

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 279

11th Waxing of Pyatho 1366 ME

Thursday, 20 January 2005

Algerian President felicitates Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 19 Jan— *The following is a message of felicitations from Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council 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, it is nice to me to convey to you, on behalf of Algerian people and government as well as in my personal name, my warm congratulations and my wish for progress and well-being to the people of Myanmar.

I am confident that the friendly relations existing so happily between our two countries and peoples will strengthen and diversify more in the coming years.

Please accept, Excellency the expression of my highest consideration.—MNA

Algerian PM sends felicitations to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win

YANGON, 19 Jan— *The following is a message of felicitations from Mr Ahmed Ouyahia, Head of the Government, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 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.*

The celebration of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar is for me an opportunity for conveying to you my warm congratulations as well as my entire wish for health and happiness.

It is also very nice for me to express to you my deep attachment to strengthening and developing our bilateral relations.

Please accept, Excellency, the expression of my highest consideration.—MNA

Minister on inspection tour of Maday, Khawa dams in Magway Div

YANGON, 19 Jan— Accompanied by officials concerned, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo made an inspection tour of Maday dam project built on Maday creek near Kyoepin village, Kanma Township, Magway Division on 16 January, where Director U Tin Maung Ohn of Construction Group-2 of Irrigation Department reported the minister on progress of constructing the conduit of the main embankment.

After hearing the reports, the minister instructed the officials concerned to exert efforts for timely completion of the project in order that local peasants would enjoy benefits as soon as possible and to supply both water and electricity to the village.

Next, the minister inspected progress of construction of the dam. Maday dam would benefit 4,000

acres of farmland for double-cropping. The minister and party looked into water supply from the canal of Khawa dam in Padaung Township, Bago Division (West) that opened on 25 June 2004 and cultivation of summer paddy, in addition to 30 feet wide spillway which is of reinforced concrete type, storage of water in the dam, water supply to 2,000 acres of farmland, installation of drinking water pipeline and electricity supply to villages through local made 3,000-watt dynamo.

At the briefing hall, the director of Construction Group-2 of Irrigation Department reported the minister on maintenance of Khawa dam and water supply for cultivation of summer paddy, Chairman of Pyay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tun Aye on arrangements for cultivation of

(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

40 wagons, related parts arrive from Korea

YANGON, 19 Jan — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspected unloading of ten wagons and related parts for 30 wagons from Ducky Shiny Vessel at Asia World Port, Ahlon Township this evening.

After welcoming the minister and the deputy minister, officials reported to them on arrangements for unloading the wagons and related parts. The wagons and related parts were imported from Korea and they will be used at Yangon-Nyaunglaybin-Mandalay railroad section. The parts will be sent to Myitnge Cargo Shed for installation.

The wagons will carry and lay stones with the use of hydraulic system.

MNA

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects unloading of a hydraulic carriages from the vessel. — MR



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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 20 January, 2005

Build democracy with strength of national forces

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is paving the way for a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. Therefore, it is necessary for the entire national people to lend themselves to the implementation of the seven-point policy programme, upholding "Our three main national causes", four political objectives, four economic objectives and four social objectives.

The successful implementation of the seven-point policy programme, peace and stability, rule of law, national unity and national development endeavours are matters of national concern and our national goals. To achieve all our national goals, such national forces as Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Red Cross brigade and the fire brigade are to work in concert under the leadership of the government.

It is very important for all these national forces to stand united under the leadership of the government in carrying out regional and national development work.

The national forces are required to do development work as well as organizational work at the same time in their respective regions. They should try to know the wishes of the people and meet them so that they can command their trust, love and respect.

By doing community work together with the people, they will be able to organize and lead the people correctly. The higher the living standard of the people and the more developed their regions, the more they will believe in and support the future work programmes of the government.

To strengthen national unity, the government and the local people have been making such relentless efforts for border area development that the national people in the border areas are now in a position to enjoy the fruits of development.

Fruits of development and national unity are favourable conditions for a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. The entire national people should keep constant vigilance against any acts that could destroy the favourable environment for a new state.

We would like to urge the entire national people to put their energies into the task of implementing the seven-point policy programme and building a genuine democracy.



Myanmar ICT Week, 2005

Organized by
Myanmar ICT Development Corporation
21-27 January 2005
MICT Park
Yangon, Myanmar.

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

35 armed group members, 20 dependents exchanged arms for peace in Oct-Dec

YANGON, 19 Jan — The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, has striven for national reconsolidation and has been making concerted efforts for equitable development of all the regions of the country. Therefore, armed groups realizing correct endeavours and genuine goodwill of the government and understanding their destructive acts exchanged arms for peace at the embrace of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people individually and in groups in October, November and December 2004.

Pvt Aik Pi, Aik Kyauk and Sai Lon Kyauk of SURA armed group and L/Cpl Aik Pee bringing together with one pistol, one magazine and eight rounds of ammunition exchanged arms for peace in Triangle Region Command area; WO-I Maung Maung Aung of ABSDF armed group in Northern Command area; Pvt Saw Hsa Kapaw and Saw Po Khaing of No 2 Brigade of KNU armed group and Pvt Aik San of No 241 battalion of SURA armed group in Eastern Command area; Pvt Maung Kyan Yaw of Splinter Mon armed group, L/Cpl Hti Kyaw Htoo of No 106 battalion of No 6 Brigade of KNU armed group with one grenade and one fuse, Sgt Saw The Po and Pvt Saw Haw Kho Lei of No 18 battalion with one AK-47 automatic rifle, one magazine and 22 rounds of ammunition, one M-16 automatic rifle, one magazine and 16 rounds of ammunition, Pvt Saw Noe Noe of Security Company with one carbine, one magazine and 15 rounds of ammunition in South-East Command area; Pvt Saw Phee Lak, wife Naw Phee Lay, daughter Naw Bi Bi and sons Saw Phee Hsay, Saw Pho Bo, Saw Khwa Khwa and Saw Cho Aye together with one carbine, one magazine and five rounds of ammunition, L/Cpl Saw Wi Bel and wife Naw Me, L/Cpl Saw Bi

Lu and wife Naw Lay Khet, Pvt Saw Pharlal Dah and wife Naw Hta Reik Phaw with two M-165, two magazines, 50 rounds of ammunition and one grenade, Section leader Than Lwin of No 11 battalion of No 4 Brigade with one pistol and two rounds of ammunition, Commandant Pado Ohn Thwin, Company Commander Shwe Ni and wife Daw Win Kyi, daughters Nay Win Sanda and Nay Win Hlaing, son Nay Win Kyaw, Company Commander Kar Pi Hat, wife Daw Hla Kyi, sons Maung Ah Taung and Maung Bi Dah, daughter Ma Than Kyut Htay, Company Commander Naing Ko Aung, wife Daw Myint Aye, Deputy Company Commanders Ye Tun, Shwe Hla and Ba Hlaing, Platoon Commander Tun Win, WO Ah Naing, Organizers U Hmon, Office Superintendent Aung Lin, Secretary Wai Oo, courier Saw Thana Htoo, Pvt Sein Win and Maung Sein of NDA armed group bringing together with them three AK-47s, two M-79 launchers, two M-72s, 260 rounds of ammunition, 28 grenade shells, six grenades and four mines and Pvt Saw Phaw Yi with two dependents in Coastal Region Command area; Pvt Maung Thitsa, wife Ma Sein Aye Tha and daughter Ma Khaing Khaing Win of ALP armed group with one hand-made gun and two rounds of ammunition, in Western Command area.

Officials of the respective military camps warmly welcomed 35 persons together with 20 dependents who exchanged arms for peace and fulfilled their requirements.

And, there are more persons in armed groups willing to exchange arms for peace.

MNA

UMFCCI Vice-President meets Japanese delegates

YANGON, 19 Jan — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries Vice-President U Aung Lwin, Central Executive Committee members, executives, officials of Myanmar Rice Millers' Association and Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association met the 10-member Japanese delegation led by Mr Toshiya Imada, Representative of Thailand-based New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) at UMFCCI Building, here, on 18 January.

They cordially discussed matters related to economic projects, the generating energy from the husks of paddy and groundnut and the operating rice and oil mills.

MNA



UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin and officials meet with Japanese guests.—UMFCCI

Talks on fire prevention held

YANGON, 19 Jan — Talks on fire prevention and demonstration of putting out fire co-organized by Filling Station No 0631 of Mandalay Division Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise and Aungmyethazan Township Fire Services Department, was held at the filling station on 12 January, attended by managers, assistant managers, staff of the filling station and Head of the Township FSD U Soe Than and party.

Staff Officer of Township Fire Services Department U Soe Than gave a lecture on fire prevention and ways of putting out fire with the use of fire extinguishers.

Afterwards, the Head of the Township FSD looked into fire prevention measure at the fuel tank, wiring system of the building, systematic upkeep of fire distinguishers, followed by giving supplementary instructions.

Next, the managers, staff and members of FSD practised the fire fighting with the use of fire distinguishers and fire fighting engines.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Beijing's restaurants sell out seats for festival feast

BEIJING, 19 Jan— Restaurants in Chinese capital have sold most of their seats for feasts on the Chinese Lunar New Year Eve falling on 9 February, local media reported on Tuesday.

It is hard for Beijingers to book a table for festival feast in hot restaurants some 20 days before the Spring Festival comes on 9 February, said the *Beijing News* on Tuesday.

The Quanjude Restaurant, well known for its Beijing roasted ducks, have all tables booked and so are other classic Chinese restaurants.

A feast that costs 1,000 to 2,000 yuan (120.92 to 214.83 US dollars) is the most popular among residents, the newspaper said.

Even McDonald's has launched a new hamburger for the Spring Festival and decorated its stores with China Red.

Chinese families have the tradition to reunite and dine together on the Spring Festival Eve and many stay up the whole night to see off the old year and welcome the New Year.

Years before most families hold the dinner at home and housewives would be busy shopping and preparing for the

biggest feast of the whole year days before and now they turn to restaurants to save troubles.

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, China's catering business is expected to record 748 billion yuan (approximately 90.12 billion US dollars) of revenue in 2004, a rise of more than 20 per cent over 2003, making up 14 per cent of total retail sales.

Compared with booming business of Chinese restaurants, big hotels also known for good foods seem a bit absent minded. Many of them have just worked out the Lunar New Year Eve promotions and only a few released the prices.

Targeting foreigners, these hotels showed more enthusiasm on Valentine's Day that follows the Spring Festival.

The Grand Hyatt Beijing have promoted delicate Japanese and Italian menu for lovers on Valentine's Day though it has not decided what to provide on Lunar New Year Eve.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Commercial crocodile farming begins in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 19 Jan— Some young Bangladeshi entrepreneurs began farming of crocodiles on commercial basis in northern Bangladesh, first of its kind in South Asia, reported the daily *New Age* on Tuesday.

They selected such an uncommon sector to develop their business, considering the export potentials of crocodile skin and allied products.

The idea of rearing crocodile came from Mushtaque Ahmed, a business executive and also environment activist. The idea has lured many people and at one stage, a company, Reptiles Farm Limited, emerged. Mushtaque, now the managing director and chief executive officer of the company, said they are now confident to run such an uncommon business in

Bangladesh. Since independence, the focus on export has rapidly been changed and they want to set a trend in business, said the company Chairman Mesbahul Hoque, adding that as a trend setter the company has to ensure the best quality at production and preproduction level in the lucrative and sensitive global market.

The company expects to fetch at least 50 million US dollars by exporting 5000 pieces of crocodile skin per year by 2012. Already 75 adult crocodiles including 15 male and 60 female ones

have been released in the ponds and lagoons of the farm. All the crocodiles have been imported from Sarawak of Malaysia.

There are 14 ponds and two lagoons at the project established on about 13 acres of land in Bhaluka area, some 72 kilometres north of the capital Dhaka.

The entrepreneurs expect if everything goes right they would be able to go for export by 2008. At present they will pay attention to adaptation of the crocodiles with local weather and then to breeding.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Global demand for oil will remain strong in 2005, led by China and Asian countries, the International Energy Agency forecast, while warning that unexpected events could crimp supply.—INTERNET



Dalian city reports increased software export

DALIAN, 19 Jan— The software export turnover of the port city of Dalian, in northeastern Liaoning Province, amounted to 54.2 million US dollars in 2004, up 73 per cent year-on-year, said Customs statistics.

Japan remains to be the biggest trade partner of Dalian, covering 92 per cent of its total export turnover, while the other 8 per cent goes to Singapore, the United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Dalian has more than 200 software companies, one quarter are foreign-funded ones, including Nokia, Ericsson and

General Electrics.

One of China's major software production and export bases, said Mayor Xia Deren Dalian plays an indispensable role in the revitalization of the old industrial base in the country's northeast.

The mayor acknowledged that his municipal government is now planning to build a

software industrial belt in the city's northern part and will continue its software park project this year.

Moreover, Dalian will working hard to develop the outsourcing of software and information services, so as to make it China's biggest IT outsourcing centre and software service centre, Xia said.

MNA/Xinhua



Singapore Airlines crew members pose in front of a poster of the future Airbus A380 bearing the company's colours, in Toulouse, southwestern France, on 18 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

1,368 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—As of Tuesday, 18 Jan, 2005, at least 1,368 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,073 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am Tuesday. The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,230 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 964 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A soldier was killed Tuesday in a roadside bombing in Baghdad.

A Marine died on Monday, bringing to three the number of Marines who

died Monday while conducting security operations in Iraq's Anbar province. The latest identifications reported by military:

Marine Cpl Paul C Holter III, 21, Corpus Christi, Texas; died Friday at Camp Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Army Spc Alain L. Kamolvathin, 21, of Blairstown, NJ, died Monday in a vehicle accident in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York, NY.

Army Pfc Francis C Obaji, 21, Queens Village, NY; died Monday after he was involved in a vehicle accident Sunday in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York, NY.

Internet

Hu Jintao urges ethical, ideological education for youth

BEIJING, 19 Jan— Chinese President Hu Jintao on Tuesday stressed ideological and ethical education for college students to cultivate talents with noble minds, sound ethics and abundant knowledge to meet the need of the country's modernization drive.

"The education should make it possible for college students to keep pace with the time, share the fate of the motherland and work hard together with all the people," Hu said at a national conference held from 17 to 18 January on improving the ideological education for college students.

"This is of far-reaching and strategic significance for ensuring the realization of an all-round well-off society in China, realizing the great target of modernization and achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," he said.

He said China should not only improve college students' knowledge of various sciences, but raise their ideological and political awareness.

"Only with this job done well can we keep the society stable and the great causes of the people passed down to future generations," the President said.

He urged Communist Party com-

mittees and governments at various levels to fully understand the importance and urgency of the work under the new circumstances.

The President said that ideal, patriotism, ethics and ability should be all stressed to make college students developed in a comprehensive way.

He noted that as the key bases for ideological education, colleges should take the cultivation of socialist builders and successors as their fundamental goal.

"It's one of the key jobs for the Communist Party to improve its ruling capability and consolidate its ruling status," the President said.

Other Chinese leaders Wen Jiabao, Zeng Qinghong, Wu Guanzheng, Luo Gan and Li Changchun, officials of central government departments and representatives from 31 colleges were present at the conference.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree to expand bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD, 19 Jan — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and his Kyrgyz counterpart Askar Akaev held wide-ranging talks here Monday and agreed to expand the bilateral trade and economic cooperation, reported the *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

Besides bilateral relations, the two leaders discussed regional and international issues of common interest including promotion of regional trade, Afghanistan, the situation in Iraq, and the on-going Pakistan-Indo dialogue process.

No more details of the talks were

disclosed by the state news agency.

The two sides will sign a number of agreements during Akaev's visit at the invitation of Musharraf. Akaev arrived in Islamabad earlier Monday on a two-day visit aimed at enhancing bilateral relations with Pakistan.

MNA/Xinhua

India opens consulate office in southern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 19 Jan— India has opened an office of the consulate general in Nepal's southern city of Birgunj, according to a Press statement issued by the Indian Embassy to Nepal on Tuesday.



An attendant gives a male customer a facial at the French cosmetic brand Lancome concept shop in Shanghai on 18 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

It is the first consulate of India in Nepal, which locates some 200 kilometres south of Kathmandu, the statement said.

The office will serve the Nepali people as well as Indians by extending all services including issuing passports and registering Indian nationals, processing applications for scholarships from Nepali students, issuing vehicle permits for India and attesting consular documents.

"We hope the consulate will facilitate trade and commerce between India and Nepal, and assist in resolving bilateral commercial disputes and attend to trade related inquiries," the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ပူပွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi signs his signature to the dashboard of the newly launched Naza Citra car at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 18 Jan, 2005. Naza Citra, multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) powered by a 2.0-liter engine, is produced as a collaboration between Naza Group of Malaysia and Kia Motors of South Korea. The Naza Citra sells for RM79,888 (US\$21,023).—INTERNET

Russia, Kazakhstan sign border settlement treaty

Moscow, 19 Jan— Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev signed a treaty here Tuesday settling a border dispute between the two countries.

The settlement of the border issue means the two countries have solved all problems so as "to make people living on both sides of the border feel comfortable", said Putin during talks with Nazarbayev.

The Russian President said the treaty is the result of a mutually acceptable compromise between Russia and Kazakhstan.

The two countries agreed to form a joint demarcation commission "to draw and define the state border in line with the present treaty, and draft demarcation documents", the *Interfax* news agency reported.

Nazarbayev said the settlement of the border issue resulted from closer

approachement between the two countries.

"Russia is Kazakhstan's long term strategic partner, as we hope Kazakhstan is for Russia," Nazarbayev said.

He noted that Kazakhstan has agreed to allow Russia the commercial use of its Baikonur space launch site and to establish closer defence ties with Moscow as part of efforts towards deeper bilateral cooperation.

On Tuesday, the two countries also signed an intergovernmental agreement on the protection of intellectual property rights developed during bilateral military-technical cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua

Polls say majority of Americans disapprove of Bush's Iraq policy

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—Despite President George W Bush's belief that by reelecting him Americans expressed support for the war on Iraq, two opinion polls published showed the opposite: the majority think the war was a mistake and disapprove of the way he is handling things in Iraq.

Shortly before Bush's inauguration for his second term in office, and after he said in an interview that the 2004 election result proved that electorate approved of his handling of the war, a *Washington Post/ABC News* poll showed that 55 percent of Americans felt the Iraq war was not worth fighting, against 44 percent who thought it was.

Respondents also disapproved of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq by a 58 to 40 percent margin, and 57 percent of the 1,007 adults surveyed by telephone from 12-16 January were not confident that the upcoming elections in Iraq would lead to a stable government.

Similarly, a *USA Today/CNN/Gallup* poll published in the nationally distributed newspaper showed that Americans believed it was a mistake sending

troops to Iraq by a 52-to-47 percent margin.

Also based on a telephone survey of 1,007 adults, taken 14-16 January, the *USA Today* poll found that respondents were now more or less equally divided as to whether the United States should keep, increase, reduce current troops levels in Iraq.

Until September 2004, the prevailing opinion in polls was that troop levels should be maintained.

Bush also got majority disapproval ratings on a number of other issues in the *Washington Post/ABC News* poll: 52 percent disapproved of the way he is handling the US economy, Social Security (55 percent), the budget deficit (58 percent), immigration (54 percent) and health care (51 percent).

Internet



A contingent of the National Cadet Corps marches during practice for the Republic Day in Allahabad, India, on 18 Jan, 2005. India celebrates its 55th Republic Day on 26 Jan 2005.—INTERNET

Putin hopes to upgrade bilateral ties with Syria

DAMASCUS, 19 Jan — Russian President Vladimir Putin has voiced hope to upgrade ties between Russia and Syria, Syria's official SANA news agency reported on Tuesday.

"Our duty is not only to go back to the previous level of bilateral cooperation, but we have to exceed and enhance it," Putin was quoted as saying ahead of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's upcoming visit to Moscow on 24 January.

The Russian people see the heritage of bilateral relations as "very precious and valuable" for them, and the two peoples should keep and double it because it has a great strategic importance, SANA said in an editorial.

Syrian-Russian relations have witnessed a remarkable progress in economic, trade and technical fields during the past years, the editorial said, adding that there have also been thousands of marriages between the two peoples.

It said 63 projects built in cooperation with the former Soviet Union, including al-Furat Dam, al-Baath station and Tishreen power plant, have played a pivotal role in Syria's economy.

Assad's imminent visit will come amid reports that he wanted to acquire weapons from Moscow, including the SS-26 Iskander missile.

Damascus' alleged intention has infuriated the Jewish state and the United States, which reacted rapidly to exert pressure on Moscow not to make such a deal. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov denied last Wednesday that his country was in talks with Syria over arms sales.

Syria enjoyed close ties with Moscow during the half-century-long Cold War between the United States and former Soviet Union.

The Iskander, also known as the SS-26, is the updated version of the Soviet-era Scud missile used by Iraq against Israel during the Gulf War.

It was first tested by Russia in 1996 and has a range of just under 300 kilometres, and reportedly can easily overcome existing air defence systems.

The missile has no NATO equivalent and is extremely effective, because its launch pad is mobile and the missile can be guided through bad weather by satellite or plane radar, according to the Federation of American Scientists arms watchdog group. — MNA/Xinhua

US military personnel growing critical of the war in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan — US military officials are becoming increasingly vocal in their criticism of the war in Iraq, telling Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that more troops are needed to prevail over the guerillas. Moreover, recruitment is down and more reservists and members of the National Guard are being sent to Baghdad.

The war is over, at least as far as Darrell Anderson is concerned. Anderson, a 22-year-old GI from Lexington, Kentucky, deserted a week ago, heading across the US' loosely controlled border with Canada.

When his fellow soldiers in the First US Tank Division, stationed in Hessen, Germany, ship out to Iraq for their second tour of duty, he'll be in Canada.

Anderson spent seven months in Iraq last year as

a part of a unit assigned the dangerous mission of guarding police stations in Baghdad.

He was wounded by grenade shrapnel during an guerilla attack, was allowed to spend Christmas at home in the United States.

But instead of returning to duty, Anderson fled to Toronto.

Now he's a deserter and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. If apprehended, he faces several years in a US mili-

tary prison. In justifying his desertion, Anderson says: "I can't go back to this war. I don't want to kill innocent people." He talks about the constant pressure soldiers face to make decisions in the daily grind of war.

Anderson has now applied for political asylum in Canada. His attorney, Jeffrey House, was once one of the 50,000 draft dodgers who fled to Canada to avoid serving in the Vietnam War.

Internet

China able to meet its own demand for timber

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China is capable of meeting its own demand for timber now that the country has basically maintained a balance between its supply and demand for forest resources, forestry officials have said.

The Chinese Government gives high priority to sustainable development and proper protection of the ecosystem, including conservation of the worldwide forest resources, said Xiao Xingwei, an official in charge of forest resources management with the State Forestry Administration. At a Press conference on Tuesday, Xiao said the Chinese Government has always been firm in cracking down upon illegal trading of timber and has enhanced cooperation with Russia, Indonesia, Myanmar and other lumber exporting countries by signing pacts on the protection and rational exploitation of forest resources as well as the fight against illegal tree felling and timber trading. "Accordingly,

Chinese businesses have strictly observed local laws and regulations in their exploitation of forest resources overseas," said Xiao. He said China does import timber from other countries, but its import makes only a small portion of its total consumption. "It's out of the question for China to satisfy its domestic demands by felling natural woods in the neighbouring countries — it never will".

China's total timber consumption in 2003 reached a record 228.43 million cubic metres and its aggregate supply stood at 224.13 million cubic metres, said Lei Jiayu, vice director of the forestry administration, quoting the administration's 2004 report on the nation's forestry development.

The same report said China imported 25.46 million cubic meters of timber and exported 21.52 million cubic meters of wood products in 2003. "We can see our demand and supply were pretty well balanced for that year," said Lei.

Starting from 1998, China has implemented six key projects to expand forest coverage and upgrade quality of the forests through better conservation of natural woods and reclamation of farmland into forests.

"In 2002, we launched a number of strategic, high-yield forestry production bases to ease the bottleneck between timber supply and demand," said Lei, "and our efforts have started to pay off."

MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bomber hits Iraq's Shiite party

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan — A suicide bomber struck the Baghdad headquarters of Iraq's biggest Shiite political party Tuesday, killing three people, as the government announced plans to close borders and restrict movements to bolster security in the national election.

Three candidates were slain as guerillas intensified their campaign to subvert the ballot.

The Cabinet member responsible for internal security urged fellow Sunni Arabs to disregard threats by Sunni extremists and vote in the 30 Jan election, in which Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and regional legislatures. Otherwise, the minister warned, the country will slide into

civil war. In a positive development, a Catholic archbishop kidnapped in northern Iraq was released Tuesday without payment of ransom, the Vatican said. Archbishop Basile Georges Casmoussa, an Iraqi, said he believes he was kidnapped by mistake.

But an American soldier was killed Tuesday in a roadside bombing in Baghdad, and more foreigners were reported kidnapped.

The Shiite party, known as SCIRI, has close ties to Iran and is strongly opposed by Sunni Muslim militants.

Iraqi police said the bomber and two others died and nine people were wounded, including three police.

The blast gouged a crater in the pavement, left several vehicles in flames and spread shredded debris on the street in the Jadriyah district.

Internet



A US soldier stands guard next to an Iraqi woman on 19 Jan, 2005 in the strife-torn town of Baquba north of Baghdad.—INTERNET



Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, left, and his Polish counterpart Marek Belka review an honour guard in Hanoi on 17 Jan, 2005. Belka, the first Polish Prime Minister to visit Vietnam in nearly 50 years, was in Vietnam for a four-day visit to boost trade and economic ties.—INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ မိန်းပါလေလွင်၊ တုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

Singapore, India to conduct joint Army exercise next month

SINGAPORE, 19 Jan—Singapore and India will conduct joint Army exercise in India next month which will involve armour and artillery units from the two armies.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Defence on Monday, representatives of the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) earlier on Monday regarding the war games to be held from 11 February to 5 April of this year.

The exercise, a reflection

of the growing defence cooperation between the two countries, will offer the Singapore Army a valuable opportunity to train alongside the Indian Army and will enhance mutual understanding and inter-operability between the two armies, the statement said.

The statement said

that the armour exercise will be held at Babina Field Firing Range about 400 kilometres southeast of New Delhi, while the artillery exercise will be conducted concurrently at Devlali Field Firing Range, about 200 kilometres northeast of Mumbai.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran has military might to deter US attacks against it

TEHRAN, 19 Jan—Iran has the military might to deter attacks against it, its defence minister said in remarks published on Tuesday, one day after US President George W. Bush said he would not rule out military action against Iran.

Iranian Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani said the Islamic Republic, which has seen US forces topple regimes in neighbouring Afghanistan and Iraq in the last three years, did not fear attack.

“We are able to say that we have strength such that no country can attack us because they do not have precise information about our military capabilities due to our ability to implement flexible strategies,” the semi-official *Mehr News Agency* quoted Shamkhani as saying.

“We can claim that we have rapidly produced equipment that has resulted in the greatest deterrent,” he said, without elaborating. Bush said on Monday that Washington would not rule out military action against Iran if it was not more forthcoming about its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

His comments followed an article in the *New Yorker* magazine on Sunday which said US commando units were conducting secret reconnaissance missions inside Iran to

identify hidden nuclear and chemical sites for possible future strikes.

Iran denies its nuclear facilities are to be used to make nuclear weapons and Pentagon officials have said the *New Yorker* report was “riddled with errors”. In Iran’s first official reaction to the *New Yorker* article, which suggested Pentagon officials were eager to tackle Iran in Bush’s second term, a senior security official dismissed the report as “psychological warfare against Iran”.

“The entry of Ameri-

can commandos (into Iran) is not that easy and believing this story would be naive,” state radio quoted Ali Aghamohammadi, head of the Propaganda Office at Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, as saying. *Mehr News Agency*, which analysts say has close ties to the office of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in an editorial entitled “Futile espionage” ridiculed US attempts to destabilize Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

MNA/Reuters

Iranian President kicks off visit to Zimbabwe

HARARE, 19 Jan—Iranian President Seyed Mohammed Khatami arrived in Zimbabwe on Monday on a three-day official visit aimed at bolstering diplomatic ties between the two countries.

He was met at the Harare International Airport by his Zimbabwean counterpart, Robert Mugabe. The two were scheduled to hold bilateral talks Monday.

Before leaving on Wednesday, the two leaders are expected to sign bilateral agreements in various sectors of the economy. The two countries already have cooperation agreements in the fields of agriculture and communication.

Zimbabwe has received grants from Iran for the development of its agriculture sector, and is also getting assistance in the revamping of equipment at the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings.

The visit by the Iranian leader comes at a time when Zimbabwe has adopted a “look East policy” that is geared towards solidifying relations with countries in the Far East and Asia following the straining of relations with the West.—MNA/Xinhua

NZ business confidence improves in fourth quarter of 2004

WELLINGTON, 19 Jan—New Zealand business confidence improved in the final quarter of last year but firms continued to have a gloomy view of the future, according to the latest Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion released on Tuesday.

The survey, conducted by New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER), said a net 6 per cent of New Zealand firms expected general business conditions to deteriorate over the next six months, compared to a net 16 per cent the previous quarter.

On a quarterly basis, confidence was up across all sector groups surveyed, apart from building material suppliers, whose confidence slipped from a net 22 per cent expecting business conditions to deteriorate in the September quarter, to a net 41 per cent in the December quarter.

Building construction was the most optimistic sector, as it continued to

enjoy buoyant conditions in both the residential and non-residential markets.

However, the quarterly improvement in confidence was not reflected in the annual figures, with almost all sectors more pessimistic than they were in December 2003.

NZIER said tightening monetary conditions had left a slightly sour taste in business leaders’ mouths despite the strong economic growth.

The Reserve Bank hiked the official cash rate six times last year, to end 2004 at 6.5 per cent. In December Reserve Bank governor Allan Bollard warned further tightening could be necessary.

MNA/Xinhua

UTStarcom to enter Chinese mobile phone market

BEIJING, 19 Jan—US-based telecommunications equipment producer UTStarcom will move into mobile phone business in China by leasing a handset manufacturing licence from a local company, *China Daily* reported on Tuesday.

“We plan to launch a mobile phone model in China based on the GSM (global system for mobile communications) standard this month,” Richard Feng, marketing director of UTStarcom (China), was quoted by the paper

as saying.

This marks a major strategic shift for the world’s largest vendor of equipment and phones based on the limited mobility service, also known as personal handy system (PHS) and

xiaolingtong in Chinese.

UTStarcom has filed an application with Chinese regulators for a licence to manufacture and sell mobile phones in the country, Feng said.

Before that it will lease the licence from a

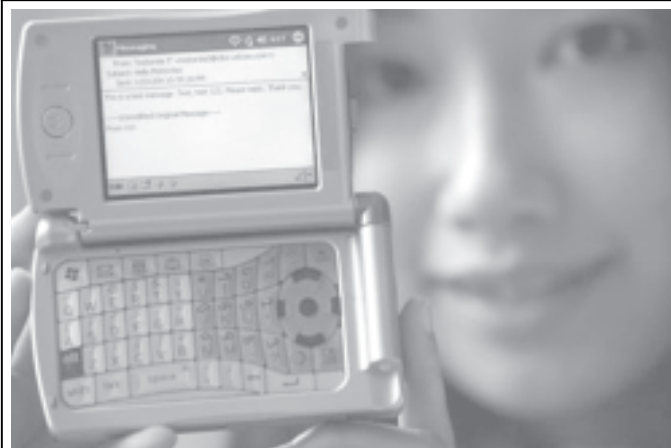
local firm named CECT, he added.

The company released the new plan when the xiaolingtong business is beginning to taper off.

The entry into the domestic mobile phone market would help UTStarcom pick up some slack from slowing xiaolingtong revenues, said Elaine Su, an analyst with research firm GFK Asia.

In the first three months of last year, the fixed-line carrier China Telecom recruited 1.8 million new users of xiaolingtong per month and the figure dropped to 1.2 million per month in the last quarter.

Besides a general market slowdown, UTStarcom is facing fierce competition from other vendors such as Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corp, said Su.—MNA/Xinhua



Joanne Chin, Motorola sales executive shows a MPX Mobile Internet Phone displaying the Celcom Email and Beyond services after its official launch in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia recently.—INTERNET

Golden Summit of Myanmar II

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

Myanmar hosted the World Buddhist Summit, which can be named the Golden Summit, in Yangon for three days from 9 to 11 December 2004. On the first day of the conference, Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (SSMNC) Chairman of the Central Administrative Committee of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhavivamsa read out the message from the Chairman of the SSMNC to the Summit. In his message, the Chairman Sayadaw highlighted the strength of unity as follows:

"If all Buddhists throughout the world actively cooperate with each other, Buddha Sasana will continue to flourish for so long. The thriving of Sasana is as bright as the light from one thousand suns and moons shone on earth."

The message also mentions the agony the world is facing, and the ways to free the global people from it, saying, "The people in the world are afflicted with the fire of lust, anger and delusion and face with different kinds of problems and dangers. Only by means of Noble Eightfold Path, the fire of defilements can be extinguished."

Peace cannot be achieved just by propagating. The degree of success for getting peace depends on how much we can control lust, anger and delusion. Thus, the message said, "Therefore to establish a peaceful and prosperous world, the fire of lust, anger and delusion should be controlled not only by individuals, but also by making a great effort to propagate Noble Eightfold throughout the world."

The most Ven Dr Mahavichit Singharaj, President of Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization also sent a message to the World Buddhist Summit. In the message, he said, "I on behalf of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization Central Committee, Lao Buddhists of the ethnic groups and myself have great pleasure and honour to convey a congratulation and gratitude to your Most Ven, as well as to the Buddhist people of Myanmar on the occasion of holding the World Buddhist Summit. It is a gathering of the Top Buddhist leaders to exchange their views on how to bring the Lord Buddha's Teachings into wide propagation to people of the world in order to promote peace, friendship, solidarity and happiness of all humanity in the world."

The keynote speech of the Summit was delivered by Venerable Dr Nyanissara of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy on the first day of the conference. He said, "Welcome to our golden land of Myanmar. We are happy and proud to host this World Buddhist Summit as a devout Theravada Buddhist nation."

The Sayadaw's words reflect the many pagodas including the Shwedagon, the golden paddy fields, and the Dhamma that is shining like gold in the nation. So, it is a speech as valuable as gold.

Myanmar hosted the Summit with the following objectives:

- To promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries;
- To maintain Buddha's teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries;
- To promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist sculptures in the nation and the world;

- To create a peaceful world by the Buddhism for all human beings;
- To propagate the original teachings of the Buddha in the world;

The following excerpt from his address may support the objectives:

"Although different Buddhists practise different traditions, there has been no dispute over the Noble Path and Truth. This is one of the significant features of Buddhism."

The address delivered by Dr Ashin Sila Nandabhivamsa, Rector Sayadaw, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Dhammapala Hill, Mayangon, Yangon, at the closing ceremony of the World Buddhist Summit also disseminated knowledge on Buddhism.

The Sayadaw said, "To tell you the truth, it is not at all possible for all Buddhists to become one again without the labels Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana, etc., but we have some Teachings of the Buddha in common, for which every Buddhist is likely to admit that they are authentic teachings of the Buddha. On these we will concentrate and spread

"The people in the world are afflicted with the fire of lust, anger and delusion and face with different kinds of problems and dangers. Only by means of Noble Eightfold Path, the fire of defilements can be extinguished."

to the world both in our countries and in foreign countries.

"The Noble Eightfold Path which is one of the Four Noble Truths is an important one and we must practise first ourselves and then teach them to the world. The impermanence of all things conditioned, suffering nature of all things conditioned and non-soul nature of all things both conditioned and unconditioned which are also accepted by all Buddhists are another subject which we all agree and so we can teach them too.

"The teaching of the universal love, i.e., love for all beings can be and will be taught to the world, first practising ourselves and later teaching to the world. There are other teachings as well that are accepted by all sects of Buddhism and we can make effort to teach them.

"With the principles of Buddhism which are after all universal principles, the world can be made into a place where peace and harmony prevail, and people can live their lives without worry and anxiety."

If we study his words, they will give us the light on the Dhamma.

Now, I will continue to present the excerpts of the address delivered by Venerable Dr Nyanissara who urged to spread Buddhism around the world, according to the discussions among world Buddhist leaders at the Summit, as follows:

"The Buddha preached that frequent meetings and discussions of Buddhist leaders can contribute to the promotion and propagation of his teachings. Following the Buddha's advice for continuous discussion, the two main sects of Buddhism, namely,

Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, are now meeting again at the Buddhist Summit to discuss the matters concerning the unity of Buddhists and propagation of Buddhism.

"Undoubtedly, the Buddhist Summit is sending powerful Buddhist messages of great tolerance and boundless compassion to the turbulent world where the strong rules over the weak and the rich is reluctant to share with the poor."

The Sayadaw also dealt with the meaning of man and two different fields of philosophy. Men tried to find something to rely on to free themselves from fear, when they were unable to clearly differentiate between what is good and what is bad. First, they worshipped what they thought was the powerful. But when the Buddha attained the enlightenment and showed men the correct way, that is to find the remedy in his ownself to solve his problems, they were able to free themselves from fear.

Every individual who followed the Buddha's way will enjoy peace of mind, and individual peace and tranquillity will lead to global peace. Thus, the Sayadaw pointed out the need to hold more World Buddhist Summits to combine the Man Power, Money Power, Material Power, and Mind Power, the forces that will ensure individual peace to family peace and global peace.

He also stated, "In many World Buddhist Conferences, world Buddhist leaders have tried every possible effort towards Buddhist unity and cooperation. Because of these world conferences, the Theravadins, the Mahayanists and Tibetan Buddhists came to learn more about each other. Personal friendship and ties have also been forged. We need to take further steps towards drawing a concrete action plan to translate our words into action.

"In future plan we should do more networking among us, especially we should form linkages among universities, monasteries and exchange scholars. International forums for Buddhist leaders are absolutely essential and should be regularly held for intellectual debates and exchange of ideas. We also should participate in these forums with understanding, patience and forgiveness to each other to reach our common goal."

In the conclusion part, the Sayadaw said, "Although the Buddhist leaders are outwardly different in appearance, traditions and cultures, inside their hearts they are the same in cherishing the values of loving-kindness, forbearance, compassion universal brotherhood spirit, spirit of appreciative joy and wisdom. The Eightfold Noble Path laid down by the Buddha is the common path we will have to take together. The Noble Truth of Cessation is our common destination which we are determined to reach in the end.

"Therefore, let us walk together in the common path with common values toward our common destination."

I hope that the World Buddhist Summit or the Golden Summit will help purify, promote and propagate Buddhism around the world. We should store virtue of patience, loving-kindness and compassion, spirit of universal brotherhood spirit of selflessness within our hearts to realize the goal.

Translation: TMT

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 18.1.2005



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addresses coordination meeting for holding Fourth Buddha Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.—MNA

Measures for holding Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image discussed

YANGON, 19 Jan—A work coordination meeting took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs this afternoon to seek ways and lay down programmes for holding the Fourth Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.

Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for

Holding the Buddha Pujaniya Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Adviser U Arnt Maung dealt with the purpose of the festival. Officials of subcommittees for holding the festival, decoration, transport, ushering members of the Sangha and offering *soon* to them, conducting

sermon preaching ceremony, reception, holding Htamane preparation contest, information and recording, health care services, funds, security and rules enforcement reported on respective sectors.

The minister assessed the reports and delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Cash donations for Tipitakadhara Selection Examination

YANGON, 19 Jan — A ceremony to make cash donation for Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thirimingalar Kaba Aye Hill, here, on 17 January.

Adviser U Arnt Maung and Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint accepted K 100,000 donated by Member of the Panel of Judges for Tipitakadhara Selection Examination Masoeyin Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Padumabhivamsa (Agga Maha Pandita); K 100,000 by Twantay Kyongyi Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Neyadhamma (Agga Maha Pandita); K 100,000 by Mandalay Yadanabagan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kalyana; K 160,000 by Mayangon Township Deva Neinmitayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala and laypersons; K 50,000 by U Pyone Cho-Dr Myint Myint Su of Thanbyuzayat Township. Certificates of honours were presented to the donors.

Those wishing to contribute toward the donations for the Tipitakadhara Selection Examination may contact Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the RAD Tel-665673 and Director U Tun Hla Tel-660766. — MNA

11 papers submitted to Myanmar Health Research Congress

YANGON, 19 Jan — The Myanmar Health Research Congress continued for the fifth day at the office of the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township this morning.

In the morning session, resource persons submitted eight papers to the congress. In the afternoon session, three papers were read. Next, the resource persons replied to the questions of the enthusiasts.

Before submitting the papers, the researchers gave lectures on matters relating to safety of chemical elements to mark the Technology Week. — MNA

Employees of Soft Drinks Factory (Mandalay) practise fire fighting

YANGON, 19 Jan — Talks on fire prevention was held at Soft Drinks Factory (Mandalay) of Myanma Foodstuff Factory in Mandalay on 12 January. Factory Manager U Myint Aung explained directives of the Ministry of Industry-1. Head of the Township Fire Services Department U Soe Than lectured on emphasis to be placed on fire prevention and functions and duties for the security group, the fire fighting group, the communication group and others.

Next, 20 members of the fire fighting unit and 80 employees of the factory together with 20 members of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade practised putting out fire with the use of two fire engines and one light pump. — MNA

Meeting on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Activities held

YANGON, 19 Jan — A coordination meeting on Yangon Division level HIV/ AIDS Prevention and Control Activities organized by the Ministry of Health was opened at the meeting hall of Myanmar Medical Association with an address by Acting Director-General of the HD Dr Tin Win Maung.

Next, those present took part in the talks on HIV/AIDS prevention measures and control activities being carried out by the Health Department, the agencies under the United Nations, social organizations and international organizations. — MNA

Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 19 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, Nainggan Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 531, Merchant Street, here, Tel: 374532, not later than 31-1-2005.— MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

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

Minister on inspection tour...

(from page 1)
72,000 acres of summer paddy and generating of electricity through irrigated water, Division Manager of Myanmar Agricultural Service U San Maung on progress in cultivating 1,000 acres of summer paddy

and cultivation of double-cropping in Chingyi and Tonkin villages with the use of irrigation facility.
Next, the minister gave instructions on efficient use of valuable water, planting of trees in watershed areas of

the dam, measures to be taken for storage of water and efficient use its cultivation of paddy.

After meeting the local peasants, the minister provided assistance to them.

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

Myanmar Archery in the glorious chapter...

(from page 16)

circuit archery championships one to be held in Thailand in the last week of February, and the other, in the Republic of Korea in May.

The victories that glorified Myanmar's archery is due to the leadership of the Ministry of Sports, the assistance provided by MAF President Dr Khin Shwe, vice-presidents U Tint Hsan, U Maung Maung and Dr Zaw Tun and executives, the training given by the Korean coach and Myanmar instructors, and the high moral and patriotism of the archers.

At the First SEA Archery Championship, 17-year-old Ma Yunanda Htaik won four gold, and her team-mate Paw Oo, another four gold. Gender-wise best player awards went to Ma Yunanda Htaik and Paw Oo and Nyi Nyi Tun.

The onus is on the golden boys and girls of the archery team themselves to win more medals in the future international events.

Thanks to the success they have achieved in the First SEA Archery Championships, the moral of



Competitors taking part in 1st South-East Asian Archery Championships.

our golden boys and girls is high to grab a larger number of medals in 23rd SEA Games to be hosted by the Philippines this year.

Hence, we hope that they will make constant efforts with high aims to further uplift the standard of

Myanmar archery that is already in its heyday.

Translation: TMT
Myanma Alin: 18.1.2005



Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of SEA Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta and Vice-President of AAF President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe seen together with members of the Organizing Committee for the 1st SEA Archery Championship.

Rural and urban development in Magway Division inspected

YANGON, 19 Jan — Officer on Special Duty at the Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu, accompanied by Director (Engineer) U Kyaw Myint of Development Affairs Department and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Thein Win of Magway Division Development Affairs Committee, inspected progress in construction of the districts linking road in Natmauk Township section

on 15 January. The OSD and party oversaw 14/4 miles long gravel road, one wooden bridge, five culverts and 14 conduits along the road section.
On 16 January, the OSD looked into construction of the district-linking earth road and the gravel road with the use of heavy machinery in Taungdwingyi and Hsinbaungwe Townships. In 2004-2005 financial year, 15 earth road section, five miles and five fur-

longs long gravel road section, four wooden bridges and nine conduits have been built on the district-linking road in Taungdwingyi and Hsinbaungwe townships. Thus, 18 miles and one furlong long earth road and six miles and six furlongs long gravel road have been constructed.
On 17 January, they inspected water supply system from Ayeyawady River and tubewells in Magway.

MNA

Development tasks checked in Langkho, Mongnai

YANGON, 19 Jan — Deputy Superintending Engineer U Byar No and party of Shan State (South) Development Affairs Committee supervised construction of the 60,000-gallon-capacity water tank

measuring 50 feet long, 30 feet wide and nine feet deep being carried out by Langkho Township Development Affairs Committee for the urban water supply purpose.
Similarly, they in-

spected collection of gravel and placing of the gravel road for construction of 13 streets measuring two miles long and 12 feet wide in total in Mongnai Township.

MNA

**ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့
ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။**

၂၀၀၅ - ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၁၁) ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်
ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၁၄၄၉) တိုက်
ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ
စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန၊
ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန။

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း မောင်းနှင့်သွားလာလျက်ရှိသော မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအနက် အချို့မော်တော်ယာဉ်များသည် မီးခိုးအလွန်အကျွံ ထွက်ရှိလျက် အများပြည်သူဆိုင်ရာ လမ်းများ ပေါ်တွင် မောင်းနှင့်သွားလာနေသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ အဆိုပါမီးခိုး အလွန်အကျွံထွက်သော မော်တော်ယာဉ်များကြောင့် ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် လေထုညစ်ညမ်းမှု ဖြစ်သည့်အပြင် ပြည်သူများ၏ ကျန်းမာရေး ကိုပါ ထိခိုက်နိုင်သဖြင့် မီးခိုးအလွန်အကျွံထွက်သော ယာဉ်များအား စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးစီးဌာနမှ ကော်မတီ

Commander visits rubber farms, hospital in Homalin

YANGON, 19 Jan—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by officials, inspected the eight-acre rubber plantation of the local battalion in Homalin on 12 January.

The commanding officer of the local battalion reported on the experimental rubber plantation initiated with the help of the agricultural experts from Mon State, plans under way to extend the industry, and distribution of rubber saplings and cultivation methods. The commander provided as-

sistance for the farm and viewed production of latex.

On arrival at Homalin People's Hospital (100-bed) Project site, the commander heard a report by Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Myint on the area of the facility, water supply, and work progress. The commander called for timely completion of the project, meeting the standard set, and beautifying of the site.

Next, the commander inspected construction tasks around the project site and provided necessary assistance for the project.

MNA

Co-ord meeting for 58th Union Day held

YANGON, 19 Jan — A coordination meeting of Subcommittee for Marking the 58th Anniversary Union Day 2005 Flag Carrying, Putting up Poster and State emblems was held in the first floor of Yangon City Development Committee City Hall this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the subcommittee YCDC Secretary Col Myint Aung, subcommittee members of District Peace and Development Council and officials.

The chairman of the subcommittee YCDC secretary made an opening

speech on the occasion. Next, Head of YCDC Engineering Department (Building) U Zaw Win reported on flag carrying programmes and putting up poster and marking state signals, Yangon West District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and officials of Yangon East District, South District and North District PDCs on the flag carrying programme distinctively and subcommittee members on the work arrangements sector-wise. After hearing the reports Col Myint Aung attended to the needs.

MNA

Germany suggests rethink on design of euro coins

BRUSSELS, 19 Jan — Germany's vending machine industry suggested on Tuesday a rethink on design of euro coins after the European Union said it found nearly 75,000 counterfeits in 2004, three times the amount found in 2003.

Olivier Louis, a technical expert from the EU anti-fraud office, told a European Commission news conference that 50 cent euro coins were even faked for use in developing countries.

The number of fake coins is still minuscule compared to the 55 billion genuine coins in circulation.

But Germany's vending machine industry said more than twice as many counterfeit euro coins

were now being found as fake deutschmarks previously and suggested the EU might want to rethink its policy allowing national designs on one side of the currency.

"The vending machine industry needs secure money," Christian Trenner, head of the German VDAI vending machine industry, said in a statement at a news conference.

He noted there were already 120 different

euro coins in the 12 euro zone nations and this could climb to 300 in the next 10 years as the EU's 10 new member states join the currency area.

From 2008, euro zone countries can also change their national designs, he noted.

"Vending machine technology can respond flexibly, but many citizens will be overwhelmed," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Tatmadaw shooting contest opened

YANGON, 19 Jan—The opening of the 44th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's trophy shooting contest (2004-2005) took place at the shooting range of PyinOoLwin Station on 16 January.

It was attended by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ne Win, senior military officers, staff officers of the command, officers and

other ranks and family members and guests.

The deputy commander delivered a speech on the occasion, and formally opened the contest.

A total of 25 teams (men) and 24 teams (women) of Defence Service (Navy), Defence Service (Air), military commands and light infantry divisions will compete for the trophy. — MNA

Anaesthetic Specialists Conference to be held

YANGON, 19 Jan — The 6th Anaesthetic Specialists Conference of Myanmar Medical Association will be held at the hall of the association on 17 and 18 February.

The conference will have paper

reading sessions on anaesthetic and intensive care, workshops and discussions on other interesting subjects. Anaesthetic doctors across the nation and enthusiasts may attend the conference.

MNA

Prize presentation for...

(from page 16)
system research paper "Marriage practices among selected ethnic groups in rural area of Hpa-an Township" to Daw Kyu Kyu Than and for the best poster "Community-based control of dengue haemorrhagic

fever using alternative methods in a peri-urban area of Yangon" to Major Htin Zaw Soe.

Present were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, directors-general, deputy directors-general, rectors, professors, resource persons and guests.—MNA

Six Chinese airlines to run cross-straits charter flights

BEIJING, 19 Jan — The General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) on Tuesday designated six Chinese Mainland airline companies to participate in the non-stop charter flights across the Taiwan Straits during the coming Spring Festival.

The six Mainland airlines are Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Xiamen Airlines and Hainan Airlines.

They will run 24 charter flights across the Taiwan Straits. Six charter flights will start from Beijing and run by Air China and Hainan Airlines. Ten flights will start from Shanghai and run by China Eastern Airlines and Shanghai Airlines. Eight flights will start from Guangzhou and run by China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines.

A source from the CAAC said the six airline companies are negotiating with Taiwan counterparts on ground services.

Chinese Mainland and Taiwan civil aviation circles reached consensus Saturday on launching non-stop charter flights for Taiwan business people during the Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year.

MNA/Xinhua

HK Govt budgets more to promote intellectual property rights

HONG KONG, 19 Jan — About 7 million Hong Kong dollars (about 897,500 US dollars) have been budgeted for public education in the coming financial year in Hong Kong to promote intellectual property rights, according to the Intellectual Property Department of Hong Kong Government.

Stephen Selby, director of Intellectual Property, disclosed this figure when announcing the result of the Sixth Annual Survey on Public Awareness of Protection of Intellectual Property Rights 2004 Tuesday.

"The survey provides us new information and insights on how to tackle intellectual property rights infringements in Hong Kong. We shall keep up our efforts in promoting public awareness and respect for intellectual property rights." He said.

"We have budgeted about 7 million Hong Kong dollars for public education efforts in the coming financial year. For instance, we will further promote the No Fakes Pledge," Selby said.

More promotional effort is also required to educate the public about the importance of respecting intellectual property rights in the cyber world, he said.

Questions about the file-sharing behaviour on the Internet have been added to the 2004 survey.

More than 70 per cent of respondents knew that file-sharing was an infringement of intellectual

property rights. Less than 10 per cent were often or sometimes involved in file-sharing activities on the Internet.

The survey revealed younger males with higher education level tend to visit news groups or unauthorized websites to download files for file-sharing.

"The popularity of the Internet has raised new issues concerning intellectual property rights protection," Selby said.

"Although the results of the survey in 2004 reveals that intellectual property rights infringement on the Internet is not as serious as we have expected, we believe that more promotional effort is still required to educate the public, especially young people, about the importance of respecting intellectual property rights in the cyber world."

The survey also showed that public awareness of intellectual property rights has improved as the awareness level of the relevant law has grown from 55.2 per cent in 1999 when the survey first started to 71.2 per cent in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese zookeeper vaccinates a 44-day-old chimp at Hefei Safari Park, East China's Anhui province, on 19 Jan, 2005. This is the first ever baby chimp born in the park. —INTERNET

ADB to help Afghanistan develop solar energy

MANILA, 19 Jan — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Tuesday said that it would help Afghanistan develop solar energy technologies in isolated rural areas, through a technical assistance (TA) grant approved for 750,000 US dollars.

The ADB said in a statement that the TA will demonstrate how solar energy could be used to enhance the quality of life for low-income communities living in remote villages with no prospects for grid electricity, and how a community-based approach could lead to the success of such programmes.

According to the ADB, the solar radiation in Afghanistan averages about 6.5 kilowatt-hours per square metre per day, and the sky is sunny for about 300 days a year.

"The potential for solar energy development is huge, not only generating electricity but also for water pumping for water supply and small scale irrigation, provision of potable water, hot water for homes, hospitals and other buildings," says Ali Azimi, an ADB Senior Environment Specialist and mission leader for the project. "Solar energy could also contribute significantly to progress in education, health, agriculture and other income generating activities to reduce poverty," he said.

More than 80 per cent of the population live in Afghanistan rural areas and depend on traditional fuels for cooking and water heating, and kerosene for lighting, which have an adverse impact on forests and watersheds. Most of Afghanistan's 25 million people have no access to modern forms of energy, such as electricity, gas and liquid fuels.

The ADB said that the lighting provided by solar energy could be used in the running of literacy and other courses in the evenings that would benefit children and adults working in the fields during the day.

Solar-powered pumps would provide irrigation for agricultural production, in which 85 per cent of Afghans are engaged.

"The project will serve as a valuable demonstration of the role of renewable energy as a vital means for reducing poverty and creating sustainable livelihood in low-income, remote communities across the country," Azimi added.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to attract more Chinese tourists

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Jan — Malaysian Transport Minister Chan Kong Choy said on Tuesday that more Chinese tourists would choose Malaysia as their holiday destination and this year was expected to attract one million Chinese tourists.

In 2003, Chinese tourists numbered 580,424 and last year it increased to 828,266, Chan told reporters after welcoming some 93 passengers on-board the Shenzhen Airlines' maiden flight ZH 0796 to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA). With already seven Chinese airlines flying into KLIA, and Shenzhen Airlines being the latest one, Chan said that he was hopeful that KLIA-operator, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAB), could work extra hard to secure more Chinese airlines' flights.

"I urge MAB to work very hard to get the eighth, the ninth, even the tenth Chinese airlines flying into Malaysia this year."

"Let's work very hard (to get new Chinese airlines). It will provide (the impetus) and enhance the tourism industry, by bringing a lot of benefits, to both countries," he said.

Other airlines from China currently operating direct scheduled passenger flights to KLIA include Air China, China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Xiamen Airlines, Kunming Airlines, while Hainan Airlines operates charter flights.

Echoing Chan's state-

ment, China's Ambassador to Malaysia Wong Chungui said that both the volume of Chinese tourists travelling to Malaysia and vice versa, were rising.

"Therefore, we really need to increase the need for transportation (to and from Malaysia)," he said.

Wong is confident that Shenzhen Airlines and other Chinese airlines would increase their international flights this year to cater for the increasing number of people from China travelling abroad. The Shenzhen Airlines operates three flights weekly from Shenzhen in southern China, to KLIA on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

It uses the Boeing 737-800 aircraft with 167 seating configuration. The flight takes about three hours and 20 minutes. —MNA/Xinhua

Gonzales says torture by American personnel is unlawful

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — Alberto Gonzales, seeking to win Senate confirmation as US President George W. Bush's attorney general, declared that any torture by American personnel would be unlawful, according to written responses released on Tuesday to questions by senators.

"As the President has made clear, the United States will not engage in torture and US personnel are prohibited from doing so," Gonzales wrote in response to a question by assistant Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois.

At his January 6 Senate confirmation hearing, Gonzales, now Bush's White House counsel, fended off heavy criticism over his role in shaping administration policies blamed for contributing to the abuse of prisoners cap-

tured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A number of questions by members of the Judiciary Committee dealt with an August 2002 memo that Gonzales approved, which outlined how to avoid violating US and international terror statutes while interrogating prisoners. The administration recently removed and replaced that memo.

After the day-long hearing, Gonzales promised to further respond in writing to some questions posed to him that day as well as to a number of follow-up questions. He did so, and on Tuesday Senate Democrats released the responses. The full Senate Judiciary Committee is to consider the nomination on Wednesday. But Democrats are expected to invoke their privilege to obtain an automatic one-week delay. —MNA/Reuters

China to continue fishing ban on Yangtze River in 2005

BEIJING, 19 Jan — The Chinese Government will continue its spring fishing ban on the Yangtze River, China's longest, in 2005 to help protect depleting fish resources, the fishery department of the Ministry of Agriculture said.

The ban will last from February 1 until April 30 on the river's upper reaches, stretching from southwest China's Yunnan Province to central Hubei Province.

On the lower reaches, the ban will be from April 1 to June 30. The ban will include Poyang and Dongting lakes, two major lakes next to the river, said Pan Peng, deputy director for the resources protection section under the department.

All fishing methods will be covered by the ban, said Pan, adding that if the state-level fry breeding farms need to fish for fry or scientific institutes need to fish for doing researches, they have to obtain approval from the ministry.

The ban coincides with the spring, when the fish lay eggs.

The measure will affect

50,000 full-time and 240,000 part-time fishermen in ten provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, acknowledged Pan.

But the local governments would assist fishermen with subsidies and other substantial measures to minimize their loss of earnings.

In addition to the fishing ban, the ministry also plans to introduce fish fry to the river to increase the quantity of resources.

Statistics from the ministry shows that the governments at various levels have put 580 million fish fry into the river in the past three years. The authorities first implemented the ban on the lower reaches of the river in 2002 on a trial basis. In the following year, the central government extended the trial to the whole river basin. —MNA/Xinhua

Meningococemia cases decline in northern Philippine city

MANILA, 19 Jan — The northern Philippine city of Baguio has witnessed a decline of meningococemia suspected cases from nine during the first week of January to one since January 15, the Department of Health (DOH) said on Tuesday.

Luningning Villa, spokesman for the DOH meningococemia command post, told the radio dzMM that despite the decrease, the meningococemia alert will remain in effect until the end of the week.

"The situation is improving since we had nine suspected and confirmed cases from January 1 to January 7 to only one suspected case from January 15 to January 18," she said. The DOH will issue a new advisory depending on the assessment of the meningococemia situation by Monday, she added.

The DOH earlier issued a travel advisory to Baguio travellers in light of the spread of the meningococemia.

According to the department, travellers from Baguio going to other countries need certification that they had taken antibiotics and are advised to proceed to the Bureau of Quarantine (BoQ). Foreigners who trav-

elled to Baguio are also required to have their vaccination at the BoQ before returning to their home countries, it added. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit Monday deferred the lifting of the alert level in the country's vacation capital after the bacteria causing meningococemia manifested "differently", causing the emergence of meningitis cases. Villa said that meningitis is caused by the same bacteria as meningococemia but is less deadly.

According to the DOH, the World Health Organization (WHO) will send a group of microbiologists from France, Canada and the US Centres for Disease Control to Baguio this week to monitor two confirmed cases of meningitis in the city.

Despite the disease, the DOH will not ban travel to the city since chances for infection from meningococemia or meningitis are very small.

MNA/Xinhua



A rocket is launched from Kourou, French Guiana recently. Russia and the European Space Agency (ESA) signed an agreement allowing Russia to use ESA's sites for space launches and allowing the two sides to freely exchange research and development information. The European side will allow Russia to conduct space launches from its space center in Kourou. — INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (687)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (687) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-1-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone No: 256908/ 378316/ 376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SAGAING VOY NO (23)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAGAING VOY NO (23) arrived on 20-1-2005 are hereby notified that their cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar 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 upto 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.

AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 295279,295280,295281,295658, 295659

TRADE MARK CAUTION Mandarin Oriental Services B.V. of Dispenbroekstraat 19, 1077 VX Amsterdam, The Netherlands, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark "Spa Logo":



Reg. No. IV / 6331 / 2004 in respect of "Infl class 44: Hairdressing services; beauty salons; Turkish baths; saunas and massage parlours; medical spas". Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark shall be dealt with according to law. KHINE KHINE U, Advocate L.L.B., D.B.L., LL.M (UK) For Mandarin Oriental Services B.V. #025, 6 Fl, Traders Hotel Yangon. Dated: January 20, 2005

Putin orders to increase pension by minimum 200 roubles

Moscow, 18 Jan — President Vladimir Putin said Monday that pensions must be increased by at least 200 roubles starting on 1 March, 2005, according to the Interfax news agency.

"Pensions must be increased not by 100 roubles from 1 April, as planned earlier, but by 200 roubles as a minimum from March 1," Putin told the Cabinet on Monday.

Expressing the dissatisfaction with the work of implementing the law on the replacement of social benefits with cash payments, Putin said "the government and the regions have not fully accomplished the task we were talking about: while making decisions we must not worsen the position of those in need of state aid".

Minister of Health and Social Development Mikhail Zurabov believes it is possible to increase pensions by 240 roubles, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

At the Cabinet meeting in the Kremlin, Putin ordered the Finance Ministry and the Pension Fund "to ensure an accelerated indexation of pensions".

MNA/Xinhua

FAO to hold special conference on SIDS

ROME, 18 Jan — The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will convene a special conference in Rome from 19 to 26 November, 2005 for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), FAO said on Monday.

The conference will tackle a number of urgent issues highlighted in the strategic document agreed at last week's international meeting in Mauritius, which urged "the 2005 SIDS Conference to consider endorsing priority actions for an enhanced contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to SIDS sustainable development policies, in light of the importance of nutrition and food security needs of SIDS".

The strategy further calls for the creation of "synergistic linkages between tourism and the agricultural sector by promoting island foods and beverage supply chains, rural hospitality and agrotourism".

The strategy document called on the international community to address issues of special concern to SIDS countries such as trade and food security and improving sanitary and phytosanitary infrastructure in these countries.

Small islands, with the support of the international community, are called on to "promote agricultural competitiveness through long-term development of efficient agricultural systems, diversification and value-added activities and to ensure food security".

MNA/Xinhua

Table with Burmese text and numbers. Columns include 'အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန', 'မြန်မာ့စတုဂ္ဂိုလ်တော်', 'အရောင်းအဝယ်', 'တင်ပို့ခရီးစဉ်/အချိန်', 'ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်', 'အရောင်းအဝယ်', 'တင်ပို့ခရီးစဉ်/အချိန်'. Rows list items like 'သံဖြူပြား', 'သင်္ဘောဆေးကုန်ကြမ်းပစ္စည်း', 'Calcium Carbide', and 'သိန့်လိုသည့်အချက်များရှိပါက'.

Food prices up in Tanzania stock and Customs union are factors

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 19 Jan — Peasants' stocks and import duties have been held responsible for the rising of food prices in Tanzania, where cereal prices went up in most parts of the country.

Rice, wheat, sorghum, beans and sweet potatoes are now in high demand, according to a report by the marketing department of the Tanzanian Ministry of Cooperatives and Marketing.

The price hike was attributed partly to the start of the rainy season when peasants deplete their stock to plant this year's crops and partly to the increased import duties on rice as required by the East African Community Customs union.

In Dar-es-Salaam,

the retail price of rice is now set for between 750 and 850 Tanzania shillings (75 and 85 US cents) per kilo. In October and November last year, the retail price of rice was between 650 and 750 shillings in Dar-es-Salaam.

Beans are now sold at the highest price of 75 dollars per 100-kilo sack in southern Tanzania, where they were sold last November at the cheapest price of 55 dollars a sack.

However, food shortage was not the main reason behind the price hike, as only five of Tanzania's 26 province-like administrative regions are facing food shortages.

The five regions combine to demand 20,516 tons of food whereas the country's

Strategic Grain Reserve currently stocks 114,543 tons of grain.

Official statistics indicated that Tanzania was estimated to have produced nine million tons of grain in 2004 whereas the country's projected consumption in 2005 is 8.8 million tons.

Eight of Tanzania's 26 administrative regions reported a surplus of grain production while seven

others reported self-sufficiency in food supplies. Six regions managed to make their ends meet by securing food supplies from elsewhere.

The Tanzanian Government has launched a campaign in rural areas to acquaint peasants with the idea of storing enough food for up to the next harvest season so as to prevent food shortages.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine carriers plan more flights to Japan

MANILA, 19 Jan — Philippine flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) and the second largest airline Cebu Pacific are planning more flights to Japan, officials said on Monday.

Each carrier has been allowed by the Civil Aeronautics Board to

make four trips per week to Nagoya as part of a new air services pact with Japan, PAL officials said.

PAL said it will begin flying the Nagoya route in March, with three trips per week under the new agreement and the fourth flight to be made with an entitlement

granted under a previous air service agreement with Japan.

PAL has signed a deal with Japan Airlines (JAL) under which JAL will take care of ground handling at Nagoya for the Philippine flag carrier.

MNA/Xinhua

Storm brings great loss to Sweden's forestry

STOCKHOLM, 18 Jan — The storms that hit northern Europe in early January have brought a great loss to Sweden's forestry, local media reported Monday.

The forestry's economic loss directly resulting from the storms has been estimated at one billion Swedish krona (145.9 million US dollars) as it destroyed at least 75 million cubic metres of trees.

Several Swedish lumber companies were busy with transporting the dead trees to lumber mills, but their transportation capacity could only achieve half

the task by summer, which means timbers of several hundred thousand cubic metres will be invaded by insects and lost their commercial values.

A storm with hurricane-strength winds swept across northern Europe on January 8 and January 9, causing flooding and forcing hundreds of thousands to live without electricity. Some meteorologists said the storm was one of the worst that have hit the Scandinavia Peninsula in years. In Sweden, the storm left 11 people dead and 400,000 Swedes without power. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany calls for higher environmental standards on farms

HAMBURG, 18 Jan — Germany has called for higher environmental standards on farms after free-range eggs were found to be tainted with the cancer-causing chemical dioxin.

Eggs with higher than permitted dioxin levels were found in past months in several German states because free-range hens were permitted to roam on farmland contaminated with chemicals, according to German media reports.

"We must use a firmer environmental policy to ensure that di-

oxin levels are reduced and that it vanishes from our environment," Agriculture Minister Renate Kuenast said in an interview with the newspaper Berliner Zeitung on Monday.

Scientists have known for years that free range eggs have a higher dioxin risk than eggs from battery hens so the

European Union has introduced maximum content levels, she said.

Kuenast called for German state governments, who are responsible for food safety, to intensify checks on free range eggs and remove any from the market found to contain high dioxin levels.

MNA/Reuters

မညာရေးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

India's "ASTROSAT" will be open to international observers

MUMBAI, 19 Jan — India's first scientific satellite for astronomical observation *ASTROSAT*, which is scheduled to be launched in 2007, will be open to international observers, former chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), K. Kasturirangan said here on Monday.

The *ASTROSAT*, weighing more than 1.6 tonnes, is planned to be placed in an orbit of 560 kilometres at inclination less than 18 degrees, Kasturirangan said while inaugurating the COSPAR (Committee of Space Research) Colloquium on "Spectra and Timing of Compact x-ray Binaries", being held in India for the first time.

"Needless to emphasize, in keeping with traditions of international cooperation, the observatory will be open to international observers," he said, adding that Canada has already shown interest in using the country's first multi-wavelength satellite for astronomy.

Kasturirangan said COSPAR is being held at a time when India is poised to

take such major steps as *ASTROSAT* and *Chandrayan-1* (moon missions).

Explaining to international scientists about India's own heritage in the field of high energy astronomy, he said, the first efforts in space science dates back to early 1940s. The work on x-ray, gamma-ray and infra-red astronomy and solar system studies over the decades has culminated in *ASRTOSAT* and the niche areas that *ASTROSAT* would be addressing include long duration temporal and spectra studies of variable sources, highest angular resolution ultra-violet survey, simultaneous broad band spectrum and simultaneous timings at multi-wavelengths of galactic and extragalactic objects, he said.— *MNA/PTI*



Afghan businesswoman Kamela Sediqi looks over the cutting bit of a horizontal boring machine while visiting the contracting firm *Specialized Services Company* recently in Phoenix.—INTERNET

OPEC oil price keeps rising last week

VIENNA, 18 Jan — The average crude oil price stood at 39.88 US dollars per barrel last week, up 2.98 dollars from the previous week, the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), based in Vienna, said on Monday.

The crude oil price, based on the average price package of seven market-monitored crude, issued by the secretariat of OPEC, reached 41.08 dollars per barrel last Thursday, the first time OPEC's daily oil price broke 41 dollars since November 3 last year.

The latest developments of OPEC oil price were due to "seasonal market characteristics, such as the shift towards colder weather in the northern hemisphere and a related decline in US crude and heating oil inventories", OPEC's Acting Secretary-General Adnan Shihab-Eldin said in a statement Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

Deficient DNA repair capacity raises risk of breast cancer

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — Deficiencies in the ability of cells to repair damaged DNA are associated with an increased risk of breast cancer, researchers at Columbia University said Monday.

A latest study led by Regina Santella at the Columbia University School of Public Health is due to be published in the January 19 issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

DNA repair is the system of defences designed to protect the integrity of the genome. Earlier studies have suggested that deficiency in cells' capacity for DNA repair contributes to the accumulation of DNA damage and accelerates the genetic changes leading to cancer.

To evaluate whether weakened DNA repair capacity in the nucleotide excision pathway that fixes DNA alterations known as bulky DNA adducts is associated with breast cancer risk, Santella and colleagues analyzed cell lines generated from blood samples from pairs of sisters, in which one had been diagnosed with breast cancer but the other had not.

They found that DNA repair capacity was lower in breast cancer patients than in the control subjects. Deficient DNA repair capacity was associated with a twofold increase in the risk of breast cancer.

In addition, when the

data were stratified into quartiles of DNA repair capacity, the risk of breast cancer was three times higher among women with the poorest DNA repair capacity compared with those with the highest.

"These data support the hypothesis that deficient DNA repair capacity is associated with susceptibility to breast cancer and may be a valuable in vitro biomarker to identify high-risk subjects, es-

pecially in familial breast cancer families," researchers wrote in their paper.

"It is unclear at this time whether there are any interventions that could alter DNA repair capacity and what effect such interventions might have on risk," they said.

Other scientists remarked on the need for developing better laboratory tests for such studies.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine balance of payments deficit at \$282m in 2004

MANILA, 19 Jan — The Philippine balance of payments deficit reached 282 million US dollars in 2004, much lower than the government's expected shortfall for the year, the Philippine Central Bank said on Monday.

The figure is just slightly over half of the earlier projected balance of payments deficit of 516 million US dollars for last year, after a surplus of 111 million US

dollars in 2003, partly due to higher remittances from overseas Filipino workers, the bank said.

For December alone, the balance of payments was in surplus by 177 million US dollars.

About eight million Filipinos working abroad sent 7.7 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of 2004, up 11.6 per cent from the 6.9 billion dollars a year earlier. The government had forecast remittances would expand considerably to 8.3 billion US dollars in 2004.

But net foreign portfolio inflows fell 2.2 per cent in 2004 to 661 million US dollars from 675.8 million US dollars in 2003, according to the Central Bank data. The balance of payments is the record of a country's transactions with the rest of the world, which is closely watched by investors to gauge the Philippines' ability to settle government's debt of more than 60 billion dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

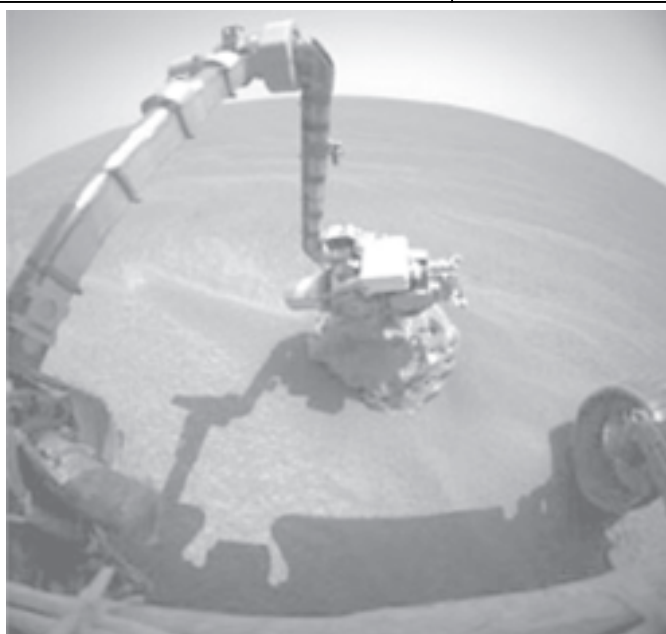
Global music sales slipped in 2004

AMSTERDAM, 18 Jan — Global music sales slipped again in 2004, but after four years of declines the record publishers will see the return of growing revenues in 2005 due to online stores and music DVDs, a survey found on Monday.

Hit by piracy, Internet song swappers and saturated markets, music sales fell in 2004 by 1 per cent to 32.1 billion US dollars. But 2005 will make up for the damage with a 1-per-cent increase, said research group Informa.

Over the next six years, the music publishing industry will return to the 39 billion US dollars sales levels last seen between the years 1997 and 2000, before the invention of cheap CD burners and file swapping services such as Napster and KaZaa.

MNA/Reuters



The robotic arm of rover *Opportunity* can be seen investigating a basketball-size metal meteorite sitting on the surface of Mars on 18 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

St Etienne defeat Racing Lens 3-0

PARIS, 19 Jan— St Etienne defeated troubled Racing Lens 3-0 on their home ground on Tuesday to qualify for the semi-finals of the French League Cup.

Frederic Piquionne out-witted defender Nicolas Gillet to open the scoring courtesy of a right-foot shot which gave goalkeeper Charles Itandje no chance in the 21st minute.

Feindouno slotted his side's second from the penalty spot after Gillet fouled midfielder Julien Sable inside the box 17 minutes from time.

Nicolas Marin wrapped the match up with a 88th minute goal which upset supporters of the home side who swarmed on to the pitch. The match was briefly delayed. The result is another setback for Racing Lens who slumped to a 1-0 home loss to bottom side Istres at the weekend.

The hosts had two good chances to score in the second half but goalkeeper Jeremie Janot cleared a header by Daniel Cousin in the 50th minute while substitute John Utaka shot wide just after the hour.—MNA/Reuters

Traore's own goal gifts Burnley 1-0 win over Liverpool

LONDON, 19 Jan— A bizarre own goal by defender Djimi Traore gifted Second Division Burnley a 1-0 win over 10-man Liverpool in an FA Cup third round upset on Tuesday.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez bore some of the blame for the Premier League club's exit by fielding a second string team but the rest was down to Traore after his over-elaborate attempt to clear ended up in his own net in the 51st minute.

Liverpool's misery was compounded in the closing minutes at Turf Moor when their Spanish midfielder Antonio Nunez was red-carded for elbowing Burnley midfielder Tony Grant.

Burnley's reward is a home tie on January 29 with Third Division Bournemouth, while Leicester City are

at fellow Second Division club Reading after they beat Blackpool 1-0 in a replay.

Benitez, whose second-string sides have reached the League Cup semifinals, was unrepentant.

Asked if it had been a mistake not to field more experienced players, the Spaniard told Sky Sports News: "I don't think so. (I'm happy) with the players, they tried. We worked hard.

"We used the squad in the Carling Cup with the same idea and we won. Not today. All of us are disappointed with the result, but that's football."

As for Traore's antics, Benitez said: "It's a mistake. In the six-yard box, you need to clear the ball."

Burnley's delighted manager Steve Cotterill said: "It's an absolutely fantastic win... I thought we were better in the first half, they were better in the second.

"But in the end, we got what perhaps what we deserved on the night... we were a team tonight. We had good individuals, but they certainly played as one of 11."

Calamity struck for Liverpool when Burnley's Richard Chaplow crossed from the left and the French-born Traore tried to flick the ball from one foot to the other. Instead he sent it into his net from close range.

It was a memorable win for Burnley, who had plenty of fight but clearly missed the firepower of striker Robbie Blake, who was sold to Premier League Birmingham City earlier this month.

MNA/Reuters



An own-goal by Djimi Traore, seen here in 2004, handed Championship side Burnley a deserved 1-0 victory over Premiership giants Liverpool in the third round of the FA Cup.—INTERNET

Gramenet win 2-1 aggregate victory over Lleida

MADRID, 19 Jan— Third division Gramenet extended their giant-killing exploits on Tuesday by confirming a place in the King's Cup quarter-finals with a 2-1 aggregate victory over second division Lleida.

The Catalan side, who defeated Primera Liga sides Barcelona and Levante in the previous rounds, lost 1-0 on the night and were reduced to 10 men with eight minutes to go. However, they battled on to claim their first place in the last eight.

Lleida, who warmed up for the clash with a crushing 5-1 win over Murcia at the weekend, took control from the whistle against fellow Catalans Gramenet.

But they were unable to take advantage until seven minutes before

the break when midfielder Santos made the most of a defensive error to clip home past keeper Morales.

The goal was met with a howl of protests by the Gramenet players as one of their team mates was down injured at the time and Lleida had not put the ball out of play.

The third division side suffered another setback when midfielder Xavi Gracia was sent off late in the game after picking up a second booking but they still managed to hang on for a famous victory.

MNA/Reuters

Voellar becomes sporting director of Leverkusen

BERLIN, 19 Jan— Former national coach Rudi Voeller returned to German football on Tuesday to become sporting director of Bayer Leverkusen for a second time.

Voeller, who steered Germany to the World Cup Final in 2002, but resigned after Euro 2004, agreed a two-year contract with the Bundesliga side, the club said.

The 44-year-old, who was succeeded as national coach by Juergen Klinsmann, told a news conference on Tuesday he had received numerous offers from German and foreign clubs in recent months, but had wanted a break..

Voeller took charge of Italian club AS Roma at the end of August, but quit in less than a month, saying he felt unable to get the best out of the underperforming side.

Voeller, a World Cup winner in 1990, ended his playing career in 1996 at Leverkusen and was sporting director of the club from 1996 to 2000. He even had an office at the club during his time as national coach.

"I have to much thank Bayer Leverkusen for. It was here that I set the course for my career after my time as a player. And my family and I feel particularly content here. It seemed from the first day that I'd never been away," Voeller said.

In his new role, he will work with



Roma's coach Rudi Voeller of Germany leaves the field at the end of the Italian Serie A top league soccer match between Bologna and Roma, in Bologna, northern Italy, in this 25 Sept, 2004 file photo. Bayer Leverkusen confirmed on, 18 Jan, 2005, that Voeller, who stepped down as head of the German national soccer team after the Euro, will become sporting director of German Bundesliga club Bayer 04 Leverkusen.—INTERNET

trainer Klaus Augenthaler, a fellow World Cup winning team mate, although Voeller said he had not ruled out a coaching post in future.

Top-selling newspaper Bild said Voeller would be on an annual salary of 500,000 (653,300 US dollars) euros.

MNA/Reuters

US Govt urged to continue firm action against doping issue

RALEIGH (North Carolina), 19 Jan— The top American athletics official urged the United States Government on Monday to continue firm and aggressive action against the doping problem in America.

"We need to be serious about sending the right messages to kids and we need to be serious about doing the research that lets us catch cheaters," USA Track & Field (USATF) chief executive officer Craig Masback told reporters via telephone from his Indianapolis office.

"The most important thing will be for the Bush Administration...to (take) firm and aggressive action to address what is an American problem."

He added the BALCO doping scandal that has rocked US sport has taught officials that "you can't manage the problem". US President George W. Bush in his 2004 State of the Union address called on US sports and their athletes to stop using performance-enhancing drugs. Their use sets a dangerous example for the youth of America, Bush said.

Masback said he welcomed baseball's new anti-doping policy, which for the first time calls for a 10-day suspension for first-time offenders.

However, Masback cautioned: "I

think the battle (with drugs) in baseball is far from over based on the experience we have had in track and field".

A dozen US athletics performers have been sanctioned as a result of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO) doping scandal.

Baseball's Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield and former triple Olympic champion Marion Jones also have been linked to the doping fiasco, the largest in US sports history.

"We believed we tried harder and done more than virtually anybody else (in sport)," Masback said.

"But whatever we were doing, it wasn't enough. ... No matter what help was given to us... there was going to be some group of people that were still going to try to cheat.

"BALCO changed forever our view that we were doing enough."

Now, he said, the US "has the faith of the world that it is doing the best that it can."—MNA/Reuters

Southampton signs ex-Portsmouth midfielder

LONDON, 18 Jan— Southampton's new boss Harry Redknapp has signed his former Portsmouth midfielder Nigel Quashie for 2.1 million pounds.

Quashie, who cost Portsmouth only 600,000 pounds in 2000, signed a three-and-a-half year deal on Monday that is likely to stir south-coast rivalry further after Redknapp quit Fratton Park and joined St. Mary's last month.

A combative, ball-winning midfielder with a powerful shot, Quashie should provide some much-needed drive to a side who are struggling in the relegation zone. The 26-year-old will be cup-tied, though, for what some fans see as Southampton's biggest match of the

season when they host Portsmouth in the FA Cup fourth round on January 29.

Redknapp is re-building his squad during the January transfer window and has money to spend after selling striker James Beattie to Everton for six million pounds.

He has already bought two players from Tottenham Hotspur — his son, Jamie, on a free transfer to strengthen the midfield and defender Calum Davenport, on loan until the season ends.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese companies welcome retired foreign experts

BELING, 19 Jan — More and more Chinese companies are hiring foreign experts who have already retired in their own countries.

A leading Chinese electrical household appliance maker has hired retired experts in the field — 34 from Japan and 14 from South Korea.

“Because of fierce competition, these people were forced to retire at the age of 50 in their home countries,” said Yu Yaochang, vice president of the Galanz Group. “But they are just the very talents we need.”

According to Yu, Galanz provide these experts with housing and an annual salary averaging from 240,000 yuan (approximately 28,900 US dollars) to 400,000 yuan (approximately 48,200 dollars) per person, a large amount by Chinese standards. “These people have strong sense of responsibility, rich experience and superior skills. They have been very helpful to the development of Chinese companies,” said Yu.

According to Yu, Galanz has benefited from Japanese experts’ knowledge of manufacturing, layout of production facilities, development of components and industrial design skills.

Galanz is not alone in embracing the new employment practice. Other

companies taking advantage of opportunity include big-name Chinese electrical household appliance makers Skyworth, TCL and Hisense.

Hisense Group chairman Zhou Houjing once acknowledged hiring a few retired technical experts from Sony and Panasonic.

Zhang Xuebin, vice president of Skyworth Group, said Japanese experts on its payroll had a rich experience in managing an international company. “They have been of great help to Chinese companies in improving products and tapping the overseas market,” said Zhang.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow, winds bring travel chaso in Scotland, N Ireland

LONDON, 19 Jan — Heavy snow overnight and high winds brought travel chaos to many roads across Scotland and Northern Ireland on Tuesday, with police advising against unnecessary journeys.

The Met Office issued severe weather warnings for Scotland, northern England, Wales and the Midlands, forecasting widespread icy roads, drifting and heavy snow.

“It’s looking pretty treacherous out there,” said a spokeswoman for the RAC motoring organization.

“We are advising motorists to avoid travelling if they can.”

In Fife, one of the worst hit areas, police reported major traffic problems on the motorway and main roads towards the Forth Bridge and Dunfermline.

“Snow is fairly nor-

mal for us at this time of year but we have been getting it pretty bad over the last day or so,” a Fife police spokesman said.

Schools in the Western Isles were closed for fear of further storm damage following heavy gales last week.

Snow and a hard overnight frost also made driving difficult in Northern Ireland, where the main road between Armagh and Keady was closed after seven vehicles became stuck.

At Belfast City Airport there were delays and some flights were cancelled.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria, Brazil begin talks on cooperation

ABUJA, 19 Jan — Nigeria on Monday entered into negotiations with Brazil over a pact on economic, social and political cooperation, the West African country’s Foreign Minister Olu Adeniji told reporters.

The negotiating teams led by him and his Brazilian counterpart Celso Luiz Nunes would form the basis for a Nigerian/Brazilian joint commission expected to take off in May, Adeniji said.

Nunes said that Brazil will negotiate in the areas of oil, machine tools, maritime transport, labour and industry. Other areas are health and education, he added.

The Brazilian Foreign Minister identified cassava cultivation as one area his country would seek close ties

with Nigeria, describing it as a major and staple crop in both countries.

Adeniji welcomed the idea of exploring the cassava potentials, saying that Nigeria was looking into ways of using the crop for bread making.

The minister said that Nigeria would also examine strategies adopted by Brazil that reduced by half, the mortality rate resulting from the HIV/AIDS epidemic, malaria and tuberculosis.

MNA/Xinhua

ASLEEP IN JESUS MR THOMAS THOUNG SEIN

Age (62)

U.N.D.P (Retired)

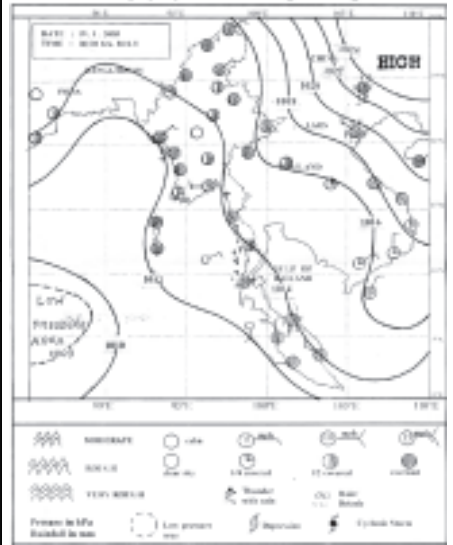
The devoted husband of Daw Euphrasia Aye Aye Myint; the beloved father of Patricia Than Than Sein, Albert Myint Soe + Nwe Ni Htwe, Augustine Aung Sein + D Jones Thwe, Dube Zaw Moe, John Bosco Myo Thant, Jimmy Kyaw Kyaw Htwe, Edwinna Nwe Ni Tun and Lucy Thazin Aung; the grandpa of Albert Kennedy and Valentino; passed away at Maha Myaing special clinic at 8:40 pm on 18.1.05.

The funeral will be held at 1:00 pm on 20.1.05 at the christian cemetery, Yay-Way.

The cars will leave the house at noon.

The Bereaved Family

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 19 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been cloudy in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin State and Magway Division, about normal in Kayin State and (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), Moegok (4°C) Namsam (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 18-1-2005 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 19-1-2005 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 9:30hrs MST on 19-1-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 18-1-2005 was (7.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 19-1-2005 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 5 mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 18-1-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, the depression over the Southeast Bay has downgraded as a low pressure area. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Mon and Eastern Shan States. Upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Continuation of light rain in extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

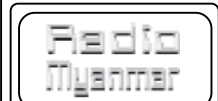
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-1-2005: Partly cloudy.



Thursday, 20 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. Dance of National races
- 8:05 am
6. Dances Variety
- 8:10 am
7. ချစ်လိမ္မော်
- 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. English for Everyday Use
- 4:40 pm
4. Musical programme
- 4:50 pm
5. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗောဓိရတုဗောဓိ အထူးပြုများ) (သတ္တဗောဓိ)
- 5:05 pm
6. Cute little dancers
- 5:20 pm
7. Musical programme
- 5:35 pm
8. မြန်မာ့စာပေအဖွဲ့အစည်း
- 5:50 pm
9. “အလေးတော့ကိုပြပါ” နှိုင်းဝင်း၊ ရတနာစာပေ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုတ်စိုက်)
- 6:00 pm
10. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တော့စွမ်းပြိုင်စီမံရေးဇယား
- 6:10 pm
11. ဗဟုသုတသွယ်ဆိုကြပေ
- 6:30 pm
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်တွဲ “လူ့မှုနိဂုံးကောင်း” (အပိုင်း-၄၇)
- 7:30 pm
15. တစ်ဖက်တစ်ချက်အဖွဲ့အစည်းများ ဖလှယ် နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်တွဲ နိဂုံးကောင်းများ ရေးနဲ့ ဒီမိုကရေစီ ထူထောင်ရေးတိုင်းတာချက်
- 7:45 pm
16. Myanmar ICT Week ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:00 pm
17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. “တောင်ပေးရဲ့ပျံ့စားရင်” လွင်စုံ၊ နေအောင်၊ နေအောင်လွင် (အပိုင်း-၁)
- ဒါရိုက်တာ-တို့ဇော်(အုတ်စိုက်)
- 22. The next day's programme



- Thursday, 20 January
Tune in today:
- 8:30 am Brief news
 - 8:35 am Music: shake it
 - 8:40 am Perspectives
 - 8:45 am Music: The light
 - 8:50 am National news/Slogan
 - 9:00 am Music: Life is too short
 - 9:05 am International news
 - 9:10 am Music: -Nothing but the truth
 - 1:30 pm News/Slogan
 - 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Somewhere down the road
 - Nothing's gonna stop us now
 - Only for you
 - What can I do
 - 9:00 pm Aspect of Myanmar - Kyaukse Pagoda
 - 9:15 pm Article
 - 9:20 pm Pourir
 - 9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers -My love
 - The days you went away
 - I want it that way
 - 9:45 pm News/Slogan
 - 10:00 pm PEL



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint presents prize to a resource person at Myanmar Health Research Congress. — MNA

Prize presentation for best papers and posters of Myanmar Health Research Congress 2004

YANGON, 19 Jan — The prize presentation for best papers and posters of Myanmar Health Research Congress 2004 was held at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township this evening.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered a speech. He said resource persons submitted 70 papers at the congress and 13 posters were displayed and seven symposiums were also held.

He noted that among the documents there were research papers related to six major diseases that the Head of State gave guidance on conducting research.

Especially, ten papers on malaria were submitted, he added. He expressed his pleasure for submitting papers and posters by Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) and (Central Myanmar).

Research paper is a sign of getting things done on a particular ex-

ploration work. If the findings can be utilized in practical field, the research is successful, he remarked.

He urged the scholars to conduct research on six major diseases with greater momentum in accord with the guidance of the Head of State and to make efforts for practical application in promotion of health care services and longevity of the people.

Next, Chairman of subcommittee for selection of best papers and posters Dr Nyunt Wai announced the winners.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint presented prizes for the best research paper "Anti-malaria activity and related chemical constituents of Swertia species which are grown in Kayah State" to Daw Khin Phyu Phyu, for the best applied research paper "Cost free system for screening of Hepatitis C of blood donors in remote areas" to Daw Yi Yi Kyaw, for the best health (See page 10)

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

Bands perform musical skills

YANGON, 19 Jan — The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day (2005) continued at the People's Square, here, this morning.

Before the competition, student bands of Yankin Education College Practising Middle School and Botahtaung Basic Education High School No 4 presented skills demonstration to the enthusiasts.

Next, the band competition followed. The band representing Defence Services Officers Training School, the band company-3 of Eastern Command, the band company-1 of Triangle Region Command, the bands representing the No 5 Basic Military Training Depot and the No 2 Basic Military Training Depot took part in the competition by play-

ing band instrument.

Secretary of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the Committee for Observance of the competition Deputy Adjutant-

General Col Khin Soe presented prizes to the leaders of the student bands.

Present on the occasion were senior military officers, members of the panel of judges, guests, Tatmadaw family members and students. — MNA



Deputy Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe presents cash prize to a leader of the student band. — PRPU

Myanmar Archery in the glorious chapter

The Myanmar Archery Federation was founded in 1995 under the sponsorship of Dr

Khin Shwe. Its victory has started with a silver medal, a Myanmar archer won at the 19th South-

east Asia Games held in Jakarta two years later in 1997. As the Myanmar archer was tied with his foreign rival, a penalty decision had to be made to shoot one more arrow each for the gold medal. Myanmar lost the gold medal by just a two-point margin.

However, because of their strong determination to uplift the nation's dignity through their sporting event, the Myanmar archers won seven gold, six silver and three bronze totalling 16 medals at the third World Ranking Asian Circuit Archery Championship held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 9 to 16 November, and their team won the first prize.

Article and photos: Thaug Win Bo

"As Myanmar captured the largest number of medals, she even won the respect of the Asian archery giants", team manager U Tint Hsan, the vice-president of MAF, said.

The Myanmar team has uplifted the nation's image again, as it stood first in the First Asian Archery Championship, hosted by Myanmar from 10 to 13 January this year. The team won nine gold, five silver and 10 bronze, totalling 24 medals in the 16 events.

It was a tough competition for Myanmar team, as it had to beat the two top Asian nations,

Malaysia and Indonesia, to bag the largest number of medals.

Teams from Thailand, Vietnam and Laos also took part in the championship. Of the four best player awards, three went to the Myanmar team.

Since the formation of the MAF in 1995, the Myanmar athletes have won 29 gold, 22 silver

and 27 bronze, totalling 78 medals, in 26 international championships to this date.

And the victories stand witness to the MAF's efforts to raise the nation's dignity within a ten-year period.

Now, the MAF is in the process of making preparations to win medals at the two Asian (See page 9)



Four gold medalist archer Yu Nanda Htaik seen with Best Player Award in the women's compound event.

INSIDE

"The people in the world are afflicted with the fire of lust, anger and delusion and face with different kinds of problems and dangers. Only by means of Noble Eightfold Path, the fire of defilements can be extinguished."

(Page 7)

YADANASI SAYADAW (LOILEM)