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Harmonious efforts of entire national people result in food output more than sufficient for increasing population

YANGON, 26 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 arrived by helicopter in Monywa after attending the Htidaw hoisting and consecration ceremonies of Maha Sukha Sitala Pagoda in Einbinhla Village in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Division on 24 February.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed at the Monywa airport by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, the ministers, the deputy ministers, The deputy commander of North West Commander, senior military officers and departmental officials.

The Prime Minister and party went to the city hall of Monywa in advance and met members of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, Chairmen of Monywa District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, trainee nurses and guests.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye views agricultural equipment displayed at Monywa Industrial Zone.—MNA



Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on constitution of districts and townships, population, cultivation of monsoon paddy, arrangements for full cultivation of summer paddy, cultivation of the main crops and industrial crops such as cotton and sugarcane, making efforts for exceeding the targets of two million acres of monsoon paddy, sufficiency of paddy and edible oil, arrangements for cultivation of rubber, onion, potato, groundnut and vegetables, construction of dams and embankments, benefited acreage, developments in industrial, education, health and transport sectors, increase of per capita income and efforts for exceeding targets of the projects of the State.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha said short-term projects were implemented for economic development and there are better foundations for exceeding the targets of the third short-term five-year plan. He also spoke on Sagaing Division's participation in national development and development of Sagaing

Division.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said the ministry is making endeavours for development of agricultural sector and for earning foreign exchange by exporting rice. The government is fulfilling requirements for raising the social standard of farmers, he added.

He also explained about laying better foundations for Sagaing Division to become a granary of upper Myanmar.

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INSIDE

The military personnel of the West who arrived at the tsunami-hit area to carry out relief activities were paying attention to studying the Malacca Strait. There arose anxieties over the interferences in the area under cover of relief aids.

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TEKKATHO MYAT THU



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets local authorities, departmental officials, townselders, USDA and social organizations in Monywa.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 27 February, 2005

Exert harmonious efforts for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation

The National Convention has resumed since 17 February 2005. Over 1,000 delegates from all walks of life are attending it.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee are taking systematic measures for successful realization of the NC, the first and crucial step of the seven-point Road Map. The NC is going smoothly thanks to the active participation of the delegates. The completion of each sector mainly rests on united cooperation of the delegates.

The NC is being held to adopt the fundamental principles in line with own culture and traditions of the State for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Any attempt to jeopardize the NC is to be foiled and warded off through the might of national unity.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee held its work coordination meeting No 4/2005 at the Anawrahta Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division on 24 February with an address by Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

He said that the delegates are to be imbued with perseverance, diligence and nationalistic fervour in order to surmount the perpetration of internal and external destructive elements, and called on them to see to successful completion of the NC. Matters related to the three branches of State power—legislative power, executive power and judicial power are being discussed at the NC. With common conviction, the NC delegates are trying hard for the emergence of a democratic nation.

The entire national people are not only providing all the necessary assistance for successful realization of the NC but also warding off internal and external destructive elements, who want to wreck it.

The NC's plenary meeting adopted the detailed basic principles for the delegation of legislative power and continued discussion will be made for laying down the detailed basic principles for the division of administrative and judicial powers. This being the case, the entire national people are to make concerted efforts with nationalistic spirit for the success of the NC being held for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

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

Foreign Minister back from Dhaka

YANGON, 26 Feb — The Myanmar delegation led by U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back here by air this evening after paying a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of Bangladesh from 24 to 26 February at the invitation of Mr M Morshed Khan MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win calls on Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.—MNA

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, officials from MOFA and Mr AB Manjoor Rahim, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar. The minister, during his stay in Dhaka, on 24 February, held the official talks with Mr M Morshed Khan MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

the People's Republic of Bangladesh on matters relating to bilateral relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries as well as international and regional issues. Minister U Nyan Win attended the dinner given in his honour by Mr Morshed Khan MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win paid a courtesy call on Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 24 February. The Minister and party were accompanied by Mr Barrister Nazmul Huda, Minister for Communication of the People's Republic of Bangladesh when they visited

Cox's Bazar and the direct road link project area yesterday.

Along with Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, U Nyan Win, the members of Myanmar goodwill delegation, Director-General of the Political Department U Thaug Tun and Assistant Director U Tin Yu also arrived back.—MNA

Winners of Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo competitions announced



Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and party scrutinize works of photo competitions to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.—MNA

YANGON, 26 Feb — The work committee for organizing literary and photo competition had invited entries for the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo competitions with the titles: 'all-round development' and 'national heritage'.

A meeting on scrutinization of the entries of participants took place, attended by work committee Chairman Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, and members of the panel of judges, MRTV Director-General U Khin Maung Htay, Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Chit Naing, photographers U Soe Moe, U Tun Shwe, U Pe Khin, U Hla Kywe, U Pe Myint Oo and U Hla Aye and officials. After the meeting, the list of the winners was announced. In the colour photo contest with the title 'all round development', the first prize went to Nyo Win Aung (Taunggyi), the second to Wai Kyi Moe (Yangon University) and the third to Ko Thein Win. Consolation prize winners were: Nay Chi Nay Win (Magway), U Than Aung (IPRD), Ko Thein Win, Pyi Soe Tun (Bachikowthoung), Ko Aung San Win (Shwe Inntha), Win Min Htaik (Forever Group), Saw Hlaing Win (YCDC), U Aung Tin (IPRD), Maung Maung Soe (Forestry), Aung Htay Hlaing (Crown), Wai Kyi Moe (Yangon

University), U Than Aung (IPRD) and U Soe Yin Maung (Industry-1).

In the colour photo contest with the title 'national heritage', Aung Myo (Maximum Force) stood first, Kyaw Tha (Haik Chin) second and A K Moe (Zoology) third. Consolation prize winners were Sai Kham Lin (Hawk Eyes), A Kay Moe (Zoology), Saw Thein Win (City News), U Than Wai (Taunggyi), Kyaw Kyaw Win (Myanmar Photographic Society), Pyi Soe Tun (Bachikowthoung), Sagaing Aung Kyaw Tin (Tin Maung-Photo), Maung Khin Maung Latt, Shwebo Ko Yan Aung, Ko Sein Htay and Sagaing Kyaw Hsan Win (Tin Maung-Photo). Other colour photo competitions divided into two categories were also held for those who had won prizes in the previous competitions, and the list of those participants was announced today.

Prize winners are to send the original negative of their winning photos to Secretary of work committee Director of IPRD U Tun Min not later than 2-3-05. First, second and third prizes will be presented at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day celebration in Yangon and consolation prizes will be presented at the celebrations in respective military commands.

MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

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Chinese V-P calls for enhancing cooperation with UNICEF

BEIJING, 25 Feb— Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on Thursday called for enhancing cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to promote the development of Chinese children.

Wu made the remarks in a meeting with visiting UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, who will retire in May this year after serving as UNICEF chief for 10 years.

Wu expressed her appreciation of Bellamy's contribution to children's development in the past 10 years, thanking her for caring for Chinese children, for attaching importance to cooperating with China and for supporting China in implementing such projects as intensify-

ing education for young girls, fighting the abduction and selling of women and children and strengthening health care for Tibetan women and children.

China, as a developing country with economic situation varying greatly from region to region, still has unbalanced development among children, Wu said.

Wu said she hoped UNICEF's assistance would go toward tackling problems confronted by Chinese women and children. —MNA/Xinhua

China-France Culture Year diplomatic success

BEIJING, 25 Feb — China-France Culture Year has promoted China's diplomatic performance, a senior Chinese cultural official said on Thursday at a seminar on China-France Culture Year.

More than 300 projects of the Chinese Culture Year in France, the largest cultural exchange held between China and Europe, from October 2003 to July 2004 have attracted millions of French citizens, Deputy Minister of Culture Meng Xiaosi said.

Valerie Terranova, special assistant to French President Jacques Chirac, said that more than 95 per cent of the French media spoke positively about the Chinese Culture Year.

"Quite a few countries have suggested to host culture exchange projects with China, which showed that cultural activities can bring vigour to China's diplomatic performance," Meng said.

Wu Jianmin, president of Foreign Affairs College and former Chinese ambassador to France, said the China-France Culture Year reminded Chinese and French people about the value of their traditional cultures.

Agreeing with Wu, famous writer and former Culture Minister, Wang Meng, said China should play an active role in cultural exchange. The Chinese Culture Year reflected the welcome of the international community.

Wu Changsheng, director of International Department of the People's Daily, said that China considers culture exchange the third pillar of national diplomatic ties. The French people have been able to learn about China through

"face-to-face communication," which ensured further cooperation between the two countries.

The experts also gave advice on building cultural diplomatic ties.

Guo Yongyi, a veteran journalist with People's Daily said the Chinese Government should do researches on a strategy for culture exchanges, launch more Chinese culture centres and exchange programmes overseas, encourage Chinese local culture industry and promote Chinese—language study in foreign schools.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentine, Brazilian, Venezuelan leaders to meet in Uruguay

BUENOS AIRES, 25 Feb — The presidents of Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela will meet in Uruguay next Tuesday after attending the swearing-in ceremony of Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez.

Argentine diplomatic sources said Wednesday that they will discuss issues relating to the "South American agenda" and, in particular, the deteriorating relations between Venezuela and the United States.

Vazquez will be the first left-wing president in the history of Uruguay.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraq police officers look at a blast damaged police car after a roadside bomb exploded as it passed killing at least two people on the outskirts of the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on 24 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

ထုတ်တုန့်နှင်းဆဲ တိုင်းပြည်ကြီး

A South Korean smiles in front of an electronic board showing stocking prices at a security firm in Seoul on 25 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET



Singapore hosts 18th Asian Trade Promotion Forum

SINGAPORE, 25 Feb— The 18th Asian Trade Promotion Forum (ATPF) opened here on Thursday to explore the way of establishing opportunities for business collaboration among Asian Pacific enterprises. With the theme of "enlarging trade, integrating markets", the two-day event also aims to reiterate the importance of an integrated Asian economy to the key stakeholders.

Fifty-three delegates from 18 Asia-Pacific countries and regions came to the island state to attend the forum, a gathering of trade promotion organizations in Asia.

Among them are Wang Jinzhen, chairman of China

Council for the Promotion of International Trade, as well as heads of International Enterprise Singapore, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Japan External Trade Organization and Australian Trade Commission.

Established in 1987, the ATPF hopes to enhance trade in the region through information exchange, implementation of cooperative projects and strengthening networks among its 21 members.

MNA/Xinhua

Ambitious \$50b plan to tame the Congo River to bring electricity to all of Africa

LONDON, 25 Feb—One of Africa's biggest electricity companies yesterday unveiled plans to build the world's biggest hydro-electricity plant on a stretch of the Congo River, harnessing enough power for the whole continent.

The proposed plant at the Inga Rapids, near the river's mouth in the western Democratic Republic of Congo, would cost \$50b (£26b) and could generate some 40,000MW, twice the power of China's Three Gorges dam.

The river is seen as ideal. Known as the "river that swallows all rivers", it is fed by 10,000 streams that funnel into powerful rapids along its 2,900-mile course.

Rather than damming up the river entirely, the plan by South Africa's state-owned power company, Eskom, which has already won over independent experts, involves creating a "run-of-river" plant in which water is siphoned off, channelled through turbines and then fed back into the river.

Such plants are common in Canada, Norway and Switzerland, although their output is much less than that from a dam.

Backers of the Eskom plan, which will also involve building a small dam on the river, claim it could even generate surplus power to sell to southern Europe.

At a press conference in Nairobi yesterday, Reuel Khoza, the Eskom chairman, said: "Only between five and 10% of Africa's population has access to electricity. That we consider lamentable in a continent that is abundant in energy sources.

"The Inga project is one that really excites us because we believe that in one fell swoop we could address the bulk of Africa's needs and do it in a manner that is clean and environmentally friendly, by harnessing run-of-river hydro-electricity as opposed to damming up a river."—Internet

Top US General sees lasting Iraq guerillas

BEVERLY HILLS, 25 Feb—The attack in Iraq is not likely to be put down in a year or even two since history shows such uprisings can last a decade or more, the United States' top military commander said on Friday.

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said that in the past century, insurgencies around the world have lasted anywhere from seven to 12 years, making a quick fix to the problem in Iraq unlikely. "This

is not the kind of business that can be done in one year, two years probably," said Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council here.

Myers was filling in for Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, who was scheduled to address the group but became ill after a long trip to Europe.

Myers told this to a packed ballroom at the Beverly Hilton hotel.—Internet

Chinese Vice-Premier arrives in Angola for official visit

LUANDA, 25 Feb — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan arrived here on Thursday for a three-day official visit to Angola. He was greeted by Angolan Prime Minister Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos at the airport.

Zeng delivered a written message at the airport upon his arrival, saying that since the establishment of diplomatic relations 22 years ago, the two countries have enhanced their mutual trust in political issues, achieved fruitful results in various cooperative projects and cooperated

closely in international affairs. The Chinese Vice-Premier is expected to meet Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and hold talks with Prime Minister Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos on Friday.

The two sides will exchange views on bilateral

relations and a wide range of topics of common concern, and explore the possibility of cooperation in various fields.

Angola is the third leg of Zeng's Africa tour after Kenya and the Republic of the Congo. He will leave for Mauritius on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

India allows 100% foreign equity in construction

NEW DELHI, 25 Feb — In a major policy decision aimed at attracting overseas capital, India permitted Thursday 100 per cent foreign equity in the construction sector, covering a range of areas from hotel resorts to integrated townships.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here, which also gave its approval for all applications for such projects to be cleared under the automatic route, the *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

To forestall speculation in real estate by foreign investors, the sale of undeveloped land has been prohibited, Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said after the meeting.

"We want incremental

investment in the construction sector so that it triggers employment generation, greater economic activity, a rapid increase in built-up infrastructure and spin-off benefits for manufacturing sector." Foreign investment in the construction sector will not displace or replace the local industry, but rather help it to grow at a rapid pace and generate greater economic activity, the minister added.

The projects could include projects in areas like housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts,

hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities and city and regional level infrastructure. —MNA/Xinhua

US soldier to be court-martialed for refusing second Iraq tour

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb — A US Army soldier will be court-martialed for refusing a second deployment to Iraq, news reports said on Friday.

The Army mechanic, Sergeant Kevin Benderman, from the 3rd Forward Support Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, Georgia, would be tried by a general court-

martial, on charges of desertion and missing movement. No trial date has been set. Benderman, 40, faces up to seven years in jail, reduction in rank and a dishonorable discharge if convicted.

Benderman said he had become opposed to war after serving in Iraq when the war started in March 2003. He missed the deployment flight of his unit on 7 Jan, 10 days after giving commanders a notice that he planned to seek a discharge as a conscientious objector. Commanders at Fort Stewart, however, said Benderman had an obligation to deploy with his unit while his objector application was being processed.

doctors, according to a survey released here on Thursday.

The poll of 1,500 Italians over the age of 60 found that 71% put more faith in a healthy lifestyle and eating habits for staying fit than in doctors or drugs.

Almost 75% of respondents said it was important to take lots of fresh air while some 30% said physical activity and sports were essential.

A further 27% recommended preventive

health visits and tests and 20% said eating organic foods was an important factor in staying healthy.

Only 23% said they took medicines or products to boost functions such as sleep, memory or their sex lives.

More than 10% said they saw a doctor less than once a year.

The poll was carried out by top social studies think-tank Censis.

MNA/Xinhua

World's population will increase by 40 percent to 9.1 billion in 2050

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Feb — The world's population will increase by 40 percent to 9.1 billion in 2050 but virtually all the growth will be in the developing world, especially in the 50 poorest countries, the UN Population Division says.

The division's revision Thursday of earlier estimates said the population in less-developed countries is expected to swell from 5.3 billion today to 7.8 billion in 2050. By contrast, the population of richer developed countries will remain mostly unchanged, at 1.2 billion.

"It is going to be a strain on the world," Hania Zlotnik, the division's new director, told a news conference.

She said the expected growth has "important and serious implications" because it will be concentrated in countries that already have problems providing adequate shelter, health care and education.

Between 2005 and 2050, eight countries — India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Congo, Bangladesh, Uganda, the United States,

Ethiopia and China — are likely to contribute half of the world's population increase, the report said.

The population is projected to at least triple in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Congo, the Republic of Congo, East

Timor, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Uganda, it said. Median fertility is expected to decline from 2.6 children per woman today to slightly over 2 children per woman in 2050.

Internet



Treggani (R), a Sumatran tiger, cools down with two of her three nine-month old cubs in their enclosure at Ragunan zoo in Jakarta on 24 Feb, 2005. Sumatran tigers are an endangered species because of poaching and habitat destruction, with about 500 tigers left in the wild according to WWF. —INTERNET

Poll shows Italian elders depend on themselves for health

1,491 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb — As of Friday, 25 Feb, 2005, at least 1,491 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,130 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 11 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,353 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,021 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

— Three soldiers were killed on Friday in northern Baghdad when an explosive detonated near their patrol.

— One soldier died on Friday in Baghdad of non-combat injuries.

— One soldier was killed on Thursday in Anbar Province, Iraq.

Internet



Marines take part in a raid in Haklanyah, Iraq recently. — INTERNET

Japan remains top source of imports from Philippines in 2004

MANILA, 25 Feb — Japan remained the top position as source of imports with an 18.5 per cent share in 2004, the government said on Thursday.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo L Neri said in a statement that for 2004, Japan was followed by the United States with a 16.3 per cent, and China also increased its share from 4.8 per cent in 2003 to 6.3 per cent in 2004.

Citing data from the National Statistics Office (NSO), Neri noted that merchandise imports decreased 0.9 per cent in December 2004, bringing the full year growth to 7.5 per cent, slightly below the government target of 10 per cent.

"With exports totalling 39.598 billion US dollars or a 9.3-per-cent growth, the balance of trade for the year stands at a deficit of 702 million US dollars," he said.

The chief of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) earlier stated that less imports of capital goods and raw materials pulled down

total imports.

The contraction in capital goods and raw materials pulled down the total, despite growth in mineral fuels, lubricant and related materials (29.7 per cent) and consumer goods (34.3 per cent), he said.

He noted that imports of electronic products, comprising about 40.7 per cent of the December payments, plunged 17.4 per cent as major categories including semiconductors and electronic data processing declined.

"Demand for consumer goods remains healthy. Consumer spending for imported goods jumped 34.3 per cent in light of the holiday season," he said, adding that passenger cars and motorized cycles soared 27.0 per cent while food imports rose 59.7 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese models hold a mobile phone in a stall at an international wedding exhibition in Beijing on 25 Feb, 2005. — INTERNET

Singapore, India conduct annual naval exercise

SINGAPORE, 25 Feb — Singapore and India on Thursday launched their annual bilateral naval exercise in the South China Sea, according to a statement by Singapore's Ministry of Defence.

Code named "Ex Simbex", the 10-day exercise will focus on a new component on maritime interdiction within the framework of anti-submarine, anti-air and anti-surface warfare training in general.

The Republic of Sin-

gapore Navy (RSN) will be manoeuvring a submarine, two missile corvettes, a missile gunboat and an anti-submarine patrol vessel to participate in the exercise, while the Indian Navy (IN) will deploy a destroyer, a frigate and a corvette.

The exercise will also involve aircraft from the two Armed Forces.

Starting from 1999, Ex Simbex is part of the regular professional interactions between the RSN and the IN, said the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

New computer virus disguised as "sent failed" e-mail message

TIANJIN, 25 Feb — Experts spotted a new variant of Mydoom virus disguised as an e-mail "sent failed" message, said the Tianjin-based National Computer Virus Emergency Response Centre early this week.

The virus, called Worm Mydoom M, attaches to files and then transmits via e-mail to addresses found on the infected machines, according to experts at the centre. The virus is disguised as an announcement of an e-mail sending failure.

MNA/Xinhua

Famous translator Feng Yidai dies at 92

BEIJING, 25 Feb — Renowned Chinese translator and author Feng Yidai died of cerebral thrombus on Wednesday afternoon at hospital in Beijing. He was 92.

Feng was widely considered an open-minded translator and was well known for his contributions to introducing American literature to Chinese audience.

He translated many American literary works into Chinese, the most famous being *The Fifth Column*, a book of stories by Ernest Hemingway about the Spanish Civil War.—MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed in separate attacks north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Feb — Two US soldiers were killed in separate attacks north of Baghdad on Thursday, the US military said.

One soldier was killed in a roadside bomb blast near the town of Qaryat, north east of the capital, and another was killed in a blast near Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Two soldiers were also wounded in the second explosion.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia against "outside" protection of Malacca Straits

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Feb — Malaysia is sticking to its stand against "outside" protection and is only willing to cooperate with other countries in ensuring the safety of maritime and navigational areas in the Straits of Malacca, a minister said on Friday.

Malaysia denies that it is seeking the help of "outside" countries to protect the Malacca Straits from the threat of piracy,

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said after meeting US Republican Congressmen John Doolittle (California) and Roger Wicker (Mississippi) in Putrajaya, Federal Administration Centre, near here.

Syed Hamid was asked to clarify recent reports stressing the importance of the Straits of Malacca to international commerce and how it is facing the threat of piracy.

On piracy activities in the Straits, he said: "I have not received any report that it is on the rise."

We can do that (preventing piracy) with co-operation, collaboration with other countries... it is no problem but we don't ask for protection," the minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

in the day around Highway 23 in Ventura County near the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

Authorities were called then and fired four shot at the tiger, but it was not known how many hit the animal, a spokesman of the State Department of Fish and Game said.

The spokesman said officials were investigating from where the tiger came and those who have exotic pet permits in the

area would be contacted.

Earlier this month, residents in the area reported paw prints, setting off a series of warnings that a dangerous big cat was on the loose.

Later search teams were dispatched to the area where officials placed traps with stillborn calves and chicken meat for the tiger, and a police helicopter with infrared sensors was also used in the search.—MNA/Xinhua

Bomb kills three GIs and wounds nine in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 Feb — Roadside bomb killed three US soldiers and wounded nine north of Baghdad on Friday, the military said, while the government announced the capture of three figures associated with Iraq's bloody insurgency.

The bomb attack occurred about midday Friday in Tarmiya, about 30 kilometres, or 20 miles, north of the capital, and raised the US military death toll in Iraq to at least 1,489, according to a count by *The Associated Press*. The military said three US soldiers were killed Thursday in separate attacks.

Waleed Nahed, 35, a witness to the Friday attack, said: "There was a group of American soldiers walking in the road while around five Humvees were parking behind them. I heard a very loud explosion and I saw bodies flying." Other residents saw about a dozen wounded US soldiers lying on blood-splattered ground.

Lieutenant Colonel Clifford Kent, a spokesman for the US Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said the patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device, the term commonly used to describe a roadside bomb. Three soldiers were killed and nine were wounded, Kent said.—Internet



A Filipino student examines a piece of rock containing raw ore pyrate at the closed Balatoc Mines of Benguet Corporation, the Philippines' oldest mining company, in northern Philippines on 25 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

Public resolve to crush all saboteurs

Tekkatho Myat Thu

The National Convention resumed on 17 February 2005, and over 1,000 delegates from all walks of life are attending it. The Convention invited 633 national race delegates from all states and divisions. Forty-one delegates from Kachin State, 19 from Kayah State, 26 from Kayin State, 13 from Chin State, 61 from Sagaing Division, 15 from Taninthayi Division, 50 from Bago Division, 44 from Magway Division, 56 from Mandalay Division, 37 from Mon State, 36 from Rakhine State, 67 from Yangon Division, 46 from Shan State (South), 39 from Shan State (North), 29 from Shan State (East) and 54 from Ayeyawady Division are attending it.

Of the eight categories of delegates, 15 of them are doctorate degree holders, 54 master's degree holders, 600 graduates, 280 have completed diploma courses or high school education totaling 949. Others are persons endowed with a great deal of general knowledge and are respected by their respective regions. Moreover, all the delegates are well experienced in their respective professions.

During May, June and July 2004, the delegates made thorough discussions to lay down detailed basic principles for sharing the legislative power. Now they are going to approve the detailed basic principles for the distribution of the legislative power, and then will hold discussions to lay down detailed basic principles for the executive power and the judicial power. At the press meeting held on 1 February 2005, Secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained the arrangements for the convenience of the delegates.

The Convention is in process to discuss the three organs of power — the Legislative Power, the Executive Power, and the Judicial Power. All the delegates are working with might and main and in unity for the emergence of a new democratic nation. But there are some destructionists from outside and inside the nation who wish to disturb the Convention. But they will be crushed by the people.

Some of the Asian nations were hit by tsunami that occurred on 26 December 2004. The disaster had killed nearly 300,000 people. Bandar Aceh in Indonesia was the worst-hit area, and about 180,000 people died in the catastrophe. The tsunami also hit Phuket in southern Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Somalia.

Fortunately, Myanmar was the least-hit nation. But some media and some foreign organizations under the name of NGO tried to exaggerate the news about the tsunami. At the press meet, officials explained the true points about the tsunami in Myanmar. The tsunami was triggered by a massive underwater earthquake measured about 9.0 Richter Scale 155 miles south-east of Ache on North Sumatra Island on 26 December. Up to 14 January, the massive earthquake was followed by 265 aftershocks.

In humanitarian spirit, most of the nations provided relief aids worth billions of US dollars for the disaster-hit areas. But some sent military

personnel including aircraft carriers to provide help. Let alone other nations, even the host country became worried of the presence of military personnel on its soil. So, there came out demands for the foreign troops to speed up their relief activities and leave the country concerned not later than 26 March.

The military personnel of the West who arrived at the tsunami-hit area to carry out relief activities were paying attention to studying the Malacca Strait. There arose anxieties over the interferences in the area under cover of relief aids.

The tsunami waves can rise up to 100 feet in height and can enter up to over 3,000 feet inland. But only three or four feet high wave hit Myanmar in Myebon and Kyaukphyu regions of Rakhine State, Pyinsalu, Labutta, Ngapudaw and Kaingtaung regions of Ayeyawady Division, and Pulontont region of Taninthayi, and destroyed some buildings. In Ayeyawady division, 31 persons died and another 41 were injured, and 2,145 persons were left home-

During May, June and July 2004, the delegates made thorough discussions to lay down detailed basic principles for sharing the legislative power. Now they are going to approve the detailed basic principles for distribution of the legislative power, and later will make discussion to lay down detailed basic principles for the executive power and the judicial power.

less as the waves destroyed 517 houses; in Taninthayi Division, eight persons died and another one was injured, and 447 persons were left homeless as the waves destroyed 83 houses. In Rakhine State, 22 died, but there was no property damage. Only one house was destroyed by the tsunami in Yangon Division. A total of 61 persons died, 42 were injured, 601 houses were destroyed and 2,592 persons were left homeless in Myanmar.

Although it is located nearer to the epicenter, Cocogyun Island suffered no damage. The reasons are that areas from northern Cocogyun to southern Rakhine State are located in the seismic gap; that the Myeik archipelago had weakened the waves, and that the shallow parts of the Myanmar waters had also weakened the waves.

Expatriates and some foreign media slandered Myanmar for not asking help from other nations. Officials had visited the disaster hit areas soon after the occurrence of the earthquake and made arrangements to provide relief aids to the victims. A large amount of relief aids donated by the Government and local and foreign wellwishers have arrived at the areas. Up to 28 January 2005, K 16 million worth of aids have reached the areas. India where about 15,000 people died have made its own programmes to help the victims. It even announced to help other disaster hit countries.

Thanks to mangrove forests, coral reefs and uninhabited islands, Myanmar was free from large waves. The world nations are making preparations to install tsunami monitoring and early warning systems. Myanmar attended workshops on the tsunami

in Jakarta in Indonesia and Beijing in China. The nation is also making preparations to prevent the loss of lives and property during tsunami disasters. Tsunami usually comes after a sudden fall in the sea level.

The destructive acts of saboteurs were explained by the director-general of Myanmar Police Force at the press meet. Eighty-two-year old Joseph Theodore Moynahm, a US citizen, staged a solo protest to cause unrest in downtown Yangon. Considering his age, the authorities did not take any action against him.

With magnanimity, they let him leave the country freely. In the past also some Americans made attempts to stage protests. Such conspiracies were steered by the US Campaign for Burma (USCB) or Free Burma Coalition (FBC). The two organizations are formed with Myanmar who have taken the citizenship of western nations, expatriates and traitors.

National Democracy Development Committee (NDD), NLD (LA), National Coalition Government of the Union of Myanmar (NCGUB), and Free Trade Union of Burma (FTUB) have been conducting terrorist and explosive courses, and sending trained terrorists into the country. Westerners who are experts in conducting subversive courses in terrorist acts are the course instructors. Vigorous Myanmar Student Army seized Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and hijacked a Myanmar passenger plane. It also claimed responsible for the bomb blast in Min Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 6 January 2005, in which no one was killed, the bomb blast at passenger coach station in Dawei, Taninthayi Division, on 27 January 2005, and the bomb blast at Zawgyi Restaurant in Yangon on 24 December 2004.

At the request of the NLD chairman the Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission revoked Sein Win and his group from the list of elected persons for trying to form a parallel government in Mandalay. They sneaked out of Myanmar to the other country and formed the NCGUB there. They are fugitives who can face Capital Punishment for treason.

The West praised Sein Win as NCGUB prime minister. His office is in Washington. He has provided a satellite phone and dollars for Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung to commit subversive acts with his base in the other country. Pyithit Nyunt Wai is an ex-staff of Myanma Gems Enterprise who ran away from the country with stolen gems. He is leading FTUB to disturb Myanmar.

The latest news reveals that Pyithit Nyunt Wai accused Sein Win of deterring his group from getting international contacts and aids. It shows that the expatriates are not in good terms with one another. It is learnt that Pyithit Nyunt Wai is trying to form a parallel government as a rival to Sein Win's group.

Anyhow, the entire Myanmar people have already made a firm resolve to crush the destructionists as the common enemy.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 26.2.2005.

Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate...

(from page 16)

He said that the sluice gate can store surplus water from Ngamoeyeik Dam, Ngamoeyeik Creek and farmlands in the creek and it can supply water to 5,895 acres of summer paddy plantations with the use of pumps and prevent the farmland from entering of salty water in summer by closing valves of the sluice gate. It is known to all that the Government has been developing irriga-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveils stone plaque of Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate.—MNA

tion facilities for agricultural purpose in order to improve the State economy based on the

agricultural sector. Likewise, authorities of Yangon Division are striving for development of the agricultural sector, utilizing water and land resources in the division.

Later, the commander thanked those who contributed to construction of the sluice gate, and urged all to maintain the sluice gate for its durability by observing rules and regulations of the Irrigation Department. Next, Deputy

Minister U Ohn Myint gave a speech.

The commander unveiled the stone plaque of the sluice gate and he sprinkled scented water on it together with the mayor and the deputy minister. Afterwards, the mayor and the deputy minister formally opened the sluice gate. After the ceremony, the commander heard reports on facts about the sluice gate and cultivation matters by officials and attended to

the needs. Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate is the 171st one in the nation and it is the 15th in Yangon Division. The sluice gate has 26 valves and two inlet- and outlet-channels.

The sluice gate benefits about 6,000 acres of summer paddy fields annually, prevent the inflow of salty water into the farmland and as contribute towards greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon City all the year round.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint.—MNA



U Tin Win of Dagon Myothit (East) Township.—MNA

MTEA General Secretary leaves for S'pore

YANGON, 26 Feb — At the invitation of the Singapore Furniture Industry Council (SFIC), U Aye Lwin, General Secretary of the Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs' Association, left here by air this morning for Singapore to attend the opening of the International Furniture Fair 2005 and the 22nd ASEAN Furniture Show 2005, which will be held from 1 to 5 March.

He was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Joint-Secre-

tary Dr Myo Thet and officials of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs' Association. —MNA



General Secretary U Aye Lwin of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association seen at the airport before departure for Singapore.—MNA

Opium, heroin, stimulant tablets seized in Phakant

YANGON, 26 Feb — Acting on information, a combined team comprising members of Myitkyina Special Anti-drug Squad and members of local police force searched the house of U San Mya in Saitmu Village in Phakant Township and seized U San Mya and Maung Nyan together with 69 kilos of opium, 1.45 kilos of heroin and 96,000 stimulant tablets on 16 January.

In connection with the case, action was taken against U San Myint, son of U Swe Myint of

Phakant Township, Maung Nyan, son of U Mon Baung of the same village, Ma May Yi, daughter of U Nan Sein Gan, Ma Htu Mai of U

Balan under Section 15/19(A) 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Phakant Police Station.

MNA



Opium, heroin and stimulant tablets from the house of U San Mya seized in Seikmu Village, Phakant Township.—CCDAC

Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation holds fifth annual general meeting

YANGON, 26 Feb — The Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation held the fifth annual general meeting at the hall of the federation in Insein Township this morning.

President of the federation Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered an ad-

dress. Next, the minister accepted over K 8.9 million for the federation donated by livestock breeders.

Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and President of the federation Dr Mya Han gave speeches.

The general secretary read out the annual report and financial statement.

After the meeting, the minister and party inspected medicines and equipment for livestock breeding on the ground floor of the federation.

MNA

Myanmar Open golf tournament continues for third round

YANGON, 26 Feb — Defending champion Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand returned to his position standing at the top of the leader board with 206 strokes on aggregate after firing a three-under-par 69 in the third round of Myanmar Open golf tournament today.

Ashok Kumar of India put his position behind the leader with 208. Thai veteran Boonchu Ruankit stood third with 209 and Australia's Scott Strange fired one more than Thailand's Boonchu.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd is

the main sponsor together with MAI, Sedona Hotel, Srixon, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Canon and Max Myanmar.

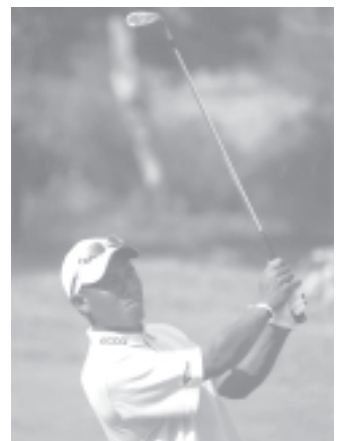
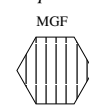
Among the golf fans were MPGA and

MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and officials. The fourth and final round of the tournament continues tomorrow.

MNA



Defending champion Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand seen in action in Myanmar Open.





Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects scale model of Foundry Plant Project in Monywa Industrial Zone.—MNA

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Harmonious efforts of entire...

(from page 16)

He urged the entrepreneurs in Monywa region to try to effectively handle the normal trade. With the export of beans and pulses and corn of high quality, the country can earn more foreign exchange.

Being an industrial-based division, the Division should make sustained efforts for development of Monywa Industrial Zone with the assistance of the government.

Fallow and virgin lands were reclaimed as new cultivable lands and rice, cotton, sesamum, onion, kitchen crops, rubber and are permitted to export.

The Prime Minister spoke of the need for increased income through extended cultivation of suitable crops in the new regions.

With the equal development of the states and divisions, the entire Union will develop. It is necessary for all the states and divisions to bring about developments with greater momentum, he pointed out.

Almost of the infrastructures needed for development of the states and divisions have been built under the present circumstances.

All the regions have now improved in economy, transport, education and health. The government is implementing the political tasks for transformation of the nation into a democratic state.

Measures are to be taken for peace and stability and strong economy and all national people are to participate in the tasks laid down for building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the correct path.

The National Convention in session is the con-

vention at which national brethren and people from all walks of life are attending.

He called for cooperation in realization of the work programmes including the National Convention.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the

the figures and data.

It is indeed the result of harmonious efforts of local authorities, social organizations and local people.

The fiscal year of 2005-2006 is the last of the five-year plan, and those responsible should make



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially meets with secretaries, executives and organizers at different levels at Sagaing Division USDA Office.—MNA

city hall and delivered a speech, saying that he also made an inspection tour of Monywa about one year ago and Monywa is witnessing progress year by year. He said he could guess the increasing volume of the development of the region from afar according to

continued endeavours to maintain the development momentum, he urged.

Now, the nation's population has reached more than 54 million, and it is threefold that of the nation more than 50 years ago.

Combined and unremitting efforts of the government, the people and service personnel have resulted in food output more than sufficient for the increasing population of the nation.

The annual output of rice, chilli, onion, garlic, beans and pulses and corn is on the increase, so the people do not need to worry about possible insufficiency of food.

Now, the government is expanding the scope of the cultivation of edible oil crops for meeting the demand of the nation. In the process, Taninthayi Division is running around 500,000 acres of oil palm. So, the entire nation is going to enjoy sufficiency of all crops in the near future.

Thus, the people on their part are to take steps in advance for food sufficiency for the increasing population because the nation's population will be about 150 million in the next 50 years.

Only then can the good heritage of food sufficiency be handed down to the new generations.

The entire people are therefore to exert efforts with added momentum for further boosting agricultural production.

(See page 9)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially converses with local authorities, departmental officials and social organization members in Monywa.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye.
MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.—MNA



Minister for NPED U Soe Tha.
MNA



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.—MNA

Harmonious efforts of entire...

(from page 8)

Sagaing is one of the six economically developed divisions in the nation. With efficient and effective use of the region's terrestrial and marine resources in abundance, Sagaing Division will enjoy the taste of further progress.

Sagaing Division is to make endeavours steadfastly to meet the food sufficiency as well as the target of 80 million baskets of paddy. With the effective use of natural resources and irrigation facilities constructed by the State, Sagaing Division is to be able to keep the position of the granary of the Upper Myanmar. All the targets will be met if efforts are made with undiluted enthusiasm, he noted.

In order to achieve the targets, respective departments are to cooperate with each other and the people, to contribute towards the projects.

With effective implementation of the tasks, the State service personnel will win greater trust and reliance as well as more active participation of the people, and it will lead to greater success.

Therefore, the service personnel are to employ honesty, endeavours and patriotic spirit in a bid to implement the tasks for regional and national progress. All the activities of the State leaders are just to improve the living standard of the entire people.

After the meeting, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted those present.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to the Monywa Industrial Zone. They viewed ambulances produced by Kalay Industrial Zone, CNG-used automobiles, and jeeps produced by Sagaing and Shwebo Automobile Enterprises, reapers, four-wheel tractors, combined harvesters, power tillers, pumps, traditional medicines, personal items, foodstuff, finished wooden products and trucks.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to foundry plant and machinery production project of the Monywa Industrial Zone. Chairman of Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Secretary of Division PDC Lt-Col Myo Myint reported on the project and work progress.

Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Lt-Gen Soe Win reported to Vice-Senior

General Maung Aye on establishment of modern foundry plants, forging shops and forging machines for development of the industrial zones. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions on recruitment of experts and making exchange study visits for the development of the industrial zones.

They inspected progress of completion of machine shops, arrival of machinery, test running of machines, and progress of construction of warehouses, forging and heat treatment buildings. Officials concerned reported on construction of foundry shops. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed the Union Highway linking the home for the aged to Kyweye junction in Monywa. Afterwards, Patron of the USDA Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the office of Sagaing Division USDA and had a cordial conversation with secretaries, executives and organizers of division, district and township USDAs.

MNA

Boxing trials for three classes held

YANGON, 26 Feb — Altogether eight traditional boxers from four classes are undergoing training under the arrangements of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation for taking part in the XXIII SEA Games. This afternoon, the boxing trials for featherweight and flyweight events were held at the Aung San Gymnasium.

In the featherweight event, Naing Min (Gyobingauk) was beaten by Kyaw Soe Lin (Thongwa) and Dot Gyi (Kayan-Thongwa) beat Zaw Lin (Gyobingauk). In the flyweight event, Aung Myint Sein (Shande) beat Phyo Yan Naung Soe (Thongwa) and Kyaw Soe Moe (SPEI) beat Maung Maung Htwe (Thongwa).

The final trials will be held before 10 April.

Afterwards, Managing Director U Thein Myint of Ayeya Min Thein Construction Co (Mandalay) presented K 300,000 to President of MTSF Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Mi Mi Khin.

MNA

Eighth National Sanitation Week 2005 opens



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses launching ceremony of Eighth Year National Sanitation Week.—MNA

YANGON, 26 Feb—A ceremony to open the Eighth National Sanitation Week 2005 jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Health and the UNICEF took place at the Institute of Nursing

on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general of departments

under the Ministry of Health, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents and officials, the resident representative of the WHO, officials of the UNICEF, UN agencies

and social organizations, staff members under the ministry and guests.

First, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made an opening speech.

Next, Acting Resident Representative of UNICEF Ms Elke Wisch explained the salient points of the Eighth National Sanitation Week 2005 and the ceremony came to an end.

After the ceremony, those present on the occasion viewed booths to mark the Eighth National Sanitation Week 2005 being displayed at the hall.—MNA

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United Nations Children's Fund

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Managing Director U Thein Myint of Ayeya Min Thein Construction Co (Mandalay) presents K 300,000 to MTSF President Daw Mi Mi Khin.—MNA

The budgets of Union ministries and of organizations at Union level are to be checked under the aegis of a Vice-President nominated by the President of the State

YANGON, 26 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of Chairmen, member of Panel of Alternate Chairmen Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw of the Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia presented the panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from a compilation of suggestions presented by delegates concerning the laying down of detailed basic principles concerning formation of Financial Commission, and Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States 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 Thein Oo Po Saw.

In connection with the basic principles to be laid down for the 'Formation of Financial Commis-

To submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the draft of Union budget containing the Union budget, the distribution of appropriate funds from Union Fund Account to regions or states, the provision of funds as a special case and disbursing of necessary loans, the Financial Commission is to submit them to the President of the State.

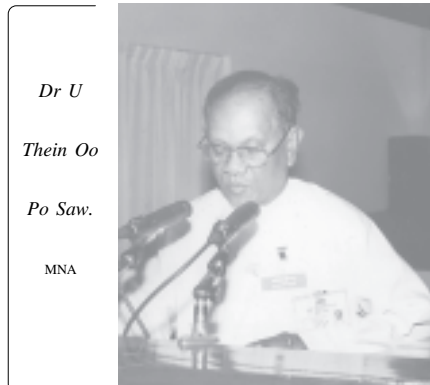
sion, and Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States' on grounds of the matters relevant to the sharing of legislative power that shall be included in writing the State constitution, I will continue to present the panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from the suggested 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: "Detailed basic principles relevant to finance including the formation of the Financial Commission are:

- (a) The budgets of Union ministries and of organizations at Union level are to be checked under the aegis of a Vice-President nominated by the President of the State, and budget appropriations of Union ministries and organizations at Union level are to be submitted to the Financial Commission.
- (b) The budgets of regions or states are to be checked under the aegis of the other Vice-President nominated by the President of the State, and budget appropriations of the regions or states are to be submitted to the Financial Commission.
- (c) To submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the draft of Union budget containing the Union budget with the expenditures of Union territories, the distribution of appropriate funds from Union Fund Account to regions or states, the provision of funds as a special issue and loans permission; or the draft of financial allotment; to give suggestions on financial matters worth undertaking; and to carry out the duties assigned by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through the promulgation of law, the Financial Commission is to be formed with following persons:
 1. The President Chairman
 2. The Vice-Presidents Vice-Chairmen
 3. The Pyidaungsu Member
Attorney-General

4. The Pyidaungsu Auditor-General Member
5. The Chief Ministers of Regions and States Members
6. The Yangon City Council Chairman Member
7. The Pyidaungsu Minister for Finance Secretary

- (d) (1) When forming the Financial Commission, the President of the State has the right to appoint a suitable person as a member on a temporary basis, if the post of member remains vacant for a certain reason.
- (2) The President of the State is to announce the formation of the Financial Commission. However, orders and directives necessary for the Financial Commission can be announced by either the President of the State or the person to whom duties are assigned by the President of the State.
- (e) To submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the draft of Union budget containing the Union budget, the distribution of appropriate funds from Union Fund Account to regions or states, the provision of funds as a special case and disbursing of necessary loans, the Financial Commission is to submit them to the President of the State.
- (f) The Financial Commission, if need be, may seek advice from finance experts.
- (g) On behalf of the Union Government, the President of the State or the person to whom duties are assigned by the President of the State is to submit the draft of the Union budget to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
- (h) (1) Salary and allowance of heads and members of organizations set up according to the Constitution of the State and expenditures of those organizations at Union level;
- (2) Debts the Union has to settle, expenditures related to those debts, and other expenditures related to money borrowed by the Union;
- (3) Expenditures to be paid according to verdict or order or decree released by the court or a particular tribunal; and
- (4) Other expenditures to be paid according to a particular existing law or a particular international treaty, for which discussions can be held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. However, rejection and deduction are not allowed.
- (i) The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should exercise in accord with majority consent the right to pass approval and to make rejection and deduction for other expenditures, save the expenditures mentioned in above paragraph (h).
- (j) The Union Government is to take necessary steps according to the Union budget law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
- (k) Additional funds allotment law is to be enacted in accord with the procedures mentioned above, if appropriations and permitted expenditure contained in the Union budget law promulgated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the fiscal year concerned in addition to the appropriations of extra income and expenditure are necessary to be allowed.
- (l) The Union Government is to take necessary steps according to the additional funds allotment law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
- (m) Region or State Hluttaws concerned are to be in harmony with majority consent to exercise the right to pass approval and to make rejection and deduction to the budgets of regions or states through negotiation on the chief minister concerned including the funds received by respective regions or states from the Union Fund



Dr U
Thein Oo
Po Saw.
MNA

Account according to the Union budget law or the additional fund allotment law.

In doing so:

- (1) Salary and allowance of heads and members of organizations set up according to the Constitution of the State and expenditures of those organizations at Union level;
- (2) Salary and allowance of heads and members of leading bodies of self-administered area set up according to the Constitution of the State and expenditures of those bodies;
- (3) Debts the region or state has to settle, expenditures related to those debts, and other expenditures related to money borrowed by the region or state;
- (4) Expenditures to be paid according to verdict

The Union Government is to take necessary steps according to the Union budget law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

or order or decree released by the court or a particular tribunal; and

- (5) Other expenditures to be paid according to a particular existing law enacted by Region or State Hluttaw, for which discussions can be held at the Region or State Hluttaw. However, rejection and deduction are not allowed.
- (n) Taxes to be collected according to the law of the region or state and to be put in the Region or State Fund Account are as follows:
 - (1) Land tax;
 - (2) Excise;
 - (3) Water tax, embankment tax of dams and embankments the region or state has the right to manage, and tax on the use of electricity produced by such facilities managed by the region or state;
 - (4) Tolls from roads and bridges the region or state has the right to manage,
 - (5) (aa) Royalty collected from fresh water fisheries,
 - (bb) Royalty collected from marine fisheries located in limited distance;
 - (6) Tax collected according to vehicles and vessels law of the region or the state;
 - (7) Other benefits and profits reaped from the sale and rent of property owned by the region or state;
 - (8) Charges, taxes and other incomes realized from services provided by the region or state;
 - (9) Fines imposed at Region or State Judicial Hluttaws including Region or State courts, taxes and other incomes collected for services provided;

(See page 11)

The budgets of Union...

(from page 10)

- (10) Interests realized from the lending of money of the region or state funds;
- (11) Profits realized from investment made by the region or state;
- (12) Taxes collected for extraction of such items from forests in the region or state;
 - (aa) Taxes collected on all other timber except teak and designated hard woods;
 - (bb) Taxes collected on firewood, charcoal, rattan, bamboo, birdnest, cutch, thanakha, turpentine, eaglewood, and honey-based products;
- (13) Registration fees;
- (14) Taxes on entertainments;
- (15) Salt tax;
- (16) Funds received from the Union Fund Account;
- (17) Contributions by organizations relevant to development affairs in the region or state;
- (18) Unclaimed cash and property;
- (19) Treasure trove;
- (o) The region or state has the right to use their funds in accord with the law.
- (p) Except the taxes to be collected by the region or state, the Union is to collect all other taxes according to law and put them in the Union Fund Account.
- (q) On condition that incomes and types of taxes to be collected by the region or state are to be gathered by the regions or states, the Union is to collect them according to law and put them in the Union Fund Account.
- (r) The Union has the right to use the Union Fund Account in accord with the law.

As regards these clarifications, the Union PaO National Organization, which is a member of the delegate group of political parties, one of the delegate groups to the National Convention, discussed that all the clarifications made by the Work Com-

mittee Chairman from Points (a) to (r) should be adopted as detailed basic principles in the financial sector.

The Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization discussed that it found appropriate all the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications including those on the delegation of legislative power to the leading bodies of self-administered areas.

The Lahu National Development Party dis-

On condition that incomes and types of taxes to be collected by the region or state are to be gathered by the regions or states, the Union is to collect them according to law and put them in the Union Fund Account.

ussed that all the points from (a) to (r) mentioned in the sector for the formation of Financial Commission and the Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States are worth adopting as detailed basic principles. It continued that these points will contribute to all-round development of the country and raise the living standard of the people.

The Union Kayin League discussed that the points clarified by the Work Committee Chairman will enable the State machinery to run smoothly in all the spheres and will ensure the social advancement of the people. Therefore, all the points from (a) to (r), it added, should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The Kokang Democracy and Unity Party discussed that according to the basic principles laid down at the National Convention, the Union will be constituted with seven regions and seven states

as well as Union territories. Therefore, measures are to be taken, it added, to adopt appropriate systems on the delegation of legislative power to Pyidaungsu Government, and the Region or State Government in connection with the matters related to finance. Only then will the whole country enjoy equal progress and prosperity. The party then agreed to all the points mentioned in the formation of Financial Commission and the Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States.

The Wa National Development Party discussed that as regards the allowances and expenditures mentioned in paragraph (h), it is stated that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has only the right to give counsel to the approval of the draft of the Union Budget and the draft of the additional fund allotment law, and it has no right to make rejection and deduction. It is not appropriate to use such terms for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which is the highest authoritative body.

The party continued that similarly, in paragraph (m), it is also stated that the Region or State Hluttaw concerned has only the right to give counsel to the approval of the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned in connection with the allowances and expenditures, and it has no right to make rejection or deduction. It is not appropriate to use such terms for the Region or State Hluttaw.

The party then agreed to the adoption of all the points from (a) to (r) as detailed basic principles.

The panel of chairmen's collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on formation of Financial Commission, and Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States presented by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of Delegates of State Service Personnel will be published in tomorrow's issue.

MNA

NC delegates in recreational activities



National Convention delegates playing badminton on Saturday, day-off of the National Convention.— MNA

YANGON, 26 Feb — As it being holiday for the delegates to the National Convention, the delegates to the National Convention did many kinds of physical exercises today. They played golf, badminton and other kinds of sports activities.

Moreover, the Winthusa Shop and the GEC shop, where dairy products and other kinds of foodstuff are

available, are packed with delegates to the National Convention.

They also enjoyed watching such channels as MRTV, MRTV-3 & 4, MWD, HBO, CNN, Star Sports etc.

Furthermore, the team of specialists provided round-the-clock health care for the delegates to the National Convention.

MNA

NC delegates entertained

YANGON, 26 Feb — Entertainment and Welfare Sub-committee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is entertaining the National Convention delegates for their rest and recreation at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.

Yesterday evening, the del-

egates were entertained with the film 'Hna-lon-hla-lu-mike' directed by Academy Maung Tin Oo, starring Academy Nay Aung, Academy Tun Tun Win, Academy Min Maw Goon, Nyi Nanda, Academy May Thinza Oo, Khine Thin Kyi and Academy Myint Myint Khin.

MNA

NC delegates tour Kandawgyi Gardens of Yangon City

YANGON, 26 Feb — Under the arrangements of the Invitation and Reception Sub-committee, the National Convention delegates visited Kandawgyi Gardens, here, on day-off of the National Convention today.

The delegates led by Maj Myint Tun of the Sub-committee arrived at Pearl Island in the Relaxation Zone of the gardens where they were welcomed by Head of Parks and Playgrounds Department and officials. Officials explained relaxation

for public at the zones. Next, the delegates viewed round booths at the relaxation zone and the elephant plaza.

The NC delegates also toured the Central Symbol Zone by car.

At the hall of Karaweik Palace, Director Daw Zay Zin Latt of Kandawgyi natural park briefed them on arrangements for relaxation of the public at the recreation zone and establishment of the park.

The delegates were divided into groups in their sightseeing at the zone.

MNA



National Convention delegates visit Kandawgyi natural park.— MNA

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.**

Japan, US to start tsunami warning information on March

TOKYO, 26 Feb— Japan hopes to be able to start offering provisional tsunami warning information as early as March, along with the United States, to Indian Ocean nations hit by deadly waves two months ago, officials said on Thursday.

As many as 300,000 people are feared dead after waves lashed the region on December 26, and officials have said that many might have been saved had an international warning system similar to one in the Pacific been set up.

Japan and the United States, both of which have decades of experience in tsunami warning systems, offered at a disaster prevention conference in the western city of Kobe last month to provide information to the region on a provisional basis until a permanent system is set up.

"We hope to be able to provide the information sometime during March," Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness at the Cabinet Office, told reporters at the end of a three-day seminar on tsunami warning systems for officials from tsunami-hit nations such as Thailand, India, and Indonesia.

Other officials said that while Japan

will be technically able to provide the information then, it was not yet sure if recipient nations would have systems in place to receive and handle it.

Japan and the United States will use data on earthquakes and tide levels generated by Japan's Meteorological Agency and the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre to provide warnings as needed.

There was widespread agreement at the Kobe conference last month that a regional early warning system should be established as soon as possible.

But at a late January meeting on the Thai resort island of Phuket, itself hit by the tsunami, officials from dozens of Asian nations failed to agree on who should run the system, dashing hopes for its quick establishment.

Quake-prone Japan has a long and often deadly history of tsunamis, a Japanese word meaning "harbour wave".

MNA/Reuters



New species of crocodile 40m years ago discovered in Australia

SYDNEY, 25 Feb— A new species of crocodile which lived 40 million years ago has been discovered in tropical Australia, filling a gap in the evolution of the prehistoric-looking crocodile, researchers said on Thursday.

Two nearly complete skulls and a lower jaw of a new species of crocodile that belonged to a group called Mekosuchinae were unearthed by miners in the northern state of Queensland, said Australia's Monash University researcher Lucas Buchanan.

"There is a big gap from about 30 to 60 million years ago of which we have no clue, except for these guys," Buchanan told Reuters on Thursday.

Buchanan said the new species of crocodile was living in the early Tertiary period, from 65

million years ago until five million years ago, during which time climate change possibly had a major impact on the evolution of the modern-day crocodile.

During the period, Australia and Antarctica broke apart and most of eastern Australia became warmer, leading to an increase in rainforests — an ideal environment for crocodiles.

Buchanan said the new species of crocodile was very similar to the modern-day freshwater crocodile, suggesting the modern crocodile had

changed little in millions of years of evolution.

However, the ancient crocodile had sharper and laterally compressed teeth enabling it to shear prey and an extra jaw muscle to give a stronger, more powerful bite.

Buchanan said researchers were examining more crocodile fossils and hoped to add to the crocodile evolution puzzle.

"It will also help us place this unique Australian group with the bigger picture of where they fit in with other lines of crocodiles," he said.—MNA/Reuters

Crude oil prices fall on profit-taking

NEW YORK, 25 Feb— Crude oil prices fell from their four-month highs on Wednesday as traders decided to take profits after last session's strong gains.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, light sweet oil futures for April delivery fell 25 cents to settle at 51.17 dollars a barrel. In London, the April Brent crude-oil futures contract shed 11 cents to end at 48.51 dollars per barrel.

With the 6-per-cent rally over previous session, traders decided to take some profits. The bearish comments by the president of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) gave a further downward pressure on prices.

On Wednesday,

Sheikh Ahmad Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's oil minister and the president of OPEC, told reporters that OPEC would take action to help reduce prices if they continued to increase.

OPEC officials were scheduled to meet March 16 to decide on production policy for the second quarter. To counter the drop in demand, OPEC producers typically cut production for this season.

But with oil prices now hovering over 50 dollars a barrel, OPEC members might give up a production cut.—MNA/Xinhua

Clean-up of Leaning Tower of Pisa forges ahead

ROME, 25 Feb— The second stage of a major clean-up job on the Leaning Tower of Pisa has been successfully completed, Italian media reported on Wednesday.

The base of the tower, saved from toppling in a decade-long engineering project in the 1990s, has been cleaned to gleaming perfection, report said.

Work on the belfry was finished last year and restoration experts started again from the bottom.

After a careful analysis of stone types, the five-million-euro project will now move on to the first of

the tower's rings of arches.

The restorers will then gradually work their way up the tower.

The clean-up is expected to be completed at the end of next year.

In a recent check-up on the tower's health, experts said the monument had returned to the tilt it had 200 years ago.

They pronounced it safe for the next three hundred years.

MNA/Xinhua



A young Malaysian plays at a waterpark in Kuala Lumpur, on 25 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

HIV drug combinations better protect babies in Third World

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb— Studies find a combination of HIV drugs could better protect babies from contracting the AIDS virus from mothers in Africa.

Scientists add Combivir to Nevirapine, a cheap and highly effective AIDS drug widely used to prevent mother-to-baby transmission in the Third World. The drug combinations are intended to work as an alternative to Nevirapine, as up to two-thirds of women have become resistant to the drug.

Combivir contains two HIV drugs called the AZT and 3TC. The drug combinations appear to have an extremely low rate of resistance. The findings were presented Thursday in Boston at the 12th Annual Retrovirus Conference, a meeting of international AIDS researchers.

The drug combinations are considered relatively inexpensive, at a likely price of more than 30 US dollars a month in a poor country, compared with about four dollars for a single dose of Nevirapine. However, some poor countries currently cannot even afford Nevirapine.

"For a minimum additional cost, we may get many benefits," said Dr James McIntyre, an AIDS researcher in South Africa.

In poor countries, Nevirapine is usually given in single doses to infected pregnant women in labour and then to their newborns. This works to reduce the mother-to-

baby transmission of the AIDS virus from about 35 per cent to 12 per cent.

One of the African studies, conducted in Ivory Coast, found Nevirapine plus Combivir reduced transmission rates at four to six weeks after birth to about 5 per cent, the lowest ever reported in Africa. And only 1 per cent of the mothers became resistant to Nevirapine, and 8 per cent to the 3TC.

In the study, Nevirapine plus Combivir were given to 329 women during pregnancy and for three days after birth. The newborns also took single-dose Nevirapine and the AZT.—MNA/Xinhua

Colombia seizes eight planes from drug-related airways

BOGOTA, 26 Feb— The Colombian Government on Thursday seized eight planes and other assets from the Intercontinental de Aviacion, whose principal shareholders are related to drug-trafficking activities.

Colonel Oscar Naranjo of the Judicial and Investigative Police Direction said that most of the confiscated properties belong to shareholder Gabriel Puerta.

Puerta was arrested in Colombia on October 7, 2004, and the US Government, which accused him of importing, owning and distributing cocaine, is seeking to extradite him.

Naranjo said that 10 prosecutors and 150 police agents took part in the confiscation activities.

Naranjo said that the assets totalled 98 million US dollars.

Another principal shareholder of the company is a lawyer known by the alias El Doctor, considered as the second leader in the Norte del Valle cartel, headed by Diego Montoya, alias Don Diego.

On 15 October, 2004, the Intercontinental de Aviacion was listed by the US State Department as a drug-trafficker.

MNA/Xinhua

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WHO says global health treaty can save millions of lives

GENEVA, 26 Feb—A global treaty aimed at dissuading children from smoking and helping adults kick the habit comes into force on Sunday despite what health officials say has been heavy lobbying by the tobacco industry.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says the world's first international public health treaty could save millions of lives through strong warnings on cigarette packages and bans on tobacco advertising and sponsorship.

"I encourage all countries ... to implement the range of measures that will make tobacco use less and less attractive," WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said.

Tobacco, the second leading cause of preventable deaths globally after hypertension, kills 4.9 million people a year, the UN agency said.

And the annual death toll from tobacco-related diseases — lung cancer, heart attacks and cardiovascular diseases — could soar to 10 million by 2020, with 70 per cent of the deaths in developing countries, it added.

The treaty, known as the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, gives members three years to slap strong health warnings on tobacco packages and five years to ban advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

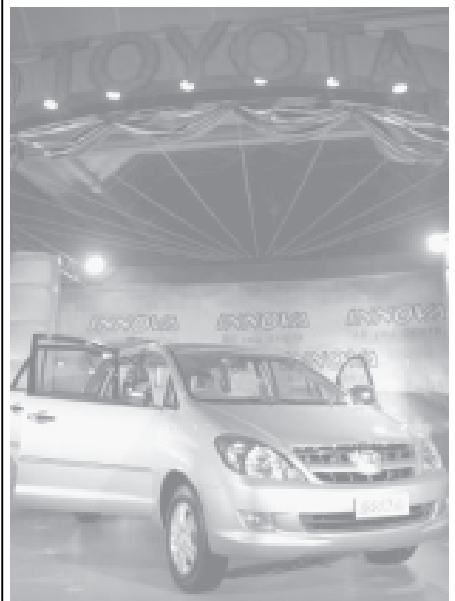
It also recommends tax increases on tobacco products, a crackdown on smuggling, and reducing exposure to second-hand smoke.

Approved by the WHO's 192-member states in May 2003, the pact becomes law on Sunday, 90 days after the trigger of the 40th state ratifying it.

It will only carry legal weight in those countries which have ratified it, now numbering 57. In total, 167 countries have signed the pact — but have not necessarily sent it to Parliament for ratification.

WHO officials and activists say the powerful tobacco industry is lobbying intensively to prevent countries ratifying the treaty, including the United States which has signed up but not yet sent it to the Senate.

"The tobacco industry wants to be free to sell and market their deadly products in such a way that they have more and more profits. This is the only language the tobacco industry knows," Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, director of the WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative, told journalists. — *MNA/Reuters*



Toyota Motor Corp's newly launched passenger vehicle 'Innova' is displayed in Mumbai, on 24 February, 2005.

INTERNET

India to increase annual defence expenditure

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb — India is expected to increase annual defence expenditure by at least 10 per cent to pay for a modernization programme, military experts said on Thursday, before next week's federal budget.

India, one of the world's biggest arms importers, is looking to wrap up a long running deal this year to buy six submarines from France and advanced rocket launcher systems from Russia, despite the lessening of tensions with nuclear rival Pakistan.

New Delhi has also sought bids for 126 new combat planes for its accident-prone Air Force,

and this week hosted a US defence team making a presentation on the expensive *Patriot* anti-missile system, a move that has triggered alarm bells in Pakistan.

"We are in the middle of a modernization programme, and you would expect the government to sustain it. There would be a modest increase in the budget," said Uday Bhaskar, who heads the

government-funded Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who will present the budget for 2005/06 (April/March) on Monday, set defence expenditure at 770 billion rupees (17.5 billion US dollars) last year — a rise of nearly 17 per cent compared with the previous year.

MNA/Reuters

Passport-buying syndicate member receives record jail term in HK

HONG KONG, 26 Feb — A passport-buying syndicate member has received a record jail sentence of three years, while two passport sellers have been jailed 16 months in Hong Kong.

According to a government Press release on Thursday, Li Siu-wai, 31, admitted in the District Court Thursday five counts of aiding, abetting counselling or procuring the transfer of a travel document to another without reasonable excuse. He was jailed for three years on each charge, with the sentences to run concurrently.

Construction worker

Iu Tak-chuen, 41, admitted one count of transferring to another without reasonable excuse a travel document — his own British National (Overseas) passport. He was jailed for 16 months.

Yan Sum-cheuk, 54, received a 16-month concurrent sentence for selling the passports of his wife and grandson to Li. At the District Court today, Yan pleaded guilty to two counts of

transferring to another without reasonable excuse a travel document.

Last August, an undercover immigration officer, posing as a passport seller, called a phone number listed in an advertisement published in a local Chinese-language newspaper seeking passport-holders to sell their documents for quick cash.

MNA/Xinhua



A snow sculpture of Maggie, the Alaska Zoo's elephant, is seen in Anchorage, Alaska, on 24 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Blair urged to persuade rich nations to tackle Africa's problems

LONDON, 26 Feb—Ethiopia's Prime Minister urged Britain's Tony Blair on Thursday to try to persuade the world's richest nations to tackle Africa's problems.

Blair has pledged to use Britain's current presidency of the G-8 group of developed countries to address African poverty and last year set up a "Commission for Africa", comprising political leaders and campaigners, to make recommendations.

"It is very important that Mr Blair does his homework with his colleagues in the G-8," Meles Zenawi, sitting next to Blair, told reporters after the final meeting of the Commission.

Africa is the only continent to have grown poorer in the past 25 years and campaigners say 6,500 people die of preventable diseases every day. Blair said the Commission would publish its report on March 11.

"It will be a report that's brutally frank about the reality, but I hope idealistic about what can be done if the will is there," said Blair.

As he heads into an election campaign, Blair has tried to position himself as a world leader against African poverty.

Critics call the group the "Blair Commission" and

say the money spent on the report would be better used on aid.

They are unconvinced there is the political will to plug Africa's aid deficit, ease its debt burden and create fair trade rules and say the Commission might be just another talking shop.

"The Commission's final report must recommend a doubling of aid, cancellation of debt and a timetable for reform of unfair trade rules," said a spokeswoman for aid agency Oxfam.

"But the real questions are around how it proposes to turn these recommendations into reality."

Campaigners agree with Zenawi that Blair's most difficult task will be to get support from other countries, most notably the United States.

Few rich nations meet UN targets of boosting aid spending to 0.7 per cent of gross national product, which the world body says would halve the number of people who earn less than one dollar a day and have no access to clean water by 2015.— *MNA/Reuters*

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Wenger stung by criticism of Arsenal's lack of success

LONDON, 26 Feb— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has criticized what he believes is an English superiority complex over the Champions League.



Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger hit out at the 'superiority complex' of English football and claimed that no teams have a divine right to win in Europe.—INTERNET

Wenger had described Arsenal's 3-1 defeat at Bayern Munich on Tuesday as their worst performance in the

competition but he has been stung by criticism of his side's lack of success in European competition.

"To say we had a disappointing performance is true and I accept all criticism," Wenger told reporters on Friday.

"But don't forget this was Bayern Munich. I don't know where this superiority complex comes from in England. Why do people think that in the European Cup we just have to turn up to win?"

"Bayern Munich have won the European Cup four

times and Arsenal zero. When has Arsenal won anything in Europe? Cup Winners' Cup and Fairs Cup, yes, but that is not the Champions Cup."

Despite the below-par performance in their first leg first knockout round tie, Wenger thinks Arsenal can still reach the quarterfinals of the competition for the first time.

"We have a chance, it's true. But is it a scandal if we don't win the Champions League? I don't think so.

MNA/Reuters

Claudio Ranieri sacked

MADRID, 26 Feb— Claudio Ranieri was sacked as Valencia coach on Friday just eight months after taking charge at the Primera Liga club.

The decision was taken at a board meeting brought forward to Friday following the side's surprise elimination from the UEFA Cup at the hands of Steaua Bucharest.

"We have decided to replace Claudio Ranieri as sporting director and coach of Valencia football club," Valencia president Juan Bautista told a news conference at the Mestalla.

"We understand, and he too understands, that the results of the club in the last few weeks have not been the most appropriate and have had the effect of distancing us from the objectives we set ourselves at the start of the season."

Former assistant Antonio Lopez, who worked alongside Rafa Benitez when he was in charge at Valencia, would take over as the new coach.

MNA/Reuters

Philipp Schoch wins World Cup snowboard parallel slalom

SEOUL, 26 Feb— Switzerland's Philipp Schoch edged Sweden's Richard Rikardsson on Friday in a parallel slalom race in Hwoingsong,

South Korea to win his seventh and second-straight World Cup snowboarding event of the season.

Italy's Meinhard

Erlacher finished third. Schoch leads the overall World Cup standings with 9,000 points.

In the women's parallel slalom event, Switzerland's Daniela Mueli defeated Austria's Doris Guenther for her seventh title of the season.

Mueli topped the World Cup standings with 9,050 points.

Austria's Doresia Krings beat Switzerland's Ursula Bruhin to finish third.

MNA/Xinhua

Ferguson determines to increase pressure on Chelsea

MANCHESTER, 26 Feb— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is determined to increase the pressure on Premier League leaders Chelsea by trimming their advantage at the top of the table to just six points on Saturday.

While Chelsea prepare for their League Cup final against Liverpool on Sunday, United will narrow the gap if they secure their 10th win in 11 league games at home to Portsmouth at Old Trafford the night before.

"It is a big, big weekend for us. The incentive of getting within six points of Chelsea is there for everyone," Ferguson told reporters on Friday.

He added: "When you look at the facts everyone



Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson's side will be on a double mission in their Premiership clash with Portsmouth at Old Trafford.—INTERNET

would agree, even Chelsea, that they are not playing as well as they were four or five weeks ago.

"They have lost two important players to injury who won't be available to them. So you never know, if they lose a league game, they don't have real form to fall back on."

"We wait and hope they do lose that game which would let ourselves and Arsenal back in."

United's last league defeat was at Portsmouth, who are 14th in the table, in October but Ferguson expects to make amends.

MNA/Reuters

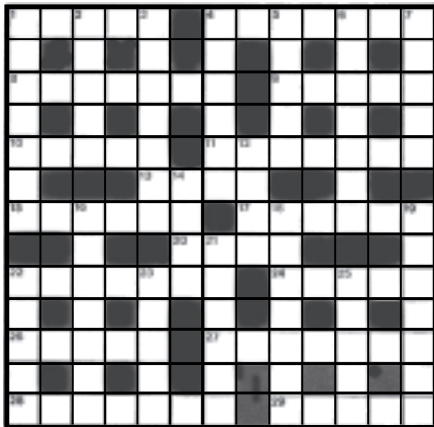
Sharapova, Mauresmo breeze into Qatar semis

DOHA, 26 Feb— Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova set up a semifinal showdown against Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova in the 600,000 US dollars Qatar Open on Thursday.

The other semifinal will be between world number two Amelie Mauresmo of France and number nine Alicia Molik of Australia, a repeat of a clash in Belgium last Saturday when Mauresmo won.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Arabian sprite
- 4 Hypersensitive aversion
- 8 Kind of drawbridge
- 9 Bravely austere person
- 10 Creek
- 11 Snake
- 13 Was in debt
- 15 Gloss
- 17 Obliterated
- 20 Northman
- 22 Fatty
- 24 Boasts
- 26 Storehouse
- 27 Insulting
- 28 Imprisonment
- 29 Awe

DOWN

- 1 Angel sent to Nazareth
- 2 Twangy in tone
- 3 Latitude 0
- 4 Opposed
- 5 Defeated contestant
- 6 Disturbers of peace
- 7 Fast-sailing vessel
- 12 Paradise
- 14 Marries
- 16 Captain
- 18 Spring back
- 19 Climb down
- 21 Charge with carbon dioxide
- 22 Helped
- 23 Frequently
- 25 Similar

Dubai Open tennis tourney

DUBAI, 26 Feb— Top Seed Roger Federer had to fight off two match points before squeezing past Juan Carlos Ferrero 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 to reach the quarterfinals of the Dubai Open on Thursday.

The defending champions and world number one took two hours 15 minutes to earn his victory, saying match points at 6-4 in the tiebreak before claiming it 8-6.

MNA/Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball in his match against Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero in the second round of the Dubai Tennis Championships on 24 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Calleri, Putera advance to semifinals of Mexican Open

ACAPULCO (Mexico), 26 Feb— Agustin Calleri of Argentina downed fourth-seeded Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-1 in a quarterfinal clash between former champions at the Mexican Open on Thursday.

Calleri won his only ATP title in Acapulco two years ago, and not previously met Novak, the 1998 singles and doubles champions. The Argentine handled the warm temperatures well.

"I'm really doing well physically, responding well to the heat," said Calleri. "I don't know how many degrees it was outside, but you could really feel it. The important thing is that out there we were playing long points but I held up well."

Calleri advanced to face Albert Montanes of Spain, who eliminated sixth-seeded Filippo Volandri of Italy 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Argentine wild card Mariano Puerta continued his improbable run outlasting Felix Mantilla of Spain 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5) a day after upsetting top-seeded Carlos Moya.

Despite a stomach virus and taking the clay court only 15 hours after his late-night victory over Moya, Puerta showed little

sign of fatigue, starting strong, then withstanding a furious rally from Mantilla to advance.

"I concentrated a lot," Puerta said. "I slept very little, I don't know if I even slept four hours because I was so happy about the match with Moya."

In the women's draw, top-seeded Flavia Pennetta of Italy had little trouble with Argentine Mariana Diaz-Oliva, cruising to the quarterfinals 6-3, 6-2. The second seed, American Meghann Shaughnessy was not so luckily falling to Spain's Arantxa Parra Santonja.

The crowd's favourite, Parra Santonja used a solid backhand to find the corners all evening, countering her favoured opponent's stronger forehand and serve, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3.

Antonella Serra Zanetti of Italy also reached the quarterfinals after topping Emmanuelle Galardi of Switzerland 7-6 (4), 7-5.

MNA/AP

Tianjin sets up blood donation centre

TIANJIN, 26 Feb — A volunteer blood donation centre in Tianjin, the largest port city in north China, opened this week with Vice-Mayor Zhang Junfang as the first donor.

The volunteers included students, Army servicemen, owners of foreign-funded and privately-owned companies. Potential donors can register on one of two web sites and will be organized into four contingents including a group composed of RH negative blood donors. A 49-year-old Taiwan food company boss, doing business in Tianjin, has voluntarily donated blood



Victorious Myanmar yacht team members Maung Aung Myint Thu and Sai Pyi Sone Hein being welcomed back at the airport on 26-2-2005.—SPED

over 64 occasions. "Blood donation didn't do any harm to my health. It is an act to show your love for others," he said. Hospitals in Tianjin, together with other major Chinese cities, reported blood shortage in recent months. In response to the

municipal government's appeal for increased blood donations, more than 1,000 public servants in Tianjin donated

blood from February 4 to 22, contributing to ease the blood shortage in the city.

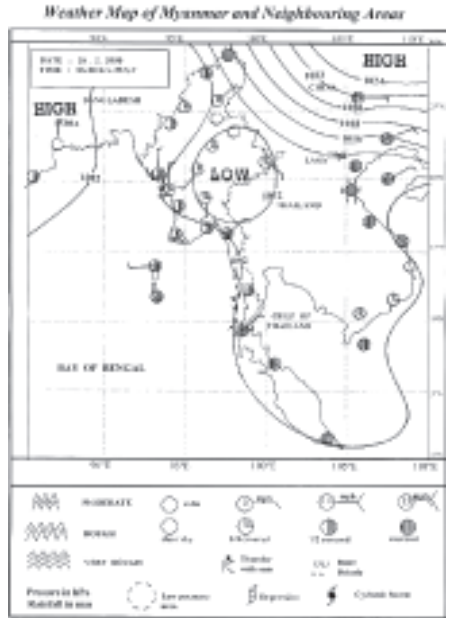
MNA/Xinhua

Bosch to set up base in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 26 Feb — Bosch, rated as the world's largest automotive parts supplier, will set up its regional headquarters in Shanghai, said a corporate executive.

Rudolf Colm, a board member of the Stuttgart-based Bosch Group and president for Asian-Pacific operations, said that Bosch has confidence in China's economic growth and the conglomerate's investment in the country would exceed one billion US dollars in the next two or three years. A new office building is being planned to house the regional headquarters in the future, said Colm. They would also move the headquarters of Bosch (China) Investment Ltd. from Beijing to Shanghai.

According to Colm, Bosch Group has so far founded 26 ventures in China, with a total investment approaching 600 million US dollars. Out of Bosch's 40 billion euros in global sale revenue last year, 1.4 billion euros are from sales in China. Shanghai is now home to regional headquarters of 86 multinationals, the investment firms of 106 multinationals and the research and developments centres of 130 multinationals, said Zhou Yupeng, Vice-Mayor of Shanghai.—MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 26 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Mon and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 25-2-2005 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 26-2-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-2-2005 was 86%. Total sunshine hours on 25-2-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 26-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (10:30) hours MST on 25-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is fair in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 27-2-2005:** Except for possibility of light rain in upper Sagaing Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-2-2005: Fair weather.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 21:00 hours MST on today)
An earthquake of strong intensity (6.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1030) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (19) hrs (30) min (07) sec MST on 26th February 2005.

Dr P R Monha, FRCP (Edin) FACC (USA)
Chief Cardiologist, Yangon General Hospital (Retd)
Former Professor/Head, Dept of Medicine, IM (MDY)
(Age 88 years)

Beloved husband of Prof Daw Hnin Yee of No (307) Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, beloved father of Timothy (Jean), David (Amy), Mona Thynn Han and Dr. May Htwe Han, grandfather of Hillary Hla, Johnathan Hla, Audrey Hla and Julian Han passed away peacefully on 23rd February, 2005, 8:45 am at Harbourview Medical Center, Seattle, Washington.

A memorial service will be held at the Immanuel Baptist Church, No 411 MahaBandula Street, Yangon on the 1st of March, 2005 at 5:00 pm. All friends and relatives are cordially invited. **The bereaved family**

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 27 February

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music :
-We like to party

8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
-Rhymes with

8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music:
-Give it to you

9.05 am International news
9.15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar:

1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Story for Children
-The crow who was susceptible to flattery

1.50 pm Songs for Children
9.00 pm Weekly news review
9.10 pm Music
9.15 pm Article
9.25 pm Let's Improve English Through Songs!
-Love will never lie (Soe Min)
-Word (Soe Soe Yi Aung)
-Keep on loving you (Yamin Htwe)

9.45pm News/Slogan
10.00pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 27 February

View on today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parrritas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘက္ကဏ္ဍဂါရိတ၊ အဗ္ဗဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ တက္ကသိုလ်နိဗ္ဗာန်ဝိသ (ယောဆရာတော်)၊ ယောက္ခားတော် မူအပ်သော ဥပုသ်တရား ဥပုသ်တရား

7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
4. Morning news

7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ငြိမ်းလျှောက်

8:05 am
7. အတီးဖြူပွဲ

8:20 am
8. နိဗ္ဗာန်ရတနာ

8:30 am
9. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English For Everyday Use

4:45 pm
4. သာယာချိုအေး(၃၈) ငြိမ်းလျှောက်

5:00 pm
5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအဖွဲ့ သင်စနစ်စာပေပညာရှင် (သိပ္ပံဆရာတော်) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:15 pm
6. Dancer of national races

5:30 pm
7. Musical programme

5:30 pm
8. ငြိမ်းချမ်းစေ့စပ်ရေး

5:55 pm
9. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm
10. Evening news

7:00 pm
11. Weather report

7:05 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စွန့်ခြေသီတစ်ရာတစ်လီ" (အပိုင်း-၂)

7:25 pm
13. Agricultural Source of Country's Development

7:35 pm
14. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် တစ်ပတ်တော်စု အထိမ်းအမှတ် ဗဟိုအစည်းအဝေးပညာအထက်တန်းနှင့် အလယ်တန်းကျန်းမာရေးပြောပြပွဲ ဆရာရန်သူများနှင့် တွေ့ဆုံအားပြန်ပေးပွဲ (အပိုင်း-၂)

7:45 pm
16. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ထူးပြုတေး

8:00 pm
16. News

17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
20. The next day's programme

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

Harmonious efforts of entire national ...

(from page 1)

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on the government's arrangements for sale and export of teak in local and foreign markets, establishment of teak plantations and benefits.

In his address, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said per capita income in Sagaing Division has become higher due to the developments in agricultural, fish and meat, industrial, trade, transport, education and health sectors. Life expectancy of the people in the division has also improved.

He said it is found that equal development has been brought about in the division. Development gap between urban and rural regions is not great because of better foundations in agriculture, he said.

Like Sagaing Division, other states and divisions are making concerted efforts for more development. He spoke of the need for officials in the Sagaing Division to try hard through conventional methods and modern thoughts and ideas.

According to the different geographical conditions of upper and lower parts of Sagaing Division, other suitable crops are to be grown, he added.

Rubber can be grown on a commercial scale in Homalin, Hkamti and Tamu regions. It is necessary to fully undertake normal trade through the border checkpoint as the division is contiguous to the border areas, he added.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets local authorities, departmental officials and social organizations in Monywa.— MNA

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Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate put into service

YANGON, 26 Feb — A ceremony to inaugurate Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate built by the Irrigation Department on Ngamoeyeik Creek near Sitpintaung Village of Dagon Myothit (East) Township was held at the pandal near the sluice gate this morning with an address delivered by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe .

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of

Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, departmental officials and local people.

In his address, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate is the 171st irrigation project of the State as well as the 15th of Yangon Division.

The division is implementing the project for

greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon City all the year round.

As Ngamoeyeik Creek is streaming through Hlegu and Dagon Myothit (East) Townships included in the project area, the plan was implemented to store fresh water of the creek so as to irrigate summer paddy and other crops on either side of the creek in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

(See page 7)



Newly-opened Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate with 26 valves seen after opening ceremony.— MNA