

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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### Four political objectives

- \* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- \* National reconsolidation
- \* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- \* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

### Four economic objectives

- \* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- \* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- \* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- \* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

### Four social objectives

- \* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- \* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- \* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- \* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

## Naga New Year festival is living proof of successful vitalization of national unity

### With better transport in sight eco growth in region in the offing Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends Naga New Year Festival

YANGON, 16 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence attended the Naga New Year Festival at Yoya Sport Grounds in Lahe township, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Sagaing Division PDC Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, local station commanders, responsible personnel of

the SPDC Office, departmental heads, local authorities, officials of social organizations, representatives of Naga tribe, and tourists.

U Myat Ko, member of the Central Committee for Naga Traditional Culture, presided over the ceremony together with U Ki Shee Mu of Leshi Township, U Maung Nyan of Lahe Township, U Ba Khun of Homalin Township, and U Zin Wam of Nanyun Township.

Daw Shana Phai of Hkamti Township and U Say Pharaw acted as MC and co-MC respectively.

After the MCs had declared the new year festival open, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers and those present saluted the State Flag.

The ceremony began with a speech given by U Myat Ko. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivered an address. He said Myanmar is home to over 100 ethnic groups.



Patron of Central Committee for Naga Traditional Culture U Hla Pe adorns Lt-Gen Ye Myint with Naga traditional robe. — MNA

In the course of Myanmar history, national races have lived in unison and had respect for each other. He continued that this Naga new year festival is a living proof of the successful vitalization of national unity. In the past, such

festivals were held only in individual villages. After 1988 after the assumption of the State duty by the Tatmadaw government, the State formed the Naga Traditional Cultural Committee in order to make the festival a com-

munal one with the participation of different villages. As of 1992, the Naga new year festival has been held with the participation of high-ranking officials, local authorities, and repre-

sentatives of Naga tribe. After drawing short- and long-term projects, the government is working hard to turn the country into a peaceful, modern and developed one.

(See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye addresses Naga New Year Festival 2005 in Lahe Township. — MNA

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 17 January, 2005

## Nurture new generation youths to promote national interest

Absolutely imperative for enabling the Union of Myanmar to stand tall and proud in the global community are national unity, stability, robust economic growth, technological advancement, and development of human resources.

In this age of growing science and technology, national forces are central to the tasks for the establishment and defence of the country. The creation of human resources from the education sector on a systematic basis is a prime national concern.

Myanmar Education Committee Chairman and also State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the opening of the Special Refresher Course No 56 for Basic Education Teachers at Nawarat Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, on 15 January 2005.

In his speech, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein pointed out that success has been achieved in the combined efforts being made in harmony by the basic and higher education sectors to ensure a continuous emergence of well-rounded intellectuals and technocrats of the new generation in all spheres inspired with ardent national outlook to promote national economy at any given situation and time.

The government is implementing the national education promotion plan phase by phase to ensure that the national duties for the education sector are fully and completely carried out.

In this age of globalization, new generation youths are to keep pace with the growing trends of science and technology of the world and modern pedagogy.

It is necessary for them to avoid alien behaviour, character and thought contrary to Myanmar culture while keeping their eyes open in lieu of misapplying the international development trends. It is also necessary to imbue the new generation youths with the patriotic spirit, Union Spirit, and the spirit to cherish and preserve national culture in their childhood.

In particular, measures are to be taken with national outlook to remove any attempts deliberately designed to make the Union of Myanmar weaker and dependent on the other country and to destroy national solidarity and Union Spirit.

All in all, systematic steps are to be taken in the education sector to nurture as many new generation youths as possible so that they will serve the interests of the country and people with their high intellect.



Writer Tekketho Phone Maung and family donate 100 books to Pyinnya Yadana library in Nganchaung village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, on 15-1-2005. The library is established by USDA youth members of the village on self-reliant basis.—H

## People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

## Commander, Minister inspect agriculture, livestock breeding tasks in Hlegu, Hmawby

YANGON, 15 Jan —

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein yesterday morning made an inspection tour of the private pig breeding farm near Hlayhlaw-in Village of Hlegu Township and Yangon Division Vegetable and Poultry Farming Special Zone near Nyaunhnabin Village of Hmawby Township.

At Than Toe Aung Pig Breeding Farm near Hlayhlaw-in Village, Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department reported to them on progress of the farm. The commander and



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects private pig breeding farm in Hlayhlaw-in Village of Hlegu Township.—YANGON COMMAND

the minister attended to the needs in farming. They looked into breeding of 4,000 pigs at the farm.

At the Yangon Division Vegetable and Poultry Farming Special Zone, the commander and the minister inspected thriving

vegetable plantations. In conversing with the entrepreneurs, Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein urged them to extend agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

In the special zone, 5,495 acres of land have

been put under vegetables. And, over 1.3 million of broilers and layers are being bred. Furthermore, 515 acres of fish ponds have been dug and over 1.3 million fish are being bred in the ponds.

MNA

## Press conference on holding First International Sepak Takraw Championship 2005 held

YANGON, 16 Jan —

The press conference on the First International Sepak Takraw Championship 2005 to be hosted by Myanmar was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this afternoon.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thauung Htaik and General Secretary of International Sepak Takraw Federation President of Asian Sepak Takraw Federation Mr Abdul Halim Bin Kader gave speeches.

Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation President U Chit Khaing explained tasks being carried out by the MSTF and matters related to the



The press conference on World Series International Sepak Takraw C'ship 2005 in progress.—NLM

championship. Officials answered the queries. Next, U Chit Khaing handed over the championship trophy to be awarded to the winner to Mr Abdul Halim Bin

Kader. The competition will be held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township from 18 to 25 February.

A total of 26 sepak

takraw teams including those of China, Korea, Japan, Qatar, Switzerland, Canada, the US, France, Germany and Brazil have informed the ISTF.

MNA

## Rural development work implemented

YANGON, 16 Jan — Township development affairs committees under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are undertaking community welfare and rural development tasks with added momentum. Minhla Township development affairs committee in Bago Division (West) carried

out the tasks for tarring of Zaychotan road, 700 feet long and 12 feet wide, and Mintan road, 130 feet long and 12 feet wide, in the township on 14 January.

Similarly, Moenyo Township DAC undertook the tarring of Bogyoke road which is 840 feet long and 12 feet wide. On December 7, the senior engineer of Mogok

Township DAC inspected laying pipelines between Gwaygyi village and the village (middle) lake. The committee carried out water supply tasks for Gwaygyi village at a cost of K 493,000.

On 17 December, a tube-well was dug in Yayphyu village in Thayet township for water supply for the villagers. —MNA

## Corrigendum

YANGON, 16 Jan —

The correct name of the wellwisher is U Myint Soe in the news on the opening of Bawa Shayhsaung Village Headman U Hla Myint Library in Kyonku Village of Ngapudaw Township on page 10 column 6 of this paper issued on 13-1-2005.

MNA

## Singapore expects lower unemployment rate in 2005

SINGAPORE, 15 Jan—Singapore's unemployment rate is expected to be as low as 3 per cent by the end of this year, further down from the present 3.4 per cent, the lowest in more than three years, said labour chief Lim Boon Heng on Friday.

According to local media reports on Friday, growth in sectors such as aerospace, semiconductor, chemical, pharmaceutical and services will contribute to the increase of job opportunities this year, said Lim.

The small- and medium-sized enterprises also expect to employ more workers this year, added Lim, which makes the employment prospects steady and good though the government has forecast a lower economic growth rate at 3 per cent to 5 per cent this year.

He specified that greater demand for airplanes, as a result of the boom of air travel in Asia, will create more work for the aerospace sector in Singapore.

The aerospace sector, which has been growing at 11 per cent annually for the past decade, witnessed a 14-per-cent increase last year to reach 4.4 billion Singapore dollars (about 2.7 billion US dollars), and the government expects the industry to maintain double-digit growth this year.

MNA/Xinhua

## 13th SAARC summit likely to be held from 6 Feb

DHAKA, 15 Jan—The duration of the 13th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is likely to be curtailed by one day as India on Thursday suggested a two-day summit from 6 February.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan disclosed Thursday night that Bangladesh will welcome the fresh date if other members agree. Dhaka was always ready to hold the summit any time, he added.

The New Age Friday quoted the Foreign Minister as saying that the Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh conveyed to him the suggested date of convenience over phone.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Mahmood Kasuri also phoned him twice informing the latest development.

Outlining the programmes of the summit and pre-summit meetings, Morshed Khan said the process would be started on 1 February and the main summit would be spread over 6 and 7 February.

Earlier, the six other nations — Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan,

Sri Lanka and the Maldives — had agreed on a 7-9 February summit which was postponed due to the 26 December disaster that devastated Sri Lanka, southern India and the Maldives.

In the wake of tsunami devastation, Bangladesh, as the host, postponed the summit scheduled on 9-11 January, giving priority to the disaster-hit members' convenience.

MNA/Xinhua

## Russia denies missile sale talks with Syria

MOSCOW, 15 Jan—Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denied on Friday that there are negotiations between Russia and Syria on delivering Russian missiles to the Middle East country.

"No negotiations are being conducted on this issue," the Interfax news agency quoted Lavrov as saying.

"We observe all our international commitments without permitting any violations," Lavrov said.

The Foreign Minister admitted that preparations for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's visit to Russia is under way.

Lavrov's clarification came after media reports that there had been a sharp aggravation in relations between Israel and Russia over Tel Aviv's worries about possible deliveries of Russia-made Iskander-E missile systems to Syria.

Israeli military circles feared that the supposed deal with Syria could shift the military balance in the Middle East.

On Wednesday,

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov also denied talks on the sales of Russian missiles to Syria.

The Iskander, also known as the SS-26, is the latest generation of the

Soviet-era Scud missile. Reports said each missile has two 480-kilo warheads and can easily overcome existing air defence systems.

MNA/Xinhua



Beijing vehicles on 14 Jan, 2005. China's auto market is meant to be the great hope for the world's top manufacturers but with sales growth slowing dramatically in 2004 they may instead have to get used to the idea of unwanted competition in their home markets from Chinese exports.—INTERNET



Indian soldiers ride horses during an Army Day parade in New Delhi, on 15 Jan, 2005. India celebrated on Saturday the 57th anniversary of the formation of its national army with soldiers from various regiments and artillery on display.—INTERNET

## US handling of Iraq's oil money marked by weaknesses

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Jan—US handling of Iraq's oil money after the defeat of Saddam Hussein was marked by weaknesses including problems tracking oil production and cash, a watchdog told the UN Security Council on Friday, diplomats said.

The criticisms follow accusations by US policymakers that the United Nations mismanaged a separate oil-for-food programme for Iraq under Saddam. "These shortcomings (in the US management) have to be kept in mind when we judge the management of other programmes such as oil-for-food," said one Council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

UN Controller Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, who heads the International Advisory and Monitoring Board set up to oversee US management of Iraqi oil, briefed the Security Council on the issue in a

closed-door meeting.

He discussed problems tracking how much oil was produced and how the proceeds were spent, and how noncompetitive contracts were awarded to Halliburton Co, formerly led by Vice-President Dick Cheney, the envoys said. Several said he repeatedly used the term "weaknesses" to characterize problems with the US management.

The board led by Halbwachs was created by the Security Council to watch over the stewardship of Iraq's natural resources during the US civil administration of Iraq, which began in April 2003

and ended last June.

The board has previously accused the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority of sloppily managing billions of dollars of Iraqi oil money and moving at a glacial pace to guard against corruption.

The watchdog last month ordered a special audit of all sole-source Halliburton work, to be completed in early 2005.

Cheney headed the Texas oil services company between 1995 and 2000, and its cost overruns on Iraq contracts became an issue in the US presidential campaign.

MNA/Reuters

## 1,362 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—As of Saturday, 15 Jan, 2005, at least 1,362 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 four 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, 1,224 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

# Kobe conf organizer outlines plan for early warning mechanism

PORT LOUIS, 15 Jan — The organizer of a crucial UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction has said on the sidelines of a small island conference in Mauritius they plan to take three years to have the mechanism of a global hazard warning system in place, outlining their plan for the mechanism.

The conference, to be held on 18 January in Kobe, Japan, will be the start of a string of conferences to set up the early warning system, said Salvano Briceno, director of UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Inter-Agency Secretariat.

Apart from international coordination, the meetings would specify actions needs to be taken to "assist in developing regional early warning system" and "strengthening of national capacity... and local capacity," of the early warning system, particularly in communication, according to Briceno.

Briceno said the United Nations is looking at three years to build the system, with the first year to have in place the "central regional capacities needed for providing early warning on tsunami and other hazards".

He said what would take up much more time is getting support to strengthening national capacity which "go beyond the technical aspect and would require a great deal of education".

Briceno said the United Nations is trying to build the system through many methods, in particular South-South cooperation, and not only relying on the developed world. He cited Bangladesh as one example in the developing world which has a great deal of experience to share with countries like Somalia and Maldives.

He noted the three years is just to put in place the "mechanisms, the methodologies to do it". "Three years is the limit to have the system in place," while other jobs could take much longer time. "Areas like education can take a hundred years," Briceno said. —MNA/Xinhua



A group of invitees watch a two-storey model house being shaken by a huge amount of jolt created by a three-dimensional full-scale earthquake testing facility at Hyogo Quake-Resistance Research Centre, near Kobe, in western Japan, during its completion ceremony, on 15 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## ဝက်စုစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

### Singapore dispatches third helicopter landing ship to Meulaboh

SINGAPORE, 15 Jan— Singapore on Friday afternoon dispatched its third helicopter landing ship with 200 pallets of relief supplies onboard to Indonesia's Meulaboh, one of the worst-hit areas by the disaster.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Defence, the ship is expected to arrive off the coast of Meulaboh on Sunday evening.

Also onboard are 60 non-governmental organization (NGO) personnel and volunteers, who will hand over the relief supplies to the Indonesian authorities in Meulaboh and help in other relief and recovery work there.

The goods, which include food, water, tents, generators and vehicles, are contributed by Singapore NGOs such as the Singapore Red Cross and Mercy Relief.

The statement said that such contributions by NGOs will help improve people's living conditions in the disaster-stricken area as the relief efforts in Aceh move into the recovery and reconstruction phases.

MNA/Xinhua

## US soldier found guilty of abusing Iraqi prisoners

FORT HOOD (Texas), 15 Jan — A military jury found US soldier Charles Graner guilty on Friday of abusing Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison in a scandal that badly damaged America's worldwide reputation following the invasion of Iraq.

A 10-member military jury found Graner, 36, a former civilian prison guard, guilty on 10 charges, many of which were documented by photographs of sexual humiliation of naked men that shocked the world after they were leaked last year.

Graner stood at attention and looked straight ahead without any visible reaction as the verdict was read. He held his hands tightly clenched.

Because the jury altered one count to a lesser charge of assault, rather than use of force likely to produce death or grievous bodily harm, in one attack his maximum sentence was lessened to 15 years from a possible 17-1/2 years, a prosecution spokesman

said. In his closing argument, Graner's lawyer said the former Pennsylvania prison guard was following orders of military intelligence officials at Abu Ghraib outside Baghdad as part of a vital, larger US war effort in Iraq.

"Corporal Graner is a smart guy, professional and he was doing his job in Iraq," defence attorney Guy Womack told the court. "Now the government would ask a corporal, an E4, one of the junior people there, to take the hit for it."

The prosecution argued that Graner and others in his unit acted without orders for their own gratification.

MNA/Reuters

## Greece sees no change in Russian policy on Cyprus

ATHENS, 15 Jan — The Greece Government expressed confidence on Friday that the statements made by Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding the Cyprus problem, following his meeting in Moscow with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, were not a departure from Russian policy for the Cyprus issue.

Greek Government Spokesman Theodoros Roussopoulos said that the Russian policy was marked by continuity and consistency, pointing out that Putin had spoken about a united island and a solution that would be found within the framework of the United Nations.

In statements on Tuesday, Putin said Russia would support the plan of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to find a solution to the Cyprus dispute, and any resolution arising from the plan's implementation, dropping Russia's previous objections. He also described the economic isolation of northern Cypriots as "unfair" in talks with Erdogan.

Last April Russia vetoed a UN Security Council resolution put forward by the United States and Britain, Cyprus' former colonial power, to encourage Greek and Turkish Cypriots to adopt a UN plan to unify the Mediterranean Island.—MNA/Xinhua

## Portuguese police to leave Iraq

LISBON, (Portugal), 15 Jan — Portugal announced Saturday that its 120-member police mission in Iraq, will end 12 Feb, as scheduled. A government statement said Portugal would continue fully to support its allies in Iraq but in different ways, such as providing humanitarian relief.

"For reasons of operational planning and for an adequate coordination with Iraqi authorities and the multinational task force, the Portuguese government confirms its decision to end its police mission in Iraq on the previously scheduled date of 12 Feb," said a joint statement issued by the Prime Minister's office

and the Foreign Office.

The contingent had been scheduled to return to Portugal in November, but the mission was extended until 12 Feb due to "Portugal's need to assist in the electoral process in Iraq within the UN proposed date of 30 Jan," the statement said.

One of the government's proposals for future help is to assist in training the Iraqi security forces.

The Portuguese police, who are under Italian command in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, were first deployed in November 2003. President Jorge Sampaio had refused to send troops without United Nations approval.—Internet



A phial containing mosquito larvae, responsible for spreading dengue fever recently. Malaysia warned of a possible dengue epidemic in the capital Kuala Lumpur and three other states in coming months after the number of infections in the country more than doubled.—INTERNET

## Beijing gets new city plan

**BEIJING, 15 Jan**— An executive meeting of the State Council, or China's Cabinet, has passed in principle a new city plan for Beijing, which will replace the 1993 resolution.

According to the city plan for Beijing from 2004 to 2020, the municipality will change the current "one centre" layout model to a "multi-centre" one, which means that several more city centres with different functions will be built to form an urban structure that features a centre as well as new satellite cities and townships.

Districts including the Zhongguancun high-tech park core district, the Olympics centre district and the central business district will become new city function centres.

To date, a total of 11 new satellite cities have been set, including Tongzhou, Shunyi, Yizhuang, which will work to channel the population in and functions of the central parts of Beijing and promote regional development. According to experts, a key breakthrough in the plan is that it integrates the development of urban and

rural areas and regional development.

According to the plan, the city will continue to develop along the traditional south-north axis and the east-west axis, along Chang'an Avenue, to safeguard the functions of Beijing as the national capital and cultural centre.

At the same time, Beijing will build an "eastern development belt" on its eastern outskirts and form a "western ecological belt" on western and northern outskirts.

The "western development belt" will serve as an ecological barrier that works as part of the efforts to build Beijing into a city suitable for human living.

The planning also indicates the municipality will limit its general population to about 18 million by 2020, compared with its permanent resident population of 14.56 million in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

## Abbas says Palestinians committed to "roadmap"

**RAMALLAH, 15 Jan** — Newly-elected Palestinian National Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas said Thursday the Palestinians are ready to carry out their obligations under the "roadmap" peace plan, which was launched in June 2003 only to be shelved months later.

Abbas, who was elected president of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in a landslide victory Sunday, told visiting church leaders that he remained committed to the "roadmap" which envisages the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel.

"The Palestinian National Authority is ready to implement the 'road-map' at once," said the 69-year-old Fatah movement veteran, who has spoken out against Palestinian militants' attacks on the Israelis.

"This blueprint sets out mutual obligations and we will fulfil all our obligations. We hope that Israel will also carry out its obligations."

The "roadmap" was sponsored by the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations. In the first of the three phases outlined by the plan, Israel is to freeze "all settlement activities" on the occupied land and withdraw its forces from areas occupied since 28 September, 2000 when massive clashes

broke out between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Abbas welcomed the recent reshaping of the Israeli Cabinet and urged the new Israeli coalition to fulfil its commitments under the "roadmap".

The Israeli Parliament approved a new coalition government Sunday, bringing the Labour Party back to the government. Labour leader Shimon Peres and Abbas were chief negotiators behind the historical Oslo peace deal signed in 1993.

"We have a new Palestinian Authority and Israel has a new government with the Labour Party on board which is a positive element for the peace process," Abbas said. He said both Israelis and Palestinians were responsible for the future of the peace process stalled in the past four years.

"The Palestinians and Israelis must work towards changes on the ground to garner wide support for peace," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## China, Serbia and Montenegro agree to further part exchanges

**BEIJING, 15 Jan** — China and Serbia and Montenegro on Friday agreed to improve parliamentary exchanges in a bid to further increase their political and economic cooperation.

"Exchanges and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries play a unique role in boosting bilateral relations.

The Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) hopes to improve cooperation with Serbia and Montenegro's Parliament in various fields and different levels to make fresh contributions to the growth of bilateral relations," said Wu Bangguo, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, in a meeting with Serbia and Montenegro's

Parliament speaker Zoran Sami.

Sami, who is paying a six-day visit to China, responded that he hoped his visit would improve understanding between the two parliaments and the two countries and create more opportunities to further bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields.

The two sides also agreed that China and Serbia and Montenegro have no outstanding political disputes.

"There is no pending political problems be-

tween us. Improving friendly cooperation between us accords with the fundamental interests of our two countries and their peoples," acknowledged Wu.

Wu went on to say that both countries and the world have undergone many changes over the past decade.

But the relations between China and Serbia and Montenegro, which are based on mutual trust and mutual benefit, have maintained continuous, steady development.

MNA/Xinhua



A monkey stands on an air conditioner hung on a five-floor residential building in Shijiazhuang, North China's Hebei Province, on 14 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

## US-led forces cause "substantial damage" to Babylon

**LONDON, 15 Jan** — US-led forces, using Iraq's ancient city of Babylon as a military base, have caused "substantial damage" to one of the world's most renowned archaeological treasures, a British Museum report said.

The report, quoted in Saturday's *Guardian* newspaper, said US and Polish military vehicles had crushed 2,600-year-old pavements in the city, a cradle of civilization and home to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Archaeological fragments were used to fill sand bags, it added.

John Curtis, keeper of the museum's Ancient and Near East department, invited to visit Babylon by Iraqi antiquities experts, also said he had found cracks and gaps made by people who had apparently tried to gouge out the decorated bricks forming the famous dragons of the city's Ishtar

Gate.

US military commanders set up a base in Babylon in April 2003, just after the invasion to topple Saddam Hussein, and handed it over to a Polish-led force five months later.

"This is tantamount to establishing a military camp around the Great Pyramid in Egypt or around Stonehenge in Britain," Curtis said in the report.

The camp will be formally handed over to the Iraqi Culture Ministry on Saturday.

Babylon was the capital of ancient Babylonia, an early civilization that existed from

around 1,800 BC until 600 BC.

Most famous for the Hanging Gardens built by Nebuchadnezzar, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, large parts of it were reconstructed by Saddam in an attempt to associate himself with his country's past glories.

In the report, Curtis described the decision to set up a base in the area as "regrettable".

Large areas of the site were covered in gravel, the report said, brought in from outside which was compacted and sometimes chemically treated to make helipads and car parks.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers enter the ancient city of Babylon. A damning report by the British Museum revealed that US-led forces in Iraq have caused irreparable damage to the site of the ancient city of Babylon, contaminating the soil and destroying archaeological evidence.—INTERNET

## Portugal to set up first consulate in Chinese Mainland

SHANGHAI, 16 Jan—Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio said here Friday that his country will set up its first consulate in Chinese Mainland this year.

The consulate will be located in Shanghai, China's economic hub, which Sampaio visited in his week-long China tour, the President told a business forum.

The establishment of the consulate was aimed at enhancing the two countries' cooperation in trade, investment, tourism,

science and technology, culture, language and higher education, he noted.

Portuguese companies have many chances to explore the Chinese market, despite of the two countries' geographic and cultural differences, the President said.

Sino-Portuguese trade

reached 520 million euros in 2003 and China has become one of Portugal's top 20 export market, Portuguese figures show.

To further economic cooperation between east China and Portugal will push the two countries' friendship and cooperation to a new high, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

## Free trade may boost Africa's export, tackle poverty

MAPUTO, 15 Jan—Free trade may sound like a great way to boost Africa's fledging exports and tackle poverty, but it could end up putting tens of thousands of Africans out of their jobs.

British Finance Minister Gordon Brown arrived in Mozambique on Friday — the third leg of a four-nation tour — to tout his three-pronged "Marshall" plan for poverty, which includes smashing trade barriers to give poor nations a fair shot at export markets.

But business leaders and politicians in the southern African country said that while they welcomed Brown's push to remove farm subsidies in the West,

unbridled liberalization could wreak havoc on their economies by removing much-needed protection for their own less-developed industries.

"There needs to be a level playing field, but we also need protection — we don't have the capacity for full free trade yet," Trade and Industry Minister Carlos Morgado told Reuters in an interview in the capital Maputo.

Mozambique's 80 million-US-dollar-a-year

sugar industry is a prime example. The country, one of the world's poorest, is slowly rebuilding its sugar sector after a 16-year civil war left the country and industry ruined.

But senior sugar figures say the recovery could collapse if the European Union pushes ahead with sweeping plans to reform its long-standing, heavily subsidized sugar regime, much criticised by trade partners.

MNA/Reuters

## Asia's largest desert reservoir refills

LANZHOU, 16, Jan—The largest desert reservoir in Asia, Hongyashan Reservoir, in northwest China's Gansu Province, restored 32 million cubic metres of water after dried up for the first time last year.

With a storage capacity of 99.3 million cubic metres of water, Hongyashan Reservoir was built in 1958 in Minqin County of the province. When in full capacity, the reservoir can irrigate nearly 60,000 hectares of farmland.

However, rare rainfall and ecological deterioration led to the complete drying of the reservoir in June 2004, for the first time since it was built.

The local government has taken every possible means to restore water in the reservoir, including diverting water from the Yellow River, China's second largest river, and regulating water use in the upper and middle reaches of Shiyanghe, a major water source of the reservoir.

Minqin County is one of the major places where sand storm originate in northwest China, and the reservoir plays a vital role in preventing desertification in the locality, according to sand control experts. —MNA/Xinhua



India Airlines planes at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on 15 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## Bangladesh's trade deficit may increase to \$3.1b

DHAKA, 16 Jan—Bangladesh's trade deficit may balloon to 3.1 billion US dollars in the current fiscal from 2.3 billion US dollars in the previous fiscal year due to lower export, surge in imports along with marginal effect of global oil price hike.

The trade deficit in the first quarter of the 2004-2005 fiscal was 394 million US dollars, the *New Age* reported Saturday.

A report of the Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of the country, was quoted as saying that the high trade

deficit would also reverse the current account position, from last fiscal year's 176-million-dollar surplus to 539-million-US-dollar deficit in the current fiscal. The bank's report listed oil price increase and phase-out of textile quota among the downside risks facing the economy.

A 5-per-cent projected growth in oil import may contribute marginally to current account deficit in the 2004-2005 fiscal year, said the bank in its quarterly economic outlook for July-September 2004.

Besides, it said that abolition of quota in textile and clothing exports from January 1 also posed a downside risk in the ex-

port sector since ready-made garments account for 75 per cent of the total earnings. The export growth in the current fiscal has been lowered to 8 per cent from double-digit growth in past years, while import growth has been estimated at 14.5 per cent.

Global oil price rose to as high as 55 US dollars per barrel in October 2004, reflecting a more than 50 per cent year-on-year rise and leaving importing countries like Bangladesh with inflated bills on oil.

Bangladesh, as a net importer of oil, may be affected adversely due to high oil price in the international market, the report said.—MNA/Xinhua



Chinese farmers have their lunch at an open market at Guan in China's Hebei Province, on 15 Jan 2005.—INTERNET

## Shanxi Province to test previous blood sellers for HIV

TAIYUAN, 15 Jan—Shanxi Province will conduct HIV testing among people who have sold blood since 1990 during the first four months of this year, said the provincial health department Saturday.

A senior official at the department said that some people infected with the HIV virus have yet to be traced after the blood-sale scandal.

The department also requested local health bureaus to conduct antibody testing on the spouses and children of previous blood sellers who were found HIV positive and to offer timely anti-retroviral treatment to the patients.

To prevent possible discrimination, the department asked health institutions to protect HIV carriers' privacy and keep the testing results secret.

China passed a law in August 2004 to make it illegal to buy and sell blood in an effort to stem the country's growing AIDS epidemic, the first time the disease has been targeted in a law.—MNA/Xinhua

## Global pharmaceutical sales grow 7% in 12 months

LONDON, 16 Jan — Global pharmaceutical sales grew seven per cent in the 12 months to November, unchanged from the rate recorded a month earlier, healthcare information firm IMS Health said on Friday.

Sales through retail pharmacies in 13 leading markets, which account for more than two-thirds of the world market, totalled 345 billion US dollars in the period. The rate of market growth has slowed sharply in recent years as generic competition has bitten into sales while governments have squeezed prices in a bid to rein in healthcare costs. A few years ago, drugmakers saw double-digit growth as standard.

Sales in the top five European markets showed 6 per cent constant exchange growth in the year to November while North America grew 8 per cent and Japan increased 2 per cent.

The single largest drug class was cholesterol-lowering medicines, selling 26.2 billion US dollars and showing a growth rate of 12.2 per cent. Pfizer Inc's Lipitor remained the world's best-selling drug, with sales of 10.4 billion US dollars. —MNA/Reuters

# Discussion of pensioners — 3

Hein Myint

I attended the offering of *soon* (meals) to members of the Sangha held recently at the house of a friend of mine. His house is a little far from mine, but it was in the morning, so I happened to have a walk to his home with the purpose of keeping myself fit.

On my way, I was thinking about the TV news about the Press conference held by the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council to clarify the incident of an innocent student killed and the people wounded due to the act of the destructionists, movements of internal and external destructionist groups behind the acts, unlicensed vehicles, damages in some areas in Myanmar caused by tidal waves following the recent earthquake with its epicentre in the Indian Ocean.

Upon arrival at the ceremony, I found that some of my friends, pensioners, were already there, so I had a casual conversation with them while having our meals.

"I have read the front page of today's Kyemon issue that features an excerpt from the speech of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. It says the struggle lasted over 100 years to regain independence which was lost within two weeks".

"Yes, I've read it, too. There is another excerpt from the December 25th issue that reads if taken for granted, independence can be lost all of a sudden to alien subjugation. The struggle to regain it, however, may cost much blood, sweat and many lives".

"These excerpts are based on true historical events, so I think the entire people should be aware of such destructive acts, and the self-centred politicians who rely on external elements, some political parties that repeatedly say they are struggling in the interests of the nation and the people, and certain internal and external destructive elements, they all should realize the undesirable consequences of such acts".

"In the past, the colonialists annexed first the nations they wanted to colonize. Now, the world don't accept such kind of acts at all. Again, they are using another way, they resort to all possible ways and means for those who will dance to their tune to come into power, then they help form a puppet government, and then they colonize the countries".

"As you know, they want to manipulate the oil of Iraq, so they invaded the country with the excuse that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Now it has been clear they are putting their scheme into motion to help form a puppet government in the country".

"I pity for innocent Iraqis. They have been suffering a great trouble because of the war. We Myanmar must take lessons from these events".

"They are also interfering in the internal affairs of our country as they wish. They are making a variety of excuses to manufacture fabrications, accuse our nation, abet the destructive elements, and impose economic and political sanctions against our nation. In fact, their intention is to enable the lackeys to come into power, then to help form a puppet state, and then just to exploit our country".

"Yet, instead of giving priority to the nation,

self-seekers, narrow-minded racists, and power-mad persons are fulfilling the wishes of the neo-colonialists, asking them for help, and dissuading the international community from visiting the country, making any investments in the country, providing assistance but they ask for economic sanctions with the intention of making the nation and the people get into crises and adversities. I find it very hard to believe they are Myanmar nationals".

"They are blowing their own trumpet that they are struggling in the interests of the people, but in the pragmatic world, they are always causing troubles for the people. They think that by doing so, the government will get itself into a fix. What a silly idea!".

"Yes, they say they are getting involved in the politics for democracy, but I have witnessed that they are constantly hampering nation-building endeavours to make the people be abysmally poor, because they realize that they cannot gain ground in the nation, if

**"They earn their living by politics to be the source, but they even don't know the real attitude and characteristics of Myanmar national people, and I don't think they will be capable of leading the nation correctly even if they come to power. Indeed, Myanmar never hesitate to repay the gratitude of others. They should have realized that Myanmar national people repay the gratitude twofolds to those for what they have done"**

the nation is making progress and the people are enjoying better income".

"So to say if they are the politicians who really love the nation and the people, they should participate in the national development tasks instead of blocking them. If they are not in favour of the government, they can criticize it and point out its mistakes and weaknesses then, and I don't know why they are making a hindrance to national development tasks".

"They earn their living by politics to be the source, but they even don't know the real attitude and characteristics of Myanmar national people, and I don't think they will be capable of leading the nation correctly even if they come to power. Indeed, Myanmar never hesitate to repay the gratitude of others. They should have realized that Myanmar national people repay the gratitude twofolds to those for what they have done".

"No doubt, the people will unanimously support them as leaders of the country, and they will be held in affection if they really give priority to national development".

"What was worse was the recent bomb blast that killed and wounded innocent people, and that received a media coverage".

"I have learnt from the Press conference that the blast was aimed to create political unrest and pub-

lic panic in the nation, and to hamper nation-building tasks. It was committed in collusion by NCGUB, NLD (LA), ABSDF, members of Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors and other destructionists. The government had received information that some local political parties under the pretext of democracy and human rights had certain connections and relations with destructive elements".

"There was a bomb blast in Zawgyi Restaurant near Bogyoke Market, and that day was the last day of the market festival, so it was more crowded than any other days. Fortunately, there were no casualties but only one of the staff of the restaurant was wounded slightly. But, it led to the immediate closure of the festival for security".

"In harmony with some lackeys of the destructive elements, certain foreign broadcasting stations invented the fabricated news that the bomb blast killed one, and accused the government of causing the blast. Indeed, they intended to mislead us Myanmar people".

"It is as the saying which goes 'The thief accuses someone of theft'. Such destructionists are merely unscrupulous ones who are pleased only when the people get into trouble".

"According to the AFP, the VBSW issued a pamphlet, claiming responsibility for the blast that occurred near Bogyoke Market".

"Yes, it is. They also raided the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok on 1 October 1999. I'd say they are now committing destructive acts again".

"It is vividly clear that the destructive elements have already noticed the world doesn't accept terrorism at all, and if they themselves committed destructive acts under their real names, they would face a lot of problems. So they formed the VBSW with 24 members from internal and external destructive elements. Then they asked the 24-member group to commit destructive acts on their behalf in order not to lose the face of their master and to be able to keep on committing destructive acts".

"To my surprise, no countries blamed nor condemned their destructive acts, but some are making a variety of demands for the release of the lackeys who are hampering national development efforts and stability and peace but have not done anything good for the nation".

"That is the point we national people don't accept at all. Lopsidedly, they don't take into account the interests of the people, but are in complete favour of the lackeys who obey their orders and wishes and who are under their control".

"And, I wonder what will be their lame excuses for San Htwe (a) Shan Pok of the ABSDF who was arrested for detonating bomb in Kawkaik on 15 September last year that left five people wounded and who was responsible for the bomb explosion in a sports gear shop on 24 December that left a student killed and three wounded".

(To be continued)

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 16-1-2005

# Naga New Year festival is living ...

(from page 1)

Thanks to these endeavours, all the states and divisions have now enjoyed the unprecedented development in every sector. The holding of the festival contributes to the further vitalization of friendship among national races by bridging the development gap between the plains and the hilly regions.

Emphasis has been placed on Naga region to ensure that the region will not lag behind in development. For instance, a network of transport infrastructures have been built in the region. As a result, the region will soon enjoy economic growth. The government

ishing democracy in the future. As the first phase, the National Convention has now been in progress. To implement these tasks successfully, all the national races are to go hand in hand.

Some big super powers are now scheming in various ways to undermine the progress of the National Convention. At such a time like this, Naga national people are to be fully aware of these dangers.

Later, the commander called for active participation of Naga national race in the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, de-



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party pose for documentary photo with heads of Naga tribe at Naga New Year Festival. — MNA*

veloped one with the thick and thin since ancient times.

At present, the government, enlisting the entire national force, is striving its utmost to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one with the

the Union of Myanmar, is now on the road to development, he said.

The minister said with peace and tranquility, rule of law and national solidarity prevailing in the country, the State has adopted and is implementing the seven-step Road Map. So, all the people are urged to play their part in successful undertaking of the Road Map with Union spirit.

In conclusion, he said, all the national brethren are to lend themselves to the efforts for emergence of a modern, developed democratic state. Then, he wished more development of Naga hills and happy new year of Naga Traditional Festival.

Afterwards, Naga national Daw Nwe Nwe Yu Aung explained the history of Naga New Year Festival. Patron of Naga Traditional Culture Central Committee U Hla Pe adorned Lt-Gen Ye Myint with a Naga traditional robe as a new year gift. Next, Naga national leader U Hatthi adorned Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye with a Naga traditional robe. Naga national leaders also adorned Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, the deputy ministers and departmental heads with Naga traditional robes.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented four sets of TV and satellite dish and receiver donated by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win for Naga hill regions to officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye handed over 15 blankets donated by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and five blan-

kets by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to monasteries in Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun townships through Head of Hkamti District Religious Affairs Department U Myo Thura.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented K 500,000 each to the education and health trust-funds of Naga national race, 15 blankets, 15 cassettes, two bales of clothes, 500 units of hoe, 20 jerkins, 3,310 necklaces of beads and multi-coloured necklaces of beads to officials of Lahe Township, the leader of Naga Traditional Dance Troupe and heads of Naga nationals. The commander gave rice, edible oil and others for holding the Naga Traditional New Year Festival and blan-

TV set each for Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun Township USDAs; K 300,000 for holding the festival; K 200,000 for building the walls of Uruvela Pagoda in Leshi; clothes, bags of salt, 200 blankets and sports gears to officials.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw also presented three TV sets, TV antenna, blankets, towels and stationery for Naga national races to officials of Lahe, Nanyun and Leshi Townships.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko handed over K 1.5 million for carrying out missionary tasks in Hkamti District, robes, slippers and construction materials donated by Sagaing



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents gifts of the Prime Minister to a head of Naga national tribe.— MNA*

has spent over K 354.8 million on these regional development projects.

Now, as is known to all, former 17 armed groups have now joined hands with the government in nation-building tasks across the country. It is encouraging to see them participating actively in these measures.

The government is now implementing the seven-point Road Map to shape a discipline-flour-

ished, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Next, USDA CEC member (Sagaing Division in-charge) and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered a speech. He said The Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races including Naga nationals. As is known that all the national people of the country have been living in peace and unity through

full participation of the people. Relentless efforts are being made to ensure the balanced progress of the whole nation by laying down the 24 special development region project and the five rural development tasks. The State is also undertaking these projects by laying down 'our three main national causes, the four points of people desire and the 12 objectives'. That is why our country,



*The bonfire of Naga New Year Festival in progress in Lahe. — MNA*



*Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint speaking at Naga New Year Festival. — MNA*

kets to Patron of Central Committee for Naga Traditional Culture U Hla Pe and Head of Naga National Tribe U Wa Lo, and a car for service personnel of Leshi Township to the chairman of Leshi Township Peace and Development Council. USDA CEC member (Sagaing Division In-charge) Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented one

Division Peace and Development Council to District RAD Head U Myo Thura.

Similarly, the deputy ministers and officials gave cash and gifts to heads of Naga national races and officials.

Next, tourists presented K 250,000 for Naga traditional cultural troupes to three leaders of the troupes.

(See page 9)



## Naga New Year festival is living ...

(from page 8)

Commanding Officer Lt-Col Ruh San Kyue of the local battalion awarded prizes to outstanding students from Lahe and Leshi townships in the 2003-2004 matriculation exam.

Afterwards, the Naga Traditional New Year Festival 2005 concluded successfully.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party including tourists were served with Naga traditional food. Naga national races entertained the guests with traditional dances.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for documentary photos with

members of the Central Committee for Naga Traditional Culture, leaders of Naga national races and traditional cultural troupes.

At 7 pm, the bonfire to mark successful completion of the festival was held in the traditional sports grounds in Lahe, attended by Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party, members of the Central Committee for Naga Traditional Culture, leaders of Naga tribe, local Naga people and members of the cultural troupes including tourists from various countries.

The commander opened the bonfire. Students of Lahe BEHS sang the song

title 'Nationalist Spirit'. Next, Naga cultural troupes presented traditional dances and those present enjoyed the bonfire.

In the morning, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the souvenir shop, the booths of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services, Myanmar Agriculture Service and IPRD, the health educative booth, the free dispensary and the specialist clinic of Lahe Township Health Department at the festival.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint enjoyed the sports meets in commemoration of the new year festival from morning to evening.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe offers alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

## Rice offered to Sayadaws, nuns

YANGON, 16 Jan—The rice offering ceremony to commemorate the 93rd Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Sule Pagoda was held at the platform of the pagoda, here, this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aung Mye-bon San Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa administered the Eight Precepts. And 180 members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The Vice-Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

At the ceremony, wellwishers from Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha and Lanmadaw townships and social organization members donated cash and kind to the members of the Sangha and nuns.—MNA



Meeting Chairman U Myat Ko speaking at the opening ceremony of Naga New Year Festival 2005 in Lahe.—MNA

## MMCWA meets Taninthayi Division MCWASC

YANGON, 16 Jan — A meeting between Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Taninthayi Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee took place at the stadium of Myeik on 12 January. A total of 800 members attended.

At the meeting, MMCWA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint gave an opening speech; and CEC member Daw Aye Aye explained the formation of the association; and Joint Secretary-2 Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, tasks being carried out by the association.

Next, the MMCWA donated 10 bikes, medicines and medical equipment and educational pamphlets to the MCWAs in Taninthayi Division. Those present at the meeting discussed education, health, economic and social affairs.

MNA

## Vocational training schools inspected

YANGON, 16 Jan — Director-General of the Education and Training Department Col Than Win inspected the training school for development of national youths of border regions in Bhamo, and construction of the vocational training school.

On 11 January, he at-

tended the opening of Bhamo vocational training school for women.

The director-general also inspected the sites chosen for construction of vocational training schools in Dawphoneyan, Momauk Township, and Donban village, Phakant Township.

On January 13, the director-general inspected the training school for development of national youths of border region-1 and construction of the training school for development of national youths of border region-2.

MNA

## Middle school level essay, poem contests to mark Armed Forces Day held

YANGON, 16 Jan — Organized by the Work Committee for Organizing Literary and Extempore Talks, Basic Education Middle School level essay and poem contests to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 were held at designated schools across the nation

today.

Secretary of the committee Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin, Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win, Director-General of No

1 Basic Education Department U Tin Nyo, Director-General of Myanmar Education Research Bureau U Myint Han and officials encouraged those who participating in the contests at Bahan No 2 BEHS and Yankin No 2 BEHS.

MNA

## Nowadays, there has been a situation...

(from page 16)  
teachers will be able to possess higher capability, sense of duty, nationalistic sentiment and national outlook, he noted.

Nowadays, there has been a situation in which changes and developments of other sectors can be brought about through development of the education sector since science and technology is overwhelming all the development sectors. At such a time like this, it is of paramount importance for ensuring the emergence of intellectuals and technocrats such as educators, economists, engineers, architects, doctors, paramedical scientists, computer scientists and aviation and marine scientists as all-out efforts are being made for the emergence of a new, modern and developed nation, by warding off a series of dangers, perpetration and machinations. With this end in view, subjects on economy, education, forestry, livestock breeding,

agriculture, culture as well as mercantile marine and aerospace engineering are being taught and more courses are being conducted at the universities and colleges for the constant emergence of intellectuals and technocrats. To turn out those intellectuals and technocrats into intellectuals of international level, Master's courses and doctorate courses are being conducted at those higher learning institutions.

To be in line with opportunity and education system emerged in the higher education sector, learning opportunity and facilities—upgrading of curricula, systems ensuring students to choose subjects of their choice, installation of teaching and learning aids, science and laboratory equipment at basic education schools and setting up of e-Education System—are being created in the basic education sector. Moreover, the system in which students learn by rote has been transformed

into the one in which students have to make innovation and creation through observation and consideration, realizing the sources and definition of a subject. The new system is launched with the aim of nurturing and training students to be well-versed and mentally strong.

In conclusion, the minister called on the basic education teachers to nurture and train their student youths to be able to properly shape their future in the education field in which there have been opportunities according to their hobby and trait and become intellectuals and technocrats capable of serving the interest of the State and the people in accord with the national objectives.

After the ceremony, Minister U Than Aung and party cordially greeted trainee teachers. The five-week refresher course is being attended by 903 trainee teachers from states and divisions.

MNA



Minister U Than Aung cordially meets teachers.—MNA

### Commander oversees Development of Homein Township

YANGON, 16 Jan — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected tasks of the Hydel Power Plant and construction of the bridge at Naunglon Lake in Homein Township on 8 February.

Next, the commander, local national race leader U Maha Ja and U Naw Mein Khun formally opened the office of the Township Union Solidarity and Development Association. The commander viewed documen-

tary photos of Homein Township USDA.

At Pyidaungsu Hall, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met with departmental personnel and local people. He presented cash and kind for Tatmadawmen to local Tactical Operations Commander Col Ye Myint, those for local people and departmental staff to local national race leader U Maha Ja and U Naw Mein Khun, K 2 million for construction of the Naunglon Bridge provided by Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and

National Races and K 6 million for building the tar road to U Maha Ja.

The commander also presented K 100,000 each to Homein Township Organization for Women's Affairs and MCWA through officials.

Next, U Maha Ja and U Naw Mein Khun presented gifts to the commander and officials.

Afterwards, the commander inspected progress in construction of 35 miles long Tasuttein-Homein Road linking Langkhio and Homein townships. — MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts cash donations from a wellwisher at the ceremony to honour PhD (Philosophy) graduate Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Dhammapiya of Taze. — NLM.

### PhD graduate Sayadaw honoured

YANGON, 16 Jan — Presiding Nayaka of Myittananda Vihara Dhamma Yeiktha of Freemount in California of the US, Thingangyun Ngagyanyan (Dawei) Sasana Yeiktha and Mandalay Myittananda Dhammaduta Monastery Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Dhammapiya who re-

ceived PhD (Philosophy) from California University for his thesis on Nibbana in Theravada Perspective was honoured at the Dhammayon of Taze Township Association on 3rd Lane of Bahan Township this morning.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung sup-

plicated on religious affairs and donated alms to the Sayadaws.

Vice-Chairman of the township association UMFCCI President U Win Myint presented cash donations to the minister.

The Sayadaw was born in Shwenadaung Village in Taze Township, Sagaing Division — MNA

### Agriculture, regional development inspected in Pantanaw

YANGON, 16 Jan — Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of South-West Command, oversaw thriving summer paddy plantations along Patheingyi Yangon Road on 15 January.

On their arrival at Inna Village BEHS in Pantanaw Township, the commander inspected construction of the school building measuring 200 feet long, 30 feet wide and

25 feet high. It is being built at a cost of over K 50 million contributed by the parents of a student of the village.

At Scientific Bio-Natural Fertilizer Plant of Supreme Companies Group near Pathwe Bridge, the commander heard reports on production procedures and advantages of the product presented by Managing Director Dr Sein Myint. The commander viewed round the plant.

The plant produces

50 tons of fertilizers a day.

Next, the commander viewed thriving green gram plantation near Bawaing Village.

Ayeyawady Division has set the target to cultivate 1,429,560 acres of pulses and beans in 2004-2005, and, so far, a total of 1,511,365 acres have been put under pulses and beans. In the gram special zone of Pantanaw Township, 39,111 acres of green gram exceeding the target of 37,578 acres have been grown. — MNA

### Paddy Husk-fired Power Plant opened in Paungde

YANGON, 16 Jan — A ceremony to open the Paddy Husk-fired Power Plant, the Cordless Telephone Station and the Village Library was held near the telephone station in Pyingyi Village, Kyanigan Village-tract,

Paungde Township, on 14 January morning.

Pyay District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Tun Aye gave a speech and Chairman of the Paungde Township PDCU Maung Maung Thet explained the open-

ing of the plant and regional development tasks.

Lt-Col Tun Aye pressed the button to generate the power plant and opened the telephone station and the village library.

— MNA

### MIDC Chairman visits Industrial Zone in Pyigyidagun

YANGON, 16 Jan — Chairman of Myanma Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauing yesterday afternoon met with members of Mandalay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and BOD members of the zone

at the Industrial Zones Upgrading Project Office in Pyigyidagun Township.

After hearing reports presented by officials, Minister U Aung Thauing urged them to gear up construction of the Machine Shop, the Warehouse, the Foundry and

the Press Shop.

Next, the minister inspected vehicles and parts assembled at Asia-Myanmar Group Automobile Factory and Padetha Kyaw Industry. He also viewed round products of factories at the industrial zone. — MNA

### Home Affairs Minister's cup track & field held

YANGON, 15 Jan — The eighth track and field for the Minister for Home Affairs' cup took place at Aung San Stadium this morning.

Among the specta-

tors were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and wife, Director General of

Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, directors-general and officials.

Women's team and men's team of Myanmar Police Force stood first in the tournament. — MNA

### L & F Minister looks into poultry farms

YANGON, 16 Jan — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein arrived at the poultry pedi-

grees breeding farm in Pynmabin of Mingaladon Township yesterday morning.

After hearing the re-

ports, the minister oversaw the poultry farm. Next, he proceeded to Pynmabin Broiler Farm and inspected it. — MNA



The launching symposium on LeVoquin and LUCON medicines of Navana Pharmaceuticals Ltd (Bangladesh) in progress. — NLM.



RESPECTS PAID TO FACULTY MEMBERS: The 40th anniversary ceremony to pay respects to faculty members of Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon) was held at Panda Hotel in Lanmadaw Township on 8 January. Rector of Institute of Pharmacy Dr Aung Mon speaking at the ceremony. — H

### New medicines introduced

YANGON, 16 Jan — A ceremony to introduce Levoquin (Levofloxacin 250 mg & 500mg) and Lucon (Fluconazole 50mg & 150 mg) manufactured by Navana Pharmaceuticals Ltd (Bangladesh) was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road

this evening.

After Prof Dr Saw Naing and Operative Director of Navana Pharmaceuticals Ltd Mr Shah Habibul Haque had extended greetings, officials explained the production, potency, and use of Levoquin and Lucon.

Next, officials concerned replied to the queries raised by those present and Executive Director Dr Saw Win of Legend Creatives Co Ltd expressed his thanks. The new medicines will be distributed by the Legend Creatives Co Ltd. — NLM

## US wholesale prices down 0.7% in December

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan — Wholesale prices in the United States declined by 0.7 per cent in December, the biggest drop since April 2003, said a report issued Friday by the Labour Department.

The report said the plunge in the producer price index, which measures inflation pressures before they reach the consumers, resulted mainly from the decline of energy prices.

US energy prices were down by 4 per cent in December, also the biggest drop since April 2003. Gasoline prices fell 11.1 per cent with the costs of home heating oil and natural gas also posting declines.

For the year of 2004, however, US wholesale prices increased by 4.1 per cent, the biggest gain since a 5.7-per-cent surge in 1990. Food prices at the wholesale level edged up a tiny 0.1 per cent in December after rising by 0.4 per cent in November.

The core wholesale prices, which do not count in volatile items like food and energy, rose by a slight 0.1 per cent in the month following a gain of 0.2 per cent in November. For the year the core rate of wholesale inflation rose by 2.2 per cent following a 1 per cent increase in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

## Estonia's warmest winter forces bears out of hibernation

TALLINN, 16 Jan — Estonia's warmest winter for two centuries has woken some of its 600 bears several months early from hibernation, wildlife experts said on Friday.

The bears' early reappearance has raised concerns for the survival of this year's cubs.

"It has been very warm and wet and many flooded rivers have forced bears out of their dens and out of hibernation," said Kalev Manniste, a senior official at the Baltic country's State Forest Service.

"Just a few days ago a hunter was telling me that he saw a she-bear with a very small cub walking across the

field," he told Reuters.

"The cub the hunter saw looked too small to survive the winter."

She-bears normally give birth to tiny walnut-sized cubs during their winter hibernation and suckle them for months as they grow, before the spring thaw awakens the mother and she leaves her den.

Local media and hunters writing on Internet sites say that across the country bears are moving about the forests at a time when they normally sleep and would not be seen for another two to three months. Temperatures have stayed above freezing, compared with the average temperature of minus 5 Celsius (23.00F) for January.

MNA/Reuters

## Seminar urges protection for Cambodian women garment workers

PHNOM PENH, 16 Jan — A seminar was held here Friday focussing on the impact of trade liberalization on Cambodia's women garment workers.

The seminar, aiming at finding ways to reduce the ill impact on women garment workers after the ending of textile quota in 2005, was attended by government officials, donor agencies, NGOs, private business sectors and women workers.

A recent research shows that the garment sector will enter a period of turbulences when the MFA (Multi Fiber Agreement) quotas end in 2005, said a statement from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

"It is likely that larger factories will expand and consolidate while smaller one will close down or move off-shore, and up to 50,000 jobs may be lost in the sector, potentially affecting more than 200,000 households," it said.

It was reported that some 20 garment factories were closed in recent months, which has left thousands women jobless.

Cambodia's garment export represents approximately one third of its GDP. In 1998, the garment sector employed 80,000 workers. Today it employs over 260,000 people, most of whom are from rural areas. Since about 180,000 young women are working in the garment industry.

During the meeting, participants urged the government and authorities concerned to offer more vocational education and skill training for working-age women to enable them to take advantage of new opportunities opening up with larger factories when skilled positions become available. — MNA/Xinhua



A land based oil well. Two Japanese companies have sought government permission to drill for oil and natural gas in the East China Sea where Chinese companies are already at work, a press report says.

INTERNET

## Haier tops most potential chinese brand list

QINGDAO, 16 Jan — Haier Group based in Qingdao, an eastern coastal city in Shandong Province, topped the "Most Potential Chinese Brands" list published by the Glebors Global Financial Reports of Canada (GGFR) earlier this week.

The selection was made by Rewin Ander, a brand appraisal company of Canada.

According to the GGFR, different from common Chinese enterprises, Haier is a global brand which has been adapting itself to different countries and different cultures.

With more than 30 overseas manufacturing bases, Haier puts forward different products suitable to different consumption styles of different areas.

According to a Haier executive, the company produces innovated products

such as computer-controlled refrigerators in the United States; in Italy, Haier's energy-economized home appliances find a good market for meeting the environmental protection demand of European consumers. In Pakistan, Haier has not only produces refrigerators big enough for a large family, but also has established industrial home appliance standards for the local industry.

Founded 20 years ago, Haier is the first Chinese brand to have more than 100 billion yuan (12 billion US dollars) assets. In 2004, Haier reported an export of more than 1 billion US dollars.

At the beginning of 2004, Haier was listed as the only Chinese name brand among the world's 100 most recognizable brands in a global name brand list edited by World Brand Laboratory. — MNA/Xinhua

## China's nuclear power construction enters crucial stage

BEIJING, 16 Jan — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said that China's nuclear power construction has entered a crucial stage, when he inspected Dayawan Nuclear Power Plant in south China's Guangdong Province recently.

Wen said relevant government departments should establish an overall plan for their construction, nailing down the scale and layout of nuclear power projects.

"China should build up a self-reliant nuclear power industry system," Wen said. He said that it is necessary to introduce advanced technology from overseas to improve China's own atomic energy research and development capacity.

He said all nuclear power projects

should be constructed in the principle of putting security and quality first. Relevant regulations and system should be improved and nuclear accident emergency system should be built as soon as possible.

The Year 2005 was the 50th anniversary of China's foundation of nuclear power industry. Wen said that he sincerely appreciated those working at the front-line of the country's nuclear power industry.

With Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) starting operation in 1991, there have been nine nuclear power plants in operation in China by July 2004, whose total capacity reached 7.01 million kilowatts.

MNA/Xinhua



Fish for sale in Kuala Lumpur on 15 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

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for Cadbury Limited  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 17 January, 2005

**THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN JAKARTA INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCY**

**DIRECTOR**

The Director (DIR) provides intellectual inputs and management leadership in aligning the activities of the Bureau concerned to the overall mandate, role and functions of the ASEAN Secretariat. The DIR manages ASEAN activities and matters pertaining to the selected ASEAN bodies and related organizations in consultation with the ASEAN Secretary-General and the authorities in charge. The DIR is responsible for the professional development of the expert and support staff in the secretariat.

Presently, there is a Div vacancy and it is in the Bureau in charge of resource development which handles matters on human development, agriculture, labour and information, and environment.

An applicant should possess an advanced degree, preferably Ph.D. or other equivalent qualifications in a relevant field of study with at least 10 years' experience in dealing with a wide spectrum of issues including international relations and economics. The candidate must have supervisory capacity with proven managerial and leadership abilities, excellent analytical, research and presentation skills. Familiarity with diplomatic practices and protocol must be an added advantage. Other required qualities are: competency in written and spoken English; computer literacy and proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office tools; ability to multi-task and work long and irregular hours; ability to function effectively independently and as part of a team in a multicultural environment; and a willingness to travel frequently on short notice.

The successful candidate shall be required for immediate employment and will be offered a three-year contract, inclusive of a six-month probationary period. The contract may be extended for another three years, depending on performance. Starting salary is US\$2000 per month. Other benefits include housing, child education and medical allowances as well as a gratuity based on the length of service.

Send your application, detailed CV, a recent passport-sized photograph and certified true copies of educational qualifications and other supporting documents to: Personnel and Training Unit, ASEAN Secretariat, TMA Jalan Sisinganegara, Jakarta 12115, Indonesia, within three weeks from the date of this advertisement. You may also email your application to [hr@aseansec.org](mailto:hr@aseansec.org). Only short-listed candidates will be notified. More information about ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretariat and this position is available on our website at [www.aseansec.org](http://www.aseansec.org).

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**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION**  
**MYANMA RAILWAYS**  
**INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)31/MR(ML) 2004-2005	Transmission Spare Parts	13-Items
2.	13(T)8/MR(E) 2004-2005	Polyurethane Resins, Injection Pump and Accessories	5-Items

Closing Date. - 15-2-2005 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 14.1.2005 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

**Deputy General Manager**  
**Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon**

**Europe-wide ban on Nazi insignia called for**

**BERLIN, 16 Jan**—German politicians have called for a Europe-wide ban on Nazi insignia after Britain's Prince Harry caused outrage by wearing a swastika armband and Nazi regalia at a fancy dress party.

Harry, younger son of heir to the throne Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, was photographed in German wartime uniform with a swastika armband at the party at a friend's house last Saturday.

The pictures of the 20-year-old prince appeared in Britain's *Sun* newspaper on Thursday and have been reproduced by media around the world including the Israeli Press.

"The whole of Europe once suffered under Nazi crimes, therefore it makes sense to ban Nazi symbols across Europe," Silvana Koch-Merlin, European Parliament Liberal spokeswoman told Germany's *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper in a preview edition on Saturday.

The Nazis murdered six million Jews and millions of others including Poles, Soviet prisoners, homosexuals and Gypsies. Germany has tough anti-fascist laws which ban the use of Nazi sym-

bols like the swastika and the stiff-armed "Heil Hitler" salute.

It is also illegal to distribute Adolf Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*, which is available in most countries, including Israel.

Markus Soeder, general secretary of Germany's Christian Socialist Union opposition conservative party told the paper: "In a Europe grounded in peace and freedom there should be no place for Nazi symbols. They should be banned throughout Europe, as they are with good reason in Germany."

Soeder also urged the German Government to push for a more balanced history programme in British schools.

"After this latest incident with Prince Harry, the government should encourage our European friends in London, to lay more weight on Germany's development beyond the Nazi period in history lessons," he said.

*MNA/Reuters*

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MEGACHEM LIMITED of 502 Pioneer Road, Singapore 63898 is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:-

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Thain Aung O.S.A. D.B.L. Advocate  
**MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM**  
E-mail: [mtp@myanmarlaw.com](mailto:mtp@myanmarlaw.com)  
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box: 658 Yangon, 17 January 2005

**Over 1,200 S Africans killed in traffic accidents in Dec**

**JOHANNESBURG, 16 Jan**—Despite repeated road safety warnings ahead of the Christmas holiday, 1,230 South Africans lost their lives in car crashes in December, 36 more than the figure of the same period of 2003, the country's Transport Department said Friday.

While the fatality figure rose from 1,194 to 1,230, the number of fatal crashes increased from 973 to 985, the department said in a statement.

Unsafe and illegal overtaking, speeding, driver fatigue, drunk driving and burst tires were among the most common causes of crashes, it said.

*MNA/Xinhua*

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# Abbas sworn in as new PNA Chairman

**RAMALLAH, 16 Jan — Mahmoud Abbas was sworn in as new chairman of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Saturday, calling for a mutual ceasefire with Israel and reviving peace negotiations.**

"The Palestinians are ready to implement the first part of the roadmap peace plan, and I extend my hand to the Israelis and I want to tell them that we are two peoples living on one land and we have to live side by side with each other," Abbas told a special Parliament session dedicated to the swearing-in ceremony.

"We want to end the ongoing conflict between us and the Israelis forever, and the Palestinian National Authority is expressing its commitment to implementing the roadmap peace plan," he said.

The US-brokered roadmap peace plan, which was unveiled in April, 2003 to help solve the decades-long Palestinian-Israeli conflicts, was virtually derailed due to the cycle of violence.

Abbas' remarks came one day after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered all government officials to cut contact with the PNA following a fatal attack on an Israeli checkpoint one day earlier.

On Thursday, six Israelis and three Palestinian militants were killed at the Karni Passage in the Gaza Strip, the deadliest attack in the territories in a month.

Regretting the Israeli move, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei said, "It was not conducive to the peace process or peace negotiations between the

two sides."

However, he said that the Karni attack was not useful for the Palestinians. "What has happened is to worsen the lives of the Palestinian people and give Israel an excuse to continue its attacks."

Saturday's inaugural ceremony kicked off as interim PNA Chairman Rawhi Fatouh declared, "We have now a new elected Palestinian leader, legally and according to the Palestinian law, who is Mahmoud Abbas."

After changing his seat with Fatouh in a takeover gesture, Abbas delivered his speech, outlining tasks before the new Palestinian leadership.

Abbas said he was proud of democracy that the Palestinian people practise during Sunday's presidential election. "I will follow the steps of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and work hard in order to achieve a full Palestinian unity and a serious dialogue among all the Palestinian factions," he said.

"My mission as well as that of the Palestinian leadership is to achieve national liberation and end the Israeli occupation," said the moderate leader, who stands for non-violence struggle for an independent Palestinian state.

MNA/Xinhua



A Sanyo employee demonstrates Tu-Ka TS41 mobile phone, produced by Sanyo, which can transmit sounds with vibrations via the skull on 15 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

## Turkish Cypriot banker found murdered

**NICOSIA, 16 Jan — A Turkish Cypriot banker who fled north Cyprus amid a spiralling financial scandal five years ago was found murdered with two members of his family on Saturday, police in southern Cyprus said.**

The banker, identified as Elmas Guzelyurtlu, 52, was found dead in his car with his 50-year-old wife and 15-year-old daughter in the Greek Cypriot populated areas.

They each had single gunshot wounds to the head and wore pyjamas, suggesting they had been forced out of their home and led to the busy motorway where they were found dead.

"This looks like a mafia-style killing. Political motives are ruled out," a senior security source told Reuters.

Gangland hits are rare, but killing an entire fam-

ily is virtually unheard of on the Mediterranean island.

"It was horrible. Who could do this to a child?" a visibly shaken police officer at the scene told Reuters.

Guzelyurtlu, whose business interests spanned banking to casinos to a water bottling plant, fled to southern Cyprus in 2000, when his Everest Bank went bust.

It was the first in a string of financial institutions that collapsed, causing political and social upheaval in the breakaway state which is recognized only by Ankara.

"It looks like he had enemies either among the regime or among financial circles there," Justice Minister Doros Theodorou told the Cyprus News Agency.

Guzelyurtlu was one of several financial figures Turkish Cypriot authorities were planning to initiate legal proceedings against on embezzlement charges.

At the time he fled to south Cyprus authorities said they were compelled to accept him since he had not committed any crime in the republic.

MNA/Reuters

## Elephant population rises to 120,000 in Tanzania

**DAR-ES SALAAM, 16 Jan — The population of elephants, which dwindled sharply due to a spate of poaching between the 1960s and 1980s in Tanzania, has now risen to around 120,000 heads.**

According to local media report on Saturday, Tanzania has witnessed a tremendous increase of the number of elephants after the international ivory trade was banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1989.

The population of elephants in Tanzania has ever dropped to 55,000 heads. Thereafter it launched a long-term campaign to control illegal poaching and now when people drive along the game tracks in Tanzania's wildlife conservation areas, it is not difficult to encounter one or two elephants.

Most African countries have a similar experience that heavy poaching deci-

imated the population of elephants in the 1970s and 1980s.

In Kenya, the number of elephants dropped dramatically from around 160,000 in the 1960s to around 20,000 in 1989. After 15 years of implementation of the ivory trade ban and continent-wide anti-poaching campaigns, the number of elephants in Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa went up steadily.

However, in the 2004 CITES summit held in Thailand, Namibia proposed to change the CITES rules to allow it to export 2,000 kilos a year of raw ivory collected from elephants that have died naturally. — MNA/Xinhua

## Uganda attracts more investment last year

**KAMPALA, 16 Jan — The Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) licensed 193 investment projects valued at 417 million US dollars in 2004, an official from the UIA has announced.**

UIA Executive Director Maggie Kigozi told local Press on Friday that "according to the five-year strategic plan, we had targeted to license projects worth 354 million dollars, but we have exceeded the target by 63 million dollars".

MNA/Xinhua

## Nigerian baby born with four legs

**LAGOS, 16 Jan — A Nigerian woman has given birth to a baby with many abnormalities in the form of two male organs, no anus and four legs and the family appeals for financial assistance for an orthopedic operation, state media reported Friday.**

The yet to be named baby was born to a family of peasant farmer, Malam Haruna Hassan, in the capital Abuja and is receiving treatment at a specialist hospital, the News Agency of Nigeria reported.

The mother, who wanted not to be named, said that she had serious pains throughout the pe-

riod of the pregnancy and that all efforts to reduce or eliminate the pains did not yield any result.

Abdulraman Bukar, a medical director, was quoted as saying that lack of prenatal and antenatal care on the part of the mother might have led to the baby having deformities.

MNA/Xinhua



An African Black-Crowned Crane forages for food at the Santillana del Mars Zoo, northern Spain, on 13 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

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**Rangers crush Dunfermline 3-0**

GLASGOW, 16 Jan— Rangers kept the pressure on Celtic by moving top of the Scottish Premier League on goal difference with a 3-0 home win over Dunfermline on Sunday.

Stevie Thompson put Rangers ahead on six minutes and Marvin Andrews doubled the lead seven minutes from the interval.

Alex Rae grabbed his first goal for the club with the third in the 64th in front of 48,055 fans. Dunfermline have now failed to win a league match at Ibrox in 33 years — since April 1972.

"It was efficient if not spectacular, Rangers manager Alex McLeish told BBC Radio Scotland.

Rangers top the table on 53 points from 22 games with a better goal difference of six ahead of Celtic who play at Aberdeen on Sunday.

McLeish also cited Dutchman Fernando Ricksen as a favourite for the Players' Player of the Year Award after a fine show.

"His fitness is absolutely phenomenal. I don't see why he should not be in the running for it. He's certainly a candidate," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (C) gets a shot past Watford's Gavin Mahon (L) during their Cup clash at Anfield midweek. Liverpool won 1-0 but Gerrard is adamant his team need to improve on their laboured performance if they are to upset Manchester United in the Premiership.—INTERNET

**10-man Manchester United beat Liverpool 1-0**

LONDON, 16 Jan— Wayne Rooney struck the winner as 10-man Manchester United beat Liverpool 1-0 on Saturday — with the help of a blundering hand from keeper Jerzy Dudek.

Dudek got down to the England striker's speculative low shot from nearly 25 metres, but still let the ball skim beneath the Pole's outstretched gloves in the 21st minute at Anfield.

The goal was all the more galling for Liverpool fans because it came from a Merseyside teenager who until last August played for their bitter city rivals Everton.

The victory kept third-placed United firmly on the coat-tails of champions Arsenal and league leaders Chelsea. Defeat for Liverpool meant Everton remain in pole position for fourth place and a Champions League qualifying slot next season.

Liverpool, hoping to whittle away at the six points separating the two city rivals, gave a debut up

front to their new Spanish signing Fernando Morientes, who showed some promising touches.

United came into the game after six clean sheets, but without scoring in their last three games in the continued absence of injured Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Liverpool made the better start to a free-flowing game but found United's defence well able to cope with the early pressure and were unable to deliver a killer final ball.

They finally posed a threat from a Morientes downward header, only for United to take the lead just two minutes later when Rooney unleashed his shot from distance. United's Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze sent a header just over the bar two minutes later and the visitors were unlucky not to be 2-0 up when skipper Roy Keane cracked a dipping shot on the bounce onto the crossbar.—MNA/Reuters

**Inter Milan hold to 0-0 draw by Reggina**

ROME, 16 Jan— Inter Milan's pursuit of Serie A leaders Juventus stuttered on Saturday when they were held to a 0-0 draw by Reggina.

The result ended Inter's run of three consecutive victories and left them fourth in the division with 31 points from 19 games, 12 behind Juventus, who play at Cagliari on Sunday.

Inter made a lively start and home keeper Nicola Pavarini had to be alert to beat away early efforts by striker Christian Vieri and midfielder Giorgios Karagounis.

Reggina were limited to playing on the break and midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura wasted their best chance before the interval when he scuffed his shot on the edge of the area.

They came out in more determined mood after the restart, forcing Giuseppe Favalli to outjump Carlos Parades to cut out a dangerous cross at the far post.

The 68th-minute sending-off of

Reggina midfielder Giuseppe Colucci for a clumsy tackle on Karagounis, however, swung the match back the visitors' way.

With 20 minutes remaining Inter coach Roberto Mancini sent on striker Obafemi Martins, who scored a hat-trick in an Italian Cup match against Bologna in midweek, in an attempt to break the deadlock. Instead, it was Reggina who went closest to grabbing a winner when Giovanni Tedesco crashed a shot off the post from outside the area 15 minutes from time.

In an earlier match, Brescia and Fiorentina failed to reverse poor recent Serie A form with a 1-1 draw.

Both teams have been sinking in the division after losing three of their last four games.—MNA/Reuters

**Chelsea defeat Tottenham Hotspur 2-0**

LONDON, 16 Jan— Chelsea look destined to become English champions for the first time in 50 years after a 2-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur left them 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Two Frank Lampard goals and a shock 1-0 defeat for reigning champions Arsenal in the late game at Bolton Wanderers means only a sudden collapse can deny Chelsea, quoted as 1-9 hot favourites by bookmakers, a historic end to their centenary season.

Chelsea, who also became the first club to win six consecutive Premier League games without conceding a goal, did just what their title hopes needed after 10-man Manchester United won 1-0 at Liverpool in the day's early kickoff.

They are now top with 58 points, with Arsenal on 48 and United third on 47, pressing Arsene Wenger's side for the second automatic slot in next season's Champions League.

Elsewhere, Newcastle United skipper Alan Shearer returned from a 12-match injury lay-off to convert a penalty in a 2-1 win over Southampton, Aston Villa were 3-0 winners over Norwich City and Manchester City beat Crystal Palace 3-1.

Blackburn Rovers won 1-0 win at nine-man Portsmouth, who had striker Lomana LuaLua and midfielder Amdy Faye dismissed in the second half, while Charlton Athletic beat Birmingham City 3-1. The 2005 title could well have been decided, though, by the games at White Hart Lane and Bolton's Reebok stadium.

Chelsea, beaten only once in the league this season, had to work hard, but

never looked like losing against a Spurs side who were unbeaten in eight previous league games.

Lampard broke the deadlock with a 39th-minute penalty after Russian midfielder Alexei Smertin was caught by Spurs skipper and central defender Ledley King.

Spurs kept probing English football's best defence but the points were sealed in the 90th minute, when Icelandic striker Eidur Gudjohnsen got behind their rearguard and pulled the ball back for the intruding Lampard to rifle home.

Though Chelsea had to grind out their win, assistant manager Steve Clarke told Sky Sports News: "We've had to show that side of our game quite often this season.

"When you go away from home in the Premier League it's always difficult, you know you have to work hard for anything you get. And we've got a squad of players that are prepared to do that."

Spurs boss Martin Jol disagreed with Chelsea's penalty, but was pleased with his team's commitment.

"The only disappointing thing was that in the last part of the pitch we didn't have the power to be decisive," Jol said.

Arsenal were no more decisive at the Reebok, the same venue where a 2-2 draw in April 2003 virtually killed off their title hopes in that season.—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Frank Lampard (C) is chased down by Tottenham's Michael Brown (L) and Noe Pamarot (R) during their Premiership football match at White Hart Lane in London.—INTERNET

**Answers for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle**

H	O	A	R	S	E	S	C	H	O	L	E	R
I	S	S	I	S	R	S	A	S	N	S	S	E
N	S	E	M	I	N	E	N	T	L	Y	S	E
D	O	V	E	S	E	S	C	S	Y	E	L	L
E	S	A	S	A	S	H	E	S	S	S	S	E
R	E	P	O	R	T	S	R	E	S	T	E	D
S	S	O	S	C	S	S	S	V	S	E	S	S
P	A	R	T	E	D	S	P	E	T	R	O	L
A	S	A	S	D	R	I	E	R	S	D	S	E
S	I	T	E	S	A	S	N	S	B	A	I	T
S	S	E	L	E	G	A	N	T	L	Y	S	T
E	S	S	S	S	O	S	E	S	O	S	S	E
S	C	R	E	E	N	S	D	I	T	H	E	R

### Shanghai to host 24th World Ports Conference in May

SHANGHAI, 16 Jan — The 24th World Ports Conference will be held from May 21 to 27 in Shanghai, the first time the biennial international meeting is convened in China, the Shanghai Port Administration said Saturday.

Representatives from ports and shipping companies, experts and leaders of related international organizations will focus on investment in ports, development strategy of ports, the impact of economic globalization on shipping and port development, the environment and dredging of ports and shipping innovation at the 7-day gathering, said Director Xu Peixing of the administration.

The meeting is expected to attract more than 1,000 participants from more 80 countries throughout the world, he said. Ocean shipping has become increasingly important in China with the rapid growth of the country's foreign trade, and port construction and management has drawn growing attention of both the government and the business world.

The World Ports Conference is sponsored by the International Association of Ports and Harbours. Shanghai won the bid to host the meeting at the 22nd World Ports Conference in Montreal, Canada, in 2002.

This year's meeting is deemed as a major one as the International Association of Ports and Harbours is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its establishment.

MNA/Xinhua

### Minister says over 2 million Nigerians blind

LAGOS, 15 Jan — Nigerian Health Minister Eytayo Lambo said Friday that more than two million people in Africa's most populous country are blind and that the figure might double in next 24 years.

Among the blind, more were found in rural areas where people lived in non-conducive environment, Lambo said at the opening of a workshop for the training of personnel for the national blindness and low vision survey in the north-central state of Kaduna.

And 80 per cent of the cases of blindness can be avoided through early treatment, Lambo was quoted as saying by the official *News Agency of Nigeria*.

The minister said poverty in the country with 130 million people had resulted in poor infrastructural development, low per capita income and the inability of the various governments to prevent and control endemic diseases. — MNA/Xinhua

## Erekat rejects Israel's decision to freeze contacts

**RAMALLAH, 16 Jan — Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat on Friday rejected Israel's decision to freeze all official contacts with the Palestinians following an overnight bomb attack that killed six Israelis.**

"The best way to end violence is not to freeze talks but to resume them," Erekat told reporters.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bureau called him on Friday afternoon, telling him they were suspending all contacts with the Palestinian side.

Sharon's spokesman Assaf Shariv announced the decision to the public later in the day.

"Israel informed international leaders today that there will be no meetings with (newly-elected Palestinian leader Mahmoud) Abbas until he makes a real effort to stop the terror," Shariv said.

Three Palestinian militants on Thursday night infiltrated into the Israeli side of the Karni border crossing at the entrance to northeastern Gaza Strip and opened fire.

At least six Israeli civilian workers were killed by the gunmen while the assailants died in a gunbattle with Is-

raeli security guards.

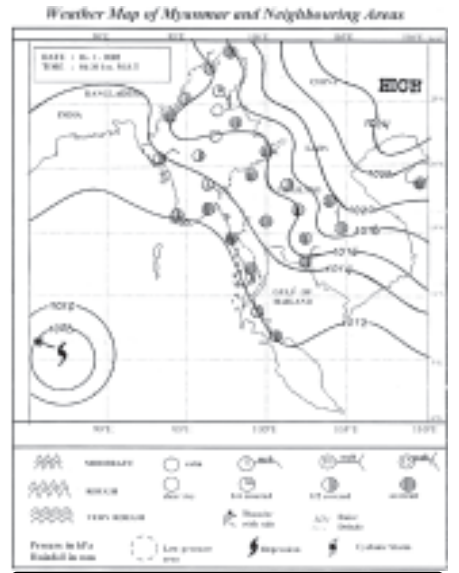
Abbas, due to be sworn in as new PNA chairman on Saturday, condemned the attack on Friday.

Hopes have been high that following the election of Abbas to replace Yasser Arafat, Israel and the Palestinians would be able to return to the negotiation table after more than four years of conflict.

The international community has unanimously denounced the attack and called on both sides to keep restraint.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday said he hoped the Gaza attack would not undermine hopes for a revival of the Middle East peace process.

MNA/Xinhua



### WEATHER

Sunday, 16 January, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (4°C) below normal in Yangon and Magway Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State and Bago Division and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Namsam, PynOoLwin and Mogkok (3°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 15-1-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 16-1-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-1-2005 was 86%. Total sunshine hours on 15-1-2005 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-1-2005 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 4 mph from East at (15:20) hours MST on 15-1-2005.

**Bay inference:** According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday's depression over the Southeast Bay has practically remained stationary and centred about (500) miles Southeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka. It is forecast to move West-Northwest ward slowly, Weather is cloudy in South Bay, Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 17-1-2005:** Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Shan States, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-1-2005:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-1-2005:** Fair weather.



### Monday, 17 January

- Tune in today:**
- 8.30 am Brief news
  - 8.35 am Music: -More than a friend
  - 8.40 am Perspectives
  - 8.45 am Music: -Love won't wait
  - 8.50 am National news/Slogan
  - 9.00 am Music: -Complicated
  - 9.05 am International news
  - 9.10 am Music: -Fame
  - 1.30 pm News/Slogan
  - 1.40 pm Lunch time music: -Super star
  - Say you say me
  - Lost music
  - 9.00 pm Spotlight on the Star: -Tray Huang
  - 9.10 pm Article
  - 9.20 pm Discovery: Rose
  - 9.35 pm Golden Land's Melody: -A thousand smiles
  - 9.45 pm News/Slogan
  - 10.00 pm PEL

**Monday, 17 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. Song of national races
- 8:05 am 6. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am 7. ရန်ပေးသော ရေလှေသင်တန်း
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Grammar made easy

- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs for uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm 5. အစေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဘုရားသင်တန်း (ရတနာစာ)
- 5:15 pm 6. Dance variety
- 5:25 pm 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးပီတိတေး
- 5:35 pm 8. Songs and Dances of national races
- 5:45 pm 9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:00 pm 10. Discovery
- 6:05 pm 11. "မင်းမသိသေးပါဘူးဌာ"

- ရော့ ငှက်ပျော့ကြွား၊ ချစ်စရာ၊ ကြည့်ကြည့်၊ အေးအေးခိုင်ခိုင်၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ရွှေစင်ထိုက်
- 6:15 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတန်းစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချောင်းဝင်းရုန်း" (အပိုင်း-၅၉)
- 6:30 pm 13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 15. ကမ္ဘာ့ဘုရားသားတော်တော်သုံးညီလာခံ (ပထမနေ့) (မွန်လူ့စီးအိမ်အစဉ်) (၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)
- 7:35 pm 16. ဝန်ထူးလက်ဝန်းချိတ်ပွဲ
- 7:45 pm 17. ပထမအကြိမ် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ တံခွန်ကိုင်ပြိုင်ပွဲပစ်ပြိုင်ပွဲ (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm 18. News
- 19. International news
- 20. Weather report
- 21. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "သစ်ပွဲချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)
- 22. မင်းလွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးမိမိတ္ထာသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ထဲထဲဖျက်နာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်
- 23. The next day's programme

### ဒေါ်ကြင်ရှင်အေး

မန္တလေး မဟာအောင်မြေပြင် နယ်၊ မျက်ပါးရပ်၊ အမှတ် (၁၁၉)၊ ၇၈ လမ်း၊ ၃၆-၃၇ လမ်းကြားနေ (ဦးချိန်ရှောင်စိန်)၏ ဇနီး၊ ဦးထွန်းလွင်အောင်ရင်၊ ဦးတင်လွင်အောင်အေးအောင် (မြန်မာ့ကော်ကော်ကုမ္ပဏီ)၊ ဦးမိုးမြင့်အောင်ချိန်မြင့် (JF) ကျောက်မျက်ကုမ္ပဏီ)၊ ဦးယုန်းလွင်အောင်ရင်မြင့်တို့၏ ကျေးဇူးရှင် ဓမ္မသမိခင်၊ မရှိရှိလွင်၊ မောင်အောင်အောင်လွင်၊ မောင်မောင်လွင်၊ မောင်သန်းစင်လွင်၊ မောင်အောင်လွင်ဦး၊ မောင်ကျော်ကျော်လွင်၊ မောင်နေမင်းလွင်၊ မအေးအေးအောင်လွင်၊ မောင်ဝင်းနိုင်လွင်၊ မောင်ဝင်းကျော်လွင်၊ မအင်းလွင်၊ မောင်စည်သူလွင်တို့၏ အဘွား ဒေါ်ကြင်ရှင်အေး သည် ၁၆-၁-၂၀၀၅ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နံနက် (၇:၂၀) နာရီအချိန်တွင် ၉၆ ဝါးသောရောဂါ ဝေဒနာဖြင့် အထက်ပါ ဇနီးအိမ်တွင် ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါသဖြင့် ကြွင်းကျန် ရန်ပေးသောရုပ်ကလာပ်တို့ ၁၈-၁-၂၀၀၅ (အင်္ဂါနေ့) နေ့လယ် (၁:၀၀) နာရီအချိန်တွင် ကြာနီကန် ယူနန်သုသာန်သို့ ပို့ဆောင်သဖြင့် ဟံမည်ဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း ရပ်ခိုးရုပ်ပေးရှိ ဆွေမျိုး မိတ်သဟာ အပေါင်းတို့အား လိုက်နာပို့ဆောင်ကြပါရန် မိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

**ကျန်ရစ်သူမိဘားရ**

**Nowadays, there has been a situation in which changes and developments of other sectors can be brought about through development of education sector  
Special Refresher Course No 22 for Basic Education Teachers opened**

YANGON, 16 Jan— A ceremony to open Special Refresher Course No 22 for Basic Education Teachers was held at the Yadana Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning and Minister for Education U Than Aung, on behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, attended the ceremony and made an opening speech on the occasion.



Minister for Education U Than Aung addresses opening ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 22 for Basic Education Teachers at CICS (Upper Myanmar).— MNA

Also present on the occasion were Ministers at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Swe and Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo, senior military officers, departmental

heads, members of the Division/District/Township Peace and Development Councils, the rector of CICS (Upper

Myanmar), the pro-rectors, heads of department, lecturers, assistant lecturers, course instructors and trainee teachers.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Education U Than Aung said that the State Peace and Development Council,

based on the education sector, is now exerting energetic efforts for constant emergence of qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia capable of making the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with nations of the world.

developed nation based on education sector, those special refresher courses like this will make trainee teachers, who are the main forces in education sector, know about the history of the nation, prevailing situations, challenges the government is now facing and future that the government hopes. With the knowledge, training (See page 9)

**At a time when systematic steps are being taken for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation based on education sector, the special refresher courses will make trainees teachers, who are the main forces in education sector, know about the history of the nation, prevailing situations, challenges the government is now facing and future that the government hopes.**



Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe enjoys participation of bands in the Military Band Competition.— PRPU

**Military Band Competition continues**

YANGON, 16 Jan — The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued for the second day at the People's Square, here, this morning.

Bands of Pabedan Basic Education High School No 1 and Dagon BEHS No 1 performed skills demonstration.

The bands representing the Central Command, Defence Services Medical Academy, North-East Command, the No 6 Basic Military Training Depot, the No 88 LID and Northern Command took part 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 Pabedan BEHS No 1 and Dagon BEHS No 1.

MNA

**INSIDE**

*"They earn their living by politics to be the source, but they even don't know the real attitude and characteristics of Myanmar national people, and I don't think they will be capable of leading the nation correctly even if they come to power. Indeed, Myanmar never hesitate to repay the gratitude of others."*

(Page 7)

HEIN MYINT

**Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil**

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