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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



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of Hkamti airport runway extension project in Sagaing Division. —MNA

Extension of Hkamti Airport runway under way Lt-Gen Ye Myint makes inspection tour of Sagaing Division

YANGON, 17 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence left here by air for Sagaing Division on 14 January.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint was accompanied by 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, responsible personnel of the SPDC Office, and departmental heads.

On arrival at Hkamti Airport at 10.45 am, Lt-

Gen Ye Myint and party were welcomed by local Tactical Operation Commander Col Min Swe, local authorities, members of social organizations, and leaders of national races.

At the briefing hall of the airport runway extension project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on progress of the runway extension, future tasks, and supply and use of fuel oil and machinery. Col Min Swe and Col Nyan Tun Aung presented additional reports. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the earth work before monsoon sets in, construction of gravel roads, supervision of officials concerned for efficient use of fuel oil, and the erecting of barbed wire fences around the airport compound. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the runway ex-

tension project and left there.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Lahe, Hkamti District, at 1 pm. On arrival, they were welcomed by Sagaing Division PDC Chairman and North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, local Station Commander Lt-Col Rusan Kyoo, division, district and township-level departmental officials, and members of social organizations and Naga cultural troupe.

At 1.45 pm, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended a ceremony to unveil the 'Myanma Education Goal' stone plaque and opened the e-Learning Centre at the basic education school of Lahe. On the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint donated exercise books and teaching-aids. Outstanding students unveiled the stone plaque to the accompaniment of a song named 'Pyi-myanma' sung by students.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, member of the school board of trustees U Samu and headmaster U Zaw Lwin formally opened the e-Learning Centre. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the centre and donated exercise books and teaching-aids to the school. The headmaster accepted the donations. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also provided Nanyun BEHS with exercise books and teaching-aids through U Zin Wan, secretary of Nanyun Union Solidarity and Development Association.

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INSIDE

"The success made at restoring stability and national consolidation has now given rise to development of infrastructures like roads and bridges, dams and reservoirs, hydel power plants and river water-pumping projects let alone a large number of modern universities and schools in the education sector and that of hospitals and dispensaries in the health sector."

(Page 7)

HEIN MYINT



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun formally open new tar road in Lahe, Sagaing Division. —MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 January, 2005

Strive for regional development and further strengthen national unity

The Union of Myanmar, made up of states and divisions that can be called small unions, is home to more than 100 national races.

All these national races have been living together in the Union in unity and amity from time immemorial and this is because of the Union spirit deep-rooted in their hearts.

The Government is taking all the necessary measures for parallel development of all the regions across the Union and the Naga region in Sagaing Division is no exception.

Thetkeyin-Homalin-Hkamti Road and Homalin Airport are being built and Hkamti Airport extended.

Moreover, Hkamti-Sinthay-Lahe Road and Htamunthi-Layshi Road are being upgraded into tarred roads.

Nowadays, contacts between national brethren have been quite frequent, their friendship strengthened and social and economic situations better due to smooth and easy transport.

The Naga Traditional New Year Festival for the year 2005 was held at the sports grounds in Lahe in Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, on 15 January and Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony and presented gifts to the Naga elders.

Naga traditional New Year festivals are held with the purpose of cementing the national unity and preserving customs, traditions and cultural heritage of the national races. Cultural work is being carried out in accordance with one of the social objectives, viz, uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character. The Naga traditional New Year festival is the success of our efforts for stronger national unity.

We would like to call on the entire national brethren to preserve their cultural heritage, to strive for the development of their respective regions and to further strengthen their national unity so that they can live together in peace and amity in the Union for ever.

Vice-Mayor inspects tax-free market

YANGON, 17 Jan — Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa this morning inspected the tax-free market on Kyaikkahsan road in Tamway Township.

Officials reported to the vice-mayor on sale of consumer goods such as fish, meat, greens, rice

and edible oil by local battalions and regiments of Yangon Division, departments, Myanmar Rice Merchants Association, Myanmar Edible Oil Merchants Association and private producers at the market.

Later, the vice mayor left necessary instructions there.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

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

F&R Ministry holds meeting

YANGON, 17 Jan — The Ministry of Finance and Revenue held a meeting at its conference hall in Yankin here today.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun said that officials should discuss the weak points and advantages they had found in implementing the work programmes of fiscal 2004-1005, and should present the future work programmes. They should strive to exceed the targets, and for development of the financial sector and tax-collection sector, he stated. It is important for them to have the sense of responsibility as their work concerns the national development.

Heads of Central Bank of Myanmar, Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank, Myanma Small Loan Enterprise, Myanma Insurance, Budget Department, Customs Department, Internal Revenue Department, Pension Department, and Revenue Appellate Tribunal and state/division IRD officers took part in the discussions.

The meeting continues on 18 January.

Also present were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of CBM U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses meeting of Ministry of Finance and Revenue. — F&R

Minister tours Hinthada, Zalun

YANGON, 17 Jan — Ayeayawady Division Hinthada Industrial Zone in charge Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, accompanied by officials of Electric Power Department and Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, met members of the industrial zones supervisory committee and industrialists at Myanady Hall in Hinthada Township on 15 January morning.

Hinthada District Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Chairman District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Pyone reported on choosing a site for the industrial zone and future work programmes. Next, the minister gave instructions on systematic land allocations for industrialists, construction of a 100-foot-long road and other streets

for better transport, construction of buildings, power supply, assistance to be given by the departments, extensive production of farm machinery and equipment at reasonable prices and seeking ways and means to produce more new items. Union Solidarity and Development Association

Secretariat member Maj-Gen Tin Htut visited Hinthada District USDA office where he met with USDA members from the district and townships, and urged them to actively participate with the people in implementing rural development tasks. Afterwards, together with the chairman

of Zalun Township PDC, the township USDA secretary and officials, Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspected construction of the 4.8 miles long earth road linking Thetkeyun village and Danubay village, cordially met the villagers and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspects construction of road in Ayeayawady Division. — MNA

Want all concerned to know

- * Close relatives, leave us
And take refuge, in foreign land
In so doing, they have to live by
The traits of such land
Promote good dealings, and living thus
If their current wellbeing is served
We feel not as if we're dealt a blow
But take solace in his wellbeing and
goodwill enjoyed,
And we are thus happy.
- * If while living abroad, their traits
He lives by, but
Moreover, a wedge is driven while
trying to return
Such should not be attempted
For then, it would be untoward.
- * No matter how you engage in such
tactics
Our kin do not feel perturbed
Even if you divide our kin, and fling
invectives
Only you will be at fault.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)



A Chinese couple and their child look at a red lantern in Sanzhao Village of Xi'an, Northwest China's Shaanxi province, on 16 Jan, 2005. Sanzhao Village has a tradition of producing lanterns for festival celebrations across China. It is estimated that the village will provide more than one million lanterns this year for the upcoming Spring Festival. —INTERNET



Mainland, Taiwan agree on non-stop charter flights during Spring Festival

MACAO, 17 Jan— Chinese Mainland and Taiwan civil aviation circles reached consensus here Saturday on launching non-stop charter flights for Taiwan businessmen during the Spring Festival, Chinese Lunar New Year.

Pu Zhaozhou, vice-president of the Cross-Straits Aviation Transport Exchange Council, exchanged views with Le Daxin, chairman of the Taipei Aviation Transport Commerce Trade Council, on technical and operation issues on the charter flights.

According to the consensus, non-stop flights between Mainland's cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Taiwan's Taipei and Kaohsiung will be in operation from 29 January to 20 February for Taiwanese businessmen working on the Mainland and their relatives to go home for the Lunar New Year holidays that begins on 9 February, a traditional festival for family reunion.

Each side will have six airlines to operate 24 non-stop round-trip flights via Hong Kong. The two sides also reached consensus on issues concerning crew members.—MNA/Xinhua

US should eliminate tariffs on clothings from three Asian countries

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan— The United States should immediately eliminate tariffs on clothing and textile imports from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Maldives to help them recover from the tsunami, a leading development group said on Friday.

"Trade has a crucial part to play in the recovery and reconstruction of the region and has the potential to help millions of people affected by this tragedy," Oxfam America President Raymond Offenheiser said in a letter to US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick. Copies were sent to leading US lawmakers.

World Trade Organization Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi has also urged trade-related measures to help Asian states recover from the tsunami disaster. A spokesman for Zoellick did not respond directly to Oxfam's request, but said the Bush Administration was already discussing trade-related measures to help the region.

"We have been in active consultations with the

trade ministries from tsunami-affected countries, as well as our domestic stakeholders, discussing possible ways to help facilitate reconstruction efforts," USTR spokesman Richard Mills said.

The United States also has pledged 350 million US dollars in aid to help the region.

Eliminating tariffs on clothing and textile from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives would give a boost to a key sector of those countries' economies, Offenheiser said. But the idea could meet resistance in Congress. US textile producers, who already fear massive job losses because of growing imports from China, opposed similar assistance for Haiti last year after it was hit by a devastating hurricane.— MNA/Reuters

Nepal maintains 4.5% economic growth

KATHMANDU, 17 Jan—The overall economic growth rate of Nepal is estimated to reach 4.5 per cent in the current fiscal year due to the growth in the agriculture and the non-agriculture sector, the Nepali Finance Ministry said on Saturday.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to remain only at 4.1 per cent due to the 3.7 per cent decrease in paddy production during the first half of fiscal year 2004/2005 beginning on July 16, 2004.

The growth in the agriculture sector in the review period is projected to remain 3.2 per cent and that of the non-agriculture sector at 4.6 per cent, the ministry said in a Press release.

In foreign trade, total imports have decreased by 3.5 per cent, while exports have increased by 15.1 per cent during the reviewed half year.— MNA/Xinhua

1,363 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—As of Sunday, 16 January, 2005, at least 1,363 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 Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians. The AP count is five higher than the Defense 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, 1,225 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. The latest deaths reported by the military:

- A US soldier was killed Sunday when an armored vehicle flipped and plunged into a canal in western Baghdad.

Internet

Sri Lanka discovers human smuggling racket

COLOMBO, 16 Jan — The Sri Lankan authorities have discovered a human smuggling operation of sending Iranian nationals to Britain via Sri Lanka, officials said on Saturday.

Sri Lankan Police have arrested six Iranian males

and an Uzbekistani woman at a house in the Colombo suburb of Mount Lavinia.

The police have seized two forged British passports in the possession of the Iranians and said that each Iranian had paid

18,000 US dollars to the racketeers.

The police is now on the trail of Sri Lankan collaborators of the crime, having found details of the mastermind who is an Iranian based in Bangkok, Thailand.—MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani shop keepers display bridal dresses to customers at a shop in Karachi. Pakistan's Supreme Court recently took the decision to uphold a ban on the country's notoriously extravagant wedding feasts.—INTERNET

Iraq is George Bush's Vietnam says US Senator Kennedy

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan— America's ongoing military entanglement in Iraq has become President George Bush's Vietnam, US Senator Edward Kennedy, a leading member of the opposition Democratic party, said.

The harsh words refer to the US role and ultimate defeat in the 1964-1975

Vietnam war. Iraq is "clearly is George Bush's Vietnam," said Kennedy, speaking on CBS's "Face The Nation" program. Kennedy then blasted Bush's claim in an interview in Sunday's Washington Post that his Iraq policy was endorsed by the US public because of his November 2004 re-

election victory. "I think that's ridiculous," said Kennedy. He quickly referred to the 1964 elections, when Democrat Lyndon Johnson, who had increased US military involvement in Vietnam, defeated Republican Barry Goldwater by an overwhelming majority.

Internet

Training on mentally-handicapped people given priority in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 16 Jan— The municipal government of Shanghai has listed training of mentally-handicapped residents one of its top ten projects for 2005, the first local government programme to care for this group of people, an official said on Saturday.

According to the plan, 10,000 people, aged between 18 and 35, will be chosen from the 70,000 mentally-handicapped people in Shanghai.

Those chosen will attend training in rehabilitation and labour skills, which are designed to improve their living skills and capability to adapt to the social environment.

It has become a common practice of local governments in China to promise to do "something for the people" at the beginning of each year.

Previously, the promises mainly covered housing, communications, raising farmers' income and rebuilding infrastructure. In recent years the commitments have expanded to such fields

as environmental protection, employment and education.

Apart from training on mentally-handicapped people, the Shanghai municipal government has also promised to create 500,000 jobs, improve and provide easy access to medical services for 1.4 million seniors aged 70 and older, construct housing for people evacuated for major urban projects and provide professional training for 50,000 farmers, among others.

Sociologist Cao Jijun said that placing equal importance on serving the mentally-handicapped group as to other projects fully reflects the government's concept of "putting people first".

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ပုစွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



A kitchen worker places the fried fish as a Malaysian woman selecting other fish dishes during a fish-eating promotion at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

US, India reach air travel pact

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan— The United States and India have reached an air travel pact that will result in more commercial airline flights, lower fares and stronger economic ties, US officials said on Saturday.

Under the new "open skies" agreement, airlines from both countries will be allowed to select routes and destinations based on consumer demand, said the Department of Transportation in a statement.

"The deal provides for open routes, capacity, frequencies, designations, and pricing, as well as opportunities for cooperative marketing arrangements, including bilateral code-sharing with domestic Indian carriers," it said.

It also allows cargo carriers to operate in either country without directly connecting to their homeland.

Talks between the nations began on Thursday. The new pact replaces an agreement signed in 1956 that restricted the number of airlines that could fly between the countries, cities served, frequency of service and pricing, the department said.

MNA/Reuters



Tokyo shoppers on 17 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

DNA tests to stop quarrelling over Sri Lankan child

COLOMBO, 16 Jan— Authorities in a hospital in Sri Lanka's eastern province is to resort to DNA tests to determine the parents of a four-month-old child left destitute by the tsunami last month, the state radio said here Saturday.

The radio said some three mothers had claimed the ownership of the toddler who had been admitted to the Kalmunai Hospital a few hours after the tsunami attack which devastated the eastern coast.

Police was called to the hospital to stop the fighting women over the ownership of the child, the radio said.

UNICEF said that in Sri Lanka nearly 1,000 children have lost both parents while over 3,000 have lost

one parent due to the tsunami attack.

There have been persistent stories of children disappearing from relief camps.

The government task force to rebuild and rehabilitate has begun a mechanism to register the unaccompanied children.

A special committee was set up by the government recently to address issues relating to child victims of the disaster. —MNA/Xinhua

Pakistani troops arrest suspects linked to al-Qaeda

MIRANSHAH (Pakistan), 16 Jan— Pakistani troops arrested 17 men suspected of links with al-Qaeda and its Taleban allies on Saturday after a raid in a lawless tribal region near the Afghan border, intelligence officials said.

Army commandos, backed by helicopters, raided the house of a tribesman in Lawara in the North Waziristan tribal region, some 185 miles southwest of the capital Islamabad. Lawara lies opposite Afghanistan's eastern province of Khost.

Two people, one of them an Afghan, were

wounded in a shootout during the raid, according to an intelligence official who asked not to be named.

Another intelligence official said the suspects were flown to Bannu Town, adjoining North Waziristan, for interrogation.

The raid came as military officials said al-

Qaeda-linked militants were seeking hideouts in North Waziristan after being driven out of South Waziristan.

Officials say about 100 foreign militants, mainly from Central Asia, are still hiding in the rugged region, while hundreds of others have been killed or have fled to Afghanistan. —MNA/Reuters

US Marine killed in action south of Baghdad

LONDON, 17 Jan — A US Marine was killed in action south of Baghdad on Saturday and an Iraqi driver for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was found dead a day earlier, officials said.

The US military's Central Command said in a statement that the Marine was killed in Babil Province, which some have dubbed the "triangle of death" for its frequent attacks on US and Iraqi forces. It gave no further details.

The ICRC said its 40-year-old driver had disappeared while on duty on January 13 and his body was found on Friday. He had started work for the organization in July 2003.

"The ICRC condemns this killing in the strongest terms," the group said in a statement. The driver, who was unnamed, left a wife and four children.

MNA/Reuters

RAF pilots in Iraq fear new threat: errors of exhausted ground crew

LONDON, 16 Jan—Britain's prolonged military deployment in Iraq is dangerously overstretching the Royal Air Force and the Territorial Army, officers fear.

Nearly two years after the war in Iraq began, Britain still has 9,000 military personnel in the country. With the armed forces already facing cuts in their numbers, the lengthy deployment is putting a strain on key parts of Britain's defence establishment.

RAF pilots have warned that the safety of British aircraft operating in Iraq is being put at risk by manpower shortages that mean scarce specialist technicians are doubling up as regular infantry.

And senior army officers fear the high

number of TA soldiers being called up for lengthy deployments in Iraq will ultimately undermine the part-time reservists.

According to worried RAF officers in Iraq, aircraft technicians are routinely being ordered to carry out guard duties at the British-controlled Basra airport on top of their normal duties maintaining and repairing planes and helicopters.

The extra strain guard duties are placing on the mechanics has caused some pilots to warn that the technicians are being left tired and unable to do their main jobs properly. —Internet



The Indian capital's new metro system, seen here on 17 Jan 2005.

INTERNET

Shanghai becomes world's second-largest port

BEIJING, 17 Jan— Shanghai became the world's second-largest port in terms of freight volume in 2004 after Singapore, surpassing Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Shanghai port handled 379 million tons of freight last year, 19.8 per cent more than a year earlier and 2.3 per cent less than Singapore, which handled 388 million tons of cargo in 2004, according to *Shanghai Daily* available here Monday. The expanding economy driven by trade and investment in Shanghai and the Yangtze Delta cities have helped fuel the growth in the shipping business.

Total trading through local Customs, including both imports and exports from Shanghai and neighbouring cities, surged by 40.4 per cent from a year earlier to hit 287.57 billion US dollars. Fixed investment, another engine driving the economy, rose by 25.8 per cent over a year earlier to hit 308.4 billion yuan

(37.3 billion US dollars) in Shanghai.

Shanghai also maintained its place among the top three container ports in the world by handling 14.55 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) of containers, leaving it behind Hong Kong and Singapore.

Shanghai claimed third place by container volume in 2003 when it overtook Busan in the Republic of Korea. Shenzhen port in southern China claimed fourth place in the world in 2004 by handling 13.655 million TEUs.

Shanghai is currently building a big deep water port on an island just outside the city, which is scheduled to start service by the end of the year to cater to exploding demand in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to unveil 2008 Olympic budget this year

BEIJING, 16 Jan— Beijing will unveil its modified budget for the 2008 Olympic Games in 2005, said a top official here on Friday.

Wang Qishan, executive President of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG), made the remarks at the second plenum of the organizing committee.

"As circumstances have changed over the past several years since Beijing won the Olympic bid, we have adjusted the budget accordingly for the 2008 Games," said Wang.

"The new budget will be submitted to the International Olympic Committee for approval in May," added the Beijing mayor.

Operational cost of the 2008 Games had originally been budgeted at 1.609 billion US dollars, while Beijing's total input on infrastructure and other Olympic-related fields could reach 37 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Over 100 injured in subway train collision in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 17 Jan — More than 100 people were injured in a rush-hour crash on Bangkok's new underground train system on Monday, Transport Minister Suriya Jungrunreangkit said. The crash, the first on the single-route subway that opened in August, 2004, occurred when an empty train collided with a crowded train parked at the Thai Cultural Centre station in the heart of the capital. About 700 passengers were on board the crowded train, Suriya said.

"The service is suspended indefinitely until we can pinpoint the cause. We don't know how an empty train could have entered a track in service," Suriya told reporters.

"It happened because a train accidentally slid out of a maintenance section of the station and ran into another train that was waiting for passengers to board," one subway official told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Japanese FM pledges more support to PNA

RAMALLAH, 17 Jan— Visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura promised on Sunday that Japan would continue its financial support to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Machimura told reporters in the West Bank city of Ramallah after talks with newly-elected Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas that Japan has approved an extra 60 million US dollars of aid to the Palestinians, on top of 30 million dollars previously promised by the country.

"The Japanese Government will exert efforts to support the PNA in humanitarian and financial issues," said the top Japanese diplomat.

Palestinian official sources said Abbas briefed Machimura on the latest

developments in the region and the ongoing Israeli military actions in the Palestinian territories.

The sources said Machimura has invited Abbas to visit Japan and that Abbas accepted the invitation, saying he would visit the East Asian country at a proper time.

Earlier when Machimura arrived at the PNA's Headquarters in Ramallah, he placed a wreath of flowers on the grave of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who died on 11 November, 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier sentenced to 10 years in prison for Abu Ghraib abuse

FORT HOOD (Texas), 16 Jan— The trial of Abu Ghraib abuse ringleader Specialist Charles Graner has revealed a paradoxical man, one who put a "What Would Jesus Do?" sticker on his truck yet boasted that beating Iraqi prisoners was a "good upper-body workout."

A military jury on Saturday sentenced Graner to 10 years in prison after finding him guilty a day earlier of abuses that shocked the world, including stacking naked prisoners into a pyramid and posing for photographs.

"He was kind of like an overpowering personality," testified Sergeant

Joseph Darby, a whistle-blower. Graner, 36, made small talk and jokes throughout the trial despite the severity of the charges he faced.

"I'm smiling now and that's a nervous smile," he told the court on Saturday, in his first extensive remarks since the investigation into the scandal began a year ago. "Smil-

ing over the past two years, especially with what we had gone through kept us somewhat sane."

He repeatedly beat prisoners and boasted about it in e-mails home. "Good upper body work out but hard on the hands," he wrote in an e-mail with a photo from a now notorious night when he

stacked seven prisoners into a naked pyramid.

Graner said he was acting on behalf of military intelligence to soften up detainees to help obtain information in the Bush Administration's declared "war on terrorism."

The 10-man military jury rejected his defence. — MNA/Reuters

US soldier prisoned for killing wounded Iraqi teenager

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan — An American soldier was sentenced on Friday to a year in jail for the murder of a severely wounded Iraqi teenager in a Baghdad slum district during a Shiite uprising last year, the US military said.

"Staff Sergeant Cardenas Alban was convicted on one count of murder and one count of conspiracy to murder at a court martial at the 1st Cavalry Division courthouse at Camp Liberty today," a military spokesman said.

Besides his jail term, Alban was sentenced to a reduction in rank to private and a bad-conduct discharge.

Alban is the second American soldier to be sentenced over the incident.

Staff Sergeant Johnny Horne was sentenced last month to three years in jail, reduction in rank and dishonourable discharge from the military after pleading guilty to charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Another US military officer, 2nd Lieutenant Erick Anderson, has also been charged with premeditated

murder and conspiracy.

The cases stem from an incident on 18 August when Alban, Horne and Anderson were part of a US Army patrol in the Shiite Muslim Sadr City district during a period of intense clashes with fighters loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

US soldiers saw a group of Iraqi men in a garbage truck who they suspected were placing bombs along a road, and opened fire on them. Several Iraqis were killed.

Alban and Horne were accused of fatally shooting an Iraqi man who suffered severe abdominal wounds and burns after the initial barrage of gunfire.

US military officials have described the incident as a "mercy killing".

MNA/Reuters



Japan's electronics giant Sharp employee Noriko Ohashi displays the new electric super-heated steam oven 'Healsio' which enables low-calorie roasting foods using steamed water at a temperature approximately 300 degrees Celsius in Tokyo on 16 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Zambian economy grows by 4.6% in 2004

LUSAKA, 16 Jan—Preliminary data shows that Zambia's economic growth exceeded the government's target of 3.5 per cent to reach 4.6 per cent, President Levy Mwanawasa said on Friday.

"As a result of our efforts in prudent economic management, we have now had six years of positive economic growth," he said at the opening session of the National Assembly.

The southern African country posted an economic growth of 4 per cent in 2003, and 3.3 per cent in 2002.

The President attributed the growth to good performance in the mining, agriculture, tourism and other key sectors.

Zambia recorded yet another bumper harvest in the 2003/2004 season, producing 1.3 million tons of maize, the staple food in Zambia, against of a national requirement of 1.02 million tons.

Thanks to government's diversification drive, the country's exports of cotton, tobacco, coffee, fresh vegetables and flowers have also grown significantly.

According to the President, these exports now stand at 65 per cent of the exports of copper, the

country's biggest foreign exchange earner. The figure was only 15 percent a decade ago.

Zambia's exports of metal and non-metal products surged by 50 per cent in 2004, driven by soaring copper price in the international market and increased production.

According to the President, Zambia's copper production reached 400,000 tons in 2004, the highest for many years. The production in 2003 was 349,814 tons.

MNA/Xinhua

Ugandan President meets World Bank official

KAMPALA, 17 Jan—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has held talks with Peter L Woicke, executive vice-president of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on ways of strengthening cooperation between the East African country and the IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group.

According to a Press release issued here on Saturday by the Ugandan State House, the talks was held on Friday at Museveni's hometown of Rawakitura in the southern district of Mbarara.

"President Museveni and his guest discussed a number of issues especially ways of

strengthening cooperation between Uganda and the IFC. They also delved extensively in a number of projects and programmes that are already being handled and those yet to be handled by the IFC, in partnership with the government of Uganda, particularly those related to infrastructure develop-

ment," the Press release said.

Woicke arrived here on Thursday for a three-day visit to Uganda. His visit focused on the IFC's advisory services and consulting with the Ugandan Government, private sector representatives and non-profit groups.

MNA/Xinhua

British passenger plane makes emergency landing in London

LONDON, 17 Jan—A British passenger plane made an emergency landing in London Saturday after losing its front wheel, an airport spokeswoman said.

The plane, with 177 passengers aboard, landed safely at the Gatwick Airport in south London, but it was not clear whether there had been any casualties, the airport's spokeswoman said.

The plane reported that it lost the front wheel from its undercarriage shortly after taking off from the Gatwick Airport for the Bulgarian capital Sofia at 1435 GMT. The aircraft then flew back to Gatwick and made an emergency landing on the airport, the spokeswoman said. —MNA/Xinhua

Death toll of Argentina's nightclub fire rises to 190

BUENOS AIRES, 17 Jan—The death toll of last month's nightclub fire in this Argentine capital rose to 190 as a hospitalized man died late Friday night, said the Medical Emergency Service.

A fire broke out in a nightclub called Republica de Cromagnon in downtown Buenos Aires on December 30, 2004, leaving 175 dead immediately and at least 700 injured. More than 91 people now remain hospitalized with 40 of them under intensive care in clinics of Buenos Aires and its outskirts. —MNA/Xinhua



Pearl necklaces are displayed in Thailand recently.—INTERNET

Italian cities ban cars

ROME, 17 Jan—People in Rome, Milan and other Italian cities yesterday got around on public transport, bicycles, on foot and even on horseback as cars were banned to reduce air pollution. But in Rome and Milan, football fans were exempted, provided they had a ticket to a game.

In Rome, the ban started at 10 am but was cut from eight hours to five. In Milan, the ban went from 9am to midday and from 3pm to 6pm. Smaller cities such as Brescia, Bergamo and Como also adopted bans.

Italian cities are trying to find ways of curbing pollution by restricting private vehicles.

Rome and Milan are testing a ban on cars with even or odd-numbered licence plates on alternate Thursdays. —Internet

Algeria to keep oil output stable

ALGIERS, 17 Jan — Algerian Minister of Energy and Mines Chakib Khelil has said his country will keep its daily crude oil output stable at 1.34 million barrels, the national radio reported Saturday.

Khelil predicted that international crude oil prices in the first quarter of this year will be stable at the current level, and will stay above 30 dollars per barrel even though they might drop slightly in the second quarter.

The minister said international crude oil demand in 2005 will decrease due to the slowdown of the world economy. But he did not rule out the possibility that international oil market may be turbulent again because of geo-political instability. —MNA/Xinhua



Hong Kong harbour. A huge multi-billion dollar arts hub planned for Hong Kong's famed harbourside is in doubt as public opinion gathers against it and influential businessmen and politicians declare the proposal flawed.—INTERNET

Search teams fail to find skiers believed trapped under 30-ft of snow

SALT LAKE CITY, 17 Jan—Search teams failed on Saturday to find as many as five off-trail skiers believed trapped under 30 feet of snow by a massive avalanche near Park City, Utah.

Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said the teams used probing poles and dogs to look for clothes, skis and ski poles and planned to resume their recovery mission on Sunday.

"We're being very meticulous and methodical about the way we're searching," he said.

Officials do not know how many skiers were trapped in Friday's avalanche and have based any figure on witness accounts.

The sheriff said he could confirm one person was missing.

Search operations were suspended after sunset because conditions were too dangerous and there was little hope the skiers could have survived after so many hours trapped under the snow.

Half of avalanche fatalities occur within 25 minutes and 95 per cent within two hours, according to the Utah Avalanche Centre.

The 600 to 800 foot wide avalanche came down in an un-groomed area near a resort known as The Canyons.

Avalanche danger signs were posted, but expert skiers are often tempted to ski the pristine areas outside groomed runs.

Bruce Tremper, director of the Utah Avalanche Center, said the original avalanche was about six to eight feet (1.8 metres to 2.4 metres) deep, but grew to 30 feet after search and rescue teams set off controlled avalanches to secure the area.

"This was a monster avalanche," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Discussion of pensioners — 3

Hein Myint

(Continued from yesterday)

"They will no doubt invent some fabricated news. What's sure is that some super powers and some political parties linking to the destructionists will demand the release of that person calling him to be a political detainee."

"Infrastructural development is something hard to build but easy to destroy, isn't it? The spoilers will always seek opportunities to commit destructive acts. They will always discredit the country and the government. So, people should be well aware of their schemes."

Later, the topics of our discussion were changed to BCP remnants' wicked schemes from the destructive acts of the neo-colonialists, their conspiracy to cause instability in the country, and the bomb blasts.

"Well, the BCP remnants are now staging a comeback."

"It is just a dying fire sputtering out. You will never hear the end of their incorrigible behaviours, like one another's beating to death with the bamboo stick while they were in the jungles, the killing of all the people in Sinswe village, and their assaults on language, religion and culture."

"But, we must keep our eyes open to their provocative acts and their propensity for fabrication. The beheading of some innocent people in public in 1988 unrest proves it."

"They are number one when it comes to barbarity."

Later, our discussion turned to the implementation of the four political objectives and the seven-point Road Map.

"There's ample evidence in world history as well as in Myanmar history that a country cannot develop without stability."

"You can say it again! In the past, our country got into trouble as the insurgents were destroying what the government had built and the political party in authority was faced with internal split."

"Now, it is not an easy task to restore peace and stability as well as the rule of law in the country amid a multitude of pressure, economic sanctions and media superiority imposed by internal and external destructive elements and some super powers."

"The return of 17 national race armed groups to the legal fold and the development in border areas stand witness to national reconsolidation,

which is a success any government in the past did not achieve."

"The success made at restoring stability and national consolidation has now given rise to development of infrastructures like roads and bridges, dams and reservoirs, hydel power plants and river water-pumping projects let alone a large number of modern universities and schools in the education sector and that of hospitals and dispensaries in the health sector."

"Everyone knows that progress has been made in the drive for the development of rural areas and border areas."

"Well, is the government guilty of deterring those who are plotting to stir up distability and unlawfulness?"

"The Tatmadaw government is not an elected government. Nor will it take part in the elections. So, what it is doing is not to win votes. No matter whatever anybody decries and however they put pressure, the government will look to the interest of the country and the people. And the people will

"The Tatmadaw government is not an elected government. Nor will it take part in the elections. So, what it is doing is not to win votes. No matter whatever anybody decries and however they put pressure, the government will look to the interest of the country and the people. And the people will welcome the government's genuine attitude."

welcome the government's genuine attitude."

"Yes, the government is now implementing the seven-point Road Map after formulating it, isn't it?"

"By the way, what will you say to the alleged illegality of the National Convention because of the non-participation of that party?"

"That party did attend the National Convention at the start and gave green light to the basic principles. Later, US Secretary of State Albright arrived in Myanmar and met that woman. Immediately after their meeting, the representatives of that

party walked out of the National Convention."

"That party was invited to the National Convention which resumed in May last year. They wanted to make compromises with the government and demanded this or that. When the government could not fulfill their demands as the time was not ripe. They put the blame on the government and boycotted the National Convention."

"How narrow-minded are they! They are real spoilsports."

"The National Convention comprises people from all walks of life, not to mention representatives of national races and peace groups. Can the National Convention be branded illegal just because of an absentee party?"

"No, it can't be. What's more, a referendum will be held to sound out public opinion after drafting the constitution at the National Convention. It could not be more democratic."

"The government is formed with Tatmadawmen, who are daring to risk their lives for the country and the people. They will remove all the setbacks in the interest of the country and the people."

"I dare say that the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation will materialize sooner rather than later, if everyone involved in this task puts first the interest of the country and the people. And the development pace of the country will also gather speed more than ever before."

"If they had given a helping hand to the Tatmadaw government since its assumption of State duty, our country would have possessed its own constitution; a new government would also have been installed through elections; and the country would have gained ground for development as a democratic nation."

"But now, this process has unnecessarily been delayed as a result of obstacle and deterrence made by the destructionists. It is high time everyone came to common sense. And I'd like to utter, 'Please, take into consideration the interest of the country and the people'."

We had to bring our long and deep conversation to an end as we all had some work to be done. We parted by saying goodbye to one another.

Translation: KTY

Myanma Alin: and Kyemon 16-1-2005

Survey says British companies hit by profit squeeze up in 2004

LONDON, 17 Jan—The number of British companies issuing profit warnings rose by 40 per cent in 2004 as a result of declining consumer confidence, said a survey by Ernst & Young released on Sunday. Nearly 300 British firms issued profit warnings last year, about 90 more than the previous year, said the survey.

Successive interest rate rises, the escalating cost of oil and the weak US dollar all impacted on company profits, said the survey, adding that this

trend might continue in 2005 if confidence erodes further. The last quarter of 2004 saw the highest number of profit warnings as trading conditions deteriorated over the period with manufacturing output declining in November and retail sales falling in December.

Among the companies finding profits squeeze in 2004, services sector was the most affected, producing 32 profit warnings during the year while computer services firms and general retail-

ers also being forced to issue 31 and 25 warnings respectively.

Many High Street retailers including Marks & Spencer, Woolworth's and Next have reported disappointing sales over the Christmas period.

Prospects for 2005 hinged on whether consumer confidence would erode further and whether oil costs would hit companies' supply chain operations, said Andrew Wollaston, Ernst & Young's corporate restructuring partner.—MNA/Xinhua

China's industry watchers take class on fighting graft

BEIJING, 17 Jan — Officials from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's top economic planning body, have started a training programme to learn how to detect and combat corruption.

The 110-plus officials, who are NDRC's special inspectors to major projects across the country, will learn from Hong Kong consultants. They will watch over the construction of major

business projects, such as real estate development, during the eight-day training programme that started Tuesday, the Beijing *Legal Evening News* reported.

"Most of the lecturers are senior anti-corruption officials from Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the region's No. 1 graft fighter, and the Department of Justice as well as professors from the Chinese University of

Hong Kong (CUHK)," Kwok Man-wai, ex-deputy commissioner of ICAC and one of the teachers, was quoted as saying.

Ren Jianming, an expert on clean governance with Beijing-based Tsinghua University, also lectured for the class. He outlined types and reasons of corruption in the Chinese Mainland.

The training is the first of its kind sponsored by CUHK and NDRC.

MNA/Xinhua

Extension of Hkamti Airport runway...

(from page 1)

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, officials, and guests toured the e-Learning Centre, the multi-media classrooms, and cottage industry classroom, where they watched students weaving and knitting Naga traditional shawls and matting baskets, and encouraged them.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party also attended the opening of a tar road constructed by Lahe township development affairs committee. The ceremony took place at the top of Huitai Street in the township at 2.30 pm.

On the occasion,

an official reported on the purpose of construction of the road. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun cut the ribbon to open the road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected the road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Lahe Township People's Hospital (16-bed), where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Myo Win and health staff.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected around the hospital and gave necessary instructions on the upkeep of the hospital.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint

and party also went to the Border Areas and Nationalities Youth Development Training School opened by the Education and Training Department under the Ministry of PBANRDA. They inspected the students' hostels and the school office.

At the assembly hall of the school, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with township-level departmental officials and gave instructions on keeping the environs of the school clean and pleasant, growing fruits and vegetables for welfare purpose, and extending livestock breeding on a greater scale.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint set up an education fund of K

The 58th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

100,000 and donated 50 dozen exercise books and 100 pairs of trousers. Principal U Myint Thu accepted the donations.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Managing Director U Thein Than of Diamond Palace Travels & Tours Co Ltd, and Deputy Min-

ister Brig-Gen Than Tun donated K 100,000 each to the education fund of the school. U Thein Than also donated K 500,000 worth of 55 blankets, 55 mosquito nets, 55 pillows and one 21-inch television. The principal accepted the donations.

Afterwards, Lt-

Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party visited MyintmoU Pagoda, a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, built on Gandamala Hill in Lahe Township. They donated some cash at the pagoda. They stopped over in Lahe.

MNA

ASEAN+3 agri statistics meeting 24-28 Jan

YANGON, 17 Jan — The Meeting of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN+3 countries and the Third Focal Point Meeting of AFSIS Project will be held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here from 24 to 28 January 2005.

Settlements and Land Records Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will sponsor the meeting. — MNA

Arrangements to visit places of interest in Myanmar

YANGON, 17 Jan — Myanmar Travels and Tour has made arrangements for local travellers.

There are package and individual tours for travellers. The trips include Yangon-Kyaikhtiyo-Yangon, Yangon-Bagan (Popa)-Yangon, Yangon-Myitkyina-Yangon, Yangon-Taunggyi-Innlay-Pindaya-Kalaw-Yangon, Yangon-Kengtung-Mongla-Tachilek-Yangon, Yangon-Sittway-Mrauk-U-Yangon, Yangon-Ngwehsaung-Yangon, Yangon-Chaungtha-Yangon and Yangon-Ngapali-Yangon.

There is car rental service at Myanmar Travels and Tour. For more information, contact Myanmar Travels and Tour, No 77-91, Sule Pagoda Road, dialling 252859 or 664472.—MNA



Maj-Gen Lun Maung addresses coordination meeting of NCC Management Committee. —MNA

National Convention Convening Management Committee meets

YANGON, 17 Jan — A coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Management Committee took place at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this afternoon, attended by Committee Chairman Auditor General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice Chairman Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, committee members, chairmen and secretaries of subcommittees and officials.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung presided over the meeting and NCCMC Secretary Major Than Htay acted

as master of ceremonies.

First, the meeting chairman delivered an opening speech. Next, subcommittees and officials of Public Works and Yangon City Development Committee reported on their respective tasks to be carried out. Then the meeting ended with a concluding remark by Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

Later, the NCCMC chairman and party inspected arrangements being made at the camp for convening the National Convention, and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Ministers inspect earthquake and tidal wave-hit regions in Kawthoung

YANGON, 17 Jan — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Health Dr

Kyaw Myint, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Caroll C Long and

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Ms Akiko Suzuki arrived in Kawthoung on 14 January.

At the hall of Kawthoung Station Minister Dr Kyaw Myint explained about emergency response and management of tsunami (Myanmar) regarding earthquake and tidal waves occurred on 26 December. He said the day on which earthquake occurred was 26 December, a fullmoon day of Nadaw. Being a religious day, no one went out fishing on that day. It was the cause of less damage and casualties. He told the officials about emergency rescue operations and health care services for those in tidal wave-hit areas with the use of charts.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa explained measures being taken for relief and resettlement and Head of Taninthayi Division Health Department Dr Swe Win presented a report on loss and damage and health care services. The ministers replied to queries raised by officials of UN agencies. Next, the minister inspected damage of Pulone Tone Tone Bridge and reconstruction of the bridge.

They also met the victims at the primary school in Aw-gyi Village in Kawthoung Township. The ministers explained to them the government's goodwill, measures taken

by the ministries and long-term assistance to them.

WHO Resident Representative and UNICEF Resident Representative said they were glad to witness true situation and the government's emergency rescue operations for the victims.

The ministers met officials and villagers of Aw-gyi village and fulfilled the requirements. The also inspected damage caused by tidal wave.

The Minister for Health and party inspected Kawthoung District People's Hospital and the newly-built 100-bed People's Hospital.—MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Dr Kyaw Myint, oversee damage occurred due to the earthquake and tidal wave in Aw-gyi village, Taninthayi Division. — (H)

Government providing machinery for main industrial zones

YANGON, 17 Jan — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin visited machinery, tools factories and a steel plant of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries (MADEI) in Mandalay Industrial Zone 2 on 15 January. He also inspected the imported machinery for the factories.

During his meeting with officials at the zone, the minister said that the Government has been building steel plants at

the three main industrial zones — Mandalay, Taunggyi and Monywa industrial zones. When the zones started manufacturing standard parts and products, they should become as the zones that help develop the nation's industrial sector. As the machines have already arrived at the zones, officials concerned are required to erect the factories and conduct test run in time. The ministry has already trained a number of workers at Myanma

Agricultural Machinery Industry in Hsinte, and they will help install the machines and test-run the factories.

The head of MADEI explained the plan to provide machinery to the zones, and the arrangements to upgrade the level of industrial zones in Mandalay, the arrival of imported machinery and work to be carried out.

The minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Construction of wharf inspected in Tharkayta Township

YANGON, 17 Jan — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein arrived at quality control office of Fisheries Department in Tharkayta yesterday. Managing Director of Myanmar Port Authority U Thein Htay reported on construction of wharf by Yuzana Co Ltd at the site of MPA near the wharf of Myanma Five Star Line.

Managing Director U Htay Myint of Yuzana Co Ltd reported on construction of 300-ton purified oil plant and construction of the wharves.

The ministers inspected the sites. Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe went to Tharkayta Wharf where Managing Director of MFSL U Khin Maung Kyi reported on organizational set-up, numbers of ocean-going and coastal-going ships and their operation, transport of passengers and cargo and containers and yearly income. The minister inspected the lounge for passengers, training halls for seafarers, equipments and checking counters.

The minister also boarded the mv *Myitkyina* and inspected modern equipment on board.— MNA

Ministry of Construction holds coord meeting



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivers an address at coord meeting of the Ministry of Construction. —CONSTRUCTION

YANGON, 17 Jan — A coordination meeting of the Ministry of Construction was held at Public Works (Head Office) today.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivered an opening speech.

Superintending engineers of states and divisions reported on work done, financial matters, supply of

machinery and construction materials and tasks to be undertaken.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, managing directors and directors-general of the ministry, heads of departments, superintending engineers of construction sites and officials.—MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspect progress in constructing Tharkayta wharf. — TRANSPORT

Ministry of Rail Transportation holds third four-monthly coord meeting

YANGON, 17 Jan — The Ministry of Rail Transportation held its third four-monthly coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thuang Lwin and U Pe Than, directors-general, managing directors, principals and advisers of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, heads of departments and officials from states and divisions.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech he set forth on the coordination measures to be taken for realization of the tasks

as laid down at the previous meetings after reviewing the strong and weak points of various departments. In carrying out the tasks of the departments, officials concerned are to use finance and materials systematically. Especially, they are to pay serious attention to efficient use of fuel. They are to exert strong efforts to increase GDP, he added.

Next, the deputy ministers delivered addresses on the occasion.

Afterwards, the directors-general, the managing directors and the principals presented reports to the minister.

Later, the minister made concluding remarks.

MNA

Books donated by renowned professor's daughter

YANGON, 17 Jan — Daw Tin Tin Myaing, a daughter of late U Pe Maung Tin, a famous professor of Yangon University, donated books on various fields of profession to Myanmar Language Department here today.

She handed over the books on education, law, references, general knowledge, library science, politics, art, children's knowledge, English, history and other fields to Minister for Education U Than Aung.

Daw Tin Tin Myaing also explained the purpose of donating the books which she brought from England.

Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials were also present.

MNA

Closing date for entries of military song contest extended to Jan 28

YANGON, 17 Jan — It has been announced that the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative military song contest for the year 2005 will be held. The closing date for entries has now been extended to 28-1-2005 from 31-12-2004.

Entries are to be sent to the secretary of the military song competition subcommittee at Myanmar Radio and Television, Pyay Road.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental...

(from page 16)

Only when there is better transport and prosperous agriculture will the education, health and social sectors in the region develop. With this end in view, service personnel are to strive tenaciously for organizing the local people to participate in nation-building endeavours, he noted.

Local authorities are to make field trips right down to villages to fulfil the requirements for regional development and Naga region will soon develop should departmental officials and local people make concerted efforts with goodwill, he said.

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented K 1 million each for education and health purpose to Lahe Nanyun and Panhsaung Townships. He also pre-

sented one computer each to Basic Education High School of Nanyun and BEHS of Panhsaung.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented warm clothes to service personnel in Lahe Township through the Chairman of Lahe Township Peace and Development Council.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party proceeded to the monastery in Lahe where they paid homage to members of the Sangha led by Secretary of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Suddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Jotisara and presented offertories to them. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint

presented K 10,000 each to 31 monasteries and one nunnery in Lahe and Nanyon Townships and K 100,000 to the monastery in Lahe.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepted the donations.

After that, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko presented two sets of robes to two nuns.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected the small-scale hydel power plant established on a self-reliant basis in Talan Ward, Lahe.

The hydel power plant is generating 3 KV for Talan Ward.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party inspected tea plantations of the Development



Minister U Aung Thuang inspects autos manufactured from Pyigyitagun industrial zone, Mandalay Division. (News reported)—MNA

Affairs Department in Lahe Township.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met officers and other ranks and their families of the local battalion and gave instructions on education, health and social sectors and staff welfare measures and urged them to go hand in hand

with local people for regional development. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party attended the bonfire to mark the Naga New Year Festival held at the Naga Yoya Sport Grounds and

spent the night in Lahe. Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party left Lahe by helicopter and arrived Hkamti.

They left Hkamti by aircraft of Myanma Airways and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Minister inspects irrigation of Kantin Bilin Dam...

(from page 16)

dam through canal No 3 for summer paddy cultivation while officials of the Irrigation Department reported on progress of work in construction of other structures, irrigation, other structures under construction. Afterwards, the minister looked into irrigation of canal No 3, earth work being carried out with the use of machinery, irrigation of the main canal.

With the use of those irrigation facilities already completed, local farmers will be able to

put more lands in Minhla and Letpadan Townships under summer paddy and gram.

Next, the minister arrived at the diversion weir of the dam where he was briefed by an official on the salient points of the diversion weir. The minister viewed irrigation system of the irrigated area of the dam, the diversion weir and the main canal.

Later, the minister inspected water control tower, outlet conduit and spillway of the dam.

Kantin Bilin Dam

with a storage capacity of 134,000 acre feet is now storing 90,000 acre feet.

Next, the minister inspected land preparations for cultivation of summer paddy, crop plantations and irrigation of canals to farmlands. The dam will irrigate 12,000 acres of farmlands in 2005 and it has been now able to irrigate 7,000 acres. Due to its emergence, there appeared 2,300 irrigated acres between motor road and railroad and 4,700 irrigated acres in the lower part of railroad.

MNA

Minister stresses work facilitation

YANGON, 17 Jan — Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa met with staff of the departments of the two ministries under his charge in Kawthoung on 14 January. Officials of the Immigration and Na-

tional Registration Department of the Ministry of Immigration and population and those of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement presented work plans.

The minister spoke

of the need to ensure work facilitation, and to discharge their duties with patriotism and Union Spirit, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa meets staff of the National Registration Department and Fire Services Department in Kawthoung. — SWRR

Kyaukse University conducting 12 courses

YANGON, 17 Jan — Minister for Education U Than Aung visited Kyaukse University, yesterday, and heard a report on salient points of the institution presented by the rector.

The university located in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division, was inaugurated on 29 June 2001. Over 3,000 students from Kyaukse, Singaing, TadaU, Myittha, Lewe, Pyinmana and Tatkon townships are attending

classes at the University, which is also opening classes for over 13,000 students of University of Distance Education. The university has opened courses for Myanmar, English, geography, history, philosophy, oriental studies, chemistry, physics, mathematics, zoology, botany and geology major students.

It is giving lectures to students with the help of computer-aided rooms, language labs, the e-edu-

cation centre, multimedia classrooms, laboratories, Internet-aided libraries and exhibition rooms on geology and regional resources.

Accompanied by officials of No 2 Basic Education Department, the minister inspected a new two-storeyed building housing eight classrooms at a basic education high school in Singaing. It was built by the ministry and wellwishers.

MNA

Myanmar Health Research Congress continues

YANGON, 17 Jan — The third day session of Myanmar Health Research Congress took place at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township here this morning.

After resource persons had submitted their

respective papers, they answered the queries raised by those present.

At the congress, medical experts gave talks on infectious diseases and on raising funds to realize health millennium goals.

Myanmar Health Re-

search Congress continues up to 19 January.

On the last day session of the congress, handsome prizes will be awarded for practical research, health system research and the best poster.

MNA

Sports instructors course opens

YANGON, 17 Jan — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addressed the opening of basic course for physical education instructors held at Institute of Sports and Physical Education here today. Sixty-two instructors from Department for Progress of Border Areas

and National Races and Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and University for Development of National Races are attaining the course which continues till 11 March 2005.

MNA

Mother of sentenced US soldier says superiors should be tried

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan — The mother of a US soldier sentenced to 10 years for abusing Iraqi prisoners said Saturday her son's superiors should be put on trial for their role in the scandal.

Army specialist Charles Graner was punished "for something he was told to do," his mother Irma Graner told reporters as he was led away from the military courtroom in hand and leg shackles.

"You know its the higher-ups that should be on trial ... they let the little guys take the fall for them," Irma Graner said outside the courtroom at the Fort Hood Army base in Texas.

A military jury Saturday sentenced Graner to 10 years in prison and a dishonourable discharge from the Army, after convicting him of abusing prisoners at the Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad, Iraq.

Graner, 36, was found guilty of five charges, which included conspiracy, dereliction of duty, maltreatment, aggravated assault and indecent acts, by a jury consisting of six enlisted soldiers and four officers at Fort Hood.

But Graner's civilian attorneys said his client was being made a scapegoat, and said the officials who issued the orders are the ones who should be put on trial.

Graner was the first of several soldiers to be tried on charges arising from the abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib, which sparked international outrage when photographs were released in late April last year. — MNA/Xinhua

S Africa criticizes int'l trade policies as benefitting rich nations

JOHANNESBURG, 17 Jan — South Africa's Finance Minister Trevor Manuel criticized international trade policies as benefitting wealthy nations and warned that "obscene inequalities" between the rich and the poor were widening.

Manuel made the comments in the *Sunday Times* newspaper as his British counterpart Gordon Brown arrived in the country ahead of a meeting of Britain's Commission for Africa, which aims to boost prosperity on the world's poorest continent.

"The problem is not that international trade is inherently opposed to the needs and interests of the poor, but that the rules that govern it are rigged in favour of the rich," Manuel wrote in article about the meeting's agenda.

"Already, obscene inequalities between rich and poor are widening."

Brown said on Saturday he would announce plans to boost trade in poor countries during the Commission's

talks in Cape Town on Monday and Tuesday, which will also be attended by 18 other African finance ministers. He gave no details.

Africa accounted for 6 per cent of world trade in the 1980s, but this has dwindled to 2 per cent. Manuel said if Africa increased its share of world exports by 1 per cent it would generate 70 billion US dollars, about five times what it receives in aid.

Manuel said the Commission would release a report in mid-March which would recommend steps to strengthen Africa's development efforts ahead of a summit in Scotland of the G-8 — which includes the seven main industrial nations and Russia.

Sub-Saharan Africa

had made great headway on economic stability and growth, citing figures that show the region will expand by an average 5.4 per cent in 2005, while budget deficits stand at 0.9 per cent of gross domestic product, he noted.

But that progress had to be backed by steps from developed partners as gains to economic governance would be weakened by large-scale financial assistance with tight conditions, he said.

"For that and other reasons, conditions attached to financial aid need to be redesigned in conjunction with Africa's development partners and the Bretton Woods Institutions," he said, referring to the World Bank and IMF.

MNA/Reuters

Million can escape poverty, death if rich countries keep promises

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Jan — In the coming decade, more than 500 million people can escape from poverty and tens of millions can avoid certain death if the United States, Japan and other rich countries keep their promises to vastly increase development aid to the world's poorest countries, a UN-sponsored report said Monday.

The report spells out the investments needed to meet UN goals adopted by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in 2000 to tackle poverty, hunger and disease mainly in African and Asian countries where one billion people live on a dollar a day or less and 1.8 billion more live on just US two US dollars a day.

"The system is not working right now - let's be clear," said Professor Jeffrey Sachs, head of the UN anti-poverty effort and lead author of the report. "There's a tremendous imbalance of focus on the issues of war and peace, and less on the dying and suffering of the poor who have no voice."

"The overwhelming reality on our planet is that impoverished people get sick and die for lack of access to basic practical means that could help keep them alive and do more than that - help them achieve livelihoods and escape from poverty," said Sachs, who heads the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

As an example, he said, providing nets to cover beds and keep out mosquitos in impoverished African and Asian countries could save the lives of a million children this year who otherwise will die from malaria.

"We have the world's eyes focused on the tsunami of the Indian Ocean, but the world continues to overlook the

silent tsunami of deaths from malaria which take every month the number of people that died in the Asian tragedy," Sachs said. "Every month, 150,000 children in Africa, if not more, are dying from the silent tsunami of malaria, a largely preventable and utterly treatable disease."

Sachs was appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2002 to head the Millennium Project and develop a plan to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Annan is expected to use the report to help prepare his own recommendations to world leaders who will be attending a follow-up summit in September that will also tackle U.N. reform.

The 3,000-page report, "Investing In Development," said the poorest countries do not have the resources to meet the goals. They include halving the number of people living on a dollar a day, achieving universal primary education, reducing child and maternal mortality, halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, and halving the number of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation.

But the resources needed to meet the goals are definitely within the means of the world's richest nations and their 30 trillion US dollars economy - 12 trillion US dollars just in the United States, Sachs said. — MNA/AP

Researchers identify genetic pattern

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan — Researchers working in Iceland said on Sunday they identified a genetic pattern that makes some Europeans more fertile.

The genetic pattern, known as an inversion, is a stretch of the DNA code that runs backwards in people who carry it.

Usually, such rearrangements of a chromosome are harmful to carriers. But this one causes carriers to have more children each generation — giving them what is known as a selective advantage, the researchers reported.

The finding, published in Monday's issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*, opens some interesting questions about human evolution, the team at Iceland's DeCODE Genetics said.

"We found that almost 20 per cent of people in Iceland have at least one copy of this inversion," DeCODE spokesman Edward Farmer said in a statement.

"We then turned to other databases to see whether it existed elsewhere and how common it was. It turns out to be fairly common in European populations but quite rare in Africa and virtually absent in Asia."

More than 29,000 Icelanders donated DNA samples to a database open

to scientists, which DeCODE specializes in studying.

Genes are carried on structures known as the chromosomes. The DNA code varies from person to person, but the genes and other part of the code

generally lie along the same chromosomes in the same order.

This large stretch of DNA is on chromosome 17, Augustine Kong and Kari Stefansson of DeCODE found.

MNA/Reuters

British parents smacking children hard face up to 5 years in jail

LONDON, 17 Jan — Parents in England and Wales who smack children so hard that it leaves a mark now face up to five years in jail under new laws that came into force on Saturday.

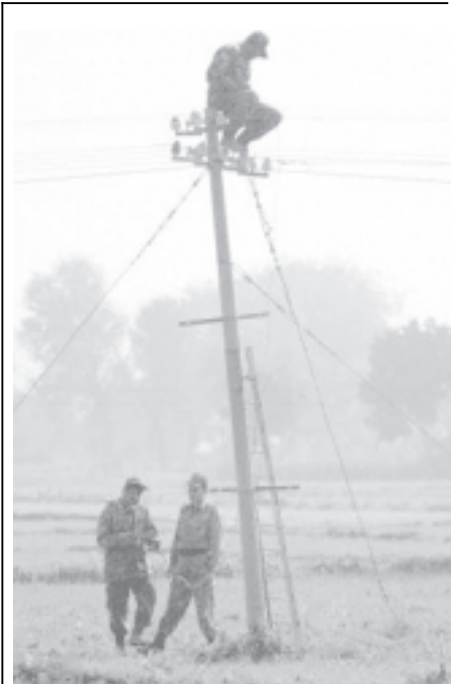
Mild smacking is allowed but any punish-

ment which causes visible bruising, grazes, scrat-ches, swellings or cuts can face action under the new legislation.

An Education Department spokesman told *Reuters*: "It is vital that children are protected from violence and abuse with

adequate safeguards.

"The government has sent a clear message to parents that they will not be criminalized for bringing up their children in a supportive disciplin-ary environment and are free to consider smacking as part of that. — MNA/Reuters



Kashmir pylon work on 15 Jan, 2005. Engineers in Indian Kashmir are working round the clock building an electricity plant that officials say will ease the state's dire power shortage but which has neighbouring Pakistan up in arms. — INTERNET

UNION OF MYANMAR
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:-

Table with 3 columns: Sr.No. Tender No., Description, Quantity. Includes items like Transmission Spare Parts and Polyurethane Resins.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st 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

ပြည်ထောင်စုပြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၁/၂၀၀၅
(၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁၁ ရက်)

လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းတွင် လက်ထောက်လျှောက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါရာထူးအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများ အလိမ္မော်ပါသည်။

ရာထူး: ပညာအဆင့်အချင်း: လက်ထက်
လက်ထောက်နန်နေဂျာ ဝါထိရပ် ၂ နေရာ
(စေ့စရာခင်း)

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-

(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုပြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
(ခ) ၈-၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်တွင် အသက် ၃၅နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀နှစ်)ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ ၈-၂-၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် အရောက်ပေးရမည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံရိပ်ပုံ တွက်တမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၂၀၀/-ပေးသွင်းရမည့် နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေ၊ နှုတ်ဖြေစံသေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန်လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာချက် အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ ရန်ကင်းနှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေးဖြေစံသေးမှုစာစောင်များထားရှိမည်။ မိမိရေးဆိုလိုသော စာစောင်များကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်း တိကျစွာဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲထံသို့ ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ ခွင့်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့သို့ ၈-၂-၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို စာတပ်နှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့သို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၅-၃-၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် ၆-၃-၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်အတွက် အရည်အချင်း စစ်ရေးဖြေ စာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။ ၃-၃-၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့မှူးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့် ကတ်ပြားများကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စစ်မေးဖြေခံလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့မှူးသို့ လက်ယံတိုင်ပြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် (၃၃၈၆၁၃)သို့ ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

၉။ ဤကြော်ငြာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ Website လိပ်စာ csstb.imis.com.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

Egypt condemns Israel for freezing contacts with Abbas

CAIRO, 16 Jan — Egyptian presidential spokesman Sulaiman Awwad said Saturday that Egypt disagreed with Israel on the latter's decision to freeze contacts with newly-elected Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

The spokesman said the international community must realize that "Abbas does not possess a magic wand with which he can stop the violence overnight."

"But he can exert all efforts with support from the international community, politically and economically," he added. Abbas who was sworn in as new PNA chairman on Saturday, condemned the attack and called for a mutual ceasefire with Israel in view of the recent escalation.

President Hosni Mubarak, who has been making great efforts to revive the Middle East peace process since former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat passed away last November, expects Israel to work with Abbas, said Awwad.

MNA/Xinhua

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For Ciba Specialty Chemicals Holding Inc.,
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Yangon.
Dated January 18, 2005

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
Email: MYINT.Advocate@nptmail.net.mm
Ph: 371 990 2005

ENGAGEMENT

Sandeep Gandhi

son of Dr. Ramesh Chander and Veena Gandhi
of No. 11, 17th Street (Bet: 80 & 81 St) Mandalay

And
Purnima Verma

Daughter of Mr. Subash and Dolly Verma (a) R.L. Ahuja, of No. 42, 27th Street (Bet: 72 & 73 St) Mandalay

Engagement ceremony completed on 2 January 2005 in Mandalay at Mr. Subash Verma's residence in presence of parents of both parties relatives and friends.

Inserted by
Parents of both parties

Six injured as fire destroys dozen buildings in Canada

OTTAWA, 16 Jan — At least six people have been injured after explosions and fire triggered by a natural gas leak destroyed about a dozen buildings in Canada's Quebec Province on Friday morning.

pizzeria after 3 am, destroying several homes.

"There was a gas leak, but we don't know right now if this gas leak was because of the fire or if this gas leak caused of the fire," a local official said.

According to reports reaching here, the fire in the city of Trois-Rivieres, about 200 kilometres northeast of Montreal, seems to have started in a

According to the official, fire crews are still searching through the rubble, looking for bodies. One person is still missing.

MNA/Xinhua

S African health authorities warn of measles epidemic

JOHANNESBURG, 17 Jan — An outbreak of measles in Western Cape province of South Africa could herald the beginning of an epidemic if parents do not take warnings by the health department, local media reported on Friday. There already are mea-

sles epidemics in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, said a News24 online news report.

The Western Cape health department and Cape Town health directorate have urged parents to have their children immunized from measles, a

highly infectious disease. With the start of the new school year this week, one infected child could easily infect other pupils and spread the disease far afield rapidly.

Health officials said immunization coverage of between 85 per cent and 90

Famous auction houses, museums acquire artefacts illegally

ROME, 16 Jan — An Italian antiquities trafficker running a thriving business out of Switzerland duped some of the world's most famous auction houses and museums with illegally acquired artefacts, authorities said on Friday.

The scam was the centrepiece of a yearly presentation by Italy's art and archaeology police, who displayed dozens of ancient works traced to Giacomo Medici, an Italian dealer who was sentenced last month by a Rome judge to 10 years in jail. Sometimes working through third parties so he would not appear to be the principal salesman, Medici sold works often dating back to several centuries BC, police said.

According to a Culture Ministry statement, works traced to Medici ended up in New York's Metropolitan Museum, the JP Getty Museum in Los Angeles, Sotheby's auction houses, Toyko's Antike Mittelmerkultur Museum and others.

Some have since been returned to Italy. "He (Medici) had companies in Switzerland (and) Swiss galleries through which he moved pieces taken from Italy illegally and put them on the legal market," said Lieutenant-Colonel Ferdinand Musella, head of the art police's operations unit.

Musella said Medici bought many of the pieces through his "contacts with the criminal underworld".

Anna Maria Moretti, superintendent of archaeology for the Rome region, said one of the most important pieces of stolen art Italy wanted returned was the Euphronius Krater, a 5th Century BC vase now in the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Moretti said the piece was illegally removed from an Etruscan tomb more than three decades ago.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Airbus unveils mighty "A380" double-decker

LONDON, 17 Jan— Cost overruns and political bickering will be set aside on Tuesday at Airbus as the Toulouse-based planemaker unveils its mighty A380 double-decker, the biggest airliner ever built.

French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are among more than 5,000 guests invited for a first glimpse of the A380, which some airlines are betting will reshape the industry.

Customers have committed almost 40 billion US dollars to buying the 555-seat plane, expecting it to lower operating costs and fatten profits, battered in a slowdown since 2001.

"It's the first seriously radically new plane for a generation," said Paul Moore, spokesman for British airline Virgin At-

lantic, which has six A380s on order.

Airbus is throwing a party despite a less festive mood behind the scenes. Chief Executive Noel Forgeard is leaving after waging a feisty public bid to become co-CEO of parent firm EADS, leaving questions about who will lead Airbus and sparking ill will within EADS.

"I didn't think that human nature was capable of such baseness," Philippe Camus, the man Forgeard will replace at EADS later this year, told reporters last week.

The A380 is also causing headaches as it runs 1.45 billion euros (1.9 billion US dollars) over budget and battles a weight problem that threatens to undo its promised cost-saving performance.

While not an uncommon problem for new planes, the stakes are higher with the A380, which at a list price of 260 million US dollars is an expensive gamble.

Airbus' suppliers are also feeling the pinch, with British engineering firm Cobham among those running over budget on work to develop A380 equip-

ment. Virgin Atlantic said delays in developing some equipment contributed to its decision to delay its A380 deliveries.

The plane will dwarf rival Boeing Co.'s 416-seat 747-400, for four decades the reigning heavyweight. It will accommodate more than 800 if airlines use all-economy seating. The aircraft, which is enormous by any measure, should be a 'game-changer' in the long-haul market," JP Morgan analyst Chris Avery said in a recent research report.

MNA/Reuters

S P O R T S

Wenger says Chelsea deserved to win Premier League title

LONDON, 17 Jan— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said Chelsea have as good as won the Premier League title after extending their lead to 10 points on Saturday.

The Frenchman watched his side lose 1-0 at Bolton Wanderers after Chelsea had earlier won 2-0 at Tottenham Hotspur thanks to two goals from Frank Lampard. British bookmakers made Chelsea almost unbackable at 1-9 hot favourites, an unthinkable situation during the first two months of the season when champions Arsenal were scoring goals for fun and seemingly unbeatable.

"People can think what they like," Wenger told Sky Sports News. "There is a long way to go but Chelsea are in a fantastic position. They can only lose it now because they have already won it.

"We will keep going and fight until the last minute of the championship, if it finishes in May.

"Nobody knows what's going to happen, that's why football is so exciting. We have to keep Chelsea out of our minds and try to win our games."

MNA/Reuters

British Gov't to make wealthier offenders pay higher fines

LONDON, 16 Jan— The British Government said Friday it plans to make wealthier offenders of minor crimes, such as driving a car without insurance or riding a bike carelessly, pay higher fines than their poorer counterparts for the same offence.

The proposed legislation, set out in the Management of Offenders Bill, would allow magistrates to set means-tested fines up to a predetermined limit, said the British Home Office.

Under the draft bill, the maximum fine for an offence like failing to stop after an accident would triple to 15,000 pounds for an adult, from 1,000 pounds to 3,000 pounds for offenders aged 14 to 17 and from 250 pounds to 750 pounds for

under 14s. "The court would determine an individuals' daily disposable income, after bills and outgoings, which could be multiplied up to a maximum of 200 times," a Home Office spokesman said.

"The maximum fine the court could apply would be 15,000 pounds - or 200 times the maximum assessment of a daily disposable income of 75 pounds," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Diamonds in display at the diamond mine at Catoca in eastern Angola on 16 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Germany seizes 4 motors suspected to be illegally export to Iran

BERLIN, 16 Jan— German investigators have seized four special motors they suspect were about to be illegally exported to an Iranian nuclear power plant and hope to intercept another shipment en route to Iran, prosecutors said on Friday.

Customs officers found the high-voltage engines, each weighing around seven tons and imported from South Korea, when they raided an unnamed trading company in Hanover on Wednesday. Prosecutor Manfred Knothe told Reuters the raids followed a tip-off from an employee of the firm, who said a previous consignment of engines had been dispatched to Iran in December.

Investigators are trying to intercept this batch before it reaches its expected destination of Bushehr, the southern port where Russia is

helping Iran to build its first atomic reactor.

The December shipment was worth at least 200,000 euros, Knothe said, and authorities have confiscated this amount from the firm.

Prosecutor Knothe said the export of materials for Iranian power plants needed government approval, which had not been given in this case. The offence carries a jail term of up to five years.

Customs investigators also searched the homes of company officials and confiscated computers and other material.—MNA/Reuters



A Francois' monkey and her baby enjoy the sunshine at the Hongshan Goresst Zoo in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu Province, in this picture taken on 16 Jan, 2005. Animals at the zoo are enjoying spring-like weather with and warm temperatures in Nanjing.—INTERNET

Romario apologizes to Pele

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 Jan— Former World Cup forward Romario apologized to Pele on Saturday for telling him to put a shoe in his mouth.

"I would like to take this chance to apologize to Pele for what I said," he told reporters before taking part in a friendly match in Rio de Janeiro. "I didn't mean to say what I said. He's still the King."

The controversy began earlier this week when Pele was reported as suggesting that Romario, who will be 39 at the end of this month, should retire now to avoid blighting a career which includes winning the 1994 World Cup.

On Friday, Romario hit out at Pele and said he was 90 per cent certain to sign a deal with Vasco da Gama, the club where he began his career. "When Pele's quiet, he's a poet," Romario told reporters on Copacabana beach after training for a beach soccer match. "But he just talks shit."

"On the field, he was the greatest player in history, he was our king. But he should put a shoe in his mouth." Romario has been without a club since he was fired by Fluminense in October, following a season in which he has struggled for match fitness, clashed with his coaches and been involved in controversy about his much-publicized privileges.—MNA/Reuters

Gravesen says decision to leave Everton not easy

MADRID, 17 Jan— Denmark international Thomas Gravesen says his decision to leave Everton midway through the season was not easy but that he could not turn down a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to join Real Madrid.

Gravesen left the English Premier League to join Real on a 3-1/2-year deal for a reported fee of 3.5 million euros (4.6 million US dollars) on Friday. "Of course it's very difficult when a chance like this comes along," the 28-year-old midfielder told a news conference in Madrid on Saturday. Gravesen acknowledged he may not have the reputation of some of the Real's high-profile "galacticos" but said he could still win a place in the centre of midfield alongside either Guti or David Beckham.

"I don't know if I'll be up against Guti or Beckham to get a place in the team. I'm here to be part of the team and I'm not here to make war with anyone," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Valencia held to 0-0 draw at Osasuna

MADRID, 17 Jan— Champions Valencia missed the chance to keep the pressure on their title rivals at the top of the Primera Liga when they were held to a 0-0 draw at 10-man Osasuna on Sunday.

Claudio Ranieri's side gave a subdued performance in a match that was overshadowed by the news of the sudden death of the young daughter of Valencia defender Marco Caneira shortly before the kickoff.

Osasuna played the final 23 minutes of the game with 10 men after defender Jose Izquierdo was sent off for a second booking but Valencia were unable to cash in on their numerical advantage.

The only positive aspect for Valencia was the return to action of inspirational Argentine defender Roberto Ayala who played his first match of the season after recovering from a knee operation.

The result left Valencia in second place in the table, six points behind leaders Barcelona who host Real Sociedad at the Nou Camp later, and one ahead of Real Madrid who entertain Real Zaragoza in another of Sunday's evening matches.

Espanyol remain in fourth spot, a point behind Real Madrid after their 1-1 draw at Athletic Bilbao. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore beat Indonesia to win Tiger Cup title

SINGAPORE, 17 Jan— Singapore won its second Tiger Cup soccer title here on Sunday, beating Indonesia 2-1 in the second leg for a 5-2 aggregate victory in Southeast Asia's premier soccer tournament.

Indra Sahdan Daud's strike in the sixth minute and Agu Casimir's 40th-minute penalty ensured Singapore to win the trophy as Indonesia, also runner-up in 2002 and 2000, lost last week's first leg 3-1 in Jakarta.

The visitors, who scored 17 goals through the group stages, had a second-half consolation strike from Eli Aiboy in the 75th minute.

"We went into the game with the intentions of scoring. It is a great result for Singapore, but we have worked hard to keep up with the rest of Asia," said Singapore's coach Radojko Avramovic of Serbia-Montenegro.

Indonesia's coach, former Aston Villa and England player Peter Withe, said his

team was exhausted after a long season and blamed crucial errors for its defeat.

"We made crucial mistakes in both games and they cost us dear. The fact that the player of the tournament was the Singapore (goalkeeper) speaks volumes about their defence," said Withe. It was Singapore's second victory in the Tiger Cup, a biannual tournament which has been played since 1996, after they also won in 1998.

Malaysia finished third, beating Myanmar 2-1 in Saturday's play-off.

The fair play trophy went to Malaysia, while Singapore goalkeeper Lewis was declared player of the tournament.

MNA/Xinhua

Everton claim 1-1 draw at Middlesbrough

LONDON, 17 Jan— Duncan Ferguson stepped off the bench to spark an Everton revival as they claimed a 1-1 draw at Middlesbrough in the Premier League on Sunday.

The rugged former Scotland striker entered the fray after 74 minutes with his side trailing 1-0 to their rivals for a Champions League spot, and within two minutes set up Tim Cahill's equalizer with a headed pass.

Minutes later he was at the centre of an ugly goalmouth flare-up after he caught Mark Schwarzer

on the head after lunging for the ball following a fumble by the 'Boro keeper.

Fourth-placed Everton, who sold midfielder Thomas Gravesen to Real Madrid in the week, thoroughly deserved their point after they had fallen behind to a superb Boudewijn Zenden finish from an acute angle after 26 minutes.

James Beattie, still to score for Everton since joining from Southampton, almost equalized when he dribbled a shot against the base of the post after another mistake by Schwarzer.

Everton have 44 points, 14 behind runaway leaders Chelsea who extended their advantage to 10 points on Saturday with a 2-0 victory at Tottenham Hotspur while second-placed Arsenal slipped to a 1-0 defeat at Bolton Wanderers.

Boro remain in sixth place on 36 points, one behind Liverpool who were beaten 1-0 by Manchester United on Saturday.

In Sunday's late kickoff bottom club West Bromwich Albion suffered a shattering 1-0 defeat at Fulham, for whom Papa Bouba Diop headed a stoppage time winner. — MNA/Reuters



Daniel Gonzalez of Chile's Everton (L) jumps for the ball with Alex Alves of Brazilian soccer team Botafogo during a friendly match in Vina del Mar, January 14, 2005. Everton won the match 1-0. —INTERNET

AC Milan beat Udinese 3-1

ROME, 17 Jan— Italian champions AC Milan kept the pressure on Serie A leaders Juventus when they came from behind to beat third-placed Udinese 3-1 at the San Siro stadium on Sunday.

The result gave Milan 42 points from 19 games, one behind Juve who play away at Cagliari in a later match.

Lazio suffered their first defeat under recently appointed coach Giuseppe Papadopulo when they lost 3-1 at home to Palermo, who moved up to fifth in the division on 28 points.

Palermo's victory was bad news for Roma, who are also chasing a European place. They had to rely on a brace by leading Serie A scorer Vincenzo Montella to claw back a two-goal deficit in a 2-2 draw with lowly Chievo Verona.

Even with home advantage and the return of Dutch defender Jaap Stam from injury, Milan expected a scrap against Udinese, who were the only team to beat them at the San Siro last season.

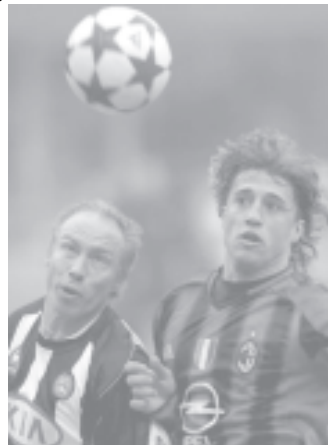
Another upset seemed on the cards as early as the ninth minute when Antonio Di Natale unleashed a long-range shot that flew into the top corner of Dida's goal.

By the half-hour mark Udinese looked to have established control of the match but a defence-splitting pass by Brazilian midfielder Kaka allowed European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko to stab in a surprise equalizer.

Milan looked more composed after the break. But they had Udinese midfielder Marek Jankulovski to thank for their 53rd-minute lead. His attempt at a headed clearance ended up in his own net.

Milan began to dominate and striker Jon Dahl Tomasson had already missed a sitter before Kaka dribbled through the defence to add a third a minute before the end.

On paper Roma's match against



AC Milan's Herman Crespo (R) fights for the ball with Roberto Nestor Sensini of Udinese during their Serie A match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, January 16, 2005. AC Milan won 3-1. —INTERNET

Chievo looked like a mismatch. Chievo were sinking in Serie A after suffering three consecutive defeats, while Roma — led by former Chievo coach Luigi del Neri — were targeting their fourth win in five.

Chievo quickly tore up the formbook, striker Sergio Pellissier chesting down Roberto Baronio's long ball to fire past goalie Ivan Pelizzoli after 15 minutes.

Chievo's second, five minutes later, was the result of hesitancy at the back as Roma's back four gave Simone Tiribocchi time and space to lash Pellissier's cross into the net.

Chievo's failure to make it 3-0 on the half hour, when Pellissier rounded Pelizzoli but missed the target from a tight angle signalled the start of Roma's fightback. — MNA/Reuters

Eto'o gives Barca 1-0 win over Real Sociedad

MADRID, 17 Jan— Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o atoned for missing an early penalty by grabbing a late winner to give his side an agonizing 1-0 win over 10-man Real Sociedad at the Nou Camp on Sunday.

The Cameroon international fired in a difficult header after Mexican midfielder Rafael Marquez had flicked on a corner nine minutes from time, but if it had not been for some fantastic goalkeeping from Victor Valdes the Catalans would not have hung on for the win. Real Madrid also had to dig deep to come from a goal down to win 3-1 at home to 10-man Real Zaragoza in Sunday's late match.

The results meant that Barcelona preserved their seven-point lead over Real in the standings at the half-way point in the season.

Barca have 45 points from 19 games, Real have 38 and Valencia, who were held to a 0-0 draw at Osasuna, are two behind on 36.

Valencia gave a subdued performance in a match overshadowed by the news of the sudden death of the young daughter of Valencia defender Marco Caneira shortly before the kickoff.

Zaragoza stunned the home fans at the Bernabeu when striker David Villa put them ahead with a brilliant virtuoso goal midway through the first half.

But Real equalized three minutes before the break when Raul scooped the

ball over the keeper after Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo had combined to slice open the Zaragoza defence.

Zaragoza suffered a double setback at the start of the second half, losing centre-back Alvaro after he picked up a needless second booking for a foul on the halfway line and then going 2-1 down when Ronaldo headed in at the far post after a Luis Figo shot fell into his path.

The visitors were left seething, however, because Figo had appeared to receive the ball in an offside position and they were then denied a penalty after defender Michel Salgado had hauled Villa down in the area.

But they had nothing to complain when substitute Michael Owen completed the Real victory with a fine strike five minutes from time, the England striker threading a shot between two defenders, out of reach of the keeper and inside the far post.

Barcelona, who suffered only their second defeat of the season when they went down at Villarreal last week, were gifted a great chance to take the lead when they were awarded a dubious penalty in the fourth minute after midfielder Andres Iniesta went down in the area. — MNA/Reuters

Kuwait takes security measures to protect all vital establishments

KUWAIT CITY, 17 Jan — Kuwait has taken security measures to protect all vital establishments throughout the country, Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Sunday.

Kuwait News Agency quoted the minister as saying the measures were being taken to protect vital national facilities and establishments, including those related to the oil industry, from any contemplated attacks by terrorists.

He said his ministry was coordinating these security measures with Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior and the National Guards.

Oil installations, he assured, were being heavily guarded, adding that heads of oil-related companies were sent official written notices by the

Ministry of Energy urging them to take extra care in dispensing their business at all oil facilities in the country.

Sheikh Ahmad emphasized that terrorists would be dealt with decisively by security forces with the assistance of members of the society who spurn extremism and militarism. One sure way to combat terrorism, he indicated, was to guide the youth in the society to shun acts of terror and to realize that terrorism was not an appropriate option to air one's grievances.

MNA/Xinhua

Syria highlights UN's role in Iraq

DAMASCUS, 17 Jan — Syria affirmed on Sunday the necessity for the United Nations to assume an active role in Iraq, the official SANA news agency reported.

The UN should help to meet the Iraqi people's aspirations for independence, freedom and for managing their own affairs, said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara during talks with visiting UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Iraq Ashraf Qazi.

Shara expressed the hope that the forthcoming elections, scheduled at the end of this month, would be held with a full Iraqi participation, SANA said.

He stressed Syria's efforts to make the elections a success, noting its positive stance towards the UN role in the elections. — MNA/Xinhua

Wildlife in Sri Lanka's biggest national park survived by "sixth sense"

COLOMBO, 17 Jan — Wildlife in Sri Lanka's biggest national park survived last month's tsunami, but it was probably keen senses and the lay of the land rather than any mysterious instinct for danger that enabled animals to scamper to safety.

The fact that wardens found no dead animals prompted theories that a "sixth sense" alerted elephants, leopards and deer to the impending disaster.

As Yala reopened to visitors this week, officials and naturalists said there was evidence that wildlife fled before the giant waves thundered ashore on December 26. But it was acute natural senses such as hearing that helped give animals time to flee, experts say.

The beasts also stood a chance because relatively few of them lived in the arid strip of salt flat and sand dune that forms part of Yala's southern boundary as it slopes into the sea. The dunes, reefs and mangroves may also have helped blunt the impact.

"I have been cruising around the park for a few days now and I have not even seen one carcass, not even one of a water buffalo," Daya Kariyawasam, director-general of wildlife and conservation, told Reuters on Saturday. "All the animals

appear to have fled before the tsunami struck," he added.

The belief that animals have a sixth sense for danger is an ancient one, but experts say it has never been proved.

Although that theory is likely to gain credence as a result of what happened at Yala, some naturalists believe there may be a more scientific explanation.

Naturalist Gehan de Silva Wijeratne, CEO of tour company Jetwing Eco Holidays, said an acute sense of hearing would have warned animals of the tsunami's approach. "It would have given them that crucial few seconds," he said.

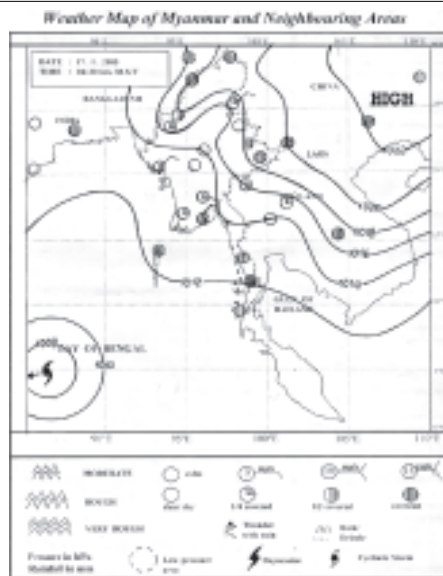
Many animals are able to detect ground vibrations imperceptible to humans. — MNA/Reuters

Over 200 tons of drugs seized in Iran since last March

TEHERAN, 17 Jan — Anti-drug police have nabbed over 200 tons of illicit drugs throughout Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2004), the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

IRNA quoted Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iranian police chief, as saying that more security measures were being enforced by anti-drug police in eastern parts of the country compared to those in previous years. "Organized crimes committed in Iran are fewer than those in other states, but the latest development should be taken as a warning to all," Qalibaf said.

Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, a country sitting in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 17 January, 2005

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

Maximum temperature on 16-1-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 17-1-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-1-2005 was 87%. Total sunshine hours on 16-1-2005 was (7.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 18-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Northeast at (10:25) hours MST on 16-1-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the depression over the Southeast Bay has practically remained stationary and centred at about (450) miles Southeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka. It is forecast to move West-Southwest wards slowly. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-1-2005: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State and weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of Night temperatures are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-1-2005: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-1-2005:** Fair weather.



Tuesday, 18 January

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Promises
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: - Never far away
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -With you
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Did you really love me
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Let it be me -Don't cry Joni -Will you still love me -Beautiful boy
- 9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level-II Unit (17)
- 9:15 pm Article/music
- 9:25 pm Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm Music for your listening pleasure -Gina -Memories and Souvenirs
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar	8:30 am 9. International news	6:30 pm 10. Evening news
	8:45 am 10. Let's Go	7:00 pm 11. Weather report
	4:00 pm 1. Martial song	7:05 pm 12. Myanmar ICT Week ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်အစဉ်
	4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit	7:15 pm 13. မြန်မာ့စာပေ၊ မြန်မာ့ကဏ္ဍ
	4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use	7:30 pm 14. ငယ်စဉ်အခါပညာစာအုပ်
	4:45 pm 4. Musical programme	7:45 pm 15. ဓမ္မဝိညာဉ်မြှုပ်နှံရေးအဖွဲ့ ရိုးသား၊ ဓမ္မဝိညာဉ် (ရှင်မြတ်)၊ ဂုဏ်ထူး ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်စိန် (သုတ္တံတော်)
	5:00 pm 5. အစေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်ကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)	7:50 pm 16. The mirror images of musical oldies
	5:15 pm 6. Dance of national races	8:00 pm 17. News
	5:30 pm 7. ဗမာ့အားဆင်စားဇာတ်တင်	8:00 pm 18. International news
	5:45 pm 8. Sing and Enjoy	8:00 pm 19. Weather report
	6:15 pm 9. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတို့ "ဗျာက်စင်းဂွန့်နွန်း" (အပိုင်း-၆၀)	8:00 pm 20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတို့ "သင်္ဘောပျံချီသူ" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)
		8:00 pm 21. The next day's programme



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets officials, members of USDA and local people in Lahe, Sagaing Division. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials, social organizations, townseiders in Lahe Township

YANGON, 17 Jan—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party, on 15 January morning, attended the Naga New Year Festival held at the Naga Yoya Sport Grounds in Lahe Township, Hkamti District and presented gifts to leaders of Naga national races.

At 12.30 pm, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party met with departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and townseiders at the office of Lahe Township Peace and Development Council and held a discussion on regional development.

First, the Chairmen of Lahe Township Peace

and Development Council and Leshi Township Peace and Development Council and the Secretary of Nanyun Township USDA reported on cultivation of paddy and winter crops, self-sufficiency in rice, progress of work in cultivation of tea and coffee, land reclamation, education and health sectors.

Next, Chairman of Hkamti Township Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Tin reported on work being carried out for regional development and requirements to be fulfilled to Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

Later, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on other salient points.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs. He said that Hkamti-Lahe road is being upgraded and bridges along the road are being built and upgraded with the aim of bringing about better transport in the region. Meanwhile, relentless efforts are to be made for construction of village-to-village roads in Lahe and Nanyun Townships.

Local authorities are to provide necessary assistance for cultivation of high yield paddy and for transforming the slash and burn farming into the high-land farming. Efforts are to be made for cultivation of rubber in the areas where it can grow well along with perennial crops. In this process, virgin and fallow lands are to be reclaimed. Thus, emphasis is to be placed on agriculture, he added.

(See page 10)

Minister inspects irrigation of Kantin Bilin Dam in Minhla Township



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo checks water supply at Kanti Bilin Dam in Minhla Township, Bago (West) Division. — A&I

YANGON, 17 Jan—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials, on 15 January, inspected cultivation of summer paddy, thriving of gram plantations and irrigation facilities under construction at the irrigated area of Kantin Bilin Dam in Minhla Township, Bago (West) Division.

The minister first inspected irrigation of the *(See page 10)*

Military band contest goes on

YANGON, 17 Jan — The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued at the People's Square here this morning.

Before the competition, bands of Kyimyindine Township BEHS No 1 and Latha Township BEHS No 2 performed their skill demonstration.

The bands representing the combat school (Bahtoo), the Yangon Command, the South-West Command, the No 99 LID, the No 11 LID and the No 33 LID participated in the contest.

Member of the committee for observance of the competition Deputy-Adjutant General Col Khin Soe presented cash awards to the bands of Kyimyindine Township BEHS No 1 and Latha Township BEHS No 2. — MNA



Military bands participating in 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest.—MNA