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Monday, 28 February, 2005

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend consecration ceremony of Gandakuti Hall for Alaungdaw Kassapa Statue in Kani Township

YANGON, 27 Feb — A ceremony to consecrate Gandakuti Hall for Alaungdaw Kassapa Statue was held at the building in Kani Township, Sagaing Division, on 25 February morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Monywa Zawtikayama Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavinda and members of the Sangha, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat

Hein, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, senior military officers, officials of the

State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials, wellwishers and local people.

Before the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party paid homage to the statue of Alaungdaw Kassapa.

Next, members of the Sangha recited *Namo*



INSIDE

A look at Asian countries that had been freed from the yoke of colonialists following the Second World War reveals that under the colonialist rule the capitalist (market) economic system had no chance of development.

(Page 6)

KYAW MYINT NAING



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer 'soon' to Alaungdaw Kassapa statue.—MNA

Tassa three times and consecrated the statue.

A donor presented gifts to architects and engineers through Myanmar handicraft technician U Zaw Min Htaik who built the Gandakuti Hall. U Zaw Min Htaik read the paper as an act of handing over the Gandakuti Hall to the wellwishers.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. At the opening ceremony, vocalist U Tun Shwe sang the song titled Htu-machana song to the accompaniment of harpist Cho Thet Tin. The conch shells were blown three times and gongs beaten three times.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinda administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered eight requisites and alms to the Sayadaw.

(See page 16)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 28 February, 2005

Make integrated efforts for national development

In an effort to bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation, the State Peace and Development Council has laid down and is implementing the project for development of border areas and national races, the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks.

There have come out tangible results in the national economy as efforts are being made for progress of agricultural, fish and meat, forest, mining, industrial and trade sectors.

Since agricultural, fish and meat, industrial, trade, transport, education and health sectors of Sagaing Division are making progress, the per capita income has been on the increase.

During his tour of Sagaing Division, 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 on 24 February met departmental officials at the city hall of Monywa, Sagaing Division, and gave instructions.

He said that with the effective use of inexhaustible natural resources and irrigation facilities provided by the government, Sagaing Division will soon be able to keep the position of the granary of the Upper Myanmar, adding that all the targets will be met if efforts are exerted with undiluted enthusiasm. Work is well under way for growing the ten major crops including monsoon paddy and summer paddy in Sagaing Division.

With the emergence of better foundations in all parts of the nation, unprecedented progress has been made in economic, transport, education and health sectors. Only if all the states and divisions see equitable progress will the Union including Sagaing Division develop.

The nation's population has now reached more than 54 million, and it is threefold that of the nation more than 50 years ago. There has been food sufficiency in the nation thanks to unremitting efforts of the government, the people and service personnel.

Depending on geographical and climatic conditions, other suitable new crops are to be grown, and steps will have to be taken for development of agricultural sector in anticipation of the growing population.

All in all, the people and service personnel are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for national development through realization of regional development under the leadership of the government.

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

Education Minister meets faculty members in Zigon, Paungde Township

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Education, the Bago Division (West) Education Officer and officials concerned arrived at Zigon Township Basic Education High School on 25 February where they inspected the library and language lab.

During his inspection tour, the minister met with faculty members, gave necessary instructions to them and presented stationery to the schoolhead.

Next, the minister and party looked into the e-education learning centre, language lab and computer training and e-mail room in Paungde Town-

ship Basic Education High School, met with faculty members, gave necessary instructions to them and presented stationery to the schoolhead.

Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to Pyay University in the evening. The minister inspected the site chosen to build Pyay University's Dhammayone and four-storeyed lecture building including 28 lecture halls.

After that, the minister met faculty members of the university. During his meeting, Pro-rector U Than Aung reported on background history of the university and its data. The minister gave necessary instructions to the faculty members. — MNA

Vehicles of departments, Tatmadaw checked on dry day



Dry Day Supervisory Committee members inspect Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles on the dry day. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Feb — Member of the Dry Day Supervisory Committee Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Deputy Quartermaster-General Col Tin Shwe and departmental heads supervised tasks of the dry day inspection teams at the main points of Yangon City this morning.

Similarly, members of the supervisory committee Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, member Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, senior military officers and departmental heads checked the dry day inspection teams.

From 7 am to 5 pm today, the dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules.—MNA

Deputy Minister inspects mining blocks

YANGON, 27 Feb — Accompanied by officials, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein visited Namtu/Bawdwin mining block on 22 February. Officials reported on production of mineral in 2004-2005 and future work for 2005-2006. Next, the deputy minister gave necessary instructions.

On 23 February, the deputy minister addressed the conclusion ceremony of basic job training course No 15 of the Ministry of Mines and presented conclusion certificates to the trainees. He then sawover production of lead at the lead refinery plant in Namtu.

The deputy minister on 24 February, visited Konnyaung hydelpower station and Mansang hydelpower station and inspected agricultural and livestock breeding tasks being undertaken near the plants for staff welfare. In the afternoon, the deputy minister went to Thibaw Gypsum gravel project site and gave instructions to officials on extended production of gravel.

On 25 February, the deputy minister also looked into Kyartwinyay iron mining block, subpower plant of the Ministry of Electric Power and No 1 Iron and Steel Plant and gave necessary instructions.

On 26 February, the deputy minister visited Patheingyi limestone mining block and attended to the needs. — MNA

Raw opium seized in Mandalay

YANGON, 27 Feb— Acting on information, a combined team comprising members of Manda-

lay Special Anti-Drug Squad and local MPF on 2 January searched Myathiri Guest House at the corner of 84th Street and 29th Street in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, and arrested Maung Oo, 37, son of U Tun Yin, of Thayetkan Village, Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Division, together with six kilos of raw opium and 0.065 kilo of poppy seeds concealed in his rucksack.



Maung Oo, son of U Tun Yin of Thayetkan Village in Pinlebu Township arrested with opium and poppy seeds.

Action is being taken against him under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Mandalay No 6 Police Station.—MNA

CCDAC

စာအုပ်လှူဒါန်းပွဲ

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးယုံကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များနှင့် စာပေဒါန ငွေပဒေသာပင်လှူဒါန်းပွဲ(ပဉ္စမအကြိမ်)ကို အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပပါမည်-

- နေ့ရက်။ ၆-၃-၂၀၀၅ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
- အချိန်။ နံနက်(၉) နာရီ
- နေရာ။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အစည်းအဝေးခန်းမ၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

စာအုပ်/ငွေပဒေသာပင်လှူဒါန်းလိုကြောင်း စေတနာရှင်၊ အလှူရှင်များသည် အချိန်မီ တက်ရောက် လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါရန် နှိုးဆော်ပီတိကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

လှူဒါန်းလိုသူများဆက်သွယ်ပါရန်

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ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန
၂၂/၂၄၊ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

One-China policy on top of relations with Vanuatu

BELING, 26 Feb — Acknowledgment of the one-China policy is the prerequisite for smooth development of China-Vanuatu relations, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Friday.

Wen made the remark during his talks with visiting Vanuatu Prime Minister Ham Lini in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Friday afternoon.

Wen praised the new government of Vanuatu for adopting a "serious and just stance firmly opposing the wrong decision that the former government of Vanuatu made on the Taiwan issue".

Wen and Lini agreed that the two countries will "get rid of all interruptions to bilateral relations, enhance mutual trust, deepen cooperation and continue to push forward the development of bilateral relations".

Wen said since China and Vanuatu set up diplomatic relations, they have developed "significantly". Over the years, China has provided as-

sistance to Vanuatu, "bringing substantial social and economic benefits to the country and the people".

Wen said the one-China principle is the "prerequisite and most important political guarantee of the smooth development of China-Vanuatu relations. The Chinese Government appreciates the new government of Vanuatu for its clear statement on adherence to the one-China policy and its stance on not having any form of official contact with Taiwan".

Wen said all countries are equal members of international society, regardless of their size, wealth and strength. "They should treat each other as equals, be friends to each other, conduct mutually beneficial cooperation and seek common

development," he said.

Wen said China is ready to continue to reinforce its political relations with Vanuatu and promote exchanges between the governments, parliaments and political parties of the two countries. He said China is willing to actively push forward trade and economic and technological cooperation with Vanuatu, and to enhance Sino-Vanuatu coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs. *MNA/Xinhua*



The Japanese will soon have a refrigerator (pictured) which can keep meals hot as well as cold to accommodate families who dine apart most of the time with parents working late and children studying into the night.—INTERNET

S-E Asian cities shrouded by smoke of forest fires

KUALA LUMPUR/JAKARTA, 26 Feb — Smoke from forest fires shrouded Southeast Asian cities in thick haze on Friday, stirring memories of a choking pall that blanketed the region almost a decade ago.

Hundreds of fires have burnt for days in parched forests across Malaysia, the Indonesian island of Sumatra and Singapore, razing more than 21,250 acres in Malaysia alone.

The haze is less severe than the thick blanket of forest-fire smoke that descended on the region in 1997 and 1998 and cost an estimated nine billion in damage to farming, tourism and transport.

But it has caused flight delays and temporary closure of schools in Sumatra and prompted official warnings of unhealthy levels of air pollution in several parts of Malaysia.

The island nation of Singapore is also living beneath a blanket of haze as it fights its worst outbreak of bushfires and suffers its driest spell in 29 years.

Governments have urged people not to light fires or discard burning

cigarette butts, pointing out that forests are tinder dry after weeks of abnormally hot, dry weather. Dams are drying up, leaving some fire-fighters with little water to work with.

"The public has to be careful," Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters in the centre of Kuala Lumpur, where it is impossible to see the horizon even from office towers.

Hundreds of Malaysian fire-fighters are battling the blazes, but they face an especially difficult task in areas where forest peat has caught fire. These mounds of rotted vegetation can smoulder for weeks, sparking off fresh outbreaks.

Almost 600 fires have broken out in Indonesia's Riau Province and others have also flared in North Sumatra and Aceh Prov-

ince, said Hermono Sigit of Indonesia's Environmental Supervisory Agency. Aceh was devastated by the December 26 tsunami.

In Singapore, more than 400 bushfires have broken out this month, driving its pollutants standards index (PSI), which measures air quality, out of the good range in recent days.

MNA/Reuters

SIA to entertain junior passengers with new inflight toys

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb — Young flyers with Singapore Airlines (SIA) aged 12 and below will be amused by new exclusive inflight toys and movies since 1 March announced SIA on Friday.

SIA will have the SpongeBob SquarePants amenities onboard all its flights except the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur route to keep children busy having fun during the journeys, especially those long-haul ones.

Tailoring inflight toys also marks a debut for Nickelodeon, a leading entertainment brand with an audience of 281.8 million households across the world and holder of SpongeBob SquarePants.

Since its premiere in 1999, SpongeBob SquarePants, an earnest and happy-go-lucky sea sponge, has turned out to be one of the most popular cartoon characters among kids and even adults around the world.

MNA/Xinhua

More UK soldiers face Iraq charges

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb — Nearly 50 British servicemen could be prosecuted for murder, assault and other "war" crimes committed in Iraq, it was claimed last night.

Secret military documents, which inform ministers about police investigations in the cases, indicate that the servicemen include at least 12 soldiers who face charges of murder, manslaughter or assault.

The alleged crimes include two cases in which Iraqi civilians were deliberately drowned by British soldiers. The documents indicate that far more soldiers in Iraq face criminal charges than the Ministry of Defence has indicated.

One incident involves an SAS trooper who is being investigated over a shooting incident during an operation in Basra last year. Another, referred to in the documents, involves the alleged murder of a 16-year-old Iraqi who was arrested

by three Irish Guards in May, 2003.

The teenager and three other Iraqis were said to have been marched at gunpoint to a dock near the Shatt al-Arab waterway in the British-controlled sector. The document states: "All were released by being forced into the Shatt al-Arab K was a non-swimmer and drowned. One of the suspects' conscience got the better of him several months after the incident, as a result of which all suspects were identified".

On Friday, a military judge and jury in Germany sentenced three British soldiers to prison for abusing Iraqi civilians after a trial that raised comparisons with the Abu Ghraib prison scandal involving US forces. —*Internet*

Oil pipeline destroyed in north Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb — An oil pipeline in northern Iraq was ablaze yesterday after saboteurs blew it up in the latest attack against the guerrilla-wracked country's vital oil industry.

A roadside bomb blast killed two people in the capital, officials and witnesses said.

The violence came one day after the government announced the arrest of a man it described as a key figure in the country's most feared terrorist group, and a top official said the noose was tightening around its leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The pipeline, which connects oil

fields in Dibis with the northern city of Kirkuk, about 35 kilometers to the southeast, was destroyed late Friday, an official of the state-run North Oil Co. said on condition of anonymity. He said it would take at least four days to repair the line.

Guerillas have regularly targeted Iraq's oil infrastructure, cutting exports and denying the country funds badly needed for reconstruction.—*Internet*



A model wears Peking Opera-style head gear in a stall at an international wedding exhibition in Beijing on 25 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

China amends Criminal Law to curb credit card crimes

BEIJING, 26 Feb— China's top legislature is expected to amend the Criminal Law in an effort to crack down on the increasing credit card fraud and sabotage of military equipment.

The draft amendment to the Criminal Law was submitted Friday to the 14th session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee for the second deliberation.

"Our committee agreed that the draft is basically feasible and suggested that it be approved in this session," said Qiao Xiaoyang,

Deputy Director of the NPC Law Committee.

Credit card fraud in China has been rampant in recent years. Domestic criminals working with overseas accomplices have become adept at creating, transporting, selling and using fake credit cards. However, the current Criminal Law does not have specific clause on credit card fraud.

The draft adds new clauses on credit card fraud and enlarges the range of the definition of "credit card" in the Criminal Law. It also introduces more severe punishments.

Also in the draft submitted, a new clause was added to punish military telecommunications equipment sabotage.

The new clause says that even unpremeditated sabotage of military telecommunications will be grounds for imprisonment of less than three years. And if the circumstances are serious, the punishment will be more severe.

The draft once submitted for the first deliberation included five new clauses, but the latest draft only involves three clauses.

Because the draft law governing offenses against public order and draft law on enterprises bankruptcy are still under deliberation, the new draft omits two clauses on illegal begging and cheating in bankrupt liquidation, according to the NPC Law Committee.

MNA/Xinhua

HK's arrival, departure flights return to normal

HONG KONG, 26 Feb— Arrival and departure flights affected by continuous low visibility of less than 200 metres Friday morning in Hong Kong have returned to normal, Hong Kong Airport Authority said in a Press release.

Visibility at the Hong Kong International Airport improved after 10:30 am and aircraft movements resumed normal. By 11:00 am, 23 arrival flights and 23 departure flights were delayed.

Moreover, the arrival of a US Navy aircraft carrier and battle fleet were also delayed Friday.

At least nine passenger ships to and from the Chinese Mainland were suspended Friday because of heavy fog in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province. Some of the passenger ships to the Chinese Mainland will continue to be suspended Friday afternoon, while others are expected to resume operation. Hong Kong Observatory forecasts that the visibility will be improved later Friday when north-east monsoon arrives in south China. — MNA/Xinhua

Four killed in suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM, 26 Feb— Four people were killed and at least 38 others were wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up Friday night outside a discotheque on a Tel Aviv promenade, the Ha'aretz daily reported.

The death is expected to rise as some of the wounded were in serious or critical condition, medics said. Altogether 17 people have been hospitalized in the city.

The Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the attack. — MNA/Xinhua



A Thai police officer displays pieces of an ancient fossil at a news conference on 25 Feb, 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand.—INTERNET



A Malaysian uses a Telekom public phone in Kuala Lumpur, on 24 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Hubei Province to build statues for German expert

WUHAN, 26 Feb— Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, announced that it would make two bronze statues in commemoration of Werner Gerich, former leader of a local diesel engine plant.

Gerich, who died in Germany on 17 April, 2003, was well-known in China for being the first foreigner to head a Chinese venture since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

An official with the foreign affairs office of the city said hiring Gerich helped bring foreign expertise into Wuhan, the most important industrial city on the middle reaches of the Yangtze.

Gerich came to work for two years as an expert with Wuhan Diesel Engine Plant in October 1984 after his retirement from Duisburg in Germany.

During his two-year tenure, Gerich improved the plant's management and focused on upgrading product quality.

The life of the plant's diesel engines was extended from 700 hours to 7,000 hours and the products entered the world market. The German expert was granted permanent residence in China and a certificate of friendship by the State Foreign Experts Bureau in September 1992.

According to the official, two statues of Gerich, a 0.84-metre-high bust and a 2.3-metre-high pedestal, are being created. On completion, one of the statues, designed by two local sculptors, will be put up in this central Chinese city this April. The other will be sent to Duisburg as a gift.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain jails three soldiers for abusing Iraqi prisoners

OSNABRUECK (Germany), 26 Feb— Britain jailed three soldiers on Friday for abusing Iraqi detainees, but faced questions over why it failed to punish anyone for forcing prisoners to do tough acts in photos that echoed Abu Ghraib.

A newspaper embarrassed the authorities by locating victims that prosecutors had failed to find in a 20-month probe.

Without the victims' testimony, prosecutors were unable to convict anyone for

staging the sex abuse which soldiers photographed during a crackdown on looters in Basra in May 2003. Prisoners in the photos were stripped naked, mirroring notorious pictures of abuse taken by US troops at the Abu Ghraib jail.

"When you abused the power that you had over

them as you did, you cannot expect much leniency," judge Advocate Michael Hunter told the men. "What you have done is so serious that we would be failing in our duties if we did not impose substantial sentences and dismiss you all (from the army) with disgrace."

Daniel Konyon was

given an 18-month sentence for failing to report the sex abuse and two other charges. Mark Cooley was given two years for charges including suspending a trussed-up Iraqi from the prongs of a forklift truck. Darren Larkin was given five months for stomping on a bound man.—MNA/Reuters

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

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb— A US Army soldier will be court-martialled 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 dishonourable 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 January, 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. — MNA/Xinhua

China willing to join hands with Latam countries

BEIJING, 26 Feb — China is willing to join hands with Latin-American countries and open up a new path to boost the long-term, stable and a mutually beneficial relationship, Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong said here on Friday.

China and Latin-American countries, all as developing countries, are shouldering the task to maintain world peace and push forward the establishment of the new political and economic order, said Zeng when meeting with Latin-American Parliament (LAP) president Ney Lopes.

The Chinese side thought highly of the LAP adhering to the one-China policy and Lopes' positive role in promoting friendship between LAP and the China's National People's Congress (NPC).

Speaking highly of the Chinese

achievements in various fields, Lopes said the LAP attached much importance to friendly and cooperative ties with the NPC, which became a permanent observer of LAP last year. The two sides should continue friendly cooperation to consolidate the already achieved results in other sectors.

Lopes also reiterated that the LAP will continue to adhere to the one-China policy.

Lopes is in Beijing at the invitation of Wu Bangguo, chairman of the China's NPC Standing Committee.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai health department claims flies cannot spread bird flu

BANGKOK, 27 Feb — Thai health authorities has sought to allay public fear that humans could catch bird flu from flies saying flies could not carry genetic attribute of the virus, the official *Thai News Agency* (TNA) reported on Friday.

Dr Paijit Warachit, Director-General of the Department of Medical Sciences said it was scientifically impossible that bird flu virus detected around a poultry farm in Japan could be transmitted to humans. It is reported that bird flu virus had been discovered in 200 flies in the vicinity of a poultry farm in Kyoto and researchers had discovered the H5N1 strain of virus in RNA of the flies.

Amid growing fears of a devastating avian flu pandemic, Dr Vichai Tienthavorn, Permanent Secretary for Public Health, was quoted as say-

ing that the chances of flies infecting humans were "minimal in the extreme".

He noted the virus could not survive long in the atmosphere, but thrive best in poultry feces.

However, Vichai suggested greater concern should be paid to environmental hygiene among the public in order to minimize the chance of flies breeding.

Paijit said his department will cooperate with the Livestock Development Department to begin studying the flies collected from the areas, where bird-flu outbreak have been reported. —MNA/Xinhua

Coordination, cooperation urged for new mode of governance in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb — Government ministries and agencies should adopt a coordination and cooperation approach to achieve a more flexible and collaborative governance, said Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan on Friday.

Addressing the closing of the inaugural National Security Course, Tan stressed that coordination and cooperation should go beyond the strategic level to the operational level.

"The shift from a hierarchical and departmental mode to a coordinated and cooperative form of government will require the setting up of the right financial and personnel systems to facilitate and support multi-agency work," Tan added.

Citing a spectrum of challenges facing the country such as national security, structural unemployment and the low birth rate, Tan urged civil servants to develop the instinct to work together towards larger national goals.

A new strategic framework for the country's national security, based on a networking approach, was laid down in July last year as Singapore regarded itself as one of the targets of potential terrorist attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan launches satellite with "H-2A" rocket

TOKYO, 27 Feb — Japan launched a multifunctional satellite with a H-2A rocket on Saturday in the Tanegashima Space Centre, southern Kagoshima Prefecture.

The rocket blasted off at 6:25 pm (0925 GMT), postponed for more than an hour due to a cut-off of communication between the rocket and the control centre, said the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

This was the first flight of the H-2A rocket since a failure in November 2003.

The launch was originally scheduled for Thursday, but grounded because of bad weather.

The MTSAT-1R multipurpose satellite aboard belongs to the land minis-

try, the Civil Aviation Bureau and the Japan Meteorological Agency. It provides navigational and meteorological services.

It is to replace the defuncting *Himawari 5* weather satellite. Japan has been relying on the US weather satellite *GOES-9* since May 2003 to provide visual images for weather forecasts.

As the backbone carrier in Japan's space programme, the H-2A is capable of sending a maximum payload of 6 tons to the geostationary orbit or

10 tons to the low earth orbit. After two test launches in August 2001 and February 2002, the rocket formally came into performance in the third launch.

However, in the sixth flight on 29 November, 2003, the H-2A was destroyed after its lift-off because one of the booster failed to separate. A faulty nozzle was later blamed for the setback.

The unsuccessful mission also led to the loss of two spy satellites aboard.

MNA/Xinhua

A Japanese

H-2A rocket

carrying a

satellite is

seen at

Tanegashima

Space Centre

on 26 Feb,

2005.

INTERNET



Commissioner pledges full support to HK's promotion of foreign ties

HONG KONG, 26 Feb — Yang Wenchang, commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) pledged on Friday full support to Hong Kong's promotion of foreign cooperation in various fields.

Speaking at a Lunar New Year reception hosted by the commissioner's office Friday evening, Yang said the commissioner's office will continue to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle and fully utilize the national foreign affairs resources to support HKSAR's expansion of cooperation with foreign countries in commerce and trade, finance, science and technology, culture, education, tourism and other fields, in a bid to help strengthen Hong Kong's status as Asia's world city.

Yang said Hong Kong witnessed a full economic discovery last year when Hong Kong's economic growth rate reached 7.5 per cent. With the joint unremitting efforts made by the HKSAR Government headed by Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa and Hong Kong compatriots, Hong Kong's economy achieved the best results since the territory return to China in 1997.

He emphasized that attaching importance to harmony, promoting stability and development have become the mainstream aspiration of the Hong Kong society, which has been the essential guarantee for maintenance of Hong Kong's social stability and economic prosperity.

Yang believed that Hong Kong's status as Asia's world city has been strengthened along with its increasing exchanges with foreign countries.

All these agglomerated the care and support of the central government and people all over the country, and represented Hong Kong people's unremitting endeavours in time of adversity, he noted.

Yang said all the achievements indicated that the principle of "one country, two systems" has great vitality and Hong Kong's future is full of hope.

MNA/Xinhua



Mrs World 2005 Sima Bakhar, left, of Israel is crowned by Mrs World 2004 Suzanna Vicheinrut, right, of Thailand at Ambly Valley, 140 kilometres (87 miles) north of Mumbai, India, on 25 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Four misconceptions hindering the drive to introduce democracy in Myanmar

Kyaw Myint Naing

The Tatmadaw Government of Myanmar is being accused variously of prolonging its drive to introduce democracy at home. And there is widespread criticism that the drive is making only a little progress.

However, a careful analysis will reveal that four misconceptions are hindering the Tatmadaw Government from implementing its democracy drive.

According to the social-science, a correct view depends on real physical form and reflection of real physical form. However, internal and external anti-government elements' assessment of the events is not based on the prevailing actual situations and conditions of the nation. They are assessing the situation subjectively rather

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During the 1988 unrest, the leftist extremists enticed the people to commit destructive acts such as mass raids on police stations and trade office in Lanmadaw in downtown Yangon and seizing arms and ammunition from the Tatmadaw members guarding the office, and the conspiring of a plot to seize State power in a violent way with the use of the mob. At the same time, anarchists were robbing and ravaging the property of the State and the public. The anarchists were also committing brutal killings of innocent people in order that the people aren't oppose their destructive acts. Then, anarchy reigned the entire nation. These did happen.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw unavoidably assumed State duties for the security of the State and the people. In this way, the Tatmadaw stopped the evil acts of the leftist extremists and anarchists and saved the nation in time.

However, the anti-government elements are clinging to the dogmatic attitude and still accusing the Tatmadaw of seizing the State power, undermining democracy and violating human rights in the nation.

The second misconception is that the anti-government elements misjudged the Tatmadaw Government. Action and not the appearance and speech must be the criteria to judge a person.

Similarly, a party should not be judged through its name and declarations but through its acts and their effects.

The social science says the assessment of laws and governments should be based on which classes of people these laws and governments represent, but not on their forms (i.e. whether it is an elected government or not). One cannot understand the legal affairs relationships and the forms of governments by just studying them. The basic factors of legal affairs relationships and governments lie in the context of natural conditions of physical features.

As soon as the Tatmadaw Government had taken up State responsibilities, it annulled the centralized economic system and the one-party system

that were not in conformity with the wishes of the people, and then introduced the market-oriented economic system and paved the way for multi-party democracy system at home. That indicated the fact that the Tatmadaw Government and acted upon the wishes of the people of the 1988 mass demonstration.

At that time, the entire country lacked peace and stability with disrupted transport, and the entire national people were facing hardships. Therefore, the Tatmadaw Government adopted and implemented the four main tasks — (1) stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, and prevalence of law and order (2) ensuring secure and smooth transport (3) encouraging private sector and cooperative enterprises for the welfare of the people and (4) the holding of the elections.

In 1990, the Tatmadaw Government held the elections that the world recognized as free and fair.

No sooner had the National League for Democracy learnt that they won the elections than it made a demand for immediate handing over of the State power. So, issuing Notification No 1/90, the Tatmadaw Government intimated the NLD of the fact that a political party could not get the legislative, executive and judicial powers by just winning the election, and a State Constitution was still needed.

But, the NLD insisted in making demand for handing over the State power through a temporary Constitution drawn by themselves. The Tatmadaw Government did not accept the demands of the NLD at all as it was not in consistence with democratic process.

Although the Tatmadaw Government was taking all possible measures for the flourishing of democracy in the nation, the NLD absolutely failed to recognize them; it did not view them in the right perspective. Then, the NLD regarded the Tatmadaw Government as a military junta and considered it as enemy.

The third misconception is that the anti-government groups want Myanmar to directly copy the democracy of the foreign countries, whose history and lifestyles are quite different from the nation, instead of comparing with the countries whose history and ways of life are similar to the nation, regarding the transition to democracy and democratic practices that should be followed.

When we study the transition to democracy in democratic nations in the world, the capitalist (market-oriented economic system) already thrived well in the old system in western European countries and the US. The development of the productive relations went ahead in parallel with that of the productive forces, and national capitalists and their parties managed to take a leading role in the democracy revolution. Therefore, the Tatmadaws (Armed Forces) of such countries did not need to get involved in the national politics.

A look at Asian countries that had been freed from the yoke of colonialists following the Second World War reveals that under the colonialist rule the capitalist (market) economic system had no chance of development. Nor did the capitalist productive forces. Thus, independence was accompanied with uprising and instability as a consequence of lack of leadership ability in economy and politics. On account of such conditions, armed forces took the lead in national politics and worked hard for the development of their respective countries.

With the market economic system that has taken full shape, the capitalist productive forces serving as the base in democracy prospered. There were

instances in which armed forces returned to their respective barracks when national capitalists and their parties had built the capacity to bring forth the country economically and politically.

Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia had shared the similar experiences. However, the Philippines had a different story. Its government collapsed following the unrest in which the leader of the opposition party was assassinated at the airport on his return from abroad. Later, the deceased leader's wife Corazon Aquino was elected President. When the term of office ended General Ramos took office and put the country on the right track. Later on, civilian presidents came to power.

A study of the history of Myanmar will show that the national capitalist class was unable to make progress due to lack of proper capitalist functioning under the colonialist servitude. In 1948, when independence was regained, there were not much modern capitalist productive forces, which were the sine qua non for democracy. In like manner, the national capitalist class and their party that would bring forth the country economically and politically did not exist.

In the light of independence in 1948, Myanmar experienced the flare-up of the multicoloured insurgency, the largest one in the East Asia. The Tatmadaw assumed the leadership role twice — in 1949 and in 1958 — to ensure stability and sovereignty during the time of the AFPFL government.

Since the tasks for the non-disintegration of the Union and the perpetuation of sovereignty were getting out of hand, the Tatmadaw assumed the responsibility of the country in 1962, given the growing conflict between the AFPFL government and the AFPFL (HQ).

Myanmar society was reduced to 'classless society' as the Revolutionary Council government, after assuming the responsibility of the country, nationalized the private companies in order to establish the centralized economic system for adopting the socialism which was then in fashion.

In 1988, when the Tatmadaw government

The second misconception is that the anti-government elements misjudged the Tatmadaw Government. Action and not the appearance and speech must be the criteria to judge a person.

assumed the State's duty, it introduced the market-oriented economic system after annulling the centralized economic system and the one-party administrative system.

It also has laid down 12 political, economic and social objectives and encouraged private trade and commerce after introducing necessary changes to ensure the success of the market-oriented economic system, which is witnessing the development of private trading and the rise of the working class and the national capitalist class.

Without any consideration of such conditions and different historical backgrounds and democracy norms, severe criticisms are made in connection with the 1993 National Convention and the Tatmadaw's leadership role in the future national politics of the country. Critics viewed and opposed it

(See page 7)

Four misconceptions hindering...

(from page 6)

wrongly and dogmatically as an attempt aimed at prolonging the existence of the military junta.

What they are doing is like making one's own outfit with the measurement of other person. As a consequence, the emergence of a new constitution is still delayed and the multi-party democratic system is yet to be implemented.

The fourth misconception is in connection with the actions of the Tatmadaw government and that of the NLD. The right things the Tatmadaw government is doing are deemed wrong, and the wrong things the NLD is doing deemed right. It is like "putting blame on what is right by taking sides with what is wrong".

The third misconception is that the anti-government groups want Myanmar to directly copy the democracy of the foreign countries, whose history and lifestyles are quite different from the nation, instead of comparing with the countries whose history and ways of life are similar to the nation regarding the transition to democracy and democratic practices that should be followed.

If we study differences between the attitudes and actions of the Tatmadaw and the NLD, it can clearly be seen that the former, after making negotiations in 1992 with officials concerned three times, held the National Convention in 1993 for framing a State Constitution that should have been written by those responsible. The National Convention took place with the six objectives — Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity; Perpetuation of sovereignty; Flourishing of genuine multi party democratic system; Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State; and For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State.

The National Convention is an historic one that will form an alliance between the Tatmadaw and political parties, particularly the NLD, and guarantee the emergence of a multi-party democracy and building of a new modern developed democratic nation.

However, Daw Suu Kyi thought that the National Convention was a complete sham. She said she disagreed to the attendance of the National Convention by the NLD delegates headed by U Aung Shwe. She added that "We have to choose between dialogue or utter devastation". Consequently, they walked out of the National Convention on 28 November 1995 with an excuse that their demand for a dialogue and a reply from the NC chairman by November 28 was not responded.

Despite the walk-out, the Tatmadaw Government has adopted the 12 political, economic and social

objectives with a view to shaping a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

As our country is agriculture based, measures are being taken with added momentum to build irrigation facilities for the development of agricultural sector in accordance with one of the economic objectives—Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. At the same time, encouragement is being given to improve the industrial sector by establishing industrial zones. Tasks for rural area development and elimination of poppy cultivation are also being carried out after making peace with 17 national armed groups and forging national reconsolidation. Infrastructures are being built for the progress of education and health sectors while the five rural development tasks are being implemented.

Myanmar has now achieved peace and stability that had never prevailed since the country's independence. Compared with the colonial period, and the eras of AFPFL and Myanma Socialist Programme Party, marked progress has been achieved in economy of the State, and living standard of the people has improved. Cultivation of poppy has decreased by 50 per cent. Transport sector has developed and other necessary infrastructures have also been built for the health sector of every state and division.

Myanmar was able to collaborate with the ASEAN, BIMSTEC and other Asian nations in the areas of peace and economy. Some neighbouring countries which once temporarily misunderstood Myanmar have started cooperating with it with constructive attitude after realizing the goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government.

Yet, the NLD has been strongly opposing the Tatmadaw government for its participation in the national political leadership role of the State and is going against it by forming a Hluttaw representative committee with the intention of gaining power based on the result of 1990 election without any constitution.

NLD supported resolutions of the National Coalition of the Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) that was illegally formed with the remnants of national race armed groups and expatriates. The resolutions passed at Methrawhta were: establishment of a Federal Union, to oppose the National Convention by national races, to oppose foreign investments, and to block Myanmar's admission to the ASEAN. With a false idea that democracy can be achieved only when dictatorship falls, they supported foreign pressures on the country to get troubled like the 1988 unrest. Some Western nations imposed and is still imposing economics sanctions and political pressure on Myanmar.

They committed subversive acts such as blowing up of bombs in many parts of the country including the occasion of public obeisance to Buddha's tooth relics from China and at the gas pipeline linking Myanmar and Thailand. Saboteurs also raided the Myanmar embassy in Thailand and took away money and property. In collusion with Westerners and

expatriates, they hoodwinked some fanatics like Mawslay and innocent foreign students into committing destructive acts and entered the country to create four-8 and four-9 disturbances. Their acts might account for coming into conflict between the governments of Myanmar and the country of such instigated students.

Because of the US pressure, Myanmar had to shut down its garment factories and workers became jobless. In addition, there was a conflict between those supporting the Tatmadaw and those opposing the Tatmadaw in Dabayin in May 2003.

All in all, the NLD in the name of democracy activist is trying to undermine the peace and stability and national consolidation of the country that are of utmost importance in building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

It is crystal clear that whose action pays dividends in the struggle for democracy, the Tatmadaw Government or NLD. However, so-called pro-democracy groups from Western bloc and some nations are reprimanding the Tatmadaw for its action but praising the destructive acts of the NLD by closing their eyes to the efforts of the government.

They are interfering in the affairs of Myanmar, describing the seven-point Road Map of the State and National Convention as window dressing, persuading the UN Security Council to decide the democracy cause of the country, demanding the dismissal of Myanmar from the ASEAN if no reform is made and non-acceptance of the Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2006 and accusing Myanmar of undermining the dignity of Myanmar.

Relying on these pressures, the NLD is attempting to usurp power while demanding the release of Daw Suu Kyi and political prisoners without trying to gain the State power with a new constitution. Besides, with a self-written temporary constitution that is contrary to the correct way of democracy, they are trying to grab the power by sowing discord between the existing government and the people.

Therefore, it is necessary to rectify the four misconceptions, to stop the acts of Western bloc and

The fourth misconception is in connection with the actions of the Tatmadaw government and that of the NLD. The right things the Tatmadaw government is doing are deemed wrong, and the wrong things the NLD is doing deemed right. It is like "putting blame on what is right by taking sides with what is wrong".

the so-called pro-democratic groups from some nations and to strive for the continued implementation of the seven-point Road Map without fail and emergence of an enduring State constitution.

(Translation: MS+KTY+ST)
(Myanma Alin-Kyemon:27-2-2005)

NPC to prepare for upcoming third plenary meeting

BEIJING, 26 Feb — The Standing Committee of the 10th Chinese National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, Friday, began a four-day session to prepare for the upcoming third plenary meeting.

During the session, from February 25 to 28, the lawmakers expect to approve the agenda, the presidium namelist and the non-voting delegate list for the meeting of the

10th NPC beginning March 5.

They also discussed the examination report on the qualification of the people who will be elected or by-elected to be NPC deputies, and deliberated the draft work report of the Standing Committee of the 10th NPC.

The top legislature deliberated the draft amendment to the Corporation Law for the first

time during the session. The draft will add 44 new items, omit 13 items and revise 91 items from the original Corporation Law.

Lawmakers also heard a report Friday on the work of building up an emergency counter-plan and the country's production safety status submitted by the State Council, or the Chinese Cabinet.

MNA/Xinhua

China's electricity shortage to be relieved this year

BEIJING, 26 Feb — China's electricity shortage will relieve to some extent this year, said a Chinese electric power official here Friday.

The whole shortage situation, however, will remain unchanged, which it requires a fairly long period of reconstruction, said Shao Bingren, vice-chairman of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC).

Fifty million kilo-

watts of power generators were put into production last year, and this year more generators will be around, Shao acknowledged. Construction needs time, and so electricity supply situation is not very optimistic, he said.

Since January this year, he added, the seriousness of electric power shortage has been reduced though the scope of areas with insufficient

electricity has somewhat narrowed.

Overall, large-area electricity shortage was replaced by seasonable and periodic shortages, he said.

In the wake of high-pace growth of national economy, Shao said, the demand for electric power in China has kept growing in the past two years, and this causes electric power shortage over large areas. — MNA/Xinhua



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party take Nine Precepts from Monywa Zawitkayama Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinda.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San...

(from page 16)

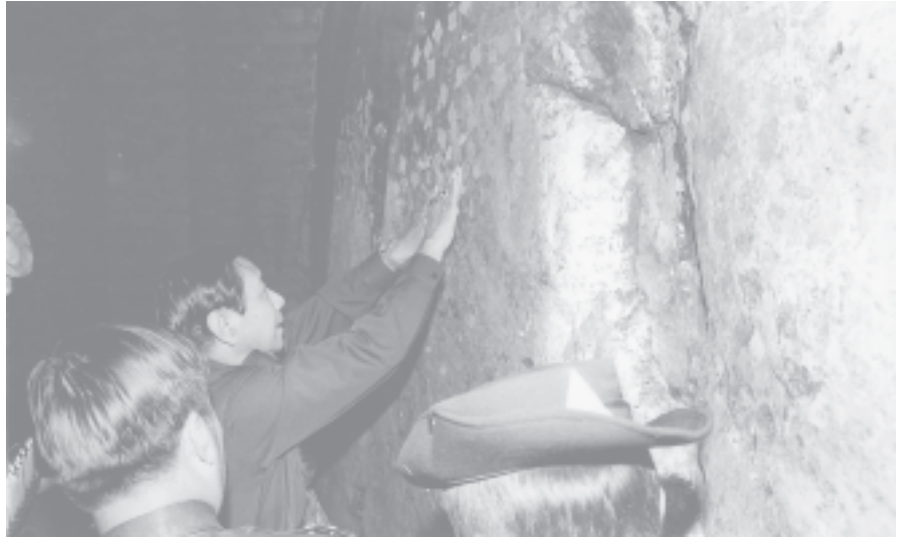
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

After the ceremony, they went to the cave of the Alaungdaw Kassapa and offered flowers, lights, joss sticks and gold foils.

On arrival back at the Gandakuti Hall, they donated 'soon', fruits, water, flowers and lights to Alaungdaw Kassapa statue.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Lt-Gen Soe Win offered Shwekyar Thingan to the statue. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party donated gold foils to the statue.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented cash towards the funds of the statue to the board of trustees.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer gold foils at the walls of cave to dedicate Alaungdaw Kassapa Statue. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party signed in the visitors' book.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed renovation of Thitsa well. (See page 9)

U Nyunt Maung Shein appointed UN Permanent Representative

YANGON, 28 Feb — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Nyunt Maung Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, as the Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, Geneva.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate eight requisites and alms to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present alms to Maha Bawditahtaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San plant a Bo tree in the precinct of Aung Araham Siddhi Eikçhasaya Labham Pagoda.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects renovation of Thitsa Well at Alaungdaw Kassapa Hill.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend consecration ceremony of Gandakuti Hall...

(from page 8)

The ceremony to plant Maha Bo saplings divided into five places were held in the precinct of Aung Araham Siddhi

the Forest Department.

At 11 am, they flew to Khattakantaung Village of Monywa Township.

At Maha Baw-

ditahtaung Monastery in the village, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party paid homage to Maha Bawditahtaung Sayadaw Agga Maha

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada and donated alms.

They proceeded to PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division by helicop-

ter. They were welcomed there by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, PyinOoLwin Sta-

tion Commander Rector of Defence Services Technological Academy Brig-Gen Win Myint and senior military officers.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe plants a Bo tree.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party offer alms to Maha Bawditahtaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada.—MNA

Eiççhasaya Labham Pagoda. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San put jewellery at No 1 place before planting the Bo sapling on it. Afterwards, they poured water on the sapling.

Similarly, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe grew the Bo sapling at No 2 place, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and the ministers at the designated places.

After the ceremony, they cordially greeted those present at the ceremony.

Next, they inspected objects related to Alaungdaw Kassapa National Park displayed by



The consecration ceremony of the renovated Gandakuti Hall of Alaungdaw Kassapa Statue in progress in Kani Township.—MNA

Commander attends ceremony to mark Eighth Year National Sanitation Week

YANGON, 27 Feb — The Eighth Year National Sanitation Week organized by Yangon Division Health Committee was held at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairperson of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MWCA Daw Khin Thet Htay.

The commander delivered an address, saying that activities of the National Sanitation Week were implemented as the national task annually. The activities of this year's National Sanitation Week are being carried out in the entire nation from 26 February to 4 March.

The commander urged those present to make concerted efforts for undertaking the tasks of the National Sanitation Week under the plans of respective townships during the eight-day period. Local authorities are to cooper-



Daw Khin Thet Htay presents certificate of honour to an official of township that actively participated in movements of 8th National Sanitation Week.— YANGON COMMAND

ate with health staff and social organization so as to achieve success in sanitation and availability of clean water which are important for the people in Yangon Division to be free from diseases.

Daw Khin Thet Htay presented certificates of honour to chairpersons of Hline, Kyimyindine, Dagon Myothit (South) and Thingangyun Township MCWAs for their performance in activities of the National Sanitation Week.

Officials reported on matters related to the sanitation week.

After the ceremony, the commander and guests viewed documents and educative booths concerning the National Sanitation Week displayed at the hall. Next, the commander and party arrived at the ceremony to mark the National Sanitation Week in Hline Township and heard reports on health and sanitation activities by officials.

They oversaw con-

struction of fly-proof latrines. Later, officials presented commodes donated by the Health Department to the local people.

MNA

Commander inspects agriculture, construction tasks in Lashio

YANGON, 27 Feb — Accompanied by officials, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing inspected thriving 2.75-acre plantation of honey orange and kitchen crops plantations of the local battalion in Lashio township yesterday.

Next, the commander inspected coffee and macadamia plantations of the command, cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy strains at the local battalion, summer paddy plantation of Myanmar Police Force near Yaypusan village, sunflower cultivation and other crop plantations in Humon village in Lashio.

Next, the commander went to the site for construction of the new building of Shan State (North) Union Solidarity and Development Association. Engineer U Thet Naing Oo of Asia World Co reported on progress of work to the commander, who then gave instructions on timely completion of the project and meeting of the set standard. The commander also visited the site for construction of the new building of Shan State (North) Maternal and Child Welfare Association and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Later, the commander paid homage to Yanaungmyin Pagoda and offered alms to the Sayadaw of Yanaungmyin Monastery. — MNA

Minister inspects production of agricultural equipment, auto parts in Hsinde, Htonbo

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin together with officials arrived at No 1 Agricultural Equipment Factory (Hsinde), Padaung Township, Bago Division (West), on 25 February, where the minister met with officials of the factory.

During his meeting, Managing Director Col Myo Tint reported to the minister on production target of the factory and production matters and Factory General Manager U Khin Zaw on production of different kinds of agri-

cultural machinery, research and development tasks and future tasks. In response, the minister instructed the officials to make efforts to meet the production target, to lay emphasis on production of agricultural machine parts, to make arrangements to distribute the products in the market and to use fuel efficiently.

While inspecting production of machine parts in the foundry plant and the forging workshop, factory general manager U Khin Zaw conducted him around there. Next, the minister inspected progress

in building the generator workshop and the site to build the electric meter workshop.

On arrival at No 2 Agricultural Equipment Factory (Htonbo) on 26 February, the minister looked into production of auto parts and assembling of Mazda Jeep and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the minister checked production of diesel engines and test on them and instructed the officials to produce diesel engines and TE vehicles, to carefully check the engines and to use electric power and fuel efficiently. — MNA

Mudon Township gets new gymnasium

YANGON, 27 Feb — A ceremony to inaugurate Shwehinta gymnasium took place in Mudon Township, Mon State, on 25 February.

Present on the occasion were Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Mon State Sports and Physical Education Committee Chairman Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Myo Hla, officials of the Ministry of Sports, departmental officials, members of social organizations, students, and others.

On the occasion, Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Brig-Gen Ohn Myint formally opened the gymnasium, and the commander unveiled the signboard of the gymnasium. The commander and the two ministers made speeches. Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint donated sport equipment to Mudon Township.

The gymnasium was constructed at a cost of K 8.3 million in total contributed by the State and the people.

Next, the commander and the ministers attended a ceremony to provide soccer suits and sport equipment in the city hall of Mawlamyine under the youth football development programme. On the occasion, the commander

delivered an address. Next, Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint explained measures being taken for the development of youth football standard.

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also donated US\$ 298 and K 139,400 worth of sports equipment to the South-East Command; K 590,000 worth of sports equipment to youth soccer teams of Mon State; K 147,000 to coaches; US\$ 846 and K 36,000 worth of weight-lifting gear to the Mon State Weight-lifting Subcommittee; and K 310,000 worth of sports gear to 10 townships in Mon State. After the ceremony, the deputy commander expressed his thanks for the donation of sports gear.

MNA

NC delegates entertained

YANGON, 27 Feb — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is entertaining programme to the National Convention delegates for their rest and

recreation at Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby Township.

Yesterday evening, the NC delegates were entertained with a film titled 'Thu-kyun-makhan-pyi' directed by film director Academy

Kyi Soe Tun, starred by Academy Nyunt Win, Academy Kyaw Thu, Academy Lwin Moe, Academy Kyaw Ye Aung, Academy Aung Khine, Academy May Than Nu and Academy Nanda Hlaing. — MNA

NC delegates in recreational activities

YANGON, 27 Feb — As it being a holiday for delegates to the National Convention, they did many kinds of physical exercises at Nyaunghnapin Camp today.

During their recreation, they played badminton, golf and other events of sports activities.

Moreover, they bought personal goods, books, journals and note-

books at welfare shops. They also enjoyed watching foreign and local news and other interesting programmes on TV channels.

MNA



The technician gives optical service to National Convention delegates at the shop in Nyaunghnapin Camp on Sunday. — MNA

Education, health, economic and social infrastructures can be built for the people with the use of revenues

YANGON, 27 FEB — On behalf of the Panel of Chairmen, member of Panel of Alternate Chairmen Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Delegates Group of State Service Personnel 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 Maj-Gen Aung Thein.

Of the five proposed papers submitted by the delegate group of representatives-elect, which is one of the eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the proposed papers of the National Unity Party and the Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization have been presented by the parties concerned, which are members of the delegate group of political parties. In like manner, it is found that other delegates concerned submitted their proposals.

Dr Hmu Htan, the independent representative-elect from the constituency of Thantlan township in Chin State and U Aung Thein, the independent representative-elect from the constituency of Ywangan township in Shan State discussed that the clarifications made by the Work Committee Chairman are complete and proper, adding that these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles in the formation of Financial Commission, and Taxation and fund allotment among the Pyidaungsu, and the Region or State.

U Tin Win, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Kyaiklat township, U Thein Kyi, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-1 of Taungdwingyi township, U Hla Soe, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Minbu township, U Mya Hlaing, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Twantay township, U Kyi Win, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-1 of Mingaladon township, and U Tin Tun Maung, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Mingaladon township discussed the matters related to the formation of Financial Commission, and Taxation and fund allotment among the Pyidaungsu, and the Region or State.

U Tun Kyaw, the independent representative-elect from the constituency of Namsam township in Shan State (North) of the group discussed that they found

Now, it is necessary for the Work Committee to seek the consent from the delegate groups through the members of the panel of chairmen in connection with the sound suggestion and advice that should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

appropriate the matter of the formation of a financial commission chaired by the President of the State so as to draw the budget of the Union and that of the regions or states; the matter of basic principles for which the President of the State or the person named by the President of the State has to submit them to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval; and the matters that shall be included in the draft of the Union budget and in that of the Region or State. They then agreed to the adoption of these points as detailed basic principles in the framing of State constitution.

The delegate group of national races discussed that they agreed to the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications on all the points from (a) to (r) including the formation of Financial Commission, saying that these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

In a separate suggestion on revenue, it said education, health, economic and social infrastructures can be built for the people with the use of revenues. Steps should therefore be taken, it added, to secure an annual targeted

amount of revenues.

The group continued that as far as it has observed, the income earned from revenues is still low for the country. In the time of the present government, which is working hard to develop and modernize the country in all spheres, the onus is on the people to pay their taxes fully. This is the practice common in democratic nations. Therefore, organizational campaigns should be launched on a broader scale so as to hand down this fine practice to posterity.

The delegate group of peasants discussed that they agreed to the adoption of all the clarifications made by Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe in the formation of Financial Commission, and Taxation and fund allotment among the Pyidaungsu, and the Region or State.

In a separate suggestion, the group said in the collection of tax revenues, severe action should be taken against corrupt employees so that the country and the people will not suffer from it. In connection with the delegation of legislative powers to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the Region or State Hluttaw, the group suggested, an exact percentage of representatives of each Hluttaw be mentioned clearly. The group also suggested that consideration be taken into the number of Hluttaw representatives each of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the Region or State Hluttaw require to pass a certain law.

The delegate group of workers discussed that they agreed to the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications on all the points from (a) to (r) including the formation of Financial Commission, saying that these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia discussed that they agreed to the clarifications on all the points from (a) to (r) including the formation of Financial Commission, and said that these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The delegate group of State service personnel discussed that they agreed to the adoption of all the points from (a) to (r) including the formation of Financial Commission as detailed basic principles.

The delegate group of other invited persons discussed that altogether 105 members of the group agreed to the adoption of all the points as detailed basic principles in connection with the formation of Financial Commission, and the Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States as clarified by Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe.

In a separate suggestion, the group said the points mentioned below should be added to the list of income to be put in the Region or State Fund Account. They are:

- (1) incomes and taxes related to the matters worth enacting law by the Region or State Legislative Hluttaw;
- (2) taxes collected from industries related to aboveground and underground, and abovewater and underwater resources in the regions or states;
- (3) taxes collected from industries related to forest products in the regions or states;
- (4) taxes collected from industries and businesses related to livestock breeding, and agricultural produce;
- (5) taxes collected from industries related to water and land resources;
- (6) income tax;
- (7) commercial tax;

Of them, points (2) to (7) should be designated as separate tax for the regions and states. It will however be necessary to divide the taxes in appropriate ratio between the Pyidaungsu Government and the regions or states.

The group continued that sale tax plays larger part in the collection of income taxes. In this process, means and ways should be sought for the following:

- (1) tax should not be a burden for the tax-paying people;
- (2) convenience for the tax-payer and the tax-collector; and
- (3) dissuasion of the tax-collector from misconduct.

In most of the developed countries, the system on the collection of sale tax has been computerized. Government sale tax charges seven per cent at every sale of a particular product, while state and division sale tax charges six per cent at every sale of a product. The percentage of sale tax should vary from one region and the other. The practice of the system in which sale tax is collected on the voucher should be adopted as a detailed

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

MNA



basic principle in the Union Legislative Law.

The group suggested a substitution of the Point (12) "Taxes collected on all other timber except teak and designated hard woods" with the term "Taxes collected on all timber except teak".

The group continued that the country is making all-out efforts to eliminate narcotic drugs to an extent that all the rest of the world notice it.

In its International Narcotic Control Strategy Report (INCSR) released in 2003, the US State Department officially announced that the heroin output in Myanmar dropped 81% in a matter of seven years from 1996 to 2003.

In its suggestion, the group emphasized the leadership role of the State in the anti-narcotics campaigns, which need international cooperation and coordination.

The group also gave suggestions on the formation of a full-time committee that will help assure the coming into force of the laws passed by the Hluttaws at different levels.

The group continued that under the leadership of the President of the future State, the entire national brethren are to uphold our three main national causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The President of the State is responsible for the development of the country, and the chief minister of the region or state concerned for their respective areas.

The group also said that it will be more appropriate if the chief minister of the state or the region is the person elected by the people of the region or the state concerned. The group continued that it is important for the President of the State to name the chief minister of the region or the state, who has the capacity for the post and whom the local people trust and respect.

The group also suggested a basic principle to be laid down in formulating the State constitution. It said in appointing the chief minister of the region or the state, President of the State should give first priority to the representative-elect nominated by Hluttaw representatives of the region or the state concerned.

I have presented the panel of the alternative 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 in connection with the clarifications on the adoption of detailed basic principles for the legislative, executive and judicial sectors.

It is found that the delegate groups to the National Convention discussed in support of the clarifications made by the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee. Moreover, there are some delegates who gave suggestions, while some others remained neutral.

When the Work Committee found it proper to include the suggestions of the delegates to the National Convention in writing the State constitution, the approval was sought from the delegate groups through those who are members of the panel of chairmen.

Now, it is necessary for the Work Committee to seek the consent from the delegate groups through the members of the panel of chairmen in connection with the sound suggestion and advice that should be adopted as detailed basic principles.—MNA

China, Tanzania to promote cultural, educational cooperation

BEIJING, 26 Feb— China is committed to enhancing its cultural and educational cooperation with Tanzania, said State Councillor Chen Zhili here on Friday.

Chen made the remarks when meeting with a Tanzanian governmental cultural delegation, headed by Joseph Mungai, Tanzanian Minister of Education and Culture. The governments and people of the two countries enjoy a profound traditional friendship and solid friendly cooperative ties, she said. Tanzania is China's all-weather friend, and former leaders of both countries had at-

tached great importance to consolidating Sino-Tanzanian relations.

The bilateral exchanges and cooperation in such fields as culture and education made great contribution to enhancing the two countries' mutual understanding and friendship, Chen said.

The Tanzanian guests are here at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Culture. — *MNA/Xinhua*

SARS virus behaviour could help design treatment, vaccines

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb— Scientists in Singapore have discovered the SARS virus can evade the body's immune system, a finding that may help experts design treatments and vaccines against the disease, a report said Friday.

Researchers from the National University of Singapore and Tan Tock Seng Hospital carried out the study on how the immune system responds to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus, the *Straits Times* said.

They found the virus has the ability to deftly evade the first line of defence in the body's immune system, allowing the viral attack to proceed unimpeded.

In a normal viral infection, the immune system is supposed to initially trigger the so-called innate defence response, which is compared to the role of a police or military border patrol.

If the attacking force is small, the "border patrol" can repel it by itself. But if the attack is bigger, the patrol will send an alarm to allow the immune system to mount a coordinated counter-strike.

"In SARS, there was something that prevented the border patrol from sending out the alarm," said Alirio Melendez, a medical faculty member of the NUS physiology department.

"That's what prevents the body from fighting it and makes it so deadly," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

The finding is important because it can help experts design treatments and vaccines against the virus.

"We now realize that while SARS can have flu-like symptoms, the responses triggered by the body are totally different," Melendez said. "It gives us a better idea of how to treat SARS by activating the immune system."

SARS left more than 800 people dead out of more than 8,000 infections worldwide in 2003. Most of the fatalities were in East Asia, including 33 in Singapore. *MNA/AFP*

UNEP meeting held in Kenya calls for actions on heavy metals

NAIROBI, 27 Feb— Delegates from nearly 140 countries at a United Nations environmental meeting held here on Friday called for actions taken to reduce the health and environmental risk from mercury, a heavy metal linked with a wide range of medical problems.

Delegates attending the 23rd Session of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum asked the UN agency to conduct a study on the amounts of mercury being traded and supplied around the world.

Mercury, a heavy metal linked with effects such as damages to the nervous system of babies, is used in products such as fluorescent light bulbs, dental fillings and thermometers.

The delegates also called for actions to improve the communication of the risks of mercury to vulnerable groups including pregnant mothers.

Over 1,000 delegates representing nearly 140 governments agreed to develop partnerships be-

tween governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sectors to reduce mercury pollution with the first pilot projects to be in place by September this year.

They also agreed to review the success of the new programmes in fighting mercury pollution in two years time.

Progress on control of two other heavy metals was also discussed on Friday with the UNEP requested to conduct a global assessment of cadmium and lead transport. The delegates wanted to better understand how the two heavy metals move through the atmosphere, seas and rivers in order to establish whether action at a global level is needed to address the health and environmental effects.

"At the start of this Governing Council I called on governments and delegates to take responsibility for the global environment in order to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals such as poverty, water and health," said Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's executive director.

"I think we can say that they did this, pushing forward on a wide range of fronts including heavy metals, water and sanitation, gender and scientific assessment of this ever changing world," he added. The 23rd Session of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum is being held in Nairobi from 21 to 25 February. *MNA/Xinhua*

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ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V "SITTWE" VOY NO. ST116/N

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V "SITTWE" Voy No. ST116/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 28-2-2005 and will be berthing on about 1-3-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Social scientists commemorate late sociologist

BEIJING, 26 Feb—The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) commemorated late sociologist and historian, Chen Hansheng, with an academic symposium on Thursday.

Yu Pei, director of the CASS Institute of World History, said at the symposium that Chen wrote more than 400 academic books and papers in the fields of history, economics, sociology, politics, law and international relations.

Chen's works helped lay a solid theoretical base on the study of history worldwide, Yu said.

Zhou Shulian, a research fellow at the CASS Institute of Industrial Economics, said Chen's viewpoints on China's industrialization, which he wrote about more than 60 years

ago, are still significant to research today.

Hou Jianxin, a professor at Tianjin Normal University, said that wide surveys of rural China in the 1930s, organized and led by Chen, have influenced following studies.

The surveys and reports written by Chen and his team were compiled into the three-volume publication titled *Rural China before Liberation*. Born on February 5, 1897, in Wuxi in Jiangsu, Chen went abroad for study in 1915. He returned to China and taught at Peking University in 1924.

MNA/Xinhua

US "Apache" helicopter crashes, killing two

SEOUL, 27 Feb— A US *Apache* attack helicopter crashed into a hill in Paju city, Gyeonggi Province in South Korea, at around 12:30 pm (0330 GMT) Saturday, killing two US crewmen, reported South Korean *Yonhap* news agency.

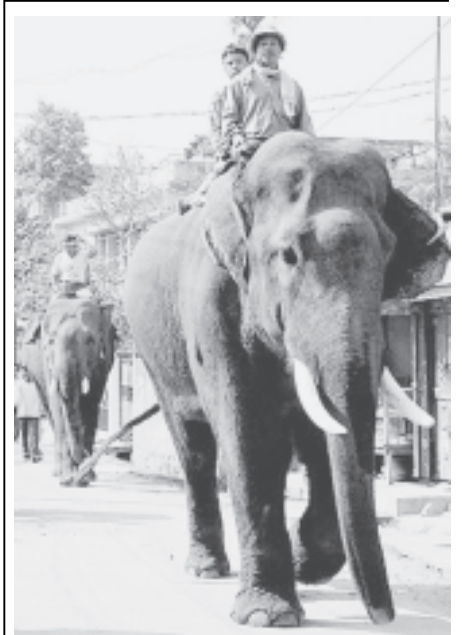
The *AH-64D Longbow Apache* attack helicopter went down during a routine training exercise near its military base in Paju, some 40 kilometres north to Seoul, *Yonhap* quoted a United States Forces Korea (USFK) spokesman Kim Yongkyu as reporting.

MNA/Xinhua

China not to raise electricity price for civil, agriculture use

BEIJING, 26 Feb— China will not raise the electricity price for its residents home use as well as use in agriculture this year, though power crunch is likely to come again, said an official with the state electricity watchdog here on Friday.

China launched a mechanism last year to link the electricity price changes with the coal price fluctuations, but the mechanism applied only to the price of electric power for industrial use, said Shao Bingren, vice chairman of State Electricity Regulatory Commission at a Press conference held by the State Council Information Office here on Friday. *MNA/Xinhua*



Captive elephants are paraded on the streets for food in Guwahati, the main city in India's north eastern state of Assam on 26 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

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Polio eradication campaign launched across Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 27 Feb— A campaign to immunize 100 million African children against polio in 22 countries began on Friday in an effort to stamp out the virus on the continent, a global polio eradication task force said.

"A mass polio immunization drive ... across Africa gained greater urgency from reports that a child has contracted polio in Ethiopia, the first case there in four years," the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in a joint statement.

Last year saw a serious resurgence of polio, with Nigeria now accounting for over 60 per cent of cases worldwide.

"With polio now in its low-transmission season, the next few months are critical to stopping the virus," said the statement published on WHO's official web site.

Ivory Coast would be part of the immunization effort for the first time since civil unrest halted activities last November. The country was then re-infected with the regional epidemic.

"By reaching children cut off from the eradication effort by insecurity and the threat of violence, African leaders have a real opportunity to halt polio's advance," the statement quoted Ezio Murzi, UNICEF regional director for West and Central Africa, as saying.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea would also join the campaign.

Sudan, following the Nairobi peace accord, would immunize children in the north and south. Earlier this month, Sudan and nine neighbouring countries met to discuss coordinating cross-border immunization efforts.

"Ethiopia is concentrating on activities along its northern and western borders, where the new case was found," the statement said.

"Eradication in Africa requires not only reaching all children in the newly-infected areas, but most importantly immunizing every child in those countries which have never interrupted transmission — Nigeria and Niger," said Luis Sambo, WHO regional director for Africa.

The polio virus is now endemic in six countries — Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Niger, Afghanistan and Egypt.

This is down from over 125 when the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched in 1988. The first mass coordinated immunization programme in Africa took place in October and November 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

European scientists think life can be still on Mars

NOORDWIJK (Netherlands), 27 Feb— European Space Agency scientists think that there was and could even still be life on Mars and want a new European mission to the red planet to take samples, a conference heard on Friday.

"Mars is the most Earth-like planet in our solar system," said Agustin Chicarro, ESA Mars Express Project Scientist at the end of a one-week conference during which scientists from around the world discussed ESA's Mars mission findings so far.

They found a large ice sea near Mars' equator that was formed less than five million years ago and believe volcanic activity is still continuing on the North Pole.

The findings on Mars,

one year after a European launch started an orbit around the planet, also serve as a stark warning to earthlings — Mars has no protective ozone layer and the surface is blasted by solar storms and ultraviolet light.

Water vapour destroyed ozone on Mars and a recent increase of water vapour in Earth's stratosphere could be a potential threat to this planet's protective ozone layer that is probably linked to global warming, said scientist Jean-

Loup Bertaux.

"Hints of life on Mars are getting stronger," said Vittorio Formisano whose team found methane and formaldehyde on Mars.

He said there was so much methane produced on Mars that there was reason to believe this had an organic origin. "Life is probably the only source that can produce so much methane." Everett Gibson, from NASA's Johnson Space Centre, said he had held a poll among the 250 scientists at the conference. — MNA/Reuters



A carp with a face resembling a tiger swims in the Wulong Pool at a park in Jinan, east China's Shandong Province on 25 Feb, 2005. Staff at the park said some fish-lovers even called the park and offered a high price to buy the fish. — INTERNET

Quake preparedness vital issue for Japan

TOKYO, on 27 Feb — If a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck Tokyo the economic damage could total 1.0 trillion dollars, a government disaster prevention panel said on Friday.

Quake preparedness is a vital issue for Japan, which is one of the world's most seismically active areas and accounts for 20 per cent of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

In the first official estimate of the economic effects of a major quake with its focus directly below Tokyo — the centre of the nation's financial,

business and political activity — the government panel said damage could amount to 112.0 trillion yen (1.06 trillion dollars).

Deaths in such a scenario could total 11,000. The panel is to draw up recommendations for lessening the damage from such a quake by around this summer.

The predicted economic effects include

some 67.0 trillion yen in "direct damage" such as destruction of buildings and disruption of electricity and water supplies, and "indirect damage" of 45.0 trillion yen. The indirect losses — the effect on economic activity of factors such as transport disruptions — include 25.8 trillion yen in damage to areas outside the capital.

MNA/Reuters

Five -star luxury hotel on ocean floor, planned in Bahamas

MIAMI, 26 Feb — Anyone willing to dish out 1,500 US dollars a night might soon get a chance to come face to face with sharks from the comfort of an undersea hotel room a Florida entrepreneur plans to build in the Bahamas.

"People who are interested in experiencing something they can't find anywhere else in the world will find it a real bargain," says Bruce Jones who heads the 40-million-dollar project.

To date, there is only one such underwater hotel, a small refitted marine lab located in somewhat murky waters just off the coast of Key Largo, Florida.

But Jones says his Poseidon resort will be one of a kind, as guests will not need to don scuba gear to reach their luxury suites.

The hotel, located off the Bahamian island of Eleuthera at a depth of 15 metres (50 feet), will be connected to the mainland

through two tunnels and an escalator, and pressure will be the same as at the surface.

The hotel will have its own restaurant, a bar and 20 large suites with transparent acrylic walls facing coral gardens that can be lit up at night. Guests can expect to see a large variety of tropical fish, tuna and turtles, and with a bit of luck, sharks, from the comfort of their rooms, or even from their private jacuzzis, says Jones. "They will enjoy five-star luxury accommodation, all with stunning views of the underwater world."

The Florida-based entrepreneur says he is currently signing on the last of the investors, most of

them institutional, who will put up the 40 million dollars the Bahamas project should cost.

Jones, who has spent 17 years designing, refitting and selling submarines, is confident the planned resort will become reality, probably sometime in 2006, even though a number of similar projects have foundered in the past.

If both projects come off, he would be competing with the Hydropolis resort, a 220-suite underwater hotel planned off Dubai.

Hydropolis planners say their rooms would go for 500 US dollars a night, but Jones thinks that is unrealistic. — MNA/AFP



This photo released by the National Zoo shows giant pandas Mei Xiang and Tian Tian wrestle playfully in the snow at the zoo in Washington, recently. — INTERNET

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NZ PGA golf tourney

WELLINGTON, 27 Feb— Australian Peter O'Malley dropped three shots in the last three holes and had to settle for a share of the lead with Americans Jeff Gove and Johnson Wagner after the third round of the New Zealand PGA on Saturday.

The trio finished the day locked together on 11-under-par 205 at the Clearwater Resort in Christchurch.

Australian Jarrod Lyle (72) was one stroke off the pace while Colombian Camilo Villegas, Australian Kim Felton and Americans Brandt Snedeker and Jerry Smith were a further shot back on 207.

O'Malley, a six-times winner on the European and Australasian tours, led by three strokes before four-putting the 16th for a double bogey and three-putting the last for a bogey.

"Obviously I am disappointed to finish the way I did but I am playing well and I think I can come back tomorrow and finish off what I should have done today," O'Malley told a news conference after carding a one-under 71.—MNA/Reuters



Southampton's Olivier Bernard (L) and Arsenal's Freddie Ljungberg compete for the ball. Arsenal's lingering hopes of retaining their Premiership title appeared to have been crushed they were held to a 1-1 draw at Southampton.—INTERNET

Arsenal's title hopes fade again

LONDON, 27 Feb— Arsenal's slim hopes of retaining the Premier League title faded again on Saturday when they were held to a 1-1 draw in an entertaining game at Southampton.

The Gunners looked set to leapfrog Manchester United into second place after Freddie Ljungberg's 45th-minute goal put them ahead against a side reduced to 10 men by the sending-off of midfielder David Prutton.

Arsenal forward Robin van Persie, playing because Dennis Bergkamp and Jose Antonio Reyes were suspended, was then needlessly dismissed after receiving his second yellow card after 50 minutes to hand Southampton a lifeline.

The hosts levelled on 67 minutes when towering striker Peter Crouch headed in after goalkeeper Jens Lehmann had flapped at Jamie Redknapp's deep corner.

Arsenal, desperate for victory after their 3-1 Champions League defeat by Bayern Munich, would have won but for inspired Saints goalkeeper Paul Smith, who kept out late efforts from Thierry Henry, Ljungberg and Ashley Cole.

Cole also had a stoppage-time header

disallowed for offside, while Crouch wasted a couple of chances to earn Southampton a victory that would have lifted them out of the bottom three.

Southampton manager Harry Redknapp said he was satisfied with a draw, the club's ninth in 11 home games, although he was furious with Prutton whose second wild tackle resulted in Arsenal's Robert Pires being carried off on a stretcher with a gashed ankle.

"Prutton had no need to tackle Pires," Redknapp told Sky Sports. "It was a foolish thing to do and I've got no sympathy for him at all, we were playing well at that stage and it left us in big trouble.

"Their player (Van Persie) was equally silly, his red card let us back in the game. At halftime I would have settled for a point."

Arsenal stay third on 58 points, one behind Manchester United who entertain Portsmouth later on Saturday. Leaders Chelsea, who play Liverpool in the League Cup final on Sunday, have 68 points.—MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

G	E	N	I	E	A	L	L	E	R	G	Y
A	A	Q	V	O	I	A					
B	A	S	C	U	L	E	S	T	O	I	C
R	A	A	R	E	T	H					
I	N	L	E	T	S	E	R	P	E	N	T
E			O	W	E	D	R				
L	U	S	T	R	E	E	R	A	S	E	D
		K		D	A	N	E				E
A	D	I	P	O	S	E	B	R	A	G	S
I	P	F	R	O	L	C					
D	E	P	O	T	A	B	U	S	I	V	E
E	E	E	T	N	K	N					
D	U	R	A	N	C	E	D	R	E	A	D

Rangers stretch lead in Scottish Premier League

GLASGOW, 27 Feb— Rangers stretched their lead over arch-rivals Celtic at the top of the Scottish Premier League to six points with a 2-1 win over Kilmarnock on Saturday.

The victory was soured, however, by a serious injury to Rangers defender Alan Hutton, who was taken to hospital with a broken right leg following a first-half collision.

Striker Dado Prso fired Rangers ahead with a spectacular long-range effort on 29 minutes, and Kilmarnock defender Simon Ford made a dreadful back pass just before halftime to allow Spanish striker Nacho Novo to pounce for his 22nd goal of the season.

Kilmarnock's Kris Boyd pulled back a late consolation for the visitors but Rangers held on to move to 68 points, six ahead of Celtic who have two games in hand.

"We hope Alan comes back soon," Rangers manager Alex McLeish told reporters. "We wish him all the best and everyone at Rangers will do everything we can to help him get back to full fitness and playing to the level he has been playing to recently for us." In the one Cup quarterfinal played on Saturday, Premier League side Hibernian beat First Division St Mirren 2-0 at Easter Road thanks to goals by Scott Brown and Garry O'Connor.—MNA/Reuters



Rangers took another small step towards regaining the Scottish Premier League title with a 2-1 win at home to Kilmarnock. Dado Prso, shown here in June 2004, scored to give his side a six-point lead over Celtic.

INTERNET

N Korea beat China 4-0 in women's soccer friendly

HAIKOU (Hainan Province), 27 Feb— A national women's soccer team from the North Korea proved too much for the Chinese national youth squad, winning the lopsided match 4-0.

The friendly match took place in the Hainan University in the Chinese island province. The visiting team sent in second-string players to take on the full-strength Chinese team coached by Shang Ruihua.

Chinese did not threaten the North

Korean goalie once while the visitors blasted at least 20 in-goal shots including the 17th minute goal following fine passes.

The North Koreans scored three more goals in the second half.

MNA/Xinhua

Barcelona salvage 1-1 draw with Numancia

MADRID, 27 Feb— Barcelona gave rivals Real Madrid a chance to narrow their lead at the top of the table on Saturday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by basement side Numancia in almost unplayable conditions in a freezing Soria.

A determined Numancia took the lead just before halftime when midfielder Juanlu cracked home with a spectacular overhead kick, but Barca defender Rafa Marquez levelled two minutes after the break when he turned in a corner at the near post.

The draw left Frank Rijkaard's side eight points clear in the standings, but Real can narrow their lead to five if they win Saturday's late match at Deportivo Coruna.

Earlier Barcelona's city rivals Espanyol moved up to fourth place after

first-half strikes from Maxi Rodriguez and Raul Tamudo helped them to a 2-1 win at home to relegation-threatened Albacete.

Levante, meanwhile, provided some much-needed relief for coach Bernd Schuster when they came from a goal down to snatch a 2-1 win away to Hector Cuper's Real Mallorca, who remain in deep trouble after this morale-sapping defeat.

Barca never really warmed to the task in the freezing conditions at Los Pajaritos and were unable to settle into their usual slick passing game on the icy pitch.

It was their modest opponents who adjusted better to the treacherous surface and created the first chance of the game when Juanlu lashed a shot past the post in the third minute.

Barca created just two clear chances in the first half, Xavi clipping a gentle effort into the arms of keeper Juanma after good work by Silvinho on the left and Samuel Eto'o sending a shot skidding past the post just after the half-hour.

Juanlu issued another warning to the visitors when he fired a low free kick past the post and two minutes later he put his side ahead when he smashed home with his close-range overhead kick after the Barca defence had failed to clear a long throw into the area.

Their lead was wiped out, though, just two minutes after the break when Mexico defender Marquez fired past Juanma on the turn after he had come short to meet a Xavi corner.—MNA/Reuters



Numancia's Carlos Merino (L) vies with Barcelona's Rafael Marquez (R) during a Spanish league football match at the Los Pajaritos stadium, in Soria. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

Zimbabwe to reintroduce Senate

HARARE, 27 Feb — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has said the government will re-introduce Senate in the next four to six months, local media reported on Saturday.

"Although we had abolished the Senate, which is the Upper House, we will re-introduce it in the next four to six months. Those who did not make it during the primary elections will be considered for this Upper House," said President Mugabe, who is also the first secretary of ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), at a briefing with ZANU-PF and provincial leaders in Chimanimani on Friday. "The Upper House will take a close scrutiny on the business and laws passed by Parliament before they are enacted into law," he said. Mugabe urged party members to bury all differences created by the primary elections and work together for the success of ZANU-PF in the 31 March plebiscite.

"Losing the primary elections is not the end of the world because there are more elections to come. No one is bigger than the party and losers should accept defeat and work together with the winner to ensure victory of the party," said Mugabe. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Uganda starts polio immunization in 15 northern districts

KAMPALA, 27 Feb — The Ugandan Government started on Saturday the first two rounds of polio immunization targeted at more than one million children in 15 high risk districts bordering Sudan, a statement issued by the Ministry of Health has said.

The two-day campaign aims at reaching 1.45 million children, ranging from newborns to five-year-olds in 15 districts in the northern part of the country, the statement said, adding that the campaign also aims at preventing the importation of the wild polio virus from Sudan, where more than 120 cases have been confirmed since December 2004, including eight in the south. Meanwhile, children under the age of

five will be vaccinated against measles. Health workers will screen children under the age of one for vaccinations against TB, haemophilus influenza and Hepatitis B and women of childbearing age (15-45) for vaccinations against tetanus.

The campaign is being conducted by the Ministry of Health, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). *MNA/Xinhua*

SCO calls for nuclear-free Korean Peninsula

ASTANA, 27 Feb — The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Friday said in a joint communique here that the Korean Peninsula must go nuclear-free to preserve peace and stability in the region.

The SCO — a regional organization grouping China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan — stressed that the six-party talks should be resumed and the nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully.

During the one-day meeting in the capital of Kazakhstan, foreign ministers from the six member nations discussed the situation on the Korean Peninsula and new challenges and threats the region is facing.

The foreign ministers noted in the communique that the relevant parties of the six-party talks — North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, the United States and Japan — and the international community as a whole should be patient and show flexibility and sincerity to prevent the situation from deteriorating and should resume the talks at an early date.

Set up in June 2001, the SCO has been seen as an active player in safeguarding regional and international security.

The ministers also emphasized the significance of a treaty on a nuclear-free Central Asia,

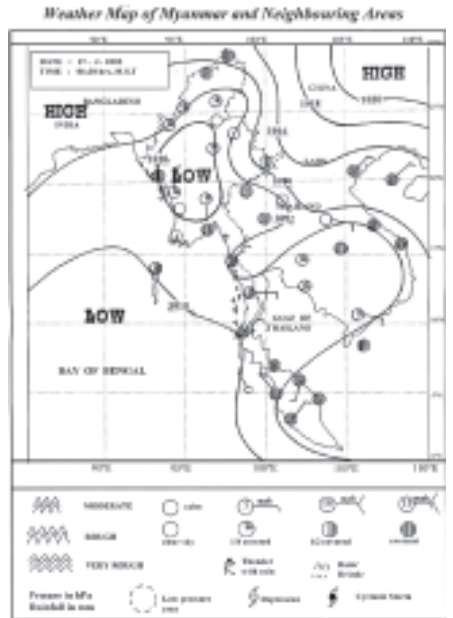
saying they are aware that Central Asian nations plan to sign the treaty in July 2005 in Kazakhstan.

The ministers voiced their support for coordinated measures aimed at cracking down on terrorism, separatism and extremism within the framework of the SCO.

They said that the upcoming SCO secretarial meeting on security in the spring will be of great significance and a stronger role of the SCO is vital to stability and peace in Central Asia.

They also reiterated that the SCO is willing to cooperate actively with the United Nations and other international organizations and countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 27 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.04) inch. Night temperatures were (6°C) below normal in Eastern Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Kayin States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures was Lashio and Kengtung (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-2-2005 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 27-2-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-2-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 26-2-2005 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 27-2-2005 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 (12) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 26-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-2-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kchin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-2-2005: Fair weather.



Monday, 28 February
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music :
-Baby one more time
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music:
-Come undone
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music:
-I love you come too late
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music:
-Sometimes
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
-Fool again
-How could I let you go
-Truely, Madly, Deeply
- 9.00 pm Spotlight on the star
S club 7
-Good times
-Sunshine
-Summer time
Feeling
- 9.10 pm Article
- 9.20 pm Radio Magazine
- 9.35 pm Golden Land's Melody
- 9.45pm News/Slogan
- 10.00pm PEL



Monday, 28 February

View on today:

- 7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာတော်များက အဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်များဖြင့် အသံဇောပညာရှင်တို့က အသံဇောပညာသင်တန်းတော်ကို တက်ရောက် ခေမ္မာတော်ပြုကြပါက ဆရာတော် ဘုရားရှင်မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် တော်တော်တော်
- 7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မာ ခေမ္မာတော်ပြုကြပါက အဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်များဖြင့် အသံဇောပညာရှင်တို့က အသံဇောပညာသင်တန်းတော်ကို တက်ရောက် ခေမ္မာတော်ပြုကြပါက ဆရာတော် ဘုရားရှင်မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် တော်တော်တော်
- 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. Song of national races
- 8:10 am
7. Cute little dancers

- 8:20 am
8. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်း လမ်းဆေးတံတား
- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Grammar made easy
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation
- 4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့ လိုပညာရေး ရရှိနိုင်သည့် အခွင့်အလမ်း (ရတနာအဖွဲ့ဖြင့် ရတနာပေး)
- 5:15 pm
6. Dance Variety
- 5:30 pm
7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတအဖွဲ့
- 5:45 pm
8. Song and dance of national races
- 5:55 pm
9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modren Music Troupe)
- 6:10 pm
10. Discovery
- 7:15 pm
11. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဗျောက်စင်းထုန်း" (အပိုင်း-၇၁)
- 6:30 pm
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
14. Industrial Achievement
- 7:20 pm
15. Musical programme
- 7:35 pm
16. ဝေပွန်းကုန်းကျေးရွာ၏ အမျိုးသား ပါတီဝန်ထမ်း သန့်ရှင်းရေး
- 7:45 pm
17. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ထူးတော်
- 8:00 pm
18. News
- 19. International news
- 20. Weather report
- 21. လူတော်မိုးလေဝသနှင့်ဓလေပေး ခန့်မှန်းချက်
- 22. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သံဗြဲမဲချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၄၂)
- 23. The next day's programme

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



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win offers gold foils to Alaungdaw Kassapa statue.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San...

(from page 1)

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe donated eight requisites to the

Sayadaw.

Similarly, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the commanders, the ministers, senior military officers and the deputy ministers presented eight requisites and alms each to members of the Sangha.

After taking a sermon delivered by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinda, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party shared merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

(See page 8)

Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of Armed Forces Day meets Tatmadaw members of parade columns

YANGON, 27 Feb—

Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe met Tatmadaw members of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade columns at the hall of Yangon Command this morning.

Also present were Chairman of Parade Work Committee Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers, Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, column commanders, commanding officers,



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe meets with Tatmadawmen of parade columns of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.— MNA

company commanders, Tatmadaw members, members of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade.

In his address Chairman of Management Committee for Observ-

ance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said the Armed Forces Day Parade is observed every year on a magnificent scale. It is a great ceremony which indicates unity, high quali-

fication and discipline of the Tatmadaw.

He spoke of the need for Tatmadaw members to make efforts for successful observance of the

Armed Forces Day. He said various committees are providing necessary assistance to the parade columns.

Chairman of Parade Work Committee Vice-

Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint reported measures being taken for the on successful observance of the Armed Forces Day.—MNA

Australia's Scott Strange emerges champion in Myanmar Open

YANGON, 27 Feb— The fourth round and prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Open golf tournament were held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, here, this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented crystal trophy to Australia's Scott Strange who fired a 11-under-par 227 on aggregate and Managing Director Mr Anthony Wong of Rothmans of Pall Mall

Myanmar Pte Ltd, prize cheque.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) gave silver trophy to Best Myanmar Amateur Award winner Bo Bo and crystal trophy to Best Myanmar Player Award winner Min Naing. Officials of Octagon and Han Event Management presented US\$ 500 each to the two Myanmar players and prizes to joint third award winners Ashok Kumar (India) and defending champion Thongchai Jaidee of Thai-

land with 280 each and second award winner Canadian Rick Gibson with 279.

After the prize presentation ceremony, Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and officials posed for documentary photo together with the golfers.

Australia's Scott Strange won US\$ 32,300 for the first prize, Canadian Rick Gibson US\$ 22,260 for the second, Indian Ashok Kumar and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee US\$ 11,200 each for the third. — MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents crystal trophy to first prize winner Scott Strange of Australia in Myanmar Open 2005.— MGF