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Monday, 31 January 2005

Love, friendship and unity a must for all nationals

Our nation is the Union where various national groups live together and each and every region is also like a small union where different nationalities reside. As we have been living together so long that we are inseparable, love and friendship and unity are a must for all of us.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From guidance given to trainees of No 35 Course of University for Development of National Races)



Hungarian President felicitates Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 30 Jan— The following is a message of felicitations from Mr Ferenc Madl, President of the Republic of Hungary, sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Excellency,

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, may I convey my congratulations to Your Excellency and my best wishes to the people of Myanmar.

Youths are being trained to become the well-rounded individuals inspired with Union Spirit. Their participation in the nation-building tasks will speed up the development of the country. They are to inculcate correct thought and concept in the people living in the areas in which they are assigned duties.

Provision of training designed to produce qualified human resources that will shape country's future

Importance should be attached to drive for upholding of traditional culture and custom

PM hosts dinner in honour of UDNR BEd students

YANGON, 30 Jan — Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win hosted a dinner to the trainees of the BEd Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel here this evening.

Present were Member of the Central Panel of

Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and also Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members; the Chairman of Yangon Division PDC and Commander of Yangon Command, the Secretary-General and members of the secretariat of the USDA, executives, the Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board and members, re-

sponsible officials of the SPDC Office, guests, the rector of UDNR, and others.

In his speech, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said the USDA was formed on 15 September 1993 with the aim of nurturing the youths who will discharge the national responsibilities to ensure the perpetual existence of the Union, to strengthen the
(See page 8)



Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers an address at the dinner hosted in honour of UDNR trainees of BEd Course No 36.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 31 January, 2005

Keep Red Cross humanitarian work alive

The State Peace and Development Council is taking measures for the establishment of a peaceful, modern and developed nation after laying down the political, economic and social objectives.

In this process, the government keeps giving impetus to social organizations and voluntary associations so that they can be on the right track of nationalism as national forces.

Among the national forces is the Myanmar Red Cross Society. Having a long and proud tradition, the MRCS is an altruistic organization which has been serving the interest of the country and people throughout successive eras.

The Eighth Conference of the Myanmar Red Cross Society took place at the Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street on 29 January this year, with an address delivered by Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the National Health Committee and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council.

In his speech, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said encouragement has been given to the Myanmar Red Cross Society as a national force so that it can carry out national development tasks, adding that duties have been assigned to the MRCS as an auxiliary force to take part in nation-building tasks.

Red Cross activities or humanitarian spirit and practices have been in existence for long in Myanmar society. In Myanmar, the Red Cross activities are moving with great velocity. Up to this day, the Society has been carrying out humanitarian works, adhering to Myanmar character, culture and tradition.

Like the MRCS, other voluntary associations are also lending themselves to public health care as part of implementing the national health plans.

In like manner, they are also giving a helping hand to natural disaster preparedness as well as to rescue operations. The MRCS is also cooperating with other organizations in such campaigns as anti-HIV, increased consumption of iodized salt, and health care of children and the aged.

All in all, it is believed the members of the MRCS will gear themselves up for Red Cross activities and humanitarian tasks on a greater scale.

Cash assistance provided to over 75-year old members of WVO

YANGON, 30 Jan — A ceremony to provide cash assistance to over 75-year old members of Organizing Work Group-14 of Myanmar War Veterans Organization from North Okkalapa Township at Yan Nyein Aye hall on Khemathi Street this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of North Okkalapa Township WVO Lt-Col Than Myint (Retd) and officials, members of the township organizing committee and members of WVO.

During the ceremony, Chairman of North Okkalapa Township WVO Lt-Col Than Myint (Retd), Vice-Chairman Major Tin Win (Retd) and township organizer Captain Chit Swe (Retd) provided K 10,000 each to 12 members of WVO.

MNA

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

ITBMU trainee monks go round for alms in Ahlon

YANGON, 30 Jan — Foreign student monks studying at International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University went on alms round in Ahlon Township for the second day this morning.

The foreign monks were led by ITBMU Pro-rector (Academic) Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa, department head Sayadaws, professor and lecturer Sayadaws. At 6am, 'soon' was offered to the Sayadaws and foreign student monks at Zawtanayama Pariyatti



People offer 'soon' to faculty member Sayadaws of ITBMU and trainee monks in Ahlon Township.— MNA

Sarthintaik.

The students monks led by the Sayadaws going round for alms, accepted offertories donated by townpeople living in Saw Yan

Paing (South) and Htanawards.

The offertories included cooked rice, dry rations and other provisions. A total of 82 members of the Sangha includ-

ing one pro-rector Sayadaw, 23 professor and lecturer Sayadaws and 58 student monks from foreign countries went round the wards for alms.

MNA



MINISTER LEAVES FOR SRV: Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint left for Vietnam on 30 January to attend the ceremony to sign MoU on cooperation in sports between Myanmar and Vietnam in Hanoi, Vietnam. The minister is being seen off at the airport by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and officials.— SPED

UDNR trainees continue excursion in Yangon



Trainees of BED Course No 36 of University for Development of National Races visit MRTV.— MNA

YANGON, 30 Jan — The trainees of the BED Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races accompanied by Rector Col Zaw Min Thein, Pro-Rector Daw Khin Si Si and officials visited No 1 Refinery (Thanlyin) in Yangon South District this morning.

They viewed around there. They proceeded to KyaikKhaung Pagoda and donated cash to the fund. The trainees visited National Races Village in Thakayta Township and observed customs and tra-

Dry Day inspection teams discharge duties

Yangon, 30 Jan — Member of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Leader of Supervisory Group Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Second Leader Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Members Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Senior Military Officers and heads of department supervised the dry day inspection teams discharging duties on run of vehicles used by Tatmadaw and departments in the morning and so did Leader Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and Member Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers and heads of department in the evening at the main points of Yangon.

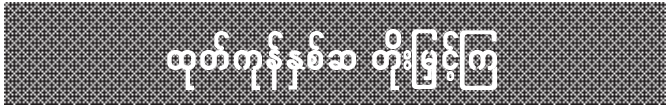
The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill and wearing of uniforms and took action against those who violated traffic rules.

MNA

ditions of national races there. Next, they went to Shukhintha Amusement Park in Thakayta Township and had a wonderful time there.

Afterwards, the trainees arrived at Myanmar Radio and Television and studied telecast programmes there.

MNA



Cyprus President announces establishment of Cyprus Institute

NICOSIA, 29 Jan— Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos on Friday announced the establishment of the Cyprus Institute that aims to become an international research and educational institute with strong scientific and technological orientation.

"Strategic goal of the government of Cyprus is to turn Cyprus into a regional research and technology centre," Papadopoulos told reporters.

He said that the Cyprus Institute would enable renowned Cypriot scientists who work abroad to return home.

The Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation that organizes the planning of the Cyprus Institute, met at the Presidential Palace with Papadopoulos who chairs the Foundation.

The Board of Trustees decided to proceed gradually with the establishment of the Cyprus Institute, starting with the first Research Centre for Energy, Environment and Water

Research.

"We took this decision for two reasons, firstly because the 21st century will belong to the economies of knowledge, and secondly because the competitive advantage of Cyprus is its human and especially its scientific personnel," Papadopoulos said.

The Cyprus Government also plans to establish together with the French Government a Technological Park to accommodate all research centres of the Cyprus Institute as well as other research centres in cooperation with major universities.

The government of Cyprus, local and foreign institutions, as well as the European Union are expected to fund the whole project. —MNA/Xinhua

Indian FM to visit Afghanistan, Pakistan in February

NEW DELHI, 30 Jan— Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh will pay a brief visit to Afghanistan on February 15 en route to Pakistan, the ministry officials said on Friday.

Singh, who is the first Indian minister to visit Afghanistan since his predecessor Yashwant Sinha was there in 2002, will arrive in Kabul in the morning and leave for Islamabad in the evening for a two-day visit after spending about nine hours in the Afghan

capital. Officials said he would hold talks with President Hamid Karzai, Vice-President Ahmad Zia Masood and Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah. Singh will also declare open the new surgical block of the Indira Gandhi Hospital in

Kabul, the largest healthcare centre in the country built with Indian assistance.

Natwar Singh's trip to Pakistan on February 16-17 will be the first official visit by an Indian foreign minister in 16 years.

MNA/Xinhua

CPC members required to promote advanced nature in Spring Festival

BEIJING, 29 Jan — All members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) should continue studying how to maintain their advanced nature during the upcoming Chinese Spring Festival, according to a notice released Friday by the CPC Leading Group of Maintaining Party Members' Advanced Nature.

The notice demands Party members, especially senior officials, to push aside some social events to study in the upcoming week-long holiday. They should also seek out suggestions about the Party education campaign and report their findings after the holiday.

Party organizations at various levels should attach great importance to caring for CPC members and the general public during the holiday by helping them to celebrate the holiday happily and smoothly.

The notice suggests Party members better inform the general public of stipulations concerning the topic.

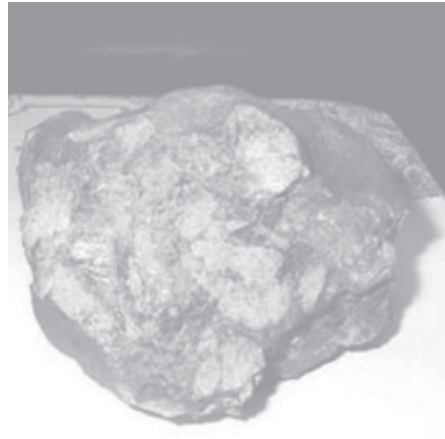
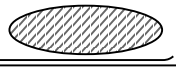
The notice requires party members to behave properly and voluntarily and avoid receiving cash, securities and coupons, not to gamble or participate in superstitious activities, and not to attend extravagant dinner parties during the holiday.

Meanwhile, Party organizations and CPC Central Committee supervisors will oversee the advanced-nature

studies. They should schedule their post-holiday works in advance and facilitate relevant study activities to proceed orderly after the holiday. —MNA/Xinhua



A 10 lb meteorite rock which landed in a former Khmer Rouge zone, in northwest Cambodia, is displayed on 26 Jan, 2005. The 4.5 kg (10 lb) meteorite started fires across rice fields and prayers from villagers who saw it as a divine omen of peace. INTERNET



US Embassy hit, 19 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan— Guerillas killed 17 people and wounded dozens in Iraq on Saturday on the eve of elections. A rocket attack on the US embassy compound in Baghdad's Green Zone killed two Americans and wounded four, a US embassy spokesman said on Saturday.

Even as US-trained security forces barricaded streets, sealed land borders and closed Baghdad airport, more than a dozen polling stations were attacked.

A suicide bomber struck a US-Iraqi security centre in Khanaqin, killing three Iraqi soldiers and five civilians.

Al Qaeda's network in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility and threatened mayhem when voters go to the polls from 7 am on Sunday.

Most attacks were concentrated in the Sunni heartlands of central Iraq. Three civilians died in a roadside bombing in Samarra, while three

soldiers died in a rocket attack on an Iraqi Army base in Duluyia. Three Iraqi contractors abducted a week ago were found shot dead in Balad.

Internet

Singapore, Brunei conduct annual joint exercise

SINGAPORE, 29 Jan— The Singapore Army and the Royal Brunei Land Forces conducted their annual joint live-firing exercise in Singapore from January 24 to 31, according to a statement by the Defence Ministry on Thursday.

Highlighting the battalion live-firing segment involving a total of 530 men from the two armies, this year's exercise also includes discussions on professional topics and familiarization training with the Singapore Assault Rifle 21. Code-named Exercise Dragonball and the 18th in its series, the annual exercise is one of the many professional interactions between the two armies, who also conduct an annual joint armour live-firing exercise.— MNA/Xinhua

1,428 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan —As of Saturday, 29 Jan, 2005, at least 1,428 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 AP count includes four military civilians and is 17 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am 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, 1,290 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.

Internet



A Filipino protester shouts anti-US slogans during a rally in front of the US Embassy in Manila on 30 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET



Chinese Deputy

Prime Minister

Huang Ju addresses

the World Economic

Forum in Davos

on 29 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET



China, Namibia to further judiciary cooperation

BELING, 29 Jan— China would like to push forward cooperation with Namibia and other countries in the judiciary field to contribute to world peace, stability and development, said a Chinese leader here Friday.

Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks in a meeting with Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, Attorney-General of Namibia.

Luo said China is in the key period of reforming its judiciary system and should learn from the other countries in this regard. He noted China and Namibia have enjoyed long-term friendship, and the two countries have increased political, economic and judiciary cooperation since they forged diplo-

matic ties. The enhancement of the Sino-Namibian relations is in the common aspiration of the two peoples and benefits world peace and prosperity, he said.

Luo expressed gratitude for the support of the Namibian Government, saying China will further the cooperation and relationship with Namibia.

Iivula-Ithana said she is paying the visit to China to push forward the judiciary cooperation between the two countries, especially to promote personnel exchanges and to learn from each other's judicial systems. —MNA/Xinhua

Susilo encourages farmers to extend palm plantations

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — Indonesia could become the largest producer and exporter of crude palm oil (CPO) if local administrations in the country to expand the plantation areas, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has said when he paid a inspection visit to South Sumatra Province on Friday.

"Several regions in Indonesia have a great potential for the development of oil palm plantations. It will up to the local administrations to seize the opportunity," the President was quoted by local Press here Saturday.

Malaysia and Indonesia are the world's largest CPO producers and exporters. In 2004, the CPO output in Malaysia is some 13.9 million tons while

Indonesia produced 10.8 million tons, with exports of some seven million tons in the year. The country is expected to 11.6 million tons of CPO and set a target to export 7.8 million tons in 2005. India and China are among the largest importers of Indonesian CPO, which could be consumed as vegetable oil and also utilized as industrial purposes.

MNA/Xinhua

ICO restructuring to become reality

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Jan— Efforts at restructuring the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) will become a reality after Malaysia having led the umbrella body, Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar has said.

"If we can work together with the ICO Secretary-General, who is very keen to restructure the ICO Secretariat, I think it will give us a better chance," Syed told reporters after the closing ceremony of the inaugural meeting of the ICO Commission of Eminent Persons (CEP), in Putrajaya, Federal Administration Centre, late Friday night.

He explained that the

study report on the ICO restructuring was prepared by consultants from Malaysia following this country's proposal that the ICO structure be reviewed. "This is an achievement for all of us and with the support of the member countries, ICO will be able to think of ways of becoming an organization that would be respected by other countries," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq extends emergency laws for another 30 days

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan— Iraq has extended emergency laws to crack down on insurgents for a further 30 days, a government statement said on Saturday.

Emergency rule was first imposed for 60 days in November ahead of a major assault on the rebel stronghold of Fallujah, and has now been renewed twice.

It includes special powers to impose curfews and to close borders and airports if necessary, and to detain suspected insurgents without following normal legal procedures.

Between 28 Jan. and 31 Jan. Iraq has imposed special security measures that include extended curfews, travel restrictions and the closing of land borders and Baghdad's airport, to try to safeguard Sunday's poll. —Internet

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China says seeking win-win cooperation in Asia

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 29 Jan— China's economic growth provides business opportunities for other countries in Asia because it seeks win-win cooperation with them, a senior Chinese official said here Friday.

"China always relates its own interests closely to those of other Asian countries, and is trying its best to work with others to achieve win-win results for all through cooperation," Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang said at the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum held in the Swiss ski resort of Davos. When China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, some people were worried about its implications for economies of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), he said.

Yet it turns out that China's rapid economic growth has presented enormous business opportunities to other countries in the region, and the market-driven reallocation of resources has optimized the regional economic environment to the benefits of all countries, he added.

The trade between China and ASEAN countries exceeded 100 billion US dollars in 2004, the Chinese official said while addressing a forum dinner titled "Asia's New Balancing Act". During the recent tsunami disaster, Shen said, China launched a massive relief campaign to help disaster-affected countries, the largest ever in China. Shen expressed the belief that a dynamic China committed to peaceful development will make even greater contribution to Asia's stability and rejuvenation. —MNA/Xinhua

Mitsubishi Motors unveils revitalization plan

Tokyo, 29 Jan— Scandal-hit Mitsubishi Motors Corp will get financial backup from the Mitsubishi group and aims to return to the black in fiscal 2006, according to its newly composed revitalization plan unveiled on Friday.

The company also plans to enhance operational tie-up with other automakers, like Nissan Motor Co. and French Peugeot-Citroen Group, and boost performance in overseas markets. The latest revival plan is an update of the original one unveiled last May. The company will

enhance its capital standing by issuing new shares of 270 billion yen (2.6 billion US dollars), which will be in the possession of the Mitsubishi group companies — Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Mitsubishi Corporation, and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. As a result, the Mitsubishi group will be holding 34 per cent of Mitsubishi Motor's share. And the automaker will become an equity method affiliate of the Mitsubishi Heavy in fiscal 2005 because of the latter's 15 per cent share holding. In addition, the company plans to raise a total of 270 billion yen (2.6 billion US dollars) mainly through

borrowing.

Domestic sales of Mitsubishi Motor slumped by 30.5 per cent in 2004 in the aftermath of a series of vehicle defect cover-up scandals. The company forecast the sales in fiscal 2004 to end in March would drop 190,000 units from the previous year to 1,337,000 units.

However, it intends to return to profitability in fiscal 2006 with an net income of eight billion yen (77.7 million US dollars). And the company aims to achieve a record net income of 41 billion yen (398.1 million US dollars) in fiscal 2007 with sales totalling 1,500,000 units.

MNA/Xinhua



A factory worker makes parts at a joint venture Chinese and Japanese electronics in Yinchuan, in northeastern China on 29 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Chinese Vice-President arrives in Venezuela for official visit

CARACAS, 29 Jan— Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong Friday afternoon arrived in Caracas from Lima on an official visit as guest of his Venezuelan counterpart Jose Vicente Rangel.

Zeng was accorded with a warm welcoming ceremony at the airport by his Venezuelan counterpart. Zeng said in a written statement upon arrival that his ongoing visit is aimed to further promote friendship, enhance mutual trust, deepen cooperation and common development.

During the visit, he said, he will have an in-depth exchange of views with President Hugo Chavez and Vice-President Rangel on bilateral

ties and other issues of shared concern.

"I am convinced my current visit will achieve fruitful results and serve to give a new impetus to the China-Venezuela strategic partnership of common development," he said. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1974, Zeng said, the relationship between the two nations has witnessed smooth development and friendship between the two peoples has been increasingly deepened.

Especially since the two established strategic partnership of common development in 2001, he said, bilateral cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, trade, science, technology and education have been continuously enhanced and scored remarkable progress.

Not long ago, President Chavez visited China again and leaders of the two nations reached important consensus on furthering state-to-state ties, Zeng added.

Venezuela is the third leg of Zeng's five-nation tour to Latin America and Caribbean. He had visited Mexico and Peru, and will travel to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica after winding up his visit in Venezuela. Zeng is also scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of the first Ministerial-level Meeting of the China-Caribbean Economy and Trade Cooperation Forum 2005 on February 2 in Jamaica.

MNA/Xinhua



Director of the India's National Center for Ocean Information Services, Dr K Radhakrishnan, listens during ministerial meetings on regional cooperation on disaster early warning arrangements in Phuket, southern Thailand on 29 Jan 2005.—INTERNET

Chinese Govt cautions against bird flu outbreak

BEIJING, 29 Jan— Various localities and relevant departments were urged to take "all possible measures" to guard against outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in China, according to a teleconference held Friday afternoon by the State Council.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao delivered an edict calling for tightened monitoring efforts and preventive measures in key regions against the bird flu. The Premier also urged more personnel and technological training and demanded emergency plans to be formulated in advance of possible outbreaks.

Addressing the teleconference, Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu demanded all localities and relevant departments carefully implement Premier Wen's directive.

Although China succeeded in fighting bird flu virus last year and there have been no outbreaks reported so far this

year, some Chinese localities are still not properly prepared for a possible outbreak especially while neighbouring countries are facing resurgence of bird flu and posing a threat to China.

Hui called for an enhanced awareness of the flu and its possible effects.

MNA/Xinhua

Mauritian PM vows to boost economic ties with Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 29 Jan— Mauritius hopes to boost economic ties with Shanghai and expects to receive more investment from Shanghai businesses, visiting Mauritian Prime Minister Paul Raymond Berenger said Friday during his visit to Shanghai. When meeting with Han Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai, Berenger suggested that the two sides expand exchange and cooperation in trade, tourism and the aviation industry.

Han briefed Berenger on Shanghai's latest economic and social development and promised that Shanghai would encourage the local entrepreneurs to further investment in Mauritius.

Mauritius now has 300 investment projects in Shanghai, with a contracted worth of 1.6 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Meeting on disaster warning arrangement opens in Thailand

PHUKET (Thailand), 25 Jan— Representatives from over 40 countries and regions kicked off a ministerial meeting here Friday to discuss how to proceed with a regional disaster early warning system, including the location of such a system.

The Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Warning Arrangements, which was opened by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, is one in a series of international meetings designed for such a purpose.

At a large international meeting held in Kobe, Japan, which ended on 23 Jan, UN officials have promised to set up a warning system for the Indian Ocean by June next year.

Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sihak Phuentketkeow said Thailand put forward a proposal for a Bangkok-based arrangement at Friday's senior officials' meeting in preparation for the ministerial meeting on Saturday.

Thailand expressed the hope to build the early warning system on the existing UN-sponsored Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, which has a history of 20 years and 30 members.

Thailand's proposal came at a time when a number of countries in the region like India have expressed the readiness to build a regional disaster warning centre on their soil.

Many countries in and outside the region are in competition with each other to engage themselves in the disaster relief efforts and the establishment of a warning system.—MNA/Xinhua

Hu Jintao extends new year greetings to veterans in Beijing

BEIJING, 29 Jan— Chinese President Hu Jintao Friday extended New Year greetings to the veterans in Beijing-stationed armies here Friday after a performance held by the CPC Central Military Commission to celebrate the upcoming China's lunar New Year, the Spring Festival.

Hu, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, and other leaders of the military commission joined the veterans to see the performance given by military artists.

MNA/Xinhua

France repeats call for foreign troop pullout from Iraq

PARIS, 29 Jan— French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin has reiterated France's support for Iraqis to re-establish full independence with the pullout of foreign troops from the country, a Tunisian newspaper reported.

Raffarin's comments, in an interview with the Tunisian newspaper Ach Chourouq to be published on Sunday, came on the eve of Iraq's first multi-party election in decades and amid growing domestic pressure in the United States to pull out its troops. The pullout of foreign troops is spelt out in (UN) resolution 1546. This departure is part of the political process backed by France," Raffarin said in the interview, a text of which was sent to Reuters ahead of publication.

"My country has always urged the Iraqis re-establish full control of their destiny, an effective sovereignty,

something which can be achieved via the departure of foreign troops," added Raffarin, who is due to leave Tunisia later on Saturday for a two-day trip. Britain has 9,000 soldiers in Iraq. The United States has 150,000 and says it will keep at least 120,000 of them in Iraq for the next two years to train and fight with Iraqi forces against guerillas.

Internet

A Chinese boy rides a specially constructed 'ice-bicycle' on a frozen lake in China's capital Beijing on 30 Jan, 2005. Beijing residents enjoyed a cold but sunny day on Sunday with all kinds of winter activities. INTERNET



Creativity shines in art works by disabled children

HONG KONG, 29 Jan — During these days, laughter penetrated every corner of Hong Kong Arts Centre's Pao Gallery where students from various special schools learnt how to make portraits by using different materials.

The Jockey Club Arts for the Disabled Scheme — Joint Special Schools Music and Arts Festival is now holding an exhibition showcasing paintings, drawings, Chinese calligraphy, ceramic pieces created by students with physical or mental disabilities during the scheme's art projects conducted in 80 special schools and special child care centres.

The festival aims at providing a platform for students with a disability to showcase their achievements in the learning process, including their very first steps.

The exhibition is open to public from January 21 to 30 at Hong Kong Arts Centre where guided tours and workshops led by tutors of the school-based art projects are held during the exhibition to enhance the visitors' interest.

"At this arts festival, we work our best to help disabled students to arouse their interest in art, develop creativity and build up self-confidence," said Chris Chan, one of the art tutors of the festival.

The festival encourages public appreciation of the art work created by disabled children and sharing of their creative aspiration, as Chan said, this empowering experience will help the students' future development in a more mature, fruitful and well-developed path.

Chan's knapsack was tucked with many lovely props which, he said, were very useful in inspiring students' imagination during classes and leading them into the world of art.

The festival is the first major effort in Hong Kong to empower disabled people of all ages to develop their creative and artistic potential in different art forms to elite levels, while the community has the opportunity to appreciate their artistic talents.

Apart from the exhibition, the festival will also stage a performance on January 28 to 30 at Hong Kong Arts Centre. The multi-media theatre performance featuring creative drama, dance, music, puppet show and Chinese opera will be presented by various special schools.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese web sites try to improve efficiency of online advertisement

Chinese web sites try to improve efficiency of online advertisement

BEIJING, 29 Jan—About 1,000 Chinese web sites and media units have signed in an alliance to adopt a new technology in a bid to improve the efficiency and accuracy of advertising on line early this month.

The web sites are trying to "narrow" advertisement to the audience who are most interested in it, said TIXA Internet (Beijing) Technology Co. Ltd, the technology supplier. With the technology, the advertisement on the web site will come up with the most relevant stories and pictures and Internet service providers are able to send advertisement to users according to their backgrounds and interests, Zang Xiangning, president of the company

said. As the most profitable business for web sites, flooding online advertisement have roused complaints and even hatred among China's 94 million Internet surfers. "The present way of advertising on line is somewhat blind and it slows the web site," said Chen Tong, vice-president of Sina.com that has taken 40 per cent of China's online advertising market. Several leading

gateways like Sina.com and China.com and news web sites such as People.com and Xinhuanet.com have joined the alliance. Companies will not be charged by the web sites until their advertisements are clicked, the TIXA Internet Technology said. It will be economical for small companies and individuals to put ads on line since one click costs about 0.2 yuan (two US cents), the company added. MNA/Xinhua

Illegal gun maker arrested in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 29 Jan—The Indonesian police have arrested a man identified as Suyanto, 48, for illegally producing 14 hand-made weapons and possessing 64 bullets as well as three packs of ammunition in the Central Java city of Temanggung, an officer said Friday.

Central Java Police Chief Inspector-General Chaerul Rasjid said the 64 weapons, bullets and ammunition had been confiscated as evidence from Suyanto — an ex-convict.

The confiscated weapons consisted of an original M16 pistol, an assembled M16, seven unfinished M16s, a .22 calibre CIS pistol, one FN45 pistol, a .22 calibre pistol, Chaerul was quoted by *The Jakarta Post* online news as saying. Other confiscated goods included an weapon-assembling instruction book, a pocketbook on the Army and three other books on weaponry, he said.

The police are still tracking down Suyanto's assistant Budi Santosa and another unidentified suspect. MNA/Xinhua

The Watsons and Mannings health, beauty and pharmacy chains are subsidiaries of two companies that dominate Hong Kong's retail sector, Hutchison Whampoa and Dairy Farm Group on 30 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET



Iranian official criticizes US threats of military strikes

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Jan—The United States threats of military strikes against Iran unless it abandons its nuclear program shows Washington's anxiety over Teheran's improving relationship with the rest of the world, an Iranian official has said.

The United States was "reacting towards Iranian

relationship with other countries... the United States will not be happy (about the relationship)," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Gholamali Khoshroo said Thursday.

Khoshroo told reporters on the sidelines of the inaugural meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) Commission of Eminent Persons in Putrajaya, federal administration centre near here. He charged that the United States was pro-pagating a perception of an Iranian threat which was not a reality.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran helping Zimbabwe to upgrade electricity output

HARARE, 29 Jan—Iran will help Zimbabwe to upgrade one of its power stations at a cost of 250 million US dollars to increase electricity output as President Robert Mugabe's government moves to bolster ties with Muslim and Asian nations.

State power utility ZESA said Iran would provide 60 per cent of the project funds as a loan to be repaid after 10 years, while the utility would contribute 40 per cent.

ZESA has failed to import enough power from its neighbours in past years. This has led to frequent power cuts that have disrupted industrial production as the southern African country battles its worst economic crisis in decades.

ZESA wants to increase output by 40 per cent from 750 megawatts at its second largest power station, the Kariba hydro-power plant in northwestern Zimbabwe, which produces 39.5 per cent of the country's power.

"In three weeks' time we will start the upgrading of Kariba Power Station with the help of the Iranian Government at a cost of 250 million US dollars," ZESA said, responding to questions from Reuters.

Iran's President Mohammad Khatami paid a three-day visit to Zimbabwe last week and pledged to stand by the country, which is battling international isolation over Mugabe's land policies and his controversial reelection 2002.

Zimbabwe, like its neighbours, is pushing up power output, with household electricity usage expected to rise and industrial demand outstrip supply.

MNA/Reuters



Miss Chinese International winner Leanne Li Yanan of Vancouver (C), first runner-up Chen Fala of New York (L) and second runner-up Jessica Young of Melbourne pose after winning the Miss Chinese International Pageant 2005 in Hong Kong on 29 Jan, 2005. Twenty-two contestants from around the world, including the U S, Malaysia, Peru, Holland and Thailand, are participating in the pageant.—INTERNET

Drive safely

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

New golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung



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

Myanmar is a Union made up of seven states and seven divisions. Over 100 national races have been living together in unity and amity through thick and thin throughout consecutive eras of history.

A glance at the course of history will indicate that Myanmar had stood as an independent and sovereign state under its own monarch in the international community for years countable by the thousand. From that time onwards, the national brethren came together to eliminate all the dangers posed to the country and protected their motherland.

The colonialists waged an aggressive war on Myanmar in 1824. After three wars, Myanmar was colonized in 1885. Like a saying that goes "a real ruby does not lose its brightness even in the mire", national compatriots armed themselves with Union Spirit and showed bravery and determination throughout the independence struggle.

The colonialists made wicked schemes to break up national solidarity by introducing the 'divide and rule' policy so that they could enslave Myanmar for a long time. Yet, national people unanimously made it known to the colonialists at Panglong on 12 February 1947 that their unity had been hardened into 'family spirit'.

After witnessing the united strength of national people, the colonialists eventually granted independence to Myanmar. On the other hand, the conspirators hatched wicked schemes to hold sway over Myanmar and to make her dance to their tune.

As an emerging independent nation, Myanmar should have kept pace with neighbouring countries in terms of development. Instead, the country suffered the impact of internal insurgency.

The country had lived under the colonial servitude for over 123 years, subject to all kinds of exploitation. The country was not able to rise from a 40-year knock-out engulfed in the flame of internal insurgency. Under such circumstances, the country was close to collapse in 1988 as a result of subversive as well as provocative acts of the internal and external destructive elements. The Tatmadaw thus saved the country from imminent disintegration in the nick of time by assuming the State duty.

The Tatmadaw government that came into existence as an answer to the call of historical need worked hard to put the country in order by improving the socio-economic life of national people after drawing lessons from the past events and analysing

the prevailing conditions. Now, the government is taking measures for reforms to improve all the sectors across the country through a calculation of development paces slower than others.

Geographically, Myanmar shares borders with India in the west, with China in the north, and with Laos and Thailand in the east. To the far south of Myanmar lies the Bay of Bengal linking to the Indian Ocean.

The Union of Myanmar is 1,275 miles in length from north to south and 582 miles from east to west. The total area of the country is 261,228 square miles. Myanmar has a population of over 53 million.

The forest area of the country constitutes 57 percent of the land, 149,528 square miles. The cultivable land as a whole totalled 45 million acres when compared with over 24.8 million acres in 1988.

At present, Myanmar is an agro-based country, with its 70 percent of population living in rural areas.

The transport system in the colonial era was a total failure. Even after independence, transport was mainly relied on water course in delta regions, not to mention border areas.

The government is making strenuous efforts day

"A variety of national races live in the territory of our nation Myanmar, and each and every part of the nation is like a small union where different nationalities reside. We Myanmarans have been living together in unison so long that we are inseparable. And love, friendship and unity are a must for all of us".

in, day out to overcome the difficulties.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, emphasis has been placed on the perpetual existence of the Union.

State Peace and Development Council Chairman and also Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the spirit of oneness among the national brethren at University for Development of National Races on 28 January 2003.

The Senior General said: "A variety of national races live in the territory of our nation Myanmar, and each and every part of the nation is like a small union where different nationalities reside. We Myanmarans have been living together in unison so

long that we are inseparable. And love, friendship and unity are a must for all of us".

The guidance is indeed like a light that shows the way to the better future of the nation at a time when the national races, who have been living on the same land and drinking water from the same source, are striving for national progress, while sailing on the same boat.

The government therefore gave the top priority to national reconsolidation and managed to clear the hatred, discord and misunderstanding among the national brethren, which were caused by the instigations and interventions of the colonialists. In consequence, a total of 17 national armed groups have returned to the legal fold. With the fruits of peace and stability in the entire nation, the Border Areas and National Races Development Project opened a new chapter of the nation's history.

At the same time, the government sought all possible ways and means for food sufficiency of the entire national people. With a view to ensuring development of the agricultural sector, the artery of an agro-based nation, the government has been taking measures systematically and effectively such as extension of sown acreage, construction of dams and water pumping stations for irrigating cultivated lands, introducing all-year-round cultivable lands, launching projects for food security of respective regions, and providing encouragement and necessary assistance for ensuring success in cultivating all crops. The government also could open a new page of the agricultural sector of the nation.

Furthermore, the government has been able to build a network of roads and bridges across the nation in its drive to cement the amicable relations among the national brethren with smooth and secure transport.

In addition, the government has taken steps for development of the livestock breeding and fishery sector. Myanmar is rich in fresh water fish and prawn as well as sea fish and prawn. However, it is making sustained efforts with farsightedness to fulfil the fish and prawn demand of the posterity. The number of fish breeding and prawn breeding farms has increased significantly in the states and divisions which are blessed with favourable conditions for this industry. It initiated the paddy plus fish project, and the release of fingerlings of a wide range of fish species into the Ayeyawady River.

It has placed emphasis on conservation of present forests as well as planting of trees to form more forests. It is implementing the project for greening of the 13 districts in the Upper Myanmar, which were once called the arid zone of the nation.

Based on the success in the agriculture, livestock breeding, regional greening and transport sectors, it is putting into motion the master plan for building an agro-based industrialized country. It has also helped emerge computer-aided industrial zones and factories in the country.

For the national progress, the government, under the close supervision of the Special Projects Implementation Central Committee headed by the Head of State, is doing its utmost to open a bridge in a month and 12 dams in a year in order to bring fruits of rapid development to the national people in a short time. So, a lot of new towns, roads, bridges and factories have been added to the nation's map.

In addition to building of more infrastructures in various areas for the future nation, it has laid down many education promotion projects for enabling the national people to enhance their

(See page 11)

Provision of training designed ...

(from page 1)

friendship among national brethren, to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to shape a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The Association puts our three main national causes first as well as the political, economic and social objectives under the correct leadership of the government in the interest of the country and people. It is necessary for the Association to further consolidate itself as a national force to defend the country and to serve the interests of the country and people.

The government opened the University for Development of National Races with seven objectives: to strengthen the Union spirit in the national races of the Union while residing in a friendly atmosphere and pursuing education at the University, to preserve and understand the culture and good traditions of the national races of the Union, to promote the spirit of desiring to serve in order to raise the standard of living of the national races, to raise the quality of leadership and efficiency in carrying out the development of the national races, to infuse the spirit of desiring to carrying out works of research with a view to the success of the measures for the development of the national races, to produce good educational personnel who are free from party politics and who are of good moral character, and to keep alive and promote the spirit of desiring to preserve the causes of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and ensuring the perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State.

The provision of training is designed to produce qualified human resources that will shape the future of the country.

In turning the country into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation, stability, strong economy and higher education are of basic requirements. Efforts are being made with might and main to strengthen the national economy and promote the national education all over the country.

Youths are being trained to become the well-rounded individuals inspired with Union Spirit. Their participation in the nation-building tasks will speed up the development of the country. They are to inculcate correct thought and concept in the people living in the

areas in which they are assigned duties.

In particular, they are to convince the local people that our three main national causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — are of importance in establishing a peaceful, developed and modern nation. As the country had lived in the colonial servitude for over 100 years, it is necessary to erase the evil legacy left by the colonialists, to harden the minds of the national brethren, and to enrich the nationalism and patriotism.

Importance should be attached to the drive for upholding of traditional culture and custom as well as for preventing the infiltration of alien culture and character. This being the case, national youths are to be imbued with Union Spirit as well as with love of the country.

Over 70 percent of the country's population live in rural areas. Development tasks should be carried out starting from rural areas to township, to district, to state, to division, and then to central levels.

The government has laid down five rural development tasks and is undertaking them with greater momentum for narrowing the gap between the rural and urban areas. Moreover, the USDA in cooperation with local people is participating in the tasks for better transport including village-to-village and village-to-town roads, availability of water for drinking and agricultural purpose, uplift of rural health care services and education and rural economic life and power supply, he said.

He said rural development and rural organizational matters are related. The trainees are to carry out the tasks for uplift of education, social life and regional development practically so that the people will support the rural development tasks. Trainees can win confidence and reliance of the people by helping solve their difficulties and fulfilling their desires. He spoke of the need for the trainees to lead and organize rural people while carrying out community welfare services.

He said, the trainees are to actively take part in the respective roles for success of the seven-point Road Map, the requirement of the people together with the USDA, war veterans organization, women's affairs federation, maternal and child welfare association, Red Cross, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and people under the leadership of the government.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the trainees to

USDA and the people are in oneness, that is, they can never be separated, he noted. The meeting chairman urged local people to continue their participation in the efforts for rural development. In conclusion, he called for active participation of the people in the drive for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic state. At the same time, he called on those present to hail the Union Day which falls on 12 February and to support the National Convention which will resume on 17 February.

Taunggyi District USDA Executive Daw Khin Htwe Aung, in her support of the National Convention, said that the Union of Myanmar is a nation where over one hundred of national races have been residing for years countable by the thousand.

The nation with its own monarch was under colonialist subjugation. The national races, who could not tolerate the plight of being under

(See page 11)



USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Htay Oo presents commemorative medal to a trainee of BED Course No 36 of UDNR.—MNA

discharge national, educational, cultural and literary duties, to keep national solidarity and the Union spirit alive among the people, to participate in rural and national development tasks after realizing the importance of duty and concept to serve the interest of the people and try to become good sons and daughters on whom the State and USDA can rely as good education staff, organizers and builders, upholding Our Three Main National Causes. The Prime Minister presented gifts to the rector of UDNR, supervisors and trainees. On behalf of the trainees, Ma Nan Ei Swe Zin Win of Lashio Township spoke words of thanks. Ma Pan Ei Phyu of Palaung national presented a commemorative pennant to Secretary-General of the USDA Maj-Gen Htay Oo who gave them gifts.

Before and during the dinner, artists entertained the guests and the trainees sang songs.—MNA

Myanmar boxers bag one silver, four bronze

YANGON, 30 Jan — The selected Myanmar boxing team won one silver and four bronze in the ASEAN Boxing Amateur Championship-2005 held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 16 to 23 January.

Out of seven Myanmar boxers, Yan Naing Soe won a silver after he had been defeated by the host Vietnamese boxers in the 57-kilo featherweight division.

Bronze medalists were Zaw Myo Min in the 48-kilo event, Kyaw Kyaw Latt in the 54-kilo event, Soe Yaza in the 60-kilo event and Aung Thura in the 64-kilo event.

Myanmar Boxing Federation plans to achieve success in the SEA Games.—MNA

Maubin Paper Mill put...

(from page 16)

development of industries, services and trade concerning agricultural tasks in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The mill opened today can contribute towards economic development of local jute growers and the government. Nowadays, the local growers have opportunities to sell the jute in all parts to the mill. Machinery were imported from China Yunnan Corporation so as to produce quality papers by using all parts of jute. So, all are to penetrate quality papers produced at the mill to foreign markets. Manufacturing of paper from jute can prevent deforestation and help conserve environment.

Chairman of China Yunna Corporation Mr Guo Xiao Yong gave a speech. Maubin Paper Mill has the capacity to manufacture 17 tons of paper a day, 455 tons a month and 5,000 tons a year. Therefore, it can produce 2,500 tons of writing paper and 2,500 tons of offset printing paper a year. Though the mill requires 9 million viss of jute raw materials annually, a total of 9.3 million viss of raw materials are kept at the mill. And, the plan is under way to extend sown acreage of jute annually. —MNA

Ceremony to hail Union Day,...

(from page 16)

sectarianism and racism. And as a result, the nation lagged behind development.

As the State was able to forge national solidarity, the country is now on its way to progress due to the participation of the government and the people. Significant growth has been seen in such areas as education, health and rural progress.

National unity based on Union Spirit

shows fruits of development. To maintain this, it is the duty of all national people, the meeting chairman urged. The National Convention will resume on February 17 to write a State constitution which is the most crucial for the State and its nation people. Only then can a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation be built. While delegates of national people are attending the National Convention, all people on

their part are required to cooperate in the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map, he added.

The USDA is a strong national force with the strength of sons and daughters of the nation which was established to serve the interests of all Myanmar national people. So, the association is working hard in cooperation with the government, social organizations and the general public. The



USDA members and local people marching to the rally in Kyauktalongyi of Taunggyi Township.—MNA

The entire people to wipe out any acts that hinder successful holding of National Convention

Thayet District USDA commemorates Union Day, supports National Convention

YANGON, 30 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention took place at Kyaukse Sanpya Village, Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division, this morning.

Present were Secretary of Magway Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Khin Maung Swe, Executive U Than Swe, executives of Thayet District USDA, secretaries of Aunglan, Kanma, Sinbaungwe, Minhla, Mindon and Thayet Township USDAs, members of War Veterans Organization, members of MWAFA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people totalling over 3,500.

Thayet District



The ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in progress at Kyaukse Sanpya Village, Aunglan Township.— MNA

USDA Joint-Secretary U Kyi Min spoke on the occasion. He said the Union of Myanmar is a nation where the national people have been living in amity since time immemorial. The govern-

ment has laid down Our Three Main National Policies for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation. In so doing, the government gave priority to national reconsolidation, community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order.

As a result, 17 armed groups had returned to the legal fold and they participate in regional development and nation-building tasks hand in hand with the government. Regional development tasks can

government, appropriate endeavours and participation of the united force of the people.

Now the State is on the development path. All the national races made efforts to bring

charge duties in their respective roles in accord with the objectives of the 58th Anniversary Union Day.

The government is making endeavours to become a prosperous,



USDA members, social organization members and local people marching to the rally held in Aunglan Township.— MNA



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

USDA Joint-Secretary U Kyi Min presided over the meeting. Daw Sanda, member of Kanma Township USDA, acted as MC and Daw Thazin Aung, member of Aunglan Township USDA, co-MC.

Thayet District

ment has laid down Our Three Main National Policies which are the national policies of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The policies are

policies for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation. In so doing, the government gave priority to national reconsolidation, community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order.

As a result, 17

be undertaken as security and stability has been restored in states and divisions and even in border areas.

Economic and social progress of the State has been made more than expected under the correct leadership of the

about peace and stability and national solidarity with Union spirit. Therefore, the government designated 12 February 1947 as Union Day on which historic Panglong Agreement was signed. All the national people are to dis-

discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the seven-point Road Map. Efforts are to be made for successful holding of the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map.

(See page 15)



Aunglan Township USDA Secretary U San Lwin.— MNA



Thayet District USDA Joint-Secretary U Kyi Min.— MNA



Sinbaungwe Township USDA Joint-Secretary U Thein Myint.— MNA



Aunglan Township USDA Executive U Min Sein.— MNA



Thayet District USDA Executive U Soe Naing.— MNA



Daw Sanda and Daw Thazin Aung act MCs.— MNA

Relief given to disaster-stricken villages of Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 30 Jan —A ceremony to donate cash and kind to those from Ayeyawady who suffered the natural disaster took place at the office of Patheingyi District Peace and Development Council on 28 January morning. Division PDC Chairman South West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Social Welfare and Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, senior military officers, local authorities and members of social organisations were present.

The commander spoke on the occasion. The minister and Metta Development Foundation Adviser

Daw Hla Hla Thein explained the purpose of the donations. Next, the commander and the minister presented cash and kind donated by Metta Development Foundation to those representing the disaster-stricken villages.

Donations included 1034 tons of timber and 12925 corrugated iron sheets, 500 blankets, 495 shawls, 4094 clothes of various sizes for both sexes, medicines, kitchen utensils, rice and edible oil and K 18 million. The commander also attended the coordination meeting of the Ayeyawady Division and delivered a speech. — MNA

Information Minister makes field trips to rural areas in Magway Division

YANGON, 30 Jan — Secretary Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made field trips to Pauk, Saw, Htilin, Gangaw and Pale townships from 23 to 28 January.

On 23 January, the minister attended the opening ceremony of self-reliant Meeshu Tazaung library in Pyinchaung Village, Pauk Township. The minister and Chairman of Pyinchaung model village Peace and Development Council U Ye Win formally opened the library.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donated K 50,000 for repairing the BEPS and stationery and periodicals to the library. Similarly, Pakokku District Information and Public Relations Department and wellwishers presented



USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Pyinchaung model village PDC Chairman U Ye Win open the village library on 23-1-2005.— MNA

Tha Aye. Next, the minister presented K 100,000 for repair of Tapyin BEPS and stationery to the village library. In Peinne model village of Kyaukhtu, the minister met with 800 local people and accepted 300 USDA membership applications.

On 24 January, the min-

istry applications.

In his inspection tour on Pakokku and Gangaw districts, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that he met with local people there to fulfil the requirements of rural regions in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than

everybody have opportunities to learn higher education because the government has been launching e-education system. Only intellectuals and intelligentia can serve the interest of the nation.

Therefore, he said that rural people should make efforts so as to enroll their children at the schools. Today, the Government concentrates on infrastructures in the education, health, transport, agriculture and others. The brilliant progress made in construction of roads, bridges, dams and higher learning institutions reflect the genuine goodwill of the government.

He noted that the rural people are to improve their socio-economic living standard by undertaking extension of sown acreage, double cropping and carrying out livestock breeding. He stressed the need to extend cultivation of pepper, durian, djenkol bean and orange which are suitable for geographical conditions of Gangaw District.

He asserted that the Government is carrying out development tasks, overcoming various kinds of difficulties and warding off acts of internal and external destructive elements. In the past, imperialists occupied



USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a bicycle for Saw Township USDA to an official on 24-1-2005.— MNA

books and periodicals.

In the afternoon, the minister met with staff of Pauk Township IPRD and gave necessary instructions. He inspected the site for TV re-transmission station in Tapyin and Tapyin Village health care unit in Saw Township. He met local people in Kyaukhtu. In Tapyin Village, the minister accepted 215 USDA membership applications from village organizer U

ister oversaw the site for construction of TV re-transmission station in Kyaukhtu. After meeting with local people, the minister presented gifts for local people through officials. In Hnaw village, he accepted 292 USDA membership applications.

In the afternoon, he proceeded to Htilin and called on over 900 local people. The Secretariat member accepted 350 USDA mem-

Shwe. At present, the Government gives priority to the education sector for development of human resources. Learning of higher education was out of the reach of rural people round about 1988. As the Tatmadaw government has built 156 universities and colleges throughout the country after assumption of State duties, the rural people can easily pursue the higher education. Furthermore,

Shun afar drug that decimates mankind

- * **Brimming with generosity, with mind for goodwill**
Mind forever in your thoughts
For wellbeing of humanity and pleasantness
If everyone gets into it, as a result
Goodness of life, everyone will attain
It'll be well worth, being humans
Everyone will enjoy, human life
Pretty, pleasant and peaceful.
- * **Lacking in goodwill, with selfishness**
Toward that end, without goodwill
Human dealings, as they are
Are destroyed, and the future
As human rights, the guise
Is taken up, in whatever shape desired
And is being shaped, human villages are destroyed
Human lives, with gradually be decimated
And the human world, will pass into nothingness.
- * **Without right generosity, with strong avarice**
If humankind is handled as one desires
As one pleases, setting snares and traps
Those who are carrying out, such acts
Such people beware
Choosing the fragrant name of human rights
With such choice, potion of decimation
Is being fed, those who know all
Discerning all, bear in mind
If that drug is fed to you
May you be able to shun afar.

Po Wa (Trs)

Industry-2 Minister on inspection tour

YANGON, 30 Jan — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials, yesterday morning arrived at the Intagaw Industrial region of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Intagaw, Bago Division and heard reports presented by officials concerned on progress of construction of new factories and workshops, building of iron foundry, arrival of machines and accessories, arrival of foreign technicians and work being carried out, arrival of machinery for aluminium wire factory project, electric motor factory and electrical appliance factory, arrangements for installation of machinery and others.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the work, test-running of machinery, sooner arrival of machinery, exchange of technology and running of factories at full capacity. Afterwards, the minister proceeded to aluminium factory and inspected production process of the factory and upgrading task.

Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanma Machine Tool & Electrical Industries and General Manager U Pe Than Hlaing reported on salient points to the minister who stressed the need for officials to produce aluminium as scheduled and complete the factory extension task sooner. Next, the minister arrived at iron foundry of Myanma Automobile & Diesel Engine Industries and inspected functions of the factory and Managing Director U Soe Thein reported on salient points.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of upgrading work, worksite safety and fire preventive measures. Next, the minister inspected construction of the Research and Development Centre of the Ministry of Industry-2 and gave instructions on timely completion, greening measures, welfare of service personnel and efficient use of electricity and fuel.—MNA

to enslave the country by using their might. At present, however, they influence the puppet governments by practising neo-colonial system. As such, it is important that all the people should be aware of how the neo-colonialism can be employed.

In conclusion, the minister urged the local people to harmoniously join hands with the government and USDA to achieve success in implementing the seven-point Road Map and development of the State.

MNA

Ceremony to commemorate Union Day...

(from page 16)
subjugation, drove the colonialists out of the nation, with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on.
With national unity, the national brethren had been able to sign the Panglong agreement. As a result, the independence was regained on 4 January 1948.

As the government has been able to forge national reconsolidation, the national brethren, who were in the jungle in the



Taunggyi District USDA Secretary U Sein Lay Maung.— MNA

past, made peace with the government. They are now taking part in the nation-building endeavours hand in hand with the government. With prevalence of peace and stability in the nation including border areas regional development tasks could be carried out in all seriousness. This is the fruitful results of the national unity.

Keeping in mind the national objectives of the 58th Anniversary Union Day, the entire national

people are to unitedly safeguard the Union with the Union Spirit so that the nation exists as long as the world does.

Next, U Aung Naing Tun of Taunggyi District USDA, in his support of the National Convention, said that a State constitution is a prerequisite for an independent nation. It is a lifeblood of an independent nation. It is also the strength of the public.

The National Convention, which is in the process, is of historic importance. The delegates to the National Convention are those who are from



U Aung Naing Tun of Taunggyi District USDA.— MNA

various walks of life. What is more significant, those who had been in the jungle for 50 years, are attending the National Convention. This is the essence of the national reconsolidation. The delegates to the National Convention, who are from various strata, are taking part in the drafting of basic principles for the future nation. Hence, we support the National Con-

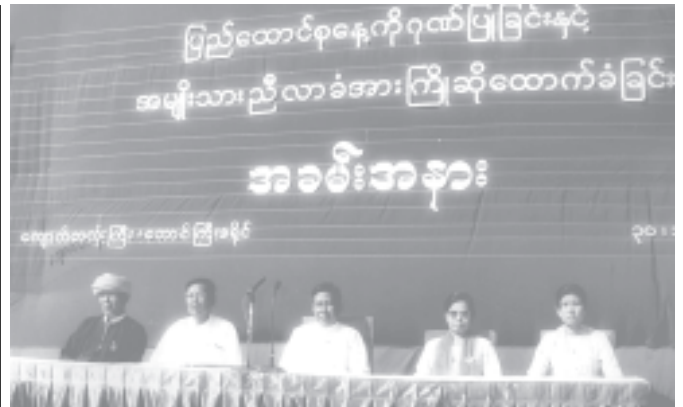
vention that will resume in the very near future.

Daw Khin Thanda Oo, Executive of Taunggyi District USDA, submitted reports on carrying out rural development tasks in the district. He said that it is known to all that the government is striving with its own might for building a modern and developed nation without foreign assistance. USDA at different levels could achieve success in implementation of the tasks adopted by the USDA (Central). The association wins more trust and support of local national people on their own accord due to carrying out rural development tasks so as to narrow the gap between rural and urban areas.



Taunggyi District USDA Executive Daw Khin Htwe Aung.— MNA

Regarding rural development tasks in Taunggyi District, she said that better transport was facilitated by building 95 miles long gravel road, 62 miles long earth one and 13 bridges. In Hsihseng Township, Heho Township and



The meeting chairman and members of the panel of chairmen presiding over the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in Kyauktalngyi, Taunggyi District.— MNA

Kyauktalngyi of Taunggyi Township, local people enjoyed fruitful results of water supply system by sinking tubewells and building the dam. She added that 11 rural dispensaries were opened for uplift of health standard of the local people. And, the association members donated 472



Taunggyi District USDA Executive Daw Khin Thanda Oo.— MNA

blood bottles. Next, she reported efforts of the association in providing assistance to the rural education sector and power supply sector. In conclusion, the association at

different levels should organize local people in order to actively participate in implementing the future tasks of the USDA while carrying out regional development tasks.

U Khun Maung Lar, Executive of Kyauktalngyi USDA, seconded the motions tabled by three USDA representatives in honour of the Union Day, in support of the National Conven-



Kyauktalngyi USDA Executive U Khun Maung Lar.— MNA

tion and matters concerning development of rural areas in Taunggyi District.

The meeting chairman sought the approval of those in connection with honouring the Union Day, upholding the Our Three Main National Causes, hailing the National Convention, and supporting the rural development tasks in the district.

Next, USDA member students sang the song titled "Eternal Union". The ceremony ended with chanting of the slogans.— MNA



Taunggyi Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Yi Yi Win.— MNA

New golden land...

(from page 7)

intellectual power in the knowledge age. It has broadened the scope of the education sphere by means of opening more and more basic and higher education schools for the entire national people to enjoy equal rights in their pursuit of education and for upgrading the nation's education standard. Under the 24 Special Region Development Project, it has established new universities, colleges and 200-bed hospitals in respective regions.

Simultaneously, it is implementing the five rural development tasks for elevating the living and social standards of the rural dwellers.

During the more-than-16-year period of the Tatmadaw government, the nation has been able to reach again the list of top paddy-producing nations, play a leading role in producing beans and pulses among ASEAN nations, stand as a nation, in which forests are conserved and the environment protected well, inexhaustible gas deposits discovered, water resources effectively harnessed for the nation's power sector. It has also caught up with other ASEAN nations in the education and health spheres. Therefore, the nation is now

on its way to a new state with bright prospects.

The above-mentioned fruitful results well matched with the speech delivered by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his inspection tour of Shan State in April 2002, saying that as the national races who live in 14 States and Divisions are indeed the brethren, the government is making relentless efforts to ensure equitable development of all parts of the nation.

Simultaneously the government is taking all possible measures for progress of the national races and brighter future of the nation. All national people are the brethren of the nation, so the government really wants to see all national races enjoy fruitful results of development equally, he said.

According to the area, natural resources and population of the nation, Myanmar will become a modern and developed one before long if the national people make efforts with added momentum in harmony for national development, he said.

(I would like to present other measures of the government soon for the seven States and seven Divisions.)

(Translation: KTY + MS)

Industry-1 Minister visits Sittoung Paper Mill

YANGON, 30 Jan — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Managing Director of Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries U Than Shwe, visited Sittoung Paper Mill No 1 in Sittoung, Mon State on 28 January afternoon and inspected the repair of machinery, replacement of machines with new ones and running of the mill.

Repairing started on 20-5-2003 after a contract was signed with CMEC Co of the People's Republic of China.

Next, the minister presented Chinese technicians with a basket of

fruits. After inspecting production line and various sections of the mill, the minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

Later, the minister oversaw the production of paper, exercise books, bamboo chop sticks and other items.

He also inspected plantations of eucalyptus, industrial raw materials. In the evening, an official of the Irrigation Department reported to the minister on water supply for the paper mill through Tanaw Dam. The minister left necessary instructions there.

MNA



Peres for direct Pakistan-Israel contact

ISLAMBAD, 29 Jan — Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres has said that Israel and Pakistan, which have no diplomatic ties, should have "a direct, personal contact, publicly, without being ashamed about it," The News reported Friday.

In an interview with the newspaper, Peres said in Tel Aviv on Wednesday that "there is no shame in peace; we should reach full normalization".

When asked whether he saw any change in Pakistan's approach towards its relations with Israel and why it was important for Israel to establish cordial relations with Pakistan, Peres did not comment, said the paper. When asked if he thought establishment of Pakistan-Israel relations could be a possibility, Peres said: "There is absolutely no reason why we should not". —MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၅ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ပေးချေဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

- (က) သံချောင်းလုံး(အရွယ်စုံ) (၁၅၀၀) တန်
- (ခ) Ready Mixed Concrete (၉၅၀၀) ကုဗမီတာ

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၇-၂-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ)နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ် ၂၅၅၅၃၂၊ ၂၅၈၁၁၂ (လိုင်စီခွဲ) ၂၃၅ တို့သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၈ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် လမ်းခင်းကတ္တရာ တန်(၅၀၀၀)ကို ပုံဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ 3-Ply Poly bag ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ကော်မတီ၏သို့လှောင်ရုံများအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ပေးချေ ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၁၅-၂-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ)နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ် ၂၅၅၅၃၂၊ ၂၅၈၁၁၂ (လိုင်စီခွဲ) ၂၃၅ တို့သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း
၁။ အမှတ် (၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်စာတုစေးလုပ်ငန်းကြီးကြပ်မှုအောက်ရှိ စက္ကန့်နှင့်ပျောဖတ်စက်ရုံ (သာပေါင်း)အတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများအား မြန်မာ့ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြော်ငြာအပ်ပါသည်။

ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစည် အရေအတွက် တင်ဒါပိတ်စဉ်ရက်/အချိန်
စာတုစေးကုန်ကြမ်း (၁၁)မျိုး (၁၀-၂-၂၀၀၅) နေ့လည်၂:၀၀နာရီ
၂။ သိရှိလိုသည့် အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ် ၅၄၃၃၆၅ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်စာတုစေးလုပ်ငန်း

MIN KYAW MIN'S SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS

သုံးစေ သင်တန်းသစ်ကို ၂-၂-၂၀၀၅ ရက်တွင်စမည်။

တနင်္ဂနွေ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး၊ သောကြာ 9.00 am - 11.30

Multi-media style lab, audio-visual aid နှင့်

ခေတ်မီအထောက်အကူများသုံးမည်။

၁၀ တန်း၊ သွေး၊ သွေးလွန်များအတွက်

အကျိုးဝင်၊ အသုံးဝင်မည်။

ကမ်းနားလမ်းနှင့် ၄၃ လမ်းထောင့်၊ ဗိုလ်ထောက်ညွှန်မယ်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

စုံစမ်းရန် ဖုန်း-၂၉၆၁၆၁

China, Andean community to promote cooperation

LIMA, 29 Jan — China and Andean countries vowed on Thursday to enhance their dialogue and deepen cooperation in political, economic and other fields.

The two sides demonstrated their desire to strengthen ties, expand trade and promote mutual economic development, so as to achieve sustainable development that will bring social harmony and happiness to the people of both sides, said a joint communique issued after visiting Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong met with foreign ministers of the Andean Community (Ancom) countries.

During the meeting, the highest-level meeting since the two sides inked an agreement in 2000 to establish the Political Consultation and Cooperation Mechanism, the two sides reviewed developments in the bilateral political, economic and social relations and discussed possible future cooperation, according to the communique. The two sides agreed that international relations should be based on multilateralism and full respect for international norms and existing commitments. This serves as the basis on which China and

Andean countries will develop political cooperation, the communique said.

The Ancom member states — Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia — hoped that China would play a major role in helping strengthening Ancom's ties with the Asia-Pacific Region, the document said. In return, they would like to push for closer ties between China and the South American Community of Nations, which groups the five Ancom countries and seven other South American states.

Zeng briefed the Andean foreign ministers on the situation across the Taiwan Straits and the drafting of the anti-secession law by the National People's Congress, China's legislature.

The Andean ministers reiterated their support for the one-China policy and the Chinese Government's policy of "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems". — MNA/Xinhua

Death rate drops to record low in Shanxi Province

TAIYUAN, 30 Jan — The deaths per million tons of coal mines in northern Shanxi Province, a major coal producer of China, dropped to 0.98 last year, according to a provincial meeting on coal production held here Friday.

The figure is the lowest in the province's history and two points lower than the national average. Last year saw 184 coal mine accidents in Shanxi, which killed 485 people. The province turned out 493 million tons of coal last year. — MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

UN, EC pledge more cooperation in African urbanization

NAIROBI, 29 Jan— European Commission (EC) and UN-HABITAT on Friday pledged greater collaboration in order to help African countries address the challenge of rapid urbanization on the continent.

Addressing a news conference at the end of a three-day meeting in Nairobi on Friday, UN-HABITAT Deputy Executive Director Daniel Biau said most African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries are facing rapid urbanization challenges which could only be effectively addressed with greater collaboration between the governments and partners.

The meeting stressed that the continent has the world's highest urbanization rates with an annual rate of urban growth of about 4 per cent — almost twice that of Latin America and Asia, and currently, 37 per cent of the total African population live in cities, but the figure is expected to rise to 53 per cent by 2030.

Biau emphasized that in an increasingly urbanizing Africa, the promotion of sustainable human settlements development encompasses the goals of economic growth, social equity, pov-

erty reduction, cultural and ethnic cohesion.

"This requires strategic and forward-looking planning, consensus building and strong political commitment," Biau said.

The EC stressed that with ownership at the core of the EU development policy, ACP countries have a central role in all stages of the development process.

"The EC is looking forward to the Millennium Review that will assess progress in relation to the urban issues and targets of the Millennium Development Goals," said Antonio Frajio who represented EC Director-General.

The January 26-28 meeting whose theme was Urbanization Challenges in Africa was attended by over 100 participants from 16 African countries including ministers and mayors as well as representatives of EC.

MNA/Xinhua



A young crocodile similar to the one that scared off swimmers in a pool in the northern Australian city of Darwin on 29 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

P&G Co to buy Gillette Co

NEW YORK, 29 Jan—Procter & Gamble Co said on Friday it would buy Gillette Co, for about 57 billion US dollars in stock, uniting two iconic US producers of household goods ranging from Pampers diapers to Duracell batteries.

The combined company would boast more than 60 billion US dollars in annual revenues, giving it increased leverage at stores ranging from discounters to grocers.

The maker of Tide is paying an 18-per-cent premium for Gillette, best known for its razors. P&G promised cost cuts of up to 16 billion US dollars, heralded lay-offs of 4 per cent of the combined 140,000 workforce and set a stock buyback of up to 22 billion US dollars in the next 18 months.

P&G, which will discuss the deal with analysts and investors Friday

morning in New York, also raised its annual sales growth target to 5 per cent to 7 per cent, up from 4 per cent to 6 per cent. The transaction has the support of billionaire investor Warren Buffett, whose Berkshire Hathaway Inc. has a 9-per-cent stake in Gillette. Buffett said in a statement he would raise his holding in the combined company by 7 per cent to 100 million P&G shares, a 350-million-US-dollar investment at current prices.

"This merger is going to create the greatest consumer product company in the world," Buffett

said. "It's a dream deal."

The deal would be the largest transaction since J P Morgan Chase & Co purchased Bank One Corp for 56.8 billion US dollars last January, according to research firm Dealogic.

It could spur merger activity in a sector bankers have long believed is ripe for consolidation. Retailers, led by discounter Wal-Mart Stores Inc., have pressured consumer products makers to keep prices low, pinching profits. P&G, based in Cincinnati, is swapping 0.975 shares of its stock for each Gillette share.

MNA/Reuters

BAA's nine-month profits rise

LONDON, 29 Jan—BAA Plc's nine-month profits rose 18.1 per cent as more people flew on cheap airfares and as long-haul travel recovered, Britain's largest airport operator reported on Friday.

But BAA, which owns London's Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports, flagged slower passenger growth and some higher costs next year as the rate of increase in the number of passengers slows from recent highs.

"We do expect good growth, but we are looking at a significantly lower level of passenger growth next year, particularly as Heathrow is becoming very capacity-constrained," Finance Director Margaret Ewing told reporters on a conference call. BAA said pretax profits for the nine months to 31 December were 521 million pounds (978 million US dollars), compared with 441 million pounds a year ago. The result was in line with analysts' expectations.

BAA stock was up 0.1 per cent at 615-1/2 pence

at 0856 GMT after earlier reaching a 2-1/2-year high at 617-1/2p, in a little-changed overall market.

Air travel has been steadily recovering from last year's woes, when the effects of the Iraq war, SARS virus and a global economic downturn caused a drop in passenger numbers, while low-cost travel has boosted passengers on short-haul routes.

About 110.6 million passengers passed through BAA's airports in the nine months, up 6.5 per cent year-on-year, netting the company more money from aircraft take-off and landing fees, car parks, retail rent, airport advertising and duty-free shops.

Ewing said the next three months' performance would depend on how aggressively airlines market cheap fares and on

the Easter holiday in March, which is at the tail end of the financial year.

She said BAA was comfortable with market consensus pretax forecasts of 619 million pounds for the year. Utility costs will be 30 per cent higher next year due to higher electricity and gas purchasing costs, Ewing said. Pretax profits for the third quarter were 146 million pounds, in line with two analysts' forecasts of 141 million and 152 million pounds. The pretax result did not include a one-off 12 million pound profit from the sale of a hotel.

BAA also said construction of the giant new fifth terminal at Heathrow was on budget and ahead of schedule. The project is due for completion in 2008 and will cost 4.2 billion pounds in 2004 prices.

MNA/Reuters

HK Police combat country park robberies

HONG KONG, 29 Jan—Measures adopted by the Hong Kong Police to combat robberies in country parks have proved to be effective, the Secretary for Security of Hong Kong Ambrose SK Lee said here Thursday.

On the operational front, the Police Department and the Civil Aid Service have adopted a high profile in deploying more officers to patrol black spots," said Lee at the Southern District Fight Crime Committee (SDFCC) meeting.

Since last year, the police have provided indexed signage and more emergency telephones in country parks, so hikers can identify their whereabouts and obtain help as soon as possible. The police

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation have reminded people of the safety tips in country parks through various promotional activities," Lee added. On street gambling in public housing estates in the Southern District, Lee assured that the police would step up law enforcement and would absolutely not tolerate anybody operating these illegal activities. "The overall crime rate of the Southern District has remained stable.

MNA/Xinhua



A Shetland pony enjoys a cold shower. Shoppers at one supermarket were astonished to find a pony alongside them browsing the shelves, a report said recently.—INTERNET

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AC Milan to retire Maldini's shirt

ROME, 29 Jan— AC Milan will retire captain Paolo Maldini's number three shirt at the end of his career, club CEO Adriano Galliani said on Friday.

"Paolo Maldini represents the history of this club and there's no doubt that his shirt will be retired at the end of his career," said Galliani at the official presentation of a film celebrating Maldini's 20 years of top-flight soccer.

"But have no doubt about it, we'll have to wait a number of years for that," added Galliani.

Milan has retired the number six of Franco Baresi, considered one of the best defenders of all time.

Maldini, 36, played his first international match at the age of 19 as a substitute against Yugoslavia in 1988. He overtook Dino Zoff's record of 113 caps in 2001 and made his last appearance in Italy's controversial exit from the 2002 World Cup at the hands of co-hosts South Korea. In total he played 126 times for his country and took part in four World Cups. —MNA/Xinhua

Newcastle agree Bellamy to join Birmingham

LONDON, 29 Jan— Newcastle United outcast Craig Bellamy appeared set to join Birmingham City after the Midlands club announced on Friday they had agreed a six-million-pound (11.3-million-US-dollar) transfer fee.

Wales striker Bellamy would be discussing personal terms with Birmingham over the weekend and they hoped to finalize a deal by Monday, the club said on their official web site.

Newcastle, who signed Bellamy from Coventry City for six million pounds in 2001, confirmed that they had agreed on the fee and given Birmingham permission to speak to the player.

Birmingham manager Steve Bruce told Sky Sports: "He's a quality player and quality players don't become available very often ... That's why we put in an offer for him".

Bellamy fell out with Newcastle manager Graeme Souness this week over his position in the team and the Scot said earlier on Friday the 25-year-old would never play for the Northeast club under him again.

"He cannot play for me ever again," Souness told reporters. "He cannot go on television and accuse me of telling lies." Souness was speaking before Saturday's FA Cup fourth-round tie against Bellamy's former club

Coventry City.

The build-up to the tie has been overshadowed by the pair's public feud caused by the striker's unwillingness to play out of position at Arsenal last weekend.

Newcastle said they had wanted to handle the matter internally but decided to announce a maximum possible punishment of two weeks' wages for Bellamy on Tuesday after the striker went on television to give his side of the story.

Souness, who took charge of United in September, said he believed Newcastle would come out of the fued stronger.

"This is a mighty football club with a tremendous tradition and the most important thing is that we come out of this stronger and better and we are more ready for the challenge than we ever have been in my time at the club," he said.

Birmingham, meanwhile, have the toughest FA Cup tie of the weekend away to Premier League leaders Chelsea on Sunday. —MNA/Reuters



South Korea's Kim Sun-yong hits a backhand return to Donald Young of the US, during his boys' singles final loss to Young at the Australian Open at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, on, 30 Jan, 2005. Young won the title, 6-2, 6-4. —INTERNET

Hungary making joint bid with Croatia to host 2012 Euro C'ship

BUDAPEST, 29 Jan— Hungary will make a joint bid with Croatia to host the 2012 European Championship after the country's Cabinet gave its approval, the Hungarian Football Association announced on Friday.

It is the third time Hungary have bid to host a major soccer tournament after they failed for Euro 2004 and Euro 2008 which went to Portugal and Austria/Switzerland respectively.

The two nations would host two four-team groups each for the 16-team tournament, which is the second largest international soccer tournament behind the World Cup.

They will face tough competition from Italy and European champions Greece, while Poland and Ukraine are also considering a joint bid.

The deadline for bids is January 31 and European soccer's governing body UEFA will then draw up a short-list of three candidates in November before announcing the host country in December 2006.

Croatia would have to have four suitable stadiums for the tournament with the likely candidates being the cities of Zagreb, Split, Varazdin, Rijeka and Osijek.

The Hungarian Football Association will decide later on the venues for the tournament.

MNA/Reuters

China need more confidence in women's soccer

QUANZHOU (Fujian Province), 29 Jan— China need more patience in developing its women's soccer, German head coach Tina Theune-Meyer suggested during the Four-Nation tournament here Friday.

Meyer, who led the Germans to the world championship in 2003, said it would take some time for China to foster a new generation of stars.

"After 2003, Sun Wen and Bai Jie did not play anymore. There are some of your good players not playing anymore, so you have to be patient as the next generation grow," she said.

China suffered a surprise exit, losing 1-0 to Canada in the quarterfinals in the 2003 World Cup and a stunning 8-0 thrash

by Germany in the opening game at the Athens Olympic Games set the sad tune for China's Olympic journey as they failed to qualify for the elimination round.

The new national squad was constructed in December last year with seven members of the world championship runners-up junior team called up to kick off the preparation for the 2007 World Cup and the Beijing Olympics.

When the Chinese Football Association is

brooding on which coach, the local or the foreign, is better, Meyer offered another perspective.

"It is really not a question of coaches," said Meyer, adding that caretaker Wang Haiming had done a great job for the junior team, including the silver medal from the world championship.

"We have good league in Germany and we have sponsors and TV live for almost every game," she said.

"We have U-19, U-17 and U-15 teams and young players have many chances to compete," she added. Germany won the world title, beating China 2-0.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian striker joins PSV Eindhoven

AMSTERDAM, 29 Jan— Brazilian striker Robert de Pinho has joined PSV Eindhoven from Mexican side Atlas, the Dutch league leaders said on Friday.

Media reports said PSV had paid four million euros (5.22 million US dollars) for the 23-year-old, who has signed a 3-1/2 year contract.

The former Sao Caetano and Spartak Moscow player is likely to be in the PSV squad for Sunday's match at RKC Waalwijk.

De Pinho was with Atlas for the 2003/04 Clausura and 2004/5 Apertura championships, scoring 16 goals in each.

MNA/Reuters

Mourinho charged with improper conduct

LONDON, 29 Jan— Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was charged with improper conduct on Friday over comments he made after the first leg of the League Cup semifinal against Manchester United earlier this month.

Mourinho, whose team are 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League, accused United manager Alex Ferguson of trying to influence referee Neale Barry at halftime in the 0-0 Stamford Bridge draw on 12 January.

The English Football Association initially indicated it would not take any action against the Portuguese manager but said on its official web site on Friday that Mourinho had now been charged with improper conduct.

He has until February 14 to respond to the charge. If he admits the charge or is found guilty Mourinho could be warned, fined or banned from the touchline.

The FA added that having reviewed comments made by Chelsea captain John Terry after the match, it would not be taking any formal disciplinary action against the England defender.

Chelsea won the second leg of the semifinal 2-1 at Old Trafford on Wednesday and will play Liverpool in the final. —MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

E	G	G	S	8	A	S	P	I	R	A	T	E
M	8	E	8	S	8	P	8	N	8	P	8	N
P	A	T	C	H	8	E	N	G	L	A	N	D
T	8	8	8	A	8	E	8	R	8	R	8	O
Y	E	W	8	M	A	D	H	A	T	T	E	R
8	8	A	8	8	8	Y	8	T	8	M	8	S
S	A	T	U	R	N	8	D	E	L	E	T	E
T	8	E	8	A	8	B	8	8	8	N	8	8
A	P	R	I	L	F	O	O	L	8	T	I	P
D	8	F	8	L	8	U	8	U	8	8	8	O
I	T	A	L	I	A	N	8	K	N	O	C	K
U	8	L	8	E	8	C	8	E	8	L	8	E
M	E	L	O	D	I	E	S	8	O	D	E	R



The Australian combination of Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur overcame African pairing Kevin Ulyyett and Liezel Huber to claim the Australian Open tennis mixed doubles title in Melbourne. —INTERNET



COURSE CONCLUDES: The foreign missionary course No 2 concluded at Maha Santisukha Buddhist Centre in Tamway Township Sunday. Trainee monks reciting missionary oaths.— RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

The entire people to wipe out any acts...

(from page 9)

The entire people are to wipe out any acts that hinder the successful holding of the National Convention which will bring about the people's desire to build a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

At a time when the government is providing assistance for development of the Union, it is necessary for all the national people to preserve traditions of national solidarity and enhance the already-achieved regional peace and tranquillity and development.

Secretary of Aunglan Township USDA U San Lwin said on 12 February 1947 the Panglong Agreement was signed and it was put on record as the Union Day due to the Union Spirit of the people. The Union Spirit of all the national races residing in the Union of Myanmar is the life blood of the country.

He said all the na-

tional races are building the nation with determination keeping in mind 'Strength of the nation lies within'. The government is carrying out nation-building tasks.

The government has laid down policies for the emerge of a peaceful modern and developed nation, the national goal, and is implementing them for national races and the people of the Union are to take part in the tasks.

In his support of the National Convention, Joint Secretary of Sinbaungwe Township USDA said that the emergence of a new State constitution is of paramount importance in striving for the nation to be free from the influence of others taking lessons from the past and realising the prevailing situations.

A nation, whatever system it practises, must be based on a State constitution. Therefore, the emergence of a State constitution is a national concern and the emergence of

peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, which is the national goal, plays a pivotal role.

To ensure the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, which was temporarily adjourned since 1996, was reconvened on 17 May 2004. The national goal of Myanmar is the emergence of peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Hence, the National Convention is being held in order to draft a State constitution based on volition of the entire national people and objective conditions of the nation.

In the drafting of the State constitution in the interest of the State and the people, the basic principles to be laid down are being discussed at the National Convention. The National Convention is making progress as discussions are being focused in the interest of the entire national people rather than that of an individual.

Nowadays, the National Convention will resume on 17 February 2005. It is sure that a State Constitution, which is as crucial as a lifeblood for the nation, will soon emerge. Therefore, we are hailing the National Convention that will serve the interest of the State and the people.

Regarding the rural development tasks being carried out in Thayet District, Thayet District USDA Executive U Soe Naing said the State, in building up a peaceful modern developed nation, is placing emphasis on ensuring balanced development of urban and rural regions across the nation. The foundation of the State to develop is rural areas, he said. Only when rural regions enjoy progress, will other parts of the country, in other words, the whole Union, do the same as well.

Nowadays, the State is implementing the five rural development tasks for the betterment of transport, water supply, education, health and economy of rural regions. That is why, he added, members of the USDA hand in hand with the people under the leadership of the government are to strive for the development of rural areas. It can be seen that there have been fruits of development across the nation thanks to the collaboration of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. These efforts are being made not only to improve social standard of the people of the entire country but also to ensure the emergence of a Union where all national races are working together for

their development. U Soe Naing urged local people to speed up the efforts for development of the nation by participating in the drive with the USDA members under the leadership of the State.

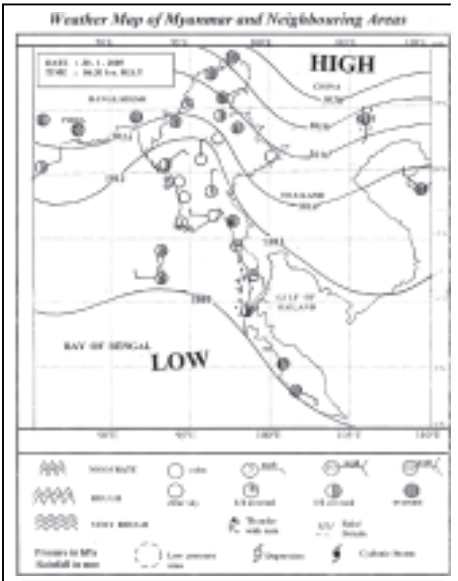
Next, Executive of Magway Division USDA, Thayet District In-charge U Than Swe presented K 2.5 million for carrying out the tasks in rural development to Secretary of Thayet District USDA U Win Kyaw.

Afterwards, wellwishers U Toe Lon, U Tin Soe, U Ak Cho, U Min Zaw, U Soe Tint and U Hla Thein presented

K 20,000 each to District Executive U Tin Aye for Thayet District USDA.

Later, Aunglan District USDA Executive U Min Sein seconded the motion to the reports presented by three delegates on the occasion.

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 slogans.— MNA



WEATHER

Sunday, 30 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division and Mon State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Eastern Shan States and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (4°C), PyinOoLwin (5°C) and Heho (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 29-1-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 30-1-2005 was 57°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-1-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 29-1-2005 was (6.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 30-1-2005 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 6 mph from Northeast at (19:30) hours MST on 29-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31-1-2005: Possibility of isolated lighth rain in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Division 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 lighth rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-1-2005: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

<p>Monday, 31 January View on today:</p> <p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:55 am 5. Song of national races</p>	<p>8:05 am 6. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:10 am 7. Cute little Dancers</p> <p>8:20 am 8. သင်ပုန်းရေးလှောင်တစ် (ရွှေလေးတိုင်း)</p> <p>8:30 am 9. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 10. Grammar made easy</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. Practice in reading</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. Musical programme</p> <p>4:55 pm 5. အေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ဝညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဝထာနန္ဒီ (သတ္တဝေဒ၊ ရက္ခဝေ)</p>	<p>အထူးပြုများ (ရက္ခဝေ)</p> <p>5:05 pm 6. Dance Variety</p> <p>5:15 pm 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတအား</p> <p>5:25 pm 8. (၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ရုတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>5:35 pm 9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)</p> <p>5:50 pm 10. Songs and Dances of national races</p> <p>6:00 pm 11. Discovery</p> <p>6:10 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းအားလုံးအတွက် "အောင်စမ်းရန်အတွက်" (အပိုင်း-၆၃)</p> <p>6:30 pm 13. Evening news</p>	<p>7:00 pm 14. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm 15. Musical programme</p> <p>7:15 pm 16. Industrial Achievement</p> <p>7:30 pm 17. (၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ရုတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>7:40 pm 18. ပြည်ထောင်စုမိတ်ဆက် မပြတ် ရင်သန် နိုင်ငံရေးနိဂုံး နိုင်ငံခြား (တရုတ်ပြည်နယ်)</p> <p>8:00 pm 19. News</p> <p>20. International news</p> <p>21. Weather report</p> <p>22. လပတ်မှူးလေဝသနာဒိဇာလေဝေ ဝန်ထမ်းချက်</p> <p>23. နိုင်ငံခြားအားလုံးအတွက် "သေချာမိချက်" (အပိုင်း-၃၄)</p> <p>24. The next day's programme</p>
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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo view production process of Maubin Paper Mill on 29-1-2005.—A&I

Maubin Paper Mill put into service

YANGON, 30 Jan — A ceremony to inaugurate Maubin Paper Mill of Myanma Jute Enterprise was held at the mill near Pantaput Village of Maubin Township yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, departmental heads of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Chairman and members

of China Yunnan Corporation, MCWA, MWA, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing formally unveiled the signboard of the mill. Next, the commander, the minister and Chairman of China Yunnan Corporation Mr Guo Xiao Yong opened the mill by cutting the ribbon.

Mill project manager U Zaw Min briefed them on production process of value-added paper from the jute. The commander, the minister and party inspected

storage of jute raw materials and production process, packets of Myanmar jute-based paper and other products.

Managing Director U Ye Phone Myint reported on production capability, purchase of raw materials and growing of jute. The commander delivered an opening address. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo made a speech, saying that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is carrying out

(See page 8)

Ceremony to commemorate Union Day, support National Convention held in Taunggyi



was held at Kyauktalongyi, Taunggyi Township, Taunggyi District, Shan State (South) this morning.

Present were secretaries and executives of Shan State (South) USDA, officials at state, district and township levels, secretaries and executives of township and ward USDA in Taunggyi District, members of

en's Affairs, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people.

Secretary of Taunggyi District USDA U Sein Lay Maung presided over the meeting. Executive of Taunggyi Township USDA Daw Nan Shwe Yi Oo acted as MC and Executive of Kyauktalon Township

USDA Daw Nan Yi Yi Win, co-MC.

Secretary of Taunggyi District USDA U Sein Lay Maung spoke on the occasion.

He said to shape a peaceful modern developed democratic nation, it is necessary to have the strength of patriotic citizens equipped with Union Spirit, who always uphold Our Three Main National Causes. National

Unity is of paramount importance in carrying out the tasks for development of the State. Looking to the past history, the State lost its sovereignty due to

the breakdown of national unity. In addition, ethnic armed conflicts occurred among national races on account of their localism,

(See page 8)

YANGON, 30 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention



A crowd of local people seen at the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in Kyauktalongyi, Taunggyi District.—MNA

INSIDE

According to the area, natural resources and population of the nation, Myanmar will become a modern developed one before long if the national people make efforts with added momentum in harmony for national development.

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THIHA AUNG