

## 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

## Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends physic nut growing ceremony, opening of bridge, hydropower stations in North-East Command area



*Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects production process of bio-diesel factory of Hnin Hnin Khaing Co Ltd in Lashio. — MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence attended the physic nut growing ceremony of North-East Command at the highland farmland-1 near Lashio-Muse Road in Lashio on 16 May morning.

After giving physic nut saplings to social organizations and departmental personnel, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut grew

physic nut saplings.

Also present on the occasion were Patron of Shan State (North) Women's Affairs Organization Daw Cherry, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and wife, departmental officials and local people, totalling about 5,000.

Regiments and units of Lashio Station put 2,785 acres of land under physic nut in 2006-07 and they planned to grow 1,200 acres of physic nut next year.

At Technological University of the Ministry of Science and Technology

beside Lashio-Muse Road, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander inspected construction of buildings at the university. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win instructed officials to nurture youth engineers in the region.

A total of 417 students are pursuing education at Technological University (Lashio).

On arrival at Advanced Bio-diesel Factory of Hnin Hnin Khaing Co, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on efforts being made for producing bio-diesel after building six advanced bio-diesel fac-

ories in Shan State (North), production process and running power of Landcruiser V-8 with the use of bio-diesel presented by the commander.

He gave necessary instructions and viewed production process of the fac-

tory.

At 20-acre Hsinshweli paddy farm of the command, the commander reported on arrangements for cultivation of tripple cropping — two paddy and one cold season crop — to ensure local food

sufficiency. The deputy commander submitted reports on extended cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy strain on 168,000 acres of land in 2007-08 and production for Hsinshweli hybrid paddy seeds.

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**Health care services are becoming more effective and covering more areas as new hospitals have been built and the existing ones upgraded and extra specialists and modern equipment provided to them in all 24 special development zones.**

PAGES 6+7

U ZAW

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 19 May, 2007

### Conserve and protect forests

Forests constitute 52 per cent of the total area of Myanmar. Forest resources make significant contribution towards national development and economic growth. So forest resources are to be exploited efficiently and conserved systematically.

During the 75-year period between 1925 and 2000, Myanmar's forest coverage decreased by 14 per cent due to timber extraction, and production of charcoal and firewood.

Therefore, the Ministry of Forestry is taking steps to regenerate the forests by conserving more than 60,000 square miles of forest reserves, protected forests and natural forests.

Furthermore, since 2004-2005 fiscal year, it has been implementing a five-year plan and establishing watershed areas extensively for greening Bago Mountain Range, where teak and various species of hardwood grow densely.

Regional greening tasks are being carried out on a large scale in the 13 arid districts of Myanmar, and the forests are now regenerated as a result. Respective villages have established local people-owned tree plantations, village-owned tree plantations for firewood, and tree plantations along the village roads. So, the region concerned will be able to exploit the forest products before long.

Forests and trees are reliable for the nation's economic growth. At a time when the government is conserving forest reserves, protected forests and natural forests, local bodies and people have to constantly participate in the establishment of special teak plantations and the plantations for the commercial purpose and regional greening undertakings for perpetual existence of Myanmar's forests.

### Donations invited for village libraries

YANGON, 18 May — A ceremony to donate buildings, cash, books and mass media equipment to the self-reliant village libraries in Yangon Division will be held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township, here, at 1 pm on 21 May.

So far a total of 55,717 self-reliant village libraries have been opened in the entire nation under the supervision of the Information and Public Relations Department. Wellwishers wishing to donate books, journals and magazines to these libraries may contact the department at No 22-24, Pansodan Street, (Tel: 01-254270). — MNA

## People's Desire

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

### Minister for Home Affairs addresses CCDAC Meeting 1/2007

#### Thanks to 15-year drug elimination plan, poppy sown acreage declines year after year

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held its meeting 1/2007 at the hall of Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon.

In his address, Chairman of the CCDAC Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo said that the government has formed the CCDAC since 1976 with the concept that drug elimination is the national duty. The committee always reviews its tasks to enable the working groups to effectively carry out their tasks. The alternative development working group and the livestock breeding working group, playing a key role in drug elimination tasks, are to expedite the implementation of the New Destiny Project to contribute to the 15-year drug elimination plan of the country. As duties have been assigned to Police Force commanders of respective States and Divisions as chairmen of the State and Division Committees for Drug Abuse Control, MPF Headquarters, CCDAC and Drug Elimination Department are to give directives to those chairmen to supervise the tasks for destruction of poppy plantations.

State and Division CDACs are to supervise township and village teams for implementation of the New Destiny Project by distributing seeds of crops to cultivate and harvest crops. Furthermore, they are to coordinate the tasks with the alternative development working group.

Myanmar has been



*Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Meeting 1/2007.—MNA*

implementing the 15-year drug elimination plan since 1999. Thanks to the plan, the poppy sown acreage declined year after year. The government has been conducting the survey on illegal poppy cultivation in cooperation with UNODC since 2001. According to the survey, there were 105,000 hectares of poppy plantation in 2001. The Annual Report on Narcotic Drugs stated that as 32,770 hectares of poppy plantation were cultivated in 2005 and 20,500 hectares in 2006, poppy cultivation declined by 29 per cent in Myanmar. As a result, opium production could be reduced drastically by 61 per cent in six years. Furthermore, Myanmar has cooperated with the People's Republic of China since early 2007 to supervise and assess the tasks for poppy elimination in Northern part at Myanmar with the use of satellite photos. So far, exact figures have not been available yet, but it is learnt that poppy cultivation is on the decrease.

The medical treatment

working group is taking measures on HIV control in cooperation with UNODC and international NGOs. Hence, the working group is to coordinate with respective international organizations to expedite its tasks in line with the international systems and to organize trainees for the rehabilitation camps.

The student youth educative working group is to join hands with the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association and other local NGOs for conducting the training course on dangers of narcotic drugs for teachers, while disseminating knowledge about dangers of narcotic drugs.

Although Myanmar is striving for elimination of narcotic drugs, certain persons and organizations influenced by some western countries are accusing Myanmar of not taking effective measures in combating narcotic drugs. Hence, it is necessary to clarify correct news on endeavours in drug elimination to be able to rebut the slanderous accusations.

The collecting of base line data on drug users

plays a key role in combating narcotic drugs. As MPF is placing emphasis on law enforcement sector, the medical treatment working group is to cooperate with MANA in collecting the base line data.

The minister said he expects that participation of personnel of Law Offices and Courts in the State/Division, District and Township Committees for Drug Abuse Control will contribute to the smooth and speedy implementation of tasks to file drug related cases.

Vice-Chairmen of CCDAC Minister Col Thein Nyunt and Minister U Nyan Win also gave speeches.

Joint-Secretary of CCDAC Police Col Kham Aung reported on the accomplishment of the minutes of the Special Meeting 1/2006 of the Committee held on 5 August 2006.

Officials of the respective working groups took part in the respective sectors. Later, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo.

MNA

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## US signals to accept Wolfowitz's resignation

WASHINGTON, 17 May — The United States, in a major shift, has signalled it would consider a change in leadership at the World Bank if Paul Wolfowitz decides to resign voluntarily, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday.

Until now, the White House had voiced unwavering support for the besieged World Bank president, but US officials on Tuesday also suggested Wolfowitz's ability to lead the institution may be fading, said the report.

The US is willing to consider "all options,"

including Wolfowitz's resignation, as part of "a resolution of the question of what is best for the future of the institution," the report quoted a White House official as saying.

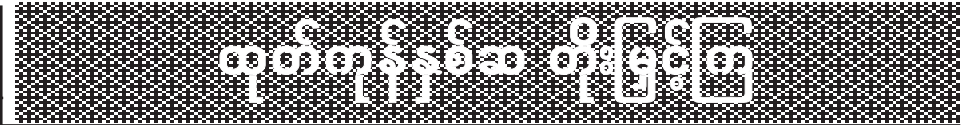
The White House overture could provide Wolfowitz with a face-saving way to bow out of the institution, allowing him to avoid being formally dismissed by the Bank's board, said the report.

Down the road, it could also ensure the White House retains its influence in picking a successor, since the US would be seen

as opening the door for Wolfowitz's departure, the report added.

Wolfowitz, former US deputy defence secretary, has been under fire for his involvement in a pay-and-promotion package for his girlfriend Shaha Riza, a former Bank employee. The Bank president has admitted granting Riza the package on advice from an ethics board at the Bank.

MNA/Xinhua



France's new President Nicolas Sarkozy (R) shakes hands with his newly named Prime Minister Francois Fillon at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on 17 May, 2007.—XINHUA

## 60 die in Iraq; study warns of collapse

BAGHDAD, 17 May — More than 60 people were killed and dozens wounded in mortar strikes, drive-by shootings, roadside explosions, suicide bombings and other violent attacks in Iraq on Thursday, as a new study warned that the country was close to becoming a "failed state."

The US ambassador to Iraq, Ryan C Crocker, said the country had tread close to "the edge of the abyss" but now was making progress on political reforms needed to help

mend sectarian and ethnic rifts that have pushed the country to the brink of civil war. Crocker cited what he said was Iraqi political progress toward agreements on constitutional reforms, the sharing of oil revenue and allowing former members of Saddam Hussein's Baath political party to take government and other public jobs.

US officials hope political compromises among Iraq's Shiites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds will complement a US

troop buildup in the capital and help to improve Iraq's security situation.

Contrary to Crocker's assessment, some critics say that political progress has been too slow, while military counterinsurgency strategies have achieved mixed results, reducing some kinds of sectarian violence—such as killings by death squads—but having little impact on others, such as large suicide bombings typically carried out by the group al-Qaeda in Iraq or affiliated Sunni alliances.

A report released Thursday by Chatham House, a foreign policy research centre in Britain, challenged the notion that violence in Iraq has subsided since the buildup of US troops, saying, for instance, that car bombings had not diminished and arguing that radical groups were simply lying low. "It can be argued that Iraq is on the verge of being a failed state which faces the distinct possibility of collapse and fragmentation," the report said.—*Internet*



Ed Zander, Motorola chairman and chief executive officer, introduces the RAZR2 handset in New York, on 15 May, 2007.

INTERNET

## Antarctic 'treasure trove' found

LONDON, 16 May—An extraordinarily diverse array of marine life has been discovered in the deep, dark waters around Antarctica.

Scientists have found more than 700 new species of marine creatures in seas once thought too hostile to sustain such rich biodiversity. Groups of carnivorous sponges, free-swimming worms, crustaceans and molluscs were collected.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature*, could provide insights into the evolution of ocean life in this area. Dr Katrin Linse, an author of the paper and a marine biologist from British Antarctic Survey (BAS), said: "What was once thought to be a featureless abyss is in fact a

dynamic, variable and biologically rich environment. "Finding this extraordinary treasure trove of marine life is our first

step to understanding the complex relationships between the deep ocean and distribution of marine life."—*Internet*

## Man wrongly jailed for 18 years gets \$5m

CONNECTICUT, 18 May—The Connecticut legislature yesterday voted unanimously to give \$5m (£2.5m) to a man who was imprisoned for more than 18 years for a rape he did not commit.

Members of the legislature gave James Tillman a standing ovation, and said they hoped the money would let him live the rest of his life in relative comfort.

The bill passed by 148 votes to none in the state's House and by 33 votes to none in the Senate. It will be sent to the governor, Jodi Rell, who has said she would be honoured to sign it.

"I think we all wonder, could we be so kind and gentle and humble as we find

this person?" said the Democratic representative Kenneth Green. "He did not deserve to be incarcerated for 18 1/2 years. Five million dollars is the least that we can do."

Both chambers gave Mr Tillman a standing ovation after the vote. Mr Tillman's mother wiped away tears as she and her son were led to the House Speaker's dais.

Mr Tillman, who was 26 when he was arrested, was sentenced to 45 years in prison after being convicted of raping and beating a woman in Hartford in 1988.

Internet

Actresses Andie MacDowell (L), Gong Li (C), and Kerry Washington arrive for the evening gala screening of Chinese director Wong Kar Wai's in-competition film "My Blueberry Nights" at the 60th Cannes Film Festival on 16 May, 2007. XINHUA



# Lawmakers worry US giving water law short shrift

WASHINGTON, 17 May — The Bush Administration has failed to adequately fund or uphold a 2005 initiative to give poor countries access to fresh water, US lawmakers and nonprofit groups said on Wednesday.

Representative Earl Blumenauer, an Oregon Democrat, told a hearing

that the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development misrepresented how they spent 200 million US dollars for the plan last year and have given short shrift to sub-Saharan Africa.

The State Department used most of the funds for reconstruction work in Iraq and Afghanistan,

where the United States is waging wars, he said. In an earlier letter, Blumenauer wrote that it only spent 10 million US dollars for water in sub-Saharan Africa, where the United Nations says 42 per cent of the population lacks clean water.

The Water for the Poor Act was intended to ensure long-term projects would provide water where it is needed most, Blumenauer and others argued.

“We did not pass the Water for the War Act but the Water for the Poor Act,” said Representative Donald Payne, a Democrat from New Jersey who chairs the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Claudia McMurray, an assistant secretary of state, and Walter North from USAID fended off the criticism.

MNA/Reuters



**Model Brenda Costa displays a creation by designer Villais during the “Puerta de Europa” bridal fashion show in Madrid on 17 May, 2007.**

INTERNET

## Suicide car bomb kills 14 in N-E of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 May — A suicide car bomb attack hit overnight a crowded market in a town in Diyala Province, northeast of Baghdad, killing 14 people and wounding 22 others, local police said on Wednesday.

“A suicide bomber detonated an explosive-laden car into a popular market in the town of Maqdadiyah, some 100 kilometres northeast of Baghdad on Tuesday evening, killing 14 people and wounding 22 others,” a source from Diyala police told *Xinhua* by telephone.

The powerful blast damaged several nearby shops and buildings, the source added on condition of anonymity.

Afterwards, several mortar rounds landed on the town’s main road, apparently, in an attempt to hamper police vehicles and ambulances from approaching the scene, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Three killed in twin bomb explosions in downtown Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Three people were killed and 16 others wounded when two roadside bombs exploded in quick succession in downtown Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“Two roadside bombs went off at about 2:45 pm (1045 GMT) in quick succession in a crowded area near the Taiyran Square in Bab al-Sharji District, killing three people and wounding 16 others,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The blasts damaged several nearby shops and civilian cars, the source said, adding that Iraqi security forces and ambulances rushed to the scene.

MNA/Xinhua

**People relax in the sun as a luxury yacht lies anchored in the Bay of Cannes as the 60th Cannes Film Festival continues on 17 May, 2007. — INTERNET**



## Chinese monks train in the use of fire extinguisher at a temple in Jiuhua mountain, eastern China’s Anhui Province, on 15 May, 2007. The monks are serving as the first line of defence against fire damage to some of China’s old temples, often constructed with wood and located in mountainous areas inaccessible to modern fire brigades.



INTERNET

## Colliery gas blast traps seven in N-W China

HARBIN, 17 May — Seven miners were trapped in a colliery gas explosion in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province on Monday, the local government said Tuesday.

The blast occurred at 4:30 pm at Hongyuan mine in Jidong County in Jixi City, a spokesman with the provincial coal mine safety watchdog said.

He said 29 miners were working in the pit when the accident occurred and 22 were rescued.

Rescuers are continuing to search for the seven missing. — MNA/Xinhua

## Four killed in mortar barrage on Baghdad residential area

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Four people were killed and four others injured in a mortar barrage on a neighbourhood in northern Baghdad Tuesday, a well-informed police source said.

Several mortar rounds landed on the Ur neighbourhood in the afternoon, killing four civilians and wounding four others,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

## Thousands of dead fish found in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 17 May — Singapore on Wednesday found thousands of dead fish floating in the country’s Serangoon River and Punggol Park Canal.

According to Channel NewsAsia reports on Wednesday night, the National Environment Agency and the Public Utilities Board have been informed of the matter, and they are now investigating the cause of the dead fish.

MNA/Xinhua

## Coalition soldier killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 May — One soldier of the US-led coalition forces was killed in Zabul Province of southern Afghanistan, a coalition statement said Wednesday.

Afghan police and coalition forces were attacked on Tuesday by militants 43 kilometres southwest of Qalat City, the provincial capital, the statement said, adding one coalition soldier was killed.

The majority of coalition soldiers operating in the province are Americans.

MNA/Xinhua

## ECONOMIC NEWS

## Post office closures could reach 2,500 in Britain

LONDON, 18 May — Thousands of loss-making post offices are set to close across Britain under plans to be confirmed by Trade and Industry Secretary Alistair Darling on Thursday.

"I believe that if we reduce the network by around 2,500 branches, backed by about 1.5 billion pounds from government, we can get a sustainable network," Darling told BBC radio ahead of a formal

announcement later in the day.

Britain's network of 14,300 post office branches is running up "unsustainable" losses of four million pounds a week, he said.

The Conservatives condemned the cutbacks.

"This is going to be a very disappointing blow for communities up and down the country," Conservative Trade and Industry Spokesman Charles Hendry told BBC radio.

Four million people signed a petition last year protesting against the closure plans.

They said post offices are a lifeline for many people, especially in rural areas.

Darling said a national network of branches would remain despite the closures.

"If you went for a purely commercial network, you would be down to only about 4,000. That would make no sense at all," he said.

MNA/Reuters

## China to look on outbound investment in 4 sectors

BEIJING, 18 May — The Chinese Government will look kindly on outbound investment in four sectors — overseas resources, infrastructure, research and development (R&D) and service industries, said Zhang Xiaoqiang, vice-minister of the nation's top economic planning body on Wednesday.

"The government will offer preferential diplomatic, Forex, tax, Customs, credit and insurance policies for companies investing in these sectors," said the vice-minister of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

He said investing in the four recommended sectors would help China solve economic bottlenecks, upgrade industrial structures, promote exports, train human resources and sharpen the country's competitive edge in international trade.

China's outward investment topped 16 billion US dollars last year, up 32 per cent on the previous year to rank 13th in the world, up from 17th in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 16 May, 2007 shows part of the colored glass-fiber reinforced plastic sculpture titled "Shoes Collection" on the international costume town square in Suzhou, a scenic city of east China's Jiangsu Province. The ten-metre-high sculpture was decorated with over 200 pairs of shoes in a variety of styles of different times. — XINHUA



Toyota Motor Corp's President Katsuaki Watanabe smiles at photographers as he sits inside the new Lexus LS600h during a photo session in Tokyo on 17 May, 2007. Toyota said on Thursday that Lexus started sales in Japan of the LS600h and LS600hL hybrid sedans. — INTERNET

Jose Xavier Fonseca works on a sand sculpture dedicated to the 2007 Pan American Games at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on 16 May, 2007. Brazil will host the Pan American games in Rio de Janeiro from 13 to 29 July, 2007. — INTERNET



## Shell regains access to Nigerian oil pipeline

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 18 May— Royal Dutch Shell has started work to restore 170,000

barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil production in Nigeria after a protest at a major pipeline hub, a spokesman said on Thursday.

The six-day protest in the Ogoni area of the Niger Delta had raised the tally of oil supply cut by violence to about 900,000 bpd, or one third of total capacity in Nigeria, the world's eighth largest exporter. It also pushed up world oil prices.

"We have regained access to the site," said a Shell spokesman.

US major Chevron said only about 7,000 bpd of its Escravos oil production was still closed on Thursday after a community invasion at its Abiteye facility on 7 May. A spokesman said 70,000 bpd had been disrupted by

that dispute, higher than its original estimate of 42,000 bpd.

A Shell source said the Anglo-Dutch company had already reopened one of the valves at the pipeline complex in Ogoni, and would test the system before fully restoring oil flows. — MNA/Reuters

## 11 aftershocks jolt Laos

BANGKOK, 18 May— Thailand's Meteorological Department Director-General Supalerk Tansriwattanawongse said Thursday that 11 aftershocks happened during Wednesday night after an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale hit Laos in the afternoon.

Supalerk was quoted by local news group *The Nation* as saying that the aftershocks were measured at 4.7 to 4.9 on the Richter Scale.

On Wednesday at about 15:56 pm (0856 GMT), an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale rocked northern Laos. The epicentre was determined to be located at an open field in northern Laos which is some 61 kilometres from Thai northern district of Chiang Kong. — MNA/Xinhua

## Oman, Iran agree on oil, gas cooperation

ABU DHABI, 17 May — Oman and Iran on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in oil and gas in Omani capital Muscat, Oman news agency ONA reported.

The MoU was signed by Omani Commerce and Industry Minister Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan and visiting Iranian Petroleum Minister Vaziri Hamaneh. According to the MoU, the two sides agreed to cooperate in developing joint oil and gas fields, exporting of Iranian gas to Oman and setting up joint petrochemical projects.

The volume of Oman's gas imports from Iran would be to the tune of one billion cubic metres per day, Oman's Maqbool was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

# Let's ensure health and longevity

U Zaw

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe inspected No 1 Military Hospital, district level 300-bed people's hospitals, newly-built pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) and Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar), with PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division as the base, during the long Thingyan holidays in April this year.

Despite his tight schedule, the Senior General was able to find time to meet with rectors, professors and medical superintendents in Mandalay.

The aim of the visit was to make arrangements that would lead to harmonious progress of the staff of the health sector and the medical profession and the increase in the provision of modern medicine and medical equipment for improving public health standard.

At PyinOoLwin District Hospital on 16-4-2007, the Senior General said, "The education, health and cultural spheres are of vital importance in the social sector of a nation. In this regard, the field of education has been developed with short-term and long-term projects. As the loss of our culture will lead to the extinction of our race, the government has been providing support to preserve and safeguard

traditions and cultural heritage.

"And in the field of culture, the government has been endeavouring to provide advanced medical treatment and care, disease prevention and health knowledge."

In fact, the government laid down and implemented the first phase of the health promotion project that covered the provision of about USD 21 million worth of modern medical equipment and the upgrading of hospitals, as necessary. It also built modern hospitals one after another in all the 24 special development zones.

The second phase of the project involves the task of providing necessary advanced medical equipment to hospitals.

The Head of State has been making arrangements to provide all necessary material assistance to hospitals, and at the same time he is giving guidance on health concepts and convictions.

At Kyaukse People's Hospital in April 2001, he gave a work guidance to staff, **urging them to warmly welcome and treat patients with kindness; to have welcoming spirit; and to cater for patients with goodwill and hospitality.** All hospitals have adopted his guidance as motto and inscribed it in all their public places. As for health

staff, the motto suits their nature of work, which is a meritorious way of earning life.

Concerning the pure goodwill towards patients, the Senior General said, **"I would like physicians to show hospitality and kindness to the public to the most possible degree; place loving kindness in the fore in providing the best treatment, while encouraging the public to talk to, visit and get in touch with them; and become benefactors ensuring health and happiness and longevity for the entire race as all the people living in the nation are their close relatives."**

In addition to concepts and convictions concerning health care services, the government has already laid down the objective — Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation — as a practical work programme. What is important here is the profound acceptance and energetic implementation of the objectives, convictions and mottos, laid down by the government in accord with work requirements, by all ranks in descending order. The definition of work according to its nature is that there will be agreement, mutual understanding and harmony between the upper and lower ranks only if the subordinates have the ability to effectively implement the tasks in harmony and unison after realizing the directives of the superiors with innovation and creativity. Only then can ideas and words be harmoniously materialized into deeds that form as a force for rapid advancement.

As regards the nation's future, the Senior General said, **"The government is in the process of ensuring health and fitness of the people after foreseeing and weighing up the nation's future from all angles. Without health and fitness, the race will be in danger of extinction in the**

**long run. We will have to strive to offer people greater opportunities to enjoy health and longevity."**

The Head of State is fulfilling the requirements to develop PyinOoLwin into a modern mountain resort. In addition, he supervised the work of upgrading PyinOoLwin Hospital to become a modern 300-bed facility for visitors to undergo medical checkup and treatment with peace of mind while taking an excellent vacation. The hospital has been reinforced with new specialists and modern equipment. And in addition to normal wards, it also houses suites that include a bedroom, a dining room and a sitting-room.

We can visualize that in future, Mandalay and PyinOoLwin regions will be famous as prominent places for medical treatment.

In connection with the task of widening the scope of health care services and narrowing the regional development gap, Senior General Than Shwe said, **"Due to the growing population of the nation, it becomes impossible for us to rely only on the specialist hospitals in Yangon alone. Specialist hospitals have been set up in Mandalay too for the people of upper Myanmar to receive comprehensive and advanced health care services as in Yangon. In other words, Mandalay has been modernized with advanced facilities to stand as an urban centre like Yangon."**

**"At the same time, health care services are becoming more effective and covering more areas as new hospitals have been built and the existing ones upgraded and extra specialists and modern equipment provided to them in all 24 special development zones."**

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# Let's ensure health and longevity

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(from page 6)

Then, the government built a specialists hospital in Mandalay, upgraded the hospitals in the development regions in states and divisions, and district and township level hospitals, and established more station hospitals and dispensaries with the aim of raising the health standards of urban and rural areas in parallel.

In addition, it built a university of traditional medicine and a 50-bed traditional medicine hospital in Mandalay under the guidance of the Head of State on production of competent traditional medicine practitioners, extended production of potent traditional medicines, emergence of new therapies based on traditional medicines, and providing effective health care. As a result, states and divisions have seen many traditional hospitals and clinics, and treatments are being given to the people on a wider scale.

Apart from the one in Yangon, two more medical research departments have been opened in the central Myanmar and upper Myanmar to produce new medicines through research with the use of various species

of herbal plants that grow in the nation, and to conduct research on western medical science and medicines.

During his inspection tour of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) on 19 April 2007, the Head of State gave guidance, saying that medical research made significant contribution towards raising health care.

Medical research departments were to carry out research effectively to enhance their images, he said.

It was perceived that the nations that could do research effectively were enjoying development, he noted.

Stressing the importance of research and functions, he urged officials concerned to make efforts to distribute Myanmar medicines to the market on a wider scale.

Inspecting PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory, he gave guidance on quality control of the medicines, and speeding up production of more potent medicines. He also gave guidance on production of own medicines for six diseases that are common in Myanmar—malaria, TB, diabetes, hypertension, dysentery and diarrhoea. It is required to combine research and production harmoniously.

At the same time, the government is taking measures for extensive development of human resources and medical experts to provide international level health care to the people. It opened dental universities, universities of pharmacy, University of Nursing and University of Community Health in addition to medical universities. Moreover, it has launched MSc degrees and PhD degrees courses along with practical divisions, and is sending outstanding students abroad for further studies.

In meeting with physicians in April 1999, the Head of State said that human resources development played a dominant role in the drive for improvement in the technological fields including the health field. It was impossible to achieve technological development without human resources. Then Myanmar medical science won admiration of other nations because it had a large number of skilled physicians, he said.

The government not only raises the qualifications of physicians but also fulfills the requirements.

In meeting with specialists on 22 April 2007, the Head of State said that in

the present day, there had been such a great change in studies that specialization is concentrated on subject-wise rather than generalization. So the government was producing specialists with added momentum. There had been a lot of potent medicines and medical equipment with high performance in respective subjects, so medical staff were to make constant study to be able to catch up with other countries in ever-improving medical science subjects and to apply them effectively.

Now technological development and the improvement of medical science are going together and there have emerged a variety of potent medicines and medical equipment. They are effective, but expensive. Today physicians and medicines alone are no longer enough to cure diseases, and it calls for combining them with effective medical equipment harmoniously. So medical staff are to understand the value and effectiveness of the medical equipment installed in the hospitals.

Only then will it be possible for hospitals to be able to provide better health care and to win reliance and trust of the people.

Medical staff at all levels are to respond to the benevolent attitude and goals of the government and to show goodwill in providing health care to the people. The government, the people and medical staff should do their bit to establish a better health system for raising the health standard and extending the life-span of the people.

(Translation: TMT+MS)

(Myanma Alin: Kyemon: 18-5-2007)

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**At Kyaukse People's Hospital in April 2001, he gave a work guidance to staff, urging them to warmly welcome and treat patients with kindness; to have welcoming spirit; and to cater for patients with goodwill and hospitality. All hospitals have adopted his guidance as motto and inscribe it in all their public places. As for health staff, the motto suits their nature of work, which is a meritorious way of earning life.**

**Concerning the pure goodwill towards patients, the Senior General said, "I would like physicians to show hospitality and kindness to the public to the most possible degree; place loving kindness in the fore in providing the best treatment, while encouraging the public to talk to, visit and get in touch with them; and become benefactors ensuring health and happiness and longevity for the entire race as all the people living in the nation are their close relatives."**



*Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects Nampaung-Namma concrete bridge.—MNA*

**Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends...**

*(from page 1)*

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that as the government is placing emphasis on agricultural task, all the regions are to give priority to food sufficiency. Hence, it is necessary to obtain technological assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

After inspecting tapioca plants in the farms, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions to strive for exporting tapioca.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party viewed paddy

plantations of Lashio Township PDC and local farmers and inspected development of Lashio.

They also looked into thriving physic nut and onion plantations of North-East Command Headquarters. Afterwards, they inspected Lashio-Mongyai-Tangyan Road. They attended opening ceremonies of Nampaung-Namma Creek Bridge between Lashio and Hsipaw townships, the 20-kilowatt hydropower station in Konpaung Village and 50-kilowatt hydropower station in Namma (Wampon) Village.

Chairman of Lashio District PDC U Khin Maung Tun and wellwisher Managing Director U Thein Myint of Ngweyi Pale Co formally opened the bridge. The com-

pany spent K 120 million on construction of the bridge.

Chairman of Kyaukme District PDC U Ba Win and wellwisher Managing Director U Thein Myint formally opened the 20-kilowatt hydropower station in Konpaung Village. The company spent K 20 million on construction of the power station that can supply electricity to 150 houses from Mauktaung and Konpaung villages.

At the ceremony, wellwisher U Thein Myint explained the purpose of the donations.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that the government is undertaking five rural development tasks to uplift living standards of the rural people. He praised the local people for their participation in the regional development tasks, while the government is striving for narrowing the development gap between rural and urban areas. Later, he expressed gratitude for donations of the wellwisher.

Wellwisher Managing Director U Thein Myint of Ngweyi Pale Co handed over documents related to the bridge and the 20-kilowatt power station to Chairman of Kyaukme District PDC U Ba Win and documents related to the 50-kilowatt power station to Hsipaw Township PDC Chairman U Khin Kyi.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party attended the ceremony to launch the 50-kilowatt hydropower station near Wamlon (Namma) Village in Hsipaw Township. They viewed installation of turbines and generation of hydropower.

Ngweyi Pale Co spent K 50 million on construction of the power station to supply electricity to 250 houses from Tamlon, Naungnwe, Narnan, Peinhsaing and Namwe villages of the township.

Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party went back to Lashio.

*MNA*

**SSA-S Ywet Sit insurgent group commits forced recruitment, extorts money in Matmon Mone, Parlin village in Namsang Township  
Tatmadaw columns in hot pursuit of insurgent groups**

YANGON, 18 May — The insurgents are committing destructive acts through various means with the intention of undermining stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, and rule of law.

About 50 insurgents of SSA-S Ywet Sit insurgent group forcibly took 27 residents and two unidentified men of Matmon Mone village, Namsang Township, Shan State (South), while they were watching a video play in a video house in the village together with other villagers at about 10.30 pm on 16 May.

The residents forcibly taken were Aik Cho (age-13), Thiha (age-17), Panno (age-14), Mulain (age-14), Andaka (age-16), U Su San (age-43), Aik Thone (age-15), U Lone Ti (age-48), Aik Aut (age-22), Na Lein

(age-18), Aik Lyan (age-18), Aik Lon (age-23), Aik Ninay (age-17), Seitta (age-14). Seinda Lun, (age-28), Aik Pe Lyan (age-15), Kawwi (age-28), Nandaw (age-17), Aikman (age-16), Aik Maung (age-13), Aik Lun (age-12), Aik Maung (age-15), Kaung Wein (age-18), Aik Pya (age-23), Na Lein (age-17), Aik Oo (age-25) and Na Lein (age-13).

Among them, a total of ten teenage boys— one 12-year-old, three 13-year old, three 14-year-old and three 15-year-old— were taken by the insurgents. Although the insurgents have said that they have not forcibly recruited children to the group, it is found that they are committing such acts in order to do more destructive acts.

Likewise, about 20 insurgents led by

Monkhe of SSA-S Ywet Sit Group arrived at Parlin village of Mat Mone village-tract in Namsang Township at about 10 pm on the same day. They extorted K 500,000 from passengers on a trollogy on Kengtawng-Parlit-Namsang road.

On receiving the information, Tatmadaw columns in cooperation with local people are in hot pursuit of the insurgent groups.—MNA

**New models of Nikon digital camera introduced**

YANGON, 18 May— Jointly organized by Nikon Singapore Pte Ltd and Special Style Photo & Electronics, a ceremony to introduce new models of Nikon digital camera took place at the ballroom of the Traders Hotel this morning, attended by sales agents, professional photographers and mediamen.

Managing Director U Maung Maung Win of Special Style Photo & Electronics extended greetings, and Sales and Marketing Manager Mr Numako of Nikon

Singapore Pte Ltd delivered an opening address.

Next, Senior Executive Mr William Lee of Asia Technical Office, Nikon Singapore gave accounts of new D 40 and D 40x models Nikon DSLR Nikon cameras and spare parts are available at camera sales centres in states and divisions. Special Style Photo &

Electronics, the sole agent in Myanmar, distributes Nikon cameras under a year warranty.

Contact Nikon camera sales centre, No-W1 Gyobu street, West wing of Aung San Stadium, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Ph: 386935, 252953 and e-mail: nikon@myanmar.com.mm.

*MNA*

**Mr William Lee introduces new D 40 and D 40x models Nikon DSLR digital camera. — MNA**



## Barlar high yield paddy plantation under supervision near Yangon-Bago Road

YANGON, 17 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected 80 acres of Barlar high yield paddy plantation being undertaken by Yangon Command near the junction of Yangon-Bago Road and No 3 Highway between Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships this morning.

The command interviewed threshing of paddy on 80 acres of land with the use of paddy thresher VPT-5 imported by Rainbow Co and preparations for harvesting the remaining paddy plantation. He gave



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win views winnowing of paddy in Hlegu Township.—MNA

instructions on supervision to be made for minimizing loss and wastage in

harvesting paddy, use of harvesters, threshers and dryers, measures to be taken

for protecting against flooding at paddy plantations, records to be put on high

yield paddy strains and utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers.

Paddy Thresher VPT-5 can thresh 100 baskets of paddy per hour. — MNA

## Bridge, auto-exchange office inaugurated...

(from page 16)

During his trip to the village on 28 February last year, residents told him that the village's main requirements was a bridge spanning a creek flowing across the village and an auto-exchange office, he said. The dream of resi-

dents do come true today, he said.

In conclusion, he urged the local people to be loyal to the State and to participate in implementing the rural areas development tasks together with members of the USDA.

On behalf of local people, a resident spoke words of thanks for construction of the bridge and establishment of the auto-exchange office.

Ministers U Aung Thaung, Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Maj-Gen Aung Min formally opened the

bridge.

Afterwards, the commander and party strolled along the bridge and visited the village.

Next, opening ceremony of the auto-exchange office was held in front of the office. Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Zaw,

Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the auto-exchange office.

MNA



USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung, CEC members Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min cut the ribbon to open bridge in Thitpokpin Village. (News on page 16) —MNA

## Transport Minister receives Chinese seismological team

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received five-member seismic site survey team led by Vice-Engineer Mr Chen Huzhong of National Earthquake Infrastructure

Service of China Earthquake Administration (CEA) at the meeting room of the ministry, here, this afternoon.

Present also at the call were Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun

Aung and officials of Meteorology and Hydrology Department under the ministry. They discussed the matters related to establishing two seismic stations and a seismic data centre in Myanmar. —MNA

## Chinese delegation visits MRTV

YANGON, 18 May — A 4-member delegation led by Director-General Mr Yang Jianguo of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Bureau of Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China visited Myanmar Radio and

Television on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV explained matters related to the MRTV.

The delegation members viewed the demonstration on recording

of sound on the Myanmar fine arts at the Recording Studio (D) of the Radio Myanmar and the demonstration on Myanmar traditional dances and songs at the Studio (1) of the TV Myanmar. — MNA

## Myanmar-India friendly volleyball match continues

YANGON, 18 May — Myanmar-India friendly volleyball match continued at National Indoor Stadium No 1 (Thuwunna) this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Chairperson Daw Aye Aye of Central Working Committee of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and responsible persons, Vice-President U Thein Win of Myanmar Volleyball

Federation and executives, guests and go volleyball fans.

In the match of fifth day, Myanmar selected volleyball team of MVF won over India University Champion volleyball team with 3-0.

Myanmar selected volleyball team won in all five matches against India University Champion.

MNA



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, CEC members Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally inaugurate auto-exchange of Thitpokpin Village. (News on page 16) —MNA

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN “WEN” conference to be held in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 May— Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold its 2nd Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (WEN) conference at the Safari Park (TSI) in Bogor, West Java province of Indonesia, on 21-24 May.

Officials from ASEAN’s 10 member countries as well as 100 participants outside the

grouping will attend the forum, the Indonesian Forestry Ministry said in a release issued here Wednesday.

ASEAN groups Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

The observers would come from Australia, China, Japan, Nepal, the

United States as well as some international agencies. ASEAN WEN was set up in Bangkok in 2005 to uphold laws on endangered flora and fauna. Police, Customs and excise offices, attorney general’s offices, forestry offices and conservation agencies in the 10 ASEAN member countries are members of the network.

ASEAN WEN bears the mission of cementing ties among law enforcers in their efforts to eradicate illegal trading in endangered flora and fauna.

The first ASEAN WEN meeting was held in Bangkok last year.

MNA/Xinhua



**US actors Chris Rock (L) and Jerry Seinfeld, dressed in a bumble bee costume, pose during a photocall on the Carlton Hotel pier for DreamWorks Animation’s “Bee Movie” during the 60th Cannes Film Festival on 17 May, 2007. — INTERNET**

## Two killed in attack on Baghdad’s Green Zone

BAGHDAD, 17 May—Two Iraqis were killed and 10 other people wounded when 10 mortar rounds slammed into the heavily fortified Green Zone compound in central Baghdad on Wednesday, a US Embassy spokesman said.

Few details were available about those killed in the second attack on the zone in two days, but none of the casualties were embassy employees or contractors, the spokesman said.

Of the 10 injured, eight were identified as Iraqis. The nationality of the remaining two was not clear but they were neither Americans nor Iraqis.

Insurgents have recently stepped up mortar and rocket attacks on the zone, which Houses Parliament, many government ministries, the US Embassy and other foreign missions.

Five US Embassy contract workers were hurt on Tuesday when at least one round landed in the zone. Earlier this month, four US Government contractors, all from Asia, were killed in a rocket strike.

Sunni Arab insurgents fighting US forces in Iraq have claimed responsibility for mortar attacks on the Green Zone, which housed Saddam Hussein’s main Presidential Palace until he was toppled in a US invasion in 2003. — MNA/Reuters

## NATO troops wound six Afghans

KABUL, 17 May—NATO troops wounded six Afghan civilians in the southern Kandahar Province on Tuesday night, a health official said Wednesday.

“Some NATO troops, who were patrolling on Tuesday night in Kandahar City, the provincial capital, opened fire on civilians and wounded six of them,” Abdul Qayum Pakhla, Director of Public Health in Kandahar City, told Xinhua. The incident occurred between 11:00 pm(1830 GMT) and 11:30 pm(1900 GMT), he said.

All the six people were under medical treatment currently in a hospital in the city. Provincial governor Assadullah Khalid also confirmed the incident, but declined to say if there were any civilian casualties.

MNA/Xinhua

**Members of a special group of Mexico’s Federal Investigative Agency (AFI) take part in an anti-narcotics operation in the Gustavo A Madero district in Mexico City on 16 May, 2007. The operation is part of an ongoing campaign aimed at reducing Mexico City’s crime problem.**

INTERNET



**Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer launches Windows Vista and 2007 Office at a store in New York on 30 Jan, 2007 file photo. Microsoft Corp said on Wednesday 16 May, 2007 the growth opportunity for its Office software division is better than it was seven years ago, because the company is positioned to expand into new business areas. — INTERNET**

## Endangered turtle found in Mekong in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 17 May— A colony of one of the world’s largest turtles has been found in a remote stretch of the Mekong in Cambodia, raising hopes the species can be saved from extinction, environmentalists said on Wednesday. Scientists of Conservation International (CI), WWF and Cambodia’s fisheries department said they had caught and freed an 11 kilogrammes (24 pounds) female Asian giant soft-shell turtle during a survey

of the river in March.

They also found the turtles’ nesting ground in a riverbank in the northeastern province of Stung Treng, around 180 kilometres (115 miles) north of Phnom Penh.

“This incredible discovery means that a unique turtle can be saved from disappearing from our planet,” CI biologist David Emmett said in a statement.

“We thought it might

be almost gone but found it in abundance in this one pristine stretch of the Mekong, making the area the world’s most important site for saving this particular species,” he said. The turtle, which spends 95 per cent of its life hidden in sand or mud with only its eyes and nose showing, can grow up to two metres (six feet) long and weigh more than 50 kilogrammes (110 pounds). — MNA/Reuters

## Floods kill dozens, destroy houses in Afghan northeast

KABUL, 17 May—Floods triggered by heavy rains have killed at least 24 people and destroyed more than 800 homes in Afghanistan’s northeastern Badakhshan Province, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

Several other people have gone missing since the downpour started overnight and hit various parts of the remote and impoverished province on the border with China, Pakistan and Tajikistan, the ministry said.

It urged local and foreign aid groups to help the victims. After years of successive harsh drought, Afghanistan had heavy snow and rainfall this year.

Several hundred people have died mostly from floods in recent months in various parts of the country.

MNA/Reuters





## အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှုပုံသဏ္ဌာန်၊ ဥပဒေပြုမှုအသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ စိုးမြကျော်

- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသတင်းများကို လေ့လာကြည့်သောအခါ အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ပုံဖော်မှန်းမျှော် ကြည့်ရှုရလာပြီ ဖြစ်သည်။
- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တွင် ပေါ်ပေါက်လာမည့် ဥပဒေပြုမှုနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်းသည့် အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ထင်လင်းစွာ ပုံဖော်လာရေးအတွက် စာရေး သူ၏တွေ့ရှိချက်များကို တိုင်းရင်းသားပြည်သူများအား အကိုးအထောက် မှန်ကန်စွာဖြင့် လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းဝေငှထားသည့် —

### စိုးမြကျော် ၏

## အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဌာန် ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အခန်း (၁) ခန်းနှင့် အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အပိုင်း (၁၃) ပိုင်းပါရှိသည်။
- ရောင်စုံ သရုပ်ဖော်ပုံများနှင့် စာမျက်နှာ (၁၅၀)၊ ရောင်းဈေး ၃၅၀/-

ထွက်ပြီ

- စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။  
ဖုန်း - ၃၈၁၄၄၈၊ ၂၄၉၀၃၁
- သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ ၂၁၂၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။  
ဖုန်း - ၂၉၄၃၀၆

## US minority population tops 100 mln

ATLANTA, 18 May — The number of people in the United States from ethnic or racial minorities has risen to more than 100 million, or around one third of the population, according to a US Census Bureau report on Thursday.

The minorities figure stood at 100.7 million, up from 98.3 million a year earlier. Within that, the Hispanic population was the fastest growing at a rate of 3.4 per cent between July 2005 and July 2006.

Hispanics were also the largest minority group, accounting for 44.3 million people on 1 July, 2006, or 14.8 per cent of the overall US population

which, according to census data released in October 2006, stood at more than 300 million.

The United States prides itself as a country built on successive waves of immigration, with the Statue of Liberty in New York a powerful symbol of the welcome to immigrants. But the nation remains divided over the subject.

Lawmakers have

been struggling to come up with a formula providing tougher border and workplace enforcement while addressing the status of some 11 million illegal immigrants who live and work in the shadows.

“About one in three US residents is a minority,” said Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon.

MNA/Reuters

## Amazon launches MP3 store, playing catchup with iTunes

BEIJING, 17 May — Amazon.com said on Wednesday the company will launch a digital music store later in 2007, selling only music tracks free of copy protection.

Amazon will be authorized to sell the music catalog of EMI Music Group and other record companies would follow, according to media reports.

Experts are dismissing this move as a second-rate effort aimed

at shadowing Apple's iTunes service.

“The announcement is a carbon copy of Apple's deal with EMI,” said Gene Munster, an analyst with PiperJaffray. “Amazon will offer the same DRM-free tracks as iTunes, and therefore will have no competitive advantage over Apple.”

Amazon founder and chief executive, Jeff Bezos said: “Our MP3-

only strategy means all the music that customers buy on Amazon is always DRM-free and plays on any device.”

Digital Rights Management, or DRM, locks digital tracks so that they can not be copied from mobiles to laptops or to friends' devices.

Amazon has not yet determined pricing per song or per album.

Internet

## Nepali journalist sets record by scaling Mt Everest

KATHMANDU, 18 May — Nepali journalist Kami Sherpa has made journalists proud by successfully scaling the Mt Everest the highest peak of the world, the national news agency RSS reported on Wednesday.

Nepal Television journalist Sherpa stepped on the peak on Wednesday morning. Sherpa, 29, reached the highest peak by leading “Nepal Television Lions Everest (Qomolangma) Expedition-2007”, the RSS reported.

Sherpa has long been serving Nepal Television and used to file many news reports especially on mountaineering expeditions of the Mt Everest.

MNA/Xinhua



Myanmar Basketball Federation President Prof. Dr Sein Myint presents championship shield to Yangon Division team. —NLM

## Over 700 bombs captured in central Thailand

BANGKOK, 18 May — Thai police on Thursday afternoon captured more than 700 sets of powerful bombs at a residence in central province of Saraburi which is only 100 kilometres from the capital Bangkok.

A squad of policemen raided the house in Muang District of Saraburi on Thursday afternoon after got clues from informants. A total of 700 sets of Power Gel explosive were found in the house, a police officer told Xinhua.

The owner of the explosive was also detained by the police and was rushed to Bangkok for investigation.

The officer said the power of all the explosive could blow down a whole mountain.

MNA/Xinhua



ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီမှုဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်သွား



Elephants graze in northern Kenya in a file photo. The elephant, the world's largest land mammal, is being threatened with global extinction by a "rampant trade" in ivory on the eBay online auction site, animal welfare campaigners said on 15 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Too many vitamins increase prostate cancer risk

BEIJING, 16 May — Men who take too many vitamins may increase the risk of dying from prostate cancer, according to researchers at the US National Cancer Institute Wednesday.

The researchers found that men who exceeded the recommended dose — taking more than seven multivitamins a week — increased the risk of advanced cancer by about

30 percent.

The study tracked the diet and health of almost 300,000 men over five years to see if there was a link between multivitamin use and prostate cancer.

About a third reported taking a daily multivitamin, and 5 percent were heavy users, swallowing the pills more than seven times a week.

on the study.

He said the increased risk from overuse of multivitamins was linked to more aggressive cancer that has spread beyond the prostate gland or cancer that proved fatal.

The researchers speculated that perhaps high-dose vitamins had little effect until a tumor appeared, and then could spur its growth.

While similar but smaller studies have suggested a link too, more rigorous research is needed, cautioned the researchers.

This newest study involved men who voluntarily took vitamins, and those most at risk — perhaps because they had a family history of the disease — may have been more likely to take the pills in hopes of avoiding their fate.

Internet

Aspirin may reduce pregnancy problems

BEIJING, 17 May — Taking aspirin may reduce risk of giving birth prematurely and of potentially fatal complications for mothers-to-be, according to a research published in The Lancet journal on Thursday.

Pre-eclampsia is marked by a sudden increase in blood pressure after 20 weeks and can be fatal to the mother and baby.

The study of more than 32,000 births found that the risks of pre-eclampsia fell by 10 percent in those women taking aspirin or other anti-platelet drugs.

The risk of giving birth before 34 weeks or having a pregnancy with a "severe adverse outcome" fell by the same amount, according to the research.

Lelia Duley, professor of obstetric epidemiology at the University of Leeds, and Lisa Askie, of the University of Sydney, combined the results of 31 studies to produce the largest and most detailed study to date.

US experts commenting on the research say aspirin use would be best reserved for high-risk women who have had pre-eclampsia before, and not recommended for all.

Internet



A model displays an auto in-dash navigation system in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 6 Jan, 2007. — INTERNET

Satellite finds big area of Antarctica snow melted in 2005

WASHINGTON, 17 May — Vast areas of snow in Antarctica melted in 2005 when temperatures warmed up for a week in the summer in a process that may accelerate invisible melting deep beneath the surface, NASA said on Tuesday.

A new analysis of satellite data showed that an area the size of California melted and then refroze — the most significant thawing in 30 years, the US space agency said.

Unlike the Arctic, Antarctica has shown little to no warming in the recent past with the exception of the Antarctic Peninsula, where ice sheets have been breaking apart.

Son Nghiem of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California and Konrad Steffen of the University of Colorado in Boulder

measured snowfall accumulation and melt in Antarctica from July 1999 through July 2005.

They found evidence of melting in several areas, including high elevations and far inland in January of 2005, when temper-

atures got as high as 41 degrees F (5 degrees C).

"Increases in snow-melt, such as this in 2005, definitely could have an impact on larger scale melting of Antarctica's ice sheets if they were severe or sustained over

time," Steffen said in a statement.

"Water from melted snow can penetrate into ice sheets through cracks and narrow, tubular glacial shafts called moulins," Steffen added.

MNA/Reuters

New Delhi records 43 degrees Celsius

NEW DELHI, 18 May — Wednesday which has seen the temperature hit 43 degrees Celsius in the Indian capital city of New Delhi is the hottest day of this season.

It is also the hottest May 16 in the last five years. Last year, New Delhi recorded a maximum of 38 degrees Celsius on this day, according to the India Meteorological Department.

The Indian capital recorded a maximum of 42.7 degrees Celsius Tuesday.

The department said that the capital city may experience a few spells of rain accompanied by squall till Thursday evening.

MNA/Xinhua



A guard walks past a television set equipped with a liquid crystal display (LCD) by LG. Philips at a store in Seoul, in this 12 Jan, 2006 file photo. Flat screen maker LG. Philips LCD expects prices of its television panels to fall at a much slower pace this year on stronger demand and limited output growth, a company executive said on 17 May, 2007. — INTERNET

SPORTS



Malaysia's Norhafiz Zawani Misbah (R) fights for the ball with Sydney FC's Nikolas Tsattalios during their friendly soccer match in Sydney on 16 May, 2007. INTERNET

Mourinho arrested in Dog row

LONDON, 17 May — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has been arrested in a row with police officers over his dog, a police source said on Wednesday. The 44-year-old Portuguese soccer boss was held late on Tuesday after an animal health official and two police officers went to his central London home to remove his dog, the Sun newspaper reported. The paper said the official wanted to put the dog into quarantine, believing it had been taken out of Britain and then brought back without the necessary inoculations. It said Mourinho refused to let the official take the dog and was arrested at around 10 pm after arguing with police.

The Sun said Mourinho had been at Chelsea's player of the year awards and rushed home when he was called by his wife Tami. Police left without recovering the dog, which the Sun said was now on the loose. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "A 44-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of obstructing police. He subsequently received a caution for obstructing police." He said an officer from the Animal Health and Welfare Service had gone with police officers to seize the dog because of alleged offences under the 1981 Animal Health Act and the 1974 Rabies Order. MNA/Reuters

Roma lift Italian Cup 7-4 on aggregate

MILAN, 18 May — AS Roma won the Italian Cup on Thursday after a 2-1 defeat at holders Inter Milan gave them a 7-4 aggregate victory. Inter, who have missed out on a second successive league and cup double, produced a spirited display but Roma's extraordinary 6-2 victory in last week's first leg proved too much. Roberto Mancini's side had defeated Roma in the previous two finals but will have to make do with the league championship this season. In-form Argentine striker Hernan Crespo arched his neck to score with a delightful header from Maicon's cross early in the second period to give the home side the lead. Substitute Julio Cruz, who entered the fray in the first half for the injured Patrick Vieira, then slid in Luis Figo's pass on 56 minutes to spark hopes of an improbable comeback. But it was never really on and the frustration boiled over for Mancini, who was sent from the dugout for protesting midway through the second half.

MNA/Reuters



Superfund Pasching's Manuel Ortlechner (L) challenges Rapid Vienna's Markus Katzer during their Austrian League soccer match in Vienna on 17 May, 2007. — INTERNET



Natalie Gulbis of the US hits from the 13th fairway during round one of the LPGA Sybase Classic at the Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, New Jersey, on 17 May, 2007. — INTERNET

Italy striker Toni to have foot surgery

MILAN, 18 May — Italy striker Luca Toni will have surgery in the next few days to clear up a foot problem, his club Fiorentina said on Thursday. "In consideration of Luca Toni's painful metatarsal, it has been decided to proceed with surgery in the coming days," said a statement on Fiorentina's website (www.acffirentina.it). The club gave no indication of how long he would be out for but the player, who has been linked with a move to Bayern Munich in media reports, is certain to miss the last two games of the Serie A season with Fiorentina on the brink of UEFA Cup qualification. MNA/Reuters

Kuznetsova battles through to quarterfinals

ROME, 18 May — Second seed Svetlana Kuznetsova had to work harder than expected to reach the quarterfinals of the Italian Open on Thursday when she eased past Yuliana Fedak of the Ukraine 7-6, 6-1. Kuznetsova, the highest-ranking player left in the claycourt tournament after the elimination of top seed Amelie Mauresmo on Wednesday, twice failed to serve out for the first set and was 4-1 down in the tiebreak before finding her rhythm. Fedak, ranked 138 in the world, had entered the main draw only as a lucky loser from qualifying. "It was very hard for me. This is my third week in a row playing tennis and I felt so uncomfortable on the ball in the first set, so it was very frustrating," Kuznetsova said at the courtside. "But I knew I could play better, so I just tried to concentrate and in the end I started to play better." Kuznetsova's reward was a last-eight meeting against last year's Rome runner-up, Russian Dinara Safina, who beat Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-2, 6-3. In the other half of the draw, third seed Jelena Jankovic advanced by edging out Bondarenko's older sister Alona 6-4, 7-5 to set up a last eight meeting with 10th seed Elena Dementieva. Dementieva's opponent, fellow Russian and fifth seed Nadia Petrova, retired with a back problem at 4-3 and 15-0 down in the first set. — MNA/Reuters



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates a point during his match against Igor Andreev of Russia at the Hamburg Masters Tennis tournament in Hamburg on 17 May, 2007. Nadal won the match 6-4, 6-1. — INTERNET

Kaka, Ronaldinho leave Dunga juggling hot potato

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 May — Brazil coach Dunga was left juggling a hot potato on Thursday as he tried to explain why Kaka and Ronaldinho's request for a holiday did not clash with his demands for commitment. Kaka and Ronaldinho have both asked to skip the Copa America in Venezuela on the grounds that they are tired after a long season in Europe. Dunga has said since taking over that he wants players to feel that playing for their country is a privilege and an honour. On Thursday, he struggled to avoid contradicting himself as he not only justified Kaka and Ronaldinho's requests but also included them for the friendlies against England and Turkey in early June. To add to the dilemma, Dunga, who captained Brazil to World Cup victory in 1994 and the runners-up place four years later, admitted he never dreamt of making

a similar request in his own playing days. "There was one match when I was playing for a club in Japan. They said I could play for Brazil on the Wednesday as long as I was back in Japan for a match on Saturday," he said. "I remember that I arrived back at mid-day and played in the game six hours later. "There's nothing like wearing the Brazil shirt, when you see that everyone, from doctors and dentists to building workers, are all on the same side, rooting for the team and wanting the same thing. "(Former coach Mario) Zagallo always said that the Brazil shirt was a second skin and that's how I felt." Known for his never-say-die attitude as a player, Dunga was brought in last year as a response to Brazil's lacklustre performance at the World Cup when the team was seen as lacking spirit and ambition. MNA/Reuters



Nadia Petrova of Russia retires injured during the match against her compatriot Elena Dementieva at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome on 17 May, 2007. — INTERNET

# Iraq asks Iranian firms to bid for oil refinery work

**BAGHDAD, 18 May —** Iraq has invited Iranian firms to bid for contracts to build at least four oil refineries across the country, Iraq's Oil Ministry said on Wednesday in a sign of growing ties with the United States' regional foe.

"Today, the Iranian firms have been invited to bid in building refineries which the ministry has already announced it was planning to build," spokesman Asim Jihad told Reuters.

Iraq wants to build at least four refineries to help it solve chronic fuel shortages. The ministry said last year that it wants to build Nahrain, just south of Baghdad, with a capacity of 140,000 barrels

per day. A second refinery at Kuya in the north, is projected at 70,000 bpd.

Iraq also plans to build a refinery in Nassiriya, south of Iraq, for export purposes with a capacity of 300,000 bpd and another in southern

Amara.

Iraq has eight oil refineries, none of which were damaged during the invasion. Oil officials say that the plants are operating at only 50 per cent-75 per cent of capacity, forcing Baghdad to import most of its fuel.

Jihad said that Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani agreed with the Iranian Ambassador on Wednesday to activate an agreement to build a pipeline to carry about 200,000 bpd of Iraqi crude to Iran's southern refineries.

"They have agreed that the technical committees should begin within days mutual visits to discuss costs and the time they need to build the pipeline," Jihad said.

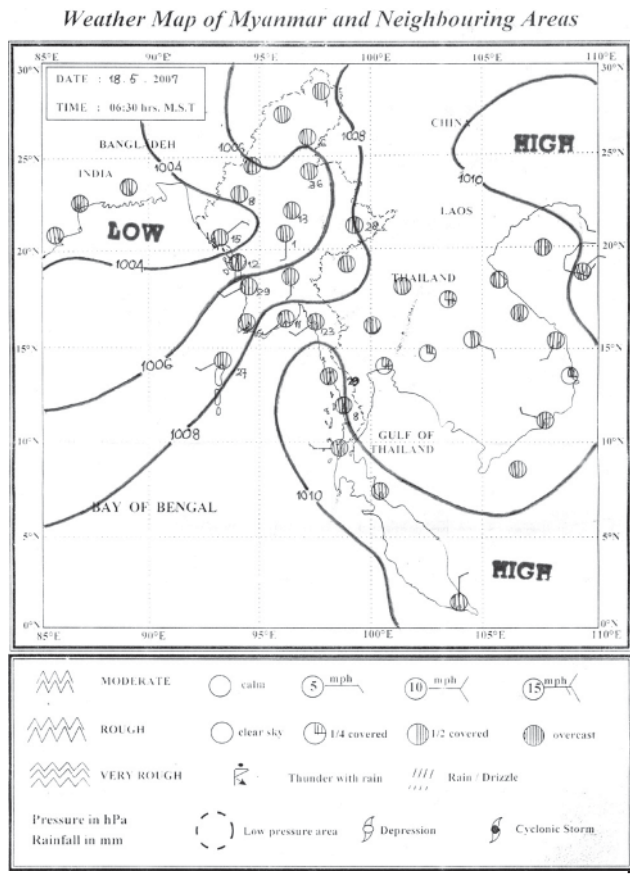
"The Iranians will buy the crude based on market price."

Iraq needs to attract investment from international oil companies to develop its oilfields and increase production.

MNA/Reuters



**Italian rider Danilo Di Luca (L) competes during the fifth stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, 173 km (107 miles) from Teano to Frascati, on 17 May, 2007. German rider Robert Forster won the stage while Di Luca took the leader's pink jersey.— INTERNET**



## WEATHER

**Friday, 18 May, 2007**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayah State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperature in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon and lower Sagaing Divisions, (5°C) below May average temperature in upper Sagaing Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below May average temperature in Kachin and Shan States and (3°C) above May average temperature in Taninthayi Division and about May average temperature in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myinmu (3.46) inches, Mogok (2.13) inches, Minkin (2.05) inches, Thaton (1.97) inches, Maungdaw (1.65) inches, Taungdwygyi and Dawei (1.50) inches each and Monywa (0.91) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-5-2007 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 18-5-2007 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-5-2007 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 17-5-2007 was (3.4) hour approx.

Rainfall on 18-5-2007 was (0.35) inch at Mingaladon, (0.43) inch at Kaba-Aye, (0.20) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (20.51) inches at Mingaladon, (24.37) inches at Kaba-Aye and (22.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (08:30) hours MST on 18-5-2007.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon in moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 19-5-2007:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of rain are likely in lower Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 19-5-2007:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-5-2007:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-5-2007:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Weather outlook for fourth weekend of may 2007:** During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division, widespread rain or thundershowers in Yangon Division.

**Saturday, 19 May**  
**View on today**

**7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

**7:25 am**  
2. To be healthy exercise

**7:30 am**  
3. Morning news

**7:40 am**  
4. Nice and sweet song

**7:55 am**  
5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

**8:05 am**  
6. ဗောင်းကတောရေလှောင်တံခွန်

**8:10 am**  
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

**8:20 am**  
8. Musical programme

**8:30 am**  
9. International news

**8:45 am**  
10. Grammar made easy

**11:00 am**  
1. Martial songs

**11:15 am**  
2. Musical programme

**11:30 am**  
3. News

**11:40 am**  
4. Games for children

**12:05 pm**  
5. Round up of the week's TV local news

**12:10 pm**  
6. “ခံစားရင်းခံစားပါ” (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ပန်းဖြူ၊ ကုသိုလ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်မိုးရဲဆွေ)

**1:15 pm**  
7. အာဆီယံနိုင်ငံများ အချင်းချင်းပေါင်းစပ်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှင့် လူကုန်ကူးမှုပြဿနာ)

**1:20 pm**  
8. Dance of national races

**1:35 pm**  
9. လဂွမ်းပြင်ရေလှောင်တံခွန်

**1:50 pm**  
10. သက်တံရောင်သံစဉ်

**2:05 pm**  
11. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

**2:15 pm**  
12. နိုင်ငံ့စီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (လက်ခတ်သံတည်ညံ့ စံပြကျေးရွာကော့ပရီ)

**2:25 pm**  
13. “ပေါင်ပေါ်ကျတုမီး” (ရဲအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ညီညီမင်းထက်၊ ဘုန်းလျှံ၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

**2:35 pm**  
14. ပေါက်တံတား (ရေပြာ) နှင့် ပေါက်တံတား (အုန်းတော)

**2:45 pm**  
15. International news

**4:00 pm**  
1. Martial song

**4:15 pm**  
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

**4:30 pm**  
3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

**4:45 pm**  
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (မြန်မာစာ)

**5:00 pm**  
5. တေးပြုစာဆိုမြေမြင့်အောင် (မြင်းခြံ) ဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

**5:15 pm**  
6. Musical programme

**5:30 pm**  
7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

**6:00 pm**  
8. Evening news

**6:30 pm**  
9. Weather report

**6:35 pm**  
10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

**7:05 pm**  
11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သမားတော်”(အပိုင်း-၂၆)

**8:00 pm**  
13. News

**14. International news**

**15. Weather report**

**16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်ပန်းနှင်းဆီ” (အပိုင်း-၁၇)**

**17. The next day's programme**

## Bridge, auto-exchange branch inaugurated in Lewe Township

### New bridge ensures smooth transport

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May — A bridge was inaugurated and an auto-exchange branch was put into operation in Thitpokpin Village in Lewe Township, Pyinmana District, Mandalay Division, today.

As part of efforts for development of rural areas, Union Solidarity and Development Association, joining hands with the government and the people, is carrying out the five rural areas development tasks. The association completed the transport and communication facilities in the village and held the inauguration ceremony today.

The newly-opened suspension bridge is 250 feet long and 4 feet wide. Its clearance is 12 feet high and 140 feet wide. Fifty manual telephones and two auto telephones have been installed at the auto-exchange branch.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Secretariat Members of USDA Minister U Aung Thaung, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, CEC Members Ministers Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Maj-Gen Aung Min and Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, departmental



**Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addresses opening of bridge and auto-exchange branch in Thitpokpin Village of Lewe Township.—MNA**

heads, executives, organizers and members of Mandalay Division, Pyinmana District and Lewe Township USDAs and members of social organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin said that the government established 24 special development regions for the equitable development of states and divisions. The government is also carrying out development tasks in rural areas to narrow the gap among regions across the country.

The government has also been making efforts for strengthening the friendship among national brethren, prevalence of the community peace and tranquility in the regions and ensuring for the improvement in the education, health and transport

tation sectors, he said. He continued to say that the government has also been undertaking tasks for power supply and establishment of libraries across the nation.

Only then the rural areas, which is home to over 70 % of the population, enjoy the fruits of development, will the entire nation develop, he added. Therefore, the government has also been making efforts for establishment of libraries and for producing bio-fuel while undertaking five rural areas development tasks. Besides, ministries, social organizations and the people are participating in carrying out of the rural areas development tasks.

USDA completed a bridge and an auto-exchange branch in Thitpokpin Village of Lewe Township.

The association also established hydropower stations and libraries in villages on hills in eastern part of Pyinmana Township, the commander said. The association has granted agricultural loans to farmers to improve their economy, and has upgraded schools, and the association donated desks to schools in Pyinmana District, he said.

In conclusion, the

commander urged local people to maintain the newly opened bridge and the auto-exchange branch for their durability.

Afterwards, Minister U Aung Thaung briefed the commander on implementation of the five rural areas development tasks by the USDA joining hands with the people.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on opening of the auto-ex-

change branch.

Regarding the construction of the bridge across Thitpokpin Creek, CEC Member of USDA Maj-Gen Aung Min said that thanks to opening of the bridge, local people will enjoy fruits of the smooth transportation, and their economy, and health and social sectors will be underpinned by the auto-exchange branch.

(See page 9)

## 82 members quit Toungoo Township NLD

### NLD does not serve interest of people, State

YANGON, 18 May—Eighty-two members of National League for Democracy of Toungoo Township in Bago Division including Daw Mya Nyunt, U Tun Hla and U Maung Sein of Kanni Village-tract resigned from the party of their own volition on 13 May.

They sent their resignation letters to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities. In the letters of resignation to Toungoo Township Multiparty De-

mocracy General Election Subcommittee, they said that they quit the party of their own accord as they were dissatisfied with the NLD's activities that do not yield any fruitful results to the State and the people, and that they no longer place faith and trust in the party and party leaders lacking experience and qualifications. That was why they had no more wish to discharge the duties of the party and they left the party of their own volition. — MNA

**The government has been making efforts for establishment of libraries and for producing bio-fuel while undertaking the five rural areas development tasks.**

## New Rainfall Record

YANGON, 18 May — The amount of rainfall 88 mm (3.46 inches) observed at 09:30 hour MST today in Myinmu is the 24 hrs new maximum rainfall record at the station for the month of May during last 24 years. The former record was 83 mm (3.27 inches) on 20 May 2003. — MNA