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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

Independence

If taken for granted, independence can be lost all of a sudden to alien subjugation. The struggle to regain it, however, may cost much blood, sweat and life.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address delivered at the opening ceremony of the USDA Special Refresher Course No 3, Management Course for USDA Executives No 15, and International Relations Course No 2.)



Yangon City beautifying tasks inspected

YANGON, 29 Dec — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe together with Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the sanitation tasks being carried out in the city for proper drainage and beautifying and upgrading tasks of the pavements in the city this morning and left necessary instructions.

At 6.30 am, the commander and the mayor inspected the tar-repaving along Bogyoke Aung San Street with the use of machinery in Kyauktada Township, the completion of laying the concrete slabs on both sides along the pavements of Sint Ohdan Street between Strand Road and Maha Bandoola Road in Latha Township. Afterwards, the commander and the mayor inspected the replacement of new concrete tiles for upgrading



Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect the process of purifying water that flows into Inya Lake. —MNA

the platforms along Pyay Road and near Ahlon Road in Dagon Township. Next, the commander and the mayor inspected the completion of the process of water purification system of Yangon City Development Committee for step

by step cleaning of the Inya Lake and the officials conducted them round the worksite. Later, the commander and the mayor gave instructions on the task of beautifying the city and of repairing the roads.

MNA

INSIDE

According to the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted in connection with the State structure to this date, our nation will be formed with seven regions, seven states, two Union territories, one self-administered division and five self-administered zones.

PAGE 8+9

SOE MYA KYAW

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 30 December, 2005

Carry out national defence duties and national health care services

The Union of Myanmar is home to more than 100 national races. Like the fruits of a single stem, they have been living in unity and amity in all parts of the nation with the Myanmar spirit for thousands of years.

In the past, the national races, though living in the same land, did not have much contact with one another because of poor transport. When the nation was under foreign subjugation, she suffered from the divide-and-rule policy for many years. Lack of education promotion programmes made the national people believe the deceits to be true. Soon after independence, the national unity fell apart due to racial, regional and ideological prejudices. As a result, the Union was on the brink of collapse several times.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw has had to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — for perpetuity of the nation.

The graduation parade of the 7th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy was held at the parade ground of the Academy on 28 December and it was attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address to the cadets on the occasion, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, "You need to have full physical and mental abilities to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. Physical and mental abilities are the qualifications that have interrelations. The physical ability of the Tatmadaw is combat skill. The mental ability includes good morale, discipline, loyalty and unity. As you are the gallant soldiers of the medical corps you are fully equipped with physical and mental ability for battle victory and the medical practitioners who will further glorify the Tatmadaw's prestige."

The aim of the Academy is to turn out good Tatmadaw medical officers endowed with brilliant physical and mental abilities to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. New generation military doctors must have the ability to lead a platoon in a battle as the infantrymen do. And they must have the ability to show their courage in accord with the motto: charge bravely, fight with valour and crush the enemy daringly.

Military doctors are required to look after the health of local people. The seventy per cent of the country's population live in rural areas and so they should also take an active part in the five rural development tasks for higher socio-economic status of rural people.

We would like to call on new generation military doctors to carry out their medical duties and national defence duties while taking part in national health care services as patriotic soldiers.

Travel Industry Charity Photo Show on 7 Jan

YANGON, 29 Dec — As part of an effort for the development of Myanmar travel industry, "Travel Industry Charity Photo Show" jointly supervised by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Travel Industry Entrepreneurs Association will be held on 7th January, 2006, at the 20th floor of Sakura Tower at the corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Bogyoke Aung San Street. The title of the photo show is "No Creation", and more than 100 photos will be shown in the photo show.

The proceeds from the sales of photos will be contributed towards the funds of humanitarian aids through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. — 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

Volunteers hail National Convention

YANGON, 29 Dec—As a gesture of hailing the National Convention, volunteers carried out sanitation work in the compound of Man Aung Myin Pyidawbyan Buddha Image in Zalun yesterday morning.

The chairman of Township Peace and Development Council and members, departmental personnel, the secretary of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and executives and members, social organizations, and local people from five wards numbering more than 250 participated in the meritorious deeds.

MNA

Volunteers carrying out sanitation work in the compound of ManAungMyin Pyidawbyan Buddha Image in Zalun.

MNA



Soe Kyaw Naing goes into the lead over Professional Golfers



YANGON, 29 Dec—The fourth leg of Air

Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour 2005-2006 organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd continued today at Bagan Resort Golf Club in



NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division.

After the third day's 18-hole events, Soe Kyaw Naing of Srixon went into the lead over Professional Golfers events with 207 strokes. The runners up were Than Naing of Srixon and Zaw Zaw Latt of Srixon with 213 strokes each. Thein Zaw Myint of Pan-West and Zaw Zin Win of Srixon followed the runners up with 214 strokes each.

Aung Win (Monywa) leads the amateur events with 222 strokes and Kyaw Thiha finished the runners-up behind the leader with 227 strokes.

Htay Aung Htay took the third place with 230 strokes.

The main sponsor of the Golf Tour is Air Bagan and official bank is KBZ Bank Ltd. The co-sponsors are Myan-mar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Srixon, Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd, Kachin Golfers Group, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, London, Imperial Jade Drinking Water and Bagan Resort Golf Club and Han Event Management.

The Golf Tour continues tomorrow at the same venue.

MNA

MISS BEAUTY Ni Ni KHIN ZAW: MISS WINTER AND MR WINTER CONTESTS organized by Yangon Division Body Building and Physical Culture Sub-Committee and Shine Hope Co was held at Gandhi Hall in Yangon on 24-12-2005. Ni Ni Khin Zaw of Thanlyin Township wins both Miss Beauty Crown in senior level and Miss Competition Award.—H



China eyes further improvements to strategic ties with Africa

BEIJING, 28 Dec — Leaders of China and African countries will launch a summit in Beijing in autumn next year to discuss how to improve China-Africa friendly and cooperative ties, a diplomatic source with the Chinese Foreign Ministry told *Xinhua* here on Tuesday.

The summit will be held during the third ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Forum, the source said.

Political analysts believe that China regards the development and prosperity of African countries as a foundation and very important precondition for peace and prosperity in the world. According to the latest official statistics, 47 out of 53 countries on the African continent have established diplomatic relations with China. Strengthening co-operation with African countries and helping the countries shake off poverty are a very important component of China's foreign policy, based on the principles of peace and

independence, which is also one of China's international responsibilities, according to a

senior Chinese diplomat, who preferred to remain anonymous.

MNA/Xinhua



Most Japanese want Iraq troops home soon

Tokyo, 28 Dec— Nearly three-fourths of Japanese voters want the country's troops withdrawn from Iraq within the next

six months, a newspaper poll said on Wednesday.

Twenty-eight per cent of respondents to a poll out by the financial daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* said Japan should pull its troops out immediately. Another 46 per cent want the forces withdrawn in the first half of next year "along with the British Army and others", the newspaper said.

Just 11 per cent said the troops should stay until the United States withdraws its forces, it said.

Japan recently extended to December 2006 the mandate for its 550 troops, who are based in the

southern Iraqi town of Samawah.

Media reports have said the government is considering a withdrawal before Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi steps down in September. Koizumi's approval of the mission helped cement his close ties with US President George W Bush.

With their activities strictly limited by Japan's pacifist Constitution, the Japanese troops are carrying out humanitarian and reconstruction tasks such as repairing schools and building roads.

MNA/Reuters

India has successfully tested its short-range Dhanush ballistic missile in the eastern state of Orissa recently.

INTERNET

Toll from Venezuela fireworks blast at 12

CARACAS (Venezuela), 28 Dec — Firefighters found 12 charred bodies at the site of an explosion at a fireworks and munitions shop in eastern Venezuela, and the toll could rise, a government official said on Tuesday.

Civil Protection Agency Director Antonio Rivero said the fire caused by Monday's explosion had been brought under control in the shop and in the busy district of Ciudad Guayana around it, but firefighters were still unable to reach some areas.

"The temperature is

still too high, which can provoke detonation of gun cartridges stored there," he told *Reuters*.

State news agency *ABN* quoted a firefighter as saying one of the employees had lit a sparkler in the shop, causing the explosion.

MNA/Reuters

CIA's internal watchdog looks into cases of "erroneous rendition"

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec— The internal watchdog of US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is looking into several cases of "erroneous rendition", in which foreigners were mistakenly arrested and sent to a third country, US media reported on Tuesday.

The so-called "rendition" refers to the CIA's secret operation of sending captured terror suspects to foreign countries to avoid domestic laws which ban torture during interrogation. The practice, authorized by US President George W Bush soon after the 11 September terror attacks, has stirred up much controversy recently for its serious

breach of international laws and human rights.

About 100 to 150 people have been snatched up in this way since 11 September, 2001.

Some of them may be grabbed wrongly or, after further investigation, may not be as directly linked to terrorism as initially believed. At present, several cases of "erroneous rendition" are under

the investigation of CIA Inspector General John Helgerson, the spy agency's internal watchdog.

One prominent case tells of the misery of Khaled al-Masri, a German citizen of Lebanese descent. Masri was captured by CIA agents in Macedonia in December 2003 and taken to Afghanistan in an apparent case of mistaken identity.

He had been secretly detained and interrogated by US intelligence officers for several months before being released without receiving any apology or compensation.

Earlier this month, Masri sued the CIA for arbitrarily detaining him and other alleged violations.

In another case, Mamdouh Habib, an Egypt-born Australian, was arrested near the Pakistani-Afghan border shortly after 9/11 and flown to Cairo.

For six months he was tortured there and was later transported to Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba before being released in 2005 without charge and allowed to return to Sydney.

Bush Administration officials have claimed that

these cases are "isolated instances" among over 80,000 terror suspects held by US authorities since 9/11.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Gunmen kidnap Iraqi factory official

TIKRIT (Iraq), 28 Dec— Gunmen wearing police uniforms kidnapped a factory official and six of his employees near the northern Iraqi city of Samarra on Tuesday.

"Unknown armed men wearing police commando uniforms intercepted the convoy of Ibrahim Abbas Tu'ma, director general of Samarra Medicine Factory at about 10:00 am on the main road near the city," a source from Tikrit police said on condition of anonymity. The gunmen in four vehicles kidnapped Tu'ma and six of his employees, the source said. Samarra medicine factory is the largest medicine factory in the country, located on the northern edge of Samarra, some 120 kilometres north of Baghdad. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A US military helicopter flies over an operating power plant near the Tigris River in Baghdad, on 28 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

US military deaths rise to 2,172

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec—As of Wednesday, 28 Dec, 2005, at least 2,172 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,705 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The *AP* count is one more than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 98 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,033 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. That includes at least 1,596 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—*Internet*

Pakistan, UAE agree to expand political, economic ties

ISLAMABAD, 28 Dec—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahayan on Tuesday agreed to expand bilateral political, economic and trade ties, the state-run television reported.

During official talks at the Aiwan-e-Sadr presidential house, the two leaders expressed their firm resolve to expand bilateral trade and economic ties for the mutual benefits of the two countries, PTV reported.

The two sides decided to hold the joint ministerial commission meeting of the foreign ministers between the two countries in the next three months in order to review progress being made in the economic and political fields specially trade and joint ventures.

"The dates will be mutually worked out for holding of the commission meeting which will firm out a strategy for expanding the ties through effective implementation of projects in the identified areas including

investment in joint venture particularly through private sectors," it said.

According to an official statement, five UAE companies have investments in Pakistan in the fields of aviation, financial business and telecom-

munications.

During 2004-2005 fiscal year, UAE's investment in Pakistan stood at 367.5 million US dollars. At the meeting, Musharraf informed the visiting UAE leader that Pakistan offered tremendous investment

opportunities in the fields of communication and tourism, the PTV added.

He also said that the Pakistani Government was offering level playing field to the local as well as the foreign entrepreneurs.

MNA/Xinhua



German police officers are seen at an underground station in Berlin, on 19 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Client support centre for "ARJ 21s" built in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 28 Dec—Construction work started for a client support centre for ARJ 21, a jet plane independently developed by China, in this economic hub of east China on Monday. Located at Zizhu Sci-Tech Park in Minxing District of Shanghai, the project, the first of its kind in the country, is built by AVICI Commercial Aircraft Co, Ltd. The centre will provide training, service in spare parts and network services for clients of ARJ 21 planes, according to officials with the AVICI commercial aircraft company.

MNA/Xinhua

Fires rage across windy Oklahoma, Texas

OKLAHOMA CITY (Oklahoma), 28 Dec—Firefighters in Texas and Oklahoma battled wind-fueled wildfires on Tuesday that burned homes and cars and forced one small town to evacuate residents.

The fires, at least several of which officials blamed on children playing with fireworks, raced across a countryside parched by months of abnormally dry weather.

Winds near 40 miles per hour whipped through the region, while temperatures rose to an

unseasonably high 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 centigrade) on Tuesday.

"It's dry as a bone, and brittle," said Oklahoma City Fire Department spokesman Brian Stanaland. "The fire is travelling extremely rapidly. It's hopscotching across the country."

Television reports showed the fires moving across the prairies and into housing developments where homes were ablaze and cars burning in their driveways. Residents watered their yards to prevent flying sparks from

igniting the grass.

At least six houses were destroyed and many others damaged in fires around Oklahoma City, the local sheriff's office said. In the suburb of Mustang, officials ordered people living in the path of a fire covering several square miles to leave their homes. They said four people had been injured in the blaze.

MNA/Reuters

New Orleans police probed in shooting death

NEW ORLEANS, 28 Dec—New Orleans police are investigating the death of a man who was shot by police officers as he wielded a knife during a incident on Monday partly caught on videotape.

Police spokesman Juan Quinton said on Tuesday the "investigation is ongoing" into the killing of the 38-year-old man who could be seen on the

videotape waving a small knife and acting erratically while surrounded by at least a dozen policemen with their guns aimed at him.

The videotape of the Monday incident, taken by a person in a nearby apartment and aired later on television, showed gun-wielding police following the man as he slowly backed away.

Police said he jumped at them with the knife and they killed him, but the videotape did not show that part of the incident.

Quinton said police confronted the man, whose name has not been released, after he struck an employee at a Walgreen's drugstore, then walked out on to St Charles Avenue in the city's leafy Uptown section. —MNA/Reuters

ဝက်ပူခွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Guatemala's Volcano of Fire spews lava and ash

GUATEMALA CITY, 28 Dec—Guatemala's Volcano of Fire erupted on Tuesday, sending rivers of lava down its slopes and a huge cloud of ash and smoke into the sky.

About 25,000 local residents were put on alert. Emergency teams said there was no immediate need for evacuations but they might be necessary if there were more eruptions.—MNA/Reuters

Twenty metric tons of drugs seized in Madrid

MADRID, 28 Dec—Spanish police on Tuesday said they had seized 20 metric tons of hashish in the capital and arrested 11 suspects. "This could be the biggest seizure of hashish to date in Madrid," the police said in a statement. According to the police, the drugs came from Morocco and were hidden in ten large wooden boxes in a warehouse in Arganda del Rey, about 22 kilometres east of Madrid before they were discovered.—MNA/Xinhua

Drunk Christmas crashes kill 15 in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, 28 Dec—Ten people were killed and seven injured in southern Burundi when a drunk driver plunged a bus into a valley on Christmas Day, Burundian police said.

Another five were killed and 21 gravely injured when a taxi rammed into a crowd of people coming out of Christmas mass in the southern province of Makamba, provincial police chief Emmanuel Bizimana said. "The cause of the accidents was high speed, and the drivers of those vehicles were drunk," he told Reuters.—MNA/Reuters

US Marine dies of wounds in west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Dec—A US Marine died of wounds sustained from small arms fire west of Baghdad, the US military said on Tuesday. "A US soldier assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, died of wounds received from enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations against the enemy in the town of Khaldiyyah on 26 December," the military said in a statement. Khaldiyyah, some 85 kilometres west of Baghdad, is part of the guerilla area against US and Iraqi troops in Anbar Province in western Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier aboard an armoured vehicle secures the Camp Al Adaala prison, after a prisoner grabbed a weapon from a guard, in Kadhimiya District in Baghdad, on 28 Dec, 2005.—INTERNET

Chinese V-P stresses safety in civil aviation

BELING, 28 Dec— Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here on Monday that the civil aviation sector should pay more attention to enhance safety in flight.

The Vice-Premier made the remarks when meeting with some delegates attending the national work conference on civil aviation held on Monday.

The civil aviation department laid great emphasis on safety and ensured safe flight for the whole sector in 2005, said

Huang. The volume of transport kept rapid growth and the whole sector has achieved profits in the year despite of the oil price hike, he said.

Safety is of special significance to civil aviation and should be put at top priority, Huang said.

Concerned regulations and mechanisms should

be made to guarantee safety work, he said, adding that efforts should also go to establishment of technology systems and emergency rescue systems.

Huang also said that more money should be invested to improve safety work of the civil aviation.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow kills four in Turkey

ANKARA, 28 Dec— Turkey's heavy snow have killed four people as roads across much of the country were cut and villages isolated by a cold weather, Turkish media reported on Tuesday.

One person died in the western province of Denizli while another two died in the province of Edirne in the country's northwest when they were caught in the snow.

A foreigner was also frozen to death and his body was found in Ipsala town of Edirne.

Meanwhile, there are 1,500 village roads in the east and the southeast of Turkey and central Anatolia remain blocked by snowfalls, though authorities have managed to reopen a further 1,500 that were closed over the weekend, according to the report.

More than 900 village roads have also been blocked in the Black Sea region, and the worst affected areas are Trabzon, Giresun, Gumushane, Artvin, Bayburt, Bolu, Ordu, Samsun, Amasya, Elazig and Zonguldak.

Schools in many of the

affected regions have been cancelled for the second day in succession.

The snow also damaged power supply in the city of Sirnak, while the Beytus District remain without power after heavy snowfalls brought down power lines.

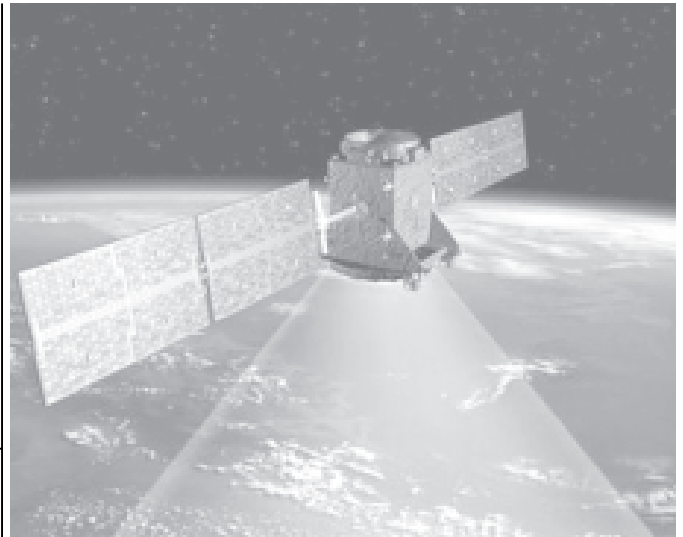
MNA/Xinhua

Accidents kill five, injure 56 in holiday season in Colombia

BOGOTA, 28 Dec— Accidents and landslides have left at least five people dead and 56 others injured in Colombia during the December holiday season, authorities

said on Monday.

At least 41 people were burnt by fireworks during the Christmas celebrations, said Luis Fernando Correa, the emergency and disaster



An artist's impression released by the European Space Agency (ESA) on 28 Dec, 2005 shows a Galileo satellite in orbit. — INTERNET

Japan logs first population decline after WWII

TOKYO, 28 Dec— Japan's population in 2005 fell to 127,760,000 people, a government report said on Tuesday, adding concrete proof to the

widespread concerns about the nation's entering into an era of population decline.

The census by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications echoed an estimation by the Health Ministry last week that Japan's population has started to decrease from 2005 on.

The country's total population as of 1 October, 2005 was 20,000 fewer than the estimated number of population in 2004, shrinking for the first time since the World War II. There were 62,340,000 men and 65,420,000

women.

According to the result, the population grew only by 0.7 per cent from the last survey in 2000, the lowest since the census began in 1920 for every five years.

Low birth rate has given rise to concerns that the world's second largest economy will be facing a considerable shortage of labour force. A government white paper issued on 16 December said Japan's birth rate hit a record low 1.29 in 2004, warning that the country's population could dwindle by 60 million by 2100.—MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bomber kills four police in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec— A suicide bomber, wearing a police uniform, killed four Iraqi policemen and wounded five at checkpoint close to the Interior Ministry in Baghdad on Thursday, police said.

"He was wearing an explosive belt. He approached the checkpoint as police cars were entering the ministry, then he blew himself up," a police source said.

After earlier confusion, several police sources concurred on this version of the events.—MNA/Reuters

Landslides destroy Yemen village, kill at least 30

SANAA, 29 Dec— Landslides in Yemen, have destroyed a small village near the capital Sanaa, killing at least 30 people including women and children with dozens more missing, officials said on Thursday.

A Yemen officials said rock had slid off a mountain late on Wednesday and collapsed into the al-Dhofair village—about 20km (12 miles) southwest of Sanaa — destroying its 27 houses.

Police cordoned off the area and are searching for survivors.

State news agency

Saba said tens of people were injured — some seriously—and have been taken to hospital.

Landslides are rare in Yemen, at the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, but the country is prone to floods in spring and summer.

MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong becomes Costa Rica's second largest market

SAN JOSE, 28 Dec— Hong Kong replaced the Netherlands as the second most important market for Costa Rica this year, Costa Rica's Foreign Trade Promoter (PROCOTR) said on Monday.

During the first 11 months of this year, Costa Rica exported 421 million US dollars worth of goods to Hong Kong, up by 267 per cent over the same period in 2004, said a PROCOTR report.

MNA/Xinhua



Police stand near a surveillance blimp named the Sky Ship 600, the latest addition to Trinidad's aerial surveillance programme, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 28 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Two US pilots killed in helicopter crash in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Dec— Two US pilots were killed in a helicopter crash in west Baghdad on Monday evening, the US military said on Tuesday.

"Two pilots assigned to Task Force Baghdad, were killed when their helicopter crashed in western Baghdad on 26 December," the US military said in a statement.

"There was no hostile fire involved," the brief statement added.

The deaths has brought to more than 2,165 the number of US military personnel who have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



Iran says ready to study Russia's nuclear proposal

TEHRAN, 29 Dec — A senior Iranian official said on Wednesday that Iran is ready to study a proposal put forward by Russia to enrich uranium on the Russian soil, reported local ISNA news agency.

Javad Vaidi, member of the Supreme National Security Council, was quoted as saying that "the Russian proposal is based on the establishment of a joint Iran-Russia company on Russian soil for enrichment of uranium". He said that the Russian proposal can be studied, "so that its economic, technical and scientific aspects will be clear".

The proposal, firstly revealed in November but rejected by Teheran, is aimed to provide what the European Union (EU), which is the longtime broker of the Iranian nuclear issue, and the United States ask for as objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear research will not be used for military purposes.

The Russian Foreign Ministry announced on Saturday that it had handed over a document

to formally inform the Islamic Republic of the proposal. Iran has said previously that the whole process of its uranium enrichment must be held in its own territory, arguing that it was a legal right enshrined by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

However, Vaidi said that the Russian proposal does not deny Iran's right to enrich uranium and can be viewed as an exchange of nuclear technology between signatories of the NPT. On Tuesday, Alaeddin Borujerdi, Chairman of Iran's Majlis (Parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said that Russia's proposal showed a "positive response to Iran's call for partnership with other states in its civilian nuclear programme" but reiterated Teheran's

position of enrichment at home.

Iranian Government spokesman Gholam-Hossein Elham said on Monday that Iran welcomes Russia and other countries to participate in its uranium enrichment programme, but the cooperation must be based on Iran's principles of uranium enrichment inside the country.—MNA/Xinhua



Two-hundred and fifty members of Tokyo's amateur chorus group perform Ludwig Van Beethoven's Symphony No 9 'Choral' for shoppers on a floor of Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo on 29 Dec, 2005. The popular choral has been performed at the store every year end.—INTERNET

China's peaceful development conducive to world peace

BEIJING, 29 Dec — China's strategy to develop itself peacefully is conducive to safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, said a Chinese military scholar in an article.

Xiong Guangkai, author of the article "Firm Adherence to Peaceful Development and Appropriate Response to Diversified Security Threats", stressed that China firmly sticks to a peaceful development approach.

China is trying to create a peaceful international environment for the benefit of its own growth and is trying to make its due contribution to world peace, stability and prosperity. The article acknowledged that China is playing an active role within various bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

In recent years, China has engaged in creating a friendly neighbourhood with adjacent countries. It has thoroughly addressed its border issues with Russia and other northwestern neighbours according to the principle of mutual

understanding and mutual accommodation. China, the Philippines and Vietnam made breakthroughs in jointly exploring resources in the South China Sea. The Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea was signed between China and the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations).

Xiong described China as a country taking up a bigger role under multilateral frameworks, including the APEC, the ASEAN plus China (10+1), and the ASEAN plus China, Japan and South Korea (10+3).

The country has become an important part of the international co-operation on combating terrorism, the major mediating force and organizer of the tri-party and the six-party talks aimed at resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, and a major player in the UN Security Council, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

"China is cooperating with its neighbours and

other countries in a bid to maintain the peace and stability of Asia and the world at large." said the article. Xiong noted in the article that China's peaceful development is boosting the world's economic growth.

Figures show that China's imported commodities totalled

1.7698 trillion US dollars from its entry into the World Trade Organization on 11 December, 2001 to September 2005, nearly 500 billion US dollars per annum. The import volume generated about 10 million jobs in those exporting countries..

MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed in bomb explosion in Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 Dec — Two US soldiers were killed, two others and one interpreter were injured Wednesday in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar, a local official said. "This afternoon at about 3 pm, a US vehicle hit a bomb in Spinjamaat area of Sawki District. Two US soldiers were killed, another two soldiers and an interpreter were injured, while the vehicle was totally destroyed," Assadullah Wafa, provincial governor of Kunar told Xinhua. An investigation into the incident is underway and no one has been arrested so far.

A US soldier was killed and four others were injured on the same day in a vehicle accident in the southern Kandahar Province. After the collapse of Taleban regime in late 2001, about 20,000 US-led Coalition troops have been staying in Afghanistan for further cleanup and anti-terrorism operations.

More than 80 US soldiers have been killed this year, making 2005 the bloodiest year after 2001.

MNA/Xinhua



People gather to look at large waves from an approaching storm, on 28 Dec, 2005, in Half Moon Bay, Calif. —INTERNET

Three Britons abducted in southern Gaza

GAZA, 29 Dec — Three Britons were abducted in southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Palestinian police said.

Unidentified masked gunmen seized the three Britons on the outskirts of the Rafah Town near the Gaza-Egypt border and forced them into a car without plate and drove away.

One of the three was Keit Berton, a Scottish and the other two were her parents touring in Rafah area.

Berton is responsible for foreign relations at al-Mezan organization for human rights based in northern Gaza Strip, and she has been working as a volunteer for several months.

Palestinian residents in Rafah said the gunmen belong to a group called the Black Panthers, affiliated to the ruling Fatah movement.

The residents said Palestinian police and security forces have been searching for the kidnapers in Rafah.

This was the latest kidnapping incident in the coastal strip where chaos and crime are on the rise following an Israeli pullout from the territory in September.

MNA/Xinhua

Guerilla sniper shoots at two US soldiers west of Baghdad

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 29 Dec — An Iraqi sniper shot at two US soldiers at a US military base in the flashpoint city of Fallujah, some 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, witnesses said on Wednesday.

"A sniper on the roof of a building shot at two US soldiers guarding the base in central Fallujah early in the morning," Abdul-Rahman, a local journalist, told Xinhua.

The US troops then opened fire randomly after the attack, Rahman said.

It was not immediately known whether shooting attack resulted in US casualties. In a separate incident, another US military base in eastern Fallujah was pounded by three rockets at about 11:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) on Tuesday night, witnesses said. No casualties have been reported yet. —MNA/Xinhua

Communication sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of communication in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Developing communication sector of Myanmar

Now is the time when the science and technology sector sees unprecedented development with rapid changes. At such a time, information and communication technology penetrates every corner in the world. To be able to catch up with these changes, Myanmar is endeavouring for the development of its communication sector.

In the past, people had to rely on mail service and the mail delivery took time to reach from one region to another. But, nowadays,

with the communication system which covers all the regions in the country including villages, people can communicate each other easily and conveniently.

In the past, there were only post offices, telegraph services and ordinary phones, but now people are able to access computer telegraph, facsimile, autophone, radio telephone, mobile phone, e-mail and the Internet.

Myanmar communication sector is being enhanced to be on a par with international community in the time of the Tatmadaw gov-



MICROWAVE COMMUNICATION

Microwave tower of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications in Taunggyi, Shan State (South).

Myanmar communication service witnesses development

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Post office	1114	1337	223
2	Telegraph office	310	485	175
3	Facsimile (set)	10	4210	4200
4	Computer telegraph service (urban area)	-	86	86
5	Number of telephone line	71855	556708	484853
6	Telephone office	245	853	608
7	Telephone exchange	245	641	396
8	Rural telephone exchange	-	212	212

ernment. which covers all the regions in the country. * * *



An official presents Buddha Image to a wellwisher. — H

Buddha Pujaniya festivals held in Pindaya, Nyaungshwe

YANGON, 29 Dec — The Buddha Pujaniya festivals of Shwe UHmin Pagoda in Pindaya and PhaungdawOo Buddha Images in Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South) in conjunction with the 'Soon' offering ceremony were held from 26 to 27 December.

The secretary Sayadaw of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee administered the Five Precepts to the congregation. The officials then donated offertories to the members of Sangha and cash to Shwe UHmin Pogada for all-round renovations on 26 December

morning. On 27 December, Light offering ceremony to Inlay PhaungdawOo Buddha Images took place at the pagoda. The congregation took the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Taungchay Monastery Bhaddanta Kovida and then offered 'soon' to the members of Sangha. A similar ceremony was held at Maha Muni Hnee Pagoda in Kalaw on 28 December.

The structure and essence of future state

Soe Mya Kyaw

Now is a time when Myanmar is putting into motion the State's seven-point Road Map for democratic transition. The National Convention, the first as well as the most important stage of the Road Map, is now in progress and the delegates to the NC are holding discussions to adopt basic principles and detailed basic principles for drafting the State Constitution.

I am a government employee and have to study and inform the people about facts about political affairs of the nation as my duty assigned and my passion. Taking a careful glance at the ongoing National Convention, one can visualize the shape of the future nation both in form and in essence. In compiling my articles to share the people with political knowledge, I have to ask for help from my father's elder brother Bagyi Soe and his wife Kye Kye Mya to make sure that the facts I have quoted are reliable and authentic.

Having had a good reputation in the Myanmar education world, Bagyi Soe has to continue to serve as a member of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia to the NC though he has been retired a professor. Kye Kye Mya has also been a retired headmistress of a basic education high school. They have no children so they have an opportunity to enhance their knowledge. They are therefore like repositories for me.

During the weekend, I paid a visit to Bagyi Soe, who was at home with night pass from the National Convention, to gain some facts I wanted to know.

So Mya Kyaw: Hello uncle! I know you're now tired because you've participated in the discussions at the National Convention over the week days. I'm sorry to trouble you.

Bagyi Soe: Hi Maung Kyaw, it doesn't matter. As a matter of fact, even I've to thank you because you will inform our discussions at the NC to the people, and we delegates have exerted a lot of efforts and energy but it will be worth that, then.

Kye Kye Mya: Your uncle's very encouraged since I've informed him about your visit to our home.

So Mya Kyaw: It's thoughtful of you. Thank you, Kye Kye. By the way, Uncle, I've heard lots of accusations that the government is manipulating the National Convention as it wishes without discussing and coordinating with any one or any group. Let me know about that.

Bagyi Soe: Absolutely not, Maung Kyaw. They are in fact just slanderous fabrications to mislead the people about the NC.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Explain it to me in detail, please.
Bagyi Soe: To be brief for coherence, our nation has exercised two constitutions. You know, the first is the 1947 Constitution and the other is the 1974 Constitution.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, I do, the first was drawn before independence, and the other was drawn after the independence. I've learnt the 1947 Constitution had to be drawn hastily so as to regain independence from the British colonialists in a peaceful way, and the 1974 Constitution was adopted through a referendum.

Bagyi Soe: Both constitutions are no longer applicable in our nation. Due to the loopholes in the 1947 Constitution, our nation faced the attempts to secede from the Union. So, the

Tatmadaw had to take State duties in 1962 to ensure non-disintegration of the Union. That put an end to the 1947 Constitution. I'm sure you've some experience of the period when the 1974 Constitution was drafted and prescribed through a referendum.

Soe Mya Kyaw: At that time, I was a university student. The events on the promulgation of the 1974 Constitution are still in my memory because of the organizing measures the artistes were taking at that time.

Kye Kye Mya: You also have some experience of the period, Maung Kyaw that the Tatmadaw assumed State's duties and abolished the one-party system and the centralized socialist system due to the 1988 unrest and then introduced the market-oriented economic system.

Soe Mya Kyaw: That's for sure, Kye Kye. In consequence, the 1974 Constitution was no longer effective. The entire people are convinced of the need to introduce a constitution that will be in harmony with the prevailing situations of our nation.

Bagyi Soe: That's why the Tatmadaw Government has convened the National Convention since January 1993 to adopt basic principles for promulgation of an enduring State Constitution.

Kye Kye Mya: Prior to the National Convention, the Tatmadaw Government formed the Steering Committee for Holding the Coordination Meetings for Convening the National Convention and held discussions on the convening of the National Convention with legally existing political parties, representatives-elect and independent representatives-elect to the full satisfaction of all participants. That meeting reached an agreement on designation of delegate groups it should invite, and the number of representatives from delegate group each. These are known to all.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Thank you, Kye Kye. Obviously, it's not true the government is convening the National Convention as it wishes.

Bagyi Soe: Thanks to the harmonious coordination of the delegates, the National Convention was convened with speed from 9 January 1993 to 30 March 1996. And it laid down the 104 basic principles to be included in the State Constitution, and the detailed basic principles for the chapters 'the State', 'the Head of State', and formation of legislation, executive and judiciary.

Kye Kye Mya: But, representatives of a political party, at the instigation of internal and external elements, turned their back on the National Convention of their own accord to disrupt the NC.

Soe Mya Kyaw: You're right. It's common knowledge that in 1995 the National Convention was gaining momentum with political development so the people were pleased with the progress. Yet, that party betrayed the national cause for no apparent reason.

Kye Kye Mya: Due to such obstructions, I thought our country was going to drift into miserable situation like it was in the parliamentary period and so I felt inconsolable.

Bagyi Soe: At the beginning of the NC, that political party had participated in the functions but it later violated the rules and regulations. But, thank God, the Tatmadaw managed to safe-

Now, the delegates are holding discussions at the ongoing National Convention for the adoption of the basic principles and detailed basic principles in formulating the State Constitution. By studying these basic principles and detailed basic principles, one can envisage the future of the nation in form and essence. Articles on the National Convention will be inserted in the newspapers daily for enabling the people to visualize the future of the nation in form and essence.

guard sovereignty of the State. The National Convention was suspended temporarily, but the Tatmadaw Government put its all-out efforts into the construction of economic and social infrastructures essential for democratic transition across the nation.

Soe Mya Kyaw: In accord with the principle that only when there is an infrastructure will the superstructure be strong and the whole structure will exist perpetually, the government has been constructing roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, factories, mills, electric power plants, and education and health infrastructures. I have taken part in the drive and the entire people witnessed that.

Bagyi Soe: During the period the Tatmadaw Government is assuming State duties, it is paving the correct path and never let itself lose sight of the people's wishes. And it adopted and announced the State's seven-point Road Map in August 2003. Now, the National Convention is making a good headway, isn't it?

Soe Mya Kyaw: Bagyi Soe, I would like to know the progress of the National Convention from 17 May to 9 July 2004.

Bagyi Soe: The National Convention that was suspended temporarily in 1996 resumed on 17 May 2004 and went on till 9 July. It held discussions to lay down the detailed basic principles for the sharing of legislative power in formulating the State Constitution.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Very well, Bagyi Soe.

Bagyi Soe: At the plenary sessions of the National Convention held from 17 February to 3 March 2005, it adopted the detailed basic principles for the sharing of legislative power in formulating the State Constitution. Moreover, the delegates went on holding discussions to adopt the detailed basic principles for the delegation of executive and judicial powers.

Kye Kye Mya: Maung Kyaw you have already known from TV, radio and dailies that the plenary session of the Convention which began on 5 December 2005 adopted the detailed principles for sharing of executive and judicial powers on 8 December.

Soe Mya Kyaw: As many of the basic principles and detailed basic principles have already been laid down, with pleasure, the people are ardent to know about the structure and essence of future State according to the constitution.

Bagyi Soe: According to the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted in connection with the State structure to this date, our nation will be formed with seven regions, seven states, two Union territories, one self-administered division and five self-administered zones.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please elaborate.

Bagyi Soe: The existing seven divisions in their original territory and name will be called seven regions.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What about the seven states?

(See page 9)

According to the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted in connection with the State structure to this date, our nation will be formed with seven regions, seven states, two Union territories, one self-administered division and five self-administered zones.

The structure and essence of future state

(from page 8)

Bagyi Soe: The existing seven states — Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Mon State, Rakhine State and Shan State — will be called the states without making any territorial changes.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What's the difference between the regions and the states?

Bagyi Soe: Only in name, but not any differences in essence. A detailed basic principle states, "Regions and States are of equal status and authority".

Kyee Kyee Mya: The principles are just and in accord with the nation's objective conditions. Thanks to the principles there will not be any inequality, imbalances and undemocratic practices between national races regardless of their population and the area of the place they live in.

Soe Mya Kyaw: A very good prescription. I hear you mention the name "Union territories". As I am not familiar with the name, please explain it to me.

Bagyi Soe: Yangon city and Cocogyun Township, which have a special situation, are designated as Union territories. A detailed basic principle says, "If the need arises to designate areas that have special situation in connection with national defence, security, administration and economy etc. as Union territories, they may be so designated as Union territories after enacting laws."

Soe Mya Kyaw: So more Union territories can be designated after enacting laws.

Bagyi Soe: More Union territories can be designated in accord with the detailed basic principles, if doing so is really necessary and serves the Union's interest.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please explain provisions concerning designation of one self-administered division and five self-administered zones.

Bagyi Soe: There will be three prescriptions in forming the self-administered division and self-administered zones. They are: the national race group is the one that has not got a Region or a State, the group must have an appropriate population, and it is living on the same common stretch of land.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The fact that says "The national race group is the one that has not got a Region or a State" is quite clear to me. But please explain the two other prescriptions.

Bagyi Soe: I will give you a fine example. It is the Danu Self-Administered Zone comprising Ywangan and Pindaya townships. Appropriate size of population means population of a national race must be the largest in each of the townships in self-administered areas concerned and must be more than half of the total population of those townships. Same common stretch of land means that territories of townships concerned are contiguous.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The prescriptions suit the nation's objective conditions. Please explain the future form.

Bagyi Soe: The future State is to be delineated and constituted with seven regions and seven states and two Union territories, and in addition, with Wa Self-Administered Division formed with six townships in Shan State — Hopang, Mongmao, Panwaing, Narphan, Manphan and Panyang townships — which will be grouped into two districts.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The structure of the future State will ensure the deserving right of administration to nationalities living in weal or woe in the country since yore in accord with the prescriptions.

Bagyi Soe: Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokang and Naga national races living on same common stretch of land and have appropriate

populations will also get self-administered zones respectively.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please explain it, Bagyi Soe.

Bagyi Soe: According to State structure, Ywangan and Pindaya townships in Shan State will be formed into Danu Self-Administered Zone, Hopong, Hsihseng and Pinlaung townships in Shan State will be formed into Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Namhsan and Manton townships in Shan State will be formed into Palaung Self-Administered Zone, Konkyan and Laukkai townships in Shan State into Kokang Self-Administered Zone, and Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships in Sagaing division into Naga Self-Administered Zone.

Soe Mya Kyaw: But what is the difference between self-administered division and self-administered zone?

Bagyi Soe: A self-administered division is larger and more populous than a self-administered zone. There are no other differences between them. I hope you can now imagine the structure of the future State.

Soe Mya Kyaw: More about it. I am much pleased for the future Union as the national races will be able to enjoy the essence of democracy more because of the emergence of self-administered areas according to the new constitution.

Kyee Kyee Mya: According to the 1974 Constitution, there were seven states and seven divisions in the nation. In the future State there will be one more self-administered division and five more self-administered zones in addition to seven regions and seven states. We are happy as the nationalities will be able to enjoy greater degree of rights they deserve.

Bagyi Soe: If compared with the 1947 Constitution, which some opponents are unnecessarily stating as a model and example, the new constitution is many times better than that of 1947 in terms of democracy and rights of nationalities.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Of course. According to the 1947 constitution, there are four states and one division — Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State and Shan State and Special Division for the Chins. There will be seven Regions, seven States and self-administered divisions and zones for Wa, Danu, PaO, Palaung, Kokang and Naga nationals and it will be very great. I believe that equal opportunities will be created democratically for other national races as there are over 100 national races in our country. Could you explain that, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: In shaping the future state, the National Convention thinks about the guarantee of Our Three Main National Causes — "Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty and the Convention is also trying hard so that the people do not encounter bitter experiences of the past again. The National Convention is taking the prevailing conditions of the State into consideration as a basis without ignoring them.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Bagyi. May I know the plans for other minority groups based on three basic facts?

Bagyi Soe: I'll carefully explain the form of legislation and essence of the future State to you as there are lots of opportunities for minority national races whose areas have not been designated as Region/State or self-administered Division/self-administered zone so that you will see them clearly.

Kyee Kyee Mya: There is a basic principle that guarantees the future of the Union. The constitution being drafted is more significant than the 1947 constitution. You often say about it, don't you? Please explain it to Maung Kyaw.

Bagyi Soe: Yes. There is a principle for national races of the Union travelling the same journey in the same boat and drinking water from the same source to live in unity.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Bagyi. It is the basic principle of "No part of the territory of the Union, namely regions, states and self-administered areas etc shall ever secede from the Union." isn't it? The entire people are very much pleased with it.

Bagyi Soe: Yes, The 1947 constitution was drawn hastily for regaining independence from the imperialists. The section 201 of Chapter X of that constitution said every state shall have the right to secede from the Union. "The right of secession shall not be exercised within ten years" was prescribed in the section 202. That was why our country encountered the secession issue around 1962.

Kyee Kyee Mya: The Tatmadaw has prevented such kind of problem many times from breaking out in time. During the cold war in a powerful country, there was one point that states had the right to secede from the Union and to establish own army in the new constitution. Soon, that union collapsed into pieces.

Soe Mya Kyaw: In our country there occurred some weaknesses due to the instigation of the imperialists. The weak points caused by the colonialists are still being exploited.

Bagyi Soe: If there is a crack in something, it will easily break. The entire people can see and review the point.

Soe Mya Kyaw: It is right. Like the secession issue, what about basic principles and detailed basic principles regarding the territory of the State and re-delineation of territory which is important for the State?

Kyee Kyee Mya: I think that Maung Kyaw remembers Phimaw, Gawlan and Ganphan issue in the parliamentary democracy period.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Right. There were some comments of politicians of those days regarding the territory.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Of course, Maung Kyaw. I think we should notice the weak point of the 1947 constitution instead of arguing who is right and who is wrong. As far as I remember, there was no exact prescription regarding the re-delineation of Union and state territory. In connection with the amendment of the constitution flexible way was used instead of rigid one. That was why the territory issue happened, I think.

Bagyi Soe: Therefore, the delegates are discussing the basic principles and detailed basic principles in order to avoid such loopholes. The State basic principles "The territorial boundary inclusive of the land, sea and air space of the State is as it is on the day the State Constitution comes into force" were adopted. The detailed basic principles for the State structure were adopted and re-delineation of territory cannot be made by an individual or an organization alone. In this case, re-delineation of territory can be carried out by the majority of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The details will be discussed later.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The National Convention is in progress to adopt principles to be more democratic than the previous two constitutions, for the national groups to possess equal rights and to perpetuate the Union. We all feel that there is full guarantee for the future State.

Bagyi Soe: Well, We'll discuss the rights of national races next time.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, thank you, Bagyi and Kyee Kyee for your patient explanation. I'll inform the people so that they understand it well.

Translation: MS+TMT+NY

Rural regions enjoy higher living...

(from page 16)
 authorities for their assistance to establish the model village. Next, the commander delivered an address.

Rural regions have enjoyed higher living standard alongside better economy thanks to the harmonious cooperation of the government and the people.

emulated by surrounding villages, while making measures to speed up implementation of the tasks for the development of Kyatet model village.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint elaborated on the convening of the National Convention, calling for massive participation in the drive for successful implementa-

jatropha curcas saplings, fruits, seed, and oil.

They planted commemorative saplings of jatropha curcas and inspected demonstrations on preparations, harvesting and winnowing of paddy, and operation of Leya 16 power-tillers with the use of jatropha curcas oil.

They attended the

Hospital for local people.

Headmaster U Kan Myaing, Chairman of School Board of Trustees U San Ngwe and donor U Moe Than Htaik formally opened the multimedia teaching centre.

The commander and the minister and party after observing students learning lessons at the centre met with social organizations, local elder villagers at the school. Villagers presented the development endeavours and requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that Tinteinyan village has been upgraded to a model village, and the multimedia teaching centre of the village school and village-to-village roads and village-to-town roads have been developed.

The government also tarred the village streets, opened the village hall, set up a trust fund and

Independence — Nation's Lifeblood

* 'Tis not that we regained
**Independence, cause we pleaded
 Cried and pleaded
 That we regained it.**

* **Independence, if it is desired
 Cannot be given easily, just handed
 It isn't obtained just like that.**

* **Independence, isn't like a sweet flower
 That automatically sprouts from earth
 And hasn't just grown.**

* **For Independence, blood and lives
 Have to be sacrificed, and if counted
 'T would be like a sea of blood.**

* **Hands clasped for Independence
 Steadfastly strong, to face foes
 Are battles hundred-thousand, more.**

* **With hurt feelings, for Independence
 Acclaim for Resistance
 Sounds brim over skyward.**

* **O, beloved citizens
 What citizens hold, as reverable
 Always uphold Independence vigilance
 Always be filled with Independence
 vigilance
 Independence — nation's lifeblood
 Safeguard it with care
 Only if Independence flower is fragrant
 With Myanmar last forever
 Peaceful and strong.**

(Hailing the 58th Anniversary Independence Day)
 Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presents TV to Tinteinyan model village in YeU Township, Sagaing Division. — MNA

He praised the villagers for throwing themselves to the tasks being undertaken by the officials for all-round development of Kyatet model village.

He stressed the importance of putting all the vacant lands under jatropha curcas on commercial scale for production of bio-diesel. Jat-

tion of the State's seven-point Road Map.

The commander, the minister, wellwishers, members of social organizations and departmental officials presented television sets, cash assistance, exercise books, sports gear, sewing machines, computers and printers, and publications to the village through the

opening of Pyichitpan library, knowledge centre and rural development hall. Members of Village USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization formally opened the facilities.

The commander, the minister and party viewed the library,



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint visit the Pyinnya Alin library in Kyatet model village. — MNA

ropha curcas thrives everywhere especially in arid zones. Fuel-substitute bio-diesel can be produced from it. And 12,000 jatropha curcas plants on an acre can fetch a healthy profit of K 130,000.

In conclusion, he called on local people to make collective efforts for the village to become one whose success is

officials.

The opening of Tinteinyan model village in Shwebo District took place at the village in the afternoon. Manager U Swe of Myanma Agricultural Service briefed those present on methods of growing jatropha curcas.

The commander, the minister and party viewed the samples of

knowledge centre, the lake of the village, hall, and auto exchange station. They also observed vocational workshops, and the pre-primary school of the village MCWA (branch).

On arrival at the rural health care centre, they observed health care being provided by medical specialists from Shwebo District People's



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspect multimedia teaching classroom of BEHS (branch) in Kyatet model village, Salingyi Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division. — MNA

opened a library with 1,000 books. He said, priority has been given to upgrading villages with over 500 households into model villages.

The model village

projects covers other villages. As the government has already upgraded the village, the locals should strive to uplift their morale and show good examples.

The minister also gave a speech.

The commander and the minister presented television sets, exercise books and uniforms to the village. — MNA



Chairperson of Sagaing Division Women's Affairs Organization and party hold family discussions with the women of Kyatet model village. — MNA

Work Proficiency Course No 27 for Officers concludes

YANGON, 29 Dec — The concluding ceremony of Work Proficiency Course No 27 for Township Officers of Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue concluded at the meeting hall of IRD on Pansodan Street this morning, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U Hsan Tun, managing directors and directors-general of department and enterprises, deputy directors-general and directors of the department, deputy directors and officials concerned and trainees.

First, the minister made a speech on the occasion, saying that the trainees were to carry out the tasks at the worksites in line with the rules, orders and regulations.

The constant courses were being conducted to become well-qualified staff. The staff were to organize those who will be able to pay the tax willingly and to fully collect the tax. Every staff was to actively participate in meeting the target after studying aims and objectives of the State.

Next, the minister presented completion certificates to a trainee and prizes to the outstanding ones.

A total of 35 trainees attended the course lasting from 5 to 29 December.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun presents a prize to an outstanding trainee. — MNA

Buses run free of charge

YANGON, 29 Dec — Hailing 58th Anniversary of Independence Day, the four buses of 5b/ 2915, 1a/ 7080, 6a/ 7715 and 5a/3209 of U Khin Aung-Daw Khin Myint Thu from

Hlinethaya Township are going to run in their respective trips for free all day on 4 January 2006 under the arrangement of All Bus Lines Control Committee.

MNA

MWAF holds coordination meeting



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Daw Than Than Nwe discusses plan to organize annual general meeting of the MWAF. — MNA

YANGON, 29 Dec — The coordination meeting to organize the Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at MWAF meeting hall on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint and CEC members, Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay, leaders and deputy leaders of

sub-committees for organizing the MWAF Annual General Meeting and officials.

General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun of MWAF reported on setting up of sub-committees and their functions.

Officials of the respective sub-committees discussed matters on their respective sectors.

Those present took part in the discussions. The coordination meeting ended with remarks by President Daw Than Than Nwe. — MNA

CNG filling station No 015 commences functions

YANGON, 29 Dec — The CNG filling station No 015 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy was commissioned at the station in Dagon Myothit (East) this morning, attended by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thuang Lwin, departmental heads, officials and staff of the departments under the Ministry of Energy, social organizations and guests.

General Manager of MOGE U Thein Htay clarified the facts about the station and Deputy Ministers Bri-Gen Than Htay and Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw formally opened the shop.

Next, the minister unveiled the signboard of the station.

Later, the minister, deputy ministers and guests viewed round the station and inspected the filling of CNG at the station. — MNA

Coord meeting on cultivation of jatropha curcas held in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 29 Dec — A coordination meeting of cultivation of jatropha curcas and production was held at the meeting hall of Kengtung in Shan State (East) on 26 December morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin, Shan State PDC Secretary Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, local authorities, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

First, the commander instructed officials concerned to put 500,000-acre jatropha curcas under cultivation so as to produce bio-fuel and to demonstrate on cultivation of jatropha curcas.

Next, heads of department at state level briefed the commander on cultivation of jatropha curcas and the commander fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander attended educative talks on cultivation of jatropha curcas and demonstration on engine test run by jatropha curcas oil.

After that, the commander and those present viewed power-tillers driven by jatropha curcas oil.

MNA

Annual meeting of Industrial Zone Section-1 held

YANGON, 29 Dec — The annual meeting of Industrial Zone Section-1 in Shwepyitha Industrial City took place at Kanuang hall in the industrial zone this morning. It was attended by Director-General U Aung Win of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and officials.

The director-general made a speech. The members of Industrial Zone Section-1 approved annual reports and financial statements for the year 2004-2005.

Next, the management committee for the Section-1 donated K 200,000 to the fire victims of Hline Township. — MNA



DHSHD Director-General U Aung Win delivers a speech at the annual meeting. — H

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ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ကြေးငွာဏ္ဍက အကောင်အထည်ဖော် ဖွင့်လှစ်လျက်ရှိသည့် နိုင်ငံအဝန်း ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာပေဒါနလှူဒါန်းပွဲကို (၇-၁-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့တွင် ကျင်းပမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စာအုပ်နှင့် စာပေဒါန ငွေပေးအပ်ပင် လှူဒါန်းလိုသော စေတနာရှင် အရွယ်ရောက်သူများသည် အောက်ပါလိပ်စာအတိုင်း ကြိုတင်ဆက်သွယ် လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန
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All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

ADVERTISEMENTS

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားနှင့်
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းအတွက်
လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားနှင့်
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စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

- (က) မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား
စက်ပစ္စည်းအုပ်စု (၁)
- (ခ) Non Linear Editing System 2 Sets
- (ဂ) DV Cam Camera 1/3"CCD 2 Sets
- (ဃ) Digital Archiving & Noise cleaning 1 Set
- (င) DV Cam Recorder 2 Nos
- (စ) 300 W TV Transmitter 1 Set
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- (ဇ) 50 W TV Transmitter 2 Sets

- စက်ပစ္စည်းအုပ်စု (၂)
- (ခ) Maintenance Equipment For (9) Regional Zone 1 Lot
- (ဂ) 15 KVA UPS Battery 12V, 24 AH 34 Nos
- (ဃ) A3 Printer (HP-5100 TN) 2 Nos
- (င) Digital Satellite Receiver (C-Band) 25 Nos
- (စ) A4 Printer (HP-1020) 7 Nos
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- စက်ပစ္စည်းအုပ်စု (၃)
- (ခ) 100 W TV Trasmmitter 2 Sets
- (ဂ) 50 W TV Transmitter 3 Sets
- (ဃ) 40 Ton Aircon 1 Set
- (င) 20 Ton Aircon Compressor 1 Set

၂။ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း

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- (ဃ) Computer eMac 4 Nos
- (င) Computer Pentium IV 4 Nos
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- (ဆ) Laser Printer A4 3 Nos
- (ဇ) Plain Paper Copier 2 Nos

၃။ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းအရက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင်
လာရောက်စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်-

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ဝေရေးဌာန၊
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Bulgaria ends troop pullout from Iraq

SOFIA, 28 Dec— Bulgaria has withdrawn its entire 334-strong light infantry battalion from Iraq, in line with plans to end its military presence there by the end of the year, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The Bulgarian Parliament approved the move in May in response to strong public opposition to the war. The withdrawal also coincides with a similar pullout by Ukraine, one of the largest contributors to the US-led operation in Iraq. "As of last night, the last group of 130 Bulgarian soldiers is in a safe place in Kuwait. They will come home on December 30," Defence Ministry spokesman Vladislav Prelezov said.

A staunch supporter of the US-led military opera-

tions, Bulgaria sent troops to Iraq in 2003. But it has since lost 13 soldiers and six civilians there and the majority of its 7.8 million people oppose keeping soldiers there any longer.

The ruling Socialists had promised to withdraw the troops immediately after winning June elections.

But they later changed plans and decided to stick to the year-end target after Iraq's interim government asked for the Balkan country's support for 15 December parliamentary polls.—MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (092)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (092) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA BERANI VOYNO (657)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA BERANI VOYNO (657) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797**

Pakistan bans export of nuclear products

ISLAMABAD, 28 Dec— Pakistan has declared a strict ban on the export of the technologies, materials and equipment related to nuclear and biological weapons and their delivery systems, the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

"The control lists have been notified pursuant to the Export Control Act on Goods, Technologies, Materials Equipment related to Nuclear and Biological Weapons and their Delivery Systems, which was adopted by the Parliament in September 2004," it said in a statement.

The control lists adopted by Pakistan encompass the lists and scope of export controls maintained by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Australia Group (AG) which relates to biological agents and toxins, and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), it added.

The classification system is based on the European Union's integrated list, which constitutes and latest international standard in this regard, the statement noted.

"Lists controlling the exports of Chemical Weapons related agents and their delivery system are already being maintained by Pakistan pursuant to the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Ordinance

2000," it stressed.

"The notification of the control lists further highlighted Pakistan's policy to implement its national and international non-proliferation commitments as a responsible nuclear weapons state, the statement also said, adding, the lists are being notified to all concerned, including manufacturers of such goods and technologies as well to the enforce-

ment agencies for effective controls at the borders.

Pakistan, in view of growing energy needs for development and scarcity of natural fossil fuel reserves, under its National Energy Plan, plans to generate 8800 megawatts of nuclear power by the year 2025 through the setting up of additional nuclear power plants, under the International Atomic En-

ergy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, according to the statement.

The statement said that all of Pakistan's existing nuclear power generation plants were under the IAEA safeguards.

"Effective and robust export controls should also facilitate international cooperation in the area of civilian nuclear technology under safeguards," it added.—MNA/Xinhua

Serbia-Montenegro sees neutrality in US stand on Kosovo

BELGRADE, 28 Dec— Serbia-Montenegro has believed that the United States is neutral on the future status of Kosovo, a senior diplomat was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

The US initiative for the resolution of the future status of Kosovo was aimed at the initiation of this process, but without defining the final plan or status of the province, Serbia-Montenegro ambassador to the United States Ivan Vujacic told the official Tanjug news agency on the phone.

"The status should be defined during the talks, and in this the United States will play an important role, as will be other Contact Group members," Vujacic said.

Kosovo, a breakaway Serbian Province, has been under UN administration since mid-1999. Its future status has been a bitter subject between pro-independence Albanian majority and Serbian authorities, which reject any form of independ-

ence. The direct talks on Kosovo's future status between the two sides are expected to be held in late January under the auspices of UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari.

Vujacic said that this year the US Senate unanimously adopted Resolution 237 on Kosovo, and an identical resolution was introduced into the House of Representatives a few days ago.

"I believe that this resolution is good, because it is neutral in the sense that it mentions neither self-determination, nor independence, and speaks about the difficult position of the Serbs and the need for reaching a compromise with agreement by both sides," Vujacic said.

MNA/Xinhua



A policeman with a sniffer dog inspects a car after an armed intruder opened fire during a conference at a premier science institute in Bangalore, southern India, on 28 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

စညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတော်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) mother carries her cub in her mouth at the Capital Zoo in Islamabad recently. — INTERNET

Over 1,300-year-old tomb discovered in N-W China

XI'AN, 28 Dec — Archaeologists in this northwestern province of Shaanxi have discovered a tomb dating backing more than 1,300 years ago in Tongguan County and unearthed a large number of relics from the tomb.

Located near Shuicun Village, 10 kilometres northwest of the county proper of Tongguan, the tomb is said to be built in the Sui Dynasty (581-618). Archaeologists discovered 72 square metres of well-preserved frescos, and unearthed more than 200 pieces of relics including

pottery ware and a stone coffin.

The two-storey tomb chamber is in the shape of a semicircular space which is five metres high, with a diameter of over six metres. The walls of the chamber are painted with the images of noble women and the roof is painted with silver spots, symbolizing stars.

A white belt stretches through the roof to symbolize the Milky Way, said Li Ming, an archaeologist with the Shaanxi Provincial Archaeological Research Institute, who participated

in the recent excavation of the Suiynasty tomb.

The tomb passage is 21 metres long and over two metres wide with walls on both sides painted with a picture showcasing 46 people going on a journey. Also painted on the walls include a horse and a halbert. A huge stone coffin, three metres long and two metres wide, lies east-to-west in the chamber. The coffin is carved with celestial beings, beasts and other complicated patterns.

Li, the archaeologist, said the tomb belongs to a

member of the imperial family, judging from the pattern of the tomb, funeral objects and carvings on the coffin.

According to Li, the tomb had been robbed of many precious relics including the epitaph for several times in the past. The owner of the tomb might be a prince, Li said.

Li said the frescos and coffin in the tomb provide precious materials for studying art development in the Sui Dynasty and the following Tang Dynasty (618-907).

MNA/Xinhua

China selects 100 outstanding films at movie centennial

BEIJING, 28 Dec — A hundred outstanding Chinese films have been selected in memory of the Chinese film centennial, the jury announced in Beijing on Tuesday.

A hundred films and three extra cartoon films were selected from the 220 nominated by a jury consisting of 100 filmmakers, critics and historians in the Chinese Mainland, said Zhang Sitao, jury chairman and president of the China Society of Taiwan and Hong Kong Films Research.

According to the selection statute, feature films, traditional opera films and cartoon films which were shot by studios in the Mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan were qualified for nomination.

"The Promise", directed by Chen Kaige, was in the list of selected films, though the selection had finished before the film was publicly

released in December.

Chen's "Yellow Earth" was also chosen.

The list also includes three films by Zhang Yimou — "Red Sorghum", "Qiu Ju Goes to Court" and "Hero."

Among the 100, 76 per cent were made after the foundation of New China in 1949, Zhang said. Twelve films made in Hong Kong and eight made in Taiwan were included in the list.

The Hong Kong films include "Drunken Master" by Yuen Woo-ping, "Police Story" by Jackie Chan, "A Better Tomorrow" by John Woo, "Rouge" by Stanley Kwan, "Butterfly Murders" by Tsui Hark, "Chungking Express" by Wong Kai-wai and "Infernal Affairs" by

Wai Keung Lau and Siu Fai Mak. The named Taiwan films include "Beautiful Duckling" by Hsing Lee, "A City of Sadness" by Hou Hsiao-Hsien and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Eat Drink Man Woman" by Ang Lee.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says vitamin-rich diet cuts risk of vision malady

CHICAGO, 28 Dec — A vitamin-rich diet lowers the risk of contracting macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness among the elderly in developed countries, researchers said on Tuesday.

The antioxidant properties of vitamins C and E, beta carotene and zinc were found to ward off macular degeneration, in which abnormal blood cells grow in the eye and leak blood and fluid that damage the centre of the retina and blur central

vision.

Sufferers are often debilitated and unable to read, recognize faces or drive, and the condition worsens with age.

It affects more than one out of 10 white adults over the age of 80, and is the leading cause of severe vision loss in Americans 60 and older. There is no cure, although an earlier study found taking high doses of vitamin supplements could slow the condition's progression.

The eight-year study involved more than 4,000 older residents of Rotterdam, in the Netherlands. It found those whose diets included more than the median levels of vitamins C

and E, beta carotene and zinc had a 35-per-cent lower risk of developing macular degeneration, compared with those whose diets provided a below-median level of any of the four nutrients. Participants with a below-median consumption of all four of the nutrients had a 20-per-cent higher risk of macular degeneration.

"This study suggests that the risk of age-related macular degeneration can be modified by diet; in particular, by dietary vitamin E and zinc," wrote lead author Dr Redmer van Leeuwen of the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam.

MNA/Reuters

Pioneer unveils Blu-ray drive for PCs

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec — Pioneer Electronics Inc on Tuesday unveiled a high-definition Blu-ray DVD disc drive for personal computers in the latest twist in a multibillion-dollar battle over next-generation DVD standards. Pioneer is part of the Blu-ray consortium, led by Sony Corp, which is vying against a rival high-definition format known as HD-DVD, championed by Toshiba Corp.. Both camps are hoping the next-generation discs and players, set to be introduced to consumers in 2006, will help offset a slowdown in the 19 billion US dollars prepackaged disc market.

MNA/Reuters

More evidence seen for fibre cutting heart risks

NEW YORK, 28 Dec — A diet that includes diverse sources of fibre may help prevent several major risk factors for heart disease, a study of French adults suggests.

The study of nearly 6,000 men and women found that the higher the participants' fibre intake, the lower their risk of being overweight or having elevated blood pressure or cholesterol.

The researchers also found that fibre from different sources had somewhat different effects. Fibre from whole grains, for example, was linked to lower body mass index (BMI), blood pressure and levels of a blood protein called homocysteine, which is connected to heart disease risk.

Fruit fibre was associated with lower blood pressure and less abdominal fat, while fibre from vegetables appeared to lower the risk of high blood pressure and high homocysteine concentrations.

And fibre from nuts, dried fruit and seeds was linked to a lower BMI, a lesser risk of abdominal obesity and lower blood sugar levels.

These findings all point to the importance of getting fibre from a variety of sources, according to Denis Lairon, a researcher at the French national health institute INSERM and the study's lead author.

The results also suggest that adults would do well to get more than the recommended fibre intake of roughly 25 grammes per day, Lairon and his colleagues say. In their study, each 5-gramme increase above that was linked to a greater decrease in the risks of being overweight or having high blood pressure or high cholesterol. — MNA/Reuters



International Space Station crew US astronaut William McArthur (R) and Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev are seen on a screen during a video transmission in Star City near Moscow on 28 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Chelsea win as Manchester United slip up

LONDON, Dec 29—Joe Cole's goal help Chelsea to a 1-0 win over Manchester City, moving the defending champions 11 points clear of nearest chasers Manchester United who only managed a 2-2 draw at Birmingham on Wednesday.

Arsenal were rampant in the first half at Highbury as they beat Portsmouth 4-0, whilst Tottenham's UEFA Champions League charge suffered a setback at West Brom.

In a tight affair at Eastlands, Manchester City will be disappointed they finished the losing side to Chelsea as Cole capitalized on Eidur Gudjohnsen's shot — which was pushed in to his path by David James' save 11 minutes from time.

If Harry Redknapp was not fully aware of the size of his task at Portsmouth then he is now after his side were put to the sword 4-0 at Arsenal.

Arsene Wenger's outfit were in the groove from the onset and took the lead through a neat Dennis Bergkamp finish on seven minutes before Jose Antonio Reyes matched

the Dutchman with an excellent strike from Thierry Henry's cutback.

Henry then netted himself, in the 37th minute, with a lovely effort for his first goal in a month and then two minutes before the break, scoring a precocious penalty after Reyes had been fouled.

Manchester United were disappointing on their trip to the Midlands as they could only claim a point at St. Andrews with substitute Walter Pandiani rescuing a share of the spoils for an under-fire Steve Bruce.

United took the lead in the fifth minute through Ruud van Nistelrooy's close range finish but, on 18 minutes, Jamie Clapham found a leveller when his angled drive squirmed past Edwin van der Sar.

In the second period, Wayne Rooney again

proved the talisman for Sir Alex Ferguson when he finished Alan Smith's pass from the right flank but all to no avail as Pandiani levelled on 78 minutes.

Wigan are proving their early season form is no fluke as they were again excellent on their travels in beating West Ham 2-0, their fourth successive win.

Jason Roberts looks unplayable at the moment and his goal, a cool clipped finish, in the 43rd minute was followed on the stroke of half-time by Henri Camara's sumptuous turn and finish beyond Roy Carroll.

MNA/Xinhua

Spaniard Vigo takes over as Dinamo Bucharest coach

BUCHAREST, 29 Dec —Spaniard Esteban Vigo has signed a six-month contract to coach Romanian league leaders Dinamo Bucharest, a club official said on Wednesday.

Former coach Ioan Andone surprisingly resigned this month to join Omonia Nicosia of Cyprus.

"Esteban Vigo will coach Dinamo for the next six months," executive president Ioan Becali told reporters. "Our contract might be extended for two years more if both sides agree."

Vigo, 51, will start training the team on January 10 with former Barcelona player Urbano Ortega as his assistant.

MNA/Reuters



China's Li Yi (L) fights for the ball with Andaluca's Jose Antonio Luque before scoring on it during their friendly soccer match at the Ramon de Carranza Stadium in Cadiz, southern Spain on 28 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Everton lose 3-1 to Liverpool

LONDON, 29 Dec — Liverpool pulled off their ninth successive Premiership victory when they beat struggling Everton 3-1 on Wednesday.

Peter Crouch's clever finish and Steven Gerrard's deflected 25-yard drive put Liverpool two up inside 17 minutes. Djibril Cisse's goal in the 47th minute sealed the win for Liverpool and Everton were reduced to nine men when Phil Neville and Mikel Arteta were sent off.

James Beattie, who had a header controversially ruled out, pulled one back four minutes before half-time for the Toffees.

Beattie's header may have ended Liverpool's sequence of 761 minutes of Premiership action without conceding a goal, but it was another impressive performance from Rafael Benitez' rapidly-improving side.

Liverpool recalled Cisse and left Fernando Morientes on the bench, while Everton recalled experienced duo David Weir and Nuno Valente in defence.

And it was Liverpool who flew out of the blocks and stunned Everton with two early goals.

Cisse had already fired wide when Gerrard's header released Crouch after 10 minutes, and he expertly rounded Nigel Martyn to roll a composed finish into an empty net.

And seven minutes later, a rampant Liverpool doubled their advantage as the 202nd Merseyside derby threatened to turn into a nightmare for Everton.

Goalkeeper Martyn punched clear, but when Cahill's header fell to Gerrard 25 yards out, he fired a low shot into the corner with the help of a slight deflection off Joseph Yobo.

Cisse then shot inches over as Liverpool threatened to run riot, but Everton slowly worked their way back into the game.

They were aggrieved when Beattie had a header ruled out from Tim Cahill's cross, with replays throwing doubt on whether the ball was out of play.

But the striker was rewarded with a goal that gave Everton a lifeline four minutes before the interval.

Kevin Kilbane's far post header was cleverly turned on by Simon Davies, and Beattie headed past Pepe Reina. But any hope Everton had of mounting a revival appeared to be snuffed out when Liverpool added a third only two minutes after the re-start.

Liverpool broke quickly, and Cisse raced on to Harry Kewell's pass before easily avoiding a poor challenge from David Weir to beat Martyn.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather freezes out three Premier League games

LONDON, 29 Dec — Bolton Wanderers' game against Middlesbrough, Blackburn Rovers' match with Sunderland and Newcastle's against Charlton were postponed on Wednesday as freezing temperatures hit the Premier League schedule.

Bolton's game was called off after a failure by the under-soil heating system left areas of their Reebok Stadium pitch frozen solid.

Blackburn's pitch at Ewood Park was covered by heavy frost and deemed unplayable, while Newcastle's game was called off shortly before the scheduled kickoff at St James' Park.

A frozen pitch also forced the postponement of the Second Division game between Plymouth Argyle and Preston North End. — MNA/Reuters

Vlaar shuns Tottenham for Feyenoord

AMSTERDAM, 29 Dec — Dutch defender Ron Vlaar has changed his mind about moving from AZ Alkmaar to Tottenham Hotspur and is joining Feyenoord instead.

The 20-year-old, who has been capped twice for the Netherlands, visited London last week to negotiate personal terms with Tottenham, managed by Dutchman Martin Jol.

But Vlaar had a change of heart and is joining Feyenoord on January 1 on a three-and-a-half-year contract.

He told the Dutch club's website on Wednesday: "It was...my preference to play for a big Dutch club so when Feyenoord called I didn't really have to think for too long."

Alkmaar had reportedly wanted 3.5 million euros (4.16 million US dollars) for Vlaar when a move to Tottenham seemed imminent though a fee of 2.5 million euros looked more likely. Feyenoord are third in the Dutch First Division behind leaders PSV Eindhoven and Alkmaar. — MNA/Reuters



Japanese teen sensation Mao Asada waves with stuffed animals presented to her from fans after winning the silver medal during the women's free skating event at the Japan Figure Skating Championships in Tokyo in this file photo from, 25 Dec, 2005. —INTERNET

Zagorakis offered managerial role with Greece

ATHENS, 29 Dec — Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis has been offered a job with the national team should he decide to quit playing.

The 34-year-old, who led Greece to victory in Euro 2004, plays for PAOK Salonika but has indicated that he may quit soon. Vassilis Gagatsis, the head of the EPO, the Greek soccer federation, said in an interview with Greek sports newspaper *Sportime* that he had offered Zagorakis a role working alongside coach Otto Rehhagel.

"I think he's the most appropriate choice for this, a manager who will decide on everything, from the team's strips, trips and opponents in cooperation with the coach, of course," Gagatsis said. "He (Zagorakis) believes that he won't be able to carry on because of his frame of mind and age. That's already been discussed between him and the coach and I think he will remain with us for the coming period." — MNA/Reuters

Altered cells deliver Parkinson's therapy to brain

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — Genetically modified nerve “progenitor” cells can be used as mini-pumps to deliver nerve growth factor to the brain, a new study in animals shows.

The results suggest such an approach could be used to treat Parkinson's disease and other brain diseases in humans, Dr Clive D Svendsen of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and colleagues report.

A nerve growth factor called “glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor” (abbreviated to GDNF) has been shown to protect dopamine-producing neurons, which are lost in Parkinson's

disease, Svendsen and his team note in the research journal *Gene Therapy*.

In fact, it's safe to infuse GDNF into brain regions of patients with Parkinson's disease, according to some studies, and it seems effective. However, delivering the drug in this fashion is complex and only reaches a single point in the brain.

In the current study, using rats with symptoms akin to Parkinson's disease, the researchers investigated the effect of

human neural progenitor cells engineered to produce GDNF.

The rats were transplanted with the modified cells, and after two weeks these were seen to have migrated to affected areas and to be secreting enough GDNF to extend the survival of dopamine neurons and promote outgrowth of nerve fibres.

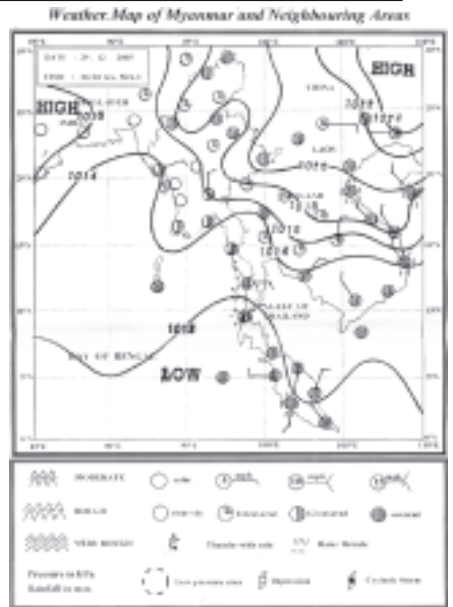
By five weeks post-transplant, the animals showed a “strong trend toward functional

improvement”, and at eight weeks the cells were still releasing the growth factor.

Tests in elderly monkeys showed the cells survived and continued to release GDNF for three months after transplant. None of the animals in the studies developed brain tumours.

Svendsen and his colleagues conclude that their results “show that combining human progenitor cell therapy with... gene therapy is a powerful approach to the future treatment of Parkinson's disease and other neurological conditions”.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Thursday, 29 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (6°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Mon State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-1°C), Namsam (2°C), Mindat and Mogok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-12-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 29-12-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 29-12-2005 was 91%. Total sunshine hours on 28-12-2005 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 29-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (106.14) inches at Mingaladon, (105.47) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.92) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 28-12-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-12-2005: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-12-2005: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-12-2005: Generally fair weather.

အချိန်အခါပွဲ ရွာသွန်းသောမိုးကြောင့် သီးနှံများ ပျက်စီးလေလွင့်မှု မရှိစေရန် လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့် ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ တောင်သူလယ်သမားများအား နှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ဘင်္ဂလားပင်လယ်အော်တွင် ဖြစ်ပေါ်နေသော မုန်တိုင်းငယ်ကြောင့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအနှံ့အပြားတွင် အချိန်အခါမခွဲ မိုးရွာသွန်း လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ယင်းကဲ့သို့ ချိန်ခါမခွဲ မိုးရွာသွန်းမှုကြောင့် ရိတ်သိမ်းဆဲသီးနှံများ၊ စိုက်ပျိုးထားသော သီးနှံများ၊ မပျက်စီးရေနှင့် စိုက်ပျိုးရန်ပြင်ဆင်လျက်ရှိသော သီးနှံများအချိန်မီစိုက်ပျိုးနိုင်ရေးကို အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ကြရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
- ၂။ ရိတ်သိမ်းဆဲဖြစ်သော စပါးများတွင် တောက်လှိုင်းများအား ကောက်ပြန် များမပြုလုပ်ဘဲ မိုးရေလျှော့ပုံဖြင့် ပြုလုပ်ရန် ကောက်ပြန်တွင်မိမိပိတ် မှီပြတ်လျှင်ပြတ်ဖြင့် နေလှန်းခြင်းကို ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်၊ မိုးကင်းလွတ်ချိန်တွင် တလင်းများကန်စနစ်ဖြင့် စက်စွမ်းအားသုံး၍ ရိတ်သိမ်းခြေလေ့အခြောက်ခံပါ။
- ၃။ ရိတ်သိမ်းဆဲသီးနှံများတွင် နှမ်းစည်များအစုပုံထားခြင်းမပြုဘဲ တောင်၍ထားခြင်း၊ အမိုးအကာအောက် အမြန်ရောက်အောင် ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းများ ပြုလုပ်ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်နှင့် မိုးရွာနေစဉ် နှမ်းကိုရိတ်သိမ်းခြင်းမပြုရန်။
- ၄။ ပဲမျိုးစုံတွင် မိုးရေကြောင့်ရေဝပ်ပြီး အပင်များ၊ မသေစေရန်အတွက် ရေခွက်မြောင်းများဆွဲပေးခြင်း၊ အစိုဓာတ်ကောင်း၍ ပဲပင်များဟုန်ပြီး အသီးထွက်နှုန်းမြင့်မမြစ်စေရန် ပဲပင်များအား ဒလိန်ဆွဲပေးခြင်း၊ ရွက်ဖြူခြင်းမပြုစေဘဲ နီကံကြိုက်ကို မသုံးဘဲ ဝိတက်နှင့် ဖောစီတံပါသော မြေဩဇာများကိုသာ အသုံးပြုရန်။
- ၅။ မိုးရွာနေစဉ်တွင် ဝါကောက်သိမ်းခြင်းမပြုရန်နှင့် ကောက်သိမ်းပြီး မိုးမိပါများတွင် ဝါဂွမ်းအရည်သွေးနှင့် မျိုးစေ့အရည်အသွေး မကျစေရန် အမိုးအကာအောက်တွင် လေသလပ်ထားပြီးနေပွင့်ပါက နေပူလှန်းရန်။
- ၆။ စိုက်ပျိုးနေဆဲ ပဲသီးနှံများ ရာသီဥတုဆိုင်ရာကောက်စိုက်ပျိုးနိုင်ရေးအတွက် မိုးပြတ်၍ ထွန်ယက်ရေဝင်နိုင်လျှင် ချက်ခြင်းမြေပြင်ဆင်ခြင်းကို ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်။
- ၇။ အချိန်အခါမဟုတ် မိုးရွာခြင်းသည် ရေသိုလှောင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရန်အတွက် အခွင့်အခါကောင်းဖြစ်၍ ရေကိုသိုလှောင်ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
- ၈။ စိုက်ပျိုးဖြစ်ထွန်းနေသော သီးနှံများတွင် ရာသီဥတုဖောက်ပြန်မှုကြောင့် ပိုမိုများရောဂါကျရောက်၍ ပျက်စီးမှုမရှိအောင် ဂရုပြုကြည့်ရှုပြီး လိုအပ်ပါက မြန်မာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် အမြန်ဆုံးဆက်သွယ် ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်။
- ၉။ တောင်သူလယ်သမားများအနေဖြင့် လိုအပ်သောအကူအညီများရှိပါက နှိုင်းစပ်ရာတိုင်း၊ ခရိုင်မြို့နယ် စိုက်ပျိုးရေးလုပ်ငန်း ညှိနှိုင်းမှုကော်မတီများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ဆောင်ရွက်ကြရန် နှိုးဆော်ပါသည်။

လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့် ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Friday, 30 December Tune in today

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: -Better Best forgotten (Steps)
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: -Love shot (Mandy Moore)
- 8.50 am** National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -Can we talk (Cod Red)
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: -Are you ready (EYC)
- 1:30 pm** News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music: -Bill, Bills, Bills (Desting's child) -I want to know what love is (Tina Arena) -Love really hurt without you (Billy Ocean)
- 9.00 pm** World of music: -Songs from Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Latin
- 9.10 pm** Article Request
- 9.20 pm** -Too much (Spice Girls) -This time around -Any one of us (Garath Gates)
- 9.45 pm** News & Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



Friday, 30 December View on today

- 7:00 am**
- 1.** ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံယ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာဂန္ထဝုဗ္ဗ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအေဝမဟာသဒ္ဒမ္မဓမ္မတော်က၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဘူဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
- 2.** To be healthy exercise

- 7:30 am**
- 3.** Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 4.** Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
- 5.** ရိုးရာကျေးလက်တေးဂီတ
- 8:05 am**
- 6.** အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
- 7.** The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:20 am**
- 8.** ကျောက်ကြီးပေါက်တေး
- 8:30 am**
- 9.** International news
- 8:45 am**
- 10.** English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm**
- 1.** Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2.** Song to uphold National Spirit

- 4:30 pm**
- 3.** သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညွှတ်ရှင်
- 5:00 pm**
- 4.** ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်အတွက် မြန်မာ့စုံစုံနှင့် ထူးချွန်ဆုပေးပွဲ အခမ်းအနား ကျင်းပပုံ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ်
- 8:00 pm**
- 5.** News
- 6.** International news
- 7.** Weather report
- 8.** ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်အတွက် မြန်မာ့စုံစုံနှင့် ထူးချွန်ဆုပေးပွဲ အခမ်းအနား ကျင်းပပုံ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ်
- 9.** The next day's programme

Rural regions enjoy higher living standard thanks to harmonious cooperation of government and the people

Two model villages in Sagaing Division inaugurated

YANGON, 29 Dec — Kyatet Model Village in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division, and Tinteyan Model Village in YeU Township, Shwebo District, were opened on 27 December in the presence of Member of the Panel of Patrons of Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and USDA CEC Member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspect demonstration of Leya-16 brand power-tillers with the use of jatropha curceas oil. — MNA

After the opening ceremony of Kyatet Model Village on 27 December morning, commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected Public Call Office and the offices of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization at the village.

Afterwards, the commander went to Kyatet Village Basic Education High School (Branch) and unveiled the signboard of the multi-media classrooms of the school.

The library of the village was also opened in the presence of the commander and the minister, and they donated books and journals to it. Next, they viewed the cottage industries at the village.

Later, they visited the Station Hospital where specialists from Sagaing Division General Hospital gave free medical treatments to local people.

At the meeting with the commander and party and local people, a townselder thanked the government and

combined harvester using jatropha curceas oil.

(See page 10)

At the meeting with the commander and party and local people, a townselder thanked the government and

run of power-tiller and

run of power-tiller and

run of power-tiller and

Two groups of delegates hold meetings

YANGON, 29 Dec — The delegate group of national races and the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia held their meetings in the Pyidaungsu Hall and designated meeting hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Delegate group of national races

The meeting of the delegate group of national races took place in the Pyidaungsu Hall this morning.

U Kyaw Din (a) U Thay Rai of Kayah State

presided over the meeting together with U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division and Duwa Zoak Dong of Shan State (North). Deputy Director U Than Tun and Assistant Director U Tin Maung Oo of Work Group-5 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs.

Meeting Chairman U Kyaw Din (a) U Thay Rai gave a speech.

NC delegates U Shi Thee of Sagaing Division, Daw San San Htay of Ayeyawady Division,



Alternate Chairman U Kyaw Din (a) U Thay Rai of Kayah State addresses the meeting of delegate group of national races. — MNA

U Pyay Lay of Chin State, Daw Aye Cho Sein of Shan State (South), Daw Khin Lay Myint of Mon State and U Sai Thein Aung of Kachin State read out the proposal concerning detailed basic principles to be adopted in legislative sector of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region or state Hluttaw to be included in drawing the State Constitution.

Next, the delegates approved the proposal.

Delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia

The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia held its meeting at

the meeting hall-6. U Hla Myint of the Ministry of Rail Transportation presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen President U Tin Hlaing of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Sciences and Film Director U Khin Zaw.

Deputy Director U Than Win and Assistant Director U Nyein Myint of Work Group-8 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs.

Meeting chairman U Hla Myint gave an open-

ing speech.

NC delegates U Aung Thein of the Ministry of Construction, Prof Daw Mya Mya Win of Yangon East University, and Dr Maung Maung Wint of the Ministry of Health read out the proposal related to detailed basic principles to be adopted in legislative sector of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region or state Hluttaw to be included in drawing the State Constitution. Later, the meeting approved the proposal.



Alternate Chairman U Hla Myint of Ministry of Rail Transportation delivers a speech at the meeting of delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia. — MNA