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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

It is important for national races to be imbued with spirit of national unity to flourish good moralities of mutual understanding
Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to trainees of UDNR

YANGON, 28 Jan— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received the trainees of BEd Course No 36 of the University for

Development of National Races at the Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-

Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, officials, departmental heads, the rector and faculty members.

Director-General of the SPDC Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein acted as MC.

The Senior General gave guidance to the trainees, saying that in view of the nation's prevailing situations when the Tatmadaw just assumed the State duties, there was a crying need for a halt to internal armed conflicts by means of rebuilding of national unity as well as for res-



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to trainees of BEd Course No 36 of University for Development of National Races.—MNA

toration of peace and stability, prevalence of law and order and national development.

Therefore, the government, hand in hand with national brethren, had to launch a quick start to carry out demanding tasks for emergence of a modern developed nation

free from evil legacies of the colonialists, after laying down the national policy and objectives, which were in conformity with the then situations and conditions, he added.

The government is now translating into reality the national policy

“Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty”, which are necessary for perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar, he said.

(See page 8)

Excerpts from speech of Senior General Than Shwe

- * The government achieved a great success in the drive for all-round development of the nation.
- * The Union of Myanmar's achievement of remarkable development within a short time is undeniable.
- * It is needed to make relentless efforts to maintain the results of development, stability and peace.
- * It is also required to take all necessary measures not to lose independence and sovereignty again and to be able to march on the correct national path.
- * It is important for the youth of border areas to ensure that their own regions develop up to posterity.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party attend the ceremony to accept guidance of Senior General Than Shwe by trainees of BEd Course No 36 of UDNR.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 29 January, 2005

Better public health care through effective application of medical science

The State Peace and Development Council is making all-out efforts to provide health care on a greater scale for the people living in rural areas as well as in border areas to ensure that they enjoy a healthy life.

In doing so, hospitals in all the states and divisions are installed with modern medical equipment and staffed with doctors and nurses including dentists. Furthermore, dispensaries are also being constructed there.

To ensure an increase in the human resources of the medical world, more and more medical and dental institutes are being opened and provided with teaching aids. The number of students admitted to these universities is on the rise.

As around 70 percent of the country's population reside in rural areas, the government is implementing the five-year rural development project on a national scale.

As part of the efforts to raise the health standard of rural people, momentum has been added to the task for the provision of oral health care to them.

The government embodied the preliminary oral health plan in the National Health Plan for the improvement of public oral health. The plan was put into practice starting from 1991. The plan has so far covered 87 townships.

In accord with the plan, training is given to health staff to look after the oral health of rural people. What is more, government-employed dentists and private dentists make field tours down to rural areas to speed up the health care activities.

It is learned that an affiliate of the Institute of Dental Medicine (Yangon) will emerge soon to address the shortage of the strength of dentists.

At the soon-to-come affiliate, patients can undergo surgeries for oral, facial, maxillae, cleft and palate. It is therefore an encouraging sign for public health care.

Oral and facial surgical courses for diplomas, master's degrees and doctoral degrees are also being conducted to promote the oral health standard.

All in all, the onus is on all the dentists to make the most of medical science the State provides and to gear themselves up for oral health care activities.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရကြောင်းဖြစ်သည်။

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(၂၇-၂-၂၀၀၅)ရက်နေ့

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

Soya-bean, winter crops plantations in Zalun, Danubyu inspected

YANGON, 28 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversaw thriving pulses and beans plantations at the entrance to Zalun on 25 January.

He also viewed soya-bean plantations and urged local growers to meet the per-acre yield set. In Danubyu, the minister inspected winter crops and sunflower plantations.

Over 1.3 million acres of land were put under pulses and beans in Ayeyawady Division in 2003-2004.

The division has now cultivated over 1.5



million acres of pulses and beans against the target of over 1.4 million acres in 2004-2005.

MNA

(Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects soya-bean plantations in Zalun Township.— A&I

Energy Minister attends coord meetings of MPE, MOGE

YANGON, 28 Jan — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivered an address at the meeting of Myanmar Petrochemicals Enterprise at the Ministry of Energy on 25 January.

After reviewing production of fertilizers, the minister discussed supply of natural gas and electricity for operating fertilizer plants and set the targets for boosting production of the plants. Before concluding the meeting, the minister gave instructions on increase of production, minimizing loss and wastage and curbing misconduct.

The minister also attended the meeting of

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise. He reviewed exploitation of oil and gas in oil fields and laid down

plans to drill and produce oil and natural gas.

Also present at the meetings were the Deputy

Minister for Energy, departmental heads and officials.

MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi meets officials at coordination meeting of Myanmar Petrochemicals Enterprise on 25-1-2005.— ENERGY

237 drug-related cases exposed in December 2004

YANGON, 28 Jan — Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department expose 237 drug-related cases— 52,6057 kilos of opium in 37 cases, 6,3888 kilos of heroin in 83 cases, 10,4378 kilos of opium oil in 10 cases, 1,1617 kilos of low-grade opium in 11 cases, 2,723 kilos of marijuana in 15 cases, 170,236 stimulant tablets in 50 cases, 0,0002 kilo of stimulant powder in one case, 23,1381 kilos of speciosa in six cases, 206 Diazepam tablets in one case, three ecstasy tablets in one case, 10 ampoules of morphine in one case, 15 cases on the failure to register and 6 other cases— in December 2004.

Regiments and units of the Tatmadaw seized 0.004 kilo of opium in one case, 4.08 kilos of heroin in one case and 10 stimulant tablets in one case.

MPF also seized 52,6017 kilos of opium in 36 cases, 2,3088 kilos of heroin in 82 cases, 10,4378 kilos of opium oil in 10 cases, 1,1617 kilos of low-grade opium in 11 cases, 2,723 kilos of marijuana in 15 cases, 170,226 stimulant tablets in 49 cases, 0,0002 kilo of stimulant powder in one case, 23,1381 kilos

of speciosa in six cases, 206 diazepam tablets in one case, three ecstasy tablets in one case, 10 ampoules of morphine in one case, 15 cases on the failure to register and 6 other cases.

Action was taken against 337 persons in 237 cases— 285 men and 52 women.

In one case, a combined team searched Ma Ar Shan in Monekoe on 16 December and seized 12 blocks of heroin weighing 4.08 kilos in her polyethylene bag. Monekoe Police Station took action against her.

On 17 December, while a combined team patrolling Palyan-1 Ward, Tachilek, authorities searched suspect Ye Aung in the presence of witnesses near Hngetyawdaw Jetty in Palyan-1 Ward. Officials of the team seized 110,000 WY brand stimulant tablets from the corrugated paper box of Ye Aung. Therefore, action is taken against Ye Aung and his partners Myint Aung and Ar Wai at Tachilek Police Station.

MNA

China passes programme on coping with public emergencies

BEIJING, 27 Jan— China's State Council passed in principle an overall national programme on coping with public emergencies at an executive meeting held here Wednesday.

The meeting, chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao, also passed in principle an overall plan for ecological protection and construction in the Sanjiangyuan nature reserve, namely the source area of three major rivers — Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang — in northwest China's Qinghai Province.

The programme on coping with emergencies spells out the principle, organizational structure and operational mechanism of the State Council in coping with major public emergencies.

"It is also an important guideline for regional governments and various departments to effectively handle public emergencies, safeguard the life and property safety of the people and reduce disaster-triggered losses," said a

participant at the meeting.

According to the meeting, adoption of the national programme means China has roughly built a national framework of programmes for coping with public emergencies, made up of relevant programmes at the national, special sector, departmental and provincial levels. The meeting noted these programmes still have to experience tests and be constantly improved. There are still a lot of work to do in the present stage, including completing corresponding programmes for grass-roots units, forming a rapid-response rescue mechanism, improving the level of management and skills of rescue operations and launching a disaster-relief knowledge publicity campaign.—MNA/Xinhua



Sega Toys' new musical entertainment pet robot I-Dog flaps its ears at a demonstration at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 25 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Attacks mar Iraqi vote build-up

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan—There has been another day of violence across Iraq, as the country prepares for Sunday's election.

Bombs and gun battles mainly in Sunni Muslim areas killed at least a dozen Iraqis and a US Marine, while a clutch of polling stations were also hit.

Guerillas have urged voters to boycott the poll, threatening more attacks.

In Australia, Iraqi expatriates have begun voting. They are among 280,303 exiles registered to vote in 14 countries, including the US and UK.

Nearly 12,000 of Iraqis have registered to vote in Australia — about 15% of the estimated 80,000 eligible Iraqi nationals.

The expatriate vote is running from Friday to Sunday. In Iraq, electoral officials have said there will be as many as 120 international monitors supervising the voting there.

The chief administrator of Iraq's independent electoral commission has said a number of foreign embassies will provide staff to act as monitors, with some of them supervising the vote outside Baghdad.— Internet

N-E China province gets huge bank loans for rejuvenation

SHENYANG, 27 Jan— The State Development Bank (SDB), one of China's three policy banks, has signed an agreement to grant 50 billion yuan (6.04 billion US dollars) of soft loans and one billion yuan (1.2 billion US dollars) of technical assistance loans to Liaoning Province, a major but rusty industrial base in China.

The loans will be used in the development of the northeast province's energy resources, transportation and raw materials industries, construction of water conservancy projects. The money will go to serve agriculture and forestry, public facilities in urban areas and subsidiary projects.

Part of the loans will also be used to relocate people out of areas suffering coal mining cave-ins, assurance for small- and medium-sized businesses and development of education, health care and social security undertakings in the province, according to agreement signed between SDB and Liaoning provincial government recently.

By the end of last year, SDB has signed three

agreements of cooperation with Liaoning Province, involving 131.7 billion yuan (15.92 billion US dollars) in loans.

Currently, SDB has put in 85.1 billion yuan (10.29 billion US dollars) to support a group of major projects in the province, including renovation of power grids in 12 cities, rebuilding of Harbin-Dalian electrified railway, Jinzhou-Fuxin expressway, expansion of Shenyang-Dalian expressway and Shenyang-based Taoxian International Airport.

SDB's loans have played an important role in pushing forward economic and social development of Liaoning, said Li Keqiang, Governor of Liaoning, at Monday's signing ceremony.—MNA/Xinhua

Toyota maintains lead in Indonesian market

JAKARTA, 27 Jan— Japanese automaker Toyota Motor Corp has reported a 40.7-per-cent rise in sale in the Indonesian market to reach 141,944 units in 2004 and continues to become the

market leader in the country. Toyota grabbed a mammoth 29.4 per cent of the Indonesian market share last year, reported the *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper. Quoting data from PT Toyota Astra

Motor (TAM), a joint venture between Toyota and local auto firm PT Astra International, the newspaper said Toyota controls 44.1 per cent of sedan market and 50.1 per cent of compact car market.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam imports large amount of fish feed

HANOI, 27 Jan — Vietnam has to annually import around 150,000 tons of feeds for aquaculture, or one fifth of the total volume consumed by the sector.

The country, home to 13 major fish feed producers with an annual combined output of 400,000 tons, imports fish feeds mainly from Thailand, and Taiwan and Hong Kong, according to sources from the Ministry of Trade on Wednesday.

Vietnam has 903,000 hectares of aquaculture ponds which turn out around three million tons of seafood, mainly fishes and shrimps, each year. It is estimated to export 150 million US dollars' worth of seafood in January, up 19 per cent against last January.— MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian tyre industry seeks to boost export sale

JAKARTA, 27 Jan— The Indonesian tyre industry has set to boost production by 10 per cent this year in its efforts to reach the targeted export sale of 500 million US dollars, the industry association has said.

According to figures from the Indonesian Tyre Industries Association (APBI), last year's production was recorded at 35.35 million units and export stood at 455.26 million US dollars.

"The (targeted) growth this year is lower than what we achieved in 2004, when production grew by 15.6 per cent and export sale rose by 22.9 per cent," APBI chairman Aziz Pane was quoted Tuesday by the *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper as saying.

Besides export, domestic sale also is expected to climb this year, he said.

"The continued increase in car sales will drive up domestic demand for tyres," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese shoppers check out Spring Festival decorations at a shop in Shanghai on 27 Jan, 2005. Red decorations are customarily used by the Chinese to usher in the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rooster, which starts on 9 February.—INTERNET



Stephen Hillenburg, creator of the popular animated series *SpongeBob Squarepants* walks along an underpass in Singapore, on 28 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

ဝက်မုတ္တမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်ဖွား

South Asian countries launch Buddhist tourism programme with ADB aid

MANILA, 27 Jan— Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal have launched a coordinated tourism marketing programme to promote the subregion's tourism industry with the theme of "Nature, Culture, Adventure" and "Buddhist Heartland", said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday.

The heads of tourism of the four governments jointly unveiled two attractive brochures, a series of six posters, a CD booklet, and the new web site www.visitsouthasia.org, in a ceremony held in New Delhi on 16 January.

A subregional Calendar of Events poster featuring festivals and special events is also part of the promotional collection, said ADB in a news release. According to Indian officials, this is the first jointly funded tourism campaign of its kind in the subregion. The programme is expected to boost local private sector tourism industry and highlight the ecological tourism and Buddhist heritage products boasted by the region's countries.— *MNA/Xinhua*

JVs, private enterprises drive social development in Jiangsu

BEIJING, 27 Jan— Joint ventures and private enterprises will continue to drive social and economic development in this modern city in East China's Jiangsu Province in 2005, sources with the city government said.

As a rapidly developing city in the Yangtze River Delta, Changzhou's private sector flourished last year and the city saw an increased inflow of foreign capital, according to Wednesday's *China Daily*.

Statistics show that revenue from private enterprises made up 72.6 per cent of the city's total industrial growth in 2004, with 8,586 new companies and factories being established, the paper said.

"The fast and steady growth of the private enterprises can be attributed to preferential policies and the proper working of the country's market economy," said Xu Jianming, mayor of Changzhou.

In comparison with the city's older private enterprises, the new players are mainly high-tech industries focused on new materials, IT, electronic machinery and biochemistry, typically with registered capitals of more than one million US dollars.

Overseas capital has been playing an important role in the city's development since the late 1980s and its influence grew massively last year.

In 2004, another four Fortune 500 companies, including Texas Instrument and Wal-Mart, joined the previous 24 to invest in the city. Of the project agreements signed, 129 involved an investment of over 10 million US dollars.

Last year's total contractual overseas investment reached an unprecedented 2.2 billion US dollars, an increase of 8 per cent over 2003.

It is the city's favourable location and quality workforce that drew the eyes of these foreign investors.

"Joint ventures and private enterprises have contributed greatly to the gross national product of the city and we will continue offering the best services to aid their growth," said Xu.

The city government has also made plans to attract more foreign funds by providing cooperative opportunities for about 100 projects in the high-tech, infrastructure, tourism, and real estate sectors, the paper said.— *MNA/Xinhua*

China's AVIC achieving remarkable progress

BEIJING, 27 Jan— The China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC) completed more than 30 national research projects last year and achieved remarkable progress in civil aircraft production and other aviation areas.

AVIC reaped revenue of 57.2 billion yuan (seven billion US dollars) in 2004, up 28 per cent compared with the previous year. Approximately 1.4 billion yuan (0.17 billion US dollars) profit was achieved, up 32 per cent compared with the previous year, a record since the corporation was established five years ago.

Two regional jets developed by AVIC were sold to Zimbabwe last November, the first time China's planes have been exported. An agreement for 20 additional commercial jets was signed in December, said Liu Gaozhao, general manager of AVIC.

The export and trade volume of AVIC in 2004 reached 1.15 billion US dollars. The aviation subcontractor volume also achieved progress last year with the delivery volume reaching 0.17 billion US dollars.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese, French cultural ministers issue joint statement

BEIJING, 27 Jan — Chinese and French Ministers of Culture issued a joint statement here on Tuesday to express their views on a convention on cultural diversity, which is being drafted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Issued by Chinese Minister of Culture Sun Jiazheng and French Minister for Culture and Communications Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, the statement said that the two ministers will contribute to the international convention on the protection of diversified cultures.

On 2 November, 2001, the UNESCO passed a declaration on world cultural diversity. After that, Chinese and French culture ministers stated their support for the declaration on various international occasions.— *MNA/Xinhua*

China becomes Japan's largest trade partner

TOKYO, 27 Jan— China replaced the United States as Japan's largest trade partner in 2004, the Finance Ministry said on Wednesday.

The trade volume between China, including Hong Kong, and Japan in the past year totalled 213.3 billion US dollars, the highest since the record began in 1947.

The Japanese-US trade stood at about 198.8 billion dollars in 2004. The trade with China accounted for about 20 per cent in Japan's total foreign trade volume, while the US share stood at about 18 per cent.

The exports to the European Union marked a record 91.9 billion US dollars. Imports from the region were a record 60.2 billion dollars.— *MNA/Xinhua*

1,418 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan—As of Thursday, 27 Jan, 2005, at least 1,418 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,085 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians. The AP count is nine higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday. The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.— *Internet*



A US soldier from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment pauses on his Stryker vehicle before a raid in one of the biggest petrol stations on the west side of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on 25 Jan, 2005.— *INTERNET*

China's leading grain producer sets new record

ZHENGZHOU, 27 Jan— Henan Province ranked first in China in grain production with the output hitting 42.6 million tons in 2004, up 19.3 per cent from the previous year, the local statistics department announced here Wednesday.

The grain output of Henan accounts for one-tenth of the national total, serving as the country's largest contributor, said an official of the Henan Provincial Agricultural Department.

The summer grain output surged 7.9 per cent on a year-on-year basis to reach 25.2 million tons last year, while the autumn output soared 41 per cent to 17.39 million tons, despite severe natural disasters.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore, Brunei leaders discuss bilateral relations

SINGAPORE, 28 Jan — Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met with visiting Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah here on Thursday.

According to the comments by the Press secretary to the Prime Minister on Thursday, the leaders had a warm discussion on the excellent bilateral relations and noted that there was no outstanding issues between the two countries.

Lee and the Sultan exchanged views on the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), noting that the regional organization had responded effectively to the

tsunami disaster, and that going forward economic integration was a key priority for ASEAN.

Lee also thanked the Sultan for the facilities that Brunei has extended to the Singapore Armed Forces all these years.

The statement said that Lee was looking forward to the visit by Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah to Singapore in the coming March.

MNA/Xinhua

China plans unprecedented railroad construction in 2005

BEIJING, 27 Jan — China plans unprecedented railroad construction in 2005, investing more than 100 billion yuan (12.05 billion US dollars) in 58 new projects and 48 extended projects, sources at a high-level seminar on railway network construction said.

The seminar, aiming to provide advice for the country's ambitious railway blueprint, was hosted last Sunday by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's top economic planning body.

Experts attending the workshop agreed that railroads should play an indispensable major role in China's transportation system for its features of large capacity, good security record but small land coverage, energy consumption and pollution.

China needs a big advance in railroad construction to ensure its long-term economic development, they said. In order to facilitate the huge railway construction, China must resolve tough challenges in adopting

advanced technical standards, ensuring construction quality and attracting more investment. "Apart from the speed and scale, the coziness of passengers should also be taken into account in planning railway construction," said well-known railway expert Feng Zhijun, also a member of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress (NPC). "New railways have to be people-oriented."

According to the Ministry of Railways, 48 new projects were planned in 2004, with a total cost of some 500 billion yuan (60.24 billion US dollars). The total length of planned passenger lines reaches 3,220 kilometres, which is unheard of in the world's railway history. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to produce small satellites

HANOI, 27 Jan — Vietnam plans to manufacture small-sized satellites after 2010, mainly to serve the purpose of monitoring natural resources and environmental factors for disaster prevention.

The Vietnam Science and Technology Institute has submitted to the government a scheme on producing two satellites, each of which will weigh some 100 kilos and a lifespan of five years, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Wednesday.

Total cost for the production of the first satellite with little experience is estimated to cost Vietnam 20 million US dollars. The figure will be only 10 million US dollars for the second satellite. Earlier, Vietnam planned to launch its first communication satellite with a total investment of around 270 million US dollars into orbit in 2005 to provide telephone, radio and television services to all corners of the country without topographical interference.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese salesman

promotes IBM

Thinkpads near a shop

with the Lenovo logo in

Beijing, China, on 28,

Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Chinese software project managers to be trained in India

BEIJING, 27 Jan — South China's Shenzhen City said that some 1,000 software project managers will undergo training in India in a government scheme to turn the city into China's top software outsourcing destination, Thursday's *China Daily* reported.

"The companies are frustrated, not because they can't win deals, but because they're not sure how to run the projects successfully. The lack of qualified project managers is becoming a serious problem," Zeng Guozhong, director of the administration office of Shenzhen Software Park, told the *China Daily*.

After several months of negotiations with a veteran Indian outsourcing solution provider - Zensar Technologies Ltd - the local government yesterday signed a memorandum with the company on setting up the Centre of Excellence (CoE), an organization to provide courses and work experience for China's software project managers, according to the paper.

The trainees will learn etiquette, communication

and negotiation skills as well as international standards for the software outsourcing industry for three months, said Zeng, whose office selects candidates for the programme.

They will then go to work for Zensar in dealing with US and European clients for their remaining time in India before their six month training period ends, said the paper. "The project is significant since the human factor is becoming more and more crucial to the development of the city's software outsourcing industry," Zeng was quoted as saying. "Without sufficient project managers with international experience, the software companies will become less attractive to foreign clients, especially from Europe, the United States and Japan."

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese AV products see strong sales in 2004

TOKYO, 27 Jan — Audiovisual equipment shipments in Japan last year increased 13.1 per cent from the previous year to 23.2 billion US dollars for the third consecutive yearly rise, an industry group said on Tuesday.

Demand was strong for liquid-crystal and plasma-panel television sets as well as DVD recorder players and car navigation systems,

the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association said.

Video equipment shipments, including TVs and DVD recorder

players, expanded 14.8 billion US dollars in 2004, marking the fifth straight yearly rise.

Shipments increased 73.9 per cent for LCD TVs, 42.3 per cent for plasma TVs and 107.5 per cent for DVD recorder players.

Audio equipment shipments were sluggish last year, including stereo sets,

declining 10.1 per cent for the fourth consecutive yearly drop.

Vehicle-mounted audiovisual equipment shipments in 2004 rose 14.5 per cent to 6.4 billion US dollars for the sixth straight yearly growth. Car navigation systems increased 23.9 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Kennedy calls for troops withdrawal in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — Immediately after Sunday's election in Iraq, President Bush should take steps to negotiate a timetable to begin bringing the troops home, Sen Edward M Kennedy said on Thursday as he described his own plans for a stable Iraqi government.

Saying the American military's continued presence in Iraq is fanning the flames of conflict, Kennedy said at least 12,000 US troops should leave at once, and a complete withdrawal should be finished as early as possible in 2006.

The Massachusetts Democrat said America must give Iraq back to its people rather than continue an occupation that parallels the failed policies of the Vietnam war. The US military presence has become part of the problem, not part of the solution," Kennedy said in a

speech to Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. "We need a new plan that sets fair and realistic goals for self-government in Iraq, and works with the Iraqi government on a specific timetable for the honourable homecoming of our forces."

While not the first member of Congress to call for withdrawing the troops, Kennedy is the first senator to do so. And his remarks continued his long and blistering assault on the Bush administration's Iraq policies. — Internet



A poster of Boeing's latest 7E7 Dreamliner on display at the Zhuhai Airshow recently. — INTERNET

Tens of thousands chant anti-Bush slogans in Brazil

PORTO ALEGRE (Brazil), 27 Jan — Tens of thousands of activists from around the world marched through the streets of Porto Alegre, Brazil, on Wednesday, chanting anti-Bush slogans and championing diverse causes from green farming to Palestinian rights.

Marchers danced, drummed and waved a different flag for every cause — be it anti-free trade, gay rights or against the “neoliberal” economic policies championed by Washington and the International Monetary Fund.

But US President George W Bush was a major focus of anger as protesters denounced the US invasion of Iraq.

“It’s pretty obvious in the world community that the war in Iraq is illegal and that no one supports it,” said Ethan Schaffer, a 23-year-old native of Olympia, Washington, travelling through South America to spread organic farming.

Organizers say the six-day World Social Forum will host more than 100,000 activists and on-lookers from

more than 122 countries.

The annual meeting was initially meant as a counterpoint to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where global financial leaders meet every year to discuss economic policy, talk business and network in the Swiss Alps.

But the Social Forum, now into its fifth year, has increasingly developed an identity of its own, and now functions as a giant meeting ground for activists to discuss their agendas and listen to luminaries of the left hold forth on a range of issues — from debt forgiveness for the third world to “cosmic energy group channeling”.

MNA/Reuters



Japanese kimono girls display new tablet PCs, Fujitsu’s ‘FMV STYLISTIC TB80’ (L) and Hewlett Packard’s ‘Compaq Tablet PC TC 1000’ (R) at a Tokyo hotel recently.—INTERNET

Mexican President start four-nation tour

MEXICO CITY, 27 Jan — Mexican President Vicente Fox will visit Spain, Italy, Morocco and Algeria next month, local media reported on Wednesday.

He will also meet Mexican students and attend, along with the King, the inauguration of an international contemporary art fair.

Fox will hold a meeting with businessmen from the tourism sector and top-level executives on 10 February.

Later, he will meet and hold a joint Press conference with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Rodriguez Zapatero.

Following his visit

to Spain, Fox will fly to Rome to have dinner with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

The President will arrive in Morocco on 11 February, and will meet King of Morocco Mohammed VI and a group of businessmen separately the following day.

On 13 February, Fox will hold a meeting with his Algerian counterpart, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in Algiers and then return to Mexico. —MNA/Xinhua

Iranian military vows to respond to foreign threat

TEHERAN, 27 Jan — Iranian military on Wednesday delivered a stern reaction to the recent US verbal hostility, saying it is highly prepared to respond to any foreign threats, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“Though the US and Israel dare not embark on any aggression against Iran, however, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has highly mobilized its forces to deal with any aggression,” IRGC Commander Rahim Safavi was quoted as saying.

Safavi said Iran is an effective country in the security plan of the Middle East and the United States could not ignore

Iran’s vital role in the security of the region.

“However, the IRGC will strongly stand up to the US greed in case of any conspiracy to that effect,” Safavi said.

US President George W Bush said on 17 January that he would not rule out military actions against Iran.

Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice, one day later, urged the world to prevent Iran

from developing nuclear weapons and threatened to refer Teheran’s nuclear case to the UN Security Council.

At the inauguration ceremony of Bush’s second term on 20 January, Vice-President Dick Cheney ranked Iran on top of a list of global trouble spots.

Many senior Iranian officials, including President Mohammad Khatami, have warned

Washington against any attempt of attack.

The United States, accusing Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons, has threatened to launch preemptive attacks on Iran’s nuclear facilities. Iran rejects the charge and threat, saying its nuclear research is fully peaceful and boasting an effective deterrent power to confront its enemies in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Kodak posts loss of \$12m in fourth quarter

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — Eastman Kodak Co reported on Wednesday that it posted a preliminary loss of 12 million dollars in the fourth quarter of last year, mainly because of one-time costs to cover job cuts.

Kodak, the biggest film manufacturer in the United States, said that it lost the equivalent of 4 cents a share, compared with a profit of 19 million dollars in the October-December period, or 7 cents a share, a year ago.

Digital product revenues increased by 40 per cent to 1.78 billion dollars in the fourth quarter, propelled by a nearly 50 per cent jump in sales of both digital cameras and photo kiosks.

MNA/Xinhua

Flextronics posts higher earnings as sales increase

NEW YORK, 27 Jan — Flextronics International Ltd, a leading manufacturer of electronics for other companies, reported a huge profit increase for its latest quarter amid higher sales.

The Singapore-based company Tuesday said it earned 98.7 million US dollars, or 17 cents a share, on revenue of 4.28 billion US dollars in the fiscal third quarter which ended

31 December.

In the same period a year earlier, it earned 21.4 million US dollars, or 4 cents a share, on revenue of 4.15 billion US dollars.

Excluding amortiza-

tion, restructuring and other charges, earnings climbed to 116.3 million US dollars, or 20 cents a share, from 93.9 million US dollars, or 17 cents a share.

MNA/AP

19 African countries to form agri development plan

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 27 Jan — Nineteen countries from eastern and Central Africa gathered here on Tuesday to start, under the auspices of African Union’s NEPAD and G-8 countries, the formulation of their respective 12-month action plan for agricultural development.

As the first of four regional meetings in Africa aimed at translating conception to action plan, the Dar-es-Salaam meeting is also expected to move agricultural development strategies from country levels to regional levels.

Participants are scheduled to transform the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, designed by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), into national and regional action plans which are expected to boost the region’s largest economic sector to achieve self-reliance and productivity.

“The NEPAD’s vision is to let agriculture-led development help eradicate hunger and beef up food security,” said Ousmane Badiane, a senior research adviser of the NEPAD at the opening session.

Other NEPAD aims in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme include an annual 6-per-cent agricultural growth, access to export markets and creation of local markets for agricultural product.—MNA/Xinhua



The 2005 Benelux edition of the Michelin guide for hotels and restaurants. Michelin has taken the unprecedented move of pulling a version of its renowned restaurant guide from sale after it was revealed it included a rave review for a restaurant that was not even open for inspection.—INTERNET

Golden age in the offing on Ayeyawady west bank

Moe Htet Myint
(Delta Region)

After making feasibility studies of the regions, especially the areas where water is required for agriculture, the Government has been building dams all over the country. In addition, the Government has ensured clean water supply for many villages including Kantok, Deedokkan, Kyaukpon, Sitthunge, Kwegyaw, Kantgyaw, Khazet, Thanpayakan, Pandawpyin and Mezali.

The Government has built 170 dams and 271 water pumping stations in the nation since 1988. Moreover, it is erecting 30 more dams and another 30 water pumping stations. These facilities will serve the national interest in the long run.

The facilities have changed the crop patterns in millions of acres, and paved the way to grow double and triple cropping. The widening task of crop harvesting, grain storing, transporting, milling, and distributing has generated more job opportunities and developed the economy of the people all over the nation.

The Government continues to implement new projects to maintain the momentum of development in the nation. It commissioned into service Thitkyetaw Dam near Thitkyetaw village and Thirinanda Dam near Daung-O village in Myaing Township on 21 October 2004 to ensure local food and clean water sufficiency and regional greening in Pakokku District, Magway Division.

It also opened Pade Dam near Natmauk village on Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division, on 24 January. It is the 170th dam built by the Government, and the 34th dam in the division. The Government used K 1,822 million to build it. Thanks to the dam, the region can now double its sown acreage to 12,800 acres of paddy and other crops.

Rises in the mountains in Chin State, the large Mone Creek flows 196 miles through Pwintbyu Township till joining Ayeyawady River. Our team attended the opening ceremony of the Mone Creek Dam held in Sedoktara Township. Mone, Salin, Mann and Yaw are large tributaries of the Ayeyawady with strong currents. In the past the locals experienced the transport difficulties caused by the creeks and the Ayeyawady itself. The situation turned worse when the creeks began to flood.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has laid down workable plans for rapid development of the western sector of Magway Division, and made arrangements for the speedy implementation of the projects one after another.

As the government has built bridges on the creeks and also the Anawrahta and Magway bridges



The Mone Creek Hydel-power Plant. — MNA

across the Ayeyawady, the west bank and the east bank are now like regions lying on a contiguous land mass.

At the ceremony, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said, "The people of Magway Division will have to realize the goodwill and lofty aims of the Government, and should respond with hard work combined with zeal, energy and goodwill."

"The fruits of success the nation is enjoying at present are the results of harmonious efforts of the people and the Government. There are many more nation-building tasks still left to be implemented by the Government and the people in harmony and unison, while playing their respective roles."

"The Government will materialize the seven-point Road Map, laid down for transition to genuine democracy, step by step, with the active participation of the national people."

The Government has already put into commission Mann Creek Dam and Salin Creek Dam, and a series of weirs on Yaw Creek.

It took time for the Government to implement the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project to harness the waters of the creek. The Mone Creek Dam can now irrigate large stretches of land year-round through Mezali Diversion Weir. Soon, it will irrigate over 100,000 acres of crops. In the past the Mezali Diversion Weir had to irrigate crops in turn through north and south Mone canals. The Mone Dam will also generate power in addition to helping develop the regional economy. Roughly, the nation's power consumption is increasing at a rate of 15 per

cent annually. The electricity consumption of Yangon at present is about 450 million megawatts, up from 130 million megawatts 15 years ago.

The Head of State has given guidance, saying that power generation should be based on the nation's abundant supply of water resources to generate 2,000 more megawatts. Work is under way to meet the target in accord with his guidance.

The total volume of water flowing in all the natural watercourses of the nation is over 876 million acre-feet. Experts estimate that 268 new facilities will produce nearly 40,000 extra megawatts.

The electricity generated by the Mone Dam project will be provided to the national grid. Thus, the project will benefit both the regions and the nation. It will generate power in addition to irrigating over 100,000 acres of land and prevent floods. And the fruits of the facility can be enjoyed till posterity.

The upstream Buywa Hydel Power Project and the downstream Kyi-on Kyi-wa Project have been implemented to tap the waters of the creek more effectively.

Soon, the two projects will generate 120 megawatts of power, in addition to the Mone Multipurpose Dam Project. All in all a series of dams will produce about 200 megawatts and supply enough water for cultivation. Thus, the west bank of the Ayeyawady is on the verge of reaching the golden age.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 28.1-2005.



Pade Dam on the Pade Creek in Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Mangway Division.—MNA

It is important for national...

(from page 1)

The success at the restoration of national unity brought an end to the armed conflicts, and with peace and tranquillity in the border areas, the government has made unremitting endeavours to ensure progress of these areas and national races, he noted.

The government achieved a great success in the drive for all-round development of the nation, while sticking to the concept that with equal progress of all parts of the nation and further relations among the national races, Union Spirit would flourish among the people sharing the same knowledge, ideas and concepts.

It is undeniable that the entire Union of

built infrastructures in diversified spheres, and now it has won the trust and support of the people. Inspired by the government's genuine goodwill and correct policies, the entire national people are lending themselves to the nation-building efforts in harmony with the government. As a result, the whole nation including border areas has enjoyed fruitful results of development with better economy of the State and higher living standard of the people, he noted.

Throughout the excursion tour, the trainees have witnessed prospects for national progress, and these are indeed the results of round-the-clock efforts made since the time when the nation was in recessionary condi-



Senior General Than Shwe cordially meets with trainees of BEd Course No 36 of UDNR.—MNA

tain the results of development, stability and peace which have been achieved due to the far-sightedness of State leaders, and to produce reli-

ganza the people so as to vitalize the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit in the regions, to which they will be assigned, he said.

youth of border areas to ensure that their own regions develop up to posterity by making full use of already-achieved fruitful results.

your knowledge to others, the Senior General added. Although you are educational staff who were born of the UDNR, the nature of work of yours is different from that of other education staff. As you have been trained to lend yourselves to the develop-

With this concept, you are to train the youth of border regions to be gear on learning and to be-

The UDNR was established with the aim of bringing progress to border areas and national races

Myanmar has witnessed remarkable development in a short time thanks to the simultaneous implementation of the border areas and national races development projects,

tions, he said.

In the past, border areas lagged behind in development but have now enjoyed good prospects for progress with tranquillity and stability. Na-

able human resources in border areas, he pointed out.

The UDNR was established with the aim of bringing progress to border areas and national races. The trainees have been taught the lessons well to be able to cultivate good morality, good prospects and producing human resources in the border areas in addition to the studies on teachership.

Furthermore, the university has nurtured the trainees to be able to play a leading role in the drive for flourishing fine morality and to be fully equipped with the spirit of national sentiment and Union Spirit, the most indispensable factor for perpetuation of the Union. It has also trained the students to be able to or-

It is important for the national races to be imbued with the spirit of national unity to cultivate good moralities of mutual understanding, forbearance, help and reliance among them to ensure oneness of more than 100 national races in the Union.

Particularly, the perpetually flourishing of Union Spirit is a must among the people, with which they will live in the Union for ever with the fraternal spirit sharing weal and woe and keeping nest and eggs intact.

It is also required to take all necessary measures not to lose independence and sovereignty again and to be able to march on the correct national path, which the people themselves chose after overcoming the alien instigations and interventions.

The trainees are therefore to be convinced well of the national policy, our three main national causes, he said.

Besides, you are urged to organize the people including new generation youths equipped with high moral to be imbued with the sense of national solidarity and Union Spirit.

You, students, will have to go and discharge duties in far-flung areas. It is important for the



Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of Office of State Peace and Development Council acts as MC.—MNA

come literate.

The Senior General said, particularly, the youths need to be trained not only to enhance their knowledge of education but also to pursue education of domestic science

ment of all sectors, you all are urged to go and serve duties wherever you are assigned.

The State on its part is implementing the five rural development tasks in rural areas as well as

The national people have firm conviction to maintain the national unity till posterity, while taking the lessons of the past. Due to the ardent efforts of the people in playing a role in the nation-building task, it is achieving sound progress.

urban development plans, special development projects, the 24 special region development project, the five rural development tasks and the national economic plans after pondering the regional requirements, favourable conditions and prospects, he said.

tional races are participating in the nation-building endeavours being equipped with Union Spirit and family spirit. It is because national races have been able to discard the false belief and assumption, he remarked.

It is needed to make relentless efforts to main-



Lachit national race Maung Cham Bom of Mansi Township.—MNA



Tai-lian national race Ma Thin Thin Htwe of Mansi Township.—MNA

During its 40 years starting from the ADNG, the institution has produced a large number of educated youths, and they have been discharging duties assigned by the Government well in the respective regions. The students have vowed to discharge their duties without fail together with their seniors after becoming teachers holding BEd degree.

through which they can undertake agricultural and livestock breeding tasks for development of socio-economy of the regions. Only then will livelihood of the youths of the boarder areas boost and can their regions develop in the long run.

You all have been trained to disseminate

border regions for better transport, safe drinking water and development of education and health of the local people. The rural development tasks is all important for socio-economic life of rural people, the Senior General pointed out.

(See page 9)

It is important for national...

(from page 8)

That is why you are to take part actively in successfully implementing all of the sectors such as education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding and to organize local people to participate in the drive.

In conclusion, the Senior General urged the trainees to make sustained efforts to be able to enhance educational qualification and spiritual power that the university inculcated into them and to constantly produce human resources in the border areas.

On behalf of the students, Maung Cham Bom, a Lachit race of Mansi Township, Kachin State, said that they have made a profound pledge to accept the guidance as work guidelines. They

students have made a firm pledge to discharge their duties well in response to the Government's goodwill. As the Government has been striving to produce educated persons for regional development, over 790 schools have emerged in the border areas and over 110,000 local youths are attending classes. Because of the opening of new institutions of higher learning all over the nation, the students now have opportunity to pursue higher education in their own regions. As teachers they will work with goodwill to produce youths capable of building and safeguarding the nation, while trying to develop the social economy of the locals. As highly educated young men have the ability to effectively

people have firm conviction to maintain the national unity till posterity, while taking the lessons of the past. Due to the ardent efforts of the people playing a role in the nation-building task, it is achieving sound progress. They will play a role in the Government's endeavours to materialize the seven-point Road Map, covering the National Convention. As the UDNR has trained them well, they, when arriving back to their native regions after their graduation, will work for human resources development, for regional development, for social economic development, for the local people to possess correct vision, and for the flourishing of Union Spirit.

Ma Thin Thin Htwe, a Tai-lian race of Mansi Township, Kachin State,

The government has built infrastructures in diversified spheres, and now it has won the trust and support of the people. Inspired by the government's genuine goodwill and correct policies, the entire national people are lending themselves to the nation-building efforts in harmony with the government.

are the first batch to complete the four-year BEd course. The Academy for Development of National Groups has been upgraded to a university, and the BEd course has been conducted to add strength to the Government's endeavours to develop border areas and national races. The students have attended the course to serve the national interest. As the students have already completed their studies, they are going to discharge the duties assigned by the Government. The stu-

utilize the nation's riches, they will build a modern and developed nation in the short span of time. The nationalities have been living in the nation with Union Spirit and through weal or woe since time immemorial. At present also, they are working with heart and soul for national development, with the leadership of the State. All the national races have firm belief that a modern and developed nation can be built with the united strength of qualified national races. The national

humbly said that they will accept the guidance as work guidelines. She said that during its 40 years starting from the ADNG, the institution has produced a large number of educated youths, and they have been discharging duties assigned by the Government well in the respective regions. The students have vowed to discharge their duties without fail together with their seniors after becoming teachers holding BEd degree. The university has trained its students to



Senior General Than Shwe cordially converses with trainees of BEd Course No 36 of UDNR at the dinner. (News on page 16)—MNA

become good education staff who are loyal to the State and who possess patriotism and Union Spirit. The Government has been laying down and implementing education promotion plans to produce brilliant persons capable of using advanced methods to build a modern and developed nation. In this regard, the students, when they become teachers, will educate and nurture youths with sincerity and goodwill. They will pursue higher studies at the university to further improve their qualifications, while organizing local people to take part in the education endeavours. The Govern-

ment has been implementing the political, economic and social objectives with the aim of building a modern and developed nation. Backward regions of the past are now seeing progress in all sectors, and it is the result of unity. As the entire people are taking part in the 24-development zone project and rural development tasks, the nation's political, economic and social sectors are achieving sustainable development, and the nation itself will become a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state. The students will play a role in the Government's efforts

to reach this end. Since its assumption of State duties, the Government has been striving for national peace, stability, consolidation and progress. Today's developments are the results of peace. The students have vowed to safeguard the sovereignty of the State as they value the essence of peace. They have pledged to work for the flourishing of Union Spirit, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes. The ceremony ended at 9.30 am. Senior General Than Shwe and party cordially greeted the students and their teachers.

MNA

H&T Minister attends 8th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers in Malaysia



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw being welcomed back at the airport —MNA

YANGON, 28 Jan — Malaysian Minister for Tourism presided over the 8th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers held in Langkawi Island of Malaysia on 24 January together with co-chairman of the meeting Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

The participants discussed accomplishment of tourism industry laid down by the 10th ASEAN Summit, impacts of the earthquake and tsunami on the tourism industry and rehabilitation, integration of ASEAN tourism services, enhancement of the tourism industry in accord with the Vientiane Plan of Action, implementation of ASEAN Tourism Agreement and matters related to the 2006 ASEAN Tourism Exhibition.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw together with other participant ministers of the ASEAN attended a luncheon hosted by the Kuala Lumpur Mayor and a dinner hosted by the Malaysian Minister for Tourism.

On 25 January, the minister joined the Fourth Meeting of ASEAN+3 Tourism Ministers and attended the press conference. In the evening, he viewed the booth on travel exchange of the ASEAN Tourism Exhibition 2005.

The minister and party arrived back here on 26 January morning. They were welcomed back at the airport by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials.—MNA

Sports equipment donated

YANGON, 28 Jan—A ceremony to donate sports equipment to the Table Tennis Team of the Ministry of Defence, the military commands and the Defence Services Medical Academy by the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee the Minister for Sports, was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna at 1 pm today.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint explained the purpose of the donation.

Next, the minister presented table tennis sports equipment worth US\$284.3

for the Table Tennis Team of the Ministry of Defence, boxing sports equipment worth K 64,000 plus US\$ 473.9 for the Boxing Sub-Committee of the Yangon Command, boxing sports equipment worth K 64,000 plus US\$ 437.9 for the Boxing Sub-Committee of the North-East Command and sports equipment worth K 93,950 plus US\$ 190 for the DSMA. The officials concerned accepted the donations and Chairman of the Boxing Sub-Committee of the Yangon Command Col Win Naung spoke words of thanks.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa speaks in meeting with service personnel. — MNA

BEd trainees of UDNR visit Pyithu Hluttaw, Zoo, Kandawgyi Gardens

YANGON, 28 Jan—The trainees of the BEd Four-year Course No 36 of University for Development of National Races, accompanied by Secretary of the Management Committee for the Excursion Tour Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi and Rector of UDNR Col Zaw Min Thein, visited Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road this morning and they were conducted by Director of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Ye Hla Myint and officials.

The trainees of excursion tour proceeded to Yangon Zoo and Director of the Forest Department U Myint Swe explained the salient points of the zoo.

In the afternoon, the trainees went

to Kandawgyi Gardens and heard the explanations on the salient points of the gardens and arrangements for the development in respective zones.

On arrival at Kandawgyi Fresh Water Aquarium in Education Zone, Deputy Director-General of the Fisheries Department U Hla Win of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries extended greetings and Deputy Director U Min Thein explained the salient points of the aquarium. Next, the trainees of the excursion tour visited Kandawgyi Gardens by car. At the recreation zone, Director of Zay Kabar Co Ltd Daw Zay Zin Latt extended greetings and explained the tasks being carried out.

MNA



Trainees of BEd Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races study the Zoological Gardens (Yangon). — MNA

Myanmar hockey delegation leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 28 Jan—Vice-president of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Kyaw Naing and members—U San Tin Aung

(Shwebo), U Kyaw Min (Managing Director of MMM Construction), U Kyi Min (PAG Co) and U Khaing Thu Win (MMM

Construction) left here by air this morning for Malaysia.

They were seen off at the airport by President of the federation Commander of No 2 Military Region Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials.

The Myanmar hockey delegation will meet with World Hockey Federation Vice-President Mrs Annabel Dillon in Singapore and Asian Hockey Federation General Secretary Mr Tan Sari Dato P Plagendra in Malaysia.

MNA

Drugs trafficker jailed

YANGON, 28 Jan—The combined team comprising members of Yangon Special Anti-Narcotic Drug Squad and Sangyoung Police Station, acting on information, on 26 November 2003 made a search on a suspect, Thein Htoo at the corner of Shinsawpu Street, Pyay Road and Sangyoung Road and seized him together with 200 WY stimulant tablets.

Sangyoung Police Station filed the case against Thein Htoo, 30, son of U Shein Tin of Shwepyitha Township, under the sections 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Yangon West Court heard the case and sentenced the culprit Thein Htoo to 20 years' imprisonment with work under Section 19 (A) of the law on 31 December. — MNA

SWRR Minister meets departmental personnel in Patheingyi

YANGON, 28 Jan—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, accompanied by Col Tint Swe of South-West Command, this morning, met with staff of Immigration and National Registration Department, Fire Services Department, Social Welfare Department and Relief and Resettlement Department at Ayeyawady Division Immigration and National Reg-

istration Department Office this morning.

After hearing reports of divisional level officials, the minister instructed those present to observe duties and functions of the respective ministries and departments, procedures, disciplines, order and directives, uphold Our Three Main National Causes and take care of welfare tasks.—MNA

Commerce Deputy Minister tours Kayin, Mon States

YANGON, 28 Jan—Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Commerce, chose the plot for construction of the economic zone in Myawady on 25 January.

At the director's office of the Border Trade Department in Myawady, the deputy minister met with departmental personnel.

At the cargo yard, the minister oversaw inspection of export/import vehicles and functions of the border gate on the Friendship Bridge.

On 26 January, accompanied by Chairman of Kayin State Peace and

Development Council Col Khin Kyue, the deputy minister inspected No 001 Rice Mill of Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading in Hpa-an. Furthermore, Brig-Gen Aung Tun saw over paddy plantations of Mya Htay Kywe Lin Co in Kawlonsein Village. In Mawlamyine, the deputy minister looked into No 10 Bran Oil Mill in Mupon.

On 27 January, he meet with entrepreneurs at the Mon State Manager Office of MAPT and instructed them to produce export crops and extend cultivation of new items of export crops.

MNA

Training courses conclude at Ministry of Industry-1

YANGON, 28 Jan—Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun delivered an address at the concluding ceremony of the Financial Refresher Course No 3/2004, the Basic Computer Course No 3/2004 and the Boiler Controller Special Course No 1/2005 at the

Ministry this morning.

Next, the deputy minister presented first, second and third awards to the winners in the training courses and prizes to outstanding trainees in Central Institutes of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) and (Upper Myanmar).—MNA

Sale promotion of Scorpion C-Plus held

YANGON, 28 Jan—The Sale promotion of Scorpion C-Plus soft drink of Pho La Pyay Co Ltd was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road yesterday evening.

Managing Director U Thura Lwin of the company extended greetings. Next, Managing Director U Thura Lwin and officials presented prizes to outstanding agents.—MNA



MD U Thura Lwin extends greetings at the anniversary of Pho La Pyay Co Ltd.

MNA

CEPA brings positive economic impact to HK

Hong Kong, 28 Jan — Phase two of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) will further propel Hong Kong's economic growth on the back of the success of the scheme's first phase, Hong Kong's Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology John Tsang said here Wednesday.

Tsang said at the Legislative Council that the implementation of CEPA has been smooth. Last year, 1.15 billion Hong Kong dollars (147 million US dollars) of Hong Kong-made products were imported into the Mainland tariff free under CEPA.

Over 660 Hong Kong-registered enterprises have been issued with Hong Kong Service Supplier Certificates. Under CEPA, these enterprises are able to enjoy preferential treatment to enter the Mainland mar-

ket. Some enterprises in sectors like banking, distribution, transport and logistics, have already set up operations on the Mainland, and over 1,000 Hong Kong residents have registered with Guangdong authorities to set up individually-owned stores to provide retail services.

Over five million Mainland visitors came to Hong Kong under the Individual Visit Scheme, which helped to boost tourism-related industries, like restaurants, retail and hotels.

In addition, among the 205 foreign companies assisted by Invest Hong Kong in setting up or expanding operations in Hong Kong, 45 of them, or 22 per cent, have indicated that CEPA was one of the factors considered when making investment. Tsang said the administration is conducting an analysis of the economic impact of CEPA. The study will cover trade in goods, trade in services, and the Individual Visit Scheme. It will be completed within the first quarter. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A Great Gray Owl stares out from its perch in a tree on the outskirts of Ottawa, on 26, Jan 2005.

INTERNET

World leaders in Davos urge more effort on AIDS treatment

Davos (Switzerland), 28 Jan — The United States Government and four international organizations called Wednesday for more effort to treat AIDS.

The call came at the annual gathering of world political and business leaders at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Swiss resort of Davos.

The United States Government, the Swiss-based WEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Global Fund to fight AIDS compiled a joint report on AIDS, noting that although about 700,000 AIDS patients in developing countries were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ARV), a far greater effort is needed.

The number of AIDS patients receiving ARV in poor countries has jumped to 700,000 from 440,000 a year ago, said the report.

The number of people receiving the treatment in Sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the heaviest burden, has increased from 150,000 to 310,000 over

six months. The figures in Asia has doubled to 100,000 since June.

But there are still very real challenges to reach the goal of universal access to treatment, the report said.

"While today's figures are encouraging, the work so far has been laying the groundwork for a much larger expansion in the months and years to come," said Richard Feachem, Executive Director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS.

WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook called on world political and business leaders to make strong commitments and substantial efforts to achieve universal treatment for people living with AIDS.

The WHO and the UNAIDS estimated that at the end of 2004 about six million people were in need of ARV treatment in developing countries. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ISS crew completes spacewalk

Moscow, 28 Jan — Two crew members of the International Space Station (ISS), have successfully completed their spacewalk, the Interfax news agency reported on Wednesday.

Leroy Chiao, the American commander, and Salizhan Sharipov, a Russian, entered the station and closed the hatches of the *Pirs* docking compartment at 4:11 pm Moscow Time (0111GMT) Wednesday.

They worked in space for five and a half hours, installing a multipurpose working platform, a European-made manipulator and other scientific equipment. They also checked the vents and took pictures

of them.

The two men also installed outside the station three containers with mushrooms and bacilli and fulfilled other operations over period of work on the space.

During the spacewalk, flight controllers noticed a repeat of the same mysterious forces that tilted the station on previous astronaut outings. Wednesday's odd, off-centre nudges forced the Russian thrusters to temporarily take over steering

control from the US gyroscopes several times.

It is the first for the tenth main mission crew working in orbit since mid-October. Sharipov and Chiao never worked wearing Russian spacesuits Orlan-M in the open space, according to the report.

One more spacewalk is scheduled for Chiao and Sharipov in March, one month before they return to Earth in a Russian capsule.

MNA/Xinhua

Human genetics clinic develops 18 new lines of embryonic cells

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan — A human genetics clinic said on Thursday it had developed 18 new lines of disease-carrying embryonic stem cells and was offering them to researchers eager to study their potential for treating inherited diseases.

The action could be a small boost for scientists who have been stymied by strict federal limitations on stem-cell research, including a ban on federal funding for development of new lines of embryonic stem cells or for research using new lines.

Although lines of normal stem cells have been previously made available, the new batches are the first of diseased cells to be publicly released, said Dr. Yury Verlinsky, chief executive officer of the Reproductive Genetics Institute. They could be used to study a range of serious inherited human diseases including a form of anemia called thalassemia, Fanconi anemia, and the brain-destroying Huntington disease, he said. The clinic developed the lines in its work screening embryos for couples who are at risk of passing on genetic dis-

eases and wish to have children. Verlinsky's report on the new lines is published in the January issue of *Reproductive BioMedicine Online*. On Thursday he was due to announce the availability of the stem-cell lines and the New York opening of a branch of his multinational clinic, which is headquartered in Chicago.

Scientists wishing to use the cells from Verlinsky's clinic will be charged a nominal fee.

Despite the federal limitations on funding for stem-cell research, which would apply in this case, many scientists are clamouring for embryonic stem cells. They say the cells offer an opportunity to study diseases in ways never done before — practically from the moment of conception.

The diseased lines could be used to test experimental treatments such as gene therapy or

new drugs, Verlinsky told *Reuters* in a telephone interview.

"Because this line can differentiate into different tissues and organs, you can look at how drugs act on the cells — heart, kidney, lung, liver and so on. I foresee this could be a substitute for the study of drugs on animals."

Embryonic stem cells come from days-old embryos before they have begun to differentiate, or form the beginnings of the different tissues and organs in the body. They have the potential to become any kind of cell or tissue, if nourished properly. Scientists want to study them to understand the basic biology of disease and perhaps to use them to grow new organs or tissues for transplants. The hope is to treat or even cure many diseases, from cancer to broken spinal cords.

MNA/Reuters

APEC to hold Symposium on bird flu in July

SINGAPORE, 28 Jan — The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) will organize a "Symposium in Response to Outbreaks of Avian Influenza and Preparedness for a Human Health Emergency" in San Francisco this July.

According to a statement by the Steering Committee of the symposium on Thursday, the seminar will address the impacts and challenges presented by the disease in affected economies from a multi-sector perspective, and recommend to senior officials further measures based on the outcomes of the event.

"We hope the symposium will build support across sectors, including agriculture, health, trade, tourism and finance, for the infrastructure develop-

ment necessary to respond to the disease in affected economies," said Dr Lambert, chairman of the Steering Committee.

Policy makers and sectoral experts from APEC member economies as well as representatives from international bodies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) are expected to participate in the symposium. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ရော်ဘာစိုက်ပျိုးလိုသူများအားဖိတ်ခေါ်ခြင်း

၁။ လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆိုင်ရာဦးစီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့နက်ရှည်ပင်လုပ်ငန်းသည် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ပဲခူးတိုင်း၊ ဧရာဝတီတိုင်းနှင့် ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်ရှိမြို့များတွင် (၂၀၀၅-၂၀၀၆)ခုနှစ်ပစ်မှတ်အတွက်အစီအစဉ်ဖြင့်ရော်ဘာစိုက်ပျိုးရန် ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။

- (က) - ပဲခူးတိုင်း (အရှေ့ခြမ်း) ဧက (၅၀၀၀၀) ခန့်
- (ခ) - ပဲခူးတိုင်း (အနောက်ခြမ်း) ဧက (၁၀၀၀၀) ခန့်
- (ဂ) - ဧရာဝတီတိုင်း ဧက (၅၀၀၀၀) ခန့်
- (င) - ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ် ဧက (၅၀၀၀၀) ခန့်

၂။ ဖော်ပြပါဒေသများတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါရော်ဘာစိုက်ပျိုးလိုသူများအား စိုက်ပျိုးရေးရန်အတွက် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးပါမည်။

- (က) - ဖွဲ့စည်းပေးမည့်
- (ခ) - နိုင်ငံပိုင်စီမံကိန်းရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် သမဝါယမအသင်းများ
- (ဂ) - ဖက်စပ်လုပ်ငန်းနှင့်အခြားအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ
- (ဃ) - ပြည်ပမှရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံမှု ရော်ဘာစိုက်ပျိုးလိုသူများ

၃။ ရော်ဘာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးအတွက် မြန်မာ့နက်ရှည်ပင်လုပ်ငန်းမှ အောက်ပါလုပ်ငန်းများကို ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

- (က) - စိုက်ပျိုးရေးမြေရန်အတွက် ကူညီပံ့ပိုးပေးခြင်း
- (ခ) - နည်းပညာများကူညီပံ့ပိုးပေးခြင်း
- (ဂ) - မျိုးကောင်းမျိုးသန့်ရရှိရန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးခြင်း
- (ဃ) - လိုအပ်သော ပံ့ပိုးပစ္စည်းများရရှိရန် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးခြင်း
- (င) - ကန့်သတ်စနစ်ဖြင့်တာဝန်ယူစိုက်ပျိုးပေးခြင်း

၄။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို သိလိုပါက အောက်ပါရုံးများတွင် နှစ်စဉ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

- (က) - မြန်မာ့နက်ရှည်ပင်လုပ်ငန်း၊ တိုးချဲ့ပညာရေးဌာနခွဲ (ဖိုးချုပ်)၊ သီရိမင်္ဂလာလမ်း၊ သွယ်၊ ကမ္ဘာ့အေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၆၆၆၃၁၆၊ ၆၆၆၃၁၇၊ ၆၆၆၃၁၈
- (ခ) - မြန်မာ့နက်ရှည်ပင်လုပ်ငန်း၊ တိုင်းမန်နေဂျာရုံး၊ ပဲခူးတိုင်း၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၂-၂၂၂၉၉၊ ၀၅၂-၂၄၀၀၉
- (ဂ) - မြန်မာ့နက်ရှည်ပင်လုပ်ငန်း၊ တိုင်းမန်နေဂျာရုံး၊ ဧရာဝတီတိုင်း၊ ပုသိမ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၂-၂၄၂၉၉
- (ဃ) - မြန်မာ့နက်ရှည်ပင်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ပြည်နယ်မန်နေဂျာရုံး၊ ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃-၂၃၃၃၀

လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆိုင်ရာဦးစီးဌာန

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Reg. No. 138/1967
TITONI
Reg. No. 139/1967
in respect of "Watches, parts of watches and accessories of all kinds".
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.
Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.I. for Titoni Ltd. P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 29 January 2005

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in respect of "Transdermal patches for testosterone hormone therapy and for the treatment of pain".
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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.I. for Aliza Corporation P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 29 January, 2005

Belgium is EU's biggest polluter
BRUSSELS, 27 Jan—Belgium is the biggest polluter of all European Union (EU) member states, a report released here Wednesday reveals.

The Flanders' International Radio station quoted figures from the Environment Sustainability Index for 2005 jointly produced by environment centres of Yale and Columbia universities — being presented at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland — indicating that Belgium places 112th out of 146 countries surveyed in the report.

The Index, based on 21 different indicators relating to environmental pollution, death rates and fertility problems, is designed to show how each country will be able to protect the environment in the next 10 years, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV "SITTWE" VOY NO ST 114/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "SITTWE" VOY No ST114/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon Port on 31-1-2005 and will be berthing on about 1-2-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

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UN predicts world economy to grow 3.25% in 2005

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Jan — Global economic growth is expected to experience a growth rate of 3.25 per cent in 2005 following an increase of 4 per cent in 2004, a UN report said on Tuesday.

The report, named "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2005", said the world economy has considerable momentum entering 2005 and most determinants of the short-term prospects remain positive.

According to the report, the high aggregate rate of growth in 2004 in part reflected the fact that the improvement was almost universal: every region except South Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States grew more rapidly in 2004 than in 2003.

In these two exceptional cases, growth slipped from its previous high levels but remained above 6 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

Growth in the developing countries was the fastest for more than two decades, and among the developed countries, performance was more varied, it said, adding that growth was strong in North America, moderate in Japan but weak in Europe.

Equitas says its reserves adequate, has sufficient funds

LONDON, 27 Jan — The Lloyd's Names Association, which represents some former individual investors in Lloyd's — whose liabilities were covered by Equitas — issued a statement suggesting Equitas may have to contribute up to 10 billion US dollars to the proposed US fund.

This sparked a number of media reports that Names could face calls from Equitas for lots more cash to plug the funding gap.

But an Equitas spokesman said: "We believe our reserves are adequate and appropriate. If there is a fair and impartial commission (to decide its contribution to the proposed fund) Equitas expects to have sufficient funds to pay its share."

MNA/Reuters

DONATE BLOOD

World leaders begin 2005 Davos Forum on global issues

Davos (Switzerland), 27 Jan — With more than 2,200 political and business leaders from around the world attending, the five-day World Economic Forum (the Davos Forum) on global issues began Wednesday at this Swiss alpine resort.

Narayana Murthy, one of the six co-chairmen of the forum's annual meeting, told reporters that the forum allows people with different views to exchange ideas freely.

John Thain, another Davos co-chairman and CEO of the New York Stock Exchange, said he hopes that besides learning and exchanging views, delegates can work out a

concrete programme to make the world a better place.

Under the theme of "Taking Responsibility for Tough Choices," participants to this year's forum are to hold more than 200 sessions on global issues.

The co-chairs identified peace, the global economy, world trade, climate change and the Middle East as the toughest issues for this year's meeting. French President Jacques Chirac, who announced his participation at the last minute, is expected to focus in a speech on Wednesday on a proposal to finance sustainable development.

British Prime Minis-

ter Tony Blair will lay out his priorities for the coming year in his capacity as President of the G-8 Group of world's industrialized nations which, the forum organizers said, will focus primarily on climate change. On Thursday, with a group including former US president Bill Clinton and South African President Thabo Mbeki, Blair will discuss relations between the G-8 and Africa.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Victor Yushenko, the newly-elected president of Ukraine, are among the 20-plus heads of state or government chiefs attending the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua



Malawi fishermen prepare boats for fishing in crocodile infested river waters near Namalinde village, southern Malawi in this picture taken in January 2005. Rural Malawians are terrorised by man-eating crocodiles at this time of the year, when the females are hungry after spending several weeks guarding their nests.—Internet

မူ့ညာဏ်း ပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲ ပြုတိုးတက်သော ခိုင်ခံ့တော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



Cows in a snow-covered field. A small-scale lab study by French scientists suggests that slaughterhouse standards for preventing mad-cow disease are sound and that humans have quite a good natural shield against the dangerous bovine prion protein.—INTERNET

EP President says deepening EU-China ties benefits both

BRUSSELS, 27 Jan— Deepening relations between the European Union (EU) and China is in the basic interests of both sides, said European Parliament (EP) President Josep Borrell Fontelles here Wednesday.

When meeting with Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC), Borrell said the EU-China relationship is at its best time, furthering the bilateral ties is also helpful to safeguarding world peace and stability.

Borrell said China has scored remarkable achievements in recent years and it has also played an increasingly important

role in the international arena, for which the international community appreciates very much.

The EP chief also vowed to make efforts in issues like recognizing China's market economy status, so as to push forward the EU-China relations.

Wang said the Chinese Government attached vital importance to its friendly cooperation with the EU, and it is willing to make concerted ef-

orts with the EU institutions including the EP to elevate the China-EU all-around strategic partnership into a higher level.

Prior to the meeting, the EP chief sent his new-year greetings to the Chinese people on the eve of Chinese lunar new year, the Spring Festival.

Wang is expected to meet with European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner on Wednesday evening.—MNA/Xinhua

Study says adult stem cells infusion repairs damaged heart

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan— Bone marrow cells infused to the heart through tiny incisions helped several severe heart failure patients get markedly better, an international team of researchers reported on Tuesday.

While the doctors are not sure just what the cells did, the patients who got the treatment saw their heart function improve to nearly healthy levels.

The study, presented to a meeting in Florida of the Society for Thoracic Surgery, is the latest of a series of different experiments that show so-called adult stem cells seem to be able to help repair a

damaged heart.

Dr Amit Patel of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre and colleagues at the Asociacion Espanola Primera de Socorros Mutuos in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Benetti Foundation in Rosario, Argentina, and Baylor University in Texas worked on 30 volunteers.

All had severe congestive

heart failure, a chronic condition in which the failing heart progressively pumps less and less blood. Patients feel breathless and tired, and the only cure for the worst cases is a heart transplant.

The patients got either their own bone marrow cells, or a sham treatment. Patel's team filtered out the stem cells, which have the power to generate

blood, heart muscle and other cells.

All the patients have severe heart failure, meaning they had an ejection fraction of less than 35 per cent — indicating very poor pumping action by the heart.

Fifteen of the patients were given infusions of their own stem cells, using four little incisions in the chest.—MNA/Reuters

Europe's food, drink industry to help fight obesity

BRUSSELS, 27 Jan— Europe's food and drink industry will soon sit down with consumers, health workers and EU regulators to agree ways to tackle a rising trend of obesity, particularly in children, the EU's executive said on Tuesday.

A think-tank including members of the EU's agri-food industry will be set up in March to encourage companies to set their own targets to help fight obesity.

This would "cover issues like education, composition of foods, portion size, labelling, advertising and how to promote physical exercise", said Robert Madelin, director-general of the European Commission's health and consumer protection department.

"As calorie intake rises and physical activity diminishes, obesity becomes a growing challenge. European society is no longer in denial

about this problem," Madelin told a two-day obesity conference organized by Agra Europe in Brussels.

According to International Obesity Task Force (IOTF), the prevalence of obesity has risen by 10 to 40 per cent in the majority of European countries in the past 10 years. The rise of obesity in children is particularly alarming, it says.

"It (obesity) took off in the 1980s and looks as if it was accelerating in the last five to 10 years," IOTF Chairman Philip James told the conference. "It's beginning to look as if we have an exponential rise."—MNA/Reuters

Nigeria's telephone subscribers reach 10 million

LAGOS, 27 Jan— Nigeria's telephone subscribers have hit an all time high of 10 million, a huge improvement from the 400,000 lines deployed by all telecom operators in 1999, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) was quoted as saying Tuesday.

Nigeria's tele-density, the number of phones per 100 persons, has equally increased from four phone lines per 1,000 persons about five years ago, to 65 phone lines per 1,000 persons, an indication that more citizens in the West African country now have

access to telephones, according to the *ThisDay* daily.

NCC Executive Vice-Chairman Ernest Ndukwe reportedly attributed the development to an "exponential growth" to "keen competition among players, a good investment and

regulatory environment."

However, he noted, competition amongst service providers striving to maintain market shares led to improper practices by the contending organizations.

"In recent times, there have been a deluge of com-

plaints from various licensees as a result of operators disconnecting each other from their networks," he said.

"These cases may become candidates for litigation between some operators either now or in the near future."—MNA/Xinhua

"ISS" crew floats out of a hatch to begin spacewalk plan

MELBOURNE (Florida), 27 Jan—The crew aboard the International Space Station slipped into spacesuits and floated out a hatch early on Wednesday to begin a planned 5 1/2-hour spacewalk, the first since the men arrived at the outpost three months ago.

Wearing Russian pressurized spacesuits, NASA astronaut Leroy Chiao and cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov opened the hatch on the station's *Pirs* docking module at 2:43 am/0743 GMT as the outpost soared over the southern Atlantic Ocean.

"Leroy, careful there," flight directors at the Russian Mission Control Centre outside Moscow radi-

oed to the crew in Russian as they prepared to open the hatch to leave the station.

"Just pull on it and that's it," the flight director said.

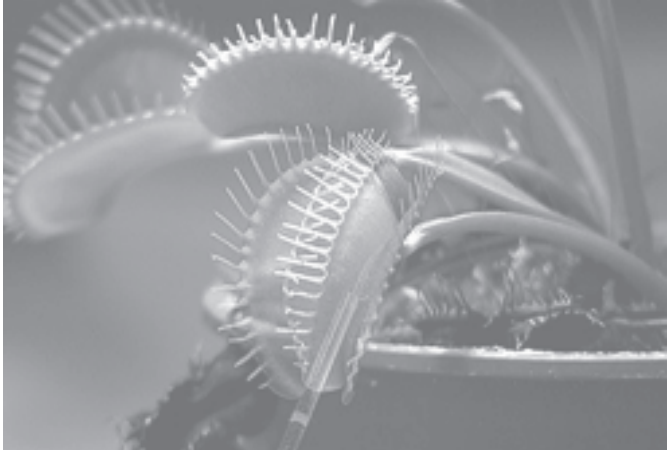
The spacewalk was broadcast on NASA Television, with commentary from mission control in Houston and English translation through the Russian mission control in Korolev.

Chiao, who has made four spacewalks during previous missions, and Sharipov, on his debut outing, gathered the last of their tools and two bundles of equipment and slipped into the vacuum of space.

"Hello space, my old friend," Chiao said.

"It's so cold and beautiful," added Sharipov.

MNA/Reuters



This picture, courtesy of Forterre and Mahadevan shows the open and closed leaves of the Venus flytrap. The glass needle in the foreground was used to trigger the closure.—INTERNET

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Nakata flies out of Tokyo to join Marseille

TOKYO, 28 Jan — Japan midfielder Koji Nakata flew out of Tokyo on Thursday to join French club Olympique Marseille, subject to a medical.

His move had been in jeopardy after J-League club Kashima Antlers insisted he stay but further talks between the player and Antlers chairman Hiroshi Ushijima broke the deadlock.

The 25-year-old would link up with former Japan coach Philippe Troussier at Marseille upon passing his medical in a deal that will keep him in France until 2007.

Nakata had a successful trial with Marseille recently but last week Kashima rejected an initial bid from the French club.

"In the end, the chairman wished me all the best," said Nakata after leaving Japan's training camp ahead of their World Cup qualifier at home to North Korea on February 9.

"The terms of the contract are very fair and I want to repay those expectations."

Nakata will make around 485,000 US dollars a year, similar to his salary at Kashima.

MNA/Reuters

Anelka to sign for Turkey's Fenerbahce

LONDON, 28 Jan — Manchester City's Nicolas Anelka is poised to sign for Turkey's Fenerbahce after the clubs agreed a fee for the French striker on Thursday.

"Manchester City and Fenerbahce have agreed a fee for the transfer of Nicolas Anelka," City said on their web site.

"The club will make no further comment until the transfer is complete."

Anelka, who joined City in July 2002 from Paris St. Germain for 10 million pounds (18.77 million US dollars), has been sidelined since January 1 with a back and groin problem.

The temperamental 25-year-old is discussing personal terms with Fenerbahce, who lead the Turkish First Division by four points.

MNA/Reuters

Portsmouth set to sign Dynamo striker Bulykin

EASTLEIGH (England), 28 Jan — Portsmouth are set to sign Dynamo Moscow striker Dmitri Bulykin pending a work permit.

The Premier League club are also close to finalizing the signing of Panathinaikos goalkeeper Kostas Chalkias.

Dynamo Moscow general director Yuri Zavarzin told Reuters the two clubs had agreed a fee for Bulykin of one million euros (1.30 million US dollars). But a report in the *Portsmouth Evening News* said Bulykin had signed for 1.2 million pounds (2.25 million US dollars), pending a work permit. It added the deal was unlikely to go through in time for Saturday's FA Cup fourth round clash away to south coast rivals Southampton.

Acting first team coach Joe Jordan refused to name names on Thursday, but told reporters at the club's training ground: "In one case there is a work permit

and that is very tight, it doesn't happen overnight, and another is involved in a medical which is straightforward but it does take time. "Until they are completed or eventually sorted out it is all possibilities.

Whether they will be in for Saturday is in other people's hands." With the end of January's transfer window fast approaching, Portsmouth manager Velimir Zajec has raided

old club Panathinaikos to bring in Chalkias, who was number two to Antonis Nikopolidis in Greece's Euro 2004 triumph.

Russian international Bulykin, 25, should boost a forward line which has struggled to score in recent weeks while their options could be further depleted if Jamaican striker Ricardo Fuller follows former manager Harry Redknapp to Southampton.

MNA/Reuters

Uruguayan forward signs deal with Atletico Madrid

MADRID, 28 Jan — Uruguayan forward Richard Nunez signed a one and a half-year deal with Atletico Madrid after successfully passing a medical. The 28-year-old, who has been capped for his country, was released from his contract with

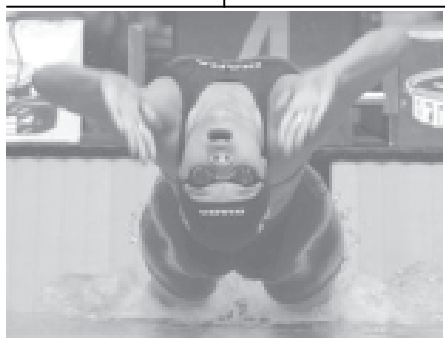
Swiss side Grasshoppers. Atletico coach Cesar Ferrando said he was delighted with his new recruit.

"He's got pace, a good shot and is very good at taking free kicks," he told a news conference. "All the reports I have about him are very good. He can play on the left and just behind the front man and scores quite a lot of goals.

Nunez is the second player to join Atletico during the January transfer window. Denmark winger Jesper Gronkjaer moved to the Primera Liga side from Birmingham City for a reported fee of 2 million euros (2.60 million US dollars) last month.

Atletico are 11th in the standings, six points above the relegation zone.

MNA/Reuters



Katerina Zubkova starts to swim her women's 100 metre backstroke race at the short-course World Cup Swimming in Moscow, on 27 Jan, 2005.

Zubkova won the race. —INTERNET

Real Betis Salvage 2-2 draw with Gamenet in King's Cup

MADRID, 28 Jan — Midfielder Marcos Assuncao spared Real Betis's blushes when he scored a trademark free kick to earn his side a 2-2 draw away to third division Gamenet in a King's Cup quarterfinal first leg match on Thursday.

The Brazilian curled a perfectly struck shot round the wall and inside the far post 15 minutes from time to give the Primera Liga side a slim advantage ahead of next week's return leg.

In the week's other quarterfinal ties city rivals Sevilla took a step towards the semis with a 2-1 victory at home to Osasuna on Wednesday, while 23-time Cup winners Athletic Bilbao came from a goal down to win 3-2 at home to second division Valladolid on Tuesday.

Wednesday's tie between Primera Liga basement side Numancia

and Atletico Madrid was postponed after sub-zero temperatures made the pitch in Soria unplayable. The game has been rescheduled for February 2.

Visitors Betis put Gamenet under heavy pressure in the opening minutes at Santa Coloma and striker Fernando gave them the lead in the 16th minute after two sharp through passes from Brazilian midfielders Marcos Assuncao and Edu.

Gamenet keeper Antonio Morales did well to get his hand to the shot but it was not enough to prevent the ball spinning

past him and creeping across the line.

However, the third division side, who disposed of Barcelona and Levante in previous rounds, remained unintimidated by their opponents and played some slick passing football on their artificial pitch.

It was a stroke of luck, though, that helped put the Catalans back in the match midway through the half.

Betis defender Juanito lobbed the ball over keeper Pedro Contreras and into his own net after he tried to clear a harmless header in the area.

MNA/Reuters

Serena beats Sharapova reaches Australian Open final

MELBOURNE, 28 Jan — Former champion Serena Williams clawed her way back from the brink to beat fourth seed Maria Sharapova 2-6, 7-5, 8-6 on Thursday, avenging her Wimbledon defeat and reaching the Australian Open final.

Sharapova, who beat the former world number one in last year's Wimbledon final, served for the match in the second and third sets of a tense semifinal.

Williams, the 2003 champion, broke the 17-year-old Russian both times, desperately saving three match points on Sharapova's serve in the 10th game of the third set.

Seventh seed Williams broke Sharapova in the final game with a backhand winner after two hours and 39 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

Williams jumped and screamed with joy after another remarkable Melbourne comeback. She saved two match points in her semifinal against Belgian Kim Clijsters in 2003, battling back from 1-5 down in the third set to win.

"I've had a lot of great wins on this court, two times in a row I've been down match point to win. This is such a special court for me," said Williams, who was unable to defend her 2003 title because of injury.

"I'm just so excited to be through to another final, it's been such a tough 12 months," she said.

American Williams, who secured the last of her six Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon in 2003, will play world number one Lindsay Davenport or 19th seed Nathalie Dechy of France in the final.

Williams got off to a nervous and



Seventh seed Serena Williams.

INTERNET

uncertain start, meekly surrendering her second and third service games to gift the Russian an early 4-1 lead. Sharapova in contrast served strongly, slamming three aces past Williams in the first set.

Williams dug in in the second set against a hard-charging Sharapova, who broke her in the ninth game with a brilliant running crosscourt backhand after Williams failed to put away an easy forehand.

Sharapova served for the match in the next game but Williams hit back to break Sharapova for the first time in the match when the Russian double faulted on break point.

Williams was able to break again two games later and claim the set when Sharapova pushed another forehand wide.

Sharapova and Williams then traded service breaks in the opening two games of the third set.



Fourth seed Maria Sharapova of Russia —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

New Zealand plans to open showcase centre for HK

WELLINGTON (New Zealand), 28 Jan— New Zealand plans to open a retail, trade and education centre in Hong Kong as part of the country's drive to expand trading opportunities with the Chinese territory and the Mainland, an official said Thursday. The government-funded agency New Zealand Trade and Enterprise plans to open the centre in Hong Kong's Causeway Bay later this year, Trade Negotiations Minister Jim Sutton said.— MNA/AP



A Chinese consumer selects a rooster decoration in China's capital Beijing on 27 Jan, 2005. China will usher in the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rooster, on 9 Feb, 2005. — INTERNET

Chirac, Blair call for more assistance for developing countries

DAVOS (Switzerland), 28 Jan— French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday called for more assistance for developing countries at the annual World Economic Forum held here.

"The world suffers chronically from what has been strikingly called the silent tsunamis" — famine, infectious diseases that decimate the life force of entire continents, said Chirac in a speech delivered by video link from Paris.

He said natural disasters, political unrest, uncontrolled migration and extremism have bred grounds for terrorism and the developed countries should help the developing to solve them.

He called for the United Nations to make decisions on implementing the Millennium Development Goals on reducing global poverty and dis-

ease. Meanwhile, Blair said he would focus on poverty alleviation and climate change during Britain's presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8) industrial countries this year.

Britain wants the developed countries to set a timetable for aid to developing countries, calling all the countries to be "united — in moving in the direction of greenhouse gas reductions". The forum, opened here Wednesday, attracted more than 2,000 political and business leaders from all over the world for discussions on global problems and opportunities.

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish PM starts official visit to Chile

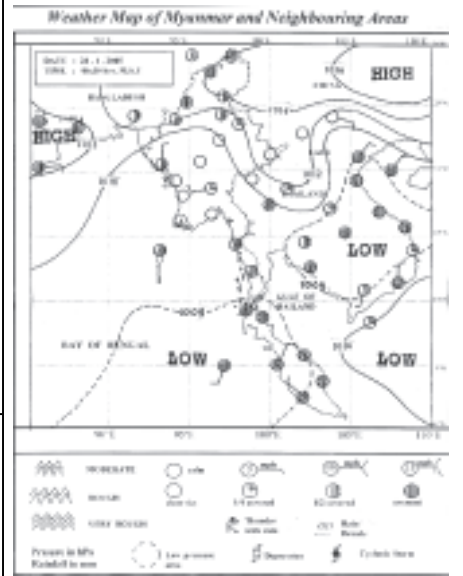
SANTIAGO, 28 Jan — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Rodriguez Zapatero arrived here Wednesday for an official visit to Chile, the last leg of his three-nation Latin American tour.

Zapatero was received by Chilean President Ricardo Lagos at the airport and the two leaders held a private meeting over economic cooperation following a formal ceremony.

During Zapatero's visit, the two leaders are also expected to discuss the issues of poverty alleviation, the United Nations reform, democracy, terrorism and national security.

Zapatero will also meet leaders of both Houses of Parliament.

This is Zapatero's first Latin American tour since he took office last April. He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos and Industry Minister Jose Montilla. The Prime Minister has visited Brazil and Argentina. —MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 28 January, 2005
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Taninthayi Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Shan State and Yangon Division, (4°C) above normal in Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (4°C), Heho, Lashio, Pinlaung and PyinOoLwin (5°C) each and Mogok (6°C).
Maximum temperature on 27-1-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 28-1-2005 was 54°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 27-1-2005 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 28-1-2005 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 8 mph from Southeast at (18:30) hours MST on 27-1-2005.
Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in North and West Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 29-1-2005: Isolated lighth rain are possible in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated lighth rain are possible in Northern Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-1-2005: Generally fair weather.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-1-2005: Generally fair weather.
Weather outlook for last weekend area for January 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

TV Myanmar logo and a list of TV programs for Saturday, 29 January, including recitation of Parittas, children's games, and various musical and news programs.

A list of radio programs for Saturday, 29 January, including children's games, news, and various musical and educational programs.

Radio Myanmar logo and a list of radio programs for Saturday, 29 January, including brief news, music, and various news and cultural programs.

Senior General Than Shwe hosts dinner to trainees of University for Development of National Races

YANGON, 28 Jan— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe hosted a dinner to trainees of BEd Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races at the Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road at 6.30 pm today.

After arriving at the venue at 6.25 pm, Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted the trainees who were present on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Com-



Senior General Than Shwe cordially converses with trainees of BEd Course No 36 of UDNR at the dinner.— MNA

mander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attor-

ney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, members of CSSTB, members of the work committee for

supervision of excursion trip of the trainees, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, guests, the rector of the university,

supervisor teachers and trainees. Before and during the dinner, vocalists entertained those present to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern

Music Troupe.

After the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department entertained those present with variety dances.

MNA

INSIDE

The government embodied the preliminary oral health plan in the National Health Plan for the improvement of public oral health. The plan was put into practice starting from 1991. The plan has so far covered 87 townships.

(Page 2)

PERSPECTIVE

The fruits of success the nation is enjoying at present are the results of harmonious efforts of the people and the Government. There are many more nation-building tasks still left to be implemented by the Government and the people in harmony and unison, while playing their respective roles.

(Page 7)

MOE HTET MYINT

Minister inspects road, bridge construction in Kayin State

YANGON, 28 Jan— Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials of Public Works, on 26 January morning inspected measures being taken for upgrading the road passing Bilin Township, Thaton Township and Paung Township.

Yesterday morning, the minister left Mawlamyine for Hpa-an through Kyawkyaik-Kawparan road and inspected tarring of the road between milepost No 6/0 and milepost No 7/0. He gave instructions to officials on meeting the set standard in using gravel and minimizing loss and wastage of tar.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and party inspected the road section between Hpa-an and milepost No 2/6 of Paingyan road and stressed the need for officials to take systematic steps in upgrading the road.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the Kayin State Superintending Engineer's

Office where he heard a report presented by Hpa-an District Senior Engineer U Tin Aung on acquisition of funds at Hpa-an-Naunglon-Gyaing road section and Eindu-Zathabyin road section, progress of work in road construction and Kayin State Superintending Engineer U Ohn Han on other salient points.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the work, meeting the set standard in using gravel and making close supervision and fulfilled the requirements.

This morning, the minister and party inspected driving of bores on either side of Mawlamyine bank of Thanlwin Bridge and Mottama bank and gave instructions on sooner completion of the work.

MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun oversees driving of MR 40 bored pile for the railroad of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on Mawlamyine Bank.— CONSTRUCTION