

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

## Commander inspects summer paddy cultivation, irrigation task



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects water supply system at farmlands of Yangon Command in the area between Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships.— YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 22 Jan—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by officials concerned, this morning inspected summer paddy cultivation and irrigation task at the 83-acre farmland being under taken by Yangon Command near Yangon-Bago Highway and No 3

Main Road bordering Hlegu Township and Mingaladon Township, Yangon Division and gave instructions to officials.

First, the commander looked into cultivation of quality-strain paddy, supply of water to farmlands under river water pumping station, thriving of crops and vegetables and officials concerned conducted him

round the farmlands.

Next, the commander gave instructions on boosting the per acre yield, applying various ways and means for sufficient irrigation and extended cultivation of crops in vacant land and attended to the needs.

MNA

## Secretary-General meets USDA members

YANGON, 22 Jan—Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo held a meeting with service personnel, executives and members of Hinthada District and Hinthada Township USDAs and senior citizens on 16 January.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary General said that the government is implementing a variety of projects for national development. It is also putting the work programmes into motion for development of the USDA, a national force,

while members are lending themselves to community welfare concerns

such as religious, social and health spheres for regional development,

and raising the living standard of the public in harness with the people,

he added. Thus, he noted that members are to be imbued with correct be-

lief and firm concept in order to become (See page 8)



USDA Secretary-General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo meets with executives of Hinthada District USDA and departmental officials in Hinthada on 16-1-2005.— A&I

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 23 January, 2005

## Time for government and people to eradicate hand in hand the manace of narcotic drugs

In the Union of Myanmar, all the national people are making all-out efforts to bring to a complete halt the danger of narcotic drugs, which is an ill legacy of the colonialists.

In this narcotics elimination drive, the members of the Myanma Tatmadaw sacrificed their lives and limbs. The government also signed UN Conventions and took part in the anti-narcotics campaigns in cooperation with the UN and the international community, especially with neighbouring countries.

In the address delivered at the parade of the 51st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance as to the tasks for the eradication of narcotic drugs. He said the narcotic drug is the threat to the whole country, adding that the Tatmadawmen showed great valour and bravery in the anti-narcotics campaigns at risk to their lives. He added that the Tatmadaw will commit itself to this drive until the narcotic menace totally disappears, pointing out that the anti-narcotics drive is the concern of all the peoples of the world.

Myanmar considers the anti-narcotic measure the national concern and has geared itself up for it. At the same time, emphasis is also placed on higher social advancement of the people living in border areas.

After forming the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the 15-year plan from 1999-2000 to 2014-2015 for eradication of narcotics.

Poppy-substitute crop cultivation and border area development tasks are being undertaken alongside this 15-year plan.

In like manner, serious action is taken against those linking to poppy cultivation and production as well as against drug addicts and drug pushers. Seizures of raw opium, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, stimulants and poppy seeds were torched before the very eyes of international diplomats.

The Tatmadaw government, since its assumption of the State duty, has carried out the tasks for national reconsolidation. Realizing the genuine goodwill and correct endeavours, 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold.

This achievement gave rise to many opportunities to undertake development tasks in border areas and to curb the poppy cultivation and production there.

All in all, the onus is on all the national people to take as the national concern the eradication of narcotic drugs threatening the entire mankind and join hands with the government until the narcotic drugs are completely rooted out.

## 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

## Prize winners in Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship announced

YANGON, 22 Jan — The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Fund Supervisory Committee of the Ministry of Education announced the list of those who have won scholarship award in the majorwise of the matriculation examination for 2003-2004 academic year and those joining the Myanmar major at universities after passing the 2002 and 2003 matriculation examinations.

### Scholarship Award winners

Ma Thiri Aung, daughter of U Aung Soe Myint, of Aingthabyu Basic Education High School, Laymyethna Township, won the first prize, Ma May Thu Aung, daughter of U Zaw Aung, of Pyapon BEHS No 1, second and Ma Thi Thi Htwe, daughter of U Maung Maung Htwe, of Mandalay BEHS No 13, third in the Myanmar major. In the English major, Maung Soe Moe Aung, son of U Aung Tha Mya, of Myitkyna BEHS No 1, secured the first, Maung Pyi Phy Kyaw, son of U Myint Lwin, of Taunggyi BEHS No 4, second and Maung Sai Myint Aung, son of U Aik Kyauk, of Taunggyi BEHS No 5, third. In the Mathematics major, Ma Thi Thi Htwe, daughter of U Maung Maung Hwe, of Mandalay BEHS No 13, took the first, Maung Zin Lin, son of U Tun Myint, of Mandalay BEHS No 14, second and Ma Myat Noe Zin Myint, daughter of U Myint Sein, of Kamayut Institute of Education Practising School, third. In the Chemistry, Physics and Biology Major, the first prize went to Maung Zin Lin, son of U Tun Myint, of Mandalay BEHS No 14. In the Geography and History major, Ma Tin Nwe Lin, daughter of U Tin Pe, of Pyinkhayaing

BEHS of Ngaputaw Township won the first prize. In the Economics Major, Maung Win Htet, son of U Tin Win Aung, of Yankin BEHS No 1 secured the first prize. And, Maung Sa Than Htaik Soe, son of U Mahn San Myint, of Kyaunggon BEHS, took the first in the Optional Myanmar major.

### U Ohn Pe Myanmar Major Outstanding Students

The prize winners for 2002 academic year were Ma Hnin Ei Khaing, daughter of U Sein Than Maung, of Sittway University, Ma Hlaing Ma Ma, daughter of U Myo Nyunt, of Yadanabon University, Ma Thiri Tun, daughter of U Hla Tun, of Monywa University, and Maung Kyaw Myo, son of U Kyin Thein, of Pyay University. Similarly, the prize winners for 2003 were Maung Kyaw Zay Latt, son of U Htay Maung of Monywa University, Ma Aye Thi Khaing, daughter of U Bo Bo, of Mohnyin Degree College, Ma Thinza Win Myint, daughter of U Win Myint, of Patheingyi University and Maung Kyaw Wai Phyoo, son of U Aung Kyaw Oo of Monywa University.

The prize winners are to contact the Education Planning and Training Department, Tel: 554314 as soon as possible. Prizes will be presented to the winners at the ceremony to present prizes to winners of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street at 2 pm on 5 February.

The rehearsal will be held at 1 pm on 3 February at the same venue. Prize winning students will be accommodated at Dagon BEHS No 2.

MNA

## 1st Air Bagan Open Golf C'ship continues for third round



YANGON, 22 Jan — Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) still leads with 216 strokes in the professional golfers division after playing in the third round of the First Air Bagan Open Golf Championship today and Zaw Zin Win with 212 strokes in the men's amateur golfers division.

The Golf Championship is being held at Bagan Golf Course in Nyaung U Township.

The runners-up of the leader were Than Naing (Wilson) in the

second with 218 strokes, Min Lwin Oo (Wilson) in

the third with 219 and Min Naing (Srixon) in the fourth with 220 in the professional golfers division.

Bo Bo and Thein Zaw Myint tied at the second position with 216 strokes in the amateur division, and Aung Win placed his

position in third with 222.

Among the spectators were Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), executives and guests.—MNA



Third day leader Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) in action in the First Air Bagan Open Golf Championship.—MGF

**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

## သတိပေးနို့ဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်အတွင်း မောင်းနှင်သွားလာလျက်ရှိသော မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအနက် အချို့မော်တော်ယာဉ်များသည် မီးခိုးအလွန်အကျွံ ထွက်ရှိလျက် အများပြည်သူဆိုင်ရာ လမ်းများပေါ်တွင် မောင်းနှင်သွားလာနေသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ မီးခိုးအလွန်အကျွံထွက်သော မော်တော်ယာဉ်များကြောင့်ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် လေထုညစ်ညမ်းမှု ဖြစ်ပေါ်နေပြီး ပြည်သူများ၏ ကျန်းမာရေးကိုပါ ထိခိုက်နိုင်သဖြင့် မီးခိုးအလွန်အကျွံထွက်သော ယာဉ်များအား စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူ ဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနို့ဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

**ယာဉ်စဉ်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ**



# Shanxi Province to become world's largest stainless steel plant

TAIYUAN, 22 Jan — Taiyuan Steel (Group) Corporation in north China's Shanxi Province is striving to become one of the world's largest stainless steel producer in 2006, a company source said Thursday.

"The company is investing 16.5 billion yuan (1.98 billion US dollars) in expanding stainless steel production capacity, which will reach 3 million tons in 2006," said general manager Li Xiaobo.

Since August 2000, Taiyuan Steel has invested 4.9 billion yuan (590 million US dollars) in introducing the most advanced technology and equipment in

stainless steel production from abroad, Li said.

In 2004 the company realized a revenue increase of 8.3 billion yuan (one billion US dollars), with its steel output reaching 4.63 million tons.

Founded in 1934, Taiyuan Steel has become one of China's principal steel companies and China's largest stainless steel producer. — MNA/Xinhua



# Eastern Chinese city has record passenger flow

XIAMEN, 22 Jan — Xiamen, a traffic hub in east China's Fujian Province, saw a record passenger flow in 2004, due to increased contacts between the Chinese Mainland and other parts of the world.

Statistics from Xiamen Border Checkpoint showed more than 1.22 million people came in and out of China through Xiamen in 2004, a rise of 961,000, or 18.6 per cent, over the figure a year ago.

The number of Chinese going abroad for personal reasons such as

sightseeing, visits or family reunion has grown rapidly in each of the past few years, a Customs official said. There were 350,000 such travellers in 2004, many of whom travelled to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan or South Korea.

Since a number of Chinese Mainland cities began to implement the "Individual Visit Scheme" on Hong Kong and Macao-bound tours last July, residents of this

Coastal province have shown great enthusiasm for the simplified travel formalities.

Nineteen thousand people from the Chinese Mainland went to or came from Hong Kong and Macao via Xiamen last year, doubling the 2003 figure.

Xiamen, a seaside resort with a thriving economy, hosted 465,000 foreign visitors last year, up 45 per cent over 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

*Chinese vendors prepare cured eel at a street market in Shanghai, on 12 Jan, 2005. China's economy is expected to grow around 8.5 per cent in 2005 with inflation close to 3.3 percent, a central bank think-tank said.—INTERNET*

# Malaysian, S Korean Cos set up melamine factory on Borneo

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia), 22 Jan — Malaysia's national oil company and a Korean corporation will jointly invest 150 million ringgit to set up Malaysia's first melamine factory, the oil company said.

Melamine is an organic chemical product manufactured from urea and is mainly used for making products such as paint, adhesives, water resistant chipboard and plywood.

Malaysia's Petronas and the Namhee Chemical Corporation of South Korea signed an agreement on Thursday to establish the melamine plant in the eastern state of Sarawak on Borneo Island, Petronas said in a statement.

Under the agreement, the two companies will invest 150 million ringgit (40 million US dollars) to relocate Namhee's existing melamine plant in Yeosu, about 185 miles south of Seoul to Sarawak's Bintulu District.

Petronas said the melamine facility is expected to commence operation early next year and will have an annual production capacity of 15,000 metric tons.

MNA/AP

# Surgery for five soldiers hurt in Iraq blast

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan—Five British soldiers will undergo surgery after being injured in a blast at an Iraqi military compound thought to have been sparked by allegations of abuse, it was confirmed today.

The explosion, which injured nine British troops at Shaibah logistics base, 20 miles south west of Basra, is believed to have been caused by extremists seeking revenge over claims that UK soldiers mistreated Iraqis in their custody.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the five do not have life-threatening wounds, but confirmed the injured will have surgery.

The spokesman said: "Four of the injured remain in the British military hospital in Shaibah and one is being treated at a US medical facility in Kuwait. All will undergo surgical procedures.

"The other injured suffered minor cuts and bruises."

All nine soldiers were from the Second Battalion The Princess of Wales's

Royal Regiment and the MOD said they are in the process of informing their families.—Internet

# "Shenzhou VI" due to blast off in autumn of 2005

BEIJING, 22 Jan — Shenzhou VI manned spaceship is scheduled to blast off in September or October in 2005, said Sun Laiyan, director of China National Space Administration, Thursday.

The Shenzhou VI spaceship will undergo a four-to-five day flight, carrying two astronauts.

Astronauts will for the first time live in orbital

capsule and carry out some scientific tests, said Sun.

Sun said so far the spaceship's reentry module, orbital capsule and propulsion module are being equipped and preparation work for the launch is in full swing.

MNA/Xinhua

# Italian soldier killed in Iraq

ROME, 21 Jan — A member of the Italian military contingent in Iraq was killed in the city of Nasiriyah, when his helicopter came under fire, ANSA news agency reported citing military officials.

The soldier was rushed to a hospital where he died of his wounds.

Defence Minister Antonio Martino said in a statement he was "deeply saddened" by the news.

The aircraft was on a patrol along the Euphrates River south of Nasiriyah when it drew fire.

ANSA said tension was high in the city where a Portuguese patrol was shot at before the incident involving the Italian troops.

Italy has deployed some 3,000 troops in southern Iraq.

Martino had told a parliamentary committee Thursday that the area under Italian control "is absolutely not secure from attempts by groups opposed to the (Iraqi) government and the (US-led) coalition to undermine the electoral process" in Iraq.

Internet



Japanese Geisha, professional entertainers trained in traditional dancing and music gather at Seonsoji temple during a traditional parade in Tokyo's Asakusa District, on 22 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## India, Nepal discuss bilateral cooperation

**NEW DELHI, 22 Jan** — India and Nepal on Thursday discussed the modalities for strengthening bilateral cooperation in combating terrorists and criminals who are engaged in activities against the interests of the two countries.

During the two-day meeting of Home Secretaries which concluded here, the two sides also firmed up a revised extradition treaty and mutual legal assistance which would be signed at "an appropriate high level soon".

The 14-member Indian delegation was led by Union Home Secretary Dharendra Singh while the

Nepali side was represented by his counterpart Chandi Prasad Shrestha, an official release said here.

Both sides exchanged views on various issues of mutual concern including the Maoist insurgency in Nepal and the security situation in border areas.

"The modalities for strengthening bilateral cooperation in combating ac-

tivities of terrorists, criminals and other hostile elements who are engaged in activities inimical to the interests of both India and Nepal were discussed," it said.

During the meeting, the two sides firmed up the text of the extradition treaty and the agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters.— *MNA/PTI*

## Icelanders apologise for Iraq war

**REYKJAVIK, 21 Jan** — A group of nationals from tiny Iceland have slammed their government's support of the US-led war in Iraq apologising to Iraqis in a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*.

The advertisement, paid for with donations from more than 4,000 citizens which constitutes about 1.4 percent of the population, demanded "that Iceland be immediately removed from the list of invaders in the 'coalition of the willing'".

"We apologise to the Iraqi people for the Icelandic ministers' support for the invasion of Iraq," said the ad, published on Friday. Four out of five Icelanders want their country off the list, according to a Gallup opinion poll published earlier this month.

Iceland's backing has had little impact on the coalition's fortunes since the war began in March 2003.

The North Atlantic archipelago of 295,000 people and no military has contributed nothing but its government's verbal support.

Prime Minister Halldor Asgrimsson and Oddsson, both seen by analysts as staunch allies of President George W Bush, have come under fire for signing up Iceland as a coalition partner without consulting parliament.

*Internet*

## Security issues hampering

### Australian Embassy relocation in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 21** —Australia's Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, says Australia has had difficulties trying to move its embassy in Iraq to a safer location.

He says there have been long negotiations on access and approval for the new site in the relative safety of Baghdad's Green Zone. Two Iraqis died and two Australian soldiers received minor injuries this week when a truck bomb exploded outside the embassy compound.

However, Mr Downer says although approval for the move was given last

year, things take time.

"Anybody who wants to make a political point out of this might like to familiarise themselves with some of the security difficulties of getting that construction work done and getting construction teams in," he said.

"It's actually very difficult to do and it will take us some time," he said.

*Internet*

ဝက်မှုစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



A Chinese investor monitors stock prices at a securities exchange in Shanghai on 21 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## Anti-Bush demonstrations held in Washington

**WASHINGTON, 22 Jan**— Flag-draped coffins and anti-war chants completed with pomp and circumstance on Thursday at the inauguration of President George W Bush along the snow-dusted, barricaded streets of central Washington.

As the President was sworn in for a second term amid the tightest security in inaugural history, protesters chanted "Hell no, we won't go! We won't go for Texaco" and other anti-war slogans.

They carried hundreds of mock coffins along 16th Street, a downtown thoroughfare leading to the White House, to remind Americans of the mounting casualties in Iraq.

While some protesters played drums, others held signs such as "Iraq is Arabic for Vietnam," "Down with King George," and "Your taxes at work killing."

Other placards called

for electoral reform, gay rights, abortion rights and the use of renewable energy.

Jamie Dennis, a 22-year-old contractor from Silver Spring, Maryland, said it was important for people come out and protest Bush's policies.

"This is showing that he doesn't have as much political capital as he claims," he said.

Demonstrations were mostly peaceful during the first inauguration since the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Police sealed off 100 blocks around the White House and parade route, barring all traffic except official security and police cars.

In one case, police scuffled with about 30 anarchists about two streets away from the inaugural parade route, using pepper spray and batons to disperse the group. Some black-clad anarchists also traded insults with Bush supporters, many in fur coats. Others threw snowballs at police.

"Right wing scum, your time has come," read a banner at a march of about 200 anarchists heading toward Pennsylvania Avenue, where the inaugural parade was scheduled in the afternoon.

Just outside the White House grounds, 17 protesters staged a "die-in."

After shouting a chant of "Stop the killing, stop the war", they dropped to the pavement one by one as one of them began reading a list of those killed in Iraq.

Some wore fake blood-stained bandages, and stage blood dribbled from some mouths. One spectator apparently found the act so credible that he began administering CPR. Others were less sympathetic.

"I hope you don't get up. I hope you freeze your ass off," said another, who was among a group heading toward the grandstands nearest the White House.

Throughout the city, thousands of police and military troops were on patrol with bomb-sniffing dogs, and spectators had to pass through metal detectors before attending any inaugural events or before being allowed to watch the parade from the street.

The demonstrations were due to continue throughout the day. Organizers said they expected several thousand protesters to brave the winter chill to vent opposition to the President and his policies at home and abroad. Some protesters along the route of the inaugural parade say they planned to turn their backs at Bush's motorcade.

*MNA/Reuters*



Demonstrators rally as the parade for the inauguration of US President George W Bush passes by on Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, DC.—INTERNET



## Shanghai posts double-digit GDP growth for 2004

SHANGHAI, 21 Jan—Shanghai's gross domestic product reached 744 billion yuan (89.6 billion US dollars) in 2004, a year-on-year rise of 118.9 billion yuan (14.3 billion US dollars), or 13.5 per cent in comparable prices.

According to the municipal development and reform authorities, it was the first time that the city's annual GDP growth exceeded the 100-billion-yuan (12-billion-US-dollar) mark.

The authorities said the growth was efficient, as Shanghai, formerly a resource gobbler, consumed less energy per 10,000 yuan of GDP than any other city in China — 1.07 tons of standard coal, compared with the national average of 2.6 tons.

Energy consumption as an indicator of GDP efficiency in Shanghai is now nearly 75 per cent lower than it was at the beginning of the 1990s.

Shanghai's improved economic performance was also shown in fiscal revenues last year.

Its fiscal revenues amounted to 111.97 billion yuan (13.5 billion US dollars) in 2004, exceeding the 100-billion-yuan (12-billion-US-dollar) mark for the first time and representing a

growth of 24.5 per cent from the previous year's 89.9 billion yuan (10.8 billion US dollars).

Meanwhile, economic returns of industrial businesses in Shanghai continued to improve. Their total profits were estimated at 101 billion yuan (12.2 billion US dollars) for the year, up 22.9 per cent year on year. Six sectors — IT, auto manufacturing, refined steel, petrochemicals and fine chemicals, complete equipment and bio-

pharmaceuticals — made up 69 per cent.

The city absorbed 11.69 billion US dollars in contracted foreign capital, up 12.6 per cent from the previous year. A total of 6.54 billion US dollars was actually used, representing an increase of 11.8 per cent.

Shanghai will strive for a GDP growth of 11 per cent this year, according to the local government's social and economic development plan.—MNA/Xinhua

## India, Malaysia "natural partners" in "IT" sector

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Jan—India and Malaysia Thursday underlined the immediate need to leverage their respective strength in the Information Technology sector with New Delhi declaring that the two countries were "natural partners" in this area.

"We have our respective strengths. We are natural partners. One is strong in software and the other is strong in hardware," visiting IT Minister Dayanidhi Maran told Malaysia's Energy, Water and Communications Minister Lim Keng Yaik here.

Maran, who is here on his way back from Tokyo where Japan and India planned to boost cooperation on developing next-generation telecommunications networks, and Yaik stressed that the two countries should cooperate jointly in the IT sector.

The two ministers exchanged views on the modalities to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the Information Technology sector.

Malaysia, which is strong in the hardware sector, has been keen to seek India's cooperation in the software area.—MNA/PTI

## India to put three satellites in space this year

TIRUPATI, 22 Jan—India would put into space three satellites— one for mapping applications and the other two with multiple uses— this year, ISRO Chairman G Madhavan Nair said here Thursday.

Inaugurating a three-day colloquium on international network of tropical atmosphere radars (INTRA), Nair told reporters that Indian Space Research Organization will launch the CAROSAT-1 in March end or April first week from Sriharikota.

The INSAT-4A and INSAT-4B would be launched from Kourou in French Guyana in June and December this year respectively.

No country in the world has space based system capacity to detect or predict natural calamities such as

earthquake or its after-effects like tsunami, he said, admitting that the ISRO was aware of the recent killer tsunami when it came.

"The tsunami is an unexpected event that comes once in a century. Even the developed countries' satellites cannot pick up the images of the waves of the tsunami as the height of the waves is very minimum," he said.

ISRO is looking at developing data collection platform that can warn about tsunami, a little bit in advance.

MNA/PTI



A Chinese farmer looks at decorations for the Spring Festival at an open market in the suburb of Yichang, Central China's Hubei Province on 21 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

## India to align ROO on ASEAN model

NEW DELHI, 22 Jan—India will adopt the Indo-ASEAN FTA criterion for Rules of Origin (ROO) for all the other trade pacts with Asian countries, including Thailand and Singapore, and the Commerce Ministry is expected to take a proposal in this regard to the Cabinet by February.

This is being worked out to bring about uniformity in the rules and align them with those of the ASEAN countries which will serve as the model for other trade pacts in the region, official sources told PTI.

ROO with ASEAN have been agreed at 40 per cent value addition only, thus making them more liberal than those with other trading partners like Thailand, Singapore and SAFTA, where the criterion also included

change in tariff head besides 40 per cent value addition.

Rules of Origin govern the process of determining origin of products in a particular country.

The Early Harvest

Scheme under the Indo-Thai Free Trade Agreement is already under operation and a full-fledged FTA would come into operation from 2006 while the first phase of ASEAN agreement is expected to come into implementation from 1 April.

It may be noted that Indo-Thai FTA had got delayed due to differences over ROOs as India was insisting for 40 per cent value addition plus change in tariff head at six digit level. However, later when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited that country to attend the BIMSTEC Summit, differences were sorted out after his meeting with his Thai counterpart Thaksin Shinawatra.

MNA/PTI

## Soldier charged for refusing return to Iraq

SAVANNAH (Georgia), 21 Jan — The US Army has brought charges against a soldier who refused to return to Iraq for a second combat tour because he now objects to war, officials said.

Sgt Kevin Benderman notified his commanders 28 December that he was seeking a discharge as a conscientious objector. He then refused orders to deploy with his unit January 8 while the Army processed his objector claim.

Benderman was charged with desertion and a second count that accuses him of intentionally skipping his deployment flight.

"My response to those charges is not guilty," said Benderman, 40. "I am prepared to deal with whatever consequences my action brings."

Benderman, an Army mechanic with 10 years in the military, spent eight months in Iraq in 2003 with the 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood,

Texas. He transferred to Fort Stewart after returning from the war.

Though he never fired a gun in combat, Benderman says the misery he saw firsthand — including a badly burned young girl and mass graves filled with men, women and children — led him to seek objector status.

Fort Stewart commanders contend Benderman still had an obligation to deploy with his unit while they considered his conscientious objector application.

"The people that it hurts the most are those people who are a close-knit part of his team," Maj Gen William G Webster, the 3rd Infantry commander, told reporters Thursday.—Internet



US soldiers stand near a crater caused by a car bomb that exploded on 21 Jan, 2005 in Baghdad.—INTERNET

Drive safely

## Harvard University President apologises for comment on women

CAMBRIDGE (Massachusetts), 21 Jan — Harvard University President Lawrence Summers has written a lengthy apology, admitting he was wrong to suggest women do not have the same natural ability in math and sciences as men.

In his third and most repentant statement this week, the Ivy League school chief sought to make amends to faculty not just at Harvard but across the country who were offended by his remarks at a conference last Friday.

"I deeply regret the impact of my comments and apologize for not having weighed them more carefully," Summers said in a letter to the Harvard community posted on his web site and dated Wednesday. "I was wrong to have spoken in a way that has resulted in an unintended signal of discouragement to talented girls and women."

Earlier this week, a Harvard faculty committee told Summers he may have damaged the school's efforts to attract more top female scholars with his suggestion that innate differences between the sexes may help explain why fewer women succeed in math and science careers.

In his most recent statement — the third in as many days — the former Treasury secretary said the human potential to excel in science is not dictated by gender, as evidenced by the distinguished careers of many women scientists.

Summers spoke of having learned much in

recent days from a number of e-mails and calls that he said "made vivid the very real barriers faced by women in pursuing scientific and other academic careers".

He acknowledged there had been "frustratingly uneven and slow" progress made in luring more women to the sciences.

"As a university president, I consider nothing more important than helping to create an environment, at Harvard and beyond, in which every one of us can pursue our intellectual passions and realize our aspirations to the fullest possible extent," he said. — *MNA/Reuters*



## 20 African countries ponder trade role in their development

DAR-ES SALAAM, 21 Jan — Twenty African countries were joined here on Thursday by the five Nordic countries to ponder upon what roles multilateral and bilateral trade can play in their respective poverty reduction as well as development.

The meditation took the form of ministerial discussions that focused on how to take the full advantage of existing international trade opportunities, how to bring forth the most out of African countries' trade potentials, how to ensure that trade contributes to creating growth and reducing poverty, and how to sort out problems so as to assist the trade sector to develop on the continent.

The main purpose of the dialogue between the 20 African countries and the five Nordic countries is to increase understanding of how the interests of

African countries can be accommodated by the active and constructive participation of all the World Trade Organization (WTO) member states in the Doha Development Round. The dialogue, known as the Nordic Africa Initiative, was proposed by a ministerial meeting of the Nordic countries in 2003 after the collapse of the dialogue between the world's industrialized countries and the poorest WTO members earlier that same year.

The initiative aimed at strengthening understanding via dialogue on

the relationship between trade and development with African countries. The initiative has so far resulted in a high-level seminar held last November and the ministerial conference, both held in Dar-es-Salaam.

The African countries participating in the ministerial dialogue here included Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A cloud of thick black smoke is spewed out of the exhausting pipe of a truck on the outskirts of New Delhi on 19 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET

## BMI launches sweeping review aimed at long-haul operations

LONDON, 21 Jan — British airline BMI said on Thursday it had launched a sweeping review aimed at reviving its main European and long-haul operations and offset escalating fuel and airport costs.

BMI, one of Britain's three full-service airlines, also said it expected to break even again in 2005 and hoped to add new long-haul routes, possibly in South Africa and the Middle East.

BMI Deputy Chief Executive Tim Bye said the airline, formerly known as British Midland, was reviewing all aspects of its mainline business following a management shakeup late last year.

"We are looking at everything from the number of classes to product on board, product on the ground and ground service issues," Bye told *Reuters* in an interview.

"Is there a better way of operating that business to take it forward?"

He said BMI, which flies short-haul European routes and long-haul to the United States and the Caribbean, hoped any changes could help offset "significant" increases in fuel costs and higher airport charges at Heathrow in 2005.

Unlisted BMI, which suffered badly amid a downturn in travel following September 11, will report in April that it broke even in calendar 2004 following two years of losses.

Bye expects to remain in the black this year. "We are not expecting to slip back beyond break-even," Bye, who was appointed deputy at BMI in November, said.

*MNA/Reuters*

## New Zealand to launch exercise dealing with FMD outbreak

WELLINGTON, 22 Jan — New Zealand Agriculture and Forestry Ministry will lead a major exercise in April simulating an outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD), Biosecurity Minister Jim Sutton said Friday.

The exercise, known as Exercise Taurus, would be in two parts: the first testing systems on the ground, and the second testing systems within government.

The first from the 14th to the 18th of March will test the capability of the Exotic Disease Response Centre (EDRC). This exercise, which will take place in the Manawatu region, will focus on activities in the field at a regional level and the role of the field operations response team (FORT).

Sutton said the general objective was to test the resources and systems needed in an outbreak.

The EDRC will work through the FMD plan and evaluate the communication processes between all parties involved in the exotic disease response structure, particularly that between the industry liaison group and other groups.

The second phase of the simulation will be aimed at testing the National Response Centre (NRC) on the 12th and 13th April. This exercise will look at the functions of the NRC and its interface with the Domestic and External Security Coordination system which would be activated during an outbreak of

FMD. The objective of this part of the exercise is to ensure everyone involved understands FMD technical response policies and their implications. It will also give Biosecurity New Zealand the opportunity to test the Whole of Government Response Procedures, in particular those stopping livestock movements nationally as well as vaccination and infected carcasses disposal.

Sutton said it was important that the system for dealing with any potential outbreak be tested because of the impact any outbreak would have.

"We hope that foot and mouth disease will never make it to New Zealand...but it is a common disease in many of the countries we trade with and where our tourists come from, so there is a risk," he said.

Sutton said the NZ Reserve Bank had estimated the impact of a foot and mouth disease outbreak in New Zealand as costing about six billion NZ dollars (about 4.2 billion US dollars) in GDP in the first year and about 10 billion NZ dollars (about seven billion US dollars) in GDP in the second year.

*MNA/Xinhua*



South Korean Marines carry out an operation during an annual severe winter season drill in Pyongyang, about 180 km (113 miles) east of Seoul, on 20 Jan, 2005. — INTERNET



# Discussion of pensioners — 4

*Hein Myint*

The State Peace and Development Council has formed the Government, with the Prime Minister, and the local administrative bodies at different levels.

It has assigned the duties of the administrative machinery to persons, whom it believes will truly materialize the policies, notifications and directives of the State in the interest of the nation.

The SPDC has removed any person going against the policies, notifications and directives and failing to serve the public interest for various reasons from his post. It is always decisive in taking actions against any one whose acts are going to harm the national policy (Our Three Main National Causes).

**“What is worse is the act of misusing the rights for self-interest. At first they were seeking a little self-interest, but their endless greed drove them to misuse their authority to get richer and richer till facing pretty trouble in the end.”**

It also entrusts authoritative power to the officials to successfully realize the objectives and goals. They will have to use their power independently and correctly to serve the interest of the nation and people to the best of their ability, with goodwill.

They have the right to freely choose the most appropriate way, within the framework of the State policy, to realize the aims.

As we are pensioners, we have already understood the nature of the duty of administration. Thus, at one of our gatherings, we discussed about it.

“All officials discharging duties in the government, administrative bodies, military, civilian institutions or NGOs have their responsibilities as well as rights.”

“Ah, rights and powers are entrusted to any official depending on importance of his responsibility to do his duty well.”

“During our life time, we have seen the persons who used all their rights, but failed to realize the goals, as they were not dutiful.”

“What is worse is the act of misusing the rights for self-interest. At first they were seeking a little self-interest, but their endless greed drove them to misuse their authority to get richer and richer till facing pretty trouble in the end.”

“Such incidents are lessons for all. Man comes to the world with nothing, and when he dies he cannot take any of his possessions together with

him and it is a lesson for everyone to stay away from greed, anger, delusion and excessive pride.”

“As entrepreneurs were given more rights in accord with the market-oriented economy, some of the private businessmen approached officials at various levels through various means to gain more benefits. Some of the officials yielded to their offers. Some of the entrepreneurs running their enterprises in the legal way, began to follow the wrong way of the greedy businessmen. And it was their endless greed that made them raise the prices of goods, houses, land, apartments to cover their costs, instead of serving the interest of the nation and the people.”

“If all will take the above-mentioned incidents as lessons, and do business in accord with the true market-oriented economic system, the number of bribery cases and misconduct will go down dramatically. Too much control will not produce results, but will delay the work. And lack of rules will invite bribery.”

On 24 October 2004, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win explained the government policy, saying that in discharging the duties of the State, the Government will do whatever is required to be capable of serving the interest of the State and the national people widely, effectively and correctly without losing sight of its goal, and to run a clean and dynamic government machinery which does not oppress the people through violating codes of conduct, behaving in an unreliable manner and taking bribes.

Concerning the entrepreneurs, he said progress and work, and work and discipline go together. It is important not take the shortcut road in collusion with corrupted personnel for prosperity of a single person. Remedial measures on the past mistakes are to be taken.

The Prime Minister said that the acts of cultivating close personal relationships through greasing the palms of the corrupted personnel will do no good in the long run.

In the eyes of the people, such acts in search of prosperity of a single group or the minority will likely be seen as the work of establishing a new modern class. The government will promote the welfare of the public with policies, rules and regulations without any discrimination, rather than with favouritism.

Regarding the service personnel, he said that the Government has taken effective actions against State level officials, for their misconduct, and misuse of authority. In the future also, he said, the government will expose and take actions against any individual or groups for their misconduct and corrupt practices.

“The speech delivered by the Prime Minister

is delightful to us and also encouraging for the nation. He has openly declared to establish a clean and dynamic government machinery without losing sight of the goal. We believe that it will make arrangements to root out bribery and corruption.”

“Concerning the entrepreneurs, he explained the latest developments in the nation from the objective point of view.”

“As the national entrepreneurs are prospering only at present with the assistance and encouragement of the Government, they will have to take into account the interest of the nation and the people. They will surely get into trouble one day, if

**“If all will take the above-mentioned incidents as lessons, and do business in accord with the true market-oriented economic system, the number of bribery cases and misconduct will go down dramatically. Too much control will not produce results, but will delay the work. And lack of rules will invite bribery.”**

they chose the wrong way of giving bribes to officials and doing misconduct. In this regard, the Prime Minister has warned against bribery and corruption.”

“Anyone who does wrong will definitely face punishment.”

“He has also warned the government employees to stay away from corrupt acts, and if they do, their malpractices will be exposed and they will be punished.”

“Only then will bribery and corruption in the government employees end.”

“We feel happy for the nation. Collective participation of the people will ensure success in taking remedial measures in the required sectors of the nation.”

In my mind was the image of the corruption-free nation in which the Government and the authoritative bodies are running their machinery effectively and correctly, entrepreneurs working in accord with the rules in the interest of the nation and the people, sincere government employees trying to facilitate their work, and the people who have the ability to differentiate between right and wrong, enjoying peace and prosperity. From there the nation will become a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state.

(Translation: TMT)

*Myanma Alin and Kyemon: 22.1.2005.*

\* \* \*

# Secretary-General meets...

(from page 1)  
qualified ones. They are to accelerate getting engaged in regional development undertakings winning the trust and reliance of the public, and

to play a more active role in the drive for realizing the objectives and future work programmes laid down by the Association, he remarked.

In response to reports of townsenders and members, the CEC member provided assistance and cash donations for development projects. — MNA



Ceremony to honour those who contributed to the 43rd Funfair at Hninzigon Home for the Aged in progress in Bahan Township.—MNA

## Well-wishers honoured

YANGON, 22 Jan— A ceremony to honour the well-wishers, who donated cash for the 43rd Funfair of Hninzigon Home for the Aged, took place at the centre on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township at 4

pm today. Vice-Chairman of the Home Management Board U Thuang Htut made a speech on the occasion and members of the HMB presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

Next, Liaison Officer of the Home for the Aged Daw Myint Myint San read the names of the well-wishers.

Altogether 72 well-wishers donated K 7,252,373 for the funfair.—MNA

## Electricity supplied to village

YANGON, 22 Jan — The ceremonies of opening the village signboard, irrigating 250 acres of summer paddy fields and supplying electricity in Kyaukse Village, Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division, were held on 20 January.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Thayet District Peace and Development Council Lt-

Col Maung Maung San, Magway Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Executive U Than Swe, Thayet District USDA Secretary U Win Kyaw and EC members Aunglan Township PDC Chairman U Thein Zaw and Executives, Aunglan Township USDA Secretary U San Lwin and Executives, officials concerned, totaling over 1,500

townselders.

The chairman of Aunglan Township PDC and the executive of Magway Division USDA made speeches on the occasion.

Next, Thayet District USDA Secretary U Win Kyaw donated K 20,000 for supplying electricity and Kyaukse Village USDA Secretary U Soe Myint accepted the donations.—MNA

## The 58<sup>th</sup> 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

## Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaw honoured

YANGON, 22 Jan — A ceremony to share merits for construction of buildings and to honour the Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaw of Sagaing Sarthingtaik was held in the Dhammayon of the Sarthingtaik in Thingangyun Township this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha

Saddhamajotika Bhaddanta Pañinda Bhivamsa Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Presiding Sayadaw of Sagaing Sarthingtaik Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dhamma Nanda and members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-

Gen Aung Tun, heads of department, well-wishers and guests.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from the Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The deputy minister and guests presented offertories to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhamma Nanda delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.—MNA

## Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 22 Jan— Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, has announced that the Poem Contest will be held to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. The contestants can portray objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, matters related to fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, historic events occurred in the periods of Konbaung Era (AD 1824), Independence Era (1948-1988) and the State Peace and Development Council, endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council in religious affairs, construction, peace negotiations and drug elimination.

prizes in the Poem Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Contest and the poem contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and National Literary Award winners may participate in the level-1 and those who did not win the prizes may take part in the level-2. Those who did not win the prizes can participate in the level-1. However, one contestant may take part in one level only, and the level number must be written on the entry. There will be two events at the level-1— the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event. The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000

stanzas. The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be accepted.

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

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

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

The entries will be scrutinized with three sectors—theme style, presentation and composing. The poem contest will be divided into two categories.

Those who have won first second or third

### All this needs to be known

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

**ကျေးရွာတိုင်း တိုက်အားကိုးစားကြည့်တိုက်များ တူထောင်ဖို့  
မိုင်းဆန်းတူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့**

၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၁၈) ရက်နေ့ အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်  
ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးစားကြည့်တိုက် (၁၁၅၃၄) တိုက်  
ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးစားကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ  
စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန၊  
ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လျှောက်ခံနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန  
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊



## Buddha Pujana of Maha Dhammaramsi Eindawya Pagoda to be held

YANGON, 22 Jan—The 156th Buddha Pujana of the Maha Dhammaramsi Eindawya Pagoda on Myoma Kyaung Road in Dagon Township will be held in conjunction with the offering of alms to members of the Sangha in the precinct of the pagoda on 24 January afternoon.

A total of more than 60 members

of the Sangha including members of the State Ovadacariya and the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will grace the occasion with their presence.

Those wishing to donate alms to members of the Sangha may attend the ceremony in person or may dial Tel: 383794.

MNA

## PTA of Dagon BEHS No 2 holds annual meeting

YANGON, 22 Jan — The annual meeting of Parent-Teacher Association for 2003-2004 academic year at Dagon Basic Education High School No 2 in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony for the outstanding students was held at U Ba Lwin Hall of the school this morning.

Present on the occasion were Patrons of the PTA Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and wife Daw Tin Tin Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and wife Daw Tha Zin Nwe, Director-General of No 3 of Basic Education Department (Yangon City) U Aye Kyu, members of the School Board of Trustees, PTA executives, teachers and parents.

Students opened the ceremony

by singing the song titled "Myanmar School".

Headmaster U Tin Maung Tun gave an opening speech. Daw Khin Than Nwe presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Next, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min gave away prizes to those who won six and five distinctions in the matriculation examination. Afterwards, Daw Tin Tin Nyunt, wife of Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut awarded prizes to four distinction winners and President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science U Than Oo, prizes to three distinction winners.

Officials presented prizes to teachers and outstanding students. Later, the CEC report of PTA and the financial statement were submitted to the meeting. — MNA

## USDA members hail 58th Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 22 Jan—Members of Yangon West District Union Solidarity and Development Association as a gesture of hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day carried out sanitation tasks

in the compound of Yangon West District General Hospital, donated blood and submitted membership applications this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and USDA CEC member in charge of Yangon Division USDA Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin visited the voluntary participants. The minister, the mayor and guests cordially greeted 40 members donating blood

to the hospital. Next, they observed the submitting of USDA membership applications held at the lecture hall of the medical facility. The CEC member delivered a speech on the occasion.

Wellwishers presented cash donations and medical equipment worth K 640,000 to the hospital through the minister. The CEC member accepted 2,481 membership applications from Wayonseik Village in Kyimyindine Township and staff of the hospital. — MNA

## 14th Defence...

(from page 16)

company-1 representing Northern Command and the band representing the No 55 Light Infantry Division took part in the competition by playing three songs each.

Secretary of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the Committee for Observance of the competition Deputy Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe presented prizes to the leaders of the student bands. Senior military officers, members of the panel of judges, guests, Tatmadaw family members and students enjoyed performance of the bands in the competition.

MNA

## Work coordination meeting...

(from page 16)

under the ministry, heads of State/Division/District Fisheries Departments and Apiculture Departments and others.

First, the coordination meeting of the Fisheries Department was held and Meeting Chairman Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein dealt with matters on production of fish, meeting the target in generating the income of foreign exchange and speedy implementation of fisheries targets. This was followed by a general round of discussions. Next, the coordination meeting of the Apiculture Department followed.

Heads of State/Division/District Apiculture Departments presented work being carried out for extended production of honey and honey products, meeting the target and extended keeping of bees whereas Director-General of Apiculture Department U Myint Swe reported on other salient points. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.—MNA



Myanmar Tennis Federation President U Zaw Zaw speaking at Get-together of tennis teams and officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and MTF.— SPED

## Tennis teams and SPED officials get together

YANGON, 22 Jan — The Get-together of managers, coaches and athletes of State and Division tennis teams and officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and executives of Myanmar Tennis Federation was held at Theinbyu Tennis Court, here, this morning.

The teams will participate in the 42nd Inter-State/Division Tennis Tournament 2005.

President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Zaw gave a speech and introduced athletes of State and Division tennis teams among them.

Also present on the occasion were General Secretary of Myanmar

Olympic Committee Director-General of SPED U Thaug Htaik and officials, executives of MTF and officials.

MNA

## Narcotic drugs traffickers jailed

YANGON, 22 Jan—The Tachilek Special Antinarcotic Drugs Squad on 20 July 2004 made a thorough body search on a suspect, Aung Myint Sein, walking along the road in Hweta-3 Village Mongkoe Village-tract, Tachilek Township, and seized 300 stimulant tablets in his possession.

The Tachilek Police Station filed the case against Aung Myint Sein, 29, son of U Tha Pwa of Hweta-3 Village, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Tachilek District Court heard the case and sentenced Aung Myint Sein to 15 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A) of the law on 25 November. The squad also searched a suspect, Kyin San, on the road in front of Hona (Akha) Village of Mongphone Village-tract, Tachilek, on 4 July 2004 and arrested him for possessing four blocks of heroin weighing 1.4 kilos.

Wanpon Police Force took action against Kyin San, 28, son of U Law Mar of Hona (Akha) Village, under Section 15/19 (A) of the law. Tachilek District Court sentenced Kyin San to 25 years in prison under Section 19 (A). — MNA

## Rural development measures taken in Letpadan, Muse

YANGON, 22 Jan — Township Development Affairs Committees under the supervision of Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are taking the urban and rural development measures in momentum.

Under the supervision of Bago Division (West) Development Affairs Committee, Letpadan Township DAC carried out tasks of repaving 4th street and 2nd Street measuring 750 feet in length and 12 feet in width each.

Similarly, under the supervision of Shan State (North) DAC, Muse Township DAC carried out the tasks of tarring Ngwesin Street, Market Street, Shweli Yadana Street and the entrance way to the sports ground and repairing the town circular road in 2004-05 fiscal year. — MNA



Contestants taking part in Myanmar National Counter Strike Championship 2005 being sponsored by Alpine Co in Myanmar ICT Park-2005 at MICT Park in Hline Township on 22-1-2005.— H

**DISTRICT NEWS**

**Construction of gravel road supervised in Waingmaw**

WAINGMAW, 15 Jan — Waingmaw Township Development Affairs Committee is implementing the plan to carry out betterment of rural roads in the township.

On 27 December,

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Aung Ngwe of Kachin State Development Affairs Committee inspected construction of the gravel road linking Mongna and Laban Villages, spending K9.8 mil-

lion from the funds of Waingmaw Township DAC. Township Executive Officer U Tin Htay conducted him round the construction site.

The road will be 4,900 feet long. On completion, smooth transportation will be facilitated for the local people from Mongna Village to Laban and Naungchein villages.

KYEMON



Officials of Waingmaw Township Development Affairs Committee oversee construction of a rural gravel road.—KYEMON

**10th anniversary of village library marked in Kyaukpyu**

KYAUKPYU, 18 Jan — The 10th anniversary of Hnalonhla Library in Kalaba Village of Kyaukpyu Township was marked at the library on 8 January.

Kalaba Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Siri (Librarian) gave an Ovadakatha. Next, local writers lectured on literature and cultural matters to the enthusiasts. Afterwards, officials of the Information and Public Relations Department, Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and wellwishers donated books and periodicals to the Sayadaw.

KYEMON

**Preliminary Govt work report under discussion**

BEIJING, 22 Jan — A preliminary government work report designed to solicit opinions was heatedly discussed by participants of the fifth plenary meeting of the State Council here Friday.

The meeting, presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, decided to distribute the report to government departments and all provincial governments and to ask for comments. The report will be submitted to the third session of the 10th National People's Congress, which will be convened early this March.

Wen delivered a speech at the meeting, saying that the Chinese people made great achievements in the reform and opening-up drive last year,

under the guidance of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council. "But we should keep clear-headed to existing social and economic problems and further improve the government's work, on the basis of the precious experience we gained last year," he added.

Wen said the Year 2005 was an important year for consolidating the results of economic marco-control, maintaining the forward momentum of economic and so-

cial development and creating favourable conditions for the implementation of the country's eleventh five-year plan.

Wen instructed governments at all levels to intensify efforts in seven sectors during the first quarter of 2005.

The most important job, he said, is to fully implement the No 1 Document issued by the CPC Central Committee in early 2005 in a bid to further boost farmers' enthusiasms for grain planting.—MNA/Xinhua



SELF-RELIANT LIBRARY OPENED: The self-reliant Thuta Yeikmyon Library was opened in Kywedon Village of Maubin Township on 9 January. Chairman of Maubin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Maung, Head of Maubin Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aung Soe and Secretary of the Township USDA U Than Tun formally open the library.— KYEMON

**Two roads put into service in Tachilek**

TACHILEK, 10 Jan — A ceremony to open new Ponhtun tarred road and the gravel road linking Ponhtun Bus Terminal and Hwenamhlin (Lwedawkham Bridge) was held in Ponhtun Ward of Tachilek on 3 January.

The roads were built by Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee and Tachilek Township Development

Affairs Committee.

Director of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee U Tin Soe, Chairman of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye and Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary U Sein Lwin formally opened the roads.

KYEMON



Director of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee U Tin Soe and authorities formally open Ponhtun tarred road.— KYEMON

**Tubewell opened in Natmauk**

NATMAUK, 20 Jan — The tubewell opening ceremony was held in the rural area of Natmauk Township on 12 January.

Wellwishers donated cash donations for supply of water to the people in Kyaukkhwet Village of Bangon Village-tract. U Sein Kyauk-Daw Tin Kyi and family donated K 500,000; and U Maung Sein-Daw Yi and family, K 500,000.

The two-inch diameter tubewell sunk in Kyaukkhwet Village pumps out 750 gallons of water a day.— KYEMON

**Zigon Township DAC upgrades two roads**

ZIGON, 19 Jan — Under the supervision of Bago Division (West) Development Affairs Committee, Zigon Township Development Affairs Committee has carried out construction of rural and urban roads in the township in 2004-2005 financial year.

In doing so, East Market Road was upgraded to the tarred road measuring 468 feet long and 12 feet wide, and Sabin Road which is 270 feet long and 12 feet wide was repaved.

KYEMON

**Italian official warns of Mafia targeting key eco areas**

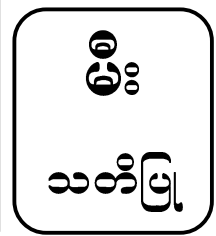
ROME, 22 Jan — The organized crime Mafia is targeting key areas of the southern economy, Italian Anti-Mafia Prosecutor Pierluigi Vigna said on Thursday.

Vigna said the turnover from the Mafia's activities currently amounted to 100 billion euros a year from its traditional activities like drugs and arms trafficking, prostitution and securing public contracts.

But the figure could rise sharply, he said, if organized crime tightens its grip over areas like construction, quarries and supermarket supplies.

"The greatest problem facing us is economic crime," Vigna told a trade union forum on the south.

"Organized crime's next aim is to subvert the laws of the market," he said, increasing its intimidation of companies. Vigna said it would become much harder to wrest psychological control of many areas of the south from the Mafia "if the real economy ends up in criminal hands". The governor of the region around Naples, Antonio Bassolino, called for a 10-year investment programme in the area to give local youth an alternative to joining gangs of the local Mafia, the Camorra.—MNA/Xinhua





## Chinese President meets Canadian PM

**BEIJING, 22 Jan — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Friday that China and Canada, taking the opportunity of the 35th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic ties, should further all-round cooperation.**

He made the remarks when meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin at the Great Hall of the People.

Hu said China and Canada enjoy close political ties, which are getting stronger. Trade and economic ties also are developing in an all-round way. Cooperation in other fields also has produced fruitful results.

China appreciated Canada's adherence to the one-China policy on the Taiwan issue, Hu said. The two sides should enhance cooperation within bilateral and multilateral framework against the background of economic

globalization and accelerating regional cooperation.

This move is in the interests of both sides, and is conducive to boosting peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world at large, Hu said.

Recalling his talks with Hu at the 12th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Chile last year, Martin said the two sides at that time reached important consensus on promoting Canada-China ties. Currently the consensus is being put into practice, he said, as the two sides established a strategic

working group and issued a common paper concerned.

This showed the high-level contact is of great importance to strengthening mutual understanding and boosting reciprocal cooperation.

The Canadian side hoped to forge a long-term partnership with the Chinese side, and carry out wide-ranging cooperation in bilateral and international affairs, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



A researcher studies cells on a computer in a stem cells bank. Diabetics could put insulin injections behind them if a stem cell treatment that Argentine physicians have successfully used to reverse the disease confirms promising early results.—INTERNET

## China, Canada strive for further economic ties

**BEIJING, 22 Jan — Nearly 1,000 Chinese and Canadian entrepreneurs gathered at the China World Hotel in downtown Beijing Friday, discussing ways to boost economic cooperation and trade between the two countries.**

They were divided into topic groups on agriculture, telecommunication technology, construction, natural resources, tourism and transportation.

A Canadian business delegation, headed by Minister of International Trade James Peterson, is composed of 250 representatives from industries ranging from financial service, energy, natural resources, agriculture, telecommunications, biotechnology to aviation and tourism.

China, the world's most populous country and the one with the fastest economic growth, has changed the world economy and provided great opportunities for Canada, especially in the energy, technology and service industries, Peterson said.

He urged the Canadian companies to formulate "China strategies" and to expand cooperation with their Chinese

partners.

Sino-Canadian trade and economic cooperation have been on the rapid increase in recent years, said Ma Xiuhong, Vice-Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

Trade between the two countries exceeded 10 billion US dollars in 2003 and hit 15.5 billion US dollars in 2004, a jump of 55 per cent, Ma said, noting that the two countries vowed in 2003 to double trade volume by 2010.

China is Canada's second largest trade partner and Canada is China's 10th largest trade partner, he said.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin arrived here Thursday for a four-day official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. The two countries signed 10 cooperative documents in the fields of culture, resources, energy and agriculture research later Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore to acquire six new naval helicopters

**SINGAPORE, 22 Jan — Six new Sikorsky S-70B naval helicopters will join the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) operation in the next few years, the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) announced in a statement on Friday.**

Equipped with advanced anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare sensors and weapons, the helicopters will operate off the RSN's new frigates, said the statement, adding that it is a significant milestone in the RSN's force development.

MINDEF noted that this acquisition will enhance the RSN's capability to undertake a wide spectrum of missions and carry out its mission of defending Singapore and its vital sea lines of communications more effectively.

Under a contract signed between MINDEF and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation of the United States, the helicopters are scheduled for delivery to the RSN between 2008 and 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

## Men, women use different brain areas to get similar IQ results

**LOS ANGELES, 22 Jan — Significant differences exist in brain areas where males and females manifest their intelligence, although there are essentially no disparities in general intelligence between the sexes, US scientists said on Thursday.**

A latest study by researchers at the University of California, Irvine, shows women having more white matter and men more gray matter related to intellectual skill, revealing that no single neuroanatomical structure determines general intelligence and that different types of brain designs are capable of pro-

ducing equivalent intellectual performance.

"These findings suggest that human evolution has created two different types of brains designed for equally intelligent behaviour," Richard Haier, who led the study, said in a Press release.

"In addition, by pinpointing these gender-based intelligence areas, the study has the potential to aid research on dementia and other cognitive-impairment diseases in the brain." In their paper appearing on the online version of journal *NeuroImage*, scientists said men have approximately 6.5 times the amount of gray matter related to general intelligence than women, and women have nearly 10 times the amount of white matter related to intelligence than men. — MNA/Xinhua

## Khatami says Iran will defend itself from "arrogant" US

**KAMPALA, 22 Jan — Visiting Iranian President Mohammed Khatami on Thursday warned the United States that his country would successfully defend itself from any hostile US action.**

Speaking at a joint Press conference on Thursday afternoon after meeting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Khatami said "if any country tries to invade our country, we are strong enough to defend ourselves", adding that "no one will benefit from an attack on our country, including the United States or others".

Khatami, who is currently on a seven-nation African tour, told journalists that Iran was not looking for conflict with any country and reminded Washington that it already had its hands full in neighbouring Iraq.

He criticized that "the US was arrogant enough to think that they could do everything by occupying countries" and that "the US has shown many times that they are not wise enough to think about the future or the implications of their actions".

However, the Iranian President told journalists that the chance of a US military attack was very low since US forces were pinned down elsewhere.

"I do not think the Americans would do such a crazy thing as carrying out military attacks against Iran," Khatami said, adding that "we believe the possibility of American attacking Iran is very low, as it is involved in other places".

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, who is accompanying Khatami on the current African tour, termed some recent comments concerning Iran by American top officials as "mere psychological warfare".

"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 by official *IRNA* news agency as saying in Uganda on Wednesday.

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.

Khatami arrived in Uganda on Wednesday for a two-day visit to the East African country. He has already visited Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Mali, Benin and Zimbabwe. — MNA/Xinhua



Tourists take a boat trip to Similan island off Thailand's coast, on 22 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET



A fuel cell bicycle using Italian bike maker Aprilia's frame is displayed at the International Fuel Cell Expo in Tokyo on 21 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

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Disaster reduction meeting calls for safer hospitals, schools

KOBE (Japan), 22 Jan—The World Conference on Disaster Reduction Friday called to make hospitals and schools free of disaster impact by 2015.

“When hospitals are destroyed, it is impossible to care for the wounded; when schools are damaged, our future generation is at risk,” said Salvano Briceno, director of the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, adding that “hospitals and schools need to be multi-hazard resistant to avoid

double disaster from occurring.”

Jean-Luc Poncelet of the Pan American Health Organization cited that all the main hospitals were damaged when an earthquake hit the Bam City of Iran in 2003 and were not able to provide basic social services.

Thousands of school children were among the

220,000 victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami on 26 December, and thousands more have perished in floods, earthquakes and hurricanes.

The target is expected to be incorporated in the outcome document Saturday when the five-day conference ends here.

MNA/Xinhua

HK Customs seizes over \$3m smuggled, counterfeit goods

HONG KONG, 22 Jan—Hong Kong Customs officers seized about 23.5 million HK dollars’ (3.01 million US dollars’) worth of smuggled and counterfeit goods in an operation from 18 to 20 January, a government Press release said here Friday.

On 18 January, Customs officers from the Ports and Maritime Command seized a large quantity of colour photo paper, dried seafood, canned abalone, audio equipment and antibiotics, worth a total of about 2.05 million US dollars, from a river trade vessel in the waters off Tung Lung Chau.

On 20 January, Customs officers found another batch of counterfeit goods including home appliances, mobile-phone batteries and accessories, clothes, handbags and cosmetics, worth about 7.5 million HK dollars

(962,000 US dollars), from a 40-foot container at the River Trade Terminal.

Under Hong Kong’s Import and Export Ordinance, anyone found guilty of smuggling will be liable to a maximum fine of 256,000 US dollars and imprisonment for seven years. While under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, anyone importing or exporting goods with false trade descriptions or forged trade marks is liable to a maximum fine of 64,000 US dollars and five years’ imprisonment.—MNA/Xinhua

“The Producers”, “Mary Poppins” nominated for Laurence Olivier Awards

LONDON, 22 Jan—“The Producers” and “Mary Poppins” went head-to-head on Thursday when nominations were announced for the Laurence Olivier Awards, Britain’s top theatre honours.

Critics raved over the world stage premiere last month of “Mary Poppins”, which took 10 million pounds in advance sales before it even opened. The tale of the magical nanny led the Olivier field with nine nominations.

Next, with eight, came Mel Brooks’ “The Producers”.

Broadway star Nathan Lane, who stepped in at the last moment to replace Hollywood veteran Richard Dreyfuss in the London premiere, was nominated as Best Actor in a Musical along with British co-star Lee Evans.

Dame Judi Dench received her 13th Olivier nomination for her supporting role in “All’s Well That Ends Well.”

The Best Actor prize could be the toughest to win this year. The shortlist features Michael Gambon, Jonathan Pryce, Richard Griffiths and young Hamlet sensation Ben Whishaw.

The awards will be announced in London on 20 February.

MNA/Reuters

Guingona confirms accepting ambassador to China post

MANILA, 22 Jan—Former Philippine Vice-President Teofisto Guingona confirmed Friday that he has accepted President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s appointment to be the Philippine ambassador to China.

Arroyo offered him the diplomatic post after she assumed the presidency for the second time in the May 2004 polls, Guingona told the local radio DZMM.

“The President called me up after the elections and she asked me if I could continue the programmes that I spearheaded when I was secretary of Foreign Affairs,” Guingona said.

Guingona, who bolted the administration bloc and supported the presidential bid of the late opposition movie star Fernando Poe Jr., said he had consulted the opposition about the offer.

However, Guingona said he is not politically aligned with either the opposition or the administration but would follow the foreign policy set by the president and the senate.

Guingona said he sees his new assignment as a challenge and opportunity to continue his programmes for

overseas Filipino workers.

“There are opportunities to generate more jobs, improve our agriculture and mining sectors and boost trade and commerce,” Guingona said, adding that he is answering the call of public service for accepting Arroyo’s offer.

“You have to look at it not only on the partisan side but on the bigger scope of the challenge,” he said.

“When I resigned as president of the Lakas Party, I did not join any party and my status remains independent,” Guingona said.

“Naturally, so far as policies regarding international affairs, specifically China, are concerned, we have to follow the government policies,” Guingona said.

Earlier, Philippine Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the appointment of Guingona as ambassador to China was done in the best interest of the country.

MNA/Xinhua

One-fifth of Germans want to dine with Einstein

BERLIN, 22 Jan—One fifth of the Germans want to have dinner together with Albert Einstein if they had the chance, a new survey released on Thursday said.

Einstein is German’s most favourite companion for dinner among eleven celebrities in the history, the survey conducted by the TV broadcaster Discovery Channel said.

Pupils and young people are especially enthusiastic at the genius physician who was born in Germany and lived here for 19 years before he fled the Nazi rule to the United States in 1933.

People aged over 60 said they would rather choose former German

chancellor Konrad Adenauer as their companion to dine.

Adenauer ranked three in the “favourite dinner companion” list with Leonardo da Vinci coming to the second place.

A series of activities will be held in Germany this year to commemorate Einstein’s 50th anniversary of passing away and the 100th anniversary of the coming into being of his General Theory of Relativity.

MNA/Xinhua



An adult Brandt’s Cormorant flies past a Western Grebe, as they are released at Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro, Calif, on 21 Jan, 2005. The oiled birds were rescued and cleaned at the University of California, Davis, oiled bird rescue centre. Investigators are testing oil wiped from the coated bodies of birds to try to determine the origin of a mysterious oil spill somewhere along a 90-mile stretch of the Southern California coast.—INTERNET

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.



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# China launches health programme to reduce chronic diseases

**BEIJING, 22 Jan**—China launched a massive health education programme Friday in a bid to curb the fast increase of non-communicable diseases in the country.

“The programme will focus on one major chronic disease each year and the theme of this year is hypertension,” said Qi Xiaoqiu, general director of the Department of Disease Prevention and Control under the Health Ministry.

According to statistics from the Health Ministry, about 160 million Chinese suffer from hypertension. Meanwhile, more than 20 million Chinese have

diabetes and about 200 million are overweight.

Kong Lingzhi, director of the department of the non-communicable diseases with the Health Ministry, said in contrast with the fast increase of chronic diseases in China, Chinese people’s awareness of the diseases is worrying.

“The awareness rate of hypertension among Chinese people is only 30.2 per cent. Most people don’t know

hypertension can cause serious cerebral and coronary heart diseases,” she said.

E Allan Gabor, chairman and general manager of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Limited, said the awareness rate of hypertension in the United States is 70 per cent, which is the result of decade-long efforts on health education.

“Health education is a long-term process, but also a basic measure to

prevent chronic diseases,” he said. “It needs joint efforts of the government, the public and the private sectors.”

Kong said China has lagged behind in public health education compared with many Western countries. “We hope the programme will help make up the gap and reduce the threat and damage from the non-communicable diseases to Chinese society.”

MNA/Xinhua



A model displays a prototype of a power supply for mobile phones using direct methanol fuel cell developed by Hitachi Ltd and au, KDDI's main mobile phone unit, at the International Fuel Cell Expo in Tokyo on 21 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## Australian military planes collide mid-air

**CANBERRA, 22 Jan**—Two Royal Australian Air Force aerobatic aircraft collided mid-air over the southeastern state of Victoria on Friday, with both pilots unhurt.

A spokesman for Acting Prime Minister John Anderson said one of the pilots ejected to safety as his plane crashed to ground and the second pilot managed to land his plane.

“I am relieved that both pilots appear to have escaped serious injury and there has been no damage to personal property,” he said. The crash took place over Sale, about 200 kilometres east of Melbourne, the state capital, during a training flight.— MNA/Xinhua

## Italian AIDS vaccine testing results encouraging

**ROME, 22 Jan**—Tests on an Italian AIDS vaccine have produced “extremely good results”, according to Barbara Ensoli, the head of the research programme in Italy on Friday.

Ensoli said the full results would only be released this summer when the last of 48 Italian volunteers has completed treatment and his data have been analysed.

But the preliminary results had already shown that the test programme “is going very well”, the well-known researcher said.

Ensoli said the first phase aimed to see whether the vaccine was effectively combating the AIDS virus, as well as identifying possible side-effects.

Ensoli’s vaccine is ground-breaking because it adopts a new approach

to fighting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Traditional vaccines seek to bolster the immune system, the aim being to boost the body’s ability to fight off the disease.

Ensoli’s vaccine on the other hand, attempts to block the spread of the infection and prevent the reproduction of infected cells.

Results from studies of the vaccine on laboratory animals have shown the treatment could be a vital step forward in the fight against AIDS.

Italian Higher Health Institute (ISS) researcher

Ensoli, who worked for three years in the United States with renowned virologist Roberto Gallo, created the vaccine at the Retrovirus Unit of the ISS’ Virology Laboratory.

Ensoli stressed that a “huge” amount of funding will be needed for the programme.

At the UNAIDS conference in Barcelona last year, it was estimated that there are around 40 million HIV and AIDS sufferers around the world and that 68 million people will contract the disease between now and 2020.

MNA/Xinhua

## Half of China’s Hepatitis B patients suffer a changed life

**BEIJING, 22 Jan**—More than half of Hepatitis B patients in China feel their lives have changed because of the disease, according to a report released by the China Medical Association, Wednesday.

Conducted among more than 400 Hepatitis B patients in six Chinese cities, the report found that about 60 per cent of the patients feel their life have changed after diagnosed of the disease. About 59 per cent and 61 per cent patients say the disease has had a bad influence on their relationships with their children and spouses.

“The disease has not only caused a lot of patients to lose work or study opportunities, but also brought negative impact to the overall social productivity,” said Weng Xinhua, professor from Shanghai Huashan Hospital. The report also shows that 47 per cent Hepatitis B patients fear that they would lose their jobs if they reveal their disease.

One-third of the patients surveyed did not know the cause of Hepatitis B, and only 19 per cent are receiving the right treatment, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua



From left, Katerina Neumannova of Czech Republic, second placed, Kristin Steira of Norway, first placed, and Claudia Kuenzel of Germany placed third on the podium of the women’s 2 x 7.5 km pursuit cross-country race at the Cross Country Skiing World Cup, in Pragelato, Italy, on 22 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

## Cigarette sales drop by 23% in Italy

**ROME, 22 Jan**—Cigarette sales in Italy have dropped by 23 per cent since the government imposed a ban on smoking in public places earlier this month, a tobacco vendors’ association said on Thursday.

“This data is very worrying for tobacco vendors. Although they understand the spirit of the law and the need to teach citizens about their health, vendors are seeing their profits fall drastically,” Assotabaccai-Confesercenti Chairman Maurizio Bruni said in a statement.

The law came into effect on January 10 and bans smoking in the public areas of restaurants, bars, offices and factories. It aims to end passive smoking and deter

a habit health officials say kills 90,000 Italians a year.

Trade association Confcommercio has said it plans to challenge the law in court because it drives away customers from restaurants and puts pressure on cafe owners who face a fine of up to 2,200 euros (2,849 dollars) for failing to enforce the ban. Bruni threatened similar action if the drop in sales was confirmed by more extensive data at the end month.

MNA/Reuters

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**Santos demolishes Portuguesa 5-1**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Jan— Santos forward Robinho scored twice as the Brazilian champions began the season by demolishing Portuguesa 5-1.

Robinho's strike partner Deivid grabbed a hat-trick as new Santos coach Oswaldo de Oliveira enjoyed a winning start in Thursday's Paulista championship match.

Oliveira replaced Vanderlei Luxemburgo, who took charge of Real Madrid last month after leading Santos to the Brazilian title.

There is widespread speculation that 20-year-old Robinho, one of Brazil's most exciting players, could follow him to the Bernabeu later this year. Former Brazil futsal (indoor football) international Falcao made a brief debut in Sao Paulo's 4-2 win over Ituano. Falcao, a surprise close-season signing, played the last nine minutes of the game and got a mixed review from coach Emerson Leao.

"Falcao showed with his first two or three touches that he has a lot of quality," Leao said. "But he needs to get used to individual marking. Once they stuck a marker on him, he didn't get a look in."

MNA/Reuters

**Lehman clinging to second round lead at Buick Invitational**

NEW YORK, 22 Jan— US Ryder Cup captain Tom Lehman was clinging to a second round lead at the 4.5 million US dollars Buick Invitational on Friday when play was suspended due to fog.

Lehman, who held a one shot edge over Dean Wilson when the day began, maintained a one stroke advantage with two holes still to be completed when heavy fog rolled in off the Pacific, blanketing California's Torrey Pines Country Club.

When the horn sounded, golfers were allowed to complete the hole they were playing, Lehman securing his lead by draining a 12-foot putt on seven, giving him back-to-back birdies to go 13-under heading into the clubhouse to wait out the delay.

Sitting one shot back at

12-under is Australia's Peter Lonard, who was enjoying one of the day's top rounds shooting seven-under through 12 holes.

Tiger Woods, a two-time winner of this event in 1999 and 2003, also made a big move up the leaderboard going five-under through 12 to join Ernie Els five shots off the pace at eight-under.

Phil Mickelson, a three-time Buick champion, began his day at even par but was five under through 13 holes. World number one Vijay Singh was having problems mounting a charge, sitting

10-shots back at three under after 13.

The tournament is played over two courses, one round at the easier North course and three on the more difficult South.

Fog slowly climbed over the cliffs affecting a few holes but later quickly shrouded both courses.

MNA/Reuters

**Emmanuel Petit announces retirement from playing**

PARIS, 22 Jan— Former France midfielder Emmanuel Petit has announced his retirement from playing after failing to recover from knee surgery.

The 34-year-old, who scored in France's 1998 World Cup final win over Brazil, told French sports daily L'Equipe on Friday that he had taken the decision to retire "shortly before Christmas" after realizing he would never regain full fitness.

"I was spared by injuries for most of my career but unfortunately I have had to undergo three operations within a year," said the former Monaco, Arsenal and Barcelona midfielder, who was released by Chelsea at the end of last season.

"Twenty years of your life come to a stop. It's like a small death."

Petit earned his first France cap in August 1990 when he was 19 and made 63 international appearances.

He scored France's third goal in the 3-0 victory over Brazil in the 1998 World Cup final in Paris and helped his country to clinch the European championship title in 2000.

He decided to quit the international scene after the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan when the then world champions were eliminated in the first round.

"The 1998 World Cup means something special to me," Petit said. "It's like a diamond I want to keep for myself."

Asked about his future, Petit said he had no firm plans yet but hoped he would be able to find a soccer-related job.

"I have had contact with French clubs like Olympique Lyon and Girondins Bordeaux but I didn't feel like going there. What I wanted to was to play again in the (English) Premier League which is the place I belonged to.

"Now I'm considering taking a break for a year or so to give me time to decide what I'm going to do next."

Petit said he had enjoyed working as a pundit for a French television pay-per-view channel during live broadcasts of English league matches.

**Bayern makes confident return to Bundesliga action**

FRANKFURT, 22 Jan— Bayern Munich made a confident return to Bundesliga action on Friday, beating Hamburg SV 3-0 at home to move three points clear at the top.

Bayern, who led the league standings on goal difference from Schalke 04 going into the six-week winter break, took the lead with a 21st minute Claudio Pizarro header.

Bastian Schweinsteiger squeezed in a shot at the start of the second half to make it 2-0 and Roy Makaay scooped the ball over the keeper for the third in the 55th minute.

Victory gave Bayern 37 points from 18 games. Schalke, with 34 points, are at home to champions Werder Bremen on Saturday.

VfB Stuttgart, in third place on 31 points, are away to FSV Mainz in another game on Saturday.

Bayern had a few nervous first-half moments against Hamburg and were grateful to goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who made two outstanding saves to keep out a header from Sergej Barbarez and a

close-range shot from Naohiro Takahara.

The opening goal came from Bayern's first real chance. Mehmet Scholl, in the starting line-up for the suspended Michael Ballack, swung over a free kick to the far post and Pizarro converted.

Hamburg's tight defence kept the home side at bay for the remainder of the first half but two goals shortly after the break settled the game.

Schweinsteiger played a great one-two with Makaay and managed to

hold off the covering defender to slip a shot in off the post in the 48th minute. Makaay made the game safe when his looping shot deflected off the same post seven minutes later.

The one disappointment for Bayern fans came with a shorter than expected comeback for Bixente Lizarazu. The French full-back, who returned to Bayern in the transfer window after a spell at Olympique Marseille, was forced off after just nine minutes because of injury.

MNA/Reuters

**Agassi moves into last 16 of Australian Open**

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan— Four-times champion Andre Agassi moved into the last 16 of the Australian Open without dropping a set as he held off fellow American Taylor Dent 7-5, 7-6, 6-1 in an entertaining match on Friday.

The 34-year-old looked in ominous form as he rallied from 4-1 down in the first set to set up a clash with big-serving Swede Joachim Johansson, the 11th seed.

"But I feel good about the way I played tonight. I was moving well and feeling healthy so it was all good."

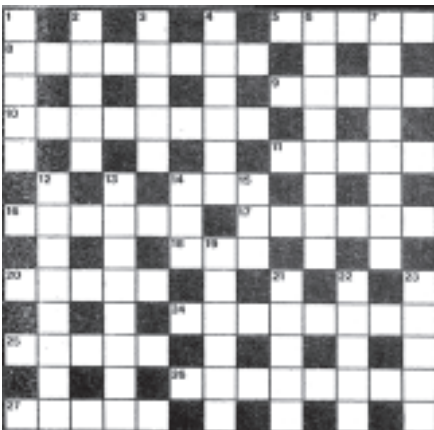
With his serve and volley game working sweetly, 29th seed Dent surprised Agassi in the opening set with the early break.

But once the eighth seed found his range on his passing shots, Dent was always struggling and Agassi broke in the seventh and 11th games on his way to the set.

Agassi saved three set points at 5-6 in the second set, and after taking the tiebreak 7-3, he raced through the third, clinching victory with a stinging forehand return.

The American won the title in 1995, 2000, 2001 and 2003. —MNA/Reuters

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



**ACROSS**

- 5 Purchaser
- 8 Greater part
- 9 Religious house
- 10 Sequestered
- 11 River of forgetfulness
- 14 Beast of burden
- 16 Easy gallop
- 17 Rectangular
- 18 Cry like a cat
- 20 Small fruit
- 24 Unerring
- 25 Slow mover
- 26 Small piece
- 27 Manoeuvres

**DOWN**

- 1 Break up
- 2 Throw out
- 3 Dignified
- 4 Emphasis
- 6 Portable shelter
- 7 Large animal
- 12 Fatherly
- 13 Tiny tree (anag.)
- 14 Limb
- 15 Pig
- 19 Repeat performance
- 21 Elbow
- 22 Thin biscuit
- 23 Pier



Fourth seed Russia's Maria Sharapova serves to China's Li Na during their third round match at the 2005 Australian Open tournament in Melbourne, on 21 Jan, 2005. Sharapova defeated Li Na in straight sets 6-0 6-2. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters



### Chile, India agree to reduce import tariffs on some goods

SANTIAGO (Chile), 22 Jan— Chile, the world's biggest copper producer, and India, the world's biggest grains producer, agreed on Thursday to launch talks to reduce import tariffs on some goods to boost bilateral trade.

Chile's Foreign Ministry said the average duty on Chilean exports to India, not including mining products, is 28 percent. Copper represents more than 80 per cent of Chile's shipments to India and is subject to a 50-per-cent duty.

"Among the specific sectors that could see benefits from this pact are forestry, fishing, mining, fresh fruit, other agricultural products and paper products," the ministry said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

### Tanzania's earnings from Nile perch exports double in 2 years

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 22 Jan — Tanzania's earnings from its exports of the Nile perch, the major fish product of the country, have more than doubled in two years despite the low price at the global market.

Local newspaper *The Citizen* on Wednesday quoted Tanzanian Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Zakia Meghji as saying that exports of Nile perch fillets and related products had earned the country 192 million US dollars in 2004, compared to 142 million dollars in the previous year and 90 million dollars in 2002. This species of fish accounts for 70 per cent of the fishery output from Lake Victoria, the world's second largest freshwater body which is shared by three East African countries of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

However, the local

price of the Nile perch dropped to an average of less than one dollar per kilo at the end of 2004 from 1.8 dollars per kilo earlier last year. The minister attributed the increase of export earnings mostly to the stern measures taken by the Tanzanian authorities to curb rampant fish smuggling and last year's hurricane that hit some of the African countries majoring in sea fish production fishery in Lake Victoria enjoyed a growth boost in 2001 after the European Union (EU) had lifted in late 2000 the food safety and quality ban on fish imports from the lake region.

MNA/Xinhua

### Bush vows to unite country, spread freedom at inauguration

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — US President George W. Bush vowed to unite the country and spread freedom around the world Thursday as he took the oath of office for a second term.

"On this day prescribed by law and marked by ceremony, we celebrate the durable wisdom of our Constitution and recall the deep commitments that unite our country," Bush said in his inaugural speech after being sworn in by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist on the steps of the US Capitol.

Bush put his hand on the family Bible he used for his first inauguration in 2001 and repeated the brief oath of office to uphold the Constitution.

Former presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush joined about 100,000 people to attend the ceremony held on the west front of the Capitol on a chilly day with the ground blanketed by a coat of snow.

"At this second gathering, our duties are defined not by the words I use, but by the history we have seen together," Bush said in his

17-minute speech. "There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment ... and that is the force of human freedom."

Vice-President Dick Cheney, the architect of the Iraqi war and the main policy designer of the Bush Administration, was sworn in for his second term minutes before Bush's inauguration.

Security was extremely tight during the inauguration. Concrete barriers and steel security fences were in place across the city and traffic was blocked for 100 blocks of streets near the event. — MNA/Xinhua

### US Fed official says inflation appears "contained"

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — President of San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank Janet Yellen said on Thursday that US inflation appears largely "contained."

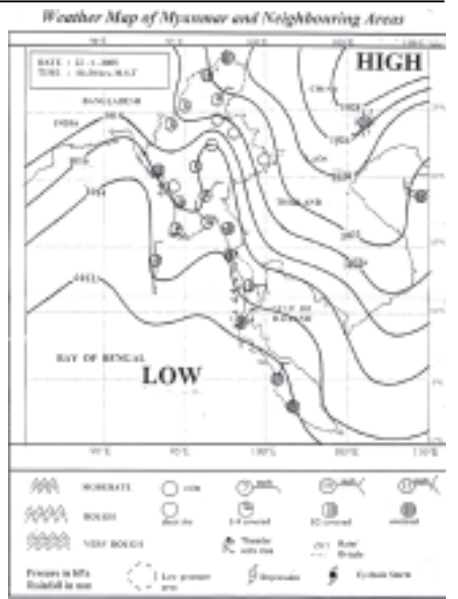
"When I look at all of the elements that influence inflation ... it seems that the most likely outcome over the next year or so is that inflation will remain well contained," Yellen said in a speech prepared for the Financial Women's Association of San Francisco.

"The good news is that we've now seen enough positive signs in the economy to have some confidence that it is on course for self-sustaining growth," she said.

Yellen said the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), US Fed's policy-making body, may pause on its path of measured rate hikes if the economy slows or if there are downside inflation risks.

She noted that the Fed is gradually reducing the stimulus, or "accommodation" or low interest rates as the US economy gathers momentum.

The US Fed has increased the short-term interest rates for five times since the end of last June to curb the increase of US inflation. — MNA/Xinhua



### WEATHER

Saturday, 22 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (7°C) below normal in Chin State, (4°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (1°C), Lashio, Nansam, Mindat and Moekok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 21-1-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 22-1-2005 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 9:30hrs MST on 22-1-2005 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 21-1-2005 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 22-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Northwest at (13:30) hours MST on 21-1-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-1-2005: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-1-2005: Fair weather.



Sunday, 23 January

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Hey Mr DJ
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -Morning light
- 8.55 am National news/Slogan
- 9.05 am Music: -I'm not alone
- 9.10 am International news
- 9.15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar: -Bago and its environs
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Story for Children -Everybody has his own ability
- 1.50 pm Songs for Children
- 9.00 pm Weekly news review
- 9.10 pm Music
- 9.15 pm Article
- 9.25 pm Let's Improve English Through Songs! Latest Hits!
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Sunday, 23 January View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံယာဇာနည် အတိတ်အနာဂတ်အကျိုးဆောင်ရွက်ပေးရန် အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ အဘိဓမ္မာစာအုပ်များ
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးစွာ (၃၀) ငြိမ်သက်စွာ
- 8:10 am 6. အတိတ်ပြန်
- 8:20 am 7. ရွှေရောင်ရောင်စာအုပ်
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Say It in English

- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am 3. Round-up of The Week's International news
- 11:40 am 4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရုပ်ရှင်ဇာတ်ကား" (အပိုင်း-၅)
- 12:15 pm 5. ငယ်စဉ်အခါပညာစာအုပ်
- 12:25 pm 6. Myanmar video feature: "တစ်ယောက်တစ်ယောက်ကို" ခွေး၊ ဖို၊ မြတ်သုစာ၊ ချိုမြိန်၊ ခါရိုက်တာ-ကိုစော်(အရယ်ဦး)
- 2:15 pm 7. Musical programme
- 2:30 pm 8. ဘိုင်းဒါးတော် (ဝိဇ္ဇာတိုင်း)
- 2:45 pm 9. 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. သာယာချိုသာ (၃၀) ငြိမ်သက်စွာ
- 5:00 pm 5. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြု) (ရုပ်ပေး)
- 5:15 pm 6. Songs of national cares
- 5:30 pm 7. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm 8. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:30 pm 9. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 10. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 11. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ကြိုသွယ်တဲ့လင်းဆိုင်ငယ်" (အပိုင်း-၄၈)
- 7:35 pm 12. Agricultural Source Country's Development
- 7:45 pm 13. Musical programme
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "အရပ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၂)
- 18. The next day's programme

# Commander, Mayor on inspection of construction sites, sanitation tasks

YANGON, 22 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected tasks for keeping Yangon City clean and pleasant, proper flow of water at drains and upgrading roads and platforms.

The commander and the mayor oversaw laying of laterite on Maungmakan Kantha Road measuring 6,900 feet long and 48 feet wide linking Dagon Myothit (North) and Dagon Myothit (South) townships and dredging of drains on both sides of the road. They inspected construction of the 60 feet long and 30 feet wide reinforced concrete bridge crossing Toeyounggale Creek.

Similarly, the commander and the mayor made an inspection tour of repaving roads and placing concrete tiles at the platform on Pale Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, U Wisara Road and Nanataw Overpass in Kamayut Township.

Furthermore, they checked sanitation tasks being carried out by members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and MAAF at Yangon West District General Hospital in Kyimyindine Township.



*Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin oversee construction of platform in Yangon City.— YANGON COMMAND*

During the inspection of construction sites and sanitation tasks, Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gave instructions to officials on timely completion of the tasks, meeting the set standard, and fulfilled the requirements of the work sites.

MNA

# Work coordination meeting of Fisheries Department, Apiculture Department held

YANGON, 22 Jan— The work coordination meeting of the Fisheries Department and the Apiculture Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries took place at the meeting hall of the FD on Hsinmin Road in Ahlon Township this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises (See page 9)



*Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein speaking at the coordination meeting of Fisheries Department and Apiculture Department.— L&F*

# 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition goes on



*The Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition in progress.— PUPR*

YANGON, 22 Jan — The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day (2005) this morning continued at the People's Square, here.

Before the competition, student bands from Ahlon Basic Education High School No 4 and Tamway BEHS No 5 presented skills demonstration.

Next, the military band competition followed. The band representing Triangle Region Command, the band representing Defence Services (Army) Combating Training School (Bayintnaung), that of the No 3 Basic Military Training Depot, that of the No 101 Light Infantry Division, the band (See page 9)

### INSIDE

*"We feel happy for the nation. Collective participation of the people will ensure success in taking remedial measures in the required sectors of the nation."*

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HEIN MYINT