

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 315

2nd Waning of Tabodwe 1366 ME

Friday, 25 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

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb— 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 Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Amir of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February, 2005. — MNA

Abundant water inflow into the man-made lake will help realize the irrigation and power generation targets. And only then will the aims of the dam be realized fully.

Records should be kept to know relations between rainfall in nearby townships and inflow of water into Thaphanseik Dam

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye tours Sagaing Division

YANGON, 24 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, ministers, senior military officers and officials of the

State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by special aircraft yesterday morning, and arrived at Mandalay International Airport in TadaU Township.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, senior military officers and depart-

mental officials.

Accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Kanbalu of Sagaing Division where they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of Supreme Court (Mandalay), senior military officers and departmental officials.

(See page 8)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the main spillway of Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 February, 2005

Improving ties between Myanmar and the Philippines

The Union of Myanmar and some of her neighbours and ASEAN member nations, including the Republic of the Philippines, are separated by oceans but they have similarities in their cultures and traditions.

Even before the establishment of formal diplomatic ties in 1956, the two nations enjoyed friendly relationship based on mutual respect and goodwill. They have had deeper and closer relations since Myanmar became a member of the ASEAN family in 1997.

Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, visited the Republic of the Philippines on 21 February. At the luncheon hosted in his honour by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said, "We in Myanmar realize that in an increasingly integrated world, we must work closely with friendly countries and neighbours. We believe that the future of developing countries lies on promoting regional cooperation which does not diminish national identities but enhances political and economic strength. We therefore place importance in ASEAN and the association's commitment to moving towards closer cohesion and economic integration."

The Union of Myanmar and the Republic of the Philippines are traditionally friendly nations. The leaders of the two nations occasionally visit each other and their reciprocal visits promote bilateral relations and cooperation. The visit of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win reflected closer friendship between the two nations.

Bilateral trade and economic relations have been gaining momentum. And there is growing interest in the Philippine business community on developing those relations, including the establishment of transport linkages between the two nations. The two nations should strive for closer trade and economic relations in the interests of their peoples. Myanmar is always willing to work hand in hand with all of the ASEAN nations and those in the region to be able to overcome the challenges facing them.

We believe that Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win's goodwill visit to the Philippines will surely pave the way for closer bilateral relations and promote the mutual interests of the two nations and their peoples.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရရွာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ.

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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

Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaking at the meeting of Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee.— MNA

YANGON, 24 Feb — TheTraffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held its 111th meeting at Road Administration Department in Thingangyun Township here today, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the Government is in the process of making Yangon a modern city and is taking necessary measures to ensure smooth and secure transport in the city. The campaign to enforce traffic rules has been launched through the media, and preparations should be made from now on to ensure road safety during the Thingyan water festival. As Myanmar is going to host the ASEAN

Summit in Yangon in 2006, all will have to make cooperative efforts for the foreign guests to see the observance of traffic rules and discipline in Yangon. School boys and girls in Yangon and Mandalay are being trained to have the habit of observing traffic rules. He then invited suggestions.

Chairman of the committee Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and Joint-Secretary Commander of Wireless Division of Traffic Police Pol Lt-Col Aung Naing also gave speeches. Departmental personnel then took part in the discussions.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the commander. Members of the Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee and subcommittees were also present. — MNA

Foreign Minister leaves for Bangladesh

YANGON, 24 Feb — At the invitation of Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Mr M Morshed Khan, a Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here by air for the People's Republic of Bangladesh this morning to pay a goodwill visit.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, directors-general and officials of the Ministry



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win being seen off at the airport.— MNA

of Foreign Affairs and Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr AB Manjoor Rahim.	The foreign minister was accompanied by Director-General of the Political	Department U Thauung Tun and Assistant Director U Tin Yu.
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MNA

Culture Minister receives Japanese researchers

YANGON, 24 Feb — The Myanmar-Japan Joint Paleontological Research Team led by Professor Nobuo Shigehara and Associate Professor Mr Masanaru Takai of Primate Research Institute of Japan called on Minister for Culture

Maj-Gen Kyi Aung at his office at 10 am today. They discussed the trip of Myanmar-Japan Joint Paleontological Research Team, findings of research and future tasks. Also present on the occasion were Deputy

Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Director-General U Nyunt Han of the Archaeology Department, Deputy Director-General U Ngwe Tun of the Fine Arts Department, Deputy Director-General U Myint Kyaing of the Department of

Cultural Institute, Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyaing of the Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar), Professor Dr Tin Thein of Geology Department of Yangon University and officials.

MNA

China, Serbia, Montenegro to further relationship

BEIJING, 23 Feb — China on Tuesday said it values its relationship with Serbia and Montenegro, and will promote cooperation with the Balkan country.

Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong made the remarks during his talks with Boris Tadic, President of the Republic of Serbia.

Zeng said Chinese and Serbia and Montenegro people have enjoyed traditional friendship. "Although changes have taken place in international situations and the domestic situations of both countries, relations have continued to develop," he said.

He said the Republic of Serbia played an important role in advancing the relationship between China and Serbia and Montenegro, and China will maintain

"high-level dialogues" with Serbia.

Zeng spoke highly of the adherence of Serbia and Montenegro to the one-China policy and its opposition to "Taiwan independence", reaffirming that China respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia and Montenegro and understands its decision to participate in Europe integration.

Tadic said Serbia and Montenegro will continue to adhere to the one-China policy and understands that the Chinese National People's Congress will deliberate an anti-secession law.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran says US wants to destabilize West Asia

NEW DELHI, 23 Feb— Iran, under US pressure over its nuclear programme, lashed out at Washington on Tuesday, saying it wanted to destabilize West Asia with its unilateralism and warned against the use of American force in the region.

"The US policy of unilateralism in the region constitutes a real threat to regional states," Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said, winding up a three-day visit to India, which has long-standing ties with Iran.

"The ultimate goal...is to destabilize countries in the region," Kharrazi said in a speech at the Indian Council of World Affairs, a New Delhi think-tank.

The United States suspects Iran of developing atomic weapons and has not ruled out military action against the Gulf nation. Iran has repeatedly warned the United States not to attack its nuclear facilities, saying talks with European nations might produce a deal to defuse the dispute. US President George W Bush is currently in Europe pressing his trans-Atlantic allies to step up pressure on Iran and Syria, seen by Washington as repressive regimes.

But Iran, dubbed by Bush as the "world's primary sponsor of terror", said it did not expect a US attack on its nuclear facilities. "We are not perceiving any American attack... (but) we are capable enough to defend ourselves," Kharrazi said.

"We are facing pressure...which seeks to deprive us of peaceful use of nuclear

energy. But we shall not give up our national interests."

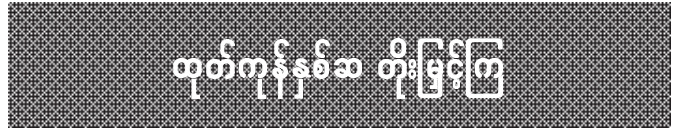
Kharrazi also hit out at Washington's desire to promote democracy around the world, especially in West Asia, saying it could not be imposed on sovereign nations.—MNA/Reuters

Japan, Pakistan agree to boost ties

TOKYO 23 Feb— Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri met on Tuesday and agreed to boost bilateral ties.

Kasuri expressed willingness to boost bilateral relations with Japan and presented Koizumi with Pakistani postage stamps issued to mark the 50th anniversary of Japan's foreign aid to the country, *Kyodo News* reported, citing government officials. Kasuri also praised Japan's efforts to help Afghanistan rebuild and stabilize itself, including five billion US dollars in aid Japan has pledged, saying issues related to Afghanistan directly affect neighbouring Pakistan.

Pakistan considers Japan's aid for Afghanistan as indirect assistance to Pakistan, Kasuri was quoted as telling Koizumi. Kasuri met later in the day with Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura — MNA/Xinhua



Japan is to waive visa charges for visitors who also attend the six-month World Exposition, the international showcase of technology and innovation which opens next month in central Aichi prefecture. Here models in the uniforms of pavillion attendants in Tokyo on 23 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Cambodia hopes to create single regional tourist visa

PHNOM PENH, 23 Feb — Tourists visiting Cambodia in the next few years may be able to enter China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar without needing additional visas, local media reported on Tuesday.

It was said that Cambodia and the five nations agreed last week to begin a feasibility study.

"We have a plan to practice a common visa as European countries are doing," The Cambodia Daily quoted the ministry's Secretary of State Thong Khon as saying.

"If you get a [Greater Mekong Subregion] visa in Cambodia or any one of [the other] countries, you will be able to travel freely," he added.

Thong Khon hopes that a single visa

will help attract even more visitors. The number of tourists arriving in Cambodia increased from about 800,000 in 2003 to one million in 2004.

"With a common visa and improvement of transportation access, Cambodia expects to reach six million tourists a year by 2010," Thong Khon said.

Asia Development Bank tourism project director Tith Chandtha predicted that the heads of states of the six nations will approve a plan for a single visa by the end of 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

Lawyer warned US-led invasion of Iraq would be illegal

LONDON, 23 Feb— The British Government's top lawyer warned less than two weeks before the US-led invasion of Iraq that military action could be illegal, the *Guardian* newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Lord Goldsmith expressed his doubts to Prime Minister Tony Blair, Washington's staunchest ally in Iraq, in a document on 7 March, 2003, the paper said.

The newspaper said the British Government was so concerned about legal challenges to war that it set up a team of lawyers to prepare for any action in an international court. The *Guardian* said it based its report on a book to be published

this week called "Lawless World", by law professor and lawyer Philippe Sands, who shares the London offices of the prime minister's barrister wife, Cherie Booth. "So concerned was the government about the possibility of such a case that it took steps to put together a legal team to prepare for possible international litigation," Sands wrote in an extract of his book published in the *Guardian*.— MNA/Reuters

Two other Minnesota soldiers hurt in fatal blast in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Feb — Military authorities on Wednesday confirmed the deaths of three Minnesota soldiers in an attack in Iraq.

The Minnesota National Guard also reported that two more soldiers, from the same Montevideo-based Guard unit, were injured in Monday's attack.

One soldier was treated and returned to duty; the other was in stable condition at a hospital in Germany, the Guard said. Their identities weren't released.

Killed in Monday's attack were 1st Lt. Jason Timmerman, 24, of Tracy; Staff Sgt. David Day, 25, of St. Louis Park; and Sgt. Jesse Lhotka, 24, of Alexandria. They were members of C Company, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, and had been as-

signed to a military police brigade in Iraq.

The Guard said the men were on routine patrol in Baghdad at about 8:15 am Monday when one of the military vehicles was involved in an accident that injured the two Minnesota Guard members. The convoy stopped to help those soldiers, and the roadside bomb then detonated, killing Timmerman, Day and Lhotka. That account differed slightly from an earlier Defence Department release that said the convoy had been halted by an accident caused by a civilian vehicle.—Internet



Dry bushes and trees in Singapore seen recently, enduring one of its driest and hottest periods on record.—INTERNET

Philippine President vows to wipe out corruption

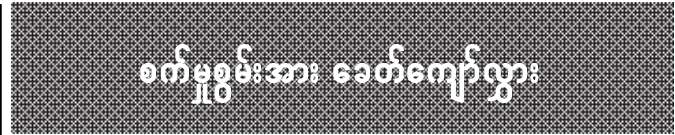
MANILA, 23 Feb — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Tuesday vowed to wipe out corruption which she said is the root of poverty and hampering the country's economic growth and hurting people.

In a speech marking the 19th anniversary of the "People Power" uprising against former President Ferdinand Marcos, Arroyo said that the Philippine people are still suffering from "the chains of poverty, injustice, and oppression".

"To achieve real free-

dom, we need to be free from corruption," said Arroyo at the People Power Monument along EDSA axis highway in Metro Manila, which was the venue of the 1986 uprising against Marcos and 2001 uprising against president Joseph Estrada. "That's why we need a

new revolution that is peaceful and borne out of unity like EDSA 1 and 2," she said in reference to the two events. Arroyo said the culture of corruption that had pervaded the system had hampered economic growth and deprived the people of basic services.—MNA/Xinhua



Reception celebrates China-Latin America friendship

BELING, 23 Feb— A reception was held here on Tuesday to celebrate the progress of China's relationship with Latin America in 2004.

Eighty diplomats from 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries attended the reception hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)

and the China-Latin America Friendship Association.

Li Xiaolin, the CPAFFC's vice-president, said the Sino-Latin American relationship entered a new phase in

2004, as Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Cuba, and the heads of state of Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela paid visits to China.

MNA/Xinhua

Sinopec online purchase exceeds 100b yuan

BELING, 23 Feb— Sinopec, China's leading oil manufacturer, said Tuesday that its online logistics purchases since 2000 had totalled more than 100 billion yuan (12.1 billion US dollars), saving its purchase cost by 5.2 billion yuan.

In 2004 alone, the company's online purchases were valued at 48.2 billion yuan, a company official said.

By last year, all Sinopec subsidiaries had implemented online purchasing.

The company encourages open bidding online, which helps various sub-

subsidiaries cut costs.

The official said a total of 23 subsidiaries publicized their purchase plans online last year, involving 168 orders for raw materials and equipment. Online logistics purchasing makes the procedure more transparent and makes supervision more effective, he said. —MNA/Xinhua



StarHub Ltd, the smallest of Singapore's three mobile phone operators, narrowed its quarterly net loss on 23 Feb, 2005 as it gained market share.

INTERNET

DHL to sponsor 4th East Asian Games in Macao

HONG KONG, 23 Feb — DHL, the world's leading express and logistics company, announced here Tuesday its sponsorship of the 4th East Asian Games in Macao, the largest international sports event that has ever been hosted by the Macao SAR.

The sponsorship agreement was signed by Manuel Silverio, board chairman of the Macao 4th East Asian Games Organizing Committee (MEAGOC), and Vincent Pao, station manager of DHL Express (Macao) Limited. Also attending the ceremony were Helmut Rausch, Deputy Consul General of Germany (Head of Economics and Trade Section) and Tony Un, Chairman of the German-Macao Business Association.

Kelly Yu, General Manager, DHL Express Hong Kong, said, "DHL is proud to be able to play an active part in supporting the Macao 2005, 4th East Asian Games. Events such as this provide invaluable opportunities for exchanges within the region, thereby fuelling the momentum of cooperation on all fronts."

The East Asian Games, launched in 1993, aim to encourage sports and cultural exchanges between the National Olympic Committees in the East Asian region. Participating at the Macao 2005, 4th East Asian Games will be athletes from China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, South Korea, Taipei, Macao SAR, Guam and Mongolia.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy makes fresh appeal for Iraq hostage's release

ROME, 23 Feb—Italy's President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi has made a fresh appeal to the kidnappers of Giuliana Sgrena, the Italian journalist held hostage in Iraq for the past three weeks.

"I call on those who are holding her hostage, release her. Release her," Mr Ciampi said.

Mr Ciampi made the appeal during a ceremony at the presidential palace in Rome at which he awarded one of Italy's top civilian honours to the Italian Red Cross for its work in Iraq.

"At this time Iraq evokes in our minds and in our hearts the dramatic abduction of the journalist Giuliana Sgrena," he said.

To her family, I want to reiterate the solidarity of all the Italian people."

Mr Ciampi had earlier hosted Ms Sgrena's elderly parents, her companion Pier Scolair and directors of her newspaper, Il Manifesto, at the presidential palace.

The meeting came 19 days after Ms Sgrena's kidnapping in Baghdad while on assignment for the communist daily.

Internet

Car bomber attacks US checkpoint in Iraq's Ramadi

RAMADI, 23 Feb—A car bomb blew up at a US military checkpoint in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi on Wednesday but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Witnesses said a car drove toward the checkpoint in the Sofiya district of the city and blew up with US troops standing nearby. US Marines operating in Ramadi had no immediate information on the attack.

Earlier this week the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, backed by Iraqi

troops, launched a security sweep in Ramadi and other nearby towns to try to crush insurgents holed up in the area.

Ramadi, 68 miles west of Baghdad, has essentially been in guerrilla hands for much of the past year. Many rebels who had set up a base in nearby Fallujah fled to Ramadi

and other towns in Iraq's restive western Anbar province after a US offensive on Fallujah last November.

Anbar, which stretches to the borders with Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, has been a hotbed of the Sunni Muslim-led insurgency over the past 18 months.—Internet



An Iraqi woman walks past a British soldier patrolling a street in the Iraqi southern city of Basra recently.

INTERNET

Singapore implements Infocomm Security Masterplan

SINGAPORE, 23 Feb—Singapore will invest some 38 million Singapore dollars (about 23 million US dollars) in three years to implement the Infocomm Security Masterplan, Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan said Tuesday. Speaking at a domestic infocomm security seminar, Tan stressed that cyber attacks pose a potential threat to the island state as the development of the country depends heavily on the cyber networks and infocomm technology.

"Because Singapore is so connected and networked, a comprehensive plan for Singapore's infocomm security is vital to prevent our economy and society from being disrupted in the event of an attack on our infocomm infrastructure," Tan said. The plan aims to strengthen Singapore's capabilities in three areas, including information protection and risk mitigation, situational awareness and contingency planning as well as the development of human and intellectual capital.—MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar B team secures first prize in Sepak Takraw men's double event

YANGON, 24 Feb — A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the World Series International Sepak Takraw Championships-2005 (Myanmar) was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna), here, this morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of the Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, presidents and officials of Myanmar sports federations, Honorary Patron of

Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Khin Than Nwe and members of the Panel of Patrons, officials of the International Sepak Takraw Federation, the president and members of Asian Sepak Takraw Federation, President of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation U Chit Khaing and executives, members of jury and panel of judges, athletes of Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and host Myanmar, coaches and guests. Before the ceremony, final matches of the women's and men's regu event and women's and men's doubles events

were held.

Honorary Patron of MWSF Daw Khin Than Nwe presented first and second prizes to Thai team, Myanmar (A) team respectively and joint third prize to Korean and Myanmar (B) teams in the women's triple event.

Afterwards, President of MWSF Daw Aye Aye awarded first and second prizes to Thai team and Myanmar (A) team and joint third prize to Korean and Myanmar (B) teams in the women's doubles event. Next, President of MSF U Chit Khaing gave away first and second prizes to Thai team and Malaysian team and joint



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents the first prize for the men's double event to Myanmar (B) Team. — MNA

third prize to Myanmar (A) and Myanmar (B) teams in the men's triples event.

Later, Minister Brig-

Gen Thura Aye Myint presented first and second prizes to Myanmar (B) team and Myanmar (A)

team and joint third prize to Thai and Singapore teams in the men's doubles event. — MNA

AirAsia hopes Subang Airport will be picked as new low cost hub

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Feb — Southeast Asia's biggest low-cost carrier

AirAsia said on Tuesday it remains hopeful the Malaysian Government

will decide in favour of Subang Airport, the former main airport, for a

planned low-cost terminal rather than the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

"It looks tough but we are hopeful," a senior AirAsia official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The government was expected to make a decision on the issue during a regular Cabinet meeting on Wednesday amid increasing speculation it will opt for the newly built KLIA about 30 miles south of the capital.

AirAsia had since operations at Subang Airport but moved to KLIA in July 2002 in line with the government's plan to make KLIA the main gateway for Malaysia.

AirAsia had since

been in talks with the government to allow it to return to Subang Airport and turn it into a dedicated hub for low cost carriers as it would allow the carrier to keep expenses down.

The official said if AirAsia was given the green light to operate out of Subang, it would allow the company "to grow faster" but was resigned to the fact that it may not happen.

"We will abide by the government decision. What is important is that a final conclusion will come out Wednesday. We will make it work if we have to stay at KLIA," he added.

Chief Executive Officer Tony Fernandes on

Monday downplayed concerns that AirAsia would suffer if the government decided to keep the carrier at KLIA.

"Either way, it will be good news for AirAsia," Fernandes said.

AirAsia said Monday that earnings rose sharply in the three months to December and announced that it would buy an additional 20 new Airbus aircraft— raising its previous order to 100.

The carrier said its three months to December net profit rose 12 million dollars from 10.5 million in the previous quarter as sales rose 55 per cent to 178.6 million ringgit due to a strong pickup in demand.

MNA/AFP



AirAsia passenger plane, left, arrives as another parked at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, on 21 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

Shaanxi exports \$957m electromechanical products

XI'AN, 22 Feb — Northwest China's Shaanxi Province reported a 25-per cent record growth of electromechanical products export in the past 2004, with the total volume hitting 957 million US dollars, said the provincial department of commerce.

The commerce department said in 2004, Shaanxi's trade volume of electromechanical products reached 1.79 billion dollars, a year-on-year growth of 24.6 per cent, accounting for about 49 per cent of the province's total trade volume. The province also imported 836-million-value of electromechanical products last year.

Private companies are emerging as a major pro-

ducer of electromechanical products in Shaanxi Province, said the department.

Statistics show that the province's private companies exported 228-million-dollar electromechanical products in 2004, 139 per cent more than that in 2003, while the growth of export in the state-owned companies is lower than 22 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

R&D drive helps produce more milk for Chinese

BEIJING, 22 Feb— An official with China's Ministry of Science and Technology said on here Monday that his ministry, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, poured 405 million yuan (48.8 million US dollars) into research and development in dairy industry in the past three years.

The investment contributed 15-per-cent increase in dairy production and 5.918 billion yuan worth of added income for farmers, he added.

Guo Zhiwei, who oversees the project on key technologies of dairy industry, said the project has been the largest and most expensive one in the field since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Since 2002, the minis-

try has organized public bidding for 26 research and development subjects, which attracted 76 companies, universities and research institutions, including the country's top ten dairy producers. Statistics showed that in 2002, average per capita share of meat in China was 51.17 kilograms while that of poultry was 16.1 kilograms, both of which were similar to those in developed countries. —MNA/Xinhua



Bangkok has shifted nine centimetres and Phuket, seen here, 32 centimetres because of the 26 December earthquake that measured 9.0 on the Richter Scale.—INTERNET

Towards successful implementation of seven-point Road Map adopted in accord with Myanmar way of life

Aung Moe San

Now, "globalization" is very common in the world. It is the result of the development of modern capitalism as well as the emergence of the global market created by the modern capitalism. Business done with the use of information technology, modern communication systems, and modern computers has been named digital business. And it is also named new economy on the basis of the characteristics of the digital business.

In such a time, it is essential for the backward developing countries to be able to choose the most appropriate way, through which they could introduce capitalism (market-oriented economic system and democracy) at home with least suffering and adversity. It is because they may face evil consequences due to hasty practice of alien lifestyles when their societies are not ready.

The world people have encountered evil consequences owing to the practice of the two extremes. One extreme was that a developing nation without thriving capitalism immediately introduced socialism at home. It was the mistake resulting from the leftist extreme as the nation would like to become a paradise in no time. The economically and politically centralized socialism met its end as it could not compete with capitalism at all. It was indeed its total failure to follow the social science which says a developing country can introduce modern science socialism only through the highest level of capitalism. Socialist countries therefore had to choose the correct way after revitalizing the industrialist capitalism first.

Another extreme was that old socialist countries and some developing countries in their bid to transform themselves into democratic ones directly and immediately copied the western democracy. It was the rightist extreme and they were not capable of assessing the prevailing situations of their societies. It was a tangible proof that some eastern European countries that tried to copy western democracy directly got into great troubles and misery and collapsed following bloody conflicts among the people. In fact, the US and western European nations had to take time lasting several generations to make themselves fully democratic. It is just like building castles in the air that a developing country, whose background history, culture, traditions and customs are quite different from the US and western European countries, attempting to copy the western democracy. The US and its allies are applying pressure on developing countries to directly copy their democracy, and it is merely their dishonest attempt to keep followers. The US and its allies have invaded Afghanistan and Iraq to install democracy in the latter, resulting in the deaths and sufferings of innocent local people daily.

To be able to avert the undesirable effects of the two extremes, the developing countries are to choose the most suitable way that is in conformity with respective lifestyles so as to march towards democracy.

The ASEAN nations, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea have been able to avoid the possible dangers of the two extremes.

Now, Myanmar is on the correct path leading to democracy free from the ill effects of the two extremes. The most fundamental factor to flourish genuine democracy in a nation is the development of its productive forces with a high living standard of the entire people with high intellectual power. It does not concern with personal affairs of anyone. The western democracies are applying economic sanctions on Myanmar, causing a great hindrance to

The mass demonstration that took place in China in 1989 was triggered by those who made demands for a stop to corrupt practices rather than for democracy. Japan, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore were not copying the styles of the US and Europe. Human societies never discard their respective traditions that they have preserved continuously, and they will try to improve their present conditions.

the building of basic foundations needed for the emergence of a democratic nation. It is much like giving poison instead of medicine.

The broadcasting stations under the influence of western democracies are repeatedly citing the speech delivered in the Senate by the recently-appointed US State Secretary, saying that Myanmar was a dictatorship. They were praising her speech as if it was the sermon of a saint that had never been delivered in the world. Their activities were indeed like the saying that goes "Grapes are sour" or "To throw dust at forbidden meat".

It was a noteworthy view in the address of the former Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew, concerning the point that with its allies the US is intruding into other nations and interfering in their international affairs under the pretext of democracy to make them its followers. In his speech, the Singaporean Prime Minister said that with respect to democracy reforms, even democracy pioneers, the US and Britain, introduced democracy in their countries without the universal suffrage. Firstly, the rich had the rights to vote, and then the educated. Later, the countries became rich and the people had intellectual power, and then the blue collar workers too had the rights to vote. Nowadays, a giant nation like

China should classify its people to vote — direct representation for urban areas where educated people lived and indirect representation for rural areas where uneducated people did. He discouraged the western world from putting pressure on China to make political reforms. It was because China should not face a collapse like the Soviet Union, otherwise, it would have an adverse impact on the entire Asia. China had faced an upheaval for about 150 years after the fall of Qing Dynasty. Such confusion would cause a hindrance to the economy of Asia and the world. In the next 20 years, east Asia will become developed ones. But it would not be so if China collapsed. Priority should be given to long-term interests of China. China would never make retrogressive changes, but modern technologies would push her to advance.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew added that the mass demonstration that took place in China in 1989 was triggered by those who made demands for a stop to corrupt practices rather than for democracy. Japan, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore were not copying the styles of the US and Europe. Human societies never discard their respective traditions that they have preserved continuously, and they will try to improve their present conditions. They may practise the western style if it contributed towards the development of their economy. Some nations that copied the US style could not make any progress. Either in times of adversity or prosperity in Asia, the role of an individual is never more valuable than society; the society is more valuable than the individual. He thought that point saved Asia from falling into troubles.

He said that the human rights declaration was drawn by the allies that won the World War II. Some signatories to that declaration did not believe the points. Chinese Kuomintang Government signed the declaration just for the US assistance in the fight against the communists. So, the declaration was just in conformity with the wishes of the conquerors. The remaining UN member nations signed the declaration just as witnesses. However, the situation would be different if nations would be provided with assistance only when they had human rights. Now, the international community reviewed he said the human rights declaration.

Therefore, no matter how foreign countries are putting pressure on Myanmar, the entire national people are to stay away from the two extremes and to make combined and harmonious endeavours to see to successful implementation of the State's seven-point Road Map that was adopted in conformity with Myanmar lifestyle for transforming the nation into a discipline-flourishing democratic one.

(Translation: MS)

Myanma Alin, Kyemon - 24. 2. 2005

Thailand's Thongchai, England's Matthew share 67 in Myanmar Open



YANGON, 24 Feb — The Myanmar Open Golf Tournament, co-organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, was held at Danyingon Gold Course of Yangon Golf Club, here, this morning.

Among the spectators were President of MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), General Secretary U Aung Kyi, professional golfer U Chan Han and executives and guests.

After the first round, Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee began his title defence of the Myanmar Open by cruising to his familiar place at the top of the leader

board after an opening five-under-par 67 each today.

In-form Thongchai was joined at the top by former European Tour regular England's Matthew Cort.

Chinese Taipei's Yeh Chang-ting could have eclipsed Thongchai's start but double bogeyed his last hole for a 68 to share third place with compatriot Sung Mao-

chang who sank Swede Olle Nordberg, and Thai veteran Boonchu Ruangkit.

Co-sponsors of the tournament are Myanmar Airways International, Sedona Hotel, Srixon, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Canon and Max Myanmar. It was organized by Han Event Management and Octagon.

The second round of the tournament continues tomorrow. —MNA



Staff carrying out decoration and preparation tasks at booths of Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road for holding the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. —MNA

National Convention...

(from page 16)

panel of chairmen have submitted three days in a row excerpts of the delegates' proposals for laying down detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative power to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

The respective groups of the delegates are to seek approvals of the most suitable ones out of the propos-



NCCC
Joint-Secretary-2
U Myint Thein.
MNA

als. The NC will adopt the detailed basic principles for delegation of legislative powers with the approved proposals. Then, continued discussions will be made for laying down the detailed basic principles for division of administrative and judicial powers.

The smooth completion of each sector mainly rests on combined efforts of the NCCC, the Work Committee and the Management Committee as well as on the harmonious participation of the delegates.

The delegates are to be armed with perseverance, diligence and nationalistic fervour and correct sense in a bid to surmount the acts of the internal and external destructive elements that are resorting to all the possible ways and means to wreck the National Convention. In conclusion, the NCCC chairman called on them to see to successful completion of the NC.

The NCCC secretary reported on forming of supporting teams of respective groups of delegates, programmes for entertainment and welfare services for the delegates, and issuing of NC delegates record book and general matters.

The Work Committee chairman dealt with work progress in submitting and discussing the proposals by respective groups of delegates concerning the Work Committee's clarifications for laying down the detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative power to be

NCCC
Secretary
Minister for Information
Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.
MNA



included in the writing of the State Constitution. The Management Committee chairman gave an account of entertainment and welfare services and health care concerns for the convenience of the delegates. Those present made a general round of discussions on general matters.

The NCCC chairman assessed the reports and delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

FM sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb— On the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February, 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait. —MNA

Military Code of Conduct & Extempore Talks Contests continue

YANGON, 24 Feb — The Military Code of Conduct and Extempore Talks Contests (Central Level) to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued for the third day at the designated places this morning. The oral contest of private level Military Code of Conduct was held at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters and the extempore talks contest at the halls of the Ministry of Defence (Chawdwingon).

Present on the occasions were officers and other ranks of the Ministry of Defence, members of the organizing committee and members of the pane of judges.— MNA

Panel of chairmen, delegates of peasant discuss compilation of paper

YANGON, 24 Feb — The meeting of the panel of chairmen of the delegates of peasant and five representatives took place at the meeting hall No 4 of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this afternoon for compilation of the delegates' proposals concerning the NCC Work Committee chairman's clarification to lay down detailed basic principles for distribution of the legislative power to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

Present on the occasion were members of the panel of chairmen and five representatives of the delegates of peasant. U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division presided over the discussion together with mem-



Members of the panel of chairmen and delegates of peasant hold discussions.— MNA

bers of the panel of chairmen U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division, U Kyi Tint of Ayeyawady Division, U Mya Aye of Yangon Division and U Sai Tint Aung of Shan State (North). Deputy Di-

rector U Myint Kyaing acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein as co-master of ceremonies.

U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division gave a speech. U Chit Than of Sagaing Di-

vision read out the paper on the clarification of the NCC Work Committee Chairman. Those present took part in the discussions. Later, the discussion chairman gave concluding remarks.— MNA

Representatives-elect delegate group, intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group read papers

YANGON, 24 Feb — At the respective meeting rooms in Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today, representatives-elect delegate group and intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group presented papers on the clarifications made by the National Convention Convening

Work Committee Chairman to lay down detailed basic principles concerning the sharing of legislative power to be included in drafting the constitution.

Representatives-elect delegate group held at the meeting hall No 2, presided over by U Law Hsin Kwan of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party to-

gether with U San Tha Aung of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization and U Maung Gyi of Union Pa-O National Organization as alternative chairmen.

The master of ceremonies announced the meeting valid as 13 participants out of the total of 13 attended it.



The discussion of members of the panel of chairmen and delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia in progress.— MNA

Meeting Chairman U Law Hsin Kwan made an address.

Representative-elect delegate of Thangtlan Township constituency Dr Hmu Htan read out the paper of the delegate group. The chairman sought the approval of the meeting. The delegates of the meeting supported the paper.

Intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group held at the meeting hall No 6, presided over by U Khin Zaw together with U Hla Myint and U Tin Hlaing as alternative chairman. The master of ceremonies announced the meeting valid as 56 delegates out of the total of 56 attended it.

Meeting Chairman U Khin Zaw made an address. Member of the panel of alternative chairmen U Tin Hlaing read out the paper.

The meeting chairman announced that the paper was approved by the meeting. He then gave the concluding remarks.

MNA



Members of the panel of chairmen and delegates of representatives-elect discuss compilation for proposal.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye plants a teak sapling in front of the briefing hall of Tin Win Tun Co in Kanbalu Township.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye views saplings at teak nursery of Tin Win Tun Co.—MNA

Records should be kept...

(from page 1)

At 2.30 pm, they arrived at the Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo briefed them on construction of the facility, local rainfall, storage of water in the dam and supply of water to plantations of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops.

Director U Maung Maung Tin of the Irrigation Department reported on inspection for durability of the dam, flow of water into the dam, annual rainfalls at watershed areas, measures for fire prevention for deforestation at environs of the embankment and supply of irrigation facilities.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented a report, saying that the dam has irrigated over 800,000 acres of crops. Efforts are being made to irrigate up to one million acres. More forest plantations will be set up and the existing forests in Wuntho, Pinlebu and Kawlin regions are being conserved and protected for water flow into the reservoir as targeted.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on forest conservation in watershed areas and an official of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise on power generation of the facility.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that if there is any failure to irrigate crops as targeted, the reason behind the failure should be analyzed to find the answer to meet the target. Effective forest conservation as well as plantation is required in the watershed areas. Records should be kept to know the relations between the rainfall of nearby townships in the region and the inflow of water into the reservoir. Abundant water inflow into the man-made lake will help realize the irrigation and power generation targets. And only then will the aims of the dam be

realized fully. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the power control room and turbines at Thaphanseik Hydel Power Plant. They also over-saw water storage at the dam. After viewing the spill-way, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions.

and it has full capacity to generate electricity.

At 4 pm, they arrived at Kyebin-et Dam in Kanbalu Township. In the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo submitted reports on facts and data of the dam and irrigation facilities for extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, sugarcane and



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears reports on construction of Thaphanseik Dam by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.—MNA

Thaphanseik Dam built near Thaphanseik Village of Kyunhla Township was opened in April 2001. Its earth embankment is 22,587 feet long and 108 feet high. The power plant was opened in June 2002. There 10 megawatt generators were installed in the plant to produce 30 megawatt.

The Dam can store 2.8 million cubic-feet of water. Now, as the dam storing over 2.4 million acre-feet of water has enough water to irrigate summer paddy

other crops.

Director of Sagaing Division ID U Hoke Kyi reported on breeding of fish in the dam with the assistance of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented reports on annual rainfall in the region and growing of trees in the watershed areas. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions.

(See page 9)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears reports on facts about Sabei Natha special teak plantations in Kanbalu Township by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gives instructions to ministers at the briefing hall of Thaphanseik Dam.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects power control room of Thaphanseik Hydel Power Plant.—MNA

Records should be kept...

(from page 8)

Kyebin-et Dam was inaugurated in December 2001. It was built with the purpose of supplying water to 8,000

plantations in States and Divisions, the plan to grow teak plantations in 2005-2006, the special teak plantation in Kanbalu Township and private teak plantations of some countries.

In response,

The special teak plantation is being nurtured in Kanbalu Township since 1998. Up to 2004, a total of 7,500 acres of teak plantation have been set up.

Private companies are participating

secretary of Sagaing Division USDA and executives, secretaries and executives of Shwebo District, Shwebo, Kanbalu, YeU, KhinU, Taze, Wetlet, Dabayin and Kyunhla Township USDAs, ward and village

ment of the division association in its region.

Secretary-General Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC member Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung gave necessary instructions and cordially greeted them.—MNA

Reserved forests inspected

YANGON, 24 Feb — Director-General of the Arid Zones Greening Department U Tun Tun of the Ministry of Forestry, from 18 to 21 February, inspected 1,295 acres of catchment protection plantation (2004-2005) and preparations for growing 1,060 acres of catchment protection plantation (2005-2006) in Saigoung reserved forest in Natmauk Township, land preparations for 100 acres of catchment protection plantation (2005-2006) in Kyaukpadaung Township, 250 acres of catchment protection plantation (2004-2005) in Thazi Township and soil preparations for 100 acres of catchment protection plantation in Yupataung protected public forest.

The director-general gave instructions to the officials on safeguarding the plantations, arrangements for fire preventative measures, soil preparations for 2005-2006 plantations and meeting the set standard of the tasks. — MNA



The spillway of Thaphanseik Dam built near Thaphanseik Village in Kyunhla Township.—MNA

acres of farmland in Kanbalu Township and greening tasks.

In 2003-2004, the dam could irrigate 1,745 acres of monsoon paddy, 1,061 acres of summer paddy and 2,004 acres of sugarcane.

In 2004-2005, 2,665 acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy and 4,340 acres under sugarcane.

In the evening, they proceeded to the block of special teak plantation of Sabei Natha reserved forest in Kanbalu Township.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on arrangements for estab-

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye instructed them to systematically safeguard and maintain forest plantations according to the existing forest law, rules and regula-

in growing teak plantations. In 2004-2005, Tin Win Tun Co grew 200 acres of plantation; Shwe Moe Tha Co 160 acres; and Tun Myat Aung Col 160 acres.

organizers of Kanbalu Township at the township USDA Office.

Acting Secretary Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Division USDA reported on accomplish-

Storage of water at Kyebin-et Dam in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Division.

MNA



mentations. In front of the special teak plantation of Tin Win Tun Co, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye planted a teak sapling. Next, they inspected the teak nursery and thriving saplings.

In the evening, Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC member Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, who accompanied Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, met with the acting

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NC delegates entertained

YANGON, 24 Feb — Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is entertaining the National Convention delegates for

their rest and recreation at Nyaung-hnapin Camp in Hmawby Township daily.

Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with the film titled 'Thameeshin' di-

rected by film directors Khin Maung Oo and Soe Thein Htut, starring Yan Aung, Dwe, Khin Than Nu, Cho Pyone, Eindra Kyaw Zin and Myo Thanda Tun.

MNA

Legislative power should be vested in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made up of the representatives from all over the country

YANGON, 24 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of the Alternate Chairman, U Mya Aye of the Delegates of Peasants presented the panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from a compilation of suggestions presented by delegate groups and some delegates concerning the laying down of detailed basic principles concerning the distribution of legislative power in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies and legislative powers for Union territories at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division on 21 February.

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

I will now present a compilation of suggestions presented by delegate groups and some delegates con-

The world today is advancing and changing in all aspects and our nation, too, needs to strive to achieve progress like others. To be able to do so, there may arise the need to enact laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future.

cerning the laying down of detailed basic principles concerning the distribution of legislative power in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

At the plenary meeting held on 21 May 2004, the Work Committee Chairman said, "The world today is advancing and changing in all aspects and our nation, too, needs to strive to achieve progress like others. To be able to do so, there may arise the need to enact laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future.

If such occasion arises, legislative power should be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made up of the representatives from all over the country. "Hence, National Convention delegates are to discuss and make suggestions on whether to lay down detailed basic principles on 'Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.'"

Concerning the sector, National Unity Party said that it finds the clarification made by the Work Committee Chairman regarding the matters on the Legislative power that is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies comprehensive and appropriate.

Union Pa-O National Organization said that a detailed principle — the Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies — should be laid down. And another basic principle — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will have to enact laws as and when necessary for Union territories — should also be laid down.

Moreover, the point — The existing laws are still in force until they are revoked or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and unless they are in contradiction with the Constitution — should be laid down as a detailed basic principle.

Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization said that it has no further discussions on the sharing of the legislative power that is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies and the effectiveness of the laws enacted by the hluttaws at all levels and self-administered area leading bodies to delegate the legislative power to the Union territories.

Lahu National Development Party pointed out that there may arise the need to enact laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future. If such occasion arises, legislative power should be vested in the Pyithu Hluttaw made up of the representatives from all over the country.

Union Kayin League said that it has no further discussion on the point — Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies — as the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications are comprehensive and complete.

Kokang Democracy and Unity Party said that it has no further discussions on the sharing of the Legislative power that is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies and the taking effect of the laws enacted by different levels of the Hluttaw and the self-administered area leading bodies to delegate the legislative power to the Union territories.

Wa National Development Party said that the objectives of the National Convention include the point — flourishing of a genuine multiparty democracy system. As the nation is formed under Union system, there are powers delegated to the Pyidaungsu government, and distributed to regions and states. The new constitution will involve the delegation of the three sovereign powers of the State — the Legislative Power, the Executive Power and the Judicial Power — to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the highest hluttaw of the State, comprising the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The world today is advancing and changing in all aspects and our nation, too, needs to strive to achieve progress like others. To be able to do so, there may arise the need to enact laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future. If such occasion arises, legislative power should be vested in the Pyithu Hluttaw made up of the representatives from all over the country. Thus, detailed basic principles concerning the matter should be laid down.

Of the five proposed papers submitted by 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 concerned, which are members of the delegate group of political parties. In like manner, it is found that other delegates concerned submitted their proposals.

Representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlan Township constituency in Chin State, and Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency in Shan State said that as it was explained by the Work Committee Chairman the detailed basic principles concerning the matter 'Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies' should be laid down.

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 Town-

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



ship constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township constituency-2 pointed out that the world today is advancing and changing rapidly in all aspects requiring the State level to address the matters, and our nation, too, needs to strive to achieve progress like others. To be able to do so, there may arise the need to enact laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future. If such occasion arises, legislative power should be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made up of the representatives from all over the country.

The new constitution will involve the delegation of the three sovereign powers of the State — the Legislative Power, the Executive Power and the Judicial Power — to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the highest hluttaw of the State, comprising the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The national race delegate group discussed that the world today is advancing and changing daily in all aspects and our nation, too, needs to strive to achieve progress like others. To be able to do so, there may arise the need to enact laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future. If such occasion arises, legislative power should be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made up of the representatives from all over the country. Thus a detailed basic principle 'Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies' should be laid down.

Peasant delegate group said that the world today is advancing and changing in all aspects and our nation, too, needs to strive to achieve progress like others. To be able to do so, there may arise the need to enact laws in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future. Thus a detailed basic principle 'Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies' should be laid down.

Worker delegate group said that the world today is advancing and changing in all aspects and our nation, too, needs to strive to achieve progress like others. To be able to do so, there may arise the need to enact laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in

(See page 11)

Legislative power should be vested...

(from page 10)

future. If such occasion arises, legislative power should be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made up of the representatives from all over the country. Thus a detailed basic principle 'Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies' should be laid down.

Intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group said that the National Convention delegates are now in the process of making efforts for laying down of detailed basic principles to be put on the Union legislative list, region or state legislative list, and the legislative list of the leading bodies of the self-administered division or self-administered zone. But there may arise the need to enact

National Convention delegates are now in the process of making efforts for laying down detailed basic principles to be put on the Union legislative list, region or state legislative list, and the legislative list of the leading bodies of the self-administered division or self-administered zone.

laws in addition to those enacted in exercise of the legislative powers delegated to the respective Hluttaws and to the self-administered division and zone leading bodies in consideration of the unforeseeable circumstances in future. And if such occasion arises, legislative power should be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Thus a detailed basic principle 'Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies' should be laid down.

State service personnel delegate group said that in accord with the basic principles for State structure, and the legislation, the constitution will delegate legislative powers to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, region or state hluttaws and self-administered areas. But there may arise unforeseeable circumstances in future. And to address them in advance, legislative power should be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

Other invited persons delegates group said that all the 105 delegates of the group have agreed and supported the point — delegation of legislative power concerning the matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies — explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

In connection with the basic principles to be laid down for the legislative powers to Union territories on grounds of the matters relevant to the sharing of legislative power that shall be included in writing the State constitution, I will continue to present the panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by some delegate groups to the National Convention and from those by certain delegates to the National Convention.

At the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention held on 21 May 2004, the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified that: "The National Convention has laid down detailed basic principles including 'The State is constituted by Pyidaungsu (Union) system' and 'The State is delineated and constituted with the seven regions and seven states' in the 'State Structure'."

"According to the detailed basic principles already laid down, if an area is designated as Union territory, it will be under direct administration of the President of the Union rather than under the administration of the Region or State concerned, given its special situation."

"Although the Union territories are under the direct administration of the President of the Union, the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the legislative powers duly vested in it will be in force in these territories as well since they are situated in the Union."

"According to the detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, Union territories Hluttaw representatives are not included in the Region Hluttaws or State Hluttaws but are included only in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the highest legislative body comprising the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw; as such if the need arises to enact laws in the Union territories in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies, legislative powers to do so should be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw."

"Hence, discussions and suggestions on whether to lay down detailed basic principles are to be made concerning the fact that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the required laws if the need arises to do so for the Union territories in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies."

As regards this clarification, the National Unity Party, which is a member of the delegate group of political parties, discussed that when it studied the matters related to the enactment of law by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, it found that the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications on the following matters: — the delegation of legislative power to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated on the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and the leading bodies of Self-administered Division or Zone; and

— the delegation of legislative powers to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for Union territories — are complete and satisfactory.

The Union Pa-O National Organization discussed that detailed basic principles should be laid down on the fact that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should enact necessary law for Union territories when the need arises.

The Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization discussed that it agreed to Work Committee Chairman's clarifications including the delegation of legislative powers to the self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

The Lahu National Development Party discussed matters related to the legislative powers for Union territories. It said the Union territories are under the direct administration of the President of the Union, and that laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the legislative powers duly vested in it will therefore be in force in these territories as well since they are situated in the Union.

It also agreed to the fact that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the required laws if the need arises to do so for the Union territories in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

The Union Kayin League discussed that detailed basic principles should be laid down as regards the fact that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the required laws if the need arises to do so for the Union territories in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

The Kokang Democracy and Unity Party discussed that as clarified by the Work Committee Chairman, it agreed to the delegation of legislative power to the self-administered division or zone leading bodies; the delegation of legislative power in connection with other matters not stated on the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and the leading bodies of Self-administered Division or Zone; the legislative powers to Union territories; the coming into force of the laws enacted by Hluttaws at different levels and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

The Wa National Development Party discussed that detailed basic principles should be laid down as regards the fact that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the required laws if the need arises to do so for the Union territories in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

Of the five proposed papers submitted by 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 concerned, which are members of the delegate group of political parties. In like manner, it is found that other delegates concerned submitted their proposals.

Dr Hmu Htan, the independent representative-elect from the constituency of Thantlan township in Chin State and U Aung Thein, the independent representative-elect from the constituency of Ywangan township in Shan State discussed that detailed basic principles should be laid down as regards the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications on the delegation of legislative powers to Union territories and the coming into force of the laws enacted by Hluttaws at different levels and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

U Tin Win, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Kyaiklat township, U Thein Kyi, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-1 of Taungdwingyi township, U Hla Soe, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Minbu township, U Mya Hlaing, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Twantay township, U Kyi Win, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-1 of Mingaladon township, and U Tin Tun Maung, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Mingaladon township discussed that they agreed to the matters concerning the legislative powers for Union territories.

U Tun Kyaw, the independent representative-elect from Namhsan township in Shan State (North) discussed that the matters related to the delegation of legislative powers to Union territories and the coming into force of the laws enacted by Hluttaws at different levels and self-administered division or zone leading bodies should be adopted as detailed basic principles in the Union Legislative List.

The delegate group of national races discussed that in connection with the designation of Union territories, it is stated that:

(a) Yangon City, that is the Capital of the Union, is designated as Union territory placed under direct administration of the President of the Union;

(b) Cocogyun Township which has a special situation is designated as Union territory and placed under direct administration of the President of the Union; and

(c) If the need arises to designate areas that have special situation in connection with national defence, security, administration, economy etc. as Union territories they may be so designated as Union territories after enacting laws.

The group continued that according to the detailed basic principles already laid down, if an area is designated as Union territory, it will be under direct administration of the President of the Union and not under the administration of the Region or State concerned considering its special situation.

The group also said that although the Union territories are under the direct administration of the President of the Union, the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the legislative powers duly vested in it will be in force in these territories as well since they are situated in the Union.

The delegate group of peasants discussed that according to the detailed basic principles already laid

According to the detailed basic principles already laid down, if an area is designated as Union territory, it will be under direct administration of the President of the Union and not under the administration of the Region or State concerned considering its special situation.

down, an area, if designated as Union territory given its special situation, will be under direct administration of the President of the Union rather than under the administration of the Region or State concerned. However, the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will come into force in these areas as well for they are situated in the Union. Therefore, detailed basic principles, the group added, should be laid down as regards the fact that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the required laws if the need arises to do so for the Union

(See page 15)

Putin says Russia will not join NATO

Moscow, 23 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that his nation has no intention of seeking membership in NATO, the Russian news agency ITAR-TASS reported.

Speaking to the Slovak media before visiting Slovakia on 24-25 February, Putin said a country which wishes to join NATO means it will give up its part of sovereignty. Russia does not need to join NATO,

since its economic and defence strength can ensure the country's security.

Russia has never regarded NATO as hostile since the former Soviet Union was dissolved. But Putin said NATO's eastward expansion does not accord with the current development in the world. The expansion will not be conducive to fighting against terrorism and preventing nuclear proliferation.—MNA/Xinhua

Canada not to sign on to US missile defence system

Ottawa, 23 Feb — Canadian officials made clear on Tuesday the country will not sign on to a controversial US missile defence system, a decision likely to be seen as a snub to US President George W Bush.

The move represents an about face for Prime Minister Paul Martin, who in the run-up to a federal election last June said he thought Canada should be part of a system designed to protect the North American continent.

"The Prime Minister plans to announce this week that Canada will not be a part of the missile defence system," a senior

official told Reuters late on Tuesday.

Canadian media quoted their own federal government sources as saying Canada would not take part.

Bush visited Ottawa last December and publicly urged Martin on three separate occasions to sign on to a network designed to fend off attacks from "rogue states" like North Korea.

The Canadian decision marks the second time in less than two years that Ottawa has gone against Bush's wishes. In March 2003, former Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien enraged

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

'M.V KENGTUNG VOY: NO. (30)'

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KENGTUNG Voy: No (30) arrived on 25.2.2005 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority 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 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.

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Washington by refusing to take part in the war on Iraq.

Martin took over from Chretien in late 2003 and promised to develop a more mature relationship with the United States.

Canada has been holding talks with Washington for the last 18 months on whether to formally join the proposed network and officials had

let it be known there were few obstacles to Canadian participation.

But the prospects for a final agreement dimmed after the June election. Martin's survival now depends in large part on the minority New Democrats, who oppose missile defence on the grounds that it could lead to a new arms race.

MNA/Reuters

Tianjin opens first training course for male kindergarten teachers

TIANJIN, 23 Feb — Tianjin, the largest port city in north China, will open its first ever training course for mid-level kindergarten teachers at the end of this month in a bid to cultivate masculine qualities of boys.

The training class will recruit 30 male students who should be college graduates, with a wide range of knowledge, acquaint themselves with psychology, medical care, kinematics and nutriology, have clear standard Chinese pronunciation and non-smoking.

They should complete the 100-lesson

curriculum and pass the written and field work tests before obtaining the mid-level professional kindergarten teacher certificates.

Apart from the required courses, they should know the physiological and psychological characteristics of children under three, infant nutrition and education and relevant legal rules.

In present-day China, male teachers encounter great difficulties from society because taking care of children is traditionally done by females.—MNA/Xinhua

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Wia Ma Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for AstraZeneca AB P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 25 February 2005.

Frost-stricken panda goes downhill for help

BEIJING, 23 Feb — Days of heavy snowfall and an ensuing drop in temperatures forced an adult giant panda to hobble downhill for help at weekend in southwestern Sichuan Province, the Beijing Morning Post reported.

The panda was critically ill and had fallen into a coma when she was spotted Sunday morning by a passing driver beside a road six kilometres from the famous Wolong giant panda research and conservation centre, the paper said on Tuesday.

The giant panda came to after over five hours' infusion and oxygen therapy at the centre, though she did not stop shivering until the room was heated with two electric heaters.

MNA/Xinhua

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Hain Lin Co (LL.B) Advocate MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM E-mail: mlp@mpml.net.mm Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:688 Yangon. 25 February 2005

'Taeguki' actress dies after hanging herself

SEOUL, 23 Feb — Rising Korean actress Lee Eun-ju, 25, who starred in one of the highest-grossing movies in the South Korea's history, has died, apparently after hanging herself with a necktie in a dressing room, police said.

Lee starred in the hit movie "Taeguki", and had been battling depression, her family told Korean media. She apparently killed herself on Tuesday and left a suicide note scrawled in blood, in which she wrote "Mom, I am sorry and I love you," police said.

She suffered a bout of mental illness after performing nude scenes for her role as a sultry jazz singer in the noir Korean crime movie "The Scarlet Letter", her family said.

The movie was selected as the closing film last year at one of the biggest film events in Asia, the Pusan International Film Festival.

Lee's managers said the movie had nothing to do with her suicide.

MNA/Reuters

ADB, UNAIDS sign MoU on fighting AIDS

MANILA, 23 Feb — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) Monday to strengthen the AIDS response in Asia and the Pacific, said an ADB news release Tuesday.

As part of the MoU, UNAIDS and the ADB will work together to engage political leaders and various sectors in the fight against AIDS, strengthen national capacity to scale up the AIDS response and generate additional funds for AIDS in the region.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda and UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot signed the MoU at the ADB headquarters here.

"HIV/AIDS is a human tragedy and a real

and growing threat to the economic prosperity of the Asia and Pacific Region," Mr. Kuroda said at the signing ceremony. "For example, an average of 5.6 million people will be impoverished by HIV/AIDS every year between now and 2015 in just four of our regional member countries."

ADB's shareholders have decided to allocate 140 million US dollars as grants to fight HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

Further strengthening ADB's work on the AIDS issue, the Government of Sweden is also set to sign on Wednesday an agreement to establish a multidonor HIV/AIDS trust fund at ADB with an initial contribution of 14.3 million US dollars, said ADB.

At the MoU signing, Mr Piot expressed his appreciation of ADB's growing role in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua



A recent view of the skyline of Shenzhen City. — INTERNET

DON'T SMOKE

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Blind Colombian people to access Internet through new software

BOGOTA, 23 Feb— People with visual difficulty in Colombia will be able to go online and use multimedia computers through a new software.

One hundred tele-centres, which are community centres with Internet access, will be equipped with the software named Jaws in the first four months of this year, said the software developer Compattel on Tuesday.

The company will choose the communities with big population suffering sight problems in the country, it said.

The project had received 261,000 US dol-

lars from the local organization Consortium SEE last year, the company added.

As part of the project, the company will launch training lessons in each tele-centre to teach people how to use the software in the coming six months.

According to the Colombian Government, the country has 340,220 people with visual difficulty.—MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake jolts southeast Iran, 370 people killed

TEHERAN, 23 Feb— A strong earthquake hit southeast Iran on Tuesday morning, killing at least 370 villagers, officials said.

The earthquake, which measured 6.4 on the Richter Scale, was centred on the town of Zarand in Kerman Province, about 700 kilometres (440 miles) southeast of Teheran.

With major settlements in the area appearing to escape heavy damage, officials said the toll would not be as high as the many thousands killed in some past quakes of a similar strength.

State radio, quoting a local medical official, said 100 corpses had already been counted and the number of injured was

some 5,000. "We are expecting the death toll to rise," Ali Sharifi, head of Kerman's medical university, told radio.

The head of Kerman Natural Disaster Headquarters, Mohsen Salehi, was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying destruction in five villages was between 20 and 70 per cent.

The tremor, which

struck at 5:55 am (0225 GMT), evoked memories of the devastating earthquake which hit the desert citadel city of Bam, about 160 miles southeast of Zarand in December 2003.

The pre-dawn Bam quake, which had a magnitude of 6.7, flattened the city, killing some 31,000 people.

But damage in major urban centres on Tuesday

was light.

"In Zarand and Kerman only some walls have collapsed and there were no casualties," Khanjani said.

Kerman Governor Mohammad Ali Karimi told television that aid groups had been sent to the villages but he had not yet asked for any help from other provinces.

MNA/Reuters/Xinhua

New generation of mobile telephones

CHICAGO, 23 Feb—Next up for cell phones with built-in digital cameras: making house calls for doctors. Researchers in Switzerland reported on Monday the devices could be used to help diagnose and suggest treatment for some serious wounds in patients in remote locations far removed from a physician.

The report from University Hospital of Geneva looked at leg ulcers in 52 patients that were examined both in person and remotely by doctors in a nearby room who had only pictures of the same wounds taken by a first-

generation camera phone.

They found remarkably high agreement between doctors who looked at the wound in person and those who saw the image.

If visiting nurses in remote locations can send such pictures in for con-

sultation, "the transport of the patient ... to the hospital or the physician's office could be replaced, and this approach could potentially save the health care system money," the report said.

MNA/Reuters



A woman looks at weapons on display at the Military Museum in Beijing on 23 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Scientists say new data may reveal evidence of Mars' past life

LOS ANGELES, 23 Feb—A team of international researchers has analyzed data freshly gathered by the Mars Express mission, and offered new insight into the mineral composition of Mars, scientists said on Monday.

This new research, published online in the journal Science, points out promising places to search for evidence of past life, according to John Mustard, an associate professor of geological sciences at Brown University, who took part in the research.

Mars Express, Eu-

rope's first mission to the Red Planet, has generated a slew of new data about the mineral composition of the planet's dry, dramatic surface. In six new papers, the international team revealed clues about the planet's past hidden in the rock.

Mustard said this re-

search shows areas that contain water or may have otherwise been amenable to life forms millions of years ago.

"If you want to resolve the big question about life on Mars, you want to go to the right places and get samples," Mustard said in a Press release. "The new

research tells us where some of those places may be."

Researchers found a diverse and complex mix of surface materials: silicates, ices and frosts, and hydrated minerals and sediments.

Some areas, such as Terra Meridiani where the US Mars rover Opportunity now operates, were rich in acidic sulfates. Rocks in other places, for example around the Syrtis Major volcanic plateau, were richer in clay and hydrated minerals. These are more neutral in pH, and thus more likely to support life.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuban seismological studies extend to 6 countries in Latin America

HAVANA, 23 Feb—Cuba has extended seismological studies to six other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, officials said on Tuesday.

The project aims to estimate seismic risks faced by the inhabitants in the Cuban city of Santiago. It also plans to conclude in five years the studies on the cities of San Jose in Costa Rica, Tijuana in Mexico, Lima in Peru, Barquisimeto in Venezuela, Cali in Colombia, Kingston in Jamaica and Bayamo in Cuba.

The project started last year with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization. It is undertaken by the Cuban National Center for Seismological Research and financed and advised by the International Theoretical Physics Center of Trieste, Italy.

Seismological expert Leonardo Alvarez explained that the studies in those regions will start with modelling terrain movement so as to have a geological characterization, which will be shown in maps.—MNA/Xinhua



Toyota Sienna minivans roll off the assembly line at Toyota's assembly plant in Princeton, Indiana, in this 24 Feb, 2003 file picture. Toyota Motor Corp will likely add two more assembly plants in North America by the end of the decade as part of a strategy to capture a larger share of the world's biggest auto market, the Wall Street Journal said on 24 Feb, 2005. — INTERNET

BMW to supply engines to Sauber next season

LONDON, 23 Feb— Williams will lose their exclusive BMW engine supply next season after the German carmaker said that they have decided to power the Sauber Formula One team as well.

"(BMW motorsport director) Mario (Theissen) was very open about it," Williams team boss Frank Williams said at a pre-season lunch here on Tuesday.

"He said 'we are go-

ing to supply engines... each manufacturer will provide two teams and we have had two approaches — one Sauber and another.

"They have decided to go with Sauber."

Williams, whose team agreed a new five-year deal with the Munich carmaker last year, said he had no problem with the decision. "Our deal carries on, it is certainly a favourable deal.—MNA/Xinhua

Arsenal's appeal against Bergkamp dismissed

LONDON, 24 Feb— Arsenal's appeal against Dennis Bergkamp's dismissal last Saturday has been dismissed, the FA said on Wednesday.

The Dutch forward was sent off for pushing Sheffield United's Danny Cullip in the 35th minute of the FA Cup fifth round tie but Arsenal appealed, TV pictures suggesting it might not have been his hand which made contact with the defender.

"A disciplinary commission has rejected a claim for wrongful dismissal from Arsenal FC in relation to Dennis Bergkamp," the FA said in a statement on their website.

"A three-match suspension will start with immediate effect."

Bergkamp will miss the Premier League match at Southampton on Saturday, the replay against Sheffield United on March 1 and the home league match against Portsmouth the following weekend.

His teammate Jose Antonio Reyes was also charged with violent conduct following the incident and had until 1800 GMT on Tuesday to admit or deny the charge.

MNA/Reuters

Late goal earns AC Milan 1-0 win over Man Utd

MANCHESTER (England), 24 Feb — AC Milan striker Hernan Crespo scored a late goal to earn his side a 1-0 win at Manchester United in an absorbing Champions League first knockout round first-leg match on Wednesday.

The game looked to be heading for a goalless draw with 12 minutes remaining when United goalkeeper Roy Carroll failed to deal with a routine shot by Clarence Seedorf and Crespo struck from close range to give the Italian champions a clear advantage going into the second leg in Milan in two weeks.

A largely tense and tactical battle had started brightly, with Paul Scholes firing wide for United and Rui Costa for Milan in the first three minutes.

Seedorf skimmed the home side's crossbar with a rasping 25-metre free kick and Scholes blazed an excellent chance wide after good work by Quinton Fortune.

Milan dominated possession in the early exchanges, frustrating

United with slick passing in a packed midfield.

Defender Alessandro Nesta was booked for a foul on United winger Ryan Giggs and the home side came desperately close to breaking the deadlock after 37 minutes when Fortune jabbed the ball just wide following a quick breakaway.

United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, the second highest scorer in Champions League history, started on the substitutes' bench after three months out with an Achilles injury but was brought on to a rapturous reception from the Old Trafford crowd after 63 minutes.—MNA/Reuters



AC Milan's Kaka (L) is challenged by Manchester United's Gabriel Heinze during their first leg Champions League football match at Old Trafford in Manchester. AC Milan won 1-0.—INTERNET

Porto earns 1-1 draw with Inter Milan

PORTO (Portugal), 24 Feb — Central defender Ricardo Costa equalized just after the hour to earn holders Porto a 1-1 draw with Inter Milan in their Champions League first knockout round, first leg on Wednesday.

Inter went ahead in the 24th minute when Dejan Stankovic broke into the box from the left, slipped by two defenders and crossed low past keeper Vitor Baia for fellow striker Obafemi Martins, unmarked, to turn the ball into an empty net. Porto equalized in the 61st minute when Inter goalkeeper Francesco Toldo missed a high cross to the far post, Costinha played the ball back into the middle and Costa blasted it home from one metre.

The home side, without suspended captain Jorge Costa in defence and Brazilian playmaker Diego, made a number of errors in the first half and were unable to organize their attacks.

In the second half, Porto's new coach Jose Couceiro, who was making his debut in European competition,

managed to inject more attacking power into the team, who pushed the Italian side onto the back foot.

After their equalizer, Porto squandered several chances to inflict on Inter their first defeat in 38 domestic and international games this season as attempts by Maniche and South African striker Benny McCarthy went wide.

In the final minutes, veteran keeper Baia prevented Inter from regaining the lead with two fine saves, first at the feet of substitute striker Christian Vieri and then turning away a powerful shot by Stankovic. The two teams meet in the second leg in Milan on March 15, a week after the other seven ties are completed. Inter share the San Siro stadium with AC Milan who are also at home in the second leg.—MNA/Reuters

Barca in upbeat mood after 2-1 win against Chelsea

BARCELONA, 24 Feb— Barcelona's players were in upbeat mood after their 2-1 comeback win against Chelsea, saying they were confident of reaching the quarterfinals despite conceding an away goal in Wednesday's match.

"It was a great game," said newly-crowned African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o who notched the winner for the Catalans 17 minutes from time of a pulsating encounter at the Nou Camp.

"We all wanted to play in a game like this and it worked out well. We'll take this result and see what happens in the return. Maybe we'll play even better when we are away from home."

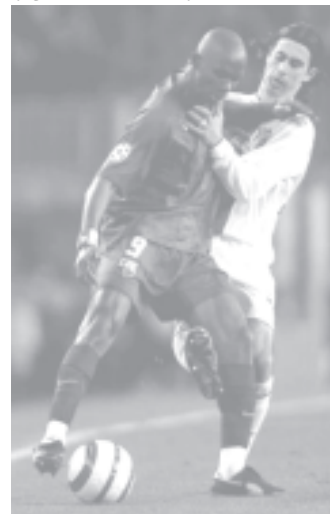
Barca dominated throughout but it was not until Chelsea striker Didier Drogba was sent off 11 minutes into the second half and Argentine forward Maxi Lopez was sent on by Barca coach Frank Rijkaard that they unlocked a well-drilled defence.

Lopez grabbed the equalizer with almost his first touch of the ball and strike partner Eto'o notched the winner six minutes later after an assist from the Argentine.

"It was great to play a part in this game and come on and help the team to an important victory," said the former River Plate player who joined Barca in the January transfer window.

"Chelsea were very tough opponents and very solid in defence but we did very well to come back and win the game against them. We are happy with this result and we will be playing the same way in the next leg."

Chelsea had taken the lead against the run of play in the first half when Brazilian fullback Juliano Belletti turned a Damien Duff cross into his own net and Barca's Giovanni van Bronckhorst was relieved his team recovered from the setback.



Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o (L) is challenged by Chelsea's Tiago during their Champions League first knockout round, first leg soccer match at the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, on 23 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

"It was very important to win this game, especially after they took the lead," said the Dutchman. "We played very well, especially in the second half, and could have scored more although we are happy with the 2-1."

"They were very good in defence and dangerous on the break, but we certainly aren't going to be looking for a 0-0 draw in the second leg at Stamford Bridge and we will be going all out for the win."

MNA/Reuters

Olympique Lyon beat Werder Bremen 3-0

BREMEN (Germany), 24 Feb — Olympique Lyon moved to the brink of the Champions League quarterfinals on Wednesday with a ruthless 3-0 victory over a Werder Bremen side that paid a high price for their dismal finishing.

The contrast between the two sides in front of goal could not have been more clear, as Lyon took three of only five clear chances they created while Bremen blew their European hopes with a series of misses. Sylvain Wiltord finished off a swift break in the ninth minute to put Lyon ahead and, after relentless pressure from the home side, they sealed a great win with two fine goals in four second-half minutes.

Mahamadou Diarra lashed in from outside the box in the 77th minute for the second and a stunning free-kick from dead-ball specialist Juninho Pernambucano rounded off the scoring.

Lyon, quarterfinalists last season, now look near certainties to make it at least that far again with the second leg to come in France on March 8.

Lyon's plan was clear from the start — sit deep and look to hurt the Germans with long balls down the flanks.

The tactic paid off early, as Florent Malouda's lightning burst down the right caught the home defence by surprise.

Diarra's cross was artfully touched on by Pierre-Alain Frau to Sidney Govou. He was unable to make good contact but the ball squirted out to the

unmarked Wiltord, who tapped in.

Werder themselves had enjoyed a couple of promising moments on the wings, with right-back Paul Stalteri and left-sided midfielder Tim Borowski worrying the Lyon backline.

Borowski flashed a near-post header just wide from Stalteri's cross in the 18th minute and it was Stalteri again who supplied the cross for Klose to force a good save from Gregory Coupet.

Lyon maintained their patience and resolve in the face of the onslaught and they almost caught Werder out again five minutes before the break.

This time it was Lamine Diatta who raced into space on the right and Andreas Reinke made a badly timed run out of his area in an attempt to clear.

Fortunately for the Werder keeper, Diatta's hooked shot ran harmlessly across goal. An off-balance Coupet managed to recover to keep out a Klose shot that was poorly hit from inside the area in the 65th minute as the home side kept up their furious rate of attacks. The worst miss of the night came from Nelson Valdez, who was put clean through on goal with 20 minutes to go only to squirm a shot wide.—MNA/Reuters

Legislative power should be vested...

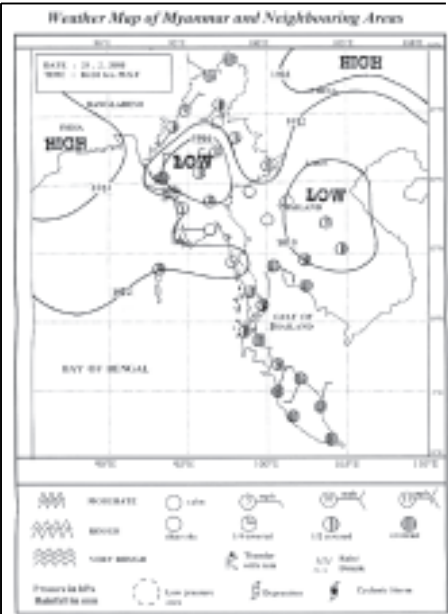
(from page 11)
territories in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies. The delegate group of workers discussed that it agreed to the fact that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should be vested with legislative power in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies. Therefore, detailed basic principles should be laid down as regards the fact that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the required laws if the need arises to do so for the Union territories in connection with matters for which legislative

powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies. The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia discussed that an area, if designated as Union territory given its special situation, will be under direct administration of the President of the Union rather than under the administration of the Region or State concerned. The group continued that it is appropriate that the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will come into force in these areas as well for they are situated in the Union. Therefore, detailed basic principles, the group added, should be laid down as regards

the fact that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the required laws if the need arises to do so for the Union territories in connection with matters for which legislative powers are delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws or the self-administered division or zone leading bodies. The delegate group of State service personnel discussed that it is stated in the basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention that "the State is constituted by Pyidaungsu (Union) system". The group continued that it is stated in the designation of Union territories that 'Yangon City and Cocogyun Township' are placed under the administration of the President of the Union.

The group also said that basic principles have been laid down to designate as Union territories under the direct administration of the President of the Union considering special situation in connection with defence, security, administration, economy etc. The group then suggested that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw alone enact necessary law in respect of Union territories when the need arises to do so. The delegate group of other invited persons discussed that altogether 105 members of the group agreed to the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications on the adoption of detailed basic principles concerning the legislative powers for Union territories. The panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from the suggested

proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on taking effect of the laws enacted by different levels of the Hluttaw and the self-administered area leading bodies presented by Dr Myo Thant Tin of Delegates of Workers will be published in tomorrow's issue. —MNA



WEATHER

Thursday, 24 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (0.16) inch in Myitkyina. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Bago Division, Chin and Eastern Shan States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lashio and Pinlaung (6°C) each and Heho (7°C).
Maximum temperature on 23-2-2005 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 24-2-2005 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-2-2005 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 23-2-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 24-2-2005 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 (5) mph from Northeast at (12:50) hours MST on 23-2-2005.
Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-2-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).
State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of light rain or thundershowers in the extreme northern Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-2-2005: Fair weather.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-2-2005: Partly cloudy.

STRONG WIND WARNING

(Issued on 24-2-2005)
All over the country from now to middle of May, strong winds are likely locally in the afternoon/evening over most of the country. Surface wind speeds may reach (40) mph. Strong winds may also be accompanied at times by squalls and hails.



Sports and Physical Education Department Acting Director-General U Kyaw Soe Myint speaking at the meeting on Myanmar-Japan (Kinki) friendly volleyball match. — NLM

Radio Myanmar

Friday, 25 February
Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music:
-Faith of the heart
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
-Can't get you out of my mind
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music:
-Come into my world
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music:
-One for sorrow
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunchtime music:
-You just wait and see
-Girl, I'm gonna get you
9.00 pm World of music:
-Songs from "Korea"
9.15 pm Article/music
9.25 pm Music at your request
-The gift
Colin Ray and Susan Aston
-Nobody wants to be lonely
Rickey Martin and X'tina Aguilera
-Cinderella
Britney Spear
9.45pm News/Slogan
10.00pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Friday, 25 February
View on today:

7:00 am	1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara	8:30 am	9. International news	6:20 pm	11. Discovery
7:15 am	2. တိပိဋကဓရ မြေဘူတာဂါရိက အနုပညာပညာတက္ကသိုလ်မှ ဦးစီးသော (ယောဆရာတော်)ဟောကြားတော် ရုအိမ်သာ ဥပုသ်နိပါတ်တော်	8:45 am	10. English for Everyday Use	6:30 pm	12. Evening news
7:25 am	3. To be healthy exercise	4:00 pm	1. Martial song	7:00 pm	13. Weather report
7:30 am	4. Morning news	4:15 pm	2. Song to uphold National Spirit	7:05 pm	14. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းထွဲ "ရုစသောညီမ" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
7:40 am	5. Nice and sweet song	4:30 pm	3. Practice in Reading	7:30 pm	15. ခင်မြနဲ့ကုန်း ကျေးဇူး၏ အမျိုးသား ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် သန့်ရှင်းရေး
7:55 am	6. အတမြင်ပွဲ	4:45 pm	4. Musical programme	7:40 pm	16. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် တပ်မတော်ချေ အထိမ်းအမှတ် ပန်းချီပန်းဖွဲ့ပြိုင်ပွဲ ပြုပြင်တင်ပြနိုင်ဆောင်ရွက်မှု (ပန်းပု)
8:05 am	7. The mirror images of the musical odies	5:00 pm	5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ချုပ်မြင်သကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယပတ် (ရုပ်စေးအထူးပြု) (ရုပ်စေး)	7:50 pm	17. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ပြုတေး
8:20 am	8. ဓာတ်ဘင်္ဂလေလှည့်တံခွန်	5:15 pm	6. Song of national races	8:00 pm	18. News
		5:30 pm	7. နည်းစနစ်မှန်မှန် အားကစားအခြေစိုက်	8:00 pm	19. International news
		5:40 pm	8. "သစ်ဆီမှူးစာ" (သျှားညို၊ မိုးခါး၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်၊ ခိုင်ခိုင်ခံ့) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုးထွန်း)		20. Weather report
		5:55 pm	9. Musical programme		21. Myanmar video feature "နှုတ်ရတနာအချစ်ချစ်"(အပိုင်း-၂) (ရန်အောင်၊ ဓမ္မသန်း၊ သုဝန်သွာ)
		6:05 pm	10. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာတေး		22. The next day's programme

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb— Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February, 2005. — MNA

The people are now pleased as they learn through the media that the delegates are playing an active role in the National Convention and they are doing so with peace of mind thanks to the entertainment and welfare programmes.

National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee meet



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting No 4/2005 of National Convention Convening Commission, NCC Work Committee and NCC Management Committee.— MNA

YANGON, 24 Feb— The National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee held meeting No 4/2005 at the Anawrahta Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

It was attended by NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Vice-Chairman Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members, Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, and leaders and of supporting groups for NC delegates. NCCC Joint-Secretary (2) U Myint Thein acted as MC.

The NCCC Chairman delivered a speech on the occasion, saying that the NC that has started since

17 February is going smoothly thanks to the harmonious efforts of the NCCC, the Work Committee and the Management Committee and active participation of the delegates.

The people are now pleased as they learn through the media that the delegates are playing an active role in the NC and they are doing so with peace of mind thanks to the entertainment and welfare programmes.

The members of the (See page 7)



NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung.— MNA



NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe. MNA

Panel of chairmen, delegates of national races discuss proposal

YANGON, 24 Feb — The meeting of the panel of chairmen of delegates of national races and 14 representatives from 14 States and Divisions took place at the meeting hall No 3 of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Town-

ship this afternoon for compilation of the delegates' proposals regarding the NCC Work Committee Chairman's clarification to detailed principles for distribution of the legislative power to be included in the framing of

the State Constitution.

Present on the occasion were members of the panel of chairmen and 14 representatives from States and Divisions.

U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division presided over the meeting together with Members of the Panel of Chairmen U Duwa Zok Daung of Shan State (North) and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division.

The meeting chairman gave a speech. U Soe Myint, leader of the proposal compilation group submitted the proposal, followed by a general

round of discussions.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm with the concluding remarks by

the meeting chairman.

MNA



Members of the panel of chairmen and delegates of national races discuss compilation for delegates' proposal.— MNA

INSIDE

Now, Myanmar is on the correct path leading to democracy free from the ill effects of the two extremes. The most fundamental factor to flourish genuine democracy in a nation is the development of its productive forces with a high living standard of the entire people with high intellectual power.

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AUNG MOE SAN