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**It is the inborn duty of all national races to safeguard the country at the risk of life for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty
SSNA, SSA (Breakaway Group) unconditionally exchange arms for peace**

YANGON, 24 July — A ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of SSNA Brigade-6 led by U Sai Ku and SSA (Breakaway group) led by U Sai Yee who had returned to the legal fold since 1995 was held the Pyidaungsu Sports Grounds in Lashio, Shan State (North), yesterday morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, departmental personnel,

USDA, MWAF, MCWA, WVO, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people totalling over 4,000, 119 members of SSNA Brigade-6 led by U Sai Ku and SSA (Breakaway Group) led by U Sai Yee.

Similarly, the ceremony was attended by Shan national race leaders U Kan Na and U Gon Khay and Palaung national race leader U Aik Mone who had unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, SSA Special Region-3 Chairman U Lwe Moun, KDA Special Region-5 Chairman U Mahtu Naw, KIA Brigade-4 Patron U Lun Taung and their members who had returned to the legal fold. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and Na-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arms handed over by Deputy Commanding Officer U Sai Ku of No 6 Brigade of SSNA.—MNA

tional Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Minister at the

Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presided over the ceremony.

Lashio Township USDA member Daw Nan Shwe Aye and Daw Nan Moe

Moe Theint acted as masters of ceremonies. Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing said that he extended greetings and wished the well-being of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, the ministers, senior military officers and national races who attended the ceremony to exchange arms for peace unconditionally. Members Brigade 6 of SSNA led by deputy brigade commander U Sai Ku and members of SSA (Breakaway group) led by U Sai Yee from Einainglon Village in Lashio Township, Monpa Village in Hsenwi Township, Mongyin Village in Namtu Township and Muse and Namhkam Township returned to the legal fold.



Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspect arms and ammunition handed over by No 6 Brigade of SSNA and SSA (Breakaway Group).—MNA

(See page 16)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 July, 2005

Providing public health care services

The Government established the National Health Committee for the entire national people to be able to keep themselves fit and healthy and enjoy longevity, for development of the health sector, for successful realization of the health policies, and for taking a leading role in implementing the health care services.

In an effort to take care of the public health, the national health projects have been laid down and are being implemented for the people to stay healthy and fit, to be free from diseases and illness and for providing them with treatment and education and knowledge on health. Such measures are being taken with added momentum to keep pace with changes and developments.

At a time when technology is advancing in leaps and bounds, drugs with side effects, packing and content of unauthorized dyes in local-made and imported foods are harmful to the health of consumers.

In this regard, a specific law was enacted. And the Ministry of Health and the Development Affairs Committees have been examining foods and drugs in order that the people can consume quality foods and drugs.

The respective Development Committees in Yangon and Mandalay cities are undertaking the tasks in accord with the prescribed laws. The Development Affairs Departments and the Township Peace and Development Councils are carrying out the tasks in the remaining townships.

After examining the quality, potency and side effects of the drugs, the Drugs Supervisory Committee permits the producers to register only potent drugs without side effects. Severe action is being taken against those who produce substandard medicines and counterfeit drugs.

In the interests of the health of students, the Government formed and assigned duty to the Food and Drug Administration in order to supervise plum jam and other preserved jam and foods at food stalls in schools, markets and major stores in accord with the set standards and quality.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the producers or importers to do their bit in the public health care services being provided by the State by producing or importing only genuine, potent and quality foods and drugs.

Cash donated to repair LawkaNanda Mingalar Lake

YANGON, 24 July — Goldsmith U Hton donated K 300,000 to repair LawkaNanda Mingalar Lake for the people living in Aye Village in Kyimyindine Township, to mark his 83rd birthday, at Aye Village Monastery yesterday.

In addition, the wellwisher U Hton donated K 100,000 for Jivitadana Sangha Hospital and K 70,000 each for Orphanages and National Races Development Parahita (Tiger) School, Home for the Aged of the Little Sisters of the Poor, School for the Blind of Social Welfare department in Kyimyindine, Mary Chapman's School for Dumb, and Mental Health Hospital of the Health Department.

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

F&R Ministry holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 24 July — The Ministry of Finance and Revenue held the third Waso robes offering ceremony at the ministry on Sathmu-1 Street this morning.

Present on the occasion were Maha Gandayi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pannava of Mingaladon Township and members of the Sangha, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife, the deputy minister and wife, departmental heads and staff families.

The minister and wife and officials offered Waso robes and provisions to the monks. — MNA

Minister
Maj-Gen Hla
Tun and wife
Daw Khin
Than Win
offer robes
and alms to
a Sayadaw.
F&R



Attorney-General's Office offers Waso robes

YANGON, 24 July — The 18th Waso robes offering ceremony of Buddhist Sasana Nuggaha Association of Attor-

ney's-General Office was held at the Dhammayon of the Attorney's-General Office at the corner of Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road

and Bahan-2nd street in Bahan Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Attorney-

General U Aye Maung and wife Daw Khin Mya Mya, Deputy Attorney-Generals Dr Tun Shin and U Myint Naing, directors, deputy directors, officials and staff families. At the ceremony, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and party received the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Razikayon Monastery Bhaddanta DhammaPiya. Next, members of Sangha recited parittas.

Afterwards, the Attorney-General and party offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha and shared the merits gained.—MNA



Attorney-General U Aye Maung and wife Daw Khin Mya Mya offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw. —MNA

Tech Digest journal introduced

YANGON, 24 July — Tech Digest journal on engineering and technological matters to be published weekly by Myanmar Engineering Society and e-Empire Media Group, was introduced at FJVCC building at the corner of Strand Road and Botahtaung Pagoda Road in Botahtaung Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were the chairman, vice-chairman, general secretary and officials of MES and Tech Digest and e-Empire Group, publishers and

others.

First, Chairman U Than Myint of MES delivered a speech. An official explained the purpose of the publishing the journal.

Next, officials of MES and the journal replied to the queries raised by those present.

The journal will be in circulation on every Tuesday.

MNA



Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society U Than Myint makes a speech at the introduction ceremony of Tech Digest journal. — MNA

Pentagon's China mily report reflects US "China threat paranoia"

BEIJING, 23 July — The Pentagon's annual report on Chinese military power has reflected its "China threat paranoia" about China's peaceful development, said a commentary carried by China's leading newspaper *People's Daily* on Friday.

The Pentagon's report asserts China's military power could pose a threat to the region, but the fact is that China is a constructive force in the region, said the commentary.

For instance, on Wednesday, one day after the Pentagon released the report, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand began implementing tariff cuts to each other, a significant move toward regional peace and prosperity.

At the fifth summit of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO) on 5 July in Astana, Kazakhstan, four Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan — agreed to strengthen cooperation with China in cracking down on terrorism and in energy exploitation.

The fourth round of six-party talks on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula will start in Beijing next Tuesday — another achievement China has scored in its mediation efforts toward peace and stability in the

Asia-Pacific Region.

Therefore, whether China is a so-called "threat" or a constructive force in the Asia-Pacific, countries in the region will give their own verdict, said the commentary. The commentary also blasted the Pentagon's groundlessly assessment on China's military spending.

The report asserts that the defence sector in China could receive up to 90 billion US dollars in 2005, but the figure was even dismissed by the US strategic think tank Rand

Corporation as "exaggeration," said the commentary. In fact, China's national defence spending amounted only to 211.7 billion yuan (approximately 25.5 billion US dollars) in 2004.

The per capita defence expenditure of the United States was even 77 times that of China, said the commentary. How could China, with such a low level of military spending, pose a threat to the United States? it asked.

By deliberately exaggerating the military imbalance across the Taiwan Straits, the Pentagon's report is designed to strengthen its case for Taiwan buying more advanced US weapons, said the commentary.

MNA/Xinhua



Floats are paraded through a street in Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto on 17 July, 2005 during the climax of the annual Gion Festival. The festival, which has a history of about 1,100 years, is held over a month, and observed its climax on Sunday where floats were pulled through the streets by men dressed in traditional costumes.

INTERNET

Deadly train explosion in Russia

MAKHACHKALA, Russia 24, July — A bomb exploded beneath a train in Russia's violence-plagued Dagestan region on Sunday, killing one person and injuring four others, police said.

A powerful explosive device went off under the first car of the train as it headed to the regional capital, Makhachkala, from the northwestern town of Khasavyurt, derailing the car and leaving a crater on the track bed, said Akhmed Magomayev, deputy chief of the region's railroad police department. A woman who was among five people injured by the blast died on the way to a hospital, Magomayev said. One of the injured was a transport policeman on the train, he said.

State-run Rossiya television showed footage of the damaged train car, its interior a jumble of battered

wooden benches and torn ceiling panels. Dagestan, which borders war-ravaged Chechnya, has been plagued by increasing violence believed connected with insurgents and criminal gangs. The number of terrorist attacks in the region has more than doubled so far this year to 70, a Russian human rights group said last week.

Authorities were trying to determine the strength of the bomb, which was apparently set off by remote control, Magomayev said. The blast occurred at about 5.30 am (0130GMT) about 10 kilometers (six miles) from Khasavyurt. —Internet

Japanese female top world average life span

TOKYO, 23 July — Japanese women have topped the world in average life span for the 20th straight year as of 2004, according to a government report released on Friday.

The average life span for Japanese women were 85.59 in 2004, rising 0.26 year from the previous year, the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry said in its report.

Hong Kong women came second with life expectancy at 84.3 years on average for 2003, followed by Switzerland and France.

Japan's male life span rose 0.28 year to 78.64 years, second only to Icelandic men who led the chart with a life expectancy of 78.8 years between 2001 and 2004. They were followed by Hong Kong, Sweden and Switzerland.

The report also said cancers will be the top killer in the future. Can-

cers, heart diseases and cerebrovascular diseases are expected to account for 56.9 per cent of men's death and 55.0 per cent of women's.

Should there be cures for the three diseases, the life span for men would be extended by 8.74 years, and for women, 7.94 years, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

40 civilians killed in Iraq blast

BAGHDAD, 24 July — The US military said at least 40 civilians were killed in a truck bomb blast outside a Baghdad police station on Sunday, citing Iraqi police as the source, but the police put the death toll at 22.

In a statement, the US military said a flat-bed truck loaded with 500 lbs of explosives blew up at the front gate of the police station in the east of the city. The statement said 25 people were wounded in the blast,

which destroyed a dozen vehicles and left a crater in the street.

Earlier, Iraqi police sources said 22 police and civilians were killed in the explosion and 25 people were wounded.

Internet



An Iraqi man (L) is searched for weapons by two US army infantry soldiers from the Stryker Brigade during a patrol at a cement factory in the town of Arij, near Mosul, in northern Iraq, on 23 July, 2005. —INTERNET

US expects Iraq guerilla attack rate to continue for 6 months

BAGHDAD, 23 July — Guerillas in Iraq probably will sustain the current rate of bloody attacks for at least six months, through the next elections, and expect the United States to give up on Iraq within five years, senior defence officials in Baghdad said yesterday.

Increasingly violent suicide and roadside bombings are expected to continue at a rate of 65 daily — nearly 500 a week — as guerillas hold enough popular support to carry them out, the officials said, outlining the coalition's latest intelligence assessment of security here.

Hoping that support for the government wanes, rebel forces are banking on a coalition withdrawal that allows them to overtake a weakened Iraqi government in the end, the officials said. "We have to make certain assumptions for planning. Because the number of incidents and indicators have been relatively stable, we must assume that

will hold true for the next several months, absent a diplomatic and a political breakthrough [with guerillas]," said Lt Gen John Vines, the commander in charge of US and coalition forces in Iraq.

Internet

Marine reservist killed during combat operation in Iraq

ROUND ROCK (Texas) 23 July — A 24-year-old Marine reservist from Round Rock was killed during a combat operation in Iraq.

The military announced today that Corporal Steven P Gill died on Thursday near Zaidon, Iraq after an improvised explosive went off. Gill was assigned to the Marine Reserve's 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division in San Antonio.

Internet

Kyaukyedwin Overpass can facilitate better transport More overpasses to be built at railroad-road junctions



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers a speech at the inauguration of Kyaukyedwin Overpass. — MNA

YANGON, 24 July — Upgrading Yangon City to have city characteristics of international standard and better transport on motor roads and railroads, the Kyaukyedwin Overpass built by Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation was commissioned into service at the junction of the railroad to Kyaukyedwin Station and the motor road to Yangon International Airport in North Okkalapa Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an opening address, saying that the State Peace and Development Council is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation with momentum to keep abreast of other nations,

international Airport and avoid traffic jams of the vehicles and people coming from North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit (South), (North), (East) and (Seikkan) Townships.

The commander thanked the Head of State and the Government for their permission to build the overpass and the Ministry of Rail Transportation for successful completion of the construction tasks in a short time. Later, the commander urged those present to ensure durability of the overpass.

Next, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min explained matters related to the overpass. He said that priority will be given to construction of overpasses at the junctions of motor roads and railroads in Yangon City. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Kyaukyedwin Overpass was built by engineers of Myanmar Railways within four months

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min explains endeavours made to build Kyaukyedwin overpass. MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party stroll along the Kyaukyedwin Overpass. — MNA



Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Aung Min and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn formally open Kyaukyedwin Overpass.—MNA

ensure growth of national economy, and uplift living standard of the national people. It is obvious that remarkable progress has been made in all sectors of the nation and Yangon Division as well.

Newly opened Kyaukyedwin Overpass can facilitate better transport at the junction of the railroad to Kyaukyedwin Station and the road to Yangon In-

from 20 March 2005 to 24 July 2005.

At the auspicious time, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the overpass.

Next, the commander, the minister, the deputy ministers and guests strolled on the overpass and posed

for a documentary photo at both archways.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin and U Pe Than, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, departmental heads of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, local authorities, social organizations, teachers, students and locals.

Newly-opened Kyaukyedwin Overpass is 2,253 feet long and 36 feet wide. It has 28 feet wide motor road and four feet wide pedestrian ways. The upper structure of the overpass was built of pre-stressed concrete and the lower structure, reinforced concrete. The overpass can withstand 60-ton loads.

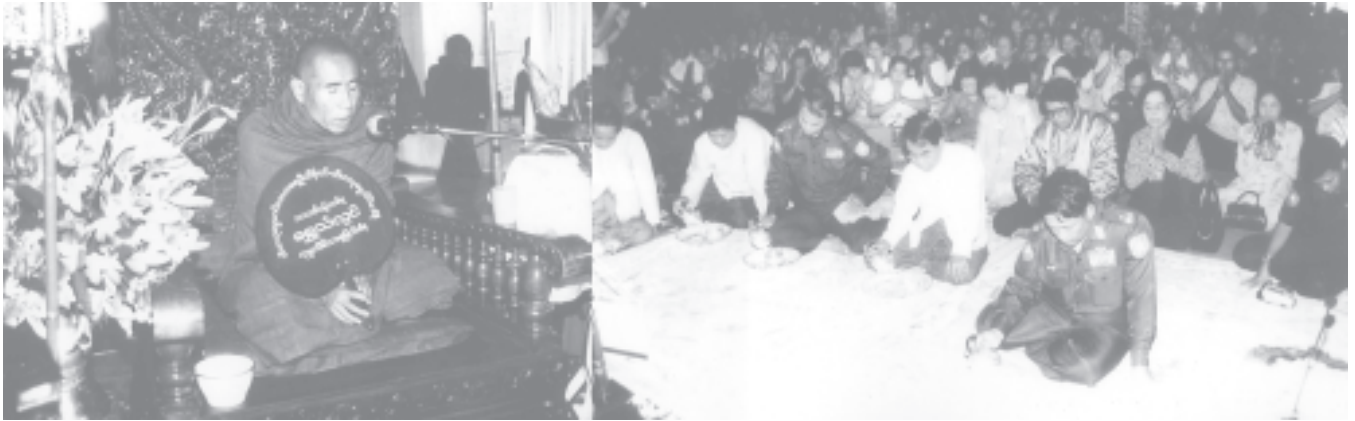
The clearance is 14 feet high for the railroads and 14 feet and 6 inches high for the motor road. The Y shape overpass has 284 feet long approach road to Yangon, 104 feet long approach road to the airport and 186 feet long approach to North Okkalapa Township.

Engineers of Myanmar Railways started construction tasks of the overpass on 20 March 2005 and completed it on 18 July. — MNA



Newly-opened Kyaukyedwin Overpass in North Okkalapa Township. —MNA

57th birthday anniversary of Myainggyingu Sayadaw held



The congregation led by Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing share merits gained at 57th birthday anniversary of Myainggyingu Sayadaw.— MNA

YANGON, 24 July — The 57th birthday anniversary of Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana was held in conjunction with the seventh ceremony to offer 'soon' to 1000 members of the Sangha at Aungmingala Pariyatti Sarhintaik in Sonnantthaswe city (Myainggyinguspecialregion) in Hlinebwe township, Hpa-an District, Kayin State, yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of

Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyu, Director General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the SPDC office, departmental heads, donor Shwe Thanlwin Family, lay persons and local populace.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing supplicated on religious matters on the occasion, and offered alms to the Myainggyingu Sayadaw.

Next, Lt-Col Pe Nyein offered 100 sets of robes donated by the SPDC to the Sayadaw. Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu and departmental heads also donated alms to the Sayadaw. Afterwards, cash and kinds including a copier were donated for Myainggyingu BEHS; five TVs, 100 sets of school uniforms and 100 dozens of exercise books for primary schools in the region; 110 sets of robes, 1000 umbrellas and 1000 pairs of slippers



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presents offertories to Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana. — MNA



Director General Lt-Col Pe Nyein presents offertories to Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana.— MNA

worth K 3,420,000 and K 6.2 million; K 150,000 for Myainggyingu station hospital; K 150,000 for the band troupe of the Myainggyin-gu BEHS; and K 1,180,000. Commander Maj-Gen Soe

Naing offered certificates to the monks who passed the Pali Pahtamapyan Exam. Lt-Col Pe Nyein also offered certificates to the monks who passed the Abhidhama exam. Col Khin Kyu presented

awards to the winners of the 12th performing arts competitions. After the ceremony, Shwe Thanlwin family offered alms to the members of the Sangha.

MNA

Factories inspected

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, this morning inspected Thanlyin Garment Factory No 18 and No 19 under the Myanmar Textile Industries in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division,

gave instructions on improvement of product quality.

During his tour of Thanlyin, the minister also inspected the Slipper Factory No 2 and Paper Packaging Factory of the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries.

He also went to the Plastic Factory in

Thanlyin and inspected production process and plastic ware produced by the factory.

At the Thanlyin Glass Factory under the Myanmar Ceramics Industries in Thanlyin, he also met with officials concerned and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Myanmar archers bag more gold, silver and bronze

YANGON, 24 July — Myanmar archery team now has bagged a total of five gold, six silver, five bronze including one gold, two silver and one

bronze which they won in the events this morning in the 29th National Invitational Archery Championship being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tun Lin Aung got one gold in man's individual recurve (50m), Nyi Nyi Tun one silver in man's individual recurve (50m) and one silver in man's individual recurve (30m), Paw Oo one silver in man's individual compound (30m), Tun Lin Aung one bronze in man's individual recurve (30m) and

Kathy one bronze in women's individual compound (30m) in the events held yesterday.

Zaw Win Htike won one gold in man's individual recurve (70m), Zaw Min Tun one silver in man's individual recurve (70m), Paw Oo one silver in man's individual compound (70m) and Kathy one bronze in women's individual compound, in the events held this morning.

The events continue tomorrow.

MNA



Medalist Paw Oo. — NLM



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects bottles produced by the Thanlyin Glass Factory. — INDUSTRY-1

It is time to restore peace after abandoning their arms when Government is striving for equitable development of national races, hilly regions and plains



Deputy Commander of Brigade-6 of SSNA U Sai Ku speaks words of thanks. —MNA

YANGON, 24 July — *The following is a translation of speech delivered by Deputy Commander of SSA Brigade No 6 U Sai Ku.*

He said that he, Shan national, was born in Panhu Village of Panglong Township. Though the Government has built schools in the region, the national races had no opportunity to study because of lack of security.

The insurgents were also Shan national races. Due to their destructive acts, youths were not educated and also weak in thought. The parents made their children novitiate at the monastery in the village for their education and avoiding recruitment of insurgent groups.

While he was helping his parents on their farm, at the age of 16, he was forced by Major Kan Hsay of SURA as recruitment to attend the training in Panglong region at the border area of Thailand in 1981. Next, he performed his duties in the western region of Thanlwin River in Shan State and arrived Mongyin region in 1995.

He said, they desired for development of education, health, transport, economic and social sectors. However, the government at that time did not concentrate on development of their region. Thus, they took up armed struggle line. At the time of the present Tatmadaw Government, they enjoy development of the regions including rural areas facilitated with schools, hospitals, electricity, roads and bridges. Therefore, they exchanged arms for peace after realizing that the armed struggle line



Ma Nan Mo Hsaing Nun Kham Nyunt translates the speech of U Sai Ku. —MNA

is wrong.

While taking arms, they made their living with extortion money from the local people, and they could not serve the interests of the local people. On the other hand, they found that the Government is carrying out regional development tasks. After realizing that their acts caused the burden to the local people, they unconditionally exchanged arms for peace in the interests of the people. They collected extortion money from the people. They felt shameful for their acts on the local people. At the same time, they realized that the local people gave extortion money and rice without generosity to them. So,

they decided to exchange arms for peace in the interests of the people.

However, they were taking up arms and continued the recruitment and collection of extortion money from the local people. And, they had to hand over the extortion money to the SSNA leaders.

The SSNA leaders did not spend the extortion money on construction of even one road except self-interest including construction of their houses in urban areas. Furthermore, the leaders provided assistance to their families. The leaders spent the money on construction of the buildings in urban areas and on expenditure of their families. But, the members of the Brigade had to live in poverty with only K 500 a month. They felt uneasy in threatening local people for making their living.

At such a time, SSNA Brigade-11 Commander U Kan Na and members unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, and they were warmly welcomed by the local people.

He explained that the purpose of unconditional exchange of arms for peace was the result of the true thought, wish of the people, genuine goodwill of the Government.

Hence, they decided to give up arms of their own accord. In this regard, they unconditionally exchanged arms for peace of their own accord and wish of the people, and without pressure and threat of the Government.

Nowadays, it is not the time to threaten and oppress the people by holding arms and collecting extortion money. It is time to restore peace after abandoning their arms when the Government is striving for equitable development of national races, hilly regions and plains.

He expressed his satisfaction for warm welcome of the people and repented their past misdeeds. In conclusion, he spoke words of thanks for welcome of the Government and the people.

MNA

All members of brigade committed to active participation in development drive of the State in cooperation with national people



U Khun Hsit Nyo with the rank of commanding officer speaks words of thanks.—MNA

YANGON, 24 July — *The following is a translation of the speech delivered by commanding officer Khun Hsit Nyo of Battalion-103 of SSNA Brigade-6.*

He said he was born in Wanhti Village in Laikha Township. He was not able to pursue education when he was young due to the insurgencies in the region, he said. In 1989 he, at the age of 23, was forced to join the MTA for its new recruitment, and had to attend a five-month training course in Homein, he added. Then he moved to Einainglon region in 1995 after operating in Lwelan region.

He said he, after returning to the legal fold in 1996, he served in the SSNA Brigade-6 as a commanding officer. Despite of his return to the legal fold, he said, he had to collect extortion money from local people and carry out new recruitment at the command of superiors of the SSNA. The SSNA members forcefully collected money from the people who had to struggle to make ends meet. He said he had to present the collected money that the people surrendered for fear of their weapons to the SSNA leaders. He said the local people were not giving

money out of their goodwill, but they feared the weapons of SSNA members. So, by and by he said he realized his misdeeds and felt ashamed of himself.

He went on to say that the people were no longer forced to pay extortion money and the region had become peaceful owing to the unconditional exchange of arms for peace by U Kan Na and members of SSNA Brigade-11, U



Ma Lway Tin Tin Kyi translates the speech of U Khun Hsit Nyo.—MNA

Gon Khay and members of Brigade-19 and U Aik Mone and members of PSLA. With peace and stability prevailing in the region, the government was able to build such facilities as schools, hospitals, roads and dams and factories. Now the people have witnessed the prosperity of the region.

During their armed struggle, he said, the SSNA members expected the development of economy, health, education and transport of the region. However, the previous governments failed to carry out the task. That was why they continued their armed struggle line with the wrong sense of racism and locality. In the time of the present government, they had witnessed fruits of development in the region. So, he said, they exchanged arms for peace after

considering the wrong acts of their armed struggle.

The SSNA members, during their armed struggle, had to live on the extortion money collected from the local people. And they could not serve the interests of the region although they had in their mind the development work to be carried out. Khun Hsit Nyo said realizing that they were only a burden to the local people, they surrendered their arms to the State with a view to serving the interests of the people.

He said the people from whom they collected extortion money were none other than national brethren, and they gradually felt ashamed of what they did. Therefore, the members made up their mind to exchange arms for peace in accord with the wishes of the people. He added that their decision was made of their own accord, no one urged them to do so. No one will like those who pick up armed struggle line with a wrong way of thinking. The mass of people who can distinguish between right and wrong accorded warm welcome to the members of SSNA who exchanged arms for peace. He said he thanked the people very much for their warm welcome.

He said they exchanged arms for peace not because of the pressure of the State but because of their own desire after realizing the goodwill of the government and the Tatmadaw. It is not wrong to say that the government always welcomes the eternal peace and the ceremonies for exchange of arms for peace and is willing to implement development tasks with added momentum. That was why they, realizing the prevailing conditions with clear conscience, exchanged arms for peace.

He expressed thanks to the local people who accorded warm welcome and the government which rendered all necessary assistance. All in all, he said, all the members of the brigade is committed to the active participation of the development drive of the State in cooperation with national people.

MNA

There was no pressure on them to unconditionally exchange arms for peace and the government did not force them to do so



U Sai Yee of SSA (Breakaway group) expresses thanks.—MNA

YANGON, 24 July—The following is translation of speech by U Sai Yee of SSA (Breakaway group) who had returned to the legal fold since 1995.

He said that he was a leader of SSA (Shan State Army) and a Shan national. He was born in Weinlan Village in Muse Township. He was in the fifth Grade in the village primary school in 1961 and left the school in the same year.

In 1975, Commander of BCP's Battalion 801 Sein Pan recruited new members in the region.

After 15-day training, he was armed with a pistol and he and other six members were assigned to perform an organizing task in the region.

After disintegration of BCP, SSA assigned him as a member of Muse District Committee and he had to extort money and recruit in the region.

Since SSA returned to the legal fold, he had extorted money from the local people and recruited new members under the command of the No 3 Brigade Commander U Sai Mo. They made no benefit but caused a heavy burden to the people who were making an honest living in the region, he said.

No 11 Brigade of SSNA led by U Kan Na, No 19 Brigade led by U Gon Hkay and PSLA led by U Aik Mone unconditionally exchanged arms for peace this



Ma Roi Hsaing Kham translates the speech of U Sai Yee. — MNA

year. As he felt sympathy for the people, he broke away from SSA and exchanged arms for peace unconditionally, he added.

While he was assigned to SSA, he sent extortion money amounted to K over 20 million per year to leaders of SSA. They did not spend the money on regional development. While they were spending the extortion

money on their luxury, members of SSA had a salary of only K 500 per month and had lived in poverty. As they were armed with weapons, people were living in constant fear of losing their lives. He knew that all Shan nationals felt intense loathing for the acts of SSA, he said.

During their armed struggle, they desired development of education, health, transportation, economy and social sectors in the region. However, the previous governments failed to implement the tasks. Therefore, they took up arms against successive governments. In the time of the present government, as part of regional development, schools, hospitals, roads and bridges have been built and electricity has been supplied in the region including villages. Then, it would be useless to engage in armed struggle and they exchanged arms for peace, he said.

Taking up arms, they extorted money from local people to be spent on regional development tasks. But, they failed to carry out the tasks, he said. They felt that while the government was striving for the regional development, they were a burden to the people, he added. Therefore, they made up their mind to exchange arms for peace. There was no pressure on them to unconditionally exchange arms for peace and the government did not force them to do so.

They realized that there would be no development in the region if they continued the armed struggle, extortion and recruitment, he said. It gave him a great pleasure to exchange arms for peace in conformity with the desires of the people. He pledged that they will participate in regional development tasks joining hands with the people.—MNA

Ma Nan Khaing Aye Chan of Government Technological College in Lashio



Local Shan national race Daw Nan Khaing Aye Chan.— MNA

YANGON, 24 July —The following is translation of speech by Daw Nan Khaing Aye Chan of Government Technological College in Lashio.

Ma Nan Khaing Aye Chan said that the national races have been living in Shan State (North) since time immemorial. Due to evil legacy of colonialists, some Shan national races were engaged in armed insurgencies under the influence of wrong view and conviction. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government those armed conflicts had been put to an end, and the security of local people was assured. At present, peace and stability prevailed in the entire Shan State.

In the past, local people were not able to have access to education, health and religion and their food, clothing and shelter needs were not satisfied. Since there was a lack of peace and stability, Shan State had experienced bursts of gunfire and the local people had to do farming work in fear. Although they were engaged in farming undertakings in all seriousness, they were not able to enjoy the fruitful results. They had to pay extortion money with those realized from the farming work. As various kinds of armed groups reigned in Shan State, there were different leaders in different regions. Although they collected extortion money region-wise, they did not serve the interests of those regions at all.

Since the national races faced difficulties in food, clothing and shelter needs, they had to rely solely on monastic education. As the youths in the region had no formal education, they were at the mercy of armed insurgencies and had to lead their life in the jungle for years.

To stay away from armed insurgents, some youths entered into monkhood but they were not free from the dangers. Because, they had to pay if they were not in a position to fulfil the quota of new recruitment.

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, efforts are being made for development of border areas and national races. As a result, the national reconsolidation has been forged and bursts of gunfire in Shan State faded away. Local people have been enjoying the fruits of peace and stability. However, there is still extortion money in some regions. It is believed that the remaining armed groups will follow suit, realizing the goodwill of the national brethren.

At present, in Shan State, armed groups led by U Kan Na, U Aik Mone, U Gon Khay, U Sai Ku and U Sai Yi, who took the armed struggle line against the government in the past, unconditionally exchanged arms for peace and they are now engaged in regional development tasks hand in hand with the government. As a result, significant progress has been made in HseU, Konkauk, Monyaw, Mongkyet, Manton, Nanpong, Mongyin, Muse and Namkhan regions.

With prevalence of peace and stability in the region, the local people have been able to cause hold donation ceremonies, doing meritorious deeds.

At a time when peace and stability is prevailing in the nation, some western nations, resorting to various ways and means, attacking our country as there has not emerged a government of their liking. Some big nations condemned the terrorist acts in the strongest terms when they were subjected to bomb explosions. They formed European Union. But they abetted underground and aboveground destructive elements to cause disintegration of national unity and the Union.

At a time when efforts are being made for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the accusation to the effect that the Tatmadaw has put pres-

sure on peace groups into handing over their arms is totally untrue.

The peace groups forsook their armed struggle line after realizing the genuine goodwill of the government, which is engaged in national and regional development tasks such as building bridges and roads, schools, hospitals, universities, dams and reservoirs and farming infrastructures.

As peace and stability prevailed in Muse, Namkhan, Mongton and Hsenwi, the local people will be soon able to engage in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The entire national people as well as local people welcomed our brethren who unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, which will contribute to ensuring further development of Shan State.

At the same time, we invited those who are still engaged in armed struggle line to be in oneness with the people as soon as possible like the groups led by U Kan Na, U Aik Mone, U Gon Khe, U Sai Ku and U Sai Yi. It is time for them to renounce their arms, which do not serve any interests.

She, on behalf of the local people in Shan State, invited and called on those who are still engaged in armed insurgencies to quit their arms and take part in regional development tasks in order that their regions enjoy further development.—MNA



Daw Nan Shwe Aye and Daw Nan Moe Moe Theint act as masters of ceremonies. — MNA

Whoever makes instigation among national races, the people are consolidating national unity



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arm from Commanding Officer U Khun Hsit Nyo.— MNA

(from page 16)

sovereignty. With the sound decision, U Sai Ku and U Sai Yee exchanged arms for peace. Such deeds would contribute towards the regional development and bring about perpetual peace that the national people desire, he added.

The commander recalled unconditional exchanges of arms for peace in Hsenwi on 12-4-2005, Mantung Township on 29-4-2005 and Lashio on 20-5-2005. This ceremony is the fourth one. Local people warmly welcomed the leaders U Kan Na, U Aik Mone, U Gon Khay and U Sai Ku and U Sai Yee. He hoped that they and their families would be happy and could share their pleasure. He urged the rest brethren hold-

ous means.

He said the national races have been living in the same land drinking water for the same source for thousands of years and they are inseparable. It is time all achieved the goal of eternal peace with the abandonment of armed struggle line and realizing of Union spirit, he said.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arm from Commanding Officer U Lauk Hlyam.— MNA

He quoted Head of State Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe as saying that it is essential to safeguard the people within the frame of law for building a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The commander urged the people to be one with

He said he would fulfil the requirements of the members of SSNA Brigade-6 and SSA (breakaway group) including security and provide assistance in transport, education, health, social and economic sectors for regional development.

He also urged them to implement the tasks of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Next, Deputy Commander U Sai Ku of SSNA Brigade No 6, Commanding Officers U Khun Hsit Nyo, U Lauk Hlyam, U Aik Pwe and U Sai Lu, Deputy Commanding Officer U Sai Su and U Sai Yee of SSA (Breakaway Group) handed over arms and weapons to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein. The arms and weapons



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arm from Commanding Officer U Aik Pwe.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arm from Commanding Officer U Sai Lu.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arm from Deputy Commanding Officer U Sai Su.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts arm from SSA (Breakaway Group) leader U Sai Yee.— MNA

ing arms with suspicion and narrow racism not to heed the instigations of neo-colonialists and their minions who are trying to break up the Union with vari-

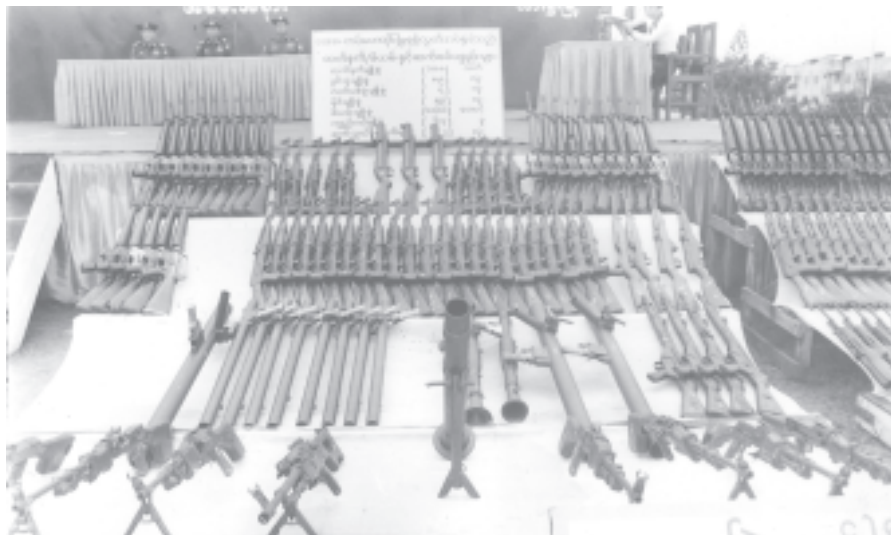
the government and the Tatmadaw and to be aware of instigations of external and internal elements and to prevent the danger against the country.

handed over by SSNA Brigade were one 60-mm mortar, one 67 rocket launcher, one 78 rocket launcher, eight M-82 launchers, three M-625 Homein-made launchers, eight M-23 sub-machine guns, three M-79s, 28 M-16s, three M-21s, 35 M-22s, four BA-63s, two .38 carbines, one 9-mm pistol, six Para-pistols, two homein-made pistols, one revolver, one homein-made hand gun, totalling 108 guns, 98 shells, 1,888 rounds of ammunition, 64 magazines, 12 walkie talkies, 40 detonators, 43 detonators, 59 plastic mines and seven grenades. The arms and weapons handed over by U Sai Yee of SSA (Breakaway Group) were 11 assorted arms, 6 magazines and 67 rounds of ammunition.

Deputy Brigade Commander U Sai Ku of SSNA Brigade No 6 explained the purpose of unconditional exchange of arms for peace and thanked for warm welcome of the Government, the Tatmadaw and the local people in Shan language. Shan national Ma Nan Mo Hsaing-Nan Kham Nyunt translated the speech of U Sai Ku from Shan to Myanmar language. (The speech of U Sai Ku is reported separately.)

Commanding Officer U Khun Hsit Nyo of SSNA Brigade-6 explained the purpose of unconditional exchange of arms for peace and expressed

(see page 9)



Arms and ammunitions unconditionally exchanged for peace by SSNA Brigade No 6. — MNA

Whoever makes instigation among national races, the people are consolidating national unity

(from page 8)
gratitude in Shan language. Ta-aung Palaung national Ma Lway Tin Tin Kyi translated the speech of U Khun Hsit Nyo from Shan to Myanmar language.

(The speech of U Khun Hsit Nyo is reported separately.)

U Sai Yee of SSA (Breakaway Group) explained the purpose of unconditional exchange of arms for peace and thanked for warm welcome of the Government, the Tatmadaw and the local people in Shan language.

Kachin national Ma Ywe Hsaing Kham translated the speech of U Sai Yee from Shan into Myanmar language.

(The speech of U Sai Yee is reported separately.)

Local Shan national Daw Nan Khaing Aye Chan delivered a welcoming speech and expressed thanks for the development, peace and stability of the region.

(The speech of Daw Nan Khaing Aye

Chan is reported separately.)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented flower baskets to Deputy Brigade Commander U Sai Ku of SSNA Brigade No 6, Commanding Officers U Khun Hsit Nyo, U Lauk Hlyam, U Aik Pwe and U Sai Lu, Deputy Commanding Officer U Sai Su and leader of SSA (Breakaway Group) U Sai Yee.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented flower baskets to Palaung national leader U Aik Mone and Shan national leaders U Kan Na and U Gon Khay.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt gave away cash assistance to SSNA Brigade-6 Deputy Commander U Sai Ku, SSA (Breakaway Group) leader U Sai Yee and Shan national race leaders U Kan Na and U Gon Khay, Palaung national race leader U Aik Mone for their members individually.

Minister for Live-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets national race leaders at the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace. — MNA

stock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein handed over 50 piglets each and bags of feedstuff each for a month to Palaung national race leader U Aik Mone of Mongton region, Shan national race leader U Gon Khay of HseU/Kunkauk region and Shan national race leader U Sai Ku of

Monyin region.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented five tractors to Palaung national race leader U Aik Mone and three tractors to Shan national race leader U Kan Na provided by the State.

Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone handed over two fire engines provided by the State to U Aik Mone.

The ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace ended at 11.50 am.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party inspected arms and ammunition handed over by SSNA

Brigade-6 and SSA (Breakaway Group), fire engines, tractors, piglets and feedstuff for the groups.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted those who unconditionally exchanged arms for peace, national race leaders and local people.

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gifts to Deputy Commander U Sai Ku of SSNA Brigade-6, commanding officers U Khun Hsit Nyo, U Lauk Shan, U Aik Pwe and U Sai Lu and deputy commanding officers U Sai Su and U Sai Yee of SSA breakaway group.

MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Their Sein cordially greets those attending the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of SSNA Brigade-6 led by U Sai Ku and SSA (Breakaway group) led by U Sai Yee who had returned to the legal fold since 1995.

MNA



Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Their Nyunt presents cash provided by the State to Deputy Commander U Sai Ku of Brigade-6 of SSNA, U Sai Yee of SSA breakaway group, Shan national race leader U Kan Na and U Gon Khay.

MNA



A ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of SSNA Brigade-6 led by U Sai Ku and SSA (Breakaway group) led by U Sai Yee who had returned to the legal fold since 1995 in progress at the Pyidaungsu Sports Grounds in Lashio, Shan State (North).— MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo hands over three tractors provided by the State to U Aik Mone and five tractors to U Kan Na.—MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presents piglets and feedstuff provided by the State to U Aik Mone, U Gon Khay and U Sai Ku.—MNA



Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presents two fire engines provided by the State to U Aik Mone.—MNA



Assorted arms and ammunition seen at the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of SSNA Brigade-6 and SSA (Breakaway Group).
MNA

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Sri Lanka ITN launches Satellite Digital Video Broadcast

COLOMBO, 23 July — Sri Lanka Independent Television Network (ITN) has become Sri Lanka's first television channel to launch Satellite Digital Video Broadcast (DVB-S) Direct To Home (DTH), Daily News reported on Friday.

"When most of the countries transform its analogue transmission system to digital technology, it is a pity that we haven't taken any significant step forward towards this direction," said ITN Chairman Newton Gooneratne.

"That is primarily due to non-availability of required funds," he added. Although there are nearly 10 TV channels, there is not a single TV channel which is having its entire transmission beamed to the north and east. —MNA/Xinhua

Nepal pays back \$115m foreign debt

KATHMANDU, 23 July — The Nepali Government has paid back 8.09 billion Nepali rupees (115.57 million US dollars) worth of foreign loans during last fiscal year (16 July, 2004 to 15 July, 2005), Financial Comptroller General Office (FCGO) said here on Friday.

"As per the agreement reached with various bilateral and multilateral lenders, the total amount used in serving foreign loans was 7 per cent of the national budget of the last fiscal year," the FCGO said in a report.

"About 5.95 billion Nepali rupees (85 million US dollars) was used to service the principal debt while the remaining 2.14 billion Nepali rupees (30.57 million US dollars) went for clearing the interest," the report said.

The economic survey for the fiscal year 2004/2005 released recently puts the total foreign debt at 235.4 billion Nepali rupees (33.63 billion US

dollars) by mid-April, 2005.

The latest figure released by FCGO, meanwhile, shows that Nepal received foreign loans amounting 7.12 billion Nepali rupees (101.71 million US dollars) in the first 11 months of the last fiscal year.

In the domestic debt front, the government spent 11.65 billion Nepali rupees (166.4 million US dollars) to pay back, which includes 7.58 billion Nepali rupees (108.28 million US dollars) for principal and remaining 4.07 billion Nepali rupees (58.14 million US dollars) for interest payment.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe's earnings from exports grow in first half of '05

HARARE, 23 July — Zimbabwe's total earnings from exports grew by a remarkable 7 per cent in the first half of 2005 to 877 million US dollars compared to 822 million recorded during the same period last year.

Announcing the mid-term monetary policy review on Thursday, Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono attributed the increase in export growth this year to increased capacity utilization and declining inflation up to the first quarter of 2005.

He said exports from the mining sector, which has generally seen an improvement in performance over the period, increased by 46 per cent compared to the same period last year.

The governor added the sector also contributed about 42 per cent to export inflows generated since January 2005.

"There is greater potential for the mining sector to increase the proportion it contributes to export earnings, benefitting from increased support to mining houses," he said.

Platinum, the fastest growing sub-sector in the mining sector, contributed 16.2 per cent and constituted the greatest proportion of projected earnings, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Over 40,000 Tanzanians to get free AIDS drugs by 2005

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 23 July — A total of 44,000 HIV/AIDS sufferers in Tanzania will get anti-retroviral drugs for free by the end of this year, according to reports reaching here on Thursday.

The Health Ministry announced in the Parliament on Wednesday that the government had set aside 20 million US dollars for the purchase of anti-retroviral drugs and the free-drug distribution programme would benefit 23,000 Tanzanians living with HIV/AIDS between July and December this

year. According to the ministry, so far the government has been dispensing free-drugs at the 96 health centres across the country to 21,000 patients, including 4,240 children. An estimated two million people have been infected with HIV/AIDS in the East African country

with a population of 35 million. The disease claims some 140,000 lives a year and has made 12 per cent of the country's children AIDS orphans. Tanzania has envisaged to serve up to 500,000 HIV/AIDS sufferers with free-drugs in a period of five years. —MNA/Xinhua

Greek Parl Commission approves draft law on labour reform

ATHENS, 23 July — The Social Affairs Commission of the Greek Parliament on Thursday approved, in principle, a draft law envisaging reforms in labour relations in the country.

After the voting, Labour Deputy Minister Nikos Aggelopoulos told reporters that the new law would be judged "in action", while opposition party deputies warned that the new legislation would boost unemployment and that it was not dealing with Greek enterprises' competitiveness or a trend to transfer their production abroad.

Government deputies in the Commission voted for the draft, while opposition party deputies voted against it.

The draft legislation would be tabled to the Parliament's summer session next Tuesday.

All opposition political parties urged for the withdrawal of the draft law, while the main opposition PASOK party leader

George Papandreou said his party would abolish the law when he comes to power.

Labour Minister Panos Panagiotopoulos reiterated that the law did not abolish an eight-hour work, but Greece's largest trade union umbrella GSEE said it would lead to a significant decline in workers' incomes.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rain causes tremors in German Alps

BERLIN, 23 July — Heavy rain has triggered a series of tremors at the foot of the German Alps, Bavarian Environment Minister Werner Schnappauf said on Wednesday.

"Scientists had long suspected a connection between heavy rainfall and clusters of small quakes in this part of the Alps," Schnappauf said in a statement, adding "the proof is a small sensation among experts".

Since last Friday, more than 30 small quakes have been recorded beneath the Hochstaufen Mountain in

Bavaria, most of which will not have been noticed by residents, the minister said.

The strongest had a magnitude of 2.7 on the Richter Scale. An official from the ministry said that the tremors were probably caused by the rain that dissolves salty stone inside the mountain. — MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by the International Management Group, Manchester United forward Ruud van Nisterloo, left, is tackled by Lee Wai Man of Hong Kong national team during their friendly soccer match in Hong Kong on 23 July, 2005. Manchester United won 2-0.

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A unidentified counter terrorism police officer patrols a platform at London's King's Cross train station, as security is stepped up after a second wave of bomb attacks on Thursday plunged tube and bus networks into chaos in London, on 23 July, 2005. Police in London have arrested two men in connection with four bomb attacks on three subway trains and a double-decker bus on 21 July.—INTERNET

China, Djibouti to develop friendly relations between Armed Forces

BEIJING, 23 July— Armed Forces between China and Djibouti will increase exchanges and cooperation, said a senior Chinese military officer here on Friday.

Liang Guanglie, Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), made the remark during his talks with his Djibouti counterpart Fathi Houssein.

Liang, also a member of China's Central Military Commission, said the two nations have conducted good cooperation in various fields.

"China attaches importance to the friendship with Djibouti Armed Forces and will further increase and deepen the cooperation between the two sides," said Liang.

He also expressed China's appreciation of Djibouti's adherence to the one-China policy and its support to China on

international issues such as human rights.

Fathi said the friendly relations between the two Armed Forces have been deepened and cemented in recent years and he hoped to further step up the exchanges and cooperation between the two nations as well as the two Armed Forces. —MNA/Xinhua

Rafsanjani urges "precise strategy" for defending nuke rights

TEHERAN, 23 July — Iran's former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here on Friday that Iran should adopt "precise strategy" to defend its legal rights to developing nuclear technology, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"We should adopt a very precise strategy to eliminate the possibility of violation of this legitimate right for Iranian nation," Rafsanjani was quoted as addressing the Friday prayer worshippers.

Rafsanjani said it was not acceptable for the Iranian people and the government to permit Iran's legal rights to be violated. "It seems the global monopolistic powers are determined to violate the legitimate right of the Iranian nation in making use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes," he said.

"It is not acceptable for our people as well as our wise officials to let such disgrace be recorded in our history," Rafsanjani stressed.

Rafsanjani's comments echoed the statement of president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who defeated Rafsanjani in the presidential runoff election on June 24 and is due to take oath of office early next month.

"My government will never accept the right of the Iranian nation to enjoy nuclear energy for civilian purposes enshrined by the Non- Proliferation

Treaty be violated," Ahmadinejad said on Thursday.

The European Union (EU) promised in last nuclear talks in late May to offer Iran a comprehensive proposal in two months, including a package of economic and political incentives, to encourage Teheran to abandon nuclear ambition.

Iran and the EU have been negotiating an Iran's controversial nuclear programme since Iran suspended uranium enrichment activities in November 2004.

Britain, France and Germany which negotiate

on behalf of the EU has threatened to back a US demand to refer Iran's nuclear case to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions if Teheran resumes enrichment related activities.

The United States has accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons secretly, but Teheran rejects the charge and insists its nuclear programme is purely for generation of electricity.—MNA/Xinhua

WHO says nine million Ugandans at risk of sleeping sickness

KAMPALA, 23 July — The World Health Organization (WHO) has said about nine million Ugandans are at the risk of contracting sleeping sickness, according to a local report on Friday.

Acting WHO representative in Uganda Rosamund Lewis was quoted as saying that 14 out of the 56 districts in the country were affected by the disease. Lewis said other seven districts were threatened by the disease transmitted by tsetse flies. "About 500 out of every 100,000 people are attacked by sleeping sickness in the affected districts annually and only 20 per cent of the population there has access to detection and treatment services," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Japan hails China's currency revaluation

TOKYO, 23 July — Senior Japanese Government officials and business leaders Friday praised China's revaluating its RMB yuan the day before.

Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki told reporters that Japan welcomed the revaluation, saying the move "not only contributes to the stable development of China's economy, but also has merit in terms of boosting Japan's economy".

"Looking from the perspective of Asia's currency system, I would say it was a historic step," he said. China announced Thursday the yuan's trading rate with the US dollar will rise by 2 per cent, and the yuan to the dollar pegging system is switched to a basket of foreign currencies. "It was a big decision... and it was a major change," Tanigaki said. "We must closely monitor how the dollar-pegged system will transform into the currency basket system."

Heizo Takenaka, Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy, also said the severance of the yuan's decade-old pegging to the dollar "will be described in history as a very big step" toward ensuring China's greater contribution to the world economy. —MNA/Xinhua

Uganda declares referendum day as public holiday

KAMPALA, 23 July — The Ugandan Government has declared 28 July, the day the country will hold its referendum on the change of political system, as a public holiday.

The announcement was made by Minister for Public Service, Okumu Ringa on Thursday at the weekly news briefing. Okumu was quoted by local Press on Friday as saying that it is the government's practice to make national election days public holidays.

He urged Ugandans to vote for the return of multiparty system in the country which has been in abeyance for close to two decades. The current government stopped the operation of political parties in the mid-1980s because of what it called their bad history of divisionism.

President Yoweri Museveni then argued that the multiparty system of governance was partly responsible for the political turmoil the country faced in early 1980s.

He started the movement system of governance whereby individuals stand for elections without any backing from political parties

In the last several weeks, President Museveni has been campaigning in the countryside for the return of the

multiparty system of governance. On 28 July, the Ugandans will vote on whether to return the multiparty system of governance or retain the movement system of governance.

Observers here believed that the multiparty system is likely to be voted since the government and the opposition parties are all in favour of the multiparty system.

Uganda will hold multiparty general elections in March 2006 following the referendum.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor walks past sand sculpture 'Prayer for Mankind' made by Czech sculptors, Frantisek and Josef Balek, during a festival of sand sculpture in St Petersburg, Russia, on early 22 July, 2005 with St Isaac's Cathedral and Admiralty building in the background.—INTERNET

S P O R T S

UEFA receives five bids to host Euro 2012

LONDON, 23 July— UEFA has received five bids to host the European Soccer Championship in 2012, European soccer's governing body said in a statement on Friday.

They comprise joint bids from Croatia-Hungary and Poland-Ukraine and single bids from Greece, Italy and Turkey.

Bids from Azerbaijan, Romania and Russia, which were submitted by the initial deadline in February, were not followed through by Thursday's final deadline.

The five bidding candidatures will be reduced to a short-list of three on

7 November and the decision on the host will be taken by UEFA's Executive Committee in December 2006.

Italy is the only country to have staged a version of the finals in the past, hosting a four-team tournament in 1968 and an eight-team tournament in 1980.

Last year's finals were staged in Portugal and the next finals will be held jointly by Austria and Switzerland in 2008. —MNA/Xinhua



Thailand's Datsakorn Thongloa, left, fights for the ball with Bolton's Johann Smith during their Premier League Asia Trophy soccer match at Rajamagala Stadium in Bangkok on 23 July, 2005. Bolton beat Thailand 1-0. —INTERNET

Kazakhstan to bid for 2014 Winter Olympics

ASTANA, 23 July— Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, is to bid for the 2014 Winter Olympics, said the Kazakh Olympic Committee (KOC) on Friday.

KOC president Timur Dosymbetov was travelling to Switzerland to submit the proposal to the International Olympic Committee by the 28 July deadline.

Almaty, a top winter sports centre in Soviet times, had an unsuccessful bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics, but

hosted the World Junior Ice Hockey Championships in 2003.

Two other cities from the former Soviet Union — Russia's Sochi and Georgia's Bakuriani, are also making bids for the 2014 Games.

Other bidders include Pyeongchang of South Korea, Salzburg of

Austria, Dstersund of Sweden, Jaca of Spain and Sofia of Bulgaria.

The host city will be chosen by the IOC in 2007. —MNA/Xinhua

Panamanians celebrate participation in Gold Cup soccer final

PANAMA CITY, 23 July— The Panamanians celebrated until the early hours of Friday the qualification to the final of the Gold Cup, to be against the United States, after the 3-2 victory over Colombia.

Hundreds of persons took to the streets of Panama City and other cities of the country to participate in a vehicle caravan and express their joy.

At the start of the present edition of Gold Cup, Panama defeated Colombia 1-0, considered by many as one of the favourites to win the Cup.

Local sports analysts applauded the fact that Panama escalated nearly 80 positions in the general ranking of the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) thanks to their participation in this edition of the tournament of the North/Central American and Caribbean Confederation (CONCACAF), in which Colombia participated as a guest.

Panama, which is in the last place of

the CONCACAF heat of the Germany 2006 World Cup, will meet the United States in the final. The North American team is one of the strongest in the region.

Local daily La Prensa of the Panamanian capital said this latest victory for the Central American team confirms the presence of a group of superb players and an experienced coach. Panamanian President Martin Torrijos Thursday evening termed as wonderful his country's national soccer team's qualification to the final of Gold Cup.

Local journalists coincided in terming this event as the best participation in the history of soccer in Panama, where the sports with a greater tradition are boxing, baseball and basketball. —MNA/Xinhua

FIFA says S Africa makes good start of 2010 World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 23 July— South Africa has made a good start in its preparation to host the 2010 soccer World Cup, but the work will enter into the real stage only after the 2006 event in Germany, a spokesman of the world soccer's governing body FIFA said here on Friday.

A seven-member FIFA team has just finished their visit to eight of South Africa's 13 cities bidding to host the games in 2010.

"I think I speak on behalf of all of my colleagues when I say that we feel that South Africa has made a good start," said Marcus Siegler, FIFA communications director.

"We had a very good impression. Everywhere we went we were received extremely well," he said.

Siegler said the cities, stadiums, provinces were well prepared and well documented and showed good awareness of all FIFA's regulations, according to a report of

the SAPA news agency.

Cities visited by the delegation included Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Durban and Cape Town.

The number of cities to host the World Cup games will be between eight and 10, said South African Sports Minister Makhenkesi Stofile.

The FIFA team's preliminary inspections of the proposed venues and facilities were interpreted by local media as the start of the countdown to the 2010 showpiece.

Siegler has suggested that the identities of the

host cities and the stadiums were still far from being finalized at this stage as FIFA officials would first want to assess all the earmarked venues.

He said the decision was normally taken after the next World Cup in Germany, which means South Africa could announce the host cities by the end of next year.

"There's still a lot of work (for South Africa) to do. There's even work for Germany to do with one year to go before they host the World Cup," he said on Friday.

—MNA/Xinhua

Roberto Carlos given go-ahead to secure dual-nationality

MADRID, 24 July — Real Madrid left-back Roberto Carlos hopes securing dual-citizenship of Spain and Brazil will free up one of the club's three non-European Union places for transfer target Robinho.

Roberto Carlos has been given the go-ahead to complete the process to obtain an EU passport when he returns from the club's tour of Asia and the United States on 30 July, Spanish sports daily AS said on Saturday.

"I am delighted to be able to get an EU passport," said the Brazilian. "We have been waiting for this to happen for a long time and at last it has been resolved."

Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) rules allow clubs only three non-EU players in each squad.

Last season Real's were occupied by Argentine defender Walter Samuel, Brazilian striker Ronaldo, and Roberto Carlos.

With Real trying to close the deal to sign Brazilian striker Robinho, the latest news would free up a place in the squad should the deal be completed.

"It would be really satisfying to free up my place to my friend Robinho when it is all resolved," Roberto Carlos added. Samuel and Ronaldo are also reported to be close to securing dual-nationality. —MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's player Luis Figo, right competes with Beijing Hyundai's Tao Wei during an exhibition match that's part of Real Madrid's Asian tour in Beijing, China, on 23 July, 2005. Real Madrid won 3-2 during the match that was played on a rain-drenched field. —INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

C	L	C	S	P	I
H	E	I	G	H	T
E	G	A	A	C	A
W	I	N	E	S	A
I	I	M	H	R	M
N	E	T	S	B	R
G	E	P	O	D	U
A	P	A	D	D	Y
G	C	R	S	I	B
A	L	L	O	T	T
U	L	O	I	E	S
G	E	W	G	A	W
E	N	L	S	M	R

Timorese Minister leaves for home

YANGON, 24 July— Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, who was on his visit to Yangon at the invitation of U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, left here this evening. The visiting Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister of

the Union of Myanmar, General Soe Win on 23 July 2005, U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development on 22 July 2005 and U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs on the same day.

The Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Dr Jose Ramos Horta was briefed on the Development of the Union of Myanmar by the

Minister of Foreign Affairs on 21 July 2005 and; a presentation was also made by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel on 22 July 2005.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of visiting Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Dr Jose

Ramos Horta at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel in the evening of 22 July 2005.

The visiting Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon. — MNA



Minister U Nyan Win meets with Senior Minister Dr Jose Ramos Horta of Democratic Republic of Timor Leste and party.—MNA

Democrats spotlight CIA leak in radio address

WASHINGTON, 24 July — Democrats slammed President George W Bush's response to a top aide's role in outing a covert CIA operative on Saturday, turning their radio address over to an ex-agent critical of his actions.

Larry Johnson, a former CIA agent and registered Republican, accused Bush of flip-flopping on his promise to fire anyone at the White House implicated in the leak.

Democrats have called on Bush to fire top adviser Karl Rove or revoke his security clearance after he was identified by a reporter as being a source in the leak of Valerie Plame's name two years ago after her husband, former diplomat Joseph Wilson, criticized the

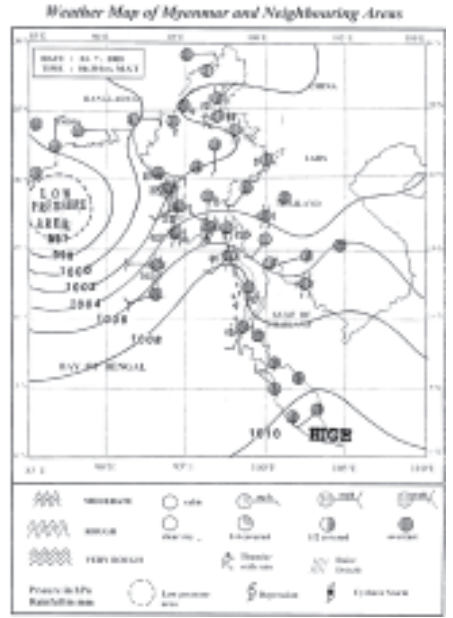
White House's justification for going to war in Iraq. Bush initially said he would dismiss anyone involved in exposing a covert CIA agent. But as attention in the case focused on White House aides in recent weeks, the President said he would fire anyone who was found by a federal probe to have acted illegally in the case.

Time magazine reporter Matthew Cooper told a federal grand jury that Rove told him Wilson's wife worked for the

CIA, but did not disclose her name. Cooper has also said he discussed the Wilsons with Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice-President Dick Cheney's chief of staff. Johnson was one of a handful of former intelligence agents who testified at a Democratic-sponsored hearing on the leak on Friday. He said he knew Plame from a training programme, but only as "Val P" because participants were told that would help protect their identities.

"We must put to bed the lie that she was not undercover," Johnson said in response to some Republican efforts to minimize her role at the CIA.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Sunday, 24 July, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain had been scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division, isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State and Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (5.43) inches, Mudon (4.50) inches, Kawkareik (4.49) inches, Pathein (4.33) inches, Hpa-an (3.70) inches, Launglon (3.62) inches, Bhamo (3.46) inches and Dawei (3.27) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-7-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 24-7-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-7-2005 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 23-7-2005 was (1.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 24-7-2005 were (1.26 inches) at Mingaladon, (2.36 inches) at Kaba-Aye, (1.46 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (41.14 inches) at Mingaladon, (2.36 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (43.98 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (13) mph from Southwest at (09:05) hours MST on 24-7-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today a low pressure area has formed over Westcentral Bay and monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-7-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah State and Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are at times off and along Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25th July 2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25th July 2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 23:15 hours MST on 24-7-2005) An earthquake of strong intensity (7.0) Richter Scale with epicenter over the sea outside of Myanmar about (700) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, (85) miles West of Misha, Nicobar Islands, India was recorded at (22)hrs (12)min(24) sec MST on 24th July 2005.



Monday, 25 July

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: Calcutta (Dr Bombay)
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: (Tic)³ ... Chili Feat Carripacho
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: Jo² Action ... (Garica)
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music - Listen to the radio (Don Williams) - Crying in the rain (Tracy Huang)
- 9.00 pm Spotlight on the Star - Crystal Gayle - Only love can save me now - The sound of goodbye
- 9.10 pm Article
- 9.20 pm Women's Affairs
- 9.35 pm Golden's Land melody
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Monday, 25 July

View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ဂေဗုဒ္ဓနှင့် မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယဇ္ဇမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အတိုင်းတော်အောင်ဇွဲပျံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရ မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစာတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မာတ္တာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် အဒ္ဓန္တ ဝိမိတ္တ သာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရီတီတရားတော်
- 7:15 am 2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မာတ္တာဂါရိက၊ အဗ္ဗမဟာပုဂ္ဂိုလ်၊ အဒ္ဓန္တ သိရိနာ အိဝံသ(ယောနရာတော်)ဟောကြား တော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တ ဝါဒီတော်
- 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

- 8:05 am 7. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm 5. အစားသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်သော ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမုဒ္ဒါအထူးပြု) (သမုဒ္ဓ)
- 5:15 pm 6. Dance variety
- 5:30 pm 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတစား
- 5:40 pm 8. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာတေးလေး ကျေးလက် တေးသံများ
- 5:55 pm 9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:05 pm 10. Industrial achievement
- 6:15 pm 11. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်း၊ စာအုပ်လမ်းဆွဲ "ရယ်လှိုင်အောင်မြင်ပျံ့နှံ့စိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 6:30 pm 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 13. Weather reports
- 7:05 pm 8. နိုင်ငံခြားစာအုပ်လမ်းဆွဲ "ရွှေ့နှိမ်လေးရဲ့ ရုစိန်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 7:30 pm 15. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm 16. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ မြင်းလုံးအားကစား
- 8:00 pm 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာအုပ်လမ်းဆွဲ "ယောမာန်ဆောင်း၏ ရုစိန်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၇)
- 21. The next day's programme

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Whoever makes instigation among national races, the people are consolidating national unity

(from page 1)
He said it is heartening to note that the significant occasion would bring about perpetual regional stability, the basic requirement for progress of national races in Lashio, Hsenwi, Namtu, Muse and Namhkam Townships, Shan State (North) and the Union.

when some neo-colonialist big nations and stooges relying on external elements are spreading rumours and creating some problems with various sinister schemes and undermining peace and stability and momentum of development of the country, all national races in Shan State are united.

gation among the national races, the people are consolidating national unity. The ceremony showed the strength of national solidarity of the people as the saying goes "Blood is thicker than water."

At such a time, members of Brigade 6 of SSNA led by deputy brigade commander U

Sai Ku and members of SSA (breakaway group) led by U Sai Yee exchanged arms for peace unconditionally. This is a noble milestone in Myanmar history.

He said they exchanged arms for peace unconditionally in the interest of local people with the correct decision and made eternal peace. He said on behalf of the government he welcomed their exchange of arms for peace unconditionally.

He emphasized the importance of consolidation of national unity for perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar as long



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing speaking at the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of SSNA Brigade-6 and SSA (Breakaway Group).— MNA

At a time when some neo-colonialist big nations and stooges relying on external elements are spreading rumours and creating some problems with various sinister schemes and undermining peace and stability and momentum of development of the country, all national races in Shan State are united.



Assorted arms and ammunition seen at the ceremony to unconditionally exchange arms for peace of SSNA Brigade-6 and SSA (Breakaway Group).— MNA

as the world exists.
In Myanmar history, the country was under the rule of colonialists for over a hundred years and they practised divide-and-rule policy. There was suspicion among the national races due to the evil legacy of the colonialists. Sacrificing their lives, the ancestors struggled to free the nation from the rule of the colonialists. With the strength of unity, Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty, he said.
He pointed out that it is the inborn duty of all national races to safeguard the country at the risk of life for perpetuation of independence and
(See page 8)