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Turkish Premier sends felicitations to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win

YANGON, 18 Jan— *The following is a message of felicitations from Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, to Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to sincerely congratulate Your Excellency on behalf of the government of Turkey and on my behalf.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your personal health and happiness as well as for the well-being of the people of Myanmar. —MNA

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation inspects No 11 Sugar Mill in Paukhaung Township

YANGON, 18 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and officials inspected No 11 Sugar Mill (Inngakhwa) in Paukhaung Township on 15 January.

The factory manager reported on cultivation of sugarcane and purchase, production of 6,833 tons of sugar and cultivation of 27,000 acres of sugarcane for the present year. The minister gave instructions on extending of sugarcane cultivation to boost sugar produc-

tion till exceeding the targets.

The minister inspected supply of raw materials and production process. The minister and party went to Pade Dam in Aunglan Township. Director of Construction-3 U Tun Aung Lwin reported on construction of the main dam, outlet conduit, spillway, irrigation system, canals, construction of 11 dams in the east of Magway and irrigated areas.

(See page 9)

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



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects the spillway of Pade Dam being constructed in Aunglan Township. — AGRI & IRR



Minister U Aung Thaung receives Managing Director Mr Kicheol Kim and party. — INDUSTRY-1

Minister for Industry-1 meets MD of M/S ACE Industry Inc of Korea

YANGON, 18 Jan — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met Managing Director Mr Kicheol Kim of M/S ACE Industry Inc of Korea and party at his office this morning.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises.—MNA

INSIDE

Now is therefore the most opportune time for the entire people to make combined endeavours with patriotism and nationalistic sentiment to put the nation on the path towards democracy.

(Page 7)

AUNG MOE SAN

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 19 January, 2005

Take an active part in national endeavours

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is implementing the border area development plan, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks for parallel development of all the regions across the Union. Transport plays a pivotal role in all regional development endeavours. Therefore, the government has given priority to transport and at the same time has been building other development infrastructures through effective use of terrestrial and aquatic resources.

In Kachin State, Dabat Chaung bridge, Bala Min Htin bridge, Nantmyithka bridge, Maliyan bridge, Namsanyan bridge, Moele bridge, Tanai bridge, Hopin bridge, Mogaung bridge, Monyin bridge and Kyuntaw bridge have been built to ensure easy and smooth transport in the region.

In the past, we could reach Myitkyina through the 350-mile long Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina road on the west bank of Ayeyawady or the 302-mile long Mandalay-Mogok-Momeik-Mabein-Mansi-Bhamo road and the 115-mile long Bhamo-Myitkyina road on the east bank. The newly-built Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina road is 375 miles long and Sinhkan bridge on it was opened on 13 January. The bridge is situated in Shwegu Township and it is the 12th major bridge in Kachin State and 178th in the whole nation constructed since 1988. It took nearly two years to finish the Sinhkan bridge.

The Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina road is the Union highway built along the east bank of the Ayeyawady, and it links the capital of Kachin State, the northernmost region in Myanmar, and Mandalay, the largest city in Central Myanmar.

In building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the government has laid down national plans and is systematically implementing them. The construction of roads and bridges and other infrastructures is aimed at the harmonious development of all regions in the Union and the government is laying foundations of a new nation by making lots of investment in basic infrastructures. At the same time, the government is essaying to translate the seven-point policy programme into success.

We believe that the entire national people will realize the good intentions of the government and take an active part in all the national endeavours being carried out by the government.

Opening of fresh water fish garden coordinated

YANGON, 18 Jan — A coordination meeting on opening of fresh water fish garden in Education Zone in Yangon City Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) was held in Kandawgyi fish garden this morning.

Present were Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Director-General of Fisher-

ies Department U Than Tun and officials.

The minister and party inspected display of rare fish, preparation of landscape, booth of land and aquatic animals with the help of audio sound system and construction of pet shops.

The minister explained maintenance of garden and establishment of systematic educative garden to officials. —MNA

People's Desire

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

Armed Forces Day commemorative professional level article contest to be held

YANGON, 18 Jan — In commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005, the Working Committee for organizing the competitions announced today to hold the professional level article contest in accord with the objectives of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005.

The faculty members from universities, colleges, institutes and basic education schools under the Ministry of Education can participate in the contest with the title, "New Century and the Tatmadaw".

Words of the article contest must be between 3,000 and 5,000.

The entrants are to submit their works together with admission of own creation, two (2.5" x 2") colour photos and the brief biography to Secretary of the Working Committee Director-General of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin, not later than 15 February.

Handsome prizes will be awarded to those who come first, second and third in the contest. — MNA

F & R Ministry continues work coord meeting

YANGON, 18 Feb — The Ministry of Finance and Revenue continued its first work coordination meeting (2005) for the second day at the ministry on Sethmu (1) Street in Yankin Township this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, departmental heads of the ministry, and officials.

The managers of Myanma Economic Bank branches of States and Divisions reported on the targets and work progress; and U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, on banking services. The minis-



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses the second day session of the meeting. MNA

ter delivered a concluding speech, stressing the importance of laying down future work programmes based on progress of work and implementation of the aims, and the weaknesses. All the departments and enterprises under the min-

istry are to carry out their functions thoroughly and effectively to contribute towards successful implementation of the State's objectives, he said. And the staff are to enhance their competence in carrying out work-class banking services. In con-

clusion, the minister called on officials from respective states and divisions to supervise the subordinates constantly so as to sharpen their competence and to convince them of the functions and objectives of the ministry. — MNA

Encephalogram donated to Mandalay Hospital

YANGON, 18 Jan — Under the sponsorship of the Australian Myanmar Association, Klinikum University in Erlangen, Germany, presented an encephalogram (EEG) and related equipment for Epilepsy Unit of Mandalay People's Hospital today.

Myanmar Ambassador in Berlin U Nyunt

Maung Shein, on behalf of the donors, explained the arrangements of the association to make the donation.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accepted the machine and related equipment.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials also attended the ceremony. MNA

Certified Public Accountant Course (Part 1) No 26 concludes

YANGON, 18 Jan — The Certified Public Accountant Course (Part 1) No 26 of Myanmar Accountancy Council concluded in conjunction with the ceremony to pay respects to course instructors at the training school of the Auditor-General's Office in Ahlon Township here at 2 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar Accountancy Council Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairperson of MAC Chairperson of Apprentice Accountants and

Course Supervisory Committee Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin and the Director-General of the Auditor-General's Office, the Deputy Directors-General and lecturers, and trainees.

Chairman of Myanmar Accountancy Council Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung made a speech on the occasion.

Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin also spoke on the occasion.

The course conclusion ceremony ended at 2.30 pm. — MNA



Myanmar ICT Week, 2005

Organized by

Myanmar ICT Development Corporation

21-27 January 2005

MICT Park

Yangon, Myanmar.

All this needs to be known

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

Bangladesh steps up preparations for SAARC Summit

DHAKA, 18 Jan— Preparations are in full swing for the 13th SAARC Summit here next month as the authorities stepped up vigil in capital Dhaka where a 'massive security net' will be thrown comprising thousands of security personnel.

Following the announcement of 6-7 February as the summit's new dates, Foreign Ministry advisor and Chief National Coordinator of the Summit Reaz Rahman presented member envoys here with a detailed draft of the two-day summit's new programme.

All envoys attended the meeting except that of the Maldives, which does not have a high commissioner here.

"With one day curtailed from the usual 3-day summit, we're working hard to fit all the substantial programmes in the squeezed schedule of two days," Rahman told reporters.

The envoys will send Dhaka's proposed draft of the summit programme to their respective capitals, whose responses are expected by Tuesday, *The Daily Star* reported.

Rahman said all preparations are in full swing with a 'massive security net' for the summit already underway and the 10 sub-committees of the SAARC summit preparation cells restarting their stalled preparations. Twelve thousand security personnel will be deployed around the capital during the summit, he said.

Leaders of the SAARC countries are scheduled to arrive from 5 February with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the first to touch down in Dhaka, said Zahirul Haque, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Rahman suggested that the SAARC cultural programme, originally scheduled to be held around the summit dates, is uncertain due to the sombre tone of the summit following the devastation of three member states by the tsunami. *MNA/AP*



Singapore based electronics manufacturer Flextronics' factory in Sarvar, some 200 kilometers west of Budapest.

INTERNET

Macao proves success of China's "one country, two systems"

MACAO, 17 Jan — "Macao has been successfully governed by Macao people, which is a proof of the success of the China's 'one country, two systems' principle," said visiting Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio here on Sunday.

Sampaio arrived in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Sunday afternoon, kicking off his two-day visit here. He met with Chief Executive of the Macao SAR Edmund Ho Hau Wah in the evening. Sampaio told Ho that he was glad to see the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration and the Basic Law of the Macao SAR being fully implemented in Macao over the past five years.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Philippine economy likely to grow 6.2% in 2004

MANILA, 18 Jan— The Philippine economy is likely to grow 6.2 per cent in 2004, higher than the official target, a senior government official said Monday.

"Full-year growth for 2004 may be about 6.2 per cent. It is our emerging estimate," Philippine Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri told reporters.

The official economic growth projection was raised to 6.1 per cent after a robust first nine months from the initial government target of gross domestic product (GDP) growth between 4.9 and 5.8 per cent.

Despite the forecasts of most analysts for growth slowdown this year the

economy should be on pace for a 6.3-per-cent expansion, Neri said. The government will officially release the 2004 figures on 31 January.

The Philippine economy growth reached 6.5-per-cent in the first nine months in 2004 after a robust economic performance in the third quarter in 2004 due to favourable weather that boosted farm output and consumers spending more on mobile telephones.

MNA/Xinhua

Kobe marks 10th anniversary of its deadly earthquake

KOBE (Japan), 18 Jan— In solemn pre-dawn ceremonies on Monday, residents of the Japanese city of Kobe marked the 10th anniversary of an earthquake that killed more than 6,000 people, and reached out to victims of last month's Asian tsunami.

Thousands gathered to light nearly 6,500 candles in memory of the dead and to stand for a moment of silence in the chill darkness of a rainy winter morning.

Huddled under umbrellas, people bowed their heads, some struggling to hold back tears, at 5:46 am, the moment the 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck western Japan on 17 January, 1995,

killing 6,433 people, forcing more than 300,000 to take refuge, and destroying homes, factories, roads and railways.

In Kobe, houses collapsed and fires burned for days in parts of the city. Some areas were described after the quake as resembling the aftermath of the Hiroshima atomic bombing.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to restructure state farms more vigorously

HANOI, 18 Jan— Vietnam will this year equitize and dissolve a large number of its state-owned agriculture and forestry farms which are facing huge losses, according to local newspaper *Pioneer* on Monday.

Some 15 per cent of farms nationwide which have been loss-making for three straight years will be dissolved. Other farms which are operating ineffectively are to undergo equitization this year.

To facilitate the development of the farm economy, Vietnam will perfect policies on farm development, and build rural markets as well as centres for trading and exchanging farm products.

According to Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, a state farm, on average, generates revenue of only 10 million Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 637 US dollars) per hectare of land. State farms now manage 6 million hectares of land with a work-force of 200,000.

Farmers in the Central Highlands, the Mekong Delta and the northern mountainous region mainly grow such perennial plants as coffee, rubber and fruit trees, accounting for 26 per cent of farm acreage.

Vietnam now has more than 71,900 farms of various kinds, both state-owned and private. They made total revenues of 7 trillion VND (445.8 million dollars) in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills 10 in Iraq; eight Iraqi soldiers shot

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan— Guerillas bent on sabotaging Iraq's 30 Jan elections unleashed mortars and bombs in several cities Monday, killing at least 18 policemen and soldiers and targeting polling stations.

Witnesses said burned bodies were scattered in a police compound in Baiji after a car bomb killed at least 10 people in the oil refining town in the Sunni Muslim heartland north of Baghdad. At least 20 people were wounded, mostly police.

Near Baquba, another guerilla stronghold northeast of the capital, gunmen opened fire at a checkpoint and killed eight soldiers, a National Guard officer said.

Polling stations came under fire in two other

cities. A security guard was killed and guerillas also engaged US troops protecting a school designated for voting.

A statement from followers of al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the most wanted man in Iraq, said they had carried out an attack in Baquba and issued a new warning to Iraqi security forces, who are struggling to protect themselves.

Clashes erupted in the southern town of Musayib after guerillas fired on a polling station. One guard

was killed and two wounded. One guerilla was also wounded, police said.

Iraqi security forces have borne the brunt of guerilla attacks as the polls approach. Election officials have also been repeatedly attacked and voting centres have been hit.

Police in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, said mortars were fired overnight at three schools in the city that will be used as voting centres.

Internet



Iraqi women react as they view the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 18 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET



A Chinese boy runs across a frozen river in Shanghai county, Henan Province in central China, on 15 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

ဂက်မူဝှမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Gulf petrochemical investment to reach \$40b by 2010

KUWAIT CITY, 18 Jan— Investment in the petrochemical sector in the Gulf region is expected to reach 10 billion US dollars by 2010, the official KUNA news agency reported on Sunday.

Rapid growth in the Asian market contributed most to the trend, the agency quoted a Kuwaiti Industries Union report as saying.

According to industrial assessments, polyethylene production in the Mideast region will reach 18 million tons by 2010, about 15 per cent of the world's capacity.

The report said Kuwaiti companies should exploit untapped opportunities by developing production capacity. Joint projects should be established with international corporations to take advantage of modern technology.

It stressed the necessity of establishing a joint Gulf market and exchanging expertise,

research and studies between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and developed countries to promote the petrochemical industry.

It also underlined the importance of studying the global market and encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises to improve product quality.—MNA/Xinhua

Port Blair shifts 1.15 metres away from India

PORT BLAIR, 18 Jan— Andaman and Nicobar capital Port Blair had shifted by over one metre towards the south-eastern direction after the killer earthquake of 26 December, 2004, a preliminary survey data has revealed.

A team of surveyors from the survey of India compiling scientific readings from across India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean has discovered that their Port Blair control point had shifted towards the south-eastern side by 1.15 metre from its earlier position.

"The sea has also recorded a not-so-significant drop of 25 centimetres from its earlier level at the Port Blair control point which leads us to infer that there could be some subsidence also," Surveyor-General of India Prithvis Nag told *PTI*.

A seven-member team of the survey body studying the latitude, longitude and height at 20 of its control points in all islands would compile the final data to be released at an international conference on disaster management on 21 January, he said.

In a sign that maps may require to be redrawn, Nag said "the longitude and latitude of these islands will have to be redefined after the final data emerges and after studying the surface topography we will indicate the need for new maps for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands,"

MNA/PTI

Bangladesh's export marks 15% growth in July-November

DHAKA, 18 Jan— Export earnings of Bangladesh amounted to 3.4 billion US dollars in five months of the current fiscal (July, 2004 — June, 2005), posting a 15.3 per cent growth over last fiscal.

However, the earnings marginally missed the July-November target as summer flood and heavy rain have taken a toll on export figures, especially in November, 2004, the *New Age* reported Sunday.

November's performance was about 1 per cent lower compared to the previous years and 12 per cent less than the target set for the month.

Bangladesh fetched 553 million dollars export earnings in November against the target of 629.6 million dollars.

The latest statistics of the official Export Promotion Bureau shows that ready made garment sector accounted for 78 per cent or 2.7 billion dollars of the total export earnings of July-November period.

Though knit wear

sector achieved a stronger-than-expected growth exceeding its target by 16.7 per cent performance of woven sector was poor in November, leading to a 1.9 per cent shortfall in the five-month target.

Export earnings from frozen food, raw jute and jute goods, bicycle and textile fabrics continued to decline throughout the July-November period

and lagged behind last year's performance.

Earnings from frozen foods amounted to 113.8 million dollars during the period, down by 36.7 per cent from July-November earnings of the previous fiscal.

Raw jute and jute goods exports fetched 35.7 million, registering a 30 per cent negative growth over the previous fiscal.

MNA/Xinhua

S China launches water diversion programme to fight salt tide

GUANGZHOU, 18 Jan— An emergency water diversion scheme designed to combat the salt tide that has been threatening fresh water supply in the Pearl River Delta in south China started operation on Monday morning.

"The Tianshengqiao Reservoir in southwestern Guizhou Province on the Xijiang River, a tributary of the Pearl River, began to discharge water downstream at 8 a.m. Monday morning at a

speed not lower than 560 cubic metres per second, unveiling the largest water diversion programme in the river valley, which runs more than 1,300 kilometres from southwest to south China," said Wang Qiusheng, deputy director of the Pearl River Water Resources Committee.

In accordance with the emergency programme, the Yantan Reservoir in the Guangxi Zhuang

Autonomous Region, also on the Xijiang River, will discharge water at a speed of 1,930 cubic metres per second from January 24 through to January 31, while the Feilaixia Reservoir on the upper reaches of the Beiji River, another tributary of the Pearl River, will discharge water at a speed not lower than 250 cubic metres per second from 28 January

through to 3 February, Wang said.

"In this way, a new flood peak can be formed with a speed of 2,500 cubic metres per second on the main stream of the Pearl River so as to delay salt tide from going upstream and to rein in the salt tide from expanding further extensively between 31 January and 4 February," said Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

Mass resignations before Iraq vote

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan — US and Iraqi officials are scrambling to recruit new police and election workers in Mosul after thousands of them resigned in the face of rebel intimidation. A new police chief was appointed a week ago to command a force of barely 1,000 police. Last November the city had 5,000 police.

Similar mass resignations are believed to have occurred in other Sunni Muslim areas of northern, central and western Iraq.

US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz acknowledged that the security threat to the 30 January election was worse than in last October's nationwide balloting in Afghanistan and that it was impossible to guarantee "absolute security" against the "extraordinary intimidation that the enemy is undertaking".

The Mosul area has emerged as a major flashpoint between US and Iraqi forces and the guerillas, raising fears that the election cannot be held in much of the city, Iraq's third largest.

In the Mosul area, the US Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team detained

11 suspected guerillas, including an alleged cell leader, and seized weapons and bomb making material in several weekend raids — part of the military's strategy to try to secure the city short of launching an all-out offensive, a military spokesman said Sunday.

East of Mosul, a Katyusha rocket slammed into a home near the Kurdish regional parliament building in Irbil where leaders of the two main Kurdish parties were meeting to discuss the election, a police official said Sunday.

In Baghdad, gunmen in police uniform on Sunday ambushed a car carrying a prominent female Shiite candidate in this month's general election, but she escaped injury when her bodyguards returned fire, one of her aides said.

Internet



British soldiers patrol a street in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 18 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Zhejiang Province ranks first in 2004 trade surplus

HANGZHOU, 18 Jan — Zhejiang Province, an economic engine and a traditional trade surplus source in east China, has continued to rank first in the nation in trade surplus for three consecutive years.

According to latest figures provided by the provincial foreign trade authorities, last year Zhejiang chalked up 85.2 billion US dollars in foreign trade, a growth of 38.8 percent over the previous year.

The total included 58.2 billion US dollars in export and 27 billion US dollars in import, up 39.8 per cent and 36.6 per cent respectively. The trade surplus amounted to 30 billion US dollars.

The province led the nation in trade surplus for the first time in 2002, when its export value outdid the import value by 17.9 billion US dollars.

A traditional textiles exporter, Zhejiang has made progress in optimizing its export, the provincial foreign trade authorities said.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, India have great potential for economic cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Jan — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said abundant opportunities await Malaysian and Indian businessmen as current trade and investment figures between both countries are still low.

Although Malaysia-India bilateral trade was projected to exceed 4.5 billion US dollars in 2004, Malaysia's total exports to India represented only 3.4 per cent of India's total imports, Abdullah said in a written speech at the opening of the Malaysia-India Economic Conference 2005 here Monday.

At the same time, imports from India only accounted for 0.8 per cent of Malaysia's total imports, according to the speech, which was read by Second Finance Minister Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

"Additionally, as far as foreign direct investment (FDI) is concerned, only 3 per cent of India's total FDI is from Malaysia and similarly, only 1 per cent of total FDI in Malaysia is from India," said Abdullah.

Noting that the process to tap this potential had begun with the existence of Indian companies and Indian-Malaysian joint venture companies in Malay-

sia, he said many more steps should be undertaken.

These opportunities could be in manufacturing, education, information communications technology, agriculture and agro-based industry, biotechnology, tourism and financial services, he added.

During the period of January-November 2004, total trade between Malaysia and India amounted to 3.89 billion US dollars.

Bilateral trade grew by almost seven fold from 410.52 million US dollars in 1993 to 3.21 billion US dollars in 2003.

Malaysian investments in India from 1997 to September 2004 amounted to 113.15 million US dollars, mainly in construction, palm oil plantation, software production, telecommunication equipment and electrical apparatus for medical use.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese soldiers beat drums during a ceremony at their camp in Samawa, on 16 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Chinese Premier meets Andorra PM

BEIJING, 18 Jan — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here Monday with visiting Prime Minister Marc Forne Molne of the Principality of Andorra.

Wen said the relations between China and Andorra have developed smoothly since the two countries forged diplomatic ties a decade ago, and their cooperation on trade, tourism and other fields has expanded.

The two countries have also maintained cooperation in international organizations including the United Nations, Wen said, adding he appreciates Andorra's adherence to the one-China policy.

He stressed that China

holds all nations, big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak, are equal members of the international community, adding that China and Andorra have consensus on promoting multipolarization, the UN's leading role and cultural diversity. "We would like to enhance cooperation with Andorra based on the UN Charter and the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence," he said.

Wen said he hoped China and Andorra would enhance mutual political

support and strengthen cooperation in the fields of tourism, trade, service and culture. Marc Forne Molne said Andorra attaches importance to its relations with China, and will continue to adhere to the one-China policy.

The agreement on taking Andorra as Chinese tourists' destination will help personnel exchanges and trade cooperation between the two countries, and Andorra would like to further cooperation with China, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Poland pledge closer multi-faceted ties

HANOI, 18 Jan — Vietnam always treasures the traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation relations with Poland, hoping their economic ties will further develop in the coming time, Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said on Monday.

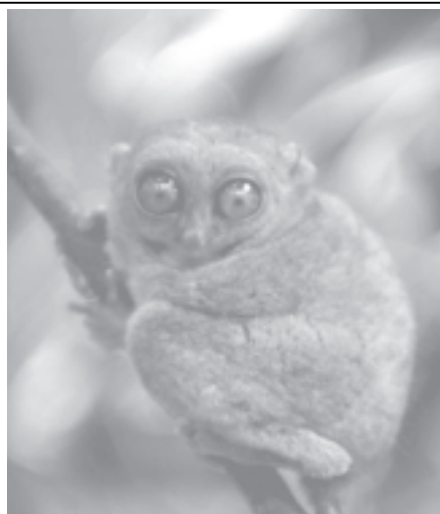
Khai made the statement when holding talks with his Polish counterpart Marek Belka who started his two-day official visit to Vietnam on Monday. Besides good political relations, Vietnam will beef up comprehensive cooperative ties with Poland, especially in the fields of economy and trade, Khai said, proposing that the two countries need to promote visits of high-ranking officials and strengthen exchanges of delegations from various sectors and people.

For his part, Belka said, Poland regards Vietnam as one of most important countries in Asia in its relation strategy with nations in the continent, and supports Vietnam in regional and international forums, including its efforts to join the World Trade Organization. Poland will beef up cooperation with Viet-

nam in many socio-economic fields, including import, export, shipbuilding, mining, electricity, agriculture, education, training, tourism, science and defence, he said, not-

ing that Poland will keep on offering Vietnam preferential loans for shipbuilding, construction of power plants and training of technical cadres.

MNA/Xinhua



A Tarsier stares out from inside its cage at a captive breeding centre in Loboc on Bohol island, in the central Philippines on 17 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Nearly 137,000 killed in accidents in China in 2004

BEIJING, 18 Jan — A total of 136,755 people were killed in traffic, work-related and other accidents in China last year, said a senior official with the State Administration of Work Safety here Monday.

The death toll, however, marked a 0.23-per-cent decrease, or 315 fewer fatalities, compared to 2003, said Liang Jiakun, Deputy Director of the administration at a Press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council, China's Cabinet. China reported a total of 803,571 accidents of various kinds last year, down 16.22 per cent year-on-year.

Road accidents claimed 107,077 fatalities, up 1.78 per cent, or 1,875

more deaths compared to 2003, according to Liang.

During the period, China reported four civil aviation accidents, causing 61 fatalities, while in 2003, there was only one civil aviation accident with no deaths.

"During the fourth quarter of last year, devastating accidents occurred one after another," said Liang. "We have been busily investigating these accidents." —MNA/Xinhua

UK warns against all travel to Iraq

LONDON, 17 Jan — The British government on Monday warned its citizens against all travel to Baghdad and five adjacent provinces amid increased security concerns in the run-up to the 30 January elections in the country.

"We advise against all travel to Baghdad and the adjacent provinces of Anbar, Salaheddin, Diyala, Wasit and Babil. We advise all but essential travel to all other parts of Iraq," the British Foreign Office said in a statement on its website.

"We urge all British nationals in Iraq to

consider whether their presence in Iraq is essential at this time. Even essential travel to Iraq should be delayed, if possible," the statement said.

"The security situation is dangerous. There continue to be widespread outbreaks of violence and kidnappings of foreign

nationals," the statement added. "The threat to British nationals remains high."

It also stressed that "there is likely to be an increase in the number of attacks in the period before and during elections, due to be held on 30 January."

Internet

China issues new regulation on petitions

BEIJING, 18 Jan — China publicized a revised regulation on petitions Monday, aiming to strengthen protection of petitioners' legitimate rights. The revised regulation will take effect as of 1 May.

The State Council, China's Cabinet, promulgated a regulation on petitions as early as in 1995. But as the reform deepened and society underwent a transition, new problems that emerged during the past ten years required the regulation on petitions be revised.

In an interview with *Xinhua*, officials of the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council and the State Bureau for Letters and Calls on Monday acknowledged that problems exist in the current work of handling petitions, such as inadequate channels, lack of supervision, and officials whose malpractice led to petitions escaping responsibility.

To guarantee the citizens' legitimate right to make petitions, the revised regulation stipulates in the chapter of general principle that "No organization or individual is allowed to retaliate petitioners; the offender will be held to account for his deed."

The regulation also stipulates that governments at all levels should publicize the address, email address and phone number of their petitions organizations and arrange leading government officials to receive petitioners face to face regularly.

Zhou Zhanshun, former director of the State Bureau for Letters and Calls once said more than 80 per cent petitions in

China were reasonable and more than 80 per cent of them could be solved by local governments but they failed to do so.

To ensure grassroots petitions be solved at local levels and avoid petitioners coming to Beijing to pour their grievances, the revised regulation demands a transparent petitions handling system be set up.

The regulation says petitions offices at all levels should make full use of the governmental affairs information networks, which link the central government and local governments, to allow citizens raising petitions and seeking results of their petitions at network terminals. — *MNA/Xinhua*

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေလွင်၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင်



Malaysian singers (L-R) Siti Nurhaliza, Dayang Nurfaizah, Ning Baizura and Syafinaz performs at Malaysia Palace of Culture 'Istana Budaya' in Kuala Lumpur, on 17 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Beijing signs sister-city agreement with Madrid

BEIJING, 18 Jan—The mayor of Beijing signed an agreement to become a sister-city with Madrid with visiting President of the Autonomous Region of Madrid in Spain here Monday.

Wang Qishan and Secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Liu Qi held a meeting with Esperanza Aguirre before signing the agreement.

Liu, also member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said during the meeting that Beijing and Madrid are both well-known historical cities, which have the same task to promote economic development and urban construction.

Wang said both sides have frequent exchanges and communications in recent years.

The signing of the agreement will enhance and deepen the friendly relationship between Beijing and Madrid. Aguirre said Madrid hopes to strengthen cooperation with Beijing in such fields as economy and trade, tourism and cultural exchanges. The Autonomous Region of Madrid is both capital of Spain and the biggest autonomous region in Spain.

MNA/Xinhua

Portugal, Guangdong, Macao Economic Cooperation Forum held

MACAO, 18 Jan—The Portugal, Guangdong, Macao Economic Cooperation Forum 2005 was held here on Monday, convening over 600 officials and business people from Portugal and China's Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

The forum, jointly organized by the Trade and Economic Promotion Institute of Portugal, the Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of Guangdong Province and the Trade and Investment Promotion Institute of Macao, was a new venue for promoting exchanges be-

tween Portuguese and Chinese enterprises through the platform of Macao. Some 320 business people from Portugal and China's Guangdong Province and Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions (SAR) engaged in 278 talks in the business-matching session during

the forum. The interested areas mainly covered the beverage, food, textile, chemical, tourist, high-tech, telecommunications, machinery and manufacturing industries.

Secretary of Economy and Finance of the Macao SAR government Francis Tam Pak Yuen said that Macao and Guangdong

held a joint trade fair in Portugal in October last year. The forum held in Macao this time could be considered a continuity of that fair.

Alvaro Barreto, Portugal's Economic Affairs Minister, said that the signing of the Mainland/Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement

in 2003 and Macao's membership status in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region have reinforced Macao's position as a trade platform for promoting China's foreign trade with Portugal and facilitating Portuguese investment to go into China's mainland.

MNA/Xinhua

Susilo orders reorganization of Bakornas PBP

JAKARTA, 18 Jan—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has ordered the reorganization of the National Coordinating Agency for disaster Relief and Refugees (Bakornas PBP) led by Vice President Jusuf Kalla, because it has been too slow in distributing aid, cleaning up debris and removing corpses, according to local media reports on Monday.

During a limited Cabinet meeting on Sunday, President Yudhoyono highlighted the poor coordination among state agencies involved in the Bakornas PBP. The Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Alwi Shihab was quoted as saying that Yudhoyono ordered the Cabinet members to identify the weak links in the chain of relief operation management

and to improve the organization of Bakornas in order to speed up humanitarian operations in Aceh. Yudhoyono also ordered Kalla to lead a technical Cabinet meeting to discuss the issue and present a plan for improved coordination and organization by Tuesday, in order to speed up distribution of aid, cleaning up debris and removing corpses.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing booms in industrial sector

BEIJING, 18 Jan—The added-value of Beijing's industrial businesses surged by 19.9 per cent year on year to reach 125.95 billion yuan (15.22 billion US dollars) last year, a local industrial official said Monday.

Cheng Lianyuan, director of the city industrial promotion bureau, said local post-tax industrial profits reached 26.67 billion yuan (3.22 billion US dollars) in the first 11 months last year, a year on year rise of 39.7 per cent.

The fixed assets investment in the industrial sector totalled 20.58 billion yuan (2.48 billion US dollars) last year, edging up by 53.7 per cent on a yearly basis. Beijing's industrial sector used 970 million US dollars in foreign funds, a year on year rise of 46.6 per cent and accounting for 35.4 per cent of the total foreign funds used in the city last year, Cheng told a meeting to sum up Beijing's industrial

development last year. Electronics information, auto industry, electro-mechanical and bio-medicine industries contribute 53.9 per cent of the city's total industrial growth.

Deputy Mayor Lu Hao said, Beijing will pay attention to developing more industrial products with independent intellectual property right, improving intensive management and developing energy-saving and water-saving industries.

Beijing has set it a target to achieve a year on year rise of 10 per cent in industrial value this year. Total industrial input will reach 28 billion yuan (3.38 billion US dollars) this year.

MNA/Xinhua



Walk at sunset; A couple (R) walks past as the sun sets on an iron Deer sculpture on their Sunday stroll in Boston gardens park in west London.—INTERNET

Make integrated efforts for speedy emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy

Aung Moe San

Unity, peace and stability bring good results to a human society, but in the absence of these characteristics, a human society will face a variety of social sufferings. On the basis of this point, the global countries are placing emphasis on national solidarity.

Being convinced well that today national reconsolidation is the most fundamental factor for restoration of peace and tranquillity and the flourishing of democracy in the nation, the present government has placed the top priority to national reconsolidation since it assumed the State duties. Only then, can peace and stability be restored well, and will the market-oriented economic system and democracy flourish in the nation, and then will the nation be able to catch up with international community. Visible are the 12 objectives, through which the Tatmadaw government is implementing the process step by step in the nation.

In the course of Myanmar's history, the nation was hit twice by the effects of the World War II during the conflict and afterwards. When it regained independence, however, there was disintegration of national solidarity instead of building up national reconsolidation, followed by armed conflicts among the national brethren. A careful analysis of the armed conflicts will clearly reveal how many lives of the national people and how much property were lost, and how much economic productive force had collapsed throughout the nation. The flame of armed conflicts, which led to the death of so many national brethren, could not be put out in the times of the previous governments.

However, the present government managed to make unprecedented progress in the drive for achieving national reconsolidation and equitable development of the nation including border areas. The border areas development project thoroughly covers Kachin Special Region (1), Kachin Special Region (2), Kokang Region, Wa Region, Shan Region, Kachin North-East Region, Palaung Region, Pa-O Region, Kayah Region, Mawpha Region, Kengtung Region, Mon Region, Kayin Region, Taninthayi Region, Rakhine Region, Chin Region, and Kabaw Valley Region and Naga Region in Sagaing Division, with a total area of 83,415.34 square miles.

The border areas development project is being put into motion in 68 townships of 18 regions in seven states and seven divisions, benefiting more than 5.3 million people or over 46 per cent of the population of all national races. These regions are the ones that really need to enjoy progress.

As a result, the disputes based on economic gap among national races could be settled. So far, 17 armed groups, which constantly rose against the previous governments, have returned to the legal fold and they are now participating actively in the

nation-building endeavours and regional development tasks, reflecting the unprecedented progress of the Union. Moreover, they are representing their regions at the ongoing National Convention together with the representatives of national races so as to conscientiously implement the bounden duties for emergence of the State Constitution.

The points of why the 17 armed groups of national races returned to the legal fold are as follows:

- (1) Realization of the government's genuine goodwill
- (2) The realizing of adverse effects of bloody armed conflicts on national brethren
- (3) Being firmly equipped with the spirit of the national solidarity and Union Spirit, with which only national races born in the Union have been living through thick and thin, and

The border areas development project is being put into motion in 68 townships of 18 regions in seven states and seven divisions, benefiting more than 5.3 million people or over 46 percent of the population of all national races. These regions are the ones that really need to enjoy progress.

- (4) The realizing of the dangers of alien instigations and interventions

The government is making sustained efforts for reconsolidation of the remaining aboveground and underground political parties.

The last paragraph of the book on national reconsolidation namely "The State that we love" compiled by Dr Kyaw Sein says: -

"Our State is a small one located in the south-east Asia and between two big nations, but has existed with own monarch and sovereignty for thousands of years. It is fertile and rich in national resources".

"The nation is constituted with hilly regions, plains and valley regions. However, the national brethren have been living in the nation for tens of thousands of years. Although it is home to many races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, we all Myanmar are descendants of Mongoloid, so we have similar mental and physical characteristics. We Myanmar have no hair of a pale golden colour nor blue eyes but black hair and brown eyes. We may live in hilly regions or plains, but we all are the ones born on the same land. Since yore, we have drunk water from the same source and lived on the same land, and we are also the ones who will be living and pass away on the same land. So, we have a bounden duty to collec-

tively safeguard and protect our motherland which we cherish. This duty is the real heritage handed down by our forefathers".

Now is therefore the most opportune time for the entire people to make combined endeavours with patriotism and nationalistic sentiment to put the nation on the path towards democracy. And it is high time the political parties, which are still away from the correct path towards national reconsolidation, took the lesson that the way, on which they are moving in accord with the wishes and advice of alien nations, is indeed a great hindrance to national reconsolidation. If they really want to serve the interests of the people, they are to discard the policy, with which they always point out the government's all activities with negative views, and they should approach things only with correct outlook.

The existing government's ultimate aim is to transform the nation to a democratic one through the seven-point Road Map.

First step — The National Convention, that has been adjourned since 1996, will be resumed. Now, the first session of the National Convention has been convened successfully and it will resume on 17 February 2005.

Second step — After the successful holding of the National Convention, the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system will be implemented step by step.

Third step — A new constitution will be drafted in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

Fourth step — The constitution will be adopted through national referendum.

Fifth step — Free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) will be held according to the new constitution.

Sixth step — Hluttaws will be convened with Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution, and

Seventh step — A modern, developed and democratic nation will be built by State leaders elected by the Hluttaw, and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

On the whole, I would like to urge the entire national people to make integrated efforts for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, while overcoming the dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements who are committing destructive acts and hampering the process of building up a democratic nation in line with the seven-point Road Map.

(Translation: MS)

Myanmar Alin, Kyemon: 17-1-2005

Theravada Missionary Course No 15 to be opened on 7 February

YANGON, 18 Jan—The Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana of the Ministry of Religious Affairs today announced that it will conduct the Theravada Missionary Course No 15 for members of the Sangha and the Health Care Services Course No 6 With Traditional Medicines from 7 February to 7 March 2005 under the supervision of member Sayadaws of the Theravada Missionary Ovadacariya of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The members of the Sangha who are shouldering missionary duties in border areas and hilly regions but have not completed the Theravada Missionary Course are to report to the Internal Missionary Division of the DPSS by 5 February to attend the course.

Interested members of the Sangha, Vasa 5 and above, who have passed Pahtamalatt examination, may contact the Internal Missionary Division for the missionary course.

MNA

Mayor meets Ambassador of Singapore

YANGON, 18 Jan — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin met Ambassador of Singapore Mr T Jasudasen at the former's office this

afternoon. Also present were Secretary of YCDC Col Myint Aung, Joint Secretary U Aung Soe, Member Col Tin Soe, heads of departments and officials.

MNA

Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 18 Jan—Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, has announced to hold the Poem Contest to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The contestants can portray objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, matters related to fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, historic events occurred in the periods of Konbaung Era (AD 1824), Independence Era (1948-1988) and the State Peace and Development Council, endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council in religious affairs, construction, peace negotiation and drug elimination sectors.

The entries will be scrutinized with three sectors—theme style, presentation and composing.

The poem contest will be divided into two categories.

Those who have won first, second or third prizes in the Poem Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Contest and the poem contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and National Literary Award winners may participate in the level-1 and those

who did not win the prizes may take part in the level-2.

Those who did not win the prizes can participate in the level-1. However, one contestant may take part in one level only, and the level number must be written on the entry. There will be two events at the level-1—the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event.

The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas. The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be accepted.

The poem must be written on one side of paper and the two copies of the entry must be submitted.

And, the entry must be attached with the name of the contestant, pen-name, names of parents, education, occupation and address together with three 2" x 2.5" size colour photos. The entry must be own creation and has not featured in any publication yet. The State has authority to use the prize-winning works.

The entries are to be sent to Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Naingngan Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 531, Merchant Street, here, Tel: 374532, not later than 31-1-2005.

MNA

International trade course opened

YANGON, 18 Jan — The international trade course No 4 conducted by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was opened at the UMFCCI training centre on Bo Sun Pat Street here this morning.

Adviser U Khin Maung Yee delivered a speech and Education Work Committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing explained facts about the course. A total of 60



trainees are attending the 10-day course.

Adviser U Khin Maung Yee gives a speech.

MNA

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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



Brig-Gen Myo Myint addresses the second coordination meeting of the work group for accommodation of the trainees of course No 36 of UDNR.

MNA

Itinerary of UDNR students discussed

YANGON, 18 Jan — Officials held its second meeting here today to discuss the itinerary of students from University for Development of National Races.

Commander of Camp Commandant's Office and No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint urged officials to look into every sector of the tour programme for the convenience of the students of the Course No 36 of UDNR. Brig-Gen Myo Myint is the chairman of Reception and Accommodation Work Group.

Secretary of the Work Group Maj Win Maung presented preparations for the itinerary.

Members of the work group, sub-work groups and officials submitted sector-wise accomplishments.

The work group chairman made arrangements for the officials concerned and members of the respective bodies to lay down a programme for the convenience of the students.

MNA

Officer inspects water supply projects

YANGON, 18 Jan — Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu of the Ministry for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs officials inspected the sinking of tube-well No 2 near Ponnagon Ward for supply of water to TadaOo on 13 January.

According to the water supply project, three eight-inch tube-wells will be sunk, and a 60,000-gallon lake and two 12,000-gallon water tanks and ten

ponds will be built, and around 200,000 gallons will be supplied a day for local people.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu also inspected the construction of district-to-district roads in Mandalay Division.

In addition, he inspected the construction of bridges and the gravel road in TadaU, Nahtogyi and Mahlaing Townships. Next, he looked into the underground water supply project in Meiktila. — MNA

HIV/AIDS Educative Billboard erected in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 18 Jan—A ceremony to put up on HIV/AIDS Educative Billboard and Poster sponsored by the Hlinethaya Township Anti-Narcotics Association was held in front of the Padethabin City on Yangon-Pathein Road in the township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (Central) U San Thein and CEC members, the Chairman of Hlinethaya Township Peace and Development

Council and members, the Chairman of the Township Anti-Narcotics Association and executives, the Secretary of the Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, the President of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and officials and others totalling over 500.

At the auspicious time, officials concerned formally opened the billboard.

MNA

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation inspects No 11 Sugar Mill in Paukkhaung Township...

(from page 1)
The minister called for early completion of the dam and inspected the site.
The Pade Dam will be opened soon and it will supply water to 6,400 acres of land.

The minister also inspected Bwetyi Dam and met members of Magway Division Agriculture Coordination Committee. He had a discussion on water utilization, double cropping and increase of income of the farmers.
Now 1,000 acres each are put under summer paddy and sesame with the supply of water from Bwetyi Dam.
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

Accommodation subcommittee for observance of Union Day meets

YANGON, 18 Jan — The accommodation subcommittee for observance of the 58th anniversary Union Day held at No 1 Transit Centre on Bayintnaung Road this afternoon.

Chairman of the subcommittee Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Commander of Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint spoke on the occasion.

Joint secretary of the subcommittee Major Myint Tun presented a report on formation of the subcommittee and duties assigned.



Brig-Gen Myo Myint addresses the first coordination meeting of the Accommodation Subcommittee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day (2005). — MNA

Officials of the various subcommittees reported on their arrangements. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Brig-Gen Myo Myint.—MNA

Armed Forces Day colour photo contest to be held

YANGON, 18 Jan — The Work Committee for Organizing 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 Commemorative Literary and Colour Photo Competition will hold the Colour Photo Contest. Photo enthusiasts can send up to four entries for each title. The size of the print photo entry should measure 10" by 12" and above. As those who won first, second and third prizes in the previous contests will be categorized into separate groups, there will be many chances of winning prizes

for those who have not yet won any prizes.

Data and caption regarding the photo should be provided on a separate sheet of paper and enclosed. If there are any models in the photo, their consent will be needed.

The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize-winning work in local and foreign photo competitions. The entry photos taken by digital camera will not be considered. Winners standing first, second and third will be awarded in Yangon on 27

March 2005, when the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day will be observed.

Consolation prizes will also be presented to winners at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremonies to be held at the respective military commands and LIDs concerned. The entry photos should be sent to U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, No 22/24, Pansodan Street, here, not later than 14 February 2005.

MNA

Myanmar Health Research Congress continues

YANGON, 18 Jan — The fourth day session of Myanmar Health Research Congress took place at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on

Ziwaka Street in Dagon Township here this morning.

Resource persons submitted 14 papers, and answered the queries raised by those present.

Today's session of the congress, health researchers discussed the content of arsenic chemical and environmental health problem as technology week. — MNA

Blood and cash donated to DS Orthopaedic Hospital

YANGON, 18 Jan — Fifteen-member Myittam group of Shine Hope Co from Sangyoung Township donated blood and K 100,000 to the Defence Services Orthopaedic

Hospital (500-bed) on 15 January morning.

Also present on the occasion were Commandant of the hospital Lt-Col Tun Tun, specialists, doctors and nurses. On behalf of the company,

Secretary U Aung Than explained the purpose of the donations and presented K 100,000 to Lt-Col Tun Tun, who then presented a certificate of honour to him.

MNA



Members of Shine Hope Myittam group donating blood at the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital. — MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိစ္စကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့ ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

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ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိစ္စကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန၊ ခရိုင် / စမြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

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Yangon City Upgrading Project in progress

YANGON, 18 Jan— Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by Head of Engineering Department (Road & Bridge) U Bo Htay and officials, this morning, supervised the tasks for upgrading of Yangon City by the YCDC.

The mayor inspected the building of Nanattaw overpass linking Kyundaw Street and Strand Road in Kamayut Township, tarmacking of the junction of Bayintnaung Road in

Insein Township and Mingaladon Road (lower), construction of pavements along the road linking Bayintnaung Road to Shwepyithat industrial city and the approach road to Shwepyitha Bridge, and tarmacking of No 4 Highway from Bogyoke Aung San Street to the entrance road to the University of Computer Studies.

Next, the mayor looked into construction of Maungmagan Kantha Road that will link Dagon Myothit (North) Township and (South) Town-

ship, the tarring of the road linking Pinlon Street and Toegyaunggalay Street, Toegyaunggalay Bridge, and Maungmagan Kantha Road that will link No 2 Highway in Dagon Myothit (South) township and Ayeyawun Road.

During in his inspection tour, the YCDC chairman gave instructions on speedy implementation of the construction tasks, meeting the standard, minimizing loss and wastage, work site safety, and provided assistance for the projects. — MNA

Course on preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage with use of GIS and RS techends



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung presents completion certificate to a trainee. — CULTURE

Yangon-Mandalay Market Boat leaves 29 Jan

YANGON, 18 Jan— The Yangon-Mandalay Market Boat named "Myadipar" owned by Commodity Transport Division of the Inland Water Transport under

the Ministry of Transport will leave Botahtaung No 6 Wharf, for Mandalay on 29 January 2005.

Those wishing to sell their commodities

on board are to contact the Commodity Transport Division on Botahtaung Market Road or dial Tel 292199 or 292319.

MNA

YANGON, 18 Jan — The course on preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage with the use of Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing (GIS and RS) Technology concluded at the Ministry of Culture this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung delivered a speech and presented completion certificates to the trainees.

The course sponsored by the Ministry of Forestry and Suntac Technologies was conducted at MICT Park from 20 December 2004 to 14 Jan 2005.

Officers and staff of the Ministry of Culture and

the Ministry of Education will apply the technology in preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage

and excavation of old Tharaykhittara, Beikthano and Tagaung cities. — MNA

AGM of Women's Chapter on 23 Jan

YANGON, 18 Jan — The annual general meeting of the Women's Chapter of Myanmar Medical Association will be held at the office of MMA at 9 am on 23 January.

After the meeting, heart specialist Professor Dr Cho Lay Mar will give a talk on 'current medical management of coronary arterial diseases' and Professor Dr Mya Mya Ohn

of Yangon General Hospital, a talk on emergency child diseases. Enthusiasts, doctors and medical students are invited to attend the talks.

MNA

China, Czech agree to expand trade cooperation

BEIJING, 18 Jan — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi met here Monday with Czech's Industry and Trade Minister Milan Urban and the two officials agreed to expand trade cooperation of the two countries.

Wu told Urban that China and Czech's economy is complementary and the two sides have great potential in cooperation. "developing bilateral friendly cooperation accords with the interests of the two peoples".

She encouraged entrepreneurs of the two sides to improve exchanges and explore more opportunities for technical cooperation.

Statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce show that the trade volume of the two countries reached 1.79 billion US dollars in 2004, up 13.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Czech became China's third largest trade partner in middle East Europe following Hungary and Poland.

Urban said Czech values its relations with China and hopes to find new ways and areas to further bilateral economic and trade cooperation through increasing communication.

Urban is visiting China at the invitation of China's Ministry of Commerce. Prior to his meet-

ing with Wu, he talked with his Chinese counterpart, Commerce Minister Bo Xilai.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapoere's external trade up 22% in 2004

Singapoere, 18 Jan— Singapoere's external trade witnessed a 22-per cent growth over the previous year to reach about 355 billion US dollars in 2004.

According to the figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) on Monday, the healthy growth was attributed to the strong economic recovery of the United States (US), the European

Union (EU) and Japan as well as the robust global electronics demand in the past year. Supported by the strong performance of both the non-electronics and electronics exports, the non-oil domestic exports (NODX) registered a 17-per cent increase in 2004 as compared with the previous year.

The NODX to China expanded by 41 per cent with both the non-electronics and electronics trade enjoying double-digit growth rate in 2004, while the NODX to the European Union and the United States increased 25 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively. The figures also forecast that the total trade will increase at a slower pace of 7 to 9 per cent in 2005 due to the moderation of growth rates in major export markets and the weaker-than-expected global electronics demand.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Air force to recruit more female pilots

BEIJING, 18 Jan — China's Air Force plans to recruit 30 female pilots in 2005, some of whom might join the country's astronauts training programme and be sent into space some day, according to an officer in charge of pilots recruitment of the Chinese Air Force.

"Unlike their predecessors who were mostly assigned to cargo aircraft piloting, navigation or tel-

ecommunication services, the new inductees will be trained for more demanding duties such as air refuelling, airborne early warning and electronic reconnaissance. Some of them will even have the opportunity to join the elite astronauts team of the Air Force," said Senior Colonel Sui Guosheng, head of the Pilots Recruitment Bureau of the Air Force of People's Liberation Army.

China, which successfully conducted its first manned space flight in October 2003, plans to send women into space in three to five years.

Sui revealed that the candidates for this recruitment, which kicked off in 12 provinces across China on Saturday and was expected to end in July, were high school graduates aged between 16 and 19.

MNA/Xinhua

စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြောက်အိုင်စီတီဂျက်သတ္တပတ် ၂၀၀၅ (ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၁ ရက်မှ ၂၇ ရက်အထိ)

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၁) ရက်၊ သောကြာနေ့
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -အကြံ ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
 ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ -ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ
 -ICT Competitions

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၂)ရက်၊ စနေနေ့
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -အကြံ ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၅:၀၀ -ICT Product Presentation
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT Competitions
 ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ -ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၃)ရက်၊ တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့
 ၀၈:၃၀- -ဖွင့်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား
 ၁၀:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
 ၁၀:၀၀-၁၅:၀၀ -ICT Product Presentation
 ၁၀:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT Competitions
 ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ -ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၄)ရက်၊ တနင်္လာနေ့
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၅:၀၀ -ICT Product Presentation
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT Competitions
 ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ -ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၅)ရက်၊ အင်္ဂါနေ့
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၅:၀၀ -ICT Product Presentation
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -Network Game ဖြိုင်ပွဲ
 ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ -ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၆)ရက်၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၅:၀၀ -ICT Product Presentation
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -Network Game ဖြိုင်ပွဲ
 ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ -ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၇)ရက်၊ ကြာသပတေးနေ့
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
 ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ -Network Game နောက်ဆုံးဖြိုင်ပွဲ
 ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၀၀ -ICT Competitions ဖြိုင်ပွဲများ
 ဆုချီးမြှင့်ခြင်း
 -ကူညီပံ့ပိုးသူများအား ဂုဏ်ပြုလွှာ
 ပေးအပ်ခြင်း
 -အိုင်စီတီ ဂျက်သတ္တပတ်ပိတ်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား

(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တွင် နံနက်(၁၀)နာရီမှ ညနေ(၅)နာရီအထိ ကျန်နေ့များတွင် နံနက်(၉)နာရီမှ ညနေ(၅)နာရီအထိ အခမဲ့ပြသပါမည်)

MICT Park တက္ကသိုလ်များ လှိုင်နယ်မြေ၊ ရန်ကုန်

China allows 116 overseas banking institutions to do yuan business

BEIJING, 18 Jan — China's banking regulator has so far given the nod for 116 overseas banking institutions to conduct renminbi-denominated business as it opened the industry wider to foreign rivals.

Another eight overseas banking institutions

have won the go-ahead for the business, including the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered and Bank of East Asia, since the country allowed overseas banks to set foot in five more cities including Beijing last December, the China

Banking Regulatory Commission said on Monday.

Overseas banks are seeking partners in China as the nation opens up its financial services sector under provisions of its entry in the World Trade Organization in December 2001. — MNA/Xinhua



A male elephant walks off the track into the jungle at the Yala National Park near Tissamaharama, some 360 kms south-east of Colombo. The animals are returning to tracts of Sri Lanka's premier wildlife park battered by last month's disaster, the tourists are also coming back — only the butterflies are still missing.—INTERNET

Uruguay to seek credits from IDB

MONTEVIDEO, 18 Jan — Uruguay's president-elect, left-wing politician Tabare Vazquez, said Monday that he would look for assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the Social-Emergency Plan.

The plan is destined for those Uruguayans affected by the policies of the last neoliberal governments in the country, Vazquez told reporters prior to his meeting with IDB Director Enrique Iglesias.

Parallel to the IDB support for social programmes, he would also seek

financing to boost the commercial competitiveness of the productive sector, he said.

He would also urge Iglesias to change Uruguay's status with the IDB from being a client to being a partner.

"Being partners implies rights and obligations. We will have the right to receive loans, and the obligation to cooperate with the organizations," he added. Vazquez, who won the presidential election of October 31, 2004, will be sworn in on 1 March for a five-year term. — MNA/Xinhua

Sino-French joint venture vows to turn tide

BEIJING, 18 Jan — Dongfeng Peugeot Citroen, the floundering Sino-French joint venture, has vowed to boost sales by nearly 30 per cent this year and take aggressive cost-cutting measures to turn the tide, reported China Daily Tuesday.

The company, jointly owned by Dongfeng Motor Corp and PSA Peugeot Citroen and based in central China's Hubei Province, aims to produce 112,954 cars with sales totalling 114,000 in 2005, the company said in a statement.

Output fell 16.54 per cent to 88,034 while sales dropped 13.57 per cent to 89,129 last year from 2003, the company said. It is also reported that the firm accumulated losses of 540 million yuan (65 million US dollars) last year due to sluggish sales and high costs, it said.

This downturn followed five years of continuous profit from

1999 to 2003.

"Our minimum target this year is to get back in the black," an official from the company was quoted as saying.

Other European automakers are also increasing the local content rates of their vehicles manufactured in China to alleviate burdens bought about by a strong euro.

German auto giant Volkswagen, which runs two car joint ventures in China, said last year it plans to raise the local content rate of its cars made in China to 80 per cent within the next two to three years from about 60 per cent at present.

Eight per cent of the

venture's workforce will either be cut back or relocated, mainly from "non-production departments", the official said.

The venture currently has 6,400 employees. "Cost-cutting has become a key battlefield for automakers in China due to fierce price wars and declining profit margins. In the past, they just expanded production and fought for market share with bumper profits," said Li Chunbo, an analyst with Citic Securities Co. Ltd.

Forty-eight of the 128 automakers in China made losses during the first 11 months of last year, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore urges more flexible work arrangements for employees

SINGAPORE, 18 Jan — Singapore's Ministry of Manpower (MOM) on Monday encouraged local companies to have more flexible work arrangements for their employees to keep their work, personal and family commitments in balance.

According to local media reports on Monday, the flexible work arrangements are still not prevailing in the island state against the increasing ratio of Singapore enterprises adopting this practice.

The latest survey conducted by the MOM showed that 4.1 per cent of private sector employees have benefited from flexible work schedules last year,

up from 2.6 per cent in 1998.

While larger companies and firms in community and personal services were more generous in providing paid family care leave, only 7 per cent of private sector firms entitled their employees to this welfare.

The survey also found that 34 per cent of full-time employees were covered by the

five-day workweek norm last year, which has dominated the private sector, whereas 59 per cent of them were granted less than 15 days of annual leave.

Covering 2,400 private sector firms with at least 25 employees, the survey reviewed employment conditions and the alternative employment practices in Singapore in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Babylon will close until experts determine how much damage done

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan — Babylon — home to one of the seven wonders of the world — will remain closed until experts determine how much damage foreign forces had done to the site, Iraq's Culture Minister said on Monday.

A British Museum report published at the weekend said US and Polish troops had damaged the ancient city, fabled home of the Hanging Gardens, by setting up a military base among the ruins in April 2003 after the invasion of Iraq.

"We want to know the full facts about Babylon's condition," Culture Minister Mofeed al-Jazeerai told a news conference.

"Babylon will stay closed until an international team is formed to determine the damage, document it and recommend what should be done to restore the city."

The Americans occupied the base for five months before handing it over to a Polish-led division, which moved out at the weekend after about 16 months there.

Earlier on Monday, Polish Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said that contrary to the British Museum report, the presence of foreign troops in Babylon had saved it.

"If it wasn't for the Americans, Babylon would have been looted like all other museums in Iraq ... and we would now be buying back Babylon artefacts on bazaars and markets," he said.

Szmajdzinski told public radio Jedynda

local authorities and archaeologists were consulted over all decisions affecting ancient sites at the base.

"Surely mistakes were made at the beginning, but nobody knows what Babylon was like before the Americans took over. Since arriving, we have carried out full documentation of the site," he said.

The Polish Culture Ministry will soon issue a 500-page report on Babylon, he added.

The British Museum report said US

and Polish military vehicles had crushed 2,600-year-old pavements in the city. Archaeological fragments were used to fill sandbags, it said.

"Babylon is one of the most important archaeological sites in the world and the damage caused by the military camp is a further blow for the cultural heritage of Iraq," John Curtis, keeper of the museum's Ancient and Near East department, said in the report.

MNA/Reuters



Fruity Fan : A tennis fan wears a colourful and fruity outfit on the first day of action at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne.

INTERNET

Five white rhinos to be flown from Congo

KINSHASA, 17 Jan—Five of the few northern white rhinos left in the wild will be flown from Democratic Republic of Congo to prevent poachers wiping them out, conservationists said on Saturday.

Fewer than 10 of the rhinos are believed to remain and with heavily armed poachers carrying out frequent raids in the wilds of northeastern Congo, moving the beasts to sanctuary in Kenya is deemed the only option to guarantee their survival.

“Although we’ve all been against the idea of the rhinos going elsewhere it is now necessary,” said Kes Hillman Smith, head of monitoring at Congo’s Garamba National Park after the government approved the move this week. “Although huge efforts are being put into conservation, it is not working fast enough,” she told Reuters. “The poachers are still winning and there are not enough rhinos to last out at this rate.”

MNA/Reuters

Sweden to create consular crisis response team

STOCKHOLM, 17 Jan—Sweden would create a consular crisis response team to help embassies around the world react to possible catastrophes like the December 26 Asian tsunamis which claimed more than 168,000 lives, Swedish Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds said

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DUCKY SHINY VOY NO (18)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUCKY SHINY VOY NO (18) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-1-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharged of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TMT CO., LTD**

Phone No: 256924/ 256914

Chirac invites Abbas to visit France

PARIS, 17 Jan — French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday invited newly elected Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to come to Paris as soon as possible amid efforts to revive the battered Middle East peace process.

Chirac also confirmed French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier would visit Israel and Palestinian territories, “probably in early February,” a spokesman for Chirac said.

Chirac called Abbas to tell him France wanted to relaunch the peace process

agreed by the EU, Russia, the United States and the United Nations as soon as possible.

Abbas was elected in a landslide vote last Sunday raising fresh hopes the process to bring peace to the Middle East could resume after it stalled during Yasser Arafat’s presidency.

Abbas has said he wanted a mutual ceasefire and talks with Israel on a final peace settlement.

MNA/Reuters

Two Germans killed in Philippine air crash

MANILA, 17 Jan — Two German nationals died when the civilian sea plane they were piloting crashed off the waters of a resort in the southern Philippines Sunday morning, the Philippine Air Force reported.

Air Force spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Restituto Padilla said that the bodies of victims, Peter Borchers and Andreas Biesenback, have been retrieved by search and rescue volunteers in Puerto Gallera of Mindoro Province.

Toy shop fire kills six in Thailand’s Suratthani Province

BANGKOK, 17 Jan—Six people, including two children, died in a toy shop fire in Thailand’s Suratthani Province, local newspaper reported on Sunday.

The blaze started about 10.00 pm Friday night on the first floor of Karuntoy, the largest toy shop in the province’s Muang District.

It raged for three

**ပြည်ထောင်စုပြန်ဟောင်းတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူချောင်းချေးရအခွင့်အလမ်း**
ရက်စွဲ: ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁၃ ရက်
ချိတ်ပိတ်ချေးနှုန်းလွှာများပေါ်ယူခြင်း
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ပေးချေဝယ်ယူရန် ချိတ်ပိတ်ချေးနှုန်းလွှာများ စိတ်ဝင်ပါသည်—
(က) တင်းသီးတင်းရွက်အအေးခန်းနှင့်ထုပ်ပိုးစက်ရုံ အတွက် Cold Room Unit များ (4) Sets
(ခ) ကျောက်ချဉ် (၅၀၀) တန်
ချေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၁-၂-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ချေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူချောင်းချေးရငွေအတွက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်—၂၀၂၅၃၃၃ ၂၅၃၁၂ (လိုင်ခွဲ) ၂၃၅ တိုးသို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
**၁၉၉၅
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူချောင်းချေးရအခွင့်အလမ်း**

INVITATION TO TENDER

(TENDER NO. 13(T) MPE/HSD (12)/2004-2005)

- 1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of (4,000±10%) Metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
- 2. Tender Closing Date: 1-2-2005 at 12:00 noon.
- 3. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hour commencing 19-1-2005 on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.
- 4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

**Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise**

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Ciba Specialty Chemicals Holding Inc, Klybeckstrasse 141, CH-4057 Basel, Switzerland, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:



Reg. No. IV5548/1997
in respect of Int'l Class 1: "Chemicals for use in industry and science, photography, agriculture, horticulture and forestry, tempering and soldering preparations; chemical substances for preserving foodstuffs; adhesives used in industry; caustic soda; preservatives for brickwork, cement, concrete and masonry; alcohol for use in industry, synthetic resins, synthetic polymers for industrial, pharmaceutical and medical use; unprocessed plastics; manures; tanning substances; fire extinguishing preparations".

Reg. No. IV5549/1997
Int'l Class 2: "Paints, varnishes, lacquers; preservatives against rust and against deterioration of wood; synthetic, organic and inorganic colorants, mordants; primers; dyes; preservatives for metal; new natural resins; metals in foils and powder form for coating materials".

Reg. No. IV5550/1997
Int'l Class 3: "Cosmetics, soap, perfume, bleaching preparations; cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations; essential oils; and ingredients for making the aforesaid products".

Reg. No. IV5551/1997
Int'l Class 4: "Fuels, petrol and petroleum, additives to motor fuel; paraffin, illuminants industrial oils and grease; lubricants".

Reg. No. IV5552/1997
Int'l Class 5: "Disinfectants for use in the textile and detergents field".

Reg. No. IV5553/1997
Int'l Class 8: "Scientific, surveying, electric, electronic, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring and signalling apparatus and instruments; computers, computer hardware, computer software, computer programmes; apparatus and instruments for recording, transmission and reproduction of sound, vision and images; data processing apparatus and instruments; television, video and audio apparatus and instruments; discs, tapes and cdroom products carrying data and information".

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

**KHINE KHINE U, Advocate
LL.B, D.B.A., LL.M (UK)**
For Ciba Specialty Chemicals Holding Inc #625, 6 Fl., Traders Hotel Yangon, January 19, 2005



A dog takes part in a pet contest in Luoyang, Central China’s Henan Province on 16 January, 2005. Pet ownership has become increasingly popular in China despite high registration fees.—INTERNET

67-year-old Romanian woman gives birth to baby girl

BUCHAREST, 17 Jan — A 67-year-old Romanian woman on Sunday gave birth to a baby girl, which makes her the world’s oldest recorded woman to give birth, said the Giulesti Maternity Hospital in Bucharest.

Adriana Iliescu delivered a daughter by cesarean section early Sunday and one of her

twin girls died, said doctors. The surviving girl named Eliza Maria weighs 1.4 kilos and is in good health.

Iliescu, a university professor, told doctors nine years ago that she wanted to become a mother. She had since undergone long fertility treatment, including procedures to reverse the

also sent a number of their divers and speeds boat to the crash site.

Padilla said that the divers found the bodies of the victims inside the sea plane. “The rescue divers loaded the bodies in their speedboat and were brought to the resort.”

Authorities are still exerting efforts to determine the cause. — MNA/Xinhua

the building.

Most of the owner’s family members were found died, including two children aged two and three respectively.

The casualties were high because the building’s fire exit was locked, Bangkok Post newspaper quoted Police Major Prasit Sriwattanapong, chief of Surat Thani District police as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

effects of menopause, before becoming pregnant with twin girls seven months ago.

However, one of the twins had shown seriously retarded development in the uterus four weeks ago and its heart stopped Sunday. To ensure the safety of the other healthy foetus, doctors decided to carry out a cesarean

section.

Both the mother and the girl received special treatment in the hospital and doctors said they could go home in a week if anything goes well.

The previous record was held by an Italian woman who gave birth to a baby boy at the age of 62.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်လောက်တဲ့

62nd Annual Golden Globe Awards' winners

BEVERLY HILLS (California), 17 Jan—The following is a list of winners on Sunday at the 62nd Annual Golden Globe Awards, which are given out by the 93-member Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

FILM	Dramatic Actress	Dramatic Actor	Original Song
Drama	Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby"	Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Aviator"	"Old Habits Die Hard," "Alfie"
"The Aviator"			TELEVISION
	Musical or Comedy	Musical or Comedy	Dramatic Show
	"Sideways"	"Sideways"	"Nip/Tuck"
	Musical or Comedy		Dramatic Actress
	Actress	Annette Bening, "Being Julia"	Mariska Hargitay, "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"
	Musical or Comedy		Dramatic Actor
	Actor	Jamie Foxx	Ian McShane, "Deadwood"
	Foreign Language Film	"The Sea Inside," (Spain)	Comedy Show
	Supporting Actress	Natalie Portman, "Closer"	"Desperate Housewives"
	Supporting Actor	Clive Owen, "Closer"	Comedy Actress
	Director	Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"	Teri Hatcher, "Desperate Housewives"
	Screenplay	Alexander Payne, Jim Taylor, "Sideways"	Comedy Actor
	Original Score	Howard Shore, "The Aviator"	Jason Bateman, "Arrested Development"
			Mini-Series or TV Movie
			"The Life and Death of Peter Sellers"
			Mini-Series or TV Movie Actress
			Glenn Close, "The



Cate Blanchett and Leonardo DiCaprio react in the press room after DiCaprio won for Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama and 'The Aviator' won for Best Picture Drama, at the 62nd Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills. —INTERNET



Hilary Swank holds her Golden Globe award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Drama for her role in 'Million Dollar Baby,' at the 62nd Annual Golden Globe Awards shows in Beverly Hills, CA. —INTERNET

Lion in Winter"	"Iron Jawed Angels"
Mini-Series or TV Movie Actor	Supporting Actor
Geoffrey Rush, "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers"	William Shatner, "Boston Legal"
Supporting Actress	Cecil B DeMille Award
Angelica Huston,	Robin Williams
	MNA/Reuters

Four killed after car crashes into pedestrians in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Jan—Four pedestrians were killed and two others seriously injured Sunday in Eastern Cape province of South Africa, as a car crashed into the roadside group, local media reported.

The driver of a car travelling toward Queenstown, near Qamata, swerved to avoid a second car which failed to stop at a stop sign on the R61 route, said a report of the SAPA news agency.

The first car slammed into a group of five women and one man standing on the side of the road. Four of the women, all in their twenties, died on the scene, the report quoted police spokesman Namhla Mdleleni as saying.

The man and a woman, who were in serious conditions, were taken to a local hospital.

Police opened a case of culpable homicide against the first driver. The driver of the second vehicle was charged with not carrying a driver's licence and for failing to stop at stop sign, Mdleleni said.

MNA/Xinhua

E-tickets will soon dominate world travel industry

ABU DHABI, 18 Jan—Internet-enabled travel, or e-travel, will dominate the global tourism industry in the coming years, Gulf News daily reported here on Monday.

The travel and tourism industries are going through a fundamental change in the world, Deborah Frampton, British Airways manager for the UAE, was quoted as saying.

Globally, British Airways records 25,000 visits per hour, and among them more than 9,000 tickets are sold online, according to the manager.

The carrier has introduced e-booking, e-ticketing and e-boarding as part of their increasing customer services to the passengers as well as the travel agents.

Meanwhile, a traveller can also book a limo or hotel room, or buy a travel package online, said Frampton.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 240 kilos of drugs seized in northeast Iran

TEHERAN, 18 Jan—Iranian anti-drug police seized over 240 kilos of illicit drugs in the northeastern province of Khorassan Razavi during the past two days, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

Half of the haul was confiscated in the provincial capital city of Mashhad, the report 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.

According to the official statistics, there are at least two million drug addicts in Iran.

The country also accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine intercepted worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board.

MNA/Xinhua

Uganda recalls envoys for seminar on foreign policy

KAMPALA, 18 Jan—A 10-day seminar on Uganda's foreign policy opened here on Monday morning with all the country's ambassadors and their deputies in attendance.

Julius Kagamba, an official with the Foreign Ministry, to Xinhua by phone that the seminar was aimed at sensitizing the ambassadors on the country's economic programmes. High on agenda is economic diplomacy.

Uganda's foreign policy is shifting from the traditional foreign relations to economic diplomacy.

The seminar comes at a time when President Yoweri Museveni has persistently complained of some ambassadors not marketing the country to attract foreign investments.

This East African country is now pursuing an export led growth campaign spearheaded by the President.

"They were called long before and they will be getting a briefing on economic diplomacy and other issues," Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa was quoted as saying.

Among the topics to be discussed at the ten-day seminar include economic diplomacy in exports promotion, tourism, investment promotion, technology transfer and resource mobilization.

They will also discuss the political and security diplomacy, general management and administration.

The ambassadors will on Friday travel to the war-torn northern Uganda to assess the situation there and be briefed on the peace negotiations with the Lords Resistance Army rebels.

MNA/Xinhua

Tremor shakes Zanzibar for first time

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 18 Jan — A moderate earthquake measuring 5.3 on the open-end Richter Scale shook the Indian Ocean archipelago of Zanzibar on Saturday, according to reports reaching here on Sunday.

No casualties or major property damage were reported so far from the island's first recorded sensible earthquake that was felt by the island dwellers in both urban and rural areas, according to police sources from the West and Urban district.

Earthquakes with magnitudes between 5.0 and 5.9 on the Richter Scale are categorized as moderate and can cause slight damage to houses. Around 800 such quakes occur each year around the world.

Earthquakes measuring between 6.0 and 6.9 are capable to cause serious property damages while quakes measuring between 7.0 and 7.9 are potentially destructive, with those measuring between 8.0 and 8.9 being devastating.

Tanzania was hit on 2000 by an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale around Lake Tanganyika along the East African Rift which is prone to quakes due to its geological structure.

Zanzibar, part of the United Republic of Tanzania, was hit by a major cyclone in 1872 when most of its clove trees were uprooted, causing one of the major natural catastrophes in the island history. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Chile tie Uruguay 0-0 in South American U-20

PEREIRA (Colombia), 18 Jan—Chile tied Uruguay 0-0 in its debut in the South American under-20 championships, while Brazil, one of the tournament favourites, was held to a 1-1 draw by Paraguay on Sunday.

Brazil still leads in Group B with four points, followed by Paraguay and Uruguay with two each. Chile now has one point, while last place Ecuador, which did not play Sunday, has no points.

Chile outplayed Uruguay in the first half, but was never able to find the back of the net. Chile striker Juan Lorca had several chances to score, including a shot near the end of the first half that sailed over the goal.

The second half was much of the same, with Chile failing to take advantage of its opportunities. Uruguay attacked late in the game, but also came up empty.

In the earlier game, Paraguay's tie with Brazil tasted much like victory. The Paraguayans gained a valuable point in their bid to reach the final round. Brazil scored first on a header by Diego Barcelos in the 57th minute, while Paraguay's Cristian Bogado netted the equalizer in the 63rd minute. —MNA/AP

Panathinaikos back on top of Greek league table

ATHENS, 17 Jan—The first half of the Greek league season ended on Sunday with champions Panathinaikos back on top of the table after a dramatic weekend on and off the pitch.

A 5-1 thrashing of OFI Crete enabled them to capitalise on the ill fortune of AEK Athens and Olympiakos Piraeus, their two main challengers.

Olympiakos, who went into the weekend top of the table, were docked three points on Saturday for their part in the riot last weekend that caused the cancellation of their match against Panionios.

The disciplinary hearing also ruled that the match would not be replayed and neither side would take any points.

The Piraeus club, who are appealing against the decision, slipped to third but climbed back to second, two points behind Panathinaikos, when they scrambled to a 1-0 win over Iraklis thanks to a strike from their captain Predrag

Djordjevic. AEK failed to take advantage of the situation when they slipped to their first league defeat of the season on Saturday, a shock 2-1 loss at bottom club Apollon Kalamaria.

They now lie third behind Olympiakos on goal difference.

Panathinaikos dominated their match and were in control as soon as central defender Sotiris Kirgiakos opened the scoring in the 31st minute and added a second six minutes later.

Silvio Maric, Michalis Konstantinou and Maciej Bykowski completed the rout in the second half before OFI collected a consolation goal in the last minute.

Gales in northern Greece meant the postponement of the match between Xanthi and Ionikos.—MNA/Reuters

Kwan wins ninth title at US Figure Skating Championships

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan—Michelle Kwan won her ninth title at the US Figure Skating Championships on Saturday night in Portland, Oregon, tying the all-time record for US titles held by Maribel Vinson since 1937.

The 24-year-old Kwan earned four more 6.0s, giving her 42 at nationals in an illustrious career.

The title was Kwan's eighth straight, extending her own record. She is also a

five-time world champion, and has silver and bronze medals from the Olympics.

Sasha Cohen finished second after botching two jumps and was lucky to finish ahead of up-and-comer Kimmie Meissner, who made a bit of history herself with the first triple axel by a U.S. woman since Tonya Harding did it in 1991.

Earlier, Johnny Weir won his second straight men's title. Olympic bronze medalist Tim Goebel was second.

Vinson won nine titles in the 1920s and 1930s. Kwan was the one to finally reach the pinnacle. Her former coach, Frank Carroll, trained with Vinson, and Carroll would often tell Kwan stories about Vinson and the lessons she had taught him.

Vinson died when the plane carrying the US team to the 1961 world championships in Prague crashed in Belgium. Vinson was coaching her daughters, Maribel Y. and Laurence, who had just won the US title.

In the men's competition, Johnny Weir grabbed the gold medal, Timothy Goebel took the silver, the bronze went to Evan Lysacek.—MNA/Xinhua



Five-time world champion Michelle Kwan has equalled the record for most national titles by capturing her ninth US Figure Skating Championship.—INTERNET

Juventus lead at top of Serie A

ROME, 17 Jan—Juventus' lead at the top of Serie A was trimmed to two points when a late goal by Gianfranco Zola held them to a 1-1 draw at Cagliari on Sunday.

The result gave Juve 44 points from 19 games. Italian champions AC Milan, who came from behind to beat third-placed Udinese 3-1 in an earlier match, are second on 42 points.

Lazio suffered their first defeat under



Juventus Turin's De Rosa Emerson (R) is hugged by teammate Camoranesi Mauro. Juventus saw their lead at the top of Serie A cut to two points after they were held to a 1-1 draw at Cagliari and closest rivals AC Milan beat Udinese 3-1.—INTERNET

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.

It was an uninspired Juventus that shared the points with Cagliari at the Sant'Elia stadium.

Both sides had chances to score in a tightly-contested first half. Cagliari striker David Suazo fired straight at visiting keeper Gianluigi Buffon from a good position, while at the other end David Trezeguet chested down Pavel Nedved's cross on the edge of the box only to scuff his shot.

In the 54th minute, Nedved took advantage of some confusion when the ball bounced loose in Cagliari's area to send over a cross that Brazilian midfielder Emerson headed in off the bar.

Two late Buffon saves to deny striker Antonio Langella seemed to have given Juve all three points, but with one minute of normal time remaining Stephen Appiah was caught in possession by Cagliari's Massimo Brambilla, who whipped in a cross for Zola to head into the net.

The result benefited Milan. The champions started the day four points behind Juventus and had a tough-looking game against Udinese at home.

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

MNA/Reuters

Marseille beat Nice 2-0

PARIS, 18 Jan—Ill at ease since joining from Olympique Lyon at the start of the season, Peguy Luyindula showed patience paid off when he scored both goals in Olympique Marseille's 2-0 victory at home to Nice on Sunday.

Marseille now lie fifth in the standings with 35 points, 10 behind leaders Olympique Lyon, who won 2-0 at Metz on Saturday.

French international striker Luyindula opened the scoring in the second minute after a one-two with young playmaker Samir Nasri.

Luyindula, who had scored 16 goals for Lyon last season, made it 2-0 13 minutes later when he volleyed home a cross from midfielder Bruno Pedretti.

MNA/Reuters

Italy's Serie A match reports

ROME, 18 Jan—Brief reports of matches played in Italy's Serie A on Sunday:

Atalanta 1 Siena 1

Siena's experienced striker Enrico Chiesa rifled home the equalizer just before halftime, cancelling out Davide Sinigaglia's 19th minute volley for bottom club Atalanta as both sides settled for a draw in a relegation dog-fight.

Lazio 1 Palermo 3

Palermo came from a goal down to earn an impressive win over in-form Lazio. Fabio Bazzani headed home a Fabio Liverani cross on 16 minutes but three minutes before halftime an unmarked Luca Toni nodded home an Eugenio Corini free kick for the equaliser.

After the restart Lazio came close to taking the lead but against the run of play it was Palermo who scored thanks to a stunning Lamberto Zauli volley on 66 minutes.

Toni made sure of the points a minute from time by tapping home a Mario Santana cross.

Livorno 3 Messina 1

After a scoreless first half, Livorno cut loose to give coach Roberto Donadoni a win in his first match in charge.

A brilliant long range effort from defender Luca Vigiani on 53 minutes broke the deadlock and four minutes

later Corrado Colombo struck from close range to make it 2-0.

After 75 minutes forward Igor Protti scored Livorno's third on the counter before Domenico Giampa's consolation goal for Messina three minutes later.

Parma 2 Lecce 1

Alberto Gilardino struck deep in to injury time as Parma, who missed two first half penalties, escaped with a vital win against fellow strugglers Lecce.

Mark Bresciano gave Parma the lead eight minutes after the restart.

Eight minutes from time Lecce seemed to have earned a point when Mirko Vucinic headed home the equaliser but in the sixth minute of injury time Gilardino fired home the winner, lifting Parma up to third from bottom on 19 points.

In the first half, Gilardino had his 35th minute spot-kick saved by Vincenzo Sicignano and just before the interval Domenico Morfeo fired his second attempt over the crossbar.

Sampdoria 0 Bologna 0

Sampdoria, looking to bounce back from last week's defeat by Inter Milan, created most of the chances but a rock-solid Bologna defence held firm, forcing the sides to settle for a share of the spoils.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists watching for collision between giant iceberg, glacier

CANBERRA, 18 Jan — Scientists were watching on Monday for a collision between a giant iceberg and an Antarctic glacier, which could free up sea lanes to America's McMurdo Station and help penguins reach crucial feeding areas.

The iceberg B15-A, which is about 100 miles long and contains enough drinking water to supply the world for several months, was once part of the major B15 iceberg which broke off the Ross Ice Shelf on the edge of Antarctica five years ago.

B15-A has been drifting slowly towards the floating end of a glacier known as the Drygalski Glacier Tongue for several months and scientists now believe a collision is likely.

"It seems highly likely, given how this thing has jiggled around for the past four years," Australian Antarctic scientist Neal Young told Reuters.

The United States-based National Science Foundation (NSF) had predicted the collision would occur before Christmas, while the space agency NASA suggested the crash would happen by January 15.

But Young, from the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre, on

Monday said the iceberg was still about three miles from the Drygalski Glacier Tongue and was moving about one mile a day.

He said while a collision was likely, it might not happen as storms and sea currents could change the iceberg's course.

"There is no guarantee there will be any collision, or it could be catastrophic in terms of having quite big consequences," he said.

He said a collision could lop a large chunk off the iceberg and allow it to drift out of the area around Ross Island, making it easier for icebreakers to reach McMurdo Station. New Zealand also has a base in the area.

He said it would also give penguins a shorter trip to the sea to find food for their young and would help boost local penguin populations.

"If B15-A does eventually escape then I think it is likely the whole area will open up again, in that it has been a real barrier up until now," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Canada finds vitamin D may slow down prostate tumor growth

OTTAWA, 18 Jan — A new study suggests that giving vitamin D supplements to men with rising rates of prostate tumor markers (PSA) seems to slow down their rate of tumor growth, it is reported Monday.

It is a small study and this is very preliminary evidence, but doctors do see a connection between vitamin D levels and PSA levels, according to the study reported by Canadian Television.

"The PSA levels seemed to reflect the seasonal variation in vitamin D levels," said Dr. Lawrence Klotz, a urologist at Canada's Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

Researchers followed 190 men for the study. They found that overall, their PSA levels were flat during the summer, but rose during the fall and winter at the rate of about one per cent each month.

The doctors then gave the men 2,000 International Units of vitamin D during the fall and winter months to see what would happen.

Interestingly, the vitamin D seemed to cut the rise in PSA rates by more than half. Without vitamin D, PSA rates rose by about 5 per cent. With vitamin D, PSA rates only rose by 2 per cent.

"As far as I know, there is no other nutrient studied that has shown a slowdown in the rate of rise of a PSA," said Reinhold Veith, a professor at the University of Toronto and a leading researcher in the field of vitamin D research.

MNA/Xinhua

US textile, shrimp industries oppose concessions to India

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — The US textile and shrimp industries have opposed any concessions on imports from countries, including India, saying both the industries have been hit hard and lost jobs due to imports.

"We have been bled white (by imports). We have lost 363,200 jobs since January 2001. That's 34.7 per cent of the industry", Lloyd Wood, spokesman for the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, said.

Apart from India, they also oppose extending import concessions to Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Both the industries also oppose demanding donations from them for tsunami victims. — MNA/PTI



WEATHER

Tuesday, 18 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) above normal in Kachin State, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State and Magway Division and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), Namsam and Pinglaung (3°C) each and Heho (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 17-1-2005 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 18-1-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-1-2005 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 17-1-2005 was (7.5) 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 4 mph from Northeast at (11:35) hours MST on 17-1-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the depression over the Southeast Bay has moved slowly towards Southwest and was centered about (360) miles Southeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka. It is forecast to move West-Southwest wards slowly. Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light rain in Southern Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-1-2005: Generally fair weather.

US ranchers to inspect Canadian cattle facilities

OTTAWA, 18 Jan — Ranchers from the largest cattlemen's group in the United States will embark on a fact-finding mission next week to cattle facilities in Canada's Alberta Province, it is reported here Monday.

Nine ranchers from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association of the United States will visit the province's slaughterhouses and rendering plants to study what Canada's doing against the spread of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), or mad cow disease. — MNA/Xinhua



TV Myanmar

Wednesday, 19 January
View on today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စု ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအတတ်

8:10 am
6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am
7. မိုင်းတုံမြေထိန်းတံခါး

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Let's Go

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm
4. Musical programme

5:00 pm
5. အစေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဝတ်စနစ် (သရုပ်အထူးပြု) (သရုပ်)

5:15 pm
6. Songs of national races

5:30 pm
7. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:45 pm
8. ဂီတဟောပြောစဉ်

5:55 pm
9. "မှတေးလိုတော့ မဖြေဘူး" လွန်လွန်ဝင်း၊ နေအောင်၊ စောနိုင် (ရမ်းပြည့်)၊ ဥက္ကဋ္ဌမင်းမောင်၊ မြင့်မြင့်နိုင်၊ သင်းသင်းလှိုင်၊ ဇွန်မိုင်၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်စောမောင်မောင်

6:15 pm
10. ရွယ်လင် အာဆီယံအစဉ်

6:25 pm
11. Discovery

6:30 pm
12. Evening news

7:00 pm
13. Weather report

7:05 pm
14. အမေရိကန်ဆီနိုတိုရီ သံကို ကြိုက်စား သာတိုရီနိုဆီနိုတိုရီ

7:20 pm
15. Musical programme

7:35 pm
16. Myanmar ICT Week ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

7:45 pm
17. "မင်းမင်းသားဝါဘူးကွာ" ရေး၊ ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်ကြော်၊ ဇွန်စရာ၊ ကြွကြွသင်း၊ အေးအေးမိုင်း၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဆွေစင်ထိုက်


8:00 pm
18. News

8:10 pm
19. International news

20. Weather report

21. မမှောင်သာအလင်း (အပိုင်း-၆) "အလွမ်းမြေရာထပ်သည့် အမှတ်ရရာကလေးများ" မိုးသောကြာ၊ ဖျိုက်၊ မင်းသူ၊ လွင်မိုး၊ စောဦး၊ မင်းဟိတ်၊ ရတနာစင်၊ စင်သန်းနွယ်၊ စင်ရီ၊ ဦး၊ သန်းသန်းရီ၊ သူသူဟာ

22. The next day's programme



Radio Myanmar

Wednesday, 19 January
Tune in today:

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Smiling face

8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: Heaven by your side

8:50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music: Kiss
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music:
-An apple a day
News/Slogan
Lunch time music
1:30 pm -I miss you
1:40 pm -Yes you do
-Pretty boy
Variations on atune

9:00 pm Up town girl
Article/music
9:15 pm Music at your request
9:25 pm -Let the music heal your soul
-Music
-Thank you for the music

9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

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F & R Ministry sponsors Inter-Department Volleyball Tourney

YANGON, 18 Jan—The first Inter-Department Volleyball Tourney of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was opened at the Aung San Stadium here this morning, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present on the occasion were wife of the minister, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and wife, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, team managers, coaches and athletes.

First, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Chairman of Volleyball Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue Director-General of Internal Revenue Department Col Hsan Tun presented K 50,000 for Myanmar Volleyball Federation to the Secretary of MVF.

The opening ceremony then ended.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun and depart-



mental heads watched volleyball matches.

The volleyball tourney continues until 21 January 2005.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivers a speech at the opening of the inter-department volleyball tournament of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue. — MNA

Forestry Minister attends inauguration of Saw Mill in Shwepyitha



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses the inauguration of Saw Mill No 4 in Shwepyitha Township.—FORESTRY

YANGON, 18 Jan — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung this morning attended the opening of Saw Mill No 4 jointly owned by Myanma Timber Enterprise and TPS Group in Wataya wood-based industrial zone in Shwepyitha Township. After delivering an opening speech on the occasion, the minister heard a report by Mr Nattwin of TPS Group on construction of the saw mill, which cost 0.43 million in foreign currency. The mill will export sawn timber.

Next, the minister visited Okthkyaw Saw Mill

in Bago and Saw Mill No 33 of MTE in Phayagalay Village and inspected production process.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the briefing hall of Moeyungyi Lake wildlife sanctuary near Pyinbongyi Village. Officials reported on construction of guest house and recreation centres. The minister inspected progress in construction of those buildings.

Moeyungyi Lake wildlife sanctuary is in Pyinbongyi Village, 71 miles from Yangon. Those from home and abroad frequently visit the sanctuary for migratory bird-watching and for rest and recreation. The guest house can accommodate 50 visitors.

MNA

Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition continues

YANGON, 18 Jan—The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued at the People's Square here this morning.

Bands of Dagon Myothit (East) Basic Education High School No 1 and Dalla BEHS No 1 performed skills demonstration.

The bands representing the Western Command, the Eastern Command, the Coastal Region Command, the Southern Command and No 4 Military Training Unit took part in the competition.

Secretary of Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of Committee for Observance of the Competition Deputy-Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe presented cash award to leaders of the bands of Dagon Myothit (East) Basic Education High School No 1 and Dalla BEHS No 1.

Also present on the occasion were senior military officers, members of panel of judges, guests, officers and other ranks of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and their families and students.

MNA

The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest in progress. — PUPR

42nd Myanma Gems Emporium to be held in March

YANGON, 18 Jan—The Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines is making arrangements to hold the 42nd Myanma Gems Emporium in March 2005 in the interest of the State and gem entrepreneurs.

The gem entrepreneurs will be able to generate their income more and more as gems and jewellery with a reasonable fixed floor price will be sold through competitive bidding at the emporium. The MGE in coordination with departments concerned will take measures for sooner acquisition of proceeds, facilitation of export and other requirements. The amount of the sale will be regarded as export earnings.

The enterprise in coordination with departments concerned at home and abroad will also make arrangements for local and foreign gem merchants to attend the emporium.

The gem entrepreneurs are to contact the MGE's Head Office to have their gems and jewellery accepted and gem prices fixed.—MNA

