

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 299

12th Waxing of Tabodwe 1367 ME

Thursday, 9 February 2006

Safeguard national solidarity

The history of the Union of Myanmar has been based upon the unity of the national races of the Union. It has been clearly seen that in the times when national unity was dynamic, the strength of the Union of Myanmar was great and solid and her prestige was high, but in the periods when national unity was weak, political, economic, security and social situations and standards declined.

As the unity of all national people was shown firmly at Panglong Conference, the Union of Myanmar became an independent sovereign nation. For perpetuation of sovereignty that has been acquired, all the national people will have to safeguard national solidarity.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
 (From message on the 52nd Anniversary Union Day)



Democracy transition gaining ground together with developing economy, other sectors

Myanmar and International Studies Course No 11 of USDA opens

YANGON, 8 Feb — Myanmar and International Studies Course No 11 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at the Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA training school in Hmawby this morning, with an address by mem-

ber of Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister General Soe Win.

In his address Prime Minister General Soe Win said it is the 11th course on Myanmar and International Studies. The courses conducted by the

USDA have trained new generation youths to become good citizens on whom the State and the association can rely.

The courses and workshops have enhanced the qualifications of the USDA members higher and higher and

they also make them fulfill in both work efficiency and general knowledge and possess a brilliant mind.

He said correct and effective utilization of innovation, efficiency and knowledge in the respective fields for the

(See page 6)



Prime Minister General Soe Win addresses opening of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 11 of USDA. — MNA

USDA members must be good citizens who can lead the nation in realizing the national goal. They must be good organizers who serve as a bridge between the State and the people, heroes who can ward off the danger and good sons and daughters of the nation who are at one with the people.



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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 9 February, 2006

Work hard with knowledge, skills and goodwill

The government is raising the momentum of implementation of regional and national development projects with a view to serving the long-term interests of the entire national people. Improvement of transport infrastructures being the key to social and economic development, the government is building networks of new motor roads and railroads and bridges.

In every region, with social and economic development, goods and passenger traffic has become heavy and therefore steps are being taken to meet the requirements. Construction of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) across the Ayeyawady to link Mandalay and Sagaing is one of the projects being implemented for development of the transport infrastructure.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party, during their tour of Mandalay Division, on 5 February inspected the progress of work on the construction of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) on the east bank where Mandalay is situated and the railroad being built over the motor road. The four-lane bridge is being built simultaneously on both sides of the river and going to be 5,614 feet long. The approach roads on both sides are almost complete. The overpass at mile post 390/7 of Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad is going to be 75 feet wide and 115 feet long and is also 90 per cent completed. Out of 1,126 metres of iron beams needed for the bridge, a stretch of 886 metres has been installed. Therefore, the construction of the bridge is 85 per cent complete.

We would like to call on engineers and staff building the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) to work hard with their knowledge, skills and goodwill in order that the bridge will meet the set standards, be durable and serve the long-term interests of the people.



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun gives instructions on banking services to officials. — F&R

People's Desire

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

59th Anniversary Union Day Commemorative Booths, Shops opened in Yangon South District

YANGON, 8 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day Commemorative Booths and Shops of Yangon South District were opened in front of Thihadipa Sports Ground in Thanlyin Township yesterday evening.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win cut the ribbon to open the booths and shops.

Also present on the occasion were Thanlyin Station Commander Captain Tin Oo (Navy), Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department, local



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win formally opens 59th Anniversary Union Day Commemorative Booths and Shops. — MNA

authorities, departmental officials and social organization members.

The commander

and guests visited the booths and personal goods shops of Township Women's Affairs Organi-

zation and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

MNA

F&R Minister inspects banking services of MEB in Mandalay

YANGON, 8 Feb — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun together with Vice Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Managing

Director of Myanma Economic Bank U Myat Maw and officials inspected the new places of Myanma Economic Bank, Division Manager Office and No 2 MEB (branch) in Mandalay on 6 February and

heard reports on banking services by the officials. The minister gave instructions on systematic measures for the banking services. At Pension Department of Upper Myanmar and Division Office in

Mandalay, the head of the Mandalay Division Pension Department and officials reported to the minister on functions of the department, and the minister gave instructions.

MNA

Union Day delegates, cultural troupes visit industrial zones

YANGON, 8 Feb — The Union Day delegates and cultural troupes who are here to attend the 59th Anniversary Union Day ceremony visited Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha Industrial Zones today under the arrangements of the Union Day Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee.

When the Union Day delegates and cultural troupes arrived at Fame Pharmaceutical Factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, Managing Director Dr Khin Maung Lwin and officials explained the growing of the herbal plants and procedure of medicine production.

The Union Day delegates and cultural troupes proceeded to Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone and heard the explanations about the history and procedure of the factory.

They viewed round the factory dividing into four groups. — MNA



Union Day delegates and cultural troupes visit Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone. MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှ အပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလအတွက်
(၁၂-၂-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၆-၂-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့

WHO opens meeting on worldwide tobacco control

GENEVA, 7 Feb—The World Health Organization (WHO) opened a meeting here on Monday to discuss specific steps on the implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

The FCTC, which took effect on 27 February, 2005 after being signed by some 168 WHO members, aims to take concrete measures worldwide to reduce tobacco use and tobacco-related death.

More than 110 countries are attending the meeting — the first session of the governing body of the FCTC, namely the Conference of the Parties (COP), which serves as the authority to oversee, monitor and evaluate progress of the FCTC.

During the two-week meeting, delegates will take decisions in technical, procedural and financial matters relating to the implementation of the FCTC, such as the establishment of the permanent secretariat, funding and financial

support and monitoring and reporting on implementation progress, and the possible elaboration of protocols. "This group has already changed history," Dr Lee Jong-wook, director-general of the WHO, told the meeting.

"The convention is something that we all committed to. Its provisions are bold. They are based on knowledge of what is effective. We will make it work," he said.

Since its entry into force, the FCTC has attracted a high number of parties and has become one of the most widely embraced treaties in the history of the United Nations.

Many of the countries joining this first COP session have already

implemented some of the measures in the convention.

Ireland, Norway and Spain, for example, have recently banned smoking in indoor public places.

Besides, India has comprehensive tobacco advertising bans. Brazil, Canada, Thailand and Singapore print graphic warnings on cigarette packages.

MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း



Iraqi soldiers are seen through the shattered windshield of a car at the scene of a bomb attack in Baghdad, on 7 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

US defence industry frets about high Iraq spending

NEW YORK, 7 Feb—A surprising group of protesters is starting to voice concerns about the high level of spending on the US occupation of Iraq: the defence industry.

While many companies benefit from supplying vehicles and guns to US troops in Iraq, some defence firms and industry experts are concerned that money spent on Iraq is taking away from more lucrative, longer-term multibillion-dollar programmes.

The result is some confusion over the Pentagon's strategy, and fears that the United States will end up with a "hollow force" if it doesn't fulfill its modernization plans. "We're spending 6 billion US dollars to seven billion US dollars a month in Iraq — that's not efficient spending of defence money," said Frank Lanza, chief executive of defence company L-3 Communications

Holdings Inc, in an interview last week.

Other defence contractors are thinking the same thing, even if they are not saying it in public, a leading defence analyst added. The United States needs to scale down involvement in Iraq and pare back its uniformed forces to keep the large, so-called "transformational" programmes on track, according to L-3's Lanza, founder of the Pentagon's ninth-largest supplier.

"We are in transformation — we can't afford all the platforms we started," he said. "So two things have to happen:

Iraqi (US troop level) has to come down, and the US uniformed military is going to be reduced by about 100,000."

That would mean a cut of about 7 per cent for the active US uniformed force of about 1.4 million. There are 138,000 US troops in Iraq.

If high Iraq costs persist, large programmes like the Army's Future Combat Systems modernization plan, led by Boeing Co, and Lockheed Martin Corp's state-of-the-art Joint Strike Fighter jet, are likely to be scaled back or stretched out, industry analysts said.

MNA/Reuters

French mountaineer missing in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 Feb—Renowned French mountaineer Jean Christophe Lafaille has been missing for the last 11 days in course of climbing Mt. Makalu in eastern Nepal, state-run Radio Nepal reported here on Tuesday.

"40-years-old Lafaille, who has already scaled 14 peaks higher than 8,000 metres successfully, is out of contact since 27 January after reaching to a height of 7,600 metres on peak at Sankuwasabha District," the radio said.

It was informed during a Press conference organized here by his wife Mrs Lafaille in association with French Embassy on Monday, the radio said.—MNA/Xinhua

At least 7 Iraqis killed in twin bombings

BAGHDAD, 8 Feb—At least seven Iraqis were killed and 20 others wounded as two makeshift bombs went off successively in a crowded market in central Baghdad on Tuesday.

"A bomb detonated near a kiosk selling CDs in the al-Haraj popular market in the Bab al-Sharji area, wounding several civilians. Another bomb went off after a police patrol reached the scene," an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Police sources said that at least seven Iraqis were killed and about 20 others including five policemen wounded in the two bombings, which occurred a few minutes apart.

Guerillas frequently target Iraqi police and have used successive bombings to maximize the casualties.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police officers inspect the site following two explosions in central Baghdad, on 7 Feb, 2006. Two bombs exploded minutes apart near a central Baghdad square on Tuesday.—INTERNET

15 killed as bus catches fire in central India

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb—At least 15 people were killed and 25 injured when a bus caught fire in central India's Madhya Pradesh Monday, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

A passenger had been carrying a cooking gas cylinder and a tin of inflammable chemical on the crowded bus and the tin suddenly exploded, probably due to a cigarette stub, when the bus was passing the Morena District, said a local police officer.

There were 40 passengers in the bus and at least 15 died on the spot while 25 sustained burn injuries, he said.

The incident took place near Kailaras police station and the municipal corporation's office. It is reported that the government apparently failed to react to control the fire though being informed by the public.—MNA/Xinhua

Travellers held up at C China airport by heavy snow

WUHAN, 7 Feb—Travellers were held up for nearly four hours on Sunday morning at the airport of Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, due to heavy snow, according to sources with the airport's aerial control centre.

Snowfall began in Wuhan from Saturday night and turned heavy on early Sunday morning, while the local temperature dropped to one degree below zero Celsius. All flights at Wuhan Tianhe Airport were suspended till 11:30 am, when the airport reopened runways and sent workers to defrost ice on the aircraft's surface.

Two defrosters were put into use to ensure smooth operation of six flights, said the sources.

MNA/Xinhua



South Korean models pose with the LG Electronics' upgraded flat panel TV equipped with enhanced HD-Digital Video Recorder capable of recording all of the soccer World Cup final matches in a launch event in Seoul, on 7 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

ဝက်ပူပွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်ဖွား

Annan urges oil producers to champion clean energy

DUBAI, 7 Feb— United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Monday for an end to pollution of the environment and urged oil producing nations to spearhead efforts to develop clean energy.

Speaking in the United Arab Emirates, a major oil producer, where he received the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, Annan said the world was doing too

little to safeguard the environment by continued reliance on fossil fuel.

"Protecting the environment has been considered an afterthought, or even a luxury ... Prosperity built on destruction is not prosperity at all, but rather only a temporary reprieve from tragedy. There will be little peace, and much greater poverty, if this assault continues," he said.

Many scientists blame emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide for global warming, which is melting glaciers, raising sea levels and causing more intense storms and floods.

Major polluters — the United States, China, Japan, India, South Korea and Australia — earlier this month pledged to invest only millions of dollars to develop clean energy without setting any targets to cut greenhouse gases.

Annan said oil-rich Middle East countries, the

world's main suppliers of oil, were well-placed to push forward efforts for less reliance on fossil.

"Doing so would be prudent self-interest as well as a mark of solidarity with those less well off," he said. "I hope that through your investments and leadership, you will become a primary source of alternative energy in this one."

The United States and Australia refuse to sign the Kyoto Protocol, which obliges about 40 developed countries to cut their emissions by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels during 2008-2012. The two countries claim Kyoto's mandatory greenhouse gas cuts would threaten economic growth.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said in 1990 that stabilizing carbon dioxide concentrations needed eventual emission reductions of 60-80 per cent.

MNA/Reuters

New e-banking rules to take effect in China next month

BELING, 7 Feb— Two new rules for the rising electronic banking (e-banking) business issued by China's banking watchdog will take effect on 1 March this year.

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) said here on Monday that it has just issued the management rules and the security evaluation guidance on e-banking business in line with international regulations. A spokesman with the CBRC said the

two new rules will affect the e-banking business operated by all Chinese banks and all kinds of financial companies set up in China.

The management rules on e-banking business are divided into 99 items under nine chapters, covering procedures for

application, risk management, out sourcing business, trans-national business and the relevant legal obligations.

The security evaluation guidance on e-banking is divided into 57 items under five chapters, which are focused on specific security evaluation

activities.

The spokesman said the two new rules on e-banking in China will help enforce government supervision over the e-banking market and improve the service of the banking sector to meet the rising demand from consumers.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ population reaches 4.12 million

WELLINGTON, 7 Feb— New Zealand's population reached 4.12 million in the year to December 2005, which was a 0.9-per-cent increase on the previous year, said Statistics New Zealand on Tuesday.

It said population growth last year was slower than the previous year, due to a fall in net long-term migration.

In 2004 the population grew by 1.1 per cent.

Statistics New Zealand said the rate of natural increase, the difference between births and deaths, grew slightly more in 2005 than in 2004.

The statistics also show that the make-up of the population changed over the last decade. The number of children aged zero to 14 years increased by 2.6 per cent between 1995 and 2005.

But in the last two years of the decade there was a noticeable drop in the number of children, said Statistics New Zealand. — MNA/Xinhua

Anhui Province provides free housing to needy AIDS patients

HEFEI, 7 Feb— Impoverished AIDS patients in East China's Anhui Province will be housed in government-funded residences, according to local government sources.

The province has vowed to step up efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to offer more care to the victims. It has pledged to arrange housing for needy AIDS patients and to provide drinking water facilities for HIV/AIDS families.

In addition, the provincial government has promised to build at least one road in key HIV/AIDS-stricken villages and to ensure adequate medical care and living subsidies for HIV/AIDS infected people.

MNA/Xinhua

12 tourists killed in bus crash in Rome

ROME, 7 Feb— Twelve people were killed late Monday when a bus loaded with tourists plunged into a ravine in northwestern Rome, the ANSA news agency reported.

The bus carrying 31 tourists was returning to their hotel from Monte Mario, one of the capital's hills, when the accident happened shortly before midnight, according to the reports. Nine other people were injured and four of them in serious condition, rescue workers said. — MNA/Xinhua

Possible third bird flu death eyed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Feb— Fears that bird flu may have spread to southern Iraq rose on Tuesday when authorities announced they were investigating whether a teenage pigeon seller had died of the virus — Iraq's third suspected case.

In Amarah, 180 miles southeast of Baghdad, health officials said 14-year-old Muhannad Radhi Zaouri died on Sunday. His blood was being tested for bird flu, said Dr Haider Abdul-Ridha, director of the communicable disease department at Amarah health department.

Iraq's first confirmed human case of the deadly

H5N1 strain was a 15-year-old girl who died 17 Jan in Kurdistan. The girl's uncle died 27 January, and health authorities are waiting to learn if he also contracted bird flu.

It could take up to 10 days for results from the Baghdad laboratory that is trying to determine whether Zaouri died of the strain. Authorities removed all the

pigeons from the boy's house — including some that later died — and are testing the birds.

A US official in Baghdad said if the Amarah death is confirmed as bird flu, it could indicate that migratory birds unaffected by the virus were still capable of spreading a along their flight path.

Internet



Iraqi government workers carry sacks of confiscated fowls in a village in Sulaimaniya, north of Baghdad, on 7 Feb, 2006. — INTERNET

AOL, Yahoo to test fee-based e-mail next few months

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Feb — America Online and Yahoo Inc will test their proposed fee-based e-mail delivery service over the next few months, targeting large companies, to ensure that legitimate messages bypass spam filters, a Yahoo spokeswoman said on Monday.

The service, provided in partnership with privately held Goodmail Systems, would allow the world's two largest e-mail providers to certify e-mail and better protect its customers from online fraud, spam and phishing attacks, Goodmail Chief Executive Richard Gingras said.

"The main point we want to get across is that you cannot pay to spam or that consumers will have to pay to receive e-mail," Gingras said.

The service will be

optional on AOL, a Time Warner Inc unit, and Yahoo. Fees would only apply to senders such as large financial institutions where it was critical for e-mails to arrive promptly to the intended recipient, Gingras emphasized.

By serving two of the three biggest providers of consumer e-mails, Gingras said, the partnership marked an important step in protecting businesses and consumers from spam and other forms of unwanted electronic messages.

AOL plans to introduce

the service, which would charge fees of about a quarter of a cent per certified e-mail, in the next few weeks with Yahoo following a few months later, Gingras said.

Yahoo spokeswoman Karen Mahon said her company planned to accept certified e-mail from Goodmail to compliment Yahoo's existing range of e-mail services.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam's external debt rate drops

HANOI, 7 Feb — Vietnam's foreign debt rate has fallen to 34 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) now, according to local newspaper *Vietnam Investment Review* on Monday.

Vietnam's GDP is estimated at 58 billion US dollars this year, and its external debts will be around 20 billion dollars, a report of the Vietnamese Finance Ministry was quoted as saying.

"Such an amount is actually small in comparison to the safe limit of less than 50 per cent stipulated by international financial institutions, and reflects the economy's sustainable growth," said Vice-

Finance Minister Tran Van Ta.

According to ratings of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and international rating institutions, Vietnam's foreign debt is relatively sustainable and manageable.

"Vietnam's total foreign debts are at low level, amounting to 34 per cent of GDP, and 46 per cent of total receipts in current accounts, of which 80 per cent come

from the public sector.

"The majority of the sector's debts are preferential loans," governor of the State Bank of Vietnam, Le Duc Thuy, said, noting that the country's foreign currency reserves, which have doubled so far, are enough to pay foreign debts.

Foreign donors have pledged to give Vietnam 3.7 billion dollars of official development assistance (ODA) in 2006, up from 3.4 billion dollars in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Paraguayan police seize large quantities of drugs

BUENOS AIRES, 7 Feb — Paraguayan police have seized four tons of marijuana in two operations in border areas with Brazil, reports from Paraguay said on Monday.

Police sources, quoted by the Paraguayan Press, said that one raid took place in a ranch near Pedro Juan Caballero, some 550 kilometres northeast of the capital Asuncion, where police seized over three tons of drugs and arrested two Paraguayan men.

The second operation occurred in Guaira Falls, on the Parana River, also on the border with Brazil, where police seized over a ton of marijuana and arrested four people.

The drugs were intended for the Brazilian market, the police said.

MNA/Xinhua



Cars run on a snow-covered road in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province on 7 Feb, 2006. The heavy snowfall from 6 Feb brought a lot of trouble to transportation.—INTERNET

China's medical product export up nearly 30%

BEIJING, 7 Feb — In 2005, China exported medical products worth 13.8 billion US dollars, up 28.1 per cent over the previous year, and imported medical products totalling 11.84 billion US dollars, up 18.5 per cent, the Ministry of Commerce reports.

China exported 12.97 billion dollars worth of western medicine, which accounted for 94 per cent of its total medicine export over the year, according to the ministry.

Meanwhile, the export volume of raw-material western medicine made up 57.3 per cent of China's medicine export, reaching 7.9 billion dollars, and that of medical equipment made up 26.7 per cent, reaching 3.68 billion dollars.

China's export of biochemical medicine leaped 50.8 per cent to 480 million dollars over the year, the fastest growth among all kinds of western medicine export.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian private Jet Airways plans to raise \$800m

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb — Indian private carrier Jet Airways Saturday announced its plans to raise 800 million US dollars from the overseas and domestic markets and permit foreign funds to hold up to 49 per cent in the company's capital, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

According to company sources, the money will

be used to finance the purchase of their rival Air Sahara for 510 million US dollars, fund fleet acquisition and raise cash for the day-to-day operations of the airline.

The public offerings would be subject to necessary approvals, including a nod from shareholders, the sources added.

The 800 million US

dollar offer could be in the form of issuing shares in the domestic markets or an international offering of global depository receipts, American depository shares or foreign currency bonds, Indian stock exchanges were told.

The 800 million US dollars includes a green shoe option. The board also authorized itself to borrow money up to a total outstanding debt of 150 billion Rupees (3.4 billion US dollars).

Jet Airways had announced last month that it would buy rival Air Sahara to make the carrier India's largest — even larger than state-owned Indian Airlines — with a fleet of 90 aircraft.

The airline had also announced at the Paris Air Show last year that it would buy a large fleet of Boeing aircraft for some 2.53 billion US dollars, with deliveries set to commence from mid-2007. — MNA/Xinhua

Portugal seizes cocaine from ship at sea

LISBON, 7 Feb — Portugal's Navy has intercepted a Panamanian-flagged cargo ship at sea with two tons of cocaine on board, police said on Monday, the latest in a string of drug busts by authorities. The ship, called the *Luna del Mar*, was intercepted early on Sunday and the cocaine was found in its hold, police said in a

statement. The ship's crew was arrested.

Last week police seized four tons of cocaine in a joint operation with Spain, and in November last year Portugal made its biggest-ever cocaine bust, seizing 6.1 tons of the drug at a Lisbon warehouse.

MNA/Reuters

OIE says Iraq finds bird flu outbreak in poultry

PARIS, 7 Feb — Iraq has reported an outbreak of bird flu among poultry in Sulaimaniya, the province where a teenager died from the disease last month, the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) said on Monday.

The Paris-based OIE said poultry in two villages in Sulaimaniya had tested positive for H5 bird flu. Further tests were under way. Sulaimaniya is an area in the north of Iraq known to be frequent-

ed by migratory birds and is near the border with Turkey. An Iraqi girl died in the area on 17 January, and more people there were being tested for possible infection.

"All outbreaks in poultry occurred in backyard flocks which generally included chickens, geese, turkeys and ducks," the OIE said, quoting information received from the ministry of agriculture in Baghdad on 3 February.—MNA/Reuters



Iraqi policemen inspect a damaged police vehicle after a roadside bomb attack targeting a police patrol in Basra, 550 km (342 miles) south of Baghdad on 7 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Democracy transition gaining ground...

(from page 1)

interest of the society depends on belief and concept of the people. Wrong belief and concept cause disadvantages to the society. Efficiency, belief and knowledge are to be combined with reasoning power correctly, he said.

That is why, he said, discussions on national characters and prestige of the nation and the people, value of community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, solidarity and the Union are made at the courses organized by the association.

The Union, made up of 14 divisions and states, has existed since the time immemorial and the national races did not live in isolation from others. It is a noble tradition that they have been living in unity and fraternity in the various regions.

It is also the duty bestowed by history for today's citizens to hand down noble traditions and good heritage to fu-

ture generation, he added.

He said the trainees must correctly understand the circumstances of long history, noble traditions, servitude, struggle for independence, external interference after regaining independence and know the political conditions of the country, political geographical conditions and natural resources.

He also said that they must realize the meaning of national policy such as Our Three Main National Causes, twelve objectives and four-point People's Desire laid down by the government. Moreover, they must understand the essence of independent and active foreign policy, he added.

Only when they fully know these facts, can the national objective to emerge a peaceful modern developed democratic nation be implemented successfully.

USDA members must be good citizens who can lead the nation in realizing the national goal. They must be good



Prime Minister General Soe Win cordially greets trainees of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 11. — MNA

organizers who serve as a bridge between the State and the people, heroes who can ward off the danger and good sons and daughters who are at one with the people.

The present course will realize the objectives of the association and the trainees should note all the lectures at the course seriously as they are the ones who will create the future of the State.

Human resources

play a vital role in establishing a new nation and system. Educated persons like intellectuals and intelligentsia should possess thinking power that can differentiate right and wrong.

The citizens who love stability and tranquillity should be increased quantitatively and qualitatively.

The government is in the process of laying down and implementing education promotion projects and health care projects. The training programmes of the association are inclusive in the human resources development plan.

Helping promote the rural socio-economy covering many other sectors, the rural development project is to nurture a large array of rural

human resources in all aspects.

The Head of State in his guidance said, "As physic nut oil can be used as bio-diesel to run farm machinery, generators, pumps and trawler-G vehicles, physic nut farming should be accepted and carried out as a rural development task.

As the association has been making all-out efforts for rural progress, it will have to help widen the scope of physic nut farming project till covering a large number of villages.

Thanks to the government's harmonious implementation of the rural development project, border areas development project and 24 special regions development project, the whole nation is seeing equitable

progress, while the regional development gap is narrowing.

Together with the advancing economic, social, transport and other sectors, democracy transition is also gaining ground at present.

With the participation of national races and people of all walks of life, the National Convention, the turning point in Myanmar's democracy transition, has been adopting detailed basic principles and basic principles required for the nation-building task.

Progress can be seen in all sectors thanks to the cooperation and understanding among the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. As democracy transition process meets the nation's objective conditions, it will surely achieve success.

The association members are to play their own part in adopting a new system in accord with the objectives.

They will have to nurture themselves by making continuous studies, based on firmer conviction and wider knowledge.

General Soe Win cordially greeted the trainees. Trainees totalling 211 from states and divisions are attending the course.

Also present on the occasion were the secretary-general of USDA, joint secretary-general, members of the secretariat, CEC members, guests, course in-charge, supervisors and trainees.

Progress can be seen in all sectors thanks to the cooperation and understanding among the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. As democracy transition process meets the nation's objective conditions, it will surely achieve success.

Leprosy Elimination Day observed in Yangon Division

YANGON, 8 Feb — Jointly Organized by Yangon Division Health Department and Yangon

Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, the ceremony to mark the Lep-

rosy Elimination Day took place at the hall of the Yangon Division Health Department on

West Race Course Street in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Head of Yangon

Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint read out the message sent by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai explained participation of MCWA members for eliminating leprosy.

Dr Tin Maung Soe of Leprosy Control Project reported on tasks of eliminating leprosy in Yangon Division.

After the ceremony, they observed documentary photos and posters on movements of eliminating leprosy.

MNA



Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai speaking at the ceremony to mark Leprosy Elimination Day of Yangon Division. — MNA

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe greets Union Day delegates, cultural troupe members

YANGON, 8 Feb — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, greeted Union Day delegates and national race cultural troupes who have arrived here to attend the 59th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony and the dinner, at No 1 Transit Centre on Bayintnaung Road, here, this afternoon.



Lt-Gen Myint Swe cordially greets Union Day delegates and cultural troupes at No 1 Transit Centre. — MNA

At 2 pm, Lt-Gen Myint Swe arrived at No 1 Transit Centre where he was welcomed by mem-

bers of the 59th Anniversary Union Day Management Committee, Union

Day delegates and cultural troupes. Lt-Gen Myint Swe cordially

greeted the Union Day delegates and cultural troupe members. — MNA

59th 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.
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

A&I Minister tours Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 8 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected agricultural tasks in Ayeyawady Division on 3 and 4 February.

On arrival at Myokwin river water pumping station in Hinthada Township, the minister heard reports by officials from the Water Resources Utilization Department and the Myanma Agriculture Service on work progress, supply of water from the canals to summer paddy fields, lands to be put under rice and water supply for agricultural purposes.

The minister instructed them to fulfil the requirements and provide agricultural methods for meeting the target of per acre yield. He viewed the main canal and water supply and gave instructions on completion of digging canals, efforts to accomplish the tasks, growing physic nut to produce biodiesel and distribution of agricultural methods and milling processes to the

people.

Next, he inspected summer paddy fields in Ingapu Township, summer paddy fields of 12,600 acres, Nankathu canal and conduit pipe in Kwinkauk region, and

regional development.

The dam benefits more than 350 acres of summer paddy fields.

On 4 February, the minister inspected work progress of the dam, control tower, spillway, sup-

ply of water through the irrigation system and earth work.

He looked into physic nut plantations around the dam and called for success of cultivations. — MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects progress of Ma Mya Dam Project in Myanaung Township. — A&I

renovated primary school at Taingtaya Village in Ingapu Township.

At the Ma Mya Dam Project in Hmyinwataung region, Myanaung Township, officials presented facts about completion of damming Ma Mya Creek, water supply and growing of summer rice and physic nut.

The minister called for completion of the facility this year for re-

Secretariat member of USDA discusses development tasks

YANGON, 8 Feb — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and CEC Members Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint held a meeting with secretaries and joint secretaries of Mandalay Division and Sagaing Division USDAs and secretaries and executives of District USDAs at the Mandalay Division USDA office in Mandalay on 5 February afternoon.

The secretaries and executives of USDAs of Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions reported on participation of USDAs of respective divisions, districts and townships in the tasks for organizational, education, health, social affairs and rural development being undertaken by the Association.

The USDA secretariat member and CEC members explained tasks to be carried out by USDAs at different levels.

MNA

Donate blood

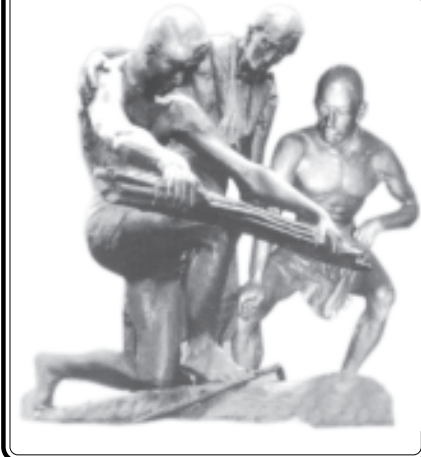
၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက်
ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ပြည့်
နေ့ရက် - ၈-၂-၂၀၀၆ မှ ၁၆-၂-၂၀၀၆
အချိန် - နံနက် ၈ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၁၇:၀၀ နာရီ
နေရာ - တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ၊ ဦးစိစာရလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
(မည်သူမဆို အခမဲ့လာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။)

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

Honour Union Day objectives as national duty

Ahtet Min Hla Nyunt Aung

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



The age-old tradition of the over 100 national races of the Union is the practice of living in weal or woe and cherishing unity and amity they have always preserved and strengthened from time immemorial. Throughout the history, Myanmar has witnessed the flourishing of Union Spirit — oneness, sympathy and bonds of friendship — in most of the times.

And since yore, not any one of the regions has been home to an ethnic group, but a place where various national races have been residing together with open arms and enduring unity.

True patriotism means the fostering of Union Spirit in any place or region, and only the Union Spirit is the genuine patriotism all will have to safeguard. Union Spirit is the foundation of Our Three Main National Causes.

Union Spirit in other words is nationalism that represents no single organization, race nor ideology. Likewise, “Our Three Main National Causes” — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — calls upon every person to do as a national duty.

What the nationalities should do at present is to further strengthen the foundations of Union Spirit, as only the strong Union Spirit can ensure territorial integrity and perpetuity of the Union.

But the task of promoting and propagating

Union Spirit involves practical work as thoughts and ideology alone cannot do the job. The government’s implementation of the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special region development projects and rural development project in parallel for equitable progress of the whole nation has helped foster Union Spirit among the people living in every nook and cranny.

Flourishing of Union Spirit is indispensable for practical integration of spiritual and intellectual development programmes of youth and regional development projects. The government has set up special development regions in which opportunities are opened up for every youth to pursue higher education, as human resources development plays a key role in building the nation.

In the future, technicians and academics produced by the special development regions covering the entire nation will build the required regional development infrastructures. The ultimate aim of producing intellectuals and intelligentsia region-wise is that those qualified human resources in the end will become the core strength for progress of the whole Union. Equitable development of the Union depends on human resources development.

Infrastructures including dams, industries etc. which the government is building for ensuring a healthy regional economy are key to developing human resources that will see to fulfilling all the requirements in laying a firm base for every sector.

All the national races will have to join in the nation-building endeavours with the conviction that the Union will perpetuate as long as they can combine the results of the sound foundations and the outcome of the flourishing Union Spirit.

The government is in the process of implementing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic state that will guarantee peace, stability and prosperity. The first priority towards this end is stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order; the second, robust national economy; and the third, human resources development and higher level of education for the public.

We are now enjoying the fruits of success thanks to the joint endeavours of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw in implementing the three requirements, with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

The united strength of the entire people is the integral force to ward off the dangers of internal and external saboteurs who are jealous of developments in

Hands joined firmly in Myanmar

- * Those who love Myanmar
Who could that be?
They’re those in Myanmar
Making their habitat
From the fourteen constituent States and Divisions
Rallying together and building
The mass of brethren
In spirit of loving-kindness
All enamoured.
- * Those who do good to Myanmar
Who could that be?
Don’t ever test your touch
For the non-disintegration of habitat
Firmly resolved to sacrifice life
If enemies of all sorts try to encounter
Will smash to smithereens and send dust flying
The brave flag distinctly flown
Tenacity and strength like the lion’s
Good and true, brave Union citizens
Because they are all patriots.
- * Those Myanmar can rely on
Who could that be?
Those who don’t rob another’s food
Those who don’t cross into another’s domain
Those who don’t sleep on another’s land
If there are those who’d purposely transgress our land
We’ll act amply when need be
We’ll be the first to hit
The Myanmar relies on their own
Alerting with lots of goodness
We always rely.

(Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day)
Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)

the country.

As the 59th Anniversary Union Day is just around the corner, I would like to urge the entire national people to accept the following Union Day objectives as work guidelines to reach the national goal.

- a discipline-flourishing democratic state which will guarantee progress and peace and stability and perpetuation of the Union;
- 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 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;
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

(Translation: TMT)

Flourishing of Union Spirit is indispensable for practical integration of spiritual and intellectual development programmes of youths and regional development projects. The government has set up special development regions in which opportunities are opened up for every youth to pursue higher education, as human resources development plays a key role in building the nation.

Kayah State witnesses sustained progress in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Our national brethren such as Kayah, Kayan, Mono, Kayaw, Yintale, Gekho and Geba are residing in Kayah State in harmony with Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Pa-O, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Intha, etc.

Therefore, Kayah State with an area of 4,530 square miles can be seen as a mini-union.

The population of Kayah State is 312,000 and population density of the state is 69 persons per square mile.

Kayah State is located in the hilly region with the altitude from 2950 feet to 6,000 feet above sea level and is adjacent to Shan plateau. The rivers flowing from north to south in Kayah State have swift currents. Bilu creek originated in Inlay Lake is flowing through fer-

The Loinanpha Dam built in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State.



tile Loikaw plain.

As soon as the Tatmadaw government has taken the responsibilities of the State, it has held out an olive branch to national race armed groups enabling them to return to the legal fold.

The attitude of the Tatmadaw government is aimed at achieving equitable development of all parts of the Union with the entire national people enjoying prosperity.

With prevalence

of peace in Kayah State, national brethren living there have wit-

nessed fruits of development. The table indicates of development of

Kayah State during the period from 1988 to the present.

Development of Kayah State

Subject	1988	2006	Progress
Agriculture/Livestock breeding			
Sown acreage	115791	145479	29688
Dam	11	13	2
River water pumping project	-	2	2
Sown acreage of monsoon paddy	56007	97243	41236
Sown acreage of summer paddy	-	8620	8620
Sown acreage of edible oil crops	9862	41244	31382
Acres of fish breeding ponds	3	232.18	229.18

Subject	1988	2006	Progress
Forest conservation			
Reserved forest (square mile)	74	270	196
Forest plantation (acre)	200	7157	6957
Transport			
Motor road (mile)	396	581	185
Tarred road (mile)	126	282	156
Gravelled road (mile)	30	32	2
Rail road (mile)	-	8.59	8.59
Rail track (mile)	-	10.9	10.9
Station	-	3	3
180 feet and above bridge	6	8	2
Under 180 feet bridge	145	151	6
Electric power			
Hydel power plant	2	4	2
Diesel power plant	4	26	22
Electricity consumption (unit in million)	4.405	36.76	32.355
Education			
Basic Education			
Number of School	333	388	55
Primary school	299	341	42
Middle school	27	31	4
High school	7	16	9
Number of teacher	1259	1924	665
Number of student	29916	50754	20838
Higher Education			
University	-	1	1
Government Computer College	-	1	1
Government Technological College	-	1	1
Health			
Hospital	15	16	1
Health centre	32	36	4
Traditional Medicine Hospital	-	1	1
Communication			
Post office	8	13	5
Telegraph office	3	11	8
Telephone exchange	3	15	12
Information and Public Relations			
TV Retransmission station	-	7	7
Self-reliant village library	-	135	135



The lecture halls of Loikaw University opened in Loikaw for enabling local youth to pursue higher education.

Union Flag conveyed to Yangon...

(from page 16)
Lt-Col Aung Pyay took out the flag from the silver bowl and handed it over to Yangon South District USDA Secretary U Lwin Oo and relay team.

Next, the Union Flag was conveyed by relay teams.

Later, Deputy Commissioner U Zaw Win of General Administration Department and party carried the Union Flag to Thihadipa Sports Ground and handed it over to Chairman of Yangon South District PDC Lt-Col Aung Pyay.

The District PDC Chairman planted the flag in the silver bowl on

the dais at the sports ground. While the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command and the people saluted the Union Flag, the Ministry Band played the national anthem.

Local people visited the sports ground where booths and shops were kept open. —MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn hands over the Union Flag to Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win. — NLM



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win carries the Union Flag. — NLM



Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyay, Guard of Honour of Yangon Command and local people salute the Union Flag at Thihadipa Sports Ground in Thanlyin.

MNA

Families of Ministers host dinner to Union Day delegates

YANGON, 8 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi and family hosted a dinner to Union Day delegates who will attend the 59th Anniversary Union Day celebration, at the minister's residence this evening.

Minister U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi welcomed the Union Day delegates and presented gifts to them before the dinner.

Likewise, CEC

member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, wife Daw Aye Aye and family hosted a dinner to Union Day delegates of Shan State (South) at the minister's residence on Panwah Street in Kamayut Township this evening.

Similarly, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife

Daw Kyin Khaing hosted a dinner to 15 Union Day delegates at the National Races Village this evening. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister's wife Daw Mya Chit, and directors-general.

After the dinner, Minister Col Thein Nyunt, wife Daw Kyin Khaing and officials presented gifts to the Union Day delegates.

MNA



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi host a dinner to Union Day delegates.

INDUSTRY-1



Director-General of State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and wife host a dinner to delegates to the Union Day celebration.

MNA

Trainees of diplomatic courses to meet

YANGON, 8 Feb — Get-together of old trainees of the basic and advanced diplomatic courses will be held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony of the 2nd golf tour of the trainees on 12

February at Shwepinle Restaurant on Innaya Road here.

Those wishing to participate in the get-together may contact U Aung Kyaw Moe, Ph 095123008, U Naing Win, Ph 099933587, U

Myint Soe, Ph 099973595, U Aung Linn, Ph 095018090, U Hla Myint, Ph 095001123, U Wunna, Ph 095005596 and U Zaw Min, Ph 095000986.

MNA



An international team of scientists says it has found dozens of new species of plants and animals during an expedition to the Foja Mountains of Papua Province, Indonesia, recently. A new species of Smoky honeyeater is seen in this photo released by Conservation International.—INTERNET

Romania finds suspect bird flu cases outside delta

BUCHAREST, 8 Feb—Romania detected new suspected cases of bird flu in domestic fowl on Tuesday east of the Danube delta where the disease was first found in October, the country's chief veterinarian said.

"Rapid tests made us suspect the presence of the H5 strain of the virus in three hens found dead in the village of Cetatea in Dolj County," chief veterinarian Ion Agafitei told Reuters.

He said samples of the dead birds would be

further tested in Bucharest to confirm the presence of the virus and they would subsequently be sent to a British laboratory to establish whether it was the deadly H5N1 strain.

He said 10 birds were culled in the village, which is about 500 kilometres (311 miles) from the delta, but more could be killed if the Bucharest laboratory confirmed the presence of the virus.

Avian flu has been discovered in 26 villages across the Black Sea country since the first

outbreak occurred in October.—MNA/Reuters

Head of Bulgarian Red Cross charged with fraud

SOFIA, 8 Feb—The head of Bulgaria's largest aid organization, the Bulgarian Red Cross, has been charged with diverting millions of euros in donations from the EU and United States for the poor and disadvantaged, officials said on Monday.

Special police forces arrested Hristo Grigorov on Friday after investigators said he was involved in a fraud scheme in which clothes and medicine donated to the organization were sold in pharmacies and shops for profit.

"Grigorov has been charged with misappropriation on a large scale," said prosecutors' office spokesman Nikolai Markov. Interior Minister Rumens Petkov said on Sunday the amount cash

involved was in the millions of leva (euros), but did not give a figure.

If found guilty, Grigorov could face up to 30 years in jail. Police are searching for others involved in the case.

Grigorov said he was innocent.

"I want to see the Interior Minister and tell him face to face that the chairman of the Bulgarian Red Cross and the Bulgarian Red Cross have not done the things I am accused of," he was

quoted as saying by private news agency Focus.

Bulgaria hopes to join the European Union as planned in 2007 but has been warned by Brussels to step up the fight against rampant graft and organized crime or see its entry delayed by a year.

The Bulgarian Red Cross has more than 200,000 members. Last year it received many donations to help people made homeless after floods.

MNA/Reuters

Freezing continues on China's Yellow River

JINAN, 8 Feb—The frozen section of the lower reaches of the Yellow River, China's second longest, extended to seven kilometres on Tuesday as temperatures continued to plummet in the east of Shandong Province, where the river empties into the Bohai Sea.

Local flood-relief staff have removed 11 float bridges on the river in the frozen section to try to avoid the pile-up of ice.

The Yellow River Flood Control Office of Shandong Province said that temperatures in the river's lower reaches have plunged below zero degree Celsius, turning the stretch downstream from the provincial capital, Jinan, into ice.

The river section in Kenli County reported freezing as early as Monday. So far, the icing has extended in both directions, according to

the office.

The ice consistency of the river has increased from 10-20 per cent to 20-30 per cent. Meanwhile, ice consistency at the estuary of the Yellow River rose to 80 per cent.

Freezing on the Yellow River in Shandong first began on 6 January, totalling 57.4 kilometres in length. The freezing ended temporarily on 29 January as a result of rising temperatures.

When the Yellow River freezes, which usually lasts until early spring, water accumulates upstream, leading to

higher water levels in parts of the river and even to floods.

River freezing can pose a hazard to the safety of embankments along some narrow and winding sections, where a large amount of ice always piles up. The Yellow River, popularly known as China's Mother river, starts in Qinghai Province in the northwest and flows through Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Shaanxi, Shanxi and Henan, before passing through Shandong and emptying into the Bohai Sea.

MNA/Xinhua

Supermarket roof collapses in Germany

BERLIN, 8 Feb—A supermarket roof in southern Germany collapsed on Tuesday, but police said there were no signs that people have been buried under the rubble so far.

A police spokesman said employees of the shop had received advance warning that the roof was falling down and managed to escape.

The roof of a Netto supermarket in the town of Toegling am Inn, Bavaria State, fell in at around 11:00 am local time (1000 GMT), German news agency DPA quoted police as saying. Rescue teams reached the spot.

MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bombs kill four US Marines in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 Feb—Roadside bombs have killed four US marines in Iraq in the past two days, the US military said on Tuesday.

Three marines were killed on Monday in Hit, a town in the Sunni guerillas heartland of Anbar Province. A roadside bomb, which the US military calls an improvised explosive device (IED), killed another marine in the same province. The roadside bomb is one of the deadliest weapons used against US forces in Iraq. At least 2,252 US troops have died in Iraq since the start of the war that toppled Saddam Hussein in March 2003.—MNA/Reuters

UNICEF says drought threatens children in Horn of Africa

GENEVA, 8 Feb—A major crisis has hit the Horn of Africa, where a severe drought is endangering an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned here on Tuesday.

The drought has left an estimated 8 million people in need of emergency assistance in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti, UNICEF Executive Director Ann M Veneman said in a press release.

"There is a potential for widespread disease, greater malnutrition and the displacement of significant numbers of people," Veneman said.

She said the UNICEF is responding now in an effort to avoid a greater crisis in the months to come.

She also urged the international community to respond immediately to

the need for assistance.

Southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya and central and southern Somalia have been severely impacted over the past several months.

Rains have largely failed in the area for two years leading to livestock deaths, crop failures and the loss of water sources.

Crop failure and the death of livestock are significant factors contributing to the increased malnutrition among children. Measles also poses a threat to children's survival as immunization rates in the affected areas are low.

MNA/Xinhua



Emergency services attend the scene of a damaged supermarket in Toegling am Inn, east of Munich on 7 Feb, 2006. The flat roof of the Netto Sued supermarket in southern Germany gradually collapsed amid heavy snow on Tuesday.—INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (275)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (275) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ITMF global conference to be held in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 7 Feb— The International Textile Manufacturers' Federation (ITMF) will hold an annual global conference in Sri Lanka in September at the invitation of the Fabric Apparel Accessory Manufacturers' Association of Sri Lanka, *Daily News* reported on Monday.

The conference based on "A textile world for big and small" will provide a platform for Sri Lanka to be in the spotlight of the global apparel industry and showcase Sri Lanka's strengths in the apparel

business. This year's conference will attract many international delegates from various countries.

The delegates will include top global retail apparel manufacturers who will deliver papers on various sub topics of

interest. ITMF is a global umbrella organization of the primary textile industry founded in 1904 with various representative associations and companies from over 50 countries.

The Federation provides a neutral

international platform for the world's textile industries, where executives can meet and discuss subjects of common interest and concern, thus providing leadership and growth for the textile-manufacturing world. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Divorce announcement

Both of us agreed to getting divorced as of 25-11-2002 of our own volition.
Mr. Sein Myint (BGLE/004125)
Ms. Thin Thin Mar (TKA/057893)

China to allocate more money to agriculture in 2006

BELING, 7 Feb— China will adopt more favourable policies and invest more money in the rural areas this year, said sources with the Chinese Ministry of Finance recently.

An official with the Ministry said rural construction will claim a higher share of China's financial budgets in 2006, with more money to be spent on the improvement of living conditions in the countryside.

According to the Ministry, the Chinese Government will provide an additional grain fund of 1 billion yuan (124 million US dollars) for the country's 13 major agricultural provinces in 2006.

The government will shift the focus of

infrastructure construction from the urban areas to the rural areas this year, with a number of key agricultural projects set to be established.

China has greatly increased its investment in farmers, agriculture and the countryside in recent years. It was estimated that in 2005, the central finance allocated over 300 billion yuan (37.5 billion US dollars) to support rural development, a 50-per cent rise from the 2002

figure. In addition to direct financial support, China has announced the abolition of agricultural tax as of January 1, 2006, which totals 22 billion yuan (2.75 billion dollars) every year.

Though government investment is on the up, farmers are still in an inferior position in terms of education and social security compared with urban residents.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

China, Norway willing to expand cooperation

STOCKHOLM, 7 Feb— Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing held talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg in Oslo on Monday, with both sides expressing their common will to expand cooperation in various fields.

Stoltenberg appraised the current bilateral relations, saying the rapid growth of the Chinese economy was improving people's living standards in China and offered greater opportunities for the two countries to deepen cooperation.

He hoped the two

countries could begin cooperation in the energy sector, as well as in the worldwide anti-poverty campaign and in efforts to improve healthcare.

Li also affirmed the solid development of two countries' ties, citing fruitful exchanges and cooperation in the

political, commercial, cultural, educational, science, and polar region research fields. He said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the Sino-Norwegian relationship and hopes to learn from Norway's successful experience in its concerted social and economic development.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia's oil, gas revenues below target

JAKARTA, 7 Feb— Indonesia's oil and gas revenues were 25.2 per cent lower than the targeted 138.6 trillion rupiah (14.8 billion US dollars) in 2005, a minister said on Monday.

Revenues from the sector stood at 103.7 trillion rupiah (11.09 billion dollars) in 2005, comprising 72.8 trillion rupiah in oil revenue and 30.9 trillion rupiah in gas revenue, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati said in her report submitted to the House of Representatives' commission nine.

The decline in oil and revenues was mainly

attributable to the fluctuation price of Indonesian crude oil in international market and a weakening in the rupiah, she said. The average price of Indonesian crude oil stood at 51.8 dollars per barrel or below the targeted 54 dollars per barrel in the 2005 state budget, the minister said in the open hearing at the Parliament compound here. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam cuts int'l phone connection fees

HANOI, 7 Feb— Vietnam has reduced connection charge of international calls in and out the country to four US cents per minute from 7 cents, according to a local Information Centre on Monday.

Under a recent decision of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, both foreign and local telecommunications operators have enjoyed the lower charge, said the ministry's Information Centre.

In the past, the operators had to pay the charge of 7 cents, part of which was used to cover

costs for local posts and telecommunications public utilities run by the state-owned Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Corporation.

Under the decision, the operators have to pay the charge of four cents, and a sum of money equivalent to 4 per cent of their total revenue to a local fund responsible for public utility works.

However, 4 per cent of a firm's total revenue plus the four-cent charge is smaller than the amount generated by the previous seven-cent charge, the centre said, noting the separation of public utility costs from connection charges is part of Vietnam's international integration roadmap.

Vietnam plans to have 23.5-25 phones per 100 residents this year, up from the rate of 19 per cent last year, said the centre.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Uzbek produced 59.68 b cubic metres of natural gas in 2005

ALMA ATA, 7 Feb— Uzbekistan produced 59.68 billion cubic metres of natural gas in 2005, 0.3 per cent down from 2004, the state statistics agency Goskomstat said on Monday.

The country has an

estimated reserve of 6.25 trillion cubic meters, which is enough to supply the world for more than two years, but its current annual output is only able to meet domestic demand.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore confirms Mas Selamat's deportation from Indonesia

SINGAPORE, 7 Feb— Singapore on Monday confirmed the deportation of Mas Selamat bin Kastari, the Singaporean leader of the local Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) network, from Indonesia.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Mas Selamat "was detained by the Indonesian authorities in February 2003 on charges related to possessing falsified identification documents" and was deported to Singapore on 3 February this year.

MHA said that Mas Selamat had fled Singapore in December 2001 following the city state's security operation against the JI, a militant group active in Southeast Asia. It added that Mas Selamat had planned retaliation against Singapore for arresting and detaining his fellow

JI members, and had also planned to hijack a plane and crash it into Singapore's Changi Airport.

"He is currently under ISA (Internal Security Act) arrest and investigation into his case will now proceed," the statement said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



A general view of the athletes' Olympic village at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy on 7 Feb, 2006. — INTERNET

ပညာရေးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတတ်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor employees dust the company's mid-sized sedan Camry at the company's showroom in Tokyo recently. —INTERNET

Hollywood detective indicted for wiretaps

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb— Hollywood's most famous private investigator, Anthony Pellicano, was charged with wiretapping journalists, entertainers and alleged rape victims for his clients in an indictment unsealed on Monday.

Among those who were allegedly wiretapped or subjected to illegal computer searches were comedian "Rocky" actor Sylvester Stallone. Garry Shandling, former *New York Times* film industry correspondent Bernard Weinraub, former *Los Angeles Times* reporter Anita Busch, five women who accused software millionaire John Gordon

Jones of rape, Saturday Night Live comedian Kevin Nealon and actor Keith Carradine.

Pellicano, whose clients have included top Hollywood entertainment lawyers and executives as well as celebrities such as Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Michael Jackson, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on Monday.

The indictment also named Los Angeles Police Sergeant Mark Arneson; former Pacific Bell employee Rayford Turner;

Pellicano client Robert Pfeifer; software designer Kevin Kachikian; and Las Vegas businessmen brothers Abner and Daniel Nicherie.

Pellicano and the others were charged with wire-tapping and racketeering. They were accused of obtaining confidential information, through telephone eavesdropping and law enforcement data bases, on people Pellicano was hired to investigate by his celebrity-studded roster of clients. — MNA/Reuters

388 survivors found in Egyptian ferry disaster

CAIRO, 7 Feb — Rescuers have found 388 survivors since an Egyptian ferry carrying more than 1,400 people sank last Friday in the Red Sea, the official MENA news agency quoted Governor of the Red Sea Province Bakr el-Rashidi as saying on Monday.

Over 200 bodies had reportedly been recovered with nearly 800 still missing as search and rescue operation entered the fourth day with hopes of finding more survivors fading.

Hundreds of relatives of the victims on Monday waited nervously outside the Safaga Port, where the ferry would have arrived, for the whereabouts of their kin, a *Xinhua* correspondent reported.

MNA/Xinhua

British breast cancer sufferer goes to court for drug

LONDON, 7 Feb— A woman with early-stage breast cancer goes to the High Court on Monday to compel her local health authority to pay for the potentially life-saving drug Herceptin.

Ann Marie Rogers, 53, was refused the drug after Swindon Primary Care Trust in Wiltshire said it would not fund the treatment, which costs around 20,000 pounds (36,000 US dollars) a year.

This is the first challenge over Herceptin treatment to reach the High Court and could set a precedent for patients seeking access to the drug and other expensive treatments currently not normally available on the National Health Service.

"I think it's down to money and I think they put money before life,"

Rogers told the BBC.

Herceptin, made by Switzerland's Roche, is currently only licensed for use in women with advanced breast cancer, although doctors can use their discretion to prescribe the drug in other cases.

Recent research has shown Herceptin can help patients with early stages of breast cancer, but many local health authorities will only fund treatment in exceptional circumstances.

Rogers' lawyer, Yogi Amin, said her consultant had concluded she would benefit from

the drug but that Swindon PCT would not pay for treatment as she was not an exceptional case. "The trust has adopted a policy which tries to pit one patient against another," he told BBC radio.

"They are effectively looking at the personal family circumstances of each case and suggesting which life is better than another." Last year, two other early stage breast cancer sufferers threatened to go to court over access to Herceptin treatment before their local health authorities backed down.

MNA/Reuters

2006 Miss Universe China final initiated in Harbin

HARBIN, 7 Feb— Fifty young beauties from around China gathered last Monday in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, to participate in the final of the 2006 Miss Universe China.

They are winners of tens of hundreds participants from six branch venues including Beijing, Shanghai, Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Jiangxi and Zhejiang.

Liu Ning, deputy director of the Heilongjiang TV station, said that starting from 6 February, the beauty contest final will end on 1 March. Besides Harbin, all the contestants will also go to Hainan, China's southernmost island province, to continue their match.

Qin Zhen, an official with the organizing committee, said that Miss Universe is a very important event among the world's various beauty contests. The annual Miss Universe final has attracted over 100 million TV viewers of 150 countries and regions.

He said that it is the fourth year for Chinese to take part in the Miss Universe contest, and no Chinese contestant has ever entered the list of first fifteen in the past three years. — MNA/Xinhua

'Lost World' found in jungle

OSLO, 7 Feb— Scientists say they have

found a "Lost World" in an Indonesian mountain jungle, home to dozens of exotic new species of birds, butterflies, frogs and plants.

"It's as close to the Garden of Eden as you're going to find on Earth," said Bruce Beehler, co-leader of the US, Indonesian, and Australian expedition to part of the cloud-shrouded Foja mountains in the west of New Guinea.

Indigenous peoples living near the Foja range, which rises to 2,200 meters (7,218 feet), said they did not venture into the trackless area of 3,000 square kilometers

(1,200 square miles) — roughly the size of Luxembourg or the US state of Rhode Island.

The team of 25 scientists rode helicopters to boggy clearings in the pristine zone.

"We just scratched the surface," Beehler told *Reuters*. "Anyone who goes there will come back with a mystery."

The expedition found a new type of honeyeater bird with a bright orange patch on its face, known only to local people and the first new bird species documented on the island in more than 60 years.

Internet

60-year-old Chinese masseur listed in "Guinness Book of Records"

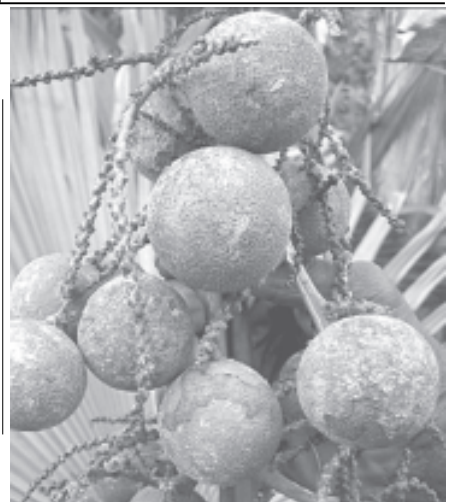
SHENYANG, 7 Feb— A 60-year-old Chinese masseur has broken the Guinness World Record for the loudest hand-clap.

A high-precision decibel metre recorded 97.7 decibels when Ma Honglie clapped his hands 2.5 metres away from it.

"The former world record for hand-clapping was held by a British woman, registered at 73 decibels. Ma broke the record because he proved more skillful in clapping hands," said Wu Xiaohong, a staff member

with the Guinness submitting office of Liaoning Publishing Group. The 60-year-old former construction worker in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, began to practice hand clapping in 1991, after he hurt his lumbar vertebrae in an industrial injury.

MNA/Xinhua



An international team of scientists says it has found dozens of new species of plants and animals during an expedition to the Foja Mountains of Papua Province, Indonesia, recently. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Ivory Coast's Romaric N'Dri Koffi (L) challenges Nigeria's Chidi Odiah for the ball during their African Nations Cup semi-final soccer match at the Border Guard stadium in Alexandria, Egypt on 7 Feb, 2006. Ivory Coast won the soccer match 1-0.

INTERNET

Kahn rescues point for Bayern at Hertha

FRANKFURT, 8 Feb— Hertha Berlin held visiting Bayern Munich to a goalless draw in the Bundesliga on Tuesday, offering a glimmer of hope to the chasing sides in Germany.

Hertha had by far the better chances in the second half at the Olympic Stadium and only a series of fine saves from Oliver Kahn kept the champions in the game.

Bayern, who have a record 51 points from 20 matches, remain well placed to win their 20th German title but their lead will be cut to six points if second-placed Werder Bremen win at VfB Stuttgart on Wednesday.

Hamburg SV, in third place with 41 points, can also close the gap behind the champions with a victory at Hanover 96 in another of Wednesday's matches.

Bayern had most of the possession in the first half but created only a couple of good chances and in the end were lucky not to go down to a second league defeat of the season.

Martin Demichelis saw a point-blank header smartly saved by Hertha's Gerhard Tremmel after a Sebastian Deisler free kick had picked him out in the 14th minute.

Michael Ballack then improvised a shot just outside the box and saw the ball land on the roof of the net.

Hertha became more adventurous in attack in the second half and were

encouraged further when Marcelinho broke into the box and forced Kahn to come and save at his feet.

Germany's number one keeper made an even better save in the 61st minute, pushing the ball round the past after Arne Friedrich had turned past a couple of defenders and sent in a stinging shot.

"Olli is Olli and he was world class again," said Bayern manager Uli Hoernes.

"We didn't take our chances in the first half or at the end but Hertha had a lot of good opportunities as well and I think a draw was the right result."

Hertha's third draw from three matches in 2006 kept them in fifth place with 29 points.

MNA/Reuters

Late goal puts Nice into first League Cup final

PARIS, 8 Feb — Nice reached the League Cup final for the first time after a late winner by substitute Honorato Ederson gave them a 1-0 win over neighbours Monaco on Tuesday.

Ederson, who replaced Mamadou Bagayoko in the second half, headed home Sebastien Roudet's cross two minutes from time to set up a final against Nancy or Le Mans, who play on Wednesday.

"We were a little bit lucky tonight as we showed some touches of physical tiredness," said Nice coach Frederic Antonetti. "At least we snatched our chance to seal the game when it showed up. We battled for this one."

Monaco were hoping to secure a UEFA Cup place for next season by winning the League Cup but goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz conceded that the principality side lost to the better team.

MNA/Reuters

Turkey must play next 6 games at neutral venue

ISTANBUL, 8 Feb — Turkey have been ordered to play their next six home matches at a neutral ground and behind closed doors following a fracas at their World Cup qualifier against Switzerland in Istanbul.

FIFA said in a statement on Tuesday that two Turkish players, Alpay Ozalan and Emre Belozoglu, would be banned for six matches as would Switzerland's Benjamin Huggel who admitted kicking Turkish assistant coach Mehmet Ozdilek.

Turkey were also fined 200,000 Swiss francs (154,200 US dollars). A number of other players and officials from both teams received fines and suspensions.

The sanctions, which apply to official matches and not friendlies, are among the most severe handed out to a national association and will hit Turkey's chances of qualifying for the next European championship in 2008.

Turkey's football federation said it would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"I describe this decision as unacceptable. This is a political decision rather

than a sports decision," Turkey's sports minister Mehmet Ali Sahin told NTV news channel.

Switzerland won November's two-legged playoff to qualify for the 2006 World Cup starting in June at the expense of Turkey, semi-finalists in 2002.

Huggel's ban means he will be suspended for all of Switzerland's World

Cup matches in Germany, unless they reach the final, and is also likely to miss games at Euro 2008.

Ozdilek has been ordered to stay away from soccer for 12 months for his part in the incidents. He resigned after television pictures showed him attempting to trip a Swiss player as they left the pitch.

MNA/Reuters

Bundesliga match reports

FRANKFURT, 8 Feb — Brief reports of Bundesliga matches played on Tuesday:

Kaiserslautern 2 — Cologne 2

Marco Streller scored twice for Cologne but Kaiserslautern twice came back to claim a point from a frantic clash between the two bottom clubs.

Streller, on loan from Stuttgart, took a clever pass from Dimitris Grammozis to open the scoring in the 38th minute. The home side were level before halftime

with a Boubacar Sanogo penalty following a handball from Lukas Sinkiewicz.

Swiss striker Streller made it 2-1 with a quarter of an hour to go before Kaiserslautern rallied again through teenager Fabian Schoenheim.

Borussia Dortmund 2 — MSV Duisburg 0

Dortmund closed in on the European places with victory over relegation candidates Duisburg.

Markus Brzenska tapped in after a corner in the 67th minute and Tomas Rosicky made the game safe with a penalty two minutes from time after Philipp Degen had been hauled back by Tobias Willi, who earned a red card.

Mainz 1 — Arminia Bielefeld 1

Mainz remain uncomfortably close to the relegation places despite picking up a point.

Mohamed Zidan put Mainz ahead against the run of play with a penalty in the 50th minute following a foul on Michael Thurk.

Bielefeld levelled in the 57th after a neat turn and shot from Isaac Boakye.

MNA/Reuters



FC Porto's Brazilian goalkeeper Helton Arruda fails to stop a penalty goal from Sporting Braga's striker Joao Tomas, left, at the Dragao Stadium, during their Portuguese SuperLeague soccer match, on 6 Feb, 2006 in Porto, northern Portugal. The match ended in a 1-1 draw but Porto stands top of the League. —INTERNET

Birmingham, Preston reach FA Cup fifth round

LONDON, 8 Feb — Goals from Mikael Forssell and Julian Gray led Birmingham City to a 2-1 home win over second division leaders Reading in their FA Cup fourth round replay on Tuesday.

In the night's other replay, Preston North End won 2-1 at second division rivals Crystal Palace thanks to a late goal by Danny Dichio, who had also scored their first. Forssell put Premier League strugglers Birmingham ahead after 30 minutes at St Andrews when he took a pass from Jermaine Pennant and wriggled past two defenders. His first effort was saved by Graham Stack but the Finland striker slotted home the rebound.

Reading, 10 points clear in the second division, went close to an equaliser a minute later when Steve Sidwell hit the post.

The visitors eventually got back on level terms six minutes into the second half, Stephen Hunt taking advantage of indecision in the Birmingham defence to volley powerfully into the roof of the net from 15 metres. Birmingham, third from bottom in the standings, secured a fifth round visit to second division Stoke City when Gray headed in a cross by Jiri Jarosik in the 67th minute. — MNA/Reuters



Argentina's tennis players Juan Ignacio Chela (L) and David Nalbandian practice while being watched by school pupils during training in Buenos Aires, on 7 Feb, 2006. Sweden plays Argentina in a first-round Davis Cup World Group tie on 10-12 Feb.

INTERNET

Blast at southern Afghanistan police HQs kills 12

KANDHAR (Afghanistan), 8 Feb — A suspected suicide bomb blast outside the police headquarters in the Afghan city of Kandahar on Tuesday killed 12 people and wounded 14, a government spokesman said.

A police official inside the headquarters said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle, but an Interior Ministry spokesman said that had not been confirmed.

"There are 12 people dead and 14 wounded, both police and civilians," said Interior Ministry spokesman Yousuf Stanizai.

Some of the wounded were in a critical condition, he said. A doctor at a Kandahar hospital said most of the casualties were policemen.

The blast went off in a car park in front of the building, said a resident of the city who saw casualties being taken away when he arrived at the scene.

Dozens of people have been killed in a wave

of attacks, including 14 suicide blasts, across southern and eastern Afghanistan in recent months.

A Canadian diplomat was among three people killed in a suicide bomb

attack in Kandahar on 15 January.

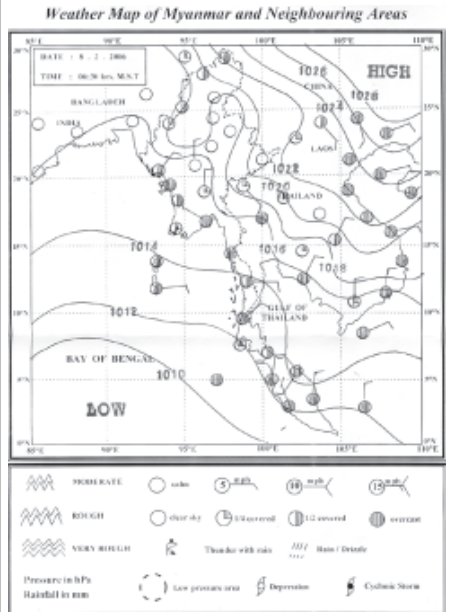
The next day, a suicide bomber on a motorcycle drove into a crowd in the border town of Spin Boldak, which is also in Kandahar Province, and

detonated explosives, killing 23 people.

The US-backed government blames Taleban and al-Qaeda militants, who are fighting to expel US and other foreign forces.— *MNA/Reuters*



Students of Sangyoung BEHS No 2 taking part in Language Lab Learning Skills Contest in commemoration of 59th Anniversary Union Day, co-organized by No 3 Basic Education Department and Soft Guide Computer Training Centre at Tatmadaw Convention Hall. — H



WEATHER

Wednesday, 8 February, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Ayeyawady Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Mon State and Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (3°C), Lashio, Heho and Haka (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 7-2-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 8-2-2006 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 8-2-2006 was (71%). Total sunshine hours on 7-2-2006 was (7.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 8-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (11:20) hours MST on 7-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9-2-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in the southern part of Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and southern part of Bago Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).


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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated light rain are likely in Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-2-2006: Likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

UNTIMELY RAINFALL WARNING
Issued at (10:00) hours MST on 8 February, 2006
 According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, under the influence of the through of low pressure over Southwest Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay, isolated light rain are likely in Southern Rakhine State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Southern part of Bago Divisions within next (48) hours commencing this morning.



Thursday, 9 February
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်တို့ကွမ်းလမ်းပွဲ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက် အတိစေမဟာရဋ္ဌပုဂ္ဂိုလ် အတိစေအပူမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓောတိကံ တီပီရကဓရုဓမ္မတာဏှာဂါရိတာ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသင်္ခယဝရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- Dance of National Races

8:00 am

- အတိစေပွဲ

8:05 am

- Dance variety

8:15 am

- အရေးကြီးပွဲ

8:20 am

- (၅၅)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's go

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:35 pm

- အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လိုလှည့်ရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗော အထူးပြု (သတ္တဗော))

4:45 pm

- Cute little dancers

5:05 pm

- "သတိနဲ့ပျဉ် အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (ဝါးခမ်းရဲအောင်၊ ကွန်းလွန်း၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းရှင်၊ ဝင်းစု၊ နိုင်သိန်း၊ ဆိုင်းရစ်လေးပြိုင်၊ (ခါရိတ်တာ-မင်းအုတ်ခန်း))

5:20 pm

- မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:30 pm

- (၅၅)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm

- Musical programme

5:55 pm

- နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွန်းဖြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရောင်စဉ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၃)

7:20 pm

- (၅၅)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

7:30 pm

- မြန်မာ့နိုး ကြက်ဆူရိုင်းအကြောင်း သိကောင်းစရာ ဆွေးနွေးခန်း

7:40 pm

- ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မမြတ် ရင်သန်ခိုင်ဓာတ်မှာ တိုဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ရာအညာတစ်ခု နှိုပြည်ထောင်စု)

8:00 pm

- News

8:15 pm

- International news

8:30 pm


- Weather report

8:45 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "နှင်းဆီအိပ်မက်"(အပိုင်း-၅)

9:00 pm

- The next day's programme



Thursday, 9 February
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:
-Come on over

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:
-The game is over

8:50 am National news / slogan
Music:

9:00 am International news

9:05 am International news
Music:
-Baby it's you

1:30 pm News / slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Listen to my heart
Garath Gates
-Oh yes
W Houston
- Butterfly
Mariah Carey
-Forever young
Laura Branigan
-Say
The Corrs

9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Pouri

9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

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

Union Day Exhibition opens

YANGON, 8 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition was opened today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall here and Chairman of the sub-committee for holding the exhibition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opened the exhibition.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and the ministers graced the opening ceremony with their presence.

Booths of ministries are staged and traditional lifestyles of national races are shown at the exhibition which will be kept open daily till 16 February.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and party view booths of the 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition. —MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opens the 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition. — MNA

Union Flag conveyed to Yangon South District from City Hall

YANGON, 8 Feb — The conveyance of the Union Flag, that rested for a year at the Yangon City Hall, to four districts in Yangon Division started this morning. For the first day, the Union Flag was conveyed by the Union Boat and relay teams to Thihadipa Sports Ground in Thanlyin Township representing Yangon South District and it stopped over for the night there.

At 6.45 am, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin saluted the Union Flag and took out it from the silver bowl at the hall of Yangon City Hall. The Mayor carried the Union Flag flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students and national races, to the front of the City Hall on Maha Bandoola Street.

Next, the mayor handed over the flag to Chair-

man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win. The commander carried the flag again and handed it over to Chairman of Yangon South District PDC Lt-Col Aung Pyay at the corner of Maha Bandoola and Maha Bandoola Park Streets.

Lt-Col Aung Pyay conveyed the Union Flag and planted it in the silver bowl on board the Union Boat. Afterwards, the Union Flag was conveyed by the Union Boat. Along the route, the flag was accorded warm welcome by local people from Kyauktada, Botahtaung, Pazundaung, Dawbon and Thakayta Townships, social organization members and departmental personnel.

On arrival at the archway of Yangon South District near Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge, (See page 10)

Special radio play to be aired

YANGON, 8 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day, a radio play entitled "We greet Ayeyawady" by Thabyenu will be aired on Radio Myanmar at 12.30 pm on 12 February and at 12.20 pm on 14 February. — MNA

INSIDE



Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

- * All the national races will have to join in the nation-building endeavours with the conviction that the Union will perpetuate as long as they can combine the results of the sound foundations and the outcome of the flourishing Union Spirit.
- * The united strength of the entire people is the integral force to ward off the dangers of internal and external saboteurs who are jealous of developments in the country.