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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Secretary-1 hosts dinner for Union Day delegates

YANGON, 15 Feb — Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosted dinner for members of traditional cultural troupes of states and Taninthayi Division and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Union Day delegates at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna this evening.

It was also attended by Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, members of Central Committee and Management Committees for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, delegates of national race organizations, chairmen of Myanmar Thabin, Music and Motion Picture Asiayons and officials, artistes and guests.

The Secretary-1 enjoyed the dinner together with the Union Day delegates.

After the dinner, the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted delegates of national race organizations and the Union Day delegates.

Artistes of the University of Culture (Yangon), Myanmar Music and Motion Picture Asiayons presented songs and Myanmar traditional cultural dances.—MNA



Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets Union Day delegates. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Bago-Toungoo section of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Project

YANGON, 15 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin

Maung Than inspected the upgrading of the Bago-Toungoo section of the Yangon-Mandalay

Union Highway Project yesterday.

Accompanied by Chairman of Bago Divi-

sion Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko

Ko and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at the briefing hall of the Shwe Thanlwin

Highway Co Ltd near Pyinbon Ywathit Village in DaikU Township.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report on laying of tar on the Bago-Nyaunglebin section of the highway, expansion of the road, arrival of granite and tar, quarries, pre engineering works, and bridge repair and building works presented by an engineer of the company.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than spoke of the need to constantly carry out road and bridge maintenance work and to build the facilities in accord with the set standard.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than holds a meeting with officers and other ranks and their families in Ottwin. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 February, 2005

Work in concert for further national development

The State Peace and Development Council is expending all its efforts on parallel development of the regions across the Union with the intention of turning the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one.

Moreover, it is implementing the seven-point policy programme for the future of the State so that a discipline-flourishing democracy will emerge in accordance with the historical background of the nation and cultures and traditions of its people.

To reach our common goal, the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are working in concert. The Tatmadaw Government, never losing sight of our national goal, has always made constant efforts to achieve it.

As a result, great strides have been made. Therefore, to keep the momentum of development, it is necessary for the government employees and the people to keep on working hard together.

It is imperative that those in public services be in oneness with the people and put their energies into the tasks of making people's life better and implementing the plans for rural and regional development. The people, on their part, are required to look after the interests of the nation while working in their own interests. And they must try to be good citizens by working for the good of posterity.

Only if each and every citizen can work for their development and that of their environment, will they be able to go on working for the national development. For this, hard work and innovations are very important. The national development will be feasible only if terrestrial and aquatic resources and potentials of development in each region and the government's support and assistance are put into effective use.

As the Union of Myanmar is an agricultural country, the seventy per cent of its population is rural people.

Therefore, the development of agriculture is very important for higher socio-economic life of the rural people. Out of 50 million acres of arable land, only 25 million is cultivated. If the remaining 25 million acres of farmland and vacant and virgin land can be fully put into use, the economic growth of the nation will be higher.

Therefore, we would like to call on regional authorities, departmental personnel and the people to work hand in hand for further development of the nation by making the effective use of the government's assistance and favourable environments created by the government.

Watershed plantations inspected in Thayet District

YANGON, 15 Feb — Director-General of Arid Zones Greening Department under the Ministry of Forestry U Tun Tun together with the Assistant Director of Thayet District, Magway Division and the Sinbaungwe Township Staff Officer made field trip to Sinbaungwe Township on 13 February and inspected 695 acres of watershed plantation of Greening for Bago Mountain Range during 2004-2005 and preparatory measures for 2005-2006.

Next, the director-general gave instructions on conservation of existing plantations not to catch fire and land preparations for coming cultivation season.

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Banking services inspected in Mandalay

YANGON, 15 Feb—The coordination meeting of the managers of Myanmar Economic Bank branches of Upper Myanmar took place at the City Hall of Mandalay on 13 February 2005.

Also present on the occasion were Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, MEC Managing Director Col Hsan Tun, general managers of the MEC, and officials.

The commander delivered an address, calling for better banking services.

The minister also spoke on the occasion.

The general managers gave accounts of respective functions. Col Hsan Tun gave concluding remarks.

Yesterday morning, the commander and the minister attended the opening of the bank branch in Singu, Mandalay Division, and addressed the ceremony.

The commander pressed the button to open the branch. The commander, the minister and guests viewed the sections around the building.

In the afternoon, they inspected Myanmar Economic branch-1 and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (Mandalay Branch).

MNA

Minister inspects MIPL, MITT ports



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects Myanmar International Port (Thilawa). — TRANSPORT

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe arrived at Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal this afternoon and inspected unloading of tar containers from the vessel.

At the office of MITT, the minister heard reports on loading and unloading of cargoes from the

vessels. After inspecting loading of cargo containers and timber onto the vessels, the minister gave necessary instructions.

After the minister had checked a warehouse and a cargo check point, he fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Union Day Exhibition packed with visitors

YANGON, 15 Feb — The 58th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continued today for the eighth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here.

A total of 3,578 people including monks, teachers and students. At the exhibition, five BEHSs competed in the quiz on English language skills conducted by University of Computer Science and Soft Guide Computer Co, and BEHS No 3, Hline township, won the first prize.

The exhibition continues tomorrow. — MNA

Union Day delegates on tour of downtown Yangon

YANGON, 15 Feb — Union Day delegates from states and divisions and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association led by Secretary of Reception Subcommittee for Observing the 58th Anniversary Union Day Commander of No 1 Transit

Centre Lt-Col Tin Kyaing, dividing themselves into two groups, went on excursion tour of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens this morning.

On their arrival at Karaweik Gardens, Chairman of Zekaba Co Ltd Dr Khin Shwe extended greetings and Director Daw Ze

Zin Latt explained salient points of Karaweik and Kandawgyi Gardens.

On arrival at Nation Races Village, officials explained salient points of the village to them. They proceeded to Shukhintha Amusement Park and viewed around there.

MNA



BODY BUILDING & BEAUTY CONTEST: Yangon Division Body Building and Physical Culture Subcommittee and Tun Shwe Wah Traditional Medicine Enterprise jointly organized the 58th Union Day commemorative Yangon Division body building and beauty contest on 5-2-2005. Photo shows Latha Township team, that won championship shield, posing with modals. — H





Shoppers look for goods to buy in Seoul on 14 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET



China to launch first national census of securities sector

BEIJING, 14 Feb— A national census of securities businesses across China, the first of its kind in the country, is expected to start soon as everything moves smoothly with the preparations, according to China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said.

"The census, part of China's economic census, is aimed to assess the entire industry and to find out solutions to various fundamental problems in the sector," said Tu Guangshao, a deputy head of the government securities watchdog.

"It will help the government in studying and making long-term development

plans and improving the statistical system of the industry," he said.

The CSRC regards it as its top job for the 2004-2005 statistical year.

"The results of the study will never be used by the CSRC or any other departments to punish those that will be examined," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

China's black-necked crane under satellite surveillance

KUNMING, 14 Feb— China has launched its first ever observation of black-necked cranes with satellite remote sensing technology in a bid to better protect the rare bird species.

The surveillance will be carried out on 10 chosen black-necked cranes spending winter at the Dashanbao Black-Necked Crane National Nature Reserve in south-west China's Yunnan Province over the next three years, according to the provincial forestry administration.

The study is aimed to learn the migratory route of black-necked cranes and the places they stay, their retention cycle and their locations of reproduction, said Li Fengshan, a member of the International Crane Fund who takes charge of crane protection in China.

The endangered black-necked crane is the only one of 15 crane species that inhabits in tablelands.

Its tall and beautiful figure makes it valuable for bird-watching and scientific research.

The black-necked cranes in China mainly live in Tibet and Yunnan and Guizhou provinces.

Dashanbao Black-Necked Crane National Nature Reserve, in Zhaotong City of Yunnan, covers 192 square kilometres. Within its boundary, the altitude varies from 2,210 to 3,364 metres above sea level. An estimated 1,100 black-necked cranes, or one sixth of its population in the world, spend about 200 winter days at the reserve each year.

There are around 6,000 black-necked cranes in the world, 4,000 of which live in China.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepali Army launches search operation in far-western region

KATHMANDU, 14 Feb— The Royal Nepal Army (RNA) is carrying out a search operation against the anti-government guerillas in all the districts of far-western Nepal, Radio Nepal reported Monday.

"A large number of rebels were killed in a large-scale offensive carried out by the RNA using long-range weapons in the forest area at Jayagadh and Chhatasen in Achham District," the state-run radio quoted a statement of the RNA West Divisional Headquarters as saying.

The security forces also recovered a large number of socket bombs, medicines, radios and equipment for laying booby traps as well as an indigenously-made mortar from the sites of incidents, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

US senator slams Iraq rebuilding chaos

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb— A senator and civilian contractors have accused the US administration of allowing Iraqi reconstruction to become as chaotic as the Wild West.

Senator Harry Reid made particular criticism of the government's former occupation administration in Iraq on Monday.

And civilian witnesses claimed Washington had protected an American contractor accused of fraud and accusations of US media censorship.

"This is a scandal," said Reid, who heads the opposition Democrats in the US Senate. "We are close to 24 months into this conflict with Iraq, and the administration still can't seem to get it right," he said.

Reid spoke during hearings in Congress into the management of the so-called Coalition Provisional Authority's (CPA) multi-billion dollar reconstruction programme.

In the hearings, civilians compared operations to the Wild West, saying bags full of cash were tossed freely about, at times like footballs.

Franklin Willis, who supervised aviation for the CPA in late 2003, accused the organisation of "poor execution" and called it "naive."

He said that millions of dollars stored in the basement of the CPA offices were casually distributed to favoured contractors with little accounting discipline.

Another witness accused the government of hampering an investigation into alleged fraud US-based by Custer Battles, which had contracts worth as much as \$100 million in Iraq for airport security and other jobs.

Internet

Japan's 2004 current account surplus hits record high

TOKYO, 14 Feb— Japan's current account surplus reached a record 18,590 billion yen (177.0 billion US dollars) in 2004, up 17.9 per cent from the previous year, a government report said Monday.

The current account surplus came to 1,616.0 billion yen (15.4 billion dollars) in December, up 35.1 per cent from a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said in the preliminary report.

Exports climbed 12.3 per cent to 58,306.0 billion yen (555.3 billion dollars), and imports were up 10.9 per cent to 43,995.2 billion yen (419.0 billion dollars).

The ministry attributed the record-high surplus to trade surplus with other Asian economies and the United States and a record-high surplus in income account. The balance of trade in goods and services posted a surplus of 10,156.5 billion yen (96.7 billion dollars) in

2004, up 21.6 per cent.

The income account, covering income from Japanese investments in foreign securities and payments by foreign employers in Japan, logged a surplus of 9,273.3 billion yen (88.3 billion dollars), up 12.0 per cent from the previous year and marking the highest on record.— MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan Govt embarks on giant housing project

COLOMBO, 14 Feb— The Sri Lankan Government is embarking on a gigantic project to build around 20,000 to 30,000 temporary houses for people affected by the tsunami disaster, the Sunday Observer reported on Sunday.

The houses are expected to be built in the affected areas of the southern and northern provinces to ease the acute housing problem caused by the tsunami, a spokesman for the commissioner general for essential services was cited as saying. As far as the temporary houses are concerned, they can be built within a period of six months. Although adequate tents have been provided to affected families, many prefer to live in temporary houses as they are not accustomed to live in a tent, he added.

He said that the idea behind the move is that it will take at least two years to build 20,000 to 30,000 permanent houses for those people.—MNA/Xinhua



Indian stock brokers trade at a brokerage firm in Bombay on 14 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

Foreign grants to Philippines declined by 94% in 2004

MANILA, 14 Feb—The foreign grants to the Philippines declined by 94 per cent last year from the 1.198 billion pesos (21.78 million US dollars) in 2003 due to corruption and the low utilization capacity, a local newspaper reported Sunday.

Citing the Bureau of Treasury, the *Philippine Star* said that total foreign grant assistance to the Philippines amounted to only 74 million pesos (1.35 million dollars) in 2004, most of which was from Japan and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank.

While in 2003, among the 1.198-million-peso grants, 590 million pesos was from Japan and about 323 million pesos from the annual US Farm Bill or Public Law 480, the Bureau of Treasury said.

The sources of the foreign grants also decreased from 16 in 2003 to five in 2004, it added.

The Bureau of Treasury, however, noted that Japan has been the country's biggest and consistent source of grant and development assistance although the Philippine Government could hardly refund the taxes that Japanese contractors have been paying.

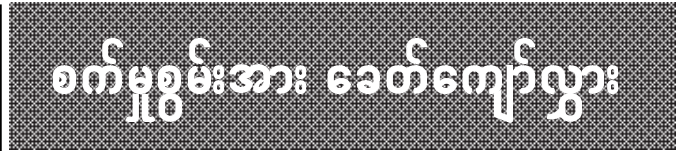
Earlier reports said that it would take the Arroyo Administration four years to refund some 366 million peso (6.65 million dollars) worth of value added taxes to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for various infrastructure projects in the country. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Shenyang posts increasing trade with EU

SHENYANG, 14 Feb — The volume of trade between Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, and the European Union (EU) shot up 61.8 per cent year-on-year to 1.27 billion US dollars last year, according to the latest Customs figures.

Figures from the Shenyang Customs show that the Shenyang-EU trade volume accounted for 24.7 per cent of Shenyang's total foreign trade volume for last year, making the EU the largest trade partner of the city, a traditional industrial base of China.

Shenyang imported 906 million US dollars of goods from EU last year, up 86.6 per cent from the previous year and accounting for 31.8 per cent of Shenyang's total import. The city exported 366 million US dollars of goods, up 22.1 per cent year on year and accounting for 15.8 per cent of Shenyang's total export. Shenyang posted a trade deficit of 540 million US dollars. Customs officers said that the launching of BMW production project in Shenyang in 2003 prompted import of large amount of auto spare parts, which was a major factor behind the big trade deficit. Last year, Shenyang imported 399 million US dollars of auto spare parts. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Chinese visitors buy barbecued locusts at a fair in the Temple of the Earth in Beijing on 14 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Hong Kong Govt supports film industry development

HONG KONG, 14 Feb— The Hong Kong Government has vigorously supported the development of the local film industry since Hong Kong's return to the Motherland in 1997, Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing Lorna Wong said here on Saturday.

Wong said on a radio talk show that the government attached great importance to the industry and implemented a series of measures to help facilitate its long-term and healthy development.

Apart from the film development fund which provides financial support to the film industry, the government had

set up a 50-million-Hong-Kong-dollar (6.42-million-US-dollar) Film Guarantee Fund which helps local movie industry to obtain loans, according to Wong.

The fund has approved six applications since its launch in April, 2003 with a total fund commitment of 14 million HK dollars. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China life insurer provides aid to Chinese int'l travellers

SHANGHAI, 14 Feb— China's largest life insurer launched a new service to protect Chinese international travellers against accidents occurring when they are overseas on business, travel and study.

The accidental injury and emergency aid insurance for Chinese citizens was provided by China Life Insurance Company Limited in association with AXA Assistance.

According to sources with China Life, the new insurance product not only covers the risk of unexpected injuries taking place in overseas tours but also includes emergency aid services provided by AXA Assistance.

Policy holders can contact AXA's 24-hour hotline to get professional aid such as medical care and arranging emergency return trips.

AXA Assistance will pay for all the emergency aid costs incurred overseas for the policy holders and make sure that rescue efforts will not be disrupted due to policy holders' financial constraints, said China Life.

As more Chinese citizens took overseas business, tourism and educational trips in recent years, the number of accidents that Chinese international travellers were involved also climbed. Some Chinese insurance companies and China operations of foreign insurers have launched a string of products and services aimed at meeting the increasing security needs of Chinese international travellers. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China's auto parts industry called to improve production

SHENYANG, 14 Feb — World auto giants are expected to purchase as much as 50 billion US dollars worth of auto parts and components in low production cost countries before 2007, with 70 per cent from China, according to predictions made by the Customs Administration of Shenyang in northeast China.

This, plus the surging domestic demand, would bring a tremendous opportunity for Chinese auto parts and components factories, industry sources said.

Shenyang, one of China's major auto parts production bases, exported 92.65 million US dollars worth of vehicles and auto parts and components last year, 45.9 per cent higher than that of 2003. The cars and parts were exported to more than 70 countries, Shenyang

Customs said.

China's auto parts and components production mainly serves the country's fast developing auto market, which has attract the world's famous automakers such as GM, Daimler-Chrysler, BMW and Toyota. To seize the opportunity and increase exports, China's auto parts factories have to improve their technology and expand production scale, said industry sources. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Saboteurs target oil pipeline in northern Iraq; police killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 Feb—Roadside bombs killed a US soldier and three Iraqi National Guard troops Monday and officials said guerillas blew up an oil pipeline near Kirkuk and killed two senior police officers in Baghdad. Political leaders, meanwhile, sized up their positions in a new government.

One American soldier was killed and three wounded Monday when a bomb detonated near their patrol in northern Iraq, the military said. The explosion occurred when the soldiers from Task Force Liberty were on a combat patrol near the town of Baqouba, 55 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, the US command said in a statement.

At least 1,461 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, accord-

ing to an Associated Press count.

The three Iraqi troops were killed by a bomb that detonated in Baqouba as their convoy passed, said Mudafar Al-Juburi of the Dyala police station. Three other soldiers were wounded, he added. Guerillas near Kirkuk attacked the Al-Dibbis oilfield belonging to the North Oil Co, said Maj-Gen Anwar Mohammad Amin. The pipeline supplied oil for domestic use and the damage will hamper production, he said. — *Internet*



Two flamingo birds form a heart shape with their necks in Jordan's zoo in Amman, on 13 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET



Japan wants to talk with China on fresh development aid

TOKYO, 15 Feb— Japan wants to start talks soon with China on its plans to end fresh development aid to Beijing and will tell it this week that the two should jointly work out how cuts can be implemented, a Japanese newspaper said on Sunday.

Japan has already reduced low-interest loans to booming China for three straight years, adding tension to a difficult relationship still bedevilled by Japan's brutal occupation of parts of China from 1931 to 1945.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, where war criminals are honoured along with Japan's war dead, and a row over a group of disputed islands have also caused diplomatic problems in recent years.

Japan plans to draw up a "road map" with China that would outline a process for gradual cuts in official development assistance (ODA) to the country, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* daily said.

Dates being mooted for ending fresh aid to

China include 2008 when Beijing hosts the Olympics or 2010 when a World Exposition is to be held in Shanghai, the newspaper said.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

Earlier this month, Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura was quoted by local media as saying that Japan would end development loans to China and would hold talks with Beijing to ensure the cessation of the aid was not disruptive.

The issue is sensitive as some analysts say China sees Japanese development aid as a form of war reparations even though Japan says all wartime compensation issues concerning China were settled by a 1972 joint statement that established ties.

Some Japanese politicians argue that China's rapid economic and military expansion disqualify it from receiving aid from Japan, which is struggling to bring down its huge public debt.

Japan scaled back loans to China by 20 per cent in 2003/04 to about \$940 million, leaving India as the top recipient of its aid loans.

Japan said on Wednesday that it was taking over a lighthouse built years ago by right-wing activists on a small, disputed group of islands in the East China Sea. China has called this a "severe provocation".

The islands, known as the Diaoyu Islands in China and the Senkakus in Japan, provide access to rich fishing grounds and possible oil deposits in the area.

MNA/Reuters

China becomes Cambodia's largest investor

PHNOM PENH, 15 Feb — China was on the top of Cambodia's foreign investment countries in 2004, according to the figures of the Centre for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

The CDC figures, quoted by Cambodia's *Sin Chew Daily* on Monday, showed that the agency approved 55 projects worth 217 million US dollars in fixed assets in 2004, 8 more than 2003.

China registered 19 investment projects, worth 80.4 million US

dollars, up 144 per cent over 2003 and accounting for 37.06 per cent of the total registered projects in fixed assets in CDC.

About 15 projects were in garment sector, worth 35.10 million US dollars.

The second was Malaysia with 23.27 million US dollars and Taiwan

ranked the third with 13.69 million US dollars in fixed assets.

Chea Vuthy, director of the CDC's Information Department, said that China, as the largest investment country last year, mainly invested in garment sector, tourism, tobacco and food processing.—MNA/Xinhua

Indian IT firms bet big on knowledge process outsourcing

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb— The Indian IT sector plans to strike it rich in a new breed of high-end knowledge-based outsourcing as global corporations move process like data and intellectual property researches to offshore locations, according to *Indo-Asian News Service*.

This new breed of knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) comprises companies providing higher-end research and analytical based services to overseas clients in a wide spectrum of business areas.

These include basic data research, integration and management, market research, equity research,

engineering design, animation and simulation, medical content and services, remote education and publishing.

Other areas with significant latent potential for KPO include pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, legal support, intellectual property research, and design and development for automotive and aerospace industries. According to the National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), the total market size of KPO business in India may rise to a staggering 15.5 billion US dollars, up from 1.2 billion US dollars now.

"India can emerge as a major KPO player in the global arena by leveraging the intellectual capital and the power of the Internet to offer quality research at value prices," said R Sivadas, director and CEO of Scope e-Knowledge Centre.

"Even at the relatively higher billing rates, moving knowledge processes to offshore locations offers a compelling value proposition as it helps overseas

firms to cut costs significantly," Sivadas said.

"Although very few Indian companies are working in this space now, KPO will be one of the major segments of the outsourcing business in terms of creation of new jobs and generation of billions of dollars in business."

The Chennai-headquartered Scope e-Knowledge is a leading Indian KPO firm that has expertise in creating valuable intellectual property for clients across the industry verticals like healthcare, pharmaceuticals and life sciences.

The company, with overseas offices in New York, Orlando, Chicago, London and Brussels, has over a dozen clients in the US and European markets.

The US market accounts for 60 per cent of its annual revenue. "In view of the growing interest of global corporations in the KPO business, we have decided to increase our manpower in the Chennai facility from 400 to 600 by the end of the current year," said Sivadas.—MNA/Xinhua



Cambodian woman stops to buy flowers outside a busy market in Phnom Penh recently.—INTERNET

Singapore to build second botanical gardens

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb — Singapore will start building the second botanical gardens next year, local media reports said recently. The gardens, to be located in the southern part of the city state, will include a bowl-shape stage, one of Singapore's largest outdoor venues for concerts and live performances.

According to the reports, the concept plan for the gardens will be completed by the end of this year while the construction work is expected to be finished in five to ten years.—MNA/Xinhua

Lunar New Year day sets single day passenger record at HK Airport

HONG KONG, 15 Feb— Around 150,000 passengers travelled through Hong Kong International Airport Sunday, setting a new record for single day passenger traffic since the new airport's opening in 1998.

The number of aircraft movements was highest on Lunar New Year's Day of 9 February, with 743 landings and takeoffs, against 650 flights on an average day. This came close to the record 747 Aircraft movements made on 9 April, 2004.

Last month's passenger figure was 3.02 million, a slight decrease of 0.8 per cent over

January 2004, when the Chinese Lunar New Year fell in the month.

Continuous strong demand from the United States, Europe and the Chinese Mainland contributed to a robust growth of 25.4 per cent in cargo throughput compared to January, 2004. A total of 247,000 tons of air cargo were handled. Aircraft movements rose by 5 per

cent to 20,265.

Passenger, cargo and aircraft movement figures all maintained a buoyant double digit growth over a rolling 12-month period. Passenger throughput surged by 34.2 per cent to 37.1 million, cargo throughput increased by 19.4 per cent to 3.2 million tons, and Aircraft movements rose by 26.2 per cent to 238,090.—MNA/Xinhua

India is poised to become a key outsourcing hub for global aerospace firms as it has cheap and skilled engineers on offer.

INTERNET



China's ancient "Nuo" ritual to find international fame

NANCHANG, 15 Feb— Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, will stage an international cultural festival this year to make the ancient "Nuo" ritual, the oldest form of Chinese dancing.

The festival is scheduled for June 11 to 15, sponsored by China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, Jiangxi provincial government and Chinese Folk Writers and Artists Association.

The event aims to expand international cultural cooperation and exchanges and help preserve the Chinese folk art form that has been performed for more than 2,000 years but is on the

verge of extinction because very few youngsters carry on the tradition.

Nuo rituals were originally performed during the Chinese Lunar New Year holidays to expel evil spirits and pestilence. In recent decades the ceremony is more a theatrical performance for entertainment and expresses farmers' longing for good weather, bumper harvest and family prosperity.

Nuo performers are of-

ten equipped with whips and dance to different mysterious tunes. They also wear masks painted in different colours — black, white and red — and bear varied countenances — some look amiable and others ferocious and frightening. Jiangxi Province is a cradle of Nuo operas, which are also staged in some southern and southwestern provinces and autonomous regions.

MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania projects to produce more sugar

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 15 Feb— Tanzania is expected to increase its sugar production from 389,250 tons in 2001 to 1.456 million tons in 2010, according to local Press reports on Monday.

Newspaper *The African* quoted Sosthenes Magesse, secretary of the Tanzania Sugarcane Growers Association, as saying that the projected increase of sugar production also aims at increasing the income of sugarcane growers of the country. Measures to assist the projected increase of sugar production include measuring the quantity and quality of sugarcanes, distributing sugar revenues between the sugarcane growers and companies, improving soil productivity from

45 tons of sugarcane per hectare of land to 80 tons, and introducing micro irrigation methods.

The Tanzania Sugarcane Growers Association has also planned to train sugarcane growers and to expand old and new sugar farms so as to bring about the projected increase of sugar production. Sugar is an important daily commodity in Tanzania, which now has to import to help meet the national demands. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to commemorate 60th anniversary of WWII

SINGAPORE 15 Feb— Singapore on Monday unveiled its plan for activities in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two (WWII) in the Asia Pacific Region.

According to a statement by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Monday, a series of events will be staged between February and Sep-

tember this year, involving WWII veterans, visitors and local people.

These events will include heritage tours, WWII commemorative

exhibitions, a WWII Veterans' Forum as well as public conferences and talks on the Asia Pacific war. The 38th War Memorial Service, the first of many activities, will be held on Tuesday to memorize the day when the island state fell into the Japanese occupation in 1942 and pay tribute to those who lost their lives during the war.

War-time tunnels at Labrador Park, one of Singapore's strategic defensive sites and a key site of resistance during WWII, will open to the public for the first time from March, and people will have rare opportunities to visit WWII sites in September where public access is denied normally. Memorial services in mid-September at the Kranji War Memorial, the Changi Chapel Museum and the Semba-wang Wharves will mark the end of the commemorative series. — MNA/Xinhua



The Best of Breed for the Poodles (Toy), 'Champion North Well Chako JP Platina King,' is groomed on the ramp waiting to be called for the judging of the toy group of dogs at the Westminster Kennel Club show at New York's Madison Square Garden, on 14 Feb, 2005. — INTERNET

Vietnamese traditional cloth becomes fashionable

HANOI, 14 Feb— Many foreigners are so impressed with the beauty of Vietnamese traditional cloth made by hand or dyed indigo that they even travel far just to buy shirts and scarves made of silk from the Van Phuc Village in Ha Dong Town, northern Ha Tay Province, or made from brocade by the Cham ethnic group in the central province of Binh Thuan.

Many Vietnamese designers say that never before has Vietnam's fashion reflected the Vietnamese people's spirit in such a strong manner as at present. Young designers are breathing life into pieces of Ha Dong silk, Binh Thuan brocade or My A

Tan Chau satin.

Today, all kinds of hand-made cloth could be found at fashion centres and supermarkets in the big cities nationwide, including some international hotels like Dawoo Hotel in the capital of Hanoi. Vietnamese brocade, silk or

tussore skirts, dresses and suits are preferred to those made from cloth imported from China or other countries. The most stylish artists, singers and models in Vietnam like to choose domestic-made cloth for their fashionable dresses.

MNA/Xinhua

High-tech property trading tops 14.2 billion yuan in Guangdong

SHENZHEN, 15 Feb— Transactions of high-tech properties at Shenzhen High-tech Exchange in south China's Guangdong Province were worth 14.2 billion yuan (about 1.71 billion US dollars) last year, up 118 per cent over that in 2003.

Chang Jinyong, president of the Shenzhen High-tech Exchange, said standardized operation and diversified ways of trading were the main reasons behind the exchange's brisk business in the past year. In the meantime, the exchange also took pains to improve management and ensure the

company's profitability.

The exchange cut costs by 22 per cent, but its operating revenue went up 79.8 per cent in 2004, according to Chang. Shenzhen, a boomtown facing Hong Kong across a river, hosts the China High-tech Fair every October. — MNA/Xinhua



A pair of tropical kissing fish, locally called Jie wen yu, kiss at a pet shop in Shanghai on 14 Feb, 2005. — INTERNET

Over 60 beauty queens arrive in Zimbabwe for world pageant

HARARE, 15 Feb— More than 60 beauty queens from around the world arrived in Zimbabwe on Sunday for the Miss Tourism World pageant to be held in the resort town of Victoria Falls on 26 February.

The models bring to 100 the total number of beauty queens that are in the southern African country for the grand occasion, which is being held in Africa for the first time in 20 years.

Head of media planning for the Miss Tourism World, Michael Orji, said that 11 more contestants were being expected. He said 21 of the models who arrived on Sunday would proceed to Victoria Falls while the rest would remain in the capital. President of the pageant, John Singh, said the event would provide Zimbabwe with the opportunity to showcase its tourism potential to the world.

"The face of the Zimbabwean tourism has changed today as the touch down of these girls is an eloquent testimony to the fact that Zimbabwe is indeed a safe tourist and investment destination," Singh said.

Orji said most contestants from Europe were very excited about coming to Africa and Zimbabwe in particular.

Zimbabwe's tourism industry has since hailed the move, describing it as positive development that would enable the country to market its unparalleled tourism potential to the world.

Tourism is the third largest growing sector in Zimbabwe after agriculture and mining and is fast emerging as one of the country's significant foreign currency earners. This is despite the negative publicity that the country continues to get from its traditional source markets, which are the United States, Britain, Germany and other European countries.

Last year, Zimbabwe received 1.27 million tourists and netted in 152.3 million US dollars from the arrivals.

MNA/Xinhua

Discussion of pensioners-5

Hein Myint

The Central Organizing Committee of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization held its regular meeting No 1/2005 on 25 January 2005. On the occasion, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered a speech, saying that the government was making endeavours for emergence of a discipline-flourishing modern developed democratic nation after laying down the State's seven-point Road Map. The convening of the National Convention, the first step as well as the most important one, was in progress. The National Convention resumed from 17 May to 9 July 2004.

And it will resume on 17 February 2005. It is the Convention where eight delegate groups namely delegates of national races, delegates of legal political parties, delegates of representatives-elected, delegates of workers, delegates of peasants, delegates of State service personnel, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, and delegates of those who had returned to the legal fold took part in the discussion.

The State Constitution essential for future democratic State was to be drawn based on fundamental principles and detailed basic principles reached at the previous sessions. Therefore, successful holding of the National Convention is of importance. He warned that War Veterans Organization at all levels, in collaboration with the government, the Tatmadaw, the people and such congenial social organizations as Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society and auxiliary fire brigade, must prevent against the danger of internal and external destructive elements who wanted to deal a devastating blow to the National Convention.

Starting from 25 January this year, the mass rallies to hail Union Day and to support the National Convention were held daily in the townships across the nation and these ceremonies received media coverage. Members of the USDA, MWVO, MWAFA, MMCWA, Red Cross and auxiliary fire brigade and the people have participated in the mass rallies.

One day, we, a group of pensioners held discussions on the National Convention.

"I have learnt the NC will resume on 17 February 2005".

"Yes, I've heard it. The first session of the first phase took place from 17 May 2004 until 9 July 2004, and the NC is now going to resume soon".

"I'm sure the NC is the most fundamental and the most important step for the country to transform into a discipline-flourishing modern developed democratic one".

"That's for sure. The NC will adopt the fundamental principles and detailed principles for framing of enduring State Constitution which is the life-blood of the future of our nation. So it's absolutely crucial for the country".

"The government is now taking all possible steps to introduce genuine democracy in the nation, but to my disappointment, a certain political party and some politicians are always advocating democracy and at the same time they are opposing the NC".

"That political party's delegates attended the NC in 1993 and they too accepted the 104 fundamental principles. I wonder what former US State Secretary Madeleine Albright and the woman of the NLD talked about. Soon after their meeting, the NLD delegates walked out of the NC".

"Very clear, they gave priority to individual interest, and it is their concept that individual interest was more important than that of the nation. That was why they left the convention".

"They announced that they would attend the NC

only if their demands were met. They seemed to think that the NC won't be able to accomplish anything without them".

"But it is a problem certain big powers are spurring them, and they are dancing to the tune of their masters".

"There are countless of lessons to be taken from the international events, and they should have realized the situations long ago".

"It's beyond my knowledge why the superpower is applying pressure on and driving our nation to despair, and bullying us".

"It's very clear to me. It wants to get the whole world under its thumb. And it wants to always keep itself on top in the political, economic and military affairs in the world. So it is always busy with its tactics and strategies".

"Myanmar is a small nation and what is the use of its interfering in the internal affairs of our nation?"

"There are only a few nations that will soon be able to catch up with it. Our nation, Myanmar, shares

The State Constitution will be drawn in accord with basic principles and detailed basic principles to be adopted by the National Convention. And the referendum will be held and basic principles and detailed basic principles will be adopted according to the wishes of the people. So, it can be said that these are being done in a most democratic way."

borders with China and India. Our nation has a 1385-mile-long coastline from north to south along with a total area of more than 140,000 square miles of waters and is adjacent to Malacca Straits. According to geopolitics, the superpower will be able to check potential rivals and control the Malacca Straits if it is in a position to contain our country and install a puppet government".

"I had no idea in this case due to lack of military outlook but now it is clear to me when I read a story in the newspapers. Indonesia said that the superpower was surveying and collecting facts about the straits while it was rendering relief aid to the tsunami victims".

"Dissidents and absconders with negative views are constantly committing destructive acts against the nation".

"They are doing such things to the liking of their masters who are feeding them. Only then, will they be able to survive. They are indeed just self-seekers".

"It is known to all nations that a big power is granting asylum to all the runaways from various countries and providing them with assistance, and when it has to interfere in the internal affairs of one of its targeted nations, it uses the fugitives of the country concerned. It did so in its own interest. The runaways of our nation also are engaged in the destructive acts for their own benefits and they did not take into account what adverse consequences the nation will suffer.

"The clarification of the Police Director-General at the press conference held on 1 February revealed the plots hatched by destructive elements abroad. In this connection, it was obvious that runaways Sein Win distributed instigative leaflets to some foreigners and Myanmar nationals residing abroad while engaging in destructive acts."

"Pyithit Nyunt Way (a) Maung Maung was attempting to form a parallel government. He is said to have tried to win the post of the Prime Minister in the government."

"They are vying for a larger share."

"All the people should know that destructive elements have been sent to the nation. Is that true that in May 2004 when the National Convention was being held there occurred bomb explosion near the Central Railway Station?"

"Therefore, the Secretary-1 did remind the people to keep constant vigilance against the internal and external destructive elements who are attempting to jeopardise the National Convention."

"Security guards and the people need to cooperate in exposing the destructive elements. Only then can the destructive acts be prevented."

"Why the big nation, which is advocating democracy is trying to destroy the National Convention being implemented for the emergence of democracy?"

"Detailed basic principles and 104 basic principles already agreed include one point that no foreign troops will be permitted to be stationed in the nation. This point seems to be a great blow to it. It is true that it would like to station its troops in the strategic region to be able to control China and India militarily."

"Oh...I see"

"Some persons who are said to be veteran politicians said that there should be tripartite discussions among the Tatmadaw government, the NLD and the national race groups."

"If we look at it superficially they seem to be in favour of the National Convention but if we look at it in all seriousness it is obvious that they are indirectly opposing it."

"It can be said that they are putting the interests of a certain party and a certain person's affairs in the fore."

There were 1,086 delegates at the previous National Convention. Of them, over 600 delegates are those representing the national race groups in all townships of states and divisions. There were also delegates of workers, delegates of peasants, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of national races who had returned to the legal fold and others. There are eight categories of delegates.

"At the press conference held on 1 February, the Minister for Information briefed matters related to progress of previous National Convention. And he also explained that the invitations have already been sent to delegates as previous number who attended the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July."

"Therefore, it is clear that the ongoing National Convention is the most comprehensive conference in Myanmar history."

"As the entire national affairs will be discussed and adopted at the National Convention, it is genuine and of utmost importance for the future nation. Thus it is more important than the tripartite discussions."

The State constitution will be drawn in accord with basic principles and detailed basic principles to be adopted by the National Convention. And the referendum will be held and basic principles and detailed basic principles will be adopted according to the wishes of the people. So, it can be said that these are being done in a most democratic way."

"That is why it is encouraging to see the ceremonies to hail and support the National Convention being held across the nation. We will also have to support them."

"Not only the people but also those who want to serve the national interest are to support the National Convention. At the same time, we are to keep constant vigil at the sabotage acts of destructive elements and to expose them."

"That's right!"

(Translation: MS+TS)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than...

(from page 1)

The 48-mile Bago-Nyaunglebin section is being built by the company. Earthworks have been completed to lay the 24-foot wide road. Road expansion has been completed up to 11 miles and seven furlongs.

At the Nyaunglebin-Zeyawady section of the highway, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report on road extension work, supply and use of granite, tar supply, repair and building of bridges and toll collection, presented by the director of Olympic Co Ltd. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the contractor should pay more attention to the durability of the road.

Tar laying has been completed on 38 miles, and road expansion has been completed up to 31 miles and three furlongs of the road section.

During inspection of No 7 Sugar Mill (Ottwin), Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report on production of 45,674.92 tons of sugar in 2004-2005, and other goods. He also cordially met with Tatmadaw members and families at the regional battalion. He then inspected the Zeyawady-Yedashe section of the highway. The project director of KBZ Pathfinder Industries Ltd explained the road expansion, road maintenance, bridge construction and maintenance works of the project. Up to 28 miles six furlongs of the 48-mile section has been expanded. He also inspected the remaining section of the highway till reaching Toungoo. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosts dinner for Union Day for delegates in honour of the 58th Anniversary Union Day. (News on page 1) — MNA

Summer paddy plantations, construction of Ngamoeyek sluice gate inspected

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, accompanied by Irrigation Department Director-General U Kyaw San Win, Myanmar Agriculture Service Acting Managing Director U Ohn Than and officials, inspected the thriving 11,900-acre plantation of summer paddy near

Ngamoeyek Dam in Hlegu Township on 13 February. The divisional manager of MAS reported on cultivation of Yaysin 1&3 strain paddy in Thanatpyin village-tract, and thriving plantation of Manawthukha and Theehtatyin paddy strains in Dahpain village-tract. The minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party went to the construction site of Ngamoeyek sluice gate in Sitpintaung village in Dagon Myothit (East) township where the director of division Irrigation Department reported on construction progress and arrangements for the greening of the 30-mile radius of Yangon city. Director General U Kyaw San Win gave a supplementary report.

Officials also reported on boosting income of local farmers on account of the extended cultivation of summer paddy and other crops. The minister gave instructions on construction tasks, cultivation of cash crops and assistance to be rendered. Afterwards, the minister oversaw the construction of the sluice gate building by use of heavy machinery. Later, the minister inspected paddy plantations of various species near the agricultural education camp at block No 492-A in Malit village, Hlegu township, supply of river water for irrigation of farmland through the Malit river-water pumping project. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects water supply and maintenance of canal in Ngamoeyek Dam in Hlegu Township. — AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

CNG filling station opens

YANGON, 15 Feb — A ceremony to open No (007) CNG filling station of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise on Bayintnaung Road, Insein Township took place this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the No 1 Military Region Commander, heads of departments, officials and service personnel of departments under the Min-

istry of Energy, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and guests.

First, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min formally opened the filling station and Yangon Commander formally unveiled the signboard of the station. Next, the commander, the ministers and party were conducted around the station by Director of MOGE U Myint Htay. — MNA



Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and ministers attend opening of the filling station. — ENERGY

Minister on inspection tour of Panmawady River crossing bridge

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun yesterday morning inspected the construction tasks along Pathein-Myaungmya road section.

He proceeded to the Panmawady River crossing bridge (Myinkaseik) Project.

The minister looked into progress in building of the bridge. Engineer in-charge Daw Si Than presented reports on work progress and future tasks. In response, the minister gave instructions on timely completion, and meeting set standards, and provided assistance for the project.

The main bridge of the 1,260-foot-long Panmawady is 540 feet long, and the approach bridges (Myaungmya side) and (Pathein side) 360 feet each. It is of reinforced concrete type. Bore pile tasks have been completed in Myaungmya side and so have 17 out of 50 bore piles in Pathein side.

Next, the minister inspected earth work for upgrading of Pathein-Myaungmya road section. At the Myaungmya District Engineer's office, Senior Engineer U Myint Swe reported on construction of roads and bridges in Myaungmya District with the use of charts. Regarding the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions.

The minister also inspected Einme-Pantanaw Road, Yangon-Pathein Road and Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Road. — MNA

More National Convention delegate groups arrive



National Convention delegates from Ayeyawady Division arrive at Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby. — MNA

YANGON, 13 Feb — National Convention delegates of respective groups arrived here by air and by car to attend the National Convention which is to resume on 17 February at the Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby township.

The delegates arriving today included 23 from Kayah State, 10 from Shan State (North), 16 from Rakhine State, 1 from Shan State (South), 32 from Kachin State and 62 from Mandalay Division.

Similarly, 28 delegates from Shan State (South), 72 from Ayeyawady Division and 33 from Bago Division (East) 33 from Bago Division (West) arrived here today. They were welcomed and accommodated by the invitation, reception and accommodation subcommittee for convening of National Convention Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials.

MNA

Teachership diploma certificate presentation held

YANGON, 15 Feb — The seventh teachership diploma certificate presentation of Yankin Education College of Education Planning and Training Department of the Ministry of Education was held at the college this morning.

Present were Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, the directors-general, the chairman of Board of Myanmar Examinations, Principal of Yankin Education College U Me Aung and trainees.

Next, Principal U Me Aung delivered a speech and presented diploma certificates to the trainees.

The minister and party inspected language lab.

In the afternoon, Principal U Me Aung presented teachership education certificate to first year trainees of teachership course.

MNA

Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club meets

YANGON, 15 Feb —, Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club held its 16th annual meeting at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here this evening.

Patron of the club U Hla Htwe gave a speech. President U Sao Kai Hpa presented the annual report and Secretary U Nyunt Tin the budget report.

The meeting unanimously approved the reports. It elected U Hla Htwe (Nihon Keizai Shimbun) as the patron, U Sao Kai Hpa (Mainichi) the president,



Secretary of MFCC explains about budget report at Annual Meeting of MFCC. MNA

U Khin Maung Myint (NHK) the vice-president, U Nyunt Tin (Fiji TV) the secretary, U Aung Hla Tun (Reuters) the joint secretary, U Tin Maung Aye (Asahi

Shimbun) the treasurer, and U Min Zaw (Tokyo Shimbun) the auditor.

A dinner was hosted after the meeting. Managing Director Col Soe Win of News and Pe-

riodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, Director (News) U Win Tin, and head of Office of the ministry Maj Ye Tint also attended it.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL SEPAKTAKRAW CHAMPIONSHIP - 2005 (MYANMAR)

18 - 25 FEBRUARY 2005

NATIONAL INDOOR STADIUM (1) THUWUNNA, YANGON



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Deputy Director-General of Development Affairs Department Thuwa U Soe Aung inspects progress in building of Moekaung-Gwaykon-Shwethahtay road section in Aunglan Township on 7 February. — H



Officials welcome delegates from Mandalay Division at Yangon Central Railway Station. — MNA



Delegates from Rakhine State being welcomed at the airport. — MNA



Delegates representing Kachin State arrive at the airport. — MNA



Delegates from Shan State (North) arrive at the airport. — MNA



Delegates from Shan State (South) arrive at Nyaungnapin Camp. — MNA

Buddha Pujaniya of Thiri Mingalar KabaAye Pagoda to be held

YANGON, 15 Feb— The 54th Buddha Pujaniya of Thiri Mingalar KabaAye Pagoda on KakaAye Hill will be held at the pagoda starting from 19 February 2005.

The opening ceremony of Buddha Pujaniya will take place at 7 am on 18 February. On the morning of 23 February, consecration ceremony of the pagoda will be held in conjunc-

tion with merit-sharing ceremony. At the ceremony, provisions will be offered to 108 members of the Sangha and 31 nuns led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws.—MNA



Delegates from Bago Division (West) put their signatures in the registration book at Nyaungnapin Camp. — MNA



Delegates from Bago Division (East) arrive at Nyaungnapin Camp. — MNA

3,012 drug-related cases exposed in 2004

YANGON, 15 Feb— The Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed a total of 3,012 drug-related cases in 2004.

The authorities seized 606.8931 kilos of opium in 406 cases, 973.5156 kilos of heroin in 1,126 cases, 58.904 kilos of morphine in three cases, 39.1157 kilos of opium oil in 64 cases, 395.7457 kilos of low grade opium in 162 cases, 142.4468 kilos of marijuana in 204 cases, 30.25 litres of phensedyl in 18 cases, 8,379,311 stimulant tablets in 598 cases, 182.656 kilos of ephedrine in two cases, 69.0576 kilos of stimulant powder in 12 cases, 71.1 litres of cough syrup in six cases, 82.0092 kilos of speciosa in 36 cases, 407 tablets of diazepam in three cases,

104 bottles of diazepam (injection) in five cases, 10 bottles of morphine (injection) in one case, 379 bottles of buprenorphine in five cases, 0.155 kilo of stimulant solid (ice), 0.79 kilo of caffeine, five ecstasy tablets in two cases, 26.4 litres of acetic anhydrite, 17,971.07 litres of chemical liquid in four cases, 3,649.776 kilos of chemical powder, 184 cases of failure to register and 171 other cases.

Action was taken against 4,153 people in 3,012 cases — 3,418 men and 735 women last year.

In 2004, the Tatmadaw battalions and units and the MPF exposed an opium refinery each and narcotic drugs, chemical liquid and precursor chemicals in Shan State (North) and Kachin State.

Authorities are de-

stroying poppy plantations in 2004/2005 poppy cultivation season. Up to 10 February 2005, a total of 8,082.13 acres (3,270.79 hectares) in Shan State (North), Shan State (South), Shan State (East), Kachin State, Kayah State and Sagaing Division have been destroyed.

If compared to the seizure of narcotic drugs in 2004, the seizures of narcotic drugs increased by 405.4329 kilos of heroin, 57.2452 kilos of marijuana, 4,376.627 stimulant tablets, and decreased by 874.8047 kilos of opium, 44.23 litres of phensedyl, 125.2762 kilos of ephedrine, 2,535.84 litres of acetic anhydrite, 18,932.767 litres of chemical liquid, and increased by 245 cases and 300 people.

MNA

UN urges govts to join Interpol to identify lost, stolen passports

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Feb — Governments should work more closely with Interpol to identify lost and stolen passports in order to thwart terrorists planning and executing attacks, UN experts said on Monday.

The international community must also intensify efforts to track portable anti-aircraft missile systems, weapons of mass destruction and commercially available materials that can be turned into explosives to help deter future operations, the experts said in a report to the UN Security Council.

The panel of experts was set up last year to evaluate the effectiveness of a UN programme to crack down on the al-Qaeda network and Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers.

The measure also ordered governments to block suspects' travel and bar them from obtaining arms, funds or other resources. To help governments know who to look for, a council committee maintains a list of people and groups believed to have links either to al-

Qaeda or the Taliban.

The latest report by the expert panel said al-Qaeda remains a moving and constantly evolving target, requiring governments to continuously refine their programmes to counter the group.

The existing travel ban has failed to net any suspects, not because extremists do not travel but because the restrictions are too weak, the experts said.

Nearly 430,000 blank travel documents, including a large number of passports, have been stolen or lost and "law enforcement authorities have long identified a clear link between terrorist activities and the use of stolen or fraudulent travel documents," they said.

All governments should join Interpol, which keeps a database of stolen and lost travel

documents, and register all such documents with the international police agency and quickly invalidate them, the experts said.

The council also should require governments to cancel any visa or residence permit issued to anyone on the UN list of terrorism suspects and either try them for crimes or send them home, they said.

The Security Council should also urge governments to beef up border controls to prevent terrorist groups from using couriers to smuggle gold, diamonds and other precious commodities to finance their operations, the panel said.

Finally, the UN council should consider restrictions on the use of the Internet to lure people "onto a terrorist path," the experts said.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia in midst of completing reconstruction plan for Aceh

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb — Indonesia is in the midst of completing the masterplan for the reconstruction of tsunami-hit Aceh, visiting President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has said.

"Hopefully, by the middle or end of March, the work could be completed and we would inform Malaysia," he said at a joint Press conference with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi here Monday.

Over 230,000 people are pronounced dead and missing in Aceh after the December 26 earthquake and tsunami. In addition, the disasters have displaced some 400,000 people.

Susilo is in Malaysia on the first stop of his familiarization visits to the Southeast Asian countries since gaining the presidency in October last year.

The Indonesian President said details of the masterplan would be made known to Malaysia to facilitate the reconstruction activities.

Among other things, he expressed gratitude for Malaysia's commitment to help Jakarta in rebuilding Aceh.

"We value Malaysia's experience in developing cities, housing complexes, infrastructure and facilities which are excellent, taking into account the local conditions," he said.

Susilo also hoped that Malaysian private sector would soon follow up on its commitment to develop Indonesia's infrastructure facilities.

"We hope the commitment together with intensive cooperation could be stepped up and become more concrete," he said. The Malaysian private sector made the commitment during the Infrastructure Summit in Jakarta last month, Indonesia's first national sum-

mit on infrastructure development.

It was reported that Malaysian firms were keen in investing in toll roads, and electricity and seaport projects.

Earlier, Susilo and Abdullah held a bilateral meeting. The two leaders also witnessed the signing of two memoranda of understanding, one of them is related to the manufacturing and marketing of the utility and transport aircraft CN235.

The second one is related to Indonesia's migrant workers in Malaysia. Indonesia was Malaysia's sixth largest trading partner, with total bilateral trade reaching 5.1 billion US dollars in 2003 and 4.53 billion US dollars during the period between January and August 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker inspects iron ore at BHP Billiton's facilities in West Australia. The global mining giant is poised to post the largest interim net profit in Australian corporate history on 12 Feb, 2005 as unprecedented demand from China and high commodity prices continue to boost its bottomline.

INTERNET

Malaysia to use biometric system to tackle illegal workers problem

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb — Malaysia would use the biometric system in hiring Indonesian workers to tackle the problem of illegal immigrants from the republic, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Monday.

The system would record the name and thumb print of every Indonesian worker coming to Malaysia to seek employment to determine their entry into the country was legal or illegal, Abdullah told a joint Press conference with visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"Later, when we check with the immigration, their records will be there if they have come in legally," he said. Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister, said the move was to ease the illegal immigrants' problem in Malaysia.

"As far as possible, we don't want illegal im-

migrants' problem in this country," he said.

Earlier, Abdullah and Susilo held a "four-eyed" meeting before heading the Malaysia-Indonesia delegation meeting held in conjunction with Susilo's two-day visit to Malaysia beginning Monday.

Abdullah said Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta were prepared to exchange information on the illegal immigrants' issue.

Susilo, who thanked Malaysia for offering jobs to Indonesians, gave an assurance to overcome the problem of his citizens entering Malaysia unlawfully.

"The Indonesian Government is responsi-

ble to handle the problem to ensure Indonesians entering Malaysia legally in future," he said.

Abdullah said the ongoing "Ops Nasihat (Advise Operation)" would be stepped up till the end of this month and from March 1, harsher action would be taken against illegals.

Under "Ops Nasihat", illegals arrested by the authorities would be advised to return to their homeland in one week and if they failed to do so and were caught again by the police or immigration officers, they would be deported and banned from coming back to Malaysia.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka baby's parenthood settled with DNA tests

COLOMBO, 5 Feb — Sri Lanka's tsunami surviving "Baby 81" would be handed over to his real parents after a DNA verification test proved the parenthood of the three-month-old, the court in the eastern town of Kalmunai said Monday.

The district judge of Kalmunai MP Mohideen issued the order that the baby be handed over to Murugupillai

Jeyarajah and his wife Juanita.

The baby came to be known as the "Baby 81" because it was the 81st victim admitted to Kalmunai hospital more than 200 kilometres away from here on December 26 when the killer tsunami tidal waves struck the country's coastal lines.

The judge on February 2 ordered the DNA tests to verify the parent-

hood after as many as six sets of parents showing an interest to adopt the child. The tests were done a week later in the capital Colombo.

The baby was found miraculously alive among the debris after the disaster. Murugupillai and Juanita had claimed that the documentary evidence they had to prove the boy was theirs were lost in the disaster. — MNA/Xinhua

US gunman opens fire in crowded store

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — A 24-year-old gunman opened fire in a crowded store in upstate New York on Sunday, wounding one person, and was caught by store employees after he ran out of ammunition, police said.

Armed with an assault rifle, the gunman, who was not identified, opened fire at midafternoon at a Best Buy electronics store in a shopping mall near the city of Kingston, about 90 miles north of New York City, New York State Police Chief Wayne Olson told reporters.

The gunman moved through the store, firing shots. He was quickly caught, however, after he left the store and entered the mall. When he ran out of bullets, store workers overpowered him and turned him over to police, Olson said. "To the best of our knowledge at this time, it was a lone gunman," he said.

Paul Watzka, chief of police in the nearby town of Ulster, said the man was in custody being questioned and said his motives were unknown. His identity was not released.

A second person was wounded or cut by flying glass in the incident. Both victims were being treated in the hospital.

MNA/Reuters

Madrid's skyscraper damaged in big fire

MADRID, 14 Feb — The biggest fire in the capital city's history heavily damaged a 32-storey office building on Sunday after firefighters struggled for nearly 24 hours to control the blaze, officials said.

The fire, which left seven people slightly injured, broke out in the skyscraper on Saturday night. Thick smoke and high temperatures prevented firefighters from entering the building until late Sunday.

The office tower, the eighth tallest building in Madrid, did not collapse, but officials said it was unstable and closed the area around the building. "What worries us now is its structural state because of the high temperatures it was subjected to," Merardo Tudelo, director of the Madrid Municipal Firefighters, told reporters.

Mayor Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon said "the situation is still critical."

"This is the biggest fire ... this city has ever had," Gallardon told reporters outside the blackened hulk of twisted wreckage at midday. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire, but the 106-metre Windsor building was almost empty when the first alarm went off. Only one of the seven firefighters who suffered smoke inhalation remained hospitalized Sunday, Gallardon said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran refuses not to build heavy-water reactor building

TEHERAN, 14 Feb — Iran on Sunday rejected a European Union proposal that it abandon the plan to build a heavy-water nuclear reactor in exchange for a light-water research reactor.

"We will continue the work of heavy-water reactor," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told reporters.

"We are grateful to the EU's proposals of exchange, but we are not in a position to make deal on the issue of heavy-water reactor at all," Asefi said.

The EU has offered to provide Iran with a light-water research reactor and other trade and economic incentive in return for Iran's downright suspension of its activities related to uranium enrichment.

Iran temporarily froze uranium enrichment activities on 22 November last year to avoid the US-advocated referral of its nuclear case to the UN Security Council and pave the way to negotiations with the EU on a nuclear deal.

Teheran has repeatedly urged the EU to accelerate the negotiations to reach substantial progress as early as possible.

Iran and the EU wrapped up the third round of talks on Friday in Geneva, during which the EU still insisted that Iran should provide guarantees of the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities before the EU actually fulfil its commitments.

It was reported that the EU negotiators had also offered to send a mission to Teheran to administer the deal on light-water research reactor.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Gholamali Khoshroo said Saturday evening in Munich that an agreement on uranium enrichment as well as providing objective guarantees on Iran's peaceful nuclear programme could still be reached.

Iran has repeatedly denied the US charges that it seeks nuclear weapons, but said it will never abandon uranium enrichment under a peaceful nuclear programme.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

မြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

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Thain Aung B.S. LL.B. Advocate
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E-mail: nripip@gmail.com
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box: 686 Yangon. 16 February 2005

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for ESPN, Inc. P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 16 February 2005.

ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

တွန်ဒိုင်းအမျိုးအစား မော်တော်ယာဉ် အမှတ် ၁က/၁၆၄ အား ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ စနစ်ဖြင့် ရောင်းချမည့် ဖြစ်၍ တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းချက်များ ကို တစ်စောင်လျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀/- နှုန်းဖြင့် အမှတ်-၂၁၂၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဌာန ၂၀၀၅၄၈၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ (၁၇) ရက်နေ့မှ စတင်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

Seven injured in Paris theatre explosion

PARIS, 14 Feb — Seven people were slightly injured in an explosion that destroyed the lower half of a theatre in northwest Paris on Sunday, police said. The cause of the explosion at the Empire Theatre, often used for fashion shows and to film television programmes, was not immediately known, police said.

MNA/Reuters

New strain of AIDS virus discovered in New York

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — A new strain of the AIDS virus that is drug-resistant and also causes a quick onset of the disease has been discovered in New York, prompting an alert to city health providers, officials said on Saturday.

Use of the illegal drug crystal methamphetamine was probably a contributing factor in transmission of the virus, which infected an unidentified man in his 40s who had multiple male partners and unprotected anal sex, the officials said.

The New York Times quoted two other AIDS specialists as saying the case, discovered on 21 January, may have been an isolated incident.

But Dr Thomas Frieden, commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, called

the case a potential major problem and issued an alert to hospitals and doctors to test for evidence of the strain of HIV.

It was the first time in New York that a strain of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, was diagnosed that was both highly resistant to major anti-AIDS drugs and progressed rapidly, officials said.

"It's a wake-up call to men who have sex with men, particularly those who may use crystal methamphetamine," Frieden said in a statement on the department's web site. Methamphetamine is a powerful stimulant often used in conjunction with sex.

The new strain of the AIDS virus — named 3-DCR HIV — was resistant to three of the four classes of drugs used to treat HIV, and the unnamed man may have developed AIDS in as short a time as 2 to 3 months and at most 20 months, the city health officials said.

MNA/Reuters

Fiat, GM dissolve five-year partnership

TURIN/DETROIT, 15 Feb — Fiat and General Motors on Sunday dissolved their five-year partnership with the US auto giant paying the Italian group 1.55 billion euros (2 billion US dollars) in cash to avoid having to buy loss-making Fiat Auto.

The two groups had long disputed whether the put option was valid and the bad blood spilled into the broader alliance, with Fiat arguing GM was holding it back from other partnerships that would help it cut costs and return to profit.

"We now have absolute freedom to design our own future," Fiat CEO Sergio Marchionne told a news conference, saying he wanted focused partnerships in specific business areas but not another GM-style equity-and-industrial alliance.

Under the divorce deal, GM and Fiat said they will

dissolve their two joint ventures in powertrains and purchasing, although Fiat will continue to provide GM with diesel engines and will have access to GM's global purchasing team and its economies of scale.

GM will pay Fiat one billion euros on Monday and another 550 million euros when the joint ventures are dissolved, within 90 days, Marchionne said. Investors had expected Fiat to get about 1.8 billion euros to annul the option, but on Sunday said the deal was good for Fiat.

MNA/Reuters

S African sky-diver dies after parachute fails to open

LUSAKA, 15 Feb — A South African sky-diver has crashed dead after his parachute failed to open during a sky-diving training session, Zambia News Agency reported on Sunday.

Police officer Munganga Chanda confirmed the incident,

saying that this happened in Lusaka's Kiyundu area along Leopard Hill Road near Mikango Army barracks when four members of the Zambia Universal sky-diving team were conducting sky-diving training lessons, according to the report.

She explained that as they were jumping out of the plane during the course of the training, the 55-year-old instructor Theonis Kruggers' parachute failed to open until he crashed to the ground and died on the spot.

MNA/Xinhua

DON'T SMOKE

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ ခိုင်ခံ့တော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

47th Annual Grammy Awards

LOS ANGELES, 14 Feb — Following is a list of winners in the classical field at the 47th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday.



Singer Alicia Keys poses with four trophies she won for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, Best R&B Album, Best R&B Song and Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals at the 47th Annual Grammy Awards. — INTERNET

BEST ENGINEERED ALBUM, CLASSICAL
 “Higdon: City Scape; Concerto For Orchestra.” Jack Renner, engineer (Robert Spano)

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR, CLASSICAL
 David Frost

BEST CLASSICAL ALBUM
 “Adams: On The Transmigration Of Souls,” Lorin Maazel, conductor; John Adams & Lawrence Rock, producers (Brooklyn Youth Chorus & New York Choral Artists; New York Philharmonic)

BEST ORCHESTRAL

PERFORMANCE
 “Adams: On The Transmigration Of Souls,” Lorin Maazel, conductor (Brooklyn Youth Chorus & New York Choral Artists; New York Philharmonic)

BEST OPERA RECORDING
 “Mozart: Le Nozze Di Figaro,” Rene Jacobs, conductor; Patrizia Ciofi, Veronique Gens, Simon Keenlyside, Angelika Kirchsclager & Lorenzo Regazzo; Martin Sauer, producer (Various Artists; Concerto Koln)

BEST CHORAL PER-

FORMANCE
 “Berlioz: Requiem,” Robert Spano, conductor; Norman Mackenzie, choir director (Frank Lopardo, tenor; Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus; Atlanta Symphony Orchestra)

BEST INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST(S) PERFORMANCE (WITH ORCHESTRA)
 “Previn: Violin Concerto ‘Anne-Sophie’/ Bernstein: Serenade,” Andre Previn, conductor; Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin (Boston Symphony Orchestra & London Symphony

Orchestra)

BEST INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST PERFORMANCE (WITHOUT ORCHESTRA)
 “Aire Latino (Morel, Villa-Lobos, Ponce, Etc.),” David Russell, guitar

BEST CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE
 “Prokofiev (Arr. Pletnev): Cinderella — Suite For Two Pianos/ Ravel: Ma Mere L’Oye. Martha Argerich,” piano & Mikhail Pletnev, piano.

MNA/Reuters

Many Italians take to streets on foot, bicycles as cars banned

ROME, 14 Feb —Italians took to the streets on foot and bicycles on Sunday in seven major cities including Rome, as authorities banned cars and even scooters in an effort lower the levels of smog sullyng the skyline.

The stepped-up campaign came as many Italian cities fast approached their yearly limits for particulate matter emissions under European Union rules.

MNA/Reuters

Recipe for good marriage

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb— Shared moral values are less important than compatible personalities as a recipe for a good marriage, according to a study released on Sunday.

Married couples often share the same attitudes about faith and other values, researchers from the University of Iowa found. But those with personalities similar to their spouses were the happiest.

“People may be attracted to those who have similar attitudes, values and beliefs and even marry them,” the researchers said, and those qualities are easy to spot in a potential mate. Attitudes toward subjects such as religion or politics “are highly visible,” they said.

But how married people behave was shown to have a greater effect on happiness.

“Being in a committed relationship entails regular interaction and requires extensive coordination in dealing with tasks, issues and problems of daily living,” the study found.

Differences in how to deal with everyday matters can lead to “more friction and conflict,” it said.

Personality-driven traits — like being open, easy-going or organized — are likely to play a bigger role in the marriage, the researchers found after studying 291 newly married couples.

The newlyweds were married for an average of five months when the data was culled late in 2000 and had dated for an average of 3 1/2 years.

MNA/Reuters

Chavez accuses US of delaying delivery of “F-16” spare parts

CARACAS (Venezuela), 14 Feb— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday accused the United States of delaying delivery of spare parts for his country’s F-16 fighter planes as he looks to other countries for arms and military supplies.

The charges are the latest broadside against Washington from Chavez, who often clashes with the United States over his rule in the world’s No 5 oil exporter. Chavez, whose anti-capitalist stance and close ties to Cuban leader Fidel Castro raised concerns in Washington, said Venezuela would not accept conditions to maintain its squadron of US-made aircraft.

His comments came just hours before he was to meet Brazilian leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to sign a bilateral accord, including possible deals for Tucano military aircraft made by Brazilian firm Embraer.

MNA/Reuters

“The Aviators” lands Best Picture Prize at BAFTA Awards

LONDON, 14 Feb — “The Aviator” swooped to land the Best Picture prize at Saturday’s BAFTA awards but the Hollywood blockbuster had to share the limelight with “Vera Drake”, a low-budget British drama about a backstreet abortionist.

Leonardo DiCaprio, who played billionaire playboy and inventor Howard Hughes, flew into London with Martin Scorsese, director of “The Aviator”, for British cinema’s big night of the year.

The critically acclaimed film landed the Best Film BAFTA and Cate Blanchett was picked as Best Supporting Actress for her role as Katharine Hepburn. But DiCaprio failed to land the coveted Best Actor award — that went to Jamie Foxx for his portrayal of singer Ray Charles in “Ray”.

And the British film industry certainly had plenty to cheer. Mike Leigh was named Best Director for “Vera Drake” and hot favourite Imelda Staunton landed the Best Actress award for her part in the title role. The other major award — Best Supporting Actor — went to British actor Clive Owen for his thrillingly intense portrayal in “Closer” which has already garnered him a Golden Globe as well as an Oscar nomination. Owen said: “This is very special because I’ve spent most of my career here. “Closer” started here and the film was shot here and I live here.”

Blanchett was quick to pay tribute to Hepburn, the larger-than-life film star she depicted in “The Aviator”.

“She really paved the way for women working in film today,” Blanchett said. After his surprise defeat of the legendary Scorsese to be named Best Director, Mike Leigh said: “Given the other names, it’s a real surprise and an extraordinary honour.”

Staunton, who fought off hotly fancied compatriot Kate Winslet to land the award, was quick to hail Leigh for helping to conjure up the greatest portrayal of her career: “He is a genius. I had the best time making this film.”

MNA/Reuters



From left to right: Clive Owen with his Best Supporting Actor Award for ‘Closer,’ Mike Leigh with his Best Director award for ‘Vera Drake,’ Imelda Staunton with her Best Actress award for ‘Vera Drake,’ and Cate Blanchett with her Best Supporting Actress Award for ‘The Aviator,’ pose together after the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs), at the Odeon Leicester Square in central London on Saturday night, 12 Feb, 2005.

UEFA president quits as chairman of Swedish side AIK

STOCKHOLM, 15 Feb— UEFA president Lennart Johansson has quit as chairman of Swedish side AIK along with the entire board following the club's relegation.

"There are various interest groups within AIK which have been dissatisfied with our results, both sporting and financial. There is no other solution to this problem than to resign," Johansson told newspaper Dagens Nyheter.

"We are taking responsibility for failure."

The nine-man board took the decision to go after a meeting on Sunday. The club was relegated in November.

AIK has been in decline in recent years. The team won the last of their 10 league championships in 1998.

Johansson said one of the reasons for the club's problems was that he could not devote enough time to the job.

"I warned right from the start that I travel a lot, but it was anyway wrong of me to accept this commission on the board."

MNA/Reuters

Hoyzer's request rejected to be released from custody

BERLIN, 15 Feb— A Berlin magistrate rejected a request by Robert Hoyzer, the referee at the centre of Germany's match-fixing scandal, to be released from custody on Monday as another official was suspended.

Tiergarten Administrative Court said in a statement that the magistrate ruled that Hoyzer, who was arrested on Saturday, should remain in custody because of his suspected involvement in organized fraud and the risk he could abscond.

Meanwhile, the German football association (DFB) confirmed a weekend ruling to suspend another referee with whom Hoyzer had discussed match fixing.

Hoyzer was arrested on Saturday after Berlin prosecutors said new evidence

had emerged that he may have been involved in match-fixing before 2004.

Hoyzer has admitted to fixing matches in the German Cup and lower leagues in return for money from gamblers. Berlin prosecutors are reportedly investigating 25 people in connection with the case, including Hoyzer, three other referees and 14 players.

They also include three Croatian brothers, who are being held on suspicion of helping organize fraud. The court said on Monday the brothers would also remain in custody. —MNA/Reuters

Arsenal crush Crystal Palace 5-1

LONDON, 15 Feb— Arsenal produced a scintillating display of attacking football to crush Crystal Palace 5-1 and close to within two points of second-placed Manchester United in the Premier League on Monday.



Arsenal's French internationals (R-L) Robert Pires, Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry. Arsenal fielded their first entirely overseas squad in their 119-year history with no British players on the field or the bench for the Premier League match against Crystal Palace.—INTERNET

Strikers Dennis Bergkamp, Jose Antonio Reyes and Thierry Henry scored three goals within eight minutes just before halftime and Patrick Vieira and Henry completed the rout after the interval.

The champions moved to 57 points from 27 matches, 11 adrift of leaders Chelsea. Palace remained 17th, two points above the relegation zone.

"The title is out of our hands now but we want to finish as close as possible (to Chelsea)," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports.

"We showed the way we want to play the game tonight — with happiness in the team. With the number

of good players and young players here, the future is bright."

The visitors made a bright start at Highbury and Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann nearly conceded a comical own goal when he allowed a back pass from Gael Clichy to slide under his foot.

The German also reacted smartly to keep out a snap shot from Palace striker Dougie Freedman but Arsenal gradually took control of the match.

Bergkamp produced a clinical finish at the near post on 32 minutes, Reyes rifled in a low shot from the edge of the area and Henry, playing in his 200th Premier League match, whipped in the third after cutting in from out wide.

The Palace defence was ripped apart once again on 54 minutes, Henry's clinical pass releasing Vieira who rounded goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly and prodded the ball into an empty net.

Palace pulled a goal back on 63 minutes when Andy Johnson was fouled by Vieira in the penalty area and the England striker smashed the resulting spot-kick into the roof of the net.

Arsenal's fifth goal came 13 minutes from time when Bergkamp teed up Henry and the French international bamboozled the Palace defence before crashing an unstoppable shot past Kiraly from the edge of the area.

"We had a difficult start and that was maybe the turning point of the game," added Wenger.

"We could have been shocked in the first 15 minutes but once we came back into it and found our fluency, we were always dangerous." —MNA/Reuters

Keane may delay retirement

LONDON, 15 Feb— Manchester United captain Roy Keane has hinted that he could delay his retirement just days after insisting he would quit the sport at the end of next season.

The 33-year-old Ireland midfielder said on Monday he had discussed his future with United manager Alex Ferguson and his coaching staff over the weekend.

"If this time next year my body is holding up and my hip is okay, and the knee, and Alex Ferguson and Carlos Queiroz and Micky Phelan probably feel I can still contribute to the team, then who knows," Keane told the BBC on Monday.

"The manager pulled me aside on the Saturday morning and said that he will be the one to decide when I'm going to be retiring."

Keane said he wanted to finish his career at the top level.

"I couldn't see myself playing for another English team, or going down to the first or second division, no disrespect to the teams down there," he added.

"I couldn't see it myself but the manager made that point to me and who knows."

Keane, who joined United in 1993 from Nottingham Forest, has been in inspirational form recently.

He has played over 450 games for United and scored his 50th goal for the Old Trafford club in last weekend's 2-0 win over Birmingham City. —MNA/Reuters

Gudjohnsen arrested on suspicion of drunk-driving

LONDON, 15 Feb— Chelsea striker Eidur Gudjohnsen has been arrested and bailed on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, London police said on Monday. The Icelandic player, who kept his club on course for the Premiership title with the only goal in Saturday's match against Everton, was stopped while driving in Surrey, southwest of London, during the early hours of Sunday.

"The driver, a 26-year-old man, was subsequently arrested on suspicion of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol," police said in a statement.

Gudjohnsen was taken to a South London police station and later bailed to return on a date at the end of March, it added. —MNA/Reuters

Clarence Seedorf, only for the ball to loop over the keeper and into the net. Milan's win put them on 51 points, just two behind Juventus at the top of the division.

Siena 2 Messina 2
Messina twice surrendered the lead despite enjoying a one-man advantage for most of the match after the 25th-minute sending-off of Siena defender Daniele Portanova.

Arturo Di Napoli put the visitors ahead after five minutes, only for Enrico Chiesa to fire in a free kick just after the interval. In the 67th minute Bruno Cirillo upended Ivica Iliev to gift Messina a penalty, converted by Alessandro Parisi, but with seven minutes left Davide Chiumento poached an unlikely equaliser to give lowly Siena a share of the points.

MNA/Reuters

Italian Serie A match reports

ROME, 15 Feb — Brief reports of Italian Serie A matches played at the weekend:

Bologna 1 Palermo 1

Palermo profited from the early sending-off of Bologna defender Andrea Sussi to go ahead in the 35th minute courtesy of a Luca Toni header.

Fortunes were reversed, however, after the break when the dismissal of midfielder Stefano Morone reduced Palermo to 10 men and home striker Igli Tare grabbed a 76th-minute equalizer.

Brescia 2 Cagliari 0

Struggling Brescia had only earned three points in their previous nine matches but boosted their chances of escaping relegation with a win over

Cagliari. An early goal by defender Davide Zoboli and an injury-time strike from forward Andrea Caracciolo wrapped up the points.

Fiorentina 2 Parma 1

Fiorentina ended a run of three straight defeats since Dino Zoff took over as coach last month with this win against relegation-threatened Parma.

Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini put the home side ahead just after the break as he blasted a shot into the roof of the net from a tight angle.

With nine minutes left Fabrizio Miccoli rounded keeper Sebastian Frey to double the lead.

Alberto Gilardino quickly pulled one back for the visitors but their late pressure failed to pay off.

Lecce 3 Chievo Verona 0

Both sides had chances to take the lead in a lively opening but it was Lecce striker Cedric Konan who hit the target when he headed past Luca Marchegiani in the 27th minute. Chievo searched for an equaliser but two goals in three second-half minutes from Jaime Valdes and Mirko Vucinic settled the contest.

Livorno 1 Sampdoria 0

Sampdoria had won their last three away matches, including a 1-0

win over leaders Juventus, but their good form on the road abandoned them at Livorno who took all three points thanks to Cristiano Lucarelli's 82nd-minute free kick. Sampdoria's defeat means they remain fifth, two points behind Udinese.

Reggina 0 AC Milan 1

Champions AC Milan stayed in touch with leaders Juventus thanks to an own goal by Reggina defender Marco Zamboni. Juve and AS Roma are among the sides who have lost at the Granillo stadium this season, but Milan enjoyed a slice of fortune in the 38th minute when Zamboni stuck out a foot to block a shot by

Venezuela, Brazil seal "strategic alliance"

CARACAS, 15 Feb — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his Brazilian counterpart, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, agreed on Monday to create a "strategic alliance" between the two countries.

The two countries signed a series of agreements to develop joint projects in the oil, military, mining, agriculture and communications fields.

The 20 accords include cooperation in areas such as energy, petrochemicals, gas and mining, double taxation, agriculture, agrarian reform, fishing, science and technology and communications.

The joint projects cover integration of two oil companies and the creation of a regional-financing system within the framework of the Development Bank and a state-run television station, Telesur, for broadcasting information by the two governments.

The two governments also signed an agreement to avoid double taxation, thus enabling Brazil to speed up the disbursement of loans to finance exports of goods and services for infra-

structure projects in Venezuela.

Brazil and Venezuela increased their trade from 880 million US dollars in 2003 to 1.6 billion dollars in 2004 and hope to raise it to three billion US dollars in 2005. Lula arrived in Caracas late Sunday, and Chavez received him.

MNA/Xinhua

US missile defence test suffers second failure in 2 months

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — The Bush Administration's effort to build a missile defence system suffered another embarrassing setback on Monday when an interceptor missile failed to launch during a test, the second failure in less than two months.

Pentagon officials said the cause of the failure was under investigation, but early indications showed a malfunction of the ground support equipment, instead of problems with the missile, was to be blamed.

In the test, a mock ballistic missile was fired from Kodiak Island,

Alaska. But the interceptor missile supposed to shoot down the target missile did not take off from Kwajalein Island in the Pacific Ocean, the Pentagon said. This was the second test failure since December 15, when the first flight test of the system in two years was aborted because the interceptor missile failed to launch. Pentagon officials said a software anomaly prompted the automatic shutdown of the launch sequence in the December 15 test.

The failures would certainly give new fuel to critics who say the missile defence system was too expensive and its reliability not proven.

MNA/Xinhua

ASLEEP IN JESUS DR. ROBERT HLA KHIN

Age (76) years

Dr. Robert Hla Khin, beloved husband of Daw Naw Be' Paw of No 42 Malikka Road, Mayangone Township, son of (Rev. U Ba Aye) and (Daw Hla Win), Brother of U Hla Win, Daw May May Thwe (Dr Rajan), Daw May May Kyi- U Saw Win, Daw May May Yi-U Tin Oo, Daw May May Han-U Maung Maung, Daw May May Aye (Dr Maung Maung Myint), Daw May May Htwe-Mr Wilfred Tong, expired on Monday, 14 February 2005 at 08:00 pm. Funeral service will be on Wednesday, 16 February 2005 at Ko Tha Byu Memorial Hall, Seminary hill, Insein at 02:00 pm. Burial will be at Yayway Christian cemetery for entombment after the service.

Buses will leave the Immanuel Baptist Church, Mahabandoola Garden Street at 12:30 pm.

Bereaved family

ASLEEP IN JESUS DR. ROBERT HLA KHIN

Age (76) years

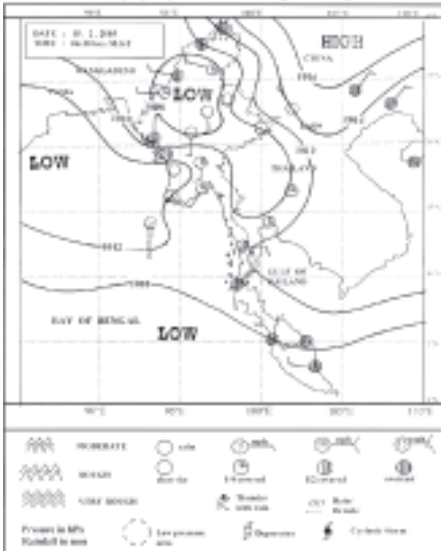
Dr. Robert Hla Khin, beloved husband of Daw Naw Be' Paw of No 42 Malikka Road, Mayangone Township, father of Daw Khin May Hla, U Thiha, Daw Khin Thi Hla (Linda), grandfather of Ma May Thiha Oo (TTC), Ma Khine Thiha Phoo (TTC), fell asleep in Jesus on Monday, 14-2-2005 at 08:00 pm at the Shwe Gone Daing Specialist Centre.

Funeral service will be on Wednesday, 16-2-2005 at Ko Tha Byu Memorial Hall. Seminary Hill, Insein, at 02:00 pm. Burial will be at Yayway Christian Cemetery for entombment after the service.

Buses will leave the Immanuel Baptist Church, Mahabandoola Garden Street at 12:30 pm.

Bereaved family

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 15 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been scattered in Kachin State and weather has been generally fair in remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.04) inch. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin State and Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Rakhine State and Magway Division, (8°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka, Lashio and Heho (8°C) each, Mindat, Thipaw, Kengtung and Namsam (9°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 14-2-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 15-2-2005 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-2-2005 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 14-2-2005 was (8.1) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-2-2005 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 6 mph from West at (15:20) hours MST on 14-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-2-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-2-2005: Partly cloudy.



Wednesday, 16 February
View on today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. မြန်မာ့အနုပညာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:10 am**
6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am**
7. မိုင်ကျော်စုရန်တံခါး
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Let's Go
- 9:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

- 4:30 pm**
3. Demonstration Exercises for Correct Pronunciation
- 4:45 pm**
4. အသေးသင်တန်းပိုလီမညာရေးရပ်ပြင်သင်ကြားသင်စနစ်စာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်ဆွဲထူးပြု) (သရုပ်)
- 5:00 pm**
5. Song of national races
- 5:15 pm**
6. Classical songs
- 5:30 pm**
7. Strong and healthy Myanmar
- 5:40 pm**
8. "ဈေးရုံးကတံခါးခေါက်သံ" မြင့်နိုင်သား-အောင်အောင်၊ စိန်နီ၊ အရှင်ကြီး၊ အုန်းသီး၊ ရွှေအေးကို၊ ကောင်းဈာန်သစ်၊ မိုးမြည်မြည် ခောင်း၊ တင်တင်လှ၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခေတ်ခက်
- 6:00 pm**
9. ရှုစွယ်ပုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 6:10 pm**
10. Discovery
- 6:00 pm**
11. မိမိတစ်ဦး ခေတ်ပြောင်း တော်လှန်ရေး၏ အဖျက်အနှစ်ရပယ်
- 6:30 pm**
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
13. Weather report

- 7:05 pm**
14. ကမ္ဘာ့ဒုက္ခသာသနာတော်သီးနှံလှောင် (တတိယပန်း) ပိတ်ပို့အစမ်းအမှားအစီအစဉ် (၂) (၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)
- 7:30 pm**
15. တိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အက လှပစေသာ
- 7:45 pm**
16. အမျိုးသားညီလမ်းဂုဏ်ပြုပေး
- 8:00 pm**
17. News
- 18. International news**
- 19. Weather report**
- 20. ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားနှစ်ပတ်လည်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအငြိမ့် (မင်းသမီး-ရလေးညို၊ ရီင်သဇင်သင်း၊ လှရွှင်တော်-ဝင်းနိုင်(အနုပညာ)၊ ဧရာ၊ ခေခါ၊ တင်တင်၊ အုန်းသီး၊ ရွှေတောင်**
- 21. မရောင်သောအလင်း "ဘီးနှစ်ဘီးဂေါ်ကတင်" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)**
မိုးသေကြွား၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ခေသာညို၊ မျိုးမြိုး၊ ခင်သန်းရွှယ်၊ ဖွင့်နှစ်ခေင်၊ သူသူဟံသာ၊ ခေါ်အမြင်၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်
- 22. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစိန်ညွှန်သာရာဝံသ၏ အရုပ်ဆွဲယဉ်ကျေးမှု ဓမ္မဇာတ်အစု ဖွားဖျားခြင်း**
- 23. The next day's programme**

Radio Myanmar

Wednesday, 16 February
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music:
-Bop bop baby
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music:
-Let's dance
- 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music:
-Dance dance dance
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music:
-Love at first sight
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music
-The day we find love
-These arms
-Let's talk about love
-I'll never break your heart
- 9.00 pm** Variations on a tune
Jamabalaya
- 9.15 pm** Article/music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your request
-Dear diary
-I need you
-Fly with me
-Somewhere someday
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects accommodation of parade columns

YANGON, 15 Feb—Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and members of Leading Committee Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Deputy Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe and senior military officers inspected accommodation of parade columns at the hostels this



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects the hostels for the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade columns. — MNA

evening. Chairman of Leading Committee Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at the regional battalion in Mingaladon Township where Kyansittha Column will be staying at. Lt-Col Hla Htay of the regional battalion reported on accommodation. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected hostels, messes, preparations for the Tatmadaw slogans and parade ground. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on arrangements for convenience of the Tatmadaw columns and administrative matters. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to the regional battalion in South Okkalapa Township where Aung San Column will be staying at. They were welcomed by Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Lt-Col Nay Win of the regional battalion. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected hostels, messes and welfare shops. MNA

Commander, Mayor inspect measures for upgrading of Yangon City



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views the tarmacking of the road in front of Olympic Tower on Strand Road, Ahlon Township. — YGN COMMAND

YANGON, 15 Feb—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor

Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected measures being taken for upgrading of Yangon City and gave instructions to officials concerned. At 6.30 am, the commander and the mayor

inspected tarring of Bayintnaung Road near Bayintnaung Highway Haulage Truck Terminal in Mayangon Township, Yangon West District, Hsaywa Setyon Road in Insein Township, Yangon North District, Strand Road in front of the Olympic Tower in Ahlon Township and the junction of Maha Bandoola Street and Bo Myat Tun Road in Botahtaung Township, Yangon East District. Officials concerned reported to the commander and the mayor on work being carried out. The commander gave instructions on timely completion of the work, meeting the set standard, minimizing loss and wastage and public participation in the upgrading tasks.—MNA

INSIDE

“It’s very clear to me. It wants to get the whole world under its thumb. And it wants to always keep itself on top in the political, economic and military affairs in the world. So it is always busy with its tactics and strategies”.

(Page 7) **HEIN MYINT**

Victorious national archery team honoured

YANGON, 15 Feb—The Myanmar archery team, which lifted the trophy in the first SEA Archery Championships, was honoured at a ceremony held at the Kyaikkasan Archery Range in Tamway Township yesterday evening. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and members, members of the panel of patrons of the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, officials, President of the Myanmar Archery

Federation Dr Khin Shwe and distinguished guests. The MOC chairman delivered a speech, saying that the Myanmar archery team deserved honour for its good performance in the tournament. The minister also honoured the MAF, whose members have so far won 29 gold, 22 silver and 26 bronze totalling 77 in 26 international archery tournaments. The MAF president gave an account of arrangements for achieving success in the event, and future work programmes. MAF Vice-President U

Thein Han (Tokyo Pipe) presented K 1.5 million to the team through Dr Khin Shwe. MAF Vice-President ACE Construction Co Chairman U Tint Hsan presented K 37 million for construction of a building for new generation divers to the minister. The minister presented K 2.5 million awarded by MOC, and MAF Vice-President U Thein Han (Tokyo Pipe) K 1.5 million to the archers of victorious team. Four gold medalist Ma Yu Nandar Htaik expressed gratitude A dinner was held to those present. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents cash award of K 400,000 to four gold medalist Ma Yu Nandar Htaik. — NLM