution to world peace

MADRID, 14 Jan—Spanish King Juan Carlos said Thursday that his country will continue to contribute to world peace, especially in the Middle East.

Spain remains "hopeful" about what happens in the Middle East, said Juan Carlos at a reception for diplomatic representatives to his country, noting Spain will do whatever it need to seek peace and a better situation for all nations in the region.

The King reiterated Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero's proposal to establish, within the framework of the United Nations, an alliance of civilizations to

help produce links for dialogue, including cooperation in the combat against terrorism and other calamities.

Spain also attaches importance to its relations with other European countries which are not the EU members and with Iberian-America, which "is and will be" an "uncontested" diplomatic priority of Spain, said the King.

In relation to the United States, the King said, "Spain is interested

in developing its relations" with the North American country which is a "fundamental point in our foreign policy".

Relations between the United States and Spain have cooled down since Zapatero took office and afterwards withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq. The United States considered Spain's troop withdrawal as the end of Spain's support for the US-led war on terrorism.

MNA/Xinhua



Kittens look out from their enclosure at a pet shop in Amman, on 18 Dec, 2004, during the holiday seasons in the kingdom.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



Asli Bayran smiles after being crowned Miss Germany 2005 in Aachen. The 23-year-old student of Turkish descent who cites belly-dancing as one of her hobbies has been voted Germany's new beauty queen.—INTERNET

Over 1b people will suffer from high blood pressure by 2025

LONDON, 14 Jan— A third of the world's adult population — more than one billion people — will suffer from high blood pressure by 2025, scientists predicted on Friday.

About a billion people around the globe were afflicted with high blood pressure or hypertension, the most important preventable risk factor for heart disease and stroke, in 2000.

But in the next 20 years the number is expected to soar by about 60 per cent and three-quarters of cases will be in developing countries.

"By 2025 we project that the number of adults with hypertension will be 1.56 billion," Dr. Jiang He, of Tulane University School of Public Health

and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, told Reuters.

Cardiovascular disease is already one of the top killers in most countries and accounts for 30 per cent of all deaths worldwide.

In the first study to estimate the total burden of hypertension in the world, the Tulane scientists compiled published research on regional and national figures from 1980 to 2002 to estimate the current worldwide and future prevalence.

In 2000, 333 million

adults in developed countries and 639 million in poor nations had hypertension.

Thereport estimates prevalence in developing states — where it is set to rise by 80 per cent — will account for most of the predicted increase.

"More than half of hypertension patients are living in developing countries now. By 2025 an even higher proportion will be in economically developing countries," He, an epidemiologist, explained.

"Cardiovascular disease will become the most

serious public health challenge in developing countries."

Latin America and the Caribbean had particularly high prevalence of hypertension, according to the research published in *The Lancet* medical journal.

During recent decades, cases of high blood pressure have remained stable or decreased in wealthy nations, but have risen in poor nation because of lifestyle changes and the fact that people are living longer.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists unveil fossil of mammal with baby dinosaur in stomach

NEW YORK, 14 Jan — Elated scientists on Wednesday showed off a 130-million-year-old fossil that casts mammals in a new light by proving that in prehistoric times they fed on young dinosaurs.

Scientists at the American Museum of Natural History in New York unveiled the fossil of a mammal, found in Northeast China, with a baby dinosaur in its stomach.

The mammal was comparable in size and shape to a Tasmanian devil or a small dog, while the dinosaur was just a few inches long.

"The biggest surprise in this find is mammals eating dinosaurs," said Meng Jin, associate curator in the Division of Paleontology at the museum.

"The importance of this discovery is that for the first time the stomach content of a mammal has been preserved and that a dinosaur is in it," Meng added. "Mammals now finally have the chance to speak up, because dinosaurs had been the only ones in the spotlight of the Mesozoic era."

Most mammals of the Mesozoic era, between 144 and 65 million years ago, were the size of today's mice and rats, weighing a few pounds at most and at a distinct size disadvantage compared to the dinosaurs.

But the latest discovery shows some mammals, the Repenomamus or "reptile mammals", had a much greater range of body sizes than previously known, suggesting that some large mammals competed with dinosaurs for food and territory.—MNA/Reuters

Unknown gunmen rob millions of dollars from Ramadi Bank

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan— Unknown gunmen stormed an Iraqi bank in the flashpoint city of Ramadi, some 110 kilometres west of Baghdad, robbing millions of dollars, police said. The incident occurred at about 10:00 am (0700 GMT) when several gunmen stormed the al-Rasheed Bank in central Ramadi, stealing 20 billion Iraqi dinars, worth about 14 million US dollars, the police said, adding investigation was underway.

Ramadi, the capital of western al-Anbar Province, is one of the cities in Iraq dominated by Sunni Muslims where guerillas often attack US troops.—MNA/Xinhua

"Spitzer" finds hatchery of stellar embryos

SAN DIEGO, 14 Jan— A telescope that works like "ultrasound for stars" has found a hatchery filled with massive stellar embryos in a dark cloud of cosmic dust, astronomers reported on Wednesday.

Looking at the universe by tracking infrared radiation, the *Spitzer Space Telescope* has found a glowing incubator for developing stars in a bright cloud called the Trifid Nebula. The embryos are invisible to optical telescopes because they are hidden deep in the cloud, but the *Spitzer's* infrared instruments can see through the dust.

To a regular telescope, the Trifid Nebula looks like a dark wispy mist in front of a patch of brilliant light. It is about 5,400 light-years away in the constellation Sagittarius. A light-year is about six trillion miles, the distance light travels in a year.

In this same area, there is evidence of four clots of dark dust, known as cores, that are characteristic of places where stars form. Astronomers previously believed these dark areas were not yet ripe for star formations, but *Spitzer's* infrared observations showed massive stars taking shape there.

MNA/Reuters

Italian children getting fatter, consumer group warns

ROME, 14 Jan— About 20 per cent of Italian children between the age of six and 17 are overweight, a consumer group warned here on Thursday.

The Italian consumer group Altroconsumo said it would join European groups to stem what is becoming an upward trend by launching a campaign to inform children and parents of healthy nutritional habits.

Last month, doctors told an international pediatric conference in Rome that more than 35 per cent of Italian ten-year-olds are dangerously overweight or obese, putting Italy at the top of the European rankings.

Malta, Greece and Spain follow close on its heels.

Conference experts said that in Europe as a whole, 25 per cent of children were overweight. Only Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway managed to better the average, posting a 20-per-cent rate.

The experts noted that eight out of ten overweight children would grow up to become overweight or obese adults, whose health would probably suffer further damage from alcohol

or smoking, or both.

Describing the phenomenon as a "silent epidemic", the pediatricians urged Europe and national governments in particular to do more to boost awareness of the problem and improve children's eating habits. International anti-obesity campaigner Philippe James underscored the health problems that obese children were likely to encounter later in life, from diabetes to heart disease.

MNA/Xinhua



A jaybird (*Garrulus glandarius*) sits on a chain of peanuts in a garden in the small town of Klausdorf, near Kiel, northern Germany, recently. An animal lover put the birdseed in the bush, although winter all over Europe has been unseasonably warm this year.—INTERNET

S
P
O
R
T
S

Scotland gives up plan to bid for Euro 2012

LONDON, 15 Jan— The Scottish FA has decided to withdraw its bid for the 2012 European Championship, preferring to channel money into youth development.

Scotland and Ireland launched a joint bid for the 2008 tournament which ended in expensive failure when it was awarded to Austria and Switzerland.

After an SFA board meeting chief executive David Taylor said: "All of our energies and resources must at this time be directed towards the development of youth football.

"This is essential if we are to help create a brighter future for the national team and for the participation levels in Scotland."

Scotland is struggling to reach the World Cup finals in 2006 after a loss and two draws from its first three matches in its qualifying group.

Its next game is away to leader Italy on March 26 but new manager Walter Smith, who succeeded German Berti Vogts last month, has not given up hopes of qualifying. —MNA/Xinhua

Gravesen signs 3-1/2-year contract with Real

MADRID, 15 Jan— Denmark international Thomas Gravesen signed a 3-1/2-year contract with Real Madrid on Friday after Everton agreed to sell the 28-year-old midfielder for a reported fee of 3.5 million euros (4.59 million dollars).

Gravesen, who would have become a free agent at the end of the season, passed a medical with the Primera Liga club on Friday before holding a media conference.

"This is a dream for me," he said. "This is the biggest club in the world. I come here to win every game I participate in and will be giving 110 per cent."

Real Madrid president

Florentino Perez said the player had rejected offers from a number of clubs in England and Italy in order to sign for Real.

"We have signed the best player in Denmark," he said. "He's a fighter and has a great competitive spirit but he's also a technically gifted player. For us he is without doubt the player we were missing."

Having joined Everton for 2.5 million pounds (4.68 million dollars) from SV Hamburg in July 2000, Gravesen has been enjoying his best spell in England this season after also shining for Denmark in last year's European championship in Portugal.

His combative tackling and neat passing have helped Everton to their best Premier League start and he will be sorely missed as they battle to stay in the top four.

"No-one at Everton wanted to lose Thomas Gravesen, we did everything we could to keep him," Everton chief executive Keith Wyness told the club's web site.

"Once it became clear that Thomas had his heart set on a move to Real Madrid we fought hard for

the best possible deal for Everton."

Real have made no secret of their desire to add some steel to their attack-minded midfield which at present contains Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, David Beckham and Guti.

The club have struggled since the departure of French midfielder Claude Makelele who joined Chelsea at the start of last season after Real refused him a salary increase.

Beckham was moved from his customary position on the right wing to cover the gap but neither the England captain nor his succession of partners in central midfield have been able to carry out the ball-winning duties successfully.

With Gravesen's arrival the next question facing Real's new coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo will be who to drop from midfield.

Guti is the most likely candidate, but the Spanish international has received widespread praise for his performances this season and it is Beckham who has come in for criticism for a string of subdued displays. —MNA/Reuters

Chinese Zheng wins Hobart WTA tennis

CANBERRA, 15 Jan— Chinese Zheng Jie defeated Argentina's Gisela Dulko 6-2, 6-0 to take the Hobart International tennis title on Friday.

Against her higher-ranked opponent, Zheng competed for a lop-sided contest to claim her first WTA tour success, and only the second for the Chinese tennis players.

The Chinese women had competed six WTA finals between 1995 and 1998, losing them all, before Na Li broke through to beat Slovakia's Martina Sucha at Guangzhou last year.

Last year, Li Ting and Sun Tiantian awarded China its first ever Olympic tennis medal, winning the women's doubles in Athens.

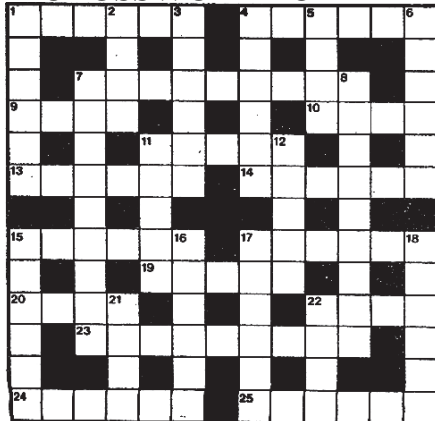
Li Na also made the semifinals in Hobart while Peng Shuai, still an amateur, reached the last four in Sydney, the biggest women's lead-up event to the Australian Open, before she eventually lost out to Australia's Alicia Molik.

Earlier, Peng defeated French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and her Russian teammate Nadia Petrova, ranked 13th in the world. —MNA/Xinhua



Hong Kong's Chu Siu Kei (R) battles with Zheng Zhi of China. China captain Zheng has been told by Southampton manager Harry Redknapp he is not what the club is looking for, following a seven-day trial. —INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Husky
- 4 Anger
- 7 To an outstanding degree
- 9 Pigeon
- 10 Sharp outcry
- 11 Remains
- 13 Rumour
- 14 Refrained from activity
- 15 Separated
- 17 Gasoline
- 19 Rider (anag.)
- 20 Situation
- 22 Allurement
- 23 Gracefully
- 24 Moveable partition
- 25 Vacillate

DOWN

- 1 Obstruct
- 2 Frost
- 3 Boy's name
- 4 Sign of the Zodiac
- 5 Merely
- 6 Staggered
- 7 Disappear without trace
- 8 Recent past
- 11 Formed a curve
- 12 Cut
- 15 Goes by
- 16 Fire-breathing monster
- 17 Written
- 18 Missive
- 21 Otherwise
- 22 Blemish

Souness to use persuasive powers to change Shearer's plans

NEWCASTLE (England), 15 Jan— Newcastle manager Graeme Souness says that he is aiming to use his persuasive powers to convince captain Alan Shearer not to retire at the end of the season.

Shearer, out since mid-November with calf and thigh injuries, is set to return to action for Newcastle's Premier League clash at home to Southampton on Saturday.

The 34-year-old ex-England striker, who has missed 12 games, reaffirmed earlier this week his desire not to play beyond the end of the campaign.

"I will keep asking Alan to change his plans to retire but over the last few weeks when he's been injured it has been a difficult time for him because he is not used to being injured and he has been an angry man around the place," Souness told reporters on Friday.

"Alan hates being injured and so I do not think that this has been the best period to ask him what his future long-term plans are. "I am hoping that we will have a good second half to the season, I hope that he does too and that maybe we can get him to change his mind."

Dutch international striker Patrick Kluijvert has also returned to Newcastle's squad for the first time since early December when he picked up a hamstring injury.

Souness says he still has much to prove on Tyneside following his transfer from Barcelona, despite netting eight goals in all competitions from 19 appearances.

"I do not think that Patrick's career at Newcastle has started," Souness added.

"We have had little glimpses, but he has got fantastic ability and I want that ridiculous ability — and ridiculous ability is exactly what he has — coupled with desire.

"With that I think that we would have the best centre-forward of his type playing at our football club." —MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid have signed Everton's Denmark international Thomas Gravesen on a three-and-a-half year contract. —INTERNET

Claudio Cacapa signs new contract with Olympique Lyon

LYON, 15 Jan— Brazilian international defender Claudio Cacapa has signed a new two-year contract with French champions Olympique Lyon.

The 28-year-old joined Lyon in 2001 and helped them win three back-to-back Ligue 1 title in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

He was captaining the side when he damaged his knee on October 30 -- an injury that has sidelined him since, although he should be fit in two weeks.

"On the day Claudio was injured we told him in the dressing room that his contract would be extended. It's done," Lyon's chairman Jean-Michel Aulas said on Friday.

"It's great. It shows that I did a good job," Cacapa said. "I have been here for nearly four years. The chairman is a man of his word. It's something very special." —MNA/Reuters

David Veness chosen to lead expanded UN security apparatus

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Jan — A British counter-terrorism expert chosen to lead an expanded UN security apparatus said on Thursday that international action had prevented post-September 11 attacks, particularly in Europe.

Sir David Veness, 57, a senior Scotland Yard police officer, hostage negotiator and a top counter-terrorist specialist in Europe, will assume his post on February 28 as the undersecretary-general in charge of security at the United Nations.

Asked if a terror assault on New York and the United Nations itself was inevitable, he said an attack on a European and American city was probable.

"When colleagues describe the likelihood of an attack at some stage within a span of European and North American targets as being — 'if not when' — I would not in any way demur from that judgment," Veness told a news conference.

"It is a reality that had it not been for the intervention of international endeavours, certainly in the Western European theatre, that further attacks would have occurred in the 40 months since 9/11."

Veness' new post follows the recommendations of a panel headed by former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari. It accused the United Nations of a catalogue of security breaches it said probably cost lives in the August 2003 bombing of UN offices in Iraq.

That report blamed security officials and top management in New York and in Iraq for lapses before the attack in Baghdad that killed 22 people and injured 150. It called the security arrangements "dysfunctional" and "sloppy". Since then, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has lobbied the UN General Assembly for nearly 100 million US dollars and 778 new posts for a directorate of security to unify and expand its myriad safety structures around the world.

Annan said the United Nations had to protect 100,000 international and local staff around the world, plus 300,000 family members in 140 field locations and key offices. As a start, the General Assembly approved 53.6 million US dollars for some 400 new staff, of which 249 are permanent and 134 are temporary "to be reconfirmed as we go," said Louise Frechette, the deputy secretary-general.

It is the first time the United Nations has had a counter-terrorist expert in charge of security, following a reshuffle of staff in the wake of the Baghdad bombing. Catherine Bertini, the American undersecretary-general for management, has been functioning in a caretaker role for security. —MNA/Reuters

Tobacco Cos try to cast doubt on the link between smoking, cancer

LONDON, 15 Jan — Tobacco companies tried to cast doubt on the link between smoking and cancer by funding projects that challenged the findings of a landmark study, scientists said on Friday.

The study concerned the link between tobacco and cancer-causing changes in a gene called p53. In 1996, researchers showed that a chemical in cigarette smoke caused mutations in the gene that were the same as those found in lung cancer tumours. Scientists at the University of California, San Francisco said the tobacco industry tried to counter the findings for a long time after the study was published.

"The tobacco companies claim they are now working with the public health community 'to support a single, consistent public health message on the role played by cigarette smoking in the development of the disease in smokers,'" said Dr Stanton Glantz.

"But their multifaceted response to p53 research as recently as 2001 suggests that they have not changed their practice."

The Tobacco Manufacturers Association said it was not able to comment on the report.

Damage to p53 leads to uncontrolled cell division. Mutations in the gene are found in more than half of all cancers and 60 per cent of lung cancers.

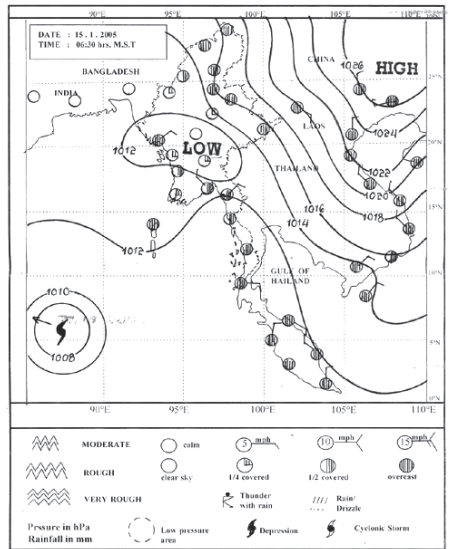
In a report published online by *The Lancet* medical journal, Glantz and his

colleagues examined 43 previously confidential tobacco industry documents about p53 and tobacco smoke. They said they found evidence that the tobacco industry planned and carried out research programmes after the 1996 study to counter the scientific link between smoking and cancer.

"We have identified two instances where research arguing against the connection between tobacco smoke and p53 mutations was undertaken and published by individuals with links to the tobacco companies," Glantz said in the report.

Cancer Research UK, a leading charity, said the study demonstrates that the scientific community must be continually vigilant against the tobacco industry's attempts to influence and distort scientific research. "Research into p53 is crucial to our understanding how cancer develops and could help us find ways to prevent and treat the disease," Jean King, the charity's director of Tobacco Control, said in a statement. —MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 15 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Shan State and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayah State, Yangon, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C), Namsam (2°C) Heho (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 14-1-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 15-1-2005 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 14-1-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-1-2005 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 North-west at (14:30) hours MST on 14-1-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay has concentrated into a depression and centred about (500) miles Southwest of Colombo, Sri Lanka. It is forecast to move West-Northwest ward slowly. Weather is cloudy in South and Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-1-2005: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin, Rakhine States and Ayeyawady Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-1-2005: Fair weather.

Storm news

(Issued at 10:00 hrs MST on 15th Jan 2005)

According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay has concentrated into a depression and centred about (500) miles Southwest of Colombo, Sri Lanka. It is forecast to move West-Northwest ward slowly.



Sunday, 16 January

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -I'll always be in your heart
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Lucky you
- 8:55 am National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am Music: -Found love
- 9:10 am International news
- 9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar -Bago and it environs
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Story for Children 'Let's unite'
- 1:50 pm Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Music
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Latest Hits! -Symphonie -More more more
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Sunday, 16 January
View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးစွာ (၃၈) ခြောက်လောက်
- 8:10 am 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am 7. ရိုသေတန်းတော်
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Say It in English

- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am 3. Round-up of The Week's International News
- 11:35 am 4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စနိုးအတ္ထာ" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 12:15 pm 5. သင်ရန်အရသောတံတံ
- 12:25 pm 6. Myanmar Video Feature: "သတ္တဗျာဒိတ်ရင်စွန့်သံ" စင်းစောကျန်း၊ ဇိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-နိုးကျော်အေး
- 2:35 pm 7. ရွှေလောင်းတံတော်
- 2:45 pm 8. International News
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:05 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:20 pm 3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:35 pm 4. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရန်ခြင်သံကြား သင်စနိုးစာ -ဝဏ္ဏမန္တ (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားထုတ်) (ရုဝဏ္ဏ)
- 4:50 pm 6. Dance of national races
- 5:05 pm 7. ဝဏ္ဏမန္တ အစွယ်စုံအရ တစ်နိုင်တည်းကွပ်န်း (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 5:10 pm 8. Sing and Enjoy
- 5:50 pm 9. Tiger Cup တောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစဉ် မိုလ်လွဲ (ဒုတိယပတ်စဉ်) (တတိယ နှင့် အင်ဒိုနီးရှား)
- 8:00 pm 10. News
- 11. International news
- 12. Weather report
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စသော" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 14. The next day's programme

Measures for development of Myanma gems industry coordinated



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the coordination meeting on tasks for development of Myanma gems industry. — MNA

YANGON, 15 Jan—A coordination meeting on development of Myanma gems industry took place at the Ministry of Mines here yesterday afternoon, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the deputy minister for Mines, members of the Central Committee for Supervising Gems Mining Industry, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental heads.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the Ministry of Mines is one of the ministries earning foreign exchange for the nation. With systematic exploitation of aboveground and underground natural resources, (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win views participation of students in essay and poem competitions

YANGON, 15 Jan—Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win this morning viewed participation of 493 students of Dagon Basic Education High School No 2 in Dagon Township in the essay and poem competitions organized by the Work Committee for Organizing the Literary, Arts and Extempore Talks at University/College/Institute Level and Basic Education Level to commemorate the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

competitions were held at Latha BEHS No 2 and 440 students took part in. Director-General U Saw Lwin of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint of No 3 Department of Basic Education and officials supervised the competitions.

The essay and poem competitions were held at BEHSs in the entire nation at 9 am today.

MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win visits students taking part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative essay and poem competitions at Dagon BEHS No 2. — MNA



Similarly, the essay and poem

CNG filling station opens in Mingaladon

YANGON, 15 Jan—A ceremony to open the CNG Filling Station No 004 (Kyaikkaloh) of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Minis-

try of Energy was held in front of the station on Pyay Road in Mingaladon Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon City

Mayor, deputy ministers, the Mingaladon Station Commander, departmental heads, officials and staff of the Ministry of Energy, members of the Union

Solidarity and Development Association, other social organizations and guests.

Director U Myint Htay of MOGE reported

on matters related to the filling station.

Next, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min cut the ribbon to open the station. The Commander formally unveiled the signboard of the station.

(See page 9)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveils the signboard of CNG Filling Station No 004 (Kyaikkaloh) of MOGE. — MNA

INSIDE

The National Convention has laid down and approved the 104 basic principles only after affirming that they agree to the nation's objective conditions.

(Page 7) AUNG MOE SAN