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Thursday, 17 February 2005

### 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 inspects preparations for National Convention

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein this afternoon inspected preparations made at the Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, the venue for convening of the National Convention. He was accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and officials.

The Secretary-1 oversaw the mess hall for staff, hostels for NC delegates, cooperative shops, Win Thuza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1, Maung Chit Store, Sarpay Beikman Book Shop and book rental shop of the Ministry of Information, Mon Mon Beauty Salon, Myanmar optical shop, post office of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, the theatre for entertainment programmes, commodity shop of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Kaung San Ein laundry service, Padetha, Win Thuza and Lucky One Restaurants, JM Store, barber shop, gymnasium, and arrangements such as food and welfare and health care services for the delegates.

Later, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the NC delegates.

MNA



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially converses with National Convention delegates.— MNA

## NCCWC meeting held

YANGON, 16 Feb — The coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and members of the Panel of Alternate Chairmen was held at Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at

1 pm today, attended by Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thuang Nyunt and the joint-secretaries, work committee members and members of the Panel of Alternate Chairmen.

The chairman of NCCWC presided over the meeting and Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint acted as master of ceremonies. First, the chairman of NCCWC extended greetings. Afterwards, the vice-chairman of NCCWC and Joint-Secretary U Thuang Nyunt gave supplementary reports of the work. Next, those present took part in the discussions.

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



NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses coordination meeting of NCCWC and members of the Panel of Alternate Chairmen of Plenary Meeting of National Convention.— MNA

### INSIDE

Soon after the completion of the Panglong Agreement, the colonialists did make a lot of attempts to undermine the national unity. Again, the neo-colonialists and their lackeys — internal and external destructive elements — are hatching plots and attempting to jeopardise the national solidarity before and during the National Convention.

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CHIN KYA (MAUBIN)

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 17 February, 2005

## Boost production of marine products of good quality

The State Peace and Development Council has been making efforts on all fronts so that the Union of Myanmar can be on a par with other nations of the world. With this end in view, the government is implementing the economic objective that calls for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. Moreover, it is striving for greater national economic growth and higher living standard of the people.

Traditionally and according to terrestrial and aquatic conditions, agriculture and livestock breeding have been the main pillar of the national economy of Myanmar. In the livestock breeding sector, efforts are being made to boost the export of marine products year after year.

In doing so, it is required to be able to produce and export fish and prawns of good quality. For this purpose, a laboratory to test the quality of fish and prawns has been established in Thakayta Township in Yangon Division. Moreover, a research and training centre of Department of Marine Science of Patheingyi University has been established to boost the production of fish and prawns of good quality.

The purpose of the research and training centre is to train university students in the exploration, preservation, production and catching of aquatic biospecies and to boost the production of fish and prawns and other marine products.

Moreover, the centre will conduct training courses on livestock breeding and production of jelly and industrial jelly from sea weed. At present, there are five ponds for breeding sea prawns at the centre and 180,000 sea prawns are being cultured in each pond.

Being rich in aquatic resources, Myanmar has a great deal of potential to be able to increase the export of various kinds of marine products. National entrepreneurs are now engaged in breeding sea prawns not only along the coast line, but also inland, and this business is thriving.

At a time when the government is providing all the assistance such as the establishment of the marine science research and training centre, we would like to urge all those engaged in the business of marine products to strive for the development of the livestock breeding sector by making effective use of favourable conditions created by the government.

### “အခန်းယူခြင်းနှင့်သစ်ပင်များ လိုက်နာရန်”

ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်အတွင်း စည်ကမ်းမှုအနေအထားများကြောင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်များ မကြာခဏဖြစ်ပွားသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ သို့မဟုတ် အခန်းယူခြင်း (ဆိုက္ကား၊ စက်ဘီး၊ ဂါလီနှင့် လက်တွန်းလှည်း အမျိုးမျိုး)အနေဖြင့် အောက်ပါစည်းကမ်းချက်များအား လိုက်နာကြ ရန်နှင့် လိုက်နာမှုမရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူ ဆောင်ရွက်သွား မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) ကန်သတ်ထားခြင်းမရှိဘဲ ဝင်ရလမ်းများတွင် စီးနင်းခြင်း မပြုရ။
- (၂) လမ်းပြောင်းပြန်စီးနင်းခြင်းမပြုရ။
- (၃) လမ်းလယ်မှ စီးနင်းခြင်းမပြုရ။
- (၄) ညအချိန်ရောက်ပြန်မီပင် စီးနင်းခြင်းမပြုရ။
- (၅) သတိမထားမိသည့် ဝန်ထက်ပို၍ တင်ဆောင်ခြင်းမပြုရ။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

## 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

## Mandalay Mayor's Trophy Horticultural Show & Contest 12-26 Feb

YANGON, 16 Feb — The Third Mandalay Mayor's Trophy Horticultural Show and Contest was opened at the public recreation park in Mandalay Kandawgyi on 12 February morning, attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint.

First, the commander formally opened the show and contest.

Next, he viewed vegetables, fruits and flowers from 31 townships to the 17 events of the contest and departmental booths.

At 1 pm, the commander delivered an address at the prize presentation ceremony. Mandalay Division

Manager U Aung Kyin of Myanmar Agriculture Service explained the purpose of holding the contest.

Daw Myat Ngwe, wife of the commander, and officials presented prizes to first, second, third and consolation prizes to the winners.

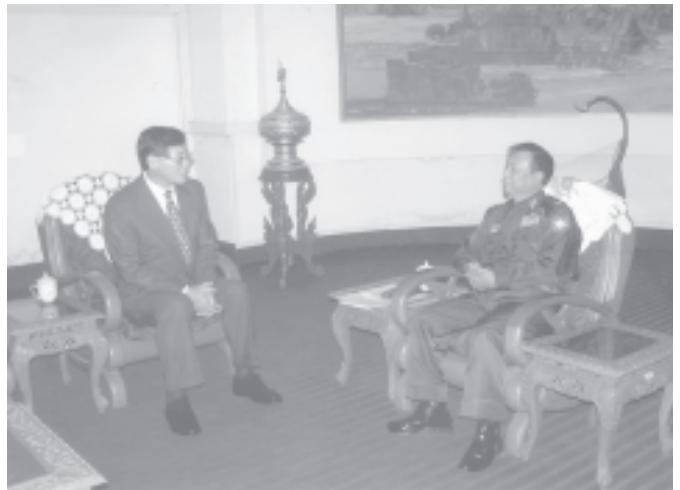
Maj-Gen Ye Myint awarded championship trophy to U Myat Kyaw Thu (Myananda Nursery).

The contest included 10 flower events and seven horticultural events. Altogether seven departmental booths and 34 sales rooms for flowery plants and agricultural equipment shops will be kept open up to 26 February. Music entertainment programmes are being performed to the enthusiasts from 7 pm to 10 pm daily. — MNA

## Minister receives Korean Ambassador

YANGON, 16 Feb — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung received Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung Woo who had completed his tour of duty at his office on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, this morning.

Present at the call were Director-General of Archaeology Department U Nyunt Han, Director-General of Fine Arts Department U Kyaw Win, Deputy Director-General of Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Kyaing, Director Daw Nanda Hmoon and officials concerned. — MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung receives Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung Woo.— CULTURE

## Panglong observes 58th Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 16 Feb — A ceremony to hail the 58th Anniversary Union Day was held in Panglong on 12 February morning. Those present saluted the State Flag.

After reading out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of Loilem District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win

Tint and Station Commander of Panglong Lt-Col Khin Maung Myint presented prizes to the winners in the essay competition.

Next, Lt-Col Win Tint, Lt-Col Khin Maung Myint and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Myint Myint Swe formally opened the commemorative booth of the 58th Anniversary Union Day in Panglong Township. —MNA

## Union Day delegates leave for home

YANGON, 16 Feb — The Union Day delegates from states and divisions who attended

the 58th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony and Dinner, returned home by air, train and car starting this morning.



Union Day delegates from states and divisions leave for home.— MNA

They were seen off by Secretary of the Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Commandant of No 1 Transit Centre Lt-Col Tin Kyaing and subcommittee members. —MNA

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သတိပြု

## HK Disneyland launches hotel, park ticket booking

**HONG KONG, 16 Feb** — A magical vacation at Hong Kong Disneyland is now just a phone call away as the theme park Tuesday announced the launch of its hotel reservation hotline.

In the lead up to Hong Kong Disneyland's opening on September 12, the hotel reservation hotline is open to guests who have been waiting to be among the first to book a complete Disney vacation.

Roy Tan Hardy, vice-president of Hong Kong Disneyland, said at a Press conference that the vacation package includes a stay at either the Victorian-style Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or the Tinseltown-inspired Disney's Hollywood Hotel, accompanied with Hong Kong Disneyland Park tickets.

"In an urban setting like Hong Kong, our hotels are uniquely positioned with our theme park setting and a spacious and naturally spectacular environment.

The Hong Kong Disneyland Resort is a world away from the hustle and

bustle of city life yet is still close enough, just 20 minutes from central, to be a convenient retreat for both local and international guests," Hardy said.

Peter Lowe, general manager of Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel Operations, said he expects the occupancy rate of the hotels will be high, as they have received lots of inquiries from travel agencies in Australia, Europe, Southeast Asian countries and Chinese Mainland.

According to him, the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel features 400 rooms, and room rates start from 1,600 Hong Kong dollars (about 205 US dollars) for a park view room and 1,800 Hong Kong dollars for a sea view room.

Disney's Hollywood Hotel offers 600 rooms with garden views, park views and sea views.

MNA/Xinhua



Vice President of marketing and sales Roy Tan (L) and general manager for hotel operations Peter Lowe launch the Disneyland hotel reservation service in Hong Kong on 15 February, 2005.—INTERNET

## Indonesia's town Palu to redesign coastal area

**JAKARTA, 15 Feb** — The Indonesian town of Palu, capital of Central Sulawesi Province, will redesign its coastal area to lessen damage caused by an earthquake-triggered tsunami, a senior official said on Monday.

"We have to redesign the city because it lies along the active Palukoro tectonic fault line," the head of the Palu Development Planning Board, Rahmat Kawaroe, was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying.

"The mayoral administration will cooperate with the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency to gather satellite images of Palu, especially around Palu Bay, as design references," he said.

Rahmat said the images would help the administration place breakwaters and mangrove forests along the 70-kilometre Palu Bay to divert any waves.

He also said the images could be used by neighbouring Donggala regency as well as the provincial administration.

The mayoral administration will also ask geologists about the Palukoro fault line and the possibility of installing an early warning system.

"Such measures are important to determine safe zones where residents can evacuate, especially after what happened in Aceh," said Rahmat referring to the 26 December earthquake that triggered the deadly tsunami. "Palu has been rocked by several earthquakes. That is why we are thinking about redesigning the city." — MNA/Xinhua

## Jiangsu Province attracts \$100b of foreign investment

**NANJING, 15 Feb**— Jiangsu Province, an economic engine in east China, had used 101.8 billion US dollars of foreign investment in real terms by the end of 2004, according to the provincial statistics bureau.

In 2004 alone, its service sector registered about 5.2 billion US dollars of foreign capital, with the establishment of 877 businesses. Meanwhile, the province approved the establishment of 6,188 foreign-funded businesses in the manufacturing industry, involving contractual

investment of about 33.5 billion US dollars.

Figures from the bureau indicate that 215 foreign-funded businesses set up in the past two years involve an investment of 30 million US dollars each and 58 absorb more than 100 million US dollars each.

Foreign investors also

poured large amount of funds into 899 private businesses and another 500 in software-related industries. Out of the 500, 80 are R&D centres created by multinational corporations including Samsung Electronics and Siemens AG.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesian FDI approvals up sharply in January

**JAKARTA, 15 Feb**— The Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) reported a rise of 235 per cent in year-on-year foreign direct investment (FDI) approvals in January to 872.1 million US dollars, news report said Monday.

BKPM said domestic investment approvals rose to some 210 million US dollars from 182.2 million US dollars in the same month, reported the *Antara* news agency.

The investment approvals exclude investments in the oil and gas

sector, banking, non-bank financial institutions, insurance and leasing, mining in terms of contracts of works, investments licensed by the technical agency, portfolios and household investment, it said.

Chemical and pharma-

ceutical industries topped the FDI approvals last month with 553.4 million US dollars, trailed by food industry with 88.9 million, metal, machinery and electronic with 81 million and hotel and restaurant with 34.9 million. —MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



Thai girls look at bouquets of roses at a flower market in Bangkok recently.

INTERNET

## British troops may face new Iraq charges over civilian deaths

**LONDON, 15 Feb**—British troops may face new charges in Iraq as investigators explore fresh allegations of civilian deaths, a newspaper reported.

The Independent said it had uncovered evidence about the deaths of six Iraqi civilians in the British-controlled south of the country, whose families allege they were killed by British soldiers.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence in London had no immediate information on the report. In a front-page article, the left-wing newspaper said that army investigators had

exhumed the bodies of an unspecified number of civilians who were allegedly shot dead by soldiers and would carry out forensic tests.

*The Independent* has uncovered evidence relating to the deaths of six Iraqi civilians whose families claim they were killed by British troops," it said, in the report dispatched from the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

The Army Prosecuting Authority was looking into two of these cases, which were expected to result in charges, the daily said.

"It is not known whether British troops will face any charges in relation to the other cases but the government is believed to be considering claims for compensation from the families," it said.

Internet



South Korea's top automaker Hyundai Motor said that it would build its second auto plant in India by mid-2007 to ride on the country's fast-growing demand for automobiles.—INTERNET



## S China metropolis reports robust growth in foreign investment

GHANGZHOU, 16 Feb— South China's Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, used more than 2.4 billion US dollars of foreign investment in real terms in 2004, up 64.4 per cent over 2003, the local statistics bureau said.

Manufacturing industry saw an increase of 280 per cent in actual foreign investment last year. Foreign funds going into the automobile industry more than quadrupled, accounting for 11 per cent of the total use of foreign investment, the bureau said.

In 2004, the city approved 160 large foreign-funded businesses, which absorbed 53 per cent of contractual foreign

investment, said Gao Dianying, director of the bureau.

Gao said foreign investors from more than 70 countries and regions have so far invested in 7,933 businesses in the city.

Statistics from the bureau show that 127 of the world's top 500 companies have established businesses in Guangzhou.

MNA/Xinhua

## Cathay Pacific shows strong passenger performance in January

HONG KONG, 15 Feb— Cathay Pacific Airways Monday released traffic figures for January 2005, which show a stronger passenger yet weaker than expected cargo performance for the same period of last year.

Cathay Pacific statistics indicated that the airline carried over 1.20 million passengers in January, down from December's Christmas peak of 1.27 million passengers, yet higher than other post-holiday periods.

Growth was the strongest to destinations in Europe, North America and Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The average passenger load factor was 79.6 per cent.

At the same time, the airline carried 74,929 tons of cargo, down from 83,148 tons carried in December. Weeks preceding the Chinese New Year are traditionally a peak period for cargo, yet demand was not as strong as anticipated and competition among other

operators was keen.

A new daily freighter service commenced to Shanghai towards the end of the month on 27 January. The average cargo load factor for the month was 61.1 per cent.

Cathay Pacific General Manager of Revenue Management, Sales & Distribution Ian Shiu said: "The passenger business usually hits a lull between major holidays, but not this month. January's figures showed strong loads to and through Hong Kong, particularly on long-haul services and among business travellers, helping Hong Kong's business and tourism year off to a good start. — MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore to prevent cashback practice in house resale

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb— The Singapore Government will announce new measures within this week to prevent the practice of "cashback agreements" in the housing resale market.

According to local media reports on Monday, agencies including the Housing Development Board, the Central Provident Fund Board and the Monetary Authority of Singapore will spot the problem and make changes to the current system accordingly.

A cashback agreement, which allows the buyer to get a bigger loan than is permitted and enables the seller to reach a deal quickly, will inflate the actual price of a flat, the reports said.

MNA/Xinhua

## India ready to open markets to all neighbours

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb— India on Monday declared that it was ready to throw open its markets to all the neighbours and encourage the SAARC provided they displayed sensitiveness towards its security concerns.

"Hostile propaganda and intemperate statements against India need to be stopped as it cannot and will not ignore such conduct and will take whatever steps are necessary to safeguard its interests," Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said during a lecture on 'India and its neighbourhood' here.

"It is true that as the largest country in the region and its strongest economy, India has a greater responsibility to encourage the SAARC process," he said.

In the free markets that India has already established with Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan, it has already accepted the principle of non-reciprocity, he said. — MNA/PTI

## E China Province reports rising software export

HANGZHOU, 16 Feb— East China's Zhejiang Province saw its electronic information industry develop rapidly and earned 174 million US dollars by exporting software last year, said official sources from the provincial department of information industry. The figure grew by 170 per cent from the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua

## India, Italy sign accords in space, science and technology

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb — India and Italy signed on Monday six accords that cover cooperation in space, science and technology and other areas and decided to further bolster relations in diversified fields.

The agreements were inked in the presence of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi after the two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on important bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern, the Press

Trust of India reported.

The agreement for cooperation in space, science, technology and application was signed by G. Madhavan Nair, chairman of Indian Space Research Organization and Sergio Vetrilla, president of the Italian Space Agency (ASI).—MNA/Xinhua

## Groups of protesters against Iraq war ripple across Britain

LONDON, 15 Feb—Dozens of people opposed to the war in Iraq held a "die-in" outside the Houses of Parliament in London, demanding that British troops come home, while similar rallies took place across the country.

The events, organized by the Stop The War Coalition and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), marked the second anniversary of a huge anti-war march which attracted more than one million people to the British capital in an ultimately futile bid to stop the March 2003 invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

Brief scuffles broke out in the British capital between police and demonstrators as officers attempted to move the crowd, who were chanting slogans and holding banners, back on to the central area of Parliament Square.

"Our die-in was held to symbolize the tens of thousands who have died in Iraq since the war began. We are also calling for the troops to be withdrawn," said Lindsey German, of the Stop The War Coalition.

"We think it's significant that America and Britain don't count the number of Iraqi dead, but they do count the number of their troops who have died."

Kate Hudson, chairwoman of the CND, said that the rally was to step up demands that the "occupation of Iraq should end."

She warned, however, that the failure of the first anti-war protest in 2003 — which she described as "one of the greatest outpourings of public feeling" — was a bad omen for future possible strikes on countries such as Iran.

Prime Minister "Tony Blair didn't listen then and we don't expect him to listen in the future with regard to withdrawing troops or an attack on Iran — that's one of our greatest concerns," she said. —Internet



Members of a Japanese environmental group smile while holding anti-carbon dioxide placards at celebrations to mark the Kyoto Protocol coming into force on 15 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET

## Chinese Vice-Premier calls for improving social security system

XIAMEN, 15 Feb— Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju urged local governments to spare no efforts in improving the social security system so as to guarantee the basic life standard for the poor families during his Lunar New Year visit in the Southeast China's Fujian Province.

Huang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, arrived in Fuzhou, the capital city of Fujian Province, on 8 February, eve of the Chinese Lunar New Year, where he joined local senior officials to visit local power

distribution offices, companies, factories, and poor families during his one-week stay.

He extended New Year greetings to the workers on duty in the New Year eve and showed sympathy for the workers' families on poor living conditions, urging local officials to

ensure the urban poor can enjoy the merry holidays as others. He said that the local government should spare no efforts in solving problems for the ordinary people, especially the poor, and should create more job opportunities and improve the social security.

MNA/Xinhua



Standing by a statue of the God of Fortune people watch fireworks recently, marking the start of Chinese New Year celebrations in Singapore.—INTERNET

## Indonesia's PC sales set to grow by 50%

JAKARTA, 15 Feb— Domestic sales of personal computers (PCs) in Indonesia are expected to rise by 50 per cent to 1.5 million units this year, on the back of the public's increasing need for computers in their daily activities, an industry association has said.

Sales of mobile computing devices — notebook computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) — also will continue their rising trend, as more people see the need and practicality of bringing their work with them, the association said.

"We see this year as being a particularly good one for the computer industry," Indonesian Computer Business Association (Apkomindo) Chairman Hidayat Tjokrodjojo was quoted Tuesday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

In addition to improved purchasing power as a result of the domestic economy's continued recovery, Hidayat said the commencement of several government-endorsed infrastructure projects would contribute as well

to this year's PC sales.

"The projects will obviously need a lot of computing power for their administrative tasks and such, which we hope can be met by local PCs," he said.

Data from Apkomindo shows that domestic demand for PCs has been on a steady rise over the last several years. PC sales reached one million units in 2004, a 33 per cent increase from the 750,000 units in 2003, which was itself a 20 per cent rise from 600,000 units in 2002.

Locally assembled PCs account for about 60 per cent of all sales, with the remaining 40 per cent being built-up desk tops.

Of total computer sales, notebooks make up about 20-30 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

## India triples its presence at tenth Gulf food exhibition

DUBAI, 15 Feb— Home to one of the most diverse food traditions in the world, India is hoping to translate its culinary prowess into export earnings by moving into the lucrative and fast-growing global market for processed foods and scaling up participation at a premier food expo to be held here next week.

As the Middle East accounts for 16 per cent of the market for Indian processed foods, the country has tripled its presence at the tenth Gulf Food, Hotel and Equipment Exhibition being held during 20-23 February with Agricultural and Processed Food Exports Development Authority (APEDA), a government initiative, currently eyeing the regional market.

The premier industry exhibition, houses more than 35 national pavilions from the United States to Portugal, and Jordan to China. This year's Indian Pavilion, organized jointly by APEDA, the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, the Tea Board of India, the Spices Board of India and housing 15 governmental and non-governmental bodies, is estimated to cover more than 185 square metres of pavilion space, a 300-per-cent jump from the previous Indian presence at Gulfood.

Among the top draws at the Indian Pavilion this year are staples ranging from honey to basmati rice to

emerging trends such as ready-to-eat Indian ethnic foods.

Apart from the specialty products from the Indian Tea Board and Spices Board, APEDA will also be displaying its full range of Indian processed food products; and the Union Ministry of Agriculture will showcase the country's latest agricultural initiatives.

Currently, the Middle East accounts for 16 per cent of the market for Indian processed foods, a figure that pavilion officials hope to boost by capitalizing on the large population of Indian expatriates in the region and long-standing political, economic and cultural ties between India and the Middle East.

"There is a definite shift in the mindset of the Middle East ministries towards the food industry in India," said AS Rawat, General Manager of APEDA.

MNA/PTI

## French warships to conduct exercise with Malaysian Navy

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb— Visiting French warships would conduct a six-hour joint exercise with the Malaysian Navy in the Malacca Straits before leaving for Singapore on 16 February, Commander Marc de Briancon said on Monday.

The French warship *Jeanne d'Arch*, accompanied by destroyer *Georges Leygues*, arrived at Malaysia's Port Klang on 11 February for a six-day visit. It last came to Malaysia in 2001. Briancon, also captain of *Jeanne d'Arch* training vessel and helicopter carrier, said both vessels were deployed to extend assistance to the tsunami-stricken region of Meulaboh, Aceh, in Indonesia from 12 January to 9 February.

He also said the French Navy was keen to participate in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) 2005 exhibition and would deploy one of its best warships for the biennial event to be held in north

Malaysia later this year.

The two ships are from the French Training Squadron for Naval Officers. The training is essentially based on practical sessions, active observation and involvement of the cadets in all activities of the ships in the squadron. They are on a 162-day deployment in the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean.

"The campaign is an opportunity for the cadets to inscribe their action in an international context. It gives them numerous occasions to meet other people from the military and take part in joint drills," said Briancon.

MNA/Xinhua



A runner passes an activist holding a huge "Valentine to humanity" during a protest of US President George W Bush's withdrawal of support for the Kyoto Protocol on 14 Feb, in Washington, DC.—INTERNET

## Military reservist resigns in protest over Iraq war

LONDON, 15 Feb— A soldier from Britain's military reserve, the Territorial Army, formally resigned from the force in protest at the "illegal" war in Iraq, and urged fellow troops to do the same.

Lance Corporal George Solomou, 38, who handed in a letter of resignation to his commanding officer at a Territorial Army base in south London, said a number of other reservists felt the same way about the conflict.

"There is a sizeable minority within the Territorial Army that do not agree with this war, but many soldiers do not realise they are legally entitled to conscientiously

object to serving in a war," he told reporters.

"Soldiers have a moral, public and political duty to defend democracy. When democracy fails as it did when (Prime Minister Tony) Blair led us into this illegal war, they have a duty to uphold democracy by not taking part in it."

Solomou had been in the Territorial Army for five years as a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps. He did not

serve in Iraq.

The US-led, British-backed war to remove Saddam Hussein in March 2003 had been "illegal and immoral", he said.

In the letter, Solomou said foreign troops should get out of Iraq immediately.

"The continuing occupation is a disaster for the people of Iraq and a nightmare for the British and US troops on the front line," he said.—Internet

## Indonesian President ends visit to Malaysia

**KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Feb**—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono left here for Singapore Tuesday after ending a two-day visit to Malaysia.

Before departure, Susilo, accompanied by Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, attended a 30-minute closed-door briefing on the planning and development of Malaysia's Federal Administrative Centre, Putrajaya.

The briefing was given by Jebasingam Isaac John, who is Putrajaya Corporation's urban planning director.

Malaysian town planners are drawing up a masterplan for the reconstruction of the Indonesian city of Banda Aceh which was flattened by the December 26 tsunamis.

Abdullah later took Susilo and his wife, Ibu Ani, to the central areas of Putrajaya to enable them to see the surroundings from a closer perspective.

Abdullah then accompanied Susilo to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport from where the Indonesian leader departed for Singapore.

After sending off Susilo, the Prime Minister boarded a flight for Islamabad for a four-day visit to Pakistan.

Susilo arrived in Malaysia on Monday as the first stop of his familiarization visits to the South-East Asian countries since gaining the presidency in October last year.

During the visit, Susilo and Abdullah held a bilateral meeting on issues covering Indonesian illegal workers in Malaysia, reconstruction of tsunami-hit Aceh and economic cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese business people look at a screen on 13 Feb, 2005. The number of FBI investigations into Chinese espionage in California's technology corridor has soared.—INTERNET

## Malaysia advises illegal immigrants to leave within a week

**KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb**—Illegal immigrants rounded up in Malaysia under the ongoing operation were given a week to leave the country, Immigration Director of Enforcement Ishak Mohamed said on Sunday.

If they ignored the advice, the Immigration Department would deport them if they were caught again, and they would be banned permanently from coming to Malaysia, Ishak Mohamed told reporters in Putrajaya, Federal Administration Centre, 45 kilometres south of here. "Although the operation is being carried out by way of persuasion, we are serious in the matter. We will not hesitate to enforce an on-the-spot ban if they chose to disregard the advice (leave within a week)," he said.

Ishak said 8,245 foreign workers were screened during the operation over the last two weeks. Of the total, 626 were found to be without valid travel documents and have been asked to leave the country within a week. He said most of them were Indonesians, aged between 30 and 50, and had their fingerprints taken.

He said the operation would continue until further directive from the government. The operations were conducted on 7 February upon expiry of the extended amnesty programme on 31 January. Malaysia announced the amnesty programme on 29 October last year, which had been extended twice to 31 January this year.

Over 400,000 illegal immigrants had left the country during the amnesty period. There remains in the country another 400,000 of them, most of whom are Indonesians.—MNA/Xinhua

## Yunnan to initiate protection mechanism for animal, plant species

**KUNMING, 16 Feb**—Southwest China's Yunnan Province plans to establish a joint meeting mechanism for better protection of its wild animal and plant species, local official sources said.

Initiated by the provincial environmental protection bureau, the mechanism will help 19 departments of the province to coordinate with each other in protection and supervision of animal and plant species.

Yunnan ranks the first in the numbers of animal and plant species in China. However, these species face an increasingly severe situation because of human activities.

According to the mechanism, the province will conduct a survey on distribution and economic value of current endangered animal and plant species so as to make more concrete protection plans.

The provincial government also pledges to invest more in supervision and protection work and crack down on illegal wild animal transactions, the sources said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Sign of growing ties between Indonesia, Singapore

**SINGAPORE, 16 Feb**—Southeast Asian neighbours Singapore and Indonesia agreed on Tuesday to conclude an extradition treaty sought by Indonesian authorities to put on trial corrupt bankers, suspected militants and other fugitives.

In a sign of growing ties, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong also agreed to sign an investment guarantee pact that would protect Singapore investors who put money in Indonesia.

On his first visit to Singapore since his election win in September, Yudhoyono said Indonesia's relations were now on a stronger footing with Singapore, a predominantly ethnic Chinese city-state that has aggressively expanded regional trade.

"We hope that trade and investment between our two countries will increase considerably," Yudhoyono said in a speech to Singapore politicians and business leaders late on Tuesday.

Singapore's Lee, who like Yudhoyono came to power last year, said the two agreed to speed up talks on an extradition pact — one of several long-festering issues between the two that in some cases date back to Singapore's independence in 1965.

"I told President Yudhoyono that I understood the importance to Indonesia of having an extradition treaty with Singapore and I assured him that we are committed to concluding an extradition treaty with Indonesia," Lee told reporters.

Indonesia has long-sought an extradition treaty with Singapore, arguing that corrupt bankers fled to the wealthy city-state during Asia's 1997/98 financial crisis.

MNA/Reuters

## HK machinery exports value up 22.7% in 2004

**HONG KONG, 16 Feb**—Hong Kong's value of domestic exports classified to the machinery, equipment, apparatus, parts and components industry rose 22.7 per cent in 2004 over a year earlier to 15.8 billion HK dollars (2.02 billion US dollars).

According to a government Press release Monday, the value of domestic exports classified to the textiles industry fell 2 per cent in 2003 to 36.4 billion HK dollars, while those to the wearing apparel industry fell 0.9 per cent to 32.3 billion

HK dollars.

The Census & Statistics Department said these four major industries together accounted for 75 per cent of Hong Kong's total domestic exports.

As for other manufacturing industries, a notable increase was regis-

tered for the value of domestic exports classified to the basic metals and fabricated metal industry, by 24.2 per cent to 4.3 billion HK dollars, and 13.7 per cent to 6.3 billion HK dollars for the chemical and chemical products industry.—MNA/Xinhua

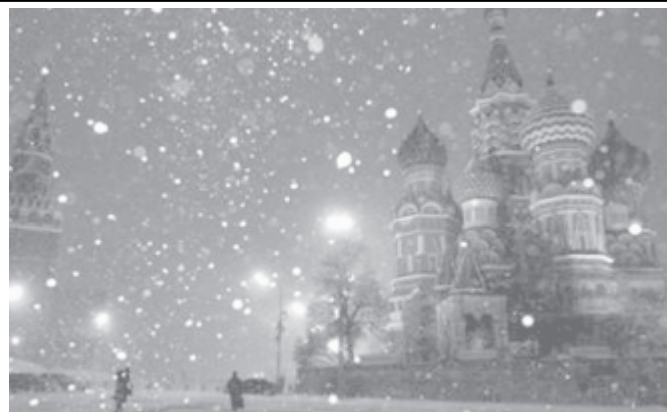
## 6.0-magnitude quake jolts off Indonesia's coast

**HONG KONG, 16 Feb**—A 6.0-magnitude quake hit off the coast of the Indonesia's Sumatra Island early Tuesday in an area south of where the massive, tsunami-generating quake of 26 December struck, Hong Kong seismologists said.

The tremor was centred in seas 120 miles west-northwest of Padang. That city is about 560 miles southeast of Banda Aceh—the provincial capital near the massive 26 December magnitude-9.0 quake that triggered the Indian Ocean tsunami.

Monday's quake was recorded in Hong Kong at 1.13 am (1713 GMT Monday), the Hong Kong Observatory said in a statement. It was not immediately clear if the quake led to any casualties.

MNA/AP



Pedestrians pass by the Moscow Kremlin, on 14 Feb, 2005, with some of the Red Square landmarks in the background.—INTERNET

# Nucleus of the Union

*Chin Kya (Maubin)*

It was during the independence struggle that the Panglong Agreement was reached in Panglong town, southern Shan State, with the aim of regaining independence under the Union system. Despite the colonialists' attempts to drive a wedge, the national race leaders were able to sign the Panglong Agreement. So afraid were the colonialists during the time that they hatched evil plots with the sinister aim of dissolving the Agreement.

The British government formed the Reeves Williams Commission, with R Williams as the chairman. The reason behind the formation of the commission was to enquire about the number of minority delegates of frontier areas and their role in drafting a constitution of Myanmar and the nation's parliament.

The colonialists thought that the Panglong Agreement would dissolve automatically as the Frontier Areas Committee of Enquiry would make the nationalities who had not attended the Conference help materialize the dominion policy in their favour, and nationalities of Myanmar would discard the Union system.

The Bamar members of the R Williams Commission were U Tin Htut, U Nu, U Khin Maung Galay, and U Kyaw Nyein, and the frontier delegates were Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun (Shan), Sama Duwa Sinwa Nong (Kachin), U Van Ko Haw (Chin) and Thanlwin District delegate Saw San Kay (KNU).

Mr Williams arrived in Myanmar on 7 March 1947. Together with U Tin Htut, U Khin Maung Galay, Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun and two British officers of the hill region administration body, he visited Myitkyina, Bhamo, Lashio, Loilem, Taunggyi, Loikaw, Mawchi, Shan State, Kayin State and Kayin State for preliminary enquiry. They arrived back at Yangon on 27 March after completion of their enquiry at the places.

While the commission was meeting with nationalities youths of hill regions and Thanlwin District members of Kayin youth organizations till 19 March, the national races including Kachin, Kayinni, Chin and Shan, who would meet with the commission held a preliminary meeting in Maymyo (PyinOoLwin) to give a unified answer.

The nationalities at the meeting had decided to give a unified answer to the commission that they (the people of the hill regions) were going to regain independence only together with the Myanmar proper. While the commission was in Rakhine Yoma and Thanlwin District, the representatives of hill regions and AFPFL held a gathering in Yangon at 6 pm on 23 March 1947.

Hill Region Minister Sao San Tun, Deputy Minister U Van Ko Haw, Sama Duwa Sinwa Nong, and Saw San Kay of Kayin Asiayon and executives of AFPFL attended the gathering. They discussed cooperation between the Myanmar proper and hill regions and decided to regain independence together. R Williams Commission enquired the witnesses of Rakhine hill region, Shwegyin-Kayin Asiayon, Thanlwin District and Kayin youth Asiayon up till March 19. The commission moved its headquarters to Maymyo (PyinOoLwin) on 27 March to visit the remaining regions.

Up to 11 April, the commission visited Shan State People's Liberation Organization, Kalaw, Taungyi, Lashio, Loilem, northern Wa region and Kokang region. It visited northern Hseinwi and Southern region on 12 April, Kayin State, Momeik, Kengtung, and Kayin National Organization on 14 April, Kachin national race from Myitkyina, Bhamo, Hkamti, and members of Kachin organizations on 16 April, members of KNU and AFPFL in Bhamo

on 17 April, Chins in Falam, Haka, Tiddim, Kanpetlet, Sunmara, Thongtut and Chins and Shans in Hsinkalein, Hkamti, Homalin and other areas on 19 April, and hill region unity organizations, Shan chieftains, southern Shan State and other regions and Chins in Kanpetlet, Tiddim, and representatives of Bhamo.

**During the visits, the commission held meetings to drive a wedge among the nationalities and asked leading questions in the British government's favour.**

They asked national races in hilly regions whether or not they were willing to secede from the mainland. And they offered that if the national races wanted to establish a separate state, they would give the same rights as to Bamars, and they would continue to protect the hilly regions. Whether the national races wanted to be part of the British Commonwealth or not, whether all the hilly communities were willing to make a demand for seceding from the State, Whom did Kachin want to rely more on Bamar or the British? If Kachin nationals trusted in the British, all

**Union Spirit is indeed the nucleus, and the national races of the Union of Myanmar have got it in their heart. So no one can destroy the nucleus of the Union. The entire national people, while preserving the nucleus of the Union, are therefore urged to march towards the national goal in accordance with the State's seven-point Road Map.**

their wishes would be fulfilled. Who selected the interviewees, the government or national compatriots? What would be the regard of the hilly communities if the government was not satisfied with the report of the commission? The British wanted to know if hilly communities dared not to live between two heavily populated nations — China and India. What would hilly national people do if these two neighbouring giants interfered in the international affairs? Whom would hilly national people support the British or another foreign nation if the two sides vied for businesses in the hilly regions? Supposing there broke out World War III, whether national races would join the British with the military purpose. Asking above-mentioned questions, the British intentionally drove a wedge among the national races so as to break the Panglong Agreement.

Representatives of Kayinis who did not attend the Panglong Conference, in addition to Kachin, Chin and Shan, took part in the poll conducted in Maymyo (PyinOoLwin). Kayinni ethnic leaders such as U Bi Tu Ye and Thaya Shwe Lay of Bawlakhe region, Saw Shwe and U A Mya Lay of Kye Phogyi region, Thaing Ba Han and Saw Paw Lu of Moby region, Saw Luis, U Sein and Saw Gi Karasu of Kandarawady region, and U Ba Thaug of Kayinni (Kayah) Youths Association **signed the agreement to enjoy independence together with Bamar.**

The Reeves Williams Commission held 24 meetings from 27 March to 23 April 1947. However, that could not lure the national races who were fully equipped with the firm resolution that the hilly regions and the mainland would get independence together. On 23 April the entire national people kept the resolution that the hilly regions and the mainland regions would get independence together.

Moreover, on 24 April 1947, the commission members signed the four-point report of the commission. The British colonialists were not able to make any improvement to drive a wedge among the

national brethren, and they had no way to choose but to approve the agreements the Reeves Williams Commission on 22 May 1947.

Not bearing at all to see the position that the national races would regain independence together, the British colonialists resorted to all possible ways and means to sow discord and hatred among the national brethren, but in vain. No one was able to undermine the nucleus of the Union that existed in the heart of the national races who live in unity and amity.

The Panglong Conference held on 12 February 1947 fully inculcated the nucleus of Union Spirit into the national races, and the nation could throw the yoke of slavery and then become a sovereign nation.

Today's National Convention is taking steps for emergence of an enduring State Constitution, that will shape the brighter future of the nation, based on the unprecedented unity of the entire national people. The 1947 State Constitution was drawn by the Constitution Committee on the Union and States, and amended by the Hluttaw (Legislative Body). And the 1974 State Constitution was drafted three times by the Commission for Drawing Constitution, approved by the Parliament and prescribed through the referendum.

The National Convention launched in 1993 had to be adjourned on 31 March 1996 for various reasons. Yet, the government, with a view to fulfilling the wishes of the entire national people — emergence of a democratic nation — completed the first phase of the first step of the Road Map from 17 May to 9 July 2004. The National Convention held from 1993 to 1996 adopted the 104 fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. The National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July discussed matters related to some detailed basic principles to be included in framing the State Constitution.

The National Convention will resume on 17 February 2005. There are altogether 633 delegates of national races to attend the National Convention — 41 delegates form Kachin State, 19 from Kayah, 26 from Kayin State, 13 from Chin State, 61 from Sagaing Division, 15 from Taninthayi Division, 50 from Bago Division, 44 from Magway Division, 56 from Mandalay Division, 37 from Mon State, 36 from Rakhine State, 67 from Yangon Division, 46 from Shan State (South), 39 from Shan State (North), 29 from Shan State (East) and 54 from Ayeyawady Division. So, the delegates of national races are from various parts of the nation.

Similarly, delegates of peasants are from all parts of the country, and so are delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of workers, delegates of State service personnel, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, and delegates of 17 armed groups who returned to the legal fold.

Soon after the completion of the Panglong Agreement, the colonialists did make a lot of attempts to undermine the national unity. Again, the neo-colonialists and their lackeys — internal and external destructive elements — are hatching plots and attempting to jeopardize the national solidarity before and during the National Convention.

Union Spirit is indeed the nucleus, and the national races of the Union of Myanmar have got it in their heart. So no one can destroy the nucleus of the Union. The entire national people, while preserving the nucleus of the Union, are therefore urged to march towards the national goal in accordance with the State's seven-point Road Map.

**(Translation: TMT + MS)**



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects preparatory tasks at Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention will be held. (News on page 1) — MNA



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views Sarpay Beikman Book Stall at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township. (News on page 1) — MNA

## Measures for boosting export of agricultural produces discussed

YANGON, 16 Feb—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held a meeting to boost export of agricultural produces at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, heads of departments under the ministries, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Rice Merchants Association, and the companies and entrepreneurs who have received permission for land allotments.

The Agriculture and Irrigation Minister delivered a speech, saying that the government is making all-out efforts for all-round development of the nation based on the agricultural sector.

The nation has constructed good foundations for boosting agricultural production. The ministry is striving to hit the target of ensuring local food sufficiency and food surplus. Simultaneously, it is giving encouragement to local farmers and entrepreneurs for boosting the output of seasonal crops, industrial crops, and others for export.

He pledged that the two ministries would take measures for raising the socio-economic life of the people. The Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry would provide agricultural methods and assistance for extension of sown acreage and cultivation of market-



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo speaking at the meeting to promote export of agricultural produces.— A&I

able crops, and reducing of agricultural cost and minimizing loss and wastage. The Commerce Ministry is helping the entrepreneurs export goods in accordance with the rules and regulations. And the agricultural entrepreneurs would provide assistance for extended cultivation of crops.

The Commerce Minister said that the government would allow the businessmen to export the crops produced in the recently-reclaimed land. Now, onion is cultivated in the farmland benefited by new dams and reservoirs. The nation has been able to produce beans and pulses, plum, castor oil plant, chilli, mango,

and rubber. The ministry would help the growers and the exporters in the process. The Commerce Deputy Minister gave an account of agricultural methods for export of value-added items.

Those companies and entrepreneurs reported on agricultural tasks and granting permission for land allotments. The departmental heads dealt with arrangements for making field tours of the farms for ensuring cultivation of the most appropriate and useful crops.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave closing remarks.

MNA

## 58th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continues for final day

YANGON, 16 Feb — The 58th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continued for the final day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, here, from 9 am to 5 pm today.

Over 3,200 members of the Sangha, people, teachers and students visited the exhibition.

At the central booth, the photograph of Chair-

man of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and his guidance on Union Spirit were displayed.

Similarly, the booths on ancient Myanmar empires, traditional culture of national races, emergence of the Union Day and regaining of Independence and ministries were put on display.

Seven-point Road

Map, Objectives of 58th Anniversary Union Day, development of the State and endeavours of the government for national consolidation, documentary photos showing development of States and Divisions were included in the booth of News and Periodicals Enterprise.

Altogether five Basic Education Primary Schools in Yangon Division participated in the computer quiz and Question and Answer Contest in English organized by University of Computer Studies and Soft Guide Computer Co with the assistance of Department of Basic Education No 3. Kyauktada BEPS No 6 won the first prize.

MNA

## Myanmar Open 2005 on 24-27 February

YANGON, 16 Feb—A coordination meeting on Myanmar Open 2005 to be hosted in Myanmar took place at the National Indoor Stadium-1 here yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the ministry, the president and executives of the Myanmar Golf Federation, guests, and departmental officials.

The minister in his speech said that the tournament will be an international level event and international professionals will contend for the trophy.

And they will witness

the nation's situations of peace and stability and progress.

The tournament is aimed at producing new generation golfers and raising the nation's golf standard, he added, calling for harmonious collaboration for successful holding of the tournament.

MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), General Secretary U Aung Kyi and officials reported on preparations for the tourney; and departmental officials, on work done sector-wise.

In response, the minister assessed the reports and rendered assistance for the tasks.

Myanmar Open

started in 1996. The 10th Myanmar Open will be held on a grand scale in Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) from 24 until 27 February.

A total of 149 professionals from Australia, Thailand, the US, China (Taipei), India, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, England, Hong Kong, Scotland, Singapore, Canada, China, Germany, Holland, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, South America, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Venezuela including 28 local professionals will join the tournament.

The tournament will be organized by the Octagon and the Han Event Management.

MNA

### All this needs to be known

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



## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction...

(from page 16)

Najat diversion weir will be built as the gravel-filled one with the contribution of K 6.5 million by the government and the local people. Starting from this year, it will supply water to 1,200 acres of summer paddy.

Director of Bago Division Development Affairs Committee U Maung Maung Aung reported on construction of roads linking townships. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than told officials to build all-weather road for regional development.

The Htonbogyi-Thitkyein Road is 33 miles and six furlongs long.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected Yeni No 2 Paper Mill where factory manager U Myo Maung reported on history of the mill, location and area, investment, production, sale, raw materials, implementation of the project and staff.

The Yeni No 2 Paper Mill produces 3,202 tons of cement and 1,190 tons of pulp.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met officers and Tatmadaw members and families at the region battalion. He discussed education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and increased income of the families.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the briefing hall of Dagon International Co Ltd near Hsatthwa Village.

Project Director U Than Shein reported on survey of axis in Yedashe-Pyinmana Road section and paving of road. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called on maintenance of road.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected cultivation of summer paddy in Gongyi Village. In Bago Division 300,000 acres were targetted to be put under paddy and so far over 200,000 acres of paddy have been grown.

He also inspected No 6 Sugar Mill (Yedashe) which produced 7,393.05 tons of sugar for 2004-2005.

MNA

## Commander visits Mingaladon, Hlegu,...

(from page 16)

Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions for timely completion of the tasks meeting set standard.

On arrival at 500-acre summer paddy zone near Malit Village of Hlegu Township, the commander inspected thriving summer paddy plantations and growing of vegetable on vacant area and supply of water from Malit river water pumping station to 300 acres of summer paddy plantations. Division Manager of MAS U Aung Hsan presented reports on boosting increase of per-acre yield.

Later, the commander and party looked into the site for the Hsinphon river water project.

MNA

## Bio-gas power plant opened in Myingyan Township

YANGON, 16 Feb — A ceremony to open Bio-gas power plant was held in Pinle village, Myingyan Township, on 11 February.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myingyan District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tun Win and members, Chairman of Township PDC U San Aung, Secretary U Mya Aung and executives, members of social organizations and local people totalling over 1,800.

First, Secretary U Mya Aung launched the power plant and Lt-Col Tun Win formally unveiled the signboard.

Next, Executive of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Naing Oo reported on measures for building the power plant and Lt-Col Tun Win delivered an address on the occasion. Afterwards, a local expressed thanks. It was built at a cost of K 3.5 million. —MNA

## Hotel, communication services inspected in Magway, Bago Divisions

YANGON, 16 Feb

— Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 13 February arrived in Bago and inspected Shwewatun Hotel of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services.

The minister gave instructions on arrangements for market promotion and management of hotel service. On his inspection tour he oversaw the modern bus terminal being built near mile post No 222 on Yangon-Man-dalay Highway.

On 14 February, the minister looked into Auto-telephone Exchange of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications in Taungdwingyi. He also viewed progress of renovation at Maha Aungmyinzeya Rakhine Pagoda.

In Magway, the minister together with Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe in-



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects Taungdwingyi Auto-Telephone Exchange.—COMMUNICATION

spected Auto-telephone Exchange of MPT and instructed officials to supervise convenience of communication tasks.

On 15 February, the minister paid homage to Presiding Nayaka of new Maha Withokdayon Monastery Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Maha Saddhammajotika Agga

Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kumara and donated alms.

Brig-Gen Thein Zaw made an inspection tour of construction for Thityagauk-Koebin direct road which will be 26 miles and two furlongs shorter than the old one on Magway-Pyay section. At the mile post 252 on Yangon-Magway Road, the minister attended the ceremony to open Koebin

modern bus terminal built by Hsonsiya Travel Service Co.

On his inspection tour, the minister, together with Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min, inspected communication tasks in Paungde, Nattalin, Zigon, Gyobingauk and Thayawady.

MNA

## Mawlaik District honours Union Day, supports National Convention

YANGON, 16 Feb — A ceremony to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention was held in Kindat Village of Mawlaik Township, Mawlaik District, Sagaing Division on 13 February morning.

Present on the occasion were departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and local people totalling over 4,000. Secretary of Mawlaik District USDA U Ye Win Oo presided over the ceremony together with

members of the panel of chairmen Mawlaik Township War Veterans Organization Chairman U Maung Naing, village elder U Nyo Oo of Kindat Village, member of Mawlaik Township Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Khin Hnin and members of Mawlaik Township MCWA Daw Khin U. Mawlaik Township USDA Executive Daw Sanda Thein and Phaungpyin Township USDA Executive Daw Khin Myo Tun acted as MCs.

Secretary of Mawlaik District USDA

U Ye Win Oo gave a speech. Next, Dr Daw Ni Ni of Mawlaik Township MCWA tabled a motion calling for honouring the Union Day, Daw Khin Khin San of Mawlaik Township OWA, supporting the National Convention and Phaungpyin Township USDA Joint-Secretary U Thauing Htaik, supporting rural development tasks. Mawlaik Township USDA Executive U Win Khaing seconded the three motions.

Afterwards, officials accepted K 150,000 for rural development tasks

donated by locals from Lawtha Village of Mawlaik Township; books and periodicals worth K 300,000 for rural libraries by departmental personnel and local people; K 300,000 for Ohntha hydel power project in Phaungpyin Township, Village libraries in Phaungpyin and Mawlaik Township by Mawlaik District Vessel Association; K 2 million for Mannwe Village Library in Mawlaik Township by departmental services and local people; K 110,000 for rural development by U Tha Hsint and family; K 400,000 for prevention of band erosion at Mauksapha Village in Phaungpyin Township by service personnel and locals; K 3.5 million by Ohntha Village Hydel Power Project and the village library by local people; and K 4 million by rural development by local people and departmental staff of Phaungpyin Township. Next, all the participants approved to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention and rural development. —MNA



MWSF REFORMED: The ceremony to reform Myanmar Women's Sports Federation was held at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, in Yangon, on 16-2-2005. The photo shows Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint speaking at the ceremony.—SPED

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

### BNSc trainees visit National Health Museum

YANGON, 16 Feb — Trainees of BNSc Course No 1/2005 of the Institute of Nursing went on study tour of the National Health Museum of Health Planning Department under the Ministry of Health this morning.

First, Deputy Director of Health Planning Department (Health Education) Dr U Khin Maung Lwin extended greetings.

The trainees dividing themselves into three groups practically performed acting on educative measures for nutrition, prevention of hypertension and self-cleanliness.

Next, Dr U Khin Maung Lwin presented prizes to the graduate students who did the best performance. They expressed thanks and observed booths at the museum. — MNA

### Toyota recalling 22,000 Tacoma pickups

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — Toyota Motor Co announced on Tuesday that it is recalling 22,228 Tacoma pickups in the United States because the parking brake may not work.

Toyota spokesman John Hanson said in Detroit that the company decided to recall the vehicles after the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration received eight complaints. No injuries have been reported due to the defect, Hanson said.

The Japanese car-maker said that the lock

nut on the parking brake cable may not have been properly tightened and can loosen and come off. If that happens, the vehicle could roll if it is stopped on a slope and the transmission is not in park. The recall involves Tacoma pickups from the 2005 model year with automatic transmissions.

MNA/Xinhua

### Functions of mental health research and care services explained

YANGON, 16 Feb — A ceremony to explain functions of community-based mental health research and care services organized by Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at MCWA Office in Dawbon Township this morning.

First, Chairperson of the Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Khin Thet

Htay explained mental functions of the division organization on health care services for maternal and children.

Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Sein Lwin of Yangon Mental Health Hospital briefed those present on the mental health care project and specialist Dr Win Aung Myint on conducting research works and health care services.

Daw Khin Thet Htay

donated K 100,000 to be used in mental health care services to Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Sein Lwin.

Next, Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay accepted K 1.54 million donated by wellwishers including K 400,000 by Dr Tin Soe Lin-Daw Pwint Mar Khaing of Shwe Pazun Co Ltd under the auspices of mother Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Nwe Yi; K 100,000

by Dawbon Township MCWA; K 200,000 each by U Kyin Oo (Popular Plastics) and U Thein Shwe (Shwe Thein Rice Mill).

Afterwards, Daw Khin Thet Htay and party visited Patheinyay Ward in Dawbon Township and viewed mental health care service provided by doctors to the patients at the regional health unit of the township.

MNA



Daw Khin Thet Htay speaking at the ceremony to explain community-based mental health research and care service.— MNA

### ICRC chief concerned with detainees at Guantanamo

GENEVA, 16 Feb — Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has raised concerns with US President George Bush about detainees at Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere, an ICRC spokesman said on Tuesday.

Kellenberger who held talks with Bush and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington on Monday.

Asked whether Kellenberger had discussed prisoners held at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with Bush, ICRC spokesman Florian Westphal in Geneva told Reuters: "Concerns relating to detainees were one issue discussed".

He declined to comment further, adding: "We feel bilateral talks are the best way generally to obtain results." ICRC officials regularly visit prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, which holds hundreds of terror suspects detained during the 2001 US war to oust al-Qaeda and the ruling Taleban from Afghanistan and in other operations.

A leaked ICRC memorandum last November ac-

cused the US military of using tactics "tantamount to torture" on inmates there, but the Pentagon strongly denied allegations of abuse.

In a brief overnight statement, the Swiss-based humanitarian agency said Kellenberger and Bush had discussed "ICRC concerns regarding US detention" as well as armed conflicts worldwide and ICRC relief operations. It gave no details.

The agency said it welcomed the opportunity to "raise these issues at the highest level and looks forward to strengthening its confidential dialogue with US authorities".

Kellenberger had also raised three "priority contexts" with Bush and Rice — the troubled Darfur region of Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan, according to spokesman Westphal. — MNA/Reuters



Patron of Parent-Teacher Association wellwisher U Hla Myint (Kaythipan) unveils stone inscription bearing Myanmar education goal at BEPS No 1 in Sangyoung Township on 11-2-2005.— (H)

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

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## Earthquake jolts Tokyo, 27 people hurt

**TOKYO, 16 Feb** — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale shook the Tokyo area before dawn Wednesday, jolting many residents out of bed and causing minor injuries to at least 27 people in a fresh reminder of Japan's seismic dangers.

The quake registered at 4:46 am (1946 GMT) with the epicenter in Ibaraki Prefecture about 80 miles northeast of Tokyo with a focus 25 miles underground, the meteorological agency said.

Part of the Japan Railways Joban line to the northeast to Tokyo and a section of a highway in the Joban region were shut down as precautions as inspectors looked to see if they had sustained damage.

At least 27 people were lightly injured when they fell out of bed or were hit by falling objects such as televisions and stereo speakers, according to local authorities quoted by *Jiji* Press new agency.

Police said they had not heard of any life-threatening injuries.

"We have several reports of injuries, but none of them were serious. People had only minor

bruises and cuts," said police official Takayuki Hirano in Chiba, 30 miles east of Tokyo.

"While I was asleep, I suddenly felt a very strong tremor," a middle-aged man was quoted by *Jiji* as saying.

"Because of the quake, things on my television fell off," he said.

The meteorological agency said there was no danger of tsunami waves. The impact was powerful enough to shake buildings in central Tokyo, waking up many residents.

A government study published in December found it likely that the city of 12.5 million would be hit by a major earthquake within the next 30 years that would leave up to 13,000 dead and disrupt the lives of millions.

Japan, which lies at the crossing of four tectonic plates, endures about

20 per cent of the world's powerful earthquakes, frequently jolting Tokyo and other major cities where buildings are made to be tremor resistant.

On October 23, an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale and striking only eight miles underground rocked the central Niigata region, killing 40 people.

It was the deadliest quake in Japan since January 17, 1995, when 6,433 people died after a pre-dawn tremor in the western city of Kobe.

The Kobe quake was the most devastating in modern times to hit a city in the developed world. The 10th anniversary last month was marked in the rebuilt city by a UN conference on how to reduce the risks of disasters such as earthquakes or tsunamis of the type that battered the Indian Ocean in December.

MNA/AFP

## Pakistan, Qatar to form committee to finalize gas pipeline deal

**ISLAMABAD, 16 Feb** — Pakistan and Qatar on Tuesday agreed to form a two-member technical committee to finalize a deal for the proposed 1,610 kilometre multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline.

The announcement was made at a joint Press conference by the visiting Qatar Minister of Energy and Industry Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah and Pakistan Petroleum Minister Amanullah Khan Jadoon after their preliminary talks here.

Al-Attiyah, also the Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar, said the committee comprising Pakistani Petroleum Secretary and Qatari Adviser on Petroleum would discuss in detail all technical aspects of the pipeline project.

He said the committee would meet within a week in Doha and submit its recommendations within minimum possible time. Later, in the light of those recommendations both governments would decide the route of the pipeline.

To a question, the Qatari minister said the project has already been delayed and could not be launched for 14 years and now both the sides have agreed to expedite the project.

Jadoon said every effort would be made to launch and complete the project in shortest possible time. — MNA/PTI

## Ancient city site discovered in central China

**ZHENGZHOU, 16 Feb** — Archaeologists claim that the large-scale city remains they discovered in Dengfeng in central China's Henan Province may be the ruins of Yangcheng, capital of King Yu, founder of the Xia Dynasty (21st Century BC — 16th BC).

The discovery was made during the excavations of ruins at Wang-chenggang site near Dengfeng from 2002 to 2004, which was cooperatively made by archaeologists from the School of Archaeology and Museology of Beijing University and the Henan Provincial Research Institute of Archaeology. Covering 300,000 square metres, the remains include the ruins of acity, a moat and acity wall.

Preliminary age dating found that the city site belongs to the late Longshan period, a late

Neolithic culture which can be dated back to the 21st Century BC.

"Because the period was generally recognized as the Xia Dynasty, the large city ruins have enough reasons to be judged as the site of King Yu's capital, whether from the location recorded in history or from the scale of the city," said Liu Xu, professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology of Beijing University and head of the excavation team. Archaeologists have also unearthed

relics such as sacrificial pits with human bones, human skulls used for sacrifice and buried under the moat and long hollow pieces of jade with rectangular sides and white pottery, which demonstrated the noble status of the owner.

"These discoveries suggest that the city may have been a major settlement for people in central China some 4,000 years ago," said Fang Yanming, a research fellow with the Henan Provincial Research Institute of Archaeology.

MNA/Xinhua



A liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing plant in South Korea recently. South Korea will buy 20 billion dollars of LNG from Yemen, Malaysia and Russia over 20 years from 2008. — INTERNET

## Tsunami early warning system to be established in Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD, 16 Feb** — Pakistan will establish a tsunami early warning system in order to minimize the effects of the natural disaster as was experienced on December 26 last year in the India Ocean.

This was stated by Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry, director general of Pakistan Meteorological Department in a lecture on "the Tsunami" held here on Tuesday, according to the official *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

Chaudhry said the early warning system will ideally form a part of the National Disaster Management Programme, which was prepared by

UN Development Programme to assist the country in establishing and strengthening the national capacity to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

He said the early warning system will enhance the country's ability to record, process and generate important information about seismic activity, which will help in areas including designing of bridges, roads and resi-

dential areas in sensitive locations. Chaudhry said that the warning system will entail the establishment of a network of floating buoys and information centres located in Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad.

He affirmed such a warning system could save thousands of lives and allow time for people to be evacuated safely from the areas threatened by the tsunami. — MNA/Xinhua

## India seeks Italy's support in WTO negotiations

**NEW DELHI, 16 Feb** — India on Tuesday sought Italy's cooperation in sorting out non-tariff barriers during the forthcoming WTO negotiations and assured that the country would continue to reduce its tariff barriers.

"Italy should help in sorting out non-tariff barriers and both the countries should work together on the issue in WTO negotiations," Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said while addressing economic forum on trade ties between India and Italy.

He praised Italy for supporting India in the earlier rounds of WTO negotiations and reminded that though India is an emerging market with tremendous possibilities, there are thousands of villages in the country which do not have telephones.

Italy could help in

convincing the European Union on these issues which could make India's task easier at the WTO. He said while the country has put in place a system which is WTO compliant, yet there were certain issues that needed to be addressed.

MNA/PTI

## WB grants \$75m loan for Sri Lanka's housing project

**COLOMBO, 16 Feb** — The International Development Association, an arm of the World Bank, will provide a loan of 75 million US dollars to fund a housing reconstruction programme in Sri Lanka's northeast, the local website said on Tuesday.

The project will facilitate the reconstruction of over 40,000 houses over a four-year period, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance said in a statement on Tuesday.

The total cost of the project is 77 million US dollars and the

Sri Lankan Government will contribute the remaining amount, but the statement did not specify the terms and conditions of the loan.

Most buildings, houses and infrastructure in the northeast have been destroyed or damaged by a two-dec-

ade war which was confined to those areas.

The December tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka and other countries in the region also damaged property, mostly along the country's eastern and southern coastlines.

MNA/Xinhua

**The Union of Myanmar**  
**Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation Limited**  
**Sealed Tender No. (04/2004-2005)**

F.P.J.V.C Ltd Sealed Tender Sale will be held as follows.

Commodity	Quantity	Location
(a) Teak Logs & Conversions	2151	- South Dagon Depot, - Hponedawtoe Depot
(b) Hardwood Logs & Squares	7174	- South Dagon Depot, - Hponedawtoe Depot
Total	9325	

Closing Date (24.2.2005) Thursday (12:00) Noon.

Please Contact F.P.J.V.C Ltd, No. 422-426, Corner of Botataung Pagoda Road and Strand Road for further details. Tel: 202060, 202101 (ext)-127

**Tender Committee**

## EC says Britain's emissions trading plan unacceptable

BRUSSELS, 15 Feb — Britain's decision to water down its emissions trading plan to let industry pollute more is unacceptable, the European Commission wrote to the British government in a letter obtained by Reuters on Friday.

Britain altered its plan, which had already been approved by the European Union Executive, in October after complaints from companies that it was too tough.

Britain has threatened to take the Commission to court if it refuses to accept the revisions, which raised the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) that industry can emit by nearly 3 per cent above the original plan.

The Commission has said it has to approve Britain's proposed changes. The two sides have not yet come to an agreement.

Britain's original plan was approved in July with instructions for technical alterations, which the Commission said Britain had agreed to make.

The country's subsequent changes were incompatible with that decision, Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas wrote in the letter to British Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett.

"Amendments such as an increase of the total allocation by 19.8 million tons do not aim at addressing the incompatibilities identified in the decision and are therefore not acceptable," Dimas wrote.

Britain has said it plans to publish its delayed allocation plan on Monday.

The European Commission declined to comment.

The emissions trading

scheme, which started in January, is a key part of the EU's efforts to meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, a global environmental treaty, which enters into force next week.

Companies have to meet targets to cut CO2, a major greenhouse gas that many scientists blame for global warming, or buy allowances to emit on a traded market.

Each of the bloc's 25 member states was required to submit a national allocation plan detailing how much CO2 their companies would be allocated to emit in the trading period 2005-2007.

The letter to Britain said Commission officials had already made clear in meetings with British officials that "increasing the total amount of national allocations would raise major problems," Dimas wrote. — MNA/Reuters

## UN opens negotiations on laws of human cloning

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Feb — UN diplomats, deadlocked for years over the drafting of a treaty to ban the cloning of human beings worldwide, open negotiations on Monday on an alternative that would instead urge each government to adopt its own laws on human cloning.

At the heart of the debate are stem cell studies and other research that rely on so-called therapeutic cloning, in which human embryos are cloned to obtain the cells used in the studies and are later discarded.

Many governments, particularly those with large Catholic populations, have argued they view this type of research, for whatever purpose, as the taking of human life.

The UN project dates back to 2001, when France and Germany proposed a worldwide ban on human cloning by way of a binding global treaty.

That attempt failed after the George W. Bush Administration fought to

broaden the ban to all cloning of human embryos, a step many scientists and governments argued would block some promising avenues of medical research.

MNA/Reuters

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (547)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (547) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.05 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

## French singers perform free concert in support for kidnapped reporter

PARIS, 15 Febr — Around 30 singers put on a free concert in Paris on Monday in a show of support for a French female journalist and her Iraqi translator, missing in Iraq and believed to have been kidnapped.

Florence Aubenas of France's *Liberation* daily newspaper has not been seen since leaving a Baghdad hotel on January 5 in the company of her translator, Hussein Hanoun Al Saidi. Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar said last month she had been kidnapped.

*Liberation*, which organized the concert with Paris-based media rights

watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF), said the event was also in support of Italian journalist Guiliana Sgrena, who was kidnapped in Baghdad on February 4.

Star singer Charles Aznavour, who topped the concert's billing, said he hoped Aubenas could be freed.

"We must talk about this, and bit by bit we'll make those people holding her feel ashamed and perhaps we'll give them some humanity to give us back what they have taken," said Aznavour.

MNA/Reuters

## Oil prices rise as OPEC may cut supply

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — Oil prices rose on Monday as the OPEC cartel said it might cut supply as the Northern Hemisphere winter draws to a close.

US crude oil settled 28 cents higher at 47.44 US dollars a barrel, within a 45 US dollars-50 US dollars range held over the past five weeks. London Brent crude settled 25 cents higher at 45.53 US dollars a barrel.

Prices have bounced

from a one-month low last week after the International Energy Agency (IEA) adjusted its forecasts for this year, raising its expectation for demand growth and lowering its forecasts for new supply.

The IEA showed heightened need for oil from the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries, but the cartel remains more focused on a feared slowdown in second-quarter demand.

Last Friday, OPEC's acting Secretary-General Adnan Shihab-Eldin told Reuters the group might need to cut supply for the second quarter even if consumption stayed robust, and would need a faster, bigger cut if demand were to fall sharply.

The chances of OPEC trimming production

before the cartel's March 16 meeting in Iran have been diminished, but not eliminated, by stronger-than-expected demand, he said.

Oil traded lower in the morning but rose through the day as independent traders took long positions.

"It couldn't get any traction at the lower levels, so it's getting support from the possibility that OPEC might cut in the second quarter," said Marshall Steeves, analyst at Refco in New York.

OPEC agreed in January to keep output steady for the time being, but warned that it could agree snap cuts by telephone if prices fell sharply or stockpiles rose, serving notice to traders not to count on a sustained price fall.

Some cartel members have staked out 40 US dollars a barrel for US crude as a level they are prepared to defend.

MNA/Reuters

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 Yangon. 17 February 2005



*A stilt fisherman  
in south of Colombo  
on 14 Feb, 2005.*

INTERNET

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COX-2 inhibitors raise blood pressure more than older pain relievers

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — Arthritis drugs known as COX-2 inhibitors raise blood pressure more than older pain relievers, which may explain why the newer medicines have been linked to heart attacks, Australian researchers reported on Monday.

The increases were small and varied among the different COX-2 drugs. The risk seemed highest with Merck & Co. Inc.'s Vioxx, the researchers said after reviewing data from more than 45,000 people in 19 studies. Merck pulled Vioxx from the market last September. The study was published online on Monday by the Archives of Internal Medicine.

The safety of pain relievers is under scrutiny from regulators. A US advisory committee will

review the medicines at a three-day meeting starting on Wednesday.

The Archives of Internal Medicine said it released the findings early because they were relevant to the meeting.

One of the authors of the new study, Henry Krum, said the blood pressure increases seen with the COX-2 drugs were small, but they may be enough to help spur heart attacks. "One could draw the conclusion the elevations in blood pressure are contributing to the in-

crease in cardiovascular risk," said Krum, director of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia's Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Therapeutics.

Some COX-2 inhibitors, as well as older pain relievers called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDs, had already been linked to higher blood pressure.

The new study was designed to determine if the widely used COX-2 drugs raised blood pressure more than NSAIDs

such as Ibuprofen and Naproxen. The COX-2 drugs studied were Merck's Vioxx and Arcoxia and Pfizer Inc.'s Celebrex.

On average, systolic blood pressure — the upper number of a blood pressure measurement — was 2.83 millimetres of mercury higher with COX-2 inhibitors than with NSAIDs. Diastolic pressure — the lower number — was 1.34 millimetres of mercury higher with the COX-2 drugs.

MNA/Reuters



Vietnam's second stock exchange will open in Hanoi next month offering shares of state-owned companies undergoing painful restructuring to private investors. Here Ho Chi Minh's exchange on 16 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Internet banking wins favour over cheques in Australia

CANDERRA, 15 Feb — Internet banking transactions outstripped the use of cheques in Australia for the first time in the year to September 2004, The Australian daily reported on Monday.

Bank customers made 668 million net transactions in the period, compared with 543 million personal cheque transactions, according to Market Intelligence Strategy Centre (MISC) figures quoted in the report.

But there had only been 82 million net banking transactions two years earlier.

A MISC spokesman, which pools data from banks representing 90 per cent of the industry, was quoted as saying that while not all net banking transactions were a substitute for cheque payments, most were.

MNA/Xinhua

S Africa plans to label health warning on alcohol products

JOHANNESBURG, 15 Feb — Health authorities in South Africa plan to have all alcohol products labelled with health warnings in a bid to make the public more informed about potential risks of alcohol consumption.

The Health Department on Monday asked the liquor industry and the public to comment on draft regulations on labelling alcoholic beverages, which was published last week.

The regulations define an alcoholic beverage as any drink for human consumption with an ethyl alcohol content of above 1 per cent. The regulations propose a number of messages that should be

printed in black and white covering at least 12.5 per cent of the container label or promotional material of an alcohol product.

The proposed health messages include: Excessive consumption of alcohol can cause brain damage and death; Alcohol abuse is a major cause of domestic violence; Alcohol abuse can cause liver damage and brain disease; Drinking alcohol during

pregnancy can damage your baby; and Alcohol consumption can cause violent and aggressive behaviour.

The regulations also prohibit any claims of health benefits that may be derived from consumption of an alcoholic beverage. Contravention of the regulations can lead to a fine, imprisonment of up to five years, or both, said the health department.

Although there are no immediate statistics on alcohol-related health damages in South Africa, the country's wine-growing Western Cape Province was reportedly having the

highest prevalence of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) worldwide, according to the official web site of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

FAS is caused by maternal alcohol use during pregnancy and is one of the leading causes of preventable birth defects and developmental disabilities, the CDC said. Many of an estimated 15, 000 deaths on South Africa's roads in 2004, or an average toll of 42 fatalities a day, were believed to be caused by drunk driving, particularly during festive seasons.—MNA/Xinhua

US scientists transform HIV virus to anti-cancer missile

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb — US scientists reported Sunday that they hunt down metastasized melanoma cells in living mice by camouflaging an impotent AIDS virus in new clothes.

In the February 13 online edition of Nature Medicine, researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the protein that makes fireflies glow to the virus in order to track its journey from the bloodstream to new tumours in the animals' lungs.

The UCLA team employed a two-step approach to transform HIV into a cancer-seeking machine. First, the scientists used a version of HIV from which the viral pieces that cause AIDS had been removed. This allowed the virus to infect cells and spread throughout the

body without provoking disease.

"The disarmed AIDS virus acts like a Trojan horse, transporting therapeutic agents to a targeted part of the body, such as the lungs, where tumours often spread," said Irvin SY Chen, director of the UCLA AIDS Institute

who led the study.

Second, the scientists stripped off HIV's viral coat and redressed it in the outer suit of the Sindbis virus, which normally infects insects and birds. By altering the Sindbis coat, they reprogrammed the AIDS virus, which ordinarily infects T-cells, to hunt down and attach to P-glycoproteins — molecules located on the surface of many cancer cells. The UCLA team is the first to prove that modified HIV will target and bind with P-glycoproteins.

"P-glycoproteins cause big problems by making the cell resistant to chemotherapy," said Chen. "They act like soccer goalies and punt therapeutic drugs out of the cancer cell. This prevents the drug from taking effect and allows the tumour to continue growing unchecked."—MNA/Xinhua

SADC countries discuss women roles in theatrical arts

BAGAMOYO (Tanzania), 15 Feb — Women representing 12 Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries gathered here on Monday to discuss their roles as well as their plights in theatrical arts in their respective countries.

The representatives, mostly women, also discussed how to better use the limited funds in purchasing costumes, preparing drama productions, arranging rehearsals, and publicizing women's roles in theatrical arts.

The more than 40 representatives have come from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and hosts Tanzania. Their discussion

served as a follow-up to a field survey carried out in 10 of the SADC member countries to find out the status quo of women who are active in theatrical arts and activities.

Amandina Lihamba, coordinator of the Women in Theatre in Southern Africa Society, told the Press prior to the discussion that the participants in the discussion would look critically at the historical role and participation of women in theatrical arts.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors check out new mobile phones in Cannes during the GSM World Congress on 15 Feb, 2005. The number of 3G users globally is now approaching the 20 million mark.—INTERNET



Argentinian former soccer star Diego Armando Maradona waves from the window of a hotel in Cartagena, Colombia, on, 11 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

## Doctor denies Maradona has undergone liposuction surgery

**BOGOTA, 16 Feb—** One of Diego Maradona's doctors has denied reports that the former Argentina captain has undergone liposuction surgery to make him thinner.

Maradona, whose weight has ballooned in the last two years, has been in the historic Caribbean city of Cartagena since last Wednesday but doctors say he is not there for any type of surgery.

"It has not been considered," Francisco Holguin, director of the Medigel Clinic, told *Reuters* by telephone.

"He's here in Cartagena on holiday, for a rest. He's been here a couple of times to check his arterial pressure. The possibility of an operation has not been considered."

Maradona, who is barely recognisable from his playing days, is staying in an apartment in one of the city's plush neighborhoods.

He was briefly seen in public on Friday when he waved from the balcony.

Maradona spent more than a week in the intensive care unit of a Buenos Aires hospital last April with heart and breathing problems. He was then confined to a psychiatric clinic by his family.

In September, Maradona returned to

Cuba, where he has lived since 2000, to undergo more treatment for drug addiction but under a stricter regime than before.

At Christmas, Maradona defied his doctor's advice and returned to Argentina for one month.

He went to Greece on a business trip last month.

MNA/Reuters

## DFB suspends second referee in match-fixing scandal

**FRANKFURT, 16 Feb—** Germany's Football Association (DFB) suspended a second referee for suspected involvement in match-fixing on Tuesday, while Franz Beckenbauer warned that the ongoing scandal was hurting preparations for the 2006 World Cup. Beckenbauer, the man in charge of ensuring a successful World Cup next year, said the corruption case, coming hot on the heels of other domestic disputes, was preventing his team from concentrating on the showpiece tournament.

"Since June the work has been at a standstill while we've had to put out one fire after another," Beckenbauer, the president of the World Cup organizing committee, said at the Berlin Film Festival.

The DFB decided to suspend referee Dominik Marks on Tuesday, 12 days after first revealing that he had been implicated by Robert Hoyzer, the 25-year-old referee at the centre of the case.

Marks is now also suspected of having helped Hoyzer in his attempt to recruit another referee, Torsten Koop.

The DFB said that statements made by Hoyzer to Berlin prosecutors, as well as a declaration to the DFB by Koop, had put Marks under "urgent suspicion".

The DFB's sports court also decided on Tuesday that the second division match between LR Ahlen and Wacker Burghausen on October 22, 2004 would have to be replayed. Ahlen won the match 1-0 after Hoyzer rigged the result.

It is the first match ordered to be replayed since the DFB started looking into the case. No date for the replay has been set.—MNA/Reuters

## Ronaldinho's team beat Shevchenko's XI 6-3

**BARCELONA, 16 Feb—** World Player of the Year Ronaldinho turned on the style as his side beat Andriy Shevchenko's XI 6-3 on Tuesday in a tsunami relief benefit match expected to raise 8 million euros (10.38 million US dollars).

The ever-smiling Brazilian gave a virtuoso display of his dazzling skills in front of a 40,000-crowd at the Nou Camp, while team mate Samuel Eto'o celebrated his exuberant African Player of the Year award with an exuberant first-half double.

The two Barcelona players led a glittering array of some of the biggest names in the game who had come together to raise funds for the victims of the tsunami that hit the coasts of Southern Asia last December.

Among the luminaries on parade were the world's most expensive player Zinedine Zidane and the sport's highest earner David Beckham.

Evergreen AC Milan defender Paolo Maldini, Brazilian forward Kaka, Arsenal striker Thierry Henry and Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata were amongst the other big names who took to the field for a match broadcast in 150 countries across the world.

However, Chelsea players Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba decided against making an early visit to the Nou Camp with a little more than a week to go before their club's Champions League clash with Barcelona.

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo was another high-profile absentee after throwing a lavish Valentine's Day party for his fiancée Daniella Cicarelli at a secluded castle near Paris.

Players from the two sides linked hands in the centre circle for a minute's silence in memory of the 240,000 people who died in the disaster that struck on December 26 last year.

Cameroon striker Eto'o, opting to play in the match instead of collecting his African Player of the Year award in Durban, opened the scoring for Ronaldinho's side with a sharp turn and shot from the edge of the area in the 13th minute.

Ronaldinho weighed in with a cheeky second before Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero hit back for Shevchenko's side, only for Eto'o to swagger his way past Real Madrid keeper Iker Casillas for his second on the stroke of halftime.

Shevchenko's side, coached by Arsene Wenger and Italy boss Marcello Lippi, upped the pace after the break with 38-year-old Gianfranco Zola scoring his side's second with a delightful chip.

However, Southampton striker Henri Camara restored the World team's lead with two sharply taken goals midway through the second half before providing a neat assist for South Korean forward Cha Du-ri to clinch victory.

MNA/Reuters



Ukrainian captain Andriy Shevchenko of the Andriy Shevchenko team looks on during the 'football for hope' charity soccer match against the Ronaldinho team in Barcelona, Spain, on Tuesday, 15 Feb, 2005. The soccer match, between two all-star teams, one led by World Player of the Year Brazilian Ronaldinho and the other by European Footballer of the Year Ukraine Andriy Shevchenko, is to raise money for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami. The Ronaldinho team won the match with 6-3.—INTERNET

## Eto'o named African Footballer of the Year

**DURBAN (South Africa), 16 Feb—** Cameroon and Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o was named African Footballer of the Year on Tuesday for the second successive year.

The 23-year-old earned 116 votes to finish ahead of Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba (90) and Nigeria captain Jay-Jay Okocha (63) in the annual Confederation of African Football (CAF) poll.

Eto'o, who was not in Durban to collect his award because he is in Barcelona to play in FIFA's tsunami benefit match on Tuesday, spoke briefly by video link.



Barcelona's Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o, seen here in January 2005, was named African Footballer of the Year for the second consecutive year.—INTERNET

"It is a very proud moment for me and for my country," he said.

Eto'o was lauded for his performance in Spain's Primera Liga, where he is the top goal scorer this season with 17 goals to help Barcelona to the top of the standings.

He is only the fourth player in 34 years to win the award in consecutive years, following in the footsteps of Abedi Pele of Ghana, George Weah of Liberia and Senegal striker El-Hadji Diouf.

The Footballer of the Year was decided for the first time by a poll of each CAF member association.

Nigeria failed to vote, however, prejudicing the chances of Okocha, the captain of their national side.

The 31-year-old Okocha, who plays for English Premier League team Bolton Wanderers, made the short-list on the strength of his performances at the African Nations Cup in Tunisia where he was named player of the tournament.

Drogba, who helped Olympique Marseille reach last season's UEFA Cup final before joining England's Chelsea, was named the best player in France's Ligue 1.—MNA/Reuters

## Singapore launches Disease Awareness Campaign guidelines

SINGAPORE, 16 Feb — A set of Disease Awareness Campaign (DAC) guidelines has been launched in Singapore to regulate pharmaceutical companies' disease awareness advertising activities.

According to a statement by the Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (SAPI) on Tuesday, the guidelines will help companies, who wish to carry out public educational campaigns and to avoid inadvertent infringements of medical advertising regulations. Developed by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA), the guidelines

stipulate that campaigns must focus strictly on raising disease awareness and companies must present comprehensive, accurate and fair information to the public.

Applying under SAPI's self-regulation framework, the guidelines prohibit product branding by pharmaceutical companies in such campaigns.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesian Navy to use harsh measures against fish poachers

JAKARTA, 16 Feb — The Indonesian Navy was urged on Monday to put an end to illegal fishing by sinking boats caught poaching in Indonesian waters.

"The shoot-on-sight policy against illegal fishing boats should be continued because the legal process tends to favour the poachers," a member of the House of Representatives, Amris Hasan, told Navy chief Admiral Bernard Kent Sondakh during a meeting here.

"Such a policy is

much more effective in deterring fish poachers," he was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

Indonesia loses some four billion US dollars annually from illegal fishing, and the government is attempting to reduce this figure to one billion dollars.

The country has an annual capacity of about 7.8 million tons of caught fish and 48 million tons of farmed fish, and is the world's fifth largest fishery producer after China, India, Spain and Peru. — MNA/Xinhua

## NZ stands by to help Pacific countries as cyclones loom

WELLINGTON, 16 Feb — New Zealand is preparing to assist Pacific countries that may be affected by two cyclones that are approaching landfall, Foreign Minister Phil Goff said on Tuesday.

Cyclone Olaf is currently located southeast of Samoa and is likely to hit the northeastern coast off Apia around midnight Tuesday night. It is expected to gather strength to near Level Five, or near "Super Cyclone" status, with winds potentially exceeding 200 knots.

Cyclone Nancy is northeast of Palmerston Atoll and heading south toward the Cook Islands. It is due to hit Aitutaki in the next 24 to 36 hours with winds of up to 65 knots. — MNA/Xinhua

## Australia, Brunei sign counter-terrorism MoU

CANBERRA, 15 Feb — Australia and Brunei on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on counter-terrorism, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer announced.

This is the 10th counter-terrorism MoUs Australia signed with countries in the region.

The countries that have already signed counter-terrorism MoUs with Australia are Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Fiji, Cambodia, East Timor, India and Papua New Guinea.

Downer said the threat of terrorism can not be fought by countries acting alone, as a result, strong and effective cooperation across the region is essential.

Under the newly-

signed memorandum, officials from Australia and Brunei will cooperate on security, finance, law enforcement and defence issues as well as customs, immigration, and transport concerns.

"Our respective agencies will build on their existing operational-level links to counter the financing of terrorism, combat identity fraud and tighten border controls," Downer said in a statement.

"Exchanges of information and intelligence, joint training activities and capability-building initia-

tives will enhance the security of both countries," he said.

This arrangement will help protect Australians and Australia's interests at home and abroad, said the minister.

The memorandum was signed by Downer and Brunei's Minister for Industry and Primary Resources Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib during a visit by Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, who arrived in Canberra Tuesday for a five-day visit.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

THURSDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

**Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: Ain't done loving you
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: No one else comes close
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: -Swear it again
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -Best friend
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Girls and boys
- All that she wants
- This time it's forever
- Baby come back
- 9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- 9.10 pm Article
- 9.20 pm Pourri
- China from Marco Polo travelogue becomes prosperous again
- Alcoholic drinks are as bad as tobacco and high blood pressure
- 9.30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lover (Yi Lwin Cho)
- If we hold on together
- I'm not a girl but not a woman
- Love of a lifetime
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

## WEATHER

Wednesday, 16 February, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, 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 (0.70) inch. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (7°C) above normal in Kachin State, (3°C) below normal in Kayin State and Yangon Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Mogok (4°C) and Lashio (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 15-2-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 16-2-2005 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-2-2005 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 15-2-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-2-2005 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 Southwest at (14:20) hours MST on 15-2-2005.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 17-2-2005:** Likelihood of scattered rain in Kachin and Shan States, isolated in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-2-2005:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-2-2005:** Partly cloudy.

Thursday, 17 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. Dance of national races
- 8:10 am 6. Dance variety
- 8:20 am 7. ထပ်ဆင့်အောင်မြင် ရော့တီတံတား (ဒေးဒရို)
- 8:30 am 8. International news

- 8:45 am 9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. Musical programme
- 4:45 pm 4. အထူးသတိပြုရန် ပညာရေးရရှိပြီး သိကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (ရတနာအထူးပြု) (ရတနာ)
- 5:00 pm 5. Cute little dancers
- 5:15 pm 6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm 7. မြန်မာ့အား ဖြန့်ဖြူးရေး
- 5:45 pm 8. "အလေးတော့ကိုမိပြီပါ" ဇွန်နိုင်း၊ ရတနာအိုင်
- 6:00 pm 9. Musical programme
- 6:10 pm 10. နိုင်ငံအခန်းသစ်တော့စွမ်းဖြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်
- 6:20 pm 11. ရှေ့ဆက်သွားမည့် မူဝါဒလမ်းစဉ် (၇) ရပ်တိုမဆန့်ကျင်သင့်
- 6:30 pm 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းစဉ် "မျှော်လင့်ချက်" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 7:35 pm 15. တိုင်းရင်းသားနိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက လှပစေတာ
- 7:45 pm 16. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံရည်ပြုစေား
- 8:00 pm 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. Myanmar video feature: "ရုပ်ရည် ရုပ်တိုတို" လွင်းမိုးသုခမောင်ထက်ထက်မိုးဦး၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြီးမြင့်
- 21. The next day's programme

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction of Toungoo-Yedashe Road

YANGON, 16 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and departmental officials arrived at Htonbogyi Village in Toungoo Township yesterday.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected irrigation of Kayingyoung diversion weir.

It is a gravel-filled diversion weir, 7 feet high and 250 feet wide, and the



*Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets with officers and other ranks of local battalion in Yeni.— MNA*



catchment area is 34 sq-miles. It will supply water to 1,200 acres of summer paddy.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party oversaw extension of road and gave instructions to officials.

They went to Najat diversion weir. Deputy Head of Yedashe Township Irrigation Department U Tun

Kyaw reported on data of the weir and measures for cultivation of summer paddy. Lt-Gen Khin

Maung Than gave instructions on construction of the dam.

*(See page 9)*

## Commander visits Mingaladon, Hlegu

YANGON, 16 Feb — Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, this afternoon, inspected agricultural and regional development in Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships.

At the 80-acre of farmland being undertaken by

Yangon Command at the junction of Yangon-Bago Six-lane Highway and No 3 Highway, the commander oversaw irrigation facilities of the river water pumping station for cultivation of summer paddy and thriving of paddy and vegetables in vacant land. Yangon Division Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung

Hsan and officials reported on completion of summer paddy cultivation and irrigation facilities.

Chairman of Yangon Division Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Thein Hsint and officials submitted reports on growing of summer paddy, broadcasting of fertilizers and pesticide, digging of canals and functions of the river water pumping project.

The commander gave instructions on cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy, cold season and edible oil crops in Barlar region which is situated in the greening 30-mile radius area of Yangon International Airport all the year round and use of various means and ways to supply water to summer paddy plantations for boosting per-acre yield.

Afterwards, the commander and party proceeded to the construction site of Barlar Bridge-2 on the circular road linking No 1, No 2 and No 3 Highways. He inspected progress of construction tasks at the bridge which will be 65 feet long and 36 feet wide and construction of the circular road. Superintending Engineer U Nyunt Maung San and officials briefed them on construction works.

*(See page 9)*



*Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects summer paddy special zone near Malit Village of Hlegu Township.— YANGON COMMAND*

## Progress of building Pyapon Bridge inspected

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing together with Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, attended the ceremony to install the iron frame at Pyapon Bridge Construction Project on Pyapon Bank yesterday morning.

At 7.20 am, the minister and the commander installed the iron frame at the bridge on Pyapon bank and sprinkled scented water on it. At that time, members of the Sangha in the boat recited religious verses.

In the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Hse reported them on progress of construction works and future tasks. The minister and the commander gave instructions for timely completion of the tasks and fulfilled the requirements of the tasks.

Construction of bored pile and upper structure of the main bridge have been completed. Now, installation of iron frames started at the 1,365 feet long main bridge. The bridge will be 3,932.7 feet long including the approach road on Dedaye bank measuring 1,230 feet and the approach road in Pyapon bank measuring 1,330 feet. Construction tasks of the bridge have been

completed by 30 per cent.

Next, they left the bridge project site along Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Road. At Takway-Kazan section of Yangon-Pathein Road, they oversaw construction of the road. Deputy Superintending Engineer

U Ye Tun briefed them on maintenance of the road. The minister instructed officials to close supervise construction tasks.

The minister and party arrived back here in the evening.— MNA



*Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun oversee installation of iron frame at Pyapon Bridge.— CONSTRUCTION*