Entire nation has seen a large number of modern industries

Vest Factory (Taungtha) of Myanmar Textile Industries inaugurated

YANGON, 28 Jan—The Vest Factory (Taungtha) of the Myanma Textile Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 near Taungtha, Taungtha Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Division, was inaugurated this morning, attended by Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Prime Minister General Soe Win.

The Prime Minister left Nyaung-U by helicopter for the factory. Along the route, the Prime Minister from the helicopter inspected the supply of water from the cluster of dams — Kyetmauktaung Dam, Pinchaung Dam, Taungyay Dam and Kyaukdaga Dam constructed by the State for the agricultural development and greening of arid zone, irrigated areas, the canal linking Kyaukdaga, Taungyay and Kyetmauktaung dams, and the benefits of the facilities.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Member of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe, officials, departmental officials, the secretary and executives of Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, the CEO and officials of Shanghai World Best Group Co Ltd, social organizations, townsmen, staff of the factory, and local people numbering about 26,500.

Managing Director of the MTI U Oo Thein Maung, Chairman of Myingyan District PDC Lt-Col Tun Win, and CEO Mr Cheng Zheng Hao formally opened the factory. The Prime Minister unveiled the facility.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said that the opening of the factory creates job opportunities for local people, and enhances the knowledge of operating machinery in the region through the employees. The Pakokku Textile Factory on the west bank of Ayeyawady River near Myingyan was opened three months ago.

So, Myingyan and Pakokku have become the regions where Myanma Textile Industries has based its factories.

The Ministry of Industry-1 is establishing personal goods factories and household goods factories across the nation to help industrialize the nation. It has recently opened Thabaung Pulp Mill in Ayeyawady Division, textile factories in Pwintbyu, Pakokku and Salinpyi regions, and bicycle factory, cement factory, shoes factory in Kyaukse region one after another.

(See page 8)

The opening of the Vest Factory (Taungtha) creates job opportunities for local people, and enhances the knowledge of operating machinery in the region through the employees.
Central Forest Zone opened at Kandawgyi Natural Gardens

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence unveils the signboard of Central Forest Zone. — VDC

YANGON, 28 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence unveiled the signboard of Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi Natural Gardens, here, this morning.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forest Department and Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint opened the Central Forest Zone.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing sprinkled scented water on the signboard.

Myaing Malar Island, Orchid Island and Bogyoke Park are included in the zone. — MNA

Construction of approach railroads at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), Mawlamyine Railway Station inspected

YANGON, 28 Jan — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspected progress in construction of the approach railroad at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on Mottama bank, laying of sleepers and rail tracks, and the station building in Mottama yesterday.

Myanma Railways is making land preparations of the approach railroad on Mottama bank mile posts from 169 to 171 on Yangon-Bago railroad.

On arrival at the construction site of Mawlamyine Railway Station and its yard, the minister heard the reports on completion of approach railroads at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the station building and stockpile of construction materials and requirements for construction tasks by Project Engineer U Lwin Tha. The minister and party also inspected the retaining walls of the tube under Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei road. This morning, the minister and party inspected earth works of Sittoung-Myitkyo-DaukU railroad and construction of Suttwachen station. — MNA

Physic nut cultivation of Inidaing Station held

YANGON, 28 Jan — Physic nut cultivation of Inidaing Station of Yangon Command was held at the station this morning.

Present were Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials.

The commander said the government is making endeavours for use of bio-fuel instead of costly fuel. Physic nut oil can be used as bio diesel. That is why plantation of physic nut is being undertaken nationwide. The Yangon Command has planned to grow 500,000 acres of physic nut, he said.

Commander of Inidaing Station Col Bo Lwin reported on cultivation of physic nut and Manager of Yangon Division Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung Hsuan on cultivation methods and its use.

The commander and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai gave saplings of physic nut to those present. The commander, Tatmadaw members and families planted 12,000 saplings.

The commander and party inspected construction of the 6.82-mile canal of Lagunpyin Dam near Minfwingon, Hlegu Township. Director of Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thein reported on progress of work. — MNA

Maintain roads and bridges for durability

Better transport plays a pivotal role in ensuring development of a nation or a region. With better transport trade and production is making progress, thereby contributing to economic development of the nation or the region.

In the same way, thanks to better transport progress will be made in education, health and social sectors. Moreover, with better transport frequent contacts among national brethren are available, resulting in forging Union Spirit through unity and amity.

Therefore, the government is making all-out efforts to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, more motor roads and railroads are being built to link different regions of the Union—from east to west and from south to north. In the meantime, bridges large and small are being built in those regions.

Hailing the National Convention, Rakhineyang Bridge, over 180 feet long, in Rakhineyang Village, Twantay Township, Yangon South District, the 211th of its kind, was inaugurated on 22 January.

Rakhineyang Bridge has 24 feet wide motorway with three feet wide pedestrian lane on either side. Its clearance is 10 feet high and 50 feet wide. The reinforced concrete bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

The construction of the bridge started on 1 March 2004, and the project undertaken by Bridge Construction Group-13 of Public Works was completed on 30 November 2005.

Before 1988, there were seven bridges with a length of over 180 feet, in Yangon Division. In the time of the Tatmadaw government, there emerged 25 more similar bridges in the division. Rakhineyang Bridge is the one built in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

At present, wooden bridges on two roads linking Yangon and Kungyangon-Dehokkon are being upgraded into the concrete ones. Due to opening of Rakhineyang Bridge, local people in Twantay Township can go to Kawhmu and Kungyangon Townships through Thakhut and Wabulaingkhaung, Bodin and Tawku villages via Dalla Township.

As Dalla-Thakhut-Lehokkon Road can link with Dalla-Kanbe-Kawhmu-Kungyangon-Dedyae Road, smooth flow of commodities will develop in the region.

Therefore, the entire national people including local authorities are to help maintain roads and bridges, prerequisites for smooth transport and regional development for durability.
Chinese FM meets Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator

BEIJING, 27 Jan — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met here on Thursday with visiting Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larjani.

Larijani, also secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, arrived here on Thursday morning from Teheran on a day-long visit.

Larijani is expected to hold a Press conference at the Iranian Embassy in Beijing after having another meeting with Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan on Thursday afternoon. He is scheduled to leave Beijing in the evening, according to sources in the embassy.

Iran is facing referral to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions over Western fears that it may seek to build an atomic bomb.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will convene an emergency session of its board of governors on February 2-3 to vote on a referral at the request of the European Union, after Iran resumed its research on uranium enrichment — the most sensitive part of the nuclear fuel cycle — earlier this month.

Four missing after ship capsizes in Vietnam

HANOI, 27 Jan— A new ship capsized in rough seas in Vietnam’s central region, leaving four local men missing, a local official told Xinhua on Thursday.

“On the morning of January 25, a newly-built ship with six people on board sank some two kilometres off our coast. Border guard forces have rescued two men,” Ngo Thai Lam, chairman of the People’s Committee of Hoa Hiep Bac Commune, Dong Hoa District, Phu Yen Province.

The 145-horse power ship built by a private business in central Nghe An Province was on the way to southern Ho Chi Minh City for delivery to its owner when it capsized due to strong waves, he said, noting that the six people, including two drivers, two representatives of the shipbuilder, and two representatives of the ship’s owner.

“Now, the sea is still rough. Phu Yen’s border guard forces are actively searching for the missing people,” Lam said.

Vietnam encountered frequent occurrence of national disasters, including floods and landslides, nationwide last year, which claimed many lives and caused an estimated property loss of 6.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (408.8 million US dollars), according to the country’s General Statistics Office.

Iraq war leaves mental scars for civilians, US troops alike

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — The Iraq war is reaping a fierce psychological toll, exposing a mental health crisis inside Iraq, and searing hundreds of thousands of US troops with combat trauma, experts warned.

Iraq’s doctors and specialists, subjected to persecution under Saddam Hussein, now the target of guerrillas bullets and bombs, are struggling to assess the scale of the problem, they said.

Dr Sabah Sadik, a Britain-based doctor who advises Iraq’s Health Ministry, said he was shocked at the dilapidation of the hospital system when he returned after the ouster of Saddam for the first time since the 1970s.

Scores of doctors fled the country under Saddam, and now more are leaving despite recruitment efforts, he said.

“It is very difficult when doctors and intellectuals have been targeted by the terrorists,” Sadik said at a news conference in Washington.

“It is a big dilemma because a lot of colleagues would like to leave the country.”

US soldiers returning home from tours in Iraq, meanwhile are initially showing a higher incidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) than in other American conflicts.

Around 317,000 veterans who received a primary or secondary diagnosis of PTSD were treated at medical centers run by the US Department of Veterans Affairs in 2005.

Accordingly, there have been a subsequent diagnosis of a mental health disorder, said Dr Antonette Zeiss, the department’s Deputy Chief Consultant for Mental Health.

“It is higher than initial rates in previous wars,” said Zeiss, adding that part of the rise may be due to a vigorous effort by the department to find out what help veterans’ need.

There are more women veterans from the Iraq war — around 13 percent — than in other conflicts, reflecting the need for more research into PTSD.

Veterans are also typically older, with many from reserve and National Guard units, rather than the young, conscript soldiers in their teens and early 20s who fought the Vietnam War.

Water and power projects in Iraq fall short

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — US-funded programmes to rebuild electric power and water systems in Iraq have fallen far short of original plans.

The report by Stuart Bowen, the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, said the failure to complete the projects was due in part to dramatic shift in spending on security.

The report said only 49 of 136 water and sanitation projects will be completed.

“About 60 percent of the originally planned water resource and sanitation projects were not completed,” it said.

Potable water projects, water pumping stations and generators were given priority over sanitation and irrigation projects.

As a result, Iraq’s water treatment capacity will be increased by 2.25 million cubic meters a day, the report said.—Internet
“Hello, Uncle Chaw and Uncle San Maung. You two haven’t visited our home for a long time. How are you and your family members?”

“Fine, thank you, doctor. We paid a visit to your home when you were in Yangon. Now, we’ve come here to listen to your experiences you gained during your trip”.

“Well, uncles, I listened to the counsel of one of my old teachers. After his retirement, he wrote many articles based on his experiences. Reading his articles enhances our thinking power. I’m very fortunate to have such a good teacher”

“Yes, you are. By the way, sometimes I suffer a palpitation especially when I lie on my left side of body, and I also have a dry cough”.

I took the blood pressure and heartbeat of U San Maung. But, I found no sign of hypertension. Therefore, I suggested him to take more sweets. He asked me what sort of sweet is best.

It was a good question. I said, “Myanmar traditional medical science is very wide and delicate. In my opinion, it must be honey. I’ve learnt from statistics that the aged in Russia were said to have some seasoned honey regularly. As you know, in Myanmar, honey is an important ingredient of many kinds of traditional medicines”.

“According to the records of many nations such as China, India, Roman Empire, Egypt and Greece, Prophet Mohammed recommended honey for the diseases of gastro-enteritis. Aristotle (350 BC) also recommended honey for various kinds of wounds and injuries, eye sore, cough and throat pain”.

“From the modern point of view, honey contains 1.31 per cent of sucrose, 38.19 per cent of levulose, 31.38 per cent of dextrose, and 7.31 per cent of maltose. It was found that although people with diabetes had honey, their blood sugar level did not rise much. The blood sugar level rises very slowly, so there would be no undesirable effects to the consumers”.

“Honey stimulates the body to further produce cytokines and alpha-interleukin No 1 and No 6. So, taking honey really strengthens anti-body system”. “It also contributes towards antioxidant activity. So, honey is to be used as an ingredient for as many traditional medicines as we can”.

“Doctor, I’ve learnt since I was young that if honey is applied to a wound, the wound is in the process of healing very rapidly. But, I don’t know why”.

“Researchers from University of Wales, Institution Cardiff, and Waikato University of New Zealand have proved that honey can kill some types of virus that can be resistant to antibiotics. And it helps cure wounds rapidly. Furthermore, it prevents process of reproduction of sixty kinds of bacteria”.

“Mixture of boiled water and honey effectively cures palpitation, tiredness, and insomnia. When you suffer from flatulence, take two spoons of honey and it thoroughly cures your suffering in no time. One who is feeble and infirm should take a spoon of honey two times a day, once in the morning and another in the evening. One should drink water as much as possible whenever one is thirsty, and then in one or two months one’s health will improve”.

It seems to me as if I knew it. But, in reality I don’t know well. And I haven’t taken the advantage of the effectiveness of honey. I have decided to take honey in future. Thank you for your information, Doctor”.

Translation: MS

Social Welfare sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of social welfare in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

No one can deny the fact that tangible results have been achieved in striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and thanks to the active participation of non-governmental organizations in these endeavours, nation-building tasks have gained momentum.

The power of social organizations plays an important role in serving the interests of the nation. Such associations and organizations as Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, are actively taking part in nation-building tasks.

Together with these associations and organizations, the entire national people, based on patriotism and Union Spirit, are committed themselves with heart and soul to these tasks and thus great achievements have been realized in all sectors.

The table shows emerging associations and organizations taking part in nation-building tasks in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

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MMCWA CEC members holding cordial discussions with villagers in Phayagyi village in Bago Township.
Right of religious freedom should cover not only citizens but also foreign registration citizens

YANGON, 28 Jan — The following is a translation on the suggestions made by U Aye Kyu of delegate group of peasants of Magway Division concerning the chapters “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” and “the Role of the Tatmadaw” at the plenary session of the national convention held yesterday.

If there is a state, there must be an institution to defend the country and protect the citizens. As regards the education, every citizen should be given education in accordance with the education policies. High literacy plays an important role in building a modern developed nation. It is of the citizens’ duty to learn the lessons taken from the nation’s history that in the colonial days, some national farmers who did not enjoy the right to pursue education lost their farmland unjustly and suffered great hardships. So, it is required to enact a law that every citizen should be given basic education as compulsory. And every citizen should have the right to pursue science and to carry out innovation in literature and arts. However, a national race, in enjoying this right, will have to avoid any particular action in this respect, which might adversely affect the literature, culture and arts of other national races. The State shall, in the education sector, encourage and provide assistance for citizens outstanding in education irrespective of race, religion, and sex.

Hence, we are in favour of adopting the points contained in the paras from 23 to 25 in connection with educational rights.

The State will exercise the multi-party democracy system after the approval of the State Constitution. In a democratic nation, the State’s sovereignty resides in the people. Hluttaw at different levels have to be formed in accord with the provisions of the Constitution to carry out administrative affairs. After the terms of Hluttaw have been fixed, the people will have to elect Hluttaw members representing the people to carry out the duties. The people also have the right to be elected in accord with the law. The people shall be given the right to revoke, in accord with the law, the duties of a representative if they have elected if he is not dutiful. As regards the rights to elect and to be elected, the points contained in the paras 26 and 27 should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

An adopted basic principle states that the State shall practise market economy. For the progress of the national economy, the following points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

1. Every citizen shall have the right to freely do business, and to own, use, enjoy and dispose of the property, ownership, using assets, innovation, and copyright by the State.

In connection with the rights in relation to criminal law, the following points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

1. An accused should be convicted of crime in accord with the law at the time of the commission of the offence, nor shall he be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable.

2. Except for the case for which a next higher court revokes a judgement and orders to rehear the case, the conviction in which the court concerned convicted an accused of the crime, any cases shall not be reheard.

3. An accused shall have the right to make an argument against the charge.

4. No citizen shall, except matters on precautionary measures taken for security of the State, prevalence of law and order, and community peace and tranquility in accord with the law in the interests of the people, or the matters permitted according to an existing law, be placed in custody for more than 24 hours without the sanction of a competent judicial officer.

Vesting the Supreme Court of the Union with the power to issue writs should not affect the power of other courts to issue orders that is likely to be the power vested according to an existing law to issue writs. The power to issue writs shall not be suspended unless, in times of war, invasion, rebellion, insurrection or grave emergency, the public safety may so require. In carrying our tasks, some citizens may have to deal with foreign countries. Such citizens, at home or abroad, should have the right to seek protection of the State.

As the Work Committee Chairman’s clarifications regarding the matter is comprehensive and clear, we are in support of adopting the points contained in the paras from 35 to 40.

Every citizen should enjoy the fundamental rights bestowed by the Constitution and dutifully carry out tasks that associate with the fundamental rights. Moreover, citizens are to pay taxes to be levied according to the law. As the points of paras from 41 to 47 explained by the Work Committee Chairman are appropriate, they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

In addition, the point “The word the State stipulated in this Chapter means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution” is suitable to be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

As all the 48 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman concerning the Citizenship, Rights and Duties of Citizens are found to be appropriate, they should be adopted as provisions for the constitution. — MNA

Mostly State security and defence task involves secrets that need urgent action and swift accomplishment

U Aye Kyu of Magway Division.

Myanmar faced three aggressive wars of the colonialists in the 19th Century and fell under unjust subjugation. There are examples that some nations lost or are facing economic hardship due to the loss of sovereignty resulting from the disintegration of the national unity.

Concerning the duty to defend and safeguard Our Three Main National Causes, the basic principle “The Tatmadaw is strongly and must be the sole existing brilliant and patriotic Tatmadaw” should be adopted. A nation’s life rests on its own constitution. The only institution that can effectively and swiftly ward off the threat endangering Our Three Main National Causes is the Tatmadaw. Hence, the basic principle “The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution” should be transferred as a detailed basic principle to the sector of the role of the Tatmadaw and adopted.

Myanmar faced three aggressive wars of the colonialists in the 19th Century and fell under unjust subjugation. There are examples that some nations lost or are facing economic hardship due to the loss of sovereignty resulting from the disintegration of the national unity.

Concerning the duty to defend and safeguard Our Three Main National Causes, the basic principle “The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and non-perversion of sovereignty” should be transferred to the chapter of the role of the Tatmadaw as a detailed basic principle.

The Tatmadaw had to take the national political leadership role and safeguard the nation in 1948 and 1949 during which the Union faced the danger of disintegration and losing sovereignty again due to multi-coloured insurgency that broke out resulting from the loss of national unity soon after regaining of independence. The Tatmadaw drove out over 12,000 Kuomintang troops who invaded the nation in 1953, and liberated the Kuomintang-occupied territories. And when the nation was going to fall apart after the AFPP cleanly split into two factions in 1955, it was also the Tatmadaw that restored the nation as the Caretaker Government. In 1962, the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties because of

(See page 6)
High liability rates play important role in building modern developed nation

YANGON, 28 JAN — The following is a translation on the suggestions presented by Daw Aye Aye Thuang of delegate group of workers of Ayeyawady Division at the plenary session of the National Convention held yesterday.

Concerning the points reasoning by two points concerning the citizenship, six points regarding equality, five points on freedom, two points in connection with enslavement and forced labour, seven points on religious rights; three points on cultural and educational rights, two points in relation with election, three points regarding the economic rights, four points relating to criminal procedures, six points on protection of rights guaranteed by the constitution, seven points concerning the duties of citizens, and one point on the term the State.

The people need to understand and correctly exercise fundamental rights and responsibilities. There are based on the given matter are based on historical events, seven points explained by the Chairman of National Convention.

Concerning the right of equality and the right of freedom, the National Convention has laid down a basic principle. Each citizen shall enjoy the rights of equality, rights of liberty, and rights of justice etc. as prescribed in the State Constitution.

Equality before the law, non-discrimination of gender, race, religion, status, culture are included in the rights of citizens. Women shall be entitled to the same rights and salaries as that received by men in respect of similar work. However, nothing in the law shall prevent appointment of women to the positions that are naturally suitable for men only.

Six points concerning equality among citizens, seven points explained by the Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Our nation is going to exercise genuine multi-party democracy system through a new enduring Constitution. In the process, it is found that among the democratic practices are freedom of speech, press, assembly, procession, association, and religion. The position of Buddhism as the faith professed by the great majority of the citizens of the nation. There are also citizens in the Union that affects the nation and the people should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Concerning the right of equality, the National Convention has laid down a basic principle. All the citizens have the duty to safeguard and defend the sovereignty and independence of the Union that affects the nation and the people should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Concerning the command of the armed forces, the detailed basic principle "The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief is designated as Vice-President level" should be adopted. Moreover, the detailed basic principle "The President shall appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the detailed basic principle "The President shall appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with the proposal and recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services" should be adopted.

Mostly, State security and defence task involves secrets that need urgent action and swift accomplishment. As to provide care for families of fallen or disabled soldiers, the detailed basic principle "A Law shall be enacted to provide care for families of the disabled or fallen Tatmadaw members" should be adopted.

Concerning the disasters affecting the nation and the people, the detailed basic principle "The Tatmadaw shall render assistance to the people upon occurrence of a calamity in the Union that affects the nation and the people" should be adopted.

As to provide care for families of fallen or disabled soldiers, the detailed basic principle "A Law shall be enacted to provide care for families of the disabled or fallen Tatmadaw members" should be adopted.

Mostly, State security and defence task involves secrets that need urgent action and swift accomplishment. As to provide care for families of fallen or disabled soldiers, the detailed basic principle "A Law shall be enacted to provide care for families of the disabled or fallen Tatmadaw members" should be adopted.
**Educative talks given**

Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, patrons of State and Division WAOs, Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, intellectuals and intelligentsia and guests.

Deputy Minister U Thein Sein gave talks on seven-point Road Map and Prof Dr Ma Tin Win educative talks.

Later, President Daw Than Than Nwe presented gifts to the deputy minister and the professor.

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**Yangon Zoological Gardens Centenary goes on**

The celebration of the centenary of the Yangon Zoological Gardens continued for the fourth day today. As today is Sunday public holiday, Yangon Zoological Gardens drew the attraction of more than 150,000 visitors.

At the booth of the Ministry of Forestry, the brief history and facts about of Zoological Gardens (Yangon) and rare animals were shown. Besides, personal goods, cosmetics and foodstuff shops were open.

Seeking relaxation and recreation, the visitors watched stage show and animal performance shows.

Tomorrow, a stage show will be performed with music stars including Myo Kyawt Myaing, Hsaung Oo Hlaing, Sithu Lwin, Big Bag, Bo Phyu, Thiri J Maung Maung, and Shin Phone.

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**Ngamoeyeik, Gyophyu pipelines opened in Thingangyun Township in support of National Convention**

Ngamoeyeik and Gyophyu pipeline was opened to provide drinking water for D/8 Ward in Thingangyun Township at the junction of Thanthuma Road and Lutlatyay Road in the township this morning, attended by USDA CEC Member Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Yangon Division USDA Acting Secretary U Aung Myint, Township USDA Secretary U Khin Wai and Chairman of water supply committee for the ward U Aye Than formally opened the pipe lines.

The pipeline to supply water for the ward cost K 1.98 million.

Next, the mayor and party inspected the collective cleaning tasks of social organizations and departmental personnel round the lake for drinking water in 4 South Ward in Thakayta Township in support of the National Convention and the site to construct the water purifying plant near the lake.
Entire nation has seen a large number...

(from page 1)

The length and breadth of the nation, the government is building the factories that are beyond the reach of national entrepreneurs to make investments and that call for advanced technologies.

In the process, priority has been given to the building of factories for which raw materials are available in the nation and the factories that make considerable contribution towards the development of the nation. As a result, the entire nation has seen a large number of modern industries. Overall, the industrial sector is making progress in parallel with the agricultural sector. Occupying a economically strategic position, Myingyan region is catching up with the process of the development of the nation.

Myingyan region used to face the sufferings of water shortage, hot weather, and poverty, as well as armed insurgency of Yebawbyu (PVO) and communists and political unrest at the instigation of aboveground political parties such as AFPFL, Pa-Hta-Sa, Pa-Ma-Nya-Ta.

Myingyan District’s population is larger than any other regions in Mandalay Division. It produces cotton, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, jaggery, and onion on a commercial scale. Besides, many celebrities and great merchants are from Myingyan. So, it can be said the region plays an important role in the political, economic and social affairs spheres of the nation. Myingyan region is located in the centre of the arid zone. So, it cannot cultivate rice on a large scale and relies on Myittha, Kyaukse, Shwebo and Lower Myanmar to get required amount of rice.

So, since the assumption of State duties, the government under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has put all-out endeavours into the Nine-District Greening Project including Myingyan District.

Now, the district has been facilitated with 15 dams constructed and nine river water pumping stations under construction. The mountain ranges in the district such as Taungtha, Nannya, Kokke, Minsong, Kyauktalon and Minsone are now lush and green due to the drive for afforestation. He stressed the importance of effective use of the water supply projects initiated by the Head of State and the government for agricultural development, rice sufficiency, and boosting agricultural production, calling for conservation and protection of forests and vegetation essential for fine climate.

Although the government has constructed dams wherever possible in the regions, the rice sufficiency of Myingyan District stands at 19 per cent and Taungtha Township at 17 per cent. So, local people are to make sustained efforts to meet the target of rice sufficiency, and personnel at all levels to maintain the irrigation facilities.

State service personnel will become duty-conscious ones only when they are well convinced that they are discharging State duties and serving the interests of the people, getting the salaries paid by the State. The government on its part has constructed factories, mills, dams, river water pumping stations, roads, and railroads, and established Myingyan Industrial Zone in the region.

Priority has been given to the building of factories for which raw materials are available in the nation and the factories that make considerable contribution towards the development of the nation. As a result, the entire nation has seen a large number of modern industries.
Entire nation has seen a large number...

(from page 8)

Moreover, the government has opened a degree college and technical institute as the region is densely populated and economically strategic. He called for maintenance of all good foundations and heritages for their durability.

He expressed his belief that local people would realize the genuine goodwill of the government. The facilities justify the goodwill and endeavours the government has made for well-being of the State and the people. It is sure that if the government showed normal goodwill to the people, it would take much longer time to complete such many factories, dams and roads.

So, in response to correct leadership of the government, the local people on their part are to lend themselves to the drive. It is important for the people to take part in the transition to a discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, harmony and understanding between superiors and subordinates. In conclusion, the Prime Minister called for combined efforts and harmonious cooperation of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw to accelerate the tasks for regional and national development.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said that Industrial Development Committee headed by the Prime Minister has been formed for the development of industrial sectors. Furthermore, 18 industrial zones have also been established.

The new factory could be constructed in Mandalay Division and as a result, the job opportunities can also be created for local people.

Besides, it can be seen that allround agriculture tasks are being carried out on a grand scale at a lower cost in Taungtha Township at the time of Tatmadaw government.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, the fuel-substitute physic nut plants can be cultivated and these plants can be found a lot in Myingyan and Taungtha townships in Mandalay Division.

The local people are to observe in detail how useful the physic nut oil is at the demonstration of Ministry of Industry-1.

The vest factory (Taungtha) project is the biggest and modern among all vest factories and it can produce 2 million of garments including vests, T-shirts and shorts per year.

In conclusion, the commander said that the factory opened gives lots of supports for the production of quality products and he urged factory staff, officials concerned and local people to fulfil the requirements, for the long term maintenance.

Afterwards, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung made a speech.

Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung, Myingyan District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Tun Win and CEO Mr Cheng Zheng Hao of Shanghai World Best Group Co Ltd formally open Vest Factory (Taungtha). — MNA

Industrial development is imperative in building a modern, developed nation. So, systematic measures are being taken to develop not only State-owned industries but also private-owned industries. Under the Industrial Development Committee under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Myanma Industrial Development Committee is taking steps to develop the industrial sector with added momentum. There are 1654 heavy industries, 2416 medium industries and 5509 light industries in the 18 industrial zones. At the same time, various ministries including the Ministry of Industry-1 are implementing projects for industrial development. The Ministry of Industry-1 has built a total of 56 factories — 11 from 1988-89 to 1995-96 and 45 from 1996-97 to 2004-2005. Taungtha vest factory is the 57th opened by the ministry after 1988-89. With the advent of the factory, over 1600 locals have enjoyed job opportunities, and as a result, their livelihood will improve soon, said the minister. With the improvement of their economy, they will be able to pursue their education and there will emerge educated persons.

As the factory was built in cooperation with CWGC Co of the People’s Republic of China, it will further cement the relationship between the two countries, he said.

Next, on behalf of local people Taungtha Township USDA executive Daw Thida expressed thanks. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party cordially greeted those present. Next, they inspected vests at the vest shop of the factory and produced of physic nut oil and use of physic nut oil as biodiesel demonstrated by the Ministry of Industry-1.

The Prime Minister and party also viewed production process of physic nut oil and running of machines and power tillers with physic nut oil at the booths displayed at the factory. Afterwards, they enjoyed job opportunities, and as a result, their livelihood will improve soon, said the minister. With the improvement of their economy, they will be able to pursue their education and there will emerge educated persons.

As the factory was built with added momentum. There are 1654 heavy industries, 2416 medium industries and 5509 light industries in the 18 industrial zones.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party cordially greeted those present.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 29 January, 2006
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends opening of refectory, concrete road of Thiri Gonwai Dhamma Beikman Monastery in Laydauntkan

YANGON, 28 Jan — Chairman of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Secretariat-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to share merits of construction of the refectory and the concrete road of Thiri Gonwai Dhamma Beikman Monastery in No 1 War Veterans Model Village (Laydauntkan) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, this morning.

It was attended by Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of Five Nikaya Sasana Beikman Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejobhasa and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Tin Oo, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Vice-Chairman of MWVOOC Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and COC members ministers, deputy minister and the vice-mayor, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, members of the Township WVO and social organizations, religious association and wellwishers. Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejobhasa administered the Nine Precepts. The Secretary-1 and party offered alms to the Sayadaws. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and the ministers accepted K 500,000 donated by staff families of the Customs Department; K 300,000 each by U Tin Win-Daw San San Win (KN Co) and people of Nyaungsayay Village in Shwedaung Township; 200,070 by U Thein Maung-Daw Pa Pa (Sandi Traditional Medicine); K 100,000 each by Yangon East District PDC Chairman Lt-Co Maung Maung Hein, U Myo Aung-Daw Khin Yi Mon (Hsan Myanmar Co), U Kyaw Win Swe (5 Stone Co Ltd); U Win Aung (Briquette Industry), U Than Naing Win (Thammyantha Briquette Industry), and U Khin Maung Gyi-Daw Sanda; K 108,000 by U Than Maung-Daw Ngwe Kyi (Parami Store), K 30,000 by Captain Aung Myint (Retd)-Daw Thaung Sein; and K 20,000 by Sgt Nyunt Shwe-Daw Kyi.

Thiri Gonwai Dhamma Beikman Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthaavana Pannadita Bhaddanta Paññāsīhabbavamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained. Maj-Gen Aung Thein and wellwisher U Min Min Aung (Silver Ware Trading Co) formally opened the corridor.

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, formally opens refectory of Thiri Gonwai Dhamma Beikman Monastery in No 1 War Veterans Model Village (Laydauntkan) in Dagon Myothit (South). — MNA

BEHS in No 1 War Veterans Model Village…

(from page 16)

The ceremony to mark the opening ceremony followed at the school hall. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the Government is striving for ensuring peace and stability and development of the nation. Intellectuals and intelligentsia play a vital role in carrying out development tasks of the country. Hence, the national education promotion programmes are being implemented systematically. For producing quality and qualified human resources, the plan is being materialized for standardizing curricula, ensuring uplift of teachers’ efficiency, and providing modern teaching aids to the schools. Nowadays, there are over 40,000 basic education high schools, middle schools, post-primary schools and primary schools in over 60,000 villages throughout the nation. The ratio of villages to schools stands at 3:2. Over 250,000 teachers have been appointed at the schools at different levels. At present, concerted efforts are being made for transition to democracy that the people long for. It is very important for the people to have knowledge of democracy at a time when the discipline-flourishing democratic nation takes shape. The Government disseminates general knowledge to the people to be able to realize dos and don’ts and right and wrong. Therefore, the nation must be built as the educated nation through fruits of the education sector.

While constantly learning education for uplift of self-efficiency, teachers are to nurture the students to become outstanding youths. Furthermore, the teachers should train their pupils to become those who have practice to observe not only laws, rules and regulations of the nation but also school disciplines. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 stressed the need for the teachers to nurture the students to realize Union Spirit that is lifeblood for perpetual existence of the Union of Myanmar.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein reported on national education promotion tasks.

Chairman of the School Board of Trustees Captain Kyi Tun (Retd) handed over documents related to the new school building to Director-General U Aye Kyo of No 3 Department of Basic Education. The Secretary-1 and the commander accepted K 2 million for the school donated by MWVO; K 2.5 million by Thammyathu Syndicate; K 300,000 by U Tin Win-Daw San San Win (KN Co); K 200,070 by U Thein Maung-Daw Pa Pa (Sandi Traditional Medicine); K 200,000 each by U Kyaw Win Swe (5 Stone Co Ltd) and U Win Aung (Briquette Industry); K 100,000 each by U Aung Mon-Daw Hla Hla Maw (Myint Aung Myat Paddy Production) and U Than Naing Win (Thammyantha Briquette Industry); and K 30,000 by SBT. Headmaster U Than Sein spoke words of thanks. The new school building has eight classrooms. The building measuring 140 feet by 30 feet was built at a cost of K 18.8 million by the Ministry of Education, K 2 million by MWVO and K 15.7 million by wellwishers. — MNA

New building of Basic Education High School in No 1 War Veterans Model Village (Laydauntkan) in Dagon Myothit (South). — MNA
About 8 million rural people enjoy fruitful result of potable water supply...

(from page 16)

or insufficient. Implementation of the project has completed by 93 per cent by supplying potable water to 7,467 villages out of 8,042 in three arid divisions during the period from 2000-2001 to the end of December in 2005-2006 fiscal years. Likewise, 7,868 villages out of 15,183 villages are being supplied with drinking water. Hence, water supply tasks have been undertaken in 15,335 villages out of 23,225.

The rural region water supply plan is being implemented by spending K 7,235.47 million, US$ 5.67 million, euro 770, FEC 10,012 and Y 734.08 million. At the first cash donation ceremony, 1,515 wellwishers donated K 1,173.924 million, US$ 74,252, euro 770 and FEC 10,012. Likewise, 133 wellwishers donated in advance K 131.682 million and US$ 2,500 for the 11th donation of supply of potable water with the use of bio-diesel. The minister said that employees of Development Committees are making efforts for supply of potable water in rural areas.

Next, the cash donation ceremony followed. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers and the vice-mayor accepted K 1,321.82 million and US$ 2,500 donated by 134 wellwishers including K 1 million by MWVO; K 4.3 million by MWAF; K 500,000 by USDA; and K 500,000 by MMCWA.

One of the wellwishers explained the purpose of the donations. Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that the Head of State laid down Our Three Main National Causes and objectives for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The border area and national races development project, the 24-special region development project and five rural development tasks are being implemented for equitable development of all regions of the nation.

As part of enhancing living standard of the rural people, Development Affairs Committees have been assigned duties to ensure better transport and supply of potable water in rural areas where 70 per cent population of the nation are living in.

The people of the regions had taken about 4 or 5 hours a day to fetch clean water, and dysentery, diarrhoea and other common infectious diseases broke out in the regions due to contaminated water in the past. The DAD launched the 10-year rural clean water project in 2000-2001 fiscal year. The Government, the DACs, wellwishers, USDA, social organizations and international organizations are providing assistance for the project.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts, of the 8,002 villages in three dry divisions — Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay — 7,467 villages or about 8 million rural people now enjoy fruitful result of the potable water supply plan at the end of December in 2005-06 fiscal year. In the other areas that were facing shortage of water, the DAD ensured clean water supply to 7,868 villages out of 15,183. The department has been sinking tube-wells in all areas including the delta and coastal regions, and sound foundations are emerging.

Seven townships in Sagaing Division, 12 townships in Magway Division, 11 in Mandalay Division, totalling 30 are now enjoying potable water. Furthermore, drinking water could be supplied to the whole Pakokku District. Hence, efforts are to be made for supply of potable water with momentum to the whole areas at township, district and division levels. At the cash donation ceremonies from the first to 10th time, 1,515 wellwishers donated K 117.92491 million, US$ 74,252, euro 770, and FEC 10,012. At today’s ceremony, wellwishers donated over K 132 million and US$ 2,500. Hence, the department is to maintain the tube-wells in cooperation with the local people because the generosity of the donors is beyond expression.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 greeted the wellwishers, and viewed documentary photos on functions of the ministry to supply potable water to rural areas. — MNA

There are 23,225 villages — 8,042 in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and 15,183 in other 14 states and divisions, where potable water is scarce or insufficient. Implementation of the project has completed by 93 per cent by supplying potable water to 7,467 villages out of 8,042 in three arid divisions during the period from 2000-2001 to the end of December in 2005-2006 fiscal years. Likewise, 7,868 villages out of 15,183 villages are being supplied with drinking water. Hence, water supply tasks have been undertaken in 15,335 villages out of 23,225.

48,500 rural libraries have been opened so far

Fourth Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award presentation held

YANGON, 28 Jan — The fourth Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award presentation was held at International Business Centre this morning, with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. Also present were officials of the Ministry of Information, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaung (Ko Hsaung) and EC members, literatis, officials of the journals and magazines and families of Dr Tin Shwe.

In his address, the minister said the government is making efforts to build a peaceful, modern developed democracy-flourishing nation based on not only the desire of the government but that of the entire people including literary workers. In doing so, three factors are essential — stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, infrastructures for development of the nation and human resource development.

He said human resource development plays an important role in national development. In education sector, the government is carrying out plans for promotion of intellect of student youths who will shape the future of the State. The students can now receive their education in basic education schools and higher institutions in the respective regions. He spoke of the need for literatis to enhance the thoughts, intellect and knowledge of the people in service, he said. The majority of the population are rural people and it is important to improve their knowledge. The Ministry of Information is giving priority to the opening of self-reliance rural libraries throughout the country based on the strengths of the State, local people and wellwishers. Out of over 60,000 villages, 48,500 libraries have been opened. Arrangements are being made for opening of the rest of the villages in 2006, he said.

(See page 15)
Mexico denies troops in US border drug chase

Mexico City, 27 Jan — Mexico denied on Wednesday that its troops were involved in a border incident in Texas where police chased drug smugglers, apparently dressed in Mexican Army uniforms, who became stranded in the waters of the Rio Grande.

It was the latest point of friction between the two estranged neighbours who have fought over illegal immigration, border security and drug violence for the last year.

The US envoy to Mexico accused the government of failing to control crime.

Rampant crime near the border "highlights the inability of the Mexican Government to police its own communities", US Ambassador Tony Garza said in a statement.

The FBI photographed about 10 men wearing camouflage and unloading drugs from a vehicle stuck in the river after US police chased it there on Monday.

A Humvee military-style vehicle stood by on the Mexican bank of the river that divides the two countries.

Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez said checks proved that all Mexican Army units were either in barracks or otherwise accounted for at the time.

"And secondly, the type of equipment detected, a Humvee with a .50-caliber machine gun, is not armament we have in the border area," he told Mexican radio.

Mexico was explaining the incident to Washington after the US Government asked for an investigation.

"The Army is key in what President Vicente Fox has dubbed Mexico's "mother of all battles" against drug gangs but troops, including an elite anti-drug commando unit called the Zetas, have defected to narco gangs.

"Derbez said the men involved in the chase near Sierra Blanca in western Texas could have been US citizens of Mexican descent or unknown criminals trying to sully the Army's name.

"Texas police followed three vehicles they spotted near the border when one of them, carrying 1,400 pounds (635 kilos) of marijuana, blew a tire."

Bangladeshi PM calls for collective efforts to combat HIV/AIDS

Dhaka, 27 Jan — Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia here on Thursday urged all to come up with collective efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.

Inaugurating the Second Sub-regional Parliamentary Seminar on HIV/AIDS, Khaleda said some important steps at regional level have been taken to fight HIV/AIDS.

At the 13th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit in Dhaka, South Asian leaders have welcomed the preparation of a collective SAARC strategy to prevent the spread of the disease in the region, she said. The leaders also ratified the SAARC convention on trafficking of women and children which, while protecting women and children, will help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Khaleda said a number of countries in Asia have seen either nation-wide epidemic or serious and localized epidemic. The Prime Minister said it is feared that AIDS epicentre is gradually shifting from Africa to Asia and experiences also indicate that HIV/AIDS has no racial, class or religious bias. “No country can claim immunity from HIV epidemic,” she said.

Bangladesh has so far been a low-prevalent country with regard to HIV/AIDS, Khaleda said.

"We, however, must be constantly vigilant. Our religious and cultural values are no doubt a great deterrent against the spread of this disease. But our very geographical location makes us vulnerable. Also certain groups in our country show a high-risk behaviour," she said.

The two-day seminar was sponsored by some international organization like United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization and the government of Norway.

Iraqi cameraman killed in clash between US, rebels

Ramadi, 27 Jan — An Iraqi television cameraman was killed in clashes between Sunni rebels and US forces in the guerrilla stronghold of Ramadi on Tuesday, witnesses said on Wednesday.

Mahmoud Za’al, who worked for Baghdad Satellite Channel, was filming an attack on two buildings occupied by US forces in Ramadi when he was wounded in the legs and then killed moments later in a US airstrike, witnesses told Reuters.

The US military denied it had launched an airstrike in Ramadi on Tuesday and declined comment on the killing of Za’al’s death. It said it had launched a strike in the vicinity of Ramadi on Monday but this had caused no injuries or damage.

Baghdad Satellite Channel, which is owned by the biggest Sunni political grouping, the Iraqi Islamic Party, confirmed Za’al’s death and said it was investigating the circumstances.

Witnesses said at noon on Tuesday that gunmen began firing mortar rounds at the governorate directorate building and the Iraqi Nationality Department, both bases for US forces.

The gunmen also blasted the buildings with heavy machineguns and rocket propelled grenades, they said, adding the assault had lasted several hours.

“When they got very close to these buildings, helicopters and other military planes started shooting at them,” one witness said.

“The cameraman was in the streets to film the clashes when he was wounded, first in his legs, and then when US planes started shooting he was killed.”

Doctor Hamdi al-Abusi at Ramadi Hospital said two civilians were killed and seven wounded, including a woman and a 10-year-old child, in the violence. He did not know whether any gunman or US soldiers had been killed or wounded.

US forces in Ramadi called in airstrikes last Friday to repulse a guerilla attack. The rebel assault coincided with the release of the results of the December 15 parliamentary poll, which confirmed the dominance of Shiite Islamists.

Al-Jazeera airs video of two Germans seized in Iraq

Baghdad, 28 Jan — A video of two German hostages seized in northern Iraq Tuesday was aired by the pan-Arab al-Jazeera television on Friday.

The video showed that the two German engineers were seated on the ground with armed men behind them.

The Qatar-based channel said that the two Germans appealed to the German Government to work for their release.

The video tape was dated on January 24, the day when they were abducted in the northern Iraqi city of Baiji, some 240 kilometres north of Baghdad.

According to German Foreign Ministry, the two engineers, Thomas Nitzschke and Rene Braeunlich were working for a German company that has a commercial relationship with an Iraqi detergent company in Baiji.

Bangladesh export earning reaches $4b in 5 months

Dhaka, 27 Jan — Bangladesh exported goods worth 4.01billion US dollars during the first five months of the current fiscal year, up 12.73 per cent from the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

The growth in export earnings was mainly due to rise in volume of export by 18 per cent both in primary products and manufactured goods.

Woven garments and knitwear contributed most in the export performance of the country during the period, an official of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said on Thursday.

Clipper yachts prepare to sail off to resume the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race in Singapore on 27 Jan, 2006. — INTERNET

7.5 KVA Generator,
DVD Player,
Portable Generator
2 KVA UPS (ON LINE)
UPS 600 VA (ON LINE)

ADV E R T I S E M E N T S

7.5 KVA Generator
DVD Player
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ADV E R T I S E M E N T S
Fermented milk drink reduces high blood pressure

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — A traditional Scandinavian beverage, fermented milk, can help reduce blood pressure in people with hypertension, a new study from Finland shows.

The drink has long been popular in Scandinavian countries, Dr Ritta Korpela of Valio Ltd. Research and Development in Helsinki, the study’s lead author, told Reuters in an e-mail interview. Valio makes a modern version, with juice added, and sells it in several European countries.

It is made by adding Lactobacillus to milk, which breaks down the milk protein casein into two types of protein fragments called tripeptides.

The tripeptides, isoleucine-proline-proline and valine-proline-proline, have been shown in animal studies to reduce blood pressure and also lower blood pressure in people with mild hypertension. According to Korpela and her colleagues, they work by blocking the blood-pressure-raising chemical angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE), the same mechanism employed by ACE inhibitor drugs.

In the current study, the researchers randomized 94 people with hypertension who were not taking any medications to 150 mL of the fermented milk or a control drink twice daily for 10 weeks. Study participants underwent 24-hour blood pressure monitoring at the beginning of the study and at the end.

After 10 weeks, average systolic blood pressures — the top number in a blood pressure reading — were about four points lower in the group consuming the fermented milk, while diastolic pressure (the bottom number) was nearly two points lower.

Past researchers have estimated that a three-point reduction in systolic blood pressure reduces the risk of stroke by 10 per cent to 13 per cent, and the likelihood of heart attack by 7 per cent. Korpela told Reuters Health.

“It is also important to notice, that this is a very natural way of treating enhanced blood pressure, without any adverse side effects,” the researcher added. — MNA/Reuters

China develops first robot for nuke projects

CHENGDU, 27 Jan — Chinese scientists have developed a robot which can collect foreign materials inside a 22-metre-deep water tank of a nuclear reactor, in addition to other functions.

The robot, a "small guy" about 42 cm long, 19.8 cm wide, 13.8-cm tall and 13.8 kilogrammes in weight, was specially designed for underwater foreign-matter collection in the nuclear reactor, the first of its kind to be used in China’s nuke projects.

It was independently developed by the Chengdu Institute of Photovoltaic Technology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, based in the capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

Sources with the institute said that a trial operation of the robot proved successful recently at the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant in south China’s Guangdong Province. — MNA/Xinhua

Research shows basic gene may lead to short sight

BEIJING, 27 Jan — A gene key to the eye development may also be a factor in short sight, a wide-spread disease in China mainly caused by improper reading or watching behaviours, according to a research by some Chinese scientists.

A team of scientists in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, discovered in a decade-long study that the gene “pax-6” plays an important role in the process of eye development, according to Thursday’s China Daily report.

The study was to determine the mechanism leading to human short-sightedness based on the role of pax-6 in the cause of the same eye condition in infant rhesus monkeys, said Ge Jian, director of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre under Guangzhou’s Sun Yat-sen University.

“The study means we can reinforce the much-debated idea that most young people become short-sighted from reading too close to books or working too closely to objects such as computer screens,” Ge, who leads the research programme, was quoted as saying by the Beijing-based newspapers saying. — MNA/Xinhua

UNESCO names Sweden world No 1 in science, innovation

STOCKHOLM, 27 Jan — Sweden leads the world in science and innovation, Radio Sweden reported on Thursday quoting a new international survey by the United Nations education, science and culture body UNESCO.

The UNESCO Science Report 2005 ranked Sweden in first place for innovation in science, education and technology research, ahead of Japan and the United States. Finland, Switzerland, the Britain and Denmark were also among the top seven nations.

The report, written by an international team of independent experts, said a small number of emerging Asian economies, led by China, were challenging the leadership of North America, Europe and Japan in this field.

It noted that while countries like Germany, the Netherlands and France are losing momentum, Sweden is not only the world leader in the field but is moving ahead in innovation faster than any other nation.

Sources with the institute said that a trial operation of the robot proved successful recently at the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant in south China’s Guangdong Province. — MNA/Xinhua

Aboriginal dancers perform during the Woggan-ma-gyle morning ceremony at Farm Cove on Australia Day in Sydney on 26 Jan, 2006. — INTERNET

Rare cases of liver failure linked to antibiotic

NEW YORK, 26 Jan — Physicians in Charlotte, North Carolina describe three cases of severe liver toxicity that appear to have been caused by the antibiotic agent telithromycin, according to an online report of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Although there have been other reports of liver toxicity associated with telithromycin, "the biggest difference here was the outcome, with one patient dying and one requiring liver transplantation, which have not been reported before," co-author Dr John S Hanson, from Carolinas Medical Centre, told Reuters Health.

He emphasized that "since being approved by the FDA in late 2004 there have been 2.7 million prescriptions written, so this type of reaction is quite rare". Telithromycin is a type of reaction is quite rare. Telithromycin is used to treat respiratory tract bacterial infections. Bacteria that are resistant to other antibiotics are often still sensitive to telithromycin, according to the article.

The three patients were first seen with symptoms of jaundice and markedly abnormal results on liver function tests within a few days of receiving telithromycin.

One patient improved upon withdrawal of telithromycin. Jaundice resolved within two weeks, and the patient’s liver enzyme levels normalized by week eight.

The second patient developed jaundice while on telithromycin. Liver enzyme levels were elevated, and abdominal ultrasound tests revealed liver abnormalities. One month later, CT scans showed a small liver and an enlarged spleen. This patient subsequently underwent liver transplantation.

MNA/Reuters

A man chooses a dog-shaped decoration for the Lunar New Year on a street in Hanoi, Vietnam on 26 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

A man chooses a dog-shaped decoration for the Lunar New Year on a street in Hanoi, Vietnam on 26 Jan, 2006.
Makaay double seals victory for champions Bayern

Frankfurt, 28 Jan — Roy Makaay struck an eye-catching double and Michael Ballack added a free kick to give Bayern Munich a 3-1 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach as they returned to Bundesliga duties on Friday.

Bayern's superiority in the first league match after the six-week winter break will be a depressingly familiar sight for their rivals.

The only surprise was that they did not add to the early lead given to them by Makaay in the first half of a game played in freezing conditions. Lucio and Ze Roberto each forced desperate clearances after breaking forward, with Gladbach struggling to hold on.

Ghana win revives Nations Cup hopes

Port Said (Egypt), 28 Jan — An early goal from Bundesliga bound striker Matthew Amoah revived Ghana's hopes at the African Nations Cup finals on Friday when they overcame Senegal 1-0 in their Group D match.

Amoah, who joined Borussia Dortmund after the tournament in Egypt, scored from a tight angle in the 13th minute to hand the World Cup finalists their first points of the tournament.

Ghana now share three points with Senegal, setting up a tight finish to the group next week. Nigeria, also on three, were playing Zimbabwe later on Friday.

River Plate crush Oriente to close on Libertadores place

Rio de Janeiro, 28 Jan — River Plate crushed Bolivia’s Oriente Petrolero 6-0 on Thursday to virtually book their place in South America’s Libertadores Cup.

The Argentine side failed to qualify outright for the tournament due to an indifferent domestic campaign last year, forcing them to face Oriente in a two-legged preliminary round match.

With former Argentine captain and coach Daniel Passarella in charge for his first competitive game, the twice Libertadores champions responded with a ruthless performance.

Two spot kicks by Marcelo Gallardo and goals from Jonathan Santana, Daniel Montenegro, Ernesto Farias and Andres San all but confirmed River’s presence in the 2006 tournament.

Oriente’s misery was compounded when midfielder Eduardo Melgar was shown the red card after lashing out at River Plate defender Paolo Ferrari.

The sides meet again in Santa Cruz de la Sierra next Thursday, River Plate should now join Paraguay’s Libertad, El Nacional of Ecuador and Brazil’s Paulista in Group Eight.

River’s great local rivals, five-times Libertadores champions Boca Juniors, did not qualify for the 2006 competition. Brazilian club Goias held Ecuador’s Deportivo Cuenca to a 1-1 draw in the other preliminary round game on Thursday. Sweeper Rogerio Correa headed Goias into a first-half lead but Holger Matamoros scored a fine equalizing goal by controlling a high ball before shooting home. Goias were one of the surprises of the 2005 Brazilian championship and the game against Deportivo was their first appearance in the Libertadores Cup.

Nigeria sink Zimbabwe with quickfire goals

Port Said, 28 Jan — Nigeria scored twice in four minutes to beat a stubborn Zimbabwe 2-0 in the African Nations Cup on Friday and stay on course for the quarter-finals.

Midfielder Christian Obodo headed the Super Eagles in front in the 57th minute and substitute John Obi Mikel added the second with a scorching drive four minutes later for his first international goal. Nigeria top Group D with six points from two games but still need a point against Senegal on Tuesday to ensure qualification. Zimbabwe, who have lost both games, still have a mathematical chance of going through if they beat Ghana the same day.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Resort in SE France
4 Deposit on teeth
7 Flawed
9 Wise man
10 Benevolent
11 Move quickly
13 Snobbish
14 Soup-dish
15 Pirate (3-3)
17 Pennan
19 Scrap used in mending
20 Friend
22 Mark left by wound
23 Symbolic offering
24 Hate intensely
25 Scattering seed

DOWN
1 Strong boxes
2 Appellation
3 Drowsy
4 Low seat, mound
5 Sway to and fro
6 Blush
7 Fool
8 Clock
11 Bend the body forward
12 Of Holland
15 Duellist’s attendant
16 Atic
17 Jeers at
18 Insect
21 Female horse
22 Flat-bottomed boat

Daniel Montenegro, right, of Argentina’s River Plate, battles for the ball with Doyle Vaca, of Bolivia’s Oriente Petrolero, during their Libertadores of America soccer cup game at Stadium Monumental in Buenos Aires, on 26 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

INTERNET

Arveladze hat-trick helps Alkmaar beat Roda 4-1

Amsterdam, 28 Jan — A Shota Arveladze hat-trick helped AZ Alkmaar to a 4-1 win at Roda JC Kerkrade as they moved level with PSV Eindhoven at the top of the Dutch First Division. The Georgian striker scored in the second minute of Friday’s match with a superb angled lob and restored Alkmaar’s lead six minutes before halftime after Alexander Voigt had equalized.

Three minutes after the break Stijn Hayseghem sealed the win and Arveladze grabbed his third four minutes later after the set up a defence splitting combination with Martijn Meerdink.

Makarenko double seals victory for champions Bayern

Frankfurt, 28 Jan — Roy Makaay struck an eye-catching double and Michael Ballack added a free kick to give Bayern Munich a 3-1 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach as they returned to Bundesliga duties on Friday.

Bayern’s superiority in the first league match after the six-week winter break will be a depressingly familiar sight for their rivals.

The only surprise was that they did not add to the early lead given to them by Makaay in the first half of a game played in freezing conditions. Lucio and Ze Roberto each forced desperate clearances after breaking forward, with Gladbach struggling to hold on.

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MNA/Reuters

INTERNET

River Plate crush Oriente to close on Libertadores place

Rio de Janeiro, 28 Jan — River Plate crushed Bolivia’s Oriente Petrolero 6-0 on Thursday to virtually book their place in South America’s Libertadores Cup.

The Argentine side failed to qualify outright for the tournament due to an indifferent domestic campaign last year, forcing them to face Oriente in a two-legged preliminary round match. With former Argentine captain and coach Daniel Passarella in charge for his first competitive game, the twice Libertadores champions responded with a ruthless performance.

Two spot kicks by Marcelo Gallardo and goals from Jonathan Santana, Daniel Montenegro, Ernesto Farias and Andres San all but confirmed River’s presence in the 2006 tournament.

Oriente’s misery was compounded when midfielder Eduardo Melgar was shown the red card after lashing out at River Plate defender Paolo Ferrari.

The sides meet again in Santa Cruz de la Sierra next Thursday, River Plate should now join Paraguay’s Libertad, El Nacional of Ecuador and Brazil’s Paulista in Group Eight.

River’s great local rivals, five-times Libertadores champions Boca Juniors, did not qualify for the 2006 competition. Brazilian club Goias held Ecuador’s Deportivo Cuenca to a 1-1 draw in the other preliminary round game on Thurs-

day. Sweeper Rogerio Correa headed Goias into a first-half lead but Holger Matamoros scored a fine equalizing goal by controlling a high ball before shooting home. Goias were one of the surprises of the 2005 Brazilian championship and the game against Deportivo was their first appearance in the Libertadores Cup.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria sink Zimbabwe with quickfire goals

Port Said, 28 Jan — Nigeria scored twice in four minutes to beat a stubborn Zimbabwe 2-0 in the African Nations Cup on Friday and stay on course for the quarter-finals.

Midfielder Christian Obodo headed the Super Eagles in front in the 57th minute and substitute John Obi Mikel added the second with a scorching drive four minutes later for his first international goal. Nigeria top Group D with six points from two games but still need a point against Senegal on Tuesday to ensure qualification. Zimbabwe, who have lost both games, still have a mathematical chance of going through if they beat Ghana the same day.

MNA/Reuters
Three wounded in bombing near Thai Ministry of Justice

BANGKOK, 28 Jan — A blast apparently aimed at a commercial building housing Ministry of Justice offices in the Thai capital exploded Friday afternoon, injuring three persons. Apparently set off by remote control, a small C-4 device estimated to have weighed about one pound exploded at around 12:30 pm in northern district of Bangkok, local police said.

Initially police assumed the explosion was aimed to destroy the Software Park Building, which houses several offices including that of the Justice Ministry. Exploding near the Software Park Building, the blast caused damage within a five-metre radius, wounding three passers-by, including Kittisak Wangdee, 41, Saowalak Tangiwattana — a Justice Ministry employee, and another man as yet unidentified. Local media said late Friday, Kittisak received multiple wounds at the back of his head, a hip and a leg and was taken to Krungthep Hospital for treatment. Saowalak reportedly developed a hearing problem by the bomb and was taken to Mongkut Wattana Hospital for observation.

A Thai police officer photographs at the site of bomb explosion in the park, near the Thailand's Justice Ministry in the suburban Bangkok on 27 Jan, 2006.
YANGON, 28 Jan — A ceremony to open a new building of Basic Education High School was held in No 1 War Veterans Model Village (Laydauntkan), Dagon Myothit (South) Township this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveiled the signboard of the new school building.

Also present on the occasion were Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Huay Win, Vice-Chairman of MWVO COC Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd), members of COC ministers, deputy ministers and the Vice-Mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, the chairman and members of the Township WVO, members of School Board of Trustees, the headmaster, teachers, students, members of social organizations and wellwishers.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Headmaster U Than Sein, and Township WVO Chairman Major Tin Maung (Retd) formally opened the new school building.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected the new school building.

(See page 10)

YANGON, 28 Jan — The 11th cash donation ceremony for potable water supply in rural areas, organized by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, was held at the hall of Department of Development Affairs in Thanhlyetsoon in Botahtaung Township this afternoon, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

About 8 million rural people enjoy fruitful result of potable water supply plan

K 1321.82m, US$ 2,500 donated for supply of potable water in rural areas

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and wellwishers.

On the occasion, Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt reported that a total of 286 Township Development Committees and 61 Town Development Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are undertaking rural and urban development tasks. In April 1999, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on implementing the tasks of three arid divisions of arid zone and villages in other States and Divisions where potable water is scarce, through the ten-year project.

There are 23,225 villages — 8,042 in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and 15,183 in other 14 states and divisions, where potable water is scarce.

(See page 11)