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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Agriculture, irrigation facilities inspected in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 21 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected tasks of Ma Mya Dam Project in Hmyinwataung region of Myanaung Township on 16 January.

On completion, the dam can irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland for cultivation of double crops.

In Kwinkauk region, the minister oversaw thriving 6,200 acres of summer paddy with the use of irrigation facilities from Nankathu Dam. Director-General U Kyaw San Win of Irrigation Department, Chairman of Hinthada District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Pyone and Ayeyawady Division Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service U Hla Myo reported on cultivation works.

At the wetland reclamation project region in Ingapu Township, Maj-Gen Htay Oo observed 400 acres of summer paddy, the small embankment which benefits 2,000 acres of farmland of thriving summer paddy and pulse and bean plantations.

While in Hinthada Township, the minister looked into implementation of Myogwin river water pumping project. He met with departmental officials and discussed functions and duties of the river water pumping project.

MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo seen at the construction site of Ma Mya Dam Project in Myanaung Township on 16-1-2005.— A&I



Progress in construction of water control tower at Ma Mya Dam in Myanaung Township on 16-1-2005.— A&I

42nd Myanma Gems Emporium to be held in March

YANGON, 21 Jan—The Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines is making arrangements to hold the 42nd Myanma Gems Emporium in March 2005 in the interest of the State and gem entrepreneurs.

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

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

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

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Those achievements have not been realized naturally but by the might of national brethren who reside in the nation accept the 12 political, economic and social objectives as a work guideline.

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PERSPECTIVES

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 22 January, 2005

Strive for national development upholding State's objectives

The State Peace and Development Council has been placing emphasis on ensuring national reconsolidation, the most crucial requirement, after its assumption of State duty. With prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the nation, it has been able to establish economic infrastructures in all parts of the nation including border areas.

Nowadays, socio-economic life of the people has improved since there have been sound economic infrastructures in the State. This is due to the fruitful results of concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people under the leadership of the government.

Regarding the national development, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe pointed out in his speech at the Annual General Meeting 2004 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association. He said:

"The national development task was first launched in the border areas which lagged behind in development due to lack of security. Development of border areas and national races is the requirement of history. Significant progress has been made through concerted efforts and goodwill of the people and the Tatmadaw, thereby contributing much to bringing about national reconsolidation."

Progress has been made as a result of independence, peace and stability. Independence is invaluable. With independence, the government has been able to bring about national reconsolidation and carry out national development.

Those achievements have not been realized naturally but by the might of national brethren who reside in the nation and accept the 12 political, economic and social objectives as a work guideline.

Unprecedented progress has been made in political, economic and social sectors when compared with that in the period of 1988.

A series of hindrances and difficulties had to be encountered and overcome in striving for national development. However, many achievements have been realized in nation-building endeavours through the unity and friendship between the Tatmadaw and the people.

The sustained and continued achievement rests on the unity of the entire national people. Political progress will contribute to socio-economic development of the people.

Therefore, the entire national people are urged to make continued efforts for national and regional development, upholding the State's objectives.



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
SETTLEMENT AND LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

The Meeting for Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN+3 Countries

and
The Third Focal Point Meeting of AFSIS Project

Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar.
24-28, January 2005

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

Rules on Armed Forces Day Commemorative Painting and Sculpture Contests announced

YANGON, 21 Jan — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competitions Organizing Work Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced rules on the Arts and Sculpture Contests.

Six categories

The Painting Contest will be divided into six categories — the pre-primary level (school children from Pre-Primary School, the primary (junior) level (KG, first and second standards), the primary (senior) level (third and fourth standards), the middle school level (fifth to seventh standards), the high school level (eighth to tenth standards and technical and agricultural schools) and the open level (university, college, institute, State School of Fine Arts, amateur and professional contestants).

Sculpture Contest

Contestants can participate in only the open class of the Sculpture Contest. But, they may take part in the two events— the open class (plaster) and the open class (wood). All the contestants including amateurs, professionals and students may take part in both contests.

In the pre-primary and all basic education levels of the Painting Contest, the size of the entry must be 20" x 15" presented by any colour and system. The entry must be endorsed by respective principals with the name of contestant, standard, school, township, date of birth, father's name, full address and two passport size photos. The entries are to be sent to the Education Planning and Training Department at 123, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, not later than 1 March 2005.

The size of entries for the open division painting contest must be 30" x 20" size work presented by any colour and system. Name, Citizenship Scrutiny Card number, date of birth, father's name, occupation and full address must be written with two pass-

port size photos. The entries must be own creation.

The entry for the wood and plaster events of the Sculpture Contest must not be higher than 36 inches and circumference not larger than 24 inches. The work must be own creation. The entry is to be attached with the name, Citizenship Scrutiny Card number, full address and a brief biography and three passport size colour photos.

Any title can be given to the entry. The entries must be the ones have not entered the contest and exhibition yet. The entries are to be sent to the Secretary of the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, not later than 3 March 2005.

All the entries must reflect 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Entries for the open class painting and sculpture contests are to be sent to the Secretary of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association (Central) of 187, east wing of Bogoyoke Market, Pabedan Township, not later than 1 March 2005 or the Secretary of the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, here, from 1 to 3 March 2005.

Other entries

Apart from the entries, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. They must also reflect the 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

In addition, the works may reflect the ancient Myanmar Tatmadaw, historic matters of the Tatmadaw which occurred in the periods of Pre-Independence and State Peace and Development Council, and its endeavours in safeguarding and developing the State. The other paintings and sculptures are to be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 1 to 5 March 2005.— MNA

Zaw Paing Oo stands first in Air Bagan Open Golf C'ship

YANGON, 21 Jan — The Air Bagan Open Golf Championship continued for the second day at Bagan Golf Course in NyaungU Township this morning.

Among the spectators were President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and executives, Air Bagan Ltd Chairman U Teza and officials.

After the second round, Zaw Paing Oo (Srixon) stood first with 146 strokes in the professional golfers division, followed by Than Naing (Wilson) and Min Lwin Oo (Wilson) with 147

each and Aye Lwin (Wilson) with 148.

Zaw Zin Win led in the men's amateur

golfers division with 141 strokes. Thein Zaw Myint put his position behind the leader with 142 and

Aung Win with 147.

The third round of the championship continues tomorrow.— MNA



Zaw Paing Oo (Srixon) taking part in First Air Bagan Open Golf Championship.— MGF

CPPCC Chairman advocates nongovernmental exchanges

BEIJING, 21 Jan— A Chinese leader said the China Association for International Friendly Contacts should fulfil its popular diplomatic role in improving international friendships in accordance to China's diplomatic guideline.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, made the remarks when he met with the representatives attending the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the CAIFC.

He also hoped the CAIFC would contribute to the world peace and development and create better environment for China's modernization drive.

Jia pointed out during the past 20 years, the CAIFC has always pushed forward people-to-people exchanges

with other countries.

It has worked to promote world peace and development and has contributed to furthering friendship between the Chinese and the people of the world.

About 360 people from the CAIFC and the local foreign affairs offices attended the celebration.

The CAIFC was established in 1984. It has built up relationship with organizations from more than 70 countries, international organizations and research organs of international issues.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Singapore, Kuwait end first round of FTA talks

SINGAPORE, 21 Jan— Singapore and Kuwait have finished their first round of negotiations on the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), according to a joint statement by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Kuwait and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore on Thursday.

The talks, which were held on January 17 to 19 in Singapore, focused on key issues including trade in goods, rules of origins, Customs, investment and government procurement.

The joint statement said that having had fruitful discussions and achieved good progress during the first round of talks, both sides noted that the FTA would help to spur greater trade and investment linkages between the two

countries.

The next round of negotiations is expected to be held in Kuwait in March or April of this year.

With the highest trade to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio in the world, Singapore regards bilateral FTAs as one of the momentum of boosting trade and investment flows and advancing its trade interests.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia seeks \$ 3.3b loans from donor group

JAKARTA, 20 Jan— The Indonesian Government will ask new loans of 3.3 billion US dollars from its donor group, the Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI), in a meeting here on Wednesday.

"Government's actual need for the state budget is 2.8 billion US dollars. But we also need 500 million US dollars for non-budgetary spending," State Minister for National Development Planning Sri Mulyani Indrawati told reporters before the meeting.

She said the government proposal did not include reconstruction costs in the tsunami-hit Aceh as the government is still working on the accurate assessment of financial losses from the disaster.

"Besides, Aceh has received donation from other donors outside the CGI, such as China," she said.

Indrawati said the CGI is expected to make decision on Indonesian proposal Thursday.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Wipro employees, the Indian software company's third-quarter net profit jumped 56 percent driven by robust outsourcing orders from global clients.—INTERNET

India test fires "Trishul" missile

NEW DELHI, 20 Jan— India Wednesday test fired its short-range, surface-to-air *Trishul* missile from a mobile launcher at a test range in Orissa State in east India.

The three-metre-long missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), was launched at 12.53 pm (0723 GMT) from a test range at Chandipur, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted local defence officials as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

China cracks down on fake, substandard food

BEIJING, 21 Jan— China handled 390,000 cases of the production and sale of fake or substandard food, worth 1.46 billion yuan (176.5 million US dollars), last year, revealed a national conference on food and drug supervision and management work on Wednesday.

The country prosecuted 128,000 such cases and handed 1,585 of them over to judicial authorities. Police investigated 5,640 people involved in these cases and arrested 270, the conference said.

Alarmed by a notorious fake milk powder scandal that enraged much of the country in April, China

tightened its food safety regulations and stepped up efforts in cracking down on illegal food manufacturers over the past year.

Special campaigns checking milk powder and kids' food and fighting fake trademarks, fake indications and fake packages in food markets also took effect last year, it

said. The acceptable quality rate of rice, flour, oil, soy sauce and vinegar has jumped from 59.9 per cent to above 95 per cent, after the country set up a market entrance permission system to ensure the food's quality and security, according to the statistics from the conference.

MNA/Xinhua

UK soldiers hurt in Iraq base blast

BAGHDAD, 20 Jan— Five British soldiers were injured in an explosion outside a military base in Iraq, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed.

The troops and a number of Iraqi civilians are being treated in hospital following the blast at an entrance to a compound in Shaibah, 20 miles south west of Basra.

The five British soldiers were from the Second

Battalion The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. Prime Minister Tony Blair has twice visited the Shaibah base a sprawling compound surrounded by bleak desert landscape. His most

recent visit was in the week before Christmas when he mingled with troops there after talks with Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in Baghdad.

Downing Street said it was monitoring reports of the blast.—*Internet*

Protesters jeer Bush in Washington

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan— Anti-Bush demonstrators waving signs that said "Worst President Ever" and "the American Nightmare" jeered the president's motorcade during the inaugural parade on Thursday.

The procession of cars speeded up as President Bush neared the designated location for protesters on Pennsylvania Avenue. Two rows of

police lined the street in front of the main protest site. Officers stationed atop buildings along the route kept close watch on the crowd.

Boos rained down from the crowd and some demonstrators shouted, "No justice, no peace." In some places in the protest area, the crowd was about six rows deep.

Three blocks from the White House, protesters

tried to rush a security gate and a flag was burned.

Police briefly locked down the area, trapping some 400 to 500 spectators. Annie Katz, 52, of New York, was at the rear of a group of protesters, but she said the experience was worth it despite the bad view. Katz said she was upset by the 2000 election, but "I'm angrier this time, since I'm angry about the war."—*Internet*



A Hitachi employee shows the flat panel television line up of the plasma display panel and LCD in Tokyo on 20 Jan, 2005. Japan's Fujitsu is considering drastically downsizing its involvement in, or even withdrawing from, the plasma-display panel business, a report said.—INTERNET

India accepts to attend 4 Feb G-7 talks

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan—India has accepted an invitation to attend talks with finance ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations in London on 4 February, Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram told Reuters on Thursday.

It will be India's debut at a G-7 meeting, China, which attended a dinner during the last G-7 in Washington in October as part of the group's so-called outreach programme, is also expected to take part in the London talks.

Diplomats said the invitations were a clear recognition of the increasingly important role that the two fast-growing countries are playing in the international economy.

"India has been invited, China has been invited and I have accepted the invitation," Chidambaram said.

The G-7 comprises the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Britain, which is chairing the group this year.

The group is expected to meet over dinner on February 4 and hold its main talks the following day.

"I have been invited by Chancellor Gordon Brown on February 4 to participate in a meeting in which G-7 finance ministers are attending. I'm not sure if you call it a G-7 meeting," Chidambaram said. India and China are both members of the Group of 20 rich and emerging countries, which many analysts say deserves a greater role in global economic policy-making because of the group's broad representation. Inviting Beijing and Delhi to the London talks could thus be seen as building an institutional bridge between the G-7 and G-20.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်ပွင့်အား ခေါ်တော်လှား



Models parade for
the Hong Kong Young
Fashion designers'
contest at the opening of
the Hong Kong Fashion
Week on 19 Jan 2005.

INTERNET

Briton, Swede killed in Iraq

DUBAI, 20 Jan—A militant group said on Thursday it had abducted and killed a Briton and a Swede in the central Iraqi city of Beiji.

In an Internet statement, the Army of Ansar al Sunna said: "The lions of the faith of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) were able to ambush and kidnap two agents - a Briton and a Swede - working for the intelligence agency of the infidel forces in Beiji and God's law was enforced by killing them."

The statement did not say when the ambush took place. A British foreign office spokesman said he had no details on the claim. The Swedish foreign ministry said it was not aware of any Swede dead or missing in Iraq and was checking the claim.

A Briton and an Iraqi were killed on Wednesday in an ambush while travelling in a convoy near Beiji. Their employers confirmed a third foreign national was missing.

The US military said on Thursday that a Brazilian was missing following the attack in Beiji, but could not confirm reports the Brazilian was kidnapped. The Army of Ansar al Sunna said it would issue details about its attack soon.—Internet



US soldiers secure the site after an explosion in Baghdad, on 19 Jan, 2005. A car bomb exploded near the Australian Embassy in central Baghdad on Wednesday, killing two people and wounding four, police and witnesses said.—INTERNET

Wu Yi attends French Travel Agency Association Conference

BEIJING, 20 Jan— The 46th annual French Travel Agency Association Conference kicked off here Wednesday. China's Vice-Premier Wu Yi attended.

Wu said the conference will promote tourism between China and France and "deepen bilateral partnership relations".

She said both China and France are great nations, whose peoples started exchanges long ago.

Since China implemented opening-up and reform, its economy has developed rapidly, Wu said. China's tourism has maintained good momentum, and became a new and vital part of the national economy, she said. Tourism has promoted China's economic prosperity and social development and has promoted friendship between China and the world, she said.

The total inbound travel arrivals to China reached

108 million in 2004, with international tourism revenue reaching 25.5 billion US dollars. Chinese people made some 28.5 million journeys overseas last year.

Wu said France is a beautiful nation which attracts many Chinese tourists. Since September 1, 2004 Chinese tourist groups have been allowed to travel to France. The number of French tourists to China surpassed 270,000 and Chinese visitors to France reached 500,000 in 2004.

Wu said she hoped China and France would learn from each other, enlarge cooperation and strengthen exchanges in developing tourism industry.

MNA/Xinhua

Second China-France Round Table of Mayors to be held in Chengdu

CHENGDU, 20 Jan— The second China-France Round Table of Mayors will be held in Chengdu, capital of southwest China Sichuan Province from January 24 to 25.

The two-day meeting was organized by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and the France-China Committee, and will be hosted by the Chengdu Municipal Government. The first meeting, held in February of last year in Lyon, France, attracted more than 100 representatives from the two countries, who discussed such issues as the flow of Chinese rural residents to cities, environmental protection and energy policy.

According to Mao Zhixiong, Chengdu's Secretary-General, the round table will gather together more than 10 French mayors from cities including

Paris, Montpellier, Bordeaux, Nice and Strasbourg and twelve Chinese mayors from cities including Chengdu, Qingdao, Wuhan, and Chongqing Municipality. Representatives from four transnational companies and officials from the China Development Bank and its provincial branches will also attend.

Mao said the representatives will hold discussions on urban and rural construction, coordinated development of cities and countryside, tourism and urban development, small and medium-sized companies and urban development, protection of city heritage and environmental protection.—MNA/Xinhua

Israeli Vice- Premier visits HKSAR

HONG KONG, 21 Jan— Israeli Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour Ehud Olmert arrived here Wednesday for an official two-day visit to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, a government Press release said.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, and Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology John Tsang will meet with the Vice-Prime Minister on Thursday.

During his stay, Olmert will meet with local businessmen and the Jewish community here. He will also be the guest of honour in the signing ceremony of the "China-Israel Technology Cooperation and Promotion Centre."

MNA/Xinhua

France says no troops to Iraq

PARIS, 20 Jan—French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier told CNN Thursday France would not be sending troops to Iraq, but is ready to help train Iraqi police.

"There won't be any French soldiers in Iraq, either now or later," said Barnier. The interview was taped Wednesday in Paris, a day before the second inauguration of President George W Bush, and was released Thursday.

"We said clearly to the Iraqi president, with whom we had talks in Paris last week, that we would participate, that we want to participate, in Iraq's political and economic reconstruction,

including in the security sphere, by contributing to the training of Iraqi police officers," said the minister.

Chirac used the meeting with Iraq President Ghazi Yawar to attempt to mend some fences. Relations between the two countries have been cool and Iraqi officials have openly criticized France for being among "spectators" to the crisis. Despite Chirac's offer to train police, Iraq has not yet formally accepted.—Internet

Singapore to attract 8.9 million visitors in 2005

SINGAPORE, 21 Jan—Singapore expects to welcome 8.9 million visitors and thus generate 10.4 billion Singapore dollars (about 6.4 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts this year, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) announced on Thursday.

The goal is set to surpass the record 8.3 million visitor arrivals and 9.6 billion Singapore dollars (about 5.9 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts achieved in 2004 by 6.9 per cent and 8.3 per cent respectively.

The robust performance of Singapore's tourism industry in 2004 was far beyond the targets set at the beginning of the year of 7.6 million visitors and 8.7 billion Singapore dollars (about 5.3 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts.

Compared with the figures in 2003, the visitor arrivals and tourism receipts achieved last year saw an increase of 36 per cent and 38 per cent respectively.

Among the 8.3 million visitors who came to the city state last year, more than six million were from Asian countries, accounting for 73 per cent of the total.

China was Singapore's second largest visitor-generating market with a record number of 880,000 visitor arrivals last year, only after Indonesia's 1,765,000. —MNA/Xinhua



An Internet cafe is crowded with visitors in Seoul. South Korea licensed three telecom firms to launch new wireless Internet services which provide mobile broadband Internet dubbed WiBro. —INTERNET

Indonesian Navy to develop guided missiles

JAKARTA, 21 Jan — The Indonesian Navy plans to develop its own guided missiles to arm local made warships, Navy Chief Admiral Bernard Kent Sondakh said here Thursday.

He said the guided missiles will be developed in cooperation of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and the National Aviation and Aeronautical Institute (LAPAN).

He said the missiles will be installed in local warships which have entered production at the meantime.

"The missiles will be called the *Rudal Nasional*. The test will be conducted in 2007 at the latest," he told reporters at the Jakarta Naval Base in the sidelines of a ceremony to mark seven local warships entering service in the Navy.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine budget deficit down due to austerity measures

MANILA, 21 Jan—The Philippine Government's austerity measures, higher remittances from government-owned and controlled corporations and improved revenue collections of the Bureau of Customs lowered budget deficit last year, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The lower-than-expected deficit will enable the government to front-load some debt payments for this year, Philippine Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said.

Amatong, however, pointed out that the Bureau of Internal Revenue missed its collection for 2004 by 6.3 billion pesos (112.5 million US dollars) despite a 10.2-per-cent uptick in revenues last year.

Meanwhile, Amatong

said the country posted a budget deficit of 186 billion pesos (3.32 billion dollars), about 6 per cent less than the government's target of 197.8 billion pesos (3.53 billion dollars).

For 2005, the government has raised its deficit goal to 193.3 billion pesos (3.45 billion dollars) from 184.5 billion pesos (3.29 billion dollars) due to its planned absorption of some 18.8 billion pesos (335.71 million dollars) of

debts belonging to the National Power Corp (NAPOCOR) to speed up the privatization of the country's biggest power producer.

The sale of NAPOCOR's transmission and generation assets is expected to boost government revenues, which have been weighed down by rampant corruption, tax evasion, and weak implementation of tax laws.

MNA/Xinhua

China thinks of opening mail service to Antarctica

BEIJING, 20 Jan — Mail will leave Beijing for Antarctica on 4 February, the fourth delivery this year for Beijing International Post Office's trial service.

This is the first time in the past two decades that mail from China has been delivered to the southernmost continent, said Chi Tao, an official with the office.

The Post Office will send an official to the Changcheng (Great Wall) Station in Antarctica to investigate whether it is necessary to set up a post office there, he said.

If it is needed, the Post Office is expected to open early this year, making it possible for mail delivered at any post office in Beijing to reach Antarctica, he said.

The mail will travel 17,051 kilometres to the Changcheng Station of China via Chile. Each piece of mail weighing 20 grammes or less will cost seven yuan (84 US cents). Due to freezing weather Antarctica, the mail route will be opened only when it is summer there, said Chi. —MNA/Xinhua

China exported 140 million mobile phones last year

BEIJING, 20 Jan —China exported 140 million mobile phones last year, said an official with the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry (MII) on Wednesday. The export of handsets has been a rapid growth in the past two years, said Wang Bingke, an official with the MII at a forum Wednesday. Last year, exports rose nearly 66 per cent from 2003 to 140

million handsets.

China turned out 230 million mobile phones last year. According to the MII's goal for 2005, the country is expected to make 260 million mobile phones in 2005, a rise of 13 per cent year-on-year. One hundred sixty million of them would be exported abroad.

MNA/Xinhua

FAO appeals for food aid for drought-hit Eritrea

NAIROBI, 21 Jan—The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has appealed for food aid for millions of people in drought-hit Eritrea, according to a statement available here Wednesday.

After droughts and delayed rains, some 2.3 million people in Eritrea will need more than a quarter of a million tons in food aid this year to supplement the inadequate harvest they have produced, FAO said in the statement. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraq oil attacked 196 times since war

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan — There have been at least 196 attacks on Iraq's oil and electricity infrastructure between April 2003 and January 2005, imperiling the country's ability to get off the international dole, according to a recent US Energy Department report to Congress.

While Iraqi oil is now being sold at rates predicted before the war, the cost of running the new government and paying for the country's reconstruction far outstrip the revenues, according to US and Iraqi government documents. Working that budget plus structuring a new debt payment plan — or total debt relief — will be high on the new Iraqi government's agenda as well as the Bush Administration's in the

next four years.

Restoring security is critical, not only for public safety and the exit of US forces but for the recovery of the oil industry in Iraq. However, the CIA warned in a recent report to the White House that Iraq is swiftly becoming the central focus of militant activity in the Middle East.

The White House dismissed the report as "speculative." It is pinning its hopes on the Jan. 30 election to move

the country toward stability.

The insurgent attacks have cost Iraq more than \$7 billion worth of oil exports, an Iraqi official said in late December. Insurgent attacks in the last three months of 2004 alone cost \$887 million in lost exports.

The attacks have also caused a shortage of all refined petroleum products in Baghdad, according to US officials.

Internet



An Iraqi man (R), detained and later released, kneels on the floor while US soldiers inspect his house during a search for illegal weapons in the guerilla stronghold in Mosul on 20 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Chinese Premier talks with Canadian PM

BELING, 21 Jan— China and Canada should expand cooperation in all fields to push forward an all-round partnership of cooperation, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said in a meeting here Thursday.

Speaking highly of China-Canada ties, Wen said China and Canada have seen rapid progress in bilateral ties during the past 35 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, especially after the all-round partnership of cooperation was founded in 1997.

In recent years, Wen said, high-level exchange of visits was increased, trade and economic ties were deepened, and fruitful results were reached in cultural, educational, scientific and health sectors. The Chinese side was satisfactory to the good developing trend of China-Canada ties.

He said China and Canada share many things in common. In political

terms, the two nations shared similar views in pushing forward multilateralism, reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development. In economic terms, the two countries being complementary to each other, both have urgent wish to further cooperation.

China and Canada maintaining the stable development of bilateral ties is conducive not only to the two countries and their peoples, but also to the peace and development of the region and the world at large, Wen stressed.

In a view to promote China-Canada ties to a new height, Wen said, the Chinese side hoped to strengthen high-level contact between the govern-

ments and legislatures of the two countries, enhance mutual political trust, and make good use of the China-Canada strategic working group to be built soon.

The two sides should give the relevant mechanisms to their full play, to expand cooperation in fields of energy, environmental protection, telecommunication and transportation.

And the two sides should strengthen cooperation in the United Nations (UN), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the regional forum of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), staying close in consultation and coordination on important international and regional issues.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Canada issue Common Paper of Strategic Working Group

China, Canada issue Common Paper of Strategic Working Group

BELING, 21 Jan— China and Canada issued the Common Paper of Strategic Working Group, which, chaired by vice-ministers of the two sides, is designed for regular consultation on important bilateral political and economic issues, and stronger exchange and coordination on major international and regional issues of common concern.

The paper said that in December 2003 leaders of China and Canada agreed that it would be in their long-term interest to establish a strategic working group.

The two sides agreed that the working group would hold regular plenums to review progress of cooperation in areas of mutual strategic interests, to identify new areas of cooperation and new work plans.

According to the paper, both countries believe that it is in their interests to face the challenges posed by globalization through deeper cooperation on major international issues within the multilateral arena, and that such cooperation will help China and Canada reach their common objective of safeguarding world peace and security, prosperity and sustainable development.

To reach this goal, the working group is to strengthen coordination and cooperation within the United Nations (UN) framework, establish a strong part-

nership in support of a G-20 meeting of key world leaders, strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism and transnational crime, as well as consultation and cooperation in other multilateral mechanisms including Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

The working group is also expected to identify a strategy to enhance public health capacity-building on the prevention and immunity system of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases at the international level, the paper said.

The paper said China and Canada have a shared commitment to the sustainable development and management of natural resources, as the two countries recognize the potential for mutual benefit in furthering cooperation in minerals and metals, forestry, earth science and energy.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese mother and child stand in front of a fashion billboard in Shanghai, on 21 Jan, 2005. Living standards for China's 1.3 billion people have risen sharply after more than two decades of economic reforms that boosted private business and capitalist-style investment.—INTERNET

Indonesian Intelligence sees US using mission in Aceh for own interest

JAKARTA, 21 Jan— Chief of the Indonesian Intelligence Board (BIN) Syamsir Siregar said on Thursday that the United States used its humanitarian operation in Aceh Province for their own interest, especially in effort to control the Malacca Straits.

Siregar said that the country had a strong interest in the channel, as it use the channel for its trade transportation, which brings more benefit.

"Before, the government of the United States insisted on controlling the Malacca Straits, now there is a chance to know the strait in detail, of course it uses it," he told reporters after a coordination meeting between the government and the lawmakers about the issue of Aceh Province, at the Parlia-

ment building.

"The strait is very important for them, for their trade channel," he added.

Therefore the chief of intelligence said that if the Indonesian Government was ready to take over work in Aceh Province, the US troops must leave the area soon.

"I think within three months (after the disaster) we can take over the

work," he said.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said that his ministry had ordered one Indonesian military officer to accompany foreigners in their activities in the province.

Thousands of volunteers and some 19,000 foreign troops, including those from the United

States, are carrying out humanitarian activities in Aceh Province.

Previously, the United States insisted on controlling the most busiest strait, but it was rejected by the relevant littoral countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, that said that they have responsibility on the security of the channel.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korea plans to set up Honorary Consulate in Phuket

BANGKOK, 21 Jan— The South Korean Government has made a request to set up the Honorary Consulate in Thailand's southern resort province of Phuket to help assist its nationals who were hit hard in the 26 December disaster.

The request has been made through the South Korean Embassy to Thailand as a number of South Korean tourists were among thousands of casualties and those still missing in the fatal waves weeks ago.

The Cabinet is expected to consider the request and give its approval soon, the Thai News Agency said Friday.

Earlier, the Cabinet approved the establishment of the Swedish, Danish and Norwegian Honorary Consulates in Phuket.

The main duties of the foreign consulates in Phuket are to take care of bodies of its nationals killed in disaster and the injured and help to search for those still missing. Nearly 2,000 foreign tourists died in the disaster, which lashed Thailand's six southern provinces of Phuket, Phang-nga, Krabi, Trang, Ranong and Satun last December 26.

By far, the official death toll from the catastrophe has reached 5,326, with 8,457 injured and some 3,115 still missing.

MNA/Xinhua



Birds fly near a Southwest Airlines jet about to land in Dallas, on 19 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Global warming may have caused "Great Dying"

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — Global warming and not a giant asteroid may have nearly wiped out life on Earth some 250 million years ago, an international team of scientists said on Thursday.

The mass extinction, known as the "Great Dying", extinguished 90 per cent of sea life and nearly three-quarters of land-based plants and animals.

There has been recent evidence that a big asteroid or meteor hit the Earth and triggered the catastrophe, but researchers say they now have evidence that something much more long-term — global warming — was the culprit.

Kliti Grice of Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia, and colleagues studied sediment cores drilled off the coasts of Australia and China and found evidence the ocean was lacking oxygen and full of sulfur-loving bacteria at that time.

This finding would be consistent with an atmosphere low in oxygen and poisoned by hot, sulfurous, volcanic emissions, they wrote in a report published in the journal *Science*.

A second team led by Peter Ward at the University of Washington looked at fossil evidence in South

Africa and found little evidence of a catastrophe and instead signs of a gradual die-off.

They examined 126 reptile and amphibian skulls from the Karoo Basin in South Africa, where there is an exposed piece of dried sediment from the end of the Permian Era and the beginning of the Triassic, 250 million years ago.

They found two patterns, one showing gradual extinction over about 10 million years leading up to the time of the extinction, and then a spike in extinction rates that lasted another five million years, Ward's team reported.

"Animals and plants both on land and in the sea were dying at the same time, and apparently from the same causes — too much heat and too little oxygen," Ward said in a statement. Ward also believes mass volcanic eruptions may have pumped greenhouse gases into the air, which would have trapped heat in the atmosphere and raised temperatures. — MNA/Reuters

Two Russian satellites launched into orbit

Moscow, 21 Jan — A *Cosmos-3M* rocket launched from the Plesetsk spaceport on Thursday has put two satellites into the designated orbits, the *Interfax* news agency reported.

The two satellites — a *Cosmos* defence satellite and the *Universitetsky* micro-satellite *Tatiana* — are in stable contact with the ground and are reported to be functioning well.

The *Universitetsky* satellite designed and made by Moscow State University was launched to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the university. The micro-satellite weighs about 23 kilos. The inexpensive instrument was launched for space research by university scientists, professors and students, with an aim to help training astrophysicists, astronomers and experts in Earth sciences.

The Russian Space Forces orbited the satellites under a joint programme with Moscow State University and the Defence Ministry, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Chile sign framework agreement for economic cooperation

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan — Marking a new dimension in their ties, India and Chile signed Thursday a framework agreement for economic cooperation and agreed to explore prospects for stepping up cooperation in defence, agriculture, forestry, mining and education.

The framework agreement, signed in the presence of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, will be followed up by a Preferential Trade Agreement by this year. The two sides will then firm up a comprehensive economic cooperation pact, the *Press Trust of India* reported.

Singh and Lagos held extensive parleys on regional and international issues of mutual interest and noted that there was

understanding and similarity on views on many current issues, a joint statement issued here said.

The two sides inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Chilean Agricultural Research Institute and another MoU on sanitary and phytosanitary issues between the two agriculture ministries.

Lagos, who is on a five-day state visit to In-

dia, met with President APJ Abdul Kalam and External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh.

Chile has shown interest in purchase of advanced light helicopters and defence items from India. The Chilean defence minister is expected to visit India in April this year. New Delhi attaches considerable significance to its relations with Chile which has expressed support to India for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

MNA/Xinhua

Most popular catchphrase in China in 2004

BEIJING, 21 Jan — "Governance capability" was the most popular expression in mainstream Chinese newspapers during 2004, according to a recent linguistic survey.

The survey, conducted by a special research group under the Beijing Language University and supported by several other departments, analysed 14 mainstream Chinese newspapers — including *People's Daily*, *China Youth Daily*, *Economic Daily*, *Global Times* and *Beijing Youth Daily* — to find the most frequently used expressions. The computer analysis of 490,000,000 words found "Governance capability" was the most commonly used followed by "Athens Olympics"; "Liu Xiang", the Chinese gold medallist in men's 110 metres hurdle

in Athens Olympic Games; "audit storm", the nationwide auditing campaign on major governmental departments; and "scientific concept on development".

Filling up the rest of the top ten list were "zero tariff"; "allowance for land-losing farmers", a measure adopted by the central government to subsidize farmers who lost lands during the urbanization process;

"Anti-secession Law"; "Chinese-French Culture Years", the year-long cultural celebration to promote France in China; and Tsunami. The research group also published the ten most popular expressions in domestic politics, international politics, economic affairs, cultural affairs, science and technology, and accidents. The most popular

expressions in domestic political reports included "audit storm", "human-centred principle", "amendment to Constitution", "food safety", "power shortage" and "sex ratio imbalance".

MNA/Xinhua

စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြောက်မာအိုင်စီတီရက်သတ္တပတ် ၂၀၀၅ (ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၁ ရက်မှ ၂၇ ရက်အထိ)

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၁) ရက်၊ သောကြာနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - အကြံ ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ
- ICT Competitions

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၂)ရက်၊ စနေနေ့

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

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၃)ရက်၊ တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့

- ၀၈:၃၀- - ဖွင့်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား
- ၁၀:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၁၀:၀၀-၁၂:၀၀ - ICT Product Presentation
- ၁၀:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT Competitions
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၃၀ - ဟောပြောပွဲနှင့် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲများ

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၄)ရက်၊ တနင်္လာနေ့

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

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၅)ရက်၊ အင်္ဂါနေ့

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

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၆)ရက်၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့

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

ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၂၇)ရက်၊ ကြာသပတေးနေ့

- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - ICT ပြပွဲ၊ ပြခန်းများ
- ၀၉:၀၀-၁၇:၀၀ - Network Game နောက်ဆုံးဖြိုင်ပွဲ
- ၁၃:၀၀-၁၆:၀၀ - ICT Competitions ဖြိုင်ပွဲများ
- ဆုချီးမြှင့်ခြင်း
- တူညီပံ့ပိုးသူများအား ဂုဏ်ပြုလွှာ
- ပေးအပ်ခြင်း
- အိုင်စီတီရက်သတ္တပတ်ပိတ်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား

(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တွင် နံနက်(၁၀)နာရီမှ ညနေ(၅)နာရီအထိ၊ တျန်နေများတွင် နံနက်(၉)နာရီမှ ညနေ(၅)နာရီအထိ အခမဲ့ပြသပါမည်။)

MICT Park တက္ကသိုလ်များ လှိုင်နယ်မြေ၊ ရန်ကုန်။

Drive with care



Japan's Koshun Tojo slides down the track during a men's 2005 Skeleton world cup competition at the Cesana-Pariol track, northern Italy, on 20 Jan, 2005. The Cesana-Pariol venue will host the Skeleton and Bobsleigh competitions at the upcoming Turin 2006 winter Olympic Games. —INTERNET

Construction Ministry holds coord meeting

YANGON, 21 Jan—The Ministry of Construction held its work coordination meeting at Public Works (Head Office) on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here today.

It was attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, departmental heads, superintending engineers, deputy superintending engineers, chief engineers, and engineers in charge.

Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development

Col Aung Win reported on work done. The minister dealt with measures to be taken for betterment and delivered concluding remarks.

Chairman of Olympic Co U Aik Tun presented K 50 million for repairing of Laikha-Mongkai section of Loilem-Pankaytu-Laikha-Mongkai Road to the minister. The minister presented a gift to Deputy Director (Admin) of Public Works Major Than Aye (Salin Phone Kyaw) who won the national literary award (collected poems) for the year 2003. Officials presented cham-

pionship shields that the ministry won in the 37th inter-department track and field to the minister.

The minister presented gifts to the staff who won medals in the sports events held abroad, and staff's children who got through 2004 academic year matriculation exam with distinctions.

Deputy Minister U Tint Swe presented gifts to athletes who grabbed gold medals and best coach awards, and children who passed tenth standard exam with distinctions; Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, to the athletes who pock-

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

eted silver medals, and children who won matriculation exam with three distinctions; and departmental heads, to children who passed matriculation exam with three distinctions. — MNA

Hotels & Tourism Deputy Minister receives guests

YANGON, 21 Jan — Chairman of Singapore-based Navitas Management Pte Ltd Mr Willian Tan and party called on Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, here, yesterday morning.

They discussed arrangements to enable Myanmar to successfully host the ASEAN Tourism Industry Exhibition in January 2006. As the ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting 2006 will be held in Yangon, plans are underway for holding the ASEAN Tourism Industry Exhibition.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and officials.

On 19 January, the deputy minister attended the coordination meeting to hold Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival 2005 to be sponsored by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and private hotels and tourism entrepreneurs, at Excel Treasure Tower on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

Director-General U Htay Aung said that six GMS countries including Myanmar will enjoy the Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival. He called for discussions about transport, accommodation and reception for those from the GMS countries, staff of foreign embassies in Yangon, and representatives of hotels and respective regions.

Myanmar Tourism Industry Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Khin Zaw and officials submitted reports on the tourist attractions and the arrangements for the festival.

After hearing the reports, the deputy minister gave concluding remarks. — MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun presents prize to Maung Min Thu who won five distinctions in the 2004 matriculation examination.— CONSTRUCTION

Rural and urban development tasks carried out in Bago, Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 21 Jan — Toungoo Township Development Affairs Committee repaved the 810 feet long and 12 feet wide Tabinshwehti Road, the 675 feet long and 12 feet wide U Kar Road, the 950 feet long and 12 feet wide Bagyi Dagar Road and the 320 feet long and 12 feet wide Yeiktha Road in the township yesterday. Similarly, Yedashe Township DAC

launched the projects for tarring Aung Myanmar Road, Aungzeya Road, MyoU Road, Kantha Road and Shinsawpu Road yesterday.

Likewise, Myittha Township DAC supervised repaving of Hsin Thiri Road, Mingon Phoneyikyau Road, Ywapon Road and Gangaw Road yesterday.

In Katha Township, tarring of Myanmar Rail-

way Avenue, repaving of Merchant Road, placing gravel on Katha-Hlebo Road and Indayant-Nga-O Road were undertaken by Katha Township Development Affairs Committee. Furthermore, Yamethin Township DAC sank three 8-inch tubewells near Okshitkon Village for supplying fresh water to 18,578 residents of 3,548 households in five wards,

spending the financial allotment of the State in 2004-2005 financial year. On completion of sinking tubewells, 8 inches diameter pipelines will be installed from the tubewells to the 120,000-gallon-capacity underground water tank and the plan will be implemented for supplying water to the local people through two 60,000-gallon-capacity water tanks.—MNA

Myanma Cooperatives centenary commemorative Bagan Supermarket opened

YANGON, 21 Jan—Mya Sein Shin Cooperative Ltd today opened Bagan Supermarket to mark the centenary of Myanma Cooperatives on the ground floor of the Cooperative Trade Centre (Saya San Plaza) at the corner of Saya San Road and University Avenue in Bahan Township.

Available at the supermarket are TVs, refrigerators, air-conditioners, a variety of electrical apparatus, a large range of foodstuff, handicraft, souvenirs, lacquer-ware, clothes, cosmetics, personal goods, household items, meat, fish, vegetables and fruits. It opens daily from 9 am to 9 pm.

MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅ - ခုနှစ် ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လ (၁၀) ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၁၅၃၄) တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန၊ ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်း နိုင်ပါသည်။
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန။

All this needs to be known

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

135 million more gallons of...

(from page 16)

The population of the Yangon City Municipal Area (YCMA) has increased to over 5.8 million at present from over three million in 1973. The rise in the population of people living within the YCMA and in the number of new satellite towns around the city has raised the clean water demand of the metropolis.

In this context, there arises the need to increase the volume of water supply from the current 95 million gallons in accord with the population growth.

On 17 April 1992, Special Projects Implemen-



Pile driving for construction of the ponds seen at Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyek).

Plantations for greening Bago mountain range inspected

YANGON, 21 Jan — Director of Arid Zone Greening Department (Mandalay Division) U Min Din, accompanied by officials at district and township levels, made an inspection tour of preparations for growing saplings and nursery tasks at 500 acres of watershed plantations in Tatkon Township, 60 acres of village fuel-substitute wood plantations of Yamethin Township, 10 acres of village fuel-substitute wood plantations in Ingon Village, 1,830 acres of watershed plantations in Tatkon and Yamethin townships and 115 acres of village fuel-substitute wood plantations on 14 and 15 January.

The director instructed officials to systematically nurture sap-

lings, take fire prevention measure and organize local people to participate in safeguarding and preserving the forest plantations.— MNA



The open channel is being dredged linking Ngamoeyek main canal to Ahtayu Pump Station.

tation Committee meeting No 1/92, with the Head of State at the helm, approved the Ngamoeyek Reservoir City Water Supply Project.

The project covers the laying of 56-inch diameter steel pipes for a distance of 32 miles from the reservoir to the city. In fiscal 1997-98, the pipe-laying work reached Pale satellite town, 8.5 miles from the Ahtayu village, where a pumping station or waterworks would be erected. The State Peace and Development Council formed the Work Committee for Ngamoeyek Water Supply Project on 7 May 2004.

Thanks to the completed Paunglin and Mahuya dams lying upstream the Ngamoeyek, the water supply volume of the project increases from 90 million gallons to 135 million gallons. And instead of laying pipes from Ngamoeyek to Athayu village, the main canal of the reservoir will provide water to the pumping station through an open canal, and at the station, water will be sent to Yangon, after passing through the three stages of purification and chlorinating process.

The project has three phases. In the first phase, the waterworks at the village will supply 30 million gallons of water to Hlawga reservoir and another 15 million gallons to Mingaladon, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, and Thingangyun townships daily through the 56-inch diameter steel pipeline.

Because of the Ngamoeyek, Hlawga reservoir will supply more water to Yangon.

The first stage of the project will complete in May this year.

The second phase covers the work of providing potable water to South Dagon Myothit, North Dagon Myothit, East Dagon Myothit and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) townships, which have no plumbing system yet, and increasing water supply to Thaketa and Dawbon townships with a 24-inch pipe branches off from the main 56-inch diameter pipeline conveying 45 million gallons of water daily.

The second pipe is joined with main line from the waterworks near Ahtayu village at the junction of Thudhamma and Khemathi roads in North Okkalapa, 14.5 miles from the pumping station.

Two more 36-inch water supply pipes linking with the main pipeline at the same junction lead to South Okkalapa, Yankin, Bahan and Tamway townships. As the townships will not need to rely on Gyobu pipe anymore, the project will supply extra water to Sangyoung, Ahlon, Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Dagon, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan and Kyauktada townships.

In the third phase, the waterworks will provide Hlawga artificial lake with 45 million gallons of water daily through another 56-inch pipeline extending 8.5 miles.

A new waterwork at Hlawga reservoir will pipe water to Hlaingthaya, Shwepyitha and Insein, where there is no tapping water system yet at present,

POEM

Public Servant

- * Character, conduct, never compromised
Always firmly adhered to
- * Bragging in pride, uppish
Forget not to avoid them, be gentle.
- * Dealings always in appropriate
Always try their upkeep, amidst people.
- * When duty calls, do it body and soul
Exert your efforts for rural development.
- * Treat people's interest, as family's own
Try and accomplish, to be successful.

Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)

and supply water to Hline, Kamayut, Kyimyinedine and Sangyung townships. Roughly, it will take a year to complete each stage.

As the aim of YCDC is to provide enough clean and safe water for all the Yangonites, it takes great care in ensuring a hygienic and safe water supply system.

First water received from the main canal from the Ngamoeyek is conveyed into sediment tank. In the second stage, alum is put into the tank to solidify the sediments and to separate them from water.

Finally, the sediment-free water is further purified through sand-filtering system in another tank. The waterworks starts to transport water through the pipeline only after chlorinating it.

All the waterworks will conduct the same process of cleaning and purifying water before being piped to towns from every city water supply reservoir.

The 6.6-mile route to transport water from the Ngamoeyek main canal to the waterworks near Ahtayu village through the open canal system includes crossing the Ngamoeyek and Ahtayu creeks and irrigation canals with underwater pipelines and construction of a large bridge.

In addition, 33kv aerial cable lines stretching 11 miles will be installed to supply power to the waterworks, and two subpower stations including transformers, and pumps will be erected. The total expenditure for the entire project is over K 4 billion.

The total daily water supply capacity of three reservoirs — the Hlawga, the Gyobu and the Phugyi — is 85 million gallons. When completed, the Ngamoeyek Reservoir Water Supply Project alone will provide Yangon with 135 million gallons of water daily.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 21.1.2005.

* * *

Prizes presented to winners in First Inter-Department Volleyball Tourney of F&R Ministry

YANGON, 21 Jan — The First Inter-Department Women's and Men's Volleyball Tournament of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this afternoon.

Present were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and wife, departmental heads and their wives and officials.

In the women's event final match, Myanma Economic Bank team played against Central Bank of Myanmar team, and Customs Department team against Budget Department in the men's event.

After the matches, Director-General Col Hsan Tun of Internal Revenue Department and wife presented best player awards to winners. CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and wife gave best player awards to the respective winners. Next, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and wife presented second prizes to the CBM team in the women's event and Budget Department team in the men's event.

Later, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife awarded first prizes to the women's MEB team and the men's Customs Department team.— *MNA*



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun presents prize to winner in the Inter-Department Volleyball Tournament of Ministry of Finance and Revenue.— F&R

Weinlaung tarred road commissioned into service in Tangyan

YANGON, 21 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day, a ceremony to put back Weinlaung tarred road into service was held at the archway of the road in Ward 6 of Tangyan Township on 12 January.

The road was constructed by Tangyan Township Development Affairs Committee in 2004-2005 financial year.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Engineer U Khin Latt of the Development Affairs

Department, Director of Shan State (North) Development Affairs Committee U Kye Myint and officials.

First, Director U Kye Myint and local authorities cut the ribbon to open the road and in-

spected it.

The new tarr road measuring 1,720 feet long and 12 feet wide was built at a cost of K2,197,000 by the Township Development Affairs Committee and K 2 million by the local people.— *KYEMON*



Officials and local authorities inspect Weinlaung tarred road in Ward 6 of Tangyan Township after opening it. (H)

MICT WEEK PREPARATIONS: *The Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Week-2005 will be held at MICT Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township from 21 to 27 January. The photo shows preparations for holding the MICT Week.— (H)*



DISTRICT NEWS

Cash donated to funds of Home for the Aged in Yedashe

YEDASHE, 21 Jan — The cash donation ceremony for construction of the Home for the Aged worth K 25 million was held at the residence of U Myint, owner of Moe In in Ward 1 of Yedashe, who is the chairman of the construction committee of the home for the aged, on 19 December afternoon.

Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Than accepted K 300,000 donated by (U Paw Tin)-Daw Tin Kyi and family of Mingalar Gold Shop in Ward-3; K 100,000 by Mawlamyine Township Justice U Kyaw Win Sein-Daw Sein Yin; K 100,000 by Daw Han Tin and family of Chanmyay Robes shop in Ward 2.

KYEMON

School building handed over in Yamethin

YAMETHIN, 18 Jan — A ceremony to hand over school building of Letha BEPS in Ywadan Letha Village-tract of Yamethin Township was held at the school on 29 December.

Assistant Education Officer of Yamethin Township U Zaw Win, Secretary of the Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Kyaw Tint and Chairman of the construction committee U Myint Swe formally opened the school building.

The school building was constructed at a cost of K 500,000 by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council and K 800,000 by local people.

KYEMON

Kalaw Station Road put back into service

KALAW, 10 Jan — A ceremony to put back into service repaved Kalaw Station Road was held at the road on 26 December.

The Kalaw Township Development Affairs Committee has spent K 932,450 on construction of the road measuring 875 feet long and 12 feet wide.

Chairman of Kalaw Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Aung and Deputy Director of Kalaw Township DAC U Aung Myint formally opened the road.— *KYEMON*

Aunglan Township gets tubewell

AUNGLAN, 10 Jan — Aunglan Township Development Affairs Committee held a ceremony to open the tubewell in Sangale Village in Aunglan Township on 1 January.

Present on the occasion were Director of Magway Division DAC U Soe Tint, chairmen of Thayet District and Aunglan Township Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials.

Executive of Aunglan Township DAC U Win Swe and Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Moe cut the ribbon to open the tubewell which can pump 1,000 gallons of water an hour.— *KYEMON*

250 copies of journals donated to Kawlin Township IPRD

KAWLIN, 13 Jan — Under the leadership of Kawlin Township Writers and Journalists Association, a ceremony to donate books to Township Information and Public Relations Department was held at the office of the Township WJA on 13 December.

At the ceremony, Chairman of the Township WJA U Khin Maung Nyein (Myan Gon Hsaung) explained the purpose of the donations and handed over 250 copies of journals to Head of the Township IPRD U Sein Myint.— *KYEMON*

Cambodia reports good tax revenue in 2004

PHNOM PENH, 21 Jan — The Cambodian Government collected about 288 million US dollars in tax revenue in 2004, local media reported on Friday.

The tax revenue accounts for about 6 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), meeting the government's target, said Customs and Excise Director Pen Siman at a meeting on Thursday.

From 2002 to 2004, the Ministry of Finance's Customs and Excise Department has collected a total of 776 million dollars in tax revenue, with about 245 million US dollars in 2002 and 243 million US dollars in 2003.

From 2002 to 2004, the Customs cracked down on illegal imports in 4,348 cases. The revenue generated from those goods in 2004 was 2.4 million US dol-

lars.

Most of the goods smuggled into Cambodia in 2004 were fuel, cars, motors, oil, electronic products, wine, beer, soft drinks and construction equipment, according to Pen Siman.

Only 10 per cent of the revenue from confiscated goods will go to the national budget, *The Cambodia Daily* reported. The remaining 30 per cent will be given to authorities working to crack-down on smuggling.

The new revenue-sharing scheme is part of Prime Minister Hun Sen's plan to raise tax revenue.

MNA/Xinhua

Double-track electrified railway project to be built in N-W China

XINING, 21 Jan — China will invest four billion yuan (about 484 million US dollars) in building a second double track electrified railway project through northwest China's Gansu and Qinghai provinces, a local official said on Tuesday.

The planned 169.9-kilometre-long dual track electrified railway runs from Lanzhou to Xining, capital cities of Gansu and Qinghai respectively, with a designed speed ranging from 160 to 200 kilometres per hour.

The second electrified railway project, to begin in the latter half of this

year and complete in 2007, will connect with the Qinghai-Tibet railway, the most elevated rail route in the world, also scheduled to open in 2007.

After the completion of the new project, the electrified railways from Lanzhou to Xining will

be able to ship 40 million tons of cargo a year, compared with the current capacity of 7.65 million tons. Sixty passenger trains will travel between the two provinces daily, nearly four times of the current capacity.

MNA/Xinhua

China initiates campaign to publicize pre-marital check-ups

BEIJING, 21 Jan — China initiated a nationwide campaign Wednesday to publicize information about pre-marital check-ups to curb the spread of hereditary and contagious diseases and improve the quality of China's population.

The campaign, scheduled to last for one year, will disseminate information about the importance and necessity of pre-marital check-ups among Chinese people through seminars, documents and other methods.

This campaign was initiated by the Women and Children Work Committee of State Council, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Justice in an effort to guide more young couples to get check-ups.

China adopted the new Regulation on Marriage Registration on 1 October, 2003. Under the new regulation, people registered with the civil affairs departments for marriage can decide themselves whether to have a physical exam before they get married.

The number of birth defects has been rising in China since the government made pre-marriage health check optional, instead of a prerequisite for obtaining a marriage permit.

More than 600,000 babies are born in central China's Hunan Province each year. Since the pre-marriage health check became voluntary, the incidence of babies with birth defects has risen from 0.9 per cent in 2001 to 1.24 per cent in 2003, said Hu Rushan, an official with the Health Bureau of Hunan Province. At the opening ceremony of the campaign, Gu Xiulian, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, called for the departments concerned to fulfil their obligations in publicizing knowledge of the pre-marital check-up. — MNA/Xinhua

Web site opens for largest CPC internal education drive

BEIJING, 21 Jan — A special web site has been opened here Wednesday to help boost the Communist Party of China's (CPC) ongoing internal education campaign, which is designed to assist its members to maintain the vanguard nature.

The campaign is the CPC's largest education bid in 26 years since the country adopted the reform and opening-up policies. It aims to help members keep integrity and noble spirit of the Party and, in the end, strengthen the Party's governance capability.

Sponsored by a special office that has been established to guide and oversee the implementation of the education programme, the "Vanguard" web site will release news related to the campaign, report the implementation of the campaign and display helpful experience collected countrywide. People can click www.xf.org.cn to find the web site, which is linked with major domestic Chinese web sites such as www.xinhuanet.com. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Mongolia promote cooperation

HANOI, 21 Jan — Vietnam and Mongolia have agreed on measures to promote bilateral cooperative and friendly ties, including commercial and economic cooperation, Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong said at a Press

briefing Thursday.

The Press briefing was held during the Mongolian President Natsagiin Bagabandi's visit to Vietnam on January 19-23, the second by a Mongolian President to Vietnam. The first visit was by President P. Ochirbat in 1994.

The two presidents have agreed to assign relevant agencies to discuss measures to implement agreements signed by the two sides, aiming to usher in a new stage of more effective relations between the two countries.

When replying question on measures to boost bilateral trade in the Press briefing, President Bagabandi said that the two countries are quite capable of accelerating their two-way trade in the future and relevant agencies of both sides should create a favourable investment environment for business people.

MNA/Xinhua



Kindergarten children rub down with their dry towels after a workout in a playground at a Tokyo kindergarten recently on the day of Daikan, which is believed to be Japan's coldest day of the year.

INTERNET

Moderate earthquake jolts Wellington

WELLINGTON, 21 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale hit Wellington at 7:56 am Friday morning.

The quake was centred within 5 kilometres of Upper Hutt, north of Wellington. It was 30 kilometres deep and was felt widely in the Wellington region, according to the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS). The quake triggered fire alarms, there are reports of minor damage and some trains were delayed, but no reports of people injured.

This morning's quake followed a flurry of seismic activity in the lower North Island of New Zealand on Tuesday when 10 earthquakes were recorded over a 10-hour period - the biggest reaching 5.3 on the Richter Scale and even centred 40 kilometres south-east of Martinborough, about 70 kilometres northeast of Wellington. — MNA/Xinhua

Severe storms hit S-E Australia

CANBERRA, 21 Jan — House roofs were ripped off and tens of thousands of houses left without power as gust winds and storms swept across southeast Australia on Thursday, but there were no reports of casualties.

The Bureau of Meteorology said winds up to 124 kilometres-per-hour and hailstorms stroke New South Wales (NSW)

and the Australian Capital Territory shortly after noon time. Hailstones up to 3 centimetres in diameter were recorded in some areas and there was flooding near Canberra. About 30,000 homes and businesses across the area were without power after the storm as energy staff worked hard to restore electricity.

MNA/Xinhua



A giant panda cub seen at a panda park in the outskirts of Chengdu, capital of China's southwestern Sichuan Province on 20 Jan 2005.

INTERNET

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MAGWAY VOY NO (8)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAGWAY VOY NO (8) arrived on 22-1-2005 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 from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up 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.

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone : 295279,295280,295281,295658, 295659

**Swedish top businessman
kidnapped**

STOCKHOLM, 21 Jan — A top Swedish businessman was found kidnapped Wednesday, Swedish police said. Fabian Bengtsson, President of Siba, a leading home electronics company in north Europe, disappeared Monday in the southern city of Gothenburg on his way to the company.

At around 10.00 am (0900 GMT), his father received a short message on his cell phone indicating that Bengtsson's missing was "not from his own free will", which probably meant that he had already been abducted.

Police received the report in the evening and are currently searching for the traces of the 32-year-old millionaire.

On Tuesday, police found Fabian's dark grey BMW car in a street on their way to a port between Ukraine and Germany, and believed that he had probably been led away from Sweden.

Siba, valued at about

two billion kronor (290 millions dollars), is a family-owned enterprise based in Gothenburg.

Besides home appliances, the family are also involved in businesses like real estate and personal computer, with Bengtsson's personal assets valued at 16 million kronor (2.3 million dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela receives \$485.2m of foreign investment in 2004

CARACAS, 21 Jan — Foreign investment in Venezuela in 2004 amounted to over 485.2 million US dollars, much higher than the previous year's 294.9 million dollars, according to a Superintendency of Foreign Investment (SIEIX) report published Wednesday in the *El Universal* daily.

A bulk of 415.8 million dollars went to the manufacturing sector, 55.1 million dollars to infrastructure and financial services and the remaining 14.3 million dollars to the trade sector.

On top of the list of countries with more investment in Venezuela are the United States (173.9 million dollars), Switzerland (157.1 million dollars), France (50.2 million dollars) and Colombia (21.3 million dollars), according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian FM terms US comments as psychological warfare

TEHERAN, 21 Jan — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi Wednesday termed some recent comments concerning Iran by American top officials as mere psychological warfare, the official *IRNA* news agency reported on Thursday.

"The enemies are trying to get Iran trapped in a psychological game to influence it, ignorant of the fact that Iran is experienced enough to know the tricks of its enemies," Kharrazi was quoted as saying in Uganda's capital Kampala.

US President George W Bush said Monday that he would not rule out military action against Iran, while designate Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, one day later, urged the international community to take action to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and refer Teheran's nuclear case to the UN Security

Council. Kharrazi reiterated that Iran would go on with its own policies and, though trying to avoid any kinds of conflict, would defend its interests vigorously.

"Iran will respond to any US threats," Kharrazi said, stressing that Teheran was never scared by such remarks. "The Iranian nation will never hesitate to defend its interests," he added.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi has also re-

jected the US comments in a statement, saying Iran will "respond strongly to any kind of unwise acts".

The US, accusing Iran of secretly developing atomic weapons, has threatened to launch preemptive attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Rejecting the charge and threat, Iran iterated that its nuclear research was fully peaceful and boasted an effective deterrent power to confront its enemies in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba, Algeria sign agreements to promote economic cooperation

HAVANA, 20 Jan — Cuba and Algeria signed agreements here on Wednesday on economic cooperation, Cuba's state-run daily *Granma* reported.

According to the report, Cuba will cooperate with Algeria in naval construction, technical assistance, and economic and scientific field.

Cuba's Fishing Industry Minister Alfredo Lopez and his Algerian counterpart Smail Mimoune signed the

agreements.

The paper added that the two officials praised the achievements made by the two countries within the framework of the Cooperation Protocol signed during a inter-governmental commission meeting in March 2002.

During the meeting, Lopez and Mimoune also expressed their common interest in developing naval construction and establishing joint ventures.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba, Russia promote aeronautical cooperation

HAVANA, 21 Jan — Cuba and Russia seek to promote aeronautical cooperation as indicated by a recent visit to Moscow by President of the Cuba Civil Aeronautics Institute (IACC) Rogelio Acevedo.

Acevedo met with heads of the Federal Agency of Civil Aviation of Russia during the visit, Cuban newspaper reports

said on Wednesday.

Both parties discussed agreements on personnel training, modernization of the Cuban fleet, hydrometeorological research and environmental monitoring. They also called for a continuation in extending the range of exchange in training crews and scientific cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese shoppers look at a Gucci store in Shanghai on 21 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

UN cites Japan as example of disaster preparedness

NAIROBI, 20 Jan — The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has praised Japan as an example of disaster preparedness in its new report launched at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, according to a UNEP Press release available here on Wednesday.

The report said good practices put in place at all levels of Japanese society prevented last October's Tokage Typhoon that swept across much of southern Japan, from causing extensive damage. Japan's response to its

deadliest storm in 25 years provides an excellent opportunity for the world community to draw lessons in disaster preparedness, said the report.

"Japan has been in the forefront of sound practices in minimizing the destructive impacts of disasters," said Klaus Toepfer, UNEP executive director.

"This UNEP study on the Tokage typhoon will provide valuable lessons for mitigation and management in other countries facing similar disasters," he added.

The package of measures related to governance,

education and awareness, information and data management, and related procedures collectively helped in mitigating the negative impacts of the disaster, according to the report.

"The report also reinforces the importance of environmental concerns in the entire disaster management cycle of prevention, preparedness, assessment, mitigation and response and to integrate environmental concerns into planning for relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development," Toepfer said.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentina wants to enhance cooperation with China

BUENOS AIRES, 20 Jan — Argentine Vice-President Daniel Scioli said on Wednesday that his country hopes to further enhance friendship and cooperation with China in various fields.

During his meeting with Li Tieying, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Scioli described Argentine-China relations as at their "best stage".

With the exchange of top leaders' visits, the establishment of strategic partnership and the signing of a series of coopera-

tion accords, friendship and cooperation between the two countries have made further progress in 2004, Scioli said.

Scioli said his country wants to further promote all-around cooperation with China and to learn from China's economic development. He also voiced support for the one China policy.

Li, for his part, said that with the exchange of visits by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and the establishment of strategic partnership in 2004, Sino-Ar-

gentine relations have entered a new phase.

The Chinese Government appreciates Argentina's adherence to the one China policy. Li said, stressing that "one country, two systems" and "peaceful reunification" have been consistent policies of the Chinese Government over Taiwan, and the Chinese Government will never tolerate any separatist attempts by a few separatists.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

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The P and O cruise liner Aurora in the Solent off Southampton. P and O said it was cancelling a much-delayed luxury cruise by the Aurora, after repair work on the ship's propulsion system turned out to be insufficient.—INTERNET

Tidal wave pushes Thailand's Phuket further into sea

BANGKOK, 21 Jan—The 26 December tidal wave may have pushed the Phuket Island farther out to sea, survey engineers from Chulalongkorn University of Thailand has said.

"In fact, I have to say the quake deformed all land near the Andaman Sea, not only Phuket," said engineer Itthi Trisirisatayawong, who heads a team surveying the geographic effects of the quake and subsequent tsunami.

A team report based on a mathematical computer model suggested Phuket was expected to move southwest by 15 centimetres, which has prompted military experts from the Royal Thai Survey Department to con-

duct an immediate inspection to verify the projection.

Changes in land and island positions occur naturally by a half millimetre a year, however, these change, if verified, will be very huge. Itthi was quoted by *Bangkok Post* newspaper as saying on Thursday.

North of Phuket, another change was witnessed at Ranong's Tambon Ratchagrud where villagers found a one-kilometre crack in the ocean floor. And a steady

stream of air bubbles is surfacing 500 metres offshore in Laem Son Bay.

The area is near the passive Ranong fault, which had been inactive for years, said Muang Ranong District chief Chanan Kaewbamrung.

"It is possible that the tidal wave has revived the dormant Ranong fault. When a fault active, it releases bubbles," said Lerdsin Rakasakulwong, director of Geology Office of the Mineral Resources Department.

MNA/Xinhua

Anthropologists find 4.5-million-year hominid fossils

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan—Scientists at Indiana University and other institutions have unearthed skeletal fossils of a human ancestor believed to have lived between 4.3 and 4.5 million years ago, the US National Science Foundation (NSF) said Wednesday.

The fossils, which are believed to come from nine individuals of the species *Ardipithecus ramidus*, will help scientists piece together the mysterious transformation of primitive chimpanzee-like hominids into more human forms, scientists said.

The fossils were retrieved from the Gona Study Area in northern Ethiopia, a site known for the excavation of the oldest stone tools ever discovered.

Several Ethiopian dig sites have yielded hominid fossils from that time

period. Plant and animal fossils indicate that these early humans lived in a low-lying area with swamps, springs, streams, and volcanic centres, with a mosaic of woodlands and grasslands.

"While biomolecular evidence helps us to date the timing of major events in the evolution of apes and humans, there is no substitute for fossils when it comes to trying to picture the anatomy and behavioural capabilities of our early relatives," Mark Weiss, programme officer at the NSF said.

"The late Miocene-

early Pliocene is a particularly important era as it was roughly at that time that our ancestors and those of the chimpanzee parted company. Each new fossil helps to tell a bit more of the story of these early stages in human origins."

The dig team led by Sileshi Semaw also reported new evidence that suggests those human ancestors lived in close quarters with a menagerie of antelope, rhinos, monkeys, giraffes and hippos in northern Ethiopia that was far wetter than it is today. Research is con-

tinuing to determine which habitats those hominids preferred.

Despite millions of years that separate us, modern humans have a few things in common with *Ardipithecus ramidus*.

Fossils from Gona and elsewhere suggest that the ancient hominid walked on two feet and had diamond-shaped upper canines, not the "V"-shaped ones chimps use to chomp. However, the hominids would appear a lot more chimpanzee-like than human outwardly.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian researchers invent simple way to make water filter

CANBERRA, 20 Jan—Australian researchers have invented a new water filtration system that just uses simple materials like tea leaves, an invention expected to benefit millions of people in developing countries.

The system uses a filter made of clay and other organic materials such as rice husks, tea leaves and coffee grounds, Australian Broadcasting Corporation quoted Australian National University's materials scientist Tony Flynn as saying on Wednesday.

The filter, which takes the shape of a cylinder, needs to be sun-dried. Then it is surrounded with straw and put in a mound of cow manure before the straw is set alight and the filter fired for an hour, said

Flynn. Tests show the filter can remove 96.4 per cent to 99.8 per cent of the deadly E-coli bacterium.

Flynn said making of the filter will cost nothing, while existing comparable kiln-fired water filters are sold for anywhere between 5.5-9.3 US dollars in some developing countries.

He expressed the hope that aid and relief groups will pick up the technology and teach communities in developing nations how to make the filters.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists discover new cancer-causing gene

LONDON, 21 Jan—Scientists have discovered a new cancer-causing gene that they believe could be a molecular master switch for the disease.

Dubbed the Pokemon gene, it is one of several so-called oncogenes that lead normal cells to become cancerous. But it could be one of the most important.

"Pokemon is a main switch in the molecular network that leads towards cancer," said Dr Pier Paolo Pandolfi, of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre (MSKCC) in New York who headed the team that identified the gene.

"If we could turn Pokemon off, it may block the oncogenic circuitry and stall the malignant

process."

Although it shares its name with the popular Japanese pocket monster cartoon characters, Pandolfi said it is purely coincidental. Pokemon is short for POK Erythroid Myeloid Oncogenic factor.

Cancer develops when normal cells mutate and divide uncontrollably to form a tumour. When oncogenes do not function well, they can lead normal cells to turn cancerous.

"What is extraordinary about this gene is that

it is essential for the function of the other oncogenes," Pandolfi said in an interview.

"It is a main switch of this network of oncogenes that control (cell) transformation. None of the oncogenes so far identified play such a critical role."

Pandolfi, Takahiro Maeda and their colleagues, who reported the research in the journal *Nature*, believe the protein produced by the gene could be a new target for drug therapies against cancer which kills more than

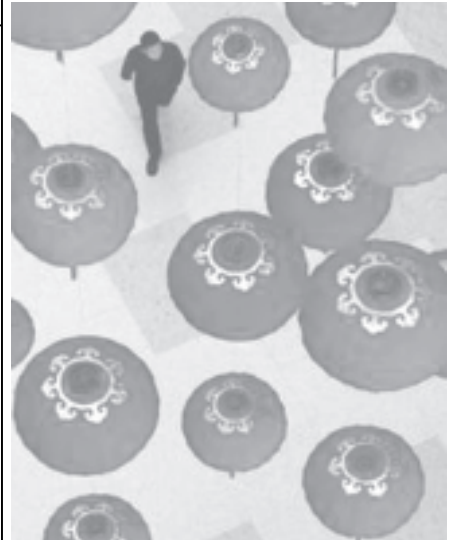
6 million people each year.

"We have a clear idea of how to block its function," said Pandolfi.

In animal studies, the scientists discovered that the Pokemon protein interferes with the action of other proteins, including a tumour suppressor called ARF.

When they inserted the gene into mice, the animal developed and died from an aggressive form of lymphoma. The researchers also found high levels of the Pokemon protein in human lymphomas.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese shopper walks under red lanterns used for the Chinese Lunar New Year decoration at a shopping mall in Shanghai, on 20 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

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S**China's Sanya named venue for 55th Miss World finals**

SANYA, 21 Jan — The 55th Miss World beauty pageant will be held on 4 December in Sanya, a seaside city on the southern tip of Hainan Province in south China, government sources said on Wednesday.

It will be the third straight year for Sanya to host the event. Zhang Qi, vice-mayor of Sanya, signed contracts with Julia Morley, president of the organization that sponsors the pageant, on cooperation between the city government and the organization.

Sanya will provide one million US dollars to the organization as the pageant operation fee, and new cooperation methods will be adopted. Julia Morley was full of expectation to the finals. He said more Chinese elements will be added to this year's pageant.

Zhang Qi said Sanya is an ideal place for holiday makers and he expects the city made known to more people of the world via hosting more international events such as Miss World beauty pageant. — MNA/Xinhua

British soccer kit firm Umbro loses sponsorship deal with Chelsea

LONDON, 21 Jan — British soccer kit firm Umbro is to lose a sponsorship deal with English Premier League leaders Chelsea five years earlier than planned, hitting profit expectations for 2005 and triggering a slide in its shares.

Umbro shares were down 6.4 per cent at 102-1/2 pence by 0840 GMT on Thursday after it said the termination of the Chelsea deal in June 2006 would have an adverse effect on 2005 sales and cut pretax profit by up to 2 million pounds (3.8 million US dollars).

It did not say why the contract to supply playing and training kit and the sale and distribution of replica products, due to run until 2011, was being terminated early.

Sales of Chelsea-branded Umbro products totalled 8.2 million pounds in 2004, representing 6.1 per cent of its British turnover and 2.3 per cent of group total wholesale equivalent sales.

US defender Gibbs joins Feyenoord

BRUSSELS, 21 Jan — Central defender Corey Gibbs of the United States has left Dallas Burn and signed with Feyenoord on a four-and-a-half years contract, said the Dutch champions on Thursday.

The 25-year-old convinced Feyenoord coach Ruud Gullit during his trial with the club at a winter-break training camp in Spain and signed for permanent transfer after Feyenoord agreed a fee with Major League Soccer.

Feyenoord are now fourth in the First Division soccer league standings, 11 points adrift of leaders AZ Alkmaar.

MNA/Xinhua



Defensor's Diego de Souza, left, battles for the ball with Penarol's Cristian Gonzalez during the final match for qualifying for the Libertadores Cup in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 19 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

However, Umbro, which listed on the London market last May, said that Chelsea, to make up for terminating the contract, would pay it 24.5 million pounds in June 2006, which could enhance earnings in the medium term.

"We believe this represents a good deal for shareholders. It provides us with a material cash injection in the summer of 2006, which will fuel a higher level of global investment in the brand over the medium term," Chief Executive Peter McGuigan said in a statement.

The 81-year-old firm also supplies the England soccer team and sells its products in more than 90 countries.

International wholesale equivalent sales growth was ahead of year-earlier levels, when the company had benefitted from the European 2004 Championship.

"There has been a good level of orders for 2005, in particular for the England home kit, which is likely to be in line with 2004. This is very encouraging given that 2005 is a non-tournament year," the company said. — MNA/Reuters

Penarol make last berth in South American Libertadores Cup

MONTEVIDEO, 21 Jan — Uruguay five-times champions Penarol booked the last ticket to this year's Libertadores Cup as they won a playoff series to determine the South American country's third representative in the continent's top club competition. Penarol, who won the first match of the playoff final 2-1 on Sunday, drew 2-2 with Defensor Sporting on Wednesday night for the spot, thanks to Uruguayan international midfielder Carlos Diogo's equalizer with only seven minutes to go.

Gonzalo Pizzichillo had put Penarol ahead in two minutes before Defensor turned the game around with goals from Andres Rodriguez and Nelson Semperena in a five-minute spell before halftime. Other teams from Uruguay will be the country's defending champions Danubio and runners-up Nacional.

Penarol will face Ecuador's Liga de Quito in a two-leg first-round tie in early February. Winner of the tie will go into second round Group Two along with Brazilian champions Santos, Bolivar of Venezuela and Danubio. — MNA/Xinhua

Eriksson to give Shaun Wright-Phillips a starting berth

LONDON, 21 Jan — England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson could give Shaun Wright-Phillips a starting berth in next month's friendly against the Netherlands, but maybe not in right midfield.

The 23-year-old, who has made two substitute appearances for England, has been in great form in that position for Manchester City, scoring some superb long-range goals and providing a constant threat.

But for England, the right flank belongs to captain David Beckham, an untouchable as far as Eriksson is concerned.

Beckham has been playing, with limited success, in central midfield for Real Madrid, but Eriksson has never taken to the idea.

"It is definitely possible to play both of them in the same side," the Swede said.

"It's not his best position but I'm sure Shaun could also play on the left. Even if, for Shaun, it's better to be on the right. The fact is that David is our captain and he will go on being our captain. David has played central midfield for Real Madrid for one and half years so of course it's possible he could do that maybe for the national team as well.

"That depends on the way we want to play."

Eriksson also refused to join criticism of Beckham's uninspired performances in Spain.

"I don't agree with it or understand it," he said. "He is playing regular football for Real Madrid which is not that bad, so I will pick him and he will probably play from the beginning."

Eriksson, like most England managers before him, has struggled to successfully fill the left midfield berth and Wright-Phillips, strongly right-footed, has rarely played there.

Another option, and one the Swede appears to be warming to, is Middlesbrough's uncapped 20-year-old Stewart Downing.

"He's very interesting," said Eriksson, speaking at the launch of the women's European championship in Manchester on Tuesday.

"He's another young one and probably he will be picked. He deserves to be picked. I don't know if he will start but he is playing better and better."

"It's good to talk about players like Wright-Phillips and Stewart Downing. They are two young boys, both very talented and playing very good football at this moment, very consistent."

"I don't know who's going to start. First I will pick the squad, 22 players or maybe 23, and I will see if they are tired or not."

MNA/Reuters



Roger Federer in action against Finland's Jarkko Nieminen during their third-round match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 21 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

Australian Open tennis tourney

MELBOURNE, 21 Jan — Spanish teenager Rafael Nadal saved a match point before going on to upset Russian 15th seed Mikhail Youzhny 6-1, 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 in a dramatic second-round battle at the Australian Open on Thursday.

A point from victory at 5-4 in the fourth set, Youzhny sent a drive volley the wrong side of the line and the left-handed Nadal stormed back, falling to the court in ecstasy as he clinched victory.

The 18-year-old Nadal, who outgunned American Andy Roddick in Seville as Spain won the Davis Cup in December, began like an express train, racing through the first set in just 25 minutes.

Youzhny, whose amazing fightback from two sets down against Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu gave Russia their first Davis Cup triumph in 2002, cut out his errors in the second and third sets to forge ahead. Nadal, however, refused to give in.

After saving the match point, he won seven games in a row to lead 4-0 in the deciding set, and though Youzhny fought back to 4-3, a stinging forehand from Nadal sealed the Spaniard's place in round three for the second successive year. — MNA/Reuters

Barcelona to open soccer school in Monterrey

MEXICO CITY, 21 Jan — The Spanish soccer club Barcelona is embarked on a project to open a soccer school in Monterrey, northeastern Mexico, after an agreement with local Mexican businessmen, according to local Press reports Wednesday.

According to the agreement, a school will first be set up in Monterrey, where it will be the site of the coming Universal Cultures Forum, and then another one in Puebla, central Mexico.

The school in Monterrey, in the northeastern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, will open in February, but it will not be officially inaugurated until August with a friendly match between Barcelona and local First Division club Tigres.

Barcelona will collaborate with the school in Monterrey through the "FCB Merchandising," with the participation of Nike, teaching training methodology, technical and preparation of players.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba demands end to atrocities at US Guantanamo base

HAVANA, 21 Jan — The Cuban Government on Wednesday demanded an end to the atrocities committed against prisoners of war at the US military base of Guantanamo, located in the eastern tip of Cuba.

Cuba demands that inhumane and criminal behaviour be stopped as it goes against international laws, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It said the treatment of prisoners kept at that base revealed the double standards of the US Government in its manipulated campaign for human rights. Media reports put the number of prisoners at 550.

According to Cuba, the situation of about 550 prisoners in Guantanamo, is "dramatic" and was comparable to abuse committed by US soldiers on prisoners at the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq.

"The arbitrary detention of these foreign prisoners with no intervening legal trial, as well as the torture and degrading treatment they are subjected to, constitute a gross violation of human rights," the statement said.

The statement said the ministry handed over

a diplomatic note to the US Government on December 19, denouncing the flagrant human rights violations committed on Cuban territory illegally occupied by the United States.

The letter, which "demanded the immediate cessation of that inhumane and criminal conduct", was broadcast on Cuban state-run television.

"The atrocities committed at the base and the fact itself of utilizing illegally occupied Cuban territory as a prison" violate numerous international and humanitarian laws, the statement said. The US Guantanamo base was built under the Agreement for Coal and Naval Stations, signed in 1903 between the two countries.

Under the agreement, the United States could use the base as a coal and naval station, but not for any other purposes.

MNA/Xinhua

Two tons of cocaine seized in Panama

PANAMA CITY, 21 Jan — Two tons of cocaine was seized in a joint operation with anti-narcotics units of the United States and Colombia, said Director of the National Maritime Service (SMN) of Panama Ricardo Traad on Wednesday.

The drug was seized on January 17 in the Gulf of Uraba near Panama and the drug traffickers escaped aboard a speed boat, Traad said.

The three sides shared information to crack this case, he said.

No capture of the individuals involved in the

case has been reported so far and the investigation is in its early stage.

In May 2004, SMN seized over 1,000 kilos of drug from a boat spotted in a mangrove close to the docks of Brujas, Chiman District on the Panamanian border.

MNA/Xinhua

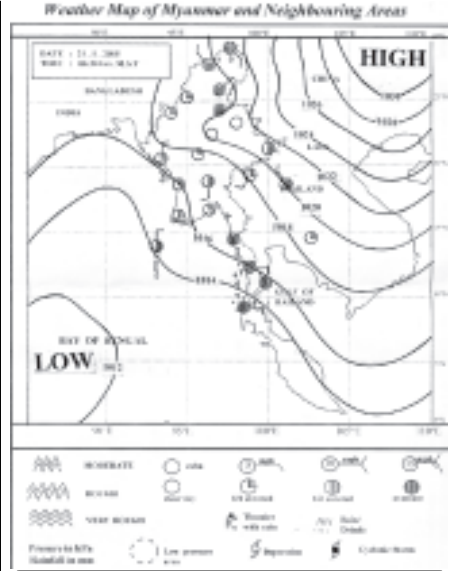
WTO official advises Tanzania to trade more with China

DAR-ES-LAAM, 21 Jan — The director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has advised Tanzania to enhance trade with China so as to benefit substantially, local Press reported on Thursday.

The advice was given during Supachai Panitchpakdi's talks with Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa on Wednesday, newspaper Daily News reported. The WTO official said that Tanzania could collaborate with China in the production of industrial goods which in turn can enable the African country to sell massively in international markets. "I would like to advise that you should strengthen trade cooperation with China through attraction of investors in industrial production," said Panitchpakdi.

"China is one of the countries whose economy is growing very fast in the world. China needs a lot of iron for its industries, hence you could attract the country to invest in industries and you would be able to sell different products in the world markets instead of selling raw materials."

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 21 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Magway and Yangon Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Nansam (3°C), PyinOoLwin and Loilem (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 20-1-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 21-1-2005 was 57°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 20-1-2005 was (7.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 21-1-2005 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 10 mph from Northwest at (13:30) hours MST on 20-1-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday's the low pressure area over Southwest Bay had become unimportant. Weather is partly cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-1-2005: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperatures in whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-1-2005: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for forth weekend of January 2005: During the coming weekend weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

U Kyin Maung Gyi @ Kong Kyin Loon Aged 87 years

Son of the late U Pu + Daw Ami Soe of No 185, Kyone Gyi Street, Lanmadaw Township, devoted husband of Daw Sein Nyunt, beloved father of U Tejaninya of Shwe Oo Min Dhamma Sukha Yeiktha, Mingaladon Township. (U Aye Kyi) + Daw Nyunt Nyunt Swe, Dr Daw Hla Kyi, Dr U Thein Kyi + Dr Than Than Htay, Dr U Tin Kyi + Dr Daw Nu Nu, U Myint Kyi + Daw Yee Yee Myint, Dr U Soe Kyi + Dr Daw Khin Khin Htwe, Dr U Aung Kyi @ Dr Steven and Shirley Kong, Daw Aye Thet Mon, Dr U Yin Kyi + Daw Than Than Lwin, Dr U Tun Kyi @ Dr Alvin and Vivienne Kong, beloved grandfather of 18, passed away at 12:41 pm on 19-1-2005, Wednesday, and was cremated at 4:30 pm on the same day at Yayway Cemetery in accordance with his wish.

The Bereaved Family



Saturday, 22 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
7:50 am 5. Dance Variety
8:00 am 6. အရေးကြီးပုံ
8:20 am 7. ဧကရာဇ်ကြီးပေါက်တံတား
8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Grammar made easy
11:00 am 1. Martial song
11:15 am 2. Musical programme
11:30 am 3. News
11:40 am 4. Games for Children

- 12:05 pm 5. Round-up of The Week's Local TV news
12:15 pm 6. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ ရုပ်ရှင်မဂ္ဂဇင်း (အပိုင်း-၄)
12:50 pm 7. ဖောင်းတောထဲရေလှောင်တံ
1:00 pm 8. "တိရစ္ဆာန် နေတော့ပြင် မပျက်စရာ" ရုပ်ရှင်မဂ္ဂဇင်း၊ နိုဘဲလ်ဆုရသော ချစ်ခင်မောင်၊ ယင်းတို့၏ ခါရိုက်တင်-အဝမ်းပေးသံလှူပို့
1:30 pm 9. "ပန်းချီလက်ပန်းချီပြပွဲ"
1:45 pm 10. Dance of national races
2:40 pm 11. "ရင်ထဲမှာ သာတလ" ဆက်စမ်း၊ နိုဘဲလ်ဆုရသော ချစ်ခင်မောင် (ပုလဲရောင်မပိုမို)
2:30 pm 12. ထပ်ဆင့်အောင်ပွဲ ဧရာဝတီတံတား (ခေးဒါ)
2:45 pm 13. International news
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme

- 4:50 pm 5. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်ရှင်မဂ္ဂဇင်း သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
5:15 pm 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
5:30 pm 7. Musical programme
5:40 pm 8. မြန်မာ့စာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
5:55 pm 9. Games for Children
6:15 pm 10. Musical programme
6:25 pm 11. Discovery
6:30 pm 12. Evening news
7:00 pm 13. Weather report
7:05 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ကြိုသွယ်တံလင်းပိုင်ငယ်" (အပိုင်း-၄၇)
7:35 pm 15. ရှေ့ဆက်သွားမည့် ဓုခါဒလမ်းပွဲ (၇)ရက်တိုင် မဆန်းကျင်သင့်
7:45 pm 16. မြန်မာ့ရောင် သတိပေးရိုက်ပျိုး ဓမ္မပြုရေးစခန်း
8:00 pm 17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)
21. The next day's programme



Saturday, 22 January Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:Rocking good way
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: Rose in my heart
8:55 am National news/Slogan
9:05 am Music: Bidi bidi bom bom
9:10 am International news
9:15 am Music: Let's live for today
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Request
9:00 pm ASEAN Review -Songs
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Myanma culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
9:30 pm Souvenirs -A long vacation -Jambalaya
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Preparations for MICT Week-2005 inspected

YANGON, 21 Jan — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Fourth Myanmar ICT Week-2005 Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by vice-chairmen of the leading committee Maj-Gen Thein Tun of the Ministry of Defence and member of Civil Service Selec-

tion and Training Board U Aung Myint and officials, arrived at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park (MICT Park) on Hline University Campus in Hline Township this afternoon.

They inspected preparations for the MICT Week-2005. Officials of the BOD of MICT Development Corporation conducted them round the park.

MNA



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspect preparations for holding MICT Week-2005.— MNA

135 million more gallons of clean and safe water for Yangon

Article & photos: Reporter Than Sze (Pabedan)

The drive to make Yangon a model city involves the project to supply clean and safe water, free from all kinds of harmful germs, for the Yangonites.

The Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC)

is providing daily 27 million gallons of water from Gyobyu reservoir, 44 million gallons from Phugyi dam, 14 million gallons from Hlawga man-made lake, and 10 million gallons from YCDC-owned tube-wells, totalling 95 million gallons for the city dwellers.

(See page 9)

The pipeline is being laid across Ahtayu Creek with the use of heavy machinery.



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

Military Band Competition continues

YANGON, 21 Jan — The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 continued at the People's Square on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

The bands comprising students of Tamway Basic Education High School No 1 and Thakayta BEHS No 2 performed their skills demonstration.

Afterwards, the band representing Eastern Command, the band representing the No 2 Warrant Officers Training School, the band representing the Western Command, the bands representing the No 8 Basic Military Training Depot, the No 77 LID and the No 1 Basic Military Training Depot took part in the competition. Secretary of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the Committee for Observance of the Military Band Competition Deputy Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe presented cash prizes to leaders of the student bands.

Senior military officers, members of the panel of judges, guests, Tatmadaw family members and students attended the competition.— MNA

Participation of bands in the Military Band Competition.

PRPU



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.