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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

**Cooperation with ICRC and IFRC should not be centered on acquiring financial assistance
Assessment to be made in order not to tarnish
national prestige and character**

YANGON, 29 Jan—The opening of the 8th Conference of the Myanmar Red Cross Society took place at the Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning, with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, officials, departmental heads, members of the MRCS Central Council and executives, resident representatives of UN agencies and local and foreign NGOs, leader of delegation of the International Committee of Red Cross Mr Patrick Vial and members, leader of delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society Mr Joanna Maclean and members, presidents of state/division RC Supervisory Committees and members, and distinguished guests.

The Secretary-1 in his address said that the MRCS established in 1920 has a fine tradition, and it is heartening to learn that the association standing as a social organization has been constantly shouldering humanitarian tasks in successive eras in the interests of the nation and the people.

That is why the government is providing encouragement and assistance in various sectors for enabling the association to stand as a national force and to play an active role in the national development drive. Furthermore, after designating the association as a reserve force that contributes towards restoration of peace and stability, the government again has assigned lofty duties to it in building and upgrading the nation, he added.

The Red Cross services were introduced first in the western nations, but at that time humanitarian tasks and community welfare services had already been in existence in Myanmar. Now, the Red Cross

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses opening of the 8th Conference of MRCS.—MNA

Kyaukpyu District holds ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention

YANGON, 29 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention was held at the sports ground in Zinchaung Village, Kyaukpyu Township, Kyaukpyu District, Rakhine State, on 27 January morning.

Secretary of Kyaukpyu District Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aung Tin Thein presided over the meeting together with Chairman of Kyaukpyu Township War Veterans Organization U Lay Myint, Dr Khin Hnin Hset of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Daw Theingi Mon of Township Organization for Women's Affairs and Townselder U Aung Soe Tun.

Daw Khin Khin Myat and Daw Mya Nwe of Kyaukpyu Township USDA acted as MC and co-MC.

About 1,000 participants including district and township authorities, departmental personnel, members of USDA, MCWA, MWWF, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people marched in Kyaukpyu, Yanbye, Manaung and An township columns and took positions.

They saluted the State Flag. Next, Chairman U Aung Tin Thein gave an opening speech. Afterwards, Kyaukpyu Township USDA Executive Dr Khin Soe and An Township USDA Executive U Ko

Ko Thet tabled motions calling for the hailing of the Union Day and for the support of the National Convention. Next, Manaung Township USDA Executive U Khin Maung Shwe submitted reports on development of rural areas in Kyaukpyu District and the plans to be carried out.

Afterwards, Yanbye Township USDA Executive Daw San San Win seconded the motions and reports. Next, the meeting adopted resolutions.

Students of Kyaukpyu BEHS No 2 sang the songs titled "Eternal Union" and "the Land of Myanmar" before the end the ceremony.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 30 January, 2005

Safeguard the sovereignty with Union Spirit and stand by nationalism

In the Union of Myanmar, Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — has been adopted as an immutable national policy.

All the national races have come together to create a modern and developed nation which is free from the colonial clout as the government is implementing national policies and objectives relevant to the historical background and prevailing conditions of the country.

State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe received the trainees of BEd Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races at Mingala Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, Yangon, on 28 January this year.

In his guidance given at the ceremony, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said: "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".

All the national people should engrave in their heart as national concern the patriotic fervour, the sine qua non for permanent sovereignty of the country, so they will be able to preserve it and hand it down to posterity.

The government restored stability, ensured the enforcement of law and order, and undertook national development tasks by conducting analytical approaches to the prevailing conditions after building national solidarity.

It is crystal clear that the combined efforts between the government and people resulted in bouncing development in all the spheres. It is therefore necessary to treasure the tranquillity and prosperity already in place and to keep them in tact so that the Union of Myanmar will always be able to stand as a sovereign nation.

Continued efforts are to be made to produce well-rounded individuals nationwide as a prime source of human resources to ensure that progress and peace, which is a product of the endeavours the leadership of government and the leaders of national races made, are left in good hands.

All in all, the entire national people should inspire themselves with Union Spirit to maintain and protect the independence and sovereignty of the country while keeping the right track of nationalism.

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

Industry-1 Minister meets with employees of Bilin Sugar Mill

YANGON, 29 Jan — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, accompanied by Managing Director U Soe Hlaing of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries and officials, met with officials of Bilin Sugar Mill in Bilin yesterday morning.



Minister U Aung Thuang inspects Bilin Sugar Mill. — INDUSTRY-1

Managing Director U Soe Hlaing reported on crushing of sugarcane, monthly production of sugar, purchase of sugarcane, production of molasses and quality of sugarcane and sugar.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions that it is necessary to enhance production capability from

now on. Arrangements are to be made for purchase of sugarcane and transport matters in time. Thus, all the employees

are to try their best for carrying out tasks with goodwill.

The minister viewed round production pro-

cess of the mill. At Bilin Industry-used Spirit Plant and inspected completion of building the warehouses.— MNA

USDA Central Level Extempore Talks Contest held



A contestant takes part in extempore talks to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.— MNA

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Work Committee for Organizing the Literary and Photo Contests in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day organized the USDA Central Level Extempore Talks Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day at the USDA Headquarters on University Avenue, here, this morning.

Among 17 contestants of States and Division, Maung Myat Thura of Bago Division (East) won the first prize, Maung Kaung Myat Soe of Ayeyawady Division, second and Ma Mya Thazin Aung of Taninthayi Division, third.

USDA CEC members Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa presented prizes to the winners.

CEC members Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein awarded gifts to members of the panel of judges through leader Prof Dr Kyaw Win of History Department of Yangon University.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Organizing Committee Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, members of the panel of judges and officials.

MNA

UDNR trainees continue excursion in Yangon

YANGON, 29 Jan — The trainees of the BEd Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races, accompanied by Director-General of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Rector Col Zaw Min Thein, Pro-rector Daw Khin Si Si and officials, visited Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit in Hmawby Township this morning.

Commandant of Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit Lt-Col Chit Swe extended greetings and explained the broadcasting programmes.

Afterwards, the trainees proceeded to Central Institute of Civil Service in Hlegu Township. At Ohndaw Hall of CICS, Rector Col Win Maung explained the salient points of the institute with the

use of video tapes.

On arrival at Ngamoeyeik Dam, Director U Kyaw Thein of the Irrigation Department explained area of the dam and benefited acres. Next, they observed the dam by car.

In the evening, they visited No 1 Livestock Breeding Farm of Yangon Command in Insein Township.

Afterwards, they paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township.

Next, the trainees donated cash for the Buddha Image and a trainee expressed thanks on behalf of the trainees.

MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရရွာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။
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Chinese experts wind up tour of Sri Lanka, Maldives

COLOMBO, 28 Jan — A team of 11 Chinese experts on assessment and reconstruction ended their tour of Sri Lanka and the Maldives on Thursday.

During their stay in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, the team met with senior officials of the two countries for talks on reconstruction involving a damaged port in Sri Lanka and tsunami-hit houses in the Maldives which China is likely to aid to construct, said an official with the team.

They have also assessed the damages

of the two countries objectively and got more knowledge on how to provide concrete help to the countries, the official said.

The task force is composed of specialists from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Construction, and Ministry of Civil Affairs.

MNA/Xinhua

China tightens control over assisted reproductive technologies

BEIJING, 28 Jan — China's Ministry of Health issued a circular Thursday calling for health departments and supervising bodies to exert more control over assisted reproductive technology and sperm banks.

The circular also called for strict punishment for practicing assisted reproductive technology and setting up sperm banks without the ministry's approval.

Those medical institutions that have been approved by the government will also be punished if found violating the technical standards and ethical principles or overstepping their operational ranges.

The ministry has

recently assessed more than 70 medical institutions in 23 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

The sperm bank in the affiliated hospital of the family planning institute of Chongqing municipality, southwest China, has been suspended to operate because of malpractice.

By the end of December 2004, the ministry had approved 37 medical institutions to

practice assisted reproductive technology, five to set up sperm banks.

MNA/Xinhua

Female folk dancers from the Indian eastern state of Orissa perform 'Goti-Kua,' a traditional dance, during the annual Republic Day celebrations in the central Indian city of Bhopal, recently.

INTERNET



Cold conditions continue unabated in northern India

NEW DELHI, 28 Jan — Intense cold wave conditions continued unabated Thursday in the northern region of India with mercury plummeting at many places and the weatherman predicting heavy snowfall in the hills and thunder squall accompanied by rain in the plains.

Temperatures plunged by one to four degrees below normal at most places in the plains of Punjab and Haryana and hills of Himachal Pradesh and

Jammu and Kashmir.

In Delhi, the mercury dipped to 5.5 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal. The maximum temperature also drooped by

two degrees at 20.3. Foggy conditions continued to affect rail traffic.

Srinagar with a low of minus 0.8 degree Celsius was the coldest place in the north, the weather office said. Himachal groaning under bone-chilling conditions witnessed minimum temperatures hovering around freezing point in the mid and higher hills. Mashobra recorded a low of one degree Celsius while at Shimla the minimum was 2.4 degrees with strong icy winds compounding the woes of the people.

High altitude areas of Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and

Pangi reeled under avalanche threat following heavy snowfall for the past few days, disrupting normal life. Chandigarh had a low of 7 degree Celsius, one degree below normal. However, the residents of the city witnessed bright sunshine in the afternoon giving little respite from the chilly conditions.

The weather office has warned of heavy rain or snow at isolated places in Himachal Pradesh and thunder squall with wind speed exceeding 45 kilometres per hour at several places in Haryana and Punjab during the next two days. — MNA/PTI

Hefty investment set aside to clean up pollution in Hunan

CHANGSHA, 28 Jan — Central China's Hunan Province will spend 6.52 billion yuan (785 million US dollars) to clean up pollution in the water and air in the next three years.

With the investment, air quality and ground surface water in all cities of Hunan will be fundamentally improved by the Year 2007, said Jiang Yimin, director of Hunan Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau.

MNA/Xinhua

Truck bomb attack kills at least 15 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan — At least 15 people were killed and 30 wounded in a truck bomb attack on Wednesday outside the headquarters of a major Kurdish political party in the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar, local Iraqi officials sources said.

The blast occurred at about 2:30 pm (1130 GMT) at the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Headquarters in Sinjar, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, said the sources.

The KDP is one of the two major Kurdish groups

in Iraq, which strongly support the holding of Sunday's elections on schedule.

Iraqi Kurds are mostly Sunnis, roughly accounting for a fifth of the population. They have fought for self-rule for decades.

The KDP and the other major Kurdish group, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, are fighting together to try to consolidate Kurdish autonomy within a federal Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

1,423 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan — As of Friday, 28 Jan, 2005, at least 1,423 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 1,087 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 12 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

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.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,285 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 978 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- Three soldiers were killed Friday when an explosive hit their patrol in western Baghdad, Iraq.
- A soldier was killed Friday by an explosive in southern Baghdad, Iraq.
- A soldier was killed Friday by small arms fire in northern Baghdad, Iraq.

Internet

A worker adjusts to a Sanyo sign at the 2005 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada earlier this month. The Japanese company has asked its employees to buy its own products in a drive to narrow its losses on 29 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET



China to see another favourable foreign trade balance in 2005

BELING, 28 Jan— Despite possible slower global economic growth in 2005, China's foreign trade will continue to grow with an estimated favourable balance of 15 billion US dollars, said a Chinese economist here Wednesday.

However, the foreign trade surplus in 2005 may be less than that in 2004. The possibility of trade deficits continues to exist for certain months, said Zhang Yansheng, an economist with the think-tank of the State Development and Reform Commission.

According to Zhang's estimates, China's export volume is expected to break the 700 billion US dollars, marking an increase rate of 20 per cent. The import volume, rising at a rate of 23 per cent, will reach 685 billion US dollars.

The price declines of global energy products is a major factor contributing to China's possible foreign trade surplus in 2005, said Zhang.

Compared with soaring oil products in 2004, there are less possibilities

to see sharp rise of oil product prices in 2005, said Zhang.

According to his estimates, the price may drop from an average of 39 US dollars per barrel to 36 US dollars per barrel in 2005.

"It will be a piece of good news for China's oil product users, who has witnessed an import volume of 120 million tons of crude oil in 2004 and is expected to see more this year," said Zhang.

In 2005, more textiles and clothes, top favourable foreign trade balance products of China, will be exported due to the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), said Zhang. The changing trend of the exchange rate of the US dollar is another important factor affecting China's foreign trade vol-

ume in 2005, said Zhang.

As more efforts are expected to be made by the US Government to increase the interest rate of the US dollars in 2005, more international capital will be drawn to the US. As a result, other countries including China will see less foreign direct investment, which is another factor affecting China's foreign trade volume.

China's stable financial and monetary policies in 2005 might hinder the increase of import volume, Zhang said. But he held China's economy will continue the strong growth, at around 8.5 per cent in 2005. The booming economy guarantees strong demands for imported raw materials such as energy and resources products.—MNA/Xinhua



A woman speaks on her cell phone as she passes by NTT DoCoMo mobile phone shop in downtown Tokyo on 28 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

S Korea appoints new Education Minister

SEOUL, 28 Jan— Former South Korean vice-prime minister and minister of Finance and Economy Kim Jin-pyo was appointed by President Roh Moo-hyun as new Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Human Resources on Thursday.

Fifty-eight-year-old Kim was a career public official in the economic sector. "As an economic expert, Kim has long tried to explore ways of enhancing the country's international competitiveness through market and education reform," Kim Wan-key, presidential

secretary for personnel management, said in a Press release of the Presidential Office.

Kim Jin-pyo is expected to effectively handle a range of pending issues including the reform of colleges, added Kim Wan-key.

Kim Jin-pyo, a legis-

lator of the ruling Uri Party, once served as the finance and economy minister in Roh Moo-hyun's administration from early 2003 to early 2004. Then, Kim quit from the post to run for legislatorship in the National Assembly election.

MNA/Xinhua

Trains crash kills at least 11 in US

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan— At least 11 people were killed and nearly 200 injured on Wednesday when two Los Angeles commuter trains collided after one struck an automobile left on the tracks in what authorities called an aborted suicide attempt by a "deranged" man.

Police and fire officials said the man slashed his wrists and stabbed himself in the chest shortly before parking his Jeep Cherokee on the tracks. But he jumped clear at the last moment and watched as the two high-speed trains smashed together and derailed in a fiery wreck. The man was identified by police as Juan Manuel Alvarez, 25. He was found wandering the scene after the predawn accident, muttering: "I'm sorry, I'm sorry," according to a local television report. Police said the man, who was uninjured in the crash, was arrested and would be charged with at least 10 counts of murder. Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said decisions about charging the suspect would be made by Friday.

Glendale Police Chief Randy Adams

said Alvarez admitted parking on the tracks with the intention of killing himself, but apparently changed his mind and fled as one of the commuter trains bore down on his Jeep. "He was very distraught and upset and realized that he caused a major disaster," Adams told a news conference.

The commuter trains also struck a parked freight train, sparking a brief fire. The collision occurred just after 6 a.m., near a shopping strip at the edge of an industrial area near Glendale, north of downtown Los Angeles. About 125 people hurt in the train wreck were hospitalized, and 60 others were treated for minor injuries and released, fire officials said. Ten people initially reported dead included a sheriff's deputy and a train conductor.—MNA/Reuters

Japan's 2004 jobless rate dropped to 4.7%

TOKYO, 28 Jan— Japan's unemployment rate in 2004 dropped 0.6 percentage point from the year before to 4.7 per cent, edging down for the second consecutive year, a government report said on Friday.

The country's jobless rate in December stood at a six-year low of 4.4 per cent, contributing much to the lower annual data, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The number of jobless people in December was 2.7 million, down 300,000 from the year earlier.

In a separate report, the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry said ratio

of job offers to job seekers amounted to 0.94 in December, up 0.02 point from November.

The indicator means that there were 94 jobs available for 100 job hunters. In December, the unemployment rate for men came to 4.6 per cent, down 0.1 point from the previous month, and that for women was 4.2 per cent, down 0.1 point.

MNA/Xinhua

US stocks slide as Iraq, Merck weigh

NEW YORK, 29 Jan— US stocks fell on Friday, weighed down by a sharp fall in Merck & Co Inc on concerns about a key drug, weaker-than-expected economic growth.

Dow component Merck tumbled 10.5 per cent to \$27.91, as it said a

federal judge ruled that its second-biggest product, the osteoporosis drug Fosamax, will lose its US patent protection by early 2008 — 10 years earlier than expected.

In addition, US securities regulators upgraded their probe of the company's handling of its withdrawn arthritis drug Vioxx.

Household products company Procter & Gamble Co. also hurt the Dow, sliding 2.3 per cent to

\$53.05 after announcing a \$57 billion stock deal to buy Gillette Co Shares of Gillette rose 12.7 per cent to \$51.50. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 72.12 points, or 0.69 per cent, at 10,395.28.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 7.07 points, or 0.60 per cent, at 1,167.48.

The Nasdaq Composite Index was down 18.90 points, or 0.92 per cent, at 2,028.25.

The Nasdaq was look-

ing set to close lower for the week as a whole — which would mark its fourth consecutive weekly drop.

Data showing weaker-than-expected economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2004 dampened stocks.

A government report showed the US economy grew at a 3.1 per cent annual clip — its slowest since the beginning of 2003.

Internet



A Vietnamese vendor displays Spring Festival decorations on a street in Hanoi, Vietnam on 28 Jan, 2005. Vietnamese people are preparing to celebrate the most important festival of the year, the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rooster, from 8-12 February.—INTERNET

UN calls for multilateral anti-terrorism cooperation

ALMA-ATA, (Kazakhstan), 28 Jan— A UN anti-terrorism meeting was held here on Wednesday, focusing on strengthening cross-border cooperation to fight terrorism.

At the two-day meeting of the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), over 70 representatives from international and regional organizations will also discuss how to intercept funds for terrorists and to guarantee the security of the international transport.

At the opening ceremony, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said terrorism has posed a global threat to international security.

Nazarbayev pointed out that the United Nations (UN) has played an important role in international anti-terrorism campaign, and only the UN can form a most wide-ranging and effective anti-terrorism alliance.

Nazarbayev also expressed support for the UN's proposal to establish a regional security and cooperation mechanism in order to prevent international and national conflicts.

Those regional mechanism should include the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Coopera-

tion Organization and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, he added.

Also at the opening ceremony, CTC Chairman Andrey Denisov said the CTC will strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations because they have accumulated rich experience in fighting terrorism.

Denisov said the CTC was evaluating those countries who need help in the field of anti-terrorism campaign so that the CTC can offer practical aid to them.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Rushailo, top official of the Commonwealth of Independent States, said many CIS countries are now on the frontier of the anti-terrorism campaign.

Rushailo said the CIS was eager to fight terrorism, but called on the Western partners to avoid "double standards."

He also announced that the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre will hold joint military exercises in August in Kazakhstan.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in flight near the Iraqi-Syrian border on 29 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Large amount of heroin seized in Turkey

ANKARA, 28 Jan— Turkish police seized 247.5 kilos of heroin in two operations, semi-official *Anatolia News Agency* reported Thursday. Acting on a tip, police tried to stop drug smugglers near Govelek Village of eastern province of Van bordering Iran on Thursday. One smuggler was killed in shootout and another arrested, said the report, adding that 40 kg of heroin was seized in the operation.

On Wednesday, Turkish police confiscated 207.5 kilos of heroin and detained 6 people in a farm near northwestern city of Bursaand.—MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Malaysia agree to quicken telecom equipment recognition

SINGAPORE, 29 Jan— Singapore and Malaysia signed on Friday the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for telecommunications equipment, the third of its kind within the framework of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

According to a statement by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore on Friday, the two countries committed to lower costs and time required to bring telecommunications equipment into both markets.

By recognizing each other's equipment conformity testing processes, the agreement will boost market access opportunities for telecommunications equipment exporters from both countries and make such equipment more affordable and accessible to consumers.

Covering equipment like radio, GSM, ISDN and PSTN2, the MRA will save telecommunications equipment companies up to 1,200 Singapore dollars (about 735 US dollars) per model and 30 days to get their products to market.—MNA/Xinhua

Mexico rejects US criticism of its war on drugs

MEXICO CITY, 28 Jan— Mexico angrily rejected US criticism of its war on drugs on Thursday and warned Washington not to interfere in its internal affairs.

A letter from the US ambassador on Wednesday that accused Mexican police of failing to halt drug killings on the US border has upset Mexico's Government, which says it is fighting "the mother of all battles" against violent drug cartels.

The missive came the same day the US State Department issued a travel alert warning Americans of increased murders and kidnappings in Mexican border cities.

Suspected drug cartel hit men killed six prison guards last week in Matamoros, across the

border from Brownsville, Texas, prompting President Vicente Fox to send hundreds of federal police and troops to the area.

Interior Minister Santiago Creel said internal security was a question for Mexico alone.

"We are partners in a free trade agreement but that's it. South of the Rio Grande is ours. Period," Creel told the Televisa television network.

Creel also accused the United States of doing too little to jail drug lords on its soil, fight money laundering by drug cartels and curb consumption by US drug users.

The economies of Mexico and the United States have become

closely linked since the North American Free Trade Agreement came into force in 1994.

But Mexico, which lost half of its territory to the United States in a 19th-Century war, is still sensitive to anything it suspects is US interference in domestic matters.

Drug violence broke out this month after Fox's government launched a crackdown on cartels operating from high security prisons.

US Ambassador Tony Garza said in his letter to Mexican Government leaders that Mexican security forces were not in control of the violent border area.

MNA/Reuters

Helicopter crash kills six workers in southern Peru

LIMA, 28 Jan—A helicopter carrying six Camisea gas workers has crashed in Peru's southern jungle, its operator Transportadora de Gas del Peru (TGP) said on Thursday.

"We have made contact with an injured crew member by satellite phone but we don't know anything about the others," said a spokesman for the Argentine-led consortium that supplies Lima with gas from the Camisea gas field. Some of those on board the aircraft were Argentines, the company said.

TGP lost contact with the helicopter carrying technical crew on a routine flight on Wednesday, when it crashed.

MNA/Reuters

Peru, China sign eight cooperation accounts

LIMA, 29 Jan — Peru and China signed eight cooperation accords Thursday following a meeting between Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo and visiting Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong.

The accords include a treaty on criminal judicial assistance, and agreements on economic and technological cooperation, tourism, investment and energy.

Toledo and Zeng attended the signing ceremony.

After the signing ceremony, Toledo said these documents demonstrate that bilateral ties are proceeding in an in-depth way and bilateral cooperation in culture, economy, trade and investment is in a good state. He expressed the hope that his visit to China later this year would further boost economic and trade cooperation.

Toledo reiterated his country's recognition of China's status as a full market economy and Peru's adherence to the "one China" policy.

Zeng said the accords indicate that mutually beneficial cooperation is making new progress.

He suggested the two sides make more efforts to maintain high-level contacts so as to enhance political trust, expand economic cooperation, and strengthen dialogue and consultations in multilateral organizations to safeguard common interests.—MNA/Xinhua



With a height of 2.38 metres, Xi Shun (R), an applicant for the title of the tallest man, poses with an applicant for the longest haired woman during a presentation for the Guinness World Records in Beijing on 28 Jan, 2005. It's hard to stand out in a country of 1.3 billion, but on Friday hopes of a world record brought out some of China's most extraordinary citizens.—INTERNET



A Vietnamese vendor displays oranges at a wholesale market in Hanoi, on 28 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

HK students win eight bronzes at Maths contest

HONG KONG, 28 Jan—Eight Hong Kong secondary school students have won eight bronze medals, the greatest number ever for Hong Kong in the China Mathematical Olympiad 2005 held in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province.

A total of 153 mathematically gifted secondary students from 36 teams participated in the competition, jointly organized by the China Mathematical Society Olympiad Committee, the Editing Department of Maths, Physics and Chemistry for High School Students and Zhengzhou Foreign Language School between January 20-25.

Teams from Hong Kong, Macao and Russia were specially invited to join provinces of China to take part in

the competition, which aims to enhance students' standard of mathematics and learning motivation, identify the mathematically gifted and step up mathematics education in the Mainland.

Visit to cultural relics and historical sites in Zhengzhou were arranged. The Hong Kong team also participated in sharing sessions to acquaint themselves with the Mainland, boost their sense of national identity, and strengthen their communication and inter-personal skills. —MNA/Xinhua

Russian oil, gas output up 8.9% in 2004

Moscow, 28 Jan—Russia produced 458.7 million tons of oil in 2004, up 8.9 per cent year-on-year, the Federal State Statistics Service said on Thursday.

The largest oil producers included YUKOS with nearly 85.4 million tons, Lukoil about 83.8 million tons, and Surgutneftegas with 59.2 million tons, the service was quoted by *Interfax* news agency as saying.

Output of natural gas grew 1.9 per cent year-on-year to reach nearly 632 billion cubic metres in

2004, including 533.7 billion cubic metres from the country's gas monopoly Gazprom.

Russia, the world's second largest oil producer after Saudi Arabia, has been reaping considerable profits from soaring world oil prices.

Last year, Russia exported nearly 182.2 million tons of oil to coun-

tries outside the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), up 17.5 per cent compared with 2003.

Oil exports to CIS countries grew 7.3 per cent to stand at some 40.3 million tons in 2004, the central administration in charge of dispatching the country's fuel and energy resources said earlier this month. —MNA/Xinhua

China to eliminate extra educational fees

BEIJING, 28 Jan—Chinese Minister of Education Zhou Ji said here Thursday that Chinese Government is confident that it can eliminate extraneous fees charged by individual schools.

"Random charging in education infringe upon people's interests, obstruct the education reform and especially has a bad effect upon the school children," Zhou said in a Press conference held here Thursday.

In recent years, Zhou acknowledged, China has been promoting "one fee for all" in compulsory edu-

cation, which includes all charges and forbids added fees. This practice has so far proved viable and effective.

With the fast progress of China's economy, more and more Chinese parents prefer to send their children to schools with best education resources. Therefore, some schools try to profit by charging

extra fees, such as charge for extracurricular activities or weekend classes.

Zhou said the problems can be solved with more governmental input, regulations and rules as well as enhanced supervision.

According to Zhou, the Chinese Government has clearly set a line between random charging



Minister of Education says Chinese teachers mentally healthy

BEIJING, 28 Jan—Teachers in China are not faced with serious psychological problems, said Chinese Minister of Education Zhou Ji here Thursday.

It was earlier reported that 48 per cent of the teachers in Shanghai have some sort of psychological problem, stemming from the pressure and anxiety caused by students' enrollment rate.

When asked to comment on this report at a Press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council, Zhou said he took note of the report but cited some fig-

ures in research findings as inaccurate. General speaking, he said, the whole contingent of teachers in China are healthy psychologically, so are the country's primary and middle school students.

It is an objective reality that some sort of psychological problems exist among some teachers, and China will enhance healthy education in this regard. But China cannot

simply copy from ethics and concept from Western psychology and, therefore, should not mix psychological problems with people's mind-sets, which makes it difficult to draw a fair conclusion, he said.

Zhou said China will step up the psychological education for teachers, since the education work relies on teachers' quality.—MNA/Xinhua

Paintings of Da Vinci, Michelangelo to be shown in Beijing

BEIJING, 28 Jan—Paintings by Da Vinci and Michelangelo, never on public display before, will be put on show in China's National Art Gallery (NAG) from February 1 to 15, to celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival, sources with the NAG said here Thursday.

This show is part of the celebrations held by NAG for the Spring Festival. During the period, this top artist museum of China will stage four arts shows simultaneously for the first time. The second show

will display traditional Chinese handicraft and masterpieces by great Chinese painters.

NAG president Feng Yuan said the show of traditional Chinese handicraft will include paper cutting, paintings for Spring Festival, farmers' painting, embroidery and kites, which all reflect the traditional Chinese life style and customs.

On the spot at the exhibition, well-known Chinese calligraphers and painters will write and paint for a common audience, donating part of the sale for tsunami-hit Asian countries.

According to Feng, the painting works for the Renaissance Art show were purchased by the French Government with 100 million euros donated by famous French company Carrefour.

As an important project for the Sino-French culture exchanges, the show chose China as the first overseas stop. The paintings, valued at 11 million euros, will arrive in Beijing in several days, Feng said.

Feng stressed the NAG is taking every opportunity to promote Chinese arts and painters.

MNA/Xinhua

Air crash kills two pilots in Romania

BUCHAREST, 28 Jan—A mail plane crashed in northeastern Romania early Thursday, killing the two pilots on board, the local radio station Radio Total reported.

The plane was on its way from the Romanian capital to Hungary when it crashed near the city of Iasi, 400 kilometres north of Bucharest, the radio quoted a local official as saying. Only the two pilots were reportedly on board.

It was snowing when the accident occurred. No further details were available.—MNA/Xinhua



A model of the Rolls-Royce engine to be used in Boeing's 7E7 Dream Liner is displayed at a China Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, China, November 2, 2004. Boeing Co. will sign on 28 Jan, 2005 deals worth up to \$7.5 billion to sell 60 of its 7E7 Dreamliner planes to six Chinese airlines, a source familiar with the transactions said on Thursday.

INTERNET

Humanitarian work of MRCS

Aung Kyaw Hsan (MRCS)

Founded in 1920 with the aim — to reduce poverty and suffering — the Myanmar Red Cross Society is now 85 years old. During these years, the MRCS carried out its three major tasks — to raise the health standard of Myanmar, to control diseases, and to help the people in need.

It is a reserve force of the nation as well as long-living humanitarian organization. In addition to its international standard humanitarian activities, the MRCS is also launching philanthropic programmes at home in accord with the nation's geographical and historical conditions, traditions and cultural, and the national character.

The Red Cross is an altruistic activity, protecting, saving and helping the vulnerable and the victims according to seven fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, unity, voluntary service and universality. The emergence of Red Cross activities and the seven fundamental principles concern the human history. In the earliest part of human history, men set up consolidated and peaceful communities based on kindness and sympathy for their continued existence. But later greed divided human beings into friends and foes, and created conflicts and wars in the world. But Henry Dunant founded a humanitarian organization and the symbol the "Red Cross" that stands for humanity, based on kindness and sympathy without making any discrimination between friend and foe.

History has it that the Red Cross originated in the heart of Henry Dunant at the Battle of Solferino in Italy. The Red Cross movement represents the activities of the ICRC, the IFRC and the Red Cross societies all around the world in accord with the seven fundamental principles. Up to 2005, the ICRC and IFRC have 181 member nations.

Loving kindness (metta), sympathy (karuna), compassion (mudita) and forbearance (upakkha) have flourished in Myanmar society since yore. A Buddhist treatise teaches man to help the needy

with food, clothing and medicine for livelihood. The teaching agrees with the concept of the Red Cross. The treatise also says that persons like the Red Cross volunteers will enjoy a better life in their future existence.

In accord with its fine traditions, the Myanmar Red Cross Society is launching its activities with greater momentum, standing shoulder to shoulder with its sister organizations all around the globe. The MRCS has been laying down work programmes to stand as a qualified organization in the future also. Based on its 2010 strategy — to help improve the lives of disaster victims, with humanitarian strength as the base — the MRCS is trying to realize her lofty aim: to become a top organization capable of organizing the public to take part in the humanitarian programmes for the vulnerable and the victims in any place of the nation.

The work programmes involve the task of improving the health of the communities of the vul-

nerable and the victims or the individuals and setting up a disaster-free environment for them with the strength of volunteers nation-wide; and of helping disaster victims to lead a normal life.

gramme, information, disaster management, school Red Cross, and dissemination of Red Cross knowledge. Supporting bodies including the management department, financial department, health department, communication department, training department, disaster management department, printing department and transport department have been formed to systematically implement the work programmes.

Under the MRCS are 17 state/division Red Cross supervisory committees, 65 district supervisory committees, 324 township Red Cross societies and 33 Red Cross societies of universities and colleges. The total manpower of the MRCS is 43,553 life-long members, 33,262 members, 102,769 school Red Cross members, and 201,226 Red Cross brigade members. As it has lived long, it has also produced a large number of volunteers helping people with sacrificing spirit.

The goodwill efforts of Henry Dunant Award winner Red Cross Sergeant Sai Aung Hlaing Myint and Florence Nightingale award winners Matron Daw Khin Ohn Mya (Retired), nursing staff officer Daw M Yaw Nan and midwife Daw Thein Yi have been honoured and acknowledged by the world. Dailies are featuring the open-handed activities of the Red Cross and mottos, and songs are also honouring them.

The MRCS has held meetings to draw the seventh strategic work programme and to develop the subordinate associations as well as a meeting with sister associations from foreign countries. In this regard, we are confident that the MRCS will come out as a qualified humanitarian organization standing tall among the world Red Cross societies in the near future.

And with this article, I honour the volunteers for carrying out Red Cross activities energetically and dedicating their entire lives in the humanitarian work, and hail the eighth MRCS Conference.

(Translation: TMT)

Myamma Alin+Kyemon: 29.1.2005.

The Red Cross is an altruistic activity, protecting, saving and helping the vulnerable and the victims according to seven fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, unity, voluntary service and universality.

nerable and the victims or the individuals and setting up a disaster-free environment for them with the strength of volunteers nation-wide; and of helping disaster victims to lead a normal life.

With the leadership of the MRCS (Central) and supervisory committees, Red Cross volunteers at all levels are exerting energetic efforts to implement the work programmes covering health care services, first aid, anti-HIV and AIDS campaigns, health education, blood donation, artificial limb pro-

Paper reading session on health held

YANGON, 28 Jan—The paper reading session on health co-sponsored by the Central Health Education Division of the Health Planning Department and the Worksite Health Division of the Health Department under the Ministry of Health and NGOs was held at the National Health Museum in Sangyoung Township at 2 pm today. Assistant Project Manager of the Worksite Health Department Dr Nay Win Oo presented a paper on healthy cities and explained the back-

ground history of the healthy cities and measures being taken for healthy cities and procedures.

Next, Deputy Director of the Central Health Education Department Dr Khin Maung Lwin and party made demonstration on inspection tour of villages for water-born diseases and those present inspected sample of water.

The paper reading session will be held once a month regularly.

It will be held on 25 February and anyone may attend it.—MNA

Pulses & beans export promotion workshop held

YANGON, 28 Jan — The workshop on promotion of pulses and beans export organized by the external and internal market news and research group of the Ministry of Commerce was held at the ministry this morning.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun gave an opening

address. Next, Manager U Aung Swe of Myanma Agriculture Service, Chief Engineer U Ni Paw of MAPT, Managing Director U Tun Tun Naing of E Trade Myanmar Co Ltd and Chairman of Myanmar Pulses and Beans and Sesame Merchants Association U Tun Aung submitted papers to the workshop.—MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ(၂၅)ရက်နေ့ အထိနိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၁၉၈၈)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန၊ ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Cooperation with ICRC and...

(from page 1)
activities have gathered momentum and flourished in the nation, standing as voluntary services.

The government is implementing the political, economic and social objectives for transforming the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one under the correct leadership of the government and with the participation of the departments, national peo-

welfare concerns the length and breadth of the nation, he noted.

In an attempt to implement the national health plans based on the national health policy, through which priority is given to primary health care services for the people, the government is enlisting social organizations like the MRCS and the private sector, he said.

Similarly, the government is helping local and

formed with high-ranking officials and departmental officials and concerted efforts are being made to carry out functions of Myanmar Red Cross Society in line with the projects and work programmes of the State and for the nation to be able to provide assistance to the society.

Accordingly, high-ranking officials, departmental officials and representatives from the states and divisions are making integrated and well-coordinated efforts in the council in the interest of the State and the people and for development of the society with the national outlook. Hence, it is sure that the activities of Red Cross in all parts of the nation will make progress with added momentum.

Therefore, in electing the representatives from the states and divisions, it is imperative to elect those who are capable of serving the interest of the State and the people. Cooperation with the ICRC and the IFRC, should not be centred on acquiring financial assistance and assessment is to be made in order not to tarnish the national prestige and character.

At a time when the Red Cross representatives all over the country are meeting, plans and future work programmes that will contribute much to

ITBMU foreign student monks go round for alm food in Ahlon township



Trainee monks from abroad of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University seen on alms round in Ahlon Township.—MNA

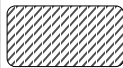
YANGON, 29 Jan — Foreign student monks studying at International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University of the Ministry of Religious Affairs went on alms round in Ahlon Township this morning.

The foreign monks were led by ITBMU Pro-rector (Teaching) Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaca Panda

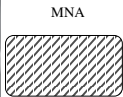
Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa, department head Sayadaws, professor and lecturer Sayadaws. At 6 am today, 'soon' was offered to the Sayadaws and foreign student monks at Zawtanayama Pariyatti Sathintaik.

The student monks led by the Sayadaws accepted offertories donated by townspeople of

Saw Yan Paing (West) and Saw Yan Paing (East) wards. The offertories included cooked rice, raw rice, curry, fruits and other provisions. A total of 82 members of the Sangha including one pro-rector Sayadaw, 23 professor and lecturer Sayadaws and 58 student monks from 12 foreign countries went round the wards for alms. — MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.



MNA

ple and social organizations.

The government, while building a new nation on self-reliant basis, has been rendering necessary assistance constantly for all the social organizations born of the national people to enable them to gain development momentum on the correct national trend. It is heartening to see that the association is participating actively in the community

foreign organizations, UN agencies and NGOs take part in precautionary measures against possible natural disasters. The government is also carrying out health promotion tasks such as AIDS control, promoting the consumption of iodized salt, and caring of children and elder persons, with the help of the social organizations and the UN agencies, he said.

The council was

successful realization of the national objectives and development of the Red Cross activities are to be embodied.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 stressed the need for Red Cross members to be in oneness under the leadership of the Central Council members

and CEC members who are assigned duties and to make earnest efforts with the nationalistic spirit and the humanitarian spirit.

Next, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint announced the list of the ten Central Council members for the term of the

Eighth All Myanmar Red Cross Conference.

After the opening ceremony, Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted those present on the occasion.—MNA

12 Feb is a day of historical...

(from page 16)
subversive attempts should be warded off with nationalism and patriotism based on Union Spirit.

In her speech in connection with the support of the National Convention, Daw Win Win Thi, executive of Pyinmana Township USDA, said according to the first step of the seven-point Road Map, the National Convention will be held.

The National Convention is held with the aim of formulating a constitution for it is the only way to the emergence of a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In conclusion, she called for the participation of the entire national people in the successful implementation of the Road Map.

Yamethin District USDA Executive U Ye Win Aung submitted re-

ports on rural development tasks in Yamethin District. He said that five rural development tasks are being carried out as the organizational tasks of the associa-

He continued to say that four tubewells could be sunk in four villages by spending K 2 million, and three tubewells in the urban area with a K 3.5-million-donation of a wellwisher. In addition,

The National Convention is held with the aim of formulating a constitution for it is the only way to the emergence of a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

tion. The government is accelerating equitable development tasks in States and Divisions including rural and urban areas. In the district, he recalled development tasks such as construction of village-to-village roads, repair of basic education schools, sinking of tubewells.

He added that nowadays there are 29,508 acres of farmlands in the district thanks to construction of nine dams in the district. Progress has been made in the health care sector.

he asserted his reports on progress of the education, health, transport and power sectors in the district.

In conclusion, he urged the people to cooperate with the association members in carrying out public welfare tasks.

Yamethin District USDA Secretary U Myint Swe handed over documents related to repair of 10 BEPSs in Yamethin, Tatkon, Pyinmana, Lewe and Pyawbwe Townships carried out by USDAs at different levels to

Yamethin District Education Officer U Aung Shwe. Next, U Myint Swe handed over the documents related to sinking tubewells in Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Tatkon Townships to Assistant Director of Yamethin District Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Zeya.

Next, U Myint Swe presented K 2.1 million for repairing five BEPSs in

townships and K 1 million for implementing Bio-gas Power Plant in Htilaing Village of Yamethin Township to Pyawbwe Township USDA Secretary U Thein Win.

Afterwards, Lewe Township USDA Secretary U Zaw Aung, seconded the motions tabled by three USDA representatives in support of the National Convention and

in honour of the Union Day.

The meeting chairman sought the approval of those present in connection with honouring the Union Day, upholding Our Three National Causes, hailing the National Convention, and supporting the rural development tasks in the district. The ceremony ended with shouting of the slogans.—MNA



The meeting chairman and members of the panel of chairmen seen at the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in Ywathitgyi Village of Pyawbwe Township.—MNA

Gold plates and foils offering ceremony 2005 of Shwedagon Pagoda held

YANGON, 29 Jan — A ceremony to offer gold plates and gold foils to the Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the platform of the pagoda this morning.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials donated 'soon' to Sayadaws.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe offered gold plates and foils donated by wellwishers and alms to Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Ovadaçariya of the pagoda board of trustees Abhidhaja Maha Rattha

Paññindabhivamsa. Similarly, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of the Committee for All-round Perpetual Renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, the deputy ministers and officials presented gold plates and foils and provisions to the Sayadaws. The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a ser-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe offers gold foils and alms donated by wellwishers to Vice-Chairman Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw.— MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint offer gold plates at Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

Next, the gold plates and foils offering ceremony followed at the prayer hall.

Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw Bhaddanta

mon, followed by sharing of merits. Afterwards, the commander, the minister

and officials conveyed gold plates and foils round the pagoda. Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint and the deputy ministers fixed gold plates and foils at the pagoda. The commander and the minister sprinkled scented water on them.

In so doing, the plan is under way to spend over K 18,500 million on the gold plates and foils offering cer-

emony. Nowadays, the pagoda board of trustees has accepted 2,165 gold plates worth K 422,175,000 and 2 viss and 69 ticals of gold, 136 ornaments and K 223 million donated by 83 wellwishers including one viss and two ticals of gold donated by a wellwisher from Kyaukse and one viss of gold by a wellwisher in Yangon.

The gold plate donors will be allowed to

fix their donations themselves at the pagoda. Arrangements are being made for offering gold plates and foils to the pagoda up to Myanmar New Year Day of 1367 ME.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, Secretary Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and members of the Sangha, officials and wellwishers.

MNA



The meeting panel of chairmen at the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in Kyeintali, Gwa Township.— MNA

Taking lessons from history...

(from page 16) hail this historic Union Day and to support the National Convention. Looking to the present situation, good or evil consequences of the nation mainly rest on the strong or weak national solidarity.

The British colonialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar. But all Myanmar national people put up a stiff armed resistance to them. Realizing the national unity of Myanmar, they drove a wedge among the national people to cause misunderstanding. Again, when the British granted Myanmar's independence, they plotted to leave

the hilly regions behind. However, with the national unity of all the people armed with Union spirit, Panglong agreement was signed on 12 February 1947. Consequently, Myanmar managed to declare itself as an independent sovereignty nation on 4 January 1948. The chairman said now it will turn 58 years on 12 February this year since the Union Day was born on 12 February, 1947.

And it is the duty of all national people of the Union of Myanmar to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty with Union Spirit.

The chairman

added that taking lessons from history, all are needed to uphold Our Three Main National Causes while they are essaying to shape a modern, developed state. It is so important that the National Convention is to be held successfully for the emergence of an enduring State constitution to be able to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The National Convention, which has adjourned since 1996, was reconvened on 17 May 2004 and will resume on 17 February 2005 at Nyaungnapin Camp. That is why, the meeting chairman said, all the people are urged to play their respective roles in successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map.

In conclusion, he said, in marching towards a new peaceful, modern developed nation, all national people are to actively take part in their respective roles in accord with the objectives of the 58th anniversary of Union Day — for all the national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people; for all the national people to defend and safeguard the Union Spirit for its perpetual existence; to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme. Thandwe Township USDA Secretary U San Naing said that the Panglong Conference was held in Panglong in the early days of February 1947 and the Panglong Agreement was signed on 12 February. The confer-

ence indicated national solidarity and it is vividly clear that national unity plays the most crucial role in ensuring non-disintegration of the Union. The nation regained independence on 4 January 1948 and it was an opportune time to carry out nation-building tasks through national unity, but followed by multicoloured insurgents due to localism, racism, egoism and ideologies caused by the evil legacies of the colonialists. When the Union was on the brink of collapse and national unity on the verge of disintegration, the Tatmadaw safeguarded the nation, standing by the people.

Now the government

is making sustained efforts for the emergence of a modern developed nation. Upholding the saying that goes, "the strength of the nation lies within", the government has given the top priority to the building of national unity. As a result, national armed groups have returned to the legal fold and they are now participating in the nation-building endeavours. The government is implementing the plans for progress of border areas and national races.

The entire people are to safeguard and protect the mother country with Union Spirit for restoration of independence and sovereignty.

(See page 15)



USDA members and local people of Kyeintali Town marching to the mass rally.— MNA

Cash, books donated to village self-reliant libraries in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 29 Jan — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony to donate cash and books to village self-reliant libraries in Sagaing Division, at the city hall in Monywa yesterday morning.

Also present were local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and 146 wellwishers.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye said that the Government has set the national goal to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The objective on uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation is included in four social objectives. Head of State Sen-

ior General Than Shwe has given a guidance that the qualified human resource plans are to be implemented significantly in building the nation. As such, self-reliant village libraries were established for ensuring dissemination of knowledge to the rural people. Up to 31 December 2004, self-reliant libraries have been opened in 1,761 village-tracts of Sagaing Division. Therefore, cash and books were donated today so as to open libraries in remaining 4,165 villages by the year 2006.

The commander urged those present to carry out rural development tasks as national duty with nationalist spirit in order to narrow the gap between rural and urban areas. Later, he thanked Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan for his attendance at the ceremony.

Next, the minister



Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye speaking at the ceremony to donate cash and books to self-reliant libraries in Sagaing Division.— MNA

accepted K 1 million donated by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council through Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye. Similarly, the minister presented 2,050 books and periodicals to the commander.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye accepted K 1,552,000, FECs 500 and 8,274 books donated by wellwishers. The minister

accepted K 2,166,000 and 25,982 books donated by wellwishers.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said he thanked Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, heads of departments, organizations and wellwishers for donation of over K 5.4 million and over 40,000 books of various kinds in order to realize the objectives of the Ministry of Information. Today being the Knowledge age, it is essential for the people to promote their knowledge, he added.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that Myanmar Society is to be established as a life-long learning one. That is why the ministry is opening self-reliance libraries for gaining much knowledge of rural people, he continued. Over 11,000

libraries have been opened so far and efforts are being made for opening of another 50,000 libraries in 2006, he said.

He said cash and book donation contributes much towards the realization of the objectives of the ministry and all cash and books donated will be used for rural libraries in Sagaing Division only. In opening of the libraries, the most appropriate and easiest ways and means are utilized and opening of the library aims at cultivating of reading habit and obtaining books for rural people to read. Continued efforts are to be made for maintenance of libraries, increase in the number of books, providing furniture needed and establishment of long-lasting libraries, he added.

He requested heads of departments and wellwishers to provide assistance of emergence of long-lasting libraries. Donations in-

clude K 5,459,500 and 500 FECs and 40,156 books worth K 4,312,120.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected construction of Union Highway (from Monywa Home for the Aged to Kyweye junction) and construction of 12 feet wide road for slow-moving vehicles on Monywa-Kyaukka Road.

In Mandalay, the minister inspected printing of newspaper at the sub-printing press. He then gave instructions on better impression of the newspaper, printing as scheduled, distribution of papers for the people to read in early morning, transport of newspaper to other townships, supervision on distribution, maintenance of machines daily, weekly and monthly, fire prevention measures, supply of fire fighting equipment and drills for fire fighting.

MNA



Daw Wai Wai Khaing, wife of Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, presents K 100,000 to Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.— MNA

Repaved Lower 45th Street opened in Botahtaung Township

YANGON, 29 Jan—CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division in-charge) Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Chairman and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected graveling of Myoma Road linking Circular Road and Ywama Road in Thinbawkyin Ward in Dawbon Township this morning.

The Road is 1,500 feet long and 12 feet wide. Over 1,000 people including members of USDA, members of Township Organization for Women's Affairs, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Fire Brigade took part in graveling of the road and measures undertaken for proper drainage.

The mayor made arrangements for sufficiency of drinking water in the ward.

The mayor and the vice-mayor and Chairman of Committee for construction of the road Joint Secretary of YMCA U Tha Nyan formally opened the repaved 45th Lower Street built on self-reliance basis under the arrangement of Botahtaung Township USDA this morning.

The road is 850 feet long and 16 feet wide.

Secretary of Botahtaung Township USDA U Aye Lwin presented 270 membership applications to the mayor.

He also presented commemorative pennants to the mayor and the guests.

MNA

CNG filling station No 005 (Thakayta) opens

YANGON, 29 Jan — The CNG filling station No 005 (Thakayta) of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise was opened at the station on Ayeyawun Road in Thakayta Township this morning.

Present were ministers, deputy ministers, the No 2 Military Region Commander, departmental heads, members of USDA and so-

cial organizations and officials. Director U Myint Htay of MOGE reported on matters related to the station. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the station. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi unveiled the signboard of the station.

The ministers, the deputy ministers and guests inspected the CNG filling stations. Director U Myint Htay briefed them on storage system of the gas, functions of the compressor, the dispenser and the calculator. The ministers, the deputy ministers and guests viewed filling of CNG to buses and departmental ve-

hicles. The station can sell CNG to about 300 NGV cars a day. It can fill CNG to four cars at the same time. One hundred and sixty-five cubic feet of CNG, which is equal to a gallon of petro in driving a car, is priced K 100. Plans are under way to open more CNG filling stations in Yangon City.— MNA



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally open CNG Filling Station No 005 (Thakayta).— ENERGY

India, China economic ties poised to grow

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan — Describing India and China as the “twin engines of growth” of Asia, India’s Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said Thursday there were several complementarities in the two economies that could be harnessed in order to achieve rapid and further expansion of trade and economic ties.

“I do not see this as an India versus China debate but rather in India with China context,” Nath said at a session on ‘Beijing and New Delhi-navigating new territories’ at the World Economic Forum meeting at Davos. He said the complementarities were reflected in the fact that India had a comparative advantage in IT software and China in IT hardware, adding there was tremendous untapped potential in trade between them.

“The India-China two-way trade is now one billion US dollars a month, compared to one billion US dollars a year a decade ago. This twelve-fold increase in the last decade only goes to prove that though we are competitors in many respects, we are also complementary and

supplementary to each other,” an official release said here, quoting Nath. Referring to the new content and dimension of Look East Policy, he said while a decade ago trade with Europe constituted 30 per cent of India’s total trade and with US 15 per cent and with Asia 20 per cent, India’s trade with Asia now made up 30 per cent of the total trade.

“If you take ASEAN, China, Japan, Korea and India together, you can visualize an integrated market whose size is that of the European Union in terms of income and bigger than NAFTA in terms of trade.” Having reached a considerable degree of integration with global economy, India was now targeting greater FDI, Nath said.

MNA/PTI



Two Russians walk past the desolate Red Square with St Basil Cathedral in the background, as heavy snowfall hit the Russian capital recently. — INTERNET

Smoking speed growth of pancreatic cancer

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan — Smoking may speed the growth of pancreatic cancer by causing it to develop in younger people, US researchers reported on Thursday.

The study, presented at a meeting of cancer specialists in Chicago, may help doctors better understand a particularly deadly cancer, which kills virtually all of its victims within a year.

Dr. Randall Brand and colleagues at Northwestern University in Illinois studied 18,346 pancreatic cancer patients treated between 1993 and 2003. The patients, taken from a database of 350 hospitals around the country, all gave smoking histories.

“Smoking appears to accelerate the onset of pancreatic cancer development,” Brand told a news conference.

The median age for the patients was 73. But current smokers were diagnosed at 63 — a full 10 years sooner. People who had smoked in the past and quit were diagnosed at age 70.

Brand said other studies have indicated that

smoking can affect both the initial development and spread of cancer.

“Since the age of diagnosis of previous smokers was younger than non-smokers, this suggests that smoking could impact upon the initiation phase,” Brand said.

In 2005, an estimated 32,180 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and 31,800 people will die from it, according to American Cancer Society projections. It is the fourth leading cause of cancer death.

“Since pancreatic cancer is almost uniformly fatal, a younger age of onset means more potential years of life lost. Thus, these findings offer yet another important reason for individuals not only to stop smoking, but never to start,” Brand said.

Smoking also causes lung, esophageal and bladder cancer, among others.

A second study pre-

sented at the meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology found that adding a new drug to standard chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer gave some patients a few extra weeks of life.

The new drug, erlotinib, is sold under the brand name Tarceva by Genentech Inc. and OSI Pharmaceuticals Inc. and is one of a new generation of targeted cancer drugs that affects a molecule used by tumour cells to grow.

For the study, half of a group of 569 pancreatic cancer patients got a standard therapy, Eli Lilly & Co.’s gemcitabine or Gemzar, while the other half got Gemzar plus Tarceva.

After a year, 24 per cent of the patients who got Tarceva were alive, compared to 17 per cent of patients given Gemzar alone.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore launches new frigate

SINGAPORE, 29 Jan — The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) launched its new frigate *RSS Steadfast* here on Friday.

Addressing the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan called the launch of *RSS Steadfast* a key milestone in the growth and capability development of not just the RSN, but of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

“Defence scientists and operational users were brought together to define requirements and to identify promising technologies that would meet our unique opera-

tional demands,” said Tan.

Equipped with state-of-the-art command and control systems, sensors, precision weapons as well as naval helicopters, the new frigate will integrate seamlessly with other SAF assets so as to enhance its battlespace awareness and mission success.

According to the frigate programme started by the Ministry of Defence a decade ago, Sin-

gapore will acquire several more frigates in the coming years, which are expected to play a significant role in the SAF’s future war-fighting system.

Among the frigates to be acquired, the first-of-class *RSS Formidable* will undergo its platform acceptance trials in France next month while the other five are in various stages of construction.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan has no specific plans to stop loans to China

TOKYO, 29 Jan — Japan has no specific plans to stop cheap development loans to China, Japanese officials said on Friday, responding to a newspaper report that such aid could end as early as 2008 when Beijing hosts the Olympics.

Japan has already reduced low interest loans to booming China for three straight years, adding to tensions rooted in Japan’s brutal occupation of parts of the country from 1931 to 1945.

Japan says all war-time compensation issues concerning China were settled by a 1972 joint statement that established diplomatic ties. But some analysts say China sees Japan’s development aid as a form of reparations.

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* business daily said the government had started to consider further cuts in aid and may stop fresh loans from as early as the fiscal year starting in April 2008.

“An amicable ending for both sides would be for there to be closure when the Olympics are

held and the impression of (China as) a developing country disappears,” the newspaper quoted a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official as saying.

Asked about the report, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hosoda said he did not think specific plans were being considered.

“I absolutely do not think that considerations are being made to stop them to specific countries or in specific years,” Hosoda told a news conference. “I do not think there are such facts.” Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki also said no decision had been made to stop new yen loans to China. “Nothing in particular has been decided yet,” Tanigaki told reporters.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said last month that Japan may conduct a review of its plans for economic aid to China as early as this year.

Some Japanese politicians argue that China’s rapid economic and military expansion disqualify it from receiving aid from Japan, which is struggling with huge budget deficits.

China’s successful launch of a man into space also raised questions about whether Beijing really needed development aid.

Tokyo scaled back loans to China by 20 per cent in 2003/04 to about 940 million US dollars, leaving India as the top recipient of Japanese foreign aid loans.

Japan also provides grant aid and technical cooperation to China. Cumulative official development assistance totals some 3.3 trillion yen (32 billion US dollars).

The newspaper said the government would draw up a policy for China’s “graduation” from official development assistance by mid-February and enter discussions with Beijing. — MNA/Reuters



Pilot Rene Spies and his brakeman Franz Sagmeister enter their bobsleigh Germany 3 at the start of the first run of the 2-man bobsleigh World Cup in St. Moritz, Switzerland, on 29 Jan, 2005.

— INTERNET

SAARC LDCs to get EU duty-free access to ready-made garments

DHAKA, 28 Jan—The European Union (EU) has decided to give duty-free access to ready-made garments (RMG) from the least developed countries (LDCs) belonging to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Anisul Huq, President of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Thursday confirmed to *Xinhua* that the EU will offer the free access under new Generalized System of Preference (GSP) facilities to be effective from July 2005, while Bangladesh as an LDC will be one of the beneficiaries.

He said under the new EUa GSP, rules of origin

will be relaxed in case of garment export from the LDCs in South Asia to the EU countries, as the EU will allow the industries here to use fabrics and other raw materials imported from the SAARC and ASEAN countries.

Huq further pointed out there is a bright possibility of Bangladeshi RMG products to get duty-free access to the US market, the largest importer of Bangladeshi apparels.

A bill will be placed before both the US Congress and Senate, seeking approval for duty-free access of garments from some of the Asian and Middle East countries, including Bangladesh.

The BGMEA president was optimistic about Bangladesh's getting the approval from the US Government, and expects a big boost of RMG export with the duty-free access to the 25-nation EU market and

the US market.

Huq noted the United States now levies a 16-per cent duty on RMG imports including those from Bangladesh, but with the end of the quota regime at the beginning of 2005, Bangladeshi garment products will become free from all tariff and non-tariff barriers once the duty-free access come into force after approval of the US Congress and the Senate.

MNA/Xinhua

Syrian media speaks highly of Assad's visit to Russia

DAMASCUS, 28 Jan — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's landmark visit to Russia will lay a "strong basis for stronger cooperation", the official *Syria Times* newspaper said in an editorial Thursday.

The paper reviewed the long history of cooperation between the two countries, saying that "both people have the goodwill for furthering relations to their highest strategic level".

The summit between Assad and Russian President Vladimir Putin offered a "gold opportunity" to further cooperations in all fields, the paper said.

The paper justified future military cooperation between the two countries "for the sake of peace in the region and the world".

It added that "Syria has been and continues to be a firm supporter for a Russian role in the Mideast peace process".

MNA/Xinhua

19 Chinese seamen held in Malaysia return to China

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Jan—Chinese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur confirmed Wednesday that 19 Chinese seamen on a Taiwanese fishing boat which was seized in Malaysian Port of Johore Baru last Sunday have returned to China Tuesday evening.

The Malaysian Marine Police patrol vessels last Sunday intercepted the fishing boat *Dong Yih 668* in the Malacca Straits and escorted it to the Port Johore Baru. It is reported there was a suspected mutiny on the fishing boat. On board the boat were captain Chen Kuoching, 44, and other three seamen from Taiwan, 19 seamen from China's Mainland and six others from the Philippines. —MNA/Xinhua

Dhaka beefs up security for SAARC summit

DHAKA, 29 Jan — The law enforcing agencies of Bangladesh have beefed up security in the capital to ensure security for the heads of governments and other dignitaries attending the two-day 13th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) beginning on 6 February.

This was decided at

a meeting of the security committee formed in connection with the summit held at the Home Ministry, the official news agency of Bangladesh BSS reported Thursday.

The meeting decided to keep security personnel at the entry and exit points in the capital from 31 January.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam reports over 1,300 HIV infections in January

HANOI, 28 Jan—Vietnam has so far this year detected more than 1,300 HIV carriers, raising the total to 90,600, according to the country's General Statistics Office on Wednesday.

Of the total cases, 14,500 have developed into AIDS, including over 8,400 fatalities. In Vietnam, some 62 per cent of HIV carriers are in the age bracket of 20-29, when they are most sexually active, and most of transmissions result from drug injecting.

In a move to reduce the infection rate among its 82-million population to below 0.3 per cent by 2010, and keep it unchanged after 2020, Vietnam has centred its efforts on raising public awareness, supervising HIV carriers, improving quality of

HIV/AIDS treatment, better caring affected people, and increasing state budget on anti-disease activities.

The country has recently intensified propaganda about HIV/AIDS with contents expanding into areas of virtues, lifestyle and behaviour, including promoting fight against discrimination, and encouraging youths to use "ABC" preventive approach (Abstinence, Being faithful and Condom use) and keep away from such evils as drug addiction and prostitution.

MNA/Xinhua

Northwest Airlines orders eight new Airbus aircraft

MINNEAPOLIS, 28 Jan—Northwest Airlines said it has ordered eight new Airbus A330s, which will help it replace its aging DC-10s on flights to Europe.

Northwest said Wednesday it would begin using the new aircraft next year, with the last ones to be delivered in 2007. It also said it would take delivery on three more A330s in 2006, one to two years earlier than planned.

Northwest Airlines Corp. owns 21 DC-10s, which are an average of 25.8 years old, according to BACK Aviation Solutions.

The nation's fourth-largest airline had 2.46 billion US dollars in cash at the end of December, but said it financed the planes through Airbus to keep "flexibility in future financing alternatives". It

did not disclose the purchase price.

Northwest said it now has 32 A330s on order, of which 15 have been delivered. An Airbus spokeswoman said the order for the eight new planes was finalized this week.

Eagan-based Northwest said it would buy six A330-300s and two of the longer-range A330-200s. The A330-300 has 264 coach seats and 34 in business class, versus 211 coach seats 32 in business class on the A330-200.

Compared with the DC-10s, the A330 has lower maintenance costs and fuel costs that are 30 per cent lower, Northwest said. —MNA/AP

Indonesian Parliament endorses purchase of four Russian choppers

JAKARTA, 28 Jan—A commission at the Indonesian House of Representatives has done a turnaround and will allow the government to go ahead with the purchase of four Russian-made MI-17 helicopters worth 21.6 million US dollars in total.

However, the legislators demanded that individuals suspected of committing infractions in the procurement process be brought to court.

"We will support the purchase of the helicopters, but there must also be a legal process for those involved in offences," Effendi Simbolon, a legislator who chairs a team assessing the procurement process, was quoted Thursday by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

Effendi did not name any suspects. Earlier reports suggested that Andy Kosasih from Singapore's

Swift Air allegedly manipulated contractual documents for the planned purchase.

Fellow legislator Hajriyanto Thohari of the Golkar Party confirmed that Commission 1 members approved the purchase. The endorsement, agreed upon during an internal meeting of the commission on Wednesday, negated a decision last year to reject the purchase.

Last year, after initially questioning several figures over alleged irregularities in the procurement process, the commission recommended that the Defence Minister can-

cel the purchase of the helicopters. Commission 1 also demanded that Swift Air, a mediator in the procurement, return the 3.24-million-US-dollar advance payment.

It also said the decision made by the Army chief on October 10, 2002 to name PT Putra Pobiagan Mandiri the winner of the tender in the chopper procurement lacked objectivity and transparency, and that it had to be reviewed.

It also urged the government to improve the standard operating procedures in the purchase of military equipment

through export credit facilities.

Commenting on his commission's recommendations last year, Effendi Simbolon said the legislators would use them as a reference to assess the procurement process of the four choppers.

He acknowledged that Commission 1 reversed its initial decision and endorsed the purchase after receiving a letter from Minister of Defence Juwono Sudarsono on November 1, asking the House to support the procurement of four MI-17 helicopters.

MNA/Xinhua



Local volunteer Atsushi Matsuo straightens snow figures of popular American animated undersea movie 'Shark Tale' characters as he joins others to get ready for the Sapporo Snow Festival at the Odori Park on 28 Jan, 2005 in Sapporo, northern Japan. —INTERNET

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WTO chief urges efforts on global trade talks

DAVOS (Switzerland), 28 Jan — World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Supachai Panitchpakdi urged members on Thursday to take more efforts on global trade talks so that great progress could be made at December's ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.

"Things have moved, but they've not moved far enough to guarantee that Hong Kong will be the penultimate step to complete the round in 2006," Supachai said, referring to the Doha Round trade talks launched in 2001 to reduce trade barriers.

"I can't even say how much we hope to achieve by Hong Kong. The members aren't even saying that," he said at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort Davos.

He said he hopes that in next month governments will have sketched out a negotiating timetable for the rest of this year.

"Before summer we need to see some figures... We need a balanced package of movement forward on all fronts," he added.

"We've been digging in to the technical work," said Supachai. "It's about time to turn the technical work into political solutions."

MNA/Xinhua



People looks at the effects of the weather, with ice-covered cars, ice covered lines of lights and ice covered trees on the bank of Lake Geneva near Versoix, Switzerland, on 28 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Ecuador, Costa Rica sign document on cooperation

QUITO, 29 Jan — Ecuador and Costa Rica signed here a document Thursday on bilateral cooperation and regional integration.

The document was signed by Ecuadorean President Lucio Gutierrez and his Costa Rican counterpart, Abel Pacheco. It covered trade, tourism, the fight against crime, culture and education exchanges, science and technology cooperation and environmental protection.

In the document, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the results of Wednesday's summit of Latin American banana-producing countries.

At the summit in Ecuador, leaders from six countries — Colombia,

Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama — issued a statement opposing a European Union plan to raise tariffs drastically on their banana exports as from 2006. Latin America is the largest banana producer and exporter of the world. Ecuador and Costa Rica are the world's fourth and fifth largest banana producer and exporter respectively.

In the document, Gutierrez and Pacheco expressed concern over drug-trafficking in the global context.

MNA/Xinhua

Overseas experts to examine HK's red fire ant samples

HONG KONG, 28 Jan — Samples of the suspected red fire ants found in a Hong Kong's wetland park will be sent to the Chinese Mainland, Japan and Britain for examination, Hong Kong's Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food York Chow said here Thursday.

Ants bearing features of *Solenopsis invicta* Buren were found in a vegetated area of the park on Wednesday. The government has set up a special task force to deal with the ants.

"It is a new species of ant in Hong Kong, we need to assess how it would affect our ecology and perhaps also how large an extent it has affected our places," Chow said.

The ants' reproductive power is the same as common ants, and Chow urged the public not to panic. "The only difference is they are more aggressive if you step on them and aggravate them. They bite harder than other ants." Samples have been taken for examination and the department is investigating the source of the ants and the time of their habitation.

MNA/Xinhua

"West Wing" actress Channing charged with drunken driving

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan — Emmy-winning actress Stockard Channing has been charged with drunken driving after she tried to drive around a roadblock on the Hollywood Freeway, Press reports said Wednesday.

Sixty-year-old Channing, who won an Emmy for her role as First Lady on NBC's popular TV series "The West Wing," was stopped by police on 14 December. She was jailed for nearly three hours before being released without bail, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department said.

Police said the Hollywood Freeway's northbound lanes had been

shut down that night so a tow truck could remove a disabled tractor-trailer, but Channing was passing traffic on the right shoulder of the freeway.

Channing's car was then stopped and a field sobriety test showed that her blood-alcohol levels were 0.12 and 0.13, far exceeding California's legal limit of 0.08.

Two misdemeanor

counts of driving while under the influence of alcohol were filed Monday, said city attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan.

Channing, scheduled to appear for arraignment on February 9, could face maximum penalty for conviction of six months in jail and 1,000 US dollars of fine for each charge, Mateljan said. — MNA/Xinhua

Kazakhstan's relations with China made significant headway in 2004

ASTANA, 28 Jan — Kazakhstan's relations with China made significant headway in 2004 and they are destined for sound development in the coming years, Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Akhmetzhan Yesimov told Xinhua in a recent interview.

The two neighbours have enjoyed fast-developing friendly relations since they forged diplomatic ties 13 years ago, Yesimov said.

The Year 2004 was specially important for the two countries' ties as Kazakh President Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev visited China twice in the year and Kazakh Foreign Minister Kasymzhan Tokayev toured Beijing three times, during which a string of strategic agreements were reached, he said. Other key Kazakh Cabinet members, including the Defence Minister, Energy and Mineral

Resources Minister and Transport Minister, also visited Beijing in 2004, the best testimony to the dynamic and healthy relations between the two nations, Yesimov said.

A notable development was the convening in July of the first meeting of the Kazakhstan-China Cooperation Committee, co-chaired by Yesimov himself and Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi, the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Kazakhstan highly values the establishment of the joint committee and hopes that it would serve as an efficient tool coordinating mutually beneficial cooperation between

the two countries, he said.

The committee, set up in May 2003 during Nazarbayev's visit to Beijing, comprises 10 sub-committees and is responsible for implementing bilateral agreements and promoting cooperation in various fields.

Speaking of economic cooperation, Yesimov said bilateral trade has seen steady growth in the past decade, with two-way trade topping four billion US dollars last year (4.5 billion dollars by Chinese official statistics).

The two countries also carried out fruitful cooperation in the energy sector. — MNA/Xinhua



Two little polar bears born recently at the zoo in Rostock, northern Germany, are presented to the public.—INTERNET

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Barca signs Argentine striker Lopez

MADRID, 29 Jan—Barcelona have signed Argentine striker Maxi Lopez on a 4-1/2-year deal from River Plate, the Primera Liga leaders said on Friday.

The Catalan club are paying a reported fee of six million euros (7.82 million US dollars) for the 20-year-old, who has been signed to cover for injured Swedish striker Henrik Larsson who is out for the season after tearing knee ligaments in November.

Lopez passed a medical with the Catalan club on Thursday but was unable to sign his contract until Barca agreed payment terms with River on Friday morning.

The club already have former River Plate striker Javier Saviola on their books but the 23-year-old was loaned out to Monaco at the start of the season.

Lopez is the second new recruit to join Barcelona in the January transfer window. The 33-year-old Italian defender Demetrio Albertini signed earlier this week after being released from his contract with Serie A side Atalanta.—MNA/Reuters

Santos beat Mogi Mirium 4-2 in Paulista C'ship

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Jan—Brazilian champions Santos maintained their perfect start to the season when they beat Mogi Mirim 4-2 away in the Paulista championship.

Substitute Douglas, who replaced forward Robinho, scored two late goals to wrap up the points in Thursday night's game after Mogi Mirim had twice come from behind the level the scores at 2-2.

Robinho, whose agent Wagner Ribeiro has repeatedly denied that he has agreed terms to join Real Madrid in July, failed to score for the first time this season.

Santos have a maximum nine points from three games in the regional competition, which serves as a prelude to the Brazilian championship. They lead Palmeiras and Sao Paulo on goal difference.

MNA/Reuters



Jumping for joy: Seventh seed Serena Williams of the US jumps for joy after winning match point against fourth seed Maria Sharapova of Russia in their women's singles semifinal match at the 2005 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne.—INTERNET

Spurs complete signings of Mido, Cerny

LONDON, 29 Jan—Tottenham Hotspur have completed the signings of Egyptian striker Mido from AS Roma and goalkeeper Radek Cerny from Slavia Prague, the Premier League club's web site said on Friday.

Mido, the 21-year-old former African Footballer of the Year, joined Spurs on loan, signing an 18-month contract before taking part in a training session with his new teammates.

"My first impression is that it is a very organized club, very good management and I am happy to be here," Mido said.

"I am happy because it was my decision to come here, I had some options, but I had a good feeling about Spurs and I promise the fans that I will work hard and always do my best to be in good form.

"I followed my heart, my heart told me this is a good place, the right place to be and when I spoke with the coach he told me it will be a good place for me to work."

Tottenham's sporting director Frank Arnesen said Mido, formerly with Ajax Amsterdam, Olympique Marseille and Spain's Celta Vigo, had plenty of experience.

"Everybody knows we were looking for a young striker to fit into our plans and fortunately he has agreed to come to Tottenham for 18 months," Arnesen said.

"Many clubs like him and this is normal, he is big lad, left footed and has a lot of experience even though he is only 21." Czech international Cerny, 30, joined Spurs on an 18-month contract as cover for number one keeper Paul Robinson.

"We were looking for a very good keeper, who has the ambition to play, but also knows Paul Robinson is in front of him," Arnesen said.—MNA/Reuters

Portsmouth end signings of Greek players

LONDON, 29 Jan—Portsmouth have completed the signings of Greek keeper Konstantinos Chalkias and midfielder Giannis Skopelitis, the Premier League club said on Friday.

The 31-year-old Chalkias, part of Greece's victorious Euro 2004 squad, has moved to Fratton Park from Panathinaikos, where he worked with Portsmouth's new Croatian coach Velimir Zajec.

Skopelitis, 26, cost one million pounds (1.89 million US dollars) from Greek club Egaleo, and both players could make their debuts in Saturday's FA Cup fourth-round tie at arch-rivals Southampton. "The players we have announced today are proven and experienced," chairman Milan Mandaric told Portsmouth's website.

"Konstantinos is a giant of a goalkeeper regarded as one of the top in

Greek football and in my book you can never have enough class keepers.

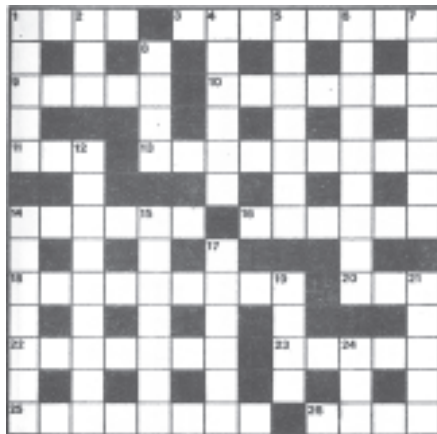
"Skopelitis is a solid defensive midfield man. Obviously, with Nigel Quashie and Andy Faye departing we felt we needed to reinforce in the midfield department."

Mandaric said there could be more arrivals before the end of the transfer window on Monday, although the signing of Russian striker Dmitri Bulykin has been delayed by paperwork.

"We may not have finished yet and are still looking to possibly bring in two more players with one of them an offensive midfield man," Mandaric said.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 1 Ova
- 3 Sound letter "H"
- 9 Mending-piece
- 10 "... this earth, this realm, this—"
- 11 Tree
- 13 Lewis Carroll character (3,6)
- 14 Planet
- 16 Erase
- 18 Victim of practical joke in spring (5-4)
- 20 Gratuity
- 22 European
- 23 Rap
- 25 Tunes
- 26 River of C. Europe

Down

- 1 Vacant
- 2 Obtain
- 4 Fast
- 5 Thankless person
- 6 Suite of rooms
- 7 Write on back of
- 8 Counterfeit
- 12 Cataract
- 14 Sports ground
- 15 Reassembled
- 17 Leap, spring
- 19 NT Book
- 21 Card-game
- 24 Aged

Hewitt becomes first Australian finalist in 17 years

MELBOURNE, 29 Jan—Lleyton Hewitt battled his way into the Australian Open final with a typically tenacious 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-1 win over Andy Roddick on Friday to become the first Australian men's singles finalist in 17 years.

"It's awesome," the 23-year-old said after downing the second seed. "I always said I'd do anything to play in the first night final in Australian Open men's history and I've got my chance."

Only Marat Safin stands between Hewitt and his dream of becoming the first Australian to win the men's title since 1976.

The Russian, twice a runner-up, beat runaway world number one Roger Federer on Thursday and Hewitt knows he faces an uphill battle.

"Obviously, Marat's beaten the best player going around. He's obviously playing extremely well. He always plays well at the Australian Open," Hewitt said.

"I'm going to have to raise my game again, go out there and give it everything I've got and see what happens."

American Roddick had dominated third seed Hewitt with his heavy service game in the opening two sets, crashing down 31 aces in total, but eventually he crumbled as Hewitt stood firm.

"I'm pissed off. You know, I'm mad. I felt like I was in there with a shot. To lose two breakers like that, which either one of them would have given me a distinct advantage, it's disappointing," Roddick said.

"When you just lose a third-set breaker and then all of a sudden the wheels start turning a little bit faster... I mean, it's tough to stop."

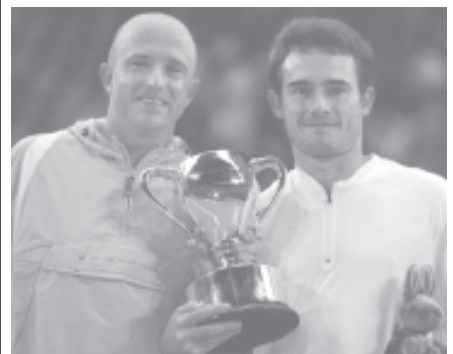
Hewitt, who survived two tough five-set matches to reach the semi-finals, absorbed everything Roddick threw at him and gradually wore the American down with his superior court coverage, groundstrokes and never-say-die attitude.

Hewitt, whose win lifts him to number two in the

world, sank to his knees with his arms raised to wild cheers from the Rod Laver Arena centre court crowd when a Roddick backhand sailed long on the final point after two hours and 54 minutes.

Hewitt had never made it past the fourth round at Melbourne Park since he began as a 15-year-old qualifier in 1997 but is now bidding to become the first Australian to win the men's title since Mark Edmondson beat John Newcombe 29 years ago.

Winner of the US Open in 2001 and Wimbledon in 2002, Hewitt is the first Australian to reach the final since Pat Cash in 1987 and 1988.—MNA/Reuters



Zimbabwe's fifth seeds Wayne Black (R) and Kevin Ullyett celebrate their win against second seeds Bob Bryan (news) and Mike Bryan (news) of the US at the 2005 Australian Open double's final in Melbourne on January 29, 2005. Black and Ullyett won in straight sets 6-4 6-4.—INTERNET

Taking lessons from history...

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In conclusion, he called on the entire people to adhere to Our Three Main National Causes and to see to the successful implementation of the Union Day objectives for the motherland to exist till as long as the world does.



Thandwe District USDA Executive Daw Moe Mo Thwin and Thandwe Township USDA Executive Daw Thabye Nyunt act as MCs.—MNA

Taungup Township USDA executive U Ko Ko Tin said that now is the time when the State's seven-point Road Map is well under way for flourishing of democracy in the nation, and the successful completion of the National Convention is the most necessary for the nation.

The National Convention resumed in May 2004 and was adjourned in the



Gwa Township USDA Executive U Soe Win.—MNA

rainy season considering the agricultural tasks of the National Convention delegates. The government has announced that the National Convention will resume on 17 February.

The framing of the State Constitution is the most important factor for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, and this task is being implemented step by step by the government.

National solidarity is the most indispensable requirement for the nation as it is home to more than 100 national races. Only when stability is restored well in the nation, will steps for economic development be taken. Now, the three national development projects, the 24 special region development project,

and the five rural development tasks are being implemented for the progress of the entire nation with strong economy. As a result, the whole nation has witnessed good foundations in the economic and social spheres.

There has been rays of hope for emergence of the State Constitution, and the seven-point Road Map will be accomplished through step-by-step implementation. The national people are to make combined ef-



Taungup Township USDA Executive U Ko Ko Tin.—MNA

forts for successful implementation of the programme in the interests of the nation.

One thing the people have to be aware of is the danger of the destructive elements, who are trying to undermine the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit. So, the people are to brave and overcome the acts committed by these elements who



Thandwe Township USDA Secretary U San Naing.—MNA

cannot bear to see the progress of the nation.

In this regard, the USDA announced the Bagan declaration at the mass rally held in Bagan Archaeological Region in 2003.

In conclusion, he urged the members to support the National Convention being held for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy and perpetual existence of the Union which was built through national solidarity.

Gwa Township USDA executive U Soe Win said that rural people make up more than 70 per cent of the nation's population, so only when the living standard of local people in these areas is high, will the nation enjoy development. Thus, the government is putting the

five rural development tasks into motion. Now, the plans for human resources development are under way. The USDA is cooperating with the people in taking steps for promotion of the nation's education standard.

To ensure better health care services in the rural areas, rural health care centres were constructed and renovated and health staff in harness with medical specialists made field trips down to villages and gave medical treatment there.

As part of ensuring sup-



Thandwe District USDA Secretary U Saw Myint Oo.—MNA

ply of potable water to rural regions, wells, lakes and manual tube-wells were sunk in Taungup and Thandwe Townships.

For better transport, village-to-village roads such as Phayamaw-Hsubokkon road, Shwekyaungpyin-Panchinpauk road and Phayamaw Bridge were constructed in Thandwe Township, village-to-village roads in ten villages and bridges built in Taungup Township, and Kalabyin-Yegyaw road, Gwa-Kyaukchon road and bridges constructed in Gwa Township.

In conclusion, he pledged that the USDA members in Thandwe, Taungup and Gwa Townships in cooperation with the people will make relentless efforts for regional development under the supervision of USAs at different levels.

Next, Secretary of Rakhine State USDA U Oo Kyaw Yin presented K 500,000 donated by Rakhine State USDA to be used in regional development task in Thandwe Township to Executive of Thandwe District USDA U Kyi Shwin and 100 desks worth K 800,000 and related documents to the Thandwe Township Education Officer.

Afterwards, member of Kyeintali Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin San Yi seconded the presentations of the three representatives. She said that the Union of Myanmar was under subjugation of the colonialists for over 100

years. During the period, a lot of lives and sweat were sacrificed to be free from subjugation.

As the entire national people had been able to show their unity at Panglong the independence was regained. Therefore, the mass rally to mark the Union Day which is complete with fine characteristics is worthy of great honour.

The National Convention which will resume on 17 February 2005 is the one to lay down the basic principles for drafting the State constitution in ensuring the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The State constitution is of utmost importance in building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. To be able to draw a complete State constitution, the seven-point Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented.

The National Convention, the very first step of the seven-point Road Map, will soon resume.

Therefore, the entire national people who are present on the occasion are to actively take part in successful realisation of the National Convention by doing their bit in accordance with the objectives of the convention. The mass rally held in Bagan's cultural region in 2003 unanimously approved the declaration for successful realization of the seven policy programmes.

On behalf of the entire people, she said she emphatically supported the national convention to be held on 17 February. She was glad to see that the government in cooperation with USDA and other related social organizations built schools, wells, roads and other transport facilities for improvement of socio-economic life of rural people.

She supported rural development tasks in the district, progress of work and future tasks presented by U Soe Win. She said the USDA will serve the interest of the people and communities and urged the people to participate in the tasks for development.

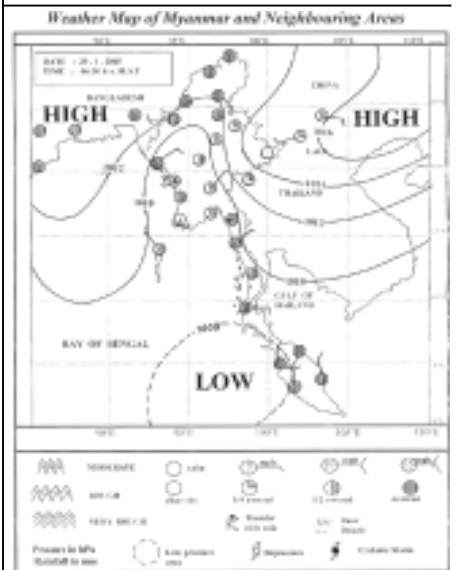
Next, those present at the meeting unanimously agreed to the tasks of safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes. The Chairman of the meeting declared that the people supported the national convention and he confirmed the approval of the meeting. The meeting ended with shouting of the slogans.—MNA

Int'l Fair 2005 held at Karaweik Park

YANGON, 29 Jan — The International Fair 2005 organized by Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association took place at Karaweik Park in Kandawgyi Gardens at 10 am today.

Present at the fair were Members of the Panel of Patrons of MAWFA the wife of Minister for Foreign Affairs and wives of the ministers, wives of the deputy ministers and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar, wives of the ambassadors from the ASEAN embassies and families of diplomatic corps and the United Nations agencies.

In the International Fair, handicrafts, products and foodstuff from the various countries were displayed and sold. The profits from the fair will be donated to social organizations. The fair attracted a large crowd of people. —MNA



WEATHER

Saturday, 29 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, (3°C) above normal in Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam and Heho (3°C) each, Pinlaung (4°C), Lashio and Pyin Oo Lwin (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-1-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 29-1-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-1-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 28-1-2005 was (7.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 29-1-2005 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 North-west at (14:30) hours MST on 28-1-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in North and Central Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Taking lessons from history, all are to uphold Our Three Main National Causes while essaying to shape modern, developed nation
Thandwe District hails Union Day, supports National Convention**



Ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in progress in Kyeintali, Gwa Township, Thandwe District. — MNA

YANGON, 29 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention took place in Kyeintali, Gwa township, Thandwe District, Rakhine State, this morning.

It was attended by the secretary of Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development Association and executives, the secretary of Thandwe District USDA and executives, members of township USDAs in the district, departmental staff, members of social organizations and

local people totalling over 2100.

Thandwe District USDA Secretary U Saw Myint Oo presided over the ceremony together with ex-headmaster of Kyeintali BEHS U Htein Lin, Chairman of

Thandwe Township War Veterans Organization supervisory committee U Khin Maung Aye, Secretary of Thandwe District Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin May Myint and Gwa township Maternal and

Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Myint Myint Thein. Thandwe District USDA Executive Daw Moe Moe Thwin acted as MC and Thandwe township USDA Executive Daw Thabyae Nyunt as co-

MC. First, the MC announced the start of the ceremony and those present saluted the State Flag. Next, the meeting chairman, Thandwe District USDA Secretary U Saw Myint Oo delivered a speech. He said 12 Febru-

ary 2005 is the 58th anniversary of the Union Day that had been designated so to forge national unity and national solidarity of the people. Today is an auspicious day because we are all here to
(See page 9)

**12 Feb is a day of historic importance
National Convention to resume on 17 Feb as declared
Rally commemorates Union Day, supports National Convention**



YANGON, 29 Jan — A ceremony to honour the Union Day and to support the National Convention took place at Ywathitgyi village, Pyawbwe township, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division, this morning.

Present were Mandalay Division Union Soli-

darity and Development Association Secretary U Tin Maung Oo and executives, the secretary and executives of Yamethin District USDA, secretaries and executives of local township USDAs, social organizations, Red Cross and fire brigades, and local people totalling

over 11,500.

Yamethin District USDA Joint-Secretary U Tin Soe presided over the mass meeting. Daw Nwe Ni and Daw Khin Ma La, executives of Yamethin Township USDA, acted as MC and co-MC respectively.

U Tin Soe spoke on

the occasion. He said the mass rally was held to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention. The 12th of February 1947 is of historic importance as it is the day on which the entire national people came together to fight against the conolianists. From that day onwards, the Union Day is celebrated without missing a single year.

Now, the government is building the nation into a modern and developed one after laying down Our Three Main National Causes— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and the perpetuation of sovereignty.

Strenuous efforts

are also being exerted on agriculture, transport, industry, education and health to ensure all-round development across the country.

The National Convention, which started in May 2004 in line with the seven-point Road Map, will resume on 17 February this year. In conclusion, he called for active participation of the entire people in the successful realization of the Road Map.

U Kyi Shwe Myint, executive of Tatkon Township USDA, in his proposal for hailing the Union Day, said this year's Union Day would be celebrated with the five objectives, adding that any
(See page 8)



Yamethin District USDA organizes the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in Ywathitgyi Village, Pyawbwe Township. — MNA

INSIDE

Founded in 1920 with the aim — to reduce poverty and sufferings — the Myanmar Red Cross Society is now 85 years old.

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AUNG KYAW HSAN (MRCs)