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Wednesday, 2 February 2005

National races have been living together, with hands joined for a long time

Because of the gratitude owed to our forefathers of the successive eras, who lived in unity with high vision, attaching themselves with bonds of amity, with the family spirit — love and friendship, helpfulness, sympathy, mutual reliance, understanding, forgiveness, and cooperation based on common interest — as the foundation, the national races of the Union have been able to live together with hands joined for a long time.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
 (From the message sent to the 57th Anniversary of Union Day)



Senior General Than Shwe receives Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces

YANGON, 1 Feb—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand General Chaisit Shinawatra and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta this morning.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein.

Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand General Chaisit Shinawatra and party were accompanied by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra and party.—MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 2 February, 2005

Raise tempo of regional development work

The Union of Myanmar is home to various national races. And they have been living together in unity and amity through thick and thin for such a long time that they are like brothers and sisters born out of the same womb.

As seventy per cent of the national people of the Union live in rural areas, it would not be wrong to say that the development of the entire nation depends on that of rural areas. This being the case, the five rural development tasks are being carried out to bridge the development divide between rural and urban areas as much as possible. In accordance with the rural development plan, roads linking village and village are being built, water supply projects for drinking and agricultural purposes implemented, measures taken for higher educational standard of people in rural areas, better and wider health care services provided to rural people and steps taken for the development of rural economy.

Now, due to the successful implementation of regional development plans, the living standard of the people in the rural areas has become higher. Therefore, they have come to believe in and support all that is being undertaken by the Government.

Now is the time when the entire national people, under the leadership of the government, are taking part in all the national endeavours. They can do so because of the unity of the national people and because the Tatmadaw and the people are always in oneness.

Rural and urban areas are now developing harmoniously as the government and the entire national people are working hand in hand.

The government, in building the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and developed nation, has given top priority to national reconsolidation, community peace and law and order. Having realized the good intentions of the government, 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold and now they are also taking part in all the national development work.

The common goal for all of us is a peaceful, modern and developed nation and we are working towards it. At such a time like this, we would like to call on various national races of the Union to adopt the national policies as their guidelines and raise the tempo of development work in their respective regions.

Minister for Health meets American Professor

YANGON, 1 Feb—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met Professor Robert C Gallo of the University of Maryland, the United States, currently here to attend the Technical Forum on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care in the 21st Century organized by WHO at his office this morning.

Also present were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials of the ministry.

The professor was accompanied by WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra. —MNA

All this needs to be known

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

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

Factories under Industry-1 Ministry inspected

YANGON, 1 Feb—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning inspected the ECU Battery Charger Project being implemented by the Myanma General and Maintenance Industries near Maha Bodhi Kyaung Street in Hline Township.

Officials reported on work progress, requirements, and assistance. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun gave a supplementary report. The minister provided necessary assistance and called for speedy implementation of the project, and beautifying of the factory and its surrounding areas. The



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects the Enamel Ware Factory of Myanma Ceramics Industries. — MNA

minister viewed snake-bite-proof boots, and other kinds of boots and production process at Shoe Factory No 1. He also visited the Enamel Ware Factory No 1 in Mayangon Township. — MNA

Cash donated to social organizations

YANGON, 1 Feb—A ceremony to present cash donated by well-wishers to social organizations recognized by the Social Welfare Department was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Mayangon Township here yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, OSD Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung, directors-general of depart-

ments under the ministry and wellwishers.

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

The donations included K 2.04 million donated by Daw Kyin

Hmwe and family of Sangyoung Township; K 1 million by Daw Mya Yin and family of Mayangon Township; K 300,000 by U Ko Ko Aung-Daw Ni Ni Toe of Hlaing Township; K 200,000 by U Tin Maung Win-Daw Yupa Myint (ILBC); K 100,000 by U San Thein-Daw Tin of Bahan Township; K 50,000 by Dr Soe Thein-Dr Than Nu Shwe (MRD) and K 6,000 by Daw Khin Pyon Yi of Tamwe Township totalling K 3,696,000.

It was the first donation ceremony and the second donation ceremony will also be held. Those wishing to make cash donation may contact the director of the SWD (Tel 662591) or the deputy director (Tel 662586). — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa accepts donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

National Convention Convening, Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee meets

YANGON, 1 Feb—The National Convention Convening, Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall-2 of the Defence Services Records Office in Yankin Township here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Subcommittee Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint, the secretary of the Subcommittee and members, officials of the respective subcommittees and others.

In his address, Chairman of the Subcommittee

Brig-Gen Myo Myint stressed the need for officials of the Subcommittee to take measures systematically for the convenience of the delegates to the National Convention.

Next, Secretary of the Subcommittee Major Myint Tun reported on work carried out and future tasks.

Later, officials of the subcommittees took part in the discussions.

The coordination meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman. — MNA

China to cement ties with Russia

BEIJING, 1 Feb—A Chinese senior official said here Monday that China appreciated the smooth development of China-Russia relations and was willing to further the strategic partnership of cooperation between the two countries.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a top advisory body in China, made the remark during a meeting with Mayor of Moscow Yuri Mikhailovich Luzhkov.

He said China and Russia had kept close high-level exchanges over the last few years. During Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to China last October, Chinese President Hu Jintao put forward four basic principles for developing bilateral relations, and the two presidents sanctioned a programme for the implementation of the Sino-Russian Good-Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, both of which became guidelines for future development of Sino-Russian relations.

China appreciated Russia's adherence to the one-China policy, he said.

Developing the friendship between

Beijing and Moscow, as capitals of two influential countries in the world, was conducive not only to the prosperity of the two cities, but also to the promotion of friendship between the two countries and two peoples, he said.

"We're grateful to Moscow for its support on Beijing's bid for hosting the 2008 Olympic Games," said Jia, who formerly served as the top leader of the Chinese capital. "The government and people of Beijing are busy with preparations for the Olympic Games, he said. Luzhkov was also satisfied with the latest development of Russia-China relations and the major progress in the exchange and cooperation between Moscow and Beijing.

He said Russia was ready to enhance cooperation with China in various areas.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman walks under lanterns displayed on the occasion of the forthcoming Chinese new year along Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong on 29 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Singapore to open second medical school in 2007

SINGAPORE, 1 Feb—Singapore, keen to boost its medical science sector, will open its second medical school in 2007 in an alliance with Duke University of the United States, Singapore media reported on Monday.

The graduate school will operate from the nation's biggest hospital, Singapore General, and comes as the wealthy Southeast Asian island is pouring millions of dollars into expanding its education industry and courting students in the Asia-Pacific.

Singapore's government, which has built up its economy by picking sectors to invest in, has implemented liberal rules on stem cell research as it seeks to become a centre for life science research.

It aims to boast 15 world-class biotechnology companies by 2010 after

opening a 300-million-US-dollar new research centre in 2003.

The alliance with North Carolina-based Duke would boost Singapore's medical services, including a budding biomedical sciences industry, the *Straits Times* newspaper quoted Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan as telling local reporters.

"It will be a big boost to Singapore's medical services, including our biomedical initiative, which is a major drive by Singapore to develop the life sciences industry," Tan said.

MNA/Reuters

Senior Chinese official on city planning, programming on land use

XI'AN, 1 Feb—Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan has called for using the "scientific concept of development" to further improve city planning and land usage.

Zeng, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remark during his inspection in northwest China's Shaanxi Province from 27 January to 29 January.

Zeng said, China has been remapping city planning and land use in recent years. The macro-control measures, adopted last year, have curbed the rapid increase in the fixed assets investment.

But, Zeng reminded, there are some places that expand urban develop-

ment and occupy large areas of land in the name of adjusting city programming. Others set forth unrealistic development goals, beyond what the city can afford or requires a huge amount of manpower to construct.

MNA/Xinhua

Mobile phone maker develops China's first fingerprint mobile phone

BEIJING, 1 Feb—One of China's leading mobile phone manufacturers, Bird, developed the country's first cell phone fingerprint verification.

Bird, a Ningbo-based mobile maker listed by IC Insights among the world's top ten mobile producers in 2004, bought the technology from a research team at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of Automation.

Dai Ruwei, CAS academician and a senior scientist of the CAS institute, said fingerprint verification is the safest and most convenient technology in biological verification. With a soft thumb touch on the mobile's screen, the user can activate the main menu of the mobile.

"The fingerprint mobiles could be widely used for e-banking, e-commerce and other new forms of Internet-based transactions," Dai said.—MNA/Xinhua

US guards shot dead four inmates in Iraq prison riot

BAGHDAD, 1 Feb—US troops in Iraq shot dead four detainees on Monday during a riot at the main US prison camp for guerrilla suspects, near the Kuwaiti border.

US officers said six prisoners were also wounded in the violence, which affected hundreds of men at Camp Bucca on the day after Iraqis voted in their first free election in decades.

There were no serious injuries among the Americans during 45 minutes of rioting, Lieutenant Colonel Barry Johnson said. Troops shot the four dead with rifles after failing to quell rock-throwing rioters with plastic pellets fired from shotguns. "We're not sure exactly what sparked it. There's no obvious connection with the election. We're not sure if that had anything to do with it," Johnson, a spokesman for the US military detentions

operation in Iraq, told Reuters.

It was not the first time US soldiers have fired on Iraqi prisoners — a riot at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison in November 2003 left three detainees dead. And officer have reported unrest in Camp Bucca's razor wire compounds in recent months.

But the extent of the violence appeared to have taken troops — recently arrived military police reservists — by surprise and may raise questions about the expansion of the desert camp, which has taken over from Abu Ghraib as the main US prison in Iraq following last year's abuse scandal at the Baghdad jail.

US commanders have said they want Camp Bucca to serve as a model for good conditions as an antidote to the bad publicity generated by photographs of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib.

Prisoners began throwing rocks and fashioning weapons after a routine search of one of 10 compounds at the camp near the port of Umm Qasr, the military said in a written statement. Violence spread to three other compounds, which together house more than 2,900 of Camp Bucca's 5,300 inmates.—Internet



Smoke rises after a controlled detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) by the US Marines in a village in Al Anbar Province west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Donate blood

Press conference on National Convention, relief works for victims of Tsunami, subversive acts committed by internal and external destructive elements



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarifies facts about the National Convention to resume on 17-2-2005 at the press conference. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb—Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a press conference (1/2005) on National Convention which will resume on 17-2-2005, relief works for victims of Tsunami in Myanmar on 26-12-2004 and subversive acts committed by internal and external destructive elements at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road this morning.

Present were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, heads of departments, officials, U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Patron U Hla Htwe, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, staffs of journals and magazines and guests.

First, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified matters relating to National Convention which will resume on 17-2-2005. He said: At this press conference today, we, the Information Committee, will clarify matters relating to the National Convention to be reconvened on 17 February 2005; matters relating to losses and casualties caused by the Tsunami which occurred on 26 December 2004 and relief works; and matters relating to destructive acts committed by internal and external destructive elements. First of all, I will clarify matters relating to the reconvening of the National Convention.

As known to you journalists, the National Convention which began in 1993 was temporarily adjourned for various reasons on 31 March 1996. However, the State without losing sight of the establishment of a new democratic nation as desired by the entire national people, reconvened a phase of the National Convention from 17 May to 9 July 2004.

During the period from 1993 to 1996, the National Convention laid down and approved 104 fundamental principles to be based in formulating the State Constitution as well as the basic detailed principles. At the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July 2004, some basic detailed principles were discussed and coordinated.

Now, it is the time when crops have been harvested, a phase of the National Convention will be reconvened on 17 February 2005. It has been announced by the National Convention Convening Commission.

Invitations have also been sent to National Convention delegates beginning 15 January 2005.

The delegates are to report at the Nyaungnabin Camp not later than 15 February 2005. The list of invited delegates is as follows:

(a) Delegates from political parties	— 29
(b) Delegates of representatives-elect	— 13
(c) Delegates of national races	— 633
(d) Delegates of peasants	— 93
(e) Delegates of workers	— 48
(f) Delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia	— 56
(g) Delegates of State service personnel	— 109
(h) Delegates from 17 armed groups of national races which have returned to the legal fold and other groups	— 105
Total	— 1086

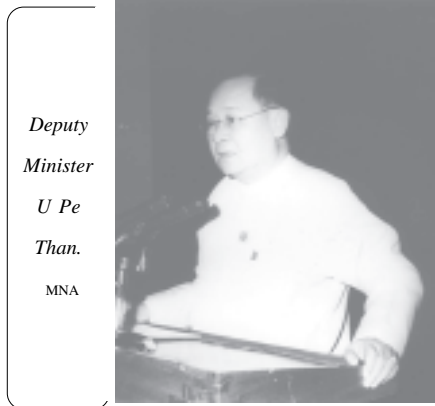
In so doing, it is learnt that the National Convention Convening Commission has invited those delegates as invited to the National Convention held from 17-5-2004 to 9-7-2004.

The list shows that there are 633 persons invited to the National Convention.

Moreover, 93 delegates of peasants have been invited and these delegates are from various States and Divisions of the country. Likewise, 29 delegates from political parties as well as 13 delegates of representatives-elect have been invited.

Hence, it shows that the invited delegates include those representing political parties. In addition, 48 delegates of workers, 109 delegates of State service personnel, 56 delegates of intellectuals & intelligentsia and 105 delegates from 17 armed groups of national races which have returned to the legal fold & other groups have been invited. Thus it can be seen that delegates from all walks of life are included in the list.

Personal data of these delegates invited to the National Convention have been collected since the reconvening of the National Convention on 17-5-2004. Of all the 949 delegates, the data show that 15 have acquired doctorate degrees; 54 are post-graduates; 600 are graduates and 280 are diploma holders or those who have passed high school level education.



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To be exact, there are 41 delegates from Kachin State, 19 delegates from Kayah State, 26 delegates from Kayin State, 13 delegates from Chin State, 61 delegates from Sagaing Division, 15 delegates from Taninthayi Division, 50 delegates from Bago Division, 44 delegates from Magway Division, 56 delegates from Mandalay Division, 37 delegates from Mon State, 36 delegates from Rakhine State, 67 delegates from Yangon Division, 46 delegates from southern Shan State, 39 delegates from northern Shan State, 29 delegates from eastern Shan State, and 54 delegates from Ayeyawady Division totalling 633 delegates.

It shows that delegates from various States and Divisions include in the list. It is also worthy to note that at least one delegate from each township is included in the list.

It shows that 87.4 per cent of the delegates are educated persons.

Although the remaining delegates have not acquired formal education, they are knowledgeable, well-experienced and respected by local populace of respective regions. To put it into a nutshell, the delegates include those who are experienced in political, military, economic, administrative, legislative, judicial and national solidarity affairs.

The delegates who attended the recent National Convention in May 2004 were of eight categories representing masses and classes.

The delegates individually or in groups freely discussed and presented papers. The following papers were submitted at the National Convention in May 2004.

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Press conference on National Convention...

(from page 4)

- The delegate group of political parties presented seven papers of seven political parties on 24 June 2004.
- The delegate group of representatives-elect presented five papers on 28 June 2004.
- The delegate group of national races presented a paper on 29 and 30 June 2004.
- The delegate group of peasants presented a paper on 1 July 2004.
- The delegate group of workers presented a paper on 2 July 2004.
- The delegate group of intellectuals & intelligentsia presented a paper on 5 and 6 July 2004.
- The delegate group of State service personnel presented a paper on 7 and 8 July 2004.
- The delegate group of armed national groups which have returned to the legal fold and other groups presented a paper on 9 July 2004.

As regards the National Convention to be reconvened on 17 February 2005, arrangements have been made for transport, reception and accommodation, health care, welfare, entertainment, communication and sports of the delegates as well as sanitation and keeping the Nyaungnabin Camp green and pleasant.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that basic detailed principles for sharing the legislative power which were discussed at the previous phase of the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July 2004, will be approved at the coming phase of the National Convention. Likewise, discussions and coordinations will also be made for formulating basic detailed principles for sharing executive and judicial powers.

Next, the Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than clarified Tsunami caused by earthquake at Sea west of North Sumatra on 26 December 2004. He said: On 26 December 2004, an earthquake with magnitude of 9.0 Richter Scale jolted at the bottom of the Sea about 155 miles southeast of Banda Aceh in North Sumatra. The epicenter of the earthquake was between 3 degrees 31 minutes North and 95 degree 97 minute East, off the west coast of North Sumatra. The earthquake occurred at 7:28:53 am local time. Tremors from the earthquake off Sumatra Island were felt in Myanmar at 7:32 am MST. Aftershocks struck in succession for 265 times till 14 January 2005. The northernmost epicenter reached to 13 degree 74 minute North and 92 degree 99 minute East, about 60 miles southwest of Cocogyun. The highest aftershock measuring 7.1 Richter Scale struck at 6 degrees 88 minutes North and 92 degrees 24 minutes East near Nicobar Islands. Harbour waves (Tsunami) generated by the aftershock, reached Phuket of Thailand in the East and Somalia of Africa in the West. Active subduction of plate and aftershocks took place between 2 degrees South and 14 degrees North. Aftershocks reached about 60 miles southwest of Cocogyun and survey works are under way to investigate the effects between Cocogyun and Mawton Cape as well as between Mawton Cape and offshore of west coast of Rakhine State.

The aftershocks and Tsunami were felt by Myaybon and Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State; Pyinsalu, Labutta, Ngaputaw and Kaingtaung in Ayeyawady Division; and Palon-tonetone in Taninthayi Division. Only some buildings were affected. Tsunami arrived in Myanmar only with the height of 3 to 7 feet.

As our country is affected by weak Tsunami, loss and casualties caused by the Tsunami were much less. Myanmar sustains lower casualties and damages than other Tsunami-hit countries.

Documentary photos show collapse of buildings caused by the earthquake as well as harbour waves at Palon-tonetone and Awgyi near Kawthoung.

A significant point along Rakhine coast was that water level declined for about eight feet before Tsunami. However, no effects were found at Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches as well as at

Cocogyun north of Andaman Islands.

After the occurrence of the natural disaster, relief and resettlement works were carried out actively by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement and the Ministry of Health in affected States and Divisions. Donations of cash and kind were also received and they were being sent to the affected regions.

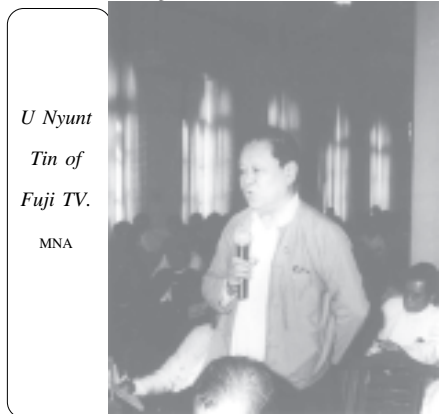
Due to three points mentioned below, Myanmar suffered less losses and casualties.

- There is a seismic gap between north of Cocogyun to south of Rakhine State. There is less chance for strong earthquake to occur.
- The Tsunami sent strongest waves to the east and west parallel to Myanmar coast. In addition, Myeik archipelago serves as a natural barrier to the harbour wave.
- The geological condition and shoal (shallow sea bottom off the coast) of Myanmar stretching 15 to 20 miles weakened the wave.

UNICEF has also expressed that it was sorry for issuing inaccurate information.

Historical records also show that a strong earthquake with magnitude of 7.9 Richter Scale took place at Nicobar Islands on 31 December 1881 and another earthquake with magnitude of 8.7 Richter scale occurred at Andaman Islands on 26 June 1941.

In short, Tsunami gets stronger and its destructive power increases while approaching the coast. It can come into rivers and creeks as harbour wave with the height of 50 to 100 feet and can reach



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MNA

over 3,000 feet inland.

No Tsunami can be predicted and the extent of the consequences of subduction caused by aftershocks is unknown. However, the time when Tsunami will reach the shore can be forecast by calculating the speed and velocity of the wave. In this way, early warning system can be established to avoid heavy loss and casualty.

At present, earthquake warnings are issued by the Meteorology & Hydrology Department under the Ministry of Transport. A significant symbol of Tsunami is sudden decline of water level at shore.

As Tsunami had taken place in the Indian Ocean, the following actions should be taken for the people living at the shore.

- To set up early warning system.
- To foresee Tsunami when water level at the shore declines suddenly.
- To foresee Tsunami when earthquake takes place at sea bottom, when a volcano erupts, when a subduction of plate at sea bottom occurs and when a meteorite falls into the sea.
- To move towards higher place when Tsunami is foreseen.

The following preventive measures should be taken by the people living at the shore.

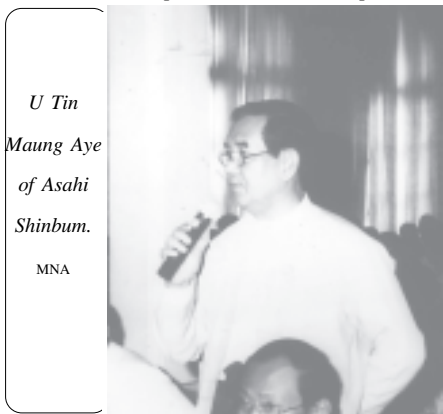
- Mangroves should be conserved as a natural barrier to Tsunami as the harbour wave comes from the sea.
- Buildings should be built off the shoaling space.
- If built, buildings should be constructed in conformity with endurance norms for Tsunami.
- Educative works should be carried out for those living at the shore.
- Communication and transport facilities should

Director-
General
U Than
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MNA



be kept ready to move people and things to areas where Tsunami cannot hit.

- Supply system of water, food and medicines for Tsunami refugees and security system should be set up.
- Tsunami early warning system and moving towards safe areas should be rehearsed region-wise.
- Projects for relief works for the dead and the wounded caused by Tsunami should be drawn up.
- Relief measures for Tsunami-hit areas should be taken.
- The impact of Tsunami in Myanmar and relief works were explained at the workshop held in



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MNA

Beijing, China, on 25 and 26 January 2005 and officials of regional and international organizations and world's experts approved them.

- When Tsunami comes, vessels locating in offshore with the depth of 164 feet and within 21 miles away from the shore are not safe. In the deep sea about 154 miles away from the shore, the wave is only about one foot high. When the information on Tsunami is received and vessels could not have enough time to sail out to the deep sea to have depth of over 164 feet, those on board should leave the vessel and move to higher places inland.

Next, Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department of the Ministry of SWRR clarified relief works for loss and casualties caused by Tsunami in Myanmar on 26 December 2004. He said: Myanmar's some coastal regions of Ayeyawady Division, Taninthayi Division, Yangon Division and Rakhine State were hit by tidal waves triggered by the aftershocks with their epicentres in the Andaman Sea following the earthquake that occurred in the Indian Ocean, about one thousand miles northeast of Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia, at 7 o'clock 32 minutes and 4 seconds in the morning of 26 December 2004. As a consequence, the nation suffered loss of lives and property.

To be exact, the natural disaster left 31 people dead, 41 injured, 517 homes destroyed and 2,145 persons homeless in Ayeyawady Division; eight dead, one injured, 83 homes destroyed and 447 persons homeless in Taninthayi Division; 22 dead but without damage to homes in Rakhine State; and one home damaged in Yangon Division. Totally, Myanmar lost

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Press conference on National Convention...

(from page 5)

61 lives, while 42 people were left injured, 601 homes damaged, and 2,592 persons homeless, with a total loss of property valued at about 1,585.56 million kyats.

Immediately after being informed about the

them on the State's relief works. The Department of Health too provided medicines, chlorine tablets and pesticides, gave medical treatments to the victims and took preventive measures against outbreak of infectious diseases.

Similarly, a group



A photo displayed at the press conference. — MNA

disaster, the Government made arrangements for relief works under the guidance of the Head of State. Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint made an inspection tour of the disaster-hit villages in Kawthoung Township on 30 December 2004 and rendered cash assistance of 60 million kyats together with K 1.54 million worth relief items including 180 bags of rice, clothes and foodstuff donated by wellwishers and the Government.

Likewise, a group led by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspected disaster-stricken villages and townships in Rakhine State and provided 11 emergency relief items worth over 1.1 million kyats to the Tsunami victims.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein together with Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement

led by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint made an inspection tour of the disaster-hit villages in Kawthoung Township on 30 December 2004 and rendered cash assistance of 60 million kyats together with K 1.54 million worth relief items including 180 bags of rice, clothes and foodstuff donated by wellwishers and the Government.

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Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and senior military officers, visited Cocogyun in Yangon Division on 30 December 2004. The inspection tour revealed that the region hardly sustained damage with no casualties.

Likewise, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, and directors-general of various ministries, together with WHO, UNICEF and UNDP officials, visited Kawthoung in Taninthayi Division on 14 January 2005. They inspected the Palon-tonetone Bridge and Awgyi Village, which were hit slightly by the tidal waves. The Division lost eight lives with property valued at 173.443 million kyats. They provided necessary assistance for the Tsunami victims. Similarly, groups of UN agencies made field tours of Ayeyawady Division and Rakhine State to witness damages.

The relief works and latest data on damages



Photo of the National Convention, is shown at the press meet. — MNA

were informed to the public through newspapers and TV and radio broadcasts. Myanmar did not request any aid or help for Tsunami victims. However, it receives voluntary contributions and donations. The State Peace and Development Council has formed a Committee for providing assistance to the victims and to distribute donated relief items to the victims. The Committee held a meeting on 17 January 2005 and discussed matters on systematic distribution of donated cash and kind. Up to 28 January 2005, donations amounted to US\$ 200,000, Myanmar currency 8.1294 million kyats, foodstuff worth K 1.14 million, clothes and medicines worth K 9.43 million, household goods worth K 0.96 million, and 2000 corrugated iron sheets with estimated value of K 4.44 million.

In this context, I

The 58th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme

would like to clarify points on how donated cash was provided to Tsunami victims in Myanmar.

On 31 December 2004, the Shwekyaung Sayadaw of Singapore donated 1 million kyats, the Indo-Myanmar Merchants 0.5 million kyats and Sri Asia Travel & Tour and Yangon Bodh Gaya Pilgrimage Tour 0.5 million kyats totalling K 2 million. That K 2 million had been handed over to Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development

received on 5 January 2005.

A man's longyi (lower garment) and a man's vest each were given to 1307 men and two yards of cloth for upper garment and two yards of cloth for lower garment were given to 1285 women. For 601 destroyed houses, 25 corrugated iron sheets each and two tons of timber each were provided for each household. The remaining cash will be spent in providing two bags of rice to each household.

Wellwishers do-

Thilawa International Port Terminal were received on 7 January 2005. Altogether 10 mosquito nets, 30 blankets, 30 men's longyis and 30 women's longyis, 676 bottles of medicines, 206 items of household goods, one bag of rice and ten viss of edible oil donated by Royal Ruby Company were received on 11 January 2005. Altogether 600 aluminium pots (of sizes 6" and 8" in diameter), 300 frying pans and 300 spoons donated by Latterday Saint Charity were received on 23 January 2005. Altogether 75 per cent of these donated items have been sent to Ayeyawady Division, 15 per cent to Taninthayi Division and 10 per cent to Rakhine State. The Latterday Saint Charity donated again 2000 corrugated iron sheets on 27 January 2005. These iron sheets will also be distributed to the victims. On 25 January 2005, UN agencies and international social organizations donated medicines, relief items, rice and foodstuff for the Tsunami victims.

On that occasion, UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carrol C Long and Representative of World Vision International Mr Roger Walker explained matters on the donations of cash and kind worth US\$ 1,358,942 including UNDP's cash donation of US\$ 150,000; WHO's (See page 7)

Council.

The Chinese Embassy, Consulate and Chinese businessmen donated K 6.1294 million. The donation was received on 7 January 2005 and distributed to the victims through local authorities. Cash assistance of K 50,000 each was provided to 34 dead persons. Hence, K 1.7 million was given away.

US\$ 200,000 donated by China was re-

nated 150 bags of rice, 130 bales of used clothes, 31 shirts and 44 women's garments on 3 January 2005.

These donated items were handed over to the Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council on 6 January 2005.

Altogether 650 mosquito nets, 650 blankets, 650 towels and 5400 clothes donated by



Journalists observes photos displayed at the press conference. — MNA

Press conference on National Convention...

(from page 6)
 cash donation of US\$ 78,797; UNICEF's cash donation of US\$ 94,963; World Food Programme's cash donation of US\$ 500,000; Humanitarian Service International's cash donation of US\$ 30,000; World Vision In-

to the East and West strongly but slowly to the North and South. Myanmar is located in the North. The Tsunami victims here have now returned to normal life due to relief works and donations of the Government and local and international

Aung Din is the only Myanmar national. USCB survives depending on the assistance they receive from some members of the US Congress and the Senate.

Those who steer the USCB are Larry Dohrs of Seattle, Washington State, and Stephen Dun, a former KNU member, Simon Billenness of Boston, Mas-

2005 via Bangkok Airways.

You journalists might have learnt another related news. On the evening of 1 January 2005, some 50 American students led by an US citizen named Boysett came to a refugee camp at Onphan in the other country, made provocative acts and studied destructive works of

with BBC correspondent Win Myint and NLD (LA) organizer Kyaw Hla. They discussed matters relating to intelligence to be carried out in Myanmar. According to their discussions and collaborations, they arranged to send two saboteurs who have been trained at Bonphaing village of Maesok by a destructive group, to Myanmar through Myawady route in December 2004.

Likewise, former Bakatha (All Burma Student Union) members Thein Win and Min Naing organized some Myanmar nationals working in Thailand illegally to commit terrorist acts in Mawlamyine. They arranged to send explosives through Phayathonsu jungle route to Kyaikmaraw. Together with the two former Bakatha members, four other Bakatha members are operating terrorist acts, disguised as monks at a monastery in Maesok.

The overseas FTU (Myanmar Labour Union) provided cash assistance to Party for New Society and made arrangements for committing terrorist acts in Myanmar in November 2004. The duty to explode bombs and commit subversive acts was assigned to Yan Kyaw (a Yarma who blew up a cinema hall in Pyu.

Similarly, Min

arrived in Ranong via Hsansaphangwe in the first week of January 2005. He arranged to mobilize new recruits. Other three members Ye Thiha, Soe Thiha and Kyaw Soe also arrived Ranong on 7 January and met with a Myanmar national.

In addition, a group led by Ye Thiha (alias) San Naing of Vigorous Myanmar Student Army, with the technical assistance on blowing up explosives of Moe Thee Zun who took part in the 1988 disturbances, sent three saboteurs to Yangon via Myawady, Thanbyzayat and Phayathonsu routes with the aim of disturbing the National Convention. Another fact I would like to mention is that pro-democracy citizens of some big nations are providing training to expatriate destructionists to commit terrorist acts in Myanmar.

At a camp near Kyauktaung, six miles north of Maesok, Thailand, a six-week commando training course conducted by a terrorist group began at the end of December 2004. A US citizen and a Briton are conducting training as coaches. Those drop-outs of the training course are to infiltrate to Myanmar for committing terrorist acts. In connection with the movements of internal and external destructive el-



A photo shown at the press conference. — MNA

ternational's cash donation of US\$ 505,000; and medicines donated by Support Fund Myanmar. These cash and kind donations are being sent directly to the victims by wellwisher organizations themselves in coordination with local authorities.

Relief Committee Chairman Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa went to Pathain in Ayeyawady Division on 28 January 2005 and together with Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, he handed over the donations to authorities properly.

The Myanmar Natural Disaster Relief Committee has been formed. Under it, the State/Division level committees, the District level committees and the Township level committees have been formed and assigned duties to take precautionary and preventive measures. When a disaster occurs, relief and resettlement works are carried out and food, clothing and shelter needs of victims are fulfilled by the central level and regional level committees in parallel with the passage of time.

The recent Tsunami hit strongly and the impact was great in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Maldives which suffered great loss and casualties. Myanmar sustained less impact due to particular geographical conditions and having unspoilt mangroves and coral islands as well as having uninhabited islands. Another factor was that the wave moved

wellwishers.

Next, Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force clarified subversive acts committed by internal and external destructive elements. He said: Now, it will be made known to you, journalists, regarding the destructive acts of domestic and foreign saboteurs who are undermining the interests of the country and people.

The events related to these subversive acts had been explained at the previous press conference. Now, the findings of the investigation into these cases will be explained.

In front of Taw Win Restaurant at the corner of Merchant Street and Pansodan Street and in Maha Bandoola Road on 7 January this year, Mr Joseph Theodore Moynahan, a US citizen aged 82, conducted a solo protest that could be detrimental to peace and stability of the country. The security concerned brought him to Zar Chi Win Guest House, where they investigated him. According to the investigation, it is found that the US citizen had a link with Washington-based US Campaign For Burma (USCB).

Further investigation showed that Free Burma Coalition (FBC) had a hand in the protest of foreigners involved in Yangon unrest in 1998. USCB is an organization split from FBC in 2003 and is formed with foreigners and Americans who are against the Myanmar Government.

sachusetts State, and Jeremy Woodrum of Washington DC. Some students of American University and George Washington University are members who have links with expatriates and destructionists.

Andrew Samet, one of the Board of Members of USCB, had worked as deputy labour minister at the time of the Clinton Administration. It is also known that he was son-in-law of Sibaw Sawbwa and

the destructionists.

As it is known to you all, the destructionists have opened so-called refugee camps in the other country with various reasons. Their motive is to ask for funds in the name of refugees from some foreign countries and organizations to seek their own interests. These have been explained in the previous press conferences. It can be found that the acts of expatriates were merely self seeking.



Charts concerning tidal waves following the earthquake. — MNA

Maha Devi.

As the US citizen's solo protest was an act of instigating the people to take wrong views upon the Government, action can be taken against him. However, in consideration of his old age and the friendly ties between the two countries, the Government, broad-mindedly sent him back home on 8 January

I will continue to clarify points relating to destructive acts of internal and external destructive elements. On 9 December 2004 at the NDD (National Democracy Development Committee) office in Yonhtaung compound in Maesok of Thailand, Maung Maung Taik of NDD and Phado Aung Than Lay of KNPP met

Thein of NLD (LA) based in Maesok, Thailand, paid 8,000 bahts to a Myanmar woman of about 40 years of age for carrying 2 mines to Bago, it is learnt.

Soe Moe Tun of the Vigorous Myanmar Student Army, a terrorist group based in Kanchanaburi of Thailand, took the name of deceased Myint Than (alias) Beda

ements, two incidents took place in Myanmar.

The first incident was that at about 6:40 am on 6 January 2005, a hand-made bomb measuring one inch and five centimetres kept in green powder container of one inch by one inch in a card box measuring 5 inches at the back lane of Ward Peace and Development Council (See page 15)

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



Located in the eastern part of Myanmar, the 4,530-square-mile Kayah State is home to national races including Kayah, Kayan, Mono, Kayaw, Yintale, Gekho, Geba, living together with Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Pa-O, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Intha. It is a mini-Union with a population of 312,001. Its population density is 69 person per square-mile.

Lying on a high plateau contiguous with the Shan plateau, the elevation of Kayah State is between 2,950 feet and 6,000 feet above sea level. The raging natural watercourses are flowing through the mountainous state from the north to south. The Belu Creek originates at Inlay Lake and flows through the fertile Loikaw plain

where various kinds of crops are cultivated.

In his message sent to the 47th Anniversary Union Day on 12 February 1994, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe states, "Since its assumption of the State duties, the Government has been giving priority to the cause of nationalities, while placing in the fore Our Three Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The time is ripe for national race groups in the jungles to abandon their armed struggle line posing as an obstacle to the progress of their own races, and to return to the legal fold with honour, for energetically serving the interest of the Union and

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Kayah State marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

the race."

Peace is the foundation of progress. With sincere goodwill, Tatmadaw has extended an olive branch to all the armed groups to return to the legal fold, and its ultimate goal is for prevalence of peace and stability in the whole Union and for all the national people to enjoy harmonious progress.

Soon after peace and stability has been restored in Kayah State, it is now witnessing developments in all sectors. I will now present in comparison the situation of Kayah State in 1988 and at present.

Agriculture

In 1988, Kayah State could not even produce enough food to feed its own people. The Tatmadaw Government has changed the agricultural patterns and water supply programmes of the state. It has built Dawtacha Dam in 1997 to irrigate 1,000 acres of crops in Bawlake Township; and Loik-nan-hpa Dam in Demawhso Township to irrigate 2,150 acres of land. In addition, it has built water pumping stations and small-scale dams to increase the sown acreage of the state.

The following table shows the development of agricultural sector in Kayah State:

Per-acre yield—basket Total production—basket (thousand)

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Land resource			
- sown acreage	115791	145479	29688
- acres of vacant & virgin land	152743	82123	-
Water supply for agriculture			
- dam, pond, embankment, drain	11	13	2
- river water tasks	-	3	3
- damming creeks	-	46	46
Thriving double crops			
Extended paddy cultivation	2268	33377	31109
- acres of monsoon paddy	56007	81125	25118
- per-acre yield*	42.38	59.99	17.61
- acres of summer paddy	-	8620	8620
- per-acre yield*	-	70.00	70.00
- gross production	2278	5470	3192
- local food sufficiency	-	125%	125%
Acreage of pulses and beans			
Acreage of maize	1685	38294	36609
Acreage of edible oil crops	5026	16928	11902
- groundnut	7360	14132	6772
- sesame	2021	11696	9675
- sunflower	727	4484	3757
- mustard	47	300	253
- niger	598	6900	6302

Livestock & fisheries

Thanks to the assistance of the Government, the state can double its farming sector, raising 1,136,000 heads of livestock at present, up from 545,000 in 1988. The state is now raising fish in 129.18 acres, and in 1988 it had only three acres of fish farms.

Forest conservation

The state grew about 90,000 saplings in 1988. But it planted over 3,420,000 saplings this year. The following table shows the extent of forest conservation work in Kayah State:

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
reserve forest*	74	270	196
protected public forest	-	1927	1927
Setting up of forest	200	6927	6727
- acres of economic plantation	-	3180	3180
- acres of village plantation	-	812	812
- acres of watershed plantation	200	2935	2735
- acres of Thitseint plantation	-	300	300

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Motor road	396/0	581/0	185/0
Bridge			
- above 180 feet long	6	8	2
- lower 180 feet long	145	151	6
Rail Transportation			
- miles	-	8.59	8.59
- rail track miles	-	10.90	10.90
- number of passenger	-	52,000	52,000
- miles of passenger transport	-	3611.1	3611.1
- tons of cargo	-	4,400	4,400
- miles of cargo transport	-	229.6	229.6
- stations	-	3	3

* 1,000 persons

Road and transport

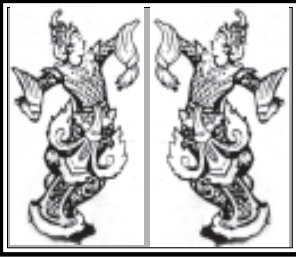
Till 1988, transport was poor in the state. Aungban-Pinlaung-Moebye-Loikaw road, Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado road and Loikaw-Hopong road served as gateways

Loikaw railroad linking Shan and Kayan states was commissioned into service on 27 March 1993. The project covered 106.62 miles of railroad for a distance of 101.92 miles as well as 25 railway stations.

before 1988. The Tatmadaw government built a new 28-megawatt power plant on Belu Creek. Power consumption of the state has risen to five times the amount it did in 1988.

(See page 10)

Subjects	1988	12-2-2005	progress
post office	8	13	5
telegraph office	3	11	8
facsimile	-	25	25
computer telegraph	-	1	1
telephone service			
- telephone office	3	14	11
- line number	650	2073	1423
- exchange	3	8	5
- direct line	558	1739	1181
- auto/carrier telephone	558	1739	1181
- telephone density*	2.82	5.59	2.77
microwave station	-	1	1
rural telephone exchange	-	6	6
local satellite station			
- iPSTAR	-	1	1



Development in Kayah State after 1988

For the convenience of people living in Kayah State, a microwave station was built in Loikaw, Kayah State.—MYANMA ALIN



Magnificent three-storey building of Loikaw University in Loikaw, Kayah State. —MYANMA ALIN

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day

Loinampha dam irrigates farmlands in Demawhso Township, Kayah State. —MYANMA ALIN



Kayah State marching to new...

(from page 8)

The following table shows the development of electricity sector of the state:

ment technological college and a government computer college are producing hundreds of the sustainable developments the state has been

power consumption— unit (million)*megawatt

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Maximum Electricity consumption load*	4.405	20.950	16.545
	3.000	5.340	2.340
Increase of generating power			
- hydel power station	2	3	1
- diesel-fired power station	4	26	22
present capacity of generator*	168.873	196.703	27.830

Industrial sector achieving in the education sector since 1988: technicians and computer scientists in the state. The Seven State-owned

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Basic education			
- number of schools	333	388	55
- multimedia classroom	-	21	21
- e-Learning Centre	-	13	13
- number of teachers	1259	1950	691
- number of students	29916	50245	20329
- KG enrolment	53.26%	94.29%	41.03%
- adult literacy rate	58.96%	94.50%	35.54%
School dropout rate			
- primary school level	37.45%	8.55%	28.90%
- middle school level	39.25%	13.90%	25.35%
Higher education			
- ars & science university	-	1	1
- e-Learning Centre	-	14	14
- academic programmes	-	36	36
- faculty members	-	90	90
- number of students	-	3051	3051
Human resource development centre	-	1	1

industries, 33 cottage industries and 270 private industries are running in the state. The government has given priority to the further development of the sector.

Mining and mineral resources

Mawchi Mines is producing tin, tungsten and shale. Discovery of marble and antimony after 1988 has generated more job opportunities. The state produced 188.16 metric tons of marble and 160 tons of antimony in 2005.

Education

The education promotion plans of the Government cover Kayah State. The number of students is increasing as the strength of teachers has risen. The increase in the school enrolment rate and adult literacy rate in the state is encouraging.

Loikaw covered by the 24-development zone project has now an arts and science university. Thus, local youths can pursue higher education in their own region. The following table shows

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
upgrading of hospital health units	15	16	1
health staff	32	36	4
health staff	351	570	219
- doctor (specialist/assistant)	48	96	48
- nurse	68	141	73
- midwifery	137	162	25
- health assistant-1	-	18	18
- health assistant	40	51	11
- supervisor (1)/(2)	29	65	36
traditional medicine			
- traditional medicine hospital	-	1	1
- traditional medicine dispensary	4	9	5

Science and technology

Like in all other states and divisions the science and technology development programme of Kayah State is gaining more ground. A govern-

two colleges were built after 1988.

Health

Health services of the state are also developing as in all other states and divisions. The 150-bed hospital in Loikaw has

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Road/bridge			
- mile of earth road	-	179/3	179/3
- mile of gravel road	-	176/1	176/1
- mile of tarred road	-	13	13
- bridge	-	29	29
Health			
- hospital/dispensary	-	30	30
Education			
- BEPS, BEMS, BEHS	-	25	25
- teacher	-	127	127
- student	-	3232	3232
Agriculture			
- office/station	-	8	8
- dam/canal	-	11	11
Livestock breeding			
- veterinary office	-	4	4
Energy			
- generator	-	34	34
- town/village supplied with power	-	39	39
Public relations			
- TV retransmission station	-	5	5
Communication			
- post office	-	2	2
- telegraph office	-	3	3
- telephone office	-	3	3
Expenditure (million)			
- development funds	-	1128.28	1128.28
- ministries	-	787.89	787.89
	-	340.39	340.39

been upgraded to a 200-bed facility, and it has been reinforced with more specialist surgeons. The state has doubled the number of doctors work-

* kyat (million)

ing in it and added hundreds of health staff of other levels to the related facilities. It has one traditional medicine hospital and nine traditional medicine dispensaries. The following table documents progress of the health sector:

Rural, urban development

Development in economic and social sectors has helped improve the standard of towns and villages in the state. There are now 29 miles and two furlongs more urban roads and 99 more urban bridges than in 1988. There were no rural roads and bridges in the past. Now the state has 179

Border areas and national races development

Development is the result of peace. The development drive in Kayah State indicates the need for all the national races to constantly enjoy the fruits of peace and progress. The border areas and national races development project has provided the above-mentioned facilities for Kayah State:

Information, public relations

The information sector is informing the public about the Government's endeavours to serve the interests of the nation and the people energetically, while

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
- TV retransmission station	-	7	7
- IPRD offices	-	8	8
- IPRD libraries	3	8	5
- mobile libraries	-	108	108
- rural libraries	-	56	56
- e-library	-	1	1

miles of rural roads and 65 rural bridges.

Four towns have now urban water supply system. Three more towns are also covered by the urban water supply project. A total of 104 water supply works are being carried out in 32 villages.

keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes. The sector has been developed for all the nationalities to unitedly march to the golden age without fail. The above-mentioned table indicates the sector's improvement:

(Translation: TMT)



A pipeline of Bilu Creek Hydel Power Plant in Kayah State.

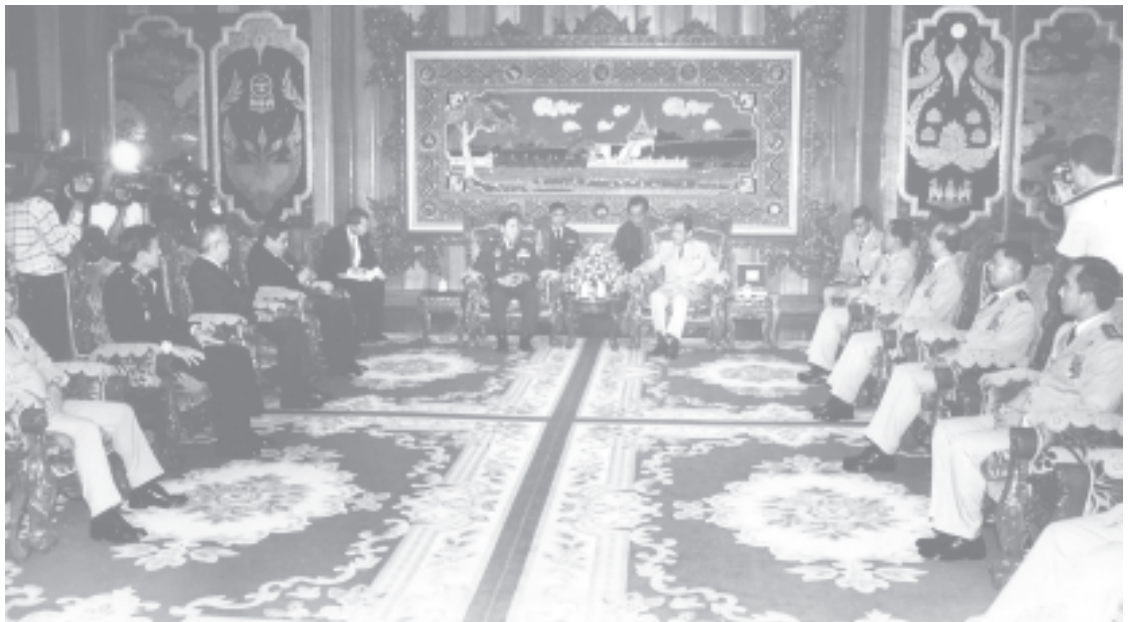


Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for a documentary together with Thai goodwill delegation members led by General Chaisit Shinawatra. (News on page 1) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Royal Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander

YANGON, 1 Feb— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta here this evening.

Also present at the call were SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence,



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Thai Supreme Commander General Chaisit Shinawatra and party. — MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Yangon Di-

vision PDC Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Thai

Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhira Kaosal and Thai Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat.

Before and during dinner, artists of Fine Arts Department entertained the guests. General Chaisit

Shinawatra presented flower basket to the artists and posed for documentary photos with them. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Royal Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander General Chaisit Shinawatra take the salute of Guard of Honour. (News on page 16)- MNA

Union Day hailed, National Convention supported in Mahlaing township, Meikhtila District



Meikhtila District USDA holds ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention at Kyauktan model village in Mahlaing Township. — MNA



YANGON, 1 Feb — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention took place at Kyauktan Model Village in Mahlaing Township, Meikhtila District, Mandalay Division, this morning.

It was attended by USDA members from Meikhtila District, Meikhtila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi Townships and villages in the district, members of War Veterans Organization, Women's Affairs Organizations, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people totalling 11000.

Meikhtila District USDA Secretary U Saw Htay presided over the ceremony together with

Mahlaing Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Chairperson Daw Ni Ni Lwin, Meikhtila District Women's Affairs Organization Chairperson Daw Khin Win, Mahlaing Township WVO Chairman U Win Myint and U Kyaw Thaug, an elder of the township. Mahlaing Township USDA Executive Daw Win Thida acted as MC and Executive

ing chairman U Saw Htay delivered a speech.

Next, Mahlaing Township USDA Joint Secretary U Soe Thein, Thazi Township USDA Executive Daw Kyu Kyu Maw and Meikhtila District USDA Executive U Khin Maung Zaw tabled their motions, calling on those present to honour the Union Day, and to support the National Convention and rural devel-

Executive U Khin Maung Zaw presented K 1.8 million for the repair of four schools in Meikhtila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi townships and K 1 million for construction of bio-gas power plant for power supply in Kyauktan Model Village to Mahlaing Township USDA Secretary U Shwe Nan.

Later, the presiding chairman passed reso-



Members of the panel of chairmen. — MNA

Daw Thanda Tun as co-MC.

First, the MC announced the start of the ceremony and the presid-

opment tasks being carried out in Meikhtila District.

Afterwards, Meikhtila District USDA

lutions after seeking approval from those present. Then the ceremony ended with the shouting of slogans. — MNA



Thazi Township USDA Executive Daw Kyu Kyu Maw. — MNA



Meikhtila District USDA Executive U Khin Maung Zaw. — MNA



Mahlaing Township USDA Joint-Secretary U Soe Thein. — MNA



Meikhtila District USDA Secretary U Saw Htay. — MNA

POEM

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Union Spirit

* We, all of us ...
 Brethren born of this Union
 Say what we have to and also argue
 Argue but a while and soon settle
 Without the flames of wrath brewing
 We prevent and find redress with goodwill
 Looking to the future, towards peace
 Believing in and building it
 Because we are Union citizens.

* We, all of us ...
 Did not bear the brunt of alien domination
 Insult and pressure of the past
 And worked for Myanmar to be grand
 and win fame
 Got together and build, hands held in
 unison
 Because we are Union citizens.

* O
 Union citizens
 Strength of the Union
 Sword of the nation
 Proudly, with hands held fast
 Not to fall into the mire of servitude again
 As true patriots in unity,
 The spirit of us, Union citizens
 Remember, it will be pride of the people
 Will shine like the sun and the moon.

Khun Ye Thway (Aye Thaya) (Trs)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (691)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT Voy No (691) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 2.2.05 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

INVITATION TO TENDER (TENDER NO. 14(T) MPE/HSD (13)/2004-2005)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of (42,000± 10%) Metric Tons H.S.D (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
2. Tender closing Date: (15-2-2005) at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (2-2-2005) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.
4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director,
 Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Clint Eastwood named as best director in pre-Oscar film award

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan — In an important pre-Oscar film industry award, the Directors Guild of America named Clint Eastwood best director on Saturday for his bittersweet female boxing drama “Million Dollar Baby”.

The 74-year-old Eastwood beat out the evening’s other favourite for the award, Martin Scorsese, who has been nominated six times for the DGA best film directing award — including for films “Taxi Driver” (1976) and “Raging Bull” (1980) — but never won.

Scorsese’s film “The Aviator”, a biography of billionaire Howard Hughes, has received 11

Oscar nominations, the most of any film. “Million Dollar Baby” got seven, as did “Finding Neverland”, a drama about how “Peter Pan” came to be written.

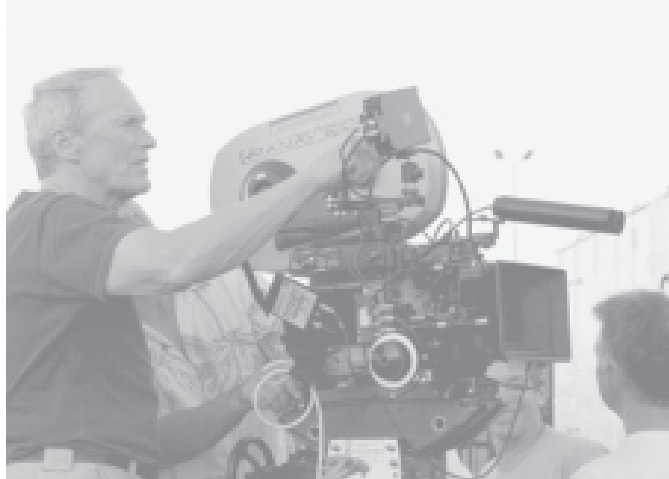
“This is a surprise. ... I got to say this is a real pleasure. I am as pleased as punch,” Eastwood told a black tie audience after receiving the award. Earlier in the evening, Scorsese had received a

standing ovation from the Directors Guild audience, leading some to think he was the evening’s favourite.

This year’s battle for the top Oscars is seen largely as a contest between the two veteran directors. Scorsese has never won an Oscar but Eastwood has a best director’s Academy Award for his 1992 Western “Unforgiven”.

The Academy Awards are announced on 27 February but before then several industry groups like the Directors Guild announce their awards. “The Aviator” was named best picture of the year by the Producer’s Guild last week. While important barometers of how Academy members are thinking in the run-up to the Oscars, the craft guilds awards are by no means infallible. Fifty of the last 56 winners of the DGA award have gone to win Oscars, but two of those failures were in the last five years.

In the DGA’s other major film award for the evening, the prize for best documentary went to Byambasuren Davaa and Luigi Faloni for their tale of nomadic life in Gobi Desert, “The Story of the Weeping Camel”. Among the documentaries it beat for the award was Michael Moore’s controversial anti-Iraq war film “Fahrenheit 9/11”, which has fared poorly this awards season. It received no Oscar nominations.—MNA/Reuters



Clint Eastwood on location during filming for the ‘Million Dollar Baby’.—INTERNET

Elvis recorded third No 1 in January

LONDON, 31 Jan— Elvis Presley recorded his third British number one in January with “It’s Now or Never”, the official British Charts Company said on Sunday.

The reissue was Elvis’ 21st British number one — more than any other solo artist — and comes more than 27 years after his death.

The song is one of 18 Elvis number ones being re-released in consecutive weeks, in time to cash in before the 50-year copyright protection on sound recordings in most European countries expires on his earlier hits.

Ashanti’s “Only U” entered the singles charts in second place and last week’s number one, “Goodies”, by 18-year-old American R&B singer Ciara Harris dropped to third place. The charity hit “Grief Never Grows Old” which was released to raise money for victims of the devastating Asian tsunami came in at fourth place.

The song was written by former DJ Mike

Read and featured Cliff Richard, Bee Gees Robin and Barry Gibb and Boy George. Former Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, opera singer Russell Watson and Kenny Jones of The Who also appeared on the track.

Veteran British electronic dance duo the Chemical Brothers dropped two places to fifth with “Galvanize”, taken from their new album “Push The Button” and dance hit “Shine” by LoveFreekz entered the charts in sixth place.

London pop quartet Athlete were in seventh place with “Wires” above three new entries.

Boy band Freefaller entered the charts in eighth place with “Do This Do That”. Xzibit entered in ninth with “Hey Now (Mean Muggin)” and trio Hanson rounded out the top ten with “Penny & Me”.

MNA/Reuters

Zimbabwe, UNDP sign accord to strengthen disaster management

HARARE, 1 Feb— The Zimbabwean Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed an agreement aimed at strengthening disaster management capacity in the southern African country, the local newspaper *The Herald* reported on Monday.

The government through the Civil Protection Department (CPD), an arm of the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing would implement the project aided by technical staff from UNDP. —MNA/Xinhua

Scientists map bats’ family tree using genetic data

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan— Researchers have constructed a family tree for bats using genetic information, according to a paper published in this week’s *Science* journal.

Bats’ evolutionary history is poorly understood even though they make up nearly 20 percent of all mammals. Scientists have estimated that approximately 60 per cent of the bat fossil record is still missing.

But a research group led by Emma Teeling at US National Cancer Insti-

tute compared genetic sequences from each modern-day bat family. They also reconstructed the evolutionary relationships among the microbats that use echolocation and the megabats that do not.

Moreover, they traced the paleogeographic origins of the major bat lineages.

The results support the hypothesis that megabats are nested among four major microbat lineages, which originated in the early Eocene (around 50 million years ago).

“With well over half of the Cenozoic history missing for microbat lineages and nearly all of

the fossil history missing for megabat lineages, it is not surprising that Paleocene bat ancestors having transitional morphological adaptations for flight and echolocation have never been discovered,” they wrote in the paper.

MNA/Xinhua

“Hide and Seek” debuts atop N America box office

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan— “Hide and Seek,” a Fox thriller starring Robert De Niro, was the top earner at the weekend box office, according to preliminary studio estimates released Sunday.

The Fox thriller, with De Niro and Dakota Fanning, was expected to gross 22 million US dollars in its debut, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations. Last week’s leader, “Are We There Yet?,” slipped to second, earning about 17 million dollars.

“Million Dollar Baby” took the third place with a take of about 11.8 million dollars. And “Coach Carter” followed with earnings of eight million dollars.

Meanwhile, another De Niro comedy “Meet the Fockers”, with such fa-

mous stars as Barbra Streisand, Dustin Hoffman and Ben Stiller, was in fifth place with an estimated weekend take of 7.6 million dollars. The Universal comedy now has grossed about 257.9 million dollars domestically since opening six weeks ago. Rounding out the top 10 were “The Aviator” (7.5 million dollars), “Sideways” (6.3 million dollars), “In Good Company” (6.2 million dollars), “Racing Stripes” (6 million dollars) and “Assault on Precinct 13” (4.2 million dollars). —MNA/Xinhua



In this photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox, David Callaway (Robert De Niro tries to get at the truth behind his daughter Emilys (Dakota Fanning) imaginary friend in ‘Hide and Seek.’ —INTERNET

SPORTS

Two S Korean footballers to appear in Adidas ad

SEOUL, 1 Feb—Two South Korean footballers will appear in international advertisements for Adidas later this year, the global sports footwear manufacturer's South Korean branch said on Monday.

Cha Doo-ri, a forward for Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany, and Cho Jae-jin, a striker for Japan's Shimizu S-Pulse, were picked for Adidas soccer campaigns that will be aired in May and July, Adidas Korea was quoted by South Korean Yonhap news agency as saying.

This is the first time for South Korean footballers to debut in global ad campaigns. Cho finished the ad shoot, made in strict secrecy, along with other global players such as David Trezequet of Juventus and Javier Saviola of FC Barcelona, the office said.

Cha, who was also selected recently to join a FIFA-arranged charity match for tsunami

victims next month, will appear in a separate ad campaign with David Beckham of Real Madrid and Michael Ballack of FC Bayern Munchen.

The ads are sequels to "Own the Game" in 2003 and "Road to Lisbon" in 2004, which Adidas campaigned globally, the office said.

"Adidas rates Cha and Cho as players who lead South Korean soccer and can play on a par with international players," the office backgrounded for their choice.

The office refused to elaborate on the contents of the ads, only saying that they will present an exciting and strong image.

MNA/Xinhua

Paunovic to join Hanover from Atletico Madrid

BERLIN, 1 Feb—German First Division soccer club Hanover 96 are to sign former Atletico Madrid striker Veljko Paunovic if only the Serbian passes a medical check, the German club said on Monday.

The 27-year-old Serbia and Montenegro international was undergoing medical checks on Monday, the last day of the January transfer window, and was expected to join club training on Tuesday.

Paunovic, whose deal with Atletico was due to expire in 2006, struggled to make the Spanish club's first team this season and was released from his contract earlier this month. —MNA/Xinhua

Robinho's goal could not prevent Santos losing its 100% record

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Feb—Robinho's fourth goal in as many matches could not prevent Santos losing their 100 per cent record in Brazil's Paulista championship when they were held 1-1 by neighbours Portuguesa Santista on Sunday.

The 20-year-old striker, subject of constant speculation over a possible move to Real Madrid, opened the scoring early in the second half when he fired home a low cross from Fabio Baiano.

But hosts Santos let victory slip from their grasp when Portuguesa forward Rico equalized with 10 minutes left after goalkeeper Mauro failed to cut out a corner. "Santos spent the whole week saying they would win easily," Rico told reporters.

Santos, who have 10 points from four games, slipped to second in the Paulista championship, one of the regional tournaments which kick off the season.

Sao Paulo went top on 12 points after a 2-1 home win over Uniao Sao Joao.

First-half goals by right back Cicinho and striker Diego Tardelli, his fifth of the competition, gave Sao Paulo a 2-0 lead before Borges pulled one back with a late penalty.

Palmeiras also lost their 100 per cent record when they were beaten 1-0 at Sao Caetano, Anailson scoring the winner with a 41st-minute penalty.

Former World Cup striker Romario, who celebrated his 39th birthday on Saturday, was in inspired form as Vasco da Gama held Botafogo to a 1-1 draw in the Carioca championship in Rio de Janeiro.

Romario, who joined Vasco two weeks ago, showed flashes of his old magic and set up a brilliant second-half goal for striker Alex Dias, who flicked the ball over goalkeeper Jefferson before heading it into the net. Alex Alves had given Botafogo a first-half lead at the Maracana.

Leandro Carvalho (Botafogo) and Fabiano (Vasco) were sent off for second bookable offences in the second half. —MNA/Reuters

Campbell describes rivalry of Arsenal and Man U as bitter

LONDON, 1 Feb—Arsenal defender Sol Campbell has described the rivalry between his team and Manchester United as bitter and personal.

Plenty of ill-feeling has been stirred up by past meetings, most recently in the so-called Battle of the Buffet at Old Trafford in October, and the two sides clash again in Tuesday's Premier League encounter at Highbury.

"Everyone at Arsenal has been waiting for this game," Campbell told the Guardian newspaper on Monday. "We are up for this one."

"We know we have to win. A draw does nothing for us or them, so it's very intense. After all that's happened, if we beat them it will be one of our sweetest ever wins, especially because of how we lost to them up there (Old Trafford).

"It is just more bitter and personal against United," added Campbell. "There's an edge. Maybe a little bit of the old north-south divide as well."

United's 2-0 victory in October ended Arsenal's record 49-match unbeaten League run and triggered a mini-crisis in which Arsene Wenger's men won only three of their next 10 games.

Off the pitch at Old Trafford, Alex Ferguson was reportedly pelted with pizza in the players' tunnel, sparking a furore re-ignited recently by the United manager.

"It (the 2-0 defeat) had a psychological impact on us, but again because of the way we were defeated," said Campbell in a reference to a controversial penalty award for United's first goal.

"That was far more upsetting, losing like that, because they (United) just seem to get away with it. You try and balance out over the course of a season but I've had so many rough decisions against them you begin to wonder."

MNA/Reuters



Marcopolo team rider Chiyin Leung of Hong Kong speeds during a break away in the first 143km stage from AlKhor to Doha of the Tour of Qatar cycling race January 31, 2005. Boonen won the stage, Liquidas Bianchi team rider Mario Cipollini of Italy took the second place and Phonak team rider Robert Hunter of South Africa the third place.

INTERNET

Japan midfielder Koji Nakata joins Marseille

PARIS, 1 Feb—Olympique Marseille have signed Japan midfielder Koji Nakata on an 18-month contract, the French First Division side's manager Pape Diouf said on Monday.

The transfer fee for the 25-year-old Kashima Antlers player, who is currently training with Japan, was not disclosed.

As a non-European Union player, Nakata will not be able to play for Marseille for at least a fortnight pending approval of his contract by French soccer's governing body.

Nakata will link up with former Japan coach Philippe Troussier, who replaced Jose Anigo in December.

MNA/Xinhua

Former Caldas coach Montoya back to consciousness

Bogota, 1 Feb—Colombian soccer coach Luis Fernando Montoya, who was left quadriplegic after being shot in a robbery in December, regained consciousness on Monday after suffering a lung infection last week.

Montoya, who turned little-known provincial club Once Caldas into last year's South American champions, is being treated in a Medellin hospital after the attack on December 22.

Montoya had been showing a slight improvement until last week, when his temperature reached 42 Celsius.

The 47-year-old was shot near his home close to Medellin when he tried to defend his wife Adriana from robbers who trailed her after she withdrew cash from an ATM.

Montoya took over at Once Caldas, who are based in the Andean city of Manizales, in late 2002 and led the previously unfashionable outfit on an unprecedented run of success.

They won the Colombian Apertura championship in the first half of 2003 and surpassed all expectations by lifting the Libertadores Cup, South America's equivalent of the Champions League, in July.

Their dream of becoming unofficial world champions was shattered when they lost to European champions Porto on penalties after a goalless draw in Japan on December 12.

MNA/Xinhua



Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova of Russia appears before a flock of photographers prior to a news conference by participants to the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament at a Tokyo Monday, Jan. 31, 2005. World No. 4 Sharapova, who lost to Serena Williams of the United States in the semifinals at the Australian Open last week, won the Japan Open in October and is seeded second for the tournament.—INTERNET

Press conference

(from page 7)

Office at #61, Yadana Street, Minyat ward of Myitkyina, Kachin State, exploded. There was no casualty and loss of property. The second incident was that at 6:40 am on 27

for democracy, is in fact launching terrorist acts as raiding the embassy, hijacking, raiding hospital and planting explosives among the public. Myanmar expatriates cannot deter such terrorist acts openly and some expatriates are abetting and

acts, their attempts were in vain. That is the reason the opposing expatriates are circulating instigative letters to create misunderstanding against the Government.

The latest news reveals that NCUB secretary Pyithit Nyunt Wai

conspiracies and plots of internal and external destructive elements are, in fact, aimed at disturbing stability and security of the nation and the people through various ways and means. They never consider the interests of the nation and the people. Instead they aim only for their own interests and seek chances for their party or group to seize power. Their acts indeed are desperate and terroristic.

Today, a consolidated force of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw is making collective endeavours for crushing all obstacles and destructive elements in view of implementing the seven-point Road Map step by step and successfully holding the National Convention needed as a basis for establishing a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, which is the national goal.

Hence, authorities concerned and security



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greets journalists. — MNA

January 2005, a bomb exploded at western brick fence of highway bus terminal in Dawei of Taninthayi Division. A six-foot portion of the brick fence was damaged. Consequently at 7 am the same day, another bomb exploded at the western brick fence of Dawei highway bus terminal. There was a hole of about one foot at the bottom of the brick fence. No casualty was caused by the two local-made time bombs.

Moreover, I would like to disclose a review concerning the Vigorous Myanmar Student Army, a terrorist group which has been committing terrorist

adding fuel to the flame. Indeed, terrorist acts of the Vigorous Myanmar Student Army are not harmful to Myanmar Government but harming the public.

Consequently, NCGUB (National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma) leader Sein Win obtained funds by advocating democracy from some foreign countries and those who do not know well about Myanmar. And he used these funds for his own interests, it is learnt. On 12 January 2005, he distributed instigative letters abroad to raise funds and launch anti-Government

(alias) Maung Maung of FTUB accused Sein Win of deterring his group from getting international contacts and aids. It shows that the expatriates are not in good terms with one another. It is learnt that Pyithit Nyunt Wai (alias)



A photo shown at the press conference on China-ASEAN Earthquake Generated Tsunami Warning held in Beijing where delegates accepted Myanmar's presentation. — MNA

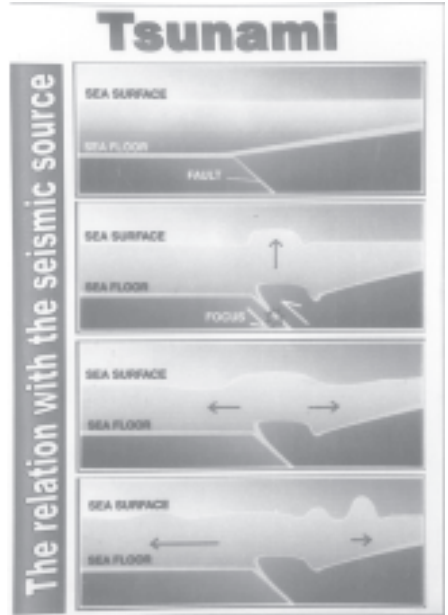
Maung Maung is attempting to form a parallel government as a rival to Sein Win's group. Pyithit Nyunt Wai is trying hard to get the Prime Minister post in his parallel government. However, some expatriates even in his group do not like him and support his programme. Yet Pyithit Nyunt Wai is bribing some members in his group who are antagonizing him. Pyithit Nyunt Wai and group of NCUB are trying hard for their parallel government to be accepted by other groups. So, they are planning to hold a meeting in February at the border of the other country. It is quite clear that the expatriates are boldly committing anti-Government activities not in the interests of the nation and the people but in their own.

The terrorist acts,

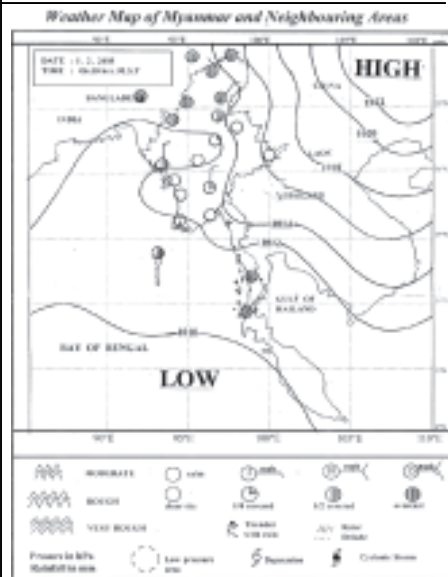
members are taking preventive measures to safeguard the State's infrastructures as well as lives and properties of the people. The public on their part are to be vigilant to expose and prevent destructive and terrorist acts while joining hands with the security forces.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Brig-Gen Khin Yi replied to queries raised by media persons. The press conference ended at 10 am.

The minister and guests observed documentary photos on National Convention, incidents caused by Tsunami, providing cash and kind to people living in the regions of Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Division hit by Tsunami and subversive acts. — MNA



A photo shown at the press conference. — MNA



WEATHER

Tuesday, 1 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) below normal in Chin and Shan States, Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (5°C), Lashio, Namhsam, and Loilin (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 31-1-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 1-2-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-2-2005 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 31-1-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 1-2-2005 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 4 mph from North-east at (11:55) hours MST on 31-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-2-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin State, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas.

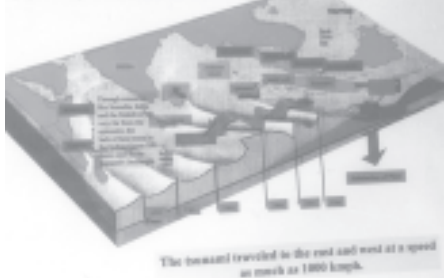
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-2-2005: Fair weather.

Harbour waves (Tsunami) generated by the earthquake off coastal areas of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Madras (Chennai), Maldives & Seychelles.



A photo displayed at the press meet. — MNA

acts in Myanmar. As you journalists have known, the Vigorous Myanmar Student Army claimed responsibility for the bomb explosion at Zawgyi House in Yangon on 24 December 2004. In connection with this, one Maximilian Wechsler presented a review on the Internet.

He said that the Vigorous Myanmar Student Army while advocating

activities. On the other hand, he is organizing movements to launch terrorist acts.

Most of Myanmar are earning their livelihood simply by pursuing education and doing businesses. They do not have any intention to oppose the Myanmar Government. Thus although the opposing expatriates are enticing them very hard to make anti-Government

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

Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces arrives

YANGON, 1 Feb— At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand General Chaisit Shinawatra arrived here on an official visit to Myanmar this morning.

Members of the goodwill delegation led by

Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Com-

mander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Chaisit Shinawatra went to the dais in the reception hall of the airport and took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Chaisit Shinawatra inspected the Guard of Honour.

General Chaisit Shinawatra and party went to No 1-Tatmadaw Guest House.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Royal Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander General Chaisit Shinawatra at the airport. — MNA

INSIDE

Peace is the foundation of progress. With sincere goodwill, Tatmadaw has extended an olive branch to all the armed groups to return to the legal fold, and its ultimate goal is for prevalence of peace and stability in the whole Union and for all the national people to enjoy harmonious progress.

(Page 8)

THIHA AUNG

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts dinner in honour of Royal Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander and party

YANGON, 1 Feb—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosted dinner in honour of Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra and party at Zeyathiri

Beikman on Konmyinthathere this evening.

Also present at the dinner were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Minis-

try of Defence, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Quartermas-

ter-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-

Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Thai Military Attaché Prissapa Suvanatat and officials.

Before and during the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture entertained those present with songs and, after the dinner, with Myanmar traditional dances and songs.

After the entertainment programmes, the Thai Supreme Commander presented a bouquet to the entertainers, and posed for a documentary photo.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts dinner in honour of Royal Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander General Chaisit Shinawatra and party. — MNA