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Tuesday, 22 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

National Convention continues with 1071 delegates, accounting for 99.07 per cent Matters on management, judicial, legislative sectors submitted

YANGON., 21 Feb — The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning. Members of the panel of alternate chairmen made clarification on the delegates' proposals to lay down detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative power to be included in the framing of

Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, delegates of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National De-

Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 armed groups who exchanged arms for peace, and representatives of other organizations.

(See page 8)



Panel of chairmen at the plenary session. — MNA

the State Constitution.

It was attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, Chairman of the NCC

velopment Party, and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon,

INSIDE

In fact, their denial and accusations are like a saying "Where the lightning strikes, one protects oneself with a palmfrond." These are usual excuses of expatriate Sein Win and destructive elements outside the country.

(Page 11)

MYINT MYAT SOE



NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the Work Committee Chairman, the Management Committee Chairman, members of the Commission and the committees and delegates attend the plenary session of the National Convention. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 22 February, 2005

Work in concert for emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy

The State Peace and Development Council is translating the seven-point policy programme for the future of the State into reality for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. In our efforts to build a democracy, it is important to keep every stage of the programme in the right path and this calls for cooperation of the entire national people and the government employees.

The government employees are required to relentlessly execute not only their main responsibilities but also national duties demanded by the absolute necessity of the State. They are also to cultivate themselves in such a way as to abide by the law of the State, to follow the rules and regulations of their respective departments and to be morally upright. Moreover, the national people, especially the government employees, will have to behave like good citizens and constantly possess patriotic spirit, national spirit and Union Spirit. Not only that, they will have to believe in Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — as our national policy because they were born out of the historical needs of our Union and people.

With the above-mentioned beliefs and convictions, the entire national people will have to lend themselves in all the national endeavours for the sake of the government's correct policy and national interests. At the same time, they will have to vigilantly ward off any acts of destructive elements who are trying to harm public interests. Moreover, they will have to conscientiously carry out such national duties as rural, regional and national development tasks.

We would like to call on all the citizens of the Union and the government employees to actively and conscientiously carry out their assigned duties for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy.

Eye surgical team tours Rakhine State

YANGON, 21 Feb — Organized by the Ministry of Health and Rakhine State Peace and Development Council, an Eye Surgical Team headed by Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist Professor Dr Kan Nyunt from Yangon Eye Hospital and Eye Surgeons Dr Aye Aye Khine, Dr Wah Wah Khin, Dr Hla Kay Thi, Dr Kay Thi Myint, Dr Nyo Nyo Min and Staff Nurses Daw Myint Myint Htoo and Daw Saw Ohmar Tin went on field trip to Mrauk-U Township, Rakhine State from 14th to 18th February 2005.

While residing at Mrauk-U Township hospital, they looked after 792 out-patients and operated 150 cataract patients free of charge.

During their operation, Mrauk-U Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Khin Than, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Health Officer Dr Sein Hlaing rendered assistance to the eye surgical team.

MNA

People's Desire

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

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Championship Shield Table Tennis Tournament opens

YANGON, 21 Feb — A ceremony to open the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Championship Shield Table Tennis Tournament was held at Thiha Thura Tun Tin Hall of Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters this morning, with an address by on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander of Taninthayi Naval Regional Command Headquarters Capt Win Shein.

Also present on the occasion were military officers, other ranks and their families of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Office, Yangon Station and Thanlyin Station and participants and fans.

The tournament included 12 men's teams and 12 women's which continues up to 25 February.

MNA

Rural development tasks inspected in Mandalay Div

YANGON, 21 Feb — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thien Nyunt attended the opening ceremony of potable drinking water supply in Meiktila Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division on 19 February.

Present on the occasion were township level heads of departments, members of township Union Solidarity and Development Association, War Veterans Organizations, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women's Affairs Organization and Social Organizations and local



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister Col Thien Nyunt attend the opening ceremony of potable drinking water supply in Meiktila Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division on 19 February. — PBANRDA

people numbering over 1,000.

First, the commander and the minister formally unveiled the signboard of the potable drinking water.

Next, the commander delivered an address on the occasion. He said the Development Affairs Commit-

tees and social organizations have been engaged in the drive for ensuring supply of potable water in the division under the supervision of various levels of Peace and Development Council. Afterwards, the minister said potable water supply has already been performed in 379 vil-

lages in Meiktila Township according to ten-year-plan.

After that, Senior Engineer U Hsan Win of Meiktila Township DAC reported on measures taken for potable drinking water and a townselder U Tun Win expressed gratitude.

MNA

Public Relations Work Efficiency Course (Officers) No 1/2005 opens



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein addresses the opening of the course conducted by IPRD.— MNA

YANGON, 21 Feb — Public Relations Work Efficiency Course (Officers) No 1/2005 of Information and Public Relations Department was opened at the training hall of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Pansodan Street this afternoon.

Present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, officials, course instructors and trainees.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein

said the course was conducted with the aims of promotion of work efficiency of the staff, uplift their mental quality, thought and skill and effective implementation of the objectives of the Ministry of Information and IPRD.

He urged the trainees

who are engaged in information and public relations functions to inform the people of true information.

The one-month course is being attended by 49 heads of State, Division and District IPRDs.

MNA

Building harmonious society important task for CPC

BEIJING, 20 Feb — Chinese President Hu Jintao instructed the country's leading officials and Party cadres to place "building a harmonious society" top on their work agenda, when addressing a high-level Party seminar Saturday held in Beijing.

"The CPC and the central government have made it an important task to build a harmonious society, which served the fundamental interests of the people," said Hu, who is also General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). He made the remarks at the opening ceremony of a 7-day training course, which was offered by the Party School of the CPC Central Committee and attended by major provincial- and ministerial-

level leaders.

Hu said those senior officials should meet the goal by adopting a step-by-step approach but he stressed the importance of establishing a fine-tuned management system and the capacity of dealing with serious problems.

Hu said currently it was important to balance the interests between different social groups, to avoid conflicts and to make sure people live a safe and happy life in a politically stable country.

A harmonious society will feature democracy, the rule of law, equity, justice, sincerity, amity and vitality, he said.

Such a society will give full scope to people's talent and creativity, enable all the people to share the social wealth brought by reform and development, and forge an ever closer relationship between the people and government. These things will result in lasting stability and unity, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Yahoo Japan Corp, Japan's largest Internet portal operator, plans to begin offering a music download service through an alliance with a local music distribution firm, Label Gate in Tokyo, Japan. —INTERNET

Japan eyes improvement in vending machines to tackle fake coin cases

TOKYO, 20 Feb— Japan's vending machine makers are urged to improve the capability of sensors in their products to tackle an increasing number of fake 500-yen coin discoveries in Japan.

The Finance Ministry and National Police Agency on Friday agreed in a meeting that the government should file such a request with the Japan Vending Machine Manufacturers Association.

It was reported at the meeting that some counterfeit 500-yen coins were accepted at automated teller machines and vending machines during testing using several dozen fake coins, the ministry said.

The number of fake 500-yen coins found in recent cases in Tokyo, Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Nagasaki and Saga prefectures across Japan could total 20,000, according to the ministry. —MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia might allow more businesses to hire foreign workers

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb— Malaysia said on Saturday it might allow more business sectors to hire foreign workers to help ease a labour shortage and boost the country's trade-dependent economy.

Currently, foreign labour is restricted to sectors such as palm oil plantations, construction, restaurants and domestic help.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said the government would consider allowing foreigners to work on farms and in small- and medium-scale industries.

"Even the hair dressers use foreign workers," the official *Bernama* news agency quoted him as saying. He said some firms might be forced to close if they could not get foreign workers.

But Najib said the foreigners must have valid papers.

"Hiring them legally will also benefit companies that are trying to raise output and exports," he said.

Malaysia is driving thousands of illegal workers out of the country and will then allow them return

legally to plug the shortage.

Malaysia estimates about 400,000 illegal immigrants have left the country since it threatened late last year to round them up, prosecute and deport them unless they made their own exit. Now it plans to recycle them back into the country as legal workers.

Malaysia suffers a chronic shortage of labour and relies heavily on workers from neighbour Indonesia, just a ferry-boat ride away, to take up unskilled or semi-skilled work at construction sites, plantations and restaurants.

Estimates of Malaysia's total illegal labour force ranged up to about a million ahead of the amnesty, but the government is concerned these workers do not pay tax and instead place a large burden on the state, which runs a large budget deficit. —MNA/Reuters

MAS expects slight lower revenue for current financial year

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb— Malaysia Airlines (MAS) expects the sales revenue for the current financial year ending March 2005 to reach 9 billion ringgit (2.36 billion US dollars), slightly lower than previous year, a senior manager has said.

Of this, domestic sales would account for 3.5 billion ringgit (921.05 million US dollars), MAS general manager for sales Nick Phang Pow Ing told reporters after the official opening of the Malaysia Airlines Travel Fair 2005 here Saturday. MAS, the national carrier flies to some 150 destinations all over the world. Its Asian routes currently make up about 50 per cent of its revenue.

MNA/Xinhua

1,478 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Feb— AS of Saturday, 19 Feb, 2005, at least 1,478 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,116 died as a result of hostile action, according

to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 16 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths;

Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each. — Internet

Hutchison Telecom expands into Vietnam market

HONG KONG, 20 Feb— Hutchison Telecommunications International Limited (Hutchison Telecom) announced Friday that its wholly owned subsidiary has been permitted by the Vietnamese Government to build, operate and develop a mobile telecommunications network with Hanoi Telecommunication Joint Stock Company.

Hutchison Telecom, a Hong Kong-headquartered international provider of mobiles and fixed-line telecommunications service, said its wholly owned subsidiary — Hutchison Telecommunications (Vietnam), had received the investment license from Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment to engage in business operation under a Business Cooperation Contract (BBC) with the Vietnamese company.

Under the BBC, the business cooperation will develop a CDMA2000 network to provide mobile telecommunications services in Vietnam. The license has been granted for the duration of 15 years.

Commenting on the company's expansion into the Vietnam market, Dennis Lui, chief executive officer of Hutchison Telecom's operations, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded the license and are excited at the prospect of expanding Hutchison Telecom's operations into Vietnam."

MNA/Xinhua



Beijing shoppers seen on 21 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET



Indian musician Anoushka Shankar, the daughter of Indian maestro Ravi Shankar, performs with a sitar, during a concert in New Delhi.

INTERNET

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Philippine describes travel warning as exaggerating

MANILA, 21 Feb— The Philippine Government on Sunday described the travel warning against the Philippines given by the US State Department as exaggerating and said the number of tourists coming to the country continues to rise.

Calling the latest travel advisory of the United States an "overkill", Press Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye said the travel advisories have become "well-worn warnings that are often ignored by citizens of the issuing government".

Bunye said that despite the US State Department advisory, relatives of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone spent last Christmas in the Philippines.

The US ambassador has been visiting various parts of the country

despite his government's travel warnings, he said, adding that "the number of tourist arrivals continues to soar".

The United States and some other western countries have advised their nationals to be cautious when travelling in the Philippines following the bombing attacks on February 14 in three Philippine cities which killed eight people and wounded more than 100 others.

MNA/Xinhua

HK to launch new anti-mosquito campaign

HONG KONG, 20 Feb— Hong Kong will launch a six-week anti-mosquito campaign from 21 February, to strengthen the control of Japanese encephalitis vectors and Dengue fever prevention.

Hong Kong Food & Environmental Hygiene Department Community Medicine Consultant Ho Yuk-yin said Friday that a multi-pronged approach has been introduced to effectively prevent Japanese encephalitis.

Ho said enhanced efforts have been made to fight Japanese encephalitis vectors following the detection of five local cases last year.

Culex tritaeniorhynchus, a Japanese encephalitis vector, usually breeds in irrigation ditches, slow streams, ground pools, flooded fields and surface channels where emergent weeds and grass can provide shelter for the larvae. "A multi-pronged approach has been introduced with special emphasis on five areas to effectively prevent the disease," Ho said. "These include Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance and

information dissemination, mosquito control, publicity and public education, community participation and law enforcement."

The department has been conducting a comprehensive survey on local Japanese encephalitis vectors since October to identify their distribution.

Adult surveys on the vectors have been conducted around pig farms and wetlands where migratory birds are likely to be present, and larval surveys in illegal cultivation and vacant sites close to human dwellings. Mosquito specimens collected will be examined for the virus. The survey has found Culex tritaeniorhynchus in a number of urban areas, including Central and Western District and Lam Tin, along with Sha Tin, Tsing Yi, Tai Po, Yuen Long, North District and Lantau Island. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Singapore to resume top-level talks on 1 March

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb — Malaysia and Singapore will resume top-level talks on 1 March as the neighbours push to resolve long-standing disputes, Malaysian officials said on Friday.

Singapore Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi last met in mid-December 2004 in the first high-level initiative to improve relations since 2000.

"The new round of talks has been confirmed on 1 March in Putrajaya," a Foreign Ministry source told Reuters.

At the December talks, Goh said Malaysia might offer to allow tiny Singapore's Air Force to use Malaysian airspace for training and, in return, Singapore would release Malaysians' retirement funds locked within the city-state and also consider the joint development of disused Malaysian-owned railway land in Singapore. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore plans to build resort-style casino in April

SINGAPORE, 20 Feb — Singapore, which is hoping to lure more tourists, will decide in April whether to go ahead with plans to build a resort-style casino, the government said on Friday.

The idea of a Singapore casino, which could cost about 1.2 billion US dollars, has divided Cabinet ministers and is even opposed by Lee Kuan Yew, the country's founding premier, who still holds the third most powerful post in government.

His son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, told Parliament on Friday that the government would assess the proposals and weigh the benefits and social consequences of a casino.

The idea has been strongly opposed by local religious and social groups, with critics warning that it would fuel crime and inflict social ills on one of Asia's safest societies, but most analysts expect the government to give it the go-ahead.

"We will consider not only the economic costs and benefits, but also the likely social impact and the intangible consequences of a casino on the ethos of our society," said Prime Minister Lee as he unveiled the government's budget for the next fiscal year from April 1.

The government has asked for concept plans to be submitted by 28 February on one project on the waterfront and another on the resort island of Sentosa. Both are expected to include a Las Vegas-style entertainment complex, complete with water theme parks, theatres and art galleries. — MNA/Reuters

Bombs kill at least 50 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—Eight suicide bombings killed at least 50 people Saturday as Iraq's Shiites, newly empowered by their victory in the recent election, defied the threat of guerillas violence and turned out in the hundreds of thousands to mark the Shiite holy day of Ashoura.

One bomber rode a bicycle, another boarded a bus and at least four others walked into their targets in an onslaught against Shiites in Baghdad by Iraq's Sunni-dominated guerilla, bring-

ing to more than 80 the number of dead in two days of attacks timed to coincide with the commemorations. A US soldier was among those killed.

Internet



An Iraqi walks in front of shrapnel-riddled shutters in the town of Tall Afar 40 kms north of the Sunni Muslim restive Iraqi northern city of Mosul on 21 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET

Red fire ants appear in Macao

MACAO, 20 Feb— Latin American red fire ants, a new imported insect, have appeared in China's Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), the city's municipal affairs authority alerted.

The Macao Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau on Friday sought help from experts in south China's Guangdong Province, where the insect has been formerly found.

A spot of the harmful ants was found in deserted places near construction grounds in two of Macao's offshore islands, Taipa, and a reclaimed strip between Taipa and Coloane islands.

Macao sent specimen of the ants to Zhuhai, a city in Guangdong for their examination, which was confirmed to be red fire ants.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian-African Summit in Indonesia to proceed as planned

JAKARTA, 20 Feb — The Indonesian Foreign Ministry has confirmed that the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Bandung Conference and the Asian-African Summit will go ahead as scheduled.

Ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa was quoted Saturday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying the summit would take place from 21 April to 23 April in Jakarta and Bandung, West Java.

The events comprise

the senior officials and foreign ministers' meetings, the summit and the commemoration.

"To date, there has been no change of plan regarding the conference. It will proceed as scheduled," he said.

However, the event will be toned down in respect for tsunami victims in Aceh. For example, host Indonesia will not hold banquets for heads of state/government as originally planned.

MNA/Xinhua

South Asian free trade meeting postponed

KATHMANDU, 21 Feb — Following the postponement of the 13th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit, the SAARC Secretariat has also put off the expert-level meeting on the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) slated for 26-28 February in the Maldives.

"The meeting has been postponed for the time being and will be rescheduled shortly," an official at the Kathmandu-based SAARC Secretariat told reporters on Sunday.

The seventh SAFTA meeting was put off after the Secretariat formally notified member states, the official said, refusing to elaborate on the reasons for

its postponement.

However, according to reports which quoted Pakistani officials, the meeting was "cancelled" after Pakistan informed the SAARC Secretariat that it will not be able to send any experts of its SAFTA team to attend the meeting, because they will be busy during the scheduled dates.

MNA/Xinhua

China reports 50% rise in crude import via railways

BEIJING, 21 Feb — China imported some 7.95 million tons of crude oil by train last year, a year-on-year rise of 50 per cent, according to the latest information from the Chinese Ministry of Railways.

To increase imports via rail, the ministry and the Russian Railways Ltd Co signed a summary of negotiations for further cooperation last November.

In accordance with the agreement, crude exports by train from Russia to China will be 10 million tons this year and increase to 15 million tons next year.

In the meantime, the Chinese ministry also signed another agreement concerning cooperation in railway transport with the departments of transportation and telecommunications of Kazakhstan, bordering China at the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

MNA/Xinhua



Elephants paint on the canvas during new Guinness record attempt of most expensive paint by elephants at Maesa elephant camp in Chiang Mai Province northern Thailand.—INTERNET

Peace activists to pressure Bush Admin to exit Iraq

CHICAGO, 21 Feb — Peace activists from around the United States gathered in St. Louis on Sunday, part of a three-day meeting to develop plans to pressure the Bush Administration to exit Iraq.

The weekend gathering, which brought together representatives from more than 35 states and Canada, comes as the death toll of American soldiers there nears 1,500 and March 19 marks the two-year anniversary of the US-led invasion.

The meeting was coordinated by United for Peace and Justice, an umbrella coalition of some 1,000 anti-war groups ranging from large organizations like Women for Peace and Black Voices for Peace, to local campaigns such as the St. Louis Instead of War Coalition.

MNA/Reuters

HK to launch ethnic cultural programme

HONG KONG, 20 Feb — Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is to launch an ethnic cultural programme to promote the value of cultural diversity and to encourage inter-communal understanding.

The programme, titled "Culture in Motion", will begin with a Filipino cultural show on 20 February at the Chater Road Pedestrian Precinct in Central.

"Culture in Motion" will include a series of Sunday cultural programmes featuring music and dance performances, exhibitions, and other forms of entertainment to promote the cultural heritage of different ethnic communities in Hong Kong. "Culture in Motion is among the government's initiatives to foster the ethnic minorities' sense of belonging to Hong Kong, while retaining their own cultural identities," an HAB spokesman said Friday. "To enhance mutual understanding, we invite local Chinese to join ethnic minorities in the cultural shows." The Filipino show will start with a

parade at the Chater Road Pedestrian Precinct at 10:00 am on Sunday. Other programmes include an open air art exhibition and photo exhibition called "Hong Kong is in the Heart", traditional Filipino dance performances, and a cultural show starting at 3:00 p.m. featuring performances by respectable singers Teresa Carpio and Tara M. Polo, Hong Kong Musicians Union and MIGA International Band. Participants are also invited to join traditional Filipino games at the show.

Accompanied by Consul-General of the Republic of the Philippines Corazon L Belmonte-Jover, HK Secretary for Home Affairs Patrick Ho will join the people to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of Philippine culture. — MNA/Xinhua

AIDS transmission to be checked in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 21 Feb — The Nepali Government will launch a comprehensive programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS from Monday.

The programme will first begin from the Indra Rajya Laxmi Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu, and be expanded to other regional hospitals as well in the future, Ram Prasad Shrestha, director at the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, told reporters here on Sunday. The programme is a bold and needed comprehensive initiative towards preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, Shrestha said.

"It has become even more important as women are generally more prone to the transmission of the disease to the unborn or born child," he noted.

If necessary actions were taken under a regular medical supervision at such a preliminary stage of the child, the future generation could be saved from the disease, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Demonstrators protest in Brussels on eve of Bush's trip

BRUSSELS, 21 Feb — Hundreds of demonstrators protested in Brussels on Sunday on the eve of US President George W Bush's five-day trip to Europe.

Both the far left and far right were demonstrating, with the right wanting him to pull US troops out of Europe and the left criticizing what they say is his disdain for international law.

The President is due to meet Belgian leaders on Monday and European Union and NATO leaders on Tuesday to talk about Iran, Syria and Iraq as well as NATO's future.

More protests are expected over the coming days with environmental, human rights and peace groups, the

far left, socialists and anti-globalists all planning to take to the streets.

Several hundred left-wing demonstrators gathered in the historical heart of Brussels — home to NATO and the EU — to criticize Bush for not signing up to the Kyoto Treaty to tackle global warming and for the US-led war in Iraq. One demonstrator carried a flag with a Nazi swastika sign woven into a US flag, while the front page of a Communist weekly had an image of the famous Brussels Manneken Pis statue urinating on Bush's head.

Other protesters held Communist flags.

"I am protesting against Bush's visit and the fact that security is being funded by the Belgian taxpayer. That's inappropriate for such a criminal," said 25-year-old Tom, a social worker.

Outside the US Embassy, several dozens of nationalist right-wing demonstrators, some of them skinheads, demanded US troops to pull out of Europe.

MNA/Reuters



Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan, left, walks the ramp with a model displaying creations by Indian fashion designers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2005, in Mumbai, India, on 20 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

WHO says Kyoto Protocol helps to protect human health

GENEVA, 19 Feb — The World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday that the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on cutting emission of greenhouse gases that came into effect Wednesday is an opportunity for better protection of human health.

“Over 600,000 people died in weather-related disasters in the 1990s,” Kerstin Leitner, WHO’s assistant director-general for Healthy Environments and Sustainable Development, said in a statement.

“Temperature and rainfall influence the rates of diseases such as diarrhoea, vector-borne infections including malaria, and malnutrition, which together cause over 3.5 million deaths a year,” he said.

“The Kyoto Protocol is a first step towards reducing our impact on the climate system, which exerts such a strong influence on our health,” he added.

The Kyoto Protocol, which is signed by 128 nations, commits the participating industrialized countries to cut emis-

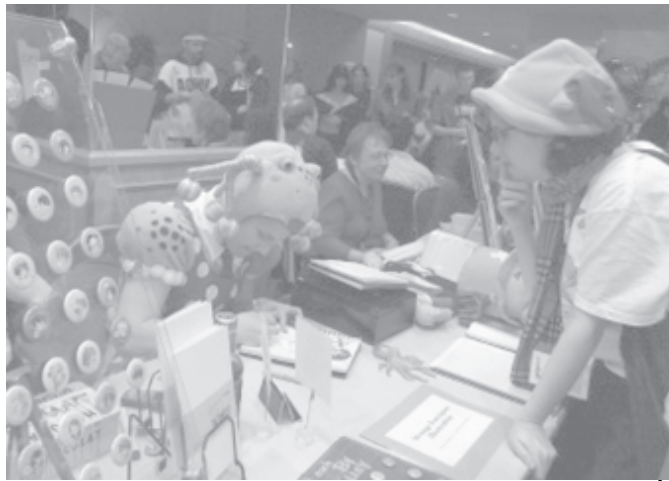
sions of greenhouse gases by over 5 per cent below 1990 levels by the period 2008-2012.

Besides reduction on greenhouse gas emissions, it is also essential to protect vulnerable communities from the effect of climate changes.

The WHO said it is working to promote measures such as protection from malaria and other climate sensitive diseases, and reliable access to clean water and sanitation, for people in the most vulnerable developing countries.

Increasing disease control efforts will also help protect current and future generations from the impact of greenhouse gas emission, according to the organization.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese leaders meet Eritrean President

Chinese leaders meet Eritrean President

BELING, 19 Feb — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Chairman Jia Qinglin of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) respectively met with visiting Eritrean President Issayas Aferwerki here on Friday.

Wen told Issayas that China and Eritrea enjoy sound relations and have had fruitful cooperation in politics, economy and trade since the two countries established diplomatic ties 12 years ago.

“China expects to further explore potentials for bilateral economic and trade cooperation, promote mutually beneficial cooperation in key sectors such as infrastructure construction, mining and fishery,” Wen said.

Jia said that China and Eritrea have carried out all forms of exchanges at the Parliament or civil level. “China attaches importance to developing friendly cooperative ties with Eritrea and will enhance mutual trust and expand cooperation with

Eritrea,” Jia said.

The CPPCC, China’s top advisory body, will make “joint efforts with Eritrea to strengthen personnel exchanges, coordination and cooperation and contribute to the development of bilateral ties”, Jia said.

Wen said China has always “put importance” on its traditional friendship and cooperation with Africa. The two sides have made substantial cooperation in human resource training, trade, investment, culture and tourism since the second ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2003, Wen said. “China will, with joint efforts from African countries including Eritrea, carefully prepare

for the third ministerial meeting, which is scheduled to be held in 2006, to reach more fruits in Sino-African cooperation,” Wen said. Issayas agreed with Wen and Jia’s remarks on bilateral ties, saying that the two countries have cooperated well in human resources training, health work and infrastructure construction. They have also supported each other in international affairs.

“Eritrea firmly observes the one-China policy and supports China’s reunification,” he said, adding that his country hopes to further enhance bilateral cooperation in culture, education, telecommunications and information technology.

MNA/Xinhua

An artist makes a drawing of a manga character for a customer at the 11th annual Katsucon, in Japan on 19 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Indonesia offers free treatment to dengue patients

JAKARTA, 19 Feb — The Indonesian Government has announced that all economically disadvantaged patients suffering from dengue fever across the country will get free medical treatment at state hospitals, a local newspaper reported Friday.

However, the patients first have to obtain a welfare card from local authorities to prove that they cannot afford medical treatment, said *The Jakarta Post*. Free medical treatment has so far been provided for dengue patients only in the provinces of Jakarta, West Java, East Kalimantan, South Sulawesi, West and East Nusa Tenggara, where dengue fever has been on the rise. “We have decided to give medical treatment free of charge throughout the country, although it is usually provided only in areas that have an extraordinary number of cases, simply because we do not want to discriminate,” Minister of Health Siti Fadilah Supari was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Putin convinced Iran not trying to build N-weapons

MOSCOW, 19 Feb — President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he was convinced Iran was not trying to build a nuclear weapon and that Russia would press ahead with nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Putin’s defence of Iran, where Russia is building a nuclear power plant, comes in the face of US concerns that Teheran could be using Russian know-how to covertly build a nuclear weapon.

“The latest steps by Iran convince Russia that Iran indeed does not intend to produce nuclear weapons and we will continue to develop relations in all sectors, including peaceful atomic energy,” Putin told Iran’s top nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rohani. “We hope Iran will strictly stick to all agreements with Russia or the international community,” Putin said at the start of talks with Rohani at the Kremlin.

The United States has criticized Moscow for

pressing ahead with construction of a 1,000-megawatt reactor at Bushehr in southern Iran.

Russia’s top nuclear officials are due to travel to Iran next week to finalize the final technicalities of its start-up later this year.

The question of Russia’s nuclear ties with Iran is certain to figure in a summit between Putin and US President George W Bush in the Slovak capital Bratislava on 24 February.

Bush said on Thursday he would use diplomacy to convince Iran it would be unacceptable to develop nuclear weapons. He said he would use his trip next week to Europe to develop “joint” strategies to deal with Teheran’s nuclear ambitions.

MNA/Reuters

WEF to hold Asia Roundtable in Singapore

GENEVA, 19 Feb — The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced Friday that its Asia Roundtable will be held in Singapore on April 28-29 to discuss Asia’s increasing impact on the whole world.

There is pressing need for leaders to better understand the business, political and social implications of Asia’s growth as it begins to alter the pace and profile of globalization, said the WEF.

The roundtable under the theme of “Tilting the Global Balance: the Strategic Implications of Asia’s Growth” will also look at how the scale of Asia’s development will impact on the scarcity of natural resources, the development of human capital and new technologies.

The future pace and profile of regional integration, the current balance of power in world affairs, and policy changes needed to en-

sure the region’s continued growth will also be discussed.

MNA/Xinhua



Containers sit at a Port of Singapore Authority terminal on 19 Feb, 2005. INTERNET

The State shall help promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communications of less developed national races

YANGON, 21 FEB — On behalf of the Panel of the Alternate Chairman U Tun Yin Law of the Delegates of Political Parties presented the panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the management sector at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaung-hnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division today.

The following is a translation of presentation made by U Tun Yin Law.

I will present the excerpts from the presentation of the delegate groups and some delegates concerning the management sector compiled by the panel of chairmen.

At the plenary ses-

...mote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communications of less developed national races."

He continued to say, "One of the basic principles formulated by the National Convention is: All persons born of parents both of whom are nationals are citizens; all persons who have become citizens in accord with law on the date the State Constitution comes into force are citizens; and citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be as prescribed by law."

He then explained, "Matters covered by the Management Sector that should be included in the Union legislative list may be put together as follows:

- psychotropic substances
- 5. State secrets
- 6. Associations
- 7. Prisons
- 8. Border area development
- 9. Census
- 10. Citizenship, naturalization, revocation of citizenship, citizenship scrutiny and registration
- 11. Titles and decorations

"I have clarified the above matters for the National Convention delegates to discuss and make suggestion on whether to lay down the detailed basic principles to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary."

The Chairman said, "Management matters that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list may be put together as follows: 1. Development

gestions on whether to lay down the detailed basic principles to include in the Region or State Legislative list concerning the above matters."

National Unity Party said that the following points should be put on the Union legislative list:

- 1. General administration
- 2. Management of village and urban areas
- 3. House rent and land rent
- 4. Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
- 5. State secrets
- 6. Associations
- 7. Prisons
- 8. Border area development
- 9. Census
- 10. Citizenship, naturalization, revocation of citizenship, citizenship scrutiny and registration
- 11. Titles and decorations

And the following points should be included in region or state legislative list:

- 1. Development affairs
- 2. Human settlement and housing development
- 3. Honourary titles and medals

Union Pa-O National Organization said that the general administration or the management sector involves the task of demarcating towns and villages, issuing tax-free land grants for religious matters, issuing land grants for ordination halls, extension of towns, marking of the territory of lakes and cemeteries, offering nation-wide land and house rental services,

- 1. General administration
- 2. Management of village and urban areas
- 3. House rent and land rent
- 4. Narcotic drugs and

affairs
2. Human settlement and housing development
3. Honourary titles and medals
"Hence, National Convention delegates are to discuss and make sug-

Delegate of political parties U Tun Yin Law reports on matters related to management sector. MNA



eradicating poppy cultivation and narcotic drugs trafficking and drug abuse nation-wide in cooperation with UN and foreign organizations. The sector

also includes keeping of the secrets of the economic and social sectors of the State. Thus, the State secrets act should (See page 9)



Delegates seen at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. MNA

sion, held on 20 May 2004, the Work Committee Chairman said, "The matters involved in the management sector are: general administration, rural and urban area management, house rent and land rent, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, state secrets, associations, prisons, border area development, citizenship, the naturalization and revocation of citizenship, census, titles, decorations and medals, development affairs, human settlement and housing development, and town planning."

He then pointed out, "The National Convention has laid down a fundamental principle: "The State shall help pro-



Delegates seen at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA



Getting together

* Ups and downs, like the waves
Varied cover for all mountain ranges
The green curves, are a delight
The gold and silver entwined, soil upturned
Minerals of all kinds, the mountains yield
As if the Devas lent their brushwork
However, that brushwork alone
Could not lend aestheticism.

* Level and well measured, like a mat spread
There are plains, vast in themselves
Water flowing constantly, and Black Gold wells
Rivers with currents up and down, dams and
Monasteries, lakes, pagodas, roads and bridges
As if created by spirits, lending brushwork
And yet that brushwork alone
Could not lend aestheticism.

* Shore and water touch, as if welded
Two of them touch and flow, forming shoreline
There are dunes and islands
And pearly-white waves that yield gas
Life-blood that's the sea, full of water
Even if Celestial King, plays with brush
Image is still inferior, that patchwork alone
Does not lend aestheticism.

* If patches are made and spirits lend their brushwork
There is always some element missing
If brush is unsteady, paint powder splashes
"Together, if mountain ranges, valleys
And blue shores" make a triple mix
Even if the painting's by ordinary human
That brushwork cannot be matched by spirits
'Tis complete and also beautiful
Will also be aesthetic, who can match it
A painting that has all the qualities
That strength which is put together.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)

National Convention continues...

(from page 1)
 NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, NCC Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates signed the attendance registers at

sion together with NCC Work Committee member U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Tun Yin Law of the group of the delegates of political parties, U Yaw Aye Hla of the group of representatives-elect delegates, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of the group of the delegates of national races, U Mya Aye of the group of the delegates of peasants, Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw of the group of the delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the group of the delegates of State service personnel and U

with Deputy Director U Aung Kyi. The MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,071 out of 1,081 delegates attended the meeting, accounting for 99.07 per cent. Member of the panel of alternative Chairmen U Tun Yin Law of the group of the delegates of political parties presented matters relating to the management sector. (The presentation is reported separately)

Next, member of the panel of alternative chairmen U Yaw Aye Hla of the group of the delegates of representatives-elect presented



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs in the attendance book at National Convention Plenary Session.—MNA

ber of the panel of alternative chairmen U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of the group of the delegates of na-

Afterwards, the session went into recess.

The session resumed at 1 pm. Mem-

matters not stated on the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and the leading bodies of Self-administered



National Convention delegates sign in the attendance book at NC Plenary Session.—MNA



Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for National Convention delegates.

Dr Myo Thant Tin of the group of the delegates of workers chaired the plenary ses-

Tun Aung Chein of the group of other invited persons delegates.

Director of the NCC Work Committee Office (Meeting) U Than Aung emceed the plenary session together

matters relating to the management sector. (The presentation will be reported later.) Afterwards, the session went into recess.

The session resumed at 10 am. Mem-

ber of the panel of alternative chairmen U Mya Aye of the group of the delegates of peasants presented matters related to the delegation of legislative power in connection with other

Division or Zone. (The presentation will be reported later.) Then, the session went into recess and resumed at 2 pm. Member of the panel of

(See page 9)



The National Convention Plenary Session in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township.—MNA

Gold plates offered to Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 21 Feb — A ceremony to offer gold plates to the Shwedagon Pagoda by shopkeepers of the southern stairways took place this morning in the precinct of the pagoda.

At the ceremony, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan

Township Aung-myaaybonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Bhaddanta Pandabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts to the congregation and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, the shopkeepers presented twelve 3-

ticals gold plates to members of the pagoda board of trustees, who then presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Later, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained, and the ceremony concluded.

MNA

The State shall help promote...

(from page 7)

be enacted. Uniform laws should be enacted to prevent the religious, social, sports and art activities from disturbing public security. The sector needs to make inspection of the prisons to ensure that inmates and the cells are kept systematically. Census should be taken in accord with the time and situation to systematically implement the national development projects. Occasionally, the Head of State presents

islative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be included in the region or state legislative list as detailed principles.

Lahu National Development Party said that the 11 points of the management sector explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman

general administration task covered by the management sector is wide and vast and has many different aspects. Strong and dynamic administrative machinery is needed to build a modern and developed nation. Thus, the party has no further discussion concerning the sector.

Wa National Development Party said that as the clarifications made by the Work Committee chairman are comprehensive and reasonable, the party has no



NC delegates coming to attend the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA

National Convention continues...

(from page 8)

alternative chairmen Dr Myo Thant Tin of the group of the delegates of workers presented matters relating to the effects of the laws enacted by the leading committees of self-administered areas of Hluttaws at different levels. (The presentation will be reported later.)

Member of the panel of alternative chairmen Dr U

Thein Oo Po Saw of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia presented matters relating to the formation of Financial Commission and the taxation and fund allotments among the Union and the region or state. (The presentation will be reported later.)

Later, member of the panel of alternative chairmen Maj-Gen Aung

Thein of the delegate group of State service personnel submitted matters related to the formation of Financial Commission and the taxation and fund allotments among the Union and the region or state. (The presentation will be reported late.)

The National Convention continues tomorrow. MNA



Maj-Gen Aung Thein reports at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA



Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw reports at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA



Dr Myo Thant Tin reports at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA



U Yaw Aye Hla reports at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA



U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint reports at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA



U Mya Aye reports at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA

honourary titles and medals to persons for their outstanding performance in their work. Thus, the 11 points of the management sector explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in

should be included in the region or state legislative list as detailed principles.

Union Kayin League said that it is appropriate to put the 11 points of the management sector explained by the Work Committee Chair-

further discussion concerning the sector, and believes that the sector should be put on the Union legislative list. Thus, the 11 points of the management sector explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the

delegate group of representatives-elect, which is one of the eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the proposed papers of the National Unity Party and the Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization have been presented by the parties, which are members of the delegate group of political parties. In like manner, it is found that other delegates concerned submitted their proposals. Independent representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlan Township constituency in Chin State, and Independent Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency in Shan State said that the 11 points of the management sector explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be included in the region or state legislative list as detailed principles.

As a separate suggestion, they said that because of the development and modernization drive, the urban population and the number of industries and other businesses are increasing. Thus, to address the land and house rental problems in the major towns, house and land rent matters should be included in the Union legislative lists. Some of the portions of the business should be included in the region or state legislative list within the framework of the Union law. In every independent country, the citizens have the right to form or-

ganizations and participate in them. The State's role is required to prevent the activities of the associations away from disturbing the public. Moreover, power should be distributed to the regions and states to permit formation of certain associations without opposing the Union law. The panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the management sector presented by U Yaw Aye Hla of Delegates of Representatives-elect will be published in tomorrow's issue. —MNA



NC delegates coming to attend the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA

the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization said that the 11 points of the management sector explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union leg-

man on the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman on the region or state legislative list as detailed principles.

Kokang Democracy and Unity Party said that the

Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be included in the region or state legislative list as detailed principles.

Of the five proposed papers submitted by the



NC delegates coming to attend the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA

Commander inspects information work in Lashio

YANGON, 21 Feb— Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing together with Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein on 18 February inspected the sub-printing house in Lashio and gave necessary instructions to officials. Next, the commander and the deputy minister arrived at the Assistant

Director's Office of Shan State (North) Information and Public Relations Department and inspected publications donated by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council and the Ministry of Information. Afterwards, the commander and the deputy minister met with staff members of IPRD at the IPRD's Office and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Assistant Di-

rector Daw Khin San reported to the commander and the deputy minister on measures being taken by IPRD in Shan State and District Staff Officer U Maung Ohn on work carried out for opening of self-reliance libraries in villages of Lashio Township. After hearing the reports, the commander and the deputy minister fulfilled the needs and left there in the evening. — MNA

Minister attends course opening ceremony



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivers an address at a ceremony to open the gazetted officers course of Social Welfare Department — SOCIAL WELFARE

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa addressed the opening of officers course at the Social Welfare Academy of

Social Welfare Department here today. Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thauang, Director-General

of SWD U Sit Myaing and other officials. The 45-day course is being attended by staff officers of state and division SWD offices. The minister also inspected the academy. — MNA

Poultry farms in Nawngkhio, PyinOoLwin Township inspected

YANGON, 21 Feb— Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by officials concerned, on 19 February, arrived at the poultry farm

in Chaymyitbin Village, Nawngkhio Township where he heard a report presented by Project Director U Ye Tun on construction of the farm.

The minister gave in-

structions on timely completion of the work, growing of shade trees, windshield trees and attended to the needs. Next, the minister and party inspected the AA High Line poultry farm in PyinOoLwin Township and gave instructions on prevention of avian influenza. Later, the minister and party proceeded to the poultry farm in Zibingyi Village, PyinOoLwin Township and gave instructions on preventative measures to be taken against the outbreaks of avian diseases.

In the evening, the minister and party met with staff members of departments and enterprises under the ministry in Mandalay Division and called on them to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and to engage in regional development tasks and livestock breeding on a manageable scale. — MNA



General Manager Dr Aung Thein of Nibban Electric & Electronics introduces a new product 2 in 1 TV Antenna (Model; V-330). — MNA

New Nibban antennas introduced

YANGON, 21 Feb — Nibban Electric and Electronics introduced new types of antennas at the Traders Hotel here yesterday.

Officials of the company explained the functions and capacity of the new antennas. The company has won the ISO-9001:2000 certificate for its products. The company is famous for producing quality antennas as import substitute goods. — MNA

New cinema opened in Lashio



North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Information Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein inspect Hsishweli high-yield paddy strain plantation. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Feb— Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing laid corner stone to build Pyidaungsu Gymnasium of the command in Lashio on 19 February. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials also laid corner stone. Also present were members of social organizations and local people. A total of K 57 million was donated for construction the gymnasium.

The commander and party visited high-yield paddy fields at Yewaihkam village.

Officials explained

cultivation of paddy for regional food sufficiency. The commander, the minister and the deputy minister attended to the needs of farmers, saying that success in cultivation of high-yield paddy is due to the participation of the local people in the task.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing attended the opening of Theinhaitaik Cinema in Lashio. Officials formally opened the cinema. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein unveiled the signboard. He also gave a speech, and explained the goals of the ministry. He said the ministry is striving for the emergence of modern cinemas in states and divisions. The 370-seat cinema is installed with simple projector system. It

also houses restaurants on the ground floor.

The commander and party visited Pyidaungsu Kanthaya Park after attending its formal opening ceremony. They also put 50,000 fish fries into the lakes of the park. After inspecting the water storage, growing of ornamental plants and the lake ring road at the park, they inspected the project to build a pagoda of the Shwedagon design.

At the command plantation, they observed the high-yield paddy fields, seed cleaning produce, produce of alternative crops fields, and storage of high-yield paddy seeds.

The command is growing soybean, and other crops in addition to high-yield paddy. — MNA

Thai NDC delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Feb— A delegation led by Deputy Commandant Maj-Gen Prasitichai Pibulrat of National Defence College of Thailand arrived here today by air. The delegation was welcomed by Deputy Commandant Brig-Gen Than Maung of National Defence College of Myanmar, senior military officers, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Military Attaché Col Prissapa

Suvanarat and officials at Yangon International Airport. The Thai delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda at 11 am. After paying homage to the Buddha images, the delegation members donated cash towards the trust funds of the pagoda. In the afternoon, the delegation visited the National Defence College on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. Commandant of the NDC Maj-Gen Moe Hein extended greetings to the delegation members and

explained the history of the college and academic matters with the aid of audio-visual aids.

Officials of the respective departments also explained the nation's foreign policy, elimination of transnational drug trafficking, and Myanmar's current developments.

Maj-Gen Prasitichai Pibulrat also gave a speech. He then exchanged gifts with his Myanmar counterpart. — MNA



Commandant of NDC Maj-Gen Moe Hein receives Maj-Gen Prasitichai Pibulrat of National Defence College of Thailand at the hall of the NDC. — MNA

Let the truth be known

Myint Myat Soe

As I have a chance to say something, I have to do so. The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a press conference on 28 December 2004. At the press conference Leader of the Information Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified the incident innocent students and people were wounded and killed due to the destructive acts of subversive groups and internal and external destructive elements behind such acts.

When we study the clarifications, they showed that NCGUB, NLD (LA) ABSDF, Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors (VBSW) and other destructive groups had committed the subversive acts with the intention of creating political unrest and hampering the nation-building efforts. It is obvious that there are certain connections and relations between some local political parties and the destructive elements.

The clarifications of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan were carried in detail in the newspapers of 29 December issues. I would like to cite some points.

The remnants of Burma Communist Party (BCP) increased their underground activities. The security personnel were able to expose the plot of BCP remnants to distribute anti-government leaflets in the nation in collusion with local destructive elements. Moe Thu, with the rank of major, of a destructive group at the border was conducting a course on explosives for 15 trainees of the ABSDF at Noeboe refugee camp in the other nation. It was learnt that the targets were State's development infrastructures such as roads, bridges, airports and dams. The government received information that the scheme was masterminded by Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung, Aung Moe Zaw of Democratic Party for New Society, Tin Oo of NLD (LA), Lwan Ni, and Ko Ko Naing of ABSDF.

The incidents in connection with the above information occurred; three bombs exploded: one on the pedestrian lane leading to the railway station near Pansodan Street, on 26 June 2004; another in a park at the entrance to the upper-class coaches at the railway station and the other at the left side of the platform at the railway station. When the authorities investigated the case they found out that Win Naing (a) Zaw Win and the other one met Mar Mar Lwin, a vagrant. They persuaded her offering money to plant the bombs.

Similarly, the Political Defiance Committee (PDC) based in the other country sent Ye Myint and Hla Khaing to Myanmar to blow up bombs in September 2004. A destructive organization in the so-called liberated area in the other country presented ten advanced mines to the Democratic Party for New Society on 5 October 2004. Htain Lin and Myint Khaing were sent to Kayin State to plant bombs. Five persons including Aung Than Oo of NLD(LA) entered the nation at the end of October 2004 to plant bombs at the World Buddhist Summit and the Armed Forced Day Parade. Tin Aung Phone of ABSDF Battalion 202 visited the house of BBC correspondent Win Myint in Maesot on 7 December 2004 and kept three US-made time bombs there and arrangements were to dispatch the explosives to Yangon, said the clarifications.

Naing Aung Lin of ABSDF transported a paper box from Rahai in Thailand to four persons wearing robes in Maesot on 14 December 2004. Under the scheme, the four persons were to enter Myanmar, cause unrest and explode bombs in the nation. Beginning 1 December 2004, two Americans had been conducting a special military and explosive training course near Kyaukkhet village south of Maesot in Thailand, Maung Maung Latt of National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung and Min Thu of ABSDF and five persons held a secret meeting on 1 December 2004, in the other country. The meeting decided to send two bomber teams into the nation.

Nyein Chan of NLD (LA), son of a representa-

tive-elect of NLD in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, Kayin State, Aung Than Oo, his cousin, and Saw La Bwe were sent into the nation to blow up bombs before October 2004. A meeting was held in NLD (LA) office in Maesot on 5 November 2004. Two foreigners and 70 destructionists including those from NLD (LA), Democratic Party for New Society and ABSDF attended the meeting which discussed making of contacts with some local political parties in the nation to blow up bombs. Five persons including two bombers were selected and arrangements were made for them to start their activities in Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Kyondo beginning 18 November 2004. Meanwhile, the clarifications said, Secretary of NCGUB Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung was launching a series of political attacks with the use of money provided by foreign nations. It is also learnt that Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung had been perpetrating destructive acts and atrocities to beef up the political attacks.

To put it in a nutshell, it is safe to say that the press conferences of Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council on 28 December 2004 and on 1 February 2005 are the revelations of wicked schemes of internal and external destructive elements.

A local-made time bomb went off near Khinneinmu combined checkpoint in Kayin State on 11 November 2004, a bomb exploded in the Zawgyi restaurant at No 367, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon on 21 December 2004 and a mine also exploded at Myaukmin Sports equipment shop in Hpa-an on 14 December. The Minister for Information clarified in detail on these incidents. The destructive acts were committed by destructionists including NCGUB, ABSDF, Democratic Party for New Society, NLD (LA) and VBSW in collusion with local elements.

However, expatriate Sein Win of NCGUB, Myint Thein of NLD (LA) and Kyaw Ko of ABSDF said the clarifications at the press conference were false accusations without any evidence. Their organizations accept non-violence method and oppose bombing method. They never committed such acts. They had no connections with the explosions. The names of the persons involved and data stated at the press conference were wrong. They made one-sided accusations against the government. At the same time, illogical explanations were broadcast by VOA.

In fact, their denial and accusations are like a saying "Where the lightning strikes, one protects oneself with a palm frond." These are usual excuses of expatriate Sein Win and destructive elements outside the country.

The government is convening the National Convention to draw and promulgate a State constitution, which is the most fundamental and immediate political issue. The National Convention complete with essence of the national politics is being attended by delegates representing people from all walks of life including delegates of political parties, delegates of national races, other invited delegates, delegates representing national brethren who have returned to the legal fold and delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia who are well-versed in politics, military, economics, management and judiciary.

In reality, the National Convention is solving immediate political problems by means of politics, which is democratic rights of the entire national people. And it is the centre of comprehensive discussions. It is indeed the norm of modern political science. In other words, it is the democratic practice, which is extensive, subtle and pragmatic.

The concept and stand that problems can be solved by a certain party or a certain person, without considering democratic rights of the entire national people, is totally contrary to objective conditions of the nation.

It is obvious that the accusations of expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices, to the effect that the government did not solve political problems through political means and averted them, are totally meaningless and illogical. Moreover, their demands are very narrow-minded and they are just for the sake of a certain party or a certain person. As they said that bomb explosions occurred because their demands were not met, it can be assumed logically that the bomb explosions were the acts of expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices. Moreover, it is clear that the type of democracy advocated by expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices at home and abroad is not meant for the people but for a certain party or a certain person to gain power.

Furthermore, the ABSDF claimed that statements at the press conference were wrong in names and data. Their claim automatically led to their confession of their involvement in such machinations and destructive acts committed in Myanmar.

However, acts committed in the past by a certain person usually reflect at present one way or another. The perpetration and nature of destructive elements will be vividly depicted through a brief revelation of destructive acts committed by expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices.

Out of those destructive acts, the cruelest and most ruthless one was that expatriate Sein Win and his accomplice ABSDF and other destructive elements planted and detonated time bombs in Kaba Aye Maha Pasana Cave where Buddha Tooth Relics conveyed from the People's Republic of China were kept for public obeisance on 25 December 1996, leaving five people dead and 17 injured.

Likewise, in June 1997, the destructive elements contacted Myo Aung Thant through Pyithit Nyunt Wai to commit destructive acts and to cut communications under the guidance of Expatriate Sein Win and party. Their targets were foreign missions such as Embassy of PRC and Embassy of Indonesia in Yangon, power lines and telephone lines in downtown Yangon. Myo Aung Thant arrived in Yangon with TG-303 flight via Bangkok on 12 June 1997 and he was detained in time by authorities concerned together with those involved in the incident. It can be seen that the authorities concerned have been able to deter the wicked plots hatched by Expatriate Sein Win in collusion with internal destructive elements.

Similarly, expatriate destructive elements blatantly committed subversive acts. The bombing and destroying of Thanlin Oil Refinery and Yangon City Hall in 1989 by ABSDF and DAB and hijacking of F-28 XY-ADW flight of Myanmar Airways which left Myeik for Yangon with 85 passengers and crew members by Ye Yint (a) Than Soe (a) Thit Lwin and Thiha (a) San Naing (a) Maung San of ABSDF group and forcing it to land in Thailand. In addition, Air Bus TG-305 flight which left Thailand for Myanmar was hijacked by Ye Man (a) Soe Myint and Ye Tin (a) Kyaw Zeya of ABSDF and forced it to land in Kolkata, India by threatening crew members with a hand-grenade.

In a similar incident, terrorists under the name of vigorous students and ABSDF raided the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand in 1999, and then they attacked Rachaburi Hospital in Thailand.

It is obvious that external destructive elements led by Expatriate Sein Win, who are advocating democracy to be practised in Myanmar, have committed and are still committing destructive acts in Myanmar and some neighbouring countries.

To put it in a nutshell, it is safe to say that the press conferences of Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council on 28 December 2004 and on 1 February 2005 are the revelations of wicked schemes of internal and external destructive elements.

(Translation: NY+TS)

Myamma Alin, Kyemon: 20-2-2005

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. KOTA MUTIARA VOY: NO (179)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (179) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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**

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY: NO (077)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA Voy No (077) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 PREMIER SPECTRUM**

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

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KRONENFLEX

Reg. No. 7933/2004 in respect of "abrasives".
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Win Mu Tin M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for Klingspor AG P. O. Box 66, Yangon Dated: 22 February 2005.

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Mr. Seri Deesomsak, authorized director of S.C.I. INDUSTRY (1994) COMPANY LIMITED at 72/10 Maba Road, Tambor Mabhapud, Amphoe Muang Rayong, Rayong Province Thailand is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:



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Thein Aung B.Sc./R.L.D.S.I. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mripip@mpimail.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 666 Yangon. 22 February 2005

Ex-Boeing Co chief sentenced to four months in prison

ALEXANDRIA (Virginia), 20 Feb — Former Boeing Co Chief Financial Officer Michael Sears was sentenced on Friday to four months in prison and a 250,000-US-dollar fine for his role in illegally recruiting a top US Air Force official, and prosecutors said they were continuing to investigate the case.

Paul McNulty, the US attorney investigating the biggest arms-contracting scandal since the late 1980s, declined to comment when asked if Chicago-based Boeing, the Pentagon's No 2

supplier, could be indicted on criminal charges.

"We will let the facts and evidence that is available take us wherever it goes," McNulty, US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, where the Pentagon is located, told a post-sentencing news conference.

Sears, 57, plead guilty on November 15 to aiding and abetting a conflict-of-interest law violation by Darlene Druyun, who was the Air Force's No. 2 weapons buyer. She was sentenced October 1 to nine months in prison after meeting Sears to negotiate

a 250,000 US dollars-a-year Boeing job while still overseeing Boeing deals worth billions with the Air Force.

In court papers this week, McNulty criticized Boeing's highest executives for appearing to treat Sears' illegal effort to hire Druyun as "business as usual". Attorneys tracking the case said this could set the stage for large fines or other actions against the company.

MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. MARISSA GREEN VOY: NO (002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARISSA GREEN Voy No (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 EAGLE CORPORATION**

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Astronomers record massive energy burst in milky way

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — Astronomers on Friday reported a massive energy burst from a neutron star beyond the solar system, saying the flash is the brightest ever recorded in the gamma-ray range.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European satellites and many radio telescopes detected the blast on 27 December. The flash of light was so powerful that it bounced off the moon and lit up the Earth's upper atmosphere, NASA online news said.

The blast came from a neutron star called SGR 1806-20 about 50,000 light years away in the constellation Sagittarius

(the Archer). The explosion, which lasted over a one-tenth of a second, released energy more than the sun emits in 150,000 years.

"This might be a once-in-a-lifetime event for astronomers, as well as for the neutron star," said Dr David Palmer of Los Alamos National Laboratory, lead author on a paper describing the event. "We know of only two other giant flares in the past 35 years, and this December event was one

hundred times more powerful.

"A neutron star is the densely packed and highly magnetic remnants of a collapsed star, with a diameter of only 24 kilometres SGR 1806-20 is an exotic type and one of only about a dozen known magnetars.

A magnetar has a magnetic field strong enough to strip information from a credit card at a distance halfway to the moon, NASA said.

MNA/Xinhua

Mobile phone virus spread to US from Philippines

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Feb — The world's first mobile phone virus "in the wild" has spread to the United States from its birthplace in the Philippines eight months ago, a security research firm said on Friday.

The virus, called Cabir, has spread slowly into 12 countries and marks the beginning of the mobile phone virus era, which could one day disrupt the lives of many of the world's 1.5 billion mobile phone users.

The biggest impact of the relatively innocuous virus, found in about 15

variations so far, is draining mobile phone batteries, said Mikko Hypponen, director of Finnish anti-virus research company F-Secure.

Hypponen said Cabir was found on Monday in a technology gadgets store in Santa Monica, California, when a passing technique spotted a telltale sign on the screen of a phone in the store.

"It's interesting (the Cabir variant) has now been found in the United States, but it's not the end of the world," said Hypponen.

MNA/Reuters

Australia's main airport terminal shut after 40 people sick

MELBOURNE, 21 Feb — One of Australia's main airport terminals was shut down on Monday after more than 40 people began suffering nausea, vomiting, dizziness and respiratory problems, but officials said they did not know the cause.

Twenty-nine people were taken to hospital and hundreds of travellers

left stranded when the Virgin Blue domestic terminal in Melbourne was evacuated.

"Our rescue and fire units evacuated the terminal when several people exhibited similar symptoms," said a spokesman for Aircservices Australia. "What is causing it is simply not known."

Ambulance officials said 41 people fell ill at the terminal on Monday morning and 29 were taken to a hospital decontamination unit.

Paramedics dressed in head-to-toe protective clothing were treating people in a field hospital outside the terminal. Most of the sick were airport workers. — MNA/Reuters

NASA to launch space shuttle mission on 15 May

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has set May 15 for the first launch of space shuttle mission since the Columbia disaster two years ago, reports reaching here said Friday.

The first shuttle to return to space will be Discovery. Earlier, NASA said the launch window is May 12 through June 3.

NASA's space shuttle fleet has been grounded since the Columbia disaster in 2003. Inspectors believe that a piece of suitcase-

sized insulation foam that fell off the external fuel tank damaged the shuttle's left wing on liftoff, leading to Columbia's mid-air disintegration on its re-entry, and the deaths of all seven astronauts on board.

The Columbia accident investigation board has put forward 15 major recommendations for NASA to return shuttle fleet to space. The expert panel overseeing NASA's work to resume launches reported Thursday NASA has satisfied eight of the recommendations.

The expert panel said it hopes that, by late March, it can decide whether NASA has complied with the remaining seven recommendations put forward by the Columbia accident investigation board.

The recommendations NASA has yet to meet include enabling in-orbit inspection and repair of shuttles, preventing debris coming off the external fuel tank from hitting the shuttle on liftoff, and toughening the shuttle to better withstand damage. — MNA/Xinhua

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(For. Mark-i Inc., Japan)
Dated: 22 February 2005

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Italian scientists start human trials of new AIDS drug

ROME, 20 Feb— Milan University scientists announced on Friday that they have started human trials of a new drug offering fresh hope to AIDS and HIV sufferers.

Professor Mauro Moroni, leader of the research programme and one of the world's top AIDS experts, said the medicine, called "tucaresol", boosts patients' immune systems, making the body better-equipped to fight the disease.

"It stimulates the immune system by inducing the thymus gland to produce a certain type of antibody, which specializes in fighting the virus when it comes into contact with it," said Moroni, who has been working on the drug for four years.

Results from laboratory tests have shown the treatment could be a vital step forward in the war on AIDS. Tucaresol works in a different way from the antiretroviral family of AIDS medicines, which attempt to block the spread of the infection and prevent the reproduction of infected cells.

"This drug makes an impact in an orphaned area of research," Moroni said.

"Today there are many antiretroviral medicines, but we don't have effective treatments to increase the immune-sys-

tem defences of HIV-positive people."

Moroni said tucaresol will generally be administered together with antiretroviral drugs in order to attack the disease from two directions.

The new drug — developed with pharmaceuticals multinational GlaxoSmithLine (GSK) — could be patients' main hope of survival, he said.

"Tucaresol could be a fundamentally important alternative therapy for the 5-15 per cent of patients who do not respond to antiretroviral therapies," he said.

"It could also be the ideal assistant for a future HIV vaccine," he added.

Moroni believes it will work well on people who find out they are HIV positive late, and whose immune systems are already seriously compromised.

Tucaresol is now being tested on 45 HIV patients at seven hospitals across the country, with the help of Italy's Network Sieropositive (Network of HIV-positive People). The network provides "tutors" who accompany the patients through the therapy.

MNA/Xinhua

Oil futures rise on bargain-hunting, cold weather

NEW YORK, 19 Feb— Crude oil futures climbed above 48 dollars a barrel Friday on bargain-hunting by traders following a drop in prices over previous day.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, oil futures for March delivery rose 81 cents to end at 48.35 dollars per barrel. In London, the April Brent crude-oil futures contract added 52 cents to close at 46.34 dollars a barrel.

Friday's higher oil prices were caused by traders' bargain-hunting activity after last day's drop in prices. But the expectation of cold weather in the northeastern United States also put an upward pressure on

prices.

Oil prices had been rising on most days over the past week on worries that major oil producers might cut output in March.

However, the US energy inventories remained solid, with crude stocks standing at 296.4 million barrels, and gasoline stockpiles standing at 221.7 million barrels.

A Bloomberg survey showed that more analysts were still bullish about oil prices.

MNA/Xinhua

Canada to earmark more money to fight global warming

OTTAWA, 19 Feb— The Canadian Government may earmark as much as 6 billion Canadian dollars (5 billion US dollars) in next week's budget to help fight global warming, it is reported here on Friday.

According to a report by the English newspaper the *Globe and Mail*, Sources tell the newspaper, as much as half the money could actually be old or "recycled" funds that were set aside in previous budgets but not spent.

Canada committed it-

self to the Kyoto global warming pact with a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2012. This would represent a 26-per-cent reduction from projected 2012 levels.

Canadian greenhouse gas emissions have risen every year since Canada signed on to the protocol in 1997 — pushing the country 30 per cent higher than 1999 levels.

MNA/Xinhua



Model Lily Cole wears an outfit by Singapore designer Ashley Isham, as part of his autumn/winter 2005-2006 collection during London Fashion Week, on 17 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Amateur video adds to mystery of spectacular blaze in Spain

MADRID, 20 Feb— Amateur video purporting to show the silhouettes of two people inside a burning skyscraper has added to the mystery of the spectacular blaze that gutted a 32-storey tower in the heart of Madrid's financial district.

Authorities have asked for a copy of the video shown by Telecinco news on Friday and said to be taken by a couple while the fire was still raging but after firefighters had left the building because it was deemed too dangerous.

Madrid's eighth-tallest building was reduced to a blackened concrete skeleton one week ago when a fire that lit up the night sky like a huge torch devoured the 106-metre-high building from the top down.

The home video shows two mysterious figures on the 16th storey

while the upper floors were engulfed in flames.

Madrid city officials said they could not have been firefighters, raising the question of whether the figures were arsonists, thieves or an optical illusion.

No bodies were found in the charred remains of the building, which will be dismantled bit by bit using robots hoisted by cranes.

Authorities initially suspected a short circuit but the owners of the building are demanding an investigation and have hired their own experts to determine the cause.

MNA/Reuters

Turkey, Japan sign loan agreement on underwater project

ANKARA, 20 Feb— Turkey and Japan on Friday signed an agreement on the loan of 941 million US dollars for the construction of the Istanbul Strait Underwater Crossing section, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported. The loan, provided by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), will be repaid within 30 years in six-month installments after a 10-year grace period.

The underwater project is part of the Marmara (public transportation) Project, which will connect Istanbul's Asian and European sides with an underwater tunnel under the Istanbul Straits.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists say radio waves cause DNA damage to mice's sperm

CANBERRA, 19 Feb— Preliminary study of a group of Australian scientists shows that radio waves similar to the frequency emitted by mobile phones can cause DNA damage to sperm.

The research was conducted by scientists of Australia's University of Newcastle, in which mice were bombarded with electromagnetic radiation at 900 megahertz for 12 hours a day for seven days.

Researchers described the DNA damage to the mice's sperm as "statistically significant" although they did not find any problem with the sperm's motility.

John Aitken, an expert in male reproduction of the university's faculty of sci-

ence and information, said the results suggested more work should be done into the effects of mobile phone use on sperm quality.

"If anything, it should be used as a springboard for further studies in order to confirm the finding and try and establish the mechanism by which the effect was achieved," he was quoted by *Australian Associated Press* as saying Friday.

"I think ultimately some clinical trials should be done (on humans) al-

though I point out that the radiation these mice received...really can't reflect mobile phone use," he said.

He said that studies into possible links between mobile phone use and cancer had proved conflicting, research involving the reproductive system and mobile phones was new.

"The field is still very controversial," he said.

The results of the radio wave study were conducted with Associate Professor Bruce King.

MNA/Xinhua

One killed as bus tips over on snow-covered highway in Germany

BERLIN, 20 Feb — A British woman was killed and 21 other people injured on Saturday when a bus taking British tourists to an Austrian ski resort lost control and tipped over on a snow-covered highway in western Germany, police said.

The bus, carrying 34 passengers, two drivers and a tour guide, skidded on the snow before tipping and sliding on its side for 80 metres, according to eyewitnesses cited by the police.

The 57-year old tour guide was thrown from the coach into the oncoming lane and died at the site of the accident, near

Gruenstadt in the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate. Another 21 passengers were injured, 7 of them severely, police said.

The bus was driving holidaymakers to Zillertal in Austria from a location near London and was not equipped with winter tyres, police said. All those travelling on the bus were British.—MNA/Reuters

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FC Brussels sack coach

BRUSSELS, 21 Feb— Struggling FC Brussels sacked coach Emilio Ferrera on Saturday following their disappointing results this season.

Ferrera has been replaced on a temporary basis by the Belgian First Division club's sports manager Dimitri Mbuyu.

In a statement, Brussels said the "painful decision" had been taken to "promote the good spirit within the club" and to help improve the side's performance in the league. Brussels are bottom of the 18-team standings, with just 14 points after 22 games.

Ferrera, who has been coaching in the Belgian First Division since 1999, was appointed in charge at Brussels last May on a two-year contract.—MNA/Reuters

Mourinho says Chelsea have better players than Porto

LONDON, 21 Feb— Chelsea have better players than last year's Champions League winning side Porto but lack the Portuguese side's organization, according to Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

Mourinho took unfancied Porto to victory last May on the back of supreme tactical organization, something Chelsea were still striving for, the Portuguese coach told a news conference previewing Wednesday's Champions League clash with Barcelona.

"Chelsea have better players but Porto were better from a tactical point of view, better organized," he said. "Porto won the Champions League in the third year (I was there) and I am now seven months into a four-year contract," added Mourinho, who left Porto for Chelsea last June.



Jose Mourinho

Mourinho, whose side are nine points clear in the English Premier League, said he had to introduce his tactical ideas gradually to a highly paid squad of internationals at the London-based club.

"We must work in phases and

add things step by step," he said. Chelsea are missing top players, including fleet-footed winger Arjen Robben, for the match against the Spanish league leaders but Mourinho said the inspirational Dutchman had been blanked from his mind.

"The best way to face injury to very important players is to forget about them," he said. "I have to support and motivate others. I will never use Robben as an excuse."

Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba, recovering from a thigh injury, is also doubtful for the Nou Camp fixture.—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Joe Cole (L) and Newcastle's Kieron Dyer vie in an FA Cup clash at St James' Park, Newcastle. Newcastle beat Chelsea 1-0.—INTERNET

Newcastle United pull off 1-0 win over Chelsea

NEWCASTLE (England), 21 Feb— A fine header from Dutch striker Patrick Kluyvert gave Newcastle United a 1-0 win over Premier League leaders Chelsea and a surprise place in the FA Cup quarterfinals on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho's decision to field a weakened side at St. James' Park and make all his substitutions at halftime for tactical reasons backfired disastrously as the visitors ended the match with just nine men due to injury and a sending off.

Chelsea's preparations for their Champions League game at Barcelona on Wednesday also suffered a severe setback as England left back Wayne Bridge was carried off on a stretcher.

Bridge was taken to hospital with a suspected broken ankle leaving Mourinho's side with 10 men for most of a second half that ended with goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini's dismissal.

Mourinho opted to field a depleted side with a visit to the Nou Camp in mind but the strategy resulted in only the second domestic defeat of the season for the Premier League leaders just a week before their League Cup final with Liverpool.

Kluyvert, once a Barcelona player, did his former employers a huge psychological favour by putting Newcastle ahead.

With only four minutes on the clock the Dutchman leapt in front of defender William Gallas to head in a Laurent Robert cross from eight metres after a move involving midfielder Nicky Butt and right back Stephen Carr.

When Kluyvert's effort flew past reserve keeper Cudicini it paved the way for Chelsea's third defeat of the season and was only the 15th goal they

have conceded this term.

Mateja Kezman almost equalized for Chelsea 20 minutes later when Tiago's cross was deflected into his path by Butt but his close-range effort struck the underside of the bar and bounced to safety.

Newcastle keeper Shay Given was then required to keep out a low 20-metre drive from Chelsea's Czech Republic midfielder Jiri Jarosik but otherwise had little to do against a side who lacked zip in attack.

Mourinho rang the changes at halftime by sending on Damien Duff, Frank Lampard and Eidur Gudjohnsen for Joe Cole, Geremi and Tiago respectively but using all his substitutes was to prove costly.

Once Bridge was carried off on a stretcher with a splint around his left knee, after stumbling awkwardly following a challenge from Newcastle captain Alan Shearer five minutes into the second half, Chelsea were forced to play with 10 men.

Their numerical inferiority meant Mourinho's team were unable to create any genuine goalscoring opportunities against a side with one of the worst defences in the Premier League, although Kezman did volley a decent half-chance well wide.

Newcastle came closest to scoring again in stoppage time when Glen Johnson sliced a cross onto his own bar.

MNA/Reuters

Shevchenko to miss Champions League clash with Man United

ROME, 21 Feb — AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko will miss next Wednesday's Champions League clash with Manchester United after fracturing a cheekbone and an eye socket during his side's 1-0 win over Cagliari on Saturday.

The European Footballer of the Year was forced to leave the pitch in the 11th minute of the match at the San Siro after clashing heads with a Cagliari defender.

A statement on Milan's web site on Saturday said Shevchenko would have an operation on Monday and was

expected to recover within 10 to 12 days ruling him out of the first knockout round, first leg clash against United at Old Trafford.

The injury also makes him extremely doubtful for next weekend's city derby with Inter Milan.—MNA/Reuters

PSV book 4-1 win over NEC Nijmegen

AMSTERDAM, 21 Feb— PSV Eindhoven booked a comfortable 4-1 win over lowly NEC Nijmegen to move five points clear at the top of the Dutch First Division on Saturday.

Korean Ji-Sung Park was instrumental in PSV's 2-0 halftime lead when he scored after 21 minutes and then set up DaMarcus Beasley to double their advantage on the stroke of halftime.

With Tuesday's Champions League match against Monaco on their minds PSV started the second half in a lower gear but when Said Boutahar pulled one back for Nijmegen with a fierce shot from the edge of the box after 55 minutes PSV woke up.

Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink headed home his 14th goal of the season to restore a two-goal lead from a Young-Pyo Lee assist after 71 minutes and Andre Ooijer wrapped up a comfortable

win with another header six minutes later.

PSV have 55 points from 22 matches with AZ Alkmaar, who host Roda JC Kerkrade on Sunday, second on 50. Ajax are third with 44 before they entertain bottom side Den Bosch while fourth placed Feyenoord travel to Utrecht, who are a position below them.

RBC Roosendaal increased the gap with Den Bosch to five points after a 2-0 home win over neighbours Willem II Tilburg on Friday. Donny de Groot opened the scoring early in the second half and Elvis Hammond sealed the win in injury time.

MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo's shirt collection stolen in Brazil

BRASILIA, 21 Feb— About 100 shirts of the collection of Brazilian international Ronaldo were stolen together with other trophies at Rio de Janeiro, as announced Saturday by the father of the player, Nelio Nazario.

The collection, of "great sentimental value" according to Nazario, was stolen from Ronaldo's father's flat, located in a luxurious residential area of Rio.

The thieves also got valuable objects and jewellery, as well as trophies won by the player, including a gold soccer shoe, paintings, Ronaldo's photos, clothing and footwear.

"It was horrible. I arrive in the flat, found the door open, and everything was a mess," said Nazario to the local Press.

MNA/Xinhua



Winner of the Proximus Diamond Games 2005 tennis tournament, French Amelie Mauresmo, poses after her match against American Venus Williams (4-6, 7-5, 6-4).—INTERNET

Thousands of Britons hunt fox, testing limits of new ban

LONDON, 21 Feb — Thousands of hunters are joining more than 250 fox hunts on Saturday to test the limits of a new ban which came into force across England and Wales one day earlier, the Countryside Alliance announced.

Chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, Simon Hart, said it was "simply the first day in the dismantling of the Hunting Act".

The new legislation bans all hunting with hounds, including the pursuit of rabbits and deer. However, there are a number of loopholes in the law. For example, exercising hounds, chasing a scent trail, and flushing out foxes to be shot are still legal.

If a fox runs out during the hunt and the hounds chase and kill it, the hunters say there is very little they can do to stop it, adding that the risk of a fox appearing during an exercise is also unavoidable. The police said Saturday they will not break up hunts but promised to monitor this weekend's hunting.

"The law says a person is guilty of an offense if he hunts a wild mammal

with a dog. That is a fairly straightforward piece of legislation," Suffolk county Chief Constable Alastair McWhirter told the BBC.

Earlier this week, hunt supporters lost the latest round of their legal challenge to the law banning hunting with dogs since the Court of Appeal judged the 1949 Parliament Act was valid. The British Government had used the act to get the hunt ban legislation passed after it was rejected repeatedly by the House of Lords. The ruling comes as a latest BBC poll suggests support for the ban is below 50 per cent, compared to 63 per cent in a similar poll in 1999.

MNA/Xinhua

Tape says Bush used marijuana

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — President George W Bush indicated in interviews secretly taped by a friend before he became president that he had used marijuana but would not admit it for fear of setting a bad example for children.

Portions of the tapes, recorded from 1998 to 2000 by author Doug Wead without Bush's knowledge, were aired on ABC News on Sunday and published by *The New York Times*. Their authenticity was verified by the media outlets but has not been independently checked by Reuters.

"I wouldn't answer the marijuana question. You know why? Because I don't want some little kid doing what I tried," Bush purportedly says on the tape.

He added: "But you got to understand, I want to be president. I want to lead. I want to set — Do you want your little kid say, 'Hey, Daddy, President Bush tried mari-

juana, I think I will?'" In the tape, Bush mocks former Vice-President Al Gore — who fought him for the presidency in 2000 — for admitting he smoked marijuana.

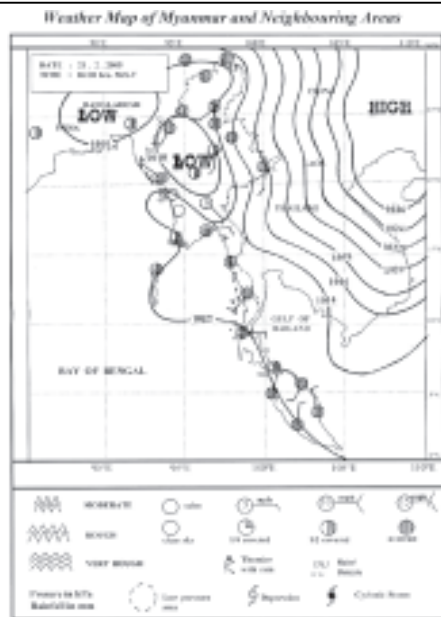
White House officials did not dispute the tapes' veracity and indicated the President was disappointed by their release.

"These were casual conversations that then governor Bush was having with someone he thought was a friend, and that's what they are," White House Spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters travelling with Bush to Europe aboard *Air Force One*.

MNA/Reuters



Chairman of DaikU Township Association Maj Ba Win (Retd) presents prize to an outstanding student Ma Su Wai HLaing who won four distinctions in matriculation examination at Theingyicay Maha Theindawgyi Dhammayon, Pabetan Township on 21-2-2005.—H



WEATHER

Monday, 21 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.59) inch. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin State and Mandalay Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine, Chin States and Bago Division, (4°C) below normal in Eastern Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Kengtung, Lashio, Pinlaung, Namsam and Heho (8°C) each. Maximum temperature on 20-2-2005 was 105°F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-2-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 20-2-2005 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 21-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from Southwest at (16:05) hours MST on 19-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 22-2-2005:** Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan States, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with mode-rate to rough sea are likely at time off and along Gulf of Mottama, Mon and Taninthayi coasts. Surface wind speed may reach (30) to (35) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Israeli ex-president in serious condition

JERUSALEM, 21 Feb — Israeli former president Ezer Weizman is in very serious condition, suffering from pneumonia, *Ha'aretz* reported on Sunday.

Weizman, 81, has been hospitalized for the past three weeks in Rambam Medical Centre in the northern city of Haifa, and was transferred to the intensive care unit on Saturday.

He is on antibiotics and requires assisted breathing on a respirator, said the daily.

Weizman has been hospitalized several times during the course of the

past year. He has undergone hip and spine surgery.

As a veteran politician, Weizman helped the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, which culminated in the US-backed Camp David agreements signed in 1978.

He served as Israeli president from 1993 to 2000.

MNA/Xinhua



- Tuesday, 22 February**
Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music :
 - Crazy for you
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
 -Cest la vie
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music:
 -Left to right
9.00 am International news
9.10 am Music:
 -Don't look any further
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
 -Walk me home
 -That's the way it is
 -As mush as I can give you girl
 -Say what you want
9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level- II Unit (20)
9.15 pm Article/music
9.25 pm Weekly sports reel
9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure
 -Walk on by
 -Bat at one
9.45pm News/Slogan
10.00pm PEL



- Tuesday, 22 February**
View on today:
7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းတို့နဲ့ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်အားကျင့်အဘိဓမ္မဟာရသုတ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဇောတိတ၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရီတ၊ ဆရာတော် သဒ္ဓမ္မစိန္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
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. ကဗျာနိဗ္ဗာန်သုတ်
8:10 am
 6. အထွဋ်ဋ်

- 8:20 am**
 7. Songs of yesteryears
8:30 am
 8. International news
8:45 am
 9. Let's Go
4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
4:15 pm
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
 3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm
 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
 5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ညှာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
5:15 pm
 6. Dance of national races
5:30 pm
 7. ခံစားနားထောင်တေးဂီတဝင်
5:45 pm
 8. Sing and Enjoy
6:15 pm
 9. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်များမှ "ဇရာဘိဝံသ" (အပိုင်း-၇၀)
6:30 pm
 10. Evening news
7:00 pm
 11. Weather report
7:05 pm
 12. The mirror images of the musical oldies
7:20 pm
 13. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးပြည့်အတိုင်း
7:35 pm
 14. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ် ပန်းချီပန်းပု ပြိုင်ပွဲ ပြပွဲအကြောင်းသိကောင်းစရာများ
7:45 pm
 15. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံရတီပြတေး
8:00 pm
 16. News
 17. International news
 18. Weather report
 19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သံဓဉ်ပျံချီသံ" (အပိုင်း-၄၁)
 20. The next day's programme

Minister inspects raft jetties, Zoological Gardens (Yangon)



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung views a girl dancing with a snake in the Zoo (Yangon). — MNA

YANGON, 21 Feb—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, accompanied by directors-general and managing directors of the Ministry of Forestry and officials, this morning inspected work being carried out at sale section-3, Kan-3 raft jetty, Aungzeya raft jetty and Bayint Naung raft jetty of Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Ahlon Township.

Next, the minister arrived at the Yangon Division Forest Department's Office and looked into functions of the office.

On arrival at Sethsan raft jetty in Pazundaung Township, the minister inspected the classification of logs to be sold through tender system and gave necessary instructions. In the afternoon, the minister and party proceeded to the Zoological Gardens (Yangon) where they viewed recreation facilities for the public and inspected round the gardens.

After completion of his inspection, the minister fulfilled the requirements to officials concerned.

MNA

Regional Development Special Refresher Course No 4 opened

YANGON, 21 Feb—Regional Development Special Refresher Course No 4 was opened at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township this afternoon.

Also present were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, the deputy attorney-general, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, heads of departments, the rector of CICS (Phaunggyi) and trainees.

In his address, the minister said the opening of the course was to implement the ten guidelines laid down by Chairman of Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Head of State

Senior General Than Shwe.

He spoke of the need for the trainees to learn the lectures with interest and to carry out the tasks for development of the regions, consolidation of the Union Spirit and keeping patriotism alive in the respective regions.

He also spoke at length on building of a peaceful modern developed nation as the national task, implementing border areas and national races development projects, urban development projects, development special projects, and rural development projects.

The six-week course is being attended by 334 trainees.—MNA

Bio-gas Electric Power Plants open in Thazi

YANGON, 21 Feb — Under the arrangement of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, a ceremony to open Bio-gas Electric Power Plant, Myaingtha village, 12 miles north-east of Thazi Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division was held at that place on 18 February.

First, Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo formally unveiled the signboard of the power plant.

After Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo had delivered an address, Chairman of Electricity Supply Committee U Aung Myaing reported on measures taken for electric power and Organizer of Village PDC U Kyi Tin expressed gratitude. The power plant was built at a cost of 3.8 million.

Similarly, a ceremony to open Bio-gas Electric Power Plant in Phayangahsu Model village in Thazi Township. Next, Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo formally unveiled the signboard of the power plant. Local people U Mye expressed thanks. The power plant was built at a cost of 4.8 million.

MNA

Minister looks into industrial raw materials, warehouses in Taungdwingyi Township

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, accompanied by officials concerned arrived at Taungdwingyi Cotton Factory of Myanmar Textile Industries in Magway Division on 19 February and inspected the cotton materials stored in the warehouse.

After giving instructions on preventive measures against the danger of fire, the minister inspected functions of cotton grinding and machine spare parts and met with officials at the briefing hall of the factory.

First, Factory Manager U Win Naing Oo reported on preparation for grinding cotton and Managing Director MTI U Oo Thein Maung gave supplementary reports.

Next, the minister looked into progress in building of the corn foodstuff factory project and starch factory. The industrial crop plantations are being implemented through plans.

MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 22 Feb — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Naceur Boucherit as Ambassador or Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Union of Myanmar in succession to HE Mr Tewfik Abada.

Mr Naceur Boucherit joined the foreign service after having obtained a diploma of National School of Administration of Algiers in 1979. He had served in various capacities at the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassies in Conakry, Bern and Ottawa. He has been serving as Algerian Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 3 September 2004.

Mr Naceur Boucherit will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi, Vietnam. He is 48 years old, married and has three children.

MNA

Myanmar teams reach finals

YANGON, 21 Feb — International sepak takraw championship continued at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium-1 here today.

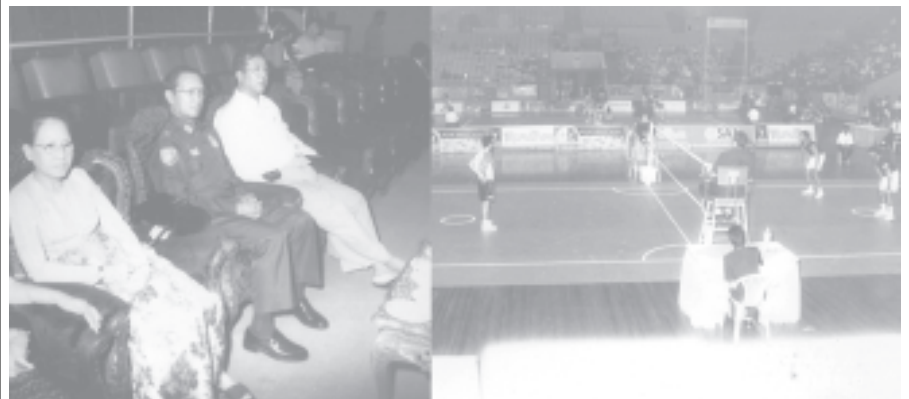
Today's matches included ten men's doubles and women's regu events. Myanmar A team beat Thailand 2-1 in the semi final of men's doubles. In another

men's semi finals Myanmar B beat Singapore 2-0.

In women's doubles, Myanmar A team beat Myanmar B team 2-0. Thailand beat the Republic of Korea 2-0 in the second match.

Regu events continue tomorrow.

MNA



Sports Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watches sepak takraw event at National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna). — MNA