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General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes back Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates King of Brunei

YANGON, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 21st National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaullah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Brunei Darussalam

YANGON, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 21st National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2005, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaullah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes back Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party

YANGON, 22 Feb — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party returned home by special flight at 10.15 pm yesterday after paying an official visit to the Republic of the Philippines at the invitation of President of the Republic of the Philippines Her Excellency Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the (See page 8)

PM's visit a drive to further strengthen existing goodwill relations, cooperation between two countries Philippines not accept economic sanctions against Myanmar imposed by some big nations

YANGON, 22 Feb—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win and members of Myanmar goodwill delegation on an official visit to the Philippines were welcomed by President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Malacanang Palace in Manila yesterday.

On arrival at the palace Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win was welcomed by Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Next, a welcoming ceremony was held. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo went to the dais and took the salute of the Guard of Honour. The visiting Prime Minister was accorded the 19-gun salute. Meanwhile, the State Band played the National Anthems of the Union of Myanmar and the Philippines. The Prime Minister and the President inspected the Guard of Honour.

President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo presented senior officers of the Philippine Army, Executive Secretary Mr Eduardo Ermita, the ministers and senior officials to the visiting Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win also presented his entourage to President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. He also greeted diplomats of ASEAN nations.

(See page 16)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo hold a meeting at Malacanang Palace. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 23 February, 2005

Extend cultivation of new items of crops

As the Union of Myanmar has a great deal of potential for boosting agricultural production, efforts are being made for all-round development of other sectors of the economy based on development of agriculture. Those in the agriculture sector are trying not only to meet domestic consumption but also to export the surplus. For this, terrestrial and aquatic resources are being used to the full to increase the production of seasonal crops, industrial crops and other new items of crops and the government is rendering all the necessary assistance to the farmers and national entrepreneurs so that they can export the surplus to the international market.

In rendering assistance to the farmers for improving their socio-economic life, the government is providing technology and meeting other necessary requirements so that they can increase cultivated acreage and extend the cultivation of marketable crops. Moreover, the government is helping the farmers to cut the cost of cultivation and to prevent loss and wastage.

For the development of agriculture, 170 dams and 271 river water pumping stations have been built wherever necessary throughout the nation. As a result, not only paddy and the other ten major crops but also onion can now be cultivated in acres and acres of new farmland. The nation has 25 million acres of cultivated farmland. Yet there are lots and lots of virgin and vacant land left. Therefore, the government is going to help those who want to grow crops suitable to their respective regions.

In addition to beans and pulses, plum, castor, chilli, mango and rubber are being exported with the help of the government. The government is helping the farmers and merchants to be able to distribute agricultural produce to the markets at home and abroad easily in accordance with the producers.

As the government is rendering all the necessary assistance for the development of agriculture, the farmers, on their part, are required to make constant efforts to boost the production of agricultural produce and to extend the cultivation of new items of crops in all the arable land. And we would like to call on the farmers to make the best use of the assistance provided by the government and to try as hard as they can to increase the production of the agricultural sector in the interests of the nation as well as in their own.

Greening projects inspected

YANGON, 22 Feb — Director-General of the Arid Zones Greening Department U Tun Tun together with officials concerned of district and township levels in Magway and Mandalay Divisions went on field trip to townships of Thayet District in Magway Division and those of NyaungU District in Mandalay Division from 10 to 15 February.

During his inspection tour, the director-general instructed to the officials to conserve the plantations, to make arrangements to prevent fire in the plantations, to take measures for land preparation meeting set standards and to make field trips down to the grassroot level. — 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

Water supply tasks inspected in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 22 Feb— Accompanied by Director-General Col Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department and officials, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, on 19 February, inspected water supply tasks in Mandalay Division.

In Meiktila, the minister heard reports on water supply tasks presented by officials of Mandalay Division DAD. He gave instructions on supplying of 75,000 gallons of water per hour from five tubewells to Mahasi ward in Meiktila.



Minister Col Thein Nyunt checks a chart showing measures to supply water to Meiktila Township on 19 February. —MNA

In Pyawbwe, officials reported to the minister on water supply tasks. The minister gave instructions on extension of water supply.

In Yamethin, the

minister gave instructions on implementation of water supply project as soon as possible.

Previously, DAD supplied 140,000 gallons of water per day in

Yamethin and under the extended water supply project a total of 300,000 gallons of water will be supplied to the town.

MNA

Coord meeting for 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition held

YANGON, 22 Feb — The Committee for staging the Booths of Nation-Building Endeavours held the second coordination meeting of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition at the hall of the Defence Services Museum, Dagon Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the committee Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and deputy ministers, heads of department and guests.

First, the chairman delivered an address on

the occasion. He said the booths of the nation-building endeavors will be staged in accord with the objectives laid down. Reviewing the minutes of the previous meetings, those present are to coordinate tasks to be carried out on time, he said.

Next, those present reported on matters related to future tasks. The chairman made concluding remarks.

After the meeting, the chairman and committee members viewed preparations for the booths of the nation-building endeavors. — MNA

Respects paying ceremony held

YANGON, 22 Feb — Families of Natogyi Township in Myingyan District held the first ceremony to pay respects to members of Sangha and aged persons at Thanyoat Monastery in Bahan Township at 9 am on February 20.

During the ceremony, alms were offered to 12 members of Sangha and gifts were given to nine aged persons. On behalf of the aged persons, U San Lwin expressed gratitude.

MNA

Kawseinban village in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State gets library

YANGON, 22 Feb— With 700 books donated by Lawkahtacariya Foundation, Lawkahtacariya library was opened in Kawseinban village in Hpa-an Township on 14 February. Chairman of

Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu, officials and locals totalling 300 attended the opening ceremony.

The Lawkahtacariya Foundation was formed with members of the Sangha in the leading role and it has successfully opened rural libraries in Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions and Kayin State. — MNA



Korea team preventing a kick from Myanmar team (B) in Regu event. —NLM



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Australia, NZ and AESAN launch talks on free trade deal

MELBOURNE (Australia), 22 Feb— Talks aimed at sealing a free trade agreement between the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia and New Zealand were launched here on Monday, Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile announced.

The meeting of senior trade officials followed an agreement between leaders of the 12 countries at ASEAN's meeting in Laos last November to complete negotiations within two years and to implement a free trade agreement (FTA) fully within 10 years. "This initial round of talks has allowed us to map out the way forward for the negotiations," Vaile said after the meeting. "Our job is to complete the FTA within

two years. "The meeting of senior trade officials is an important step in taking forward the government's long-standing priority of strengthening our trade and economic engagement with Southeast Asia." Vaile said the 12 countries had agreed the FTA should be comprehensive and seek to progressively eliminate barriers to trade affecting goods, services, and investment. Australia has already negotiated free trade agree-

ments with New Zealand, the United States, Singapore and Thailand and has begun talks on a similar deal with Malaysia.

With a combined population of 545 million, gross domestic product totalling almost 700 billion US dollars and growth rates predicted to be well above the global average in coming years, a trade agreement is seen as offering huge commercial opportunities for all participants.—MNA/AFP



View of the Singapore skyline seen on 21 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET



Nine Beijing-based high schools to open branches overseas

BEIJING, 21 Feb — Nine Beijing-based high schools are working in preparation to open branches overseas to publicize China's experience in elementary education and Chinese language teaching around the world.

The nine schools include Huiwen, Luhe and the No. 12 high schools, the Secondary School attached to the Capital Normal University, Niulanshan No 1 High

School, the Secondary School attached to the prestigious People's University, Beijing Experimental High School, Beijing No. 2 High School and Beijing No 5 High School.

According to a source with the Beijing Municipal Education Committee, the committee's agenda for the first time includes encouraging local high schools with rich teach-

ing experience to open branches overseas.

The move is designed to push forward exchanges and cooperation between Beijing and foreign countries in the education sector, the source said.

Beijing currently has cooperation programmes with foreign educational organizations ranging from kindergartens to colleges.—MNA/Xinhua

Musharraf to visit Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan

ISLAMABAD, 21 Feb— Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will pay his first official visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in the first week of March, Dawn reported Sunday.

"The visit has political as well as economic significance and its primary objective is to give an impetus to relations by increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation," Dawn quoted an unnamed official as saying.

During the expected four-day trip, the President

will hold talks with his counterparts on expanding bilateral cooperation. Pakistan has over 100 agreements with the two countries but the relations have lacked high-level contacts. Pakistan has established joint economic commissions with the two countries. With the Gwadar Port, Pakistan will provide the Central Asian states the shortest route to sea. The country also wants access to the Central Asian markets through Afghanistan.

It will be the first visit by a Pakistani head of state to the two central Asian republics in almost a decade. Former president Farooq Leghari visited the countries in 1996.

MNA/Xinhua

CPC urges party officials to study anti-graft guideline

BEIJING, 21 Feb— The General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) issued a notice Sunday urging Party officials to implement the instruction of three Party departments on studying the Party's anti-graft guidelines to improve the ability to combat corruption.

The guidelines, which were deliberated at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee in December last year, set out to "build and improve a system to punish and prevent corruption through promoting education, in strict compliance with regulations and super-

vision". To facilitate the construction of the system, the notice urges Party officials, leading cadres in particular, to study the guidelines to enhance the Party's governance and ability to fight corruption.

Party officials should "understand the significance of education promotion, system building and supervision in the anti-graft movement by studying and carrying out the guidelines," the notice says. The notice was jointly drawn out by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC and the Organization Department and Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee. It was

approved by the CPC Central Committee.

MNA/Xinhua

Southern Philippine city to build Chinatown

MANILA, 21 Feb— The southern Philippine city of Davao will build a Chinatown to promote both trade and tourism, said officials of the Davao City Chinatown Development Council on Sunday.

The council is composed of representatives from the municipal government and the private sector, including Filipino-Chinese leaders who will supervise the development of the Chinatown and identify

activities for the district. Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte designated some of his officials as facilitators of the project, said council officials. The Chinatown District will showcase Chinese signs and characters, motifs, stores selling traditional Chinese products, a

Chinese theatre and a Chinese museum. The council initiated earlier this month events for the lunar new year celebrations such as street food festival and night flea market and float parades which represented various features of Chinese New Year.—MNA/Xinhua

1,483 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 21 Feb —As of Monday, 21 February, 2005, at least 1,483 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 21 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.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,345 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,007 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

Three soldiers were killed Monday in Baghdad, Iraq, when a roadside bomb detonated as they were evacuating a fellow soldier.—Internet



A motorcyclist rides past the Tenaga Nasional offices in Kuala Lumpur on 22 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET



Japan's H-2A rocket at the launching pad on Tanegashima island, in Kagoshima prefecture, southern Japan on 22 Feb, 2005. INTERNET

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Vietnam to obtain bigger export revenues in first quarter

HANOI, 22 Feb — Vietnam is predicted to earn export turnovers of 6.9 billion US dollars in the first quarter of this year, a year-on-year rise of 15 per cent.

The expected hike is attributed to higher prices and increasing world demand for some local commodities such as crude oil, rice, coffee, cashew nuts and rubber, according to the Ministry of Trade on Monday. The demand of some Asian, Middle East, and African countries for local rice will be higher while the World Food Organization will buy more rice for assisting some tsunami-hit countries.

Of the total export revenues, earnings from Asia-Pacific market is estimated at 3.7 billion US dollars; Europe, nearly 1.5 billion US dollars; and the United States, 1.4 billion dollars. Vietnam made export turnovers of nearly two billion US dollars in January 2005, up 19.6 per cent. It targets to gain export revenues of 30.5 billion US dollars this year, up 17.3 per cent against last year, mainly by increasing shipments to its key markets, namely the European Union, the United States, Japan and China. — MNA/Xinhua

British Finance Minister hails China as world eco engine

BEIJING, 22 Feb — China has become a vital driver of global growth and protectionist voices are engaged in a “sterile attempt to stop the clock”, British Finance Minister Gordon Brown will say on Monday.

Brown arrived in Beijing Monday for a trade-based visit before moving to the eastern metropolis of Shanghai on Tuesday and then heading home the next day via the southern boomtown of Shenzhen. Meetings are planned with Premier Wen Jiabao, Finance Minister Jin Renqing and central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan.

In his first-ever trip to China, Brown, who served as Chancellor of the Exchequer under Prime Minister Tony Blair since 1997, will push Britain’s trade interests in what is an increasingly important market for British business.

But with London currently chairing the Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized nations’ club, he will also deliver a broader message, warning doubters that the world’s most populous nation is too integral a part of the globalized economy to ignore.

Protectionist voices in the West who want to shut

out Chinese exports were engaged in a “sterile attempt to stop the clock”, he was due to say in a key speech in Beijing later Monday.

In the speech to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Brown was to insist that the rise of China and other nations should be welcomed, not feared.

Globalization “is now so rapid in its impact, so pervasive in its effects, that nations will rise and fall with speech depending upon their ability to adapt,” he will say, according to extracts released to reporters.

China, the world’s fastest growing major economy, is already a significant global economic force being the biggest individual consumer of materials such as cement, steel and iron ore while being an important hi-tech innovator.

“China’s re-emergence as a leader in scientific research should surprise nobody.

MNA/AFP

India tests medium range missile

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb — India successfully tested on Monday a homegrown medium-range, surface-to-air missile from a range in the eastern state of Orissa, the Indo-Asian News Service quoted local defence officials as saying.

The Akash missile successfully hit a pilot-less aircraft used as the target after being fired from a mobile launcher at 1:00 pm from the integrated test range at Chandipur in Balasore District, 230 kilometres from state capital Bhubaneswar.

Akash has a range of 25 kilometres. It uses a ramjet propulsion system and is powered by an air-breathing engine.

The missile is deployed with the indigenously developed Rajendra radar that can simultaneously track 64 targets within a range of 40-60 kilometres.

Akash is one of the five missiles under various stages of development by the Defence Research and Development Organization. — MNA/Xinhua

Mainland, Taiwan non-stop charter flights end with hope

BEIJING, 21 Feb— The HU 7952 flight of the Chinese Mainland-based Hainan Airlines landed Sunday night at the Capital International Airport here, ending the non-stop charter flight service across the Taiwan Straits for this year’s Lunar New Year holidays.

More than 10,000 Taiwan businesspeople and their families in the Mainland took the special charters to return home for the Lunar New Year which fell on February 9, flying directly across the Taiwan Straits for the first time in 56 years.

Twelve airlines from the Mainland and Taiwan offered 48 round-trips during the temporary service, which began on 29 January with an Air China’s flight heading for Taipei, the first Mainland’s civil airliner flying to the island in 56 years.

For most of the Taiwanese travellers, who normally must fly an extra four hours through a third destination such as Hong Kong when travelling from the Mainland back home, the success of the charter flights has raised their hopes for direct air links across the Straits.

“Charter flights shorten the geographical distance and save time. But more importantly, they bridge a psychological gap,” said Zhuang Zongyu, a Taiwanese businessman. “We hope we can have direct charters not only for holidays, but for normal times as well.” Air China said it would donate all its revenue from eight charter flights to organizations that strive to facilitate cross- Straits exchanges.— MNA/Xinhua

Italian Embassy suggests journalist to leave Iraq

ROME, 21 Feb—The Italian Embassy in Baghdad has suggested journalists to leave Iraq. The news was given by diplomatic sources according to which it was not a formal decision made by the Foreign Ministry following other recent calls not to travel to Iraq, but an initiative of the Italian Embassy itself prompted by the current precarious security situation.

Kidnappings and violence against foreign citizens have not even spared journalists and although the Indonesian correspondent and her cameraman have been, this morning a journalist of another local TV channel has been kidnapped together with her 10-year-old child in Mosul.—Internet

Four US soldiers die in Iraq bombing

BAGHDAD, 21 Feb—Four US soldiers were killed in Iraq, three of them today when a roadside bomb detonated as they were evacuating a colleague.

Eight soldiers were also wounded when the bomb exploded. The soldiers were evacuating a soldier who’d been injured when his convoy collided with a civilian vehicle, the US command said.

The location of the accident was not given.

Meanwhile, a fourth US soldier was killed by small arms fire in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Saturday, the military said, giving no other details.—Internet



Vietnamese farm workers weigh chicken eggs at a farm in Long An Province in the Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam on 20 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

China's State Council revamps working rules

BEIJING, 21 Feb — The State Council of China has recently amended and publicized the statute on its working rules which are believed to be more scientific, clear, strict and standardized.

The newly amended rules are divided into ten chapters including general principles, member duties, full implementation of governmental functions, promoting scientific and democratic decision-making and working styles and enhancing disciplines.

The statute said the State Council should work hard to form an administrative management system that is standardized, concerted, fair, transparent and efficient.

"All the departments of the State Council must exercise their functions according to laws," it said.

It required the Chinese Government to substantively shift the focus of its economic management functions to creating a sound development environment and serving the main market bodies.

"The State Council must accelerate its function transferring so as to fully perform the duties of economic adjustment, market supervision, social management and public service."

It also required the Cabinet to further promote administrative supervision and carry out administrative activities according to laws.

MNA/Xinhua



Four judges watch two buffalo fighting at a park in Shanghai, in east China, on 20 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Vietnam to produce bird flu vaccine this year

HANOI, 22 Feb — Vietnam this year plans to turn out vaccines against H5N1 virus and research into producing bird flu-testing kits.

The vaccine production will be implemented if upcoming tests of bird flu vaccines on people show good results, according to the country's national Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute on Monday.

Vietnam, which has used bird flu vaccines on mice, chickens and monkeys on a pilot basis, has just found that the vaccines are effective on mice and chickens. The final result of the vaccination on monkeys will come out late February.

The country, which started researching into vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 in early 2004, has experienced three outbreaks of bird flu in people, killing 32 local people since 26 December, 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia needs more patent examiners to expedite approvals

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Feb— Malaysia needs about 500 patent examiners to expedite the approval of patent applications, which now takes about five to six years, a minister has said.

The rising number of intellectual property registrations in the country, mainly from foreigners, was another reason for more patent examiners, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Mohamed Shafie Apdal told reporters after a pre-launch of the National Intellectual Property Day here Monday.

"We need about 500 patent examiners and that is

a comfortable figure if we want to reduce the approval period from five to six years to two years," he said.

"The international community is more confident with Malaysia because their patents are well protected from infringement," he said.

"Strict enforcement and stern actions taken by the government against counterfeit and piracy have encouraged foreign-

ers to register their patents here," he added.

However, the lack of patent examiners, qualified patent lawyers and agents involved in drafting patents could slow down the approval process, he said.

At present there are only 42 patent examiners in the country.

In 2003, a total of 5,062 patent applications, both local and foreign,

were filed in Malaysia but figures rose to 5,442 the following year.

In 2003, 1,578 applications were approved, followed by 2,347 in 2004.

Last year, Malaysians alone filed 522 patent applications, a slight increase from 376 in 2003.

The National Intellectual Property Day will be held in Malacca on March 3 this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia's malaria deaths declined in 2004

PHNOM PENH, 22 Feb—The number of persons died of malaria in Cambodia decreased in 2004, local media reported on Sunday.

According to the figures released by Health Ministry, total malaria cases decreased from 132,571 in 2003 to 116,324 in 2004; and deaths decreased from 492 to 380 in the same period. In 1998, there were 140,843 cases and 621 deaths.

"The decrease is due to the increased distribution of bed nets and the training of village malaria volunteers," The *Commercial News* on Sunday quoted Duong Socheat, director of the Ministry of Health's National Malaria Centre as saying. "We trained 2,000 volunteers in 2004," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Eritrean President visits home of China's terra cotta Army

XI'AN, 21 Feb — Eritrean President Issayas Aferwerki continued his China tour Sunday here in the capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Pro-vice, well known for the terra cotta warriors and steeds buried with Emperor Qin Shihuang who united China in 221 BC.

Issayas toured a local museum exhibiting the terra cotta Army created to guard the emperor after his death. He also visited the Xi'an Aircraft Industry (Group) Co Ltd.

Issayas said he was amazed by the gorgeous terra cotta Army, one of the eight wonders of the world, and by China's fast economic development.

He hoped Eritrea and China would work together to close their friendly

relations and strengthen their cooperation and exchange.

The President arrived in Xi'an Saturday night from Beijing and will continue his China tour in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, and Shenzhen, an economic hub of Guangdong Province in the south.

Issayas arrived in Beijing on Thursday for a state visit as guest of Chinese President Hu Jintao. — MNA/Xinhua



Hollywood actor and former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan, left, poses with Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre, right, during a promotional event for an international watch company Omega in Bombay, India, on 21 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Post-war insecurity leaves Iraqi women at risk of violence

LONDON, 22 Feb— Nearly two years after the US-led invasion of Iraq, women there are no better off than under the rule of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein, the human rights group Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

In a report entitled "Iraq — Decades of Suffering", it said that while the systematic repression under Saddam had ended, it had been replaced by increased murders and sexual abuse — including by US forces.

Washington promised that the overthrow of Saddam would free the Iraqi people from years of oppression and set them on the road to democracy. But Amnesty said post-war insecurity had left women at risk of violence and curtailed their freedoms.

"The lawlessness and increased killings, abductions and rapes that followed the overthrow of the government of Saddam Hussein have restricted women's freedom of movement and their ability to go to school or

to work," Amnesty said.

"Women have been subjected to sexual threats by members of the US-led forces and some women detained by US forces have been sexually abused, possibly raped," it added. Amnesty said several women detained by US troops had spoken in interviews with them of beatings, threats of rape, humiliating treatment and long periods of solitary confinement.

The Pentagon said it had not seen the report, but took any allegations of detainee abuse seriously. "We have demonstrated our commitment to ensuring that kind of behaviour is identified and dealt with properly," spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Joe Richard said in Washington. — MNA/Reuters

IMAGES OF PRIME MINISTER LT-GEN SOE WIN'S VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES



Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo greets Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at Malacanang Palace in Manila. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win presents Myanmar delegation members to Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win being welcomed by the Guard of Honour at Villamor Air Base in Manila. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win being welcomed by Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Dr Alberto Romulo at Villamor Air Base in Manila. — MNA



A Filipino damsel garlands Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at Villamor Air Base in Manila. — MNA



A Myanmar damsel presenting a bouquet to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win at Villamor Air Base in Manila. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Office of the People's Council & People's Committee of Hocht Minh Mr Huynh Khanh Hiep and party. — MNA

Prime Minister and party arrive Manila

YANGON, 22 Feb—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, at the invitation of President of the Republic of Philippines Her Excellency Madama Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, left here by air for the Philippines on 20 February morning.

On the way to Manila, the Myanmar goodwill delegation stopped over at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at 11.45 am local time. They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Office of the People's Council & People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh Mr Huynh Khanh Hiep and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Tin Latt, Military Attache Col Tin Soe and embassy staff.

The Prime Minister and party held a cordial meeting with Mr Huynh Khanh Hiep and officials at the airport special lounge.

The Myanmar goodwill delegation left the airport and arrived at Villamor Air Base in Manila at 5.45 pm local time. Myanmar Ambassador to the



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets Myanmar embassy staff and families. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win being welcomed by Deputy Chief of Cabinet of Office of the People's Council & People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City Mr Huynh Khanh Hiep at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Hocht Minh. — MNA

Philippines U Tin Tun and Head of the Protocol Department of the Philippine Foreign Affairs Ministry Mr Jose Zaide boarded the plane and welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

The Prime Minister and party were also welcomed by Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Dr Alberto Romulo.

The Myanmar Prime Minister and Commanding General of Philippine Air Force Lt-Gen Jose L Reyes took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

Philippine Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T Defenson and Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mme Phoebe A Gomez greeted the Myanmar Prime Minister.

A young Myanmar damsel presented a bouquet to the Prime Minister. Myanmar ambassador's wife Daw Nan Phaung and embassy staff welcomed the Prime Minister.

The Myanmar delegation arrived at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Manila, where they would put up.

The Prime Minister and party visited the residence of the Myanmar ambassador in Manila, where they were welcomed by the ambassador and wife, embassy staff and their families, and Myanmar officials who are in service at the Asia Development Bank in Manila.

Next, the Prime Minister received the embassy

staff and family members. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that he was glad to learn that the Myanmar ambassador and embassy staff and their family were in good health.

The entire national people are making harmonious efforts under the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Having to live at home or abroad, the national staff are indeed the ones who are to shoulder the responsibilities in the interests of the nation. The embassy staff and family members are to try their best to become reliable ones, he said.

The Myanmar ambassador hosted a dinner to the Prime Minister and party.

Yesterday morning, the Prime Minister and party, accompanied by Philippine Minister Mr Michael T Defenson, Philippine Mme Phoebe A Gomez, Ambassador U Tin Tun and officials, left the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel for the Luneta Park, where they were welcomed by Manila Mayor Mr Jose Atienza and officials.

The Prime Minister and party laid a wreath at Jose Rizal Monument and paid tribute to the fallen hero. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win lays a wreath at Jose Rizal Monument. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes back Prime Minister...

(from page 1)

Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, the ministers, senior military officers, Charge d' Affaires ai of the Philippine Embassy Mr Pablito A Mendoza and embassy staff and heads of department.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of Political Department U Thaug Tun and heads of departments. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win being welcomed back by Philippine Charge d' Affaires ai Mr Pablito A Mendoza and embassy staff at the airport. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo shake hands at the meeting. — MNA

Philippines will continue to stick...

(from page 16)

Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Tun, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General of Political Department U Thaug Tun.

The Philippine President was accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Dr Elberto Romulo, Secretary of Trade and Industry Mr Juan Santos, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Mr Michael T

Defensom, Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mme Sonia C Brady, Undersecretary of Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency Mr Anselmo Avenido, Philippine Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez and senior officials.

The Prime Minister and the President discussed bilateral relations, mutual cooperation and regional issues. In the discussions, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said he thanked the president, the ministers and the people of the Philippines for their hearty welcome.

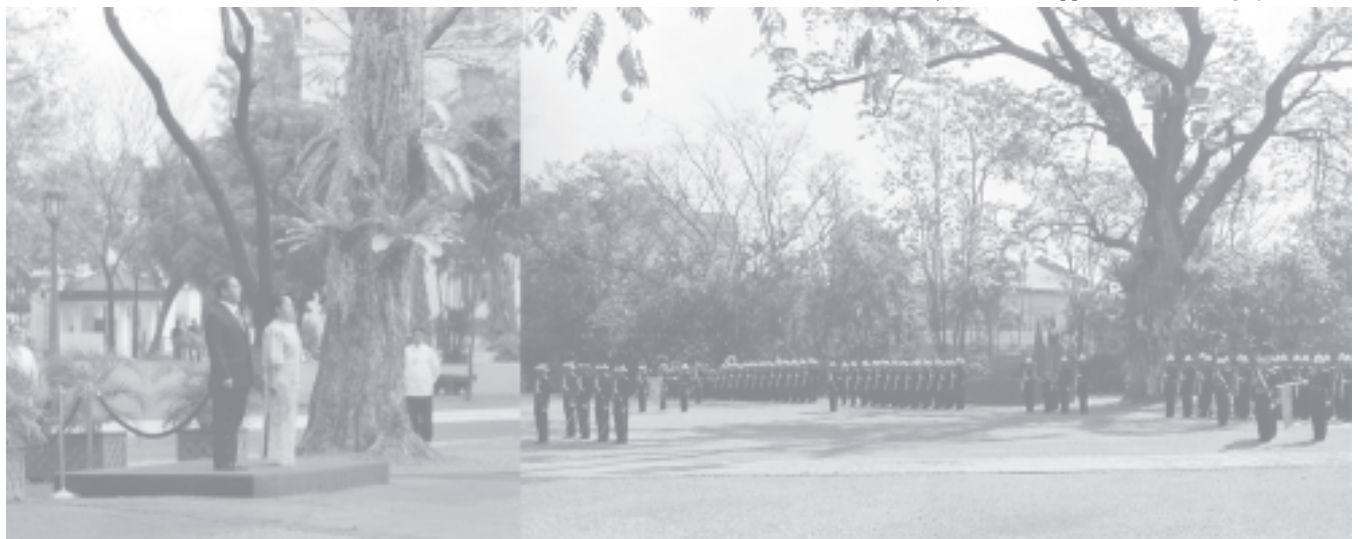
He said he believed that his official visit would be a drive to further strengthen the existing goodwill relations and cooperation between the two countries. Myanmar-Philippines

diplomatic relation was established in 1956. Both countries maintained traditional closer ties based on mutual goodwill and understanding. Traditions of exchange of visits by leaders of both countries had already existed.

As frequent visits of high-ranking officials of the two nations have resulted in bilateral cooperation in all spheres, encouragement is to be given to ensuring frequent visits in every level. He expressed his belief that the two nations will gain greater benefits through bilateral relations and cooperation.

He thanked the Philippines for her understanding on Myanmar's internal affairs and standing by Myanmar in regional and international arena.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo take the salute of Guard of Honour at Malacanan Palace. — MNA

Philippines will continue to stick to the constructive

(from page 8)

He said that the first Myanmar-Philippines Joint Commission meeting was successfully held in Yangon, Myanmar in April 2004 and the two nations will be beneficial through the holding of the Joint Commission meeting on a regular basis, and he invited the Philippine President to visit Myanmar whenever opportune.

Next, the two leaders held a discussion on political and economic developments in Myanmar, Myanmar's stand in ASEAN and matters related to mutually beneficial cooperation between Myanmar and the Philippines.

In her discussion, the Philippine President said that she warmly welcomed the goodwill visit to the Philippines by Myanmar delegation led by the Prime Minister and she was pleased with such a visit.

She said she knew more about Myanmar through the visit of the Myanmar delegation and the Philippines understood measures being taken by Myanmar government.

The President added that Philippines did not accept economic sanctions against Myanmar imposed by some big nations and it will continue to stick to



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win signs in the visitors' book at Malacanang Palace in Manila— MNA

the constructive engagement in dealing with Myanmar; that it will strive for further cementing of the Philippines-Myanmar relations.

The Philippines is ready to hold the second Philippines-Myanmar Joint Commission meeting and the meeting will make suggestion on bilateral coop-

eration between the two countries, she disclosed.

She said that the Philippines have the wishes to further cooperate with Myanmar in economic sector, especially in construction, gem and jewellery and production sectors.

MNA



Students waving miniature flags to greet Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. — MNA



Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo presents high-ranking Philippine officials to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo inspect the Guard of Honour. — MNA

FM sends felicitations to Brunei

YANGON, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 21st National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

MNA



The group of delegates of State service personnel hold a meeting at meeting hall-7. — MNA

Alternate chairmen clarify ...

(from page 16)

Member of the panel of chairmen U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam clarified the explanation of the chairman of the NCC Work Committee on laying down of basic detailed principles for the division of the legislative power to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution. The meeting chairman gave concluding

U Hla Myint of the group of delegates of national races clarified the explanation of the chairman of the NCC Work Committee on laying down basic detailed principles for the delegation of the legislative power to be included in the writing of the State Constitution.

The meeting chairman gave concluding remarks at 1.40 pm.

Deputy Director U Zaw Win acted as MC together with Assistant Director U Aung Win.

The MC announced that the meeting was valid as cent per cent delegates were present at the meeting.

The meeting chairman delivered a speech and clarified the explanation of the chairman of the NCC Work Committee on laying down basic detailed principles for the division of the legislative power to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The meeting chairman gave concluding remarks.

The meeting of the group of delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia took place at Hall-6 at 1 pm. Dr Thein Nyunt chaired the meeting together with U Khin Zaw and U Hla Myint. Deputy Director U Than Win and Assistant Director U Nyein Myint acted as MC and co-MC.

The MC announced that the meeting was valid as cent per cent delegates were present.

The alternate chairman made an address. The members of the panel of alternate chairmen clarified the explanation of the chairman of the NCC Work Committee on laying down basic detailed principles for the dividing of the legislative power to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The alternate chairman gave concluding remarks.

The meeting of the group of delegates of State service personnel was held at Hall-7 at 1 pm. Maj-Gen Aung Thein chaired the meeting together with Dr Ohn Khin and Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin. Deputy Director U Htay Win and Assistant Director U Htein Min acted as



The meeting of group of peasants in progress at meeting hall-4. — MNA



remarks at 2 pm.

The meeting of the group of delegates of representatives-elect was held at Hall-2 at 1 pm today. U Maung Gyi of Pa-O National Organization chaired the meeting together with U San Tha Aung of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization and U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahu National Development Party while Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu Tint emceed together with Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe.

Cent per cent of the delegates attended the meeting.

The meeting chairman delivered an introductory speech, and made clarification's to the presentation of the Work Committee chairman on laying down basic detailed principles for the dividing of the legislative power to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

Independent represent-elect U Hla Soe of Minbu Township constituency 2 made suggestions.

The meeting chairman gave concluding remarks at 1.45 pm.

The group of delegates of national races held a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hall at 1 pm. U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division presided over the meeting together with U Mann Ohn Maung of Kayin State and U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yai of Kayah State. Deputy Director of the Work Group-5 of the NCC Work Committee U Than Tun emceed the meeting together with Assistant Director U Tin Maung Oo.

The MC announced that the meeting was valid as the attendance of the delegates accounted for 99.20 per cent, and gave a speech.

Member of the panel of chairmen U Maung Hla (a)

The meeting of the group of delegates of peasants took place at Hall-4 at 1 pm. U Kan Nyunt presided over the meeting together with U Tin Maung Kyaw and U Kyi Tint. Deputy Director U Myint Kyaing acted as MC together with Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein.

The MC announced the validity of the meeting as cent per cent of the delegates attended the meeting, and delivered an address.



The meeting of group of representatives-elect in progress at meeting hall-2. — MNA

The meeting chairmen clarified the explanation of the chairman of the NCC Work Committee on adopting basic detailed principles for the sharing of the legislative power to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The meeting chairman gave concluding remarks.

The group of delegates of workers met at Hall-5 at 1 pm. U Kyaw Myo Win presided over the meeting together with U Bo Thein and U Khin Maung Aye.

MC and co-MC.

The MC announced that the meeting was valid as the number of the attendees accounted for 98.17 per cent.

The alternate chairman made an address and clarified the explanation of the chairman of the NCC Work Committee on laying down basic detailed principles for the dividing of the legislative power to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The alternate chairman gave concluding remarks.

The meeting of the group of other invited guests took place at Hall-8 at 1 pm. U Saing Aung Tun presided over the meeting together with U Paw Laik Kham and U Tun Aung Chein. Deputy Director U Aung Kyi and Assistant Director U Win Myint acted as MC and co-MC.

The MC announced that the meeting was valid as 97 per cent delegates were present.

The alternate chairman made a speech clarified to the explanation of the chairman of the NCC Work Committee on laying down basic detailed principles for the dividing of the legislative power to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The alternate chairman gave concluding remarks.



The meeting of group of delegates of workers in progress at meeting hall-5. — MNA



MNA

Management task of densely populated urban areas, towns entrusted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Management affairs of villages should be entrusted to region or state Hluttaws which know their objective conditions best

YANGON, 22 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of the Alternate Chairman, U Yaw Aye Hla of the Delegates of Representatives-elect 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 Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division yesterday.

The following is a translation of presentation made by U Yaw Aye Hla.

Independent representatives-elect U Tin Win of Kyaiklat Township constituency-2, U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township constituency-2, U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township constituency-2 said that they agreed that 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.

In a separate suggestion, they said, the management task of the densely populated urban areas and towns is being entrusted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Likewise management affairs of villages should be entrusted to region or state which know their objective conditions best.

Representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township constituency in northern Shan State said that the clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman concerning the 11 points to be included in the Union legislative list and the three points to be included in the region or state legislative list are appropriate and reasonable.

National races delegate group 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 basic principles.

Peasant delegate group said that the management sector has to carry out its work within the framework of the law. Hence, 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, the group said that the practice of extending towns and villages on the land under cultivation should be avoided to the most possible degree, and if the situation becomes unavoidable, compensation for the persons who lose their land should be considered.

Worker delegate group 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.

Intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group 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.

State service personnel delegate group stated the tasks and responsibilities of the management sector, and 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.

Other invited persons delegate group said that it is appropriate to put the 11 points of the manage-

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

MNA



ment sector explained by the Work Committee Chairman 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.

The group also presented a separate suggestion, saying that the following points should be put on the region or state legislative list:

1. General administration
2. Management of village and urban areas
3. House rent and land rent
4. Associations
5. Border area development
6. Census

Moreover, concerning the appointment of employees in the management sector, if the qualification of the candidates is found to be equal, priority should be given to the locals of regions, states or self-administered areas, and only non-locals are to be appointed in the absence of local candidates. The State should make necessary arrangements for the regions, states or self-administered areas to select their own local people to assign duties in them.

The panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the judicial sector and on legislative power of self-administered areas presented by U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Delegates of National Races will be published in tomorrow's issue. —MNA

NCCWC, members of panels of chairmen of delegate groups meet

YANGON, 22 Feb — A coordination meeting between the National Convention Convening Work Committee and members of panels of chairmen of respective delegate groups took place at Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice Chairman Attorney General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thauung Nyunt and members and members of panels of chairmen representing the delegate group of political parties, delegate group of representatives-elect, delegate group of national races, delegate group of peasants, delegate group of workers, delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia,

delegate group of State service personnel and other invited delegates.

Chairman U Aung Toe presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary-I U Khin Maung Myint acted as master of ceremonies. Chairman U Aung Toe explained that among the suggestions made by respective National Convention delegates, ones that are beneficial to the State and its people are needed to seek approval of all the delegates for the power sharing of legislation. Next, those present at the meeting also took part in the discussion, and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA



NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe makes clarifications at the meeting with members of panel of chairmen. — MNA

National Convention Convening Work Committee meets

YANGON, 22 Feb — National Convention Convening Work Committee held its coordination meeting at Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby township this morning. Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice Chairman Attorney General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thauung Nyunt and members attended the meeting.

Chairman U Aung Toe presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary-I U Khin Maung Myint acted as master of ceremonies. Chairman U Aung Toe and Vice Chairman U Aye Maung delivered speeches at the meeting. — MNA

NC delegates entertained

YANGON, 22 Feb — Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is entertaining the delegates to the National Convention for their rest and recreation at Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby township.

Last night, the delegates were entertained with the film named Amay-noe-boe starred by Academy Kyaw Thu, Academy Min Mawgun, Academy Cho Pyone, Academy Tun Eindra Bo and Academy Zaw Oo. — MNA

US planning to assassinate Chavez

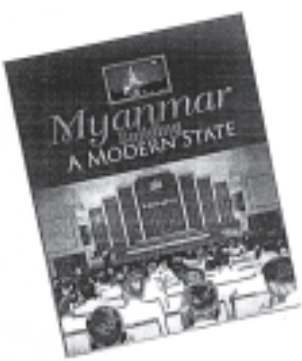
CARACAS (Venezuela), 21 Feb— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday the United States was planning to assassinate him.

"I know I am condemned I...I'm sure in Washington they are planning my death," Chavez said in a regular Sunday broadcast. "If anything happens to me, you can forget about Venezuela's oil Mr Bush."

Chavez was reacting to recent criticism of his left-wing government by US officials. He often accuses Washington of backing opposition attempts to oust or even kill him, a charge Washington denies.

"If they manage to kill me there will only be one person in this world to blame: the President of the United States," Chavez said. "If you try, you will regret it Comrade Mr Bush."

MNA/Reuters



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Drunken British diplomat arrested at Heathrow Airport

LONDON, 21 Feb — A drunken British diplomat was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport following a disturbance on board a flight, British police confirmed Saturday.

British defence attache Colonel Peter Roberts MBE spent Thursday night in the cells after flying in

from Bangkok, according to a Sky News report.

He was arrested on board the plane shortly after it touched down in London, said the report.

The 50-year-old colonel, who is based in the Thai capital, has been bailed until March 3.

"At approximately

17.30 on Thursday February 17 Heathrow police officers boarded an inbound flight following reports of a disturbance on board," said a Scotland Yard spokesman.

"A 50-year-old male passenger was arrested for being drunk on an aircraft and taken to a west London police station," he said.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed Colonel Roberts was arrested and that the flight was from Bangkok.

"We cannot comment further as an investigation is underway," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

UN's Fred Eckhard to step down in June

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Feb— The chief spokesman at the United Nations will step down in June as part of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's revamp of senior staff.

Fred Eckhard, an American, had submitted his resignation earlier this year but said he would have been willing to serve until Annan's second five-year terms ends on 31 December, 2006.

Annan, who appointed Eckhard to the post when he took office in 1997, accepted the resignation and set the June date, Eckhard told reporters.

Annan recently appointed Mark Malloch Brown, the high-profile head of the UN Development Programme, to be his new chief of staff.

Malloch Brown has begun house cleaning among top officials but most dismissals or resignations so far have involved staff considered hard-working and competent.

Eckhard, highly respected by the UN Press corps, is 61 and the usual retirement age at the United Nations is 60.

MNA/Reuters

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Yangon. 23 February 2005

Oil prices in Angola rise about 11%

LUANDA, 21 Feb — Fuel prices in Angola rose by an average on 11.4 per cent since Friday in the third hike of oil product prices in the last nine months.

According to the Angolan official daily *Jornal de Angola* on Saturday, gasoline now costs 0.33 euros (about 40 US cents) per litre and the pump price of diesel is 0.24 euros (about 30 US cents).

The latest price rise was softer than the last in November, when fuel costs soared by 70 per cent. The Angolan Government began to raise fuel prices in April 2004 after pressure from the International Monetary Fund to reduce state subsidies in order to qualify for competitive loans to finance Angola's postwar reconstruction.

MNA/Xinhua

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G-8-Arab conference on Mideast reform postponed

CAIRO, 21 Feb — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said on Saturday that a conference which brings together the foreign ministers of the G-8 and Arab countries planned for next month will be postponed indefinitely, the official MENA news agency reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Ethiopia secures \$4.6m from export of horticultural products

ADDIS ABABA, 21 Feb — Over 4.66 million US dollars were secured from the export of horticultural products over the last six months, the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture said Sunday.

Bekele Teklu, the ministry's public relations officer, said the sum was obtained from the export of over 16,000 tons. Ethiopia's horticultural products, including orange, mandarin, banana, salad,

broccoli, carrot, mango and pineapple, mainly exported to Djibouti and European countries, he said.

Bekele added that 85 per cent of the exported horticultural products were sold to Djibouti, constituting 51 per cent of the export revenue secured from the sector.

Ethiopia, with a population of about 70 million, is a typical farming country in Africa. Agriculture accounts for

over 40 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), 80 per cent of exports, and 80 per cent of the labour force.

Ethiopia has great agricultural potential because of its vast areas of fertile land, diverse climate, generally adequate rainfall, and large labour pool. Despite this potential, however, Ethiopia's agriculture has remained underdeveloped.

MNA/Xinhua

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Expert says no reliable short-term precursors to quakes

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb— Think scientists are close to being able to predict earthquakes? Think again, US quake experts said on Sunday.

The magnitude 9 quake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra that triggered December's devastating tsunami was a potent reminder that while it is easy to say where big quakes will happen, pinning it down to a day, a week or even a decade has proved impossible, they said.

That quake apparently gave no warning whatsoever, researchers told a

meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Quake experts do not even agree how to measure a quake's magnitude to see if an experiment for predicting quake activity has worked, said Thomas Jordan of the Southern California Earthquake Center.

"Most seismologists, including myself, are pessimistic that in the next

five years or 10 years that we will ever be able to come up with a silver bullet earthquake solution," Jordan told a news conference, but, "Never say never."

There are some suggestions that very low-frequency seismic activity might predict some quakes.

US Geological Survey researchers have measured low-pitched

rumbles from deep under California's San Andreas fault, about 15 miles southeast of Parkfield. They resemble measurements made at subduction zones in Japan and the Pacific Northwest. A subduction zone is where one of the Earth's tectonic plates is slipping under another and the Sumatra quake occurred at one such subduction zone.

MNA/Reuters

China to allow private Co to run air transportation business

BEIJING, 22 Feb— China's top civil aviation authority plans to allow a privately funded company to operate an air transportation business as it widens market access to the sector, Monday's China Daily reported.

This marks an important step by China to allow private capital to enter the civil aviation market. Three others are waiting in the line.

According to a document provided by the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC), the administration is thinking of giving an operating license to

Okay Airways Co Ltd.

Okay Airways is expected to become the first private carrier, thanks to the nation's policy support.

A regulation on the introduction of domestic private capital into civil aviation industry will be unveiled sometime this year, a CAAC official said.— MNA/Xinhua



This recent undated photo made available on 21 Feb, 2005, by Benha Hospital near Cairo, shows Manar Maged, front, now 10 months old, with her twin who never fully developed attached to her by the head.

INTERNET

Egyptian doctors remove second head from 10-month-old girl

BENHA (Egypt), 21 Feb — Egyptian doctors said they removed a second head from a 10-month-old girl suffering from one of the rarest birth defects in an operation on Saturday.

Abla el-Alfy, a consultant in paediatric intensive care, told Reuters at the hospital in Benha, near Cairo, that Manar Maged was in a serious but improving condition after the procedure to treat her for craniopagus parasiticus — a problem related to that of conjoined twins linked at the skull.

"We are still working on the baby. After surgery ... you get unstable blood pressure, you get fever. But she is stabilizing," Alfy said. "We have some improvement."

Video footage provided by the hospital, a national centre in Egypt for children's medicine, showed Manar smiling and at

ease in a cot with the dark-haired "parasitic" twin, attached at the upper left side of the girl's skull, occasionally blinking.

After the 13-hour operation, Reuters journalists saw the baby, her head swathed in bandages and body wreathed by tubes, in an intensive care ward. A separate twin sister, Noora, is healthy after initial problems with the birth on 30 March.

Alfy said the 13-strong surgical team separated Manar's brain from the conjoined organ in small stages, cutting off the blood supply to the extra head while preventing increased blood flow to Manar's heart, which would have risked cardiac arrest.— MNA/Reuters

S African movie wins top prize at Berlin Film Festival

BERLIN, 21 Feb — An exuberant film that transports Georges Bizet's opera "Carmen" to a South African township and translates the libretto into Xhosa won the top prize at the Berlin Film Festival on Saturday.

Rank outsider "U-Carmen eKhayelitsha" was the first feature film to be made in Xhosa, a language which features click sounds, and the first African movie to win Berlin's coveted Golden Bear award.

Its victory underlines the renaissance of African films and African themes in cinema, with "Hotel Rwanda" and "Sometimes in April" both bringing the horror of the 1994 genocide to Berlin's screens this year.

"We wanted to put Africa on the map and we certainly did that," said Berlin Film Festival director Dieter Kosslick. "In eight hours the Golden Bear will reach South Africa ... we will be expecting more African films (at the Berlinale)."

In the other main categories, Julia Jentsch was voted best actress for her portrayal of Sophie Scholl, a real-life heroine of the German resistance during World War II who was executed by the Nazis.

"Sophie Scholl — Die Letzten Tage" ("Sophie Scholl — The Final Days") scooped another award when the Silver Bear for best director went to Marc Rothemann.

MNA/Reuters

Jennifer Lopez boogies to top of pop charts

LONDON, 21 Feb— Jennifer Lopez boogied to the top of the pop charts on Sunday with her new single "Get Right", fending off Elvis Presley's latest re-release to claim the number one spot.

The uptempo dance track is the first single taken from J-Lo's new album "Rebirth", due out on 28 February.

It leaptfrogged over the re-release of Presley's 1961 chart-topper "Surrender", the latest of 18 Elvis number ones being re-issued before the 50-year

copyright protection on sound recordings expires in most European countries, affecting his earlier hits.

Three former hits by the King now hold spots in the top 40, according to the Official UK Charts Company. Hip Hop maestro LL Cool J is at number three with "Hush", featuring 7

Aurelius who also produced the track.

Completing a sextet of new entries in the top 10 were "How We Do" by The Game featuring 50 cent at number five, "Sunrise" by Angel City at nine and Atomic Kitten's "Cradle" at number 10.

MNA/Reuters

Global warming can stifle cleansing winds in north US

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — Global warming could stifle cleansing summer winds across parts of the northern United States over the next 50 years and worsen air pollution, US researchers said on Saturday.

Further warming of the atmosphere, as is happening now, would block cold fronts bringing cooler, cleaner air from Canada and allow stagnant air and ozone pollution to build up over cities in the northeast and midwest, they predicted.

"The air just cooks," said Loretta Mickley of

Harvard University's Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences. "The pollution accumulates, accumulates, accumulates, until a cold front comes in and the winds sweep it away."

Mickley and colleagues used a computer model, an approach com-

monly used by climate scientists to predict weather and climate changes.

She told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that the model predicted a 20-per-cent decline in summer cold fronts out of Canada.

MNA/Reuters

Foreigners account for 10% of Greece's population

ATHENS, 21 Feb — Foreign nationals residing in Greece were estimated at about 1.15 million people at the end of 2004, or 10.3 per cent of the population, up from 270,000 in 1991, the Immigration Policy Institute said on Sunday.

A survey by the institute showed that the largest concentration of non-Greek nationals was in municipal Athens at 132,000, representing about 17 per cent of the city's population.

Next came the northern port city of Thessaloniki with 27,000 immigrants, or 7.0 per cent of its population.

MNA/Xinhua

English football may have to play early kickoffs

LONDON, 22 Feb—English football may have to rethink playing high pressure matches in the early evening after the violence surrounding Manchester United's FA Cup fifth round tie at Everton's Goodison Park, Sports Minister Richard Caborn said on Sunday.

United goalkeeper Roy Carroll was hit by missile, possibly a coin, during Saturday's match, which marked striker Wayne Rooney's first appearance back at his former club since his 20 million pounds (37.8 million US dollars) transfer in August. The visitors won 2-0.

After the match, which kicked off at 1730 GMT, running clashes between rival fans resulted in injury to five police officers and 33 arrests, mostly for public order offenses.

England was once infamous for football hooliganism and, although matters have improved greatly, some feel early evening kickoffs allow fans to drink all afternoon with sometimes violent consequences.

"We might have to rethink the 5:30 kickoff,"

Caborn told BBC radio on Sunday.

"If a match is going to be high pressure, and yesterday was certainly one of those, perhaps we have to put it on earlier in the day.

"I'm not saying the police got it wrong yesterday, we just have to learn by these things."

He added: "We have to put these things into context. Many tens of thousands, even millions, of people go to watch football and there are one or two incidents which get rightly highlighted in the Press and we have to deal with those matters collectively." On the Carroll incident, an Everton spokesman told the Sunday Telegraph that video footage had been "quite conclusive" and that the culprit, if identified, would be banned from the club for life.—MNA/Reuters

Primera Liga match reports

MADRID, 22 Feb—Brief reports of Primera Liga matches played on Sunday:

Albacete 1 Numancia 2

Numancia came from behind to win their first away game of the season and claim their first victory in 10 outings, but still remain rooted to the foot of the table four points adrift of Real Mallorca.

A stunning strike from midfielder Mark Gonzalez gave Albacete a 37th-minute lead but a second half penalty from Carlos Merino levelled the scores before Miguel snatched the winner in the closing minutes.

Albacete sacked coach Jose Gonzalez after the game as the side slipped into the relegation zone.

Getafe 0 Osasuna 0

After three straight defeats on their travels, Osasuna finally ground out a point at the expense of Getafe to push the Madrid club down to 15th.

Although chances were few and far between Getafe striker Riki had a golden opportunity to grab all the points near the end, but was denied by a superb point-blank save from Osasuna keeper Juanxo Elia.

Levante 0 Real Zaragoza 0

Real Zaragoza failed to build on their impressive midweek UEFA Cup win at Fenerbahce as they were held to a draw by struggling Levante.

Levante striker Sergio Garcia crashed a shot against the crossbar 17 minutes from time, in the best chance of the game, but Bernd Schuster's side were unable to end their miserable run which has seen them win just once in their last 14 outings.

Malaga 3 Espanyol 2

Espanyol lost ground in their push for a Champions League place as they fell to an improving Malaga who have lost just one game in six since Antonio Tapia took charge.

Midfielders Juan Rodriguez and Miguel Angel got the Andalucians off to a flying start with well taken strikes in the first 16 minutes. Defender Juanito made it 3-0 when he poked in after Espanyol keeper Carlos Kameni spilled Duda's shot, but the visitors staged a fightback despite being reduced to 10 men when Alex Fernandez was sent off for a second booking.

Striker Dani pulled a goal back with a sharp shot from the edge of the area, and Malaga defender Fernando Sanz turned the ball into his own net with five minutes left on the clock.

Villarreal 3 Atletico Madrid 2

Argentina midfielder Juan Pablo Sorin sealed a memorable fightback victory for Villarreal with an injury-time winner, after Atletico Madrid had taken a two-goal first-half lead through Fernando Torres.

The Spain striker raced onto passes from winger Jesper Gronkjaer and then playmaker Ariel Ibagaza to put his side two-up before the break and on course for only their third away win of the season.

But Villarreal, who have only lost once at home this term, pulled one back through Diego Forlan, and then equalized courtesy of an own goal from Atletico defender Luis Perea, who headed Juan Roman Riquelme's free kick into his own net.

MNA/Reuters

Serie A match reports

ROME, 22 Feb—Brief reports of Italian Serie A matches played on Sunday:

Atalanta 2 Bologna 0

Bologna's run of nine games without defeat came to an end in the most unexpected fashion as a goal in each half by midfielder Michele Marcolini and striker Stephen Makinwa gave bottom-placed Atalanta only their third win of the season.

Chievo Verona 0 Lazio 1

Following last weekend's 2-1 win over Atalanta, Lazio continued to climb away from the relegation zone with this dour victory against fellow strugglers Chievo. The Rome-based side broke the deadlock in the 76th minute, when Tommaso Rocchi ran on to Fabio Liverani's clever chip before lobbing the keeper. In an bad-tempered finale Chievo were reduced to nine men following the sendings-off of midfielders Matteo Brighi and Roberto Baronio, while Lazio had defender Fernando Couto red-carded.

Palermo 3 Lecce 2

Palermo struggled but eventually ran out deserved winners against a determined, but wasteful Lecce side. Cedric Konan gave the visitors the lead after six minutes, but his teammate Mirko Vucinic's failure to hit the target from point-blank range proved costly as Mario Santana struck twice in quick succession to give Palermo a halftime lead. Konan equalized, but in the 76th minute Italian international Luca Toni poked home a Simone Barone cross to seal the result and consolidate Palermo's sixth place in the division.

Parma 2 Brescia 1

Brescia's chances of winning this relegation dogfight were compromised by the sixth-minute sending-off of defender Maurizio Domizzi for a last-man foul. Alberto Gilardino put Parma ahead from the penalty spot in the 23rd minute after Pierre Wome had brought down Marco Marchionni. Gilardino's strike partner Domenico Morfeo doubled their advantage with a long-range effort just after the interval. Brescia won a penalty of their own soon after, but could not fight their way back into the contest and now stand second bottom of the 20-team division.

AS Roma 3 Livorno 0

Roma cruised to their first win in four matches to bolster their pursuit of a Champions League place next season. Francesco Totti was the star of the show, setting up Vincenzo Montella and Simone Perrotta for Roma's first two goals before getting on the scoresheet himself with five minutes remaining.—MNA/Reuters

Albacete sack coach Gonzalez

MADRID, 22 Feb—Albacete coach Jose Gonzalez was sacked on Sunday after his side slumped to a 2-1 home defeat against basement club Numancia that saw them drop into the relegation zone.

The Primera Liga club said reserve team coach Martin Monteagudo would now take charge.

Gonzalez, whose only previous coaching post was at Second Division Cadiz, was appointed at the start of the season to replace Cesar Ferrando who left the club to join Atletico Madrid. —MNA/Reuters

Mourinho accepts blame for FA Cup defeat by Newcastle

NEWCASTLE (England), 22 Feb—Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho personally accepted the blame for their FA Cup fifth round defeat by Newcastle United at St. James' Park on Sunday.

"I'm the manager, I make decisions and I'm responsible for the defeats, not for the victories, for the defeats. I make the decisions so the defeat is down to me. I'm guilty," he said.

Mourinho's decision to make a triple halftime substitution left his team outnumbered after defender Wayne Bridge was carried off just after the break and Newcastle went on to win 1-0 thanks to Dutch striker Patrick Kluyvert's early goal.

"Throwing on three players at halftime is a big risk but I don't regret it," Mourinho told reporters. "I've taken that decision before and I will take it again.

"I put on three players I thought could help me to change the game. I did it because I thought it was the best thing for my team and when we were the better team in the second half with 10 men it would have been even better with 11.

"We were up against it early on but we created plenty of chances and did not have much luck in front of goal. The message is that we are still a very proud team and one that is together despite the defeat."

Mourinho confirmed that England left back Bridge would miss Chelsea's Champions League meeting with Barcelona on Wednesday after being taken to hospital with a suspected broken ankle following a challenge by Alan Shearer just after halftime.

The Portuguese coach also said Chelsea's France centre half William Gallas and Ireland winger Damien Duff were doubtful for the first leg of the first knockout round at the Nou Camp.

"I never like to cry about injuries but Wayne is definitely out. He's gone to hospital and for sure it looks serious but we will have to wait and see about Duffer and Gallas.

"But I'm proud of my team, even prouder than sometimes when we've won this season because they were magnificent.

"The result was not fair because to me we were the best team. But when we beat Newcastle 4-0 at Stamford Bridge (when) they were better than us for much of the game so that's how football goes sometimes."

The defeat also halted Chelsea's challenge on all fronts although Mourinho feels winning four trophies is attainable.

"The quadruple could still be possible for a team because I've done it in Portugal but it's especially difficult in England because the domestic competitions are so hard to win especially when you have no control over the fixtures.

MNA/Reuters



Tyron Acevedo (R) of Nicaragua tackles Maynor Davila of Guatemala during the first half of their tournament of nations soccer match at the Mateos Flores Stadium in Guatemala City on 21 Feb, 2005. Guatemala won the game 4-0.—INTERNET

Thai NDC delegation visits ancient pagodas in Bago

YANGON, 22 Feb — The visiting Thai delegation led by Deputy Commandant Maj-Gen Prasitichai Pibulrat of National Defence College of Thailand together with officials concerned visited ancient famous pagodas and Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago this morning.

The delegation arrived at Bago at 10 am. On arrival at Hsutaungpyi Shwemawdaw Pagoda, they were welcomed by members of pagoda board of trustees. They offered lights and joss sticks to the pagoda and made cash donation and paid hom-



Maj-Gen Prasitichai Pibulrat makes cash donations at Shwemawdaw Pagoda. — MNA

age to it. While visiting Kanbawzathadi Palace, Assistant Director of Archaeological Department (Bago Branch) U Sein Htaw explained about

the history of the palace. After visiting Shwethalyaung Buddha Image, they left for Yadana Elephants House on Mindama Road, Insein

Township this afternoon. They were briefed on salient points of the elephants by Director of Forestry Department U Myint Swe. — MNA

Flights cancelled as passengers affected by fumes at Melbourne Airport

CANBERRA, 22 Feb — Flights were cancelled after thousands of passengers were affected by unidentified fumes at Melbourne Airport, Australia, on Monday.

The south terminal of the airport, used by Australia's Virgin Blue and Regional Express airlines, was shut down earlier on Monday and 700 passengers were evacuated from the building, Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported. Fifty-two people who were suffering dizziness, shortness of breath and vomiting have been taken to hospital.

Virgin Blue has been forced to cancel 15 flights. "There are no flights going out of Melbourne up until the emergency services clears the area," Virgin Blue spokeswoman Amanda Bolger was quoted as saying. Firefighters are trying to determine if it is a chemical leak of some sort that has caused the incident.

MNA/Xinhua

JETRO predicts record-high trade with China in 2005

TOKYO, 22 Feb — Japan's trade with China is likely to exceed 190 billion US dollars in 2005, setting a record for the seventh straight year, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) said on Monday.

The JETRO said that there will be some uncertainty over Japanese exports to China due to "a slowing in global demand for personal computers and home electric appliances — as well as a lingering inventory adjustment process in con-

sumer durable goods".

However, it pointed out that Japan's exports in finished products for China's domestic market and semi-finished components for Japanese manufacturers operating in China are expected to show steady growth in 2005, and imports of finished products from China are also expected to grow considerably, as Japanese companies continue to shift production operations to China.

United States in 2004 to become Japan's largest trade partner after the trade volume between China (including Hong Kong) and Japan hit record 22,200 billion yen (about 211 billion US dollars), according to the Japanese Finance Ministry.

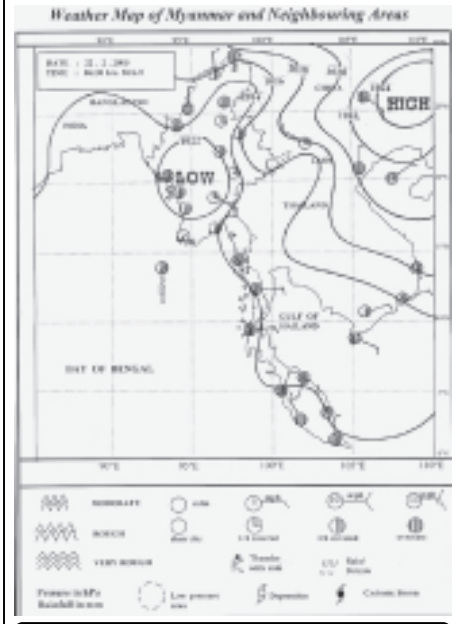
The trade with the Mainland region in 2004 surged by 26.9 per cent from the previous year to 168 billion US dollars, according to JETRO, with both imports and

exports moving to new levels.

Exports to China grew 29.0 per cent, as a result of an increase of parts and materials that Japanese manufacturers in China have difficulty sourcing locally, such as liquid crystal display and other scientific or optical devices, JETRO said.

Meanwhile, exports of construction machinery, telecommunication equipment and autos fell.

MNA/Xinhua



Radio Myanmar

Wednesday, 23 February

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music :
 -So demi win
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
 -Macarena
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music:
 -Witch doctor
9.00 am International news
9.10 am Music:
 -5,6,7,8
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
 -Show me the meaning of being lonely
 -What becomes of the broken heart
 -Lay all your loving on me
9.00 pm Variations on a tune
 -The end of the world
9.15 pm Article/music
9.25 pm Music at your request
 -Smile
 -Bring it all back
 -Free up your mind
9.45pm News/Slogan
10.00pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Wednesday, 23 February

View on today:

7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:15 am
 2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက အဂ္ဂမဟာဝိက္ခိကာဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်)ဟောကြားတော် မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တပါဠိတော်
7:25 am
 3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
 4. Morning news
7:40 am
 5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
 6. မြေမြူမြူ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
8:10 am
 7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:20 am
 8. ရုဂါ:ရေခဲလောင်စာ
8:30 am
 9. International news
8:45 am
 10. Let's Go
4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
4:15 pm
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
 3. Practice in Reading
4:45 pm
 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
 5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညှာရသူ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
5:15 pm
 6. Song of national races
5:30 pm
 7. Classical song
5:45 pm
 8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတော်
6:00 pm
 9. "ချစ်လွန်းလို့" နိဂုံးပြု ဝေခန်းရိုင်း မျိုးမျိုးနီင်း
6:10 pm
 10. ရွှေသံနုလင်းအာသိယံအစီအစဉ်
6:20 pm
 11. Discovery
6:30 pm
 12. Evening news
7:00 pm
 13. Weather report
7:05 pm
 14. သီတဂူစာတော် အရှင်ဘုရားထံသို့ရ၏ တရားတော်ပြောကြားပေးပြီး ဝါးအောက် အစီအစဉ်စတင်တော်မူတော်မူ
7:35 pm
 15. ဥပုသ်ပြုတော်မူရန် ရွှင်ကြည် မရောသလူတော်
7:45 pm
 16. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံရည်ရွယ်ချက်
8:00 pm
 17. News
 18. International news
 19. Weather report
 20. ငြိတ်ရေခွက် ဟောပြောခွင့်
 21. ဝင်းထွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ ဦးစိန်ညွှာသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရှင်ဆယ်မျက်နှာစေတီတော်အား ဖွားဖျားခြင်း တရားတော်
 22. The next day's programme

WEATHER

Tuesday, 22 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.8) inch. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin and Rakhine States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lashio (6°C), Kengtung, Panlaung and Namhsam (8°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 21-2-2005 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 22-2-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-2-2005 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 21-2-2005 was (7.1) hours approx. Rainfalls on 22-2-2005 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 7 mph from South at (16:20) hours MST on 21-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-2-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Chin States and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of continuation of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-2-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-2-2005: Partly cloudy.

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

Philippines will continue to stick to the constructive engagement in dealing with Myanmar



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party hold a meeting with Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and party. — MNA (from page 1)

The Prime Minister and the President proceeded to Malacanan Palace and they were welcomed there by students waving the miniature flags.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win signed in the visitor's book of the palace. The Prime Minister and the President met at the Music Room of the

palace. Present were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines U Tin Tun and Director-General of Political Department U Thaug Tun. President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was accompanied by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Dr Elberto Romulo and Philippine Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez.

The Prime Minister and the President discussed matters on mutual interest of the countries. Next, they also met at Ramos Music Conference of the palace at 11.20 am.

Also present were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for National (See page 8)

Alternate chairmen clarify NCC Work Committee Chairman's explanation on adopting basic detailed principles for division of legislative power to be included in drawing of the State Constitution

YANGON, 22 Feb—The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

Members of the panel of alternate chairmen made further clarifications to the delegates' proposals to adopt detailed basic principles for sharing of legisla-

tive power to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

The meeting of the group of delegates of political parties took place at Hall-1 this afternoon. U Tun Yin Law of the National Unity Party presided over the meeting. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu acted as MC together with Assistant Director Daw Yin Yin.

The MC announced the validity of the meeting as the attendance of the delegates accounted for 96.55 per cent, and delivered a greeting speech.

(See page 10)



The meeting of the group of delegates of national races in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp. — MNA

INSIDE

In addition to beans and pulses, plum, castor, chilli, mango and rubber are being exported with the help of the government. The government is helping the farmers and merchants to be able to distribute agricultural produce to the markets at home and abroad easily in accordance with the procedures.