

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

Government spends over K 97,699 million for border areas development project from 1989 to date

Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races holds meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — The Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held its meeting No 1/2007 at the Prime Minister's Office, here, yesterday.

Chairman of the Work Committee Prime Minister General Soe Win delivered an address.

Also present were members of the State Peace and Development Council, who are Work Committee members, commander of military commands, who are chairmen of state/division and regional work committees, ministers, deputy ministers, the directors-general of SPDC Office, the Prime

Minister's Office and the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, heads of department and chairmen of subcommittees.

Prime Minister General Soe Win said that the nation has witnessed the greater success that has been achieved in implementing the border areas and national races development project during the period of 18 years.

The success is due to the guidance given by the Head of State, the chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, and the harmonious efforts of the Work Committee, the

(See page 6)

Prime Minister General Soe Win addresses the meeting No 1/2007 of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races.
MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 21 January, 2007

Universities in special development regions to expedite human resource development

Raising the national education standard and development of human resources serve as a fundamental factor for a developed nation. The government is now enabling border areas, that lagged behind in development due to various reasons in successive periods, to keep abreast of other parts of the Union by means of development.

As part of the drive, it is increasingly nurturing the youth in border areas so that the students subsequently will be capable of producing human resources of new generations in the regions of their own. In 1988, the nation had 32 universities and colleges with no computer university or computer college.

The Tatmadaw Government has been implementing several plans on national education promotion and human resource development in pursuing the goal of building a modern developed nation through education.

After designating 24 special development regions across the Union, it placed emphasis on education promotion and technological development for creating equal learning opportunity in respective regions of national races and region-wise human resource development.

The youth in border areas now can pursue higher education in their own regions, which are enjoying the development of human resources.

In addition, the government is making preparations in line with the educational provisions of the upcoming State Constitution for the national races in respective regions to become all-round development with high education standard.

In order to achieve the goal, 49 government technological colleges under the Ministry of Science and Technology and three degree colleges under the Ministry of Education in the 24 special development regions were upgraded into universities on 20 January.

Now, it is needed to produce more human resources for stepping up the nation-building tasks. The newly-upgraded universities in the special development regions will help scale up producing intellectuals and intelligentsia capable of brilliantly serving the interests of national and regional interests.



U Aung Nyunt-Prof Daw Hla Myint and family at No 35(D), 7th mile, Mayangon Township, donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) of the Home. — H

Peoples' 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

Yangon Div WAO organizes educative talks on health

YANGON, 20 Jan — Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization conducted educative talks on health and round-table discussions at Yogyi Village, Hmawby Township, on 13 January.

Leader of the health working group of Yangon Division WAO Dr Daw Lay Khaing and Joint-Secretary of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn gave talks on health.

Chairperson of Yangon Division WAO Daw

Khin Myo Thu accepted 211 membership applications for the organization handed over by the chairperson of the village WAO and presented uniforms.

After the talks, Yangon Division WAO also donated 300 books to the village library and K 330,000 to the village.

Yangon Division WAO also donated cash to 21 aged persons of the village for their medical treatment.

MNA

New Daewoo electronics products introduced

YANGON, 19 Jan — A ceremony to introduce new items of Daewoo-made electronics, sponsored by OK Myanmar Co Ltd, was held at Excel Treasure Hotel in Bahan Township on 16 January evening.

Member of BOD U Zaw Weik explained quality guarantee and service of the company. Next, he presented prizes to the winners in the sales promotion programme.

Engineers and staff of OK Myanmar Co Ltd demonstrated use of Daewoo brand DVD players, and answered the queries raised by those present.

The company



Member of BOD U Zaw Weik presents refrigerator to a lucky draw winner. —MNA

fixed the sales promotion period from 18 November 2005 to 11 April 2007. For further information please dial phone numbers 392986, 392987, 377627

and 392997 at No 163, Bo Aung Kyaw Street; phone numbers 241077 and 387644 at No 201-203, Pansodan Street; phone numbers 376997, 384748

and 299401 at No 124 Maha Bandoola Park Street; and phone numbers 067-22953 at (Ya-4/28) Yang Aung (1) Ward, Pyinmana. — MNA



**Daewoo
electronic
goods of
OK
Myanmar
Co Ltd.**

MNA

Most Americans oppose Bush's plan of increasing troops to Iraq

SILICON VALLEY, 18 Jan—Most Americans oppose President George W Bush's plan to send roughly 21,000 additional troops to Iraq, with a significant number saying that the Congress should try to block it by withholding funds for more forces, a new national survey has said.

The latest survey by the Pew Research Centre for the People and the Press, shows that 61 per cent of Americans oppose Bush's plan to send more troops, with 43 per cent of the opponents expressing support for the Congress withholding funding. The survey among 1,708 adults also reflected increased

partisan polarization on the debate over what to do in Iraq, with 60 per cent of Republicans supporting Bush's initiative, and 82 per cent of Democrats opposing it.

Support for the President's proposal is undercut by doubts about

the impact that US forces can have in Iraq. The poll also showed that Americans are divided over the effects of the US presence on the Iraqi Government.

While 43 per cent of the respondents believe the presence of American

forces in Iraq is doing more to help the Iraqi Government by providing needed support, while 43 per cent of the opinion that it is doing more to hurt the Iraqi Government by making them too dependent on the US.

MNA/PTI

Thailand wins World's Best Tourist Country Award

BANGKOK, 19 Jan—Thailand has been voted as the World's Best Tourist Country in the Norwegian Grand Travel Awards 2007 held in Oslo, Norway earlier this month, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement faxed to media here Thursday.

The ministry said that

the Thai Embassy in Oslo reported that it is the fourth consecutive year Thailand won the annual award.

The event was sponsored by Norway's *Travel News Magazine* and has run for 12 years.

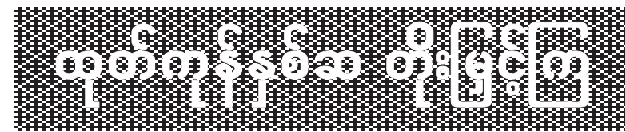
The top award was granted to Thailand based on an opinion poll of more than 300 tourism industry-

related companies in Norway.

The other countries that rank in the top 10 list are Greece, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Brazil, the United States, France, Britain and Sweden.

Meanwhile, Thailand's flagship carrier Thai Airways International was also voted Best International Airlines in the airline category, among the 17 categories of the awards.

MNA/Xinhua



Russian short-range anti-aircraft missile system TOR-M1. Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov on 16 Jan, 2007, confirmed that Russia has sold TOR-M1 air defence missile systems to Iran. Ministry officials have previously said Moscow would supply 29 of the sophisticated missile systems to Iran under a 700 million US dollars contract signed in December. —XINHUA



A truck makes its way along the southbound Interstate 5 freeway north of Los Angeles after a winter storm blanketed the freeway with snow on 17 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Mortar attack at Somali presidential palace in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 20 Jan—Mortar shells were fired at the Somali presidential palace in the capital of Mogadishu on Friday night, reports reaching here said.

The attack was launched at the residence of Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf. The whereabouts of the president was unclear now.

The Somali Transitional Federal Government has regained the control of most parts of the country after a campaign helped by Ethiopian troops.

UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Somalia Francois Lonseny Fall on Thursday called for inclusive dialogues between rival Somali parties to enhance peace and reconciliation in the war-ravaged nation.

Internet

US Marine pleads guilty to murdering Iraqi man

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—A 25-year-old US Marine corporal has pleaded guilty to murdering an Iraqi man last year, NBC reported Thursday.

Corporal Trent Thomas thus became the first of eight soldiers charged in the case to plead guilty to the homicide charge, according to the report.

Prosecutors allege that on April 26, 2006, Thomas and 7 other US soldiers seized a 52-year-old Iraqi man from his house in the village of Hamdania, and took him to a roadside hole before shooting him to death.

They then placed an AK-47 rifle and shovel by the man's body to try to make it look like he was a guerilla who had been caught in the act of planting a bomb.

MNA/Xinhua



Robin Wright Penn smiles for photographers during arrivals to the New York premiere of "Breaking and Entering", on 18 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET



Huge waves in the port of Wimereux, northern France. A severe storm front has battered the British Isles and Germany, causing havoc with shipping and leaving one man dead in England, with forecasters predicting worse weather to come. —XINHUA

KIO issues declaration condemning US, Britain-sponsored draft resolution

YANGON, 20 Jan — *Kachin State Special Region-2 (Kachin Independence Organization) issued a declaration condemning the draft resolution the US and Britain jointly submitted to the UN Security Council to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The declaration is as follows:-*

The draft resolution submitted to the UNSC on 12 January 2007 was decided through voting but it was vetoed by the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation. There is no doubt that both China and Russia understand Myanmar's real situation as they have been our friendly nations for so many years. Particularly, being a neighbour, China understand the issue of Myanmar more than others.

Their veto of the draft resolution at the UNSC will help the Union of Myanmar shape a brighter future and we expressed our thanks to China for its being a good neighbourly nation.

We believe that the issue of Myanmar should be addressed by its own nationals and the seven-step Road Map of the State the government is implementing
(See page 5)

Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association strongly condemns US draft resolution

YANGON, 20 Jan — *Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association issued an announcement in protest against the submission of the draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council by the United States and Britain to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs.*

The declaration is as follows:-

We have known that the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation had protested against the draft resolution submitted to the UNSC by the US and Britain on 12 January 2007 by putting double veto on the resolution.

Without paying attention to the development in all aspects of Myanmar, baseless accusations of destructive elements within the nation have been used by the US and Britain as a pretext for interference in Myanmar's internal affairs. In addition, the US and Britain had misused the UNSC and put pressure on some member nations of the UNSC in order to interfere in Myanmar's affairs.

Such actions are rather one-sided and unjust. Therefore, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association strongly condemns the action of the US and Britain.

We express our thanks for the protest against the draft resolution of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association
MNA

Rakhine Peace Organization denounces US draft resolution

YANGON, 20 Jan—*The Rakhine Peace Organization issued a declaration on 15 January condemning the draft resolution submitted by the United States and Britain to the UNSC in order to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs.*

The declaration is as follows:-

1. The Rakhine Peace Organization had already objected the resolution to put the Myanmar issue on the UNSC agenda.

2. Despite the objection, the US and Britain continued proposing a draft resolution to put Myanmar issue on the UNSC, accusing the government of continued detaining political prisoners, oppressing ethnic minorities, breaching human rights and failure in the control of drug production.

3. As the accusations of the US and Britain to the effect that Myanmar issue is posing a threat to international peace and security were groundless, China, Russia and South Africa protested against the resolution while three other countries abstained.

4. The RPO believes that the Myanmar issue should be addressed by
(See page 5)

Myanmar Rice Millers Association delighted over failure of US attempt

YANGON, 20 Jan—*The Myanmar Rice Millers Association issued a declaration on 15 January condemning the draft resolution submitted by the United States and Britain to the UNSC in order to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The declaration is as follows:-*

Putting its own interest in the fore, the United States made an attempt to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs and continued putting a draft resolution on Myanmar issue to the UNSC agenda. But its attempt has met with failure. The Myanmar Rice Millers Association expressed its delight over the failure.

The MRMA staged a protest against internal and external groups in collusion with the US government in putting lop-sided pressure on Myanmar.

The MRMA was pleased with the use of veto by the People's Republic of China and Russia in killing the resolution of the US and Britain, the objection of South Africa against the resolution and the constructive attitudes of other nations towards Myanmar.

Myanmar Rice Millers Association
MNA

KNDA issues declaration condemning US, Britain-sponsored draft resolution

YANGON, 20 Jan — *Kayan National Defence Army on 16 January issued a declaration condemning the draft resolution the US and Britain jointly submitted to the UN Security Council to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The declaration is as follows:-*

1. Our organization as well as the entire people already opposed the attempt to put the Myanmar issue on the agenda of the UNSC.

2. Amidst the universal condemnation, in order to interfere our nation's internal affairs, the US and Britain did submit a draft resolution to the UNSC with various excuses of continued detention of political inmates, violation of human rights, spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, narcotic problem and oppression of ethnic minorities.

(See page 5)

Haungthayaw Special Region issues declaration condemning US, Britain-sponsored draft resolution

YANGON, 20 Jan — *Kayin Peace Army (Haungthayaw Special Region) yesterday issued a declaration condemning the draft resolution the US and Britain jointly submitted to the UN Security Council to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The declaration is as follows:-*

1. The US-led attempt to decide Myanmar's affairs at the UNSC on 12 January 2007 was abortive due to the rejection of the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation, permanent members of UNSC, through double veto.

2. We recognize the farsighted decision of the big nations or veto-wielding countries to thwart the ill attempt of other big nations with hegemonic power.

3. The internal affairs of Myanmar will be dealt with in accord with the seven-step Road Map based on the Union Spirit of all national brethren.

(See page 5)

Karenni National Democratic Party (KNDP) on 17 January issued a declaration

YANGON, 20 Jan — *Karenni National Democratic Party (KNDP) on 17 January issued a declaration opposing the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain to the UN Security Council, with an attempt to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The full text of the declaration is as follows:-*

1. KNDP (Dragon) totally opposed the plan to discuss Myanmar issue at the United Nations Security Council. Likewise, all the nationals from States and Divisions of the Union of Myanmar opposed it.

2. While opposing them, the US together with Britain accused Myanmar of continuing the detention of political prisoners, violation of human rights by oppressing some ethnic groups in the eastern part of Myanmar, incapability to control the spread of TB and malaria, and failure to eliminate the narcotic drug production and proposed a draft resolution to put Myanmar issue on the UNSC.

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New Mon State Party (NSC) issues declaration opposing draft resolution co-sponsored by US and Britain

YANGON, 20 Jan — *New Mon State Party (NSC) on 18 January issued an announcement as in protest at the submission of the draft declaration to the UN Security Council, co-sponsored by the US and Britain to meddle in Myanmar's internal affairs. The full text of the declaration is as follows:-*

1. The NSC totally opposed the decision made on 15 September 2006 to be put on the UNSC agenda due to the submission of the US permanent representative to the UN. Not only the entire people of Myanmar but also the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation objected it.

2. While opposing them, the US together with Britain made false accusations that Myanmar posed a threat to regional peace and stability, oppression of minorities, human rights violation, failure to eliminate the narcotic drug

(See page 5)

Haungthayaw Special...

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4. Exaggerating the problems of political inmates, HIV, TB and malaria and saying that Myanmar posed a threat to regional peace and security, the ploy to decide Myanmar affairs at the UNSC amounted to interfering in our internal affairs. So, we recognize and value the objection of China and Russia.

5. We are indebted to the People's Republic of China and Russia which stand by Myanmar knowing objective conditions of the nation.

U Saw Thamu He
Leader
Haungthayaw Special Region
MNA

KNDA issues declaration...

(from page 4)

3. As their accusations that Myanmar posed a threat to regional and international peace and security are totally wrong, the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation put a double veto on the resolution, South Africa voted against it and three other nations abstained. The double veto has never been used since 1972.

4. We believe that the issue of Myanmar should be addressed by its own nationals. We strongly oppose the outside interference and the internal affairs should be discussed only at the National Convention in accord with the seven-step Road Map of the State.

5. We, on behalf of the nation, are grateful to the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation which supported the country understanding our true situation.

Htay Ko
Chairman
MNA

Karenni National Democratic...

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3. As it was only slanderous accusation on Myanmar issue of posing a threat to regional and international peace and stability, the KNDP cannot accept it. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China cast the double veto against the draft resolution and the Republic of South Africa voted against it. And, the three UNSC alternate members abstained. It was the first for casting the double veto from 1972 to date. Hence, the KNDP expressed special thanks to the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation that were considerate towards Myanmar.

4. The organization firmly believes that all the affairs of Myanmar are internal affairs that only Myanmar nationals should deal with. We cannot totally accept any outside intervention. All the tasks will be carried out in line with the State's seven-step Road Map. Therefore, the KNDP (Dragon) firmly believe that the only then will the correct decision related to the draft resolution be adopted at the National Convention.

Vice-Chairman
Karenni National Democratic Party
MNA

KIO issues declaration...

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will surely make a political change in the country. That is why our organization has been actively participating in the National Convention. Therefore, we expect that while all national people are working side by side for the wellbeing of the country, foreign nations will support our drive to achieve the goal.

Central Committee
KIO
MNA

Rakhine Peace ...

(from page 4)

Myanmar people themselves and any outside intervention is unacceptable, and that solving the problems at the on-going National Convention is the most suitable means.

Saw Tun Oo
Chairman
Rakhine Peace Organization
MNA

New Mon State Party...

(from page 4)

production, incapability to control the spread of infectious diseases, and continued detention of political prisoners, and they proposed a draft resolution to put Myanmar issue on the UNSC.

3. It was only slanderous accusation on Myanmar issue of posing a threat to regional and international peace and stability. It was the unacceptable draft resolution. Hence, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China cast the double veto against the draft resolution and the Republic of South Africa voted against it. And, the three UNSC alternate members abstained. It was the first for casting the double veto from 1972 to date. Therefore, our wholehearted thanks go to the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation that firmly stood by Myanmar.

4. As the Union of Myanmar has laid down and is implementing the seven-step Road Map to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, people in all the regions including border areas are enjoying fruits of prevailing peace and stability and prevalence of law and order, and the national unity. The organization strongly denounced destructive acts of the US and Britain and their allies to undermine democracy transition of Myanmar, turning a blind eye to the realistic situation of the country.

5. All the affairs of Myanmar are internal affairs that only Myanmar nationals should deal with. Hence, we cannot totally accept any outside intervention. All the tasks will be carried out in line with the State's seven-step Road Map. Therefore, the New Mon State Party (NSC) pledges to take part in realization of the State's seven-step Road Map and the party firmly believes that solving the problems and all the affairs at the National Convention is the most suitable way.

Nai Saik Chan
Chairman
New Mon State Party (NSC)
MNA

Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association organizes International Fair 2007

YANGON, 20 Jan—Organized by Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association, the International Fair 2007 was held at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Panel of Patrons wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the wife of Deputy Minister U Maung Myint, wives of departmental heads, wives of Ambassadors of ASEAN member

countries, wives of Ambassadors of other countries, families of diplomats in Yangon, and families of UN agencies. A total of 18 countries including Myanmar participated in the fair to sell handicrafts,

consumers' products and foodstuff. The proceeds from the sales will go to social organizations.

MNA

Daw Myint Myint Soe,
wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and officials view the International Fair 2007.

MNA



NPED Minister receives External Affairs Minister of India

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan —Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha received Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee and delegation members at his office, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Thurein Zaw and departmental heads. The Indian minister and party were accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. — *MNA*

Religious Affairs Minister meets Indian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee and party at his office, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and departmental heads. The Indian minister and party were accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. — *MNA*

Government spends over K 97,699 million...

(from page 1)

Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, regional work committees and subcommittees.

The present year is the first year of the fourth five-year project. The government spent over K 97,699 million on border areas development project from 1989 to this date.

At the Central Committee meeting, its Chairman Senior General Than Shwe called for implementing road projects at the regions which had no roads for development of the transport sector of border areas.

The government has been giving priority to youth resources development of border areas that can improve the living standard by effectively using government-built infrastructures, and natural resources. The Ministry of Education built 852 primary schools, 90 middle schools and 92 high schools in the basic education sector. International organizations are also providing exercise books for those schools. Food for education project being implemented in cooperation with the UNFPA has been provided to children and students of the families who have already abandoned the practice of growing poppy for opium. It is encouraging to see the number of students reached over 100,000 in border areas from only 1000 in the past. The significant success is the rise in the education qualifications of the youths of border areas that helps strengthen national peace and stability and accelerate progress. As the educated youths know more about the ill effects of poppy growing, the evil legacy of the colonialists, they are cooperating more with the local people to wipe of opium.

The Education Ministry and international organizations are making cooperative efforts for the development of the qualifications of young men and women of border areas. The PBANRDA Ministry has also opened its Education and Training Department. Twenty-seven youth development training schools have been opened in the border areas for youths of the needy families and youths who have less education opportunities. The schools are disseminating knowledge to the youths free of charge. The government has also opened one Nationalities Youths Resources Development Degree College each in Yangon and Mandalay. Now, 574 youths who have graduated from the degree colleges are discharging development and administrative duties of their native places. Some of them are attending master's degree courses. A total of 708 students are attending classes at the two colleges this year. Priority has been given to the youths discharging duties in the education and health sectors to attend classes at the



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.—MNA

University for Development of National Races, University of Nurses and nurses training schools.

Border areas are running 34 women's domestic science training schools that have already trained 20,844 trainees. Technical schools have been opened in Sittway, Laukkai, Pangsang and Mongla.

The National Health Committee has been extending health care activities not only in rural areas but also in border regions. Border regions had only eight hospitals and six dispensaries in 1988. Now they have 79 hospitals, 115 dispensaries, 58 rural health care centres and 140 health branches. Every special development zone now has a 200-bed hospital.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Work Committee has been providing assistance to the cultivation of suitable crops to ensure food sufficiency in the border areas and to trade the surplus crops. After fulfilling the food requirements, clothing and shelter needs will be fulfilled. Animal breeding farms have also been extended alongside the agriculture.

Agriculture offices, agriculture centres and mini dams have been built in the border areas. Slash-and-burn cultivation has been substituted with highland cultivation.

Due to the encouragement, local farmers are now able to grow high-yield crops extensively as well as perennial crops such as rubber, orange, lychee and tea for increasing their earnings. And the majority of local farmers have given up poppy growing, thus depicting a great success. So, responsible personnel are to continue to help the farmers distribute their agricultural surpluses to the markets at home and abroad and enjoy healthy prices.

Regarding the public relations, the government has established 111 TV retransmitting stations across the nation, thereby convincing the national brethren of peace and stability and national development as well as policy guidelines of the State and cementing



Lt-Gen Ye Myint.—MNA

national solidarity.

That is why the government is taking measures to extend the media as far as border areas and to enable some regions where daily newspaper is not available to receive the channels of the Myanma Radio and Television and the Myawady. The officials concerned are to make sure that the TV retransmitting stations broadcast the programmes regularly and local people can enjoy the programmes.

With regard to the drive for drug elimination, the government is implementing the 15-year plan for elimination of narcotic drugs as a national duty with self-reliant basis to ward off the poppy cultivation, that has been rooted in border areas for more than 150 years in the colonial period.

In drawing the drug elimination plan, the 15-year plan was launched in 1999-2000, 10 years after the border areas development project was launched so that they can earn in an alternative way when they started to quit growing poppy. Due to the participation of national races in border areas, the poppy growing and production is on the decrease, and the international community has recognized the achievement.

The 15-year plan was launched one year earlier than the ASEAN Vision with the goal of ensuring drug eradication by 2014. In order to achieve the goal, regional work committees and ministries are to speed up the implementing of three tactics — supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement.

In the drive, the government is cooperating with UN agencies, international NGOs and NGOs. Officials concerned in respective regions are to ensure correct trend and to extend a helpful hand to the organizations in the interests of the nation and people.

In transforming the nation into a peaceful and modern developed one under the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, priority was given to the border areas and national races development project for ensuring national cohesion, the fundamental factor. Since then, necessary plans have been launched for the development in the social, economic and transportation sectors in border areas, cementing amicable relations among national races, elimination of poppy growing, prevalence of law and order, and restoration of peace and stability. With regional development, there will be more success in implementing the goals. When the implementation of the border areas development projects are in full swing, the government launched the special 24-region development project for equitable development of all parts of the Union. And the project was followed by the rural development project.

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Government spends over K 97,699 million...

(from page 6)

At the meeting No 1/2006 of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, Central Committee Chairman Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on making sustained efforts to effectively implement the projects, saying that considerable success had been achieved in implementing regional development projects. Only when all rural areas and border areas, where the majority of the people live, had enjoyed development, will the entire nation be developed.

Owing to the correct policy, and harmonious cooperation of national level officials, organizations and local people, the border areas development projects launched in 1989 have made progress more than expected. And local people witness the fruitful results of peace and stability and development. However, all should not be complacent about the present achievements, and regional work committees, ministries and subcommittees are to make increased efforts in concert for ensuring greater progress of border areas.

In the process, it is required of the regional work committees to review the performances, to present the tasks that need priority, and subcommittees, to make field trips to supervise the tasks.

Secretary of the Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on accomplishments of the work committee. He said that the Ministry of PBANRDA will coordinate with regional working committees, subcommittees and ministries concerned to implement the directives and instructions of the Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races.

The border areas development project has spent K 97,699 million — K 49,662.63 million on construction of roads and bridges, K 1,741.5 million on the health sector, K 8,495.25 on the education sector, K 4,326.41 million on the agriculture sector, K 76.09 million on the forest sector, K 1,488.92 million on the livestock breeding sector, K 262.43 million on the trade sector, K 1,764.17 million on the energy sector, K 1,460.17 million on the public relations sector, K 428.47 million on the mining sector, K 3,129.37 million on the communications sector, K 1,949.04 million on the housing estates, K 318.06 million on the management and finance sector, K 506.32 million on the religious affairs, K 912.15 million on the home affairs, K 265.16 million on the social welfare and cooperative sector, K 20,912.89 million on the general matters.

The work committee is cooperating with international organizations in the drug elimination and regional development tasks. The Head of State had given guidance to ensure local food sufficiency, build social economic infrastructures and develop human resources for gaining the sustainable development.

So far, a total of 27 youth training centres have been opened to nurture 328 ethnic trainees at primary school level, 1,657 at middle level and 639 at high level, totalling 2,624. During 17 years period, 92 BEHSs, 90 BEMSs and 852 BEPSs have been opened in border areas. Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Mandalay had turned out 574 graduates and they have been appointed at respective ministries. This academic year, 708 students are pursuing education at the both degree colleges. Arrangements were made to enable outstanding students to learn master's bachelor courses at both degree colleges.

At the Central Committee Meeting 2/2004, the Chairman of the Central Committee gave guidance to open vocational training schools in border areas. Hence, the Border Areas Youth Technical School was opened in Mongla of Shan State (East) on 8 July 2006, another school in Panghsan of Shan State (North) on 4 August 2006 and the third one in Laukkai on 7 August 2006. In addition, 34 women's vocational training schools were set up in border areas for providing training courses to 20,844 local women.

In the past, Chin State had only one women's vocational training school. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, five more women's vocational training schools were opened in Falam, Tiddim, Mindat in 2003-2004 and in Matupi and Kanpetlet in 2004-05. Furthermore, one women's vocational training school was established in 2004-05 in Bhamo of Kachin State. Due to local demand, 15 similar schools were opened in Putao, Dawphonyan and Dunban in Kachin State, Nanyun, Leshi, Lahe, Yinmabin, Pale and Salingyi in Sagaing Division, Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikphyu in Magway Division and Mudon of Mon State in 2005-06.



Minister Col Thein Nyunt.—MNA

The commanders, who are also chairmen of regional work committees, reported on requirements of their regions and matters to be decided.

Chairmen of subcommittees and officials of the Ministry of PBANRDA also presented reports on requirements and matters to be decided.

Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave suggestions on development of border areas and national races.

Prime Minister General Soe Win gave instructions on arrangements for field trips to the border areas and smoothly carrying out the assistance tasks of international organizations. — MNA

The present year is the first year of the fourth five-year project. The government spent over K 97,699 million on border areas development project from 1989 to this date.

Production Sharing Contract signed

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy and the MPRL E & P Pte Ltd formed on British Virgin Island, on 18 January inked the Production Sharing Contract at the ministry here to launch exploration of oil and gas in the oil field A-6 off Rakhine coast.

Present at the contract signing ceremony were Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister for Science and Technology and Minister for Labour U Thaung, Vice-Chairman of MIC Minister

for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin, CEO U Moe Myint of MPRL E & P Pte Ltd, General Manager U Myo Tin, Country Manager Mr Terence John Howe, officials and guests.

First, Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave an opening speech. CEO U Moe Myint of MPRL E & P Pte Ltd and Managing Director U Myint Kyi of MOGE extended greetings.

Managing Director U Myint Kyi of MOGE and Country Manager Mr Terence John Howe of MPRL E & P Pte Ltd signed the Production Sharing Contract, and exchanged the contracts.

Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave the permit of the ministry to CEO U Moe Myint. Chairman of MIC Minister U Thaung gave the permit of Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission to Country Manager Mr Terence John Howe of MPRL E & P Pte Ltd.

The profit sharing contract is to explore and produce oil and natural gas in the block A-6 off Rakhine coast. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi speaks at the ceremony to sign Production Sharing Contract between MOGE and MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. — ENERGY

Tatmadaw protecting people from dangers of terrorist insurgents who are committing murders, arsons, bombings

Saw Htoo Wa

The following points are required to develop a nation:

- (1) All are to join hands to work in unity.
- (2) There must be a peaceful environment.
- (3) All the citizens are to ward off alien attempts to cause dissension, and should work for national prosperity.
- (4) There has to be rich land, water, aboveground and underground natural resources.
- (5) The citizens shall have the right to freely work the national interest.

As Myanmar is endowed with the above points, she at present is developing in all aspects as never before. Thanks to the united efforts of all the national races, progress and prosperity have reached all the four corners of the nation.

Due to growing doubts and narrow racism of some national races, which were the results of alien dissension, the Union lacked peace in the past. The insurgents closed down all schools, hospitals and dispensaries in the areas under their control. They even killed teachers in those areas.

Those incidents were the evil consequences of the colonialist-fueled doubts among the national people. Three Anglo-Myanmar wars broke out as the colonialists invaded Myanmar three times — one in 1824, another in 1852 and the other in 1885. In all those wars, the national people courageously fought back the intruders. During the wars, all the national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan launched historic anti-colonialist battles. Even the colonialist troops had to record with amazement the valour of Myanmar patriots.

As soon as the national races knew the alien invasion, they fought back the colonialists out of their own patriotism with any available weapon, love for the country and nationalistic fervour. They were not organized by any political party, organization or person or informed through any means to do so. Since the earliest times, the Myanmar races have the fine historic tradition of warding off foreign intruders. The spirit of the Myanmar people to ward off the colonialists of own

volition is worthy of being recorded.

The colonialists came to realize the patriotism, solidarity and courage of Myanmar people. Hence, they in accord with their wicked mind tried to systematically disunite the national races. They used different administrative systems for different regions, and formed separate regions under separate administrative laws. They enacted a law to prohibit people of the plains from entering Shan State.

However, no attempt could destroy the patriotism of the people. Myanmar people always remained close to one another. The national unity was strong during the independence and anti-Fascist struggles. Like all other national brethren, Shan people fought back the British.

All the over 100 national races of Myanmar have been living through thick and thin. They have the wonderful history of unity during the struggle to regain independence.

On the other hand, the neo-colonialists sowed seeds of discord to break up the Union into pieces and cause doubts among the people to make Myanmar lose her independence again. Whatever efforts the colonialists have made, the Myanmar people have been able to ward off all dangers with unity and cooperation and understanding. Blood is thicker than water.

The national race leaders were able to discuss the nation's independence, her future and national unity, with vision. The colonialists did not want to grant independence to Myanmar in its original boundary when they occupied the nation in 1885. They wished to put the hilly regions under their administration as a colony. Thanks to the Panglong Agreement, which emerged due to the force of Panglong Conference, the Panglong spirit, and Panglong solidarity, the national people were able to free the whole nation and establish the Union of Myanmar.

Instead of using all the land, water and aboveground and underground natural resources and striving for progress and prosperity, Myanmar peoples were fighting one another due to colonialist instigation and factional prejudices. The multi-coloured insurgency had pushed the nation away from

development.

Hence, the successive governments held peace negotiations again and again for national re-consolidation. Their objective was to end insurgency and ensure that all the efforts of the government and the people would contribute to national peace and progress. Only then, would all the national races be able to enjoy the taste of independence regained through the harmonious efforts of all the national brethren.

For some reasons, however, negotiations for internal peace of the previous governments failed. Tatmadaw took over the State duties on 18 September 1988 to safeguard public lives and property. Since then, it has been laying down and implementing development programmes on its own strength. The programmes have met with success in the entire nation including the remote border areas.

The Tatmadaw has been building motor roads, bridges, agriculture centres, schools, hospitals, dispensaries, dams, power plants, industries, communication centres in the border areas where even tracks were rare in the past. It has been working overtime in developing the special zones it has established. Since 1989, the armed groups have realized the government's goodwill. They have also realized that fighting between them will hurt the Union and the people. Then doubts began to disappear.

The national race armed groups have witnessed the people of the entire Union enjoying fruits of progress as never before. As they began to realize that if they exchanged arms for peace the people would enjoy more benefits. Up to now, 17 major armed groups and 18 small groups have already returned to the legal fold.

Representatives of the peace groups have been taking part in the National Convention in laying down and adopting the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, based on love and friendship, for emergence of a new constitution. It is encouraging for us to see those peace groups striving with might and main for regional progress while contributing to the development of the whole Union. The sound results of peace and national unity are the efforts of the entire nation to build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic Union, while striving for peace, progress and emergence of a new constitution.

Some of the remnant armed groups are holding peace negotiations with the government. If all the remnant armed groups return to the legal fold the Union will arrive at the golden age soon.

As the US does not wish to see Myanmar developing, it has been trying to organize the remnant armed groups to remain in the jungles. Its draft resolution killed by double veto calls for the Myanmar government to stop all offensives and sexual violence against national races.

(See page 9)

Growing doubts and narrow racism were the evil consequences of the colonialist-fueled doubts among the national people. Three Anglo-Myanmar wars broke out as the colonialists invaded Myanmar three times — one in 1824, another in 1852 and the other in 1885. In all those wars, the national people courageously fought back the intruders. During the wars, all the national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan launched historic anti-colonialist battles. Even the colonialist troops had to record with amazement the valour of Myanmar patriots.

(from page 8)

The US is trying to hamper the Tatmadaw's efforts to save the people from the dangers of terrorist insurgents who are blowing up, torching villages and committing massacres. I would like to tell the US that we cannot allow the US-backed insurgents to kill people, burn down villages, traffic in and produce drugs and collect extortion money. The work of safeguarding public lives and sovereignty is a just and correct security measure. Myanmar will never ever invade other country for want of the latter's oil.

It has been clarified repeatedly that the slanderous accusation "Myanmar soldiers raped women of national races in border areas" surfaced from opium smuggler insurgent (SSA-S) Ywet Sit. The groundless accusation was endorsed by the US administration. Myanmar Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force members and militia men of national races are taking security measures along border areas so as to prevent Ywet Sit's insurgents from refining heroin and producing stimulant tablets in the ravines of the jungles in unguarded areas and distributing the narcotic drugs to the world. Thus, Ywet Sit's insurgents are not in a position to enter the border areas with heavy loads of opium-refining equipment.

Therefore, they are making such baseless accusations to prevent the Tatmadaw troops from taking control of border areas. If one wants to know what country and soldiers committed inhumane tortures, gruesome murders and rapes, he should approach the islanders of Okinawa Island in Japan, people of the Republic of Korea and the Philippines, prisoners of Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and Guantanamo prison, or local people of My Lai Village in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

I would like to present a news story featured in the 15 May 2006 issue of the Myanmar Alin daily to refute the US accusation against Myanmar "Stop attacks against ethnic minorities". In the newspaper, regarding the study tour made by local and foreign journalists to witness measures taken for ensuring security and the rule of law and all-round development of the Southern Command area in Bago Division as well as troubles of residential people caused by racism, power struggle and bullying among KNU insurgents and terrorist acts such as massacres, torching villages, and planting mines, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said, "The present commander of KNU brigade-2, which is now moving about in some far-flung areas of Southern Command, is Ar Si, son of KNU vice-chairman Tamalar Baw. Previously, the KNU brigade-2 commander was Baw Ni who died of malaria in February 1992. After his death, KNU brigade-2 followers wished Baw Ni's elder son KNU brigade-2 battalion-6 commanding officer Steel Bar to become the brigade-2 commander. Likewise, GaybaBwe Kayin nationals residing in the area wished Steel Bar to become brigade-2 commander as he is also a native.

"However, in view of strengthening and expanding his power, KNU vice-chairman Tamalar Baw appointed his son Ar Si as brigade-2 commander. Moreover, Ar Si, out of racism, always favoured Paku Kayin nationals. Thus, local GaybaBwe Kayin nationals were not satisfied with it. Since then, power struggles, forming cliques, tortures, bullying, finding fault and killings took place within the KNU brigade-2."

The minister also explained some points such as Ar Si's killing some members in KNU brigade-

"Actually, it is only a scheme by foreign masters and KNU insurgents in synchronization of underground attack and internal and external aboveground attack. By taking advantage of the Government's efforts to secure peace, the KNU sent sabotage teams to inner regions. By their planting mines on railroads and motor roads and in urban areas again and again, they assumed that the Government had to take security measures. Then, they intended to mislead the international community into believing that the villages were displaced by the Tatmadaw offensive. And the villagers had to flee as refugees. By giving the limelight to the fabricated stories of refugees, they intended to make accusation that Myanmar, in the eyes of international community, has become a threat to the region and finally the UN Security Council would be prompted to take action against Myanmar."

2, complaints to the KNU (Central), and the KNU (Central)'s ignoring the misdeeds of Ar Si due to the influence of Tamalar Baw. Ar Si does not want to make peace, but prefers war. So, he committed destructive acts such as planting mines, blasting public buildings, detonating bombs to destroy railroads in the towns and villages between Bago and Toungoo, and villagers had to flee to safe places. Regarding these facts, the minister said, "The Government has the duty to protect the lives and property of the people. Hence, with a view to preventing KNU atrocities and sabotage acts and ensuring the public safety, the Government has to clear up the surrounding areas and those areas where KNU members and hard-cores could take refuge.

"In response to this, KNU sent family members and hard-cores from that region to the border area. Likewise, the Kayin nationals in the region were also driven out to the border area forcefully so that they would be in no position to make contact with and give information to the Tatmadaw. The so-called refugees as harangued harmoniously by the anti-government groups within and without the country are, in fact, the KNU families and hard-cores who had been dislodged by the KNU to the border area intentionally. Few of them are those villagers who were forcefully driven out by KNU members with the intention of cutting off contacts with the Tatmadaw.

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The US separated the KNU and organized a small group, then created a problem and then submitted the problem to the UN as though national races got into trouble. In fact, national races are falling victim to troublesome problems stirred up by the US and a handful of remnant insurgents. The government and the Tatmadaw are taking measures in concert to prevent them from stirring up problems.

The 12-6-2005 daily newspapers carried the stories about steps being taken for the development of Mon State and Kayin State, root causes of why DKBA, Phado Aung San-led group and U Saw Tha Mu He-led group broke away from the KNU, and participation of the break-away groups in regional development tasks being undertaken by the government. The main points described in the story were peace and stability restored in the entire Mon State and most parts of Kayin State, a peaceful life led by local people, and the development of the regions at the unprecedented level.

National race leader U Tha Htoo Kyaw of Myainggyingu Special Region told the journalists that the major cause of the break-away of DKBA from the KNU was unjust leadership of the KNU leaders. Phado U Aung San explained interference of so-called foreign politicians and organizations in the KNU (Central), why he left the KNU (Central) which was relying on foreign countries, remarkable development of his region, and his vow to participate with heart and soul in concert with the people in the drive for successful completion of the National Convention.

Regional national race leader U Saw Tha Mu He of Haungthayaw Region peace group recounted the cause of why his group split from the KNU, saying that the KNU's future would be uncertain if the so-called refugee camps were no more; that leaders of the KNU (Central) sent their children to the schools in foreign countries with the money they had gained from the refugee camps; it was committing destructive acts in cities in complicity with other insurgents at home and abroad; and that Kayin State was then enjoying rapid progress.

Now, Kayin nationals are dissatisfied with the draft resolution submitted to the United Nations Security Council by the US turning a blind eye to peace and development of Kayin State and making a groundless accusation of attacks on the ethnic minorities. These days, daily newspapers are featuring the announcements and declarations issued by national race peace groups and local NGOs in protest at the attempt of the US to interfere in the internal affairs.

Kayin nationals thank the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation that vetoed the resolution and South Africa that voted against it. In conclusion, the entire national people call for the US and Britain to stop putting pressure on and making slanderous accusations against Myanmar.

Translation: TMT+MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 20-1-07

Comparison and study of slanders of the US and Britain against Myanmar and the nation's objective conditions-5

A Reader

The US and Britain levelled slanderous allegations against Myanmar by submitting a draft resolution to the UNSC in order to interfere in her internal affairs. Their draft resolution is none other than a fabricated accusation if compared with the nation's true situation and objective conditions.

I will continue to present more points so that the readers can study and compare their slanders with the nation's objective conditions, true events and endeavours.

The US and Britain accused Myanmar of restricting activities of humanitarian aid organizations to worsen difficulties in the country. And they demanded Myanmar to allow international humanitarian aid organizations to operate freely without any restriction.

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Sr	Slanders of the US and Britain	Myanmar's objective conditions
5.	The US and Britain accused Myanmar of restricting activities of humanitarian aid organizations to worsen difficulties in the country. And they demanded Myanmar to allow international humanitarian aid organizations to operate freely without any restriction.	<p>The issue of humanitarian aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After regaining independence, Myanmar became a UN member on 19 April 1948 and has been cooperating with UN organizations. * Myanmar also became a member of ILO on 18 May 1948 and has been collaborating with it so far. * Fifty five projects are being implemented in cooperation with 14 UN agencies for the development of socio-economic life of the State and the people. * Fifty six projects are being implemented in cooperation with 44 INGOs. * There are 128 projects Myanmar is undertaking including 15 projects in cooperation with nine international organizations and two projects in cooperation with two NGOs. * Holding complaints about Myanmar's cases of forced labour invented by internal and external destructive elements, ILO made demands and put pressure on the country in the late 1990s. * ILO interfered in Myanmar's political affairs not concerned with labour affairs. * Global Fund offered to provide US \$ 98.4 million in aid to accelerate the combating of AIDS, TB and malaria in the country. * Internal and external opposing groups which demanded economic sanctions against Myanmar are jealous of providing the country with humanitarian aid. * Beginning 1995, NLD's Daw Suu Kyi demanded Western countries and international organizations impose economic sanctions against Myanmar, freeze aid and cut relations with her. * Instigated by Daw Suu Kyi, Japan stopped the OAD programme to build 450 schools in Myanmar. * Daw Suu Kyi even demanded ASEAN expell Myanmar from the association. * Owing to internal and external instigation, Global Fund on 18 August 2005 ceased its aid programme with inappropriate excuses. * Internal and external destructive elements and neocolonialist-influenced media accused Myanmar of restricting activities of humanitarian aid in the country. * US Ambassador John R Bolton, who submitted the Myanmar issue to be put on the UNSC agenda on 11 September 2005, made accusations against Myanmar of disturbing and hampering humanitarian tasks. * After withdrawal of the Global Fund, wellwishers from six countries that recognized true situation of Myanmar set up the Three Disease Funds. They are joining hands with Myanmar to provide US\$ 99.5 million for five years. * A representative of a UN agency who had completed his tour of duty called on a minister in December 2005 before his departure from Myanmar. * At the call, the representative said that lack of coordination among the teams from projects of INGOs in the border area could not benefit the local people. * He suggested that INGOs should cooperate among them in their tasks, and that the Government should urge them to coordinate. * The suggestion was submitted to the State leaders. The guidance was given that when UN agencies, international organizations and social organizations arrive in Myanmar to carry out cooperation tasks, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development is to coordinate with them. * After reviewing accomplishments of the above-mentioned organizations, the book on work guideline was compiled and published with a view to systematically and successfully undertaking welfare tasks of the State. * The work guideline makes systematic arrangements to gain more achievements by remedying weak points and disadvantages, not to hinder the project tasks. * As there are remnant insurgents and terrorists in some border areas, security measure has to be taken for some trips. * Hence, some UN organizations think that some restrictions a fixed to make field trips to the project areas. * Although some organizations went to the proposed destinations, some organizations broke their original schedules. * Travelling of responsible persons from UN agencies for the project tasks have never been hindered. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(See page 11)</i></p>

(from page 10)

Sr	Slanders of the US and Britain	Myanmar's objective conditions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The coordination in the travelling benefits both parties. * Officials made arrangements for 550 trips of responsible persons from UNDP and UNICEF to respective project areas from 2003 to 2006. * Arrangements were made for enabling responsible persons from 28 INGOs to go over 500 field trips to the project areas from 2003 to 2006. * Furthermore, over 180 trips were arranged for international organizations. * After 1988, Myanmar did not get any assistance from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank, except the least amount of overseas development assistance. * However, efforts are being made for meeting the Millennium Development Goals with own strength and own resources. * The Government warmly welcomes help for and those who perform socio-economic development of the State in line with the rules and regulations of the UN Charter. * However, the State and the people will not accept destructive acts to encroach on the sovereignty of the State and harm the national unity using the UN as a tool and under cover of international organizations.

Translation: ST+TTA
Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 20-1-2007

Grand Royal Special Reserve Qualify Round launched

YANGON, 20 Jan — The Grand Royal Special Reserve Qualify Round, sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd and organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, was launched at Shwe Mann Taung Golf Resort in Mandalay this morning.

Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Than, Commander of Mandalay Division

Police Force Police Col Aung Htut, Secretary of Mandalay City Development Committee Lt-Col Maung Pu, Director of ITBC U Tint Oo and MGF and MPGA Executive U Ko Ko Lay teed off the ball for opening the first round.

After the first round, Htet Aung (KM Golf Centre) and Myat Min Tun led the amateur golfer division by firing 68 strokes each.

The competition



is being co-sponsored by Air Mandalay, Hotel Nikko, Srixon and Alpine together with organizer Han Event Management.

The second round will continue tomorrow.

MNA

U Nyan Win receives Indian External Affairs Minister



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win meets Indian External Affairs Minister Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, a goodwill delegation led by Minister of External Affairs Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee of the Republic of India arrived here by air this afternoon.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U

Nyan Win received Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee and party at his office, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were departmental heads under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.

In the evening, Minister U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian delegation at Royal Kumudra Hotel. —MNA

101 brand hair tonic, shampoo, cream introduced

YANGON, 19 Jan — China made 101 brand hair tonic and shampoo and facial cream were introduced today here.

101 items are imported from China by U Ah Si Family Co Ltd. The general-manager of the Co Ltd extended greetings and Expert Mrs Chen Yan introduced the hair tonic items and the 101-E facial cream.

According to Mrs Chan, 101 Hair Tonic has an effect to re-grow hair and 101 Shampoo help silky hair, remove dandruff, prevent damage and split ends.

101-E facial

cream breaches pigmentation and it took the golden award at the exhibition on world's cosmetic inventions, she said. It is learnt that 101-E has also an effect to breach a scar and to reduce the inflammation and the products contain only herb.

More information is available at No 115, Ground Floor, 20th Street, Latha Township, Ph 01-251230, No 15, Thabyaynyo Road, Sangyoung Township, Ph 01 708317, No 55, Kyaukmyaung Market Road, Tamway

Township, Ph 01 554391 and Mandalay (Branch) on 35th Street, between 69th and 72nd Streets, Ph 09 5113946.

MNA



General Manager U Kyaw Kyaw Naing of U Ah Si Family Co Ltd extends greetings.—MNA

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (029)

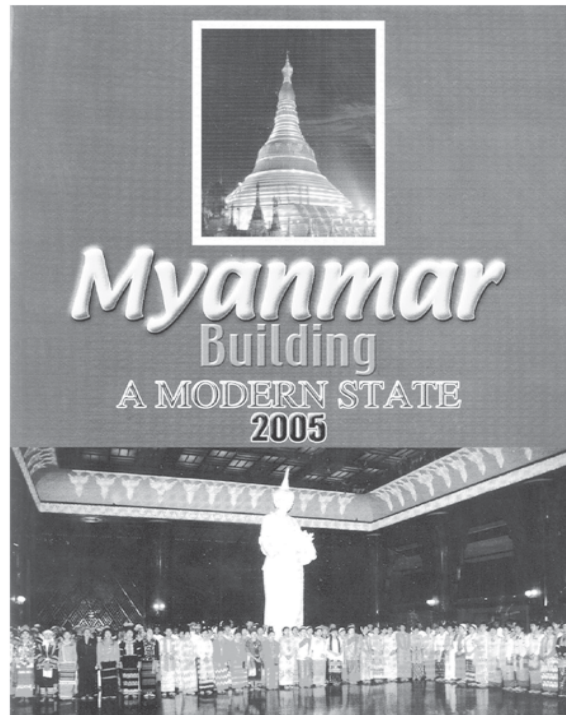
Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (029) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

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- 2) U Soe Myint Than (Executive Housekeeper) 9/ Ma Ma Na (N) 022068
- 3) Daw Nan Su Sandar Yee (Sales Executive) 13/La Ya Na (N) 085992
- 4) U Kyaw Soe Moe (E.D.P-Assistant) 9/Ma Ya Ta (N) 114935

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Mandalay : 44 (B), 26th Road, Between 66th & 68th Street, Mandalay. Tel: 95-2-35678, 31591 Fax: 95-2-35677 E-mail: mdyswan@mptmail.net.mm

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Putin says Russia will not use politics to govern energy

Moscow, 19 Jan— Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia would use the market, not politics, as the basis for its energy relations with all countries, *Interfax* news agency reported.

Putin also said Russia, which earlier this year shut its main oil export pipeline during a dispute with Belarus, would do all in its power to fulfil its obligations in the energy sector.

The row with Belarus came exactly a year after a similar disagreement with Ukraine over gas supplies.

Russia's use of its energy to strong-arm ex-Soviet neighbours to accept higher prices

disrupted energy supplies to Europe, which is set to rely increasingly on Russian energy, and angered European customers and politicians.

“Real energy security is only achievable if all the members of the energy chain are solidly reliable,” Putin said at a meeting with foreign ambassadors.

“To be absolutely sure of accomplishing this,

we are taking measures to shift relations in the energy sphere with all countries onto a transparent market basis, irrespective of what the political state of affairs is.

“In normal trade and economic relations, including in energy, terms of international trade that apply to everybody should be and will be applied.”

MNA/Reuters

China National Petroleum expands business to 25 countries

BEIJING, 19 Jan— The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) announced on Wednesday that it had expanded its oil and gas operations to 25 countries in 65 projects.

In overseas projects, the annual output of crude oil has exceeded 50 million tons while natural gas output has surpassed five billion cubic metres each year, said the company.

The company said it had overtaken US giant Chevron and France's Total to become the world's seventh largest oil firm.

The ranking was compiled by the US-based *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly* on the basis of six indices including oil and gas reserves, oil and gas

output and sales volume.

The CNPC said that its rise up the rankings was mainly boosted by the growth of its oil and gas reserves abroad.

MNA/Xinhua

Gang violence costs LA \$2b annually

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan— In addition to the cost of prevention efforts, gang violence costs Los Angeles about two billion dollars a year in legal and medical expenses.

The city has about 40,000 gang members and no way to effectively stop the violence, said a report available to *Xinhua* on Thursday.

The report was distributed at a just-concluded City Council meeting.

“If you're in an affluent

part of the city of Los Angeles, you're affected by gangs,” City Councilman Tony Cardenas told the meeting.

“It cost about one million dollars to complete (a murder) investigation, on average. So, if you're an affluent person, you're probably paying more dollars for that investigation than people on the other side of town,” said Cardenas.

The Los Angeles city and county officials, law enforcement agencies and

schools should cooperate to reduce gang violence, said the report by the Advancement Project, a nonprofit legal consulting group.

Students need safe ways to get to and from school, and activities that keep them busy from the time school gets out until they go to bed, city officials said.

Civil rights attorney Connie Rice said officials must find ways of keeping kids from joining gangs.

MNA/Xinhua

Four killed as gales batter Britain

LONDON, 19 Jan— Four people, including the managing director of Birmingham Airport, were killed on Thursday as severe gales battered much of Britain, causing transport havoc and damaging buildings.

Winds gusted up to 99 miles per hour in exposed parts of the country, while snow fell across much of Scotland. West Mercia police said Richard Heard, Birmingham Airport's managing director, had been killed on the B4373 near Bridgnorth near Shropshire just before 6 am when his car hit an uprooted tree.

He said there had been violent storms in the area overnight and that severe conditions were expected to continue.

A second driver died after his lorry overturned on the A629 near Skipton in North Yorkshire, with high winds thought to be responsible.

A third was killed when a tree fell on a car in Streatley in Berkshire shortly after midday. The man, a passenger sitting in the front of a Ford Fiesta, was pronounced dead at the scene while the driver was being treated in hospital.

The fourth fatality occurred in Stockport near Manchester when a woman in her 60s died after a wall was blown over. Flights were disrupted at many airports. At Heathrow more than 100 European and domestic flights were cancelled. —*MNA/Reuters*

**DONATE
BLOOD**

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Cuba slams at US decision to prevent wrestlers from travelling

HAVANA, 19 Jan — Cuba's Greco-Roman Wrestling Federation on Wednesday denounced that the United States Government had prevented the US team in this discipline from travelling to Cuba to train.

The US team, led by 60 kilos world champion Joe Warren, had planned to visit the island this week and could well have taken part in the weekend's Champions' Gala, a competition featuring Cuba's best young wrestlers as it had done in 2005 and 2006. However, the US Government barred the wrestling team at the last minute, when the Cubans were already prepared for their arrival, said Miguel Langaney of the Federation's national commissioners.

Langaney said the two nations' athletes are on good terms and said the US squad would try to travel to Cuba again in coming months. — MNA/Xinhua



Custom officers display confiscated stuffed specimens of endangered species in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 18 Jan, 2007. — XINHUA

US House introduces bill asking Bush to get approval from Congress

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — Some lawmakers in the House of Representatives have introduced a bill

calling on the Bush Administration to get approval from the Congress before launching war

against Iran, US media reported Thursday.

The bill was introduced by Walter Jones, a

Republican, and five other US lawmakers and called on the Bush Administration to gain permission to launch military attacks against Iran, unless the United States or US interests are attacked first.

The Democrats have now controlled both the House and the Senate and US President George W Bush has faced more and more criticism of his new Iraq strategy from his own Republican camp.

The White House has denied that it is planning to have war with Iran.

US media has reported that a new US aircraft carrier will arrive in the Middle East in about a month, increasing the number of US Navy carriers in the region to two. All these have strengthened speculation that the United States is aiming to have war with Iran. — MNA/Xinhua

US soldier to plead guilty in Iraq rape-murder case

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — A US soldier has agreed to plead guilty in the rape of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and the murder of her and her family last year, his lawyer said Thursday.

"Sergeant Cortez is going to go in and accept the responsibility for his part in what occurred," his lawyer William Cassara said in a statement.

Cassara said Paul Cortez, 24, will no longer face the death penalty and has agreed to cooperate in the trials of other soldiers involved.

Among 4 other soldiers involved in the case, Special James P Barker, 24, has already pleaded guilty to rape and murder in November as part of a plea deal in which he agreed to testify against the others. He was sentenced to 90 years in military prison. Private First Class Jesse V Spielman, 22, and Private First Class Bryan L Howard, 23, await court-martial in the coming months on charges related to the case. Former private Steven D Green, 21, the alleged ringleader in the case, faces federal charges of rape and murder. Prosecutors said the five plotted the attack on the girl and her family.

On March 12, 2006, the soldiers broke into the girl's home in the Iraqi village of Mahmoudiya, raping and murdering her, and then killing her parents and her six-year-old sister. The Mahmoudiya rape-murder case is considered as the worst of several alleged US war atrocities against Iraqi civilians. — MNA/Xinhua



A nurse carries a mini baby boy before he is released from a hospital in Xiangfan, Central China's Hubei Province, on 18 Jan, 2007. — XINHUA

US sailor killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan — The US military Thursday announced one more death of US soldier, who was killed in a non-combat incident.

A US sailor assigned to 16th Military Police Brigade, Camp Bucca, Iraq, died on Wednesday due to non-combat incident, the US military said briefly in a statement. The latest death brought 3,027 the US toll in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media tally based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua



House fire kills five in Maryland

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan — Five people, including

three children, were killed Thursday by a fire that raced through their home in Abingdon, Maryland, CNN reported.

The 5 victims were believed to be members of the same family, including a 72-year-old man, a 47-year-old woman, two boys and an 8-month-old girl, according to the report.

Shortly before 10:30 am, local firefighters received a call that a

residence in Abingdon had caught fire and that people might be trapped inside.

The elder man was first pulled out from the house alive by firefighters but died later in a hospital.

The other victims were killed at the scene. Officials estimated that the house was about 50 years old and there is no evidence it had working smoke detectors.

MNA/Xinhua

In this photo released on Friday, 19 Jan, 2007 by the French Navy, the French coast guard tug Abeille Liberte tows on 19 Jan, 2007 a British container ship containing explosive materials, the MSC Napoli towards British coast. — INTERNET

SPORTS

United make fresh Owen move



Owen Hargreaves

LONDON, 19 Jan— Manchester United have tabled a fresh £20million bid for Bayern Munich's Owen Hargreaves, according to the player.

Bayern are known to be reticent to sanction the player's departure but Hargreaves has now confirmed that United have bid for his services again. "It's been official today that Manchester United have made an offer for me," Hargreaves told BBC Sport.

"For a club like Man Utd to make an offer is something I appreciate." The Premiership lead-

ers have been tracking the England international for some time and narrowly missed out on landing his services last year.

A broken leg curtailed Hargreaves' first half of the season in Germany, but the Canadian-born star is now back training with the Bundesliga giants.

Bayern's general manager Uli Hoeness recently stated Hargreaves would not be sold this winter, so it remains to be seen whether United's fresh bid tests their resolve.

However, president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has painted a different picture, after conceding a deal for Hargreaves' signature could be struck this month.

"The transfer might happen in January, or at the very latest in February," Rummenigge is quoted as saying in Bild.—Internet

Federer cruises into fourth round of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan— Reigning champion of Australian Open men's singles Roger Federer of Switzerland cruised into the fourth round of the Australian Open Championship here Friday.

The world No. 1 and top seed defeated Mikhael Youzhny of Russia, the 25th seed, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

In the first three round, Federer has yet to drop a set and broke his opponent four times in the match.

Federer will in the fourth round play 14th seed Novak Djokovic, the Serbian teenager who ousted Danai Udomchoke of Thailand 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 in the third round earlier in the day.— MNA/Xinhua

Alkmaar beat ADO 3-1 to move into second place

AMSTERDAM, 20 Jan— AZ Alkmaar booked a 3-1 win at struggling ADO Den Haag in the Dutch First Division to move into second place on Friday after the three-week winter break.

Alkmaar now have 44 points, two more than Ajax Amsterdam who host Utrecht on Sunday. Leaders PSV Eindhoven, who have 53 points from 20 matches, welcome Heerenveen on Saturday.

David Mendes da Silva put Alkmaar ahead on the stroke of halftime with a penalty and Danny Koevermans doubled the lead 12 minutes into the second half from a pass by Maarten Martens.

MNA/Reuters



Taiji Nishitani of Japan rides in the qualifying rounds of the men's scratch during the 2007 UCI Track Cycling World Cup Classics in Carson, California on 19 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Wenger says loss would end title bid

LONDON, 19 Jan— Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger says defeat to Manchester United on Sunday would end their title bid.

The Gunners are currently 15 points behind the league leaders, but can reduce the arrears against The Red Devils, live on Sky Sports 1.

The French tactician believes his charges can take heart from their Old Trafford win earlier in the season and is hoping for a repeat at the Emirates.

Arsenal's chances of a double look good after winning all four games played since the turn of the New Year - including a 6-3 Carling Cup win at Liverpool.

Asked if defeat would end the club's quest for the title, Wenger replied: "For us, certainly."

"It's a good opportunity to reduce the distance on Manchester United and we want to use it."

"We are really determined to reduce the gap. We know we can beat United because we've done it away."

"Why shouldn't we do it at home? We're in good form, they are as well, it's a very promising game."

"I think both teams will go for it because United are also a team who try to score goals."—Internet



Arsene Wenger

Mauresmo advances to fourth round

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan— Defending champion Amelie Mauresmo breezed into the fourth round of the Australian Open with a comfortable 6-3, 6-1 victory over Czech Eva Birnerova here on Friday.

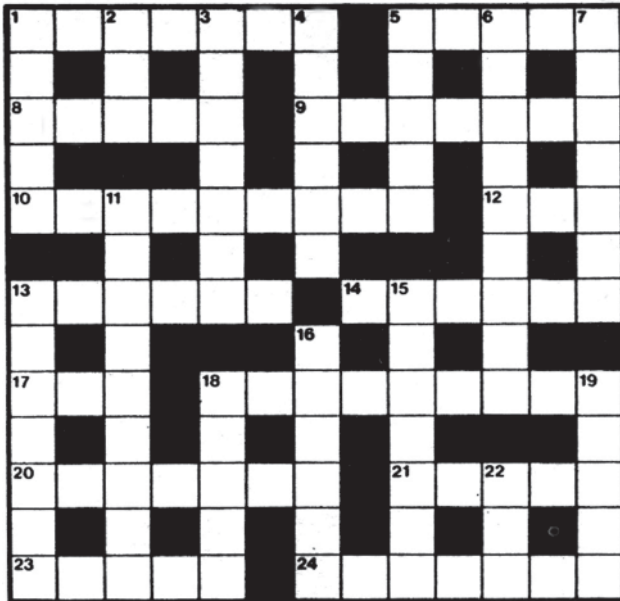
Seeded second behind Russian Maria Sharapova, Mauresmo is keen to claim the Australian title with a legitimate final win.

Her win last year was clouded by the mid-match retirement of Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne who complained of a stomach illness.— MNA/Xinhua



Italy's Tathiana Garbin plays the ball during her match against Russia's Maria Sharapova at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 20 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Underground prison
- 5 Vends
- 8 Cancel
- 9 Cock
- 10 Amuse
- 12 Dread
- 13 Brainy
- 14 Slender
- 17 Exclude
- 18 Sight
- 20 Zero
- 21 Unsuitable
- 23 Silent
- 24 Habitual

DOWN

- 1 Curtain
- 2 Sister
- 3 Expand
- 4 Scandinavian country
- 5 Faint
- 6 Torpid
- 7 Snake
- 11 Speculative
- 13 Display case
- 15 Allowing
- 16 Mendicant
- 18 Rapid
- 19 Penetrate
- 22 Everything

Paraguay take 4-shot lead at Women's World Cup

SUN CITY (South Africa), 20 Jan— Paraguay's team of Julieta Granada and Celeste Troche took a four-stroke lead after the first round of the Women's World Cup at a sweltering Gary Player Country Club on Friday.

Troche shot a three-under-par 69 and Granada a two-under 70 to leave Paraguay on five-under-par 139 after the first day's singles ahead of South Korea on one-under.

The Paraguayans managed to stay out of the notorious Sun City rough with Troche also on top form with her putter while Granada dropped just two shots in the 22-team tournament.

Granada, last season's LPGA rookie of the year with 1,633,586

dollars, picked up two birdies on a faultless front nine, hitting superb long-irons on the third and ninth holes.

Troche recovered from two-over after a double-bogey on the par-five fifth as she sank birdies on the seventh and eighth holes before finishing with three birdies on the back nine.

"I was a little rusty because I haven't played for a while, so I was just trying to hit fairways and greens and two-putt," Granada told reporters.

South Korea's Ji Yai Shin shot a one-under-par 35 on the front nine, but a rollercoaster back nine for the 19-year-old saw her shoot four birdies, two bogeys and a double-bogey.—MNA/Reuters

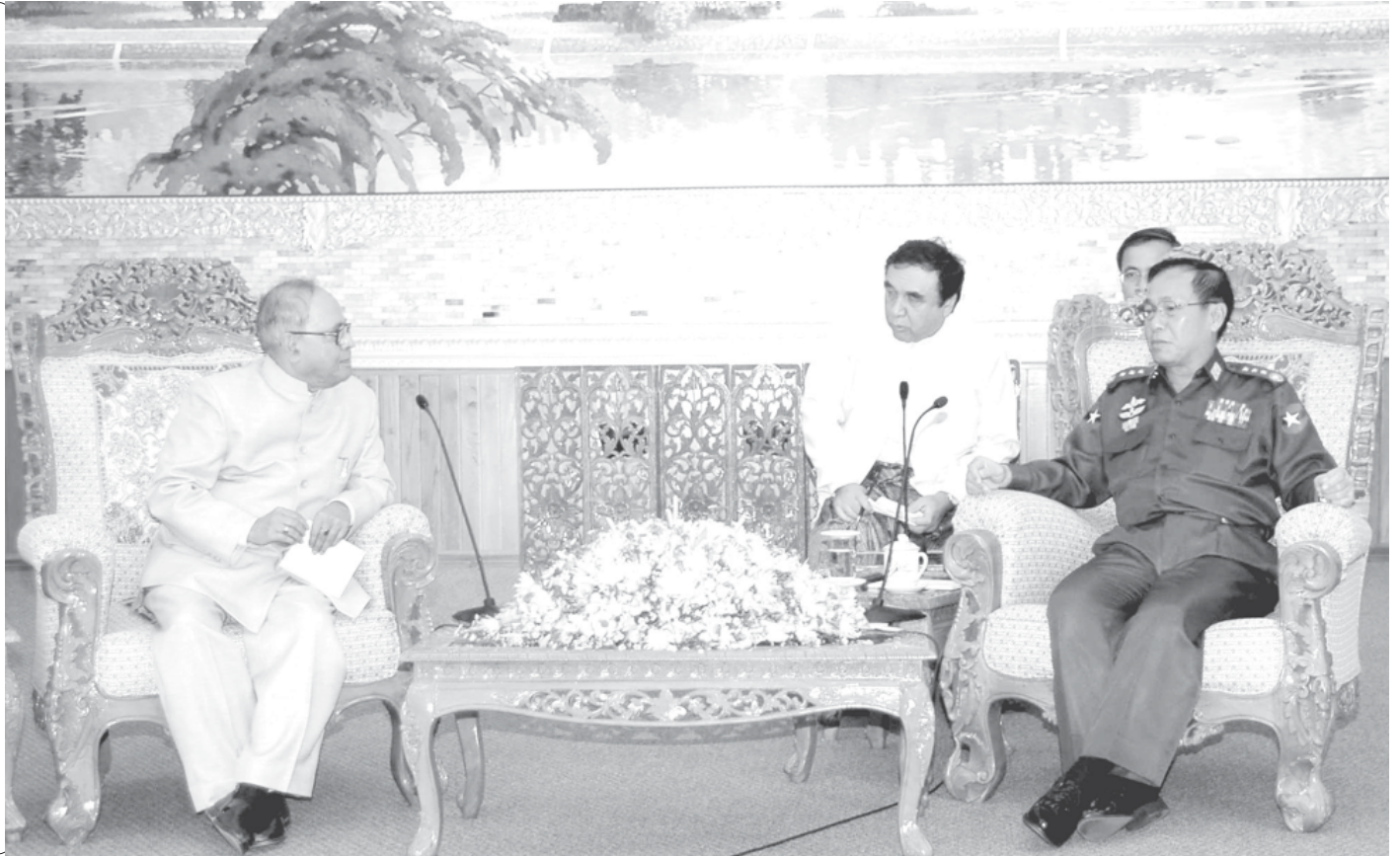
Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Indian Minister of External Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Prime Minister General Soe Win received Minister of External Affairs Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee of the Republic of India at his office here at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Prime

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Minister of External Affairs Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee of the Republic of India.

MNA



Minister's Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. MNA

Shan State North Special Region-3 issues declaration condemning US draft resolution

YANGON, 20 Jan—*The Shan State North Special Region-3 issued a declaration on 15 January condemning the draft resolution submitted by the United States and Britain to the UNSC in order to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The declaration is as follows:—*

1. When a resolution was made to put the Myanmar issue on the agenda of the UNSC due to the submission of the US Permanent Representative to the UN, we had protested against that resolution.
2. We believe that the Myanmar issue ought to be addressed by Myanmar people themselves. Any outside intervention is unacceptable.
3. We express heartfelt thanks to the People's Republic of China and Russia for their veto to turn down the resolution, realizing the prevailing situation in Myanmar.

**Chairman
Central Leading Committee
Shan State North Special Region-3**

Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation denounces submission of draft resolution to UNSC

YANGON, 20 Jan — *Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation on 14 January announced that they had protested against the submission of the draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council by the United States and Britain to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The declaration is as follows:—*

We are very pleased over the failure of the submission to the UNSC by the US and Britain.

Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation expresses its thanks for the protest against the US draft resolution of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

In addition, we strongly condemn internal and external destructive elements colluding with the US Government who have imposed the one-sided actions.

Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation