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Saturday, 26 February, 2005

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Maha Sukha Sitala Pagoda, consecration ceremony in Kawlin Township



YANGON, 25 Feb — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Maha Sukha Sitala Pagoda built in the precinct of the monastery in Inbinhla Village of Kawlin Township in conjunction with the consecration ceremony was held at the pandal near the pagoda at 9.30 am yesterday, attended by 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 and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Shwebo Pahtan Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabhivamsa and 45 members of the Sangha, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, 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)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San convey tiers of Htidaw, Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatadaw atop Maha Sukha Sitala Pagoda in Kawlin Township.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, division and district level departmental officials, wellwishers and local people.

Adviser to the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sangha U Min Kyi acted as master of ceremonies.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namō Tassa. And, vocalists sang the song titled Htu-Ma-Cha-Na classical song. Next, the gong was beaten for three times.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimalabhivamsa. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered Seinbudaw to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimalabhivamsa. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also donated Hngetmyatadaw and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and wife, Shwekyar Thingan to members of the Sangha.

(See page 8)

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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



Delegate groups meet to submit proposals to NCC Work Committee

YANGON, 25 Feb — The meetings to seek approval for the proposals of delegate groups concerning the NCC Work Committee chairman's clarification on 22 February on detailed basic principles for distribution of the legislative power to be included in the framing of the State Constitution to be submitted to the National Convention Convening Work Committee were held at the meeting halls of

Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

Delegates of Political Parties

The Delegates of Political Parties held a meeting to compile the proposal to be submitted to the NCC Work Committee at the meeting hall No 1 at 10 am today. The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 28 delegates out of

(See page 11)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 26 February, 2005

Improve socio-economic life of local people through agriculture

The government is trying its utmost for ensuring development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. With its rich natural resources, Myanmar is making progress in agriculture.

A total of 170 dams and reservoirs were built across the nation for development of agriculture. The emergence of Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division, where water is scarce, has enabled local people in the region to engage in growing monsoon paddy, summer paddy and other crops.

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, on 23 February arrived at the Thaphanseik Dam in Thaphanseik Village, Kyunhla Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Division and gave instructions to officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that effective forest conservation as well as plantation is required in the watershed areas, adding that 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 dam will help realize the irrigation and power generation targets, he stressed.

Nowadays, the Thaphanseik Dam is benefiting over 0.8 million acres of farmland. Relentless efforts will have to be made for the dam to benefit one million acres of farmland.

Watershed forest plantations are to be nurtured in Wuntho, Pimlebu and Kawlin regions to make the dam acquire sufficient water. Only then, will greening work in the environs of the dam and power generation be ensured. Assessment is to be made and remedial measures taken for sufficient supply of water. And only then, will the aims of the dam be fully realized.

Thaphanseik Dam was opened in April 2001. Its earth embankment is 22,587 feet long and 108 feet high. The power plant of the dam, which was opened in June 2002, is now generating 30 megawatt.

Therefore, integrated efforts are to be made to realize the aims of the dam, which was built for enhancing the socio-economic life of the rural people.

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

Minister visits booths at DSM

YANGON, 25 Feb — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun visited the booths of the departments and enterprises under the ministry on the second floor of the Defence Services Museum here today.



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun oversees preparations of the booth of Ministry of Finance and Revenue at Defence Services Museum.— MNA

Accompanied by Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and officials, the minister inspected display arrangements for the booths.

He also inspected the ministry's booth at the Nation-Building Endeavours Pavilion on the first floor.

Officials explained the sector-wise display arrangements. The minister discussed programmes to make the displays of the booths look more attractive. MNA

Rural roads inspected in Hmawby



Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects construction of the road linking Kya-in Village and No 3 Highway in Hmawby Township. — DAD

YANGON, 25 Feb—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt viewed urban development tasks and construction of rural roads in Hmawby Township this morning.

The minister inspected the park of the Township Development Affairs Committee and instructed the officials to upgrade the park for the recreation of the people.

Officials gave an account of the extension of the district-to-district road linking Inkan, Wanetchaung and Kya-in (East) and Nyaunhnabin in Hmawby Township.

The minister also inspected the construction of the road linking Kya-in (West) village and No 3 Highway and gave instructions on completion of the facility by the rainy season. H

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မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

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Stimulant tablets seized in Mandalay

YANGON, 25 Feb — Acting on information, a combined team comprising members of Mandalay Special Anti-drug Squad and local police force searched the house of Aik Yon (a) Jim Jia Fu in East Daewun Ward, Maha Aungmyay Township and seized 1,925 WY brand stimulant tablets on 6 January.

In connection with the case, action was taken against Aik Yon (a) Jim Jia Fu, son of U Jin Sinte of Maha Aungmyay Township and Tun Tun Oo, son of U Sein Bo of Maha Aungmyay Township under Sections 15/19(A) and 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Mandalay No 7 Police Station.

Aik Yon
(a) Jim Jia Fu and
Tun Tun Oo seized
with 1,925
stimulant
tablets in
Mandalay.
CCDAC



MNA

Malaysian leader's China visit to enhance bilateral ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Feb— Malaysian Paramount Ruler Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin's visit to China from Monday will enhance mutual trust and all-round economic cooperation between the two countries, Chinese ambassador here, Wang Chungui, has said.

"The coming visit to China by His Majesty is of great significance to both sides which will also enhance the mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples in the two countries," Wang said in an interview with the local news agency, *Bernama*, Wednesday.

The paramount ruler, also called as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, and his wife, known as Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, are scheduled to visit Beijing, Xian and Shanghai during their week-long visit to China. Wang said that Malaysia plays an important role in regional and international affairs and has also spoken out to uphold justice on major issues involving the legitimate rights and

interest of developing countries. "China attaches great importance to Malaysia's extraordinary role both in ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and in the international community and will definitely continue our good coordination and cooperation," he said. Wang said that the Chinese Government is now carrying out its strategy of West China Development and rejuvenation of the old industrial base in the northeast.

"Preferential policies are offered to foreign investment in these areas and this will bring new opportunities for Malaysian companies to develop trade and increase investment in China," he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*



People gather at a 100 yen (.85 USD) shop in downtown Tokyo on 25 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Singapore Airlines promotes tourism to the Maldives

SINGAPORE, 24 Feb— Singapore Airlines (SIA) is offering package deals of touring to the Maldives with attractive price including airfare, accommodation, meals and transfers.

According to a statement by SIA on Wednesday, the SIA Maldives holiday promotion is part of the recovery programme to promote tourism to the islands after the December 26 tsunami last year.

"Together with our Maldivian partners, it is important for us to provide a united push to restore tourist confidence, to bring visitors back to the paradise islands," said Huang Cheng Eng, SIA executive vice-president of Marketing and the Regions.

Apart from enjoying the beautiful natural environment, visitors will receive specially selected welcome gifts, a complimentary bottle of wine and fruit basket, free use of water-sport equipment, as well as discounts on food and beverage and spa treatments.

A collaboration between SIA and the Maldives Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB), the promotion has been launched in Singapore, China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines and Australia from Wednesday till 4 April. As tourism contributes to 33 per cent of the gross domestic product of the country, the Maldives is eager to bring back international tourists after the disaster.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Women work at a textile company on the outskirts of Shenzhen recently.—INTERNET

India, Pakistan conclude trade talks

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb— After a historic pact made last week on a trans-Kashmir bus service, India and Pakistan concluded two days of trade talks here on Wednesday and constituted two study groups on non-tariff barriers and Customs cooperation.

The talks were held under the recently established Joint Study Group on Economic Cooperation, which was co-chaired by India's Commerce Secretary S N Menon and his Pakistan counterpart Tasneem Noorani, the *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

This was the panel's first meeting and the two sides agreed to hold a second round of discussions on mutually agreed dates, a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the two-day deliberations said.

"The two sides identified issues relating to bilateral trade and deliberated upon the future roadmap in order to enhance trade and economic cooperation," the statement added.

"Recommendations of the joint study group would be submitted to the respective governments for consideration under the framework of the composite dialogue between India and Pakistan," it said.

The two working groups will look at issues such as cooperation on Customs matters, trade facilitation and removal of non-tariff barriers to step up merchandise trade between the two countries.

The Indian side is understood to have taken up the issue of Pakistan granting most favoured nation status to India. New Delhi has already conferred such a status on Pakistan.

—*MNA/Xinhua*

1,700-year-old Chinese town to be rebuilt for better protection

CHONGQING, 24 Feb— A 1,700-year-old town, expected to be submerged in the Three Gorges Project, will be moved completely to a new site five kilometres away.

The moving of Dachang Old Town, in Wushan County of southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, began on Monday, local sources said.

The local government plans to rebuild the town as it was. All the building materials in the old town, including each tile and brick, will be marked and moved to the new site for rebuilding. Those materials dilapidated will be replaced by imitations of traditional style.

After the rebuilding of the town, some

residents will be allowed to move into the new town to help continue its traditional lifestyle. Performances of traditional craftwork, such as liquor distilling and cloth weaving, will be held for tourists.

Dachang Old Town, built in AD 280 in the Jin Dynasty (265-420), was located in the basin of Daninghe River, a branch of the Yangtze River. The town boasts well-preserved buildings of Ming and Qing style.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Two US soldiers among 25 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Feb— Twenty-five people including Iraqi policemen and soldiers, civilians and two US soldiers were killed in Iraq on Thursday.

A suicide car bomber attacked a police station in northern Iraq, killing at least 12 people and highlighting the profound security challenges Iraq's new government will face once it is formed.

A man dressed in a police uniform drove his car into the police headquarters in Tikrit and detonated the vehicle during a change of shift, police said. The attack also wounded 35, hospital officials said. In Kirkuk, two Iraqi policemen were killed and two were critically

wounded in a roadside bomb blast. In Qaim, near the Syrian border in western Iraq, four Iraqi soldiers were killed when gunmen attacked their patrol. And in Baghdad, gunmen opened fire on a bakery killing a customer.

Two US soldiers were killed and two wounded in separate roadside bomb blasts north of the capital, while another bomb blast near a police patrol killed three people, including two policemen, in Iskandariya, south of Baghdad.—*Internet*

China Railcom broadband subscribers exceed one million

BEIJING, 24 Feb — China Railcom announced here Tuesday that the company already had 1.047 million broadband Internet subscribers, which gave it a market share of 2.29 per cent of the country.

The company was established in December 2000 by the Ministry of Railways. In January 2004, ownership of the company was transferred from the ministry to the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council.

It is one of the six large state-owned telecommunications companies in China. Last year, China had about 94 million Internet users, with 23.85 million using broadband.

—*MNA/Xinhua*



A farmer feeds ducks at his farm in the northern Vietnamese Province of Bac Giang on 24 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

စတီပူဂ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Hu praises Serbia and Montenegro's adherence to one-China policy

BEIJING, 24 Feb— Chinese President Hu Jintao praised Serbia and Montenegro on Wednesday for its adherence to one-China policy during a meeting with Boris Tadic, President of the Republic of Serbia.

"China respects sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia and Montenegro and its people's choice on social system and way for development," Hu said.

He said China and Serbia and Montenegro have maintained good relations, and the relationship has furthered based on mutual respect and benefit, non-interference in internal affairs and equality.

"Deepening the bilateral relations is Chinese Government's consistent

policy, and is in the interest and aspiration of the two peoples," he said, adding that China will expand cooperation with Serbia and Montenegro in all fields.

Tadic said Serbia and Montenegro and China have supported each other on the issues of common concern and Serbia and Montenegro adheres to the one-China policy.

"Serbia and Montenegro would like to promote cooperation with China in all fields," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Khatami says Iran never to give up peaceful N-activities

TEHERAN, 24 Feb— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami stressed on Wednesday that Iran will never give up its right to get access to peaceful nuclear technology, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"Iran has repeatedly told the Europeans that it will not forsake its right to get access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes," Khatami was quoted as saying after a Cabinet meeting.

Khatami expressed optimism toward the outcome of nuclear talks despite its slow pace, saying Iran was ready to enter dialogue with Europe as well as other countries.

"The Europeans would suffer more than Iran if they decide to succumb to US pressures," Khatami said. On US President George W. Bush's Tuesday remarks that the United States was not ready to attack Iran, Khatami said "the Americans have now come to realize that they are making unacceptable claims, which persuade them to regret their remarks".

Dismissing the possibility of a US attack, Khatami

stressed Iran was also determined to make the United States pay a high price for its "crazy behaviours".

"The possibility is very slight, but I'd like to say that the Iranian Government and people would make Washington regret for its crazy behaviours," Khatami said.

Iran has held three rounds of nuclear talks with the European Union since it suspended its uranium enrichment activities last November.

However, the two sides failed to reach agreements on key issues such as Iran's building of a nuclear reactor.

Washington has accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons secretly, threatening to launch preemptive attacks on Iran and urging to refer the country's nuclear case to the UN Security Council.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese exports to face more challenges in EU

HANOI, 24 Feb— Vietnamese exports to the European Union (EU) will face stiffer competition from 1 April after the European Commission (EC) decided to extend a tax reduction system to imports from Thailand, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Under the decision, developing countries, especially tsunami-hit ones, will be enjoyed the 2005-2008 Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) three months earlier than initially planned, according to Vietnam News on Wednesday. The GSP scheme, which has been in use since 1971 with the aim of helping developing

countries get a stronger foothold in the EU market, grants products imported from GSP benefited countries either duty-free access or a tariff reduction.

Under the GSP conditions, shrimp and footwear from Thailand, garments and textiles from India, and footwear from Indonesia exported to the EU will be entitled to tax preferences. Taxes on Thai shrimps and Indian clothing exported to the EU will be cut from 12 per cent to 4.2 per cent and 9.5 per cent respectively. Thai and Indonesian footwear will also enjoy tax reduction to 13.5 per cent from 17 per cent. Meanwhile, taxes levied on 90 per cent of Sri Lanka's exports including garments and textiles will be exempted.—MNA/Xinhua

Campaign for promoting Chinese travel to Britain launched

SHANGHAI, 24 Feb— British companies and officials launched Tuesday in Shanghai a campaign to boost the number of Chinese travellers to Britain, local sources said.

The campaign, "Britain welcomes China", is co-sponsored by British Consulate-General in Shanghai, Britain's Virgin Atlantic Airlines and British Tourist Authority (BTA). A number of activities will be organized during the campaign, such as opening a Chinese web site by the BTA in the later this year, organizing the first Chinese tourist group to Britain and teaching international travel agencies in China about tours to Britain.—MNA/Xinhua

Sweltering heat hits Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Feb— Sweltering heat has been hitting Malaysia and the northern part of the country in particular, a meteorological official said on Wednesday.

The blistering heat that rose to 38.3 degrees Celsius in Alor Star in northern Malaysia on Sunday is considered the second hottest temperature ever recorded in the country, principal assistant director of the Weather Forecast Centre under the Meteorological Services Department, Wong Teck Kiong, told reporters here.

In 9 April, 1998, the Meteorological Services Department recorded 40.1

degrees Celsius in Chuping, Perlis State, the hottest temperature ever recorded in the country. "This is related to the dry weather and most of our stations have recorded very little rain in recent weeks. This has led to a corresponding rise in temperature," he said.

"The 38.3 is really a high temperature and this could also be due to the equinox which is to take place on 21 March," said Wong.—MNA/Xinhua

Syria rejects accusations of Iraq guerilla role

DAMASCUS, 24 Feb— Syria has dismissed as baseless apparent televised confessions by Iraqi guerillas who said they had been trained by the Syrian intelligence service.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency on Thursday quoted a security source as saying that the remarks were "utterly baseless and unfounded".

Iraq's state-run Iraqiya television ran a broadcast on Wednesday with what appeared to be televised confessions by guerillas who said they were trained and financed by Syrian intelligence.

"Syria is keen on the security and stability in Iraq and does not interfere in its internal affairs," the agency reported the source as saying.

Baghdad has for months accused Syria of harbouring Saddam Hussein loyalists and allowing guerillas to cross the border into Iraq to carry out what it calls "terrorist" violence. Syria has repeatedly denied the charges.

The contents of Wednesday's broadcast in which a group of Iraqis described how they received training in beheadings, bombings and shooting in the Syrian city of Latakia in 2001 could not be independently verified.

Internet



US Marines take cover during a security operation in the town of Haklanyah, west of Baghdad recently.—INTERNET