

Senior General Than Shwe receives Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received a goodwill delegation led by Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence here today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-

in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of



Senior General Than Shwe receives Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of People's Republic of China.—MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe greets Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of People's Republic of China.

MNA

the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 January, 2007

Myanmar's anti-drug drive picking up steam

Nowadays, the US in complicity with Britain is levelling slanderous accusations against Myanmar with the intention of interfering in the internal affairs, and one of them is that Myanmar's drug problem is spreading beyond its boundary.

Actually, Myanmar had never grown poppy in successive periods, and it started to see poppy cultivation and production in the time of the colonialists. The opium production and smuggling was further exacerbated by the Kuomintang Nationalist Chinese who intruded into Myanmar with the abetment and support of CIA.

Later, many drug cartels from abroad joined the insurgents in producing and smuggling opium and narcotic drugs in border areas. So, the Myanmar Tatmadaw had to launch major military operations from 1976 to 1998 to ward off the menace of narcotic drugs, sacrificing hundreds of lives of its members.

In a bid to pursue the 15-year anti-drug elimination plan, Myanmar is mobilizing the participation of local people and national race organizations and cooperation of neighbours, regional countries and international organizations for supply eradication, demand eradication and law enforcement. As a result, poppy growing and production is on a sharp decrease.

The drugs seized from 1988 to 2006 were destroyed in 20 ceremonies held in Yangon and 39 ceremonies held in border areas and other towns. In addition, Shan State (East) Special Region-4 Mongla, Shan State (North) Special Region-1 Kokang and Special Region-2 Wa Region have been announced poppy free zones.

Turning a blind eye to the tremendous success achieved in anti-drug and drug control movements due to combined efforts of the government and the people, the US and Britain are accusing Myanmar of narcotic drug problems to interfere in the internal affairs. Therefore, the entire national people will have to continue to denounce and protest against such willful attempts.



U Win Tun Oo and Daw Hse Hse of No C/26, Mingala Lane-4, Kamayut Township, recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged to mark their son's birthday. Joint Treasurer of the Home U Maung Maung Gyi accepts the donation. — H

People's Desire

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

GGA to provide a grant aid

YANGON, 23 Jan — The Government of Japan, under the Japan's Grassroots Grant Assistance Scheme (GGA), will provide a grant aid for US \$ 179,454 to Mandalay Division Agriculture Coordination Committee for provision of machinery for rehabilitation of flood-affected farms in Kyaukse and Myinttha Townships in Kyaukse District in Mandalay Division.

The Government of Japan under the GGA Scheme will provide funding for procurement of four backhoes and 580 pressured sprayers for agricultural use.

The Grant Contract to this effect was signed today at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Yangon, in the presence of Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar Maj-Gen Htay Oo, between Mr Masashi Ogawa, Counsellor of Embassy of Japan to the Union of Myanmar, and U Aung Kyin, Chairman of Mandalay Division Agriculture Coordination Committee.

MNA

Ministry of Industry-1 launches special sales

YANGON, 23 Jan — The Ministry of Industry-1 launched its second special sales in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Division on 20 January.

First, Director-General of Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department U Thaik Tun and Acting Chairman of Myaungmya District PDC Police Maj Nay Myo Thu formally opened the sales.

Foodstuff and personal goods manufactured by Myanma Textile Industries, Myanma Foodstuff Industries, Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries, Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries, Myanma Ceramics Industries and Myanma General and Maintenance Industries are on display at the special sales.

The special sales continued up to 29 January. According to the demand of the local people, the period of the special sales will be extended. — District IPRD

PBANRDA Ministry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt yesterday called for more construction of roads and bridges this year and stressed the need to exert more efforts for the maintenance of water supply facilities and to step up the efforts for housing projects in rural areas. In his address at the work coordination meeting for 2006 of the ministry held here, Minister Col Thein Nyunt also urged the officials of the departments under the ministry to work harder for meeting the targets of the ministry.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minis-

ter Col Tin Ngwe, directors-general and managing directors of the departments under the ministry, directors of state/division development affairs department and officials concerned.

According to the report to the meeting, Development Affairs Department upgraded 107 miles of road to tarred road in urban area and 275 miles to gravel road, and constructed 280 miles of earth road over a period of nine months from April to December 2006. Regarding the water supply sector, the department constructed 24,822 water supply facilities in 16,956 villages during the same period. — MNA

Aye Min Cho claims gold medal in Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2007



YANGON, 23 Jan — Amateur golfer Aye Min Cho picked up the gold medal with 137 strokes in total in the second round of Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2007, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and International Beverages Trading Co at Shwe Mann Taung Golf Resort in Mandalay yesterday.

The prize presentation ceremony followed the second round. Director U Tint Oo of Design and Develop-

ment of IBTC presented a gold medal to Moe Kyaw Kyaw who won hole-in-one. The director handed the prize to Min Naing Soe who secured first position in putting challenge event.

Next, Executive U Ko Ko Lay of MPGA and MGF gave away the prize of longest drive to Htet Wai Phy and that of nearest to the pin to Aung Myint. Afterwards, professional golfer CEO U Chan Han of Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd handed the consolation prizes to amateur golfers who stood from first to the 10th positions.

Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Than presented prizes to Aye Min Cho with 137 strokes, Maung Nyo with 137, Kyaw Thet Wai



Secretary of Mandalay Division PDC awards first prize winner of Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Qualifier. — MGF

with 138, Tun Tun Oo (Taunggyi) with 138 and Myo Tun with 138 strokes. Next, Director U Tint Oo of Design and Development of IBTC presented souvenirs to member of board of directors U

Myo Win of Shwe Mann Taung Golf Resort.

The main sponsor is Han Event Management and co-sponsors are Air Mandalay, Hotel Nikko, Srixon and Alpine.

MNA

Russia, India to hold joint military exercises in 2007

MOSCOW, 22 Jan—Russia and India will hold joint military exercises in April and September this year, a senior Russian defence official said over the weekend.

Air, Navy and ground troops will join anti-terrorist trainings in Russia's territory, Anatoly Mazurkevich, head of the international military cooperation department of the Russian Defence Ministry, was quoted by the

ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

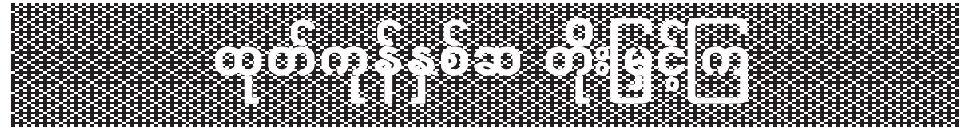
Mazurkevich said both sides have got ready to hold naval exercises at Russian Pacific Fleet bases in April.

Preparations have already begun for the exercises India 2007 planned for mid-September, which will be held at a training ground of Airborne Troops Division 76 in the Pskov Region near the northwest border of Russia.

A Russian battalion and an Indian company will participate in the training with firing practice and troops landing, Mazurkevich said, adding that a number of interesting types of Russian and Indian weapons will be used in the training.

According to Mazurkevich, the training will be an exchange of experience, as well as serious joint work to fight terrorism, but will not be a show.

MNA/Xinhua



France's President Jacques Chirac (R) listens to French state spending watchdog committee Cour des Comptes President Philippe Seguin during a ceremony to mark its 200th anniversary in Paris on 22 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Five US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Jan—Five US soldiers have been killed in combat in Iraq's volatile Anbar Province, the US military said on Sunday.

The military said the four soldiers and one Marine died on Saturday "from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in al-Anbar Province". Anbar, heartland of the Sunni insurgency against the US military and the Shiite-led government in Baghdad, is the deadliest region in Iraq for US soldiers. The US military suffered one of its deadliest days in Iraq on Saturday, when 19 soldiers were killed—12 in a helicopter crash, five in clashes with gunmen in the holy Shiite city of Kerbala, and two in separate incidents.

MNA/Reuters



A participant shows her painting at a stress control lecture in Beijing recently. The professor requires every participant to paint freely and tell a story according to the drawing to release their mental tension.—INTERNET

Spanish climber dies descending Nepal mountain

KATHMANDU, 22 Jan—A Spanish mountaineer fell to his death while descending from the summit of a Nepalese Himalayan Mountain on 19 January, the climbing

team's Kathmandu agent said on Sunday.

Guillermo Mateo Yeste, 47, a climbing instructor from Madrid, had reached the 6,812 metre high (22,349 ft) summit of

Everest's neighbour, Mount Ama Dablam, and then fell 35 minutes after leaving the top, the agent, Ganesh Neupane, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Two US ex-traders get prison terms over improper trades

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan—Two former New York Stock Exchange traders have been each sentenced to six months in prison after being convicted last year of making improper trades in the investigation of NYSE "specialist" traders, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Saturday.

At separate hearings in federal court in Manhattan, US District Judge Sidney H Stein sentenced Michael Hayward and Michael Stern each to six months in prison and two years of supervised release, said the report.

The judge also ordered the men to each pay a fine of 250,000 US dollars and to complete 160 hours of community service for each year of supervised release.

The two were specialists — the elite traders in charge of trading on the exchange floor — employed by Dutch stock-trading firm Van der Moolen Holdings NV's Van der Moolen Specialists USA LLC, according to the report.

Hayward and Stern were each convicted of one count of securities fraud in July for making improper trades for Van der Moolen's account at the NYSE, a unit of NYSE Group Inc. They were each acquitted of one count of conspiracy and two additional securities-fraud counts.

MNA/Xinhua



Wearing a protective suit, South Korean officials man a checkpoint at the entrance of a village affected by bird flu in Cheonan, south of Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday, 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

2,000 suspect bird flu poultry culled in N-E Thailand

BANGKOK, 22 Jan—Health officials in Thailand's northeastern province of Nong Khai bordering Laos, some 615 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, have culled some 2,000 chickens suspected of being stricken with bird flu, *Thai News Agency* reported on Sunday.

A total of 230 chickens at a farm in Si Chiang Mai District of Nong Khai died of unknown causes

Saturday, forcing the provincial authorities to cull some 2,000 chickens at the farm and another 60 chickens raised by villagers living near the farm, the report said.

Nong Khai's provincial governor Supot Laowan-siri said the change in the weather could be one reason for the chickens at the farm to have died unnaturally.

Supot said lab tests on

the dead chickens could be known within three days. Meanwhile, the Disease Control Department under the Ministry of Public Health had announced that tests carried out during the first three weeks of January have shown that 111 persons who had been suspected to be infected with bird flu nationwide were suffering from ordinary fever or pneumonia, rather than bird flu. — MNA/Xinhua



Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo (L) speaks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during their meeting in New Delhi on 22 Jan, 2007. Yeo is on a nine-day official visit to India.—INTERNET

Experts : confine patients to stop new TB outbreak

DURBAN, 22 Jan—A deadly new form of tuberculosis sweeping through South Africa has killed dozens of people, and experts say the outbreak must be stopped by forcibly isolating those infected. “If you’re coughing and you have tuberculosis in your sputum, you’re capable of transmitting the disease to others,” Dr Ross Upshur, director of the Join Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto, told CTV News.

Upshur is one of three physicians who made the recommendation, publi-

shed in the Public Library of Science Medicine, an international medical journal. The other two, Jerome Amir Singh and Nesri Padayatchi, are members of South Africa’s Centre for AIDS Programme of Research.

Extreme drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) has killed more than 70 people in the past several months, and continues to spread at an alarming rate.

Last September, the World Health Organization said there were 53 confirmed cases, and all but one were fatal.

A woman named Zuma began feeling feverish and suffering headaches in November, and was soon diagnosed with XDR-TB. Because it’s resistant to

almost all existing antibiotics, doctors have been forced to give her a drug that’s so toxic it’s also damaging her health.

Internet

US soldier killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Jan— One US soldier died of injuries received from roadside bomb blast near his vehicle in an area in northern Iraq on Saturday, the US military said on Sunday.

A Task Force Lightning Soldier, assigned to the 105th Engineer Group, was killed while conducting combat operations in northern Iraq, the military said in a statement without specifying the exact location.

Earlier, the military said that five US soldiers were killed and three others wounded late Saturday when militiamen attacked the Provincial Joint Coordination Centre (PJCC) in Karbala, some 110 kilometres south of the Iraqi capital.

The PJCC was attacked with grenades, small arms and indirect fires by an illegally armed militia group, while a meeting was taking place between the US troops and Iraqi officials to ensure the security of Shiite pilgrims participating in the Ashura commemorations, the military said in a statement.

Thousands of Shiite pilgrims pour to the holy city of Karbala to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s world longest double-tube highway tunnel opens to traffic

Xi’AN, 22 Jan — An 18-kilometre-long, double-tube and four-lane highway tunnel, the longest double-tube highway tunnel in the world, opened to traffic on Saturday in northwest China.

The Zhongnanshan highway tunnel, which begins in Qingcha, Xi’an City and ends in Yingpan, Shangluo City in Shaanxi Province, allows vehicles to travel up to 80 kmh.

Construction of the tunnel, which ran through the Qinling Mountains in Shaanxi, began in March 2002 at a cost of nearly 3.2 billion yuan (410 million US dollars).

The highway tunnel is part of a national highway linking Baotou, north China’s Inner Mongolia, to Beihai, south China’s

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Japan is currently home to the world’s second longest double-tube highway tunnel, which is 10.9 kilometres.

MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 17 Jan, 2007 shows the general view of the Zhongnan Mountains Tunnel in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province.—XINHUA

Cambodian King meets with China’s NPC delegation

PHNOM PENH, 22 Jan — Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on Saturday said that the long-rooted Cambodian-Chinese friendship has become ever splendid, thanks to the inauguration and cultivation by former king Norodom Sihanouk and generations of Chinese

leaders.

The King made the remarks during his meeting with a delegation of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC) led by Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of the NVC’s Standing Committee.

Cambodia views China as its greatest friend and will make consistent efforts to promote the overall and deep development of the bilateral ties, Sihamoni said.

The Cambodian Royal Family, the government and the people thanked the Chinese people for their long-term support and help, he said.

Li Tieying highly valued the friendly Chinese-Cambodian ties, saying that China and Cambodia have been brothers since the establishment of friend-ship between the two countries.

The Chinese-Cambodian ties have enjoyed overall and deep development in recent years and the cooperation in various fields have born fruits, he said.

He expressed appreciation for the King’s contribution to the bilateral ties and expected the friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides to reach a new level.

MNA/Xinhua



A bulldozer removes snow in Red Square in Moscow on 21 Jan, 2007. This year’s first snow covered Moscow on Sunday after a winter that has so far been the warmest since records began in 1879. Temperatures reached -1 degrees Celcius (30.2 degree Fahrenheit).—INTERNET

Eco-funding deal reached for Canadian rainforest

VANCOUVER (British Columbia), 22 Jan— International environmental groups and Canadian officials said on Sunday they have struck a 120-million-Canadian-dollar (103-million-US-dollar) deal to help fund environmentally friendly businesses in Canada’s Pacific coast rainforest.

The deal comes nearly a year after environmentalists, the timber industry and aboriginal communities in the coastal region reached a landmark agreement to end a long battle over protecting wilderness valleys in the area often referred to unofficially as the Great Bear Rainforest. — MNA/Reuters

From rural development to one village, one product

Thein Htut

However much important the hi-tech products and heavy industries are for national progress and prosperity in this age, rural development is not to be overlooked. Hence, many nations are now paying greater attention to rural development.

The border areas development project, launched in 1989 in Myanmar, covers five rural development tasks — rural transport, clean water supply, farming, health, education and economic development, rural electricity supply, and village libraries.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Myanmar is in the process of introducing one product for one village.

The one village, one product (OVOP) movement was initiated by Dr Morihiko Hiramatsu in Oita town, Fukuoka prefecture, Japan, in 1979. He was the governor of Oita, with a population of 1.2 million. Due to the success in his efforts to enable every village to produce at least one product or in other words one brand, he could reverse the falling Oita's economy.

Later, the system was successfully adopted by many world nations. Thailand after setting up the Village Fund in February 2001, kicked-start its own one tambon (village-tract), one product project (OTOP). Thailand invited Dr Morihiko Hiramatsu to introduce the OTOP to the country that had 7255 village-tracts and over 70,000 villages and 63 million people. At the request of Thailand, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), sent experts in May 2002 to assist Thai rural products to reach the Japanese markets. An OTOP fair was held in Tokyo in September that year. OTOP has contributed much to the development of the regions in northern Thailand.

In 1992, Malaysia also launched the one region, one industry policy (OROI), similar to the OVOP. The government provided assistance to cottage and medium-scale industries and farmers to boost production of agriculture sector and rural income. JETRO also presented required assistance for the OROI to manufacture goods whose standard is high enough to penetrate the Japanese market.

Cambodia in 2006 formed the National OVOP Committee with the participation of the ministries whose tasks have relations with home affairs, tourism, finance, forestry, fishery, energy, mining, culture, rural development or labour in one way or another.

Laos also has Chao Laos (Heart of Laos) or the Laotian version of the OVOP. The Philippines, China, the Republic of Korea and Indonesia are also implementing their own OVOP. Cambodia, Laos

and Vietnam have already joined APO or the Asia production development organization. The three countries are developing their rural areas through the OVOP.

OVOP also encourages villages to produce multi-brands depending on availability of natural resources, raw materials, technologies, skilled labour, capital and markets.

The three fundamental principles of OVOP are local yet global; self-reliance and creativity; and human resource development.

The first principle is to think globally or in other words to try to penetrate global markets, while running a production BUSINESS, especially a cultural industry, with the use all the available raw materials and resources of the region.

For them, self-reliance and creativity means placing reliance on man's innovative power, that is supported by a pat expression "Resources are limited while wisdom is infinite". When Oita launched its one village, one product movement, the villagers of each village themselves decided which item they would produce on a large scale, and local authorities provided them with technological and necessary assistance only.

And human resource development means to promote the performance and skills of rural people with the aim of helping everyone cultivate a good habit of introducing and using new ideas.

To achieve the OVOP movement, it is needed to follow the motto "Think globally, act locally".

Key factors for OVOP movement are: (1) enhancing knowledge constantly, (2) exploring regional resources and strong points, (3) understanding that perseverance is the factor for strength, (4) producing and distributing value-added products instead of selling goods in raw, (5) increasing the market share, and (6) human resource development.

Since the time of Myanmar kings, Myanmar has seen many villages and townships, each of which has been producing one or two specific products on a commercial scale, for example traditional parasol

industry in Pathein, tobacco pipe industry in Chaungson Township, Mon State, lacquerware and Ponyigyí (pea paste) in Bagan, sericulture in Amarapura, silverware in Inlay, salt industry in Bogale Township, sculpture industry in Darbein Village, Bago Division, jewellery industry in Mogok, sculpture in stone in Mandalay, and glazed earthen pot industry in Kyaukmyaung, Sagaing Division. However, they are not well-organized industries. So, measures are to be taken to improve the quality of the works, increase the market share, boost production of goods and ensure participation of all stake-holders.

In a bid to achieve success of the drive "from rural development to one village, one product", it is needed to mobilize the participation of respective ministries, local authorities, cooperative societies, organizations, industrialists and entrepreneurs and to disseminate knowledge about the drive to the people.

Myanmar has many areas for investment such as agriculture, fish and meat, industry and forestry. Commodity production is interrelated with trade. So, the government is giving encouragement to boosting production and creating opportunities for the development of trade.

Some countries are not rich in natural resources but are making economic progress through trade and services. Myanmar has prospects for development not only in production but also in services and trade. In addition, it is located in a strategic place between BIMSTEC countries and ASEAN countries and between two most populous countries of the world with large markets. So, it can serve as an economic bridge between these countries.

With the development of commodity production and trade through one village, one product drive laid down by the Head of State, rural areas will enjoy development with better per capita income and that will make a dominant contribution towards national economic development.

Translation: TMT+MS
Myanma Alin: 23-1-2007

Some countries are not rich in natural resources but are making economic progress through trade and services. Myanmar has prospects for development not only in production but also in services and trade. In addition, it is located in a strategic place between BIMSTEC countries and ASEAN countries and between two most populous countries of the world with large markets. So, it can serve as an economic bridge between these countries.

Arakan Army opposes draft resolution of US and Britain

YANGON, 23 Jan — *The Arakan Army issued a declaration on 16 January, condemning the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain to the UNSC so that they could interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. The declaration is as follow:-*

It was known to all that the draft resolution submitted to the UNSC was objected. China and Russia objected the draft resolution with the use of double veto and so did Arakan Army and all the entire people.

The US and Britain proposed a draft resolution to the UNSC to interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs, accusing it of continued detention of political prisoners, violation of human rights by oppressing some ethnic minorities in the eastern part of Myanmar, incapability to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, failure to eliminate narcotic drugs production.

Due to groundless accusations on Myanmar of posing a threat to regional and international peace and security, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation voted rare double veto against the draft resolution of the US and Britain and South Africa objected it and three member countries Indonesia, Qatar and Congo abstained. The rare double veto has not been practiced since 1972 to date.

We believe that Myanmar affairs should be solved by Myanmar nationals

(See page 7)

Mingalarmay Women Entrepreneurs Association condemns US-sponsored draft resolution

YANGON, 23 Jan — *Mingalarmay Women Entrepreneurs Association issued a declaration 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 follow:-*

The US and Britain proposed the draft resolution to UNSC in an attempt to interfere in internal affairs of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China and Russia put a duble veto against the proposed resolution of the US and Britain on 12 January 2007. It is learnt that those nations sharing border with Myanmar, ASEAN members and in the Asia-Pacific region also recognize that Myanmar does not pose a threat to regional peace and security.

Turning a blind eye to the development in the political, economic, health, social and drug elimination sectors in Myanmar, the US and Britain made false accusations against Myamar in an attempt to meddle in her internal affairs. They also used the Security Council to meddle in internal affairs of Myanmar and put pressure on other members of the UNSC.

We take the view that the unilateral action of the US and Britain is unjust and aims to jeopardise the community peace and stability of Myanmar and to interfere in internal affairs of Myanmar. Therefore, we strongly denounce the wrong actions of the US and Britain.

(See page 7)

MTA Matkyan Region Development Group totally opposes US, Britain-created draft resolution

YANGON, 23 Jan — *MTA Matkyan Region Development Group issued a declaration on 18 January, protesting against the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain to the UNSC so that they could interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. The declaration is as follow:-*

MTA Matkyan Region Development Group strongly condemned the draft resolution with one-sided pressure. All the entire people of Myanmar made protests against the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain to put Myanmar issue on the agenda of the UNSC with a view to interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar.

Despite the condemnation, The US and Britain submitted a draft resolution to the UNSC to interfere in the affairs of Myanmar, accusing it of continued detention of political prisoners, violation of human rights by oppressing some ethnic minorities in the eastern part of Myanmar, incapability to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, failure to eliminate narcotic drugs production.

MTA Matkyan Region Development Group was very grateful to the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation which voted rare double veto against the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain. Similarly, we also express thanks to South Africa that voted against.

(See page 7)

Mandalay Zegyo Market deplores US-initiated resolution

YANGON, 23 Jan—*The following is the full text of the announcement issued by shop owners of Mandalay Zegyo Market on 14 January in protest against the resolution submitted by the US and Britain to the United Nations Security Council with the intention of interfering in Myanmar’s internal affairs.*

The People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation, two of the five permanent members, cast double veto of the draft resolution initiated at the UNSC by the US to take action against Myanmar. Like other Myanmar people, we shop owners of Mandalay Zegyo Market thank the two countries for their veto.

The US accusations against Myanmar are totally baseless. We every day witness peace and stability restored in the nation. Indeed, detention of political prisoners, attacks on the ethnic minorities, human rights violations and failure to control drug production are common in the US, not in Myanmar.

We have visited several prisoners and provided assistance to the prisoners firsthand. Therefore, we know well that in Myanmar, no political prisoners are kept in the prisons, and all the prisoners are the ones who are serving their terms

(See page 7)

SSNA Brigade 11 condemns US, Britain-sponsored draft resolution

YANGON, 23 Jan — *Brigade-11 of SSNA 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 We strongly oppose the attempt of the US and Britain to submit draft resolution to the UNSC in order to interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs, 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 in the country.
- 2 We believe that with peace and stability and progress prevailing in the country, Myanmar will continue to try to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty and implement the seven-step Road Map till its success. We are also confident that all discussions made at the National Convention are effective for the State.
- 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 cast a double veto on the resolution. Therefore, our sincere thanks go to those countries for their support.
- 4 We totally denounce the lopsided attempt and intervention of the US and Britain.

U Kan Na

SSNA Brigade-11

Group that exchanged arms for peace

Shan State (North)

MNA

SSNA Brigade 19 condemns US, Britain-sponsored draft resolution

YANGON, 23 Jan — *Brigade-19 of SSNA 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 We strongly oppose the attempt of the US and Britain to submit draft resolution to the UNSC agenda in order to interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs, 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 in the country.
- 2 Like the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation, our groups as well as the government denounce the slanderous accusations that Myanmar posed a threat to regional and international peace and security.
- 3 We believe that with peace and stability and progress prevailing in the country, Myanmar will continue to try to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty and implement the seven-step Road Map till its success. We are also confident that all discussions made at the National Convention are effective for the State.
- 4 We are grateful to the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation for their understanding of our nation's objective conditions. Therefore, our sincere thanks go to those countries for their support.
- 5 We totally denounce the lopsided attempt and intervention of the US and Britain.

U Gon Khay

SSNA Brigade-19

Group that exchanged arms for peace

MNA

ArakanArmy opposes...

(from page 6)

themselves. Hence, Arakan Army can not accept the interference of foreign countries and we pledge to participate in the realization of the State's seven-step Road Map and we firmly believe that the best way to solve Myanmar's internal affairs should be through discussions at the National Convention.

U Khine Lin Naing
Arakan Army
MNA

MTA Matkyan Region ...

(from page 6)

We all believe that Myanmar's internal affairs ought to be solved among the national people. As a result, MTA Matkyan Region Development Group can not accept the interference of foreign countrie and we pledge to participate in the realization of the State's seven-step Road Map and we firmly believe that the best way to solve Myanmar's internal affairs should be through discussions at the National Convention.

U Lin Hsai
Chairman
MTA Matkyan Region Development Group
MNA

Mingalarmay Women...

(from page 6)

We expressed our thanks to the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation who stood by Myanmar and vetoed the proposed resolution, and South Africa who voted against.

Mingalarmay Women Entrepreneurs Association
MNA

Mandalay Zegyo Market...

(from page 6)

for their violation of laws. And the accusation of oppression and attacks on the minorities is, in fact, just pure speculation.

Myanmar upholds Our Three Main National Causes and gives priority to national cohesion. In the US, the conflict between the Whites and the Blacks has not ceased, and the Hawaii Island issue has not been settled yet. The US citizens are staging mass demonstrations in the nation due to the fact that many American soldiers lose their lives daily, stemming from the aggressive wars on small countries. Instead of settling its domestic problems, the US is making accusations against small countries. Such accusations are unacceptable.

If the US wants to know whether Myanmar can control HIV, TB and malaria, it should approach the clinics and hospitals in Myanmar that keep records. Indeed, HIV surfaced from the US. And in the world, the person who was announced first to be infected with HIV was from the US. In the cities of the US, a large number of Street-walkers, who are spreading HIV virus to their customers, can be seen on the platforms of the roads round the clock. On behalf of the Myanmar's population of 60 million, we would like to urge the US to focus on its domestic HIV epidemic, instead of levelling accusation against Myanmar.

The US is the largest drug user in the world. If firstly the drug cartels and traffickers in the US are crushed, the world's drug trade will be decreased sharply.

Instead of expressing support for the US-sponsored resolution, the US lackeys should prevent the US from invading small countries around the world.

Our special thanks go to China and Russia that cast double veto, South Africa that voted against the resolution, and Indonesia, Congo and Qatar that abstained. We will drive the national traitors out of Myanmar and we take a solemn vow that we will participate in the drive for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Shop owners of Mandalay Zegyo Market
MNA

Four innocent people injured in mine explosions in Kyaukkyi Township

YANGON, 23 Jan — Terrorists are disrupting stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order and security of the people employing various means.

Four innocent people were wounded in mine explosions planted by terrorists in Kyaukkyi Township, Toungoo District, Bago Division on 20, 21 and 22 January.

On 20 January, Maung Aung Thu Htaik, 15, of Netthankwin Village stepped on a mine while he was eating plums on the roadside, about three miles east of the village. He lost his right ankle due to the explosion.

On 21 January, U Kalar, 48, of Meetaingtaw

Village, Mone region, trod on the mine at Pyarteseik on the way to his farm while urinating. The explosion the loss of caused his right ankle.

On 22 January, a hand-made mine in a container exploded at the Thar Htwe tea shop in Theindan Ward in Kyaukkyi Township. Htet Wai Aung, 35 and Kyaw Min Htay, 23, who were having tea were wounded.

The wounded persons were taken to People's Hospital there and treatment was given to them. The people condemned the destructive acts of the terrorists.

MNA

2nd Endurance Contest concludes

BAGAN, 23 Jan — The 2nd Endurance Competition organized by Myanmar Equestrian Federation concluded at Ngalinpoke Village, NyaungU Township on 21 January.

A jockey, aged 73, and two participants from abroad also participated in the contest along with other

participants. The contest was divided into two categories — 80-km event and 40-km event.

Deputy Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung and officials of the federation awarded the winners of the contest. — NLM



Enthusiasts eagerly watch the 2nd endurance contest organized by Myanmar Equestrian Federation. — NLM

Everybody knows, just guess

- * **Keep Five Precepts at bosom**
Those who always keep them at heart
Are not bothered by multiple pressures.
Those who scheme and submit drafts
Those who deter with dirty mind
Are repulsed with the veto
By the brotherly, who openly oppose
Thus vanquishing them
See their hopes dashed.
- * **Ask all those who know**
Of the ever-active neo-colonialists
Who interfere at their own will.
- * **As said, the quack is pleased when patient is in throes**
As going to battle many times
Destroying towns, cities and nation as a whole
Guess who they are, as all can
That's what the world knows.

Ye Yint Thway (Law) (Trs.)

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

If there is no national solidarity, Union will break up and the country will lose its sovereignty

Graduation ceremony of Tatmadaw (Navy) Management Course No 67 for Junior Officers and Engineer Junior Officers Course No 41 held



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein delivers address at graduation ceremony of Tatmadaw (Navy) Management Course No 67 for Junior Officers and Engineer Junior Officers Course No 41. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — The graduation ceremony of Tatmadaw (Navy) Management Course No 67 for Junior Officers and Engineer Junior Officers Course No 41 was held at the parade ground of Navy Training Headquarters in Thanlyin Station this morning.



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presents the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Naing Aung. — MNA

Present were members of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, officials and relatives of junior officers. Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspected graduating company and guards of honour. Next, the companies marched past the commander-in-chief (Navy).

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, presented awards to the best trainees Lt Naing Aung of Tatmadaw (Navy) Management Course No 67 for Junior Officers and Lt Thet Win Maung of Engineer Junior Officers Course No 41.

In his address, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein said with seriousness he would like to tell the junior officers who are going to serve at the units, stations and naval vessels.

He said the Tatmadaw formed with patriotic citizens during the independence struggle fought against the imperialists who suppressed the people.

He said Tatmadaw members born of the people treated the latter as their relatives. The entire people also respected the Tatmadaw members. The Tatmadaw possessed capabilities on which the people rely. The country regained her independence because of the capabilities of the Tatmadaw.

In the history of the country, non-disintegration of national solidarity is the major factor of national politics. The Union will break up and the country will lose its sovereignty if there is no national solidarity, he pointed out.

Therefore, the government built national reconsolidation and nearly all the armed groups returned to the legal fold and participated in the regional development tasks in cooperation with the Tatmadaw, he added.

He said the junior officers are to cultivate themselves to become good leaders in accord with the leadership 16 characteristics. He also urged them always to try their best to be brilliant leaders on whom the subordinates can rely.

He said they are to safeguard above and underwater resources, and prevent and ward off the enemies who intrudes Myanmar waters.

He said the Tatmadaw is making efforts for the emergence of a modern developed nation upholding Our Three Main National Causes. All national people are to be united. In other words, the Union Spirit must be forged, he added. He spoke of the need to discharge the duties to defend the Myanmar waters upholding the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

After the graduation ceremony, Commodore Win Shein, Commander of Naval Training Headquarters, presented certificates to the junior officers. In the evening, graduation dinner was hosted at the headquarters, and guests were entertained by Myawady Anyeint troupe.—MNA



Those present at graduation ceremony of Tatmadaw (Navy) Management Course No 67 for Junior Officers and Engineer Junior Officers Course No 41. — MNA

Secretary-1 hosts dinner in honour of Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosted a dinner in honour of Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of People's Republic of China, and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu.

Before and during the dinner, the artistes, with accompaniment of modern orchestra of Myanmar Radio and Television, entertained those present with songs. After the dinner, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Mr Li Tieying exchanged gifts. Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress Mr Li Tieying presented a flower basket to the artistes. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosts dinner in honour of Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of People's Republic of China. — MNA



Delegation led by Maj-Gen Pornpipat Subhanbhesuj of National Defence College of Royal Thai Army arrives



Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Mya Win receives Thai delegation led by Maj-Gen Pornpipat Subhanbhesuj of National Defence College. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Jan— A delegation led by Maj-Gen Pornpipat Subhanbhesuj of National Defence College of Royal Thai Army arrived here by air this morning to make a study tour in Myanmar.

They were welcomed by Col Kyaw Myo Htut of National Defence College and senior military officers, Military Attaché Colonel Prissapa Suvanatat of Royal Thai Embassy and officials at Yangon International Airport.

The guests paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni

Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township. Next, they posed for documentary photos. They observed the white elephants and presented cash to officials.

National Defence College Commandant Brig-Gen Mya Win received the Thai delegation led by Maj-Gen Pornpipat Subhanbhesuj of National Defence College. In briefing hall, the Commandant extended greetings to the delegation, and explained the history of the college and academic matters with audio-visual aids. The Commandant and

Maj-Gen Pornpipat Subhanbhesuj exchanged gifts.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development explained functions of their ministries.

Next, the guests visited the Shwedagon Pagoda. They signed in the visitors' book, and donated cash to the pagoda funds. They also paid homage to the Botahtaung Kyaikde-up Pagoda.

MNA

Trainees of No 38 BEd Course of UDNR tour Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan— The trainees of No 38 BEd Course of the University for Development of National Races, accompanied by Pro-Rector (Training) U Nay Win of CICS (Upper Myanmar) explained the salient points of the CICS.

In Padamy Hall,

Pro-Rector (Training) U Nay Win of CICS (Upper Myanmar) explained the salient points of the CICS.

In the afternoon, the students went to the Central Training Centre of Myanmar Police Force where they were greeted by Principal Police Brig-Gen Thein Tint. The trainees of UDNR presented a commemorative pennant to Police Brig-Gen Thein Tint.

On 22 January, they

visited Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Pagoda, National Kandawgyi Gardens and central fire fighting training school in PyinOoLwin.

Family members of central fire fighting training school presented their skill demonstration.

The trainees of UDNR presented a pennant to Principal U Thoug Zin of central fire fighting training school.

MNA



Trainees of BEd Course No 38 of UDNR visit Central Training Centre of Myanmar Police Force in PyinOoLwin.

MNA

Myanmar women enjoy equal rights with their male counterparts to discharge executive duties in government and private institutions

Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held



President of MWAFF Daw Than Than Nwe presides over annual general meeting of MWAFF. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Jan—A ceremony to open the Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women's

of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and others. In her address,

respect among national races and national unity; to contribute to community peace and food, clothing, shelter, health, education, and culture development; and to enhance the women's role and ensure their life security. The MWAFF has been opening opportunities for all the Myanmar women of the entire nation who are eager to participate in the national and social undertakings in addition to women's affairs. Myanmar women enjoy equal rights with their male counterparts to discharge executive duties in government and private institutions. MWAFF has

Education Ministry provided stipends to over 120,000 students in 2006. The MWAFF has been rendering assistance to Health Ministry in carrying out the reproductive health care programme and mental and physical health care programme. Together with other social organizations, MWAFF has been taking part in public health education and public health care projects. The government laid down the project to combat the three major diseases — HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB — and is implementing it together with 17 local NGOs and 27 inter-

national organizations including UN agencies. Hence, HIV infection rate decreased to 1.3 per cent in 2005 from 1.5 per cent in 2000. HIV positive rate among pregnant women aged between 15 and 24 in 2005 was 1.31 per cent, down from 2.78 per cent in 2000. MWAFF has been actively taking part in combating the three major diseases. Under the micro credit scheme, the federation has been disbursing soft loans for social progress of womenfolk in all states and divisions. State/division women's affairs organizations have been conducting domestic training courses for 1814

times to train over 50,000 women. They have also created jobs for 2565 women and increased their loan disbursements. As a measure to prevent violence against women and trafficking in women and children, the MWAFF has been holding educative talks, running counseling and education programmes, while explaining the laws protecting women. It has hold talks for 7968 times to over one million people. The MWAFF will make greater efforts in greening and cleaning the environment, ensuring clean water supply, (See page 11)



President of MWAFF Daw Than Than Nwe delivers address at annual general meeting of MWAFF. — MNA

Affairs Federation was held at the meeting hall of the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township here this morning with an address by President of MWAFF Daw Than Than Nwe. Also present on the occasion were patrons of MWAFF, vice-presidents, CEC members, the President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members, patrons of state/division women affairs committees, intellectuals and technocrats, personnel

President of MWAFF Daw Than Than Nwe said that the Federation was formed on 20 December 2003 with seven objectives, four fundamental principles and duties. During its three years of existence, the membership strength has increased to over three million. The Federation has been implementing the four fundamental principles — to serve the true national interest unitedly, based on Our Three Main National Causes; to give priority to mutual love and

been taking part in the school enrollment programmes for all school age children. The nation's school enrollment rate in 2006 was 97.8 per cent. The Federation and other social organizations donated over K 400 million for the national education. Thanks to inclusive education programmes 21,520 children including disabled children have been able to attend classes, and 40.7 per cent of them are girls. MWAFF in cooperation with



Patron, president and members of MWAFF view documentary photos on activities of MWAFF and state/division Women's Affairs Organizations. — MNA



Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Lay Myint. — MNA

Myanmar women enjoy equal rights with...

(from page 10)

improving rural transport and power supply on a national scale.

The federation has also been cooperating with regional and international organizations. It has been actively implementing the work programmes laid down by BPFA, CEDAW and MDG. It has also sent its members to training courses, workshops, seminars and conferences abroad.

The international community should provide assistance to Myanmar to achieve the millennium goals. But Myanmar has received little help from it as the US and Britain are putting pressures on her, using the UN and ILO as a tool. Despite the sanctions, the government and the people have been joining hands to realize the goal.

The garment factories in the nation were closed due to pressure imposed by the United States. And the pressure consequently dealt a great blow to women who have become jobless. Now, the US and Britain co-sponsored a draft resolution in order to interfere in the Myanmar's internal affairs. The accusations against Myanmar made by the US colluding with some internal traitors are totally contrary to the prevailing situations of the nations. Therefore, the entire Myanmar people as well as numerous organizations denounced the draft resolution.

At present, the nation

has seen unprecedented peace and stability. Significant progress has been made across the nation including border areas while efforts are being made together with international community in the fight against narcotic drugs. In the meantime, delegates from all walks of life are actively participating in the National Convention in order to lay down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for the emergence of an enduring State constitution.

Turning a blind eye to national development achieved in the nation the US and Britain co-sponsored the draft resolution. This is opposed to the UN Chapter and amounts to interfering in the internal affairs of a nation. Hence, the MWAFF strongly denounced the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was vetoed by the People's Republic of China and the Russia which argued that Myanmar issue posed no threat to international

peace and security and was just a matter of internal affairs. The MWAFF thanked China and Russia that stand by Myanmar and South Africa that voted against the draft resolution.

To bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation the government has laid down projects for development of border areas and national races, the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks and is implementing them with added momentum. The entire mass of women are to participate in those projects and the National Convention by doing their bit for successful realization of the seven-step Road Map.

At a time when efforts are being made for development of the woman sector the entire mass of women are to strive to become a consolidated national force under the leadership of the MWAFF.

In doing so, they are to contribute their shares in the drive for the success of the 12 political, economic and social objectives on the basis of Union Spirit, placing in the fore Our Three Main National Causes.

The meeting will be held with the nine objectives and they are:

- to uphold Our Three Main National Causes as a national duty
- to participate in successful realization of political, economic and social objectives of the State
- for the women folk to participate in

successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map of the State by doing their bit.

- to guard against the danger of internal and external destructive elements through the strength of women folk
- to participate in successful realization of millennium development goals
- to successfully realize the seven aims of MWAFF
- to actively participate in successful implementation of rural tasks, especially in education and health sectors
- to cooperate in the task for continuous development of women
- to cooperate in prevention of violence against women and trafficking in persons

Members of the state/division women's affairs committees are to present their future tasks and touch on work programmes, suggestions, weaknesses and strengths, difficulties and experiences. Only then, will work programmes be effectively implemented.

In conclusion, she urged the participants to review work carried out in 2006 and deal with matters on development of woman's life, life security, enhancing socio-economy of women and laying down future tasks and actively take part in the activities for development of the entire women.

After the ceremony, patrons of MWAFF, vice-presidents, CEC mem-bers,

Nine Objectives of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation

1. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as a national duty
2. To participate in successful realization of political, economic and social objectives of the State
3. For the women folk to participate in successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map of the State by doing their bit.
4. To guard against the danger of internal and external destructive elements through the strength of women folk
5. To participate in successful realization of millennium development goals
6. To successfully realize the seven aims of MWAFF
7. To actively participate in successful implementation of rural tasks, especially in education and health sectors
8. To cooperate in the task for continuous development of women
9. To cooperate in prevention of violence against women and trafficking in persons

the Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members looked into documentary photos on the activities of state/division women's affairs committees and shops.

Next, the first day session of the meeting continued and it was presided over by President of MWAFF Daw Than Nwe and attended by the vice-president, CEC members, intellectuals and technocrats, patrons of state/division women's affairs committees and members.

First, General Secretary of MWAFF Professor Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun read the report of MWAFF Central Executive Committee.

After that, members of state/division women's affairs committees presented work carried out by the state/division

women's affairs committees and future tasks.

Meeting Chairperson Daw Than Nwe made a general review of presentations of the state/division women's affairs committees and the morning session went into recess.

The meeting resumed in the afternoon and it was presided over by Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Lay Myint.

Representatives of state/division women's affairs committees took part in the discussions.

Afterwards, Meeting Chairperson Daw Khin Lay Myint made a general review of presentations of the state/division women's affairs committees and the first day session came to an end in the evening. The meeting continues tomorrow. — MNA



Chairperson of Rakhine State WAO Daw Kyi Kyi Wai.

MNA



Chairperson of Shan State (East) WAO Daw Mar Mar Thein.

MNA



Chairperson of Bago Division WAO Daw Khin Swe Nyunt.

MNA



Chairperson of Kayin State WAO Daw Tin Sein.

MNA



General Secretary of MWAFF Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun.

MNA

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Dated 24 January 2007
kelvin.chia.ygn@mptmail.net.mm

Coal mine flooding kills two in N China autonomous region

HOHHOT, 22 Jan — Two miners died and two others were rescued after a coal mine flooded in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, local government sources said on Friday.

The accident occurred at around 8:30 am on Thursday in the No 109 coal mine at the Morin-dabaa Daur Autonomous Banner (County), of Hulun Buir City, trapping four miners underground, according to the regional coal industry department.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (197)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (197) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived 23.1.2007 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.

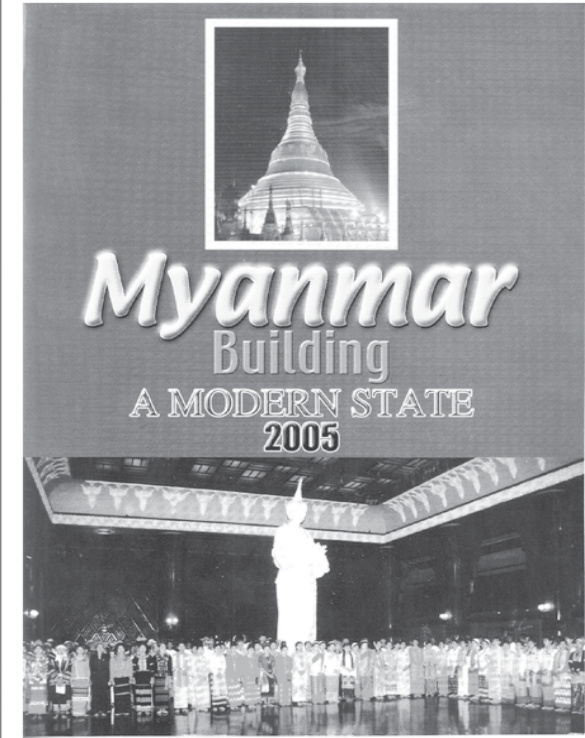
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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

Change of Name
This is to notify that I, U Paw Htin, holder of Citizenship Certificate No. 12/ MAYAKA (NAING)143668 and Passport No.584202, son of U Nyi Nyi will henceforth be known as Paw Htin Nyi Nyi.
Paw Htin Nyi Nyi

Liu Xiang (L), Deng Yaping (M) and Sang Lan become the image ambassadors for China Sports Foundation, on 21 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA



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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
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35 mln colour TV sets sold in China in 2006

BEIJING, 23 Jan — Thirty-five million colour TV sets were sold for a total of 93.5 billion yuan (12 billion US dollars) in China last year, the *China Securities Journal* reported on Monday.

Cheap traditional cathode ray tube (CRT) sets still account for more than 50 per cent of the market in yuan terms with sales of 52 billion yuan in 2006, but sleek, fashionable flat-screen models continue to make inroads despite the stiffer price tag.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese toy makers face new challenges

BEIJING, 22 Jan — Toy makers from the Chinese Mainland,

where 70 per cent of the world's toys are produced, are being challenged by Hong Kong counterparts and by foreign importers' demands for better products.

Tons of Made-in-China toys have begun to languish in warehouses since EU importers lowered the maximum dibutyl phthalate content in plastic toys to 0.1 per cent on January 16th.

Toy importers are spurning plastic and stuffed toys in favour of complicated ones, said Li Zhuoming, deputy director of the toy association in Guangdong Province, China's largest toy production base, adding that EU and US buyers are focused on electronic toys and toys that encourage children to think.

Chinese toy makers are under pressure because their mainstream products are simple, low added-value items such as stuffed toys and dolls, Li said.

Hong Kong toy manufacturers are upsetting domestic toy producers by grabbing market share both on the Mainland and overseas, said Li Zhuoming.

From January to November 2006, Hong Kong's sales of toys on the Mainland soared 84 per cent compared with the same period in 2005.

Home-made toys are mostly targeted at overseas markets and less than 20 per cent of their products flow into the domestic market, according to a report conducted by China Toy Association.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela to take over CANTV

CARACAS, 22 Jan — Venezuela's Government will take over telephone company CANTV before it pays off investors, President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday, urging Venezuela's telecom chief to accelerate

the move by naming a new board.

Chavez this month ordered the takeover of the key telephone operator, which is partly owned by US telecommunications company Verizon, as part of a broad nationalization push to consolidate his self-described socialist revolution. The government has said it will compensate investors but has not provided a timeline or explained how it will determine the value of the company. "Call up the bosses of (CANTV), let's name our board of directors now," said Chavez, speaking to telecommunications minister Jesse Chacon, during his weekly Sunday broadcast.—MNA/Reuters



ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီမှု ပိုမိုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Energy dominates
Putin-Merkel meeting

Moscow, 22 Jan — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday said that Russia is open to dialogue with the European Union (EU) over the issue of energy supplies based on the mutual respect of individual interests, and will try to reduce its dependency on transit countries for fuel deliveries.

Putin hosted German Chancellor Angela Merkel in his summer residence in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, three weeks after Germany took over the presidency of the Group of Eight (G8) from Russia. Germany also holds the current EU presidency.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Merkel after their talks, Putin said, “We are open to constructive work in the framework of the energy dialogue with the EU,” and expect partners to stick to the principles of equality and mutual respect of individual interests.

“There should be no doubts that Russia was and

will remain in the future a reliable fuel supplier,” Putin was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying.

Relations between the EU and Russia have soured as Russia abruptly halted its supply of energy resources to neighbours over pricing disputes.

Earlier this month, Russia briefly turned off a pipeline that delivers oil to Europe in a row with Belarus, which serves as a transit point for Russian oil exports. The oil disruption affected Poland, Germany, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and raised concerns in the EU, with Merkel earlier calling the

shutoff “unacceptable”.

Merkel told the news conference that “not only do I understand but I accept that Russia wants to have market prices with its partners, Ukraine and Belarus, when it comes to oil and gas sales”.

MNA/Xinhua



US Senator Hillary Clinton on Saturday took the first step toward running for president in 2008, with the words “I’m in” posted on her website.—XINHUA

Total plans \$6b investment in indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 Jan — Paris-based oil and gas firm Total plans to increase investment by six billion US dollars in its Indonesian unit for the next five years, its CEO said here Monday.

“We have doubled investment to one billion dollars in the last three years. With so many projects ahead, we will add an investment of six billion dollars for the

next five years for the exploration and production of oil and gas, primarily on Kalimantan Island,” visiting Total CEO Thierry Desmarest was quoted by the

national *Antara* news agency as saying.

He made the remarks shortly after a meeting with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the state palace.

The new investment aims to boost production capacity in the Delta Mahakam Block in East Kalimantan Province, which employs 20,000 workers, and seek new

oil and gas fields, he said.

Total will maintain its presence in Indonesia with long-term projects and is currently in talks with state-run oil and gas firm Pertamina for joint gas production for domestic and export markets, he said.

Total also plans to open six gas selling stations in Jakarta in the near future.

MNA/Xinhua



Students dance as they celebrate the longanisa festival or sausage festival on the streets of Crisologo in Vigan city, north of Manila, on 22 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

China to complete subsistence allowance system in rural areas

FUZHOU, 22 Jan — The Chinese Government will extend its subsistence allowance system for poor rural people across the whole country this year, a meeting of Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) has heard.

Twenty-three provinces have already established the subsistence allowance system in rural areas benefitting 150.9 million people.

The other provinces and autonomous regions, including Yunnan, Guangxi, Qinghai, Ningxia, Hubei, Xinjiang, Guizhou and Tibet, are expected to finish procedures for system, said Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs Li Ligu.

In 2006, civil affairs

departments gave subsistence allowance valued at 4.16 billion yuan (533 million US dollars) to needy rural people, up 64 per cent over 2005, according to MCA figures.

A subsistence allowance system has formed in urban areas at a preliminary stage and government officials at a central agricultural work meeting last December decided to expand the system in rural areas. Li said a system in rural areas

would guarantee needy rural people’s rights of survival and satisfy the minimum living requirements. On 12 January, Li said the urban monthly subsistence allowance standard rose from 162 yuan to 169 yuan in 2006, with the central government allocating 13.6 billion yuan (1.7 billion US dollars) and local governments also funding urban minimum living standards.

MNA/Xinhua

Next generation Internet leads
China’s scientific events in 2006

BEIJING, 22 Jan — Chinese academicians accredited the country’s top scientific development in 2006 to the breakthrough in next generation Internet, which can largely reduce the nation’s dependence on foreign hi-tech companies.

The annual list of “Top Ten Scientific Events” was unveiled in Beijing on Sunday, voted out by 565 scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Last September, China

announced its CERNET2 (China Education and Research Network 2) network had linked 25 universities in 20 cities through the Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6). It can replace the widely-used IPv4 network, and offers unlimited

Internet addresses, more advanced security, and easier administration, experts said, calling it a progress with strategic significance by ending reliance on foreign technologies in Internet development.

MNA/Xinhua



Smoke rises from the site of two explosions in central Baghdad, on 22 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA

SPORTS



Germany's Tino Edelmann soars through the air as a rainbow appears during the nordic combined World Cup event in Seefeld, Austria, on 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Poland fear Euro 2008 axe over row with FIFA

WARSAW, 23 Jan— Polish soccer officials fear the national side will be axed from Euro 2008 after FIFA and UEFA warned on Monday they would take action over a row with the government.

The trouble started on Friday when Polish Sports Minister Tomasz Lipiec suspended the board of the national football association and appointed Andrzej Rusko as a commissioner in its place following new arrests in a match-fixing investigation.

FIFA, who resent government involvement in soccer matters, issued a strongly-worded statement on Monday saying action

would be taken for what it called Warsaw's "interference".

With FIFA having suspended countries over state involvement in the past, the gravity of the situation was not lost on Polish soccer officials whose team are just a point behind Group A leaders Finland in Euro 2008 qualifying.

The other teams in the group are Serbia, Portugal, Belgium, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Azerbaijan. National team spokesman Kazimierz Oleszek told Reuters: "For now, this seems to be giving the government and Mr Rusko some time to consider what to do.— MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's player Ronaldinho (R) vies for the ball against Gimnastic Tarragona's goalkeeper Albano Bizarri during their Spanish First Division Soccer League match at Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona on 21 Jan, 2007. Barcelona won 3-0. —XINHUA

Three Brazilian under-20 players banned

ASUNCION, 23 Jan— Three Brazilian players were banned on Monday after their team attacked the referee following a stormy 2-2 draw with Chile in the South American Under-20 championship. Referee Albert Duarte of Colombia needed a police escort off the field after Sunday's game which produced five red cards, two of them after the final whistle.

At one stage, Duarte fell to the ground holding his red card after being pushed by a Brazilian player following his decision to award Chile two penalties in the closing minutes of the game.

The South American Football Confederation (CSF) said on its website (www.crwflags.com) that midfielder Fernando was suspended for the rest of the tournament in which Brazil have three matches left to play.—MNA/Reuters



Russia's Maria Sharapova plays a shot during her match against her compatriot Vera Zvonareva at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2007. Sharapova won 7-5, 6-4.—INTERNET

Hoffman wins Bob Hope Classic in playoff

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan— Charley Hoffman clinched his maiden PGA Tour title in a playoff with fellow American John Rollins for the Bob Hope Classic in Palm Desert, California on Sunday.

The 30-year-old from San Diego, who eagled the par-five 18th in regulation play to complete a one-under-par 71, birdied the same hole in extra time to seal victory.

Rollins, who finished level with Hoffman on 17-under 343 in the five-round event, had to settle for second place after finding a bunker off the 18th tee on his way to a par-five.— MNA/Reuters

Club says Beckham must complete Real contract

MADRID, 23 Jan— Former England captain David Beckham must complete the remaining six months of his contract at Real Madrid, club sporting director Predrag Mijatovic said on Monday.

Media reports have suggested Beckham might seek an early release to join his new club Los Angeles Galaxy after coach Fabio Capello said he would not play for Real again.

"Beckham still has six months of his contract left and he has to complete them. Beyond that it is up to the coach (whether he plays or not),"

Mijatovic told Real Madrid television.

Mijatovic also said Brazilian striker Ronaldo would not be allowed to leave Real on a free transfer. "We have some offers for him and we'll see what happens before the end of this January transfer window," he said.

"But let me make one thing clear. There has been a lot of talk recently that we would release him from his contract for nothing. We cannot allow him to go for free." Ronaldo, 30, has a contract until 2008 but has started only three league games this season.— MNA/Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return during the men's singles fourth round match against Andy Murray of Britain at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 23 Jan, 2007. Nadal won the match 3-2 (6-7, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1).—INTERNET

Singapore coach rejects ASEAN favourites tag

SINGAPORE, 23 Jan— Singapore coach Radojko Avramovic played down talk his team are favourites to reach the final of the ASEAN championships and said past results are meaningless.

The Serbian, whose side scored 13 goals in three games to finish top of Group B, says the form book is irrelevant when teams reach tournament semifinals.

"I don't believe in past reputation and past results," he was quoted as saying on the ASEAN Football Federation

website.

"We won the tournament two years ago and we came into the semi-finals scoring a lot of goals.

"But it doesn't mean a thing now. All is forgotten."

Despite missing suspended midfielder Mustafic Fahrudin, unbeaten Singapore will be otherwise unchanged for the grudge match with rivals Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

Their attack will once again be spearheaded by inform marksman Nor Alam Shah, who has found the net eight times in three matches.

Malaysia had a tough passage to the semis, winning just one game and relying on a surprise goalless draw between Myanmar and strugglers the Philippines to advance.

Avramovic, however, said the Malaysians should not be underestimated and predicted two difficult semifinal legs.

MNA/Reuters

Rangers sneak win at bottom club Dunfermline

GLASGOW, 23 Jan— Rangers consolidated second place in the Scottish Premier League with a 1-0 win at bottom club Dunfermline on Sunday.

Charlie Adam slid in after nine minutes to score the game's only goal following a good run and low cross from Spaniard Nacho Novo.

Rangers, who handed a debut to new signing David Weir, trail runaway leaders Celtic by a massive 17 points.

Celtic, who have 62 points from 25 games, hammered St Mirren 5-1 on Saturday.— MNA/Reuters

A musher is pulled along to the finish line on his wheeled sledge by his two dogs, while taking part in the annual Sled Dog race in Avimore, northern Scotland, on 20 Jan, 2007. The race is the biggest of its kind in Britain.

INTERNET



Second Canadian sextuplet dies

VANCOUVER (British Columbia), 23 Jan — A second of the six babies born earlier this month in a Vancouver hospital in Canada's first delivery of sextuplets has died, a local radio station reported on Monday.

CKNW Radio reported that another of the babies born prematurely after 25 weeks of gestation and in intensive care at British Columbia Women's Hospital had died.

The station, which on 15 January reported that a first sextuplet had died, did not reveal its source.

Officials at the hospital declined to comment, citing the family's request

for privacy since the four boys and two girls were delivered. The family's name has never been made public.

As with the report on the first sextuplet death, CKNW did not say whether the child was a boy or girl.

Doctors say babies born in Canada after only 25 weeks have, on average, an 80 per cent

survival rate and are normally required to stay in intensive care for about 100 days.

But medical officials have also said that care for the babies in this case could be more complicated because the parents are members of the Jehovah's Witnesses denomination, which objects to the use of blood transfusions.

MNA/Reuters



Spanish recortador Joaquin Navarro "El Jota" jumps over a bull during a show in Almeria, southeast Spain on 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Deadly US helicopter crash caused by missile

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan — The US military helicopter that crashed outside Baghdad, killing all 12 on board, was shot down by a shoulder-fired missile, CNN reported on Monday.

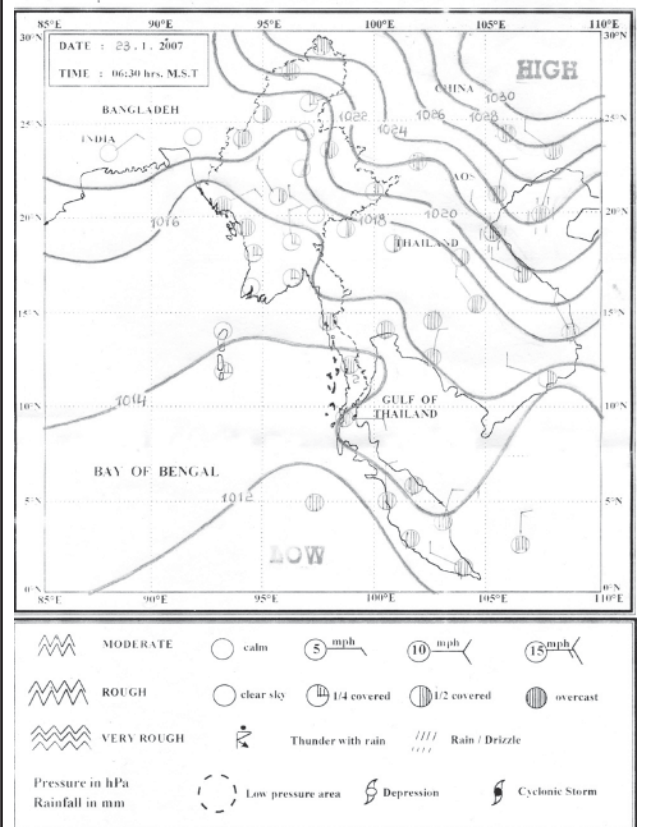
The *Black Hawk* was most likely brought down on Saturday by hostile fire, according to unidentified US officials cited by CNN. The crash was still under investigation but debris recovered on the ground indicate a missile was involved, CNN said.

"We have not released anything from here on the cause of the crash ... The cause of the crash is still under investigation," said Lieutenant-Colonel Josslyn Aberle in Baghdad.

Twenty-five US troops were killed on Saturday in one of the deadliest days for the American military in Iraq, according to the latest US tally.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 23 January, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan, Kayah, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (7°C) below normal in Chin State, (6°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-3°C), Pinlaung (1°C), Lashio, Heho and Mogok (2°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-1-2007 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 23-1-2007 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-1-2007 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 22-1-2007 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 23-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (11) mph from East at (13:15) hours MST on 23-1-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-1-2007: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of slight decrease of night temperatures in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 24-1-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-1-2007: Generally fair.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-1-2007: Fair weather.



Wednesday, 24 January
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရုအဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

8:25 am

- အရေးကြီးပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's go

2:50 pm

- ၂၀၀၇ ခုနှစ် (၅၂) ကြိမ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုခိုင်း ပြည်နယ်နှင့်တိုင်း အမျိုးသား (အလွတ်တန်း) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (ပထမအကြိမ်လှည့်) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းနှင့် စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း)

4:45 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:50 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေ)

5:00 pm

- Song of national races

5:15 pm

- "ဆွေမျိုးတော်ပေမယ့်" (ဒုရဲမှူးတင်လင်း၊ ဆောင်းအိန္ဒြေထွန်း၊ ဗေဒါ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- သက်တင်)

5:25 pm

- ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:40 pm

- ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွှင့်ပြင်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညာဏ်ရှင်

7:05 pm

- Discovery

7:15 pm

- ကလေးများအတွက် ဝိုင်းဝန်းလို့ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ တိုက်ဖျက်စို့

7:30 pm

- The mirror images of musical the oldies

7:45 pm

- ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ

8:00 pm

- News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. Myanmar movie:

- "ချစ်အမျှ" (ဇော်လင်း၊ ချိုမြိုး၊ ခင်ယုမေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- ဦးသုခ)

19. The next day's

programme



Wednesday, 24 January
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

-Give it to you

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

-5,6,7,8

8:50 am National news/

Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-The day & the time

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:

-Dreams

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time

music:

-Love train

-Before you

-Sunshine

9:00 pm Variations on a

tune (Love is all

around)

-Wet wet wet

Exit

9:15 pm Article

9:25 pm Music at your

request

-Love you for

always

-Facts of love

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of People's Republic of China left Nay Pyi Taw for Mandalay by special flight this afternoon. It was on a visit here at the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Chinese goodwill delegation arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by motorcade and they were welcomed by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and officials. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented a documentary album on the goodwill visit to Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress.

Afterwards, the Chinese goodwill delegation left for Mandalay by air. They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and departmental heads. — MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of People's Republic of China at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

KNSO issues declaration condemning draft resolution of US and Britain

YANGON, 23 Jan — Karenni National Solidarity Organization (Mawchi Region) on 17 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. Now again, our organization strongly opposes the attempt of the neo-colonialists to interfere in our internal affairs based on the slanderous accusations.
3. On behalf of the people, our organization expresses thanks to the People's Republic of China, Russian Federation and South Africa for objection to the draft resolution. We cannot accept the outside intervention at all as the Myanmar issue should be dealt with by its national people themselves.
4. We believe that our country will be marching towards its goal in accord with the seven-step Road Map and it is only necessary to deal with our internal affairs at the National Convention.

Karenni National Solidarity Organization

MFPTMA issues declaration condemning US-led draft resolution

YANGON, 23 Jan — Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association issued a declaration on 22 January, condemning the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain to the UNSC in order to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. The declaration is as follow:-

With the purpose of interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar, the US and Britain attempted to submit a draft resolution to UNSC after putting Myanmar's issue on the agenda through one-sided pressure. But all their attempts were in vain. The MFPTMA was very delightful at the outcome.

A new democratic nation is being built after laying down the State's seven-step Road Map. A constitution, which is much better than the previous ones, is being drafted as the first step. The National Convention is making arrangements to hold referendum and approve the bill.

The MFPTMA strongly opposed the acts of the internal and external organizations which turned a deaf ear to the positive concerted efforts of the National Convention and colluded with the US and Britain.

On behalf of the entire people of Myanmar, the MFPTMA expresses thanks to the Republic of China and the Russian Federation which vetoed the resolution, South Africa which voted against and Indonesia, Qatar and Congo which abstained from voting.

Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association