Established 1914

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

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

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

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, attends physic nut planting ceremony of Yangon Division

YANGON, 21 Jan — Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, this morning attended physic nut planting ceremony of Yangon Division held near the lawn of Forest Education Booth of Forest Zone in Kandawgyi Natural Gardens and planted the physic nut plants.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, together with Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, arrived at the physic nut planting ceremony of Yangon Division held near the lawns of Forest Education Booth of Forest Zone in Kandawgyi Natural Gardens where they were welcomed by Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, wives of the members of State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air); the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife; the Minister for Forestry and wife; the Mayor and wife; the vice-Mayor and wife; Deputy Commander of Yangon Command; heads of department and their wives and officials concerned. Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) together with Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, and party viewed physic nut seeds and saplings, samples and grafts of physic nut and production process of physic nut oil. They sowed seeds of physic nut and planted grafts of physic nut plant at the designated places.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, and party observed the demonstration of running of trawler-G and other vehicles, stoves and generators using physic nut oil.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party view physic nut saplings. — MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party observe the demonstration of running of trawler-G and other vehicles, stoves and generators using physic nut oil.
Nurture national race youths to become educated ones

The Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races who have been living in various parts of the Union sharing woes or well for years countable by the thousand. Therefore, the national races live together in unity and amity.

Only when the national races are equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the Union be perpetual, and it will be possible to ensure the perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar. The Union Spirit is not the one based on an organization, a race and an ideology, but the nationalist spirit that concerns the entire national people.

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received the trainees of No 37 Course (BEd) of the University for Development of National Races at the Pyithu Bhittaw Hall on Pyay Road in Yangon on 20 January. Senior General Than Shwe in meeting the trainees stressed the need for the trainees who are education staff produced by UNDR to nurture the national race youths of remote areas to have better education, wider knowledge and strong Union Spirit, while doing their bit in laying basic foundations for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The University for Development of National Races was previously the Academy for Development of National Groups that produced primary education staff. Now, it has been upgraded into a university with the aim of providing higher education for youths of national races to become graduated ones.

At present, efforts are being made for the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed and discipline flourishing democratic nation. In the process, priority is being given to development of economy and human resources.

As development of human resources plays an important role in building a modern and developed nation, steps are being taken for every citizen to pursue higher education. The establishment of a string of higher learning institutions across the nation contributes much to the region-wise emergence of intellectuals and intelligentsia. Therefore, trainee teachers of the UNDR are to do their bit in building a peaceful, modern developed and discipline flourishing democratic nation while nurturing the national race youths of remote areas to have better education, wider knowledge and strong Union Spirit.

Commands, Minister meet departmental officials in Leshi Township

YANGON, 21 Jan — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met with departmental officials at Leshi Township PDC office in Hkhamti District, Sagaing Division on 15 January.

The commander and the minister made speeches and attended to the needs. Later, the well-wishers donated K 1 million to Leshi Township hospital through Head of township Health Department Dr Mya Naing.

The commander also donated computers to a library of the township and publications to the village libraries in the township.

At the ceremony of growing physic nut, Division Manager U Khin Maung Latt explained growing methods of physic nut, products of bio-diesel from its seed and benefits of growing it. Next, the commander and minister planted physic nut and they also observed test-running of bio-diesel-used power tillers.

Tar roads opened in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 21 Jan — To honour the National Constitution, a new Kangyidaunt-Begayat tar road built by Kangyidaunt Township Development Affairs Committee was opened yesterday. It was attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Progress of Border Area and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and others.

Director U Soe Tin of Division Development Affairs Committee, Secretary of Pathein District PDC Lt-Col Hla Thwin and Joint-Secretary U Aung Tin Myint of USDA formally opened the new tar road.

Later the commander and party inspected it that built at a cost of K 18 million. Likewise, new Mahabandoola tar road constructed by Pathein Township Development Affairs Committee was also opened. It cost K 24.3 million from the fund of Township DAC. — MNA

Supply of water to some Wards of Yangon City to be temporarily interrupted

YANGON, 21 Jan — Water and Sanitation Department of Yangon City Development Committee announced that measures for repairing a 66-inch pipe that supplies water to Yangon City are going to be carried out. So, as of today, supply of water will be temporarily interrupted to some wards of Mingalanadon, Insein, Mayangon, Hlme, Kamayut, Hlaingtheticya Industrial Zone, Bahan, Yankin, Tamway, Mingala Taungnyunt, Botataung, Pazundaung and Thakaya townships until 23 January. — MNA
Tripoli, 20 Jan—Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with Libyan Prime Minister Shokri Mohammed Ghanem and Foreign Minister Abdul-Rahman Mohammad Shalgam in the Libyan capital on Thursday.

Both sides highly appraised the development of bilateral relations in the past 29 years and exchanged views on important international and regional issues at the meeting.

They agreed to make joint efforts to promote friendly cooperation in politics, the economy and trade, culture, investment, infrastructure, and other fields, and strengthen consultation within world organizations, such as the United Nations.

The Libyan officials reaffirmed the government’s adherence to the one-China policy, its opposition to “Taiwan independence” and support for China’s reunification cause.

There is only one China in the world.

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan — Two miners have been reported missing after a fire broke out at a coal mine in southern West Virginia, a state mine safety official said on Thursday.

Terry Farley of the West Virginia Office of Miners’ Health Safety said his office had been told the two were missing at the mine in Mollville, but was unable to provide more information.

An emergency services worker in Logan County, West Virginia, told CNN that fire and police officials and two ambulances were sent to the scene. She said the initial emergency calls indicated a conveyor belt fire but that had not been confirmed.

Snow-related death reaches 104 in Japan

Tokyo, 20 Jan — The death toll from snow-related accidents in Japan since December reached 104 Thursday, Kyodo News tally shows, making this winter the deadliest in more than two decades. The latest victim of the bad weather is a 73-year-old fisherman in Hokkaido, who died after falling into the sea Thursday, probably during snow removal around the port, according to local Coast Guard.

Last winter, 88 people were killed in snow-related accidents in Japan. In the 1983-1984 season, the toll is 131.

Heavy snow kept falling in many parts of western and northern Japan since December. Statistics from Japan’s Meteorological Agency show that in the badly-hit Niigata Prefecture, at least seven observation stations record more than two metres of snow by 7 pm (GMT 1000) Thursday.

France to enhance cooperative bonds with Vietnam

HANOI, 20 Jan — France will broaden and deepen cooperative ties with Vietnam in such fields as agriculture, infrastructure, finance and education, French Ambassador to Vietnam Jean-Francois Blarel said here Thursday.

France has defined three priority areas for cooperation with Vietnam between 2006 and 2010 as agriculture and food security, infrastructure development, and production promotion, the ambassador said at a Press briefing.

“France will help Vietnam to develop transport systems, including aviation, railway and urban transport, support its energy development strategy, and strengthen its capacity in protecting water sources, treating rubbish and minimizing air pollution,” Blarel said.

France has pledged to promote Vietnam’s financial services and its small and medium enterprises. Other areas for cooperation with Vietnam in the period include AIDS prevention, manpower training, culture, education and training, and state management, he added.

“France will establish two tertiary education centres in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in October 2006,” he said, noting that they are cooperation projects between two Vietnamese national universities in the two cities and many French universities.

The ambassador said 75-80 per cent of the financial assistance France pledges for Vietnam in the five-year period will go to the three priority areas. France has pledged to offer Vietnam financial aid of 340 million euros (some 411 million US dollars) in 2006, he emphasized.

Two missing in W Virginia mine fire

The incident came several weeks after 12 miners died in a January 2 accident at the Sago mine in central West Virginia. The only survivor, 26-year-old Randal McCloy, has been hospitalized since then having survived nearly 42 hours underground following an explosion.

Terry Farley of the West Virginia Office of Miners’ Health Safety said his office had been told the two were missing at the mine in Mollville, but was unable to provide more information.

An emergency services worker in Logan County, West Virginia, told CNN that fire and police officials and two ambulances were sent to the scene. She said the initial emergency calls indicated a conveyor belt fire but that had not been confirmed.

Foreign Office says British civilian dies in Iraq

London, 20 Jan — A British security agent working for a private company in Iraq has been killed, the Foreign Office said without giving his name.

“A British national, working for a private security company as a contractor, has been killed yesterday (Thursday) in Iraq,” a spokesman said.

He did not give the circumstances of his death.

The Press Association identified the man as 29-year-old Stephen Enright, from southwest England. His death was confirmed by his parents Gloria and Daniel Enright, who live in the city of Exeter and were informed of his death Thursday morning.

Gloria Enright told PA he was a paratrooper “for nine years and served out there for a while.”

She said her son left the paratroopers at the end of last year and continued to work in Iraq as a civilian.

“He did speak of the dangers, especially when he was in the Parachute Regiment, among other units,” she said.—Internet

Terry Farley of the West Virginia Office of Miners’ Health Safety said his office had been told the two were missing at the mine in Mollville, but was unable to provide more information.

An emergency services worker in Logan County, West Virginia, told CNN that fire and police officials and two ambulances were sent to the scene. She said the initial emergency calls indicated a conveyor belt fire but that had not been confirmed.

Two missing in W Virginia mine fire

The incident came several weeks after 12 miners died in a January 2 accident at the Sago mine in central West Virginia. The only survivor, 26-year-old Randal McCloy, has been hospitalized since then having survived nearly 42 hours underground following an explosion.

Terry Farley of the West Virginia Office of Miners’ Health Safety said his office had been told the two were missing at the mine in Mollville, but was unable to provide more information.

An emergency services worker in Logan County, West Virginia, told CNN that fire and police officials and two ambulances were sent to the scene. She said the initial emergency calls indicated a conveyor belt fire but that had not been confirmed.

Two missing in W Virginia mine fire

Two missing in W Virginia mine fire

The incident came several weeks after 12 miners died in a January 2 accident at the Sago mine in central West Virginia. The only survivor, 26-year-old Randal McCloy, has been hospitalized since then having survived nearly 42 hours underground following an explosion.

Terry Farley of the West Virginia Office of Miners’ Health Safety said his office had been told the two were missing at the mine in Mollville, but was unable to provide more information.

An emergency services worker in Logan County, West Virginia, told CNN that fire and police officials and two ambulances were sent to the scene. She said the initial emergency calls indicated a conveyor belt fire but that had not been confirmed.

Two missing in W Virginia mine fire

The incident came several weeks after 12 miners died in a January 2 accident at the Sago mine in central West Virginia. The only survivor, 26-year-old Randal McCloy, has been hospitalized since then having survived nearly 42 hours underground following an explosion.

Terry Farley of the West Virginia Office of Miners’ Health Safety said his office had been told the two were missing at the mine in Mollville, but was unable to provide more information.

An emergency services worker in Logan County, West Virginia, told CNN that fire and police officials and two ambulances were sent to the scene. She said the initial emergency calls indicated a conveyor belt fire but that had not been confirmed.
**Retired military officers push Bush on torture ban**

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan — A group of retired military officers urged President George W. Bush on Thursday to spell out how he will enforce a ban on the torture of US-held prisoners, complaining he muddied the issue in a statement last month.

Bush reluctantly accepted the ban, pushed by Arizona Republican Senator John McCain, after scandals over abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, harsh interrogations at the US prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and reports the CIA ran secret prisons abroad to hold terrorism suspects.

Retired military leaders including Marine General Joseph Hoar, who was US Central Command commander-in-chief, said Bush should clarify his stance after making a statement last month that some experts said signalled he would bypass rules for treatment of detainees when he saw fit, even after he signed them into law.

The 22 former military officers in their letter said Bush's statement, issued on a Friday evening after he signed the bill putting the amendment into law, said the "executive branch shall construe (the law) in a manner consistent with the authority of the President...as commander in chief."

**At least 14 die as record cold wave grips Russia**

MOSCOW, 19 Jan — At least 14 people have frozen to death in Russia this week in a record cold wave which has seen the mercury dip to below minus 30 degrees Celsius.

Most of the fatalities were 10 mostly homeless people in Volgograd since Tuesday morning, and four more have died of exposure in Moscow, health officials and ambulance service spokesman were quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying on Wednesday.

It has been unusually cold in the Russian capital during the past few days, following the arrival of the cold front which blew in from Siberia at the beginning of the week. Temperatures dropped sharply from around the freezing mark on Monday morning to below minus 20 degrees Celsius overnight, but plunged by a further -10°C on Wednesday morning.

The city has introduced a strict energy conservation programme, with power cuts to some factories, and the gas monopoly Gazprom has halved supplies to a number of power plants. Altogether 107 people have died of exposure in Moscow since October, the Interfax news agency reported.

**Six drown after Russian van falls through ice**

MOSCOW, 19 Jan — Six people drowned on Tuesday after the minibus they were travelling in smashed through the ice of a river in central Russia, Interfax news agency reported.

The agency quoted a spokesman for the Emergencies Ministry as saying the bus had been carrying 15 people, but the others managed to scramble out onto the ice near the town of Nizhny Novgorod, 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of Moscow.

The last few days have been unusually cold even for a Russian winter, with temperatures at their coldest since 1979.

**China-ASEAN Association holds reception in Beijing**

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China expects to enhance friendship and cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Gu Xiulian, vice-chairwoman of the China-ASEAN Association, said here Wednesday evening.

Since its establishment, the association has held a series of activities to promote friendship and cooperation between China and ASEAN, said Gu, also vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, at a reception held by the China-ASEAN Association in Beijing.

The China-ASEAN Association, founded on 3 August 2004, aims to promote people-to-people and non-governmental cooperation between China and ASEAN. It helps enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and ASEAN countries by holding various activities, including personnel exchanges, seminars and cultural events.

**At least 14 die as record cold wave grips Russia**

MOSCOW, 19 Jan — At least 14 people have frozen to death in Russia this week in a record cold wave which has seen the mercury dip to below minus 30 degrees Celsius.

Most of the fatalities were 10 mostly homeless people in Volgograd since Tuesday morning, and four more have died of exposure in Moscow, health officials and ambulance service spokesman were quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying on Wednesday.

It has been unusually cold in the Russian capital during the past few days, following the arrival of the cold front which blew in from Siberia at the beginning of the week. Temperatures dropped sharply from around the freezing mark on Monday morning to below minus 20 degrees Celsius overnight, but plunged by a further -10°C on Wednesday morning.

The city has introduced a strict energy conservation programme, with power cuts to some factories, and the gas monopoly Gazprom has halved supplies to a number of power plants. Altogether 107 people have died of exposure in Moscow since October, the Interfax news agency reported.

**About 230 British troops injured in Iraq**

LONDON, 20 Jan — About 230 British troops have been injured in enemy action in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, Defence Secretary John Reid announced.

Of those, 40 suffered life-threatening injuries, Reid said as he toured a military rehabilitation centre for the British armed forces in Epsom, south-east England.

Until now, London has only confirmed that 98 of its servicemen and women have died in Iraq, two-thirds of whom are thought to have died in enemy action.

The government has been accused in some quarters of a cover-up because of the lack of any definitive, publicly-available casualty figure.

But Reid rebutted the claims, saying that categorising the injured, wounded and sick was not a priority for forces in Iraq.

"The important thing, actually, is not the 40 or the 230, the important thing is that every single one of them gets to be given the care they need," he said. "Facilities like this give them that."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman explained later that about 4,000 British personnel had been "medevac-ed" from Iraq to Britain for treatment; the majority were due to illness or "non-battle injuries".

The 230 were classified as "wounded in action". Not all were brought back to Britain. Some received treatment at the British base in Shaibah, south of the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

The 40 were listed as being "VSI" — or "very seriously injured" — and required emergency treatment for life-threatening wounds, the spokesman told AFP.

**Small fire at Pentagon forces evacuation**

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan — A fire broke out in a kitchen at the Pentagon Thursday morning and forced the evacuation of part of the huge building that houses the US Defence Department.

The fire, which broke out in a third-floor kitchen, has been put out, officials at the Pentagon said. No one was injured in the fire.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the fire did not disrupt anything. He said Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was having a breakfast meeting with some members of Congress at the Pentagon in an area unaffected by the fire, and the fire did not disrupt the secretary's schedule.

**Costa Rica finds US couple killed in plane crash**

San Jose (Costa Rica), 19 Jan — Search crews in Costa Rica found the bodies of a US couple on Tuesday after their single-engine airplane crashed against a volcano. Red Cross officials said.

The single engine Beechcraft piloted by a man and his wife, both from Des Moines, Iowa, disappeared on Sunday from San Jose radar screens while flying in the vicinity of Irazu Volcano, some 17 kilometres (11 miles) east of San Jose.

Bad weather prevented authorities from finding the wreckage in rugged mountainous terrain above the tree line until Tuesday, said Red Cross spokesman Manuel Retana.

"The airplane was very broken up," he said.

The couple was arriving from Panama when their airplane, one of a group of 19 small aircraft flown by flying enthusiasts through Central America, disappeared.
Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends religious objects enshrining ceremony in Hlinethaya Township

Yangon, 21 Jan—A ceremony to enshrine religious and sacred objects into Maha Teja Muni Pagoda built on Bawgawadi Hill in Ngwepinle Fisheries Industrial Zone, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District was held at the pagoda this morning, attended by members of the State Peace and Development Council Commander Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Daw Myint Maung Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thaw, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, deputy ministers, well-wishers and others.

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tassa three times. Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Bhaddanta Acinnabhivamsa.

Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas. Later, Lt-Gen Tin Aye presented sacred objects and pivot to the Sayadaws.

After that, Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and officials presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Kalaywa Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and those present on the occasion shared merits gained.

Next, religious and sacred objects and pivot were conveyed clock-wise of the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, ministers and senior military officers placed religious and sacred objects into the pagoda.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party placed pivot atop the pagoda. After that, ‘soon’ was offered to members of the Sangha.

This was followed by cash presentation ceremony in which Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party accepted over K 269.7 million for the pagoda.

The ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanaam Ciram Tinthatu.

For all the national people to strive for promoting Myanmar education which produces human resources, the main forces for national development, to keep abreast of international standard
(In honour of trainees of the 37th batch of University for Development of National Races)

Increased generating of power in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Using abundant water resources in the country, Myanmar is generating electricity through hydel power stations and at the same time natural gas exploited both inland and offshore areas has been used to generate power.

Hydel power stations supply 40 per cent and gas-fired power plants 60 per cent of the daily needs in consumption of electricity in the country. Electricity generated at hydel power stations is used as fundamental energy and at the gas-fired power plants as supporting energy in supplying electricity across the country.

In order to save natural gas, waste heat recovery power plants are generating electricity to supply power. Moreover, using coal, a coal-fired power plant in Tikyit region is supplying power.

Small, medium and heavy diesel-used power plants are being built in the regions which are far from the national grid and border areas. In addition to these facilities wind-powered power plants, waste heat recovery power plants, bio-fuel used power plants and bio-diesel used power plants are being built to fulfil the electricity needs.

Readers may vividly see the increase in the number of power plants built across the country in the time of the Tatmadaw government through the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Power plant</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Natural gas-used power plant</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Waste heat recovery power plant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Steam-powered plant</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>upgraded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Coal-fired power plant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Diesel-fired generator</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, attends …

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, and party observe scenic view of Kandawgyi Natural Gardens. — MNA

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye grows a physic nut plant. — MNA

Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win pours water on a physic nut plant. — MNA

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann pours water on a physic nut plant. — MNA

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo grows a physic nut plant. — MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein pouring water on a physic nut plant. — MNA

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win and Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, planted physic nut plants at designated places.

Similarly, wives of members of the State Peace and Development Council, wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and party planted physic nut plants at designated places.

Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party observed the demonstration of running of trawler-G and other vehicles, stoves and generators using physic nut oil.

Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party viewed the physic nut plants plantation of social organizations in the nursery. Later, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visited Water Plaza of Kandawgyi Natural Gardens. Next, they viewed the scenery of Yangon City and Kandawgyi Natural Gardens from the tower of skill model of Mount Popa. — MNA

Medical seminar of MMA, Ranbaxy held

YANGON, 21 Jan — The 52nd Myanmar Medical Conference took place here this morning at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinphyu Road for the second day. At the second day programme, a seminar on treatments to children infected with HIV/AIDS was held with an address by Head of department of Haematology of Yangon General Hospital Professor Mr Rai Mr.

Managing Director Dr Prakong Vithayasai of Faculty of Medicine Department of Medicine and Allergy Section Head of Clinical Immunology of Chiang Mai University and Associated Professor Dr Khin Nyein Hlaing of Padiatric Department of Yangon Institute of Medicine-2 gave lectures and answered the queries raised by those present.
People in Taninthayi Division express... (from page 16)

company staff, town-selders, local people, and USDA members numbering more than 13,500.

Pro-rector of Myeik University Dr Than Swe chaired the mass rally togethe with Chairman of Kyaw Kyaw Phyco Co Ltd Siri Sudhamma Manjotadithara U Kyar Maung (winner of Medal for Exellent Performance in Ance in Social Field Third Class), ice factory propri-er U Hla Win, U Tin Shein of Thida Fishery Co, and town-selders U Gwon and U Kyi.

Executive Daw Aye Aye Min and Executive Daw Khang Zin Oo of Myeik District USDA acted as MCs.

After the master of ceremonies announced the agenda of the meet- ing, those present saluted the State flag.

Next presiding chairman Pro-rector of Myeik University Dr Than Swe delivered an opening speech. He said out of the 192 nations in the world, 190 have their own constitutions. Myan- mar itself also did have a State constitution in 1947 but it was defunct later. Although a new one was drawn in 1974, it was also again defunct in 1988. As is known to all, the present govern- ment has been taking measures to ensure dis- integration of the Union, prevalence of peace and stability of the State and national development. In doing so, the country needs an endur- ing State constitution.

At the same time, the government is taking steps to march towards the goal of building a peaceful, modern and de- veloped discipline-flour- ishing democratic nation — to ensure that all the people are rightful owner of State sovereignty with State power. In order to shape a modern and de- veloped disciplined na- tion, the seven-point po- litical Road Map of the State was laid down on 30 August 2003. The first step was to reconvene the National Convention that had been adjourned since 1996, he said. That was why it was convened from 17 May to 9 July 2004. Only when the National Convention meets its success com- pletio, can the State achieve its goal in accord with the Road Map. To build a modern and de- veloped nation is to de- velop a discipline-flour- ishing genuine democ- racy. It is also important to have a State constitu- tion that must be compat- ible with the way of life, culture and tradi- tions and geographical conditions. Drawing a constitu- tion should not be completed overnight. Otherwise, it will be like the previous ones caus- ing various kinds of dissi- pation, and as a result, there may occur political repercussions such as dis- integration of national unity. All in all, the chair- man said, all national people are to earnestly support the National Convention.

Myeik WJA mem- ber national literary award winner U Myint Thein (Takthaka Ko Latt) needs an enduring State constitution.

Managing Director U Thein Soe of Kyaw Kyaw Phyco Co Ltd. — MNA

Pho La Min Trading Co Ltd Director U Zaw Zaw Moe. — MNA

Myeik WJA Member U Myint Thein. (Takthaka Ko Latt). MNA

Managing Director U Thein Soe of Kyaw Kyaw Phyco Co Ltd. — MNA

Managing Director of Kyaw Kyaw Phyco Co Ltd U Thein Soe seconded the motion in support of the National Convention.

The motion talked a motion calling for the government to draft a constitution for fu- ture State. All national races are discussing the basic princip- les of the National Convention. New constitution is es- sential for the future State, he said.

Member of Taninthayi Division Women Affairs Organization Daw Thida Ohn sup- ported the National Conven- tion.

She said the Union of Myanmar is drafting a constitution necessary for democratic system. The constitution cannot be written at once and the National Convention is discussing basic prin- ciples for emergence of an enduring constitution. Therefore she supported the motion tabled by U Myint Thein.

Afterwards, rubber grower Dr U Zaw Zaw Moe of Pho La Min Trading Co Ltd seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. The National Convention is the one to serve the in- terest of the people and those opposing the Na- tional Convention look like the ones disturbing the interest of the entire national people and so they will be regarded as the common enemies of the people.

Managing Director of Kyaw Kyaw Phyco Co Ltd U Thein Soe seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said political sta- bility of a country de- pends on the constitution. Therefore, the constitu- tion is the soul of the life of a nation. The national people in the world usu- ally draft their constitu- tions in conformity with geographical conditions, nature, customs, political and economic conditions. He said Myanmar practised two constitu- tions before 1988. Those became null and void after 18 September 1988. The government built the nation with a constitu- tion. It is necessary for the government to draft new constitution for fu- ture State. All national races are discussing the basic prin- ciples at the National Convention. New constitution is essential for the future State, he said.

Member of Taninthayi Division Women Affairs Organization Daw Thida Ohn sup- ported the National Conven- tion.

The National Convention is being held in the interest of the people after reviewing the his- tory and true present con- dition of the nation.

Thus, she praised and honored the role and all the NC del- egates and seconded the motion in support of the National Convention tab- ersed by U Myint Thein. She supported the motion.

The Tatmadaw is to be able to participate in the national political leadership role in the future State”. The Tatmadaw possesses the three capabilities and has been fulfilling five strengths constantly. It has stood by the nation and people in times of emergency. In addition, it has been discharging the national duty throughout the Myanmar history.

He said that on be- half of the participants, he deeply supported the motion tabled by U Myint Thein.

With the unanimous approval of all the par- ticipants, the mass rally announced the support for the National Convention. Those present chanted slogans in cho- rus. The meeting ended at 8.20 am.

MNA
In the colonial days, the colonialists built roads and bridges just to make their administrative machinery and economy smooth. Along the Ayeyawady River that is more than one thousand miles long, they constructed only one bridge. That’s convincing evidence of their intention.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The points that are stipulated in the Region or State Legislative List, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: The points included in the Region or State Legislative List are:

(1) Inland Water Transport
(2) Maintenance of waterways
(3) Water resources and river systems improvement
(4) Carriage by Sea
(5) Major Ports
(6) Lighthouse, lightship and other provisions for the safety of shipping
(7) Ship building, repair and maintenance
(8) Air transport
(9) Aviation, flight control and construction of airfields
(10) Road transport
(11) Railways
(12) Highways and bridges under the management of the Union
(13) Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services
(14) TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services, and
(15) Housing and buildings.

Soe Mya Kyaw: And what are the matters in the Region or State Legislative List, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: The points included in the Region or State Legislative List are:

(1) Ports, jetties and pontoons under the management of the Region or State
(2) Roads and bridges under the management of the Region or State, and
In the past, the civil servants
Kyee Kyee Mya
Bagyi Soe
Kyee Kyee Mya

Then, I think the number of general
Soe Mya Kyaw
Bagyi Soe

In this regard, the government will have to put into motion major projects that call for huge investments and advanced technology. So, there will be Union highway projects and Pyidaungsu bridges that are to be implemented under the management of the Union, and roads and bridges projects to be implemented under the supervision of the Region or State concerned.

Kyee Kyee Mya: In nearly 100 years from the colonial period to 1988, there were only 198 bridges that were 180 feet long or above. After 1988, the government has been able to construct over 200 bridges that are 180 feet long or above. It constructed these facilities in 17 years. More and more such construction projects are to be implemented for the development of the Union, and the Region or State based on the present roads and bridges, and infrastructures.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes. I’d also like to know the matters on the sharing of legislative power regarding the management sector in implementing these projects.

Bagyi Soe: With regard to the management sector, the National Convention has adopted a detailed basic principle that comprises:

1) general administration
2) village land and town land administration
3) tenant
4) narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
5) matters on keeping State’s secrets
6) associations
7) prison
8) border areas development
9) census
10) citizenship, naturalization, and reversion of citizenship, citizenship identification, and national registration
11) titles.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Very well. Go on, please.

Bagyi Soe: In the Region or State Legislative List, a detailed basic principle states:

1) development affairs
2) human settlement and housing development
3) honorary certificates and prizes.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Then, I think the number of general administration matters included in the management sector is large and they are broad.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Matters on the administration are various such as civil administration, village administration, forestry administration, land administration, agricultural administration, mining administration, and naval and air transport administration.

BiSoe: In the exercise of matters on administration by respective authorities, administrative matters are to be practised only within the frame of the provisions prescribed by respective legislative bodies.

Kyee Kyee Mya: In the past, the civil servants responsible for administrative duties are called township officer, deputy commissioner, and secretary. Today, such personnel are called head of township General Administration Department, deputy commissioner of District General Administration Department, and commissioner of State or Division General Administration Department.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The administrative machinery must be strong, swift, continuous, and systematic in building a modern and developed nation, mustn’t it?

Bagyi Soe: To ensure systematic and continuous operation of the administrative machinery, personnel responsible to operate the administrative machinery must be the ones who are qualified with good moral conduct. Implementation of administrative matters should thoroughly cover the whole nation to ensure smooth and systematic operation of the administrative machinery of a modern and developed nation aspired by the people. Therefore, such matters are embodied in Union Legislative List.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The legislative power regarding the village land administration and town land administration is prescribed in the Union Legislative List.

Bagyi Soe: Yes. The aim is to enact law that is in force across the Union. After such a law is enacted, the administrative power to handle matters on the village and town land administration will be vested in the Region or State concerned in line with the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I found matters on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the Union Legislative List. Please, elaborate.

Kyee Kyee Mya: The basic principle “Opium, except as to excise duties thereon” was prescribed in the General Provisions of the Union Legislative List of the 1947 Constitution. In the present era, there have emerged different types of narcotic drugs derived from poppy. So, I think such a provision is included in the Union Legislative List.

Bagyi Soe: Right. It’s certain that Myanmar has been combating narcotic drugs as the national duty that pose grave danger to the entire mankind. Due to such loopholes of the laws, narcotics have been coming into the nation. Therefore, such matters are embodied in Union Legislative List.

Implementation of administrative matters should thoroughly cover the whole nation to ensure smooth and systematic operation of the administrative machinery of a modern and developed nation aspired by the people. Therefore, such matters are embodied in Union Legislative List.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Then, how was the legislative power shared to enact laws on excise and poppy, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: If you study the State Legislative List of the 1947 Constitution, you will notice some major causes of getting poppy cultivation and opium trafficking rooted in some states. In the list, it was stated:

“Duties of excise on the following goods manufactured or produced in the State and countervailing duties at the same or lower rates on similar goods manufactured or produced elsewhere in the Union:

(a) Alcoholic liquors for human consumption.
(b) Opium
(c) Indian hemp and other narcotics:
(d) Medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol or any substance included in item (b) and (c).

Kyee Kyee Mya: Due to such loopholes of the 1947 Constitution, Myanmar has to fight the dangers of narcotic drugs the colonialists and their lackeys left, for generations.

Soe Mya Kyaw: You’re right. Myanmar accepted the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. And it enacted 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law with the aim of tackling the challenges of narcotic drugs. In accordance with the law, Myanmar has been wiping out the dangers of narcotic drugs on its own and in collaboration with UN agencies, and other organizations, hasn’t it?

Bagyi Soe: While Myanmar was putting earnest efforts steadfastly into the anti-narcotics drive, the dangers of psychotropic substances were growing day after day in many of the world nations and they became to endanger the mankind. Therefore, in 1993, the United Nations prescribed a convention to fight illicit transport and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Under that convention, Myanmar promulgated the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law in 1993 and since then it has been making efforts with might and main in the fight against narcotic drugs. Myanmar has an impressive record of achievement in this regard.

Kyee Kyee Mya: As a result, Mogaung Region of Shan State (East) could be announced to be Opium Free Zone. Now, plans are under way to be able to designate many other regions as opium free zones in the nation. The government has been implementing the 15-year plan (1999-2000 to 2013-2014) drug elimination across the nation.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are posing grave dangers to the entire national people, so the government has been making unremittent endeavors to eradicate them as the national duty. And I would say it’s wise that matters on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are enumerated in the Union Legislative List for wiping out the dangers of narcotic drugs in the nation.
It is common knowledge that some western countries in collusion with fugitives and underground agents are blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar to become their minion nation. So, to surmount such challenges, onus is put on men of letters of new generation to exert effectively the might of literature to convince the people of the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The government is effectively applied as a powerful weapon to enhance the bravery and unity of national people and to equip the people with the spirit of sacrificing lives, blood and sweat for regaining independence. After the independence had been regained, men of letters contributed towards the campaign of arming the people with the spirit of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty. It is common knowledge that some western countries in collusion with fugitives and underground agents are blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar to become their minion nation. So, to surmount such challenges, onus is put on men of letters of new generation to exert effectively the might of literature to convince the people of the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. Men of letters are also to organize the people through literature to strengthen the nation’s political, economic and defence powers and to have the people to do their bit wholeheartedly for ensuring perpetual existence of motherland.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min awards Ma Su Zar Ni of Moenyin Degree College who got distinction in Myanmar language.— MNA

his speech said that a trust fund was set up in 1991 to give awards on subjects selected by the Ministry of Education. The awards include library award apart from literary, cultural and scholastic awards. It is heartening that the prize winners help increase the number of new generation youth in literary sphere and literary works serve the interests of the nation and people. The government is implementation the State’s seven-point Road Map for transforming the nation into a discipline-flourishing, modern and developed nation.

As the drive calls for a great number of intellectuals and intelligentia, the government is making efforts with might and main to create opportunity in various sectors for emergence of human resources.

The State has recognized that the good deeds of wellwisher U Ohn Pe contribute towards the drive.

Myanmar literature has showed its mighty power in the nation’s history. Throughout the period of independence struggle, literature was spirit of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty. It is common knowledge that some western countries in collusion with fugitives and underground agents are blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar to become their minion nation. So, to surmount such challenges, onus is put on men of letters of new generation to exert effectively the might of literature to convince the people of the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. Men of letters are also to organize the people through literature to strengthen the nation’s political, economic and defence powers and to have the people to do their bit wholeheartedly for ensuring perpetual existence of motherland.

(See page 11)
Throughout period of independence...

He said the government is holding the National Convention for emergence of an enduring constitution in building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation which the people desire.

The delegates representing the national races are discussing basic principles and detailed basic principles for the constitution. National races in states and divisions support the National Convention. He urged literati to participate in the tasks through their literature. Literature touches people daily. He spoke of the need for the literati to produce quality literature that serves the interest of the people and creative writing and to make efforts for having correct thought, knowledge, belief and concept.

In conclusion, he urged literati to inculcate the people with the spirit to safeguard the nation, to cherish the country, to make the nation develop and to write beneficial literature that serves the interest of the people, to make endeavours for turning out human resources such as patriotic intellectuals and intellectuals and to take part in the tasks for successful implementation of the seven point Road Map.

The Secretary-1 wished the well-being of wellwisher Pakokku U Ohn Pe.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented Pakokku U Ohn Pe life long literary award to Daw Thein Saing (Ma Myat Lay).

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented awards to winners of collected poems and novel genres.

Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Maung Oo and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presented awards to winners of collected short stories, treatise and research genres.

Next, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented awards to outstanding students of universities and basic education high schools.

Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Supervisory Committee U Tint Swe presented awards to winners of library awards.

U Tint Swe spoke words of thanks. On behalf of the winners Daw Thein Saing (Ma Myat Lay) also spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1, the ministers, the deputy ministers and Pakokku U Ohn Pe had photos taken with the winners.

---

Air Bagan to spread its wings

YANGON, 21 Jan — A new aircraft, ATR-72 of the Air Bagan Limited, one of the private airlines of the Union of Myanmar, arrived at the airport this morning. It arrived at Yangon International Airport from France.

It is learnt that the Air Bagan will operate its domestic flights with the use of the aircraft — one Fokker-100, two ATR-42 aircraft and two ATR-72 aircraft. — MNA

---

Air Bagan operating its domestic flights with Fokker-100, ATR-42 and ATR-72. — MNA
China creates 9.7m new jobs for urbanites in 2005

BEIJING, 20 Jan — China provided jobs for 9.7 million urban residents in 2005, compared with 9.8 million in 2004, and helped 5.1 million laid-offs, among which 1.3 million aged 40 to 50, get re-employed, a spokesman with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security said here Thursday.

During the 2001-2005 period, more than 180 million workers laid off from state-owned enterprises found new jobs, said spokesman Hu Xiaoai at a Press conference.

In 2005, he said, the number of unemployed people stood at 8.39 million, with a registered unemployment rate of 4.2 per cent, the same with the previous year.

“This is the third consecutive year China has fully accomplished its goal for employment and re-employment,” said Hu, adding that in the third quarter of 2005, China’s employed population reached 760 million, 40 million more than at the end of 2000.

In 2005, nearly 700 billion yuan (87.5 billion US dollars) was pooled as funds for pension, unemployment, medical treatment, work injury and maternity insurance, with 540 billion yuan paid to beneficiaries, the spokesman said.

As for the goal for 2006, he said, China will work to find new jobs for nine million urban residents and help 5 million of workers laid off from state-owned enterprises get re-employed.

“The registered unemployment rate for urban residents will be controlled below 4.6 per cent in 2006,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Al-Jazeera to open bureau in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 20 Jan — International news channel, Al-Jazeera International, part of Qatar-based Al-Jazeera TV station and satellite network, is planning to open a bureau in Zimbabwe in May as part of its efforts to improve coverage of African issues, an official said on Wednesday.

This comes in the wake of negative publicity that Africa in general has been receiving from Western media organizations.

Reports on Africa often focus on negative issues such as poverty, AIDS, famine, bad governance and corruption.

Al-Jazeera International director of news, Steve Clark, told journalists after meeting Information and Publicity Minister, Tichaona Jokonya, on Wednesday that there were a lot of success stories in Africa yet many nations were often deprived of such information. He said Zimbabwe was an important country in Africa hence the need to establish a bureau in the country.

“Africa is not covered properly by the rest of the world media, People report only on AIDS, famine and war yet there are good news stories here as well as tragedies,” he said. So far the media organization has bureaus in over 30 countries including Algeria, Eritrea, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Kenya, South Africa and Somalia.

Clark said there were prospects to be present in at least 10 to 12 more African countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows Chinese consumers optimistic about future

SHANGHAI, 20 Jan — China’s consumers are highly optimistic about their future, with confidence in their life quality and income, according to the latest survey conducted by the MasterCard International.

The survey found consumers’ confidence index reached 82.3 on the Chinese Mainland. Though their confidence about employment dipped slightly to 78.9, their confidence about stocks rose from 50.1 for the first half of last year to 53.9.

Consumers in Beijing and Shanghai became more confident than six months earlier, with those in Guangzhou the most optimistic among people from Chinese metropolises, according to the survey.

Senior economists with the MasterCard International said strong confidence would buoy continuous consumption on the Mainland, which was very important to a sustained, strong growth in the national economy, particularly in a period when investment tended to slow down. — MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe to host Miss SADC Beauty Pageant

HARARE, 20 Jan — Zimbabwe will host Miss Southern African Development Community (SADC) Beauty Pageant in April, local newspaper The Herald reported on Thursday.

About 28 contestants, two from each of the 14 SADC countries, are set to lock horns for the crown in a pageant that will help Zimbabwe’s tourism prospects.

Bouface Chimedza, the chief executive of Taletell Entertainment, was quoted as saying that Zimbabwe would be greatly honoured to host such an international event. He said the pageant would be an important platform for interaction and cultural exchange among SADC states.

The event should prove wrong those who pointlessly demonize the nation. Important dignitaries from around the region will come together and such interaction is healthy for the growth of relations within the community and the region at various levels,” said Chimedza.

He added that most of the countries in the region had shown confidence in Zimbabwe’s capability to host shows of such magnitude.

The idea was hailed as an important move that would consolidate artistic achievements the region has acquired in the past. — MNA/Xinhua

Malawi investigating kidnapping of Malawian in Iraq

LILONGWE, 20 Jan — Malawi has instituted an investigation into the kidnapping of a Malawian telecommunication engineer believed to have been abducted by armed gunmen in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, Wednesday morning.

“We are investigating the issue and will do everything we can as government to secure his release,” Malawi’s Information Minister and government spokesperson Patricia Kaliati told the Press here.

Kaliati said the government did not have details of what happened to the unidentified telecoms engineer reportedly to have been seized alongside his colleague from Madagascar.

She said Malawi did not have official diplomatic ties with Iraq and had no official exchange programme of experts with it.

The Malawian engineer and his colleague were abducted by gunmen as they attacked their convoy of three vehicles in the western Baghdad suburb of Abu Gharih.

The Iraq Interior Ministry told international media that the gunmen killed six Iraqi guards during the attack on the convoy before abducting the two engineers who were working for the country’s telecoms company, Iraqna, a subsidiary of the Egyptian-owned Orascom Telecom.

Although the Malawian Government does not send professionals to work in Iraq, a number of Malawian telecommunication and construction engineers have privately secured high-paying jobs in the wartorn country. — MNA/Xinhua
Researchers say yoghurt could help stop spread of AIDS

NEW YORK, 20 Jan— “Friendly bacteria” found in yoghurt has been genetically modified by researchers in the US to produce a drug that blocks HIV infection.

Although the bacteria has only been tested in a lab dish, scientists are optimistic the technique could provide a cheaper and more effective way of delivering drugs to fight the spread of AIDS, by getting the bugs to live right where the drugs are needed most, Nature magazine reported.

The bacterium (Lactococcus lactis) the researchers have modified naturally produces lactic acid, and so is used to produce cheese and yoghurt. It is also found in some parts of the human anatomy, including the gut and the vagina, where the acid it produces damps down the growth of other, harmful bacteria, Nature said.

Some “probiotic” yoghurts are loaded with such beastes with the aim of keeping consumers’ guts healthy.

Bharat Ramaratnam, an HIV specialist at Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, Rhode Island, and his colleagues, Nature says, have now altered the genetic make-up of L. lactis so that it generates cyanovirin, a drug that has prevented HIV infection in monkeys and human cells, and is on track for human trials in 2007.

Cyanovirin binds to sugar molecules attached to the HIV virus, blocking a receptor that HIV uses to infect cells.

“It’s basically passive immunization,” said Hannify, a molecular biologist at the Institute of Food Research, Norwich, Britain, and part of the team, is quoted by Nature as saying.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has endorsed a proposal from Agricultural Minister Shoichi Nakagawa to totally halt US beef imports due to the disease risks. with possible mad cow disease.

The bacterium (Lactococcus lactis) the researchers have modified naturally produces lactic acid, and so is used to produce cheese and yoghurt. It is also found in some parts of the human anatomy, including the gut and the vagina, where the acid it produces damps down the growth of other, harmful bacteria, Nature said.

Some “probiotic” yoghurts are loaded with such beastes with the aim of keeping consumers’ guts healthy.

Bharat Ramaratnam, an HIV specialist at Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, Rhode Island, and his colleagues, Nature says, have now altered the genetic make-up of L. lactis so that it generates cyanovirin, a drug that has prevented HIV infection in monkeys and human cells, and is on track for human trials in 2007.

Cyanovirin binds to sugar molecules attached to the HIV virus, blocking a receptor that HIV uses to infect cells.

“It’s basically passive immunization,” said Hannify, a molecular biologist at the Institute of Food Research, Norwich, Britain, and part of the team, is quoted by Nature as saying.

Researchers say yoghurt could help stop spread of AIDS

A northern bottlenose whale, foreground, is watched by river police and animal welfare officials, as it swims by the peace pagoda on the River Thames near Battersea Bridge in London on 20 Jan, 2006. Internet
Arsenal sign Southampton teenager Walcott

**LONDON COLNEY** (England), 21 Jan—Arsenal signed 16-year-old striker Theo Walcott from Southampton on Friday for five million pounds (£8.8 million US dollars), possibly rising to 12 million, the London club said in a statement.

Walcott, rated the finest English prospect since Wayne Rooney, has joined on a junior “scholar” contract and will enter into a professional contract on his 17th birthday on 16 March.

The full 12-million-pound fee is dependent on the number of appearances he makes for Arsenal and, if he makes it, England. He will join Arsenal immediately and wear the number 32 shirt.

“Theo Walcott is a very young player but has already shown in his performances for Southampton that he is a talented player with huge potential,” Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters at the club’s training ground.

“I also like the fact that he is a versatile player who is incredibly dedicated, shows great determination to succeed and is blessed with electric pace.”

Walcott is an England youth international and became the youngest player to represent Southampton’s first team when he came on as a substitute aged 16 years and 143 days.

“He has scored five times in 13 appearances this season,” Walcott said in a statement: “I’m so pleased to be joining Arsenal, a club I have admired for a long time.”

“Coming to Arsenal will give me the opportunity to work with world class players every day and play football at the highest possible level.” Southhampton chairman Rupert Lowe said the club were bitterly disappointed to lose him.—MNA/Reuters

---

**Defending champion Serena Williams out of Australian Open**

**CANNES, 21 Jan—**Defending champion Serena Williams of the United States was axed out of the Australian Open at Melbourne on Friday.

The 13th seed lost her third round match in straight sets to the 17th seed Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova 6-1 and 7-6 (7-5) in one and a half hours.

Hantuchova broke Williams’ serve in the second game of the opening set and twice more after a rain interruption of more than 30 minutes when she was leading 3-1.

She fought back from a break down in the second set and won the match after squandering four match points.

---

**Defender Riise extends Liverpool contract to 2009**

**OSLO, 21 Jan—**Norway defender John Arne Riise signed a new contract with Liverpool on Friday binding him to the English Premier League club to the end of the 2009 season.

Riise, who played in the Liverpool side who won the Champions League final last year after a penalty shootout against AC Milan, had six months left of his existing contract.

“This is a fantastic club that I know through and through,” Riise told Norwegian news agency NTB after signing the extension.

“I am very happy in English football and look forward to continuing my career in Liverpool.”

Riise, 25, joined the English club from Monaco in 2001. He has also played 51 times for Norway.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez told the Liverpool website: “I’m delighted that John has signed a new deal with us. He is a dedicated player, very professional and he has a great mentality. His attitude is first class. He trains well and works hard every day. “He has always done a good job for Liverpool, whether at left back or in left midfield, and it’s great news that we can include him in our plans for the coming years.”—MNA/Reuters

---

**Benitez wants to copy Ferguson’s United success**

**MANCHESTER (England), 21 Jan—**Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez wants to match Alex Ferguson’s exploits with Manchester United by building a new empire at Anfield.

The Spanish coach comes up against the Scot in the Premier League game at Old Trafford on Sunday already boasting a Champions League win in his first season with Liverpool.

He now wants to build on that success and emulate Ferguson, who has also won the European Cup as well as the Double titles, League Cups and the European Cup Winners Cup.

“I would like to be here for 20 years winning a lot of trophies like he has won at Manchester United,” Benitez told reporters on Friday.

While he has to overcome the challenge of Premier League champions Chelsea, Benitez has already closed the gap on United.

Last season Liverpool finished 19 points behind Ferguson’s side, but a win on Sunday will lift them ahead of United with two games in hand.

“I’m happy with the situation this year because, it is true, last season we finished too far away from them,” Benitez said.

“Now we are progressing. Our team is stronger. We are really close with two games in hand and we will try and finish higher than them.”

“Being second with two games in hand would be a positive thing but we still have a lot of games to play and there are a lot of points to play for.”

“It will be difficult to win (on Sunday). The players know each other and I would like to see a good open game, but I am not sure.

“It is hard to keep the ball in games like these and if Manchester United do that, we must play on the counter attack.”—MNA/Reuters

---

**Cagni appointed coach of Empoli**

**Rome, 21 Jan—**Empoli have appointed Luigi Cagni to replace sacked coach Mario Somma, the struggling Serie A club announced on its website on Friday.

Cagni, 55, has previous Serie A experience with Piacenza and Verona but faces a baptism of fire at Empoli, whose first fixture is an away trip to leaders Juventus on Sunday.

“The club is expecting a lot from my experience, but I have not come here to play defensively,” he said.

“Our defence can improve, but with my style of play the team is always looking to score. We’ll try and get something against Juventus — we’ve got nothing to lose,” Somma, who had never before coached a top-flight side, led Empoli to promotion last season when they finished second in Serie B.

They began this season strongly, but have taken just two points in their last seven matches to slip back to 15th, four points above the relegation zone.—MNA/Reuters

---

**General view of the Cairo international stadium during the opening of African Nations Cup 2006 soccer tournament in Cairo on 20 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET**

---

**ACROSS**

1 Assassin 1 Japanese robe
4 Mournful cries 2 The distant past
8 Negative quantity (4,3)
9 Answer 3 Yes, later (anag.)
10 Closest 4 Cleanse
11 Sacred song 5 Sarcasm
12 Shack 6 Shunting track
14 Labour 7 Veracity
15 They flavour beer 8 Unlucky number?
18 Evergreen tree 9 Sausage (sl.)
21 Sausage (sl.) 17 Cowboy skill
23 Previously 19 Dance
26 Soil 20 Large snake
27 Exhibition of 22 Lubricated
28 Confine 24 Gambling card game

**DOWN**

1 Yes, later (anag.) 2 The20th past
3 Japanese robe 3 Yes, later (anag.)
5 Sarcasm 4 Cleanse
6 Shunting track 5 Sarcasm
7 Veracity 6 Shunting track
8 Unlucky number? 7 Veracity
9 Sausage (sl.) 8 Unlucky number?
17 Cowboy skill 9 Sausage (sl.)
19 Dance 17 Cowboy skill
20 Large snake 19 Dance
22 Lubricated 20 Large snake
24 Gambling card game 22 Lubricated

---

Mixed Doubles partners Martina Hingis of Switzerland and Mahesh Bhupathi of India return a shot 20 Jan, 2006, during their match against Wang Yue-tzuoo of Taiwan and Li Na of China in the first round of mixed doubles at the Australian Open Tennis in Melbourne, Australia. Hingis and Bhupathi defeated Wang and Li 6-2, 6-2.—INTERNET
India approves signing of MoU on combating crime with Saudi Arabia

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan — The Indian Government approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Saudi Arabia on combating crime and ratified it, a Press release issued by the government said here on Thursday.

The MoU aims at cooperation in combating crimes in all their forms, in particular international terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and illegal trafficking in items of historical value and artifacts.

The MoU says that the two nations would combat international terrorism in accordance with laws and regulations prevailing in both countries. They would combat illicit production, manufacturing, trading and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and their illicit use.

The MoU also says that the two nations would counterfeiting of currency and securities and the falsification of travel documents and visas. They would combat smuggling of weapons, ammunition and explosives and their illicit trafficking, the MoU says.

India also approved the signing of a convention between India and Saudi Arabia for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion with respect to taxes on income.

The convention, after it enters into force, will stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services from India to Saudi Arabia and vice versa. It will also provide tax stability to the residents of India and Saudi Arabia and facilitate mutual economic cooperation. Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud will be in India with a business delegation between 24 and 27 January. He will be the chief guest during India’s Republic Day function to be held here on January 26. During the time, the two sides will sign some bilateral agreements.

WEATHER

Saturday, 21 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (°C) above normal in Kachin State, (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (0°C), Lashio (3°C) and Ppalaung (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 20-1-2006 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 21-1-2006 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 21-1-2006 was (87%). Total sunshine hours on 20-1-2006 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 21-1-2006 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (18:00) hours MST on 20-1-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21-1-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State and Tanintharyi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-1-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-1-2006: Fair weather.

Earthquake report

(issued at 12:00 hours MST, Today) An Earthquake of Moderate intensity (5.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter (outside Myanmar) about (325) miles Southwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (10) hrs (38) min (14) sec MST on 21st January 2006.
Throughout period of independence struggle, literature enhanced bravery and unity of national people, equipped them with spirit of sacrificing lives, blood and sweat for regaining independence.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaking at the ceremony to present Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards, scholastic awards and Pakokku library awards for 2005. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Jan—The Ministry of Information held the ceremony to present Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards, scholastic awards and Pakokku library awards for 2005 at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township, here, this afternoon, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.
Also present on the occasion were ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, deputy ministers, officials, the chairman of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and CEC members (See page 10)

People in Taninthayi Division express support for National Convention

YANGON, 21 Jan—The Taninthayi Division Union Solidarity and Development Association organized a mass meeting in support of the National Convention at Myoma sports ground on Kanphya Road, Kanphya Ward, Myeik. Myeik District, Taninthayi Division, on 19 January morning.

Present on the occasion were secretaries and executives of division, district and township USDAs, departmental personnel, members of Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organizations, Writers and Journalists Association, Red Cross Society, auxiliary fire brigade, teachers and students from Myeik University and basic education schools, family members of servicemen of local regiments and units, trainees and service personnel of the Nurses Training School, farmers, workers, rubber, oil palm, fishery entrepreneurs, businessmen. (See page 7)

* In the colonial days, the colonialists built roads and bridges just to make their administrative machinery and economy smooth.
* After 1988, the Tatmadaw Government has built bridges on self-reliant basis at the rate of one bridge a month, so 12 bridges a year.