Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Success of National Convention: key to emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy

The Tatmadaw Government has had to take State responsibilities according to the demand of the situations that occurred in 1988. Since the assumption of State duties, it has adopted “Our three main national causes” — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — as its national policy and defended the Union of Myanmar. Our three main national causes are so important to us as life that we as well as our new generations have to safeguard them.

In addition to the national policy, the Tatmadaw Government laid down four political objectives, four economic objectives and four social objectives and, since then, have been relentlessly implementing them for peace and development of the nation. Moreover, the government has worked together with the Union-born national races for the stability of the State, community peace and national reconsolidation and has made great strides in all these endeavours.

The government is currently working on the implementation of the seven-point policy programme for the emergence of an enduring constitution and a modern and developed nation based on the new constitution. Now, delegates of various national races and people from all walks of life are unitedly taking part in the National Convention, the first and most important stage of the policy programme or Road Map.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee held a work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the NCCC in Kyainkasan Grounds on 11 January and it was attended by Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the meeting of the NCCC held on 23 November, 2004, had already announced that the National Convention would resume, and so, he said, it would be held on 17 February, 2005.

The National Convention is as important to the Union of Myanmar and its national races as life. Therefore, we are holding the National Convention in unity and with full national essence for the emergence of an enduring constitution.

We would like to call on the entire national people including delegates to the National Convention to make it a complete success so that emergence of a durable constitution and a peaceful, modern and developed democracy will be ensured.

Development tasks in Taninthayi Div looked into

YANGON, 12 Jan — Director-General of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department Col Than Swe met officials concerned in Myeik on 9 January and discussed on development tasks with them being carried out in border regions in Taninthayi Division.

After Head of Regional Development Supervising Office Maj Thet Naung and officials had presented reports on development tasks and staff affairs, he gave necessary instructions to them.

The director-general met the officials concerned and local people in Taninthayi and Khamaukgyi Town and held discussions on development tasks with them. Next, he checked Maryan TV Retransmission Station. — MNA

Home Affairs Minister receives Chinese Vice Minister

YANGON, 12 Jan — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received visiting a 22-member Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister of the Public Security of the People’s Republic of China Mr Zhao Yongji and party to attend the Myanmar-Chinese Deputy Minister Level Meeting for Realizing Peace and Tranquility of the Border Area and Combating Transnational Crime at the ministry this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General of the General Administration Department U Myat Ko, senior police officers and the head of office.

The Chinese Vice Minister briefed Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo on cooperation in realizing peace and tranquility between Myanmar and China border areas and combating transnational crimes. — MNA

Minister looks into development tasks in Hpa-an

YANGON, 12 Jan — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt arrived at Hpa-an yesterday and looked over tarring of Anawrahta road being implemented by Hpa-an Township Development Affairs Committee and the local people. Commissioner of Kayin State U Maung Maung, Kayin State DAC Director U Thet Hnin Oo and officials reported on measures taken for tarring of the road. Regarding the report, the minister instructed the officials concerned to make plan to upgrade the roads in the township. The road is 1,800 feet long and 12 feet wide, which was contributed by Kayin State DAC and local people.

Next, the minister looked into Vocational Training Centre for Women and Youth Training Centre. On arrival at Hpa-an water supply station, the Township DAC Senior Engineer reported to the minister on tasks being carried out for water supply and future tasks. The minister gave necessary instructions on water supply to the officials concerned. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be softened whenever flattered

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung receives General Managers Mr Y Takada and Mr N Utsumi of Sumitomo Corporation of Japan.
China speeds up building of disaster warning relief network

BEIJING, 12 Jan — China plans to build an eight-satellite system for round-the-clock disaster monitoring by 2010, as part of its efforts to improve its disaster warning and relief network.

The country will launch three of the eight satellites in 2006 to cover the major part of its territory and update ground station facilities, said Zhou Ming, deputy director of the Disaster Relief Department under the Ministry of Civil Affairs Monday.

The government expects that the satellite network will survey the country every six hours in 2007, he said. China is working hard to make an efficient disaster warning and relief network, drawing a lesson from the neighbouring countries that have just hit by deadly tsunamis, he said.

The country’s 31 provincial administrations have finished disaster and emergency relief plans, and cities along the main rivers and in earthquake-vulnerable areas have also done so, he added.

Meanwhile, the country has set up state reserves of disaster relief materials in ten cities and 26 provincial offices to store clothes and 370,000 tents.

China has adopted a direct reporting system for epidemics from county hospitals to the Ministry of Health based on computer network nationwide after it was stricken by severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in 2003.

The Ministry of Health also established ten medical expert teams to support local administrations in dealing with emergency cases.

Japan mulls reviewing policy on state-sponsored foreign students

TOKYO, 12 Jan — Japan’s Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry on Tuesday urged relevant ministries to review the policy on foreign students saying Japan has a higher percentage of government-sponsored foreign students than other industrialized countries but their academic performance has been declining.

Considering the tight fiscal situation, Japan should shift its focus on spending state money to improve the quality of foreign students, the ministry said.

The ministry also called on law enforcement authorities to tighten immigration screening for privately financed overseas students, some of whom are sometimes found to have overstayed their visas.

In a report evaluating the policy, the ministry recommended that the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry review existing systems concerning foreign students.

The number of foreign students studying in Japan totalled about 117,300 last year, topping the 100,000-mark target set by the government in 1983 when the number of overseas students totalled about 10,000, according to the ministry.

Of the 117,300, about 9,800 are studying under the Japanese Government scholarship, while the other 107,500 are privately funded.

Chinese, Madagascan FMs meet on bilateral relations

ANTANARIVE, 12 Jan — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Monday held talks with his Madagascan counterpart Marcel Ranjeva on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern.

Li said the two countries have supported each other on domestic construction and international affairs since China and Madagascar established diplomatic relations in 1972.

China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Madagascar on international issues, and promote visits and cultural exchanges between the two nations, said Li, noting China will encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Madagascar.

Ranjeva said the China-Africa Cooperation Forum has served as a platform for China’s support for Africa, expressing his thanks for China’s help.

Madagascar cherishes the friendship between the two countries, said Ranjeva, noting his country will adhere to the one-China policy and support China’s peaceful reunification. Li is on his four-nation African tour from 6 January to 14 January, which has taken him to Lesotho and Seychelles. He will also visit Mauritius.

1,356 of US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—As of Tuesday, 11 Jan, 2005, at least 1,356 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,068 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am Tuesday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,218 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 959 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the US military’s numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 10,372 US servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to a Defense Department tally released Tuesday.
Motorcycle sales in Indonesia projected to surpass five million units

JAKARTA, 11 Jan— The Indonesian Motorcycle Industries Association (AISI) has targeted to boost sales to above five million units this year from 4.1 million units in 2004.

AISI chairman Ridwan Gunawan was quoted Monday by Bisnis Indonesia newspaper as saying motorcycle sales in the country will continue climbing this year although the growth will not be as remarkable as that of last year.

“We posted a growth of 40 per cent last year but it might be down to 20 per cent this year,” he said.

He said the booming in motorcycle sales in the last two years has left producers overwhelmed by soaring demands.

AISI, which comprises six leading brands including Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, Piaggio and Kymco, has an output capacity of 3.5 million units a year.

Singapore provides more funds for biomedical research

SINGAPORE, 11 Jan—Singapore institutions have allocated more funds for biomedical researchers to support their work in universities, hospitals and disease centres.

According to local media reports on Monday, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research and the Biomedical Research Council have pledged 48 million Singapore dollars (about 29 million US dollars) and 50 million Singapore dollars (about 30 million US dollars) respectively.

Saw Fam, 11 Jan—Singapore-based biomedical researchers have been producing far.

Japanese DM pays official visit to Singapore

SINGAPORE, 12 Jan—Japanese Minister of State for Defence Yoshinori Ohno Monday arrived in Singapore for a two-day official visit.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence on Monday, Ohno called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and met with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, apart from meeting with his Singaporean counterpart Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean.

The statement said that Ohno will also call on Tony Tan, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence, and tour the Changi Naval Base.

China Changchun Film Festival opens in N-E China

CHANGCHUN, 11 Jan— The Seventh China Changchun Film Festival opened Monday in Changchun, capital of northeastern Jilin Province and one of the largest film production bases in the country.

“The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of films in China, the Seventh China Changchun Film Festival will give greater impetus to China’s film industry,” said Zhao Shui, deputy director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television and director of the organization committee of the film festival.

A total of 87 films will compete for the Golden Deer awards including Excellent Chinese Feature Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Technological Innovation, Box Office Intake and New Rising Actors in Film in the next two days.

Different from the former sessions, the Changchun film festival has newly established three awards, ie awards to Technological Innovation, Box Office Intake and New Rising Actors in Film while calling off the Award to Best Foreign Language Film.

“Our aim is to tap potentials for the Chinese language films and to search for the best combining point of the market and the art,” said An Li, deputy director of the organization committee of the film festival.

Four British soldiers to appear in court martial for abusing Iraqis

BERLIN, 11 Jan— The first of four British soldiers accused of abusing Iraqi civilians was to appear in front of a British court martial at a base in northern Germany on Monday.

The four unnamed soldiers, who face charges including assault and indecent assault related to the detention of Iraqi civilians at a warehouse near the southern city of Basra in the weeks after the United States and Britain invaded Iraq in March 2003.

The Ministry of Defence declined to name the four soldiers, citing possible legal implications.

A scientist looks at ‘chakragati’ mice that mimic human disease symptoms at a Singapore laboratory on 11 Jan, 2004. A government science agency awarded $1.1 million to support their work in universities, hospitals and disease centres.

Poll shows British support for Iraq war at record low

LONDON, 11 Jan—Public support for the war in Iraq has fallen to a record low, with only 29 percent of Britons believing that it was the right thing to do, according to a poll.

However, a strong majority of Britons believe that elections for an Iraqi assembly should go ahead this month, according to the poll conducted by Populus at the weekend and published in the Times newspaper.

Support for the war peaked at 64 percent in April 2003, when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was overthrown, three weeks into the US-led invasion, and has declined steadily over the subsequent 18 months, it said.

The number saying that waging war was the wrong thing to do has decreased slightly to 53 percent from 57 percent two months ago, and the proportion saying that they did not know has risen from 13 to 18 percent since November, it said.

For the first time, more supporters of the governing Labour Party think that the war was the wrong thing to do, by 44 percent to 37 percent.

This compares with a 47 to 43 percent margin in favour of military intervention in a similar poll last November.
Turkish PM arrives in Russia to boost cooperation

Moscow, 11 Jan—Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Moscow on Monday to discuss with Russian officials the further development of relations between the two countries the ITAR-TASS news agency reported on Monday.

Erdogan said that the visit of Russia President Vladimir Putin to Ankara last month had become a pivotal point in bilateral relations.

During that visit the joint declaration reached by the two side on strengthening friendship by the two side on the state level and multifarious partnership confirmed the mutual desire to improve bilateral cooperation in an spheres, the Turkish Prime Minister said.

Erdogan believes that the good relations between Moscow and Ankara will promote regional peace stability and welfare and that in the whole Europe. He predicted if both sides exert more efforts, bilateral trade turnover may reach 15 billion US dollars this year, 25 billion in 2007, and 20 billion in the near future.

The increased trade between our countries puts Russia among the main economic partners of Turkey,” Erdogan said.

In his opinion, Turkish companies operating in the Russian market will be able to supply their products to Central Asian countries, and Russian energy companies investing their capital in energy projects in Turkey will be able to enter the European market with their products.— MNA/Xinhua

Kenyan President calls for increased Chinese investment

Nairobi, 11 Jan—Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki has called for increased Chinese investment to boost the existing bilateral relations between the east African country and China.

While meeting China’s Assistant Foreign Minister Lu Guanzeng at State House, Nairobi on Monday, Kibaki singled out the improvement of the country’s road network as an area which could benefit from Chinese investment and expertise.

“We welcome your participation in the improvement of our roads. Investment opportunities in this sector exist not only in Kenya but also in the whole region, particularly Sudan which has experienced decades of civil strife,” Kibaki said.

The President said Kenya appreciated China’s support particularly in economic and technical fields where China has become a leading development partner.

He thanked China for giving Kenya the preferred tourist destination status, which he said would further promote Kenya’s tourism industry which is picking up after several years of slump.

On his part, the visiting Chinese Assistant Minister, who has been in the country to witness the signing of the comprehensive Sudan peace agreement, commended Kenya’s role in the promotion of peace and stability in the region.

He said Kenya’s leading role in the Sudan and Somalia peace processes has made the country popular not only in China but also in the international area.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong rains leave many dead, homeless in Central, S America

Buenos Aires, 11 Jan—Heavy rains have claimed many lives and left thousands homeless in Central and South America, officials said Monday.

In Argentina, at least seven people were killed and thousands more displaced by heavy rain, the authorities said.

The storm, accompanied by strong winds, also interrupted electricity supply and flooded roads in the Argentine provinces of Tucuman and Cordoba.

A 40-year-old woman and her five-year-old son drowned in a torrent near the city of Tucuman. A 32-year-old man was electrocuted when a high-tension cable collapsed.

About 500 people were evacuated from their houses to shelters Sunday. Another 500 people had to abandon their houses, according to the authorities.

Unlicensed foreigners banned driving in Cambodia’s two cities

Phnom Penh, 12 Jan—Cambodia’s seaside city Sihanoukville joined Siem Reap, home of Angkor Wat temples, to become the second area in the country to ban foreigners who do not hold international or local drivers’ licences from driving motorbikes, local media reported on Tuesday.

“We want safety for the drivers and for the moto taxi drivers to have jobs,” The Cambodia Daily quoted So Chumghuo, director of Sihanoukville’s Public Works and Transport Department, as saying.

“Some expatriates do not know the streets and have never driven before so they get in accidents,” he said.

So Chumghuo said that notice of the ban had been broadcast in Sihanoukville throughout December and that the announcement also urged residents to apply for driving licences. Unlicensed foreigners have been banned from driving in Siem Reap since March 2003.— MNA/Xinhua

Scientists to start DNA analysis of 2,500-year-old horses

Xi’an, 11 Jan—Chinese and British scientists are planning for the DNA analysis of 12 horse skeletons unearthed from the burial ground of a prominent duke who lived more than 2,500 years ago in northwestern Shaanxi Province.

Archaeologists with Beijing University and Cambridge University have used a professional database to process data collected from the skeletons, including the size and weight of the skulls, spinal columns and limbs.

A Cambridge laboratory will be entrusted to carry out the DNA analysis, after the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China gives the green-light, said a source with the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archeology who declined to be named.

The DNA test will hopefully find out more facts about ancient horses, including their skeletal bone mineral density and other trace elements, which may shed light on how horses were fed and tamed in history, he said.

Experts say this will be the first comprehensive study on ancient Chinese horses, though sacrificial horses and carts are often found in north China.

The 12horse skeletons were unearthed from two sacrificial tombs close to the No 1 Tomb of Duke Jiegong (577 BC - 537 BC) of the Qin Kingdom in Fengxiang County, 170 kilometres west of the provincial capital Xi’an.

MNA/Xinhua

Allawi says attacks on oil and power have cost Iraq 10 billion dollars

Baghdad, 11 Jan—Attacks on oil and electricity infrastructure have cost Iraq 10 billion dollars in revenue, interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi told state-run Al-Iraqiya television.

“The total cost of direct and indirect losses due to the targeting of oil and electricity infrastructure in Iraq has surpassed 10 billion dollars till now,” Allawi said.

Some of these losses resulted from attacks on oil pipelines feeding storage areas as well as attacking oil tankers carrying imported gasoline to Iraq.

Allawi was referring to the daily attacks on gasoline tanker trucks heading into the country from Turkey that are often targeted, with the drivers kidnapped or killed.

Last week, Oil Minis-

ter Thamer Ghadhban warned that guerillas were waging an all-out war on the country’s vital oil industry, costing Iraq nearly eight billion dollars in petrol revenue since the March 2003 US-led invasion.

Saboteurs have effectively shut down exports from Iraq’s lucrative northern oil fields around Kirkuk, and the country relies on its southern port of Basra to ship its vital revenue earner to the world.

In late December, they fired mortars at the Dura refinery in southwestern Baghdad, which feeds the capital’s main power plant.— Internet

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MNA/Xinhua

Chinese shop for bread at a Beijing supermarket on 11 Jan, 2005. — Internet
Thailand mulls new plan to prevent bird flu resurrection

BANGKOK, 12 Jan — Thailand launched an emergency plan on Monday in response to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) warning of possible large-scale resurrection of avian influenza.

The government will draw up an initial plan for bird flu control and come out with a comprehensive strategy tackling all related issues in three months, Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisang was quoted by newspaper The Nation as saying on Tuesday.

A system will also be put in place to prepare the country in the event of mutation enabling the flu virus transmitted between humans. WHO earlier warned that Asia is still in face of the possibility of large-scale emergence of bird flu and the disease would be more lethal than SARS if no proper prevention measures adopted.

Bird flu killed 12 people in Thailand last year but no new cases have been reported in the country since November.

However, remnant of the virus is still existing in the kingdom and might be resurrect epidemic, said Chaturon, who oversees the country’s bird flu prevention work.

“The bird-flu epidemic poses a bigger danger than many Thais like to think,” he said. “We can’t afford to be complacent.”

— MNA/Xinhua

US translator pleads guilty of illegally carrying secret papers

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — A US civilian translator at the Guantanamo Bay Prison for foreign terrorism suspects pleaded guilty on Monday to illegally carrying classified documents outside of Cuba and lying about it.

Ameeth Fathy Mehalba, a naturalized US citizen of Egyptian descent, was returning to the United States from visiting family in Egypt on September 29, 2003, when officials at Boston’s Logan Airport found a compact disc containing 725 secret documents relating to national defence in his luggage.

Federal prosecutors said Mehalba, 32, initially told authorities he did not know about the files and lied about not understanding the definition of the word “secret” regarding classified information.


“Yes,” replied the linguist.

His attorneys, Joseph Savage and Michael Andrews told the judge they had no objections to his guilty plea.

Assistant US Attorney Michael Ricciuti, who also heads the US Attorney’s anti-terrorist unit, told the court Mehalba had been briefed on classified materials several times in recent years, beginning when he joined the Army in 2000.

He received a similar briefing two years later when San Diego-based information company Titan Corp, a Pentagon contractor, hired him as a linguist.

When he arrived at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to work as a translator at the prison camp, Ricciuti said Mehalba was briefed again on secret documents.

— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to export more farm, forest products in 2005

HANOI, 12 Jan — Vietnam has targeted to export 4.5 billion US dollars worth of agricultural and forestry products in 2005, a year-on-year increase of 4.7 per cent.

To fulfill the target, the country will focus on building brands, registering product trademarks, improving quality and seeking outlets, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on Monday.

Local enterprises should be more proactive in building brands and registering their trademarks, MARD minister Cao Duc Phat said, adding that due to a dearth of well-known brands, export prices of many Vietnamese agricultural and forestry products, including rice, and coffee beans are much lower than those of other countries.

For example, a ton of Vietnamese tea costs up to 40 per cent less than tea exported by Sri Lanka, while a ton of Vietnamese rice is 40 US dollars cheaper than a ton from Thailand.

— MNA/Xinhua

Japan Ground Self-Defence Force’s (JGSDF) members wave to bid farewell to Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force’s transport ship Kunisaki departing to Indonesia at a naval base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo on 12 January, 2005. — INTERNET

Beijing invests heavily to improve subway emergency system

BEIJING, 12 Jan — Beijing has recently invested 9 million yuan (more than 1 million US dollars) to improve the emergency system for its subway, reported Tuesday’s Beijing News.

The report said the fund was used mainly to buy respirators, install blast shelters and fix fire extinguishers for subway stations and crucial machine rooms along the lines.

Meanwhile, passenger escape passages have been redesigned. Emergency illumination system and direction plates have also been installed to enhance the evacuation ease, the report said.

Currently, the No 1 and No 2 subway routes are well equipped with warning, smoke emission and fire control systems, said Chaturon, who oversees the country’s bird flu prevention work.

“The bird-flu epidemic poses a bigger danger than many Thais like to think,” he said. “We can’t afford to be complacent.”

— MNA/Xinhua

East China oilfield produces 27 million tons of crude oil in 2004

JI’AN, 12 Jan — The Shengli Oilfield in east China’s Shandong Province turned over a record 26.74 million tons of crude oil and 900 million cubic metres of natural gas in 2004, company sources said on Tuesday.

The figures are the highest reported in the past four and six years respectively.

In 2003, the oilfield based in Dongying turned out 26.58 million tons of crude and 810 million cubic metres of natural gas.

A company spokesman said the oilfield has taken advantage of China’s macro-control policies as well as the climbing oil prices and expanded production, enhanced management, improved efficiency and further explored the international market.

Thanks to its technological innovation and optimized allocation of resources, the company’s gross revenue increased to 72.88 billion yuan (8.8 billion US dollars) and added value climbed to 48 billion yuan (5.8 billion US dollars) in 2004.

The spokesman said Shengli oilfield has maintained balance between oil exploitation and reserves for eight years in a row.

Its proven oil reserves have been growing by more than 100 million tons annually for 22 consecutive years.

In 2004, it reported an additional 28.12 million tons of exploitable oil reserves and 1 billion cubic metres of newly proven natural gas reserves.

Shengli Oilfield is the second largest onshore oilfield in China following PetroChina’s Daqing in the northeast.

It has a history of more than 40 years and its daily output of crude oil averages 520,000 barrels.

— MNA/Xinhua
Our motherland is a union nation where over 100 national races are living together in unity and amity in every part whether the land may be the plains or the hill regions, with their blood thicker than water in times of emergency, for they all are of the same ancestors, always close to one another like the people partaking water from the same source.

Of the brethren, some live in remote border areas, whose sustainable social development needs the energetic efforts of local youths. Moreover, the local youths will have to play a role in producing human resources, the main force behind the education development of the regions in the far corners of the nation, where teachers are in dire need. In order to produce a vital force to effectively address the problems of the remote border areas, the Academy for Development of National Groups (ADNG) was founded on 20 October 1964 in Ayeyawady Ward, Sagaing. On 14 August 1968, the ADNG was relocated at Ywathitgyi in Sagaing Township. The Government enacted the Law No 991 on 10 May 1991 to upgrade the Academy to University for Development of National Races (UDNR). The university began to run its classes on 10 June 1991 to upgrade the Law No 9/91 on 10 May 1991 to upgrade the Academy to University of Distance Education (UDE), while discharging duties as an elementary school teacher. After getting a degree from UDE, they can attend the BEEd course at the UDNR till becoming an MEEd or M Phil Education degree holder depending on their ability and efforts. The Government has made arrangements for the outstanding students of the regular courses to join a university of medical, technological, computer, veterinary or nursing profession, thereby paving the way for a UDNR trained student to reach a better future, work more effectively for the local and state development, join the Union Solidarity and Development Association as reliable core force.

The regular three-year primary teachership course of the UDNR has been upgraded to a four-year BEEd course beginning the course No 36 in 2000/2001 academic year. After completion of the four-year course, BEEd degree will be conferred on the students, and they will be assigned as teachers. Any student who has passed the matriculation examination can join the course.

The UDNR has been training its students to become junior leaders for regional development in addition to producing qualified teachers. The students are being trained to become skilled in farming, first aid and fire fighting, and in times of emergency, they will become the people’s militia defending their own villages and regions, as they which were a number of sublime pagodas enhanced the beauty of the historic range. After passing through Sagaing, the bus was on its way to Ywathitgyi.

I was travelling to Ywathitgyi to meet with my niece, Ei Yan Pat, attending the regular course No 36 at the university. She is a native of a hill village in Matupi Township, Chin State. Located far from major towns — Falam, Haka, Tiddim and Matupi — in the state, her village is difficult of access. Since people of the village are just farmers as their ancestors. Although there is a primary school in the village, it still needs teachers. The whole village is happy as my niece is able to attend the UDNR, because she will become a teacher at her own village after completion of her studies at the university. Thus, everyone at the village is waiting for the day she will return to the village as a teacher. The villagers are putting much hope for her, for she will play a leading role in the village and national development undertakings.

As No 36 four-year BEEd course is going to end soon, she will have to go on a study tour of some weeks. Since the stage of an academy till now, the institution has been training and producing good sons and daughters for the nation for 40 years, and they are discharging their duties well the length and breadth of the nation. In other nations, schools for the nationals are only parts of the nation to offer with her brethren’s intersection, and receive guidance and head of State. It is a great opportunity for UDNR students to receive the guidance. In all seriousness, the Head of State will give the valuable guidance for their whole life.

Since the stage of an academy till now, the institution has been training and producing good sons and daughters for the nation for 40 years, and they are discharging their duties well the length and breadth of the nation.
Our three Main National Causes important...

(from page 1)

The government and all the national people tried to remove evil consequences such as armed struggle among the national people, instability and lack of law and order and development and cultivation of opium. These were evil legacies of the colonialists, he said.

He said the government is implementing the border area development project, the 24-special region development project and the rural development project in the Union.

He called for serving the interests of the nation and of their own with patriotism.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on importance of Myawady District for the economic progress of the nation and practice in accord with the economic policies of the State.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein reported on trade with neighbouring countries, facts for traders and border and regular trade.

In his discussions, the Secretary-1 said he and his party came to Myawady to bring about development in Kayin State and to fulfill the requirements for improvement of bilateral trade through proper channel.

In bilateral trade with neighbouring countries, Myawady is an important gateway and it was upgraded to district level, he said.

There was no peace and tranquillity due to armed struggle in border areas. The country lagged behind in development of education, health and social affairs and transport compared with neighbouring countries.

The government formed the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races led by the Head of State and the Work Committee led by the Secretary-1. Moreover, tasks for education, health, transport and economy were undertaken after formation of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

With peace and tranquillity, security has improved and arrangements were made for better administration. These results strengthen national solidarity spirit, the Union Spirit and patriotism among the national people.

He spoke of the service people who discharge duties for raising of socio-economic life of the people in border areas to try to realize the goodwill of the State.

He said the government has laid down and implemented Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

He said Our Three Main National Causes is very important for perpetuation of the Union and they are national policies to be handed down from generation to generation.

He also said that the government is also undertaking the four political objectives, four economic objective and four social objectives. Now there is peace and tranquillity and national solidarity in the country. Economic and social infrastructures have been established for national development.

(See page 9)
Our three Main National Causes important...

The government is endeavouring for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in conformity with Myanmar culture and geographical conditions.

The National Convention, first and the most important level of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, is now being held.

The Secretary-1 called for participation in the respective roles for realization of the tasks.

The Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted those present.

They inspected the Office of the Director of Border Trade Department and cargo yard and the site chosen for construction of a cargo yard near Ywathit Village.

The Secretary-1 and party met leader of Phayagon region peace group Pado Aung San at the guest house of No 22 LID yesterday.

The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and presented gifts and clothing to Pado Aung San and family members of the group.

The Secretary-1 and party arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

Bangladeshi Minister and party arrive

YANGON, 12 Jan — At the invitation of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Mr AKM Mosharraf Hossain and party arrived here yesterday evening and they were welcomed by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials at Yangon International Airport.

The Minister received the Bangladeshi delegation at the meeting hall 1 of the ministry this morning and they discussed mutual cooperation in the oil and natural gas sector between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The Bangladeshi delegates will stay in Myanmar up to 13 January to attend the meeting for the mutual cooperation in petroleum sector among Myanmar, Bangladesh and India.

They will observe the offshore oil and natural gas industries of Myanmar. — MNA

MHC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets those who attend the International Conference to mark Golden Jubilee Anniversary of Myanmar Historical Commission.—MNA

The government is making arrangements for Myanmar historians to attend international conferences and do research together with their foreign counterparts. The government is making arrangements for Myanmar historians to attend international conferences and do research together with their foreign counterparts.

Sixty-seven resource persons including 50 from 14 foreign nations will read papers at the conference till 14 January.

Also present were ministers, deputy ministers, MHC members, officials, scholars, historians, resource persons at home and abroad and guests. MNA
Kyonku Village of School (Branch) in Than of the Ministry of Development Council Member of the State Peace building and handed over concerning the school briefed them on matters (Navy) of the local station committee Captain Aye Pe building construction and enjoyed entertainment Naing, authorities and of-mander of South-West Division Peace and De-10
Chairman of Ayeyawady Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, present were Com-10
lier than scheduled. 10
struction on Yangon-Mandalay Road between Singaing Township and Amarapura Township. Of-ficials reported on work progress, future programmes and supply of construction materials and fuel. 10
Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on the project. — MNA

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
— To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
— To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

Much progress in education sector made due to implementation of national education promotion programmes beginning 2001-2002

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than joins opening of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw

YANGON, 12 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Coun-cil Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence unveiled the sign-board of the new building of Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kyonku Village of Ngaputaw Township this morning.

Among those present were Com-mander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and De-velopment Council Com-mander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, authorities and of-ficials.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed the multimedia classrooms at the school and enjoyed entertainment of the students.

Patron of the school building construction committee Captain Aye Pe (Navy) of the local station briefed them on matters concerning the school building and handed over documents related to the building to Ayeyawady Division Education Of-ficer U Myint Swe. Headmaster U Myint Naing accepted one computer set donated by the commander; K 200,000 and two compu-ter sets by No 1 Department of Basic Education and K 50,000 by U Htay Myint-Daw Khin Aye and family of Pathein.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that it is necessary for prevalence of law and order, econ-omic enhancement and human resource develop-ment which are three ba-sic factors in building a peaceful, modern and de-veloped nation. The Gov-ernment has been uplift-ing the education sector for development of human resources. By designating 24 development regions, the Government has cre-at ed opportunities for the local people so as to join institutions of higher learning in the respective States and Divisions. In addition, as the five rural development tasks were laid down and are being implemented, modern schools could be extended and more teachers and facul-ty members could be appointed in the rural re-gions. He added that de-velopment of the country relies on nurturing of new generation youths to be-come intellectuals and in-telligentsia of the State. Much progress of the edu-ca-tion sector could be made due to implementa-tion of the national educa-tion promotion 30-year long-term programme be-ginning 2001-2002 aca-demic year. To increase opportunities for learning education, more basic educa-tion schools have been opened in the entire na-tion year after year. In this regard, through there were 33 basic education schools in 1988, there are now over 40,500 schools and over 240,000 teach-ers appointed to teach over 7.78 million students in 2004-2005 academic year. He asserted that as over 4,700 schools were upgraded to the post-pri-mary schools, those who learned middle school level education in their respective regions in-creased to over 300,000. Furthermore, after imple-menting the school enrolment plan as the national movement activity, over 1.1 million of children or 96.56 per cent of school-going age of the whole nation could be enrolled at KG. With regard to the higher education sector, there are 156 universities and colleges at present though there were 32 in 1988.

In Ayeyawady Di-vision, he said, 257 BEHS, 580 BEMSs and 5,948 BEPSs could be put into education service. Nowadays, local students can enjoy fruitful results for opening school build-ings including that of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw Township.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged those present to turn out educated persons on whom the State can rely and ensure durability of the school building.

The new building of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) is 150 feet long, 32 feet wide and 34 feet high. It is a two-storey building comprising eight classrooms, one altar room and the rest for the head-master and teachers. Al-together 40 students can be accommodated. The building was built at a cost of K 6.3 million contrib-uted by the State and K 53.7 million by the local people, amounting to K 60 million in total. The construction of the build-ing was started on 27 De-cember 2003.

After that, they at-tended the library namely Bawa Shayaung Village Head U Hla Myint in the same village, and visited it. Well-wisher U Soe Myint-Dr Daw May May Kyi spent K 3.1 million on construction of the li-brary on the plot donated by Dhammapala Monas-tery Sayadaw and U Chit Yi-Daw Khin Thaung. There are various kinds of periodicals and books to-talling 3,263. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than addresses opening ceremony of Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw Township. — MNA

Newly-opened Kyonku BEHS (Branch) in Ngaputaw Township. — MNA

Construction of Yangon-Mandalay...
Cooperatives Minister inspects booths of MCCPSF

YANGON, 12 Jan—Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min viewed around the booths displayed for the sixth day at Myanmar Cooperative Centenary Products Show and Festival 2005 at Cooperative Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza), Bahan Township, today.

The Minister was conducted around the booths by Director-General of the Cooperative Department U Sein Than, Deputy General Manager of Cooperative Exports and Imports Enterprise U Saw Oo and officials.

The Minister inspected the booths of Kayah, Shan, Mon and Kachin States and Mandalay, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago and Magway Divisions, the Cooperative Department, the Cottage Industries Department and private salesrooms.

Afterwards, the Minister gave necessary instruction to the delegates of states and divisions at the office of the leading committee.

On behalf of U Tin Aung-Dr Daw Khin Hla Shwe, Daw Thein Thein Soe donated an antique lacquer food carrier for Myanmar Lacquer College and Lacquerware Museum. The Minister accepted the donation and expressed thanks.

Ministers oversee Paunglaung Multipurpose Dam Project

YANGON, 12 Jan—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen U Htay Oo and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut arrived at Paunglaung Multipurpose Dam Project, 10 miles East of Pyinmanna, Mandalay Division on 9 January, today.

During their arrival, Director U Bitta of Irrigation Department and members of the USDA, a strong national force, are to be convinced well of the importance of their duties and responsibilities, to foresee fruits of their nation-building endeavours, and to realize the genuine goodwill of the Union in paving the way for shaping the nation into a developed one with flourishing democracy and discipline.

In the process, the members must uphold Our Three Main National Causes and 12 objectives in implementing the seven-point Road Map as well as the future tasks laid down by the Association, hand in hand with the people, he said.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General exhorted the trainees to work hard in the studies constantly to be able to effectively put into practice the knowledge gained from the course in the pragmatic sphere, to try best to become model of dealing with the people, and to perform the tasks with a sense of duty.

Next, the Secretary-General, secretariat members and CEC members had a cordial conversation with the trainees.

Meeting for Realizing Peace & Tranquillity of Border Areas and Combating Transnational Crime held

YANGON, 12 Jan—The Myanmar-China Deputy Minister Level Meeting for Realizing Peace and Tranquility of Border Areas and Combating Transnational Crime was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel, here, today.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Chinese Vice Minister of Public Security Zhao Yongji gave speeches. Also present on the occasion were 30 Myanmar delegates and 22 Chinese delegates.

The participants of the meeting were divided into three groups. The group-1 led by Police Chief of Staff Police Brig-Gen Win Myaing and Deputy Director-General Mr Zhang Jufeng of Chinese International Cooperation Department discussed cooperation of police forces in training courses, assignment of border area relations officers of the two countries, designation of emergency units, economic crime, money laundering, control of gambling and currency imitation.
Two earthquakes hit western Turkey

ANKARA, 12 Jan — Two earthquakes hit western Turkey early Tuesday, injuring one person, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The first quake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale occurred at 01:48 am local time (2348 GMT Monday) in Milas Town of Mugla Province.

The epicentre was Gokova Gulf, officials of Bogazici University Kandilli Earthquake Monitoring Centre quoted as saying. It jolted Mugla, Marmaris Town, western Aydin Province and Datca Town.

One person slightly injured in Marmaris was taken to the Marmaris State Hospital for treatment, said the report.

Another earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter Scale hit Gokova Gulf at 06:35 am (0435 GMT), the report said.

Turkey is crossed by several major fault lines and earthquakes are a frequent occurrence.

The worst earthquake in recent years was in August and September 1999, when two quakes struck northwestern Turkey and southeastern Greece, killing more than 20,000 people.

Nigeria, Canada sign two MoUs on education, assistance

LAGOS, 11 Jan — Nigeria and Canada on Monday signed two Memoranda of Understanding on education, assistance (MoU) valued at $2.6 billion naira (19.5 million US dollars) for the development of some projects in the west African country, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported.

Nigerian presidential economic adviser Ode-Ojowu signed the MoUs on behalf of the country while the Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria David Angell signed for the Canadian Government.

The first MoU for which Canada, through the International Development Agency (CIDA), is committing 2.1 billion naira (15.8 million US dollars) for the development of the School of Health Technology in Calabar, capital of the southeastern state of Cross River, and the Primary Health Care project in the central state of Bauchi.

Oil prices end in negative territory

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Oil prices ended in negative territory on Monday after dealers took profits from a nearly two US dollars surge which had been triggered by export disruptions in Iraq and the North Sea.

US light crude settled down 10 cents to 45.33 US dollars a barrel, erasing gains that brought futures to 47.30 US dollars in the midst of the open call session, their highest level since 1 December. London Brent fell 26 cents to 42.92 US dollars a barrel.

“There was meltdown late as the market could not push any higher than what it already tested... prices broke down on technical and profit-taking,” said Steve Bellino, senior vice-president for energy management at Fimat USA.

Prices had jumped as Saudi Arabia had cut crude allocations to major oil companies with global refining systems in February compared to January.

Trade sources told Reuters on Monday that the cuts were smaller than those made in January, but declined to give precise numbers.

OPEC members said last week they had implemented the cartel’s one million barrel per day supply cut from 1 January.

After a relatively mild winter so far during the Northern Hemisphere winter, forecasters are expecting a chill to set in over the eastern heating markets from late January through February, bolstering demand.

Short-term forecasters also said mild US weather this week could cool demand to an abrupt halt by the weekend, as an arctic blast sinks down from Canada.

Nigeria Sailing Club Annual General Meeting

All members of the Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date: 23 January 2005
Place: Yangon Sailing Club

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Secretary
Yangon Sailing Club

Audits find contractors overcharging UN by millions

Fifty-eight reports were released on Sunday by Paul Volcker, the former US Federal Reserve chairman, who is conducting an independent probe of the 64-billion-US-dollar programme. The audits could be demanded by at least five US congressional committees probing wrongdoing in the now-defunct programme.

The reports from the UN watchdog — the Office of International Oversight Services — found “no irregular activities” or corruption on the part of UN staff.

Nevertheless, they point to lapses in supervising the programme, especially in keeping a rein on contractors hired.

The reports indicate that Benom Sevan, head of the programme, complied with many of the requests but it is not clear which ones. But the audits repeatedly criticized the Nairobi-based UN Habitat agency for ignoring recommendations.

The oil-for-food programme began in December 1996 to allow Iraq to sell oil and purchase civilian goods, an effort to ease the impact on ordinary Iraqis of sanctions imposed after Iraq’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The reports, based on a slew of other UN internal audits, do not cover bribery conducted by then-president Saddam Hussein’s government in the drawing up of oil deals, which it was allowed to do under UN Security Council resolutions.

But they provide enough details on management for Congress to attack.

The big contracts, where the UN watchdog was not critical, were granted to Rotterdam-based Saybolt Eastern Hemisphere BV, which monitored the quantity of oil Iraq exported legally. The British Lloyd’s inspectors, later replaced by the Swiss-based Cotecna Inspection SA, inspected goods entering Iraq so vendors could be paid.

Saybolt, for example, was accused of charging more for staff than were actually working as well as housing and transportation that Iraq supplied. The audit reports determined Saybolt invoices led to overpayments of 186,000 US dollars.

One report, dated July 21, 1999, on Lloyds Register reported possible overcharges of 1.38 million US dollars because inspectors, who earned 770 US dollars a day, were not at their posts for 1,800 days.
Chinese banking insiders say the move repre- sents another substantial step China has taken to gradually open up its fi- nancial system and im- prove the convertibility of Rennminbi (RMB), or the Chinese currency. The government has taken steps to gradually increase the convertibility of the RMB, allowing for more international transactions and investment. This move is expected to further integrate China's financial system with the global economy, boosting foreign trade and investment. The announcement of the move to open up the financial system is a positive development for businesses and investors, as it provides greater flexibility and opportunities for cross-border transactions. The move is also likely to have implications for the global currency landscape, as the RMB becomes a more widely accepted and used currency in international trade and investment. However, the full impact of this move will depend on how quickly and effectively China implements the necessary reforms and regulations to support the increased convertibility of the RMB. The Chinese Ministry of Finance expressed their support for this move, stating that it is a necessary step to promote the healthy development of China's financial market and to enhance its international competitiveness. Authorities in Beijing have emphasized the importance of maintaining financial stability and avoiding any potential risks associated with increased convertibility. They have also noted the need for continued efforts to strengthen the management of capital flows and to prevent any speculative activities that could destabilize the financial system. Overall, the Chinese government appears committed to implementing the necessary reforms to support the increased convertibility of the RMB, recognizing the potential benefits for both China and the global economy.
**Nigeria's defender signs 3-year contract with Marseille**

**MARSEILLE (France), 12 Jan—** Nigeria's under-21 international defender Taye Taiwo has signed a three-year contract with Olympique Marseille for an undisclosed fee.

In a statement on the French Ligue 1 club's website Marseille manager Pape Diouf said the move was "an investment for the future".

Left back Taiwo could be used to replace former French international Bixente Lizarazu, who returned to Bayern Munich after an unsuccessful first half of the season at Marseille. But Lizarazu's likeliest replacement should be Japan's Koji Nakata, who will train with Marseille on Thursday while his agent negotiates with the club.

Marseille coach Philippe Troussier knows the Japanese midfielder well from his days as Japan manager before the 2002 World Cup. He had used the Kashima Antlers player at left back at the time.

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**Gramenet book place in King’s Cup quarter-finals**

**MAURITIIS, 12 Jan—** Third division Gramenet took a major stride towards booking their place in the King's Cup quarter-finals when they beat Lleida 2-0 at home in the first leg of their third round tie on Tuesday.

Primera Liga high-fliers Sevilla also headed towards the last eight after claiming a 2-0 victory in an eventful first-leg match at second division Recreativo Huelva.

Brazilian striker Julio Baptista cracked home a Baptista free kick in the second minute, Marseille opened the scoring in the second minute, Marseille

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**Gerrard’s goal gives Liverpool 1-0 win over Watford**

**LONDON, 12 Jan—** Steven Gerrard’s second-half goal gave Liverpool a 1-0 win over Second Division Watford in the first leg of their League Cup semifinal at Anfield on Tuesday.

The England midfielder struck after 56 minutes, finishing a flowing move with a firm goalbound shot from just inside the area that Watford defender Neil Cox could only head into his own net. Liverpool recorded seven-time League Cup winners, struggled in the first half but improved after the interval following the introduction of Czech striker Milan Baros as a substitute.

"Watford deserve a lot of credit because they came here tonight and made it a real battle," Gerrard told Sky Sports. "The manager told us we underestimated them in the first half but we came out and passed it a bit quicker and worked a bit harder."

Watford, 16th in the Second Division, competed well in the early stages, threatening to open the scoring after 18 minutes when Brynjar Gunnarsson's powerful header was blocked by goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek.

The Premier League side showed more urgency after halftime, however, Gerrard firing a shot just over the crossbar and Neil Mellor forcing a good save out of Watford goalkeeper Paul Jones before Gerrard broke the deadlock.

Watford continued to press forward after falling behind and striker Heidar Helguson was only denied by a last-ditch challenge from defender Djimi Traore in the dying minutes.

"It's a great result for us but it could have been better," Watford manager Ray Lewington said. "We have done tremendously well, worked hard and disrupted them. We were always in the match and have everything to play for."

Gerrard said Liverpool, who host Manchester United in the Premier League on Saturday, would have to improve against Watford at Vicarage Road in two weeks.

"We need to be a lot better than that in the second leg," Gerrard said.

Chelsea play Manchester United at Stamford Bridge in the first leg of the second semi-final on Wednesday. The final is at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on 27 February. — **MNA/Reuters**
Myanmar, Bangladesh and India to perform trilateral cooperation in petroleum sector

YANGON, 12 Jan — To perform trilateral cooperation in petroleum sector among Myanmar, Bangladesh and India, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party met with Bangladeshi State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mr AKM Mosharraf Hossain and party and Indian Minister of Oil and Natural Gas Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar at the Ministry of Energy this morning.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in petroleum sector on common interest among Myanmar, Bangladesh and India, efficient use of natural gas exploited in Rakhine offshore, sales of natural gas from the offshore to Bangladesh and India by laying pipelines and other oil and natural gas tasks.

The Bangladeshi and Indian Ministers and their parties were invited by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

Myanmar leads SEA Archery C’ships with 7 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze

YANGON, 12 Jan — The First South-East Asian Archery Championship continued for the second day at Kyakka Karen Grounds, here, this morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, members of the panel of leading patrons of the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, officials, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of South-East Asian Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta and officials, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe and officials.

Ms Sharmani Gane, Ms Anbarasi Subramanian and Ms Man Reede Sui Txi of Malaysia stood first, second and third in the women’s recurve 70-metre event yesterday. In today’s women’s individual event, Ms Anbarasi Subramanian of Malaysia, Ms Susidwi Megasari of Indonesia and Ms Man Reede Sui Txi of Malaysia bagged first, second and third prizes respectively. In the yesterday’s men’s 70-metre compound event, Paw Oo, Myo Aung San and Lin Naing of Myanmar won first, second and third prizes respectively.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents prize to Paw Oo of Myanmar who stood first in the men’s individual event. — NLM

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents prize to Paw Oo of Myanmar who stood first in the men’s individual event. — NLM

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials awarded first to third medals and gold harp trophies to Yu Nanda Huak, Thin Thinh Khang and Cathy in the women’s individual event; Mr Cheng Chu Sian of Malaysia, Mr Kuswantoro of Indonesia and Mr Md Marbawi Sulaiman of Malaysia in the men’s recurve 70-m event; and Nyi Nyi Tun, Tun Lin Aung and Mr Md Marbawi Sulaiman of Malaysia in the men’s recurve individual event respectively.

The team events will be held on the final day tomorrow. — MNA

WEATHER

Wednesday, 12 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been widespread in upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin State, isolated in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining states and division. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hakha (0.28) inch. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Rakhine State, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lelim (2°C), Hoho and Minsaid (4°C) each and Haka (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 11-1-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 12-1-2005 was 56°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-1-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 11-1-2005 was (7.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 12-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in South and Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 13-1-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and 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: Increase of night temperature are likely in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-1-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-1-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.
### 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

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**Emperor of Japan sends felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe**

**YANGON, 12 Jan** — The following is a message of felicitations from Akihito, Emperor of Japan, to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of your country.

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**The 58th Anniversary Union Day objectives**

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme

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**Efforts of MHC draw Myanmar people’s interest to history**

**Yangon, 12 Jan** — The Myanmar Historical Commission held its Golden Jubilee International Conference at Diamond Jubilee Hall here this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Secretary-1 said that the Myanmar Historical Commission (MHC) was founded in 1955, seven years after the nation regained independence.

The time-required task of re-compiling Myanmar history, a sector of nation-building endeavour, was

(See page 9)

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**Construction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Meiktila and Mandalay Districts inspected**

**Yangon, 12 Jan** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, and officials, yesterday inspected progress of construction of Meiktila bypass linking Kantaung village and Pyintha village on Meiktila-Thazi Road.

In response to the report by Director (Project) U Aung Wan, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project. He looked into the road construction tasks and preparations for building a bridge across Nyaungmyint Creek. On arrival at the toll gate on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report

(See page 10)